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THE HINDU

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DELHI
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27 killed as rains pound north India; heavy showers forecast today
Page 2



BJP chief Amit Shah backs simultaneous elections
Page 10



Iran's supreme leader Khamenei rejects Trump's offer of talks
Page 12

Brooks Koepka keeps his cool, clinches PGA Championship title
Page 16



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NEARBY



Two functionaries of Patna shelter home held

PATNA

A day after two women inmates of the government-funded Aasra Homes, a short-stay home in Patna, died under mysterious circumstances, the police on Monday arrested the manager and secretary of the NGO which ran the shelter.

NATION ▸ PAGE 7

DELHI METRO ▸ 6 PAGES

Kejriwal charged in assault case

Delhi police name CM, his deputy in the case of alleged attack on Chief Secretary in February

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police on Monday charge-sheeted Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia in the case of alleged assault on his Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash in February this year.

The probe agency filed the chargesheet in the court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Samar Vishal at the Patiala House courts who fixed August 25 as the date for hearing arguments on taking cognisance of the charges and summoning the accused persons.

Five Delhi Ministers – Satyendar Jain, Kailash Gahlot, Gopal Rai, Rajendra Pal Gautam and Imran Hussain – have termed the chargesheet bogus.



"It is the latest example of the Central government's ongoing unprecedented witch-hunt against the Delhi government," they said in a joint statement.

Besides the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister, the police have also named as many as 11 AAP MLAs as accused in the chargesheet. These MLAs are Amanatullah Khan, Prakash Jarwal, Nitin Tyagi, Rituraj Govind, Sanjeev Jha, Ajay Dutt, Rajesh Rishi, Rajesh Gupta, Madan Lal, Praveen Kumar and Dinesh Mohania.

According to the FIR, the Chief Secretary was allegedly assaulted at the camp office at Mr. Kejriwal's residence at midnight on February 19. The Chief Minister had called the meeting to discuss certain "burning issues."

The accused have been charge-sheeted, among other offences, for criminal intimidation (506), criminal conspiracy (120B), wrongfully confining any person (342), voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from his duty (332) and if an offence is committed by any member of an unlawful assembly, every other member of such assembly shall be guilty of the offence (149) of the IPC.

A team headed by Additional DCP (north) Harinder Singh had questioned Mr. Kejriwal for about three hours at his residence on May 18.

Later, a Delhi court had rejected Mr. Kejriwal's plea to direct the police to give him a copy of his statements.

"The investigation agency is not obliged under law to give a copy of the statement to the person whose statement it has recorded...," the court had then said.

SEE ALSO ▸ DELHI METRO PAGE 1

Somnath Chatterjee passes away at 89

Former Lok Sabha Speaker was ailing for two months



1929-2018

SOUMYA DAS
KOLKATA

Former Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee passed away on Monday morning. He was 89. He is survived by his wife, son and two daughters.

Mr. Chatterjee had been ill for the past two months and was under treatment at a private hospital in Kolkata for kidney-related ailments. He was placed on ventilator support last Tuesday. "Mr. Chatterjee passed away at 8.15 a.m. due to multiple organ failure," said Pradeep Tandon on behalf of the hospital.

Within an hour of Mr. Chatterjee's demise, leaders from various political parties arrived at the hospital. "Somnath Chatterjee was a senior politician, an eminent lawyer, multiple times MP and former Lok Sabha Speaker. We are deeply saddened by his demise," Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee told journalists after her visit.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10
MORE REPORTS ▸ PAGE 11

India rejects U.K. proposal on DNA tests for 'illegal migrants'

Govt. refuses to sign pact citing 'privacy issues'

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

India rejected a proposal by the UK to use DNA sampling to establish the nationality of illegal migrants living there citing "privacy issues."

Although a Memorandum of Understanding on return of illegal migrants was initialled after due approval of the Union Cabinet in January by Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju, India refused to sign the final pact during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to U.K. in April.

As per the original MoU, security agencies in India were to verify the antecedents of illegal migrants without documents in the U.K. within 72 days and those with documents within 15 days.

Twists and turns

- In January 2018, the Union Cabinet approved an MoU with U.K. on 'return of illegal migrants'
- MoS Home Kiren Rijiju signed the MoU the same month
- In April, the final pact was expected to be signed during PM's visit to London, but it was not included in the list of business
- **As per the original MoU, the security agencies in India were to verify the antecedents of document-less illegal migrants in the U.K within 72 days and those with documents within 15 days. India pulled out of the pact saying the time frame was not feasible.**

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

JNU student Umar Khalid attacked

Assailant drops pistol, flees after assault in Delhi

SAURABH TRIVEDI
JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ
NEW DELHI

An unidentified man, wielding a gun, attacked Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) student Umar Khalid outside the Constitution Club of India in Delhi on Monday afternoon. Mr. Khalid, who was to address an event at the club, escaped unhurt.

The police recovered a pistol, with six live bullets, that the assailant dropped while fleeing the spot. Several witnesses reported having heard a gunshot as the attacker ran away.



Umar Khalid, moments after he was attacked. ▪ R.V. MOORTHY

Speaking to the media, Mr. Khalid said, "I had just finished drinking tea from a stall adjacent to the Constitution Club and was heading inside when a man, who was armed, attacked me from behind. I reacted in self-defence and two of my friends helped me overpower my attacker, who then fled."

CCTV footage

The police have registered a case under Section 307 (attempt to murder) of the IPC and Arms Act at the Parliament Street police station. Joint CP (New Delhi) Ajay Chaudhary said: "We have recovered CCTV footage in which the attacker was seen fleeing. Several police teams are working in the case." He added that the pistol had been sent to FSL to confirm if a bullet was fired from it.

Ashishi Pandey, a witness, who works in a government office nearby, said, "I saw a man, who was holding a gun, attack Mr. Khalid but he fled the scene after a short scuffle as two other men came to Mr. Khalid's rescue. The man did not shoot at Mr. Khalid but I heard a gunshot when the weapon fell on the road."

Mr. Khalid later submitted a written complaint to the police. "It's ironic that it happened as I came to participate in an event, titled 'Khauff Se Azaadi' (Freedom from Fear). There is an atmosphere of fear. If you speak against the government you will be branded and then anything could happen to you," he said.

SEE ALSO ▸ DELHI METRO PAGE 1

Pune tops Ease of Living Index

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

Three cities in Maharashtra – Pune, Navi Mumbai and Greater Mumbai – top the first Ease of Living Index brought out by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

New Delhi is ranked 65 among 111 cities, while Chennai is in 14th place. Kolkata did not participate in the survey. The three cities at the bottom of the rankings are Rampur, Kohima and Patna.

DETAILS ON ▸ PAGE 7

Blue stickers for petrol, CNG; orange for diesel

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to a proposal of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to have hologram-based coloured stickers on vehicles to indicate the nature of the fuel used in them.

September 30 deadline

The MoRTH told a Bench led by Justice Madan B. Lokur that hologram-based sticker of light blue colour will be used for petrol and CNG-run vehicles while similar sticker of orange colour would be placed on diesel vehicles.

The date of registration of the vehicle would also be printed on these stickers, the Ministry told the court.

The Bench, also comprising Justices S. Abdul Nazeer and Deepak Gupta, asked the Ministry to implement the use of coloured stickers on vehicles plying in Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) by September 30.

Green plates

The Supreme Court also asked Additional Solicitor General A.N.S. Nadkarni, who was representing the MoRTH, to consider having green number plates for electric and hybrid vehicles. Mr. Nadkarni told the Bench that the Ministry would look into it and take a decision soon.

These issues had cropped up when the court was hearing a petition on air pollution in Delhi-NCR.

(With PTI inputs)

In readiness for I-Day



Red alert: National Security Guard personnel operate a bomb disposal robot during the full-dress rehearsal for Independence Day celebrations at Red Fort, on Monday. ▪ SANDEEP SAXENA

Nod for Nauroji Nagar project based on 'plagiarised' reports

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Portions of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) plan used to obtain permission for redevelopment of Nauroji Nagar, were plagiarised, an analysis by environment activists and researchers show. *The Hindu* has independently verified these documents.

The Nauroji Nagar project was among the projects awarded to NBCC, a public sector company, to set up residential and commercial buildings over 571 acres in south Delhi.

DETAILS ON ▸ DELHI METRO PAGE 1

PNB fraud: Centre sacks ex-MD, allows prosecution

Usha has been named in CBI chargesheet

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The government on Monday dismissed Usha Ananthasubramanian, who was three months ago divested of her powers as MD and CEO Allahabad Bank, following the country's biggest bank fraud allegedly carried out by diamond merchant Nirav Modi and associates at the Punjab National Bank (PNB).

It also gave sanction for her prosecution.



Usha Ananthasubramanian

MD and CEO of PNB before moving to Allahabad Bank, Ms. Ananthasubramanian was named in the CBI chargesheet in connection with the ₹14,000 crore fraud through fake Letters of Undertaking in connivance with some PNB employees.

She has been dismissed with immediate effect in the interest of Allahabad Bank, sources citing the government notification said.

It was alleged that she failed to exercise control over the functioning of PNB while serving as MD. It enabled the fraud through misuse of SWIFT at PNB's Brady House branch in Mumbai.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Alagiri: DMK funds being misused

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

Ahead of the DMK's emergency executive council meeting slated for Tuesday, late party leader M. Karunanidhi's son M.K. Alagiri on Monday raised a banner of revolt against younger brother and party working president M.K. Stalin, alleging that the party's assets and funds are being misused.

"They will never take me back into the party because I will question their wrongdoings," he told *The Hindu*.

DETAILS ON ▸ PAGE 7

SC asks IGP to probe Hapur lynching

Rejects road rage theory of U.P. police; seeks inquiry report in two weeks

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday did not buy the Uttar Pradesh police's version that the Hapur lynching of two men by cow vigilantes, leading to the death of one of them, was a "road rage" incident which turned fatal.

Instead, a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra ordered the Inspector General of Police, Meerut division, to conduct a separate inquiry into the incident and file a report with the Supreme Court in two weeks.

Qasim Qureishi, a 45-year-old meat trader, and Samiuddin were brutally assaulted by a mob on June 18 on the pretext that they were transporting and butchering cows. Qasim succumbed to his injuries.

The court's order came on a petition filed by the surviving victim, Samiuddin. The case was brought back to the limelight in a recent expose by news channel NDTV in which one of the accused is caught on camera talking about the assault on the two men and of even denying water to one of them.



The court directed the U.P. government to respond to the plea by Mr. Samiuddin to set up an SIT. ▪ SANDEEP SAXENA

Bail cancellation plea

Mr. Samiuddin has urged the court to cancel the bail of Yudhishthir Singh Sisodia who was allegedly seen talking in the video.

The Bench directed the Uttar Pradesh government to respond to the plea by Mr. Samiuddin, represented by advocate Vrinda Grover, to set up a Special Investigation Team comprising officers from outside the State. The victim sought that the trial be conducted outside Uttar Pradesh for fear of intimidation and the need for fair proceedings.

Mr. Samiuddin's plea has also sought a direction to the Uttar Pradesh authorities to lodge a fresh FIR on the basis of statements made by him with regard to the nature of incident that had taken place on June 18.

The Bench, also comprising Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and D.Y. Chandrachud, directed the Hapur SP to provide protection to Mr. Samiuddin if he so requests.

"If the petitioners do harbour a feeling of sense of insecurity, they shall bring it to the notice of the Superintendent of Police, Hapur, who shall provide them adequate security and do the needful so that they do not remain in a state of fear," it said.

The petition has been posted for further hearing on August 28.

(With PTI inputs)

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Miscreants kill panchayat head in Bihar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HAJIPUR

Unidentified miscreants on Monday shot dead a newly-elected head of Jandahan block panchayat samiti in Bihar's Vaishali district triggering violent protest by locals.

Local people and supporters of panchayat Pramukh Manish Sahni resorted to arson at Jandahan bazar, block office and police stations besides resorting to firing in the open.

Sahni was also the secretary of Rashtriya Lok Samata Party of Vaishali district.

The incident occurred while Sahni was coming out of his chamber at Jandahan block office when some unidentified bike-borne assailants opened indiscriminate fire on him.

District Magistrate Rajiv Roshan said Section 144 has been clamped in the area.

IN BRIEF



Have decided to vacate bungalow: Digvijaya

BHOPAL

Former Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh said on Monday that he had decided to vacate his official bungalow here in light of a recent court judgment. PTI

DELHI Timings

TUESDAY, AUG. 14			
RISE	05:50	SET	19:02
RISE	08:45	SET	21:23
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 15			
RISE	05:51	SET	19:01
RISE	09:48	SET	22:01
THURSDAY, AUG. 16			
RISE	05:51	SET	19:00
RISE	10:48	SET	22:39

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	34	27
Safdarjang	34	27
Palam	34	26

Delhi Palam Today
34°C Moderate rain is expected. Mild breeze is expected. Sky will remain cloudy. A hot and dry day will persist.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
33°C Chances of drizzle. A windy day is expected. Sky will be cloudy. A warm and humid day will persist.

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THE HINDU
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27 killed as rains pound north

18 dead in Himachal, 9 in U.P.; tourists warned against visiting hilly areas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHIMLA/LUCKNOW

At least 18 people were killed in Himachal Pradesh while nine died in Uttar Pradesh as heavy rains pounded several parts of north India triggering landslides in hill States and many rivers flowing above the danger mark.

The weather department has warned of heavy to very heavy showers in at least eight districts of Uttarakhand till Tuesday and asked tourists visiting the hilly areas and people living in the low-lying areas to remain alert.

The State Emergency Operations Centre has issued instructions to the district magistrates to maintain vigil as there is a possibility of cloudbursts.



Nature's fury: Cars covered in debris after heavy rain triggered landslides in Shimla on Monday. ▪ PTI

Landslides block roads

In Himachal Pradesh, incessant rains since Sunday triggered landslides at several places, closing roads and forcing the authorities to advise tourists to reschedule their visit to the State.

People residing in low-lying areas have been asked not to go near the Beas River as water is being released from the Pandoh Dam in Mandi district.

Kinnaur district officials said the Rispa bridge was washed away due to heavy rains and efforts are on to restore traffic movement by setting up a span bridge.

BJP national president Amit Shah's proposed visit to Shimla on August 16 has been cancelled due to persistent rains, a Himachal Pradesh BJP leader said.

Schools closed

While all government and private schools in Shimla, Kinnor and Kullu districts will remain closed on Tuesday, authorities in Kangra, Mandi, Una, and Hamirpur have ordered closure of all educational institutions there. Schools in several districts in the State remained shut on Monday because of the rains.

According to the information received at the Himachal headquarters, eight people were killed in Solan district, four in Mandi, two each in Hamirpur and Kangra districts and one each in Bilaspur and Una.

In Uttar Pradesh, three people died in Basti, two each in Sitapur and Kannauj and one each in Sonebhadra and Bijnore in rain-related incidents since Sunday night as thundershowers lashed several parts of the State, officials said.

Rains lashed many places in Haryana and Punjab, with Chandigarh receiving 21.2 mm of rains during the day.

In Haryana, heavy rains lashed Panchkula district and Ghaggar and Tangri rivers were in spate. There were reports of rain waters entering some slums in low-lying areas.

Punjab's Mohali, Rupnagar, Patiala, Jalandhar were among other places which received heavy rains.

'Referendum 2020 rally an ISI plot'

A futile exercise to create trouble in India, particularly Punjab: Amarinder

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Monday termed the 'Referendum 2020' rally by the Sikhs For Justice in London "a futile exercise to create trouble in India, particularly Punjab".

"The SFJ is just a group of fringe elements that is playing into the hands of Pakistan's ISI to divide India...but they have failed, and will continue to fail in their nefarious designs," the Chief Minister said.

He said the presence of Pakistani politicians at the rally confirms that it was an out-and-out ISI plot, which fell through just as their attempts to create trouble in India have been failing all these years.



Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh. ▪ FILE PHOTO

"As expected, it turned out to be a damp squib," he said, adding that the U.K. government should have put its foot down and not allowed its soil to be used to propagate anti-India campaign.

"By allowing the protesters to use Trafalgar Square, instead of the usual Hyde Park that's generally used for such purposes, it had shown its total complacency on the issue," he said.

"The entire referendum business is nothing but a money-making racket of the SFJ, with no takers for the so-called campaign either in India, or even outside, as is evident from the poor show at the rally," he added.

Terming the SFJ fringe elements mere social media tigers who were trying to create a hype even when they have no support, both in India and abroad, the Chief Minister said the Sikhs were a patriotic community who have always stood for the unity and integrity of the country.

The Chief Minister warned the SFJ and all other such anti-India forces to stay out of the country and refrain from any attempt to foment trouble in Punjab, or any other part of India.

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'BJP will win in Odisha'

Prakash Javadekar meets party workers in Berhampur

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

Senior BJP leader Prakash Javadekar exuded confidence on Monday that his party will win both the 2019 general election and the Odisha Assembly polls.

The Union Minister for Human Resource Development, currently on a visit to the State, said the BJP is working to strengthen its base in Odisha.

After arriving in Bhubaneswar on Sunday, Mr. Javadekar had made it clear that although the ruling Biju Janata Dal had supported the National Democratic Alliance government in the recent election for the post of Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman, there was no possibility of an alliance between it and the BJP.



Union Minister Prakash Javadekar having lunch at the house of a Dalit, Babi Sethi, in Berhampur. ▪ PTI

Reaching Berhampur late on Sunday night, Mr. Javadekar, who is party in charge in four Lok Sabha seats in the State, on Monday reviewed organisational activities at the booth level in Berhampur parliamentary constituency for the upcoming Lok Sabha and State Assembly polls. He held meetings with grassroots party workers here.

"We are reviewing the party's activities at the booth level, discussing with the party functionaries in each Assembly segment," he said.

Sources said Mr. Javadekar held separate meetings with BJP workers from seven Assembly segments under the Berhampur parliamentary constituency at a hotel here. No outsiders were allowed at these meetings. He reviewed the party organisation in Gopalpur, Chikiti, Mohana, Paralakhemundi and Berhampur segments.

(With PTI inputs)

Over 40 dengue cases in Odisha village

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

A total of 44 people from a village in Odisha's Kalahandi district have tested positive for dengue, an official said on Monday, adding that the number of cases is likely to go up.

"We have come across several dengue patients in Ladugaon village, located in Koksara Block of the district. Of the 218 blood samples sent for analysis, 44 tested positive for dengue," said Saroj Kumar Tihadi, Chief District Medical Officer.

Five teams of doctors have been deployed at Ladugaon to treat patients. The condition of one patient is said to be critical.

Dr. Tihadi said the number of vector-borne cases is likely to go up as poor hygiene is conducive to mosquito breeding. Cross infection is also going on, he said. "We are conducting a door-to-door survey," said Dr. Tihadi.

SC quizzes poll panel on uncontested seats

Over 20,000 posts in Bengal unclaimed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the West Bengal State Election Commission (WBSEC) as to whether it conducted any probe into the fact that a large number of seats in the local body elections in the State went uncontested.

Out of a total 58,692 posts for gram panchayat village, zilla parishad and panchayat samiti, 20,159 had remained uncontested in the violence-marred local polls held in May this year.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and D.Y. Chandrachud told the State poll panel that the issue of huge number of uncontested seats has been bothering it.

It asked the poll panel as to whether any inquiry was conducted in this regard. "It is your (poll panel) constitutional duty to conduct free and fair elections," it said.

Senior advocate Amrendra Sharan, appearing for the poll panel, said that 33% of nearly 50,000 panchayat seats going uncontested in the State was not "an alarming situation". He cited U.P. where almost 57% panchayat seats went uncontested and the figure was 51%, 67% and 27.6% in Haryana, Sikkim and Andhra Pradesh respectively. The hearing would continue on Tuesday.

Trinamool MP sends legal notice to Amit Shah

Made defamatory statements against me: Abhishek Banerjee

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

Trinamool Youth Congress president Abhishek Banerjee, nephew of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, on Monday sent a legal notice to BJP president Amit Shah alleging defamatory statements against him at a public rally on August 11 here.



BJP president Amit Shah in Kolkata. ▪ FILE PHOTO AP

The legal notice demanding an apology from Mr. Shah for allegedly making defamatory statements against Abhishek Banerjee, a Lok Sabha MP, was sent to the State BJP headquarters here, his lawyer Sanjay Basu said.

Mr. Basu asked Mr. Shah to "issue an unconditional apology at an appropriate press conference within 72 hours from receipt of the instant notice retracting the virulent and mala fide statements made against my client".

The notice said, "In your speech you had made various allegations against my client by making a flimsy and thinly veiled reference and/or insinuation to the "bhatija" (nephew) of the Chief Minister of West Bengal. Since, it is well known that my client is the nephew of Mamata Bannerjee and is actively involved in politics, the contents of your speech left little to the imagination of my client's well-wishers that you were referring to my client."

Mr. Basu said Mr. Banerjee "denies the allegation that he is involved in any purported diversion of public and/or government funds to the tune of ₹3,59,000 crore."

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IN BRIEF



LDF panel clears E.P. Jayarajan's return

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) State committee will take some crucial decisions on expanding its membership at its next meeting, LDF convener A. Vijayaraghavan has said. He said the State committee had endorsed the proposal for the reinduction of E.P. Jayarajan (in photo) into the Cabinet, shuffle in the portfolios held by the CPI(M) Ministers, and allocation of the Government Chief Whip post with Cabinet rank to the CPI. Mr. Jayarajan would be sworn in on Tuesday.

Telangana BJP MLA submits resignation

HYDERABAD

Bharatiya Janata Party legislator from Goshamahal T. Raja Singh said he has submitted his resignation letter to party's Telangana president K. Laxman. However, Mr. Laxman was yet to accept his resignation, he said on Sunday and added that safeguarding cows and Hindu dharma would be his first priority.

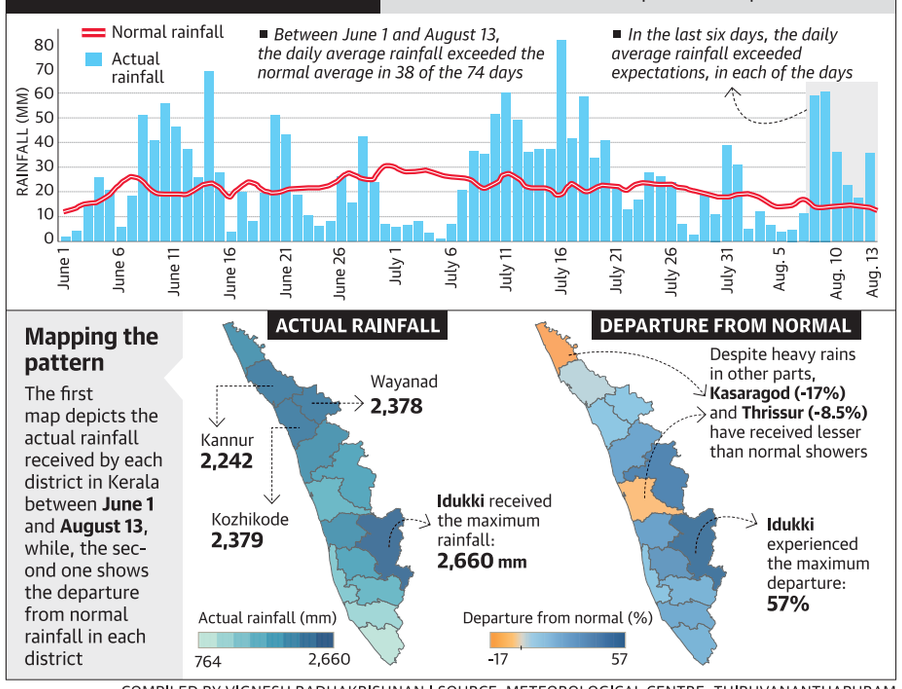
Retired SI kills wife, surrenders to police

HYDERABAD

A retired sub-inspector of police from Andhra Pradesh on Monday surrendered to the police, claiming to have killed his wife at their house in Kondapur here. Gachibowli police said the accused, Koki Sitaram Anjaneyulu Reddy, 61, fatally stabbed his wife Laxmi Anila, 51, six times, after a row at their flat. Later, he walked into the police station with the murder weapon and confessed to his crime, said Madhapur ACP N. Shayam Prasad Rao. The quarrel was over Mr. Reddy's suspected illicit relationship with a woman.

Relentless rainfall

The ongoing south-west monsoon has wreaked havoc in Kerala. A look at the rainfall pattern and places affected



Mapping the pattern

The first map depicts the actual rainfall received by each district in Kerala between **June 1** and **August 13**, while, the second one shows the departure from normal rainfall in each district

COMPILED BY VIGNESH RADHAKRISHNAN | SOURCE: METEOROLOGICAL CENTRE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Rains lash Kerala highlands after lull

Pampa in spate, curbs on pilgrimage to Sabarimala

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Riding on a fresh surge of westerly winds, the south-west monsoon unleashed its fury on Kerala again on Monday, dumping heavy rain on the highlands, just as large parts of the State started limping back to normal after the devastating floods of last week.

The hilly areas in Wayanad, Kozhikode and Malappuram bore the brunt of the havoc. Landslips occurred at Nilambur in Malappuram, Malampuzha in Palakkad, and several places in Kozhikode, Wayanad and Kannur.

The Travancore Devaswom Board imposed restrictions on the movement of pilgrims to the Sabarimala temple after the Pampa river overflowed its banks due to increased discharge from the Kochupampa, Moozhiyar and Kakki dams.

The Palakkad district administration issued a warning for residents in the downstream areas of the Malampuzha dam, after all the four shutters of the dam were raised to let out excess water. Palakkad town and Kalpathy were on alert for flash floods.

The weather office said rainfall activity over Kerala was likely to increase in intensity over the next 48 hours. A cyclonic circulation over the northwest Bay of Bengal is likely to become more marked by Tuesday, bringing heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places.

Wild elephant rescued

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ATHIRAPALLY

A wild elephant, which got stranded on a rock in a river in spate, was rescued on Monday in Thrissur district.

Locals, who saw the elephant standing on the rock in the Chalakudy River near here, alerted forest and police officials, following which it was decided to down the shutters of the Peringalkuthu dam upstream to enable the pachyderm move to safety, forest officials said.

Probe against college for sexual assault

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Indian Nursing Council (INC) is conducting an inquiry into a case of an alleged sexual assault of a nursing student of a city-based college.

Members of the INC spoke to several students as part of the inquiry on Monday.

While students of the School of Nursing, CSI Hospital, have alleged that a doctor of the hospital sexually assaulted a student, the management says that no formal complaint has been lodged by the students with the Internal Complaints Committee of the college.

Alleging other types of harassment, the students said that a female student was suspended for speaking to a male hospital staff.

Corruption all pervasive in Telangana, says Rahul

'One family benefits, land of farmers being snatched'

R. RAVIKANTH REDDY
HYDERABAD

Corruption is all pervasive in Telangana that is governed by one family, alleged AICC president Rahul Gandhi.

"While one family benefited, lands of farmers are being snatched, women of self-help groups (SHGs) are ignored and farmers don't get Minimum Support Price for their produce," he said while addressing SHG members at a programme organised by the Congress here on Monday. During the interaction, several women complained that they did not get loans without interest as they did when the Congress was in power and that the present government did not even listen to them. He said if voted to power, the Congress government would bear the interest on SHG loans. He said the present Telangana government could never work for the welfare of women.



Congress president Rahul Gandhi during a public rally in Sherilingampally on Monday. ▪ PTI

'Gabbar Singh Tax'

When Anita, a SHG member, said the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was affecting their lives, he asked whether she knew what GST was. When she gave the full form of GST, he said GST was "Gabbar Singh Tax" – taking a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi – and assured her the Congress would introduce the original GST with just one slab.

HC rejects plea to arrest Jalandhar Bishop

Kerala judge says probe so far conducted in nun rape case could not be faulted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Monday turned down a plea for a directive to arrest Franco Mulakkal, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Jalandhar, in connection with the case of the rape of a nun.

Dismissing the plea by the Kerala Catholic Church Reformation Movement (KCRM), Pala, the judge said the court had no role to play in the arrest of an accused. The court said the investigation so far could not be faulted, nor could it be said the investigation team was lackadaisical.

Justice B. Sudheendra Kumar, however, asked the police to take a decision on the arrest at the earliest.

Key accused surrenders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATHANAMTHITTA

Father Abraham Varghese, aka Soni, of Mundiyappally, the key accused in the sexual abuse case involving four clergymen of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, has surrendered before the Judicial First Class Magistrate at Thiruvalla on Monday. The court sent him to judicial custody for 10 days. The Crime Branch team investigating the case had earlier arrested two other accused, Fr. Job Mathew and Fr. Johnson V. Mathew.

Another accused, Fr. Jaise K. George, who surrendered before a court in Kollam on Monday, will be brought to the JFMC, Thiruvalla, on Tuesday, according to police sources.

Meanwhile, in a statement filed in response to a petition by the KCRM, Kottayam Deputy Superintendent of Police K. Subhash, the investigating officer, said the probe so far had revealed that Franco Mulakkal had raped the nun on several occasions at the guest room of the St. Francis Mission Home at Kuruvilangad.

The officer said medical examination also revealed that she was subjected to rape.

Seven questioned

Meanwhile, a Jalandhar report quoted Mr. Subhash as saying seven people were questioned in the city in the case. "More people will be questioned. We will also go to Amritsar for investigation while Franco Mulakkal will not be questioned today [on Monday]," he said.

Several mediapersons from Kerala were allegedly assaulted by private security guards at the Bishop House while covering the police probe and questioning of the Bishop. The guards manhandled them and damaged their cameras and equipment, the journalists said.

(With ANI, PTI inputs)

DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

PUBLIC NOTICE

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PROHIBITION OF FLYING UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES

- Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) / Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UASs), para gliders, para motors, hang-gliders, micro light aircrafts, remotely piloted aircrafts, hot air balloons, small size powered aircrafts, quadcopters have been prohibited from flying **till after 15.08.2018** vide prohibitory order issued specifically in this regard.
- **Any person contravening this order will be liable for criminal prosecution.**

All general public, shopkeepers, stockists, amateurs & professionals are requested to abide by the prohibitory order.

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IN BRIEF



Mobile labs to ensure safe water in rural Arunachal

ITANAGAR

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Monday inaugurated two mobile testing laboratories aimed at ensuring safe and potable water supply in rural areas. The labs, capable of onsite testing of different water quality parameters, are funded by the State's Public Health Engineering Department. The testing units will also spread awareness about clean drinking water. PTI

Siblings run over by autorickshaw in Bihar

MUZAFFARPUR

Two siblings died on Monday after a speeding auto-rickshaw ran over them in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district, the police said. The incident happened near Kerma village in Kudhni police station area of the district when Mohammad Sahil (10) and Atika Hasan (8) were returning home from school. PTI

Four teachers killed in M.P. road mishap

SHIVPURI/BURHANPUR

Four teachers were killed in a road accident in Madhya Pradesh, the police said on Monday. The government school teachers were killed when the SUV (sports utility vehicle) they were travelling in rammed into a stationary truck parked on the roadside on the Gwalior-Biaora Highway in Shivpuri district. PTI

7 children rescued, trafficker arrested

PAKUR

Seven minor children belonging to the primitive Pahariya tribe have been rescued and a human trafficker arrested in Jharkhand's Pakur district, the policesaid on Monday. Acting on a tip-off, a police team conducted a raid at Amrapara bus stand and rescued the children. PTI

'Will you declare hilsa fish infiltrators?'

Mamata says BJP 'anti-Bengalis', questions NRC criteria

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA



Crisis of identity: People whose names were left out from National Register of Citizens draft queue up to collect forms in Morigaon district of Assam on Monday. ▪ RITU RAJ KONWAR

Attacking the BJP-led Central government over exclusion of 40 lakh people in the final draft of Assam's National Register of Citizens, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday accused the ruling party of being "anti-Bengalis".

Taking a swipe at the BJP, the Trinamool Congress chief asked if hilsa fish, Jamdani saree, sandesh and mishti doi, which are originally from Bangladesh, would also be branded as "infiltrators or refugees".

Asserting that these 40 lakh people are "very much Indians", she questioned the criteria on which they have been excluded.

Ms. Banerjee said that even she would not be able to produce the birth certificate of her parents if the government asks for it.

"Do not know my parents' birth dates. I only know the dates of their death. I would not be able to provide any documents for their date of birth but there should be a clear system about such cases... you cannot blame the layman," she told reporters at her chamber in the State Assembly.

Necessary documents

Ms. Banerjee has been attacking the BJP government at the Centre over the NRC, which has excluded names of over 40 lakh citizens in the final draft for want of necessary documents in Assam.

"What is going on in the country is injustice. The BJP with their extremist ideology is trying to create division among the people. I think they are playing the politics of revenge among the countrymen. We are not for this kind of politics," she said.

She accused the BJP of being "anti-Bengalis" and "anti-West Bengal".

"They (the BJP) must not forget that speaking Bengali is not a crime. It is the fifth most spoken language in the world. What is BJP's problem with (West) Bengal? Are they scared of the intellect of the Bengalis, their culture? They must not forget that (West) Bengal is the cultural Mecca of the country," she said.

'Bangladeshi' teacher relieved from NRC work

Tribunal declared him foreigner last year; appeal pending in HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MORIGAON (ASSAM)

A government school teacher was relieved on Monday from National Register of Citizens work after the Morigaon district administration came to know that he was declared a Bangladeshi by a Foreigners' Tribunal, an official said.

The government teacher has been assisting the NRC updation and he is not entitled to take any decision about inclusion or exclusion of any applicant, Morigaon Deputy Commissioner Hemen Das said in a statement.

Sensitivities involved

"He has been declared as a foreigner by the Foreigners' Tribunal, Morigaon but his case is pending before the Guwahati High Court. However, as a matter of abundant caution and considering the sensitivities involved, he has been relieved from NRC work immediately," Mr. Das said. The teacher was declared a Bangladeshi citizen by the tribunal last year.

Concern expressed

Several organisations here have expressed concern over the teacher's case wondering how a declared foreigner was engaged in the NRC updating work at the Kolmoubari NRC Seva Kendra in Morigaon district.

Over 40,000 government employees, including teachers, were engaged exclusively for NRC work.

Dera men planned to eliminate Sikh preacher: SIT

Rebel AAP legislators reveal contents of report on Faridkot sacrilege incident, demand probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

Some Dera Sacha Sauda followers had allegedly planned to eliminate Sikh preacher Baljit Singh Daduwal, says a report prepared by Punjab police's Special Investigation Team probing sacrilege incidents.

The contents of the SIT report were on Monday shared with the media by Aam Aadmi Party MLAs Sukhpal Singh Khaira and Kanwar Sandhu here.

SIT chairman Ranbir Singh Khatra, who is also the DIG of Ludhiana Range, submitted his report in June to the Justice (retd) Ranjit Singh Commission which was constituted to investigate various incidents of sacrilege of the Guru Granth Sahib and other religious texts.

Sacrilege conspiracy

In the report, the SIT mentioned that sacrilege incidents which took place in Faridkot district in 2015 were the "result of a conspiracy hatched by some Dera Sacha Sauda followers".

According to the SIT report, the main conspirator, Mohinderpal, who was a part of a 45-member committee of the Dera, had allegedly planned to eliminate Daduwal who, according to them, was protesting against the Dera.

However, the plan was later called off, said the report. The police have already arrested Mohinderpal and some other followers in connection with the sacrilege incidents at Bargari in Faridkot.

According to the report, Mohinderpal was the mastermind behind the theft of a 'bir' of the Guru Granth Sahib from the gurdwara at Burj Jawahar Singh Wala village.

March on August 20

Addressing a press conference here, Mr. Khaira and Mr. Sandhu sought a probe "into the role of Dera Sacha Sauda head in the sacrilege incidents".

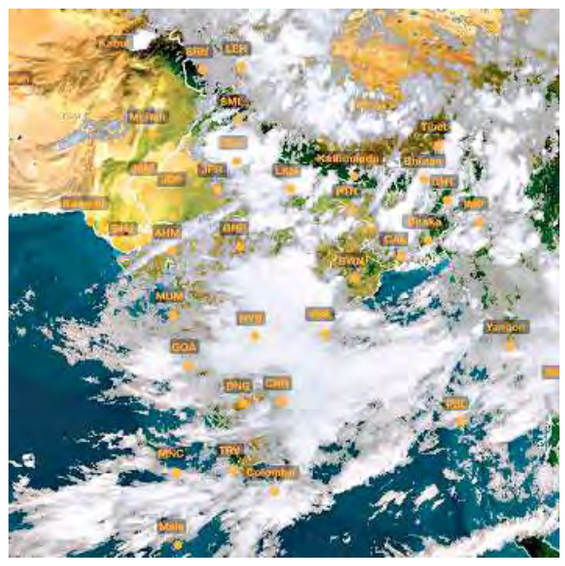
They asked the Congress government in Punjab to take action against those involved in Behbal Kalan and Kotkapura firing incidents in 2015.

Meanwhile, Mr. Khaira said a march will be taken out from Bargari till district administration office complex in Faridkot on August 20 seeking prompt action in the sacrilege incidents.

They also demanded a special session of the Assembly to discuss the Bargari incident report prepared by the Justice (retd) Ranjit Singh Commission.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy to very heavy rain likely at a few/ isolated places over Odisha, Uttarakhand, Konkan, coastal and south interior Karnataka, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Gangetic West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram, central Maharashtra, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	34.2	26.0	Kozhikode	34.4	27.4	22.4
Ahmedabad	–	33.5	26.0	Kurnool	0.8	31.9	23.3
Aizwal	27	29.6	12.7	Lucknow	40.8	32.2	25.6
Allahabad	0.8	34.1	26.4	Madurai	–	36.5	26.7
Bengaluru	3.2	24.8	19.4	Mangaluru	3.2	27.1	19.4
Bhopal	–	30.0	24.0	Mumbai	11.4	29.0	23.2
Bhubaneswar	6.1	33.7	25.8	Mysuru	3.4	26.8	18.6
Chandigarh	48.1	30.0	25.7	New Delhi	7.8	33.8	26.5
Chennai	–	34.1	25.8	Patna	29.5	31.0	26.5
Coimbatore	0.6	31.5	22.2	Port Blair	0.8	29.5	25.8
Dehradun	102.6	28.1	23.1	Puducherry	–	36.1	24.8
Gangtok	30.7	23.4	17.5	Pune	3.3	25.6	21.3
Goa	35.4	28.3	24.0	Raipur	10.3	29.3	24.7
Guwahati	67.2	30.4	24.5	Ranchi	3	28.5	22.5
Hubballi	–	23.0	21.0	Shillong	37.4	22.8	18.2
Hyderabad	0.1	29.0	22.5	Shimla	172.6	20.2	16.2
Imphal	3	31.6	22.0	Srinagar	1	25.7	21.2
Jaipur	–	34.0	25.5	Trivandrum	20.5	30.6	24.1
Kochi	30.2	30.2	23.2	Tiruchi	–	36.7	25.8
Kohima	32.6	27.4	17.5	Vijayawada	80.8	27.8	24.1
Kolkata	1.9	32.5	27.5	Visakhapatnam	31.9	27.8	26.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	49	.61	21	49	.....–	....
Bengaluru	..8	.25	75	33	...74	....
Chennai	..9	.28	49	63	.....–	....
Delhi	..–	.19	.8	35	.230	....
Hyderabad	..–	.29	43	23	...22	....
Kolkata	..2	.35	62	22	...29	....
Lucknow	10	.10	84	56	.....–	....
Mumbai	11	.21	62	19	...43	....
Pune	34	.13	55	28	...18	....
Vishakhapatnam	..–	..–	30	..... –	.....–	....–

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bhiwadi, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 156 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Haldia, West Bengal recorded a healthy AQI score of 26

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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IN BRIEF



Two held for sharing sensitive video in J&K

JAMMU

A government school teacher and a college student were arrested in the Rajouri district near here for sharing and circulating a sensitive WhatsApp post with potential to create law and order problem. The two shared a highly sensitive video on their WhatsApp group 'Daily News & Notification', said a senior police officer. PTI

More arms unearthed in Nallasopara

MUMBAI

Sleuths of the Anti Terrorism Squad of the Maharashtra police on Monday seized another cache of arms and ammunition in Nallasopara, based on the interrogation of the three people arrested last week. The ATS suspects that the trio was planning to target crowded places.

Illegal arms factory busted in Gujarat, 4 held

RAJKOT

Four people were arrested for allegedly manufacturing firearms illegally at a factory in Gujarat's Rajkot district, a police officer said on Monday. Acting on a tip-off, the police raided the factory, located in the Kothariya Road area, on Sunday night and seized some pistols and raw material used for making the firearms, he said. PTI



Pune tops Ease of Living index; Patna ranked lowest of 111 cities

Ranking reflects ability to provide data as much as actual performance

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

Three cities in Maharashtra – Pune, Navi Mumbai and Greater Mumbai – top the first Ease of Living Index brought out by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The national capital, New Delhi, is ranked 65 among 111 cities, while Chennai is in 14th place. Kolkata did not participate in the survey.

A city's ranking reflects its ability to provide data, as well as its actual performance on four different parameters – institutions or governance, social indicators, economic indicators and physical infrastructure. Senior Ministry officials told *The Hindu* that cities which were unable or unwilling to provide data received low scores.

Data deficient

For example, New Delhi has a score of "zero" on indicators regarding inclusive housing and mixed land use and compactness, and a score of just 0.12 on economy and employment.

This does not mean that the capital actually performs so poorly on these indicators, according to members of the consortium which carried out the survey and produced the Index for the government. Instead, it probably means that the NDMC and the three Municipal Corporations which govern the city simply failed to provide any data on those indicators.

"If Delhi is showing zero in any category, it probably means that no data was given for any indicator under that category," a consortium member told *The Hindu*, explaining that urban local bodies had been required to respond to 553 questions in 15 different categories under the four parameters.

Releasing the Index, Housing and Urban Development Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the ranking marks "a shift to a data-driven approach to urban planning and management." He said future editions of the Index may also incorporate citizen and stakeholder feedback rather than relying on government data alone.

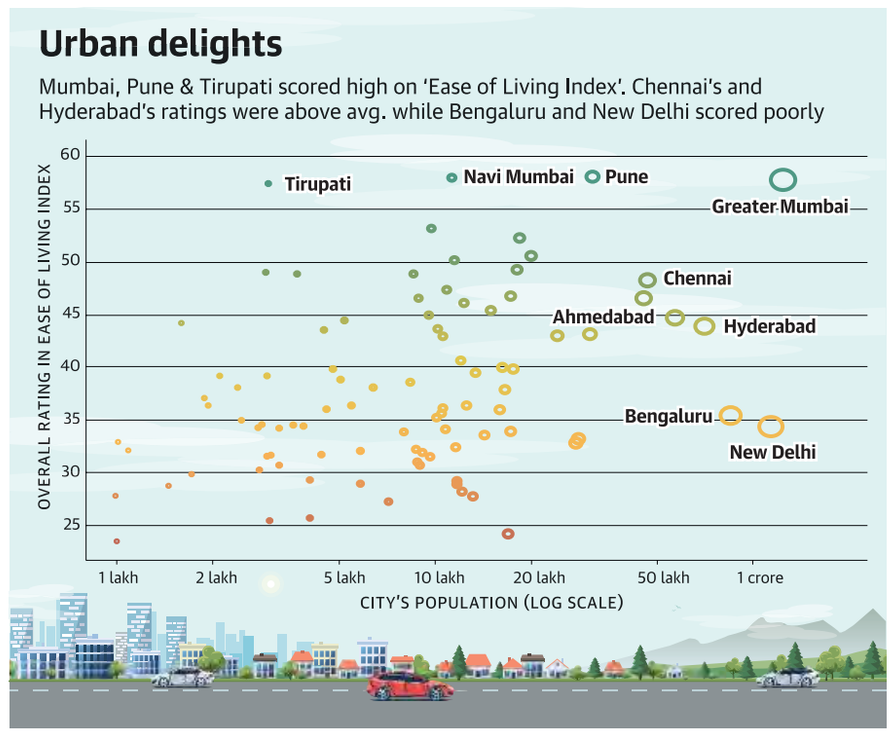
A consortium member admitted that it was a challenge to collect some of this information from data-starved urban local bodies.

Complex administration

Particular complications were seen in indicators such as health –where local governments did not have access to data from private hospitals. The consortium assisted cities in plugging the data gap with regard to certain indicators.

"If cities are not able to provide data, how will they be able to plan and use their resources well? The first thing they need to learn is to get their data ecosystem aligned," pointed out a consortium member.

The other cities in the top 10 include Tirupati, Chandigarh, Thane, Raipur, Indore, Vijayawada and Bhopal. The three cities at the bottom of the rankings are Rampur, Kohima and Patna.



DMK funds being misused: Alagiri

Karunanidhi's son revolts against younger brother Stalin, says party 'loyalists' are with him

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

Ahead of the DMK's emergency executive council meeting slated for Tuesday, late party leader M. Karunanidhi's son M.K. Alagiri on Monday raised a banner of revolt against younger brother and party working president M.K. Stalin, alleging that the party's assets and funds are being misused.

"They will never take me back into the party because I will question their wrongdoings," he told *The Hindu* hours after creating a stir at the Marina, where he claimed that the "true loyalists" of Karunanidhi were with him.

Mr. Alagiri, who along with his family members paid homage to the patriarch at the Marina, told journalists, "I have come here to express my anguish to my father. You will not know what it is about now. The real loyalists of my leader Kalaignar (Karunanidhi) are with me. The loyalists across the State are supporting me. Time will provide an answer." He said his anguish was over the party and had nothing to do with the family. Stating that he had no idea whether he would rejoin the DMK, from which he was expelled in 2014, he said, "I have expressed everything to (the soul of) Kalaignar."



War cry: M.K. Alagiri addressing the media after paying homage to his father and DMK patriarch M. Karunanidhi on the Marina Beach in Chennai on Monday. ▪ PTI

Later in an interview with *The Hindu*, he charged, "I know that the party's assets and funds are being misused... They have stooped to the level of lending party's funds for (earning) interest. The profits are not going to the party and everybody knows who is benefiting. If I am in the party, I will object to these activities. So they will not take me back. Attempts are being made to usurp the assets of the party." Mr. Alagiri said he did not aspire to become a leader and preferred to remain a worker to strengthen the DMK like his father.

Vaiko slams 'insult' to judges at Raj Bhavan

Veeramani dubs incident 'unprecedented'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

A day after a judge of the Madras High Court complained about judges being made to sit behind police officers during the swearing-in ceremony of the Chief Justice overlooking the protocol, MDMK leader Vaiko has condemned the incident.

In a statement issued on Monday, he also recalled an earlier incident in Meenakshi Amman Temple in Madurai in which judges were made to vacate their seats for politicians and Ministers. "Only those who are posted at the Raj Bhavan are responsible for this act of insult to the judges. Not only should the Raj Bhavan issue an explanation but it should also take action against those responsible," he demanded.

Dravidar Kazhagam president K. Veeramani has also criticised the alleged protocol breach.

Pointing out that judges had expressed anguish over the poor seating arrangements, he said, "Such a thing has never happened before. It is a shame."

He said that Governor Banwarilal Purohit should first find out why such a gaffe had happened. He also criticised the State government for not making proper security arrangements on the day the mortal remains of former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi were laid to rest.

JCOs are gazetted officers, says Defence Ministry

Directs Services to issue suitable identity cards

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Junior Commissioned Officers (JCO) in the Indian military are gazetted officers, the Defence Ministry has clarified in an order issued on August 1. The clarification follows a long standing controversy over the issue.

The Ministry has instructed the three Services to issue suitable identity cards to the JCOs immediately in the order, the subject of which reads: "Issue of blue Securitised Laminated Identity Cards (SLIC) to JCOs and equivalent officer having been accorded gazetted officer status by an Act of Parliament."

"There exists no ambiguity at all in the status of JCOs/ equivalent being Gazetted officers. As the letter referred at Para 1(d) stands withdrawn vide letter at Para 1 (e) above, thereby resolving the ambiguity, blue coloured SLICs may be issued immediately to JCO/ equivalent in the three services," the Headquarters of Integrated Defence Staff said in an order dated August 1, 2018.



A file photo of cadets during the passing-out parade at the Officers Training Academy in Chennai. ▪ B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Reversal of order

This is a reversal of an order issued in mid-June in which Defence Ministry observed that there was no case for accepting JCOs as Gazetted officers.

In the case for grant of Non-Productivity Linked Bonus (NPLB) to JCOs and equivalent, the Defence Ministry observed in an order dated June 14, "The matter has been examined in consultation with CAO division. It has also been seen that the CAO division has, with approval of Defence Secretary, not agreed to the contention that JCOs are Gazetted officers and should be issued blue SLICs."

Due to this, the order stated that there does not appear to be enough justification to reconsider grant of NPLB to JCO and equivalent.

'T.N failed to maintain Cauvery water quality'

Karnataka says it cannot be blamed

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Karnataka on Monday blamed Tamil Nadu in the Supreme Court for "failing to maintain the quality in the Cauvery river."

"The pollution is highest in the stretch below Mettur and up to Mayiladuthurai, which is the heart of irrigation in Tamil Nadu. The State of Karnataka, therefore, cannot be blamed for polluted water in Tamil Nadu both in the Cauvery and Thenpennaiyar," it said.

Karnataka's affidavit was handed over by State counsel V.N. Reghupathy to a Bench led by Justice S.A. Bobde. Tamil Nadu has sought two weeks' time to respond.

Karnataka was replying to a suit filed by Tamil Nadu in 2015, seeking permanent injunction against the former "from letting the untreated sewage and industrial effluents into the rivers Cauvery and Pennaiyar without treating them in conformity with prescribed standards." It denied the allegations levelled against it by Tamil Nadu.



Tamil Nadu has sought two weeks' time to respond.

Karnataka submitted that the failure to conform to the prescribed standards was due to the non-point sources of pollution, which are over land flows of effluents into the river. "The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act of 1974 enacted by Parliament under Article 252(1) deal only with point sources of pollution. The State of Karnataka has fulfilled its obligation... there is no liability on the defendant State of Karnataka in law," the affidavit said.

Disclose panels on sexual harassment, companies told

Rules amended by Corporate Affairs Ministry

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

In order to ensure better implementation of the law against sexual harassment at workplace, the Centre has made it mandatory for companies to disclose whether they have constituted an internal complaints committee (ICC) to probe such allegations.

Rules amended

The Corporate Affairs Ministry has amended the Companies (Accounts) Rules, 2014, governed by the Companies Act, 2013, mandating the disclosure. This has been a long-standing demand from Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi.

The amended rules were notified on July 31. It adds a clause to a rule on matters that should be part of the Board's report.



Maneka Gandhi called it a step towards making the workplace safe for women.

The new clause says that the report will have to contain "a statement that the Company has complied with provisions relating to the constitution of Internal Complaints Committee under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013."

Ms. Gandhi called the move a "major step towards making the workplace safe for the women in the private sector." She added that she will be requesting regulator Security Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to incorporate this disclosure in the report on corporate governance of various companies so that there is a higher responsibility on the Directors of these Companies to implement the Act.

Under the Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, it is mandatory for any organisation with 10 or more employees to constitute an ICC. An employer who doesn't do so could face a fine of up to ₹50,000.

An ICC should consist of a presiding officer, who is a woman employee at a senior level in the same organisation, at least two employees "preferably committed to the cause of women", and a member from an NGO or a person "familiar with issues relating to sexual harassment."

Like civil court

The committee would have powers similar to those of a civil court and would have to complete its inquiry within 90 days.

2 functionaries of Patna shelter held

Two inmates were brought dead to hospital on Sunday

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

A day after two woman inmates of the government-funded Aasra Homes, short-stay home in Patna, died under mysterious circumstances, the police on Monday arrested the manager and the secretary of the NGO, which ran the shelter.

An FIR has been lodged against the arrested persons, Chirantan Kumar and Manisha Dayal, and a doctor and an auxiliary nurse-midwife attached to the shelter home, who are absconding.

"Two persons Chirantan Kumar and Manisha Dayal have been arrested in the case while, the doctor and the ANM associated with the Aasra short stay home are absconding," Rajiv Nagar station officer in-charge Rohan Kumar said.

Patna District Magistrate Kumar Ravi told reporters that the viscera of the two dead inmates have been preserved for further investigation.



Manisha Dayal, the secretary of the NGO which ran the shelter home, being taken to a court in Patna on Monday. ▪ PTI

The two inmates were brought to the Patna Medical College and Hospital for emergency medical attention on Sunday, but the doctors declared them brought dead. The two had allegedly fallen sick on Friday night with diarrhoea, vomiting and high fever. The police said they were informed about the incident much later.

Meanwhile, photographs of Ms. Dayal, a former model, with several politicians across party lines have gone viral on social media. Sources told *The Hindu* that Ms. Dayal was running several NGOs. Senior ruling party JD (U) leader Shyam Rajak, whose photograph with Ms. Dayal has been circulating on social media, responding to media persons, said: "We're politicians and we visit many events to inaugurate them and people get photographs with us... how do we know them?...I'm not aware of this lady."

Corporator absconding after assaulting hotelier

RAINA ASSAINAR
NAVI MUMBAI

The Kharghar police are on the lookout for a BJP corporator who allegedly assaulted and tried to extort money from a hotelier.

Imtiaz Nisar Ahmed Shaikh (41) had recently started a hotel named Shahi Bawarchi in Sector 4, Belpada. A few days ago, when he was supervising the renovation work, he was approached by corporator Shatrughn Kakade.

As per the complaint, Mr. Kakade told Mr. Shaikh that if he ever faces problems in the area, he can contact him. Mr. Kakade also said if Mr. Shaikh wanted to do his business without trouble, he should pay ₹50,000 per month to him. After a few days, Mr. Kakade met Mr. Shaikh and asked him about his decision to which he said he would not pay the money as his business is legal and he has all the required permissions.

On Friday night, Mr. Kakade along with seven men went to the hotel and assaulted Mr. Shaikh and his staff. Mr. Kakade also threatened with dire consequences if he refused to pay him ₹50,000 on a monthly basis. Mr. Shaikh was taken to MGM Hospital, Kamothe.

"We registered a case on Monday after recording the statement of Mr. Shaikh at the hospital. Mr. Kakade is on the run," the police said.

Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of Higher Education

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Keeping dry

Kerala's floods show the need for governments to strengthen resilience planning

The catastrophic impact of monsoon rainfall on several districts of Kerala has come as a grim reminder that the vigil against unpredictable natural disasters must never be relaxed. More than three dozen people have died and an estimated ₹8,316 crore worth of economic assets have been lost in the seasonal rain, particularly over the past week. The gates of reservoirs in the Idukki system, a giant hydroelectric project, and several other dams have been opened, inundating riverside habitations downstream. At the peak of the havoc, about 60,000 people whose dwellings suffered damage were lodged in relief camps. In the northern districts, damage to houses, roads and other structures has occurred owing to landslips caused by incessant showers. There is genuine concern that a temporary respite in rainfall may be followed by another intense downpour from nascent weather systems; the India Meteorological Department has forecast rain until August 17. It is to Kerala's credit that the deluge has led not to a partisan blame game over planning, relief and rehabilitation, but an all-round effort to look ahead and plan for reconstruction. The Centre has done well to get a first-hand estimate of the havoc from Home Minister Rajnath Singh, although the initial announcement of ₹100 crore towards relief is incongruous with the scale of the damage. Crucial support has come from the armed forces as well to normalise the situation.

Kerala's unusually heavy monsoon this year is in contrast to the long-period trend of rainfall. According to an analysis of data on the monsoon between 1954 and 2003 by climate researchers at the University of Cambridge, overall this part of the country had become drier in summer, but with an emerging frequency of destructive flash floods in rare events. This trend is expected to become stronger. This points to the need for governments to strengthen their resilience planning. It should begin with a programme to relocate people away from hazard zones along the rivers that were in spate in Kerala over the past week after the shutters of more than two dozen dams were opened. Finding suitable land is, of course, a challenge in a populous, forested State, but it is an absolute necessity to prepare for the future. It is reasonable to expect that with its efficient primary health care network, Kerala will take all measures necessary to avoid epidemics in the wake of the floods. The spectacular disaster this year also underscores the role of the government as the insurer of last resort for the average citizen. In Mumbai last year, for instance, those who had private household insurance cover against disasters discovered the limitations of such policies, since the companies were unwilling to pay many home owners for a key risk such as costly displacement from homes since the houses were not structurally damaged. All States naturally look to Kerala, with its record of social development, for evolving best practices to handle such natural disasters.

Huff and e-puff

Given conflicting claims about health effects, India should tread cautiously on e-cigarettes

In a recent hearing on a public interest litigation in the Delhi High Court, the Delhi government said it was planning to ban e-cigarettes. If it follows through, the NCT will join States such as Karnataka and Maharashtra in the ban. The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has taken a stand against e-cigarettes. But is a ban the right approach to regulate this technology, given that combustible cigarettes are freely available across India? The controversy exists partly because it is a new and rapidly evolving technology. This makes it hard for researchers to study the health effects. Still, the evidence so far indicates that e-cigarettes are safer than combustible cigarettes. Because they heat a liquid to generate a nicotine-containing aerosol, instead of burning tobacco, they do not produce toxic tars. That doesn't mean they are completely safe. At high temperatures, e-cigarettes produce carcinogens such as formaldehyde, although these are fewer in number compared to regular cigarettes. They also increase the odds of lung disease and myocardial infarction, but to a lesser extent than normal cigarettes do.

In the American *Annual Review of Public Health*, in January 2018 a group of researchers argued that e-cigarettes must be viewed from a "harm minimisation" perspective. Given that combustible cigarettes are more noxious than electronic ones, switching from the former to the latter can only help addicts, they argued. Writing in the same journal issue, however, another group of researchers advocated the precautionary principle. Given that e-cigarettes are a young technology, they said, it will take time to uncover their ill-effects. Already we know some carcinogens in e-cigarettes have a non-linear effect on cancer. This means even the low doses in e-cigarette aerosols can be carcinogenic if inhaled for years. Recent surveys also show that e-cigarettes can act as a gateway drug for young people. A 2011 study of Korean adolescents found that e-cigarette users were more likely to turn into regular smokers eventually. Plus, 2004-2014 data from the U.S. National Youth Tobacco Surveys suggest that young people at low risk of taking up smoking are turning to e-cigarettes. Against this background, India must tread carefully. Completely banning the technology, while selling normal cigarettes, could take away a promising smoking-cessation aid. A more pragmatic option would be to regulate e-cigarettes tightly, by creating standards for the aerosols and banning underage and public use. This would leave smokers with a therapeutic alternative, while protecting youngsters from a gateway drug. Either way, conflicting evidence makes it a tough call for policymakers.

Growth may pick up, but concerns remain

India may well clock the highest growth rate globally, but more is needed to create jobs and reduce poverty



C. RANGARAJAN

With more than one quarter of the year and two months of the monsoon over, it is time to take a look at what the whole year is going to be like. Are there signs of recovery? If there are, are they robust? What are the short- and medium-term concerns of the country?

Sectoral trends

The monsoon has been somewhat below expectations – the overall rainfall deficiency was 3% (as of July 25). Though it may seem negligible, it has to be noted that there were 11 meteorological divisions (of a total of 36) which were deficient. The area sown has come down. Rice-producing Bihar, for instance, has been severely affected. However, the monsoon can pick up. There is no consensus on the future behaviour of the monsoon. Agricultural growth may at best be equal to what it was last year – 3.4%.

The services sector may perform better because public expenditure will be maintained at a high level. This is to be expected, as this happens to be the year before the elections. As for the industrial sector, we have data for the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for the first quarter. They show substantial improvement over the corresponding period of the previous year. It is important to remember that the correlation between the IIP and national income data on manufacturing is poor. Some sectors (automobiles and railway freight traffic) in the first quarter have done well. The combined revenues and profit of 370 large companies have shown better performance in the first quarter, even though they are on a weak base. The problems of the goods and services tax (GST) may have been largely overcome, but it is still a work in progress. A pick-up in the growth rate in the manufacturing sector is likely.

Looking at the overall GDP, after several quarters of low growth, there was a strong pick-up in the last quarter of 2017-18. If this momentum is maintained, the growth rate (2018-19) will certainly be above 7%. How much higher above 7% will depend on a number of factors. International financial institutions have forecast a growth rate of 7.3%. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expects it to be 7.4%. However, we need to take note of certain concerns that can come in the way of faster growth.

External environment

The external environment is far from reassuring. Trade wars have already started and can get worse. The U.S. has raised duties on several products such as steel and aluminium, and on certain products imported from China. In turn, China has retaliated. India has also been caught in this exchange. It is difficult to forecast how much worse this will become. Besides these, there are country-specific sanctions such as those against Iran, which have a direct impact on crude oil output and prices. India benefited from the fall in crude prices earlier but this position has reversed. There has been some lull in crude prices. As a net importer, India's balance of payments can take a beating if crude prices rise again. India's current account deficit was as low as 0.6% of GDP in 2016-17. It rose to 1.9% of GDP in 2017-18, mainly because of crude



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price rise. India's trade deficit has always remained high. In 2016-17, the merchandise trade deficit was 4.8% and rose to 6% of GDP the next year. The answer lies in raising our export growth which has shown severe swings in recent years. It is partly a reflection of world trade. The fall in crude oil prices had also affected our export growth earlier. In 2017-18, India's export growth rate was 9.78%. There is an inescapable need to raise our export growth rate.

In this context, we need to ensure that the rupee does not appreciate in real terms. Despite a current account deficit, India's rupee had remained strong because of capital flows. With a rising trade deficit and some outflow of capital, the rupee has depreciated. This is not unnatural. The RBI should act only to ensure that the adjustment is smooth and there are no violent fluctuations. But what is really important is to make our exports competitive. The exchange rate is only one element. Improved efficiency in production and better infrastructure are equally important. Maintenance of domestic stability also plays a key role. Over the medium term, we need to search for an alternative fuel.

Reviving the banking system

The banking system continues to be a source of concern. The RBI's latest report on financial stability shows that the gross non-performing asset (NPA) ratio of scheduled commercial banks rose to 11.6% (March 2018). The ratio for public sector banks was 15.6%. This is indeed a very high level of NPAs. Some part of the increase is also due to the adoption of a more rigorous definition of NPAs. The high NPA level has a dampening effect on the provision of new credit. In fact, credit to the industrial sector has slowed down considerably. Recapitalisation of banks has become an urgent necessity. Of course, this will impose a serious burden on the fiscal position. Many suggestions, which include asset reconstruction companies, have been made to resolve the NPA issue. A quick decision has to be made. Unless the banking system recovers fast, it is difficult to sustain a high growth of the industrial sector. Medium-term banking reforms will have to wait until the immediate problem is resolved.

Impact on the fisc

The third concern relates to the fiscal position. So far in the current year, the Central government's fisc has been within limits. At the end of the first quarter, the fiscal deficit as a percentage of total deficit for the year as a whole was 68.7% – a strong improvement over the deficit in the corresponding period last year.

There are two aspects of the fisc which need to be kept under watch. One relates to GST. It is estimated that GST revenues are currently running behind budgetary projections. Perhaps revenues may pick up in the second half. But one doesn't know. It is also not clear how much of the refunds are outstanding. Any significant shortfall can put the fisc under stress.

The second concern relates to the impact of the proposed minimum support prices (MSPs) for various agricultural commodities. The MSPs have been raised sharply in the case of some commodities. Except in the case of rice and wheat (where there is unlimited procurement at MSPs), there is no indication of how the MSPs will be implemented in relation to other commodities. If market prices fall below MSPs, there are only two ways in which farmers can be assured of the minimum price. One is the M.P. model where the State pays the difference between market price and MSP. But this can turn out to be a serious burden if market prices fall steeply. This is apart from the administrative problems involved in implementing the scheme. The other alternative is for the government to procure excess production over normal production so that market prices rise. This alternative may be less burdensome. However, this alternative will not work if the MSP is fixed at a level to which the market price will never rise. Thus the burden on the government as a result of the new MSPs is uncertain and needs to be watched. The possibility of cutting expenditures if revenues fall below projections is remote in a year before elections.

The expected growth rate of 7.3-7.4% may be reassuring. It may even be the highest in the world economy. Nevertheless, it falls short of our potential. It is below of what is needed to raise job opportunities and reduce poverty. It is true that the external environment is not helpful. All the same, a stronger push towards a much higher growth is very much the need of the hour.

C. Rangarajan is former Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and former Governor, Reserve Bank of India. He is also Chairman, Madras School of Economics, Chennai

Making 'lateral entry' work

How India can tap into new sources of leadership talent



RAJEEV VASUDEVA & PALLAVI KATHURIA

Most CEOs are grappling with one particular challenge, irrespective of industry or geography: getting the right leadership talent. Governments face this challenge too. The Indian government has responded to this challenge by taking the initiative to invite executives from beyond the ranks of the civil service to apply for certain Joint Secretary posts. While the idea clearly has merit, success is not automatically guaranteed. At Egon Zehnder we have worked extensively with governments around the world on similar initiatives, and have identified five elements that increase the chances of success.

Establish objective criteria: The key decision makers involved in making a senior appointment rarely agree on what skills, qualities and experiences the role requires– and when they do, there is no guarantee that the requirements agreed to are the ones that are actually needed to be successful. This is why the process must begin with a real probing of the position and its larger context. For example, prior to one county's national elections, we were asked to establish the hiring criteria for 100 key governmental appointments. We interviewed current and former officeholders; mapped strategic priorities; and factored in the cultural differences between ministries. The result: a foundational talent strategy that could be used by whichever party won.

Having objective criteria also gives decision makers confidence that their appointments will be able to stand up to public scrutiny without fear of seeming biased towards or against candidates for caste, geography, political affiliation or other considerations.

Target the talent you need: Public announcements inviting lateral entry applicants for open government positions preserve transparency but are not very effective recruiting strategies. Top talent has many options outside of public service. Government, therefore, cannot sit back and wait for these candidates to present themselves. It must proactively identify and approach executives with the desired skills and experience. Precisely because the competition for talent is so intense, most successful corporations – even those regarded as highly desirable employers – follow this strategy. Very often governments are reluctant to follow suit so as to not appear to favour candidates. This is where the objective criteria come in. The fact that a given executive is approached and encouraged to apply is no guarantee that he or she will be appointed.



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We worked with a freshly installed administration in Latin America to build an extensive database of hundreds of private sector leaders considered to have the skills necessary to help fight the country's urgent economic and social challenges. These executives were then proactively invited to apply and added to the pool of open application candidates. We then assessed this expanded group and recommended numerous successful candidates to key roles.

Look for potential to succeed in this environment: Our work with governments around the world suggests that in addition to the right motivation there are three key personal traits that predict success of lateral hires in such roles.

The first is resilience. Government bureaucracy can be tough on outsiders; it is essential to have the ability to persevere in the face of constant pulls and pressures and aligning multiple stakeholders.

Successful lateral hires also have a high level of curiosity. They acknowledge that they don't have all the answers, are eager to learn and model their behaviour accordingly. These candidates know that while they may have many useful new ideas, they also have much to learn from career civil servants and that government has its own systems, formal and informal, that must be grasped before any innovations can be proposed.

Finally, they have the ability to engage others. The ability to build consensus among stakeholders is essential.

Less is more when it comes to selection panels: The government screening process traditionally includes appearing before a section panel of three to five interviewers, who each take their turn investigating topics they have divided between themselves. Unfortunately, this approach often results in only a surface-level understanding of the candidate. We have found that one-on-one or two-on-one interviews allow for a much more meaningful exploration of key points of a candidate's career, their mindset and approach.

More focussed interviews should be supplemented with extensive referencing with finalist candidates. This combination of data will provide insight into a candidate's character, integrity and moral compass – all critical qualities for government roles.

Accelerate the new hire's integration: Successful recruiting is only part of the equation; the selected lateral hire must also be primed for success in his or her new organisation. We were able to demonstrate the benefits of a systematic approach with a senior executive that we hired for the cabinet of a European country. We started by identifying cultural differences between the executive's old and new environments and helped develop strategies the executive could use to navigate this change. We then created an extensive playbook with detailed profiles of the management team outlining each person's priorities and concerns, and provided coaching to help the executive best position himself with his new peers.

India's lateral entry programme has the potential to introduce new thinking and new expertise into key ministries. Leveraging on lessons learned elsewhere will allow India to more completely draw from the country's rich array of talent while maintaining the objectivity necessary to preserve the public trust.

Egon Zehnder is a leading global leadership advisory and executive search firm. Rajeev Vasudeva is its Global CEO; Pallavi Kathuria is its India Managing Partner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Issue of begging

It is clear that the sensitive issue/subject of begging involves taking measures such as rehabilitation and integration (Editorial page, "Undoing a legacy of injustice", August 13). It is a question of survival and this must not be lost sight of. Begging is a social problem and has to be seen in a holistic manner as there are numerous contributory factors such as poverty, unemployment, disability and migration. In reply to parliamentarians' concerns about the problem of beggary, their unstarred question 1821 was answered on March 8, 2016 by the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Vijay Sampla, who said that States are responsible for the necessary preventive and rehabilitative steps. He also said a recommendation made was exploring the feasibility of having a Central scheme for the rehabilitation of beggars. He added that data with Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner, showed that the total population of beggars, vagrants in India is 4,13,670 (Census 2011). Coordination of stakeholders such as civil society, the government, media, the police and citizens is needed to end this.

CHITRAKANT SINGH,
Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh

■ Instances of policemen extorting money from those who are forced to seek alms and harassing the homeless are not uncommon in our country. Organised crime in begging is a grim reality in several States. There is a need for a stringent legal framework to crack down on those who run organised syndicates even as decriminalisation of begging is a welcome step.

M. JEYARAM,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

■ Poverty is not a criminality. Rather, it is a collective failure of the state and its machinery. One hopes that the verdict of the Delhi High Court will help change our mindset towards the most vulnerable and downtrodden sections of our society.

KUMAR HRISHIKESH,
Kolkata

Wheels of justice

There seems to be a subtle difference between the Sabarimala case and the Tirupathi case (Editorial page, "The inexorable wheels of justice", August 13). In the Tirupathi case, religious faith had to be sidelined to prove a charge of criminal breach of trust and misappropriation made against the Tirupathi Mahant, whereas in the Sabarimala case it is deep-rooted religious faith and the sentiments of worshippers which are endangered in the name of gender equality before the law. The sanctity of the temple is important.

P. RAJARAMAN,
Pollachi, Tamil Nadu

V.S. Naipaul

It was only after reading the rich tributes paid to V.S. Naipaul that I realised how many school students are unaware of one of the greatest writers of our times. A huge change is required in our educational system and in the syllabus. Thought must be given to highlight the works of such illustrious writers (Editorial, "A complicated man" & OpEd page - "The house that Naipaul built", both August 13).

AFRAAZ SIDHU,
Jalandhar, Punjab

■ I clearly remember reading *A House for Mr. Biswas* as a graduate ('World page', "He personified a sense of displacement", August 13). I have read novels with the theme of human suffering and empathy, but here was a work that actually related to the pain of not having a place to call home, in an emotional and physical sense. In Bengali, one says "*Mathar Chaat Chole Gyalo*' – a phrase used when a parent/guardian passes away, which means that one has lost the roof over one's head. I found the same emotional connect in this book. The empathy that Naipaul reflects is rare and overlooked by many.

RUPSHA BOSE,
Pune

MORE LETTERS ONLINE:
www.hindu.com/opinion/letters/

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

A quote attributed to Ruth Shapiro, chief executive, Centre for Asian Philanthropy and Society (CAPS), in the story "India 'Doing Okay' in philanthropy" (Aug. 12, 2018), should be recast to say: "U.S. philanthropy is equal to 2% of its GDP. If the 15 Asian economies we studied in the Doing Good Index also gave 2%, it would equal US$504 billion which is one-third the annual cost of attaining the social development goals."

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How to move a mountain

Seven decades after Independence, the massive obstacle of caste is still difficult to dislodge



ANANYA VAJPEYI



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At a recent lecture-demonstration of Koodiyattam, a complex form of Sanskrit theatre practised in Kerala, one of the leading exponents of this beautiful art, Margi Madhu Chakyar, performed an episode from the epic literature titled "Kailasoddharanam", the lifting of Mount Kailasa. Ravana, finding Mt. Kailasa in the way of his chariot, asks the mighty peak to step aside for him. As Siva's abode, the mountain refuses. Ravana climbs down from his vehicle, and by sheer physical prowess shifts the colossus. In the complete story, after an angry altercation, Siva, placated, bestows upon Ravana the indestructible weapon Candrahasa, a gleaming curved scimitar.

At the University of British Columbia (UBC), in Vancouver, Canada, on July 12, Margi Madhu performed only the act where Ravana encounters Kailasa as an obstruction, lifts it, and sets it down elsewhere. Madhu's ability to conjure the incalculably heavy weight of the mountain, the suprahuman strength of Ravana and the clash of two titans, one animate and the other inanimate, had many spectators in tears. In the larger *Ramayana* Ravana may be the anti-hero, but in "Kailasoddharanam", he is undoubtedly the hero.

The intensity of the actor's facial expressions and the taut muscles of his limbs conveyed the unsurpassable difficulty of the task and the enormity of Ravana's will. Madhu's arms flexed, his eyes bulged, his forehead creased, his calves pulled, his spine bent backwards. He trembled with concentration, his slender body stretched tight like a bowstring. Those watching believed he would collapse with strain. Koodiyattam's expressive drums raised the crescendo of stress to an almost unbearable level. But Ravana's determination allows him to succeed in his impossible goal. He hoists up the mountain with his bare hands and hurls it away like a mere rock.

Viewers were overwhelmed with empathy for Madhu's protagonist. This episode raised the question for anyone facing an enormous obstacle: How to lift a mountain? How to get something humongous, static and immovable out of one's way? If the obstruction presents itself as organic and immutable, a very fact of nature, to what inner reserves of courage can one have recourse? Who is more obstinate, our adversary or us? How can we achieve what is apparently outside the purview of our capacities?

The Koodiyattam was staged at the 17th World Sanskrit Conference in Vancouver. I was scheduled to speak in a public forum on caste and gender in Sanskrit studies, along with Kaushal Panwar, who teaches Sanskrit at a college in Delhi University. We were to tell the 'story of our Sanskrit' (the title of the event) to Mandakranta Bose, a senior Sankritist at UBC. We were asked to both share our experiences and draw on our expertise. The conversation took up from Marathi Dalit academic Kusum Pawde's classic essay, "The Story of my Sanskrit" (1981), Prof. Panwar's moving and inspiring account of her own journey from manual scavenger in rural Haryana to Sanskrit professor in the capital, as told on the television show "Satyameva Jayate" (2012) and my column echoing Prof. Pawde's piece (2014).

That night Prof. Panwar analysed the low status of women and sudras in the *Manusmriti* and the *Rig Veda*. I discussed Sanskrit as a philological resource and a tool of historical research, which nevertheless presents peculiar challenges to women scholars on account of the deeply entrenched orthodoxy and patriarchy of Sanskrit pedagogical environments. Prof. Bose described how as a young student in Kolkata, she was forced to switch from the study of Mimamsa (Vedic Hermeneutics) to Natyasastra (Performance and Aesthetics), because the former was considered a prestigious subject reserved for male scholars, while the latter was a lesser topic open to females.

Caste, gender and Sanskrit

The large audience, consisting mostly of Indian scholars, including women, attacked us vociferously. The Western academics present maintained an uncomfortable silence, as though passively witnessing an internal dispute among Indians. The disrespectful behaviour of the learned assembly was appalling. Our testimonies were not controversial; we presented genuine and truthful personal observations gathered over decades of study and reflection. As invited speakers, we told our story of Sanskrit calmly and authentically, despite grave provocation and repeated interruption.

The low status of women, sudras and communities considered polluted was raised systematically by Jyotiba Phule, B.R. Ambedkar and E.V. Ramasamy 'Periyar', as also other significant thinkers in the Hindu reform sects of Bengal, Punjab and Maharashtra, and the non-Brahmin discourses of the south, throughout the colonial period. The combined legacy of modern India's critical anti-caste and feminist thought stood solidly behind our remarks. Yet we found Sanskrit professors at leading universities making absurd claims, for example that caste is unrelated to birth; that Hindu society is inherently gender-blind; or that if the term "varna" does not occur, there is no discrimination.

The evening hit significant roadblocks: one, the meaning and provenance of the word "Harijan"; and two, the question of equality and inequality in the Hindu Vedas, smritis and sastras, versus the Indian Constitution. Great Sanskrit pundits found it politic to lecture us about the grammatical rules by which "Harijan" can mean "child of god" in Gujarati (as envisaged by Gandhi) or "embodiment of god" (in Sanskrit), disregarding the Dalit movement which has unequivocally rejected this label for its patronising tone. We did not expect to hear this moniker uttered and defended.

Many colleagues identified themselves as Hindus, giving primary allegiance to their "sacred texts", not as Indians committed to egalitarian citizenship guaranteed by the laws of the land. They did not treat Sanskrit texts critically, as scholars, only as unquestioning believers. Some claimed that reservations policy discriminates against Brahmins whilst encouraging undeserving SCs, STs and OBCs. Others alleged that India's Constitution favours minorities, leaving Hindus exposed and vulnerable. The resentment and bitterness of an empowered and dominant majority was disturbing to see.

Dislodging Caste

After this troubling encounter with the regressive face of Indology, watching the Koodiyattam performance inevitably recalled the mountain that is caste. The founders of the republic thought they would dislodge it through Herculean efforts, but generations later, citizens still find it unshaken and their fundamental rights obstructed.

Not to suggest that caste society is some holy mountain, a divine abode of the gods, no. But our collective political will to remove this massive social structure has to be profound, shattering and furious. Alas, the unfortunate reality is that prevailing forces of orthodoxy and reaction will demonise, humiliate and attempt to subdue whosoever confronts the gigantic caste system.

Periyar and Ambedkar set fire to the *Manusmriti* in their radical protest against caste almost a century ago. But in the age of Hindutva, outdated injunctions glorifying a hierarchical and unequal social order have risen again from the ashes. We must be ready with our torches, and our resolve to move mountains.

Ananya Vajpeyi is a Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi

Death of a Marxist

Egyptian economist Samir Amin observed the dangers of our world but also its possibilities



VIJAY PRASHAD

On Sunday, August 12, Samir Amin died. With him went a generation of Egyptian Marxists who came of age in the time of Nasserism and departed with the world in tatters. Amin was born in 1931 in Cairo. He was doing his PhD in Paris when Gamal Abdel Nasser and the Free Officers overthrew the British-dominated monarchy in Egypt in 1952 and directed their country towards a path of non-alignment.

Amin's thesis – in economics – was written while he was active in the French Communist Party. In the thesis, he thought hard about the problems of his native land and other countries despoiled by the colonial menace. For Amin, as with other dependency theorists, the Third World suffered from theft, plunder as well as deindustrialisation, and then unequal exchange. The policy space for the new Third World states – Nasser's Egypt amidst them – was narrow. Emancipation would be difficult. It would take courage to break the yoke of monopoly capitalism, to rise from the penalty of colonialism and advance towards a necessary socialist future.

Amin, like others in his generation such as India's Ashok Mitra and Brazil's Celso Furtado, did not go immediately into the academy. He went home to Cairo, where he worked in Nasser's Institute for Economic Management (1957-1960) and then to Bamako (Mali), where he worked as an adviser in the Ministry of Planning (1960-1963). Amin would talk fondly of these years, of the experience he had in trying to move an agenda for the development of his country and that of other African countries. The limitations set by the powerful countries of the world – the imperialist bloc led by the U.S. – and by the system of monopoly capitalism prevented any major breakthrough for states such as Egypt and Mali. Amin's first book, published in the 1960s, was on the experience of development undertaken by Mali, Guinea and Ghana. It warned against any facile belief in progress. The unequal system in the world generated profits for the powerful and generated poverty for the weak.

In his most important book, *Accumulation on a World Scale* (1970), which propelled him into the front ranks of dependency theory, Amin showed how resources flowed from the countries of the periphery to enrich the countries of the core through a process that he called 'imperialist rent'. When the system changed in the 1970s, Amin tracked these changes empirically and theoretically. It was in this period that he wrote , *Delinking: Towards a Polycentric World* (1985), in which he called for the disengagement of countries of the periphery from the development agendas and pressures from the countries of the core.

Era of greater chaos

With the fall of the U.S.S.R. and the rise of the U.S. to unparalleled power, Amin wrote of the 'empire of chaos', of a new era that would result in great inequality, precarious labour, the destruction of agriculture and the dangers of political religion. What Amin tracked in 1992 would become clear two decades later, when he revisited these same themes in *The Implosion of Contemporary Capitalism* (2013). Monopoly firms had sucked the life out of the system, turning businesspeople into 'waged servants' and journalists into the 'media clergy'. An unsustainable world system, with finance in dominance and people whipping from one precarious job to another, seemed to threaten the future of humanity. He surveyed the world and found no real alternative to the monopoly-dominated system that – like a vampire – sucked the blood out of the world. This did not mean that history was to drive humanity over the precipice. Other choices lay before us.

For the past 40 years, Amin was based in Dakar (Senegal), where he led the Third World Forum. Here, he looked out of his window and observed the dangers of our current world, but also its possibilities. This year is the 200th anniversary of Karl Marx's birth. In one of his last texts, to honour Marx, Amin reflected on a line from *The Communist Manifesto* – that the class struggle always results "either in a revolutionary reconstitution of society at large, or in the common ruin of the contending classes". This sentence, he wrote, 'has been at the forefront of my thinking for a long time'. He was not interested in defeat: "The uninterrupted revolution," he wrote, "is still on the agenda for the periphery. Restorations in the course of the socialist transition are not irrevocable. And breaks in the imperialist front are not inconceivable in the weak links of the centre."

However bad the situation – harshness and ugliness everywhere – our struggles were unbeaten and our futures uncharted. As long as we are resisting, he would say, we are free.

Vijay Prashad is the Chief Editor at LeftWord Books and the Director of Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research

SINGLE FILE

A rainbow coalition

Kerala is increasingly becoming a transgender-friendly society

K.P.M. BASHEER



GETTY IMAGES

Where have Kerala's hijras gone?" was the rhetorical headline of my story on transgender individuals (TGI) published in *The Hindu* a decade ago. The story opened with this sentence: "After a quarter century of tortured life as a woman trapped in a man's body in a Kerala village, Geeta had fled to Chennai 16 years ago."

The story described how Geeta was "taunted, insulted and physically harassed at school, home and on the street, just because I talked and behaved like a woman." It ended on this pessimistic note: "Small wonder then, transsexuals are not visible in Kerala."

A decade later, the State is a different place. The sociocultural landscape has changed to tolerate an increasing visibility of TGIs, with the result that those who had fled the State are returning. Thus, there have been newspaper headlines recently on TGIs getting driving licences, two people getting college admission under the TGI quota, separate washrooms at Maharaja's College, and even the State government paying ₹2 lakh for a sex change surgery.

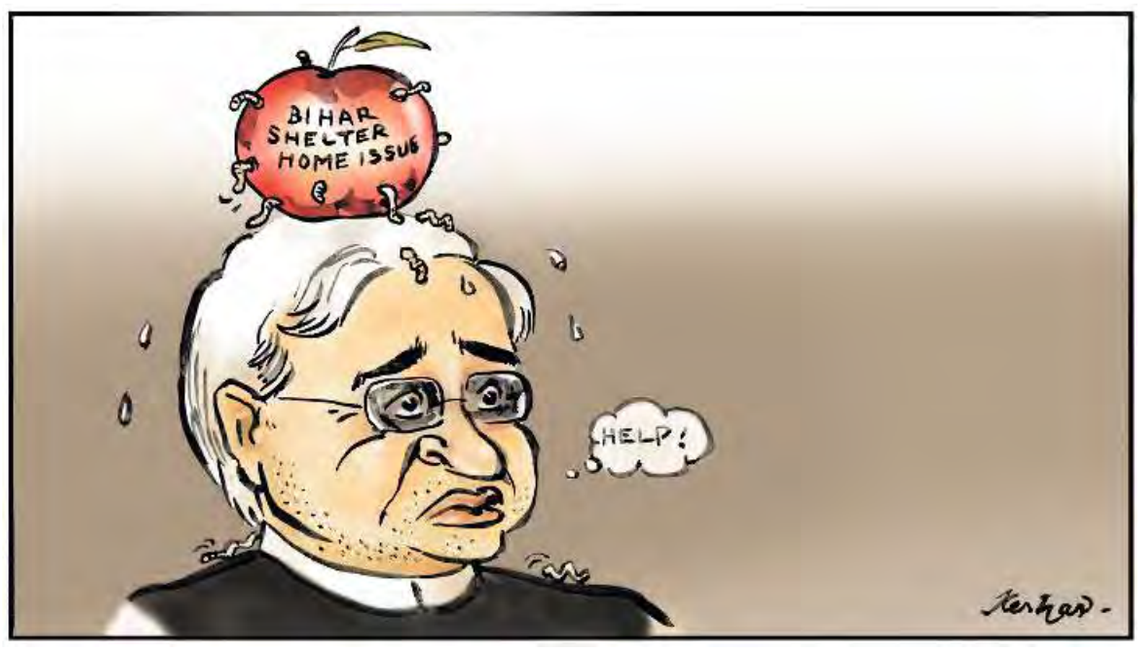
In the past, unlike in Tamil Nadu and many of the north Indian States – where the Aravaani-hijra community has had a social space and specific roles to play – in Kerala, TGIs were near-invisible. The truth, however, is that social hostility forced them to either leave the State while in their teens, end their lives, or lead a subhuman life until death. For TGIs, Kerala was the worst State to be in.

So, in the span of a decade, how did society in Kerala transform itself from being hostile to being grudgingly accommodative?

"It's the result of a strong political will," says psychiatrist and social commentator, C.J. John. "It's an interesting case of politicians and administrators acting to reform social attitude." The 'State Policy for Transgenders in Kerala 2015', which aimed to provide the "right to live with dignity" reflected this political will. The previous government (Oommen Chandy) and the current government (Pinarayi Vijayan) walked the extra mile to implement the policy. Kochi Metro set an example by allotting a jobs quota. Village and district panchayats and municipalities have been tasked with finding jobs, running special training and skills programmes and welfare projects. Police harassment has fallen drastically. A TG Justice Board addresses issues of discrimination and violence while a TG cell in the Social Justice Department handles issues such as housing. The TGI rights scene is shining.

Several other factors preceded the government's pro-active approach, including the global campaign for gay marriage, the national campaign for decriminalising homosexuality (scrapping Section 377), the pride parades and the rising voices of Dalits, LGBTs and other marginalised communities. A hyper-active Malayalam media mirrored and transferred the energy to an emerging band of TG activists. The anti-HIV campaign threw up a battery of trained TGIs who later spearheaded the rights drives.

The writer is a Deputy Editor and Chief of Bureau with The Hindu in Kozhikode



CONCEPTUAL

Stock cover

BUSINESS

Also known as inventory cover, this refers to the amount of time that the available supply of goods in a company's inventory will last given the current rate of sales. Businesses which purchase and store goods in their inventory try to do so based on their forecast of the likely demand for these goods. A business with a low stock cover runs the risks of losing potential sales due to a stockout as it will not be able to meet customer demand properly. One with a high stock cover, on the other hand, may incur unnecessary storage and handling costs while also suffering lower return on capital as too much of its capital is tied up as inventory.

MORE ON THE WEB

A fresh look at M.T. Vasudevan Nair's 'Nirmalyam'

http://bit.ly/Nirmalyam

ABSTRACT

The misunderstood knight?

An oxide of arsenic can help fight cancer

JACOB KOSHY

Arsenic is an acknowledged villain because of the way it has contaminated groundwater reserves. Its reputation as a poison has a long history and stretches back to fourth century treatises on medicine. This has often led inventive physicians to use the metal's poisonous nature to treat infections.

Its elusive nature has also complicated an understanding of the relationship between arsenic and cancer. Beyond certain thresholds in drinking water, arsenic is strongly linked to various cancers; however, at other doses, it has been linked to unusually low rates of breast cancer.

Arsenic trioxide (ATO) is an oxide of arsenic that was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 1995, and when used in combination with another drug called all-trans retinoic acid (ATRA), it was effective against a kind of leukaemia called acute promyelocytic leukaemia (APL). However, it wasn't fully clear what cellular target(s) these drugs act on, how they interact with each other, or whether they might be effective against other types of cancer.

Last week, U.S. researchers reported in *Nature Communications* that they had unearthed a vital clue: Arsenic in combination with an existing leukaemia drug worked to destroy Pin1, a unique enzyme that the same group of researchers had discovered more than 20 years ago. When given in clinically safe doses, the drugs effectively inhibited numerous cancer-driving pathways and eliminated cancer stem cells in cell and animal models as well as patient-derived tumour models of triple-negative breast cancer, which has the worst prognosis of all breast cancer subtypes.

Pin1 is known as a master regulator of cancer signalling networks that activates more than 40 cancer-driving proteins and inactivates more than 20 tumour suppressing proteins. The enzyme was found to be over-activated in most human cancers and is especially active in cancer stem cells – a subpopulation of cancer cells believed to drive tumour initiation, progression, and metastasis, but not effectively targeted by current therapies.

The researchers found that mice that lack expression of Pin1 were highly resistant to developing cancer even when their cells over-expressed oncogenes (cancer causing genes) or lacked expression of tumour suppressors. Notably, these animals displayed no obvious defects for over half of lifespan, suggesting that targeting this master switch of an enzyme may be safe.

Although the anti-cancer effects of ATO are potently amplified by ATRA co-treatment, ATRA has a very short time span of effectiveness. This insight could help hitch ATO to existing therapies particularly triple-negative breast cancer.

FROM The Hindu. ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 14, 1968

Patents Bill to Joint Select Committee

The Lok Sabha to-day [August 13, New Delhi] decided to refer to a Joint Select Committee the comprehensive Bill to amend and consolidate the law relating to patents. At the same time it passed another related Bill, the Indian Patents and Designs (Amendment) Bill, which seeks to replace an Ordinance issued last month providing for the postponement of consideration of the current applications before the Controller of Patents until the new comprehensive legislation is enacted. Mr. N. Dandekar's resolution seeking disapproval of the ordinance as also as amendment by Mr. Shiva Chandra Jha for circulation of the Bill for eliciting public opinion were defeated by voice votes. Replying to the general debate, Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, Minister for Industrial Development, said it was wrong to say that the Bill would come in the way of research. He said that at present over 90 per cent of the patents, mostly covering food products and medicines, were held by foreigners.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 14, 1918.

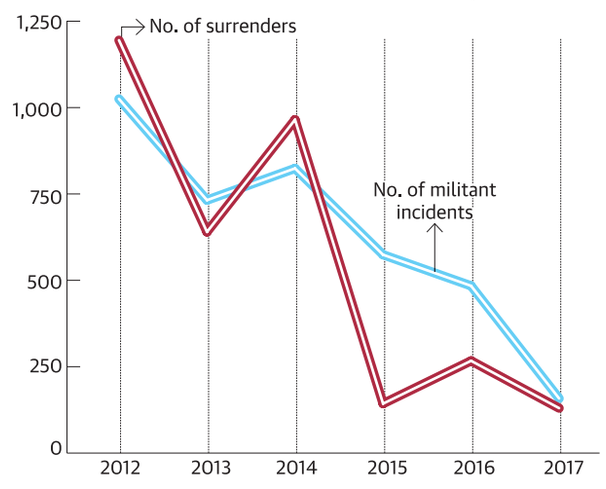
Burma Resources Committee.

At the Burma Resources Committee to-day [in Rangoon, on August 13], the chairman, Mr. J.P. Hardiman, Controller of Munitions, announced that the Tata Industrial Bank intended to open a branch in Burma as soon as possible, the date being governed by the difficulty at present of obtaining staff. A subcommittee was appointed to consider and report on the best methods of encouraging the trade in hides raw and tanned. Further information is being collected regarding the necessity for the appointment of a controller of fuel supplies for Burma. The chairman said he had obtained an authoritative statement from the Government of India regarding the recent communique on wooden ship building to the effect that the communique leaves it open to the Government to requisition any wooden ship hereafter built whether with or without auxiliary engines subject to a proviso regarding price. The difficulty of obtaining masters for wooden sailing ships was mentioned.

DATA POINT

A sharp decline

The number of militants who surrendered in the North-east peaked between 2012 and 2014. Since then, there has been a decline. This could be the result of a wane in militancy as shown in the reduction in the numbers of incidents for the same years



SOURCE: LOK SABHA QUESTION HOUR

https://t.me/Material_For_Exam https://t.me/TheHindu_Zone_official

FROM PAGE ONE

Somnath Chatterjee passes away at 89

The former Speaker's body was taken to the Calcutta High Court little after midday where members of the Bar Association paid homage to him. As his body was being taken to the State Assembly about 150 metres away, the Chief Minister walked alongside the hearse.

Gun salute given

Mr. Chatterjee was given gun salute in the State Assembly following which his body was taken to his residence at around 3 p.m. where Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi and other leaders paid their last respects to him.

"I have great regard for Mr. Chatterjee as a Parliamentarian. He gave us a guideline when he said that 'Parliament is supreme'. It is a great loss not just for West Bengal but also to democracy and the nation," Ms. Mahajan said.

Mr. Chatterjee's body was donated to SSKM Hospital later in the evening.

India rejects U.K. proposal on DNA tests

If no report was given within the stipulated time frame, the illegal migrant would be deported automatically.

The agreement was put on indefinite hold after National Security Adviser Ajit Doval conveyed that the 15-day limit was unworkable.

Unethical, said India

"In one of the meetings, the U.K. authorities suggested that the nationality of document-less illegal migrants suspected to be Indians could be established by matching DNA samples of their family members living here. We raised objections that this was a breach of privacy and unethical. How do we know that the document-less person is an Indian," said a senior Home Ministry official who attended the meeting.

According to the British government's estimates, there are around 1,00,000 Indians overstaying their visa in the U.K.

India has contested this and said that as per their estimate, the number will not be more than 2,000.

U.K. teams

Post-April, at least two high-level delegations from the U.K. have raised the issue with India.

During her first visit to India on November 7, 2016, British Prime Minister Theresa May said the U.K. would consider an improved visa deal "if at the same time we can step up the speed and volume of returns of Indians with no right to remain in the U.K."

PNB fraud: Centre sacks former MD

Besides Ms. Ananthasubramanian, the government has given sanction for prosecution of PNB executive director Sanjiv Sharan as part of the clean-up exercise in the system.

However, the government is yet to take any decision on another PNB ED K.V. Brahmaji Rao, whose name also figured in the CBI chargesheet.

The RBI has also given sanction to prosecute Ms. Anathasubramanian and Mr. Sharan. It has also asked the government to prosecute former ED Ram S. Sangapure.

Ms. Ananthasubramanian had enjoyed leadership roles in PNB in two stints. She headed the bank between August 2015 and May 2017, before moving to Allahabad Bank. She was executive director at the bank from July 2011 to November 2013.

Mr. Modi and his uncle Mehul Choksi, in connivance with certain bank officials, allegedly cheated PNB of about ₹14,000 crore through issuance of fraudulent letters of undertaking. The Brady House branch of PNB had fraudulently issued LoUs for the group of companies belonging to Mr. Modi since March 2011.

The total number of LoUs issued to the companies of Nirav Modi, his relatives and the Nirav Modi Group are 1,213, and to Mehul Choksi, his relatives and the Gitanjali Group are 377.

With regard to provision made for the loss incurred on account of the Nirav Modi fraud, the bank provided ₹7,178 crore, 50 per cent of the total amount of ₹14,356 crore in the fourth quarter of the last financial year. The remaining amount will be covered in the three quarters of the ongoing financial year.

PNB paid ₹6,586.11 crore to other banks to discharge its liabilities towards LoUs and foreign letters of credit issued fraudulently.

GST sop likely ahead of polls

MSMEs with a turnover of up to ₹5 crore may be exempted from filing returns

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

The run-up to the polls in Gujarat saw a massive rejig of Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates across the board as disenchantment with the regime was at a peak. Ahead of the Assembly polls in three BJP-ruled States – Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chattisgarh – some relief for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) is likely. A possible exemption from filing for firms with a turnover of up to ₹5 crore is said to be in the offing.



Same slabs: Rate cuts will not be the route to relief for the MSME sector. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Senior sources in the GST Council told *The Hindu* that during the last meeting of the Council, it was decided that rate cuts etc. were not the route to take to give relief to the MSME sector; instead exemptions from the GST ambit for firms with a turnover of upto ₹5 crore could be the way to go.

"Several States, specifically Gujarat and Delhi, have asked that exemptions be given for MSMEs with a turnover of upto ₹5 crore, whereas some other States have asked [that] the limit be for firms of upto ₹1.5 lakh," said a source.

The decision may be announced in the next meeting of the Council on September 28 in Goa – close to polling in the three States, scheduled for the end of the year. Union Minister Arun Jaitley is expected to be back at the helm of affairs at the Finance Ministry by then. At the last meeting of the Council, Finance Minister Piyush Goyal had said all suggestions from various States should be collated and considered.

Madhya Pradesh with 26.74 lakh firms and Rajasthan with 26.87 lakh have a huge MSME presence and the any relief to the sector, currently dissatisfied with cumbersome filing procedures, would be politically important.

"Rate cuts in the context of MSMEs have been dismissed as not workable and these cuts will affect not just these units but bigger suppliers etc. Exemptions from tax and filing procedures will have a more direct impact in terms of giving relief," said a member of the GST Council.

Shah bats for simultaneous polls

In a letter to the Law Commission, he says it won't weaken federal structure

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

BJP president Amit Shah on Monday wrote to the Law Commission in support of the idea of simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies. Government sources said that holding Assembly polls in at least 11 States along with the Lok Sabha election was a feasible object of pursuit.



Amit Shah

While Mr. Shah's letter said that his party was in favour of simultaneous polls, and termed "politically motivated" its characterisation as something that would weaken the federal structure, senior sources in the government said it was exploring options. "It is quite possible that such an outcome could be effected by postponing Assembly polls in four States (Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram and Chhattisgarh) and by bringing forward polls in Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Haryana, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh to be held along with those in three States (Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha) and the Lok Sabha," said a senior source in the government. It was, however, only in the exploratory stage, he added.

A BJP delegation, headed by Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, along with Indian Council for Cultural Relations chief Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, party general secretary Bhupendra Yadav and Rajya Sabha member Anil Baluni, met Chairman of the Law Commission Justice B.S. Chauhan and handed him the eight-page letter that spelled out the party's view on the consultation called by the commission on the issue.

Dismisses reservations

Mr. Shah, in his letter, emphasised that holding simultaneous polls would check expenditure and the tendency of keeping the country in perpetual "election mode".

"The country saw simultaneous polls in 1952, 1957 and 1962 and 1967 and demonstrates that this can be done again," he said. "It may appear difficult and some issues like availability of requisite and appropriate EVMs, deployment of security forces, etc, may take some doing but it is not an impossible task," he said.

The law panel, which is examining the feasibility of holding simultaneous polls, had sought the views of parties before finalising its report. The Congress had met the Commission top brass recently and opposed the concept. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has all along supported the concept of simultaneous polls.

'Rahul is trying to divert focus from his tax troubles'

Cong. chief is lying to discredit govt. over Rafale deal: BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday accused Congress president Rahul Gandhi of employing "blatant lies" to discredit the government over the Rafale deal, and said attempts to raise doubts on the purchase were to distract people from Mr. Gandhi's tax troubles.



Ravi Shankar Prasad

Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, speaking at a press conference at the BJP's headquarters here, termed Mr. Gandhi's allegations "reckless and baseless".

Countering his charges, Mr. Prasad said, "Nobody takes him seriously. Not only is he lying about the BJP government, but also about [French] President Macron as well."

"The transactions done by the current government under the Rafale deal are 9% less than what the UPA had proposed. It is an established standard of defence procurement that we don't answer such questions in Parliament," Mr. Prasad said.

"The reason why Rahul Gandhi alleges that PM Modi and other BJP leaders are corrupt is because a company named 'Young India', owned by Sonia and Rahul Gandhi, that purchased Associated General Limited for ₹50 lakh is in crisis because of the tax issue. The AICC, that purchased the company, showed an income of just ₹68 lakh for 2011-12, but officials believe that tax liability should be ₹154 crore," he said.

Rahul challenges PM to an open debate on Rafale deal

Let the country know what happened, says Cong. chief

KUMAR BURADIKATTI
BIDAR

Accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of not responding to the questions raised by the Opposition on the Rafale deal in Parliament, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Monday challenged him to an open debate on the issue.

He was addressing a meeting at the Nehru Stadium in Bidar.

In New Delhi, accusing Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad of weaving a "web of lies" on the Rafale deal, Congress communication chief Randeep Surjewala said the government should tell the country "which paragraph of the Agreement between India and France state that commercial cost of a defence deal cannot be revealed".



Rahul Gandhi

"We again underline that commercial price of various defence deals, including the French Mirage aircraft and the Sukhoi aircraft has been revealed on the floor of the Parliament by UPA-Congress," he said.

Though the Bidar event was organised to felicitate the Congress president, it was actually meant to kickstart the Congress campaign for the 2019 elections.

"In my speech on the no-trust motion, I exposed the Rafale deal in Parliament. Mr. Modi, in response, spoke on everything, except that. Let the country know what actually happened in the deal," Mr. Gandhi said.

(With Sandeep Phukan in New Delhi)

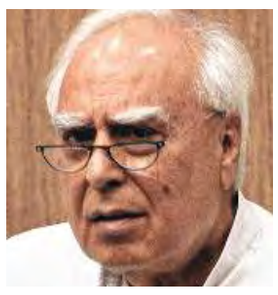
BJP chief hid liabilities: Cong.

Asks EC to initiate criminal action

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday approached the Election Commission asking it to initiate "criminal proceedings" against BJP president Amit Shah and seeking cancellation of his Rajya Sabha membership for filing an affidavit that hid his liabilities.

A Congress delegation comprising Kapil Sibal, Abhishek Singhvi, Jairam Ramesh, and Vivek Tankha submitted a four-page memorandum to the Chief Election Commissioner, alleging that Mr. Shah did not disclose liabilities in respect of two properties he mortgaged to raise credit for his son Jay Shah's firm Kusum Finserve.



Amit Shah*ji* has mortgaged his two properties ...and got a loan of ₹25 crore from one of the biggest co-op banks in Gujarat

KAPIL SIBAL
Former Law Minister

'₹25-crore loan raised'

"We have told the EC, that under the Representation of the People Act and the rules framed in 2004, it is mandatory for a candidate to disclose his assets as well his liabilities. Amit Shah*ji* has mortgaged his two properties for his son and got a loan of ₹25 crore from one of the biggest cooperative banks in Gujarat. He didn't disclose this in his affidavit ... So we have told the EC that it is a violation of law," Mr. Sibal said.

"We have also pointed out that under Section 125 A of the Representation of the People Act, concealment can lead to criminal prosecution and six months in jail. The EC itself can start the proceedings," he added.

The former Law Minister said the Congress can also lodge a complaint but "it doesn't want to make this a political issue."

Mr. Singhvi said Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu should look into the matter as the rules in the Upper House allow him to "suspend and disqualify MPs" who file incomplete affidavits.

On Saturday, former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh had alleged that Mr. Jay Shah's Kusum Finserve's net worth was only ₹6 crore but it managed to get a credit facility of ₹95 crore after mortgaging two properties owned by his father.

"Shell companies are closing and they should close, but Shah companies are flourishing," he had said.

Charges bogus: BJP

However, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra called the Congress allegations bogus.

"The allegations against him [Mr. Shah] are totally bogus and fake ... Even if Amit Shah has mortgaged his property, it does not mean that the liability is his," Mr. Patra said.

He said the BJP president had only mortgaged his property to provide collateral security.

"On the contrary, he will be violating the law if he shows his adult son's liability in his election affidavit."he added.

India's envoy who spoke for Sri Lanka's Tamils

Thomas Abraham was a true well-wisher of the island nation, respecting its geopolitical integrity

GOPALKRISHNA GANDHI

Even as *The Hindu* was printing Meera Srinivasan's dispatch from Colombo (August 13, 2018) about Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe handing over 'India-built' houses to 400 tea plantation worker families of Tamil origin in Sri Lanka's central highlands, life ebbed out of the architect of India's ameliorative attention to that segment of Sri Lanka's population.

Veteran diplomat Thomas Abraham, who died at age 91 on August 12, 2018 in his ancestral home in the seaboard village of Kadapra, Kerala, was India's High Commissioner in Sri Lanka from 1978 to 1982.

A Nehruvian diplomat

He was a quintessentially Nehruvian diplomat, having joined the Indian Foreign Service in the golden dawn of our first Prime Minister's first innings, and representing Morarji Desai's post-Emergency government gave him little pleasure, personal or professional.

"Delhi does not understand the south of India," he often bemoaned to some of us working under him in his Colombo office or (as in my case) in its outpost among the plantation workers in the hill-town of Kandy. "Delhi sees no difference," he would say, "between the Jaffna Tamil whose ancestors came here over a millennium ago bearing arms and the plantation Tamil whose forbears came just over a century ago, bearing an indentured labourer's ticket."

And he would then remind us of Nehru's famous statement, when told of Colombo's ideas for the Tamil labourers' repatriation: "These people are or should be citizens of Ceylon."

Till Nehru lived, Abraham maintained, no one could pressure him to accept their repatriation, "but once he was gone, India capitulated. (Lal Bahadur) Shastri could not say 'No' to Sirimavo and signed the Indo-Ceylon Agreement in 1964 for repatriation."



TRIBUTE

Diplomats can have their opinions and interpretations of history but as diplomats they have to implement policy and Abraham did that, impeccably. On more than one occasion, when ethnic riots broke out in the hill region, India's plenipotentiary came into his own. He said to Colombo unequivocally that prospective Indian citizens and some who had already become Indian citizens in the highlands could not be menaced.

And Colombo heard him, with President Jayewardene personally reassuring him that nothing untoward would be allowed to happen.

Why and how did Colombo respond so positively to Abraham? For this reason that Colombo also knew that in him, India-Sri Lanka relations had a true friend, Sri Lanka itself a true well-wisher and one who believed with all his mind and heart in India's declared policy, that Sri Lanka's geopolitical integrity was sacrosanct.

Soft-spokenness in a diplomat is about manner. Frankness in a diplomat is about substance.

Abraham's strong style came from having been born to a family of Syrian Christians that had been at the forefront of the national movement. Generating trust was a corollary of his outspokenness, as with K. Kamaraj in India and Singapore's patriarch Lee Kuan Yew when Abraham headed India's mission there.

One of Abraham's closest friends was P.N. Haksar (PNH). Through PNH, Indira Gandhi sounded Abraham for responsibilities post-retirement, including (predictably) governorships, all of which Abraham declined.

History fascinated Abraham – South and Southeast Asia's particularly. This was due in no small part to his being married to the extraordinary historian, Meera Abraham. He was a friend of the historian Sarvepalli Gopal, with whom he shared also an instinctive commitment to Nehruvian secularism.

"I have lost all hope," he said to me in a recent phone call, "about India's future as a secular Republic." And then asked the uncomfortable question, "Do you see any hope?"

I said we cannot lose hope and pointed to recent indications of democratic consolidation. "I hope you are right... People like me and my community... the minorities... those who feel religion is one's own private business and the Indian state should have nothing to do with it... We are completely demoralised... I see no hope... Anyway I will not live to see a return to the Gandhi-Nehru-Ambedkar ideal... Okay now... I am tired and must turn in."

RIP, *Ayya*.

Terror, reforms raised with top UN official

Visiting team meets Modi, Sushma

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the convening of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly, India has indicated that the campaign against global terrorism will be on top of its UN agenda.

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj conveyed India's concerns regarding the issue to the visiting UNGA president Maria Fernando Espinosa Garces, who maintained that there is not yet a consensus among the member-states about the definition of terrorism.

UNSC reforms

"The External Affairs Minister emphasised the need for UN Security Council (UNSC) reforms, especially continuation of the Inter-Governmental Negotiations, as well as early finalisation of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism," said the MEA in an official press release, following the meeting between the delegations of the Minister and the UN president.

Ms. Garces, the fourth woman president in the history of the largest organ of the UN interacted with Ms. Swaraj and Prime Minister Narendra Modi during her four-day visit.

In an interaction at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), she said India's demand for expansion of the UNSC had featured in the discussion with the Prime Minister and indicated that she would try to build consensus among all UN member-states regarding issues such as expansion of the UNSC and counter-terrorism.

Ms. Garces said she will appoint two co-facilitators to help her address reform issues.

https://t.me/Material_For_Exam https://t.me/TheHindu_Zone_official

A politician who built bridges across ideological divides

Having learnt his ropes from his father, a 'moderate' Hindu Sabha member, the former CPI(M) leader could never be a 'diehard' Communist

SUVOJIT BAGCHI
KOLKATA

Born into a family of jurists and parliamentarians, the former Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee had learnt the ropes of politics from his father, Nirmal Chandra Chatterjee, a barrister, judge and parliamentarian. Nirmal Chandra, an influential non-Congress politician of his time, had been the president of the All India Hindu Mahasabha.

He was a Hindu nationalist and won in the first Lok Sabha election in 1952 with the help of his friend, Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

He briefly aligned with the centre-right Swatantra Party and even won the 1963 Lok Sabha election with the support of the Communist Party of India, thus maintaining a cordial relationship with all from extreme right to left. This was why a biographer of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, historian and American diplomat Craig Baxter, described Nirmal Chandra as one with a "degree of moderation" among Mahasabha members, usually considered staunch nationalists. In the process, he made young Somnath realise that no one is untouchable in politics.

Friend to all

Somnath Chatterjee, who joined the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in 1968, owing to what he described as "an instruction" from Promode Dasgupta, the all-powerful State Secretary of Bengal CPI(M), maintained an equally warm relationship with all, including members of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

In a later interview, Mr. Chatterjee said he could not be a "diehard" Communist in the "style of living or targeting some A, B or C" or his political rivals.

Mr. Chatterjee was born in Tezpur in Assam in 1929. He did his schooling in Calcutta. After completing his college and university in the city, he moved to Cambridge in the early 1950s to do his BA. Later, he studied law in England and practised in the Calcutta High Court before joining politics. Considered one of the finest legal minds, Mr. Chatterjee mentored many of today's judges and lawyers across the country.

In politics, he was acceptable to all and it is one of the reasons the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance backed him as the Speaker of the 14th Lok Sabha in 2004; Mr. Chatterjee was the unanimous candidate for the post.


Somnath Chatterjee

Writing for *The Hindu* soon after Mr. Chatterjee assumed office, essayist and DMK MP Era Sezhiyan noted: "This is the first instance of a pro tem Speaker himself being elected Speaker." He was the first Lok Sabha Speaker from the CPI(M) in its 50-year history.

Era Sezhiyan was a close friend of Mr. Chatterjee. The former compared the latter to Nirmal Chandra.

"When we raised any debate on federalism, Centre-State relations, especially the imposition of one language as the official language, we got spirited support from N.C. Chatterjee ... Somnath has been an able speaker in the House; hereafter he will be the Speaker of the House. Even in the tradition of the House of Commons, the Speaker is one who does not speak in the House, but one who speaks for the House," noted Era Sezhiyan, who passed away last year.

Mr. Chatterjee was elected 10 times to the Lok Sabha – first from Burdwan (1971) and then twice from Jadavpur (1977, 1980). Between 1985 and 2004, he won seven times from Bolpur.

He lost only once (in 1984 in Jadavpur to Mamata Banerjee). He often attributed his success in parliamentary politics to his mentor Jyoti Basu.

On Jyoti Basu's 102nd birth anniversary, he said: "Jyoti *Babu* [Basu] had told me to prove that only a Communist can conduct the affairs of a parliamentary democracy in the best possible manner, and I tried to do my best."

Criticism within party

Perhaps Mr. Chatterjee's flexibility and openness to the Opposition was interpreted within the CPI(M) as one detrimental to its interests. In Bengal, he had often been criticised for being close to "big business", according to one of his former party colleagues.

He was accused of looking after everyone's interests as a Speaker, his former adversaries said. Disheartened, Mr. Chatterjee said in an interview: "I may not meet all the requirements [of a Communist] which...I should have."

In July 2008, the relationship between a Communist, who in his words was not a "diehard" one, and the Communist Party finally collapsed when Left parties withdrew support to the UPA-I government. Mr. Chatterjee went against his party's wish and refused to resign from the post of Speaker before the special session on July 21.

The party's highest decision-making body, the Polit Bureau, headed by then general secretary Prakash Karat, expelled him.

Over the past few years, he tried his best to strengthen the CPI(M)'s ties with the Congress, largely from backstage. He indicated that he was keen on getting back into the CPI(M) arguing that he had a minor "misunderstanding" with the party and campaigned for its candidates in the 2011 Assembly polls.

The call that never came

His friends and journalists knew that the octogenarian politician – and nearly the entire Bengal CPI(M) – awaited a call from the party's top leadership to get him back. But the call never came. That's why his daughter said on Monday that his body would neither go to the party headquarters in Kolkata nor be draped with the red flag of the CPI(M).

Mr. Chatterjee's autobiography, *Keeping the Faith: Memoirs of a Parliamentarian*, was reasonably successful, say publishers and book sellers in Kolkata.

'Today, we have lost a champion of democracy'

SITARAM YECHURY
NEW DELHI

Somnath Chatterjee played an important role in defending the foundations of the Constitution, particularly its secular democratic and federal values. All through his parliamentary career, he used to be the voice of the oppressed people. In Parliament, his spirited defence of the Constitution during the Emergency remains the highlight. As the Lok Sabha Speaker, he upheld the right of dissent. He was elected to the Lok Sabha for 10 times with just one break in 1984.

As a legal professional, he played a big role in taking the matter of victimisation of the working class, particularly during the railway strike. His absence now more than ever is felt when without a formal announcement of Emergency, we are living under similar circumstances and the constitutional guarantees of equality are being undermined.

He has an impeccable record in terms of parliamentary practices. Many of his rulings are actually relied upon till today. His contribution in fine tuning the parliamentary procedures will always be remembered. Especially in today's times when the government indiscriminately tables important bills as Money Bills to bypass the Rajya Sabha. He would not have let the government smuggle in important extraneous legislation within the financial Bill, like the Narendra Modi government did with the electoral bonds.


Old comrades: A file picture of Somnath Chatterjee and his wife with Sitaram Yechury in Kolkata. ▪ SANJOY GHOSH

His absence will be felt more strongly today when there is absolute anarchy with the mobs running amok under the guise of *gau-rakshaks*. My own association with Somnath-*da* spans four decades. He used to be the voice of JNU students' union in Parliament. We would go to him with whatever issues we wanted to be raised in the House. We worked closely together during the formation of a government of secular forces in 1996 and the UPA in 2004. In his death, we lost a champion of democracy and democratic rights. I convey our deepest condolences to his wife and children.

(As told to Sobhana K. Nair; Mr. Yechury is CPI(M) general secretary)

Somnath's family rebuffs CPI(M) plea

Refuses to have the body draped in red flag

SOUMYA DAS
SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

Left Front chairperson Biman Basu was shown the door when he went to the home of veteran parliamentarian and former Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee to pay his last respects.

Mr. Chatterjee's family, which has been upset over his expulsion from the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in 2008 and his eventual "mistreatment", not only asked Mr. Basu to leave but also refused to have his body draped in the red flag and taken to the party headquarters here.

The CPI(M) veteran's son Pratap Chatterjee, a lawyer, shouted when he spotted Mr. Basu at his south Kolkata home: "What is this man doing here? They have sucked my father's blood for years and now they have come to show sympathy?"

Minutes later, when the senior CPI(M) leader accompanied party general secretary Sitaram Yechury, the son flared up again. "Why have you come here again? Please ask this man [Mr. Basu] to leave," he said.


State honour: Police personnel pay tribute to former Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee during his funeral at the Assembly in Kolkata on Monday. ▪ PTI

Later, Mr. Pratap Chatterjee explained to journalists why he had asked the Left Front chairperson to leave. "He had insulted and said bad things about my father after his expulsion," he said. Earlier in the day, the veteran parliamentarian's daughter, Anushila, narrated at length how Mr. Chatterjee had reacted upon hearing about his expulsion from the party, which he had joined just four years after its formation in 1968.

"He was sitting in his antechamber. I entered the room and told him [about the expulsion]. I told him, 'You are now a free bird.' He asked me if he had been suspended. I told him he was expelled. I saw tears rolling down his eyes," Ms. Basu told pressmen. She said the family was not keen on taking the body to the party headquarters on Alimuddin Street.

State Secretary of CPI(M) Surjya Kanta Mishra said that Somnath Chatterjee was "above the party", and hinted that they were in talks with the family on bringing the body to the party office. In fact, a number of CPI(M) leaders reached the private hospital where Somnath Chatterjee passed away at 8.15 a.m. But later in the evening, when efforts by the party turned out to be futile, Dr. Mishra said the issue was not a "party matter but that of the family".

Mr. Basu later told pressmen that he had a "long relationship with the family" and refused comment.

Body given for medical research

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

As that of his political mentor Jyoti Basu, the body of veteran parliamentarian Somnath Chatterjee was donated to the State-run SSKM Hospital for medical research on Monday evening, hours after he passed away in a private health facility in the city. Ganadarpan, an NGO, facilitated the donation.

The eyes were donated to the Priyamvada Birla Aravinda Eye Hospital's eye bank.

The body was kept at three locations – Calcutta High Court, the West Bengal Legislative Assembly and Raja Basanta Roy Road – before reaching its final destination in the super-speciality health facility.

"We have received the organs in good condition and will be happy if we can match them with recipients," a hospital representative said.

Google to livestream Modi speech

Prasar Bharati wants Independence Day event to gain greater visibility

SOBHANA K NAIR
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day speech will be live-streamed on the Google homepage. Google had done a similar thing during Donald Trump's inaugural address in January 2017.

When you go to Google search page and search for Independence Day, you will see live stream of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Red Fort.

"Live stream of the Independence Day event from Red Fort is a high viewership event. In order to give it greater visibility, both in India and abroad, we partnered with Google. Apart from YouTube, it will be available on Google homepage," Prasar Bharati CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati told *The Hindu*. On an average 1.5 to 2 million watch the event each year.


Narendra Modi

This step is part of the ongoing effort from the State broadcaster to increase its digital footprint.

"Doordarshan is usually associated with nostalgia. So by increasing the digital presence we are making younger generation aware of Doordarshan who have never seen an era when there were only two or three channels," Mr. Vempati added.

Bringing the content online need not necessarily mean more offline audience. Mr. Shekhar said: "That is not a phenomena we can measure. Worldwide we have seen that TV content drives the online traffic, I am not sure we can measure its impact other way. But surely it creates second wave of engagement with the audience."

Significant changes

The DD has brought in few other significant changes in its Independence coverage. The coverage will open with song by music composer Shankar Mahadevan. And this year, the DD anchors will give introduction from the ramparts of Red Fort.

The All India Radio will also be transmitting translation of Prime Minister's speech in regional languages in the evening.

Of ISI, RAW and the covert option

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

The main difference between the Indian and Pakistani intelligence agencies is in their ability to form policy in the country, said former chief of the Research and Analysis Wing Vikram Sood, listing the resources available to the two agencies as another disparity.

"Inter-Services-Intelligence [ISI, of Pakistan] decides policy, while the Research and Analysis Wing is a service provider to the policy makers," said Mr. Sood. "The Army is now the largest corporate sector in Pakistan. It runs different industries. When the [RAW] is asked, we provide assessments. The ISI is the clandestine core of the Pakistan Army, which decides ties with India and Afghanistan," he added. Mr. Sood's view was, however, contested by an audience question about whether RAW didn't play a "larger" role in India's neighbourhood.

"Covert [operations] is my business, but it will not be at variance with the overt policy of the government. We are essentially a service provider, with a covert option," Mr. Sood said.

Book launch

The candid comments from the former spy chief were made at the launch of his book on Indian espionage entitled "The Unending Game," which looks at the works of intelligence agencies starting from the 1965 war with China, just before Mr. Sood joined as an officer, infiltration by the Russian intelligence agency KGB into the Indian leadership through the 1970s, attempts to infiltrate by the U.S. agency CIA, events leading up to the Kargil war with Pakistan in 1999 and through to his stint as secretary, RAW from 2000 to 2003 after which he retired. However, he clarified that the book was a manual on intelligence rather than a personal memoir.

Speaking about the book, former National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon said intelligence agencies were often blamed unfairly when there was an attack or infiltration, though their warnings go unheeded.

The event in Delhi on Monday was attended by several former intelligence chiefs and senior officials of the service.

Launching the book, Textiles Minister Smriti Irani took aim at officials who write "tell-all memoirs" and distinguished Mr. Sood's book from them. "To sell a book, Mr. Sood didn't break his oath of secrecy," Ms. Irani said.

https://t.me/Material_For_Exam https://t.me/TheHindu_Zone_official

ELSEWHERE



Ex-staffer releases tape of chat with Trump

WASHINGTON

Former White House staffer Omarosa Manigault Newman has released a recording of a private conversation with President Donald Trump after she was fired. In the recording, Mr. Trump claims to have had no knowledge that she was sacked and expresses regret. AFP

Yemen children killed in coalition strike buried

SAADA

Thousands of mourners on Monday buried dozens of children killed in a Saudi-led coalition air strike on a bus in northern Yemen, one of the deadliest attacks on civilians in the three-year-old war. At least 40 children were killed in Thursday's raid which hit the bus as it drove through a market of Dahyan, a town in Saada. REUTERS

China denies internment of one million Uighurs

GENEVA

China vehemently denied on Monday allegations that one million of its mostly Muslim Uighur minority are being held in internment camps. "Xinjiang citizens, including the Uighurs, enjoy equal freedom and rights," Chinese official Ma Youqing told the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. REUTERS

No war, no negotiations with the U.S., says Khamenei

Iranian Supreme Leader blames 'internal' factors for present economic crisis

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Monday that there would be neither war nor negotiations with the United States, and that the country's problems were the result of government mismanagement more than renewed sanctions.

Ayatollah Khamenei's comments add to the pressure on President Hassan Rouhani following a collapse in the currency and widespread protests over high prices and corruption. They also appeared to rule out any hope of fresh talks with Washington, which U.S. President Donald Trump had proposed after walking out of the landmark 2015 nuclear deal and reimposing sanctions.

"Beside sanctions, they are talking about war and negotiations... let me say a few words to the people: THERE WILL BE NO WAR, NOR WILL WE NEGOTIATE WITH THE U.S.," Ayatollah Khamenei said via his official Twitter account in English.

Show of resolve

There was also a show of military resolve as Defence Minister Amir Hatami unveiled a next generation short-range ballistic missile and vowed to further boost the country's missile capabilities. State broadcaster IRIB said the new Fateh Mobin missile had "successfully passed its tests" and could hit targets on land and sea.

Despite renewed sanctions, many Iranians – including many at the highest levels of the establishment – see U.S. hostility as only a contributing factor to long-standing problems inside the country.

"Today's livelihood problems do not emerge from outside, they are internal," Ayatollah Khamenei said in another tweet. "Not that sanctions don't have an impact, but the main factor is how we handle them," he added.



A resounding 'No': Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei at a rally in Tehran on Monday. ▪ AFP

The comments mirrored recent criticism of Mr. Rouhani's economic management from senior members of the clergy and the Revolutionary Guards – particularly over the collapse of the rial, which has lost around half its value since April.

A fortnight ago, Guards commander Mohammad Ali Jafari told Mr. Rouhani to take "revolutionary actions to control prices and prevent the enormous increase in the price of foreign currency and gold," in an open letter published by the conservative Tasnim news agency.

'Govt. must stay'

But Ayatollah Khamenei criticised conservatives who called for Mr. Rouhani's resignation, saying they were inadvertently "playing into the hands of the enemy". "The government must stay in office and powerfully carry out its duties to resolve the problems," he said.

Part of the strategy has been an effort to show action against Iran's deeply entrenched corruption.

The judiciary said on Sunday that it had arrested 67 people under a sweeping corruption crackdown and prevented 100 government employees from leaving the country.

Ayatollah Khamenei's tweets followed a speech in Tehran, in which he described Mr. Trump's offer of talks as "a dangerous game" and his administration as a "bullying, fraudulent regime". "Even if we ever – impossible as it is – negotiated with the U.S., it would never ever be with the current U.S. administration," he added.

U.S. is stabbing Turkey in the back, says Erdoğan

Central Bank offers liquidity assistance but no rate hike

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ISTANBUL

Turkey's Central Bank on Monday sought to calm markets rattled by the precipitous plunge of the Turkish lira as a defiant President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan chastised the U.S. for seeking to stab Ankara "in the back".

A dispute between NATO allies Turkey and the United States – which reached new intensity over the detention of an American pastor – has hammered the lira and also raised questions over the future partnership between Washington and Ankara.

As the latest developments caused the lira to plunge further in value, investors fretted over potential economic contagion from Turkey, particularly to European banks.

Lira's 16% tumble

The already embattled Turkish lira tumbled some 16% against the dollar on Friday as U.S. President Donald Trump said he had doubled tariffs on steel and aluminium from Turkey. "We are together in NATO and then you seek to stab your strategic partner in the back. Can such a thing be accepted?" Mr. Erdoğan said at a conference in the capital Ankara.

After Mr. Erdoğan's speech, the lira was trading



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. ▪ REUTERS

back at 6.9 to the dollar, a loss of 7% on the day, recovering from even sharper losses in earlier Asian trade where it struck a record low of 7.2362 to the greenback.

In its first statement since what was dubbed "Black Friday" in Turkey, the Central Bank said it was ready to take "all necessary measures" to ensure financial stability, promising to provide banks with "all the liquidity" they need. The bank also revised reserve requirement ratios for banks, in a move also aimed at staving off any liquidity issues. But to the dismay of markets, the statement gave no clear promise of rate hikes.

Mr. Erdoğan indicated that he was in no mood to offer concessions to the United States in one of the worst spats between the two NATO allies in years. He said Turkey was facing an "economic siege", slamming the currency movements as an "attack against our country". Mr. Erdoğan has been sanguine over the punitive measures announced by the U.S., saying that while Turkey's relationship with Washington is at stake, it will look for other partners.

'Tools of exploitation'

Mr. Erdoğan on Saturday described interest rates as a "tool of exploitation", in remarks unlikely to impress the markets.

The Interior Ministry launched an investigation into 346 social media accounts on grounds of "provocative sharings", the state-run Anadolu news agency reported.

American pastor Andrew Brunson has been held since October 2016 on terror and espionage charges and, if convicted, could face a jail term of 35 years. Mr. Trump has described his detention as a "total disgrace" and urged Mr. Erdoğan to free him immediately.

A delegation led by Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Sedat Önal failed to secure a deal last Wednesday in talks in Washington on a number of issues including Mr. Brunson.

Indonesia earthquake toll crosses 400

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JAKARTA

The death toll from an earthquake on the Indonesian island of Lombok has topped 400, authorities said on Monday, as bodies were still being recovered from the ruins of destroyed buildings.

The shallow 6.9-magnitude quake on August 5 levelled tens of thousands of homes, mosques and businesses across Lombok, just a week after another tremor surged through the island and killed 17.

"Search and rescue teams are still removing victims who were buried beneath collapsed buildings and landslides," said national disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho.

The total number killed in the quake is now 436, Mr. Nugroho said, with more than 1,300 injured and nearly 3,53,000 displaced. The hardest hit region of Lombok has been in the north, where 374 people died and more than 1,37,000 have been forced from their homes. Meanwhile, the economic toll of the quake has ballooned to five trillion rupiah ($342 million).

Survivors have been shaken by hundreds of aftershocks, including a shallow 5.9-magnitude quake last Thursday.

'100 Afghan soldiers killed in Ghazni'

Defence Minister says 194 insurgents have also been killed: Taliban refutes figures

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

At least 100 Afghan security force personnel have been killed as troops backed by U.S. airpower struggled to push the Taliban from embattled Ghazni city, officials said on Monday, while residents reported food and medicine shortages four days after fighting began.

The Afghan government said it had sent reinforcements to the strategic city, which lies barely two hours drive from Kabul on the main highway connecting the capital with the country's south. U.S. forces in Afghanistan said they have been conducting airstrikes daily since the fighting began.



Battle for control: Afghan Security personnel patrolling a street in Ghazni province on Sunday. ▪ AP

The assault, which the Taliban launched late on Thursday, comes as the insurgents are under increasing pressure to join peace talks and highlights the difficulty of repelling their repeated attacks on urban centres crowded with civilians, with residents among the dead. "About 100 security forces have lost their lives and between 20 and 30 civilians have been killed," Defence Minister Tariq Shah Bahrami told a press conference in Kabul, offering the first high-level official casualty figure since the insurgents entered the city. He also said that 194 insurgents had been killed and 147 wounded.

The Taliban swiftly responded, saying the government's claims were "baseless" and that talks were "under way for their surrender".

North Korea to host Kim-Moon meet in Sept.

REUTERS
SEOUL

North and South Korea agreed on Monday to hold a summit in the North in September, another step towards boosting cooperation between the old rivals, even as doubts grow over efforts to end the North's nuclear weapons programme.

Officials from both sides meeting in the truce village of Panmunjom, in the demilitarised zone (DMZ) that separates the two Koreas, reached an agreement on a September summit between the countries' leaders in the North's capital of Pyongyang.

No date was announced for what will be the third meeting this year between North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

No details on an agenda were announced either , but the two Koreas have been discussing a range of issues, from a possible peace declaration to joint economic and infrastructure projects.

The progress comes as North Korea and the United States are struggling to agree on how to bring about the North's denuclearisation, after Mr. Kim vowed to work toward that goal at a landmark summit in June in Singapore with U.S. President Donald Trump.

Imran among new members sworn in

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

Imran Khan was among the 329 newly-elected members of the National Assembly who took the oath on Monday, setting the stage for him to form the next government, only the second democratic transition of power in the country.

The maiden session of the 15th National Assembly, the lower house of Parliament, concluded after outgoing Speaker Ayaz Sadiq administered the oath to the leaders in the 342-member house. The 329 members signed their presence in a register. The National Assembly session was then adjourned till 10 a.m. on August 15, Geo News reported.

President Mamnoon Hussain had summoned the maiden session at 10 a.m. in Parliament house on Monday, 19 days after Mr. Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party emerged as the single largest party in the election.

Mr. Khan and other prominent leaders including Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president Shahbaz Sharif; Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari; and former President Asif Ali Zardari also took oath.

The PTI's final tally reached 158 after it was allotted 28 out of 60 seats reserved for women and 10 seats reserved for minorities.

Free after 36 years



Ahead of I-Days: Gajanand, an Indian prisoner in Pakistan for 36 years, crosses Wagah border on Monday following his release. Islamabad released a total of 30 Indian prisoners as a goodwill gesture and New Delhi reciprocated by releasing seven Pakistani prisoners. ▪ PTI

FBI agent who criticised Trump is fired

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

Peter Strzok, the FBI agent who came under fire by Republicans for sending text messages that disparaged Donald Trump during the presidential campaign, was dismissed from the bureau late on Friday, his attorney said on Monday.

Mr. Strzok is the third high-ranking person to be fired from the FBI during the Trump administration. In May 2017, former FBI head James comey was fired by Mr. Trump.

Aitan Goelman, Mr. Strzok's attorney, said in a statement that FBI Deputy Director David Bowdich made the decision to terminate his client.

China to expand energy footprint in Iran

CNPC to replace France's Total as the majority stakeholder in South Pars 11 project

ATUL ANEJA
BEIJING

The next episode of friction between Beijing and Washington could be staged in Iran, where a top Chinese energy firm, defying latest U.S. sanctions, is likely to expand its stake in a giant Iranian gas field.

Iran's state-run news agency IRNA has reported that China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), the world's third-largest oil and gas firm, has replaced Total, the French energy giant, in the South Pars 11 project. "China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC) has replaced Total of France with an 80.1% stake in the phase 11 of the South Pars (gas field)," IRNA quoted Mohammad Mostafavi, director of investment of Iran's state oil firm NIOC, as saying.

World's largest gas field

South Pars is the world's single largest natural gas field, which is being developed in several phases. In 2017, Total acquired a 50.1% stake in the South Pars 11 project, following the 2015 sanctions-easing Iran nuclear deal. CNPC held a 30% stake, while the rest was allocated to Iran's Petropars Ltd. But after its withdrawal from the Iran atomic deal in May, Washington gave foreign firms 90 to 180 days limit to scrap their businesses from Iran.

Following the U.S. demand, Total has apparently fallen in line. Bloomberg quoted Total head Patrick Pouyanne as saying last month that, "Within the U.S. legal framework, we can't work in Iran."

Reuters had previously reported that the $1 billion deal signed last July gave the Chinese firm the option to take over Total's stake if it left Iran. Tweaking remarks made earlier to IRNA, Mohammad Mostafavi of NIOC said on Saturday that there is change in the contract to develop the South Pars 11 gas field. "The role of the members of the consortium developing this project is in accordance with the provisions of the contract, and there is still no formal change in these provisions."

Chinese Foreign Ministry in the past has maintained that it is opposed to "unilateral sanctions" imposed by the U.S. against Iran.

https://t.me/Material_For_Exam https://t.me/TheHindu_Zone_official

MARKET WATCH

	13-08-2018	% CHANGE
Sensex	37,645	-0.59
US Dollar	69.93	-1.60
Gold	30,660	-0.13
Brent oil	72.85	0.04

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	377.15	-2.15
Asian Paints	1399.25	-19.35
Axis Bank	604.90	-10.60
Bajaj Auto	2630.85	1.15
Bajaj Finserv	6945.45	-138.40
Bajaj Finance	2760.40	-48.05
Bharti Airtel	370.15	0.35
BPCL	379.70	-21.90
Cipla	628.30	7.25
Coal India	279.05	3.25
Dr Reddys Lab	2241.60	27.30
Eicher Motors	28406.60	-591.10
GAIL (India)	375.45	12.50
Grasim Ind	986.85	15.50
HCL Tech	983.00	17.00
HDFC	1947.00	-27.30
HDFC Bank	2091.65	-22.80
Hero MotoCorp	3308.20	-11.20
Hindalco	221.65	-1.05
HPCL	273.10	-13.05
Hind Unilever	1728.85	-23.85
Indiabulls HFL	1276.50	-48.40
ICICI Bank	324.90	-3.70
IndusInd Bank	1993.90	14.40
Bharti Infratel	285.25	-4.65
Infosys	1408.75	23.30
Indian OilCorp	160.65	-5.70
ITC	305.95	1.15
Kotak Bank	1287.15	1.65
L&T	1269.05	4.40
Lupin	811.95	2.50
M&M	954.50	8.55
Maurti Suzuki	9080.85	-67.40
NTPC	158.00	-1.55
ONGC	166.05	-3.20
PowerGrid Corp	188.00	-2.55
Reliance Ind	1187.70	-16.50
State Bank	294.15	-10.30
Sun Pharma	563.90	9.90
Tata Motors	248.70	-1.40
Tata Steel	568.80	-7.90
TCS	2000.15	7.05
Tech Mahindra	659.95	14.00
Titan	913.65	-6.45
UltraTech Cement	4194.20	-52.00
UPL	625.40	-11.20
Vedanta	216.30	-7.40
Wipro	281.85	3.00
YES Bank	370.70	-12.15
Zee Entertainment	506.45	-10.45

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 13

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	69.73	70.05
Euro	79.50	79.88
British Pound	89.03	89.44
Japanese Yen (100)	63.06	63.35
Chinese Yuan	10.13	10.18
Swiss Franc	70.12	70.45
Singapore Dollar	50.67	50.92
Canadian Dollar	53.02	53.27
Malaysian Ringitt	17.03	17.12

Source:Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

August 13 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	41.3	(41.1)
22 ct gold (1 g)	2844	(2823)

Turkish lira drags rupee down

Rupee drops most in 5 years to new closing low of 69.93 versus dollar, sights 70

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Turkish lira's woes rattled emerging market currencies on Monday with the rupee slumping 1.6%, its biggest one-day fall in five years, to hit a new closing low of 69.93 to a dollar.

The lira weakened more than 8% on Monday amid mounting concerns over Turkish president Tayyip Erdogan's hold over the economy and the deteriorating ties with the United States.

"Rupee fell to fresh record low levels after Turkey's widening diplomatic spat with the U.S. prompted fresh turmoil in the market," said Gaurang Somaiya, currency analyst, Motilal Oswal Securities. "Strength in the dollar against its major crosses is also weighing on the Asian currencies including the rupee."



Trade gains: Exporters are likely to cheer the rupee's weakness, say currency analysts. ▪ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

The dollar index was trading higher at 96.18.

Dealers said the central bank had intervened to slow the pace of the rupee's fall but ruled out the likelihood of significant intervention as the factors impacting the currency were coming from external sources.

"Given that the contagion is spread across the emerging markets, the RBI is unlikely to defend a particular level – 69.0 had emerged until today as a de-facto tolerance level – come what may," Tushar Arora, senior economist, HDFC Bank wrote in a note.

Mr. Arora said while the rupee may make a 'brief foray' beyond 70 to a dollar, given the volatile trading environment, he sees the rupee at 68-69 a dollar at September end, adding he sees the current weakness as a strategic trading opportunity.

Good for exports

A weaker rupee will make exports competitive. "The fall in the rupee is not that dramatic that it should be worrying," said U R Bhat, MD, Dalton Capital Advisors India.

"Historically the rupee has seen a fall of 5-6% CAGR so this kind of fall is factored in," he said. "Foreign investors investing in government bonds or fixed income may however feel some impact."

Retail inflation slows to 9-month low at 4.17%

'Moderate food inflation to continue till MSP impact hits'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Retail inflation eased to a nine-month low of 4.17% in July as food inflation cooled to its lowest level since July 2017, according to official data released on Monday.

Inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) slowed from the 4.92% pace set in June.

Within the index, food category inflation was 1.73% in July, easing from 3.11% in June. The other significant slowdown in prices was in the pan and tobacco category, which saw growth of 6.34%, down from 8.05% in June.

"Decline in retail inflation in July 2018 was on expected lines," Devendra Pant, chief economist and senior director (Public Finance), India Ratings and Research, wrote in a note.



"Unfavourable base effect of June 2017 turned favourable in July. Inflation numbers from July 2017 till June 2018 had adverse base effect due to GST... which had led to inflation increasing at a faster pace. Internally, food inflation moderated and is expected to behave at this pace for the next two months before the impact of the revision of kharif MSP starts impacting inflation."

Rising oil effect

The rise in global fuel prices has led to a continuous increase in inflation in the fuel and light segment, Mr. Pant added.

He said that this category, coupled with the transport and communication group, is expected to exert pressure on retail inflation. Growth in the fuel and light category accelerated to 7.96% in July, from 7.22% in June.

Tata Steel Q1 net profit more than doubles

Strong demand spurs growth: CEO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Tata Steel recorded a more than twofold growth in net profit for the quarter ended June, to ₹1,954 crore due to 'robust performance' of the Indian steel business. Revenue rose more than 22% to ₹37,833 crore, due to better realisations.

"Tata Steel delivered strong performance across all geographies on the back of strong steel demand and buoyant spreads," said T.V. Narendran, CEO and MD.

"Tata Steel India's domestic deliveries grew 14% YoY, significantly higher than the market which saw a 9% growth. All verticals saw strong growth, with our automotive and branded products segments now contributing to 19% and 33% of total volumes, respectively."



T.V. Narendran

The firm incurred an exceptional loss of ₹343.6 crore in the quarter, including a ₹114.9-crore loss arising from the sale of stake in a joint venture in southeast Asia, it said in a statement.

HDFC Bank won't have a deputy MD after Sukthankar's departure: Puri

Was a contender for top post, but resignation not linked to succession, says MD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

HDFC Bank will drop the post of deputy managing director – a position held since December 2013 by Paresh Sukthankar who decided to put in his papers on Friday.

"The deputy MD role was created for Paresh Sukthankar valuing his contribution made to the bank... there will no more be a deputy managing director," MD Aditya Puri told analysts on Monday, adding Mr. Sukthankar, who has been with the bank since its inception in 1994, was a contender to the post of MD.

Mr. Puri, who has been the managing director of the bank since 1994, will hang up his boots in October 31, 2020, when he reaches age 70, the regulator-mandated retirement age. Mr. Puri strongly refuted that Mr. Sukthankar's resignation was related to the succession planning process. "This [resignation] has nothing to do with who will be the successor; these are his personal reasons; he has given his life for the bank, please do not demean it," he said. Earlier, the management had said that the search for a successor will begin 18 months before Mr. Puri retires.



Paresh Sukthankar

Management depth

"There are young competent managers, who are here to stay for the next five years. The vision and strategy is clear for that period. We have the depth of management, and this will not affect the regular course of business. Of course, it is a loss of a great resource. The board and I will take an appropriate decision in 10-15 days," Mr. Puri said. He assured investors that Mr. Sukthankar's exit would not impact decision-making.

"An institution with the size and depth of HDFC Bank is not subject to any one individual and there are enough senior people including executive director Kaizad Bharucha and chief financial officer Sashidhar Jagdishan to take over Sukthankar's portfolio," he said.

"It will be the same even when I leave the board," he added. HDFC Bank's shares closed 1.15% lower at ₹2,090.65.

Egon to help BBB in PSB leadership programmes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Indian Banks' Association has appointed Egon Zehnder International as a 'Knowledge Partner' to the Banks Board Bureau to design, implement and institutionalise a flagship leadership development strategy for public sector banks in India.

In addition, Hay Consultants Private Limited (part of the Korn Ferry Group) will assist the bureau in assessing leadership competencies and potential capabilities of candidates appearing in the process for appointment as wholetime directors of public sector banks.

Solar cell safeguard duty put on hold

Move follows Orissa HC's stay order

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI

The government on Monday issued a notification putting on hold the imposition of the safeguard duty on the import of solar cells from China and Malaysia following a stay order by the Orissa High Court.

The Centre had imposed a safeguard duty of 25% on solar cells imported from China and Malaysia for the period from July 30, 2018, to July 29, 2019, following which the duty was to be reduced to 20% for the next six months, and further to 15% in the six months following that. Several firms filed writ petitions in the Orissa High Court against the imposition of the duty.

"It has been decided not to insist on payment of safeguard duty, for the time being," the Department of Revenue, Finance Ministry said in the notification, citing the stay order.



"Till further direction from the Board, the said goods, namely, solar cells whether or not assembled in modules or panels would, in respect of said safeguard duty, be assessed provisionally on furnishing of simple letter of undertaking by the concerned person."

HC adjourns UTI MF case to August 28

T Rowe Price mulls out-of-court pact

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court adjourned the hearing of the petition filed by T Rowe Price International to August 28 after the U.S.-based shareholder of UTI Mutual Fund sought more time saying that it is talking to government officials for an out-of-court settlement of the matter.

T Rowe Price had filed a petition seeking an extension of the term of the managing director and chief executive officer Leo Puri, whose tenure came to an end on Monday. It also wanted the other government-owned promoters of the fund – State Bank of India (SBI), Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Bank of Baroda (BoB) – to pare their stakes to 10% each as per new norms.

Honesty stressed

Separately, Mr. Puri stressed on the principles of honesty and 'doing the right thing' in his farewell letter to the employees of the country's oldest fund house on Monday.

While highlighting the strong foundations, strategy and financials of UTI Mutual Fund, Mr. Puri said it would be best for the fund house to remain independent and a professionally-managed listed entity.

"I am confident that UTI's future is to remain a leading, independent, Indian asset management company. I also believe it will prosper as a listed company, meritocratic and professionally-managed," he said in the letter.

Centre tells Amazon to secure customer data via local storage

'Unbridled migration of data sans consent causes concern'

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

Amid debates over how companies store and use customer data, Minister of Electronics and IT Ravi Shankar Prasad has asked Amazon India to set up storage servers in India 'on priority' to store data of its users within the country.

The issue came up at a recent meeting between the Minister and Amit Agarwal, who heads Amazon's India operations. "India offers a big market to such firms. I conveyed to them that they are welcome to do business here. But every e-commerce transaction generates data and we are concerned about its safety and security as well as the element of users' consent, particularly on trans-border migration of data," the Minister said at a select media interaction.



Ravi Shankar Prasad

'Do this on priority'

"Therefore, I told them that they must have their server here. And, this initiative must be taken on priority basis." Amazon India did not respond to queries.

Greater clarity, as to what type of data will have to mandatorily be stored in India, will emerge once the law on data protection is finalised.

The minister explained, "Any constructive use of data is welcome. I am very keen that India becomes a centre of data analytics... What concerns me is unbridled migration of data without the consent of Indians."

He added that data analytics would soon become a big segment of growth, especially given the large amounts of data generated by Indians. In the draft personal data protection bill 2018 released last month, the Justice B.N. Srikrishna-headed panel has also suggested that critical personal data of Indian citizens be processed in data centres located in the country.

RCom's bank guarantees reinstated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Reliance Communications and its subsidiary, Reliance Telecom Limited, have reinstated bank guarantees of ₹774 crore with the Department of Telecommunications, four weeks ahead of the last date of September 10 as stipulated by the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal.

The reinstatement of guarantees ensures that RCom's licence and spectrum value of ₹11,300 crore stand protected, and that RCom 'is fully compliant with the guidelines of NIA 2013 and NIA 2015,' said a company statement. The asset monetisation programme of about ₹25,000 crore for sale of MCNs, towers, optic fibre and spectrum is on track, it added.

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IN BRIEF



Oyo acquires wedding start-up Weddingz.in

BENGALURU

Oyo, a hotel chain operating in more than 160 cities across India, China, Malaysia and Nepal, on Monday announced the acquisition of Weddingz.in, a wedding banquet firm for an undisclosed sum. Globally, the wedding industry is a $500 billion market and Oyo's focus on global expansion will support its debut in disrupting these markets, the company said in a statement.

Infosys to invest ₹100 cr. in West Bengal project

KOLKATA

Infosys on Monday began work on its software development unit in Kolkata. Laying the foundation stone for the Bengal Silicon Valley Hub, where the project is located, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said IT firms would be given all the facilities that Bengaluru and Hyderabad offered. The IT major said it would invest ₹100 crore initially in the 50-acre project, which would employ 1,000 engineers to begin with.

TVS Motor invests in e-bike firm Ultraviolette

NEW DELHI

Electric mobility solutions provider Ultraviolette Automotive said it had received ₹6 crore funding from TVS Motor Company. The investment will be used for product engineering and expansion of the core R&D team and the facility. The start-up is engaged in developing electric mobility solutions and building an e-motorcycle, equivalent to conventional bikes in the 200-250cc segment. PTI

Jet hits lay-off mode, lets 11 go

Engineering staff including in Mumbai, Delhi asked to resign in move to cut costs

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Jet Airways has let go of 11 senior and mid-level managers in its engineering department as part of an effort by the embattled airline to cut costs, three people familiar with the development said.

The airline, which last week deferred the announcement of its first-quarter results and has been seeking to negotiate a wage cut proposal with employees including pilots, tapped the 11 managers including a general manager over the last 10 days and sought their resignations, the people said on condition of anonymity.

"The HR people call the staff and ask them to resign," said one of the sources. "If anyone refuses, he/she is terminated. HR [has] full and final cheques [ready] and once removed, the person is asked to leave the office immediately after depositing their airport pass," the person said.



Turbulent times: Those let go over the last 10 days include a GM, with most based in Delhi and Mumbai. ▪ REUTERS

'Performance linked'

An airline official said on condition of anonymity that any recent departures were linked to annual performance appraisals. A spokesperson said Jet denied any lay-offs and added it was "committed to creating a growth-oriented sustainable future" for its employees.

"Everyone is in a state of panic," another person said. "No one knows whether they will be here tomorrow or not. In the process safety is getting affected and productivity is low." Those laid off weren't part of any union and were let go without any notice, the person said.

"Pilots and licensed engineers have unions and even though their salary is very high, no one dares to touch them," the person added.

BSE seeks clarification

Separately, the BSE on Monday asked Jet to clarify discrepancies in its submissions on the outcome of the board meeting and subsequent response to an exchange query.

In reply, Jet said finalisation of accounts was delayed as the management had sought more time, which the board had granted.

AI cash crunch: 12 planes grounded for '3-6 months'

'$80-$100 mn needed for repairs'; grounding criminal: ICPA

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

As many as 12 Air India planes have not flown in the past "three to six months" because the airline does not have the cash to procure spare parts, including engines, to carry out repair and maintenance work.

The grounding of planes is yet another fall out of the cash crunch the airline is facing. It has been delaying payment of staff salaries for the past five months.

The planes that have been grounded at Kolkata, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Nagpur include 8 narrow body aircraft of the Airbus A320 series and 4 wide body aircraft – two Boeing 777s and two Boeing 787s, an Air India official said requesting anonymity. The 12 planes are in addition to those aircraft that are grounded from time to time for maintenance, engine snags or bird hits. The source added that a "significantly high" number of planes have been grounded and this was a serious cause of concern. He said most planes that were grounded needed engine replacement and cited 'lack of funds' for the failure to make repairs. The official added that according to estimates, $80-100 million was needed to make these planes airborne.



Revenue loss

The carrier's pilots body, the Indian Commercial Pilots Association (ICPA), also shot off a letter to the CMD on the grounding of planes.

The ICPA said the A321 aircraft was "the workhorse of the domestic network operating on high-density routes." It termed the grounding 'criminal', considering the significant daily loss of revenue.

(With Aditya Anand in Mumbai)

India Cements board gets 3 new directors

Of these appointees, two are women

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The board of The India Cements Ltd. will sport a new look with the induction of three new members.

The three new directors are: Basavaraju, Lakshmi Aparna Sreekumar and Sandhya Rajan.

These three were appointed to the board based on the recommendation of the nomination and remuneration committee, the company said in a filing with the BSE.

The new directors have joined the board as additional independent directors.

Meanwhile, three independent directors – Arun Datta, N.R. Krishnan and V. Manickam – are slated to retire on August 28.



The board has also appointed N. Srinivasan, a well-known chartered accountant, whose term of office as independent director expires on August 28, as additional non-executive, non-independent director, with effect from August 29.

Ramky Enviro plans expansion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Ramky Enviro Engineers, an environmental services and solutions provider, plans to invest ₹2,500 crore to expand after investment firm KKR agreed to buy 60% stake in the company for $530 million.

"We will spend ₹2,500 crore in waste-to-energy and in emerging economies in the next three years," said M. Goutham Reddy, MD and CEO, REEL. "About 20% of the investments will go towards emerging economies." KKR's investment marks one of the largest buyouts in India and is the first private equity buyout in the country's environmental services sector.

McDonald's plans to serve rice in south, west India

'Consumers want more options in lunch and dinner meals'

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

American food major McDonald's has announced plans to serve rice dishes at its outlets in southern and western India. The company has introduced two variants – Spicy Rice and Cheesy Rice – starting at ₹129 a bowl.

McDonald's will continue to build a rice platform, bringing out a bouquet of rice offerings over time, the company said in a statement.

Common staple

"The consumer insights showed that consumers want a familiar and a filling meal especially during lunch and dinner. Rice is a common staple for people across the country and fits in very well as a meal option after bread and naan," the company said in a statement.



Each portion of the rice meal consists of three substantial layers of basmati rice, bulgur (Dalia/ Lapsi) and whole wheat with veggies such as carrots, onions, zucchini, peas and corn tossed in a scrumptious tomato and beans and cheese gravy.

"Our consumer research showed that consumers want to have more options during lunch and dinner dayparts and there could not be a better option than offering them rice meals," said Smita Jatia, MD, Hardcastle Restaurants, which owns and operates the McDonald's chain of restaurants in west and south India.

Rice meals are also available in non-vegetarian options, the company said.

Wheels India net rises 38%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Wheels India Ltd. has reported a 38% jump in net profit for the quarter ended June 2018, to ₹18.01 crore from ₹12.98 crore in the year-earlier period.

Revenue for the quarter under review increased by 22% to ₹746.28 crore.

"All our business segments have done well in the first quarter with high capacity utilisation," Srivats Ram, MD, said. "The growth was strong on a year-on-year basis due to a weak quarter a year earlier, which was prior to the introduction of the GST. We expect all segments of our business to do well for the rest of the year," he said. Wheels India has expanded its presence in the non-wheels segment.

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India's batting fails under tough examination — again

The team came away looking distinctly second-best, a level below an opponent that exploited the conditions to the hilt

INDIA IN ENGLAND

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
LONDON

There was none of the usual defiance about Virat Kohli when he turned up for his post-match press-conference on Sunday. Instead, he appeared wounded and disappointed, accepting with a shrug of the shoulders that his side had been poor.

At least in Birmingham and in the first two Tests in South Africa earlier this year there was the consolation that India had competed, battled to the end and left everyone with the feeling that a good result seemed only a matter of time.

At Lord's any such belief was blown to smithereens. India came away looking distinctly second-best, a level below an opponent that had exploited conditions to the hilt.



On a sticky wicket: England exposed the inability of the Indians to bat with patience — if not flair — in testing circumstances. ▪ REUTERS

Embarrassed

In reality, though, the difference between the first Test and the second was merely Kohli. At Edgbaston, the captain's 200 runs had given the team's performance a veneer of respectability.

Without another large contribution from him, the side was embarrassed against relentlessly accurate swing and seam bowling. Yet again, India's batting failed under tough examination.

In theory, it is all easy: play close to the body, do not throw your hands at the ball, play with a straight bat, do not play around your front pad.

In practice, though, it is hard for a batsman to make these adjustments in the space of a few days, when it is not in his nature to bat this way.

It is harder still to deal with two masters of their craft such as James Anderson and Stuart Broad, who do not have 977 Test wickets between them for no reason.

It is too late to complain about preparatory first-class games and scheduling; there is little that can be done about it now.

But there is no excuse for the lack of fight India's batsmen showed, their inability to bat with patience – if not flair – in testing circumstances.

In the second innings, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane and R. Ashwin seemed prepared to grind it out; the rest, however, were disappointing.

"You have to find ways of countering that situation which I think we have failed to do as batsmen, myself included in this game," Kohli said.

"We haven't had any sort of partnerships in this game. Only 50 with Hardik (Pandya) and Ash (R. Ashwin) in this innings. Nothing of any substance before or after that. We need to make sure we get a 60, 70, 80-run partnership and try and build that into a big partnership or have three or four partnerships of 60 or 70-odd."

Vijay's form a worry

M. Vijay's dip in form is worrying, as is the nature of Dinesh Karthik's dismissals. The wicketkeeper made his Test debut 14 years ago; to see him bowled through a large gap between bat and pad in the first innings was unacceptable.

Kohli, though, believes that India's problems are all mental. "I don't see any technical deficiency. If a batsman is clear in the head and he's clear about the plans he's making, then even if the ball does something off the pitch, he's able to counter it.

"I've experienced in the past that if my head's clouded, I feel the ball can do this, or that, or even that. You know there are three-four scenarios that run in your head.

"You can't come here and think the conditions are too difficult because they are really not if you're prepared to counter them. Any conditions in the world can be as easy or as difficult [as you make them out to be]."

Kohli may believe that but his colleagues have to be prepared to scrap.

Kohli loses top spot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

India captain Virat Kohli, on Monday, lost his top position in the ICC Test rankings for batsmen, dropping to second after the second Test against England at Lord's.

Kohli lost the position to former Australian captain Steve Smith, who is currently serving a one-year ban.

James Anderson (903) became the seventh England bowler to breach the 900-point mark after Sydney Barnes (932), George Lohmann (931), Tony Lock (912), Ian Botham (911), Derek Underwood (907) and Alec Bedser (903).

He is now No. 1 in the world.

'Only option is to come out positive'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LONDON

Virat Kohli has admitted that it was perhaps wrong to field two spinners in the second Test at Lord's.

India selected Kuldeep Yadav in place of a specialist pace bowler in Umesh Yadav, even when it was overcast ahead of the toss on the second morning.

"Looking at things now, [yes]," Kohli said at the presentation after the game. "It was different when we started then it changed suddenly. I think we got the combination a bit off before the game. We have a chance to correct that next game. At 2-0 down the only option is to come out positive, try and make it 2-1 and make it an exciting series from there."

England unchanged

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LONDON

England named an unchanged squad for the third Test against India, starting in Nottingham on Saturday. However, in a press release, the ECB said it "will make an assessment of Ben Stokes' availability after the trial in Bristol has concluded."

The squad: Joe Root (Capt.), Alastair Cook, Keaton Jennings, Ollie Pope, Jonny Bairstow, Jos Buttler, Sam Curran, Chris Woakes, Adil Rashid, James Anderson, Stuart Broad, Moeen Ali, and Jamie Porter.

Meek surrender

India's defeat to England by an innings and 159 runs at Lord's on Sunday was the 11th worst in its history of innings defeats. Overall, 44 out of India's 162 losses (in 526 Tests) have been innings defeats

Rank	Opponent	Start date	Innings and runs margin	Venue
1	West Indies	31-Dec-58	**336**	Kolkata
2	England	20-Jun-74	**285**	Lord's
3	England	15-Aug-14	**244**	The Oval
4	England	10-Aug-11	**242**	Birmingham
5	Sri Lanka	23-Jul-08	**239**	Colombo (SSC)
6	Australia	28-Nov-47	**226**	Brisbane
7	England	17-Jul-52	**207**	Manchester
8	West Indies	27-Jan-49	**193**	Chennai
9	Australia	06-Feb-48	**177**	Melbourne
10	England	02-Jul-59	**173**	Leeds
11	England	09-Aug-18	**159**	Lord's

DATA COMPILED BY SRINIVASAN RAMANI

India-A wins series after 'Test' ends in draw

Final day's play too affected by rain; Shreyas, Bawane help themselves to half-centuries

SA-A IN INDIA

S. DIPAK RAGAV
BENGALURU

India-A clinched the two-match series against South Africa-A 1-0 after the final day of the second 'Test' was affected by rain and the game ended in a draw. Like on Sunday, the final session was washed out.

Earlier, resuming at 294 for seven, SA-A was bowled out for 319. Pacer Mohammed Siraj removed Anrich Nortje in the first over of the day. Then Ankit Rajpoot had Duanne Olivier caught behind before Siraj bowled Mthiwekhaya Nabe to help the hosts take a 26-run lead.

In a repeat of the first innings, India-A lost early wickets, with Olivier bowling Prithvi Shaw and then trapping G. Hanuma Vihari leg-before for a duck with the score reading 14. Mayank Agarwal and Shreyas Iyer then steadied things a bit before Agarwal was dismissed just before lunch.



Flamboyant: Skipper Shreyas Iyer came out firing in the post-lunch session. ▪ G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

However, post lunch, Shreyas and Ankeet Bawane counter-attacked with some flamboyant shots. Skipper Shreyas was severe on left-arm spinner Senuran Muthusamy and off-spinner Dane Piedt. He was eventually dismissed for 65. Bawane remained unbeaten on 64.

The scores:

India-A — 1st innings: 345.

South Africa-A — 1st innings: Pieter Malan lbw b Siraj 0, Sarel Erwee lbw Chahal 58, Zubayr Hamza c Shreyas b Chahal 93, Hendrik Van Der Dussen c Bharat b Rajpoot 22, Rudi Second c Shaw b Rajpoot 47, Senuran Muthusamy (not out) 35, Dwaine Pretorius c Siraj b Jayant 10, Dane Piedt b Siraj 22, Anrich Nortje lbw b Siraj 0, Duanne Olivier c Bharat b Rajpoot 4, Mthiwekhaya Nabe b Siraj 7; Extras (nb-16, b-1, lb-4): 21; Total (in 98.2 overs): 319.

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-154, 3-163, 4-233, 5-236, 6-254, 7-294, 8-294, 9-299.

India-A bowling: Siraj 21.2-4-72-4, Saini 21-9-41-0, Rajpoot 20-7-52-3, Jayant 14-2-65-1, Chahal 22-1-84-2.

India-A — 2nd innings: Prithvi Shaw b Olivier 4, Mayank Agarwal b Muthusamy 28, G. Hanuma Vihari lbw b Olivier 0, Shreyas Iyer c & b Muthusamy 65, Ankeet Bawane (not out) 64, K.S. Bharat (not out) 18; Extras (nb-2): 2; Total (for four wickets in 51 overs): 181.

Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-14, 3-54, 4-140.

South Africa-A bowling: Olivier 10-5-24-2, Nortje 12-2-41-0, Muthusamy 12-2-45-2, Pretorius 7-1-28-0, Piedt 9-0-39-0, Erwee 1-0-4-0.

Match drawn. India-A wins series 1-0.

> **When you do consistently [well] and not get into the team, it runs in your mind. The same thing happened to me a few years back**
>
> SHREYAS IYER

Jones optimistic of Kohli's participation

He will play Asia Cup on one leg if he has to, says the Australian

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

Will Virat Kohli play the Asia Cup in Dubai and Abu Dhabi from September 15 to 28? After the second Test at Lord's on Sunday, Kohli talked about his workload during the last three years.

He said he will be able to play the third Test at Trent Bridge at 100% ability as a batsman, but with lesser intensity as a fielder due to a nagging lower back.

Dean Jones, who launched Star Sports' Unimoni Asia Cup 2018 campaign at the broadcaster's studio, was optimistic of Kohli's participation in the Asia Cup.

Jones said: "Workload is important for players. Knowing Virat, he will play the tournament on one leg if he has to.

"The Asia Cup is a prestigious tournament. He would like to be there, I don't know how bad his back is. Someone has to straighten it out.



Dean Jones. ▪ FILE PHOTO: V.V. KRISHNAN

"There is the Australian tour later on; but as a cricketer, he's just got to say let's get through with the Test series (against England), then the Asia Cup and the series in Australia."

"I think for Virat, the three major things would be, winning the World Cup, series in Australia and the Asia Cup."

'Conditions did India in'

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

Former Australia batsman Dean Jones felt that India was done in by the conditions at Lord's. "It can happen with the conditions there. I don't know why it happens, you get a flat pitch and suddenly it's overcast and it swings all over the place," said the 57-year-old.

"Sometimes you can overanalyse your technique. You think too much. They have got to regroup and come back. The Indians walked into a storm at Lord's but I expect them to bounce back," he said on Monday. Asked how India would respond after being 0-2 down, Jones said the coach and captain have their task cut out. "As a coach, it's really difficult to bring back the confidence. The only way to do it is through hard work."

Putting mind over skill — the Vihari formula

Changing Ranji teams and being forced out of his comfort zone has helped the batsman mature

S. DIPAK RAGAV
BENGALURU

G. Hanuma Vihari has been around the First Class scene for close to a decade now but it is only in the last two years that he has made giant strides. He made his India-A debut last year on the tour to South Africa and finished with 752 Ranji Trophy runs, the fifth highest in the competition, including a triple hundred at an average of 94.

In fact, among active cricketers, Vihari's First Class average of 59.45 is the best in the world.

For someone who started in Hyderabad and made his debut at 17, two years ago he took a gamble and walked away to Andhra. But he says the move and being entrusted with the captaincy contributed to his improved form.

"Changing States made me mature. I knew I was taking a big risk and I had to step up and double the hard work. But it got me out of my comfort zone. At Hyderabad, where I was playing since 16, I was comfortable and knew I was a regular part of the side," said Vihari.

He has been a vital cog in Andhra's top order, coming in at three, a position at which he came in on Friday for India-A to overcome the challenging conditions and produce a brilliant 148. "I try to play with my mind than think about the skill. At this level, it is more about the mindset. I try to think and be one step ahead of the opposition," said Vihari about his current approach.



In fine fettle: G. Hanuma Vihari has made the most of his move from Hyderabad to Andhra. ▪ G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

The 24-year old, who was part of the World Cup-winning u-19 team in 2012, added that playing for a small team like Andhra meant one had to do more to grab the attention.

It hasn't helped him that he has not been part of the IPL after two seasons with Sunrisers Hyderabad (2013 and 2015). But he has kept himself busy playing club cricket in England or in the Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League this year.

"It is tough. You want to be part of IPL because you get the exposure and experience. But I don't know how teams think and it is not in my control," he said.

On being part of the 'A' team and the learning process, Vihari said, "I was very nervous last year when we went to South Africa because it was a big step up. But the good thing with this set-up is you get six to seven matches. There is no best XI. All 15 of us get our chances and that's the good thing with Rahul (Dravid) sir."

Ambiguity over panel's strength

Calls for Paranjpe and Khoda's inclusion get louder

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

With India having begun the five-Test series with successive three-day losses, drastic changes, especially in the opening combination, are being sought for the last two Tests.

The bigger question for now is whether the squad for the latter half of the series will be decided by three or five wise men.

The Supreme Court order on August 9 clarified that the strength of the selection committee – which was clipped to three members by the Lodha Committee two years ago – should be reversed to five.

With the Test team, especially the batting line-up, appearing to be in transition, calls for recalling Jatin Paranjpe and Gagan Khoda to the selection panel for the next meeting are getting louder.

Confused

However, the BCCI brass and the Committee of Administrators seems to be confused over the immediate course of action. It is understood that the CoA has sought legal opinion on the expansion of the selection committee and whether Paranjpe and Khoda can be re-inducted.

Days after the Supreme Court had delivered the verdict in July 2016, the Lodha Committee had forced the BCCI to crunch the selection panel's strength despite the then BCCI constitution not having been amended.

If the same yardstick is to be applied, Paranjpe and Khoda's place should be restored ahead of the next selection committee meeting . *The Hindu* also understands that neither of the two selectors have been notified officially by the BCCI since the last week's court ruling.

The ambiguity may well last till the next CoA meeting, likely to be held on August 20 and 21.

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Koepka denies Woods fairytale win

The American seals his third Major title by firing a four-under 66 to finish on 16-under 264

PGA C'SHIP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ST. LOUIS

Brooks Koepka held off dramatic challenges from Tiger Woods and Adam Scott in a thrilling back-nine battle on Sunday to win the 100th PGA Championship.

The 28-year-old two-time US Open champion sealed his third Major title by firing a four-under-par 66 to finish 72 holes on 16-under 264, edging Woods by two strokes at Bellerive Country Club with Australia's Scott another shot adrift. "To do this is truly incredible," Koepka said.

Keeping cool

As Woods electrified spectators by displaying the form that made him a 14-time Major champion, American rival Koepka stayed calm and persevered under intense pressure to claim the Wanamaker Trophy and a top prize of $1.98 million.

"I heard all the roars when Tiger made his run," Koepka said.

Deadlocked for the lead with Scott – who began the back nine with three birdies in four holes – and only one stroke ahead of Woods, Koepka sank a 10-foot birdie putt at the par-4 15th and a six-foot birdie putt at the par-3 16th then parred the last two holes to seal victory.



Stepping up: Brooks Koepka, seen with his mother Denise Jakows and girlfriend Jena Sims, did not allow Tiger Woods pull level despite the latter's best final round at a Major. ▪ AFP

Top scores: 264: Brooks Koepka (69-63-66-66, USA); **266:** Woods (70-66-66-64, USA).

267: Adam Scott (70-65-65-67, Aus). **269:** Stewart Cink (67-69-66-67, USA), Jon Rahm (68-67-66-68, Esp); **270:** Thomas Pieters (67-66-71-66, Bel), Francesco Molinari (68-67-68-67, Ita), Justin Thomas (69-65-68-68, USA), Gary Woodland (64-66-71-69, USA).

The Koepka file

Age: 28

Birthplace: West Palm Beach, Florida

Height: 6 feet (1.83m)

Weight: 185 pounds (84kg)

Turned Professional: 2012

Major victories (3): 2017 and 2018 US Open, 2018 PGA Championship

- Koepka is the fifth player to win the US Open and US PGA the same year after Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Jack Nicklaus and Woods
- His 72-hole total of 16-under 264 bettered by one stroke the PGA Championship scoring record, set in 2001 by David Toms

> For some reason the Majors get my attention more. Every shot is so important. You have to be patient and I always do that very well in the Majors
> BROOKS KOEPKA

Tiger roaring again

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ST. LOUIS

Tiger Woods is back.

The 14-time Major winner fired his lowest final round in a Major, a six-under par-64, on Sunday to finish second at the PGA Championship – and a career once seen as over might just have some magic left in it after all.

"He just kind of ho-hummed 64," said playing partner Gary Woodland. "The putter was awesome. He had a lot of putts that didn't go in as well – 64 looked pretty easy, to be honest. Could have shot a lot (lower)."

From grinding out pars and turning horrible tee shots into unlikely birdies to deadly accuracy with approaches and putts, the 42-year-old star who hasn't won a Major since the 2008 US Open turned back the clock.

Spectators responded with roars to rival anything the former World No. 1 enjoyed in his prime.

Woods said it has been a long time since he felt so good about a loss, finishing two strokes behind Brooks Koepka but serving notice he truly can contend for more Major titles.



Tiger Woods. ▪ AFP

This from a man who hasn't won any event in five years and a year ago was uncertain if he would ever golf again. "I had to go get it and I tried," Woods said. "I knew it was going to be a struggle to piece together a round and I did.

"I didn't even know if I was going to play golf again," Woods said.

Silva calls time on Spain duty

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

David Silva on Monday called time on his distinguished 12-year international career with Spain.

"I leave proud and happy, bringing an end to a time full of emotions and memories," he said.

Anand slips to eighth

SPORTS BUREAU
ST. LOUIS

Viswanathan Anand slipped to eighth at the end of the sixth round of the St. Louis rapid and blitz tournament, the third stage of the Grand Chess Tour.

Anand drew with Leinier Dominguez before losing to Levon Aronian and Wesley So.

The standings (after six rounds, rapid): 1. Fabiano Caruana (USA) 9; 2-5. Sergey Krjakin (Rus), Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze), Hikaru Nakamura (USA) & Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra) 7; 6. Leinier Dominguez (Cub) 6; 7. Levon Aronian (Arm) 5; 8-10. Viswanathan Anand (Ind), Alexander Grischuk (Rus) & Wesley So (USA) 4.

Indians need to lift above their weight

Injury to World champion Mirabai Chanu setback to India's quest for elusive gold

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

Weightlifting caught the imagination of the Indian public only at the dawn of the millennium.

Till Karnam Malleswari lifted bronze at the Sydney Olympics in 2000 and became the first Indian woman to win a medal at the world's ultimate multi-sport event, weightlifting didn't have much of a following in the country.

It still may not be among the most popular sports, but the focus is more on Malleswari's sisters, and brothers, at least during times like these, when the country gears up for major games. And the lifters didn't disappoint at the recent Commonwealth Games.

It, in fact, was quite a gold rush by them at Gold Coast. They won nine medals, including five gold, to emerge as the top nation in weightlifting down under in April.

High expectations

Coming as it did after Mirabai Chanu's triumph at the World championship in Turkmenistan last November, things were looking particularly rosy for Indian weightlifting.

The expectations therefore were high about India claiming that elusive weightlifting gold at the Asian Games. Of the country's 14 medals, five are silver and the rest bronze.



Carrying India's hopes: Sathish Kumar Sivalingam, who won the 77 kg event at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, will lead the country's challenge at Jakarta. ▪ REUTERS

Most of them were won by women, including Malleswari, Kunjarani Devi and Bharti Singh.

Chanu was looking to better those ladies' efforts as she seemed the favourite to claim the gold in the women's 48 kg at Jakarta.

But, last week the 24-year-old Manipuri had to pull out of the Indian squad because of a lower back injury.

National coach Vijay Sharma felt she should rather focus on the Olympic qualifiers rather than risking her injury.

Chanu's absence is indeed a blow. Much bigger than those dealt by the ban of other Commonwealth gold-medallists, Sanjita Chanu (53 kg), who was tested positive for doping, and the suspension of Punam Yadav (69 kg) for indiscipline.

COUNTDOWN

All that leaves Rakhi Halder as the lone woman in the Indian team, which has four men.

She offers hope in the women's 63 kg. But she needs to come up with a kind of performance that saw her break the 19-year-old National record at the beginning of the year.

Sathish Kumar Sivalingam will lead the Indian men's challenge.

He had won the men's 77 kg event at Gold Coast.

That was, in fact, his second straight gold at the Commonwealth Games.

At Jakarta, however, he will be up against some quality contestants from countries like South Korea, Thailand and Uzbekistan. You still wouldn't bet against him reaching the podium, though.

Having said that, he would have to punch above his weight if he hopes to lift a medal in Indonesia (his personal best of 328 kg, which he had recorded at the World championship in the United States last year as he finished 14th, might not be enough for a medal).

Vikas Thakur (94 kg) and Ajay Singh Shekhawat (77 kg) complete the Indian squad.

Indian men lose opener

SPORTS BUREAU
JAKARTA

The Indian men's handball team lost 38-28 to Chinese Taipei in its Asian Games' opener on Monday. Though Harender Singh fired in eight goals and Davinder Singh six, it was not enough to trouble Taipei.

Tintu to miss Asian Games

STAN RAYAN
KOCHI

Olympian Tintu Luka, 800m silver medallist at the 2014 Asian Games in Incheon, has pulled out of the 2018 edition which begins in Jakarta on August 18.

National record-holder Tintu had been unwell after last year's Asian championships in Bhubaneswar and just when she appeared to be recovering, searing pain in her heel started troubling her a little more than a month ago.

"Tintu will not be attending the trials in Thiruvananthapuram and she will not be going to Jakarta," her coach P.T. Usha told *The Hindu* on Monday.

"She is running okay with shoes, but when she wears spikes she is unable to stretch fully and run. It will probably take 10 more days for her to be okay," Usha said.

Apart from the 800m silver, Tintu was a crucial member of the women's 4x400m relay team that broke the Asian Games record at Incheon.

Gopi expects a better medal haul

Hopes to carry confidence from World championships into the Asiad

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

Chief national coach P. Gopi Chand hopes to have many moments to celebrate in the Jakarta Asian Games starting next week.

Speaking at the send-off ceremony for the 20-member Indian badminton contingent here on Monday night, Gopi said the team would love to take the confidence of an impressive showing in the recent World championship into the Asiad.

"The women's team won a bronze in the last edition and the best part of this team is that India has a chance in every event in Jakarta," Gopi said. "It has been a tough year so far but I am glad the way the players have responded to the challenges thanks to the excellent job by the entire support staff to keep them fit right through," he said.



Jakarta-bound: The badminton contingent presents a happy picture at its official send-off. ▪ V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

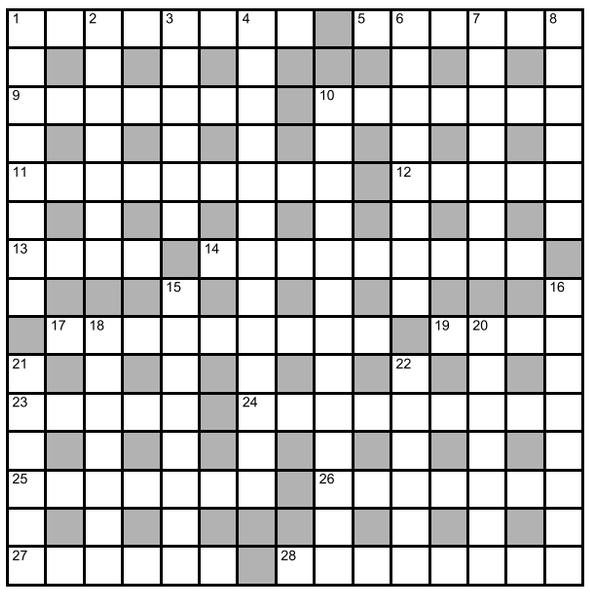
"Hopefully, the entire contingent will return with a much better medal haul this time around even though the competition is expected to be really tough as Asia has been the powerhouse of badminton over the years," Gopi said. London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal too was hopeful of an improved showing in the Asiad.

"The women's team had a memorable outing last time winning a team bronze. We are capable of producing better results," she said.

Two-time World championship silver medallist P.V. Sindhu felt the players were capable of living up to the expectations.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12395

(set by Gridman)



ACROSS

1 Raise Pat in an artistic movement? (8)

5 Is reasonable and determines the sum (4,2)

9 Same French books — nothing for keepsake (7)

10 Has Simi cooked a Japanese dish? (7)

11 Siren worried over throat that is leaner (9)

12 Got together again on the London police (5)

13 Lake seen in endless sequence (4)

14 Caring one errs because of lack of knowledge (9)

17 Disaster from lac my acts generated (9)

19 John, alien, leaves for hard work (4)

23 Man's leaving team charm in race place (5)

24 Fighting boy leaves, comes anew, laughing quietly (9)

25 Such a building is short on American stories (3-4)

26 With a measure, a number of lawyers try for prohibition (7)

27 Runs in, evening the score, causing hardship (6)

28 Turn away drunk and disorderly sergeant (8)

DOWN

1 Exposed male getting in without having been invited (8)

2 It's incomplete painting — one showing warrior of old (7)

3 Reputation of owner destroyed by man at last (6)

4 Glowing, Ken can indeed provide a look that he is informed (7,6)

6 Sid arises out of confusion (8)

7 Earth-shattering noise — is Michael covering it? (7)

8 Fix pins to show projecting parts (6)

10 One who is _ _ _ will hardly fail (4,2,7)

15 Kind of shot by old native makes hart fall in terrible pain (8)

16 Where standards are raised on occasions (8)

18 Entrance in a roguish manner (7)

20 Minute working around Greek character (7)

21 Boy's put aside something to cast (6)

22 One of a group, male's on hot coal (6)

SUDOKU

				3		9	5	8
		1	9				6	
	6		2	7			3	
		5			9			6
		6				1		
7			3			5		
	5			9	2		8	
	2				4	6		
6	4	9		1				

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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Solution to puzzle 12394

	P	R	I	C	E	T	A	G			C	A	P	S
		E		O		U		U				G		I
	A	V	A	T	A	R		L	I	T	H	I	U	M
E		I		T		B		A		R		T		P
M	O	V	E	A	L	O	N	G		A	V	A	I	L
A		A		R		P				M		T		E
S	I	L	L		P	R	E	S	S	P	R	O	O	F
C				B		O		T		S				A
U	N	S	L	I	P	P	E	R	Y		W	A	R	M
L		T		K				A		K		N		I
A	L	I	B	I		R	A	P	T	O	R	I	A	L
T		C		N		I		L		W		M		Y
I	N	K	L	I	N	G		E	X	T	R	A	S	
V		E				I		S		O		T		
E	Z	R	A			D	I	S	O	W	N	E	D	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	9	1	2	5	8	3	7	6
2	3	5	9	7	6	4	1	8
8	6	7	1	4	3	2	9	5
3	5	8	7	6	1	9	2	4
7	2	6	8	9	4	1	5	3
9	1	4	5	3	2	8	6	7
1	8	3	6	2	5	7	4	9
6	4	9	3	1	7	5	8	2
5	7	2	4	8	9	6	3	1

FAITH

Ignorance and arrogance

In the anipuNa paddhati of Subhashita Nivi, Vedanta Desika enumerates bad qualities which identify an undesirable person, elaborated M.K. Srinivasan, in a discourse. If a man has enjoyed the generosity of a family, but lies to them, or steals what belongs to them, then does such a person deserve any respect? A fire completely burns up the logs that are used to keep it burning. Thus, the fire destroys the very logs that were responsible for its existence. In the same way, there may be people who, forgetting the good that others have done to them, seek to destroy the very people who helped them. If they can harm someone who helped them, can they be trusted? What will they not do to others? But such ingrates, who seek to hurt others, will, one day, be destroyed themselves. Suppose there is a man, who has always been helpful towards his friend. It may happen that the friend is guilty of some wrongdoing. The man then corrects his friend, so that the latter will not err again. If, in such a case, the friend takes offence at being corrected, then he is an undesirable man. A man may be highly educated. He may be a great scholar, and the winner of many awards. But if he, taking pride in his achievements, were to belittle others and mock others, then his downfall is certain. He will end up being mocked at by the people whom he treated disrespectfully. This shows that even an accomplished man may lose his eminence through his arrogance. The leaf of the banyan tree is sacred because Vishnu rests on it after the great deluge, and because Siva rests under the banyan tree as Dakshinamurthy. But forgetting these sacred associations of the tree, if a man looks at the banyan leaves with the idea of using them to make a receptacle to hold food, then he is an ignorant man.

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IN BRIEF



Black car Bolt's only demand on Aussie football foray

SYDNEY

Usain Bolt won't be getting special treatment when he arrives in Australia in his bid to become a professional footballer. Australia's Central Coast Mariners have agreed to help the eight-time Olympic champion achieve his long-held dream, let him train with the club indefinitely in his pursuit of a playing contract. He is due to arrive in Gosford, 75 kilometres (47 miles) north of Sydney, on his own this weekend and has made just one demand — that his hire car is black. AFP

Borg's son wins Swedish Under-16 championship

STOCKHOLM

Leo Borg, the 15-year-old son of tennis legend Bjorn Borg, looks to be following in his father's footsteps, claiming the Swedish under-16 outdoor tennis championship at the weekend. Leo Borg defeated Ross Weibull 6-4, 6-4 on Sunday for the junior title, the second year in a row. Last year, Borg won both the singles and doubles national championships for 14-year-olds. AFP

Indian U-15 women enter semifinals

THIMPHU

The Indian U-15 women's team progressed to the semifinals of the age-group SAFF Championship after defeating hosts Bhutan 1-0 here on Monday. Shilky Devi's 58th minute strike proved to be the difference between the two teams in a tightly contested match. In the semifinals on Thursday India will face either Nepal or Bangladesh. PTI



Slimani joins Fenerbahce on loan

LONDON

Leicester City's record signing Islam Slimani has joined Turkish football outfit Fenerbahce on a season-long loan. The 30-year-old had joined the Foxes in the summer of 2016 on a transfer from Sporting Lisbon for £30million, reports *Efe*. IANS

Nadal shows who the Master is

Halep holds her nerve to clinch women's crown

ROGERS CUP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TORONTO

Rafael Nadal held off a late surge from birthday boy Stefanos Tsitsipas to claim the 80th title of his career with victory at the Toronto Masters on Sunday.

Nadal overcame a second set fightback from Greek youngster Tsitsipas to claim a 6-2, 7-6(4) victory in just under 1hr 45mins.

The win gave the 32-year-old Spaniard a record-extending 33rd trophy at the elite Masters level as well as his 80th title.

Earlier, a vocal crowd of local flag-waving Greek fans sang 'Happy Birthday' to the 20-year-old Tsitsipas as Nadal reflected on a successful campaign. "I feel I've improved every match, it's important to win even if you're not at your best," Nadal said as he prepares for the US Open later this month.

"It's been almost 10 years (2010) since I last played in Toronto," Nadal said of the event which comes to the city in even-number years as it trades with Montreal.

The final featured a plot twist at the end, with Nadal broken while serving for victory leading a set and 5-4.

Tsitsipas would not buckle, making it 5-5 as Nadal hit the net, with the set finally going into a tiebreaker.

Nadal regained control, earning a match point on a Tsitsipas forehand error.

The Spanish World No. 1 concluded victory with a forehand winner deep into the corner.



Champion stuff: Rafael Nadal, who overcame a second set fightback from Stefanos Tsitsipas, has now won 33 trophies at the elite Masters level. ▪ AFP

At Montreal, World No. 1 Simona Halep held her nerve in a rollercoaster duel with Sloane Stephens to win the WTA Montreal crown for the second time.

In a gruelling 2hr 41min battle, French Open champion Halep prevailed 7-6(6), 3-6, 6-4 over Stephens in a repeat of the duo's meeting in the final of Roland Garros earlier this year.

Barcelona rallies to win Supercup

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TANGIERS

Barcelona battled back to defeat Sevilla 2-1 and win the Spanish Supercup on Sunday with French World Cup winner Ousmane Dembele hitting a sensational winner to give Lionel Messi a winning start as captain.

It was Barcelona's 13th Supercup and sixth in the last nine seasons.

However, Sevilla squandered a golden chance to send the match into extra-time when Wissam Ben Yedder missed a last-minute penalty.

Pablo Sarabia gave Sevilla the lead after just nine minutes on a counter-attack. Gerard Pique levelled three minutes before the interval for Barcelona after he was fastest to respond to a loose ball following a Messi free-kick.



Sensational strike: Ousmane Dembele's 78th-minute 25-yard screamer sealed the issue in Barcelona's favour. ▪ AP

That set the stage for French star Dembele to take the headlines with a 78th minute screamer from 25 yards and again Messi played a crucial role with the key pass.

There was still time for late drama when Barca goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen brought down Aleix Vidal in the area. But Ben Yedder hit a weak penalty which was easily saved by ter Stegen.

The result: Sevilla 1 (Sarabia 9) lost to Barcelona 2 (Pique 42, Dembele 78).

German Supercup: Eintracht Frankfurt 0 lost to Bayern Munich 5 (Lewandowski 21, 26, 54, Coman 63, Thiago 85).

A much better player now: Prarthana

The 24-year-old is confident ahead of her second Asian Games appearance

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

For the 24-year-old Prarthana Thombare, gearing up for her second Asian Games appearance next week, Sania Mirza has been a constant source of inspiration.

Even the lack of clarity as to with whom she will be playing – both in women's and mixed doubles – is not a deterrent as Prarthana is clearly excited with Sania taking time off to give some "invaluable tips" to her on the recently-laid tennis courts (adjacent to Sania's home) in Jubilee Hills here on Monday.

"I have so much to learn from her and Imran uncle (Sania's father Imran Mirza). I do believe that I am much a better player now than say I was four years ago," Prarthana told *The Hindu*.

Fresh from her significant women's doubles win in the Manchester ITF $1lakh event partnering Luksika Kumkum of Thailand, the Solapur-born girl, insists the preparations have been really good. "I am pretty pleased with the results in Europe and UK recently. I am better prepared this time around for Asian Games," she says.



Inspirational: Prarthana Thombare is excited that Sania took time off to give her "invaluable tips." ▪ FILE PHOTO

"Frankly, I am always excited to play in Asian Games and the Olympics (she partnered Sania in Rio in women's doubles).

It is a completely different experience out there," the World No. 149 in women's doubles said.

"Yes, I am very keen to improve upon my bronze medal in the Asiad and look at it as part of the preparations to break into the top 100 and qualify for the Australian Open.

"Since, I have no points to lose in Jakarta, I should enjoy the competition more this time around," says the IOC officer who is sponsored by the Pune-based Lakshya Foundation.

Reflecting on her game, Prarthana feels her volleys, groundstrokes are much better now and that she is mentally much tougher to face the challenges.

"I played against most of the top Asian players and so I am not really concerned about the draw even though the Chinese and the Japanese players pose a big challenge," concluded an optimistic Prarthana.

Udit begins well

SPORTS BUREAU
WIMBLEDON

Udit Gogoi got off to a bright start, beating Luke Mcfarlane 6-2, 6-0 in the opening league match of the Road to Wimbledon UK under-14 tennis championship on Monday.

Udit, who performed well on the European circuit reaching two semifinals and a quarterfinal in singles apart from winning a doubles title, will play Oliver Tarvet and Louis Bowden in the next two rounds of the league phase.

Chirag Duhan, Sanjana Sirimalla and Renne Singla will be the other Indian players in action.

Nadal pulls out of Cincinnati

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TORONTO

World No. 1 Rafael Nadal on Sunday withdrew from next week's ATP Cincinnati Masters event as he prepares for this month's US Open."I am very sorry to announce that I won't be playing in Cincinnati this year," Nadal said.

Vaishali is now a Woman Grandmaster

SPORTS BUREAU
CHENNAI

Seventeen-year-old R. Vaishali, elder sister of R. Praggnanandhaa, became a Woman Grandmaster, completing her final norm in the Riga Technical University Open chess tournament in Riga, Latvia on Sunday. Vaishali had acquired her second WGM norm at the Gredine Open (Italy) – the same tournament where her brother became a GM.

"I think she has got her third norm in pretty quick time," R.B. Ramesh, Vaishali's coach, told *The Hindu* here on Monday.

Ramesh said she has been losing to higher-rated players in recent tournaments, but here she did pretty well earning draws with higher-rated players which enabled her to complete the norm. "Now she has to work harder, chose good tournaments, and improve on her chess strengths and try to become a men's GM," he added.



R. Vaishali. ▪ M. VEDHAN

Rutuja sails past Silakul

SPORTS BUREAU
NONTHABURI

The seventh-seeded Rutuja Bhosale got off to a smooth start, defeating Chanikarn Silakul of Thailand 6-2, 6-2 in the first round of the $25,000 ITF women's tournament on Monday.

The results:

$50,000 Challenger men, Gwangju, Korea: First round: Renta Tokuda (Jpn) bt Sasi Kumar Mukund 3-6, 6-2, 6-3.

$15,000 ITF men, Anning, China: First round: V.M. Ranjeet bt Qian Sun (Chn) 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.

$25,000 ITF women, Nonthaburi, Thailand:

First round: Hua-Chen Lee (Tpe) bt Mahak Jain 7-5, 6-3; Rutuja Bhosale bt Chanikarn Silakul (Tha) 6-2, 6-2.

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IN BRIEF



Singer Aretha Franklin gravely ill, says report

CHICAGO

Singer Aretha Franklin, 76, a multiple Grammy award-winner star whose legacy stretches back decades, is gravely ill in Detroit and surrounded by relatives, said media reports on Monday. Ms. Franklin is known for hits such as *Respect* (1967) and *I Say a Little Prayer* (1968). She was diagnosed with cancer in 2010. AFP



Crowd-funded headstone marks lost grave of poet

LONDON

The lost resting place of British poet and artist William Blake was finally marked on Sunday with a gravestone, almost 200 years after he died. Despite his influence today, Blake died in obscurity in 1827 and was buried in an unmarked common grave in Bunhill Fields. AFP



Scientists unveil rare species of pterosaur

PARIS

Scientists on Monday unveiled a previously unknown species of giant pterosaur, the first creatures with a backbone to fly under their own power. The species, identified through remains found in Utah, had a wingspan of 1.5 metres and 112 teeth, including fang-like spikes sticking out near the snout. AFP

Coral reefs could survive global warming, says study

Their relationship with algae has endured numerous climate change events in the past

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON

There may be hope for marine reefs to survive modern-day global warming, say scientists who have found that coral-algal partnerships have endured numerous climate change events since the age of dinosaurs.

The relationship between corals and the mutualistic micro-algae that enable them to build reefs is considerably older and more diverse than previously assumed, according to a study published in the journal *Current Biology*.

"Past estimates placed the initiation of these symbiotic relationships at 50 to 65 million years ago," said Todd LaJeunesse, an Associate Professor at Pennsylvania State University in the U.S.

"Our research indicates that modern corals and their algal partners have been entwined with each other for much longer – since the time of the dinosaurs, approximately 160 million years ago," said Mr. LaJeunesse. "

They have faced severe episodes of environmental change, but have managed to bounce back," he said.

The micro-algae, commonly called zooxanthellae, lives inside the cells of corals, allowing them to acquire energy from sunlight and to build the massive, economically valuable reef formations upon which countless marine organisms rely for habitat.

"The fossil record shows that today's reef-building corals exploded in diversity around 160 million years ago," said Mr. LaJeunesse.



Past trends: The team used genetic evidence, including DNA sequences, to calculate the micro-algae's origin. ▪ REUTERS

Genetic evidence

"Finding that the origin of the algal symbionts corresponds to major increases in the abundance and diversity of reef-building corals implies that the partnership with Symbiodiniaceae was one of the major reasons for the success of modern corals," said Mr. LaJeunesse.

The team used genetic evidence – including DNA sequences, phylogenetic analyses and genome comparisons – to calculate the micro-algae's approximate age of origin.

They also used classical morphological techniques, in which they compared visual characteristics of these symbionts using light and electron microscopy, along with computer modelling and other methods, to discover that in addition to being older, the algae family is far more diverse than previously perceived.

"Using genetic techniques, we provide evidence that the family actually comprises at least 15 genera," said Mr. Parkinson.

This is important because some micro-algal symbionts have characteristics that make them more resilient to environmental changes.

'Indians will live longer if pollution is under check'

International researchers make policy recommendations

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

More than 660 million Indians live in areas that exceed the country's standard for what is considered safe exposure to fine particulate pollution (PM 2.5). To help improve India's air quality, researchers from the University of Chicago and Harvard Kennedy School have laid out five key evidence-based policy recommendations in a new report, released on Monday, titled 'A Roadmap Towards Cleaning India's Air'.

The group's recommendations include improving emissions monitoring by better aligning incentives of auditors, providing regulators with real-time data on polluters' emissions, applying monetary charges for excess emissions, providing the public with information about polluters, and using markets to reduce abatement costs and pollution.

If India were to achieve its own air quality standards, life expectancy would increase by more than one year on an average, says the 16-page report. This number would increase to four years if India were to meet the World Health Organisation's (WHO) norms.



"Air pollution is causing hundreds of millions of people in India to lead shorter and sicker lives," said Michael Greenstone, Milton Friedman Professor in Economics and Director of the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC) and the Tata Centre for Development at UChicago (TCD). EPIC-India researchers have developed the air quality life index (AQLI), a metric that provides a means to predict the overall reduction in life expectancy caused by living in places with high levels of air pollution.

'No easy solution'

Elaborating further, Rohini Pande, the Rafik Hariri Professor of International Political Economy at the Harvard Kennedy School, said: "While the economic costs of pollution are high, and there is no easy solution, we remain optimistic because of the incredible innovations currently being experimented with throughout India."

Some of the greatest gains would be seen in big cities such as Delhi. There, people would live six years longer if air quality met the national standards.

(*Inputs from IANS*)

Rude co-workers may affect your parenting style

Survey showed that incivility at the workplace was associated with mothers feeling less effective as parents

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
TORONTO

Children could be unintended victims of workplace incivility, say scientists who found that women who encounter rude coworkers are more likely to engage in stricter parenting practices, thereby negatively affecting their kids.

Workplace incivility is any behaviour that is rude, disrespectful, impolite or otherwise violates workplace norms of respect.

This behaviour shows a lack of concern for others, said Kathryne Dupre, of Carleton University in Canada.

Some examples of workplace incivility include ignoring or making derogatory remarks about someone, taking credit for the work of others, passing blame for your own mistakes, avoiding someone or shutting people out of a network or team.

The researchers conducted an online survey of 146 working mothers and their spouses. Mothers were asked about their experience with incivility in the workplace as well as feelings of effectiveness as a parent. Their spouses were asked to report on the mothers' negative parenting behaviours, both authoritarian (strict and controlling) and permissive.



Authoritarian parenting is more of a negative style. ▪ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

They found a significant association between experiencing rude behaviour at work and authoritarian parenting by working mothers at home. There was no association found with permissive parenting.

Survey results also showed that incivility in the workplace was associated with mothers feeling less effective as parents, which could help explain the increased need to engage in strict, controlling parenting behaviours, said Ms. Dupre.

Authoritarian parents have high expectations of their children, with rules that they expect their children to follow unconditionally.

At the same time, though, they provide very little in the way of feedback and harshly punish any mistakes, said Ms. Dupre. "Research suggests that authoritarian parenting is more of a negative style of parenting as compared to other parenting styles," she added.

Like it or not, Google tracks your movements

Paused Location History won't help

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SAN FRANCISCO

Google wants to know where you go so badly that it records your movements even when you explicitly tell it not to.

An Associated Press investigation found that many Google services on Android devices and iPhones store your location data even if you've used privacy settings that say they will prevent it from doing so.



Privacy issue: A smartphone displaying a user's travel details in New York. ▪ AP

Computer-science researchers at Princeton confirmed these findings at the AP's request.

For the most part, Google is upfront about asking permission to use your location information. An app like Google Maps will remind you to allow access to location if you use it for navigating. If you agree to let it record your location over time, Google Maps will display that history for you in a "timeline" that maps out your daily movements.

Google's support page on the subject states: "With Location History off, the places you go are no longer stored."

That isn't true. Even with Location History paused, some Google apps automatically store time-stamped location data without asking.

For example, Google stores a snapshot of where you are when you merely open its Maps app. Automatic daily weather updates on Android phones pinpoint roughly where you are. And some searches that have nothing to do with location, like "chocolate chip cookies," or "kids science kits," pinpoint your precise latitude and longitude accurate to the square foot and save it to your Google account.

The privacy issue affects some two billion users of devices that run Google's Android operating software and hundreds of millions of worldwide iPhone users who rely on Google for maps or search. Storing location data in violation of a user's preferences is wrong, said Jonathan Mayer, a Princeton computer scientist.

To demonstrate how powerful these other markers can be, the AP created a visual map of the movements of Princeton postdoctoral researcher Gunes Acar, who carried an Android phone with Location history off, and shared a record of his Google account.

The map includes Mr. Acar's train commute on two trips to New York and visits to The High Line park, Chelsea Market, Hell's Kitchen and Central Park.

Critics say Google's insistence on tracking its users' locations stems from its drive to boost advertising revenue. "They build advertising information out of data," said Peter Lenz, a geospatial analyst.

Ruby quits Twitter over Batwoman role

She is playing the lesbian superhero

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LOS ANGELES

Actor Ruby Rose has quit Twitter following a backlash over her casting as lesbian superhero Batwoman in *Arrowverse*.

With the casting, Ms. Rose becomes the first LGBTQ lead actor in a live-action superhero series but the Australian actor had to delete her Twitter account after fans criticised her for not being one in real life.

The actor addressed the negativity in her last message on Twitter.

"Where on earth did 'Ruby is not a lesbian therefore she can't be batwoman' come from... It has to be the funniest, most ridiculous thing I've ever read. I came out at 12? And have for the past 5 years had to deal with 'she's too gay' how do y'all flip it like that? I didn't change," Ms. Rose wrote.



Ruby Rose

"When women and minorities join forces, we are unstoppable... when we tear each other down, it's much more hurtful than from any group. But hey/ love a challenge, I just wish women and the LGBT community supported each other more... I am looking forward to getting more than 4 hours of sleep and to break from Twitter to focus all my energy on my next 2 projects," she said.

Bubbly city



Sunshine trap: A street artist makes soap bubbles in front of the Alte Nikolaikirche church at the Roemerberg square in Frankfurt, western Germany, on Monday. ▪ AFP

Obesity among Thai Buddhist monks is a cause for concern

Health Department issues nationwide warning, urging people to offer healthier alms and suggesting the monks take up more physical activities

MUKTITA SUHARTONO
BANGKOK

The Buddha, in his laughing incarnation, is often depicted with a jolly smile and a giant, quivering belly. That model of plenitude seems ever more apt in Thailand, where the waistlines of the country's Buddhist monks have expanded so much that health officials have issued a nationwide warning.

In June, officials from Thailand's Public Health Department urged laypeople to offer healthier alms to monks, who set out from temples in their saffron robes each morning to roam the streets collecting their meals in the Buddhist tradition.

Amporn Bejapolpitak, the department's deputy director general, also suggested that the monks add more physical activity – like cleaning their temples – to their sedentary lives of prayer and meditation.

Obesity has reached alarming levels in Thailand, which ranks as the second-heaviest nation in Asia, after Malaysia. One in three Thai men are obese, while more than 40% of women are significantly overweight, according to Thailand's national health examination survey.

Monks are at the forefront of the problem. Nearly half are obese, according to a study conducted by Chulalongkorn University. More than 40% have high cholesterol, nearly 25% have high blood pressure and one in 10 are diabetic, the study found.



Mindful eating: Monks collect food donations during daily almsgiving in Bangkok. ▪ NYT

"Obesity in our monks is a ticking time bomb," said Jongjit Angkatavanich, a professor of food and nutrition at the university's Faculty of Allied Health Sciences in Bangkok. "Many of the monks are suffering from diseases that we know are actually preventable."

When researchers began studying Thai monks' dietary habits, they were baffled. The monks consume fewer calories than the general population, but more of them are obese.

One major culprit? "Sugary drinks," Ms. Jongjit said.

Monks are forbidden to eat after midday, so to keep their energy up, many rely on highly sweetened beverages, including energy drinks. Thai Buddhist devotees believe that offering alms secures them good karma in this life and the next.

Unintended effects

But the well-meaning religious offerings of sugary drinks and fatty foods are having unintended health consequences.

"Soft drinks, boxed juice, sweet snacks; plus many of the foods are store-bought, which means they are packed with MSG and are low in protein and fiber," Ms. Jongjit said, listing a litany of unhealthy food items that monks regularly receive.

Some people still do things the old way. Vilawan Lim, a homemaker in Bangkok, has been offering monks home-cooked food every morning for more than a decade. As a matter of principle, monks are not supposed to show preferences for particular foods, but she said the monk who comes by her home each morning drops hints about what he really enjoys.

Working with the Thai government and religious authorities, Ms. Jongjit manages the Healthy Monk-Healthy Nutrition Project. Funded by the Thai Health Promotion Foundation, an autonomous government agency, its goal is to improve monks' lifestyles through education about nutrition and physical fitness. Its pilot program in 2016 involved 82 monks at temples and a monastic college, and its results were positive, with weight loss and lowered cholesterol levels recorded. Now, the project publishes recipe booklets that Buddhist devotees can use to make healthy and inexpensive meals for monks.

The project encourages monks to keep a log of their daily physical activities.

Monks told researchers that they often did not realise they were putting on weight because of their loose-fitting robes. Ms. Jongjit and her team came up with a belt with knots to indicate where they thought a healthy waistline should be. NY TIMES

https://t.me/Material_For_Exam https://t.me/TheHindu_Zone_official

THE HINDU

DELHI METRO

TUESDAY • AUGUST 14, 2018

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Save paper consumption

The HC asks its panel to consider a plea seeking double-sided printing of judicial records Page 2



Fire at Ashok Hotel

A fire breaks out at the record room of Central Bank of India at The Ashok Hotel in Chanakyapuri Page 3



Cultural glimpses

Vignettes that tell us the story of the fort that has become a symbol of democracy and freedom Page 5



Machines and masterpieces

The 'Gradient Descent' show in Delhi observes how artists around the globe are using Artificial Intelligence Page 6

IN BRIEF



Plea on Bansal's death: govt response sought

NEW DELHI

The SC on Monday asked the government to respond to a plea made by former bureaucrat E.A.S. Sarma to order a court-monitored probe into the deaths of B.K. Bansal, a senior Ministry official who was under a cloud of graft, and his family.

CITY ▸ PAGE 3

Three men rape minor girl; arrested

NEW DELHI

A minor girl was allegedly raped by three men over a period of time in Uttam Nagar, the police said on Monday. The three accused were held, they added. The police were informed on August 11 about the incident. PTI

'Nauroji Nagar project cleared on plagiarised reports'

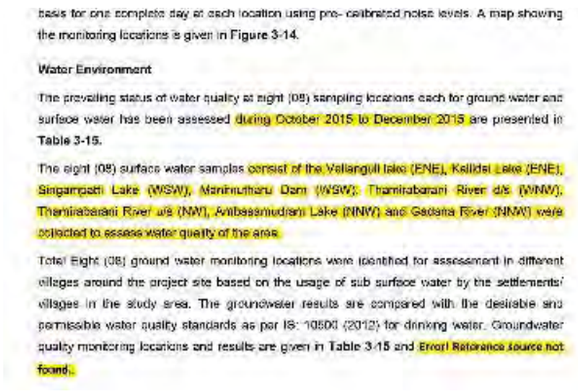
States a study by environmental activists on the south Delhi redevelopment plan that recently waded into controversy over tree felling

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Portions of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) plan used to obtain permission for redevelopment of Nauroji Nagar, were plagiarised, an analysis by environmental activists and researchers show.

The Hindu has independently verified these documents.

The Nauroji Nagar project was among the projects awarded to NBCC, a public sector company, to set up residential and commercial buildings, over 571 acres, in south Delhi.



basis for one complete day at each location using pre- calibrated noise levels. A map showing the monitoring locations is given in Figure 3-14.

Water Environment

The prevailing status of water quality at eight (08) sampling locations each for ground water and surface water has been assessed during October 2015 to December 2015 are presented in Table 3-15.

The eight (08) surface water samples consist of the Vellanguli lake (ENE), Kallidai Lake (ENE), Singampatti Lake (WSW), Manimutharu Dam (WSW), Thamirabarani River d/s (WNW), Thamirabarani River u/s (NW), Ambasamudrani Lake (NNW) and Gadana River (NNW) were collected to assess water quality of the area.

Total Eight (08) ground water monitoring locations were identified for assessment in different villages around the project site based on the usage of sub surface water by the settlements' villages in the study area. The groundwater results are compared with the desirable and permissible water quality standards as per IS: 10500 (2012) for drinking water. Groundwater quality monitoring locations and results are given in Table 3-15 and Error! Reference source not found..

A portion of the environmental impact assessment plan prepared by a Chennai-based firm. ▪ FROM THE WEBSITE OF UNION MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Political blame game

The project waded into controversy after it emerged that this would involve felling of at least 11,000 trees. Though some trees have been felled in Nauroji Nagar and construction is under way, the project has been stayed after legal challenges and citizen activism.

Though clearances were accorded by both the Delhi and Central government in 2017, in light of the controversy, each has sought to blame the other for granting permission for tree felling. While court hearings are ongoing, the project developers are redesigning the project.

> **The environment clearances for these projects were granted in an extremely rushed manner and the Expert Appraisal Committee has failed to carry out detailed scrutiny as required under the EIA notification, 2006**
>
> RESEARCHERS AT THE CENTRE FOR POLICY RESEARCH

TN water bodies

NBCC hired the Chennai-based firm, Hubert Enviro Care Systems (HECS) as consultants to prepare the EIA.

In the 168-page plan for Nauroji Nagar, they mention collecting water samples for assessing quality between October and December 2015 from "...Vellanguli lake, Kallidai lake, Singampatti lake, Manimuthar dam, Thamirabarani river d/s, Thamirabarani river u/s, Ambasamudram lake and Gadana river."

These are water bodies in Tamil Nadu and, it emerges, sourced from an unrelated EIA plan that that the HECS had prepared for the Tamil Nadu Minerals Ltd in May, 2017. In the same report, a table that supposedly lists out bird species in the area mentions instead "...cow, cat, mouse, dog".

The EIA document is a legal requirement for a company planning to undertake a substantial infrastructure project. In the document, the project developer spells out how they intend to execute construction with minimal damage to the environment and an expert appraisal committee – put together by the Union Environment Ministry – recommends or rejects a project proposal, based on their assessment of what is presented in the document.

In a hurry

"...The environment clearances for these projects were granted in an extremely rushed manner and the Expert Appraisal Committee [EAC] has failed to carry out detailed scrutiny as required under the EIA notification, 2006," said researchers Kanchi Kohli and Manju Menon of the Centre for Policy Research.

They have written to Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan pointing out the "shoddy" EIA and demanded that clearances be "revoked" and the EIA consultants be "debarred".

Their letter also alleges that the NBCC has violated the terms of reference or the conditions under which clearances were granted for these projects to go ahead.

"In the present case of the redevelopment project, approval has been granted to individual projects even though their cumulative impacts have not been studied before the approvals are decided," the letter stated.

The Hindu could not immediately get a response from the HECS and the Environment Ministry officials.

Metro services to be normal tomorrow

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation on Monday said that Metro services on August 15 will run according to normal schedule.

"Metro trains will run as usual across the entire Delhi Metro network on Independence Day. However entry and exit at four stations, including Lal Quila, Jama Masjid, Delhi Gate and ITO will be permitted from select entry and exit gates during the ceremony time and some gates will remain closed at these stations owing to security considerations," said a DMRC official.

The official also said, "To facilitate people at Lal Quila station on the Independence day, additional ticket counters will be opened at Lal Quila and Jama Masjid metro stations along with deployment of additional staff for guiding the additional rush after the ceremony."

However, parking at the metro stations will be closed from 6 a.m. on August 14 to 2 p.m. on August 15 for security reasons.

'CS assault case will not stand scrutiny'

AAP calls chargesheet against Kejriwal, Sisodia bogus; says BJP seeking 'revenge'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The case against Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia and 11 Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLAs would not stand scrutiny in court, the AAP said on Monday reacting to the Delhi Police filing the chargesheet in court over the alleged assault on Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash in February.

On the intervening night of February 19 and February 20, Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash alleged that he was assaulted by AAP MLAs during a midnight meeting at Mr. Kejriwal's camp office in his Civil Lines residence. The officer had alleged that the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister were present.

Joint statement

With the police filing the chargesheet on Monday, the rest of the Cabinet as well as the AAP issued statements calling the document bogus. A joint statement by Ministers Kailash Gahlot, Satyendar Jain, Gopal Rai, Imran Hussain and Rajendra Pal Gautam said the BJP was trying to seek "revenge" for the AAP's victory in the 2015 Delhi Assembly elections.

"Ever since the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah suffered the worst ever electoral humiliation of their political careers in February 2015, they have not forgiven the elected government of Delhi and have relentlessly unleashed all their agencies with full might to crush the Delhi government to fulfil their arrogant desire of seeking complete revenge," the Ministers said.



Police carry the voluminous chargesheet in the Chief Secretary assault case into Patiala House courts on Monday. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Slams Modi govt

They added that the "conspiracy" to accuse Mr. Kejriwal and Mr. Sisodia in the case was a "result of the extreme frustration of the Modi government".

"The bogus chargesheet will be torn to shreds when it will be put to legal scrutiny and it will be contested with all legal strength to expose the real face of the Modi government and its puppet Delhi Police, before the people of this country," the Ministers said.

In a statement by AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj, the party said there had been a "midnight conspiracy" hatched at the "highest level" by the Modi government through the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary.

"The Modi government has turned the Delhi Police into a laughing stock through its consistent political misuse to frame the CM, Deputy CM, Ministers and MLAs in legally untenable, imaginary and false cases, which are falling flat in courts of law almost every day," the Ministers' statement read.

Mr. Bharadwaj said that the Chief Secretary had been seen "conveniently walking out" of the Chief Minister's residence, after allegedly being attacked. He added that the Chief Secretary did not file a complaint immediately, but went to Raj Niwas, where the alleged conspiracy was hatched. The next day, the Chief Secretary held meetings with officers and then had a medical examination, about 24 hours after the alleged incident, he said.

> **The bogus chargesheet will be torn to shreds when it will be put to legal scrutiny and it will be contested with all legal strength to expose the real face of the Modi government and its puppet Delhi Police**
>
> AAP MINISTERS' STATEMENT

SEE ALSO ▸ PAGE 2

Uncertainty looms over AAP-officers' relations

'Department works would not be impacted by the tussle'

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

Uncertainty loomed over the already strained ties between the political executive and the bureaucracy in the Delhi government on Monday as the Delhi Police named Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in its chargesheet regarding the alleged assault on Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash.

After Mr. Prakash alleged that he was assaulted by AAP MLAs during a meeting at Mr. Kejriwal's residence in February, officers in the government and the Aam Aadmi Party dispensation have been at odds.

As a sign of protest, the officers had stopped taking calls or going to meet Ministers or MLAs, though they would attend meetings of the Cabinet and other statutory obligations.

The AAP had termed this an illegal strike

On Monday, as news broke of the chargesheet being filed in the case, senior officials, both in various departments and those working with the political executive, said the development would not lead to much change as the relations had remained frosty since February 20, the day the FIR was filed in the case.

Soon after the chargesheet was filed, Mr. Kejriwal and Mr. Prakash were both invited to an event by the New Delhi Municipal Council. Though Mr. Prakash attended the event, the Chief Minister did not.

A senior official said the Chief Minister's decision not to attend was not related to the chargesheet or the presence of the Chief Secretary.

Senior officials said that several bureaucrats had given their statements to the police in connection with the case and this had further strained the ties.

A senior bureaucrat said though there was no impact of the chargesheet being filed on the interactions between the officers and the political executive, the officers' stand appeared to have been vindicated.

Several officers, however, said the work of their departments would not be impacted by the tussle.

Mr. Prakash declined to comment on the matter.

The case so far

- Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash allegedly assaulted on the intervening night of February 19-20
- V.K. Jain, former adviser to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, questioned by Delhi Police on February 21
- Police recover CCTV footage from CM's residence on February 23
- 11 MLAs, including Amanatullah Khan and Prakash Jarwal who were arrested and later released, were questioned over the course of four months
- CM's Private Secretary Bibhav Kumar and AAP volunteer Vivek Kumar Yadav quizzed in April
- Arvind Kejriwal questioned on May 18
- Deputy CM Manish Sisodia questioned on May 25
- Forensic Science Laboratory report of CCTVs at CM's house received in June
- Delhi Police file chargesheet on August 13



'Why law to prevent discrimination against HIV patients not notified?'

HC seeks Central govt's response; posts matter for Nov 26

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday asked the Centre why it has not yet notified the law to prevent discrimination against HIV and AIDS patients despite the statute receiving Presidential assent in April 2017.

A Bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice C. Hari Shankar issued notice to the Ministry of Health and the National Aids Control Organisation (NACO) seeking their reply on the issue.

The High Court was hearing a petition filed in public interest seeking immediate notification of the law to protect rights of the People Living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (PLHIV).

'Rights being curtailed'

"You make a law and are not notifying it. Why?" the court asked the Ministry and listed the case for hearing on November 26.



> **You make a law and are not notifying it. Why?**
>
> HC BENCH

The petitioner, a Delhi University student, has claimed that due to delay in notifying the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017, the rights guaranteed to PLHIV under the statute are being curtailed.

The plea by Shebani Rose Verma, filed through advocate Sija Nair Pal stated that there are over 2.1 million PLHIV in India giving it the dubious distinction of being home to the third largest population afflicted by this disease.

The Act, which received Presidential assent on April 20, 2017, prohibits discrimination against PLHIV in accessing healthcare, getting jobs, renting accommodation or in admission to public and private educational institutions.

Punishment

Violation of the Act by publishing information about PLHIV or advocating hatred against them would attract imprisonment ranging from three months to two years or a maximum fine of ₹1 lakh or both, the petition has said.

Apart from immediate notification of the Act, the plea has also sought a direction to the Centre to submit a report on why there was a delay of more than a year in notifying the statute.

Will continue to raise questions, says Umar Khalid

Speaks to media soon after the attack; slams propaganda campaign and branding anybody anti-national

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Speaking to the media immediately after he was attacked by an unidentified man, wielding a gun, JNU student Umar Khalid said that over the past two years, a hateful, disinformation, propaganda campaign was being spread by certain media houses and troll armies of the ruling party to brand anybody opposed to them as anti-national.

"Once branded, anything can be done to them. I was very scared at that moment when the man was pointing the gun at me. In that moment, I was reminded of what happened to Gauri Lankesh and I thought that moment had arrived for me," said Mr. Khalid. He however, said that he would continue to raise questions as we need to have freedom from fear.

The event – United Against Hate – Mr. Khalid was attending had invited speakers ranging from Members of Parliament, journalists, lawyers, professors to members of families that had been affected by violence that stems from hatred.

One of the organisers of the event, Nadeem Khan said, "We are here to debate and discuss how we can move towards freedom without fear and ironically someone who has nothing to add to the debate shows up with a gun outside the venue to spread fear."

Senior lawyer Prashant Bhushan, one of the speakers at the event, said that threatening someone who stands up for what is wrong or has a view contrary to that of the government in power shows the rise of fascism in the country.

A cowardly act: JNUSU

The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union called the attack on a "cowardly act" that was a "culmination of the hate-filled propaganda that the Modi government had spewed against him and other JNU students who have raised questions against the regime.

JNUSU president Geeta Kumari said, "JNUSU expresses shock and concern on the cowardly attack on Umar outside the Constitution Club and strongly condemns it. We wish to stand in complete solidarity with Umar."



The gun which the assailant dropped while fleeing the spot. ▪ R.V. MOORTHY

"From the JNUSU we would like to make it clear that no voice can be curbed and the students movement will continue to produce fearless voices," the union said in a statement. The JNU teachers' association said that it was unbearable to see JNU students being rendered so vulnerable. "We would like to express deep anguish at the way JNU as a community has been vilified through an organised political campaign. Violence against JNU students especially from marginalised backgrounds is being normalised and routinised every day," said JNUTA president Sonajharia Minz.

> **Once branded, anything can be done to them. I was very scared at that moment when the man was pointing the gun at me. In that moment, I was reminded of what happened to Gauri Lankesh and I thought that moment had arrived for me**
>
> UMAR KHALID
> JNU student

Former JNUSU vice-president Shehla Rashid who is in Srinagar also said that she had received a threat message from a person who identified himself as "Mafia Don Ravi Poojary". The text message from a foreign number said, "Just shut your mouth or we will shut your mouth forever. Tell Umar Khalid and Jignesh Mewani also." Ms. Rashid has filed a complaint with the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Jammu and Kashmir CM Mehbooba Mufti tweeted, "Todays attack on Umar Khalid by hate mongers days before Independence day is a mockery of our democracy. Certain sections of the media too played a sinister role in whipping up a public frenzy by projecting him as anti national. We have always taken great pride in being the worlds largest democracy. Do we really want to be reduced to a mobocracy where is no regard for rule of law [sic]."

Sitaram Yetchury of the CPI(M) also tweeted saying, "Two days before Independence Day, in the capital – next to Parliament, an assassination attempt with a gun. What kind of anarchy is being unleashed? Who has created this climate of hate? Accountability, anyone? [sic]".

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IN BRIEF



▪ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

NDMC inaugurates Wi-Fi 'smart poles'

NEW DELHI

The NDMC on Monday launched its free Wi-Fi initiative in Connaught Place, with 'smart poles' that have Wi-Fi, 360 degree cameras and environmental sensors, a statement said. Inaugurated by Union Home Affairs Minister Rajnath Singh, the project also includes "solar trees" that have LED lights and mobile charging points as well as fibre-to-home facilities. STAFF REPORTER

AAP appoints overseas convener

NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Monday said it had appointed leader Prithvi Reddy the convener of its overseas wing. "Keeping in mind the extensive contributions of its overseas supporters, the Political Affairs Committee of AAP has appointed AAP leader Prithvi Reddy as convener of AAP Overseas to further grow and strengthen its overseas support base," a party statement said. Mr. Reddy has been a member of the AAP national executive since the party was founded.

STAFF REPORTER

Green signal for SDMC's ₹500-crore bond for projects

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Standing Committee of the South Delhi Municipal Corporation gave its nod for the issuing of bonds worth ₹500 crore to raise funds for various projects, on Monday.

The financial instrument will be issued for a period of 10 years at an annual interest rate of 8.5%.

Solar plants

A statement issued by the corporation stated that out of the money raised, ₹180 crore is meant for setting up solar plants with a total capacity of 77 MW and ₹320 crore for the construction of its new headquarters at IP Estate.

The bonds are being issued under the Development of Solar Cities programme of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

The proposal document stated that the corporation will be liable to pay about ₹425 crore interest at the end of 10 years. To meet this obligation, a yearly reserve fund of about ₹95 crore will be created. Out of this, under a scheme of the Union Urban Development Ministry, the corporation will be receiving a subsidy of about ₹26 crore.

Tipping point



Sanitation workers dump garbage at a collection point near Laxmi Nagar in Delhi. ▪ VIVEK TRIPATHI

CS assault case: BJP, Cong hit out at CM

'Shameful that Kejriwal and Sisodia's names figure in police chargesheet'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The BJP and Congress on Monday took on Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for his alleged connivance in the alleged assault on Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash in February.

BJP state president Manoj Tiwari said it was a "shameful and ignoble" fact that Mr. Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's names figured in the chargesheet filed by the Delhi Police in relation to the incident.

"This must be a solitary incident where the police have after a thorough inquiry decided to file in court a chargesheet for criminal conspiracy against a sitting Chief Minister...the conduct of the Chief Minister and his party colleagues has shamed the people of Delhi, the CM should own moral responsibility of the attack on the Chief Secretary and hand over charge to some other party colleague till the court decides the matter," Mr. Tiwari said.



Police personnel outside Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence during an investigation into the alleged assault on Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Kejriwal's aide

Leader of the Opposition Vijender Gupta demanded the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister's resignation. The statement of V.K. Jain, one of Mr. Kejriwal's aides, Mr. Gupta argued had revealed "the most important factor" in relation to the case, that is the alleged criminal conspiracy "of CM and Deputy CM in the criminal assault on CS".

"They quietly watched the misdeeds of their cronies. Therefore, they are equal partners in crime. They are also guilty of weaving the web of lies and deceits which were further spread by others leaders from their party," Mr. Gupta alleged.

On his part, Delhi Congress chief Ajay Maken tweeted, "Calling CS at 12 Midnight at CM house to thrash him & intimidate him-is unprecedented in Indian political history! Being elected, doesn't give AAP a license,to beat the senior-most bureaucrat. Politicians come & go, but this non-political steel frame shouldn't be the target!"

The BJP termed desperate a joint statement issued by the Aam Aadmi Party government's Ministers in which they had attempted to "repeating their rhetoric" against the BJP-ruled Centre over the issue.

"We have seen a political statement by AAP Ministers after the filing of chargesheet abusing and accusing the Central government. We understand their desperation but the way they have reacted repeating their rhetoric against the Centre despite knowing full well that it is a criminal complaint filed by their Chief Secretary with witness being CM's own adviser and not by any political opponent," Mr. Tiwari said.

Petition seeks double-side printing of judicial records

HC asks rule-making committee to consider the plea

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday asked its rule-making committee to consider a petition seeking double-sided printing of judicial records against the prevalent practice of single-side printing to reduce paper consumption by courts here.



The plea said one-sided printing came into practice only because in earlier times typewriters were used and papers used to be thin. Consequently, double-side prints were not feasible due to printing marks on the paper. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Paper usage

However, a Bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice C. Hari Shankar declined to issue a direction asking the Centre to write to the rule-making committee to make appropriate changes in the prevalent practice of paper usage by the High Court and subordinate courts, saying "Let us not set a precedent of Union of India writing to the courts to make rules".

It referred the matter to the appropriate rule-making committee of the High Court and asked it to take a decision in accordance with the law within eight weeks.

The direction by the court came on a plea by the Centre for Accountability and Systemic Change (CASC), which claimed that double-sided printing will result in saving more trees and water, which are used for manufacture of paper.

Appearing for CASC, advocate Virag Gupta urged the Bench to ask the Centre to write to the rule-making committee to make the appropriate changes in paper usage. CASC claimed that Delhi alone was responsible for 8,300 metric tonnes of waste paper daily and only 27% of that was recycled. The plea added that approximately 10 litres of water is required to create one piece of paper.

It said, "One-sided printing came into practice only because in earlier times typewriters were used and papers used to be thin. Consequently, double-side prints were not feasible due to printing marks on the paper. However, modern printers are efficient and paper quality has improved."

Baijal chairs EPCA meet

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal on Monday chaired a meeting convened by the Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA) to review progress on various infrastructure and civic issues.

In a statement, the Raj Niwas said topics discussed during the meeting, included improvement work at the Anand Vihar ISBT, status of air pollution in Jhilmil, Sahibabad and Ghaziabad industrial areas, and waste disposal problems at the Narela and Bawana industrial areas.

The meeting was attended by Delhi Environment Minister Imran Hussain; EPCA chairperson Bhure Lal; Additional Chief Secretary, Home; Commissioner, Transport; Commissioners of the East and North Delhi civic bodies; and representatives from various departments, including Northern Railway.

"The meeting started with a review of the action taken points of the previous meeting held at Raj Niwas on May 29. Mr. Baijal was informed about traffic management near Anand Vihar ISBT. The police said the traffic police deploys staff at all five major choke points daily. Mr. Lal sought deployment of officers throughout the day. He directed the Uttar Pradesh Police to make similar arrangements," Raj Niwas stated.

The L-G's office stated that Mr. Lal instructed the Northern Railway to finalise work and construct a second approach road. The Transport Department was instructed to complete radio-frequency identification (RFID) and rotary work at the earliest. Mr. Lal noted that the toilet complex has been completed by the Department.

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee member secretary informed the L-G that work on converting industries to PNG was under way, including at Patparganj, Jhilmil and Friends Colony industrial areas. "The L-G directed the DPCC to complete the conversion process by September 30. Mr. Baijal also directed all agencies to prepare for coming winter season so that air pollution is contained in Delhi. Mr. Lal also asked all agencies to expedite work on the ground," the statement added.

Plea against govt's scheme on free water quota

Fast-depleting resource ought not to be given away for free in such huge quantities, say petitioners

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday sought the city government's stand on a petition opposing its scheme to provide 20,000 litres of free water per month to each household in the Capital.

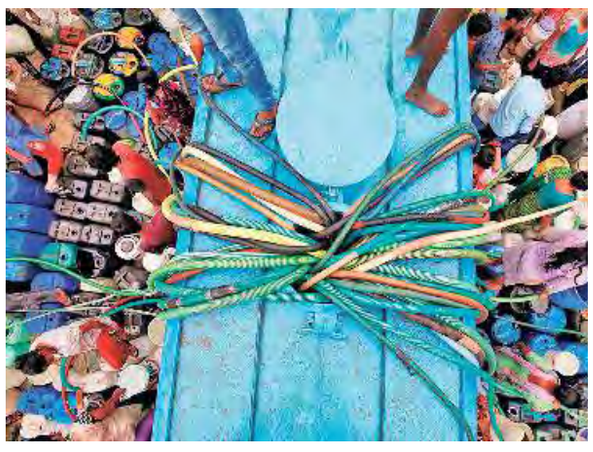
Notices issued

A Bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice C. Hari Shankar issued notices to the Delhi government and its water distributing authority, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), seeking their responses to the plea by November 19, the next date of hearing.

> **The scheme was launched without conducting proper research with regard to production, recycling and supplying of water in Delhi**
>
> PLEA BY ADVOCATES TAJINDER SINGH AND ANURAG CHAUHAN

The petitioners, advocates Tajinder Singh and Anurag Chauhan, have said in their plea that water, being a fast-depleting resource, ought not to be given away free in such huge quantities, especially when several areas in the city do not have water pipelines and depend on tankers for supply.

They have sought setting aside of the Delhi government's February 25, 2015, decision to provide 20,000 litres of free water to each household in the city and the subsequent DJB order notifying it on February 27, 2015. The petition has alleged that "the scheme was launched without conducting proper research with regard to production, recycling and supplying of water in Delhi".



The petitioners said in their plea that several areas in the city do not have water pipelines and depend on tankers for supply. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Protect drain crossing Najafgarh Road: NGT

SDMC told to take appropriate steps

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) to ensure that appropriate steps are taken to protect the drain crossing Najafgarh Road.

Following a plea by MLA Manjinder Singh Sirsa claiming that the Shubhash Nagar drain in west Delhi was not being cleaned after it crosses Najafgarh Road, a Bench headed by NGT chairperson Adarsh Kumar Goel said: "We direct the SDMC to take appropriate action for protection of the environment in relation to the drain in question."

The panel also permitted the civic body to approach the monitoring committee that the Bench had constituted in July to oversee the cleaning of drains.

A panel comprising former Delhi Chief Secretary Shailaja Chandra and former NGT expert member B.S. Sajwan had been constituted to monitor compliance with orders of the NGT.

Surgeries help Iraqi teenager walk again

She suffered from spondyloepiphyseal dysplasia, rare genetic bone growth disorder

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Suffering from spondyloepiphyseal dysplasia (SED), 16-year-old Iraqi national Sajida Sallal Hatem is able to walk again thanks to complicated hip and knee corrective realignment surgeries.

Skeletal abnormalities

SED is a rare genetic bone growth disorder that results in short stature and skeletal abnormalities that primarily affect the spine (spondylo) and the ends (epiphyses) of the long bones of the limbs.

Gaurav Rathore, the associate director of the Institute of Orthopaedics at Jaypee Hospital in Noida, said on Monday that Sajida's case was a classic case of SED.

> **When I first met Sajida in 2016, her body was in a foetal position. Her back was curved, head bowed, and limbs bent and drawn up to the torso. She was suffering from multiple congenital and developmental problems...**
>
> GAURAV RATHORE
> Associate director, Institute of Orthopaedics, Jaypee Hospital, Noida

"When I first met Sajida in 2016, her body was in a foetal position. Her back was curved, head bowed, and limbs bent and drawn up to the torso. She was suffering from multiple congenital and developmental problems with bilateral knee contracture [bent knees] and high developmental dysplasia of the hip," said the doctor.

Sajida had undergone knee surgery in 2010 in Iraq as her knees were bent at 90 degrees and were not strong enough to take the pressure of the body. Due to lack of proper medical facilities and expertise, the surgery was unsuccessful. In fact, it worsened her condition and left her completely bedridden, Dr. Rathore said.

"After evaluation of reports, we decided to operate her in two stages. The primary reason was to see if smaller and simpler interventions would help achieve enough correction to improve her walking mannerism. In the first stage, we performed a knee surgery called supracondylar osteotomies to correct the valgus knees and straighten them to allow her to stand and walk. Her knee surgery was successful. She was discharged after complete recovery. In the second stage, after nearly 18-24 months, we performed hip surgery to correct her upper body posture, which was 45% bent towards the ground," said Vipul Aggarwal, associate consultant, trauma and joint replacement surgeon.

Sajida said, "I was born with congenital dwarfism, as a result of which I am short in stature. I was unable to perform even the most basic tasks and always required help. Thus, my family decided to bring me to India for treatment."

'HC functioning with half its sanctioned strength'

Justice P.S. Teji says in farewell speech, he served at Delhi HC for almost 4 years

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Justice Parkash Singh Teji of the Delhi High Court retired from office on Monday after serving the institution for almost four years.

In his farewell speech, Justice Teji highlighted that the court currently has just 34 judges, which is half the sanctioned strength of 60 judges. He called for filling up of the vacancies.

Landmark judgments

During his tenure, Justice Teji pronounced a number of landmark judgments which he either authored himself or co-authored with a fellow judge of the Bench. The HC's website shows that Justice Teji either authored, or co-authored, 1,530 judgments.

He was part of the Bench that in February this year called for expanding a section in the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act, which prohibits sale of intoxicating liquor to a child, to also include over-the-counter items such as whitener, thinners and vulcanising solution or sulochans.

> **We are prima facie of the opinion that such substances should be treated as 'intoxicating liquor' within the meaning of Section 77 of the JJ Act**
>
> A BENCH OF JUSTICE VIPIN SANGI AND JUSTICE P.S. TEJI

"We are prima facie of the opinion that such substances should be treated as 'intoxicating liquor' within the meaning of Section 77 of the JJ Act," a Bench of Justice Vipin Sangi and Justice Teji had said.

The same Bench also upheld the life imprisonment awarded to five convicts in the 2010 Dhaula Kuan gangrape case in which a 30-year-old woman executive was raped by five men inside a moving vehicle.

Anti-Sikh riots case

A Bench of Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Teji had in November 2016 critiqued delays in delivering justice in cases such as the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, saying failure to do so "not only creates wounds which fester but those which incurably infect society".

The Bench made the observation while dismissing applications of Congress leader Sajjan Kumar and two others who sought recusal of Justice Teji from a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case on "apprehension of bias".

Justice Teji started his career as an advocate in the Punjab and Haryana High Court in 1983. He later joined the Delhi Higher Judicial Service in 1995.

E-court

He contributed substantially to various projects at the Karkardooma Courts Complex, including construction and distribution of lawyers' chambers, construction and function of first e-court of India, model lock-up, first child witness court of India and the first vulnerable witness examination court.

Justice Teji was elevated as Additional Judge of the Delhi High Court with effect from December 15, 2014. He was appointed as a permanent judge of the High Court on June 3, 2016.

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IN BRIEF



Six held at Delhi Aiport for smuggling gold

NEW DELHI

Six persons, including a Chinese national, have been arrested by Customs officials at the airport here for allegedly trying to smuggle 3.1 kg gold worth nearly ₹1 crore into the country, an official statement stated on Monday. The accused were held in separate incidents of gold smuggling reported over the past three days at Indira Gandhi International Airport. PTI

Aspiring stuntmen held for auto thefts

NEW DELHI

Two persons, aspiring to become Bollywood stuntmen, were arrested for being involved in several cases of snatching and auto-theft in the Capital, the police said on Monday. The two were members of a bikers gang and used the names 'biker' and 'rider'. The accused wanted to purchase high-end bikes for high-speed stunts, the police also said. PTI

Woman gives birth in PCR van

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A Delhi Police PCR van doubled up as a labour room recently when a woman delivered her baby in it en route to hospital in north Delhi's Burari, the police said on Monday.

A PCR van stationed at Burari received a call on August 12 about a woman in labour Satya Vihar, Burari.

The staff comprising Assistant Sub-Inspector Jitender, and Head Constable Mahender, rushed to the spot and found a 22-year-old woman in advanced labour pain. The staff immediately shifted the woman to the PCR van and sped to the hospital.

On the way, in between Wazirabad and Majnu-Ka-Tila, they noticed that the woman was in acute pain and was close to delivering the baby, the police said.

They informed another PCR van, having base at ISBT in which a woman constable was available.

The staff of the other vehicle comprising Assistant Sub-Inspectors Pitam Singh and Virender, and woman Constable Komal, reached the first van.

With the help of Constable Komal, the woman in labour delivered a girl child and later they were admitted to Aruna Asaf Ali Hospital where they are currently doing fine, said S.D. Mishra, Deputy Commissioner of Police (PCR).

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Roundtable Forum on "Ending Impunity for Kleptocrats and Accomplices: Do we need an International Anti-Corruption Court?". Chair: Soli J. Sorabjee, Life Trustee, IIC. Welcome Remarks: Sunil Dang, Member, Executive Committee, IIC. Opening Presentation: Dr. Emil Bolongaita, Distinguished Service Professor of Public Policy & Head, Carnegie Mellon University, Australian and Member of the Board - III. Guest of Honour: Dr. Narinder Singh, former Chairman, International Law Commission. Closing Remarks: Dr. G. Venkatesh Rao, Advocate, Supreme Court at Conference Room - II, India International Centre, 10:30 a.m.

Talk: Lecture on "What do we need to know?" as part of 'Governing India' series with Prof. Rahul Mukherji, Professor and Head of the Department of Political Science, South Asia Institute in Heidelberg University. Chair: Dr. Amitabh Kundu, Distinguished Fellow at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries, New Delhi at Siddhartha Hall, Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan, 3 Kasturba Gandhi Marg.

Film & Talk: Screening of Nayak (B&W/Bengali/1966/117mins) directed by Satyajit Ray, with an introduction from Sayandeb Chowdhury, Asst. Professor, School of Letters, Ambedkar University Delhi, followed by a discussion at Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre, 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Women seen and remembered", solo show of drawings by K. G. Subramanyan (1953 - 2016) at Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditordelhi@thehindu.co.in)

Fire breaks out at Ashok Hotel, no injuries reported

At record room of Central Bank of India; no cash or valuables were damaged

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A fire broke out at the record room of Central Bank of India, at The Ashok hotel in Chanakyapuri on Monday.

The Fire Department received a call regarding the incident at 12.20 p.m., after which seven to eight trucks were rushed to the spot.

A Fire Department official said that the fire was brought under control by 3.15 p.m. The officer also said while nobody sustained injuries in the incident, some furniture and documents in the room were damaged.



The Fire Department was called at 12.20 p.m. on Monday regarding the fire at The Ashok hotel, Chanakyapuri. Officials said that the fire was brought under control by 3.15 p.m. ▪ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR/ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Short circuit

An official of the disaster management authority said that a short circuit is suspected to have caused the fire.

"We saw smoke rising from our record room around 10.30 a.m. It is where we keep our stationery and from where the cash hold is accessed," said Arun Kumar Mishra, Chief Manager of the bank.

> **A tube light above some documents in the room burst, following which the fire broke out**
>
> VINOD BHARADWAJ
> **Civil Defence Disaster** Management Authority

Employees off duty

Two employees of the bank who are normally posted at the room were said to be off duty during the incident.

"A tube light above some documents in the room burst, following which the fire broke out," said Vinod Bharadwaj, part of disaster management authority at the local SDM's office.

However, the police are currently investigating the matter and were not able to provide details on the same.

Damage

The water used to douse the fire is likely to have soiled some documents, Mr. Bhardwaj also said. The water had to be pumped out of the room later.

No cash or valuables were affected but the actual extent of the damage is yet to be ascertained.



Net practice



Something fishy: A child pulls out a fishing net from a water stream near Ghazipur landfill site in Delhi on Monday. ▪ VIVEK TRIPATHI

Plea on Bansal and kin's death: apex court seeks response from govt

Bansal and his family members committed suicide in 2016

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the government to respond to a plea made by former bureaucrat E.A.S. Sarma to order a court-monitored probe into the deaths of B.K. Bansal, a senior ministry official who was under a cloud of graft, and his family.

Notice issued

A Bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra, Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and D.Y. Chandrachud issued notice to the government after Mr. Sarma, represented by senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, submitted that the untimely deaths by suicide required an investigation as they were allegations made against India's premier investigating agency, the CBI.

Bansal, former Director General of Corporate Affairs, had allegedly hanged himself along with his son in September 2016 at their east Delhi residence, leaving behind a suicide note alleging "harassment" by the CBI. In July 2016, Bansal's wife and daughter had committed suicide alleging the same. Bansal was arrested on July 16, 2016 for allegedly accepting bribe and was out on bail at the time of his death.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.



B.K. Bansal was found dead at his east Delhi apartment ▪ FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Class X boy assaulted, found hanging

His new watch was snatched by 3 boys; accused detained

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GHAZIABAD

A 17-year-old Class X student was found hanging in his room after he was allegedly assaulted by three boys who snatched his watch in Ghaziabad on Sunday, the police said on Monday.

The incident happened at Archna Enclave in Khoda municipality on Sunday night. Three boys of the same locality had on Sunday snatched a new watch of the deceased. He was a student of a Delhi school.

When he asked them to return it, they allegedly thrashed him, said Ghaziabad Assistant Superintendent of Police Ravi Kumar.

Mother was assaulted

They allegedly assaulted his mother too when she reached the spot to intervene. When the woman returned home after filing a complaint, she found her son hanging from a ceiling fan in his room, Mr. Kumar said.

The three accused have been detained for interrogation, he said, adding that cause of the teenager's death could be ascertained after the post-mortem report.

Rumours of vandalising Ambedkar statue spark tension

Allegation was made in an attempt to frame a group: police

STAFF REPORTER
NIWARI

Tension erupted after rumours of vandalising Bhim Rao Ambedkar statue in Niwari in Ghaziabad started doing the rounds on Monday.

Seniors police officers said that the initially the police were informed that there was an attempt to vandalise the Ambedkar statue.

Acting on the information, they rushed to the spot.

The incident took place in Abupur which falls under Niwari police station in Ghaziabad.

Forces from other police stations also reached the spot. The police said that there is an Ambedkar statue installed at a park in the area.

Some locals alleged that a group of boys tried to vandalise the statue, and that sparked the tension.

Old feud

In an attempt to frame one group, members of another spread the rumours, alleging that the former was trying to vandalise the statue, the police said.

The two groups, they said, had an old feud between them.

"The situation is under control now. We are keeping an eye on the area. Members of both the groups have been asked to maintain peace and harmony. If anyone is found guilty of taking the law in his hands, we will take stringent action against the person," the officer said.

Student loses part of finger in school

Parents accuse school of negligence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A Class VI student of Delhi's St. Columba's School lost a part of his right hand's ring finger on August 10 when it got stuck in a door. His parents have accused the school authorities of negligence.

The school administration has formed a three-member fact-finding committee on Monday to probe the issue after a group of parents staged protest outside the school premises.

> **A three-member fact finding committee has been formed to probe the issue**
>
> SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIAL
> St. Columba's School

Mother's allegations

"I got a call from the school on August 10 and was told there was a cut on my son's hand and he needed to be taken to the hospital. Neither the school officials made any effort to get him immediate medical aid nor I was informed that the injury was this serious," the student's mother said.

'Permanent deformity'

"When I took him to a hospital later, the doctor asked us for the lost part of the finger. I called up the school who later tried to find out the part and by the time the cut part was brought to the hospital, the doctor informed us it was not possible to stitch back the portion now and this will be a permanent deformity," she added.

The mother accused the school authorities of showing a "lackadaisical attitude".

'No action taken'

The incident was caused after two boys pushed him towards the foyer door which resulted in his hand being caught in it and thus the portion being cut. The school has no idea about who were those two boys and no action has been taken yet, the mother said.

The school authorities said a probe committee has been formed.

"A three-member fact-finding committee has been formed to probe the issue. The school is committed to ensure a speedy and thorough investigation," a senior administrative official of the school said.

3 arrested for supplying drugs

3 kg heroin and 1 kg alprazolam worth ₹15 crore seized

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Three men have been arrested for allegedly supplying drugs in Delhi and adjoining States, the police said on Monday.

The accused

The accused have been identified as Akhtar Ali (41), Jahangir (29) and Jenulabdin (49), they said.

The police have seized 3 kg of high-grade heroin and 1 kg of alprazolam worth ₹15 crore in the international market from their possession, said P.S. Kushwah, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell).

Tip-off and trap

Acting on a tip-off, the police laid a trap on August 11 near Ambedkar Nagar bus stand where the accused had come to deliver consignment to one of their contacts following which they were arrested, Mr. Kushwah said.

Akhtar and Jahangir, revealed that the consignment was supplied by a person from Latehar, a resident of the Naxal-affected area in Jharkhand, and Akhtar used to supply alprazolam to that person, said the officer.

Alprazolam was apparently used to enhance the potency of heroin.

Akhtar revealed that he had been supplying drugs for 16 years.

Vivek Vihar encounter: 1 more held

Was carrying a cash reward of ₹1 lakh on his head

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A 29-year-old man, carrying a cash reward of ₹1 lakh in connection with his alleged involvement in the Vivek Vihar encounter, has been arrested, the police said on Monday.

Accused Kalia, a resident of northeast Delhi's Nand Nagri, is involved in 17 cases of motor vehicle theft, they said.

Four men had on June 5 opened fire at the police and one of the gang member, Noor Mohammad, had died in retaliatory firing. One Ravi Kuldeep was arrested during the police encounter, Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime) Rajiv Ranjan said.

During sustained interrogation, Kuldeep disclosed the identity of the person driving their car as Kalia, who along with another accomplices had fled, he said

Acting on a tip-off, Kalia was arrested near a cinema hall in Nand Nagri on August 3 after a brief scuffle, Mr. Ranjan said.

During interrogation, the accused revealed that since 2012, he along with his accomplices had been stealing luxurious cars from Delhi and NCR and disposing off the stolen vehicles in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan and the north-east, Mr. Ranjan said.

He said they used to break the window of the targeted car and then used a drill machine to unlock the steering wheel. The accused also knew how to switch off the GPS system in case one was installed in the car.

Kalia has disposed-off around 100 stolen vehicles in the past one year.

At his instance, a stolen car involved in the Vivek Vihar encounter case was also seized.

DU challenges order on extra classes

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi University approached the High Court here on Monday challenging a Single Judge's order asking the law faculty members to conduct at least 139 hours of extra classes or tutorials, within eight weeks, for students who are desirous to attend the lectures to make up for attendance shortage.

The Single Judge had come down heavily on the Delhi University law teachers for "illegally" detaining around 500 students for lack of attendance and ordered holding of supplementary exams, saying it was a "failure" of the faculty.

Students' reply

A Bench of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Chander Shekhar issued notice to the students and sought their response on the university's appeal against the order.

In its appeal, the varsity contended that the Single Judge in a July 6 order had totally ignored the fact that all the three law centres had already completed the course within the total number of lectures held.

"Rule 10 of the Bar Council of India Rules by no stretch of imagination can be interpreted to stipulate that additional classes should be held even though the entire syllabus of the course has been taught in the semester as per the time table and schedule followed by the law centre," the order stated.

The university contended in the appeal that the Single Judge, by passing the judgment, had "over-stressed" the rule that 450 class hours have to be conducted irrespective of the fact that the syllabus for all the subjects for the respective semesters was already completed as planned.

It said no syllabus remained that might be taught to the detained students in these additional classes.

The Single Judge, while granting relief to the students, had said the shortfall of attendance was caused due to "failure of faculty of law to conduct minimum classes as prescribed under the Bar Council rules".

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IN BRIEF



Overcast skies, light rain in the Capital

NEW DELHI

Overcast skies prevailed in the Capital with light rain in some parts of the city on Monday. The maximum temperature settled at 33 degrees Celsius, normal for this time of the year, while the minimum was 26.5 degrees Celsius, a notch below the season's average, the weatherman said. Cloudy skies along with the possibility of light rain has been forecast for Tuesday. PTI

Special metro to spread idea of nationalism

NEW DELHI

The DMRC on Monday said it has put into service a six-coach special train, with photographs of freedom fighters and other icons, to spread the message of patriotism. Union Minister V.K. Singh has written a special message on the train, the official added.

STAFF REPORTER

Notice to shelter home over Italian students

GURUGRAM

The Child Welfare Committee (CWC) of Gurugram district issued a notice to a shelter home on Monday for allegedly allowing 16 Italian students to stay there without prior permission of the administration. Deep Ashram has been asked to respond to the CWC notice within a week. PTI

NOTTO director seeks extension of tenure

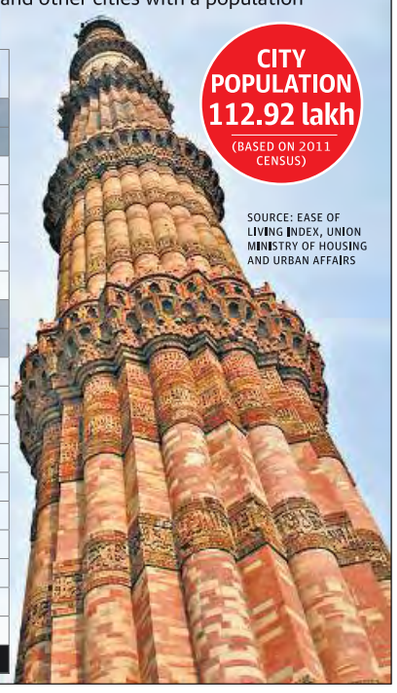
NEW DELHI

National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) director Prof. Vimal Bhandari has written to the Union Health Ministry asking for extension of tenure till November. He has turned 62, the age of retirement from administrative posts. "The orders were issued three weeks ago and the Ministry received a request from Prof. Bhandari seeking extension till November," said a Health official. STAFF REPORTER

EASE OF LIVING INDEX : HOW DID DELHI FARE?

The index ranked 111 cities, including those which are part of the Smart Cities Mission and other cities with a population above one million. The Capital stood at 65

PILLARS	CATEGORY	CITY SCORE	MAX. SCORE	RANKING
INSTITUTIONAL				19
	• Governance	11.7	25	19
SOCIAL				71
	• Identity and culture	2.5	6.25	16
	• Education	3.31	6.25	59
	• Health	1.38	6.25	111
	• Safety and security	2.24	6.25	66
ECONOMIC				109
	• Economy and employment	0.12	5	109
PHYSICAL				70
	• Housing and inclusiveness	0	5	99
	• Public open spaces	1.59	5	1
	• Mixed land use and compactness	0	5	100
	• Power supply	1.02	5	101
	• Transportation and mobility	1.07	5	55
	• Assured water supply	2.27	5	57
	• Waste water management	2.43	5	25
	• Solid waste management	2.42	5	50
	• Reduced pollution	1.12	5	100
	TOTAL	33.18	100	



SOURCE: EASE OF LIVING INDEX, UNION MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS

HC seeks Centre's stand on plea for removal of Jamia professor

Professor was removed over allegation of plagiarism, reinstated later

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday sought the stand of the Centre and Jamia Millia Islamia on a plea seeking setting aside of reinstatement of a professor who was removed from the university over allegation of plagiarism.

Contempt action

A Bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice C. Hari Shankar issued notices to the Centre and the university seeking their reply to a petition which sought contempt action against various officials of Jamia for allegedly fabricating a court order to facilitate the professor's reinstatement.

The plea, filed by a former student of the university, has alleged that the professor had copied from a book, *Media, Markets and Democracy,* in his book titled *Democracy and Media*.



Deepak Kem was reinstated as professor atJamia Millia Islamia but the decision has now been challenged in the High Court by a former university student. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Jamia Millia Islamia Act

The petition said the university had in May 2011 removed the professor, who had challenged the decision in the High Court, where a single judge had in September 2011 and a Division Bench had in April 2012 affirmed the step taken by the university.

In 2015, the university amended a provision of the Jamia Millia Islamia Act that dealt with removal of academic staff to allow review of such a decision, the plea said.

The petition added that subsequent to the amendment, the professor moved a representation seeking a relook into his removal.

Jamia upheld its earlier decision and the professor challenged it in the High Court, which dismissed his plea in August 2016. He filed an appeal before a Division Bench against the dismissal of his plea, claimed the petition by Hamidur Rehman.

Review plea

Professor Deepak Kem also filed a review plea against the 2012 decision of the High Court, the petition said, alleging that this was not disclosed in court.

Thereafter, the university told the High Court that it had decided to review the professor's plea for reinstatement and based on the submission, Prof. Kem's appeal of 2016 was disposed, the plea said.

Prof. Kem was reinstated as a professor in Jamia but the decision has now been challenged in High Court by a former student of the university.

'Steps being taken to resolve issues of homebuyers'

Committed to finding solution for those affected: Puri

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The government is committed to finding a solution for all affected homebuyers in Noida and Greater Noida, said Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri on Monday.



Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri (right) with Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra in New Delhi on Monday. ▪ PTI

Empowered Committee

The Minister said the Empowered Committee, under the chairmanship of the Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary, is expected to finalise its report shortly to resolve the problems of affected homebuyers of stalled housing projects.

"We are committed to finding a solution for all affected homebuyers," Mr. Puri told journalists when asked about steps being taken by the government to resolve the issues of buyers.

Earlier this month, NBCC, which comes under the Ministry, told the Supreme Court that it was ready to "undertake" the projects of embattled real estate major Amrapali Group, which has failed to hand over possession of flats to around 42,000 buyers.

The apex court asked NBCC to place before it a "concrete proposal" within 30 days on how it proposes to complete the projects along with a timeline of work. The Centre has already introduced the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, under which proper protection is provided to buyers.

So far, around 29,033 real estate projects have been registered under the RERA Act, while 22,568 real estate agents have been recorded under the law.

2 snakes rescued from Gurugram

They were spotted by the staff on construction site

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 6-foot-long rat snake and a 5-foot-long black-headed royal snake were rescued by Wildlife SOS from a nearly 6-foot-deep pit at the upcoming Unitech Resort Villa site at Sector 33 in Gurugram.

Both snakes are currently under observation and will be released into their natural habitat once deemed fit.

The NGO's 24-hour rescue helpline (9871963535) received a call on Sunday afternoon regarding two snakes trapped inside a pit at the upcoming luxury township at Sector 33 in Gurugram. They were spotted by the staff at the site.

A team of two rescuers rushed to the spot. The snakes appeared weak and exhausted from the ordeal, and are currently being kept under close observation.

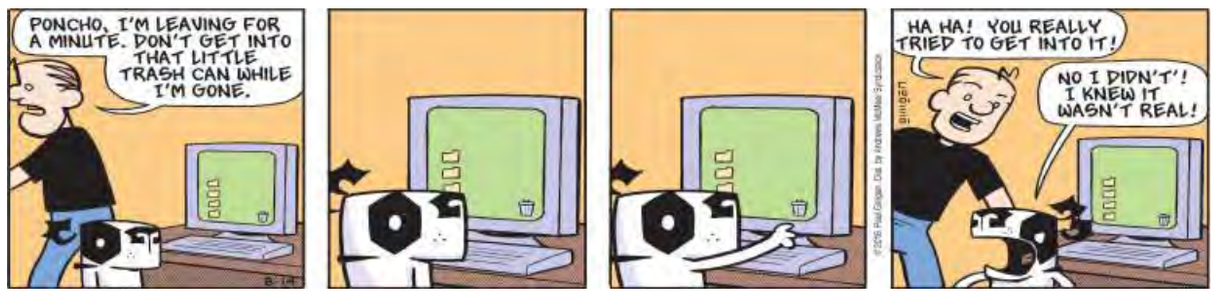


The rescued five-foot-long black-headed royal snake. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Project manager Sahil Sharma said: "We often spot snakes at the construction site. We found the Wildlife SOS helpline number online and immediately contacted their rescue team."

Wildlife SOS co-founder and CEO Kartick Satyanarayan said, "With increasing urbanisation, construction, shrinking habitats and loss of natural prey base, wildlife species are often forced to move into human settlements in search of easy prey. Very few snake species in Delhi are actually venomous and even these snakes will not attack until provoked. We are very glad that people have become so aware that they consider calling experts instead of trying to deal with the matter themselves, or worse, killing the snakes."

POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



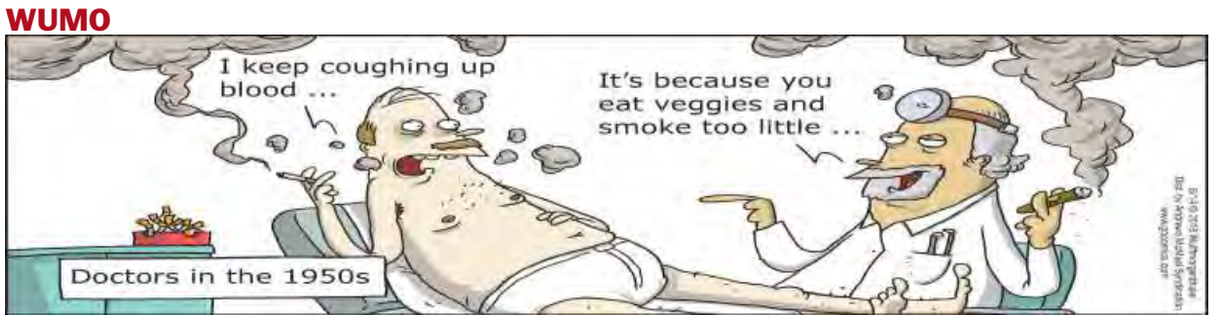
CALVIN AND HOBBES



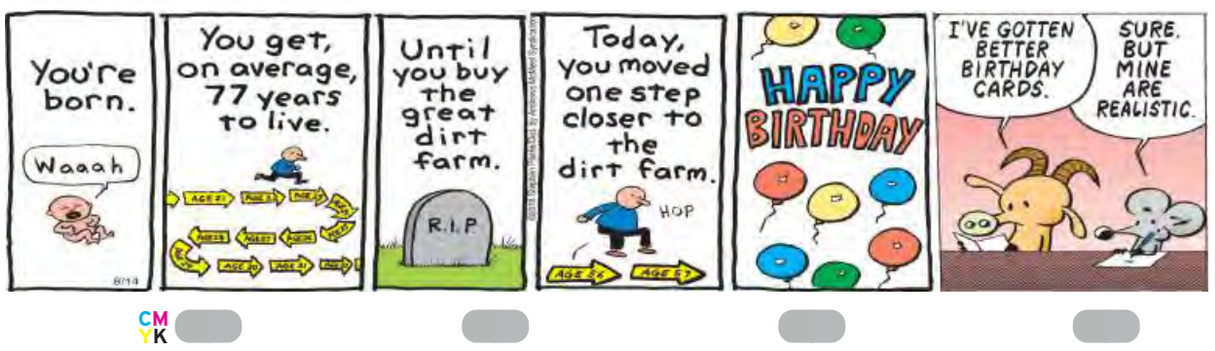
TIGER

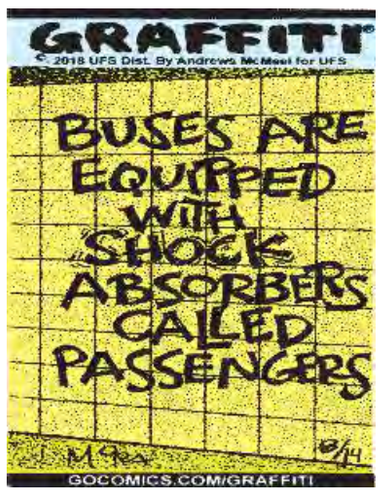


WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE





HEALTH CAPSULES®

by Bron Smith

WHAT FOODS CONTAIN ARSENIC?

MEASURABLE AMOUNTS OF ARSENIC WERE FOUND IN EVERY FOOD TESTED, SAYS CONSUMER REPORTS.

YER KIDDING, RIGHT?

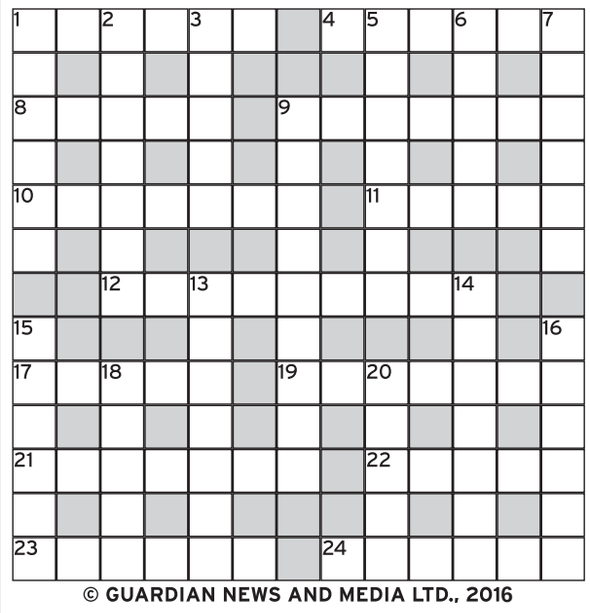
MANY FOODS CONTAIN VARYING AMOUNTS OF ARSENIC, INCLUDING FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND GRAINS. OF ALL GRAINS, RICE TENDS TO CONTAIN THE HIGHEST CONCENTRATIONS OF ARSENIC BECAUSE RICE ABSORBS ARSENIC THROUGH BOTH EARTH AND WATER MORE THAN OTHER GRAINS.

Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.

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facebook.com/HealthCapsules 08/14

THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD - 12839



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Across

1 Hero of *The Jungle Book* (6)
4 One who avoids work (6)
8 Sleeper's vision (5)
9 Promised (7)
10 Relative by marriage (7)
11 French pancake (5)
12 Water-based paint (9)
17 Italian city noted for ham (5)
19 Synopsis – silhouette (7)
21 Give for safekeeping (7)
22 Momentary flash of light (5)
23 Feeling of despair in the face of obstacles (6)
24 Source (6)

Down

1 One of three sisters with snakes for hair (6)
2 Saturday and Sunday (7)
3 Buddhist monks (5)
5 Patella (7)
6 Hazy (5)
7 Ship's steering device (6)
9 Whit Sunday (9)
13 Broad-bladed kitchen implement (7)
14 Barrier – complaining bitterly (7)
15 Sustained (6)
16 Defeated (6)
18 Religious observances (5)
20 Striped quadruped (5)

Solution will appear in Delhi Metro dated August 15, 2018.

Solution No. 12838

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'Tis the Season

Subtle glamour is the way to go, this wedding season

GAGAN DHILLON KHULLAR

If you are bride to be, it's worth your while to visit a wedding show. Fret not, if you missed the DLF Emporio Couture Weddings and the one-on-one sessions with the stylists, Aki Narula, Mohit Rai and Ami Patel. We have the latest from them on the season's wedding trends.

Colours are bold

Soft hues and pastels have had their moment. It's time for colours that reflect traditional Indian heritage. As Narula puts it, "Be bold. Choose deep jewel tones and Banarasi colors like bright yellows, warm greens, plush purples, vibrant blues and deep reds." The easiest way to do this: incorporate one piece from traditional Indian weaves like Kanjeevaram, Tanchoi, Chanderi, Banarasi.

Lehengas are lighter

Compromising on comfort is a thing of the past. Stylists agree that the days of many-kilo garments are gone. "Brides want the embroidery and the glamour, but without feeling weighed down," says Patel. So look for outfits in lighter fabrics with stunning embroidery. If you are opting for traditional zari and tar work then choose a lighter design. One way to shed the weight is opting for a separate can can skirt that can be removed after the formal ceremony is completed, suggests Narula.

Less is more

"There is a shift in perception where brides no longer want to be overshadowed by their outfit, jewellery and makeup. They are asking for jewellery that doesn't cut into their skin and make up that is natural looking," says Rai. Light makeup that lets the skin breathe and highlighting one feature at a time is big this season. Choose a single statement piece of jewellery rather than an entire set of maang tika, necklace and earrings. Dare to mix it up. "Jewellery sets that match aren't practical any more. It is better to invest in individual pieces that you will be able to use often later," suggests Narula.



Nudes make an entry

There is acceptance of white, believes Rai. "People are choosing white-themed décor. You'll even find that grooms are comfortable wearing it," he adds. With designers embracing whites and beiges, couture and bridal wear in nude palates is not hard to find.

The body is for showing

Designers like Manish Malhotra and Sabyasachi have changed the game with outfits that flatter necklines and cuts for the Indian body type. In contrast to the past, brides are embracing deeper necklines and stringy blouses.

Grooms go bridal



Keeping it light: Models showcasing the mood of the wedding season; (left) Ami Patel flanked by Aki Narula and Mohit Rai ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Grooms are embracing vibrant colours. Don't be surprised to see them in floral prints this season. It is trendy to matching the outfit to the bride or at least include one aspect from her outfit in the groom's attire.

Addressing issues

Director Nila Madhab Panda is back with yet another story of our times

ATIF KHAN



Clean entertainment: Nila Madhab Panda ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Nila Madhab Panda's *Halkaa's* trailer opens with child protagonist Pichku's dream of a toilet of his own where he can enjoy his privacy. While the child's dream matches with the current government's much-publicised vision of cleanliness, the director asserts that the film's timing with the current political narrative was not planned. "It is not part of some government policy but an independent story. As it is related to the idea of cleanliness, the government wanted to come and do something for it and later got associated with it," says the National Award winning director, who was in Delhi recently to launch the trailer.

Winner of Grand Prix for Best Film at the Kinolub Festival for Children and Youth in Poland and Grand Prix De Montreal at the 21st Montreal International Children's Film Festival, *Halkaa* is about two slum children's aspirations and their fight against open defecation.

Though most of his films have some pertinent issues woven into the storyline, he prefers not to call them social films. "I don't think my films deliberately talk about issues. I am interested in stories around me and it is about how I craft my narratives. *Halkaa* is about us and it is today's story. So it is bound to have some pertinent issues.

Be it *I am Kalam* or *Kadvi Hawa*, his films reflect the realities and reject the usual causal narrative of plot and climax. "I am a storyteller. My craft is very simple. I am very close to humanity and I don't heighten drama or evoke fantasy. This way, I remain close to society. If *Kadvi Hawa* made you cry and *I am Kalam* brought a smile on your face, this will make you both laugh and cry," promises Panda.

In-depth knowledge

He shot the film at a slum near Pragati Madan. His art of shooting on-location with non-actors and documentary-style camera movements reflect his experience on the ground. "I have in-depth knowledge of various issues like climate change. I have made many documentaries and that helps me in the kind of films that I make."

He is amongst a handful of filmmakers who make children films. "It is always a learning experience to work with children because their emotions are pure and inspiring. I showed it to children in Poland and they could relate to the problem of children in Delhi." With industry still struggling for home grown content for children, Panda believes there is a lack of understanding of market along with fear of taking risks. "There is less content for children in India as we don't take the risk to make films for them. We want our money to be safe and there is hardly any understanding of childhood as we only think about ourselves."

Cultural glimpses of Qila-e-Mubarak

A symbol of democracy and freedom, the Red Fort houses many layers of Delhi's past

NAVINA JAFA



One of a kind: The Red Fort was a city within a city ▪ PTI

Ever since Jawaharlal Nehru chose the ramparts of the Red Fort in Delhi to unfurl the National Flag and address the nation on Independence Day, the building has become a visual performative space for the national festival as much as a symbol of freedom, and democracy. The fort is known as Qila-e-Mubarak - The Exalted fort, associated with a trajectory of national struggle, events and, in free India has come to be synonymous with the idea of 'the best', a brand value appropriated for products like rice, jewellery and restaurants.

The architectural plan, design, and functionality of the heritage ecosystem comprising the Red Fort along with the city of Shahjahanabad, and the river Yamuna was so grand that James Fergusson in his book, *The History of Indian and Eastern Architecture,* wrote that "The palace at Delhi is, or rather was, the most magnificent palace in the East – perhaps in the world – and the only one at least in India...."

The veil

However, an irony exists between the ramparts where the Tricolour is hoisted by the Prime Ministers and the original design of the fort conceived during the reign of Shah Jahan.

The rampart wall near Lahori Gate is called the 'ghoonghat ki deewar' (the veil) and was built later by Aurangzeb. The intention of the original design without the said wall was to create an inclusive structure of the fort with the city and citizens in front and with the river Yamuna on the other side. This inclusivity of the Fort is evident in several written and oral accounts.

It was here that Bahadur Shah Zafar, the last Mughal emperor living in the Red Fort, was declared the leader of the revolt or the First War of Independence of 1857. The emperor, as known, was exiled and died in Yangon (Myanmar). Delhi was captured by the British and became representative of suppression. In the 1940s, Subhash Chandra Bose set up the headquarters of his resistant force - the Indian National Army (INA) in Yangon and gave the clarion call 'Dilli Chalo' (March to Delhi), removing the century-old collective amnesia to declare that the idea of freedom was linked to the Red Fort.

The Red Fort INA Trials (1945-46) contributed to the metaphor of the fort as a symbol of the Freedom Movement. Some captured INA officers charged with several crimes including treason were tried for some time and were housed for the entire period in the Red Fort.

In 2000 and 2001, there were terrorist attacks on the Red Fort and on the Indian Parliament respectively, both incidents led to affirm although negatively the symbolism of the building with the idea of democracy.

Synthesising practice

The detailed research work by Anisha Shekhar Mukherji in her book *The Red Fort of Shahjahanabad* provides descriptions of the 17th Century complex which was constructed simultaneously with the Taj Mahal. The palace reflects "synthesising practice of absorption, adoption, and adaptation of ideas and forms from the regions of Transoxania (from where the Mughals came) and the regions of India (from Gujarat to Bengal which came under the Mughal rule)."

Comprising palaces, halls, orchards, gardens and pavilions, it was a city within a city and more than just a palace for an emperor. After the defeat of the Indian forces in 1857, the British completed their occupation of the fort and soon ordered the demolition of 80% of the structures, replacing them with barracks for the British Army.

Built at a cost of almost 10 million rupees over a period of almost nine years, it had integrated the best architectural designs, construction methods, details, and skills which even in its present depraved state reflects the grandeur and magnificence which has gained it the status of a UNESCO World Heritage Monument.

Lively disposition

Snippets of cultural events indicate the lively disposition of lifestyles in the course of the fort's history. For instance, documented in writings and paintings is the wedding of crown prince Dara Shikoh. Mukherji cites from a historical writing that at the close of day, numerous fireworks set up by the future bride's relatives ignited along the banks of the Jumna creating delight among spectators... Not to be outdone, by His Majesty's commands, the gardens beneath the royal chambers and the grounds below the audience balconies, as well as the boats upon the Jumna were illuminated with lamps and fireworks.

On the other hand, some courtesans associated with court musician Miyan Tanras who lived in the city described, "Once in a while, dancers and musicians performed not in the Rang Mahal with its mirrored walls, but on houseboats on the Yamuna. We were told that the sight was like the Indra Sabha (the court of the Heavenly God Indra) in Lucknow!"

The 18th Century "Muraqqa-e-Dehli" describes colourful personalities and events associated with the fort and the city. "Court Sufi musician qawwal Taj Khan with a voice delicate like that of the petals of flowers on every seventh of the lunar month organised house concerts to which came an eclectic well-informed audience from the city. He sang in a state of ecstasy songs that had the magic of nightingales."

The fascinating account goes onto describe the gay couple Allah Bandi and Rajji as supreme singers and transgender Sultana who had long passed his youth, performed before the courtly audience of men in an extraordinary manner with zangola (ankle bells) on his feet. There was Taqi, a talented actor who ran a mobile theatre and performed both in the court and as a street performer.

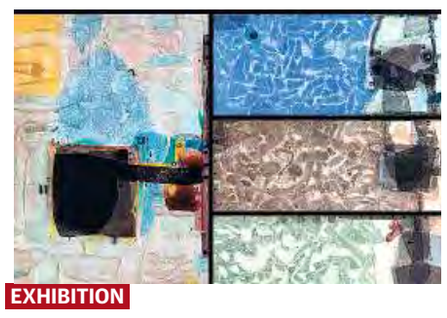
Known to have a rich collection of costumes and acting paraphernalia, he was a favourite of courtiers, had access to the King and was popular in the city. Mimics, technically called Naqqals, Khawasi and Anotha ,were popular in the court and so were the Gupbaaz or gossip mongers, who were much in demand to entertain in the hamams and ladies quarters. Zafar, the Mughal emperor himself a poet organised poetic meets in the fort and the last of them which was attended by illustrious poets is captured by Mirza Farhatullah Khan in his work "Dilli ki Aakhari Shama" which says, Mirza Arif, an eminent Urdu Poet, came to be called "Dehli-Ka-Ek-Yadgar-Aakhri-Mushaira"-1846 - (Delhi's Memorable Last Poetic Gathering). "Farhatullah Khan was his name. He has falsely been called Farhatullah Baig. He was the grandfather of my mother; a small lane near Lal Kuan is named after him."

Theatre of grandeur

The Red Fort represents a seminal cultural geography of the 20th Century Delhi which goes beyond the national narrative. In his diaries, young Chand Khan, the doyen of Dilli Gharana of Music, described the three-day All India Music Conference at the Red Fort, which formed part of the celebrations of the Delhi Durbar of 1911. In more recent times, the ground of the Red Fort became a cultural space for fairs, circus and Ram Leelas. It must be mentioned that it was Zafar who first patronised an annual large-scale enactment of the Ram Leela in the vicinity of the fort, although there were communities who earlier performing Ram Leelas in the city.

The frozen motifs of flowers, fauna, and gardens on the walls of several structures inside the fort remain as idioms of the Garden of Paradise where the theatre of the grandeur of the Mughals conjured up a glittering cultural magic, one which needs to be recreated as a glorious page in the annals of Indian heritage.

5 EVENTS WORTH-YOUR-WHILE



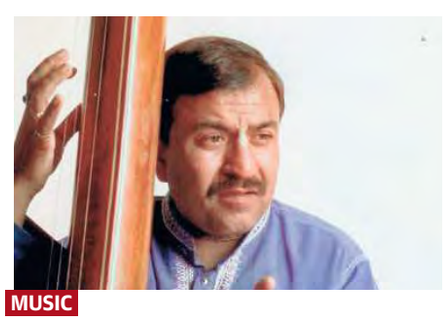
EXHIBITION

Paintings
Akar Prakar Gallery presents Lamina, a solo show of recent paintings by Manish Pushkale. His works deals with the 'site and sight of the inside'. The paintings are like a novel of erosion and deposition of colours, which is like human sentiments, where confirmations and confrontations co-exist.
VENUE: Akar Prakar, D-43 Defence Colony
TIME: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



CUISINE

European Exquisiteness
Amuse House, a European Bistro is offering European menu curated by the chef offering smoked mushroom risotto, manchego stuffed chillies, grilled goat cheese beetroot and much more to crave upon. Dessert lovers can find an assortment of Mediterranean sweets - pistachio baklavas, basbousas, blahshams and zenabs.
VENUE: C- 108, Ansal Plaza, August Kranti Marg
TIME: 12 noon - 1 a.m.



MUSIC

Concert
IHC organises a Hindustani music concert in collaboration with Pandit Vidur Mallick Dhrupad Academy. Classical vocal performance by Pt. Naresh Malhotra followed by a solo Satvik Veena performance by Pt. Salil Bhatt. The programme concludes with a Dhrupad vocal performance by Pt. Prem Kumar Mallick.
VENUE: Amaltas Hall, India Habitat Centre
TIME: 7 p.m.



FESTIVAL

Independence Day Special
Royal China, a Chinese restaurant specialising in traditional and modern Cantonese, is offering special menu to celebrate India's 72nd Independence Day. The menu include dimsum, egg tarts, yeung chow fried rice and varieties of beverages.
VENUE: Royal China, 16th Floor, Eros Corporate Tower, Nehru Place
TIME: 12.30 p.m.-3 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.-11.45 p.m.



FILM

9 mois ferme
This film revolves around Ariane Felder, a judge of strict morals who discovers that she is pregnant by Bob Nolan, a criminal wanted for murder. Ariane, who does not remember anything, tries to understand what happened. A French comedy film directed by Albert Dupontel.
VENUE: M.L. Bhartia Auditorium, Alliance Francaise De Delhi
TIME: 10 a.m.

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TECH-A-BYTE



Microsoft uses community feedback to fix Windows Search

Microsoft has revealed that it realised that users of Windows 10 were experiencing issues with Windows Search based on how many of them were turning the feature off. The company decided to take feedback in the form of a notification that users got whenever they turned off the service and realised that excessive disk usage was one of the reported reasons, which also prompted fear among users that the lifespan of their Solid State Drives (SSD) would be reduced. The Redmond-based company said that the feedback campaign ran for three months and that it is working on fixes which should roll out in the near future.



Google offers celebrities the option to answer questions about themselves

In the latest bid to allow celebrities some control over search results about them, Google has introduced an app called Cameos for iOS, which allows celebrities to pick and answer frequently asked questions about themselves. It is invite-only and celebrities need to request access to be able to post short video answers to questions. Celebrities such as Priyanka Chopra and Kevin Durant have already used the facility, and their responses appear in the Google search results for their names. The app is currently not available on Android.



Internet domain names in Indian languages on the anvil

According to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), a non-profit corporation that handles Domain Name Systems (DNS), domain names which support Indian languages may be a reality soon. This was revealed by ICANN India head Samiran Gupta, who said that work is currently underway to support nine Indian scripts. The idea behind the initiative is to help bridge the digital divide, and allow users to enter the domain name directly in a vernacular language, to be directed to sites that publish content in said language. According to Gupta, the work is being carried out by a panel comprising of 60 technical experts and linguists from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Singapore.



Xiaomi announces new smartphone brand Poco

Chinese technology company Xiaomi has announced a new sub-brand called Poco, which it claims will produce flagship-grade smartphones at an affordable price tag. The brand was announced in a Facebook post by Xiaomi's India lead product manager Jai Mani, who also elaborated that the first device from the brand will be a smartphone called the Poco F1. While the company did not shed light on the reason for creating a new brand, the success of companies like OnePlus in the affordable premium smartphone category is one of the likely reasons for Xiaomi to want to explore the space.

Send in your queries and feedback to techknow@thehindu.co.in

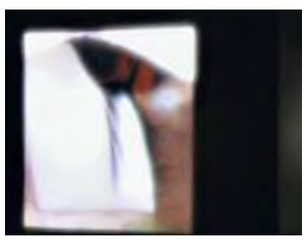
Machines and masterpieces

On a mission to create a new genre of art, the 'Gradient Descent' show in Delhi observes how artists around the globe are using Artificial Intelligence

DIVYA KALA BHAVANI



'Deep Meditations' by Memo Akten





'Closed Loop' by Jake Elwes



'79530 Self-Portraits' by Mario Klingemann



Thanks to technology, the roles of the artist and the scientist, as well as their creative processes, are melding. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is bridging the gap between technology and fine art by challenging creative intelligence and sensorial experiences, integrating networks known as GANs and cGANs, and changing how artists interact with their so-to-speak canvases.

And with India as an AI capital, there's endless scope to explore this realm. In fact, 'Gradient Descent', the country's first AI creative showcase in Delhi, will be exhibiting this far-reaching evolution.

Assembled by brothers Raghava KK and Karthik Kalyanaraman, co-founders of art curation and research collective 64/1, the show unites an international group of artists who have melded various nodes of AI into riveting artworks which vary across the scale of immersion; building public understanding of how artists and Artificial Intelligence can come together to create art for the post-human age.

The works

Bengaluru-born Harshit Agrawal's works, titled 'The Anatomy Lesson of Dr Algorithm', appears to be a disturbing look at surgical procedures. MIT graduate Harshit explores how something that's so fundamentally human can be performed by something mechanical, like an algorithm he uses to map out a surgery. By varying the amount of training the algorithm gets, Harshit generates vivid abstract painterly images. At the same time, he refuses to erase the pixellations and digital mediation in the artwork – helpful to those who'd be a bit queasy.

Mario Klingemann from Germany will be presenting a jarring video of image distortions by AI's sometimes-unpredictable tendencies. Using AI that has been trained on portraits of the Old Masters, Mario presents a bizarre take on how AI can build upon images. Because he's continuously adding noise to this image, the portrait, which is morphed, starts to become more and more bizarre.

Now what about AI's perception as artwork? A pioneer of AI and art, Tom White from London will be presenting two provocative series. The first series starts from a simple drawing made by an algorithm. Then, an AI algorithm which was trained on photographs from ImageNet, slowly transforms the initial sketch into an abstract representation of a physical object. This painting will not necessarily be recognisable to humans. The second series, a little more provocative, uses the same systems, but instead produces images that will generally be categorised as 'inappropriate' or 'having explicit content' by online image analysis AIs.





'Fall of the House of Usher' by Anna Ridler

Grasping the potential of film and power, Anna Ridler from London uses the first 4 minutes of the 1928 film *The Fall of the House of Usher* by James Sibley Watson, handpaints every frame as a painting and feeds them into a cGAN, a type of AI algorithm that can link the frame from the film and Ridler's artwork. Then she can generate a whole film using those paintings.

Jake Elwes from London explores the power of language as an art, stringing together sentences and using that language to create an image. Elwes then puts an AI that interprets images in words in conversation with another AI that interprets words in images. A simple concept, the resulting interaction and interpretations made by the two AIs is celebrated for its impact on the viewer.

Turkish artist Memo Akten brings over his the investigation, 'Learning To See', of how the experience or memory of the machine affects what and how it sees. He describes it as "an artificial neural network making predictions on live webcam input, trying to make sense of what it sees in context of what it has seen before." He'll also be unveiling 'Deep Meditations', an extension of the aforementioned works, using machine-learning algorithms to create a two-hour meditative channel video and sound installation.





'Perception Engines' by Tom White

Taking AI perception to the next level, Nao Tokui from Japan will be exhibiting 'Imaginary Landscape'. As various objects are manipulated in front of a camera, the machine, trained only on specific sets of images (for instance of beaches, or flames) reinterprets these objects as instances of categories it knows. The eerie effect of seeing a mobile phone power adapter reinterpreted by the algorithm as a cliff by a beach is not one a viewer is likely to forget.



'Imaginary Landscape' by Nao Tokui

GANS VS CGANS

GANS OR 'GENERATIVE ADVERSARIAL NETWORKS' are a set of instructions that engage as networks do. The most common application of this is the production of images that one can tell aren't real, despite their authentic aesthetic.

A CGAN OR'CONDITIONAL GENERATIVE ADVERSARIAL NETWORK' is an upgraded set of instructions but with a lot more context around how they function.

Through 64/1's eyes

Karthik and Raghava share that finding work that is conceptually rich was key, adding, "This is the first time we are actually focussing on AI art as art – usually AI art has been treated as a step to talk about AI in society, but we do need to speak about it as art too, because that brings up the essence of creativity and the role of the human. Stylistic sensibilities across the spectrum were also key here, as well as the spectrum of algorithms they were using. The show serves as a manifesto saying 'we really care about this and this is how artists can engage with the future'."

For those overwhelmed by the tech-talk, the exhibition will also feature some workshops and engaging talks about AI, so even those unfamiliar yet curious people can immerse themselves into a new genre of art. Running till September 15, the show at Nature Morte gallery is open to all.

GAMESPOT

Fun on the go

Okami unleashes its divinity on the Nintendo Switch and Dead Cells adds a new twist to roguelikes

JULIAN ALMEIDA

OKAMI HD

DEVELOPER: Capcom

PUBLISHER: Capcom

PRICE: ₹1,300 for Nintendo Switch ($19.9)





Dimensional doorways: Images from Okami HD and Dead Cells ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Several games have tried to replicate the soul of Nintendo's Zelda series, and Okami is one game that has come close to that formula.

A unique game that not only bags several awards, but is a modern-day classic, making it to the hall of fame of the best games ever made. Recently released in HD for the Playstation 4, the same HD treatment makes its way to Nintendo's spunky handheld, the Switch, and it is the perfect home for Amaterasu.

What's it about?

Amaterasu is a Japanese sun goddess, and the main character of Okami, who appears in the game as the white wolf Shiranui. Based on folklore, Amaterasu appears to cleanse the land consumed by a dark curse laid down by Orochi. Accompanied by a tiny artist known as Issun, you get to use the celestial brush to draw out evil, pun fully intended.

Released in 2006, Okami proved to the world that games can be works of art. The Playstation 2 sang as it churned out a beautiful world that was one large Sumi-e (a Japanese woodcut watercolour brushwork technique) painting come to life. An art style that has had an impact on Capcom's games to this day, very evident in Street Fighter IV and V, adding movement via ink and brush strokes.

While the art style will leave your jaw on the floor, Okami does drag a lot in places. From its beautiful but annoying intro that you have to sit through, to a few pacing problems in the story. These are minor quibbles though, in comparison to the incredible world that is waiting for you to explore. So all you need to do is just survive that intro.

Exploration and puzzle-solving in Okami is a lot better with the touch celestial brush

How does it play?

Made by legendary game designer Hideki Kamiya, the brains behind Devil May Cry and Bayonetta, Amaterasu's fighting technique has flair and speed. In addition to that, a press of the button brings the celestial brush, which is perfect for the Switch in handheld mode, as you use the touchscreen to draw across enemies. It seems as though the game has been made for a console that launched almost 10 years later.

Exploration and puzzle-solving is a lot better with the touch celestial brush. Though in docked mode, you will need to use the JoyCons. The handheld mode is recommended though, not only because you get to take Amaterasu on your work commute, but also because it addresses one of the biggest problems we had with the HD remake. Due to the art style, on large TVs, the graphics look a bit like you are seeing double, with the cel shading and the brush work adding a bit of a second image. On the handheld screen of the Switch, we did not notice this phenomenon and were able to enjoy the game to its fullest.



Should you get it?

If you own a Nintendo Switch and you're feeling that void after completing Breath of the Wild, then Okami is one game you should dive right into.

DEAD CELLS

DEVELOPER: Motion Twin

PUBLISHER: Motion Twin

PRICE: ₹500 on Steam PC, ₹1,643 on Nintendo Switch ($24)

While Okami was inspired by Zelda, Dead Cells is an Indie game that's inspired by Nintendo's Metroid, combining two enthusiast sub-genres, Metroidvania – games that are like Castlevania and Metroid – and Roguelikes, games that have random generated elements that power their gameplay systems. Add to that a large dollop of Dark Souls, which has an enthusiast genre of its own known as Masocore, masochism+hardcore, and you have quite an interesting formula, and one helluva game.

What's it about?

In Dead Cells, you play a collection of cells. A blob of sentient goo with one purpose, to escape this convoluted, ever-changing prison. After an experiment gone wrong, you take over the nearest dead host body, and have to keep killing other monsters to recover cells that are lost.

Story takes a backseat to a game that is all about its gameplay systems. Dead Cells thinks differently, which is not surprising, coming from Motion Twin, a small game studio that also thinks differently, and recently announced that they are an equal pay worker cooperative. This shows in every cell of Dead Cells.

How does it play?

Dead Cells is the most fun I have had in a side-scroller since Contra or Castlevania or even Metroid. These added subgenres just make this game all the more interesting and fun to play. Usually dying and starting over is perceived as a negative thing in games, but here it is the only way to progress. Every time you die, you may have to start at the beginning, but the entire dungeon has changed and new paths have opened up. The same goes for the weapons and powers you collect along the way.

The action is definitely Dark Souls-like, with its rolling evasion and pattern-based enemies and bosses. It's Souls-Lite though, a lot more enjoyable and less punishing. The best part though, is the action, which is satisfying. The quick sword slashes and the sheer amount of power-ups and weapons make you want to come back to the game again and again. Things do get a bit repetitive in a rinse-and-repeat way, but the developers have got the action right, making it the perfect game to play on-the-go.

The retro pixel graphics and animations are superb and there is a lot on the screen at one time. From enemies exploding in globs of gore, to sparkles off the items and other particle effects, there is a lot going on, but it adds to the sheer energy of the game.

Should you get it?

Dead Cells is an addictive game that is best played in short bursts, and perfect if you have a laptop and want something quick. It's great on the Nintendo Switch also, if you happen to own one.

The writer is a tech and gaming enthusiast who hopes to one day finish his sci-fi novel