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THE HINDU

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NEARBY



Kejriwal seeks restraint order against police

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday issued notice to the police on an application by CM Arvind Kejriwal, his deputy Manish Sisodia and 11 AAP MLAs urging it to restrain the police from leaking content of the chargesheet in the CS assault case to the media.

DELHI METRO ▸ PAGE 1

10 held for vandalising car in Moti Nagar

NEW DELHI

Ten persons, including four juveniles, were apprehended by the police on Monday for vandalising a car in Moti Nagar last week after the vehicle hit a kanwariya, the police said on Tuesday.

DELHI METRO ▸ PAGE 1

137 STUDENTS CLEARED PRELIMS 2018 OUT OF 180
GUARANTEED PRELIMS
EITHER CLEAR OR 100% REFUND
18TH AUGUST | 11 AM
MALUKA'S IAS
51/6, BASEMENT, NEAR KAROL BAGH METRO STN, OLD RAJINDER NAGAR Online classes@www.malukaias.com
9910133084,9718857646 DELHI, CHANDIGARH

OPPORTUNITIES ▸ DELHI METRO PAGE 4
DELHI METRO ▸ 6 PAGES

300 Army personnel move SC against prosecution

We are being persecuted for doing our duty in insurgency-hit areas, they say

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Over 300 Army officers on Tuesday moved the Supreme Court against what they called "persecution" by the court and civilian agencies, like the CBI, for doing their duty in the insurgency-hit areas of Jammu and Kashmir and the northeastern States.

The petition, filed by senior officers at the level of Commanders, comes shortly after the court directed a CBI SIT to file chargesheets, in a time-bound manner, against Army officers involved in the Manipur extra-judicial killings, in which innocents were allegedly killed after being branded as insurgents. The court is monitoring the CBI probe and cases number up to over 1,500.

Hearing on August 20

The petition, filed by Colonel Amit Kumar and several other officers, was mentioned by advocate Aishwarya Bhati before a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, who scheduled the case for August 20.

According to the petition, an "extraordinary circumstance" was prevailing over armed forces personnel fighting in the insurgency-hit areas and the nation's borders. They are plagued by doubts whether performing their duty to fight enemies would expose them to prosecution and land them in jail.

The petition said the Supreme Court's orders and the resultant CBI action against Army personnel had made soldiers jittery. The petitioners said officers like them were finding it difficult to answer their men's questions. "The ongoing situation is demoralising the officers and troops deployed in field areas and fighting in counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir and north-eastern States."

It said the "manner in which the ongoing inquiry is being forced to be speeded up by the court" and chargesheets directed to be filed in a time-bound manner without following the prescribed procedure as per the CBI manual, reflected the "extremely vulnerable state for the officers and troops engaged in these operations."

The officers said, "The extraordinary circumstances in which their colleagues are being persecuted and prosecuted for carrying out their bona fide duties, without making any distinction or determination with regard to act having been done in good faith, without any criminal intent or *mens rea*," compelled them to approach the court.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10
'PERSONAL CAPACITY' ▸ PAGE 10

Turn of events

A backgrounder on the plea by Army officers in the top court

July 2016: SC holds that "there is no concept of absolute immunity from trial by a criminal court" if an Armyman has committed an offence. The judgment came on a plea by hundreds of families in Manipur seeking a probe into 1,528 cases of alleged fake encounters involving the Army and the police

April 2017: The Centre asks the SC to reconsider its July 2016 verdict

February 2018: Lt Col. Karamveer Singh, a Kargil veteran, moves the SC against Jammu and Kashmir for filing an FIR against his son, Major Aditya Kumar, for opening fire at protesters in the Valley killing three people. A CJI-led Bench ordered that no coercive steps be taken against Major Kumar

July 30, 2018: CBI assures the top court that it is doing its best to prosecute persons guilty of the Manipur encounters



August 13, 2018: SC seeks Centre's response to a PIL petition accusing the armed forces of indulging in fake encounters

TEXT: KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The fall and fall of the rupee

The rupee fell to an all-time low on Tuesday. A look at why it happened, intra-day trading figures and highs and lows over the years:

Why it happened

Turkey's central bank has been unable to stop a sharp plunge in the lira, pushing the value of the dollar higher and driving down emerging-market currencies.

- The country's economy has been troubled for years, but the latest crisis was set off by worries over President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's economic policies and a trade dispute with the United States.

What does it mean

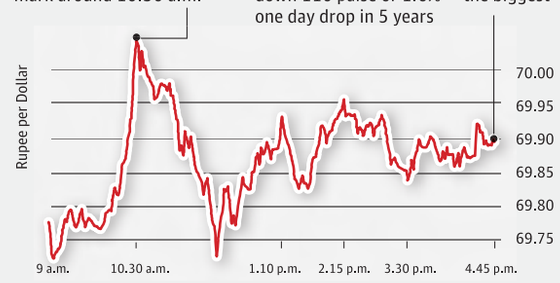
Complicates RBI's job of keeping prices in check, as it makes **imports costlier**

Will make **exports cheaper** for overseas markets

Tuesday's tumble

Rupee breached the 70 mark around 10.30 a.m.

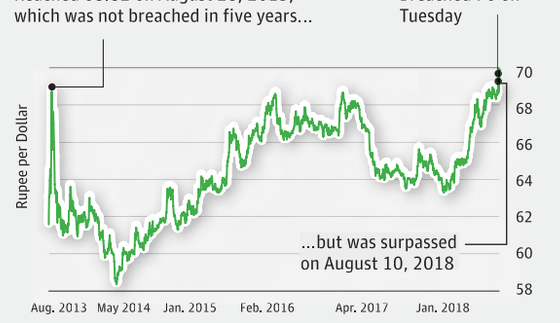
Ended the day at 69.93 per dollar, down 110 paise or 1.6% — the biggest one day drop in 5 years



Over the years

Reached 68.82 on August 28, 2013, which was not breached in five years...

Breached 70 on Tuesday



SOURCE: AGENCIES

Instead of bemoaning its fall, should we view this as the 'Make in India Moment?'
-ANAND MAHINDRA, Industrialist



The Indian rupee just gave the Supreme Leader a vote of no confidence, crashing to a historic low
-RAHUL GANDHI, Congress president



There is nothing to worry about. The rupee is depreciating due to external factors which may ease going forward - SUBHASH CHANDRA GARG, Economic Affairs Secretary



REPORTS ON PAGE 13; EDITORIAL: PAGE 8

Targeted again



On alert: A car crashed into the barriers outside Britain's Parliament in London on Tuesday in a suspected terror attack that injured a "number of pedestrians" close to where five persons were killed last year. The police arrested the driver. ▪ AFP (PAGE 12)

Umar case: police get CCTV footage

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Tuesday said that it has obtained CCTV footage from more than nine locations, showing a man walking and wiping his face with a handkerchief after allegedly attacking JNU student and activist Umar Khalid on Monday.

"We have obtained CCTV footage from more than nine locations along the route taken by the suspect to escape after the attack. The suspect was seen walking on Rafi Marg, then he went towards Gurdwara Bangla Sahib on Ashoka Road. The footages are very clear. We have also asked Umar to come to the police station for investigation purposes," said Madhur Verma, DCP (New Delhi).

DETAILS ON ▸ DELHI METRO PAGE 1

Thoothukudi firing: HC orders CBI probe

Was violence orchestrated, asks Madras High Court Bench

MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Tuesday ordered a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the police firing that claimed 13 lives and left many injured during protests in Thoothukudi on May 22 and 23.

The protesters were demanding the closure of the Vedanta Ltd.-owned Sterlite Copper's smelter plant.

A Division Bench of Justices C.T. Selvam and A.M. Basheer Ahamed passed the order on a batch of 13 writ petitions filed in the Madurai Bench, seeking different reliefs, including a CBI probe.



There are several questions that cry for answers, the Bench said. ▪ N. RAJESH

The verdict was reserved in Madurai on July 31 and delivered at the principal seat of the court.

Justifying its decision, the Bench said there were several questions over the police firing and yet the State had not answered them satisfactorily.

"Were incidents (of violence and firing) orchestrated and if so, by whom is to be looked into," the judges added.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

A free pass to La Liga matches, from Facebook

The social media network will bring the action to fans on all devices, beginning on August 17

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

All the 380 matches of Spain's top-flight football league will be broadcast live free on Facebook in a landmark deal.

In a first-of-a-kind agreement, La Liga and Facebook announced that the hugely popular social media platform will become the official home for all the La Liga Santander matches in the Indian subcontinent.

The three-season deal launches with the 2018/19 campaign kicking off on August 17.

Viewers in the Indian subcontinent will now be able to watch stars such as Lionel Messi, Gareth Bale and a host of La Liga icons on Facebook.

The matches will be available free to people on Facebook in India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

The Facebook community in the eight countries will be able to watch La Liga Santander coverage on a live and on-demand basis via multiple devices. Every match will be available on the official La Liga Facebook page as well as individual club pages, a statement said.

"Now with Facebook, La Liga has broken new ground, signing its first broadcast agreement ever with a social media platform," the announcement said.

Hailing the agreement, La Liga President Javier Tebas said, "We are thrilled to team up with Facebook to bring the millions of La Liga fans in the Indian subcontinent even closer to the action.



Action-packed: Barcelona's Lionel Messi vies with Sevilla's Roque Mesa at the Spanish Super Cup final at Tangiers. ▪ AFP

"La Liga sets the standard for football in the world and we are delighted that more people than ever before will have the opportunity to watch our matches live and for free through Facebook in the region."

Peter Hutton, Facebook Head of Global Live Sports Programming, said, "As home to the two most-followed sports clubs [Real Madrid and FC Barcelona] on Facebook and some of the world's most iconic footballers, La Liga has a huge global presence on our platform.

"Its popularity is notably visible in the Indian subcontinent, so we're delighted to be able to serve the community of fans there with free, live La Liga matches for the next three seasons. We see this as a great opportunity to not only bring people together around world-class football, but also help La Liga reach new audiences."

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DELHI Timings

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
FRIDAY, AUG. 17			
RISE	05:52	SET	18:59
RISE	11:46	SET	23:17

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	34	28
Safdarjang	34	28
Palam	32	27

Delhi Palam Today
34°C One or two spells of moderate rain are likely. Light winds are likely. Sky will be mostly cloudy.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
33°C There are chances of drizzle. Morning will be mild warm. A cloudy sky is likely to persist.

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SP-rank officers to check mob violence, lynching cases in Punjab

The Supreme Court had laid down guidelines for preventive measures

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

In compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court, the Punjab government has designated Superintendent of Police-rank officers as nodal officers for taking measures to prevent incidents of mob violence and lynching.

An official statement said that the Supreme Court in a judgment on July 17, 2018, had laid down guidelines for undertaking preventive, remedial and punitive measures in incidents of mob violence and lynching. "The SP-rank officers have been designated in compliance of the guidelines passed by Supreme Court," added the statement.

"Measures have also been taken to identify district, sub-division or villages where instances of mob violence and lynching had been reported in the recent past," said the statement. It added that directions have been issued to all concerned to ensure that officer in charge of the police station of the identified areas be extra cautious if such instances come to their notice.

Being sensitised

"The police are being sensitised to respond to such situations immediately to eradicate hostile environment against any caste or community which may be targeted in such incidents," added the statement.

Senior govt. official shot dead in Patna

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA

A senior government official was shot dead allegedly by unidentified persons inside his official residence here on Tuesday morning, the police said. The assailants reached the house of Rajeev Kumar (50), an Under Secretary in the State Department of Planning, at 4 a.m., had an altercation with him and then shot him, DSP (Sachivalay) Rajesh Singh Prabhakar said.

Human chain formed on Rajasthan border

As a tribute to the martyrs

MOHAMMED IQBAL
JAIPUR

A record 700-km-long human chain was formed in Rajasthan's four border districts - Barmer, Jaisalmer, Bikaner and Sriganganagar - on Tuesday as a tribute to the martyrs on the eve of the Independence Day.

About 5 lakh people participated in the initiative by forming the chain along the roads parallel to the India-Pakistan border.

Organised by govt.

The event was organised by the State government as part of its 'Shahadat Ko Salam' (A salute to martyrdom) programme to pay homage to the soldiers who laid down their lives for the country. Citizens carrying the National Tricolour joined hands to form the chain and raised slogans hailing the martyrs. They also released balloons.

Youths, scouts and guides, students, government employees, Army personnel and the public at large formed the chain, which was inspected by



Vasundhara Raje. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje from a helicopter.

According to the official sources, Ms. Raje visited the Army's War Museum in Jaisalmer and showered rose petals on the participants from her chopper.

As the event ended with the rendition of the National Anthem in the afternoon, a separate programme to pay tributes to the martyrs was organised at Amar Jawan Jyoti in Jaipur.

Senior civil and Army officers placed wreaths at the memorial, while the students and the Rajasthan Police Academy's central band presented patriotic songs.

No withdrawal of riot cases: Muzaffarnagar DM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government's move to withdraw the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riot cases has hit a roadblock with the local district administration opposing it on administrative grounds.

The government, which had elicited the views of the administration on the riot cases, has been told by Muzaffarnagar District Magistrate Rajiv Sharma that it was not right on administrative grounds.

"We have probed all aspects of the cases and have sent a report to the government... We have also given our views on the basis of the police and prosecution reports that withdrawal of cases would not be right from the administrative point of view," Mr. Sharma said.

Some senior BJP lawmakers, among others, have been named in several cases related to the 2013 riots in Muzaffarnagar and Shamli. The move to withdraw the cases was set in motion in February last year after a BJP delegation met U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

BJP MLA Sangeet Som, also named in the case, said that justice would be done. "The fake cases framed during the then Samajwadi Party government will be withdrawn."

The Adityanath government had written to the district officials, asking them for a detailed report on the status of cases against BJP leaders accused of making provocative speeches and inciting riots in Muzaffarnagar in 2013. The lawmakers have been accused of violating prohibitory orders and stopping public servants from doing their duties.

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Heavy rain forecast in Odisha districts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR

Independence Day celebrations are likely to be marred by adverse weather conditions in Odisha on Wednesday with the Meteorological Department on Tuesday forecasting very heavy rain accompanied by lightning in several districts of the State over the next two days.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who reviewed the situation during the day, directed the District Collectors to remain prepared to tackle emergencies. He also asked the authorities to ensure that students participating in the Independence Day celebrations do not face any difficulty.

Letter issued

In the evening, the State government's Home Department issued a letter to all Revenue Divisional Commissioners and District Collectors informing them that observation of Independence Day parades be restricted to police and paramilitary contingents only.

Security beefed up in Northeast

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUWAHATI/KOHIMA

Security has been beefed up in Assam, Nagaland and Meghalaya to ensure a peaceful and violence-free Independence Day celebrations on Wednesday.

Assam Director General of Police Kuladhar Saikia on Tuesday said a multilayer security arrangement has been put in place across parade grounds after receiving inputs of militant movements on the eve of Independence Day.

Militant movements

"We have got inputs of militant movements in a few districts, mostly the border ones with other States. The district SPs have been asked to give organised multilayered security system in and around the parade grounds in the State," Mr. Saikia said.

"Night dominations have been ensured by joint teams of security forces across these places. Apart from these, regular patrolling have also been intensified," he added.

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IN BRIEF



E.P. Jayarajan back in Kerala Cabinet

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

CPI(M) central committee member E.P. Jayarajan was sworn in as Minister in the Pinarayi Vijayan Cabinet on Tuesday. Governor P. Sathasivam administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Jayarajan at the Raj Bhavan. Mr. Jayarajan resigned in 2016 after a controversy over the appointment of a close relative to a State public sector undertaking.

Overwhelming response to Amaravati bonds

VIJAYAWADA

The Amaravati bonds issued by the AP Capital Region Development Authority witnessed overwhelming response from institutional investors on Tuesday. The bonds, issued to raise funds for construction of the Capital city of Amaravati, got oversubscribed by 1.5 times on the electronic bidding platform of the BSE.

A.P. man found dead in Bangkok swimming pool

MACHILIPATNAM

Pallampati Venkatesh, 32, was found dead in a swimming pool in a hotel in Bangkok on Sunday. A native of Machilipatnam, Hyderabad-based Venkatesh was one of the five members deputed on a project by his company, DHFL, early this month. Sources said it could be a case of drowning.

Medical waste from Kerala reaches Colombo

COLOMBO

After residents and fisher folk of Puttalam district, some 140 km north of Colombo, reported sighting medical waste along their coast, Sri Lankan authorities who inspected the spot said the items originated from Kerala.

Mahadayi tribunal allows Karnataka to divert water

Goa had opposed this on the grounds that it required water for its own needs

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Karnataka has been allowed to divert 2.18 tmcft of water at the proposed Bhandura dam and 1.72 tmcft at the Kalasa dam for providing water to North Karnataka, according to a recommendation by the Mahadayi Water Tribunal (MWT). Goa has historically been opposed to such a diversion on the grounds that it needed this water for its own purposes as well maintaining ecological flow.

The three-member body, headed by Justice J.M. Panchal, submitted its report to Union Water Resources Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday afternoon. The tribunal was constituted in 2010 to equitably allot Mahadayi water among Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra.



Wait ends: Farmers and activists celebrating in Hubballi on Tuesday after the tribunal's announcement. ▪ KIRAN BAKALE

According to Tuesday's order, Maharashtra has been allowed to use 1.33 tmcft – for drinking water and irrigation – and Goa, a maximum of 24 tmcft for 59 proposed projects. This will be over and above Goa's existing utilisation of 9.39 tmcft. So far only 5% of the water of the Mahadayi is being utilised. The MWT has also allowed Karnataka to utilise an additional 1.5 tmcft for "in-basin consumptive use" but asked it to pare down the scope of the Kotni Hydro Project to ensure that it utilises no more than 8 tmcft. Demands by Karnataka for using nearly 12 tmcft were rejected by the tribunal.

The water sharing would have to be overseen by Central government agencies or a Mahadayi Water Management Authority, that according to the tribunal, could be framed on the lines of the recently constituted Cauvery Management Board.

Plan revision

The tribunal, while specifying the allocations, has said that all three States had to revise existing plans – be they irrigation projects or hydro power. It has stated that the demands by Goa, Maharashtra and Karnataka for future use of the Mahadayi waters weren't "fully justified" as they were "...not based on adequate and consistent data/information..," and weren't based on "scientific" principles.

The tribunal recommendations ought to be adhered to until August 2048.

Rahul lashes out at Modi, KCR

'Wedded to the Congress'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Criticising the Narendra Modi-led BJP government at the Centre and the K. Chandrasekhar Rao-led Telangana government for not fulfilling the promises made to the people before the election, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday asserted that his party would focus on addressing the problems faced by youth, students, farmers and other sections. Their problems had compounded ever since the two governments took over the reins.

Rafale deal

At a public meeting here, Mr. Gandhi alleged that the Modi government was steeped in corruption with deals like Rafale, while the TRS government was equally guilty of denying youth the aspirations for which they fought for the separate State.

He drew comparisons between Mr. Modi and Mr. Rao, claiming that "a designer sitting in New Delhi is ably supported by the redesigner in Telangana in the loot of money from common man. Redesign is the new name of corruption and loot of public money."

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday remarked that he was wedded to the party. The remarks came during an interaction with editors, in response to a question about his marriage plans.

Mr. Gandhi said Narendra Modi would not become the Prime Minister in 2019.

He predicted that the BJP would not even get 230 seats in the next Lok Sabha. The reduced tally would be primarily due to the alliance among non-BJP parties in U.P. and Bihar, he said.

Gauri killers charged under KCOCA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Special Investigation Team has invoked the stringent Karnataka Control of Organised Crime Act (KCOCA) against the accused in the murder of activist and journalist, Gauri Lankesh. "Given the gravity of the case, we have decided to invoke Section 3 of the KCOCA, which attracts the death penalty or life imprisonment," said a senior police officer.

The accused would not be granted bail, said a senior police officer.

So far, the SIT has arrested 12 persons in the case.

Wayanad cut off as Kerala braces for more rain

Overflowing Pampa maroons Sabarimala temple staff

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

With weather conditions turning favourable for the formation of a depression in the Bay of Bengal, flood-ravaged Kerala hunkered down on Tuesday for another pounding from the monsoon.

Since morning, various parts of the State, especially the two hilly districts of Wayanad and Idukki, have been lashed by heavy rain. The picturesque Munnar town in Idukki was almost cut off and traffic was disrupted after two shutters of the Mattupetti dam were opened as the water level rose.

A series of landslips occurred in Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod districts. Traffic along the ghat road from Kozhikode to Wayanad was disrupted after a section of the road collapsed.

One person was crushed to death after a tree fell on him in Thrissur and one person was reported missing in floodwaters in Wayanad district.

A weather report from the Met Department said the well-marked low pressure area over northwest Bay of Bengal off the West Bengal-north Odisha coasts with associated cyclonic circulation was likely to concentrate into a depression over the next 48 hours.

The Met Centre here has issued a warning that heavy to very heavy rain is likely to occur at some places in Kerala till August 15, followed by heavy rain from August 16 to 18. Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea off the Karnataka and north Kerala coasts and over southwest and central Arabian Sea.



Unending woes: A man guarding his flooded house in Eloor, Ernakulam, on Tuesday. ▪ THULASI KAKKAT.

Onam celebrations called off

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government has decided to call off the State-sponsored Onam Week celebrations and divert the allocation to the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund to help the victims of the recent floods.

Briefing the media after a meeting of the Cabinet on Tuesday, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said it would not have been appropriate to go ahead with the celebrations at a time when the devastating floods had left a large number of people struggling to cope with heavy losses.

Mr. Vijayan said 444 villages had been declared flood-affected. The initial assessment of the losses caused by the recent spell of monsoon was pegged at ₹8,316 crore.

As many as 38 people were reported dead in rain-related incidents and four missing.

Many parts of Wayanad, Idukki, Kozhikode, Kannur and Malappuram districts were put on high alert for flash floods and landslips after heavy rain hit the hilly areas on Tuesday.

Dam gates reopened

Sluice gates in most of the irrigation and hydel dams were opened further to increase the outflow, following incessant rain in the catchment areas. All five shutters of the Cheruthoni dam were opened again and residents downstream were alerted.

The shutters of the Banasurasagar dam in Wayanad were opened to a record high as the water level in the reservoir crossed the 137-ft mark. Munnar, Muthirapuzha, Kallarkutty and Lower Periyar areas were put on alert after all the shutters of the Mattupetty dam were raised.

Employees of the Travancore Devaswom Board and temple staff were marooned at the foothills of Sabarimala as the Pampa river overflowed its banks, submerging two bridges.

Devotees who turned up for the pilgrimage were turned back by policemen on duty.

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IN BRIEF



Four kanwariyas killed, two hurt in road mishap

SASARAM

Four *kanwariyas* were killed and two others injured when a truck hit them in Bihar's Rohtas district on Tuesday, the police said. The incident happened on GT road when the kanwariyas were returning to their home in Bhojpur after offering holy water at Guptadham in Rohtas. The deceased have been identified as Ram Ratan, Dev Kumar, Mukesh and Amitabh. PTI

8 identified in lynching of man over theft suspicion

MUZAFFARNAGAR

At least eight more people have been identified in connection with the lynching of a man in Muzaffarnagar district last week. The victim, Kapil Tyagi, was beaten to death by a mob in Bijopura village on suspicion of being a thief. Vikas, one of the accused in police net, has identified eight more people, a police officer said. PTI

35-yr-old gets life in jail for raping minor

KOTA (RAJASTHAN)

A special POCSO court in Kota has sentenced a 35-year-old man to life imprisonment and imposed a penalty of ₹50,000 for raping a nine-year old girl. Special judge of POCSO court Girish Aggrawal on Monday convicted Vijay Mehara, a resident of Rojdi village, to life in jail till natural death after finding him guilty of raping the girl three years ago. PTI

Body of Delhi woman found in canal in U.P.

MUZAFFARNAGAR

The body of a 40-year-old woman who went missing two days ago was found in the Yamuna canal in Shamli district, the police said on Tuesday. The woman, Shahida, a resident of Khajuri Khas in New Delhi, had gone missing from her daughter's house in Saharanpur district on August 11. PTI

Jaipur man back from Pak. after 36 yrs

68-year-old Gajanand Sharma reunites with family after his release from Lahore jail ahead of I-Day

MOHAMMED IQBAL
JAIPUR

After spending 36 years in Lahore's Kot Lakhpat jail, Gajanand Sharma, a labourer from Jaipur's Samod area, returned home to a tumultuous welcome on Tuesday night, bringing solace to his wife, sons and grandchildren who had lost hope of finding him alive.

Mr. Sharma, 68, had crossed the Wagah border on Monday after being released by Pakistan. He was among the 29 prisoners released by the neighbouring country as a goodwill gesture ahead of its Independence Day, following sustained efforts by a group of Indian politicians.



Grand welcome: Gajanand Sharma with his family members at his home in Jaipur on Tuesday. ▪ ROHIT JAIN PARAS

Faded memories

Mr. Sharma's family members and neighbours burst firecrackers and garlanded the frail man, as he alighted from an SUV, looked around in daze and tried to identify the people.

"This is all so bright... I am confused. Take me home," a bewildered Mr. Sharma murmured incoherently, as the accompanying people gave him support to walk into the narrow alley at Fateh Ram Ka Tiba in Brahampuri area of the Walled City here. Asked how he landed in Pakistan after he went missing in 1982, all he could say was: "It was probably a mistake."

Mr. Sharma was brought to Jaipur via Hanumangarh by road. He was first taken to the house of Jaipur MP Ramchanra Bohra who had taken up his case with the Ministry of External Affairs and pushed for his early release.

In an atmosphere of jubilation, Mr. Sharma's wife Makhni Devi (65) touched his feet and garlanded him. Ms. Devi, who struggled and took up odd jobs to raise her two sons, said she had a belief that she was not a widow.

The family was informed by the police on May 4 this year that Mr. Sharma was in Pakistan. The Superintendent of Police (Jaipur Rural) had received documents for verification of his nationality. The police and intelligence agencies traced his family, which had shifted from Samod's Maharkalan village to Brahampuri here, and informed them about the official communication for confirming his citizenship.

New generation

As Mr. Sharma reunited with his family, his daughter-in-law Santosh said she would introduce him to each of his grandchildren, whom he had never seen. "When he left his sons were 12 and 13 years old. Since then, a new generation has been born," she said. Granddaughter Muskan said all the children would take care of him and help him regain his health.

A huge crowd of youth, mostly members of the Navdurga Yuva Mandal, raised slogans in support of the BJP, as Mr. Bohra, Hawa Mahal constituency MLA Surendra Pareek and local Municipal Councillor Sneh Lata Pareek accompanied Mr. Sharma. Mr. Bohra said Mr. Sharma was sentenced to two months in prison, but he languished in the Pakistani jail for a long period because he did not have consular access.

Mr. Sharma is not able to walk properly and his physical and mental condition is not good.

Green activist opposes water aerodrome project in Chilika

Says it will affect fishermen's livelihood, keep off birds

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

Green Nobel prize winner environmental activist Prafulla Samantara said his organisation Lok Shakti Abhiya will oppose the proposed water aerodrome project in Chilika lake at national and international forums.

Speaking to media persons in Berhampur on Tuesday, Mr. Samantara said he and his organisation will also unite and organise the fishermen living on Chilika coast to protest against the project that can affect their livelihood. He has already written to State Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik urging him to prevent the implementation of this aerodrome project in Chilika lake.



Prafulla Samantara

According to Mr. Samantara, the Chilika lagoon is a unique brackish water body that is visited by lakhs of migratory birds. It also comes under the RAMSAR convention declaration on the natural wetlands of international importance. "No project should be taken up in Chilika lake that can affect its biodiversity and have negative impact on the livelihood of thousands of families depending on it," he said.

In-principle nod

Last week, the proposed amphibian airport project in Chilika lake got in-principle nod from the Central government. Mr. Samantara said the project because of sound pollution will dissuade migratory birds from coming to Chilika. It will also affect the fish and other marine life in the lake, thereby affecting the livelihood of the fishermen.

M.P. man gets death for sodomising, killing boy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DATIA (M.P.)

A court in Madhya Pradesh has awarded death sentence to a 20-year-old man for sodomising and killing a 13-year-old boy.

Datia's Special Judge Hitendra Dwivedi awarded the punishment to Nand Kishore on Monday. The case of a 15-year-old co-accused was transferred to a juvenile court, public prosecutor Pushpendra Kumar Garg said. The prosecutor told the court that Kishore, along with the minor co-accused, lured the victim, a resident of Bijasen Muhalla in Datia, on March 2 this year on the pretext of buying him colours for Holi.

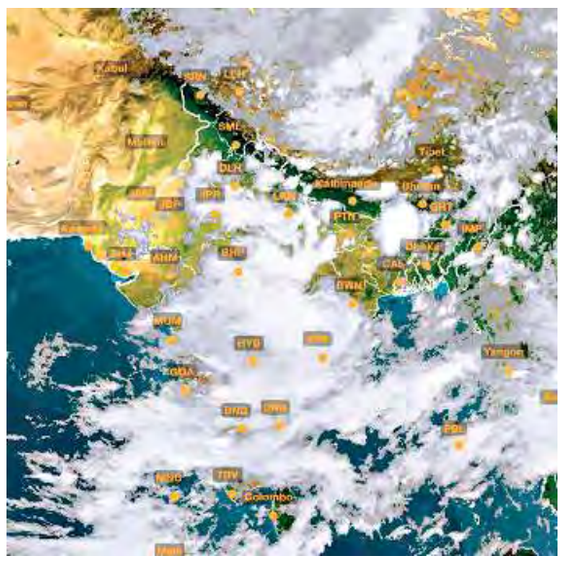
They took the victim to a deserted place and then sodomised him. Later, the accused killed the victim and disposed of the body in a canal on the city's outskirts, the prosecution said.

After killing the boy, the accused called his family and sought a ransom of ₹1 lakh. They told the family that they would kill the boy if the money was not paid.

Acting on a complaint lodged by the victim's family members, the police arrested both the accused two days after the incident and based on their information recovered the body, the prosecution said. The judge held Kishore guilty under IPC Sections 364 (A) (kidnapping for ransom), 302 (murder) and 377 (unnatural offence), and relevant provisions of POCSO Act.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.30 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy/very heavy rain is likely at isolated/few places over Assam, Meghalaya, gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, west Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, east Madhya Pradesh, Konkan & Goa, central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	4.2	36.2	26.4	Kozhikode	86	26.0	23.0
Ahmedabad	–	32.8	26.1	Kurnool	13.4	32.2	24.0
Aizwal	46	29.9	13.2	Lucknow	69.2	32.6	24.0
Allahabad	0.2	34.7	27.0	Madurai	–	35.2	26.6
Bengaluru	4.8	25.7	19.6	Mangaluru	21.6	26.0	22.1
Bhopal	–	29.8	24.0	Mumbai	6.1	30.2	24.6
Bhubaneswar	47.6	29.6	25.3	Mysuru	2.6	25.8	18.8
Chandigarh	21.2	34.0	26.2	New Delhi	0.7	35.3	27.9
Chennai	2.5	33.4	26.0	Patna	–	34.6	26.1
Coimbatore	1.4	29.0	23.2	Port Blair	6.8	30.2	25.5
Dehradun	4.2	32.8	23.8	Puducherry	2.7	33.6	23.8
Gangtok	0.6	24.4	17.5	Pune	5	27.3	21.8
Goa	6	30.8	25.5	Raipur	–	31.3	25.1
Guwahati	1.1	35.8	25.4	Ranchi	9	30.4	23.5
Hubballi	–	25.0	21.0	Shillong	2.6	25.8	17.8
Hyderabad	7.1	29.0	22.4	Shimla	35.2	23.1	15.1
Imphal	–	29.0	23.0	Srinagar	–	28.1	17.3
Jaipur	0.4	34.5	24.2	Trivandrum	23	30.5	24.2
Kochi	11	29.0	23.8	Tiruchi	–	34.8	27.0
Kohima	2.2	27.0	18.8	Vijayawada	19.8	29.9	24.2
Kolkata	14.6	33.6	27.1	Visakhapatnam	33.4	30.4	25.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	54	.64	17	71	.....–	....
Bengaluru	..9	.28	84	47	...87	....
Chennai	10	.24	49	..101	.....–	....
Delhi	13	.28	44	81	.216	....
Hyderabad	..2	.92	16	22	...32	....
Kolkata	..2	.36	62	22	...28	....
Lucknow	..9	.73	91	32	.....–	....
Mumbai	14	.26	46	..162	...58	....
Pune	35	.13	50	44	...26	....
Vishakhapatnam	..–	..–	44	..... –	.....–	....–

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Jodhpur, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 160 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 27

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

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

IN BRIEF



Court summons Jindal in money laundering case

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday summoned industrialist and Congress leader Naveen Jindal and 14 others in a money laundering case related to a coal block case. Taking cognisance of the complaint in the matter filed by the Enforcement Directorate, special judge Bharat Parashar directed the accused to appear before the court on October 15.

Australia lifts ban on adoptions from India

NEW DELHI

Australia has lifted a ban on adoption of children from India, imposed eight years ago after a major trafficking scandal was exposed. The easing of restrictions follows protracted talks between the governments of the two countries for the past two years.

CJI launches mobile apps for e-filing of cases

NEW DELHI

In a "giant leap" towards a litigant-friendly court system, Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra on Tuesday heralded the launch of a host of smartphone apps to help litigants, including convicts, from all parts of the country file cases and even make e-payments to courts.

Rajinikanth ignorant of politics: Jayakumar

CHENNAI

Fisheries Minister D. Jayakumar said on Tuesday that actor Rajinikanth was ignorant about Tamil Nadu politics. He was alluding to the actor's observation that the portrait of the late DMK president M. Karunanidhi should be placed alongside that of AIADMK founder M.G. Ramachandran at the ruling party's events.

1,575 sexually abused children are now in shelter homes: Centre to SC

What have you done about them, Bench asks ASG

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that a survey of 9,589 child care institutions across the country found that 1,575 inmates suffered sexual abuse before they were rescued and placed in these homes.

"What have you done about these kids? If there are 1,575 boys and girls who suffered sexual abuse, what have you done?" Justice Madan B. Lokur asked Additional Solicitor General Pinky Anand, appearing for the Centre.

Ms. Anand said the Centre had shared the survey conducted by Childline India Foundation with the States concerned, but nothing further happened.

"Which State did not take action? What did you do about it? So nothing has been done for these 1,575 boys and girls and they continue to be sexually abused?" Justice Lokur, heading a Bench also comprising Justices S. Abdul Nazeer and Deepak Gupta, reacted.

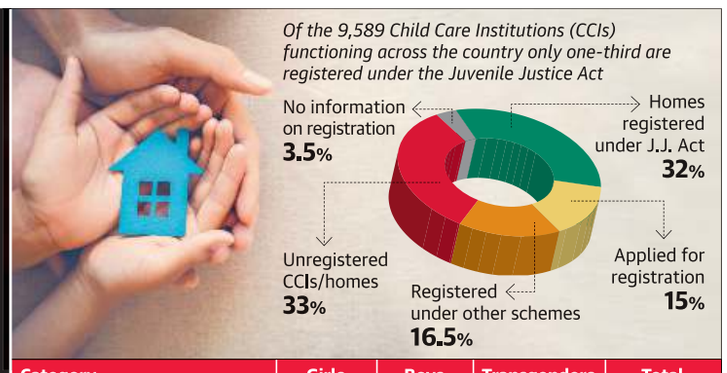
"We cannot shut our eyes to what is happening around us and what is being reported in newspapers," Justice Gupta observed orally.

The survey took two years from December 2015 till March 2017 and was submitted to the Union Social Justice Ministry.

There is a national social audit of child care homes being conducted by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). This audit, Ms. Anand said, would be completed by October 2018. She said 3,500 shelter homes for children across the country had already been audited.

In need of care

The Childline India Foundation survey maps childcare institutions and the background of the minor inmates residing in them. The survey report is part of the Centre's affidavit submitted in the Supreme Court on August 14



Category	Girls	Boys	Transgenders	Total
Children who suffered abuse	1,286	286	3	1,575
Victims of pornography	40	149	-	189
Number of orphans	19,427	22,264	40	41,731
Children in need of care	1,69,726	1,98,449	92	3,68,267

Active evaluation

Justice Gupta said the audit should not be just about collecting statistics but an "active evaluation" of the conditions of the children in the homes. "Talk to the children. See if they are happy or unhappy," Justice Gupta addressed the Centre.

Several children, who were sexually and physically abused, were recently rescued from State government-funded homes in Bihar. The court is monitoring the rehabilitation of the child victims.

The survey, which is part of the Centre's affidavit submitted in the Supreme Court on Tuesday, shows that Childline India Foundation mapped 9,589 Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and found that the total number of children found to be in need of care and protection was 3,68,267. Of these, 1,98,449 were boys, 1,69,726 were girls and 92 transgenders.

Official held in Bihar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

A district probation officer at Hajipur in Bihar's Vaisahli district was arrested on Tuesday in connection with the alleged sexual abuse of girls living in a short-stay home.

The inmates have alleged sexual and mental abuse by the accused, Manmohan Prasad, who also warned them not to reveal his activities to anyone.

TISS had to breach 'culture of silent fear' in Bihar shelters

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

"There is really no such thing as 'voiceless', there are only the deliberately silenced, or the preferably unheard." With this quote of writer Arundhati Roy, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) began its 100-page social audit report, which has exposed the sexual and physical abuse of girls living in shelter and short-stay homes in Bihar.

Administrative gaps

With explicit details of the trauma of the victims, the report concluded that "administrative and procedural gaps" have affected the functioning of the shelter homes.

"...there are financial constraints like low budgetary provisions and delayed release of funds, untrained staff, inadequate staff sanction, crucial positions not being filled for a long time, poor monitoring, absence of a clear accountability framework, etc... the findings have clearly brought out administrative and procedural gaps affecting the functioning of the institutions," said the report in its conclusive part.

> **Violence emerged as the most prominent factor outlining the nature of the institutions...**
>
> TISS REPORT

The TISS team is now said to be assisting the Bihar government in developing guidelines and framework to "ensure better accountability and improve the quality of services, security and safety of the inmates."

The report further said that "violence emerged as the most prominent factor outlining the nature of the institutions... institutions like short-stay homes and child care came out as more vulnerable as the scope for exercising control grows with these populations due to their custodial nature... probably the most dangerous aspect of this is the acceptance of violence as normal."

It also pointed out that "a culture of silent fear was sensed to be prevailing in the shelter homes and it took us more time than usual to get the residents to speak at all."

"We deal with humans who are inherently independent, with independent minds and capabilities, and this fact must not be forgotten at any point of time... the first and foremost requirement to begin the process of reforming these institutions must begin from the acceptance of this fact," suggested the report on its last page.

'Pleaded with CM for burial space for Kalaignar at Marina'

Stalin says EPS did not oblige

B. KOLAPPAN
CHENNAI



M.K. Stalin ▪ PTI

DMK working president M.K. Stalin on Tuesday turned emotional and said if the Madras High Court had not granted a favourable verdict to bury party patriarch M.Karunanidhi's mortal remains by the side of his mentor C. N. Annadurai on the Marina, the situation would have led to "my burial near *Kalaignar* (Karunanidhi)".

Addressing the party's emergency executive meeting convened to condole the death of Karunanidhi, Mr. Stalin said when doctors had given up hope on his survival, he set aside his honour and pleaded with Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami, holding his hands, to allot space near Anna mausoleum for his burial.

"I told him (Mr. Palaniswami) that it was the wish of our leader (to be buried next to Anna memorial). We want to fulfil it and you please support our efforts. But he did not agree," Mr. Stalin said.

He said even though senior leaders advised him against meeting the Chief Minister, he decided to go to his house since "it was Kalaignar's wish to be buried near Anna's memorial."

"The Chief Minister told us that the rules did not permit it and the legal opinion was also not in favour (of burial at Marina). I told him that the legal advisers would only reflect the government's stand, because we had also run the government. He was keen on sending us away and merely said he would 'see'," Mr. Stalin said.

Later, Chief Secretary Girija Vaidyanathan issued a statement denying a place for Karunanidhi at the Marina.

Testing times

He said the DMK went through testing times when it had to fight for the party flag and symbol before the Election Commission (after MDMK leader Vaiko's expulsion).

"(Then) our leader had told me that if the party failed to get the symbol and flag it would lead to his burial near Anna's memorial," Mr. Stalin said, adding that the same situation would have happened to him if the court had decided against allocation of space at the Marina.

Mr. Stalin said the party's advocates led by former Assistant Solicitor General P. Wilson deserved all the credit for winning the case. "*Kalaignar* has won all the struggles he launched. Even after his death he won the battle," he said

Mr. Stalin said he wanted to win the Assembly elections even when *Kalaignar* was alive and pledged to submit the victory at his feet. "I was not able to fulfil my promise," he said and called upon the party cadre to work tirelessly to uphold the principles of the late leader.

On a personal front, he said, "I have not only lost my leader but also my father."

Christian women bat for equality

JYOTI SHELAR
MUMBAI

About 90 Christian women came together for the first time to discuss a subject close to their hearts: gender equality in the church.

The two-day convention organised by the Indian Christian Women's Movement in Pune concluded on Monday, with them deciding to work towards an equal position in the church.

"We don't have a say in the decision-making of the church. We are aiming at gender equality as equal disciples and inclusion at the decision-making table," said Sister Noella deSouza, national convenor of the ICWM.

'Male leadership'

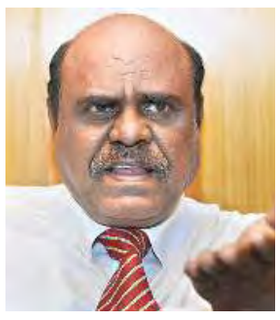
Among the many topics that were discussed at the forum included the allegations of sexual abuse involving the clergy.

"Not only in the church, we need to strongly condemn sexual abuse anywhere in the country. We do feel that the male leadership in the church may be responsible for the inadequate response to such cases", said Sister Shalini Mulackal, a theology teacher at the Vidyajyoti College of Theology in Delhi.

Justice Karnan refuses to vacate flat

'Want to continue to stay here'

STAFF REPORTER
KOLKATA



C.S. Karnan

Refusing to vacate his flat in Kolkata, former Calcutta High Court judge C.S. Karnan has written to the Registrar General of the High Court after receiving an eviction notice from the West Bengal Housing Department.

Justice Karnan argued that he cannot be removed from the flat as his order against eight Supreme Court judges which was issued from the flat, then serving as a "make-shift-court", is yet to be executed.

However, he did not directly state in his letter that he will not vacate the flat, but only said that he wants to continue to stay there.

The former judge was released last December after serving an SC-ordered six-month prison term for 'contempt of court'. He retired on June 12, 2017.

"The said order has been passed from my above mentioned premise cum make-shift-court. Therefore, until the execution of said order against the ...judges, I want to continue at the said complex...," stated Justice Karnan in his letter.

He also said that he will pay the rent and is even prepared to purchase the flat if the owner is willing to do so.

In his letter to the Secretary of Judicial Department, the Engineer-in-Chief of the Housing Department wrote that the owner of the flat, currently occupied by Justice Karnan, wants it to be vacated so that it can be sold off.

However, the order referred to by Justice Karnan was issued on August 8, 2017 after he was barred by the Supreme Court from performing any administrative or judicial work on February 8, 2017.

SC order

In its judgment on May 9, 2017 the seven-judge Bench of the Supreme Court described Justice Karnan's allegations against judges of the Supreme Court and judges of the Madras High Court as "obnoxious."

Hackers steal ₹94 cr. from Pune bank

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PUNE

Hackers siphoned off more than ₹94 crore through a malware attack on the server of Pune-based Cosmos Bank and by cloning thousands of the bank's debit cards over a period of two days, a top official said.

The fraudulent transactions were carried out on August 11 and August 13, while the malware attack by the hackers originated in Canada, Cosmos Bank chairman Milind Kale told reporters here on Tuesday.

"In two days, hackers withdrew a total ₹78 crore from various ATMs in 28 countries, including Canada, Hong Kong and a few ATMs in India, and another ₹2.5 crore were taken out within India," he said.

On August 13, hackers again transferred ₹13.92 crore to a Hong Kong-based bank by using fraudulent transactions.

He said the malware attack was on the switch which is operative for payment gateways of Visa and Rupay debit cards.

Mr. Kale, however, said the cooperative bank's core banking system was not affected, adding that it had appointed a forensic agency to investigate the fraud.

Railways plan new timetable to cut delays

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Amid increasing complaints by travellers about trains being delayed, the Ministry of Railways has planned to come out with a re-worked timetable on August 15.

The new timetable is expected to address the punctuality issue by taking into account delays caused due to maintenance works, leading to increased running time.

The new timetable – Trains at a Glance (TAG) – also includes five new trains to be introduced soon – the Antyodaya Express, 2 Uday Express trains and 2 Tejas Express trains.

"A careful analysis of the reasons for loss of punctuality has been carried out for trains regularly running late and necessary changes in the time table have been incorporated to improve punctuality," a said.

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

Currency crossfire

The weakening rupee is an opportunity to boost exports

For the Indian rupee, already grappling with high crude oil prices and the growing heft of the U.S. dollar, the latest shock has come from a most unexpected quarter. The currency, which was valued at 63.84 to the dollar at the end of 2017, briefly crossed the 70-mark in early trading on Tuesday, on account of the fall in the Turkish lira. The lira has slipped 40% against the U.S. dollar this year, but a bulk of that decline took place over just two days (16% last Friday and another 6.7% on Monday). There are many factors at play for Turkey's currency crisis, including its standoff with the U.S. The Trump administration has just sanctioned Turkey's Justice and Interior Ministers and plans to double punitive tariffs on steel and aluminium imports from the NATO member-country. Relations between the U.S. and Turkey are tense, with Washington refusing to hand over an Islamic cleric charged by the Recep Tayyip Erdoğan government of masterminding the failed military coup in 2016. A few days ago, a potential bilateral deal to end Turkey's continued detention of an American pastor and the incarceration by the U.S. of a Turkish banker collapsed. Beyond the bilateral consequences, the crash of the lira has had a ripple effect on most emerging market currencies, catching policymakers off guard. The South African rand, for instance, on Monday had its biggest single-day fall in a decade.

In contrast, the rupee's fall from about ₹68.5 to ₹70 appears minor. The stock markets, which tumbled on Monday as the currency weakened, seemed to take the rupee's slide in their stride on Tuesday, with the Sensex rising by half a percentage point. There is in fact no need to panic on account of the rupee. Barring the gradual decline in its value this year, the Indian currency has been fairly stable over 2016 and 2017; with inflation being higher than in developed countries, its purchasing power at home has been falling. As former Chief Economic Adviser Kaushik Basu said last week, the rupee's correct value may be closer to 70-71 to the dollar, and achieving that level will boost job-creating sectors like exports that have severely underperformed in recent years. In addition, with foreign exchange reserves currently around $400 billion, India is comfortably placed. With both consumer and wholesale price inflation easing in July, the Reserve Bank of India, which has only intervened sparingly in the forex market so far, may have room to hold off on a growth-debilitating rate hike in October. The global flight to safety towards the Japanese yen and the U.S. dollar and the prospect of higher oil prices remain risks. But India is better-placed than most other emerging economies to use this tumult as an opportunity, instead of seeing it as a calamity.

Siege of Ghazni

The Taliban assault on the city could alter the balance in Afghanistan's civil war

The massive Taliban assault on the strategically important Ghazni city in southeastern Afghanistan has exposed the vulnerabilities of Afghan troops once again. If the city falls, it could alter the balance in the stalemated war, rendering the government in Kabul more vulnerable. Ghazni is about 150 km from Kabul, and is close to a major highway connecting the capital to the south, the Taliban's stronghold. Some neighbouring provinces border the tribal areas of Pakistan, from where militants travel freely to and from Afghanistan. The assault was not unexpected. For months, Taliban fighters have been surrounding the city, and had even started collecting taxes on its outskirts. Yet, the government failed to make the first move, boost the city's defences or prepare it for the eventual assault. On August 10, when about 1,000 Taliban fighters advanced into Ghazni, the security forces did not put up a strong enough fight. They retreated to defend the main government buildings, allowing the militants to take positions elsewhere. They are now fighting back, with help from the U.S. Air Force. But since the assault began, and with at least 100 security personnel and over 20 civilians dead, government troops are yet to make any major progress in beating back the Taliban.

Curiously, the attack has happened at a time when the Afghan and U.S. governments have been pushing for talks with the Taliban. Recently, American diplomats met Taliban representatives in Doha, and Kabul was preparing for a second ceasefire after a brief truce by both sides for Id. The Taliban's strategy, as it is emerging, is to make maximum military gains before entering into talks. On the other side, the challenge before the Afghan government and the U.S. is to reverse the Taliban's momentum. If they want to extract compromises from the Taliban, they need to first increase military pressure on the group. The Trump administration has boosted American troop presence in the country, which now stands at 14,000. It has also stepped up its air campaign against the militants. But despite these measures, government troops have failed to make any breakthrough. In recent months the Taliban has captured several districts and carried out attacks almost on a daily basis across the country – almost 44% of Afghanistan's 398 districts are controlled or contested by the insurgents. They may have failed to capture any major urban centre, but that hasn't deterred them from trying. Over the past two years, the Taliban carried out suicide attacks on Kunduz and Farah. And now, Ghazni is under attack. President Ashraf Ghani's government, grappling with infighting and corruption among other problems, appears clueless about how to prevent a Taliban advance. Kabul might take Ghazni back with U.S. assistance, but the question is whether the government can change the *status quo*. If it cannot, more urban centres could come under attack.

Words of freedom

When the Prime Minister unfurls the national flag at the Red Fort, 'we the people of India' unfurl it through him



GOPALKRISHNA GANDHI

Our Independence Day is, very specially, our Prime Minister's day. It has been that way since our very first Independence Day, August 15, 1947, when Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's first Prime Minister, chiselled his name for all time into that date with his 'Tryst with Destiny' speech in Parliament House. Independence Day, the Red Fort and our Prime Minister unfurling the national flag from there have come to make up a triptych of freedom.

So on this Independence Day we must felicitate our Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, as he unfurls our flag at Red Fort. And when we felicitate him on this day, we celebrate the helmsman and the helm.

PM of all Indians

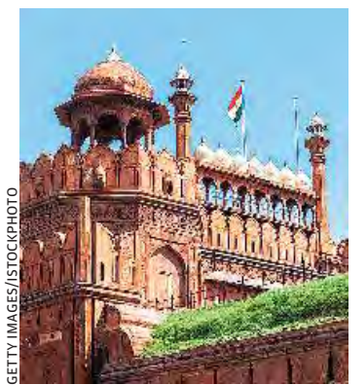
He is Prime Minister for all Indians, whether they voted for him or did not. He is also Prime Minister for those Indian voters who chose NOTA (None of the Above) or chose not to cast their votes at all.

And so when he unfurls the national flag, he unfurls it for all of us. In fact, all of us – 'we the people of India' – unfurl it with and through him. That phrase from the Constitution of India translates in sonorous Sanskrit as *Vayam Bhaaratasya janaahaa*, in lyrical Urdu as *Hum Hind ki Aawaam* and in categorical Tamil as *Naam Intiyavin makkal*. Some of us from that *janaaha* or *aawaam* or *makkal* of India will recall Nehru standing there 17 times and, all too fleetingly, Lal Bahadur Shastri. Some of us will remember Atal Bihari Vajpayee beckoning us from there in his very special Hindi.

Some would also wish one Indian with an unusual magnetism around him had had the chance to raise that flag – Jayaprakash Narayan. I certainly would. Federalists and republicans among us would have liked to see so-called 'regional' leaders hoist the flag from there – K. Kamaraj, C.N. Annadurai or E.M.S. Namboodiripad or Jyoti Basu – and be grateful for the fact that H.D. Deve Gowda brought a southern State, Karnataka, to the nation's rampart. Hindi has gleamed on height but Hindi is not stingy. It can share that privilege with India's other great languages. Men have shone from there, with Indira Gandhi changing the gender pattern emphatically. I can think of other women leaders with grit, vision and commitment who would have made great Prime Ministers – Sucheta Kripalani, Hansa Mehta, Aizaz Rasul, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, Mrinal Gore. Independence Day is a day to remember them and others like them with nostalgia, but also with hope because leadership lies but an inch beneath the soil, like grass-seeds, and will unfailingly emerge, droughts of dedication and floods of opportunisms notwithstanding.

Nehru's example

But to return to Nehru on his first Independence Day at Red Fort, on August 15, 1947. He too 'remembered' someone that day – Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. On that very first occasion – August 15, 1947 – Nehru said in his un-recorded but sporadically transcribed maiden speech from the Red Fort, "This should have been the day of



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

his return." Nehru, in a sense, made the *aawaam* see the two of them standing there, together, shoulder to shoulder – one real, the other imagined, but both there. When he made that plangent reference to Bose, Nehru extinguished himself for that moment on the ramparts and stood Netaji in what was his own place. The historian-democrat in him also knew that had Netaji been there, in Delhi, on the day India became free, he may well have commanded majority support in the Congress and certainly across the country and become India's first Prime Minister.

Bose, with Abid Hasan, coined the phrase "*Jai Hind*" but Nehru gave that coinage currency, at the Red Fort, by ending his speech with it that day and every single Independence Day, thereafter. *Hind* has become, over the decades, an idea, a metaphor. It brings to India's great name, *Bharat*, the vitality of its human emotions. If *Bharat* is *mahan* – great – as an ideal, *Hind* is real, a tactile, urgent state of being.

But this article is not about a word or words; it is about independence, freedom. It is about freedom in India, that is *Bharat*, as Article 1(1) of our Constitution puts it. And it is also about freedoms in India that is also *Hind* as an article of our collective faith.

All our Prime Ministers have unfailingly given to the nation a vision of its greatness and a sense of its agonising realities. On August 15, 1948, exactly 70 years ago today, Nehru said from Red Fort: "... freedom is not a mere matter of political decision or new constitutions, not even a matter of what is more important, that is, economic policy. It is of the mind and heart and if the mind narrows itself and is befogged and the heart is full of bitterness and hatred, then freedom is absent."

On August 15, 1965 Lal Bahadur Shastri said the country was bigger than its leaders in these self-abnegating words: "... whether we remain or not, let this country remain strong." In his characteristically blunt way Morarji Desai said on August 15, 1977: "You can catch me by the ear when I make a mistake. But do not catch me alone, catch all the colleagues of mine if mistakes are committed. That is the kind of people's power we want to build."

Mistakes are to be expected in leadership as they are in regular folk – large ones such as the one Emperor Ashoka lamented in his self-mortification over the Kalinga war or small ones. Owning them is the first step towards correcting them and preventing their recurrence. Will we hear of omissions, commissions, errors of judgment this August 15? We well might. If Prime Minister Modi says that for anyone lynched he feels responsible, he will make Bharat feel proud. And if he were to say that for anyone entitled to Indian citizenship in Assam but being kept out of the National Register of Citizens he would take responsibility, *Hind* would feel safe. Terrorism, a curse of our times, comes from no religion save the religion of blind hate and it hurts everyone regardless of religion or ethnicity, and so we must beware of its grim shadow – polarisation. If he were to chastise both terrorism and polarisation in the same breath, he would strengthen us politically and emotionally in our great plurality, compositeness and unity.

A long legacy

The march, five months ago, from Nashik to Mumbai, of 40,000 of India's *kisans*, *Bharat*'s farmers, *Hind*'s peasants showed the severity of our agrarian crisis and their tenacity to fight it. Had Sardar Patel, hero of the Kheda and Bardoli satyagrahas, been Prime Minister, he would have agreed to their demand – a special session of Parliament to discuss their travails. If Prime Minister Modi were to do so, in the name of Sardar Patel and Babasaheb Ambedkar, who wanted political democracy to be supplemented by economic democracy, he will fulfil a historical imperative.

Jawaharlal Nehru, on August 15, 1947, made a metaphorical Subhas Chandra Bose stand there beside him. Will our Prime Minister make the metaphorical Indian peasant stand next to him to speak for her or his travails? Will our Prime Minister make this pre-election Red Fort speech of his an election-free speech? Will he on this historic day furl the politician in him and unfurl the Prime Minister of India, that is *Bharat*? If he were to do that, he would bring to life, as never before, the Bose-Nehru peroration - *Jai Hind*!

Gopalkrishna Gandhi is a former administrator, diplomat and governor

The market across the border

India and Pakistan will both gain immensely by encouraging bilateral trade



AFAQ HUSSAIN & RIYA SINHA

In his speech on July 26, after his electoral victory, Pakistan Prime Minister-elect and Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan conveyed a sense of hope when he spoke of the need for harmonious relations with neighbouring countries, including India. He also laid emphasis on better bilateral trade relations. Given the immense potential and the peace dividend that comes with it, it was no wonder that the statement was largely welcomed by trade circles in Pakistan and India.

Over the last five years, the bilateral trade trajectory has been volatile. From a high of $2.70 billion in 2013-14, it fell to $2.40 billion in 2017-18. During this time, while Pakistan's exports to India were (and have been) fairly consistent, India's exports decreased. Overall, India still manages to have a significant trade surplus with Pakistan (about $1.4 billion in 2017-18). Interestingly, these figures reflect only the direct trade between the two countries. Indirect trade (largely routed through a third country like the United Arab Emirates) is estimated by much research to be up to 10 times more – exemplifying the existence of a huge bilateral trade potential, provided the tariff and non-tariff barriers are addressed and steps taken towards increasing awareness and building confidence among the trading communities.

Developing a value chain

In a highly integrated and interdependent global economy, regional value chains provide opportunities for India and Pakistan to diversify their exports and imports and intensify their integration into the global economy.

In an attempt to explore potential areas of increasing trade between India and Pakistan, a study by the Bureau of Research on Industry and Economic Fundamentals (BRIEF), New Delhi, looked at developing bilateral, product-specific, regional value chains. This included sectors such as textile and clothing, sports goods and surgical equipment. In textiles, while there is an existing bilateral engagement, there is potential for raw materials (raw cotton, fabric dye), grey fabric (polyester, chiffon, nylon), blended fabric (cotton-polyester-viscose blend for denim) and stitched clothes (track suits and sports wear) from Indian hubs such as Surat (Gujarat) and Tiruppur (Tamil Nadu) to Pakistan's major production centre at Faisalabad and its Lahore and Karachi markets. Similarly, from Pakistan, there is a huge demand for *salwar-kameez-dupatta* made of lawn fabric and wedding attire (*shararas*). Given Pakistan's expertise here, the demand in India for Pakistani fabric and designs as well as the cost benefits attached with trading between India and Pakistan, there is significant scope for collaboration. The market opportunity for these few high-demand products alone is about $2.3 billion.

Similar potential exists in sports goods. Pakistan's sports goods manufacturing sector is emerging as an original equipment manufacturer for major global brands. Sialkot is a global manufacturing hub for professional-level goods such as footballs, hockey sticks, quality leather goods, and weightlifting and cycling gloves, some of which is imported by India. Also, footballs manufactured here were used in the FIFA World Cup. However, manufacturers in Sialkot require quality raw materials or semi-finished products to produce these goods. India can play a key role here in exporting raw material and semi-finished goods such as latex, rubber, and football bladders, which would work out to be more economical for Sialkot than sourcing them from other countries such as Thailand. In terms of finished goods, sportswear made of lycra is in demand in Pakistan. The market opportunity here is $1.1 billion.

In health care

Value chain development in surgical instruments is another area. Pakistan's surgical instruments manufacturing industry, again based in Sialkot, is noted for its expertise. Pakistan is a major supplier of these instruments to the U.S., Germany, France and Belgium. India, on the other hand, is a large medical market which imports these instruments from these developed countries at high rates. Direct imports from Pakistan to India in this area would ensure considerable cost benefits in terms of economics and logistics. For example, forceps, clamps and surgical scissors can be imported from Pakistan in considerable volumes. To strengthen value chain linkages, India can potentially increase the supply of stainless steel to Pakistan, a major raw material used in instrument manufacturing, or even import semi-finished products. In India, dispensaries and clinics in Tier 2 and 3 cities, which are often unable to afford even re-useable surgical instruments, will benefit from the availability of cheaper and new instruments from Pakistan. The market opportunity in this sector is about $804 million.



GETTY IMAGES

Before Independence, Sialkot and Jalandhar were a unified manufacturing hub which was divided after 1947. Most of the skilled labour force moved to Sialkot. This has given it the historical edge in manufacturing in these sectors.

Business-level dialogue

Incremental steps towards bridging the gap between actual and potential trade is a must. First, it is important to alleviate fears, misconceptions and the trust deficit in the trading community. Second, business-to-business linkages need to be formed and strengthened between actual traders. While this can be initiated at the level of product-specific industry associations (for example at Jalandhar and Sialkot), this must also be taken up by national chamber associations. Third, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) business traveller visas must be implemented in practice. Though announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the SAARC summit in 2014, there has been a delay in its implementation.

There also needs to be focus on other issues such as key items in the textiles and clothing sector, border infrastructure and security, improved connectivity by sea and air, enhanced people-to-people contact and educational exchanges.

It is important to recognise that economics and politics are not completely disconnected from each other.

Engagements at the political level will be an important factor to reinforce economic ties between the two countries. Mr. Khan's speech makes us optimistic about the future.

Afaq Hussain is Director, and Riya Sinha is Research Associate at the Bureau of Research on Industry and Economic Fundamentals, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal

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.

'Lateral entry'

Without developing the broad contours of the policy of lateral entry – which will be impartial, prudent and independent – the scheme may become another tool for the government to position people in key areas in order to have greater control over administration. If one is to go by past experience of various appointments, there have been numerous instances of nepotism, with no safeguards. And what happens if a lateral entry 'bureaucrat' is found to be corrupt?

Lastly, governments in India are generally sluggish and there is need for a greater degree of administrative skills to get things done. A bureaucrat in the proper sense has encountered numerous administrative hurdles and would know how to solve them. One wonders whether a lateral entry candidate, with no experience in administration, would be able to function in the same manner (Editorial page, "Making 'lateral entry' work", August 14).

GAGAN PRATAP SINGH,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

■ Government bureaucracy can be tough on outsiders. Even with their brilliant ideas, they might not fit in as administrators unlike a civil servant who is appointed after a rigorous selection process and extensive training.

An alternative that comes to mind is that instead of appointing private sector executives as ad hoc public servants, they could be appointed as advisers in different fields to enhance administration. They might also help in ensuring transparency in governance.

SOUMYA SATAPATHY,
Bhubaneswar, Odisha

■ What are the checks and balances in the scheme to stop the ruling dispensation from furthering its political agenda? There is no answer to this in the article. For this, the appointing authority must be of impeccable integrity and free of any governmental interference.

KUMAR HRISHIKESH,
Kolkata

■ A civil servant has a better understanding of society than a managerial-level executive of a profit-making machine. A civil servant is trained from day one to focus on social welfare. If the issue is about policy-making and expertise, one must not forget that it is the minister who will have the last say. We do need technical experts in policy, but as outside advisers.

SAGAR A. MASKE,
Mumbai

■ There is no need to raise a hue and cry over the plan as this is a golden chance to induct talented minds as such persons will have experience and specialisation in the required fields. This is also a chance to serve the nation. The only caution is that it should not descend into nepotism and politicisation of the bureaucracy. There should be periodic reviews of the said officers to eliminate underperformers.

GAYATHRI DAYANAND,
Kallai, Kozhikode, Kerala

Banner of revolt

Despite his much admired political, administrative and oratorical skills, DMK patriarch M. Karunanidhi failed to foresee the repercussions of grooming more than one successor (Tamil Nadu, "Timing of Alagiri's revolt causes consternation among party cadre", August 14). M.K. Alagiri can still inflict damage to the image of the party by constantly targeting his brother and DMK working president M.K. Stalin as an ineffective leader. The attempt to raise suspicions about party funds is a clever ploy to try to divide the party – a modus operandi used by MGR in 1972 (Page 1, "DMK funds being misused: Alagiri", August 14). It is apparent that Mr. Alagiri's target is Mr. Stalin. One does not know where the loyalties of other family members lie *vis-à-vis* Mr. Stalin. The DMK seems to have a new enemy.

V. SUBRAMANIAN,
Chennai

Cricket surrender

The Indian cricket team's abject surrender in the first two Tests, especially at Lord's, is worrying. There was a lack of fight with the absence of an aggressive opener who could have destroyed the line and length of Anderson and company. One is happy that the BCCI has some questions for the coach and the captain. They need to answer why there were no practice matches before the Tests began. The contracted amount should be cut proportionally.

N. VISWANATHAN,
Coimbatore

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THE WEDNESDAY INTERVIEW | O.P. RAWAT

'Simultaneous polls can be done, but all parties have to agree'

The Chief Election Commissioner on proxy voting for NRIs, the fake news challenge, electoral bonds, and why EVMs are the best option

SANDEEP PHUKAN & DEVESH K. PANDEY

In the Monsoon session, the Lok Sabha passed a Bill that allows 'proxy voting' to non-resident Indians (NRIs). Is it going to be a game changer? Chief Election Commissioner O.P. Rawat talks about the genesis of the idea, shares his concerns about the "opacity" that exists in political funding, and why the demand to return to the paper ballot is illogical. Excerpts:



R.V. MOORTHY

The Congress has alleged that BJP president Amit Shah made no mention of his "liabilities" in his Rajya Sabha election affidavit. What is the Election Commission (EC)'s view?

■ The EC is seized of the matter. We will examine it and take necessary action. However, according to provisions of the law, anyone can file cases in such matters without approaching the EC. An FIR can be filed in the court or with the police if they are satisfied that they have sufficient proof.

The Lok Sabha has passed a Bill that allows 'proxy voting' for NRIs. Is this possible for voters in India?

■ This proxy is to encourage NRIs to register and vote. We have about three crore people of Indian origin settled abroad. Half of them are Indian citizens, nearly 10% may be voters. But the total number of NRIs registered in our electoral rolls is less than 25,000. It is very low. Why? Because they have to come here to vote. Who will spend that much money? They can now register at the address which is in their passport. The EC had suggested two options: either give them [NRIs] the authority to appoint proxies or have postal ballot. In Karnataka, we found that our embassy voters voted after registering online. So, we had suggested two options and the government has accepted proxy.

Say, someone in India is in hospital and can't come to vote. Can this facility be extended to him?

■ For someone in a hospital, we are making all efforts to facilitate [the process]. We set up auxiliary voting stations. If there is a sizeable number – say, 200-300 voters in a hospital – we set up an auxiliary voting station in the same building. But if we provide proxy in India, [given] the abuse of money, this may become a scandal. It can be abused by parties or candidates to buy votes.

Earlier there was paid news. Now you have fake news that is shaping voting preferences. How are you dealing with this?

■ This is a major emerging challenge. In terms of paid news, our system has been able to ensure that whenever cases come to us and notices are issued, in 99.9% of the cases they [the candidates] accept that this may have been paid for, either in cash or kind, and agree that this expenditure may be added to their expenditure account.

But fake news is a different cup of tea. Now, you not only have to handle social media accounts but even print media. Even for our VVPAT [Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail] failure, many print media outlets said that EVMs that had never failed in 20 years failed in such a large number. It was fake news because EVMs never failed, VVPATs did. Our Section 126 [of the Representation of the People Act] Review Committee has engaged with Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms to tell them what exactly is required of them during the conduct of elections – from the day of announcement of polls to the declaration of results, and in the last two days before the conclusion of polls. I am happy to tell you that all of them have agreed to follow a discipline during the poll period as well as for those 48 hours. Even the Facebook regional head has agreed to have pre-certified electronic advertisements. And for the last 48 hours, everyone affecting the election, they say, will be removed from the platform. Every advertisement will be flagged with the cost paid for it, so that our observers can include the expenditure on that advertisement.

We understand that you are in talks with Google and you have set up a monitoring cell.

■ Yes, we have set up a social media monitoring hub. Our committee is also meeting Google in this regard.

The Kairana and Gondiya-Bhandara bypolls saw a lot of complaints regarding the malfunctioning of VVPATs – that the machines heated up in summer. Given that the general elections will likely take place during summer, how serious is the problem?

> **The question of going back to the paper ballot isn't one of feasibility, it's a question of going back to the bullock cart age.**

■ We have done a lot of analysis and our technical experts committee, which includes professors from IIT Delhi, Mumbai and Bhilai, found that light affects the contrast and leads to malfunctions. So they have suggested a hood at the place from where the slip appears, so that light gets scattered. Second, there is a deplete sensor that malfunctions because of our logo on the paper. When the logo appears, it sends out a signal that paper is not there. Even humidity affects the paper – as it is thermal paper, it absorbs the moisture and becomes heavy and damp. Then the motor can't move the spool easily. That has also been resolved by using separate paper but this will be required only in 8-9% of the polling stations, like coastal areas and the Northeast where the humidity is high. Then there was also an issue with the length sensor. So, all these changes have been made and VVPAT manufacturing got a little delayed. Instead of September 30, VVPAT delivery will start taking place by November 15. All the EVMs will be delivered by September-end. For all four poll-going States – Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Mizoram – the requirements have been met 100%.

The Opposition parties, especially the Congress, have been talking about reverting to paper ballot. They say many advanced countries in Europe and elsewhere have gone back to it. Is it feasible in India?

■ It is not a question of feasibility. It's a question of going back to the bullock cart age. There should be no reason to think that as technology advances, we should be moving backwards. It is not correct to say that Europe has gone back. Our status paper lists out why they couldn't stick to this technology. They [Europe] couldn't devise an EVM which is standalone, which doesn't have connectivity with WiFi or Internet. All these devices could be tampered with. Our machine is just like a calculator; it is not even connected to a power supply unit. EVMs have addressed so many issues, like invalid votes and booth capturing. If you have any doubts which can be substantiated, the EC has to ensure that every single doubt must be squarely addressed. And in case we fail, we are open to anything.

Ahead of the 2019 polls, when the EC starts updating the electoral rolls in Assam, will the National Register of Citizens (NRC) be a factor? Will you debar people whose names don't figure in the NRC (expected to be completed by January 2019) from voting?

■ First of all, even the reasons for non-inclusion of names in the NRC are yet to be intimated. The time frame for intimation is end of August. Then the period for claims and objections will be provided after August 30. If lakhs of claims and objections come up, it will be difficult for any authority to dispose these of in three or four months. We have a mandate to deliver the final electoral roll by January 4, 2019. The process has already begun. The draft electoral roll will be published on September 1. I don't foresee the final NRC to be published by then [Jan. 4]. But even if the authorities complete the final NRC, anybody whose name comes in the NRC can simply give a copy. If somebody's name doesn't, she will get an opportunity to prove her citizenship before an ERO [Electoral Registration Officer]. If the ERO is satisfied, the name can be included.

Transparency in political funding has been a major issue. What is the EC's view on electoral bonds?

■ As soon as the Finance Bill, 2017 was passed by Parliament, the EC discussed this new scheme for campaign financing. We decided to convey our worries to the Law Ministry: mainly the opacity regarding who purchased the bond, who gave to it whom, what is the source of funds. All these not being disclosed to the electorate is not healthy for democracy.

Secondly, there were some amendments to the Company Law. Earlier, the provision was that only companies whose last three years were in profit could contribute up to 7.5%. Now this has been done away with. So, even if the company is dying, it can donate and evaporate from the scene. That is dangerous. Some shell companies may be created for siphoning off money from anywhere. All these concerns were conveyed to the Ministry. The EC was told that only the Bill had been passed, that the scheme had not been floated, and so it was premature to raise the red flag. So, the EC waited for it. Since January, electoral bonds have been issued three times and now we are going to get contribution reports from political parties. We will be able to communicate our concerns, if any, backed by data within a month or so.

The EC's Model Code of Conduct (MCC) comes into effect only after a poll schedule is announced. Many believe that the government of the day always has an unfair advantage. Welfare schemes are usually named after the Chief Minister or the Prime Minister, whose photos figure prominently in these schemes. Has the EC considered this aspect?

■ The EC feels that through election reforms, the whole of governance cannot be reformed. It's a very small part of that exercise, but whatever influences a voter's mind at the time of elections, we take care of that. Like in Punjab, we found that ration cards carried photographs of the political executive. The EC ensured that well before the announcement of elections, three months' ration was distributed and then the ration cards were made redundant. But over four years of governance, a democratically elected government can do whatever it wants. In case there is any objection, people can challenge it through a public interest litigation.

The EC promptly gets cases registered against those who make hate speeches. But many believe that strong punitive action is not taken against the offenders as a follow-up. Should the EC have more powers?

■ Our system is quite robust. All legal provisions exist for substantive offences to be registered in appropriate cases. In case of regular hate speeches by someone that tend to influence the voters, there are MCC provisions to censure the politician. If they don't relent, the EC debars them from campaigning, like Azam Khan and Amit Shah were debarred. Our election process is protected from interference under Article 329 of the Constitution. We have not given statutory backing to the MCC, but it is agreed upon by all political parties that they will submit to the Code. If they violate it, the EC can derecognise you, freeze your symbol.

What is your view on simultaneous polls?

■ Simultaneous polls can be done, but all political parties have to agree to it.

SINGLE FILE

Bringing up a science

The lack of research in evolutionary biology in India is a matter of concern

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN



G.N. RAO

The marginalisation of research and education in evolutionary biology in India has justifiably been a matter of concern for some time. Evolutionary biology is important in understanding multi-drug resistance in microbes, for instance. The Nipah virus outbreak, which was traced to the habitat destruction of fruit bats, is also a study in ecology and evolutionary biology.

Unlike in other countries, Darwinian medicine is poorly researched in India. Perhaps the only exception to this is the work of Milind Watve, an evolutionary biologist from IISER, Pune, who has studied diabetes from this perspective. Host-range expansion is a classic evolutionary biology concept. This is where, owing to climate change or other reasons, a pathogen moves from one host to another. In the Indian context, it sadly remains untapped as an approach to diseases that spread from animals to humans.

In education, too, evolutionary biology is at a disadvantage. For one, there are no postgraduate departments of evolutionary biology in any university. "The single, small post-graduate training programme in the field – an Integrated Ph.D. course in Evolutionary and Organismal Biology, conducted at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bengaluru – was abruptly terminated after a few years, despite appreciative student responses," says Amitabh Joshi, an evolutionary biologist from the Centre.

DNA fingerprinting is a technology that has now caught the popular imagination. Using DNA fingerprinting and DNA statistics for forensics requires a nontrivial understanding of molecular population genetics. But do we have sufficient numbers of researchers working on these areas and training future generations?

A group of evolutionary biologists have recently established the Indian Society of Evolutionary Biologists (ISEB). This is a significant development because the ISEB hopes to not just bring together practitioners and senior researchers from the field, but also aims to reach members of the public and get them to engage with the mission of the Society. Talks and activities for students have been planned. "If India wishes to effectively leverage scientific understanding to address problems of public health, environment, agriculture and societal breakdowns, it cannot be done without greatly enhancing our appreciation of the importance of an evolutionary perspective in attacking these problems," says Mr. Joshi, a member of the ISEB. At present, the Society has a small membership, mainly active researchers in the field of evolutionary biology. For it to be embraced by the public, membership drives will be crucial. If this project gains adequate momentum, it can help cultivate a citizenry that actively participates in the democratic process that is science.

The writer covers science for The Hindu



Surendra

CONCEPTUAL

Operant conditioning

PSYCHOLOGY

This refers to a form of learning wherein certain forms of voluntary behaviour are either encouraged or discouraged through the appropriate use of rewards and punishment. Such learning happens because of the establishment of a link between a certain behaviour and stimuli through the use of deliberate techniques. The term was coined by the psychologist B.F. Skinner in his book, *The Behaviour of Organisms*. Operant conditioning is different from Pavlovian conditioning, which is focussed on influencing the involuntary responses of organisms to stimuli.

MORE ON THE WEB

Video: Inside Kaziranga – counting one-horned rhinos

http://bit.ly/CountingRhinos

NOTEBOOK

An election eye-opener

On fake news and communalised debates in Karnataka

MOHIT M. RAO

Away from the rallies, politicking, coalition talk and door-to-door campaigns, election coverage usually involves attempting to find a logical voting pattern in an otherwise unpredictable electorate.

The Karnataka Assembly elections provided an opportunity to tour many parts of the State and ask voters the same set of questions on what they thought of the political situation or of specific issues. Answers to such questions generally help reporters strip away all assumptions on the ideals of a democracy. Often, the answer is: "I don't know, I don't think much about it." Some merely follow the candidate or party choice of their husband, or village elders, or local/religious leaders, or landowners, while the more candid ones point to money, caste and religious considerations in voting.

The more confident answers came when the voters were asked about communal and religious factors. Along the coast, discussions were about neglect and "minority appeasement", "love jihad", terrorism, and even about politicians who eat meat before entering temples.

Many answers involved rumours. Some believed the unverified claims about the deaths of cows, of minority mobs running amok, of children being kidnapped for conversion. These quotes gave us an indication of the BJP's sweep in the area. (The party won 17 of the 19 seats.)

After many such conversations with all religious factions, each upping their conspiracy theories, I was relieved when our journey led us to the Western Ghats to talk about land rights. The issues discussed were encroachments and their regularisation, some even at the cost of lush forests, through political patronage. The concerns voiced shed light on agrarian distress, forest encroachments, and tribals versus settler debates.

We finally stopped at a small junction outside the Sharavathi Wildlife Sanctuary. As it often happens, a one-on-one conversation soon turns into an impromptu gram sabha meeting. One villager, however, cut through the clamour of opinions in anger: "The State government can give five acres of land to Rohingya refugees in Bengaluru, but can't even give us poor people the 0.5 acres we ask for." Others agreed.

When I asked him how he had heard about this purported land allotment, which was false news, he said: "We saw it on WhatsApp. It is true. Ask anyone in the village."

FROM The Hindu. ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 15, 1968

Rajasthan alert on infiltration

Faced with the danger of large-scale Pakistani infiltration into Barmer and Jaisalmer, the Rajasthan Government has asked the Centre to annul forthwith the citizenship of some 18,000 persons who had crossed over to Pakistan during the September 1965 conflict between the two countries. Although these persons ran away to Pakistan three years ago paradoxically they continue to be Indian citizens and are attempting to return to Rajasthan's districts facing Pakistan but the State Government is averse to allowing their return, for it firmly believes their loyalty is to Pakistan.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 15, 1918.

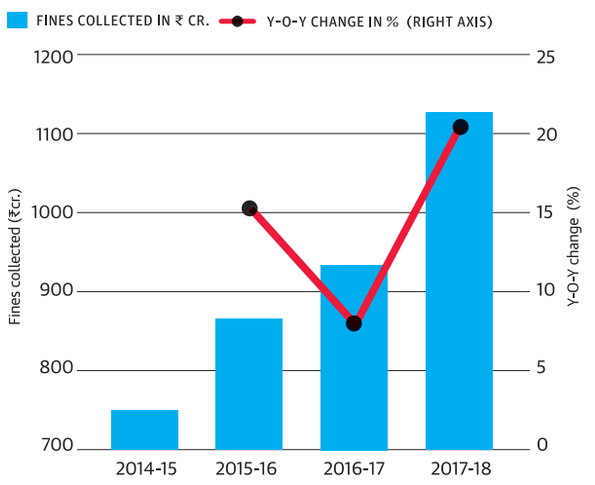
Acquitted of Negligence.

Their Lordships [Sadasiva Aiyer and Napier, J.J., of the Madras High Court] disposed of a criminal revision case from North Arcot in which the question was whether negligence on the part of a driver of a Motor car could be inferred from the fact that the car ran over a man and caused his death, when the accused denies the occurrence and does not explain how the man was run over. The facts of the case are that the Sri Mahant of Tirupati who went to Chittore to attend a War Loan meeting returned to Tirupati in his Motor car. On the way the car ran over an old man who was on the road near the village of Perenallapalh and the man died two days later. The driver of the car denied all knowledge of the occurrence.

DATA POINT

Ticketless travel

Fines collected for ticketless train travel* saw a 21% spike in 2017-18 compared to the previous year, the highest such in the last three years. The Central and Northern zones accounted for the highest shares (about 13% each) of fines collected in the past four years



*Travelling with improper tickets is also included

Source: Lok Sabha Question Hour

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

FROM PAGE ONE

Army officers move SC against 'prosecution'

The petition submitted that if the armed forces are not given the protection they require to engage with their bona fide duties, it would cause "grave peril to our sovereignty and integrity, thereby endangering our very existence as a constitutional sovereign democratic republic."

"Petitioners believe that sovereignty, security and integrity of the nation is at a higher pedestal than even the Constitution of India and is actually the foundation on which we exist, survive, sustain and prosper as a nation," it said.

The officers said they are all Section Commanders to Commanding Officers of the Section/Platoon/Company/Battalion, leading 10 to 1000 men each. They said they "are now facing confusion and countering questions from the soldiers under their command, as to whether they are supposed to continue to engage the proxy war and insurgency with their military training, principals, standard operating procedures, operational realities, valour and courage or act and operate as per the yardsticks of peacetime operations, law and order issues and Cr.PC."

The petition said the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) did not give armed forces personnel "blanket protection" but only facilitates a soldier's functioning and operations in extraordinary circumstances of proxy war, insurgency, armed hostility, ambushes, covert and overt operations.

"The civil police or even the CBI can't be expected to be in the know of the complete picture," it added.

Thoothukudi firing: HC orders CBI probe

The Bench pointed out that a peaceful protest against the plant had turned violent only on the 100th day of the agitation. Then the Collector clamped prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure following definite input regarding infiltration of anti-social elements.

Despite issuing such orders, "the absence of the Collector [in Thoothukudi on the day of violence] is rather unusual," the Bench said. The Bench also agreed with senior counsel for the petitioners N.R. Elango that police firing in many locations had been ordered by unauthorised officials and not the jurisdictional executive magistrates.

Authoring the judgement for the Division Bench, Justice Selvam said it was not the case of the State government that before firing, the police had used water cannons or resorted to such other measures against the protesters.

In fact, the government had chosen not to file counter affidavit to any of the 13 writ petitions.

"How self-loading rifles (SLR) found their way out of the armoury and came to be used for shooting the protesters, how the snipers were perched atop police vehicles and how persons came to be shot on the face and chest," were all questions that remain unanswered by the State, the Bench said.

"During the course of arguments, we heard one of the learned counsel for respondents addressing the other side with an audacious remark 'Don't go by one incident of a person firing from atop a police van'; we only ask him, why not?" the judges said.

Four-month deadline

The Bench directed that the CBI Director should form a special team to investigate the issue and get to the bottom of things within four months. "Cases have to be registered against the authorities for offences under Section 302 (murder) of Indian Penal Code as also for other offences under the IPC, Arms Act and such other Acts," the court said.

Expressing dismay over the provisions of Police Standing Orders having been flouted by the use of SLRs against the protesters, the Bench directed the Director General of Police to constitute a committee for amending the provisions in consonance with United Nations guidelines and international standards for the use of force and fire arms against protesters.

The court allowed six individual habeas corpus petitions filed by protesters detained under the National Security Act.

EC procuring EVMs, VVPATs for 2019 polls

Rawat says panel has responsibility to hold elections when Assembly terms end

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Simultaneous elections are not possible without a legal framework as any extension or curtailment of the term of Assemblies will require a constitution amendment, Chief Election Commissioner O.P. Rawat said on Tuesday, a day after the BJP made a fresh push to hold Lok Sabha and Assembly polls together.

In underscoring the need for a legal framework, Mr. Rawat virtually ruled out holding simultaneous polls any time soon.

"If the term of some State Assemblies needs to be curtailed or extended, then a constitutional amendment will be required... Logistics arrangements with regard to 100% availability of VVPATs (Voter-verifiable Paper Audit Trail machines) will be a constraint," he told reporters to a question on whether simultaneous elections can be held any time soon.


O.P. Rawat

"On the issue of 'one nation, one poll', the Election Commission had given inputs and suggestions in 2015 itself... Other requirements of additional police force, polling personnel should also be considered," he said.

Mr. Rawat said the poll panel would continue to deliver on its responsibility of conducting elections whenever the term of the State Assemblies drew to an end.

The Election Commission is in the process of procuring new EVMs (electronic voting machines) and VVPATs ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

While all required EVMs – 13.95 lakh ballot units and 9.3 lakh control units – will be delivered by September 30, 16.15 lakh VVPATs will also be delivered well before the end of November, Mr. Rawat had earlier said.

Some additional VVPATs are being procured as a cushion in case these machines malfunction and need to be replaced during the polls.

Over 11% of the 10,300 VVPAT machines across 10 States had developed faults and had to be replaced during the by-election on May 28.

If simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies are held in 2019, the EC will require nearly 24 lakh EVMs, double the number required to hold only the Parliamentary polls.

During their discussion with the Law Commission on May 16 on the issue of holding simultaneous polls, the Election Commission officials had said they would need around ₹4,500 crore to buy nearly 12 lakh additional EVMs and an equal number of VVPATs.

BJP president Amit Shah had written to the Law Commission on Monday in support of holding the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls simultaneously.

Congress dares PM for early Lok Sabha polls


Clear stand: Ashok Gehlot, Vivek Tankha, Sachin Pilot and others leave after meeting Election Commission officials in New Delhi on Tuesday. ▪ SANDEEP SAXENA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Amid reports that the Centre may postpone Assembly elections in some States to hold the polls along with those to the Lok Sabha in 2019, the Congress on Tuesday dared Prime Minister Narendra Modi to dissolve the Lok Sabha and have an early election along with the Assembly polls in those States.

The Congress said it would move court if any attempt was made to change the schedule of the Assembly elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Mizoram, where they due in November and December.

Congress general secretary Ashok Gehlot said postponing elections to these Assemblies was "not possible" unless the Constitution was amended.

"There is only one way of holding simultaneous elections. Modi*ji* should have mercy on all of us and dissolve the Lok Sabha to hold polls along with the Assembly elections in the four States," Mr. Gehlot told a press conference.

"Their approach from day one has been wrong. If they were serious, they would have called all political parties for a meeting, discussed ways and means of implementing a proposal and debated solutions for cases where the Lok Sabha or Assemblies are dissolved before their term. But the government did not do any such thing," he said.

"We have a parliamentary system of democracy where, even though tenures are specified, governments can fall at any point of time. There will never be one date for all States to have a common election,"said Congress legal cell head Vivek Tankha.

The Congress also complained to the Election Commission about an exponential growth in the voters list in Rajasthan. As many as 42 lakh duplicate voters have been noticed, it said.

An idea whose time hasn't come: Nitish

Bihar Chief Minister says simultaneous polls would not be possible in 2019

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday said "one nation, one election is a good idea but not implementable now."

Earlier too, Mr. Kumar had expressed similar view on the issue. "Holding simultaneous elections to all State Assemblies and the Lok Sabha would not be possible with the coming general elections ... it is a good idea but now it is not implementable," Mr. Kumar told pressmen. In the past, he had advocated simultaneous elections claiming that it would reduce the "expenditure and machinery" involved in conducting separate polls.

"But, if you ask me it should be implemented from the next Lok Sabha election, I think, it is not possible," he had said. Mr. Kumar's party Janata Dal (U) is a ruling ally of the BJP in Bihar. Earlier, while speaking at a function for giving monetary benefits to SC/ST and


Nitish Kumar

economically backward students preparing for competitive examinations, Mr. Kumar said, "money will be transferred directly into accounts of the eligible candidates and the entire amount will be paid in a single instalment."

Under the scheme, those who qualify in the Bihar Public Services Commission (Preliminary) exam would be given ₹50,000, while for clearing the preliminary test of the Union Public Service Commission ₹1 lakh would be given, he said.

The funds would be granted under the Mukhyamantri Anusuchit Jati Evam Janjati Chhatravas Yojana Scheme.

Officers acted in a personal capacity, says advocate

While it made no comment, the Army seems unperturbed

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The Defence Ministry seemed unperturbed at the manner in which over 300 Army officers approached the Supreme Court seeking protection from prosecution in insurgency-hit areas.

Advocate Aishwarya Bhati, who is representing the officers, said the move was undertaken individually by the officers and they had not contacted the Defence Ministry. However, there seems to be tacit support of the Army for the move.


Aishwarya Bhati

"On August 20, we have admission hearing. We will also be praying for interim stay so that no investigation or adjudication is carried on in violation of the protection under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) without the sanction of the Central government," Ms. Bhati told *The Hindu*.

Stating that the Army's own criminal adjudication system is very robust, Ms. Bhati said the petition was not for protection of fundamental rights of the officers. "This protection is to facilitate their operations and engagements with the enemy in insurgency, proxy war and militancy areas and to dilute it would imperil the nation's sovereignty and integrity," she added.

When contacted, Army officials refused to comment.

Congress targets Modi over rupee

It's a no-confidence vote, says Rahul

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the sharp fall in the value of the rupee to the U.S. dollar, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said the national currency has given a "no-confidence to the Supreme leader".

The Congress alleged that the Modi government was "making the rupee fall and the economy crawl", and the rupee had become Asia's weakest currency.


Rahul Gandhi

Tags 2013 video

"The Indian rupee just gave the supreme leader a vote of no-confidence, crashing to a historic low. Listen to the supreme leader's master class on economics in this video, where he explains why the rupee is tanking," Mr Gandhi said in a tweet and tagged a 2013 video of Mr. Modi mocking the UPA government over the rupee's valuation. Alleging that "Modinomics" had wreaked havoc on the economyand left it in dire straits, the Congress's media in charge Randeep Surjewala said: "Rupee is now at an historic low. The Modi govt has surely sent Rupee to the 'Margdarshak Mandal' (BJP's group elders who are older than 75). What the Congress could not achieve in 60 years, Shri Modi and his careless economic policies have achieved in 52 months."

He listed demonetisation, a "flawed" GST and inflation as reasons for a slowing economy.

"India at 71 and the Indian Rupee over 70 per dollar. What an Independence Day gift from Prime Minister Modi whose 2014 promise was to bring Rupee at 40 to a dollar," senior Congress leader Anand Sharma tweeted.

No money from Young Indian: Sonia

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Sonia Gandhi told the Delhi High Court on Tuesday that she had not received a single rupee as a shareholder of Young Indian Pvt. Ltd.

A submission was made on her behalf by senior advocate and party leader P. Chidambaram during the hearing of her petition challenging re-opening of a tax assessment case by the Income Tax Department.

Congress president Rahul Gandhi had made a similar plea before the High Court last week. The pleas, along with that of party leader Oscar Fernandes, were heard together by a Bench of Justices S. Ravindra Bhat and A.K. Chawla.

Mr. Chidambaram said that since YIL was a Section 25 company, a non-profit entity, none of its shareholders received anything from it. "The company has not given a single rupee to its shareholders," he said, adding, "When debt is converted to equity, it does not result in any income and, even if it does, it would not result in income for the shareholder."

2 Pakistani soldiers killed near LoC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The Army on Tuesday killed two Pakistani soldiers in a "calibrated operation" near the Line of Control "to contain infiltration" in Kupwara district of Kashmir.

"In a retaliatory action to unprovoked ceasefire violations and repeated attempts to facilitate infiltration by Pakistan Army in Tangdhar Sector, the Army carried out calibrated operations on Monday night in which two Pakistani soldiers were killed," said Srinagar-based spokesman Lt. Col. Rajesh Kalia.

The Army operation comes just hours after an Indian soldier was killed in a "sniper fire" attack by Pakistan Rangers at Tanghdar Sector along the LoC.

The deceased soldier was identified as Sepoy Pushpendra Singh, 28, of Mathura, Uttar Pradesh. Mr. Singh had joined the Army in 2011. He belonged to Khutiya of Mathura District, Uttar Pradesh, and is survived by his wife and a son. Lt. Gen. A.K. Bhatt, Chinar Corps Commander, paid tributes to the deceased soldier, whose body was flown to his native place for the last rites.

Saudi Arabia forced to act: Saud Al Sati

In response to "Endless War"*, the editorial published in* The Hindu *on August 11, Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to India, Saud Al Sati, writes:*

I am writing to present certain facts that may not have been taken into consideration while writing the editorial. It is important to understand that the Saudi Arabia-led military coalition is providing military assistance to Yemen based on an official request from its internationally recognised government headed by President Hadi to counter the violence of the Houthi terrorist groups. The UN Security Council, in its Resolution 2216, imposed an arms embargo on Houthi terrorists and categorically placed the onus on the rebels to end any provocations or threats to neighbouring States, release all political prisoners and end the recruitment of children.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia did not want a war in Yemen but was forced to after the coup by the Houthi militia against the legitimate and internationally recognised government and UN-supported peace process.

Let us make no mistake that Houthis are an armed terrorist group, operate a military outside the legitimate government, are in possession of ballistic missiles, drones, and suicide boats that represent a threat to Yemen, its people, to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and to the region at large. More than 150 ballistic missiles in addition to 40,000 mortars, rockets and other projectiles have been fired at Saudi towns, killing at least 375 civilians, closing more than 500 schools and displacing 24 villages and over 17,000 people. Women and children are being coerced by Houthi militias to join the fighting in Yemen for use as human shields. The Houthis are not only a regional threat but also a global one, as they have been relentlessly targeting the vital Red Sea maritime routes and attacking civilian ships and oil tankers.

We have taken every precaution to make sure that civilians are not hurt. Even in the case of the Saada incident, as put forth by the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the UN, Ambassador Abdullah Al-Mouallimi, the legitimate military action was taken on Thursday August 9 when Houthi leaders were targeted in Saada governorate.

The military action also targeted some of the most prominent trainers on weapons, including a sniper trainer. This military action, conducted in conformity with the International Humanitarian Law and its Customary Rules. The Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen affirms that it has referred this incident immediately to the Joint Incidents Assessment Team (JIAT) for investigation, and to conduct their assessment of the procedures and conditions of the said operation, and announce the results expeditiously.

Humanitarian aid

The Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen is making a huge difference in the country. Despite heightened security concerns, we extended over $11 billion in humanitarian aid to all the provinces in Yemen – including areas controlled by the Houthi rebels.

However, the Houthis have been looting the civilians of Yemen in the areas controlled by them. They are also blocking aid from reaching other areas. Despite this, we are continuing our aid to the country for the benefit of all its people. We even allowed Yemenis who fled Yemen and entered the Kingdom illegally to adjust their status and become legal residents. We are the single largest donor of humanitarian aid to Yemen, having provided health, nutrition, and sanitation aid and relief to 17 million people impacted by the conflict.

Our Foreign Minister, Al-Jubeir, has reiterated time and again that the crisis in Yemen can only be solved through a political process. However, Houthis have hardened against a political process in Yemen because of Iran's obstinacy and interference. We know very well that the entire crisis has been orchestrated by none other than Iran which has used terrorism as an instrument of its foreign policy since the 1979 Revolution.

Iran is supporting and arming the Houthi militia with suicide drones, mines and ballistic missiles in violation of UNSC resolution 2216. We have intercepted Iranian ships carrying weapons, including missiles, to the Houthi rebels in Yemen. Saudi Arabia will continue working with its regional coalition partners as well as the UN and friends and allies towards achieving a cohesive and acceptable political solution to the crisis in Yemen, and compelling the forces that are instigating the issue to come to the negotiation table as soon as possible in order to alleviate the problems of the civilian population of Yemen who are becoming hapless victim of the Houthi terrorist militia.

At 60-plus, I feel like a baby again: Justice K.M. Joseph

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

In his first public address as Supreme Court judge, Justice K.M. Joseph on Tuesday said he is aware of his 'limitations', refrained from giving any promises but said he will remain true to his oath of office.

"At the age of 60 plus, I feel like a baby again," Justice K.M. Joseph said about being the 25th and the 'junior most' judge presently in the Supreme Court.

Justice Joseph, in his short speech at a felicitation function organised for the new apex court judges by the Supreme Court Bar Association, said he expected to be called the last to speak after Justices Indu Malhotra, Indira Banerjee and Vineet Saran. However, the SCBA office-bearers had informed him that he would have to speak first.


Justice K.M. Joseph

Justice Joseph said he would be "true to his oath" as a judge of the Supreme Court. Had the government cleared the Supreme Court collegium recommendation of January 10, Justice Joseph would have been the senior most of the four judges being felicitated.

"I am far too conscious of my own limitations to be elevated to the highest court. It is indeed a great honour," Justice Joseph said.

He said "it will be too presumptuous on my part to even venture to make any promises. All that I can hope and pray for is to be true to the oath of office which I have taken and which will go a long way in dispensing justice." He spoke about having vague memories of the Supreme Court. This was in reference to his younger days when his father, Justice K.K. Mathew, was a Supreme Court judge.

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With elections looming, all ears on Modi's speech

Many expect it to be a political speech with a big announcement

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to announce the pilot launch of the Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Scheme from the ramparts of the Red Fort in his last Independence Day address before the Lok Sabha election in 2019.

The Independence Day address, the only speech that a Prime Minister is, by protocol, required to directly make to the people, is uniquely fashioned by the personality of the incumbent. In that sense, the announcement will be par for the course in the case of Mr. Modi as he has flagged several social sector programmes – from building of toilets to scholarships and financial inclusion – in his Independence Day speeches.

Two years ago, in a significant departure from his usual style, he referred to Balochistan and the region's political struggle. In the year preceding the Lok Sabha election though, there is an expectation of a big announcement, something that could define the contours of the contest ahead.



Tricolour message: A participant of an awareness programme on the eve of the 72nd Independence Day celebration in Bhubaneswar. ▪ BISWARANJAN ROUT

"There is an expectation that the focus of the speech will be political, not so much on the economy but certainly on development and Prime Minister Modi's own formulation of the idea of a 'New India'," said Sanjaya Baru, who was media adviser to Manmohan Singh during his first term as Prime Minister.

Mr. Modi's speech on Wednesday will be interesting for several reasons, not least because it would be keeping in mind the upcoming polls.

"When Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee made his last speech before the 2004 polls, it was still August 2003, and the polls were scheduled for December 2004. It was only later that the polls were brought forward to May 2004 by dissolving Parliament early. Therefore, at that time, he was probably expecting to make another address to the nation the following year. In Dr. Manmohan Singh's case, he was not the political face of the UPA government, which lay with the party chief," Dr. Baru said.

He said Prime Minister Modi's recent spate of interviews to newspapers revealed that there was some major messaging that he wanted to put across and therefore it was unlikely that Wednesday's speech would be plain vanilla in any way.

While government officials say the usual drill with Mr. Modi is to send him as many inputs for the speech, with details of government programmes, he alone takes the final call on what he will speak. Not even his close aides will know the topics that he will touch upon. It is not likely that Prime Minister Modi will allow the opportunity to pass without some major messaging.

Big push to healthcare

What the National Health Protection Mission offers

Cover: The scheme will have a benefit cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year

Portability: A beneficiary will be allowed to access cashless benefits from any public/private empanelled hospital across the country

Cost control: To control costs, the payments for treatment will be done on package rate (to be defined by the government in advance) basis



Command structure: For giving policy directions and fostering coordination between the Centre and the States, it is proposed to set up a Mission Council at the apex level chaired by the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister

Facilitators: States would need to have State Health Agency (SHA) to implement the scheme

Fund transfer: To ensure that the funds reach SHA on time, the transfer of funds from the Central government to State Health agencies may be done through an escrow account directly

High on IT: In partnership with NITI Aayog, a robust, modular, scalable and interoperable IT platform will be made operational, which will enable a paperless, cashless transaction

SOURCE: AYUSHMAN BHARAT - NATIONAL HEALTH PROTECTION MISSION

Launch of health scheme likely

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Ayushman Bharat-National Health Protection Scheme (AB-NHPS), likely to be launched on Wednesday, aims to provide a medical coverage of ₹5 lakh a family every year. The scheme, estimated to benefit more than 10 crore poor families, will be implemented on a pilot basis in select States. The nationwide roll-out will be in September-end.

A senior health official said the scheme would target poor, deprived rural families and identified occupational category of urban workers' families. While Punjab, Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Delhi are yet to come on board, Odisha has refused to be part of the scheme. Currently, 22 States have preferred to run the scheme on a "trust model". The Centre has allocated about ₹10,000 crore for the project, said to be the world's largest government-funded healthcare insurance programme. However, it is yet to release its share of funds. The Health Ministry has launched the process to empanel public and private hospitals.

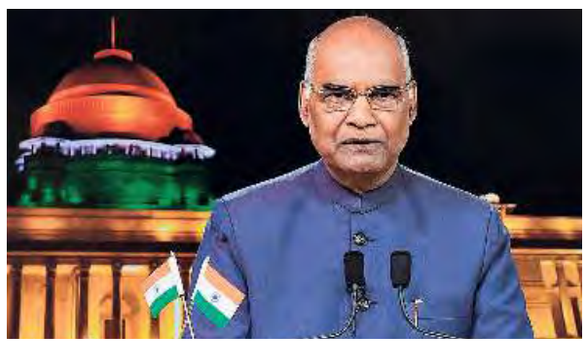
No place for violence in society: President

On the eve of 72nd I-Day, he recalls the power of 'ahimsa'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Amid growing concern over mob violence and lynchings, President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday asserted that violence had no place in a civilised society and asked citizens not to be distracted by "contentious issues and extraneous debates".

Mr. Kovind said India was now at the cusp of achieving many long-awaited goals, such as universal access to electricity, eliminating open defecation, homelessness and poverty, among others.



President Ram Nath Kovind addressing the nation on the eve of the 72nd Independence Day on Tuesday. ▪ PTI

Addressing the nation on the eve of India's 72nd Independence Day, the President recalled Mahatma Gandhi's mantra that the power of *ahimsa* (non-violence) was greater than the power of *hinsa* (violence).

"The power to stay your hand is far greater than the power to strike with your hand. *Hinsa* has no place in the society," he said.

Covering a wide range of issues in his speech, the President said women were entitled to a life of their choice and security to fulfil their potential, either as "sheet anchors in our families or critical entrants to institutions of higher learning and workforce". "The choice is theirs; as a nation and as a society we must ensure that they have the right and the ability to exercise that choice," he said.

Mr. Kovind said that every Indian who did not jump the queue and respected the civic space and rights of those ahead in the line lived up to the principles of the country's freedom struggle. "It's a very small gesture. Let us try and abide by it."

Every Indian – from farmers providing food security to the country's armed and police forces guarding the border, battling terrorism and ensuring law and order – who does his or her job with sincerity was upholding the principles of freedom struggle. He said Independence Day was always special, but there was an unusual significance this year as October 2 would mark the 150th birth anniversary of the Mahatma.

Mr. Kovind also asked students to spend time in villages to observe and participate in social welfare programmes and described it as University Social Responsibility. "I am gratified by the idealism and the passion of our young people. There is a spirit to achieve something for oneself, for one's family, for wider society and for our country. This is the most moral education we can wish for. The outcome of education is not merely a degree or a diploma, but the commitment to help improve the life of another. This is the Indian spirit. This is India, because India belongs to the people of India – not just to the government," he said.

'Massive Army reform under way'

Aimed at greater combat ability: Nirmala

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in her first address to the armed forces on the eve of Independence Day, highlighted the government's efforts to reform the Army in a big way.

"In a first ever exercise after Independence, the Ministry of Defence, in consultation with the Indian Army, has decided to reform the Indian Army in a planned manner... This restructuring is aimed at enhancing the combat capability of the Army in a manner that the officers, Junior Commissioned Officers (JCO) and other ranks (OR) will be used for improving the operational preparedness," the Minister said in the address on Tuesday.



Nirmala Sitharaman

Redeployment of JCOs

Ms. Sitharaman said the first phase of the reforms involved redeployment and restructuring of approximately 57,000 posts of officers, JCOs, ORs and civilians.

The major reforms include optimisation of signals establishments, restructuring of repair echelons, redeployment of ordnance echelons, better utilisation of supply and transport echelons and animal transport units besides closure of military Farms and Army postal establishments in peace locations.

Assuring that there shall be no shortcoming in providing all dues and facilities to soldiers, Ms. Sitharaman said that in line with the recommendations of the 7th Pay Commission, the Ministry has taken "the decision to pay uniform allowance" and clarity has been brought in with respect to "what is covered within the ambit of the allowance and what clothing items will be provided by the government."

Ms. Sitharaman also stated that to ensure faster decision making, for day-to-day requirements of the troops or ammunition, greater powers have been delegated to the service headquarters and other lower functionaries.

Medal for PNB probe officer

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

An investigation officer handling the ₹13,578 crore Punjab National Bank fraud case, inspector D. Damodaran, is among the 30 CBI officers who have been selected for medals for distinguished and meritorious services on Independence Day. "The President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service have been awarded to six officials, while the Police Medals for Meritorious Service have been given to 24," the CBI spokesperson said.

Among those recognised for distinguished services are Superintendents of Police Nagendra Prasad and K.M. Varkey, Additional SP Santosh Kumar, Deputy SPs B. Shankar Rao and Bijay Kumar Pradhan, and inspector Shama Maruf.

The Police Medal for Meritorious Service goes to SPs A.T. Duraikumar, T. Rajah Balaji and Pramod Kumar Manjhi; Deputy SPs Sanjay Dubey, Amit Srivastava, Shobha Dutta, Naresh Kumar Sharma and Mukesh Kumar; inspectors Anand Sarup, Jai Raj Katiyar and U.T. Prakasan; SI Thari Narayan Sharma; and ASIs Bhani Singh Rathore and Pramod Kumar Yati. Head constables Kishor Ram Mundel and Sathiyan Kuppuswamy; constables Piyush Mishra, Raj Kumar Rana, Kailash Prasad Gurjar, Y.S. Narayana and Balbir Singh; office superintendent Bhanwar Singh; and stenographer Devender Kapoor have won the medal for meritorious service.

President's medal for 2 CRPF men

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Two CRPF jawans from Jammu and Kashmir, who were killed in action in Pulwama last year, were posthumously awarded the President's Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG), the country's highest police gallantry medal, on the eve of Independence Day.

The government announced service decorations for a total of 942 State police and Central Armed Police Forces personnel on the occasion. CRPF constable Sharief-ud-din Ganaie from Budgam and head constable Mohd Tafail from Rajouri district of J&K were killed fighting three terrorists who had stormed the under-construction CRPF camp at Lethpora in Pulwama on December 31, 2017. They were decorated with the PPMG posthumously even as 89 other personnel from the force were awarded the Police Medal for Gallantry for undertaking dare-devil action in militancy-affected J&K and anti-Maoist operations in various States.

Shaurya Chakra for Major Aditya, Aurangzeb

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Major Aditya Kumar who fired on a stone-throwing mob and rifleman Aurangzeb who was abducted and killed by terrorists, both in Jammu and Kashmir, were selected for the Shaurya Chakra on the eve of Independence Day. Sepoy Vrahma Pal Singh was selected for the Kirti Chakra posthumously for his act of bravery in a counter-insurgency operation.

In addition, all six women officers, who completed a global circumnavigation trip on sailing vessel *INSV Tarini* early this year, have been selected for Nao Sena medals (Gallantry).

The President has approved 131 gallantry awards to armed forces personnel and members of paramilitary forces, which include one Kirti Chakra, 20 Shaurya Chakras, 96 Sena Medals (Gallantry), 11 Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) and three Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).

Major Kumar from 10 Garhwal Rifles and his unit fired at the mob in Shopian on January 27 that left three people dead. Following this, the police registered a case against his unit under the Ranbir Penal Code. Later, his father, also an Army officer, filed a counter petition in the Supreme Court.



Major Aditya Kumar and, right, rifleman Aurangzeb

Abducted and killed

Rifleman Aurangzeb, a resident of Poonch, was abducted from the taxi he was travelling in near Kalampora village and his body was recovered later with multiple gunshot wounds. He was in 4 Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry and posted to 44 Rashtriya Rifles. He was part of the team that killed terrorist Sameer Tiger.

The six-member sailing team, during its eight-month voyage, covered 21,600 nautical miles, crossed the equator twice and visited five countries.

"The entire voyage was completed using sails, regularly negotiating 10-meter waves and over 100 kmph winds with the temperatures varying between 4 and 40 degree Celsius as the vessel traversed through different parts of the world," reads the citation of the team skipper Lt. Cdr. Joshi.

The President has also awarded 26 Mention-in-Despatches to Army personnel for their significant contributions in different military operations.

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ELSEWHERE



U.S. carries out first execution with new drug

CHICAGO

Nebraska on Tuesday carried out America's first execution using fentanyl — the opioid at the centre of the nation's deadly overdose crisis — as part of an untested four-drug combination. Carey Dean Moore, who was sentenced to death for two 1979 murders, was the first prisoner executed in the State in 21 years. AFP

Imran vows to realise vision of Pak. founders

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Tuesday celebrated its 72nd Independence Day with ceremonies. Prime Minister-designate Imran Khan said he was greatly optimistic about the country's future despite the "grave economic crisis" and issues like corruption, as he vowed to realise the vision of the country's founding fathers. PTI

Turkey to boycott U.S. electronic goods

ISTANBUL

President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on Tuesday said Turkey would boycott U.S. electronic goods in retaliation for punitive sanctions by Washington against Ankara over the detention of an American pastor. "If (the United States) have the iPhone, there's Samsung on the other side," he said. AFP

Nepali labourer dies at World Cup project site

DOHA

A 23-year-old Nepali World Cup labourer in Qatar died on Tuesday while working at the project site of Al Wakrah Stadium, one of the venues for the 2022 tournament, officials said. This is thought to be the first reported death at a World Cup venue since the death of British worker Zac Cox in January 2017. AFP

Car rams U.K. Parliament gate, pedestrians injured

Police say they are holding the driver on suspicion of terror offences

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

A car crashed into barriers outside Britain's Houses of Parliament in a suspected terror attack on Tuesday, injuring a "number of pedestrians" close to where five people were killed last year.

Police said they had arrested the driver, a man in his late 20s, and were holding him on suspicion of terrorist offences.

"At this stage, we are treating this as a terrorist incident," said Scotland Yard police headquarters, adding that none of the injuries are believed to be "life-threatening".

Footage shows the silver Ford Fiesta veering across an intersection, hitting a number of cyclists and pedestrians, before speeding into a barrier outside the Houses of Parliament in London at 7:37 a.m. Another recording shows injured cyclists and pedestrians lying in the street in the immediate aftermath of the incident. Armed officers swooped in to arrest the driver, removing him from the vehicle at gunpoint.

Later images showed police holding the man, dressed in jeans and a black puffer jacket, in handcuffs as roads and Underground stations around Parliament were sealed off.

"The driver of the car, a man in his late 20s... was arrested on suspicion of terrorist offences," said police. "There was nobody else in the vehicle, which remains at the scene and is being searched. No weapons have been recovered at this stage."

Police have yet to identify the suspect, who was not cooperating with detectives, said Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu.

The London Ambulance Service said they had treated a man and a woman at the scene and taken them to hospital.

The man was later discharged, while the woman remained in hospital, where she was being treated for serious but non-life-threatening injuries, said Mr. Basu.

Emergency meeting

Prime Minister Theresa May, currently on holiday in Switzerland, tweeted that her "thoughts are with those injured in the incident in Westminster".

U.S. President Donald Trump responded on Twitter, urging tough action. "Another terrorist attack in London... These animals are crazy and must be dealt with through toughness and strength!" he wrote.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said "all Londoners, like me, utterly condemn all acts of terrorism on our city". "The response of Londoners today shows that we will never be cowed, intimidated or divided by any terrorist attack."

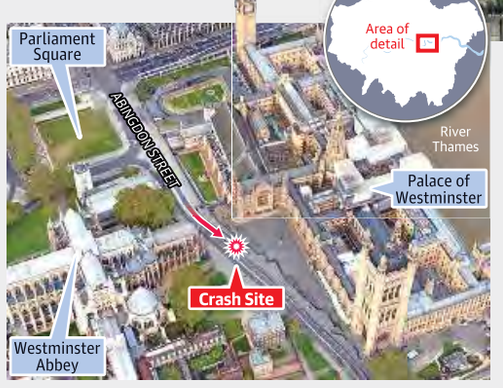
London targeted again

The incident near Britain's Parliament on Tuesday was the second terrorist attack in its vicinity in just under 18 months. The country has been targeted at least five times in the last one-and-a-half years, most of them being lone-wolf attacks





Capital attack: Police officers securing roads around U.K. Parliament; and, in circle, bicycles damaged due to the attack. ▪ GETTY IMAGES, AFP



March 2017
Westminster Bridge attack: Five people were killed and more than 50 wounded when a man rammed his car into pedestrians on Westminster Bridge before crashing into barriers surrounding Parliament and then stabbing a police officer to death. Police called it "Islamist-related terrorism"

May 2017
Manchester Arena bombing: Salman Abedi, 22, a Manchester-born individual of Libyan origin, blew himself up outside a pop concert by teen idol Ariana Grande in Manchester, killing 22 people and injuring 116. IS claimed responsibility later

June 3, 2017
London Bridge attack: Three men wearing fake suicide vests mowed down pedestrians with a van at a nightlife hub near London Bridge and then left the vehicle to stab people. Eleven, including the attackers, were killed

June 19, 2017
Mosque attack: A van ploughed into people leaving late-night prayers at a mosque in Finsbury Park on June 19; one person was killed. The driver, Darren Osborne, was later given life sentence

Sept. 2017
Parsons Green bombing: Bomb explosion at Parsons Green tube station injured 30 people. IS claimed responsibility

> **Given that this appears to be a deliberate act, the method, and this being an iconic site, we are treating it as a terrorist incident**
> NEIL BASU, London Assistant Commissioner

Source: Graphic News, AFP

Taliban captures Afghan Army base, kills 17 soldiers

Fall of northern station follows days of heavy fighting

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MAZAR-I-SHARIF

Taliban fighters overran an Army base in northern Afghanistan, officials said on Tuesday, killing at least 17 soldiers with dozens feared captured in a stinging blow to security forces already struggling to push insurgents from eastern Ghazni.

The fall of the base in Ghormach district of volatile Faryab province came with security forces already stretched by the days of fighting in Ghazni, a strategic provincial capital two hours from Kabul.

Militants gained control of the base after days of heavy fighting, according to Army spokesman for northern Afghanistan Mohammad Hanif Rezaee. He said around 100 soldiers were on the base when it was first attacked on Sunday. "It is a tragedy that the base fell to the enemy. Some soldiers were killed, some captured and some fled to nearby hills," said Mr. Rezaee.

40 soldiers captured

At least 17 were killed in the attack, according to Defence Ministry spokesman Ghafoor Ahmad Jawed, while a local MP said Taliban fighters captured another 40 in the base, known as Chenaya. "Preparations are under way to launch an operation to recapture the base," said the Ministry's spokesman.

Tahir Rehmani – head of Faryab's Provincial Council – said the base fell after the soldiers begged for reinforcements and air support from Kabul but were ultimately ignored. "They were too busy with Ghazni," said Mr. Rehmani.

Ghazni, further east and which the Taliban first assaulted late on Thursday, remains in government hands, officials have said. But fears of civilian casualties in the city were growing as security forces backed by U.S. air power struggled to push the Taliban out. The UN said unverified reports put civilian casualties at more than 100, with residents also at risk from U.S. air strikes.

Corbyn, Netanyahu trade barbs over 'wreath-laying' gesture

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and British Opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn were locked in a row on Tuesday over the Labour MP's attendance of an event that honoured suspects of the Munich Olympics massacre.

Mr. Corbyn has been accused of joining in a ceremony which included tributes to members of Black September, the group responsible for the killing of 11 Israeli athletes and coaches at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich.

'Condemnation' calls

Mr. Netanyahu tweeted on Monday that "the laying of a wreath by Jeremy Corbyn on the graves of the terrorist who perpetrated the Munich massacre... deserves unequivocal condemnation from everyone..."



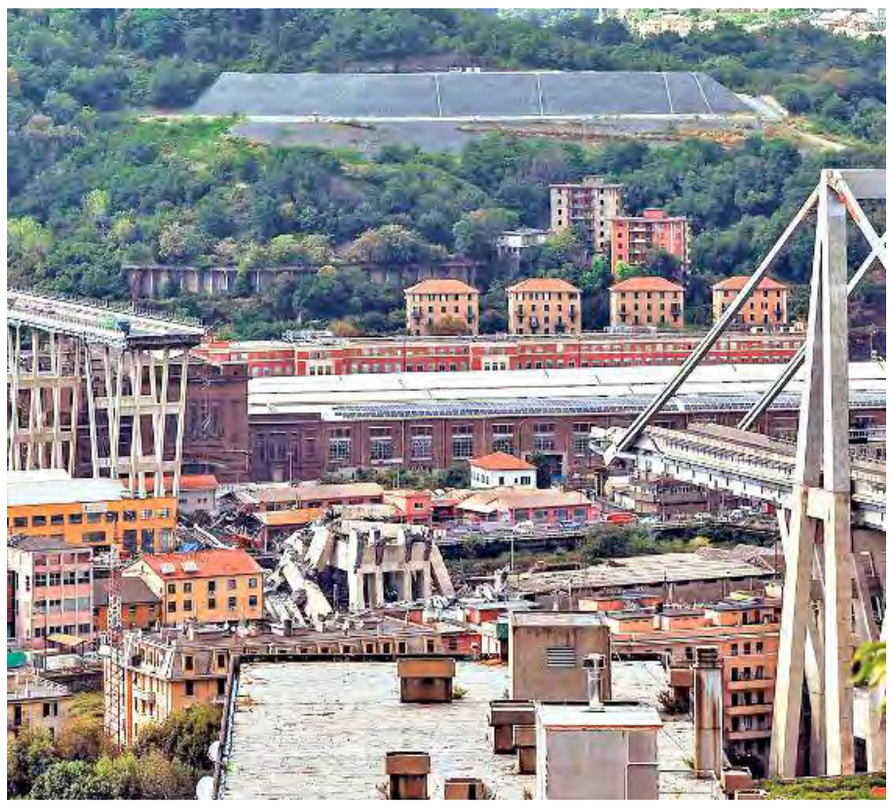
U.K. Opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn. ▪ REUTERS

Mr. Corbyn tweeted back that Mr. Netanyahu's "claims about my actions and words are false", saying earlier that he "didn't think" he was involved in the wreath-laying. "What deserves unequivocal condemnation is the killing of over 160 Palestinian protesters in Gaza by Israeli forces since March, including dozens of children," he added.

The latest scandal erupted after a picture emerged of Mr. Corbyn holding a wreath at the Cemetery of the Martyrs of Palestine, Tunisia, in 2014. Atef Bseiso, who is buried at the site, was regarded as one of the ringleaders.

Images recovered from a Palestinian Embassy archive show Mr. Corbyn holding a wreath in front of a plaque dedicated to members of Black September. "A wreath was indeed laid by some of those who were at the conference to those that were killed in Paris in 1992," he said on Monday. "I was present at that wreath-laying, I don't think I was actually involved in it," he added.

+ *Bridge to nowhere*



Raining misery: A section of northwestern Italy's Morandi motorway, situated in Genoa, collapsed on Tuesday, killing at least 30 persons. The crash, triggered by torrential rains, saw a vast stretch of the A10 freeway tumble on to railway lines in the port city. ▪ AFP

Trump slams ex-staffer as 'dog'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday lashed out at his former White House aide Omarosa Manigault Newman in especially angry terms, slamming her as a "dog" and "crazed" as their mud-slinging match escalated.

Ms. Manigault Newman on Monday released a recording of a private conversation she had with Mr. Trump after she was fired.

Mr. Trump had already branded her a "lowlife" after she released a recording of her firing. But on Tuesday, he ratcheted up the war of words.

"When you give a crazed, crying lowlife a break, and give her a job at the White House, I guess it just didn't work out. Good work by General Kelly for quickly firing that dog!" tweeted Mr. Trump.

U.K. group slams Indian IT firms

Says companies exploiting a 'gaping' loophole in Britain's immigration system

VIDYA RAM
LONDON

A lobbying group, which pushes for greater curbs on Britain's immigration regime, has accused multinational IT companies, "typically based in India", of exploiting a "gaping" loophole in Britain's immigration system, and has called for the system to be overhauled.

In a report published on Wednesday, Migration Watch said a small number of multinational IT companies were exploiting a system intended to post senior executives to and from the U.K. to bring "thousands of migrant workers to fulfil contracts with private and public sector organisations".

"This is known as third-party contracting and usually involves an international IT company, typically based in India, obtaining a contract to deliver a project or support services to a U.K. entity and then staffing it with workers form the company's home country," Migration Watch said.

Tier 2 visa category

Though part of the Tier 2 visa category, intra-company transfers (ICTs) are not subject to a cap, and have over time represented an increasing share of the Tier 2 work visas, the lobby group said.

About 58,000 of 94,000 Tier 2 work permits issued in 2017 were via the ICT route, the group said. It accused the companies of undercutting British competitors and "reducing" opportunities for British IT professionals to work and develop skills.

Britain's immigration regime has become an increasingly contentious area: while those on the Right have pressed for tougher restrictions, industry and others have expressed concerns that even the existing system could threaten Britain's ability to remain open to business and talent.

> **Intra-company transfers hugely benefit the U.K., boosting investment... and creating jobs**
> MATTHEW PERCIVAL, Confederation of British Industry

Boost investment

Last week, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) published a report calling for the government to scrap immigration targets. "Intra-company transfers hugely benefit the U.K. boosting investment by international companies and creating jobs in the U.K.," said Matthew Percival, the CBI's head of employment.

Trade body TechUK rejected the suggestion that international talent was cutting U.K. domestic skills. "Last year, there were more unfilled vacancies in IT than any other sector," said Antony Walker, deputy CEO of TechUK.

"The U.K. is a world leader in tech because it is open and attractive to the best international talent. While it is right that the industry continues to build our domestic skills pipeline, maintaining routes that allow businesses to get the workers they need, where and when they need them, is critical to the tech sector and to our economy."

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MARKET WATCH

	14-08-2018	% CHANGE
Sensex	37852	0.55
US Dollar	69.89	0.05
Gold	30630	-0.09
Brent oil	72.66	-0.26

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	373.15	-4.00
Asian Paints	1395.10	-4.15
Axis Bank	618.05	13.15
Bajaj Auto	2646.40	15.55
Bajaj Finserv	7112.70	167.25
Bajaj Finance	2830.20	69.80
Bharti Airtel	367.00	-3.15
BPCL	376.65	-3.05
Cipla	642.75	14.45
Coal India	282.65	3.60
Dr Reddys Lab	2278.45	36.85
Eicher Motors	28992.35	585.75
GAIL (India)	379.80	4.35
Grasim Ind	986.60	-0.25
HCL Tech	999.70	16.70
HDFC	1941.50	-5.50
HDFC Bank	2089.10	-2.55
Hero MotoCorp	3266.35	-41.85
Hindalco	221.45	-0.20
HPCL	270.05	-3.05
Hind Unilever	1744.25	15.40
Indiabulls HFL	1291.05	14.55
ICICI Bank	332.45	7.55
IndusInd Bank	1997.60	3.70
Bharti Infratel	283.90	-1.35
Infosys	1408.30	-0.45
Indian OilCorp	160.70	0.05
ITC	307.90	1.95
Kotak Bank	1293.00	5.85
L&T	1253.25	-15.80
Lupin	836.75	24.80
M&M	950.45	-4.05
Maurti Suzuki	9132.60	51.75
NTPC	156.90	-1.10
ONGC	166.25	0.20
PowerGrid Corp	187.90	-0.10
Reliance Ind	1210.60	22.90
State Bank	294.90	0.75
Sun Pharma	601.80	37.90
Tata Motors	248.80	0.10
Tata Steel	578.95	10.15
TCS	2003.55	3.40
Tech Mahindra	672.80	12.85
Titan	925.60	11.95
UltraTech Cement	4299.10	104.90
UPL	610.45	-14.95
Vedanta	215.10	-1.20
Wipro	285.05	3.20
YES Bank	382.50	11.80
Zee Entertainment	513.95	7.50

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 14

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	69.70	70.02
Euro	79.44	79.81
British Pound	88.97	89.39
Japanese Yen (100)	62.85	63.14
Chinese Yuan	10.13	10.18
Swiss Franc	70.33	70.66
Singapore Dollar	50.72	50.97
Canadian Dollar	53.25	53.49
Malaysian Ringitt	17.01	17.14

Source:Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

August 14 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	40.9	(41.3)
22 ct gold (1 g)	2827	(2844)

Rupee breaches 70 against dollar for the first time

'Funds chasing safe-haven assets may spur more depreciation in medium term'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The rupee breached the psychological barrier of 70-to-a-dollar for the first time as the sharp fall in the Turkish lira continued to affect all emerging market currencies.

The rupee had a strong opening against the dollar at 69.85, but fell sharply to breach the 70-mark and went on to depreciate till 70.08, prompting the central bank to intervene, currency dealers said. On Monday, the rupee declined 1.6% against the dollar to close at 69.93. "The rupee is the victim of a contagion effect impacting all emerging markets triggered by the Turkish crisis," said B. Prasanna, group executive and head – Global Markets Group, ICICI Bank.



Fuel factor: The current account gap is widening due to crude price rise. India imports 80% of its requirements. ▪ REUTERS

'FII outflows spur trend'

"The swift move past 69 happened due to Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) outflows and the need to hedge existing short dollar positions in the market, driven by global market sentiment rather than actual importer demand," Mr. Prasanna said, adding the rupee will need to depreciate in the medium term to keep up with the inflation differentials with other trading partners.

The domestic currency ended the day at 69.89 to a dollar. The rupee is the worst performer in Asia this year, depreciating 9% against the dollar. The current account gap is widening mainly due to a rise in international crude oil prices as India imports more than 80% of its requirements.

A depreciating rupee puts pressure on prices and hence makes it difficult for the Reserve Bank of India which wants inflation within a range. RBI has raised its key policy rate, or the repo rate, in the last two policy meetings by 25 basis points each to 6.5%. "This sudden fall is from the fear of potential Turkish Lira impact on emerging markets currencies, from which the rupee value can't stand out when current account deficit is moving up sharply and flows into the capital account is on a decline," said Moses Harding John, CEO, India and East Africa, SBM Holdings Limited.

'Optimism on economy'

"The comforting factor, however, is the optimism on domestic macroeconomic fundamentals, optimism on growth and comfort on inflation and fiscal deficit."

Abheek Barua, chief economist at HDFC Bank, said while the country is positioned better in terms of vulnerability ratios, the run towards safe haven assets could lead to further depreciation in the short run.

'Falling rupee positive for growth of inbound tourism'

Will however be a 'negative' for outbound tourists: industry

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

The sharp depreciation of the rupee against major currencies will help inbound tourism to grow while outbound travel will be hit.

"A weakened rupee has made India a cheaper foreign destination," said Subhash Goyal, Chairman, Assocham Tourism Committee. "We expect inbound tourism to benefit by 10%."

However, the rupee's decline would be bad for outbound travel, he said. "We expect this segment will have negative growth this year. The impact will be felt later," Mr. Goyal added.

While Indian travellers had taken note of the falling rupee, they had not changed



their international travel plans, said Karan Anand, Head, Relationships, Cox & Kings Ltd.

"In the last eight months, the rupee has fallen over 8% vis a vis the dollar. However, this has had little impact on people taking trips to dollar destinations. If the rupee may weaken further against the dollar, travellers may trade down – like reduce the duration of travel, stay in four-star accommodation and cut back on shopping to cut down on expenses while on the trip," Mr. Anand said.

"However, it is very rare that travellers cancel or reassess their choice of overseas destination that has been planned for months."

Due to the overall strength of the rupee against the euro Indians would likely prefer to visit Europe.

He said some travellers were likely to want to take advantage of positive exchange rates and would plan travel to countries whose currencies had weakened against the rupee like South Africa, Turkey and Mexico.

'Not worried about rupee if other currencies depreciate'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Attributing the fall in rupee value against the U.S. dollar to "external factors", Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg said on Tuesday that there is nothing to worry about as long as the depreciation is in line with other currencies.

"Rupee is depreciating due to external factors... nothing at this stage to worry," Mr. Garg said, adding external factors may ease, going forward.

The Indian currency, he said, is still better as compared to certain other currencies.

In the current financial year, which began on April 1, the rupee has depreciated around 6.7% against the U.S. dollar.

Mr. Garg also said that while the Reserve Bank of India had sufficient foreign exchange reserves, its intervention in the currency market may not be of much help as of now, as the weakness in the rupee was a result of global factors. RBI's foreign exchange reserves were at $402.70 billion in the week ended August 3, falling by $1.49 billion over the preceding week, latest data released by the central bank showed.

RBI's stated position is that it does not seek to target a particular level for the rupee's exchange rate against the dollar, and uses its reserves to ease volatility in the currency market.

SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar said all currencies have weakened against the dollar, but that the Indian currency has not weakened very much in comparison to other currencies. "I feel that it should stabilise between 69 and 70 because if you look at the investment... coming into the country, – investment in bonds, investment in equities – this level has become attractive for foreign investment," he said.

Trade deficit widens to 5-year high

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

India's trade deficit widened to a more than five-year high of $18.02 billion in July, the trade ministry said on Tuesday, driven largely by a surge in oil imports.

Though merchandise exports rose 14.3% year-on-year in July, the trade deficit widened as oil imports surged 57.4% to $12.35 billion.

In June, the trade deficit stood at $16.6 billion.

Merchandise exports last month rose to $25.77 billion from a year earlier, while imports rose 28.8% to $43.79 billion, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a statement.

'Weak rupee good for textiles and clothing'

But, high volatility to hit exports: AEPC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

The rupee weakening against the dollar is expected to be positive for the textile and clothing sector.

Sanjay K. Jain, chairman of Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, said yarn exports to China increased 20% to 24 % between April and June. However, the Chinese yuan also weakened in the period and hence Indian exports were affected.

"It is more important to see the rupee weakening in context to our competitors' currency," he said. From April to June, the weakening Indian currency gave exporters a competitive edge.



According to Chandrima Chatterjee, adviser at Apparel Export Promotion Council, "Right now, it [weakening rupee] is positive. But, too much volatility will affect exports." The Centre is expected to reimburse embedded taxes and raise Reimbursement of State Levies, thus giving garment exports a push.

IDBI Bank Q1 loss widens to ₹2,410 cr.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

State-owned IDBI Bank on Tuesday reported widening of its loss to ₹2,409.89 crore for the first quarter ended June 30, hurt by higher provisioning for bad loans.

The bank had posted a loss of ₹853 crore in the April-June quarter of the previous fiscal.

Its total provisioning for non performing assets, or bad loans, more than doubled to ₹5,236.07 crore in the first quarter of 2018-19, from ₹2,035.96 crore in the year-earlier period. The provision for bad loans alone was ₹4,602.55 crore, as against ₹1,873.21 crore.

Total income of the bank for the quarter also declined to ₹6,402.50 crore, as against Rs 6,730.88 crore a year earlier, IDBI said in a regulatory filing.

SpiceJet posts ₹38 cr. loss on fuel prices

Falling rupee adds to carrier's woes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

SpiceJet recorded a loss of ₹38 crore in the quarter ended June due to an increase in fuel prices, fall in rupee and an arbitration amount paid by the airline.

The airline had registered a profit of ₹175.2 crore in the corresponding period last year. SpiceJet earned a total income of ₹2,270 crore in the quarter as compared with ₹1,886.3 crore in the same quarter last year.



Arbitration amount paid

Expenses were ₹2,245.4 crore compared with ₹1,711 crore. However, an arbitration award of ₹63.5 crore, among other factors, led to the airline incurring a loss of ₹38.1 crore.

Income per available seat kilometres (ASKM) grew 6% due to an increase in passenger load factor, average fares and ancillary revenue, according to a statement.

The airline added that operating expenses per ASKM rose 15% on account of a 34% increase in aviation turbine fuel, resulting in fuel expenses rising from ₹279.6 crore in the quarter from ₹230.9 crore a year earlier.

A 4% increase in exchange rate over the past one year also took its toll on the airline's financials.

RBI rejects Kotak stake dilution plan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has rejected Kotak Mahindra Bank's claim that promoter's stake had been reduced in the bank after it issued non-convertible perpetual non-cumulative preference shares (PNCPS).

"RBI has communicated to us that our PNCPS issuance does not meet their promoter holding dilution requirement," the private sector lender said in a communication with the exchanges.

It added that it believed the requirement of promoter's stake dilution has been met and that it would continue to engage with the RBI on the issue.

Post the PNCPS issuance, the bank had said that promoter holding in the bank had fallen to 19.7%, from close to 30%.

Centre proposes new bidding model for greenfield airports

Moots fixed fee per passenger as 'most transparent method'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government on Tuesday proposed a new transaction structure for the bid process for greenfield airports, switching from a revenue share model to a fixed fee per passenger to be paid to the concessioning authority.

The Ministry for Civil Aviation is betting that the proposed change to the bid parameters would help ensure affordability of airport services for passengers as well as predictability of revenue for the winning bidder.

"The present model is revenue sharing," Minister for Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu said at a press conference. "The new model will be based on passengers entering the airport. This will be the most transparent method. With new technology, the headcount is far more easier," he addded.



Suresh Prabhu

The Maximum Blended Aeronautical Yield (MBAY) in terms of rupee per passenger would be determined by the concessioning authority at the beginning of the tender period. This fee has been fixed at ₹400 per passenger for the financial year 2018-2019. The bids would however differ for each airport in line with the projected traffic, financial returns and risk profile.

Performance indicators

The Ministry has also proposed that tariff regulator Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India may formulate key performance indicators as part of the bid document and could be revised every five years. This would ensure quality of services by the concessionaire.

The Ministry has invited comments on its proposal until September 14, which would be incorporated in a model concession agreement for airports.

WPI inflation slows to 5.09% in July

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Inflation at the wholesale level slowed to 5.09% in July largely due to a cooling down of food price inflation, according to official data released on Tuesday.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation was lower than June's 5.77%.

The primary articles category saw growth slowing significantly to 1.73%, from 5.3% a month earlier. This was largely due to a 2.16% contraction in food prices, compared with June's growth of 1.8%.

"The softening of the WPI inflation print is very good news," Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII, wrote in a note. "Hopefully, this is the beginning of a downswing in prices."

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IN BRIEF



Sun Pharma reports net profit of ₹982 cr. in Q1

NEW DELHI

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries has reported a consolidated net profit of ₹982.51 crore for the June quarter of 2018-19. The company had posted a net loss of ₹424.92 crore in the year-earlier quarter on account of an exceptional item, Sun Pharmaceutical said in a filing to BSE. Total revenue from operations stood at ₹7,224.17 crore for the reported quarter. PTI

Observe.AI gets $8 mn from Nexus, others

BENGALURU

Observe.AI, a start-up that provides artificial intelligence to call centres, said it had secured $8 million in Series A funding led by Nexus Venture Partners, with participation from MGV, Liquid 2 Ventures, Hack VC. Existing investors Emergent Ventures and Y Combinator also participated in this round. Observe.AI also announced its agent-first voice AI platform to improve caller satisfaction in call centers worldwide.

Tube Investments net rises 54% to ₹54.03 cr.

CHENNAI

Tube Investments of India Ltd. (TII), formerly known as TI Financial Holdings Ltd., has posted a 54% rise in standalone net profit for the first quarter ended June 30, 2018, at ₹54.03 crore from ₹35.18 crore the year earlier. Higher profitability and lower capital employed enabled improvement in Return on average Capital Employed to 19% from 14%, the company said in a regulatory filing.

Grasim profit rises 25% on higher volume, realisation

Posts ₹1,116 crore net; plans ₹1,112 cr. capex on caustic soda, specialty chemicals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Kumar Mangalam Birla-led Grasim Industries Ltd. reported a 25% increase in consolidated net profit for the June quarter to ₹1,116.07 crore on the back of a 71% growth in revenue, to ₹16,857 crore.

"The results were achieved due to better realisations, higher volumes and operational efficiencies," said Sushil Agarwal, Group CFO, Aditya Birla Group.



New blood: Himanshu Kampani was appointed director and will be named vice-chairman of Grasim. ▪ ASHOKE CHAKRABARTY

Not comparable

The results of the quarter were not comparable with those of the corresponding period of the last fiscal as the previous year's results did not include the results of the erstwhile Aditya Birla Nuvo Limited (ABNL), which merged with the company effective July 1, 2017, Grasim said in a statement.

"On a like-to-like basis, the performance for the quarter was outstanding as standalone revenue at ₹3,547 crore for the quarter was up by 29% and Ebitda grew by 66%," said Mr. Agarwal.

The company appointed former Idea Cellular MD Himanshu Kapania as an additional director of the company. He is to be designated as vice chairman of the company.

Additional director

The board of Grasim approved capital expenditure plan of ₹1,112 crore for expansion in the caustic soda and specialty chemicals areas. On a standalone basis, net profit grew 85% to ₹643 crore, while revenue grew 75% to ₹4,789 crore.

The board also appointed Anita Ramachandran as additional independent director, with effect from August 14 for a period of five years.

Grasim shares rose a marginal 0.04% to ₹988.10 on the BSE on Tuesday.

Tata, JSW, Liberty rebid for Bhushan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Tata Steel, Liberty House and JSW have submitted bids for the second time to acquire debt-laden Bhushan Power and Steel Ltd., sources in the know of the matter said.

The bids were submitted to Committee of Creditors (CoC), a source said.

On August 6, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) had extended the deadline for submission of revised bids for BPSL by one week on the plea of Tata Steel.

"The CoC is at present evaluating the three bids and will inform its decision to the NCLAT on August 17," said the source.

BPSL owes about ₹45,000 crore to lenders and was among the 12 NPA accounts identified by RBI.



Pushing ahead: The Tatas made tactical leadership changes in group firms, says David Haigh. ▪ GETTY IMAGES / ISTOCK

'Tata remains most valuable brand'

HDFC Bank strongest: Brand Finance

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

The Tata brand remained India's most valuable brand this year as per the latest findings by Brand Finance, a U.K.-based independent brand valuation and strategy consultancy.

After years of below 5% growth in brand value, the Tata group surged ahead with 9% growth in brand value, estimated at $14.2 billion. At this valuation, Tata's brand value is even higher than Airtel's ($6.7 billion) and Infosys's ($6 billion), which are No. 2 and No. 3, respectively.

Last year too, the Tata brand was ahead of the rest at $13.1 billion.

"The $1 billion increase is the result of much tactical streamlining, refocusing and re-engineering of Tata's key businesses – TCS, Tata Motors, Tata Steel and Tata Chemicals," Brand Finance said in a statement.

'Tata's tactical changes'

David Haigh, Chief Executive Officer, Brand Finance, said: "This year's success can truly be attributed to a productive first year in office for the new chairman. Under the pragmatic leadership of chairman... Natarajan Chandrasekaran, Tata group is pursuing a consolidated long-term strategy as it ushers in a new era. Chandrasekaran has reviewed the group's most senior positions, introduced an experienced team of former bankers tasked with overseeing the group finances and made tactical leadership changes across the financial services and hotel brands," he said.

LIC, ranked fourth in brand value at $6 billion, has seen a value erosion of 13%. HCL, whose brand value has been estimated at $4.6 billion, has seen a 2% appreciation.

The others among the top 10 include SBI with brand valuation of $4.4 billion, down 19% and Indian Oil at $4.2 billion, down 9%. HDFC Bank rose two rungs with an appreciation of 19% to $4.1 billion. Reliance and ITC are valued at $4 billion each. While Reliance witnessed a value erosion of 17%, ITC is down 4%.

"HDFC Bank is clearly proving its resilience and growth in the face of banking scrutiny and headwinds sweeping the sector," Brand Finance said. "HDFC Bank is India's strongest brand this year," the consultancy said.

Ola, Munjal invest in scooter start-up Vogo

Access to vehicle's key based on OTP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Vogo, an automated scooter sharing platform for short commutes, announced on Tuesday that it has raised Series A round of funding led by ANI Technologies (Ola), and Hero MotoCorp chairman, Pawan Munjal.

Stellaris Venture Partners and Matrix Partners India also participated in the round. The start-up did not reveal the funding amount.

"We... aim to leverage [Ola's] products, technology and operations infrastructure, to better suit our customers' needs," said Anand Ayyadurai, founder and CEO, Vogo, in a statement.

Vogo is a dockless scooter rental company which lets customers rent scooters for one-way trips within a city.

IoT-based access

The app allows users to locate, unlock and pick up its scooters and bikes at one point, and drop it off at another.

Every Vogo scooter comes with an OTP-based IoT (Internet of Things) sensor, that allows customers to access the key without the need for any human intervention. Last week, Metro Bikes raised $12.2 million, led by venture capital firms Sequoia India and Accel Partners.

Rubber futures to trade on MCX

Trading to start Aug. 16; to help 'price discovery, hedging'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX), the country's largest commodity exchange in terms of market share, will commence trading in rubber futures contracts from August 16.

The new contract is aimed at offering a hedging solution to participants in the rubber value chain, including growers, traders, exporters, importers and tyre manufacturing companies among others, said a statement by the exchange.

The underlying quality of the contract has been fixed as Ribbed Smoked Sheets 4 (RSS4) with the lot size pegged at 1 metric tonne (MT) with compulsory delivery option. The price for 100 kg is quoted Ex-Kochi (Ernakulam), exclusive of all sales/GST.



Sixth-largest producer

Further, contracts ending in September, October, November, and December will be available for trading.

Incidentally, India is the sixth-largest producer and second-largest consumer of natural rubber in the world with the commodity catering to a wide spectrum of industries like automobile, aeronautics, electrical, healthcare and power transmission among others.

"The rubber futures are absolutely necessary for price risk management and hedging for all the stakeholders of the rubber trade," the statement quoted Sibi J Monippally, General Secretary, Indian Rubber Growers Association, as saying.

"Rubber futures will act as a domestic benchmark for price discovery for rubber prices," he added. The production of natural rubber in India in 2017-18 was 6.94 lakh MT while consumption stood at 11.12 lakh MT.

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

The incredible Mr. Anderson and his taste for Indian scalp

He has now taken 73 wickets in home conditions, more than against any other country

INDIA IN ENGLAND

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
LONDON

There will come a time in the not-too-distant future when James Anderson will eventually decide he's simply bowled too many overs, put his hamstrings through too much, spent too many days on the road, and hang his boots up.

Till that day arrives, though, watching England play Tests will be a delight.



Lynchpin: James Anderson is on the cusp of becoming the most successful fast bowler in Test history. ▪ GARETH COPLEY/GETTY IMAGES

Master of swing

Anderson has mastered one of the hardest skills in the game – swinging the cricket ball – and he performs it with such nonchalance and ease that he risks being taken for granted.

At Lord's he was at his best, turning India's batsmen inside out, setting them up expertly, finishing with nine for 43. The overcast conditions, his knowledge of the ground and his general ability made for a deadly cocktail.

"When the ball is swinging, as it was in the first innings, then Pavilion End for me, swinging it up the slope. I feel more in the game," he said. "Then when the ball gets old, the far (Nursery) end, using that slope to try and move the ball away from the right-hander."

Sometimes, there is no shame in being overcome by an opponent that good: Anderson was not boasting when he said, on the second day, that England would have dismissed cheaply any team in the world in those conditions.

His dismissal of Vijay in the second innings brought Anderson his 100th Test wicket at Lord's. He now has 553 Test wickets, only 10 fewer than Glenn McGrath.

When – and it is likely he will get there before this series ends – he does overtake the Australian, Anderson will become the most successful fast bowler in the history of Test cricket.

Far ahead

Among active bowlers, nobody is within a hundred wickets of him; the closest are Stuart Broad (424) and Dale Steyn (421), neither of whom are very young. When Anderson does retire, it is unlikely another fast bowler will surpass his tally for a long time.

It can be easy to forget that he is 36, although he is quick to remind anybody who may presume he's older.

"You are around 36-37," began one question at a press conference last week, only for Anderson to interrupt with: "I'm 36, not 37."

In the last 10 years, nobody in Test cricket has bowled more overs than Anderson (4145.2) – spinners included – or taken more wickets (449). Broad is third on the list for overs bowled (3,786.2) and it is easy to see why England's coaches may be worried about workload management.

For now, though, Anderson shows no signs of slowing down and it is a testament to his fitness that he has been able to carry on this way.

"I feel like, I won't say 28, but 32," he said during the second Test. "I don't think about numbers or my age. I don't feel old, I feel like I can still throw myself around in the field as well as anyone else.

"I was delighted with how many overs I bowled at Edgbaston. For my body to get through that at this age, I'm really happy. I think it means I'm doing the right stuff off the field."

Help from the Indians

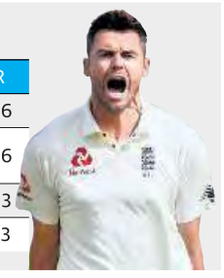
At the start of the tour, India may have hoped that five Tests in six weeks would be too much for Anderson's ageing body. But the first Test finished a day early and India lasted all of 82.2 overs in the second, which means that the Lancastrian will be well rested going into the third Test at Trent Bridge.

Then there is a week between that game and the fourth Test at Southampton, by which time the series may well be finished as a contest.

Anderson seems to relish playing against India in England: he has now taken 73 Indian wickets in home conditions; no other nation has suffered as much at his hands. The pain does not look like ending quickly.

Jimmy on the prowl

Record	Span	M	Wkts	BBI	BBM	Avg.	5-fors	SR
Overall	2003-2018	140	**553**	7/42	11/71	26.83	26	55.6
Against India	2006-2018	24	**99**	5/20	9/43	25.82	4	53.6
In England	2007-2018	14	**73**	5/20	9/43	23.1	4	47.3
In India	2006-2016	10	**26**	4/40	6/79	33.46	0	71.3



'Don't give up on us'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

Embattled India captain Virat Kohli called on fans to back his team despite consecutive losses to England in the ongoing Test series, hoping that they "never give up" on the side.

"Sometimes we win and other times we learn. You never give up on us and we promise to never give up on you either. Onwards and upwards," read a message on Virat Kohli's official Facebook page.

The brief post was accompanied by a picture of the Indian team in an on-field huddle.

The Indian team lost the opening two Tests of the ongoing five-match series, with the much-vaunted batting being a major let-down.

Kohli, after scoring 149 and 51 in the first Test, experienced a dip in form in the second and was troubled by a back problem.



Virat Kohli. ▪ REUTERS

Following the innings and 159-run loss at Lord's, the skipper admitted that the team combination was "a bit off" but insisted that the side would bounce back.

The third Test starts this Saturday in Nottingham, following which the Indian team for the remaining two matches would be named.

Bumrah available for third Test

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LONDON

Jasprit Bumrah is fit and available for selection for the third Test against England, which begins in Nottingham on Saturday. The Gujarat pacer, who suffered a thumb injury during India's first T20 against Ireland, has been travelling with the squad but has been unable to play any part in the series so far.

He has been bowling in the nets too, albeit with a plaster on his left hand. Bumrah made his Test debut in South Africa earlier this year, where he took 14 wickets in the three matches. His availability poses an interesting question for the team management, which now has four fit pace bowlers to choose from.

Meanwhile, R. Ashwin, who suffered a couple of blows on the fingers while batting on the final day at Lord's, has also been declared fit. India will also hope that Virat Kohli, who is struggling with a sore back and does not feel he will be able to field with total intensity, will recover in time for Trent Bridge.

The Indian team is scheduled to travel to Nottingham on Wednesday.



Jasprit Bumrah. ▪ AP

Relief for Stokes as he is acquitted of affray

Found unanimously 'not guilty' at Bristol Crown Court trial

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRISTOL

England cricketer Ben Stokes was found not guilty of affray in a unanimous decision by a jury in less than three hours of deliberations on Tuesday following a trial at Bristol Crown Court.

The 27-year-old – whose co-defendant Ryan Ali was also found unanimously not guilty – had been charged following a brawl hours after England played the West Indies in a one-day international in Bristol in September last year.

His wife, Clare, cried when the 'not guilty' verdicts were returned while Stokes closed his eyes with relief and then looked up.

Stokes shook hands with Ali on leaving the dock at the end of the trial that lasted seven days.

At the start of the trial, the prosecution tried to amend the indictment and charge Stokes with two counts of assault occasioning actual bodily harm but this was rejected by the judge.

And half way through the trial, Stokes' legal team attempted to have the case against him dropped but this was also refused by the judge.

The jury had also been warned twice by Peter Blair about press coverage and social media on the latter occasion instructing them to avoid looking at commentary of the case after Stokes' lawyer raised the issue.



It's all over: Ben Stokes, along with his wife Clare, will be pleased that the verdict went his way. ▪ AFP

Ben back in squad

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Ben Stokes is in line to play in the third Test against India after being recalled to the squad following his acquittal on a charge of affray on Tuesday.

"Ben Stokes will now join the England squad for the third Test against India, which starts at Trent Bridge on Saturday," read the statement from the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

However, Stokes and teammate Alex Hales – who was with him when the brawl took place – could still face bans.

"Now that the legal proceedings have concluded, the disciplinary process for Ben Stokes and Alex Hales can be scheduled by the Cricket Discipline Commission (CDC)," the ECB added in its statement.

Lanka pips South Africa



Sandakan. ▪ REUTERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka defeated South Africa by three wickets in the one-off T20I here on Tuesday.

Lakshan Sandakan led an inspired spin attack (three for 19) to help skittle out South Africa for its lowest-ever T20I total of 98. Dinesh Chandimal, returning to the side, guided the team home with an unbeaten 36 (33b, 3x4, 1x6).

The scores: South Africa 98 in 16.4 overs (Lakshan Sandakan three for 19) lost to Sri Lanka 99 for seven in 16 overs (Dinesh Chandimal 36 n.o., Dhananjaya de Silva 31).

Powar is women's coach



Ramesh Powar. ▪ FILE PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Former India spinner Ramesh Powar was on Tuesday named head coach of the women's national team till the ICC World T20, scheduled to be held in November.

Powar's term will include a tour to Sri Lanka, a bilateral series in the West Indies in October followed by the ICC Women's World T20 in West Indies in November.

"The BCCI has appointed Ramesh Powar as Head Coach of the Indian Women's Team. Powar has now been handed over full time duties till 30th November, 2018," the Board's secretary Amitabh Choudhary said in a statement.

The 40-year-old was appointed interim coach last month after the resignation of Tushar Arothe.

The World No. 1 team ought to be made of sterner stuff

You cannot bring the technique and the mental attitude of the white-ball game into the red one



BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

India are staring at a 5-0 whitewash unless they do something extraordinary over the next three Tests. That, of course, is an obvious thing to say; but it is nearly 60 years since they lost thus in England, and given the results on their last two tours (4-0 and 3-1), questions will be asked about their suitability for a full series. Test cricket is beginning to struggle as a spectator sport without the added turn-off of one-sided series. It is no exaggeration to say that Virat Kohli's men owe it to themselves as well as to the sport itself to turn things around.

Unless, of course, it is accepted that India are unconcerned about losing abroad so long as they keep winning at home. No team sets out to lose, but surely the No. 1 team in the world ought to be made of sterner stuff? To be fair, most countries struggle abroad. England themselves lost 4-0 the last time they toured India. But, for a champion team, every ground should be 'home'.

If in the first innings at Lord's, India came up against a great swing bowler in difficult batting conditions – England might not have made 150 themselves – in the second there was a discernible lack of both technique and fight. It is tempting to say had India won the toss, the match might have gone the other way, but the second innings performance ruins that theory. When things are going well, there are few more attractive batting lineups in the world; but let the ball swing or bounce or even spin (Moeen Ali on the last tour, Monty Panesar and Graeme Swann at home), and everything is in disarray.

Unconvincing

The Lord's Test in effect saw India being bowled out twice in one day (a total of 83 overs) and turned out to be a two-day affair. To claim, like the Indian captain has, that the batsmen did not lack in technique is therefore unconvincing. Few in the top order were prepared to play straight and in the 'V' towards mid-on and mid-off, preferring instead to tempt fate by playing across the line and towards midwicket if not square-leg.

Murali Vijay symbolised India's batting. In the first innings he received a delivery from Anderson that former England captain Mike Atherton considered the best the bowler might have bowled. It had pace, accuracy and importantly, late swing. The batsman tried to tuck it away to square-leg, and lost his off-stump. Had he been conscious of playing straight (it was only the fifth ball of the innings), it might have been a different story (I say "might" because in that case he could have edged it to slip – but this is just to show how the initial impulse was wrong).

In the second innings, he received a standard inswinger that announced itself early but still took the inside edge to the wicketkeeper. Playing outside the line of the ball can be as dangerous as playing inside it.

How much is T20 cricket responsible for poor Test match technique? For one, there is the tendency to push at the ball, to turn it away rather than play dead. For another, there is reluctance to let the ball go. In any long innings, batsmen don't play at least half the deliveries, usually more. With four slips waiting, there is no percentage in attempting to nudge one or even slash hard as one might in the shorter game where the dot ball is anathema. You cannot bring the technique and the mental attitude of the white ball game into the red one.

Neither authority nor heart

India have brought neither authority nor heart into the series so far. They have twice won two Tests after losing the first two – at home against the West Indies in 1974-75, and in Australia in 1977-78. In both cases they lost the decider, but they raised the tone of the competition and brought spectators into the stands.

Part of India's problem in recent years has been their contempt for proper preparation and acclimatisation. In 1959, there were nine first class matches before the first Test, two between the first and second, two ahead of the third Test, another four before the fourth and six ahead of the fifth Test. This Indian team is superior to that one, more experienced, better travelled and with impressive records. Yet, as 5-0 looms, Kohli's men find there is little to cling on to, little to hang their hopes on.

Suddenly, Indian cricket is in a shambles. The Supreme Court has handed the Board of Control for Cricket in India a win of sorts, unmindful of the fact that when the BCCI wins thus, cricket in general loses. The two-year exercise in house cleaning has been expensive, time-consuming, effortful, but in the end the dirt has remained where it was. The national team, top ranked in the world, looks anything but.

The consolation is that there is only one way to go from here. Up.



Down, but out? Kohli's men owe it to themselves as well as to the sport to turn things around. ▪ STU FORSTER/GETTY IMAGES

Deepti does it for India Red



Deepti Sharma. ▪ PTI

SPORTS BUREAU
BENGALURU

Deepti Sharma's all-round effort (two for 15 and 45 not out) secured India Red a win over India Blue in a rain-curtailed women's senior Challenger Trophy match at the Alur ground, near here, on Tuesday.

Chasing 101, Red had reached 79 for three in 16.3 overs when rain interrupted the match. With no further play possible, the team was declared the winner as it was ahead by seven runs on VJD method. For Blue, Mithali Raj topscored with 51.

The scores: India Blue 100 for eight in 20 overs (Mithali Raj 51, T.P. Kanwer two for 16, Deepti Sharma two for 15) lost to India Red 79 for three in 16.3 overs (Deepti Sharma 45 n.o.), on VJD Method.

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

TV PICKS

UEFA Super Cup: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Thursday).

IN BRIEF



Federer anxious ahead of Cincinnati return

CINCINNATI

Roger Federer says he is eager to make his start at the Cincinnati Masters as the World No. 2 begins his delayed summer hard-court season. "I've trained hard, I'm anxious. I chose to skip Toronto as I didn't want to be injured, there is too much to play," said the seven-time Cincinnati champion. AFP

Indian women start with a loss

JAKARTA

Despite Rimpi scoring eight goals, India lost to Kazakhstan 19-36 in its women's Group 'A' handball opener of the 18th Asian Games here on Tuesday. India had finished eighth among nine teams, without posting a win, at the last Asiad in Incheon.



Pouille sends Murray packing

CINCINNATI

Andy Murray's comeback was sidetracked on Monday as the three-time Grand Slam champion lost 6-1, 1-6, 6-4 to Lucas Pouille in his opening match at the Cincinnati Masters. Pouille had lost his previous three matches to Murray, the last at Dubai in 2017. The Frenchman produced 40 winners to just 15 from Murray. Pablo Carreno Busta scored a 6-3, 2-6, 6-3 win over Richard Gasquet and Kei Nishikori put out Andrey Rublev, 7-5, 6-3.

Anand ends ninth

SPORTS BUREAU

ST. LOUIS

Viswanathan Anand finished ninth in the Saint Louis Rapid tournament, part of the Grand Chess Tour, here on Monday. He could score only six points in the 10-player round-robin event.

The title was won by American Hikaru Nakamura, as he finished ahead of fellow-countryman Fabiano Caruana and Shakhriyar Mamedyarov of Azerbaijan.

The final standings (rapid): 1-2. Hikaru Nakamura (US) & Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze) 12; 3. Fabiano Caruana (US) 11; 4-6. Leinier Dominguez (Cub), Sergey Karjakin (Rus) & Levon Aronian (Arm) 9; 7-8. Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra) & Wesley So (US) 8; 9-10. Viswanathan Anand & Alexander Grischuk (Rus) 6.

Chance for India's Gen Next

Ramkumar and Prajnesh carry medal hopes in the absence of big names

N. SUDARSHAN

The Asian Games has all along been a happy hunting ground for Indian tennis. Since the start of this millennium, the nation has won four medals on an average, including golds in each of the four editions.

Fewer events

A repeat performance at Jakarta, though, will require a significant step up. For the record, there will be fewer events – five compared to seven previously – with the men's and women's team competitions culled. India then will have to grapple with the non-availability of Sania Mirza and Yuki Bhambri.

Sania, a former World No. 1, who has two golds, three silvers and three bronzes from her four outings, is expecting her first child, and Bhambri, currently the country's best in singles and winner of two bronzes at Incheon 2014, has prioritised the last Major of the year, the US Open.

It has to be said, however, that India's chances have considerably brightened in the last few days.

With Japan's Kei Nishikori and South Korea's Hyeon Chung set to give the Games a miss, Uzbekistan's Denis Istomin will be the only top-100 player.

This is expected to open up the draw for Ramkumar Ramanathan (118) and Prajnesh Gunneswaran (161), both of whom are likely to be seeded in the top four.



Golden chance: Ramkumar Ramanathan and Prajnesh Gunneswaran have hit career-high rankings in the past two months . ▪ FILE PHOTO: M. KARUNAKARAN

The two have had fine seasons with each of them hitting a career-high ranking in the past two months. Ramkumar made the final of the ATP 250 event in Newport and Prajnesh has had a series of top-draw wins, including one over Canadian sensation Denis Shapovalov on grass.

"It's the best thing any coach could have asked for," Zeeshan Ali, captain of the contingent, told *The Hindu*.

"There is not a lot to separate our players from the rest. If Ram and Prajnesh can perform the way they have in the last few months, there is a high chance that both may get medals."

But Zeeshan admitted to concerns regarding doubles with both the touted pairs having little to no experience of playing together.

At 45, Leander Paes continues to defy age, but the five-time Asian Games gold medallist has featured in only five matches in the last five months. There is still no clarity on who he will partner, Ramkumar or Sumit Nagal.

Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan, ranked 32 and 38 respectively, will be the top seeds, but they have combined as a team only at the institutional level for Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. Bopanna himself hasn't competed since retiring from his second-round match at Wimbledon with a shoulder injury.

Among women, Ankita Raina (187) and Karman Kaur Thandi (197) may have had breakthrough years but the task at hand still remains tough. The presence of China's Shuai Zhang (32) and defending champion Qiang Wang (53) will render the field more competitive.

Sania's absence will be severely felt, especially when one considers the fact that the 31-year-old won the mixed doubles gold with Saketh Myneni in 2014 and carried Prarthana Thombare to a bronze in doubles.

"It is a big blow," said Zeeshan. "But mixed doubles is only there at the Majors and I don't think any pair would have played much together. A lot has to do with style and temperament. We feel it is better for Rohan to team up with Prarthana and Leander with Ankita."

Vikas exudes confidence

Boxing squad tipped to return with more than five medals

VIJAY LOKAPALLY

NEW DELHI

The Indian boxing contingent, players and support staff, exuded confidence ahead of the Asian Games. At a send-off organised at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on Tuesday, the boxers promised to give their best even as the Sports Authority of India (SAI) Director-General Neelam Kapur asked them not to put any pressure on themselves.

Neelam assured unstinted "support" from SAI.

"This is an important phase. India has played an important role in the Asian Games journey. I want you to do your best but don't take any kind of pressure."

Medal hopeful Vikas Krishan conveyed the confident mood of the contingent. "We have a good mix of experience and youth. I think this is the best boxing team possible that would be going to the Asian Games. I don't think we have had a better team than this one. In my opinion, it is a perfect team and you can expect more than five medals."

Boxing Federation of India (BFI) president Ajay Singh assured the boxers all "help" in the future too. "I know Asian Games will be tough but I am sure you would give your best."

The ten-member team, including three women, has been honed well by foreign coach Santiago Nieva.

"We have had very good preparations and I expect good results. I feel positive when I see this bunch. Let us accept it is going to be a very tough competition, much tougher than the Commonwealth Games. But we have prepared well. Had a decent camp in England and some good sparring sessions (in Patiala). We are prepared for the task and hopefully we will get good medals."

Cdr. Rajesh Rajagopalan from the TOPS scheme cautioned the boxers.

"You have set high benchmark for yourself in CWG. We are high on the curve and there is no doubt it is a capable team. Our analysis is that the team will put its best punch forward."



Ready to punch: The Indian boxers have promised to give it their best shot in Jakarta. ▪ PTI

Hockey teams leave

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Eyeing qualification for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, the Indian men's and women's hockey teams left for the Asian Games with hopes of winning gold medals.

About improving on the bronze at the last Asiad, the women's team captain Rani said: "We are going into the Games after a strong performnce in the World Cup and it has given us a lot of confidence."

Men's skipper P.R. Sreejesh said: "We need to execute perfectly in every single match and return home with the gold medal."

Alonso to quit F1 at end of season

Likely to race in the Indianapolis 500 next year

REUTERS

LONDON

Double World champion Fernando Alonso will retire from Formula One at the end of the season, his team McLaren said in a statement on Tuesday.

The 37-year-old Spaniard is competing in his 17th Formula One season and his fifth with McLaren, and has been widely tipped to race in the Indianapolis 500 next year as he attempts to win the 'Triple Crown of Motorsport'.

Alonso, a double Monaco Grand Prix winner, won the Le Mans 24 Hours on his debut with Toyota in June this year and is ninth in the Formula One drivers' championship standings.

"After 17 wonderful years in this amazing sport, it's time for me to make a change and move on," Alonso said. "There are still several grands prix to go this season, and I will take part in them with more commitment and passion than ever."

Alonso thanked Formula One chief executive Chase Carey and the sport's owner Liberty Media Corp for trying to get him to change his mind and left the door open on a possible return to the circuit. "I know (McLaren) will come back stronger and better in the future and it could be the right moment for me to be back in the series; that would make me really happy," he said.

The Fernando file



World titles: Two (2005 and 2006)

Grand Prix appearances: 303

Teams: Minardi (2001), Renault (2002, test driver), Renault (2003-2006), McLaren (2007), Renault (2008-2009), Ferrari (2010-2014), McLaren (2015-present)

Debut: 2001 Australian GP

First win: 2003 Hungarian GP

Last win: 2013 Spanish GP

Wins: 32 | **Podiums:** 97

Pole positions: 22

Record: First (2005, 2006), second (2010, 2012, 2013), third (2007), fourth (2004, 2011), fifth (2008), sixth (2003, 2014), ninth (2009), 10th (2016), 15th (2017), 17th (2015), 23rd (2001)

Tootsie Roll fancied for feature event

HYDERABAD: Tootsie Roll runs with a good chance in the Independence Cup (1,400m), the main event of the races to be held here on Wednesday (August 15).

1 SIDDIPET PLATE (Div. I), (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms), 1-10 p.m.: 1. Ace Ace Ace (9) Aneel 56, 2. Bombastic (4) Ashhad Asbar 56, 3. Corsican King (12) Rafique Sk. 56, 4. Dumbledore (7) Kunal Bunde 56, 5. His Excellency (3) Hannam 56, 6. Hurricane (5) P. Ajeeth Kumar 56, 7. Palsy Walsy (11) Deepak Singh 56, 8. Promiseofhappiness (2) Deep Shanker 56, 9. Solo Winner (8) Nakhat Singh 56, 10. Vallee Ikon (13) Akshay Kumar 56, 11. Crimson Girl (14) G. Naresh 54.5, 12. Diesis Dream (15) Ajeet Kumar 54.5, 13. Just Like That (10) Gaddam 54.5, 14. Royal Faith (1) Md. Ismail 54. and 15. Tequila (6) Sai Kumar 54.5.

1. PROMISEOFHAPPINESS, 2. PALSY WALSY, 3. ACE ACE ACE.

2 SIDDIPET PLATE (Div. II), (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms), 1-40: 1. Ajmal Birju (13) Kuldeep Singh 56, 2. Classy Guy (4) Nakhat Singh 56, 3. Curcumin (12) G. Naresh 56, 4. Handsome Duo (6) P. Ajeeth Kumar 56, 5. Holy Healer (9) Deepak Singh 56, 6. Lockhart (14) Sai Kumar 56, 7. Max (15) Arshad Alam 56, 8. Royal Style (10) Deep Shanker 56, 9. Top Enchanter (8) B. R. Kumar 56, 10. Tyrion (11) Rafique Sk. 56, 11. Ulysses (7) Aneel 56, 12. Blazing Speed (1) N. Rawal 54.5, 13. Honest Hunter (ex: Life Line) (5) Ashhad Asbar 54.5, 14. Negress Dolly (2) Md. Ismail 54.5 and 15. New Desire (3) Akshay Kumar 54.5.

1. AJMAL BIRJU, 2. CLASSY GUY, 3. HONEST HUNTER.

3 SIRCILLA PLATE (Div. III), (1,200m) 4-y-o & over, rated 26 to 46 (Cat. III), 2-10: 1. Be Sure (9) Nakhat Singh 60, 2. Wannawin (5) Rohit Kumar 59.5, 3. Golden Image (8) Ajeet Kumar 59, 4. Royal Green (13) Akshay Kumar 58, 5. Vijay's Empress (11) Ajit Singh 57.5, 6. Shakesphere (10) Koushik 56, 7. Cash For Rank (6) P. Ajeeth Kumar 55.5, 8. Snow Castle (7) Md. Ismail 55.5, 9. Reach The Heights (2) Kunal Bunde 55, 10. King David (1) Sai Kumar 54.5, 11. Handsome Boy (4) Hannam 53.5, 12. Mean Machine (3) Kiran Naidu 53.5 and 13. Pretty Star (12) Arshad Alam 53.

1. BE SURE, 2. WANNAWIN, 3. HANDSOME BOY.

4 FATEH MAIDAN CLUB PLATE (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 42 to 62 (Cat. II), 2-45: 1. Champion Bull (5) Jai Shankar 60, 2. Columbus (3) B. Dileep 59.5, 3. Creator (9) N. Rawal 59.5, 4. Top Link (11) Deep Shanker 59.5, 5. China Millennium (12) Akshay Kumar 57.5, 6. Princess Hina (10) Ashhad Asbar 57.5, 7. Vancouver (6) Kiran Naidu 57.5, 8. San Vinto (2) Ajit Singh 56.5, 9. Charming Beauty (1) C. P. Bopanna 55, 10. Durango (4) Hannam 55, 11. Ikigai (8) Sai Kumar 55 and 12. Nayadeep (7) Aneel 55.

1. DURANGO, 2. CHAMPION BULL, 3. VANCOUVER.

5 SIRCILLA PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated 26 to 46 (Cat. III), 3-15: 1. Ashka Ashka Ashka (3) Sai Kumar 60, 2. Vallee Bloomer (11) Rohit Kumar 60, 3. Free Eagle (8) Tanwar 59, 4. Sarvatra (12) Akshay Kumar 58.5, 5. Proud Warrior (9) Kunal Bunde 57.5, 6. Soaring Sensex (6) Deepak Singh 57, 7. Wild Wings (4) P. Ajeeth Kumar 56.5, 8. Patron Saint (10) C. P. Bopanna 55.5, 9. Sweetie Pie (14) Md. Ismail 55.5, 10. Cymbal (5) Koushik 55, 11. Great Glory (2) Gaddam 55, 12. Negress Princess (13) Ashhad Asbar 53.5, 13. Kohinoor Legend (1) G. Naresh 53 and 14. Withrosemakeup (7) Uday Kiran 52.5.

1. SARVATRA, 2. FREE EAGLE, 3. WILD WINGS.

6 INDEPENDENCE CUP (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 58 to 78 (Cat. II), 3-45: 1. Western Wind (6) R. Ajay Kumar 60, 2. Vijay's Dynamite (3) Kuldeep Singh 58, 3. Aragonda Princess (5) Gopal Singh 57.5, 4. Doroteo (9) Jai Shankar 56, 5. Tiger (10) Hannam 56, 6. Phenomenal Cruise (8) Suraj Narredu 55.5, 7. Prince Caspian (12) Nakhat Singh 54.5, 8. Top Contender (11) Ashhad Asbar 54, 9. Euro Zone (1) C. P. Bopanna 53, 10. Ans Ans Ans (7) Akshay Kumar 52.5, 11. Kalinda (4) Kunal Bunde 52.5 and 12. Tootsie Roll (2) Arshad Alam 52.

1. TOOTSIE ROLL, 2. WESTERN WIND, 3. PHENOMENAL CRUISE.

7 SIRCILLA PLATE (Div. I), (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated 26 to 46 (Cat. III), 4-15: 1. Apowerx (6) P. Ajeeth Kumar 60, 2. Exclusive Symbol (9) Arshad Alam 60, 3. Escobar (13) Rohit Kumar 59, 4. Jumeira Express (8) B. R. Kumar 59, 5. Haven Can Wait (12) Jai Shankar 57.5, 6. Indian Aristocrat (7) Akshay Kumar 57, 7. Born To Do It (5) Harinder Singh 56, 8. Money Time (11) Gaddam 55.5, 9. Proud N Arrogant (2) Sai Kumar 55, 10. New State (10) Suraj Narredu 54.5, 11. Royal Gift (4) N. Rawal 54, 12. New Comer (1) C. P. Bopanna 53.5, 13. Dippy Dip (3) A. S. Pawar 53 and 14. Rose Petal (14) G. Naresh 52.5.

1. INDIAN ARISTOCRAT, 2. APOWERX, 3. EXCLUSIVE SYMBOL.

8 KOHIR PLATE (1,400m), 5-y-o (winner of not more than two races since Nov. 1, 2017), rated upto 30 (Cat. III), 4-45: 1. Invasion (1) Md. Ismail 61, 2. Samba (5) Koushik 61, 3. Razor Wind (ex: Time Is Luck) (6) Rafique Sk. 60.5, 4. Mountain Of Light (7) Gopal Singh 60, 5. My Windfall (3) R. Ajay Kumar 59.5, 6. Carnival Express (2) Arshad Alam 59, 7. Ultimate Risk (8) Kiran Naidu 58.5, 8. Sefarina (11) Ajit Singh 57.5, 9. Aalishaan (4) Akshay Kumar 57, 10. Abracos (13) G. Naresh 57, 11. Forever Bullish (-) (-) 57, 12. Golden Adara (12) A. S. Pawar 55.5, 13. Ice Mummy (10) C. P. Bopanna 55.5, 14. Hammer (14) Ashhad Asbar 50.5 and 15. Top Sprint (9) Ajeet Kumar 50.

1. MY WINDFALL, 2. HAMMER, 3. AALISHAAN.

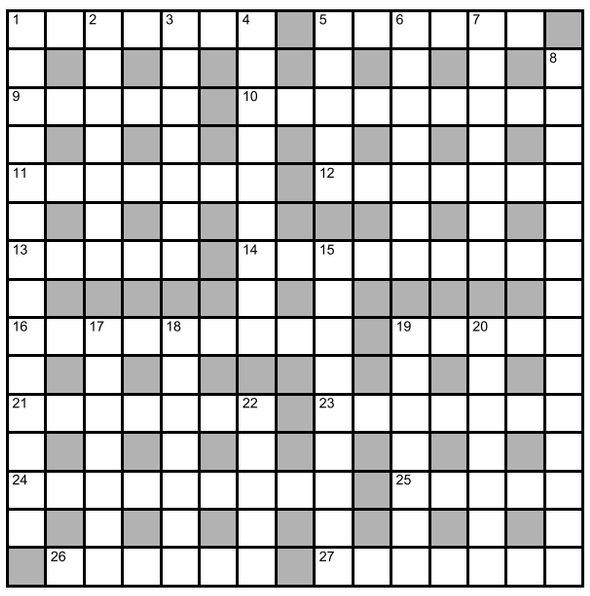
Day's best: **DURANGO**

Double: **BE SURE - INDIAN ARISTOCRAT**

Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8; Tr (i): 1, 2 & 3; (ii): 3, 4 & 5; (iii): 6, 7 & 8; Tla: all races.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12396

(set by Gridman)



ACROSS

1 Copying silent actor's nervous complaint (7)

5 Nerdy types half-weak among young socialites (6)

9 More certain ruse works catching raw beginner (5)

10 One must _ _ _ not to behave like a younger person (2,4,3)

11 Think! One periodical's in last stage (7)

12 Don't bother over crossing half-a-river in winter sport event (3,4)

13 Ruined one? Dead right! (5)

14 Tore around in a top-class new cushioned transport (9)

16 See bluish fleet that can transport many people (9)

19 Foundation of original building to be taken in the present state (5)

21 Most monumental one's beginning to glow repeatedly among top-rate (7)

23 Italian composer tossing endlessly in rigorous imprisonment (7)

24 A learner liberal in producing medicinal jars (9)

25 Oddly shunned, maid fired us in leave-taking (5)

26 Son's to finish satire (4,2)

27 One carries hard piece of toast (7)

DOWN

1 Losing a chance, young lady beats both giant and English leader (7,3,4)

2 Cattle disease caused by return of odd deluge (7)

3 Dog's blunder in row (7)

4 Accountant and lawyer get terrible scare in mountainside transporters (5,4)

5 Rainfall becomes less (5)

6 Support in extraordinary site for Thomas Gray, for one (7)

7 Supporter saw in France artist's brilliant performance (7)

8 What a shapely dieter tries to do — numbers may change, though (4,4,6)

15 Checks others before wet weather starts stampede (9)

17 First Lady, say, gets bile disorder — easy to make out (7)

18 Fuzzed up, ran past the border without discernment (7)

19 Food, mostly simple, scattered around tablecloth protector (7)

20 Son's sick on the move at sea (7)

22 Plant raised around 50 ideas initially (5)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12395

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Arjuna's many names

Arjuna had many names, each of which he bore for a reason, said V.S.Karunakaracharian, in a discourse. Arjuna himself talks of these names and the reasons behind them, in the Virata Parva of the Mahabharata. He is calledArjuna, because he is white skinned. There is also a symbolic reason for this name. Arjuna's hands are clean and never tainted, because he does not do anything that is wrong. Even when he fights, he plays by the rules. Arjuna says that another of his names is Phalguna. He is so called, because he was born in the month of Phalguna. He is Jishnu, because he is unapproachable and cannotbe suppressed. He is Kiriti, because Indra, the king of the celestials, placed a celestial crown on his head. He is called Swetavahana, because his horse is white (sweta) in colour. Why did Arjuna always have to use white horses to draw his chariot? This was to show what a skilled warrior he was. At the end of a day of fighting, his horses would return without a nick or a scratch on their bodies. While this would be true regardless of what colour the horses were, the fact that they were uninjured would be more evident in the case of white horses. Had they been of some other colour, brown for instance, it could be said that perhaps there was a small scratch somewhere, that wasn't showing up due to the colour of the horse. But even a small scratch will show up against the white skin of a horse. And so, to show everyone what a skilled archer he was, Arjuna always had white horses draw his chariots.

Arjuna was also called Bhibatsa, because he would be filled with a sense of revulsion at the thought of doing something wrong. He not only did not do wrong things, but never even contemplated doing wrong. He was Vijaya, because he was always victorious.

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

Sidharth crosses first hurdle

SPORTS BUREAU
GWANGJU (KOREA)

Qualifier Sidharth Rawat defeated Korean wildcard Kim Cheong-Eui 7-5, 6-7(5), 6-2 in the first round of the $50,000 Challenger tennis tournament on Tuesday.

Sidharth will take on sixth-seeded Maverick Banes of Australia in the pre-quarterfinals.

The results:

$50,000 Challenger men, Gwangju, Korea: First round: Sidharth Rawat bt Kim Cheong-Eui (Kor) 7-5, 6-7(5), 6-2; Alexander Bublik (Kaz) bt Arjun Kadhe 4-6, 7-6(6), 7-6(2).

$15,000 ITF men, Anning, China: First round: P.C. Vignesh bt Shuai Xu (Chn) 6-1, 6-2; Anirudh Chandrasekar bt Chukang Wang (Chn) 6-2, 6-2; Naoki Takeda (Jpn) bt S.D. Prajwal Dev 4-6, 7-6(1), 5-5 retd.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Luca Castelnuovo (Sui) & Connor Farren (USA) bt Li-Wie Tan (Tpe) & Tarun Anirudh Chilakalapudi 6-3, 7-5; Ruikai Wang & Ruixuan Wang (Chn) bt Prithvi Sekhar & Gokul Suresh 6-4, 7-6(3).

$25,000 ITF women, Guiyang, China: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Olga Savchuk (Ukr) & Yuqi Sheg (Chn) bt Mai Minokoshi (Jpn) & Riya Bhatia 6-3, 6-4.

$25,000 ITF women, Nonthaburi, Thailand: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Mana Ayukawa (Jpn) & Zeel Desai bt Karin Kennel (Sui) & Michika Ozeki (Jpn) 6-4, 6-4.

Brace by Justin

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Jobby Justin scored a brace as East Bengal defeated Patha Chakra 3-0 to record its second win in the Calcutta Football League (CFL) here on Tuesday.

The result: East Bengal 3 (Jobby Justin 2, Laldanmawia Ralte) bt Patha Chakra 0.

Teams arrive for Quadrangular

Greg Chappell accompanies Australia-A



See you on the field! India-A and B team players arrive in Vijayawada. ▪ V. RAJU

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
VIJAYAWADA

One of the finest batsmen ever, Greg Chappell, accompanying the Australia-A side, arrived here with other players from the four sides for the Quadrangular series to be played at Mulapadu from August 17.

It may be mentioned that India-A, India-B, South Africa-A and Australia-A will play the one-day series.

Andhra Cricket Association secretary Ch. Arun Kumar, treasurer Ramachandra Rao, vice-president Trinadharaju and media manager C.R. Mohan recieved the players at the airport.

The teams: South Africa-A: Khayelihle Zondo (Capt.), Gihahn Cloete, Sisanda Magala, Farhaa Behardien, Pieter Malan, Malusi Siboto, Dwaine Pretorius, Temba Bavuma, Sarel Erwee, Dane Paterson, Robert Frylinck, Theunis de Bruyn, Beuran Hendricks, Senuran Muthusamy, Rudi Second, Tabraiz Shamsi and Shaun Vonberg.

Head coach: Russell Doming. **Manager:** Heremy Fredericks.

Australia-A: Travis Head (Capt.), Alex Carey, Peter Handscomb, Billy Stanlake, Michael Neser, Chris Tremain, Jhye Richardson D'Arcy Short, Mitchell Swepson, Ashton Agar, Jack Wildermuth, Marnus Labuschagne, Joel Paris, Usman Khawaja, Matthew Renshaw, Jonathan Merlo, Cameron Green and Kurtis Patterson.

Head coach: Greame Hick. **Manager:** Amy Petropoulos.

India-A: Shreyas Iyer (Capt.), Prithvi Shaw, R. Samarth, Suryakumar Yadav, Hanuma Vihari, Nitish Rana, Siddhesh Lad, Sanju Samson, Mayank Markande, K. Gowtham, Krunal Pandya, Deepak Chahar, Md. Siraj, Shivam Mavi and Khaleel Ahmed.

Head coach: Paras Mhambrey.

India-B: Manish Pandey (Capt.), Mayank Agarwal, A.R. Easwaran, Shubman Gill, Deepak Hooda, Ricky Bhui, Ishan Kishan, Shreyas Gopal, Jayant Yadav, Dharmesh Jadeja, Siddarth Kaul, Prasidh Krishna, Kulwant Khejroliya and Navdeep Saini.

Head coach: Abhay Sharma.

Hakkam Bhattal passes away

He won 20km race walk gold at the 1978 Bangkok Asiad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

Asian Games gold medallist athlete Hakkam Singh Bhattal, 64, passed away at Sangrur on Tuesday.

He had been ailing for some time and was undergoing treatment for liver and kidney ailments. Hakkam won 20km race walk gold at the 1978 Asiad at Bangkok.

The Dhyan Chand awardee had also served as Havaldar in the 6 Sikh regiment.

Union Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore had sanctioned financial assistance of ₹10 lakh to the athlete, while Punjab Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh helped him with ₹5 lakh. Punjab Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi expressed profound grief over the demise of Hakam.

DDCA EC suspends secretary

Punished for 'bringing the association to disrepute'

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

In a far-reaching move on Tuesday, the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) Executive Committee, by a majority decision, suspended the newly-elected secretary Vinod Tihara for "anti-association activities."

The secretary had declared an open defiance against the working of the DDCA president Rajat Sharma, who took a serious view of the situation and initiated action which found support from most quarters.

At the Emergency Meeting held at Taj Mansingh, the DDCA EC decided to "suspend" the secretary who refused to change his stance. According to a member of the EC, the secretary was offered a chance to withdraw his "mails of dissent" against the president but he was unrelenting. The secretary, insisted a member, had to be punished for "bringing the DDCA to disrepute."

In a tweet welcoming the decision, former India all-rounder Madan Lal, who had contested unsuccessfully for the post of president, said, "The decision taken by DDCA president Rajat Sharma is a welcome one in the interest of Delhi cricket. Important to take steps which only benefit DDCA."

DDCA joint-secretary Rajan Manchanda, who has been given the charge of acting-secretary, said the action was necessary. "We have been voted to run the cricket affairs by an overwhelming margin by the members and we don't want to lose their faith. This action was necessary for the betterment of cricket in the Capital and also to arrest the deteriorating image of the association.

"We are committed to improve the image of the DDCA and we took this decision with a heavy heart. The message to cricketers of Delhi is to have faith in the new body. We guarantee fair selection," Manchanda said.

The minutes of the meeting will be sent to Ombudsman Justice (Retd.) Badar Durrez Ahmed. "Everything has been done according to the reforms set by the Lodha Committee," said Manchanda. Those who voted in favour of the decision, initiated by Nitin Gupta (director) and O.P. Sharma (treasurer), were Rajat Sharma, Rakesh Bansal (vice-president), Rajan Manchanda, Renu Khanna, Apoorv Jain, Sudhir Aggarwal (director), and government nominees R.P. Singh, Rajan Tiwari and Gautam Gambhir. One EC member, Alok Mittal, was absent.

The secretary, who had accused Sharma of working in an "autocratic" manner, was present at the meeting along with directors Sanjay Bhardwaj and Shiv Nandan Sharma.

Chhetri to get Best Sportsperson award from CSJC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

India football captain Sunil Chhetri will get the 'Best Sportsperson of the Year' honour at the Calcutta Sports Journalists' Club annual awards function to be held here on Thursday.

The 34-year-old, who is currently taking part in Bengaluru FC's pre-season camp in Spain, said, "Recognition always feels good, but to be adjudged the best by sports journalists makes the award special. That it comes from Kolkata makes this memorable because not only have I played for three clubs in the city, now I also have a personal connection with the city."



Sunil Chhetri. ▪ AFP

Chhetri will come down to the city to attend the awards function.

Davis Cupper Akhtar Ali, international cricketer Arun Lal and 1962 Asian Games gold medal winning footballer Arun Ghosh will get Lifetime Achievement awards.

The award winners: Best sportsperson: Sunil Chhetri; **Best junior sportsperson:** Ishan Porel; **Lifetime achievement:** Arun Ghosh, Arun Lal and Akhtar Ali.

State Awards: Best cricketer: Abhimanyu Easwaran; **Best footballer (Indian):** Shilton Paul; **Best footballer (Foreign):** Mahmoud Al-Amna; **Best hockey player:** Suprajit Rakshit; **Best athlete (men):** Safiqul Mondol; **Best athlete (women):** Bhairabi Roy; **Best badminton player:** Ankit Mondal; **Best chess player:** Koustav Chatterjee; **Best swimmer:** Sayani Ghosh; **Best table tennis player:** Ayhika Mukharjee; **Best tennis player:** Yubarani Banerjee; **Best shooter:** Mehuli Ghosh; **Best basketball player:** Madhu Kumari; **Best volleyball player:** Nayanika Biswas.

Gogoi blanks Bowden

SPORTS BUREAU
LONDON

Udit Gogoi continued with his dominant performance on grass as he blanked Louis Bowden in the second league match of the Road to Wimbledon Finals UK under-14 tennis championship in Wimbledon on Tuesday.

In the girls' section, Sanjana Sirimalla had won her two league matches in a convincing fashion, but Renne Singla, who was part of the Asian team on the European circuit like Udit, had won one and lost one.

The results (league):

Boys: Udit Gogoi bt Louis Bowden 6-0, 6-0; Chirag Duhan bt Dean Cooper Kirby 3-6, 6-1, 10-6.

Girls: Sanjana Sirimalla bt Catherine Hodge 6-2, 6-0; Renne Singla bt Mayela Bassega 7-5, 6-2; Sanjana Sirimalla bt Imogen Haddad 6-2, 6-3; Mary Hoggard bt Renne Singla 6-2, 7-5.

Tamil Nadu beats Andhra

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Tamil Nadu scored a 3-1 win over Andhra Pradesh in the sub-junior National football championship at the Gachibowli Stadium here on Tuesday.

A fine effort by Kishore in the 18th minute put Tamil Nadu ahead, but Andhra equalised through Raj Kumar within six minutes.

However, Tamil Nadu stole the show in the second-half, striking twice through Jobin (58th) and Syed Mufeeth (67).

The result:

Tamil Nadu 3 (Kishore, Jobin, Syed Mufeeth) bt Andhra Pradesh 1 (Raj Kumar).

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THE HINDU
WEDNESDAY • AUGUST 15, 2018
DELHI METRO
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A myriad of meanings

People selling Tricolours on the streets of the Capital share what azadi means to them Page 2



Honour killing case: 3 held

Rohtak police arrests three persons, including a contract killer, in connection over a case of honour killing Page 3



Finishing touch

As *Gold* makes it to theatres, Balbir Singh (Sr) relives the memories of 1948 Olympics Page 5



Breaking the shackles

Kulwant Roy's long-lost frames of our freedom struggle and a newly independent India find a new lease of life Page 6

IN BRIEF



Cross-border harmony helps save life

NEW DELHI

In a heart-warming tale, cross-border harmony helped save the life of three-year-old Afghan national Hadia Nesari. A joint effort between Pakistan-based paediatric haepatologist Huma Cheema and the liver transplant team at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals gave a new lease of life to Hadia.

CITY ▸ PAGE 3

AAP claims MLAs not invited to I-Day function

NEW DELHI

The AAP claimed on Tuesday that its MLAs were not invited to the Independence Day function held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Party spokesperson and Delhi MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj said earlier invitations for the Republic Day and the Independence Day functions were received by the AAP MLAs when Pranab Mukherjee was the President. PTI

I knew that a gun would be turned on me: Umar

JNU student seeks police protection as there was a 'continuous threat' to his life

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A day after he was attacked by an unidentified gunman, JNU student Umar Khalid on Tuesday sought police protection as there was 'continuous threat' to his life.

He said that after seeing assassinations of one activist after the other in the last few years, he somehow knew that someday a gun would be turned on him.



JNU student Umar Khalid moments after he was attacked in the Capital. He escaped unhurt. ▪ FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Real culprits

Mr. Khalid said the real culprit was not the unidentified gunman but those who 'from their seats of power have been breeding an atmosphere of hatred, of bloodlust and fear'.

"The real culprits are those who have provided an atmosphere of complete impunity for assassins and mob lynchers. The real culprits are those spokespersons of the ruling party and the prime-time anchors and TV channels who have spread canards about me, branded me anti-national based on lies and virtually incited a mob against me. This has specifically made my life extremely vulnerable," he said.

Mr. Khalid questioned as to how two days before the Independence Day when security had been strengthened, a man carrying a gun could so easily attack him in the heart of the Capital.

"The attack on me only goes on to show the brazen impunity that some people feel they enjoy under the present regime," he said.

He questioned the meaning of "freedom" if the citizens of this country have to be ready to die for their "crime" of just being vocal against injustice.

Targets PM

In a tweet targeted at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said he had a suggestion for the Prime Minister's Independence Day speech: "Can you guarantee that there will be no attack on those who criticise your government and its many failures?"

> **The attack on me only goes on to show the brazen impunity that some people feel they enjoy under the present regime**
>
> UMAR KHALID
> JNU student

Mr. Khalid added that the hate campaign against him has been going on for the last two years but there has been no evidence, no chargesheet, and only media-trial.

"If they believe that with attacks like this they are going to scare us into silence, then they are gravely mistaken," he said.

"In the last two years, I have demanded police protection twice from the Delhi Police, but only to be met with a callous response. I have received several threats and inciteful messages everyday on social media. After yesterday's [August 13] incident, what is the Delhi Police waiting for?," he said.

Police obtain CCTV footage

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Tuesday said it has obtained CCTV camera footage from more than nine locations showing a man walking and wiping his face with a handkerchief after allegedly attacking JNU student Umar Khalid on Monday.

"We have obtained CCTV footage from more than nine locations along the escape route taken by the suspect after the attack. The suspect is seen walking on Rafi Marg, then he went towards Gurdwara Bangla Sahib on Ashoka Road. The footage is very clear. We have also asked Mr. Khalid to come to the police station for investigation purposes," said DCP (New Delhi) Madhur Verma.

An officer said, "We are assessing the security threat to provide him adequate security. The assessment will be done in next couple of days."

Mr. Verma said three witnesses, including a security guard at the Constitution Club, where the attack took place, have recorded their statements. Two of them claimed to have heard a gunshot. "The pistol was found with a live round stuck in the chamber. We did not find any empty bullet shell at the spot. The CCTV at the club's gate was dysfunctional and no CCTV captured the attack," he said.

The Police Commissioner has transferred the case to the Special Cell for detailed investigation.

Mr. Khalid had on June 8 filed a police complaint alleging that he had received death threats from a man who claimed he was fugitive gangster Ravi Pujari. A case was registered. "We asked Mr. Khalid eight times to record his statement but he never turned up," said a police officer.

Unanswered questions

- If the attacker wanted to kill Umar Khalid why did he not fire right away?
- How did the person reach the high-security area with a loaded pistol?
- Was the attacker alone or did he have an accomplice?
- Was a shot fired from the pistol? Eyewitnesses say yes, but the police did not recover any empty bullet shell at the spot. They are waiting for forensic report
- Did the attacker belong to any particular organisation or was he acting of his own accord?



A CCTV grab shows the alleged attacker. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CS assault case: Kejriwal seeks restraint order against police

Says agency was leaking content of the chargesheet to media

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday issued a notice to the Delhi Police on an application by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, his deputy Manish Sisodia and 11 AAP MLAs urging the court to restrain the police from leaking content of the chargesheet in the Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash assault case to the media.

Seeks response

The police had on Monday charge-sheeted Mr. Kejriwal, Mr. Sisodia and 11 AAP MLAs in the case.

Taking their application on record, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Samar Vishal sought response from the police by August 25. Mr. Vishal also put up the chargesheet for consideration on August 25.

'Character assassination'

In the application filed through their advocate Mohd Irshad, the accused persons said the investigating agency was selectively leaking excerpts of the chargesheet to the media to assassinate the character of the accused persons mentioned in it, especially Mr. Kejriwal and Mr. Sisodia.

The matter is sub judice and the agency has no power to pass on the content of the chargesheet before the court takes cognisance of it, the application said.

"The act and conduct of the probe agency is an interference in the administration of justice as their only intention is to create hype in the media and to influence the proceedings so that the image of the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister is adversely affected," the application added.

"If the probe agency was not restrained from making uncalled for, unwarranted and biased comments against the two constitutional authorities, CM and Deputy CM, it would cause irreparable loss to their image and the proceedings in the case would also be affected," it alleged.

'Online applications for licences rising steadily at RTOs'

Transport Department figures show only 10% were made through the traditional offline mode in July

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI

Close to 90% of the total number of applications for permanent drivers' licences received by over a dozen Motor Licensing Offices (MLOs) in the Capital in July were made online, data recorded by the Delhi Transport Department stated.

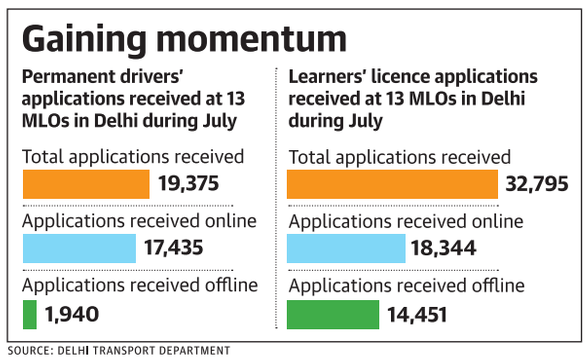
Of the total number of applications for permanent drivers' licences received during July, recorded at 19,375, only 1,940, or slightly over 10%, were made through the traditional offline mode, that is in person by applicants approaching MLOs located in their respective jurisdictional zone; 89.9% of such applications, or 17,435, were made online.

After it was gradually introduced across such facilities beginning mid-2017, the online acceptance of applications for various services with a significant stress on those for permanent drivers' licences, is expected to positively impact the existing annual average of around two to three lakh permanent drivers' licences which the Department has been issuing over the years.

"We started using the all India Saarthi 4 software of NIC in mid-2017 and gradually brought four MLOs, catering to areas generating a significant number of applications for such documentation, completely online last year," Transport Commissioner-cum-Secretary Varsha Joshi said.

"The figures indicate that the number of applications being made online is increasing steadily in all RTOs and now exceeds offline almost everywhere. Help desks at most of these facilities, barring only a few which see relatively less footfall of applicants, have played a major role in guiding applicants through the process and we plan on increasing the number of these help desks at such facilities soon," Ms. Joshi added.

Gaining momentum



SOURCE: DELHI TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Janakpuri MLO

The figures recorded by the Department stated the Janakpuri MLO emerged the most successful with accepting 1,118 online applications and zero offline applications. Similarly, traditionally "busy" MLOs such as Mall Road and IP Depot registered just one offline application each of the total number of 1,598 and 186 applications, respectively, accepted at these.

Learners' licences

Applications for learners' licences through the traditional mode, however, were still neck to neck with their online counterparts, the study revealed. There were 18,344 online as against 14,451 offline applications out of the total 32,795 applications for learners' driving licences received by the Transport Department in July.

MLOs such as IP Depot and Janakpuri saw more preference for online applications, with offline applications for learners' licences here recorded at 1 and 2 out of the total number of applications, that is 390 and 3,283, respectively.

However, the preference for the traditional mode of offline applications was still prevalent at MLOs such as Sheikh Sarai, which received 2,894 of the total 4,552 applications offline and just 1,658 online, Loni, which received 2,331 of the total 3,227 applications offline and just 896 online and Rohini which received 1,871 of the total 3,665 applications offline and just 1,794 online.

Four juveniles among 10 held in car vandalism case

Vehicle had allegedly brushed past a *kanwariya* last week

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Ten persons, including four juveniles, were apprehended by the Delhi Police on Monday for creating a ruckus and vandalising a car last week in west Delhi's Moti Nagar after the vehicle hit a *kanwariya*, the police said on Tuesday. The car was being driven by the daughter of a CISF inspector.



Six of the accused *kanwariyas* in police custody on Tuesday. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Jogesh (19), a suspect who was seen in the video footage of the incident, was arrested from a slum cluster in Dwarka. Following his arrest, the remaining accused were also taken into custody.

Around a dozen *kanwariyas* vandalised the car on August 7 with rods and sticks, managing to overturn it on a busy street in west Delhi's Moti Nagar, even as policemen and passers-by looked on.

The car had brushed past one of the *kanwariyas* and the holy water he was carrying fell on the road.

The *kanwariya* and the car driver had an argument over the issue and the woman allegedly slapped the *kanwariya*, following which the entire group turned violent. "We scanned the names of thousands of *kanwariyas* mentioned in the registers of *kanwar* camps from Moti Nagar to Najafgarh. Finally, we were successful in identifying two of the accused men – Jogesh and Vishal alias Dabla. Jogesh was arrested on Monday. At his instance, Vishal was arrested from Kair village in Delhi," said DCP (West) Vijay Kumar.

Accused identified

"The remaining accused have been identified as Aman Kumar [19], Jogesh [19], Sachin [25], Jitendra [19] and four juveniles. So far, 11 persons have been apprehended. On August 9, Rahul Billa was arrested in connection with the case. The accused are residents of Najafgarh, Bindapur and Dwarka," Mr. Kumar added.

Sachin was interrogated at length and he disclosed that he was provoked by his friend Aman, a resident of Najafgarh to vandalise the car. Aman is the main accused in the case.

The owner of the car and her companion fled the spot fearing for their lives and refused to give any complaint in writing.

A case was registered and the accused were identified on the basis of inquiries conducted by the police and CCTV footage. Later, during investigation, police added IPC sections of rioting in the FIR.

Plea seeks action against sex rackets

Under the garb of massage parlours

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought response from the city police on a petition seeking action against alleged sex rackets going on in the Capital under the garb of massage parlours and spas.

A Bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice V. Kameswar Rao asked the city police and Delhi government to file response on the plea and listed the case for further hearing on November 27.

'Immoral trafficking'

The petition, filed by Ateet Bansal through his counsel Abhishek Yadav and Mishika Singh, claimed that "immoral trafficking of girls for the purpose of running illegal sex rackets has become a common occurrence in the Capital".

The petition said that "most of these rackets are running under the garb of massage parlours, high-class model escort services in various hotels around Delhi-NCR, with young girls and women working in these parlours who have mostly been travelling from countries like Thailand and Russia".

When Mr. Bansal enquired about information on massage parlours, he received various photographs through WhatsApp of girls involved in flesh trade.

The petition claimed that the person providing the information asked Mr. Bansal to meet at Nehru Place.

It further said that "unknown person" demanded ₹12,000 on the pretext of making him meet the girls.

"However, when the petitioner reached the said address, he was mercilessly beaten by many unknown people present there," the plea said.

It said that Mr. Bansal complained to the police, but nobody arrived at the site.

He further said that repeated complaint to the authorities have not yielded any positive action till date.

"The police, even after repeated tip-offs, has been unable to take any action against the offenders," the petitioner said.

Violet Line services to begin early

To facilitate movement of public who wish to attend I-Day event

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Tuesday said services will begin at 4.30 a.m. on August 15 on the Violet Line to facilitate movement of people who wish to attend Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort. Lal Quila on the Violet Line is nearest station to the Red Fort.



Paramilitary force personnel on guard outside the Red Fort on Tuesday. ▪ SANDEEP SAXENA

"The first passenger service will start from Escorts Mujesar at 4.30 a.m. and trains will be available at a frequency of 15 minutes till 6 a.m., and then services will resume as per normal timetable," the statement said.

However, entry/exit at four stations of Line-6 (Kashmere Gate to Escorts Mujesar) – Lal Quila, Jama Masjid, Delhi Gate and ITO – will be permitted from select entry/exit gates during the function.

"Additional ticket counters will be opened at Lal Quila and Jama Masjid metro stations to facilitate people, along with deployment of additional staff for guiding people due to rush after the event," the statement said.

Meanwhile, traffic restrictions will be in place for the Independence Day celebrations here, an advisory issued by the Delhi Police stated.

Traffic restrictions

"Elaborate traffic arrangements around the Red Fort have been made in connection with the celebrations. Traffic police will be deployed to facilitate movement of VIP vehicles, invitees and general public to reach the function venue and also to ensure safe and smooth flow of traffic in other parts of the city," said Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Alok Kumar.

Half a dozen roads will remain closed from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m., and traffic will be rerouted onto other roads.

Roads on which restrictions will apply are Netaji Subhash Marg from Delhi Gate to Chatta Rail, Lothian Road from GPO Delhi to Chatta Rail, S.P. Mukherjee Marg from H.C. Sen Marg to Yamuna Bazar Chowk, Chandni Chowk Road from Fountain Chowk to Red Fort, Nishad Raj Marg from Ring Road to Netaji Subhash Marg and Esplanade Road and its link road to Netaji Subhash Marg will be closed. The police said vehicles which do not have parking labels for the celebrations should avoid Tilak Marg, Mathura Road, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, Subhash Marg, J.L. Nehru Marg and Ring Road between Nizamuddin bridge and ISBT bridge.

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Yamuna crosses danger mark

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

With the Yamuna flowing above the danger mark again, the Delhi government on Tuesday ordered the implementation of precautionary measures, including issuing instructions to evacuate residents from low-lying areas.

The Flood and Irrigation Control Department said that the Yamuna's level at the Delhi Railway Bridge was 205.3 metres at 8 p.m. on Tuesday. The danger mark is 204.83 metres.

At a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash, government departments and agencies were instructed to put in place precautionary measures.

Officials have been told to be ready to come to work on Wednesday, which is otherwise a holiday on account of Independence Day.

'Set example of good citizenship'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

On the eve of the 72nd Independence Day, Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal on Tuesday paid homage to the sacrifices of those "who laid down their lives to deliver freedom to us".

"Independence Day is an occasion for us to renew our pledge to serve our nation with greater sincerity, commitment and truth." He urged Delhiites to set an example of good citizenship and emphasised the need to treat all with respect, "irrespective of caste, class, gender or religion".

Freedom: one word, a myriad of meanings

People selling Tricolours on the streets of the national Capital share what *azadi* means to them

ARYAN D'ROZARIO
NEW DELHI

Shanti does not quite grasp the significance of Independence Day. All she knows is that around this time of the year national flags and other patriotic memorabilia are in high demand. When asked what *azadi* (freedom) means to her, Shanti says: "Freedom is something I have aplenty. I live on the streets and can go wherever I want. No one can stop me."

At a road crossing, Shanti waits for the light to turn red so she can walk up to idling cars and convince some of the commuters to buy the flags.

Shanti says she buys all her products from Sadar Bazaar in north Delhi. She claims not to have any supplier and adds that she keeps the ₹100 that she charges for a Tricolour all to herself.

With her at the road crossing is her husband Shyam Raj. Shyam says he has eked out a living by begging for as long as he can remember. He has a different take on what *azadi* means: "For me, freedom is the ability to buy food for my family."



In high demand: A street vendor selling flags at an intersection on Shankar Road on the eve of Independence Day on Tuesday. ▪ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The Indian flag

Down the street at the next crossing, Raj Singh is also trying his luck at selling flags to commuters waiting for the light to turn green.

He too buys his stock from Sadar Bazaar. Raj, however, seems to know exactly why he is selling the products.

"August 15 is Independence Day. People are eager to buy flags. For me, *azadi* is the Indian flag. I am a proud Hindustani," says Raj.

Even though he is homeless and sometimes has to beg for a living, Raj says he is not angry at his situation and insists that he expects nothing from the government. For him, selling products on the streets is as good a job as any.

Raj sells flags made out of paper and plastic straw. He charges ₹10 for each Tricolour. He points to a group of urchins under a nearby flyover and says they are his children. All of them are sitting in a circle making the flags that Raj holds in his hands. Sometimes the children join me in selling the flags, he adds.

In a sad reflection of the lives that they have led so far, none of the children knew what *azadi* meant.

'Freedom to be'

On August 8, the Delhi High Court decriminalised begging stating that the underlying reasons for the problem were not being addressed by the government.

Neither Shanti, Shyam nor Raj were aware of the landmark decision, but welcomed the news that they will no longer be harassed by the authorities.

For all three, *azadi* signifies the 'freedom to be'.

Monitoring of shelter homes

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi's Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam on Tuesday ordered the setting up of a monitoring committee to look into the condition of State-run shelter homes for women.

After inspecting three homes: Nari Niketan, Mahila Sadan and Asha Jyoti, Mr. Gautam told the Social Welfare Department to set up a panel to check services and infrastructure at the homes. The Minister noted that the homes he visited appeared to be following guidelines.

Gurugram bus service launch hits new bump

Much-delayed service was to start today; expected to begin operations from Aug 28

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

The scheduled launch of the much-delayed bus service of the Gurugram Metropolitan City Bus Limited (GMCBL) on Wednesday, which was supposed to coincide with Independence Day, has been postponed by almost a fortnight. The authorities have now fixed August 28 for commencement of service.

GMCBL Chief Executive Officer Chander Shekhar Khare said the launch had to be postponed due to delay in notification by the State government on applicable motor vehicle tax, inspection of buses for fitness and procurement of devices for digital ticketing.

Mr. Khare said the inspection and procurement of the devices for digital ticketing will take 7-10 days.

> **Launch had to be postponed due to delay in notification by the State govt on applicable motor vehicle tax, inspection of buses for fitness, and procurement of devices for digital ticketing**
>
> CHANDER SHEKHAR KHARE
> Chief Executive Officer, Gurugram Metropolitan City Bus Limited

Postponed twice

Launch of the GMCBL bus service has been postponed twice this year.

The city bus service is currently run by the Haryana Roadways, which has a fleet of 107 buses, including 55 low-floor air-conditioned buses. However, 47 of these are under maintenance.

Giving details about the proposed bus service, Mr. Khare said an agreement has already been signed with the concessionaire for 200 buses, and that the prototype was approved and displayed during the Chief Minister's visit to Gurugram on August 3.

Drivers have been engaged by the concessionaire, and customer service agents hired through a manpower agency and trained by the Haryana Institute of Public Administration. Construction of bus depots in Sectors 10, 53, 54 and 48 is under way by the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram at a cost of around ₹45 crore.

Construction of 453 bus queue shelters is also under way and 150 of these have been constructed with focus on routes where city bus operations were expected to start in the first phase, he added.

Mr. Khare said one of the routes will be a loop, with buses originating and terminating at HUDA City Centre passing through Subhash Chowk, Hero Honda Chowk, Sector 10 Chowk, Sheetla Mata Road, Atul Kataria Chowk, IFFCO Chowk and back as one of the routes in the first phase.

The bus fare will be ₹10 for travel up to five stops, ₹20 for travel from six to 20 stops and ₹30 beyond 20 stops.



The four-foot-long snake was found coiled up on a scooter on Monday night. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Python rescued in Aya Nagar

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A four-foot-long juvenile Indian rock python was rescued by NGO Wildlife SOS in south-west Delhi's Aya Nagar phase-V on Monday night.

The snake was found coiled up on a scooter.

The NGO said the snake is under observation and will be released into its natural habitat soon.

Wildlife SOS said that a distressed resident called up their 24-hour rescue helpline (9871963535) around 10.30 p.m.

Kiran Kumar, who called the NGO, said: "I was shocked to find the snake coiled up on my scooter. We are close to the outskirts of the city and there are many forested areas nearby. We often find snakes here. The Wildlife SOS team responded quickly even thought it was very late in the night."

The two-man team sent by the animal welfare outfit were able to safely extract the snake from the scooter.

It is presumed that the snake climbed into the scooter seeking shelter from the rain.

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

IN BRIEF



Sealing: SC to hear validity of law in Feb

NEW DELHI

The SC on Tuesday said that issues related to validity of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act, 2006, and subsequent legislations, which protect unauthorised constructions from being sealed in the city, will be heard next February. PTI

Dubai-bound man held with $44,900 at airport

NEW DELHI

A Dubai-bound man was held on Tuesday by the CISF at the airport here for allegedly trying to smuggle ₹44,900 (about ₹31.42 lakh) concealed in biscuit jars, a senior official said on Tuesday. . PTI

Centre's reply sought on Tytler's passport plea

NEW DELHI

The Delhi HC on Tuesday sought the Centre's response on a plea by Congress leader Jagdish Tytler challenging a passport authority order to impound his passport for allegedly furnishing false information. PTI

DELHI TODAY

Exhibition: "Destiny: Sold Out" - Georgina Maddox presents a dual artists exhibition by Shiffali Wadhawan and Tapasya Gupta at India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Indigenous Australia: Masterworks from National Gallery of Australia". The exhibition features 102 artworks that date back from late 1800s through to today and includes paintings on canvas and bark, weaving and sculpture, new media, prints and photography, at National Gallery of Modern Art, Jaipur House, 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Exhibition: A heritage photography exhibition by students from the Delhi School of Photography at IHC, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Prarambh", a group show of paintings at Roop Chand Institute of Fine Art, Ashok Vihar, Phase-1, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditordelhi@thehindu.co.in)

Contract killer, two others held for Rohtak honour killing

They had plans to murder family of youth who had eloped with minor girl

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

Three persons, including a contract killer, were on Tuesday arrested by the Rohtak police following a shoot-out on the outskirts of the city in the morning. The accused were arrested in connection with the murders of a minor girl and a Haryana Police sub-inspector on August 8 in a case of honour killing.



Two of the accused in police custody on Tuesday.
▪ MANOJ KUMAR

Tip-off

The police claimed the accused were hanging around Singhpura village and had plans to eliminate Sombir's brother Dinesh and their mother Saroj.

The minor girl, who belonged to the Jat community, had eloped with Sombir, who belongs to the Dalit community, last August. A financial adviser, Sombir had been staying on rent at the girl's house.

Acting on a tip-off regarding three men in a car bearing a Uttar Pradesh registration number driving around suspiciously outside Singhpura village, two police teams reached Hisar Road.

The car occupants tried to flee as soon as they spotted the two teams and the driver allegedly opened fire at the police.

One of the accused, later identified as Prince alias Chintu, was hit in the foot during the shoot-out. He was arrested along with his accomplices – the girl's cousin and Prashant alias Toni.

The police claimed to have seized six pistols, live cartridges and the car from the accused. Prince is a member of the Rajesh Bhadroi gang of Uttar Pradesh. He works in Merchant Navy and had agreed to commit the murder at the instance of the girl's cousin. Both Prince and Prashant are residents of Meerut.

On the run

The accused purportedly told the police that they fled after the murders and stayed in Bijnor, Haridwar, Bulandshahr and Jind while on the run.

The trio returned to Rohtak on Tuesday morning to eliminate Sombir's family, the police said.

They have already arrested the biological and foster parents of the girl in connection with the case. The victim was adopted by her foster father from his brother-in-law in 2002.

Plea alleges gender bias in IAF recruitment

Objects to recruitment of just unmarried men to post of 'airmen' in groups 'X, Y' trades

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought the response of the Centre on a petition alleging "gender bias and discrimination" in the Air Force for not employing women as 'airmen' in technical and non-technical grades in any of its departments.

A Bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice V. Kameswar Rao issued notice to the Ministry of Defence and the IAF seeking their responses to the plea, which has objected to recruitment of only unmarried men to the post of 'airmen' in groups 'X' and 'Y' trades in all the departments of the force. Group 'X' trade refers to technical fields like aircraft and ground systems, while group 'Y' pertains to non-technical fields like logistics and accounts.

> **On October 24, 2015, the Centre announced that women could serve as fighter pilots in the IAF... The decision means that women are now eligible for induction in any role in the IAF ...**
>
> PLEA BY LAWYER KUSH KALRA

The plea, by lawyer Kush Kalra, has sought directions to the Ministry and the IAF seeking recruitment of women as 'airmen' in groups 'X' and 'Y' trades in all departments of the IAF.

"On October 24, 2015, the Central government announced that women could serve as fighter pilots in the IAF, having previously only been permitted to fly transport aircraft and helicopters. The decision means that women are now eligible for induction in any role in the IAF and there is no gender discrimination in any appointment in the IAF," the plea said.

He said he was "shocked to see the discriminatory advertisement restricting eligibility to only unmarried male Indian citizens for post of airmen in group X trade and group Y trade in all departments of the IAF". "There is no reasonable justification for depriving inclusion of women as airmen in group X trade and group Y trade in all departments of the force by the respondents [the Ministry and the IAF]," the plea, filed through advocate Charu Wali Khanna, has said.

2 HSIIDC employees shot at, one dead

STAFF REPORTER
GURUGRAM

Two employees of the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) were shot at in Manesar on Tuesday while measuring a piece of land, which is under CBI investigation.

HSIIDC patwari Ishwar Singh was declared brought dead at the hospital.

The police said 52-year-old Ishwar had gone to measure the land adjacent to Manesar Sector 1 around 2 p.m. with a staff member when the attack took place.

The patwari was sitting inside his official vehicle when two men on a bike accosted the driver and enquired about some officer-.When the driver told them that Ishwar was also an officer, the accused shot at both of them.

Ishwar was shot in the temple and stomach while the driver sustained a bullet injury in the arm.

Gurugram police spokesperson Subhash Boken said that the land belongs to the HSIIDC but the villagers had laid claim to it leading to a dispute. He said that there were three assailants, who are suspected of belonging to the village.

A case has been registered but no arrests have been made so far.

Cross-border harmony helps save life

Three-year-old Afghan national underwent liver transplant

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

In a heart-warming tale, cross-border harmony helped save the life of three-year-old Afghan national Hadia Nesari. A joint effort between Pakistan-based paediatric hepatologist Huma Cheema and the liver transplant team at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals gave a new lease of life to Hadia.



Hadia Nesari.
▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Dr. Cheema said: "Hadia had been unwell in Afghanistan for some time and was referred to my department at the Children's Hospital in Lahore. She was seriously ill when she was admitted to the hospital. She had contracted chronic liver disease due to unknown causes. Despite best efforts, the disease became severe and the organ cirrhotic. Essentially, her liver was failing. The only option was liver transplant. I referred her to the Delhi hospital."

Doctors in Pakistan counselled the family to opt for liver transplant. "The family broke down on hearing this since Hadia's father is a teacher and could not afford the transplant," she said.

Going above and beyond the call of duty, she decided to fund Hadia's treatment. On its part, the hospital here subsidised the cost of treatment.

Anupam Sibal, group medical director and senior consultant, Paediatric Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Apollo Hospitals, said: "We started the assessment for liver transplant immediately since Hadia needed one urgently. In about 20% of children who need liver transplant the cause cannot be identified, as was the case with Hadia. Once liver failure reaches the last stage, the only treatment is liver transplant."

Neerav Goyal, senior consultant, liver transplant and hepatobiliary, Pancreatic Surgery Department, added, "Since a child's blood vessels are very small, we had to be extra careful while planning the surgery. Her father Ahmed Fawad was the donor. Hadia underwent a successful 12-hour liver transplant last month. She is doing well."

Expressing gratitude to Dr. Cheema, Mr. Fawad said, "There is nothing worse than watching your child suffer. By giving a new life to Hadia, doctors at the Delhi hospital have given a new life to my family. We will now go back to Afghanistan with fond memories of our time in India."

Man held

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A man who allegedly shot at his wife and friend has been arrested, the police said on Tuesday. Vikram Kumar Jha is a resident of Mahavir Enclave.

Vikram was a driver at a hospital but lost his job recently. His wife works with a private firm. They fought as he suspected her of infidelity. He shot at her on August 12 while she was serving dinner.

Then, he went to his friend's house. Vikram asked him to drop him at a railway station and demanded ₹30,000. When he refused to lend him the money, he shot at him and set his bike on fire. The victims are undergoing treatment

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

THE HINDU
OPPORTUNITIES
HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

Entries in design contest sought

NASSCOM is calling for entries for its first edition of 'Design4India' design awards. Small to medium enterprises, large companies, start-ups, design studios and non-profit organisations can take part in the contest. The categories in which the products can be designed are: web, mobile, immersive, connected and intelligence and digital ergonomics.

The last date to send the applications is August 26 and the winners will be announced, mid-September.

For details, visit http://design4india.in/designawards2018/

***

Travel scholarship

TLC, a lifestyle channel, is offering a one-year travel scholarship for those who are thoroughly bored with their jobs.

Applicants will have to submit a short three-minute video bringing to life, all the boredom in their work and life at large. Those who have made the three dullest video-applications will win the TLC scholarship. The winners will have to spend the next 12 months exploring the unexplored parts of the country.

GENERAL

INSTITUTE OF BANKING PERSONNEL SELECTION
Website: www.ibps.in
In case of queries / complaints please log in to http://cgrs.ibps.in/

COMMON RECRUITMENT PROCESS FOR RECRUITMENT OF PROBATIONARY OFFICERS / MANAGEMENT TRAINEES IN PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS (CRP PO/MT-VIII for Vacancies of 2019-20)

The online examination (Preliminary and Main) for the next Common Recruitment Process for selection of personnel for Probationary Officer / Management Trainee posts in the Participating Organisations is tentatively scheduled in October / November 2018.

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Activity	Tentative Dates
Online registration including Edit/Modification of Application by candidates	14.08.2018 to 04.09.2018
Payment of Application Fees/Intimation Charges (Online)	14.08.2018 to 04.09.2018
Download of call letters for Pre- Exam Training	September 2018
Conduct of Pre-Exam Training	01.10.2018 to 07.10.2018
Download of call letters for online examination – Preliminary	October 2018
Online Examination – Preliminary	**13.10.2018, 14.10.2018, 20.10.2018 & 21.10.2018**
Result of Online exam – Preliminary	October/ November 2018
Download of Call letter for Online exam – Main	November 2018
Online Examination – Main	**18.11.2018**
Declaration of Result – Main	December 2018
Download of call letters for interview	January 2019
Conduct of interview	January / February 2019
Provisional Allotment	April 2019

Candidates are advised to regularly keep in touch with the authorised IBPS website www.ibps.in for details and updates.

Before registering online candidates are advised to read the detailed notification and follow the instructions mentioned therein.

Mumbai
Date: 09.08.2018 **Director, IBPS**

BISHOP COTTON BOYS' SCHOOL - BANGALORE

PRINCIPAL REQUIRED

The widely acclaimed Christian Minority Educational Institution of 153 years managed by the Karnataka Central Diocese of Church of South India, is looking for a male **Principal** with vision and integrity who can lead the school to greater heights.

The role is open to applicants from the Church of South India / Church of North India / Marthoma and Methodist Churches only.

Applicants should be qualified, experienced and accomplished persons of over 50 years of age and should hold:

- A Post Graduate Degree in Science / Commerce or Humanities from a recognised University (India or overseas)
- A degree in Education (PhD will be given due weightage)
- A minimum of 10 years teaching experience at ICSE / ISC level
- A minimum of 5 years as Principal of a fairly large school

Applicants are expected to:

- Plan and manage the overall activities of the school which has over 6000 students & 300 faculty members
- Promote the school values and inculcate discipline
- Formulate programmes for the holistic development of students
- Oversee fiscal management
- Create a safe and fair environment for the students and faculty under his charge

Apply on or before Friday, 31st August 2018 with self-attested copies of certificates, testimonials, references from two responsible persons of good standing, publications/published articles and a passport size photograph to:

The Convener,
Selection Committee, (Principal, BCBS)
Karnataka Central Diocese,
No. 20, 3rd Cross, CSI Compound, Mission Road, Bangalore - 560 027.

GENERAL

AAI CARGO LOGISTICS & ALLIED SERVICES COMPANY LTD.
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AAICLAS is a fully owned cargo subsidiary of Airports Authority of India for development and operation of air cargo and related logistics business at its airports as well as potential overseas business opportunities. To further expand the security functions:

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For further details regarding salary structure, qualification, age, date & venue, selection process etc. candidates may see the detailed advertisement on AAICLAS website : **www.aaiclas-ecom.org** under "CAREER" section.

N-83/2018-19

GENERAL

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Deputy General Manager (Chief Compliance Officer)

Deputy General Manager (Inspection / Credit Audit Monitoring)

Assistant General Manager (Alternative Delivery Channel Cell)

Last Date for filing application : 25.08.2018

For more details and filing application, Please log on to www.tmb.in

Thoothukudi
15.08.2018 **General Manager (HRD)**

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDCL), a Government of West Bengal Enterprise, engaged in the business of generation of electricity in the State of West Bengal, intends to engage **Agent** on Contractual basis & **Assistant Mines Manager** in regular establishment for its mining activities of the coal mines spread across West Bengal & Jharkhand, as per details given below:

Employment Notification No.	**WBPDCL/Recruitment/2018/06**	**WBPDCL/Recruitment/2018/07**
Post	**Agent** (Contractual basis)	**Assistant Mines Manager**
Nos. of vacancies	**2 nos.**	**9 nos.**
Mode of examination	**Walk-In-Interviews** will be held on **24.08.2018** at **10.30 A.M.** at **Bidyut Unnayan Bhavan,** Block-LA, Plot No.-3/C, Sector-III, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700098.	Eligible and interested candidates are to apply as per given format within closing hours of **31.08.2018**.

Detailed specification regarding age, qualification, eligibility criteria, remuneration, application format etc. for both the positions, is available at our website: **www.wbpdcl.co.in**
N.B.: Please follow the WBPDCL website (**www.wbpdcl.co.in**) for further updates.

Corporate Identity No.: U40104WB1985SGC039154
Registered & Corporate Office: "Bidyut Unnayan Bhaban"
Plot No. 3/C, LA-Block, Sector-III, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700098

INFO. TECHNOLOGY

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Year of Passing	Batch of 2019
Qualification	Full-Time Students from B.E/B.Tech/M.E/M.Tech/M.Sc/MCA
Specialization	B.E/B.Tech/M.E/M.Tech - All Specializations M.Sc - Computer Science/Information Technology and other related disciplines MCA with B.Sc/BCA/B.Com/BA (with Mathematics/Statistics)
Percentage Criteria	A candidate should have a minimum aggregate of 60% throughout in Class X, XII, Diploma (if applicable), UG & PG (if applicable).
Backlogs	A candidate should not have more than 1 pending backlog at the time of appearing for the test.
Academic Gap Criteria	Overall gap in academics should not exceed 2 years
Academic Course Completion	All academic courses should be finished within the stipulated course duration as per TCS Eligibility Criteria and/or they should be completed within the duration as prescribed by the Board/University.

Register for ***TCS National Qualifier Test*** *today...*

Examination Date
2nd and 3rd Sep, 2018

Registration link: www.careers.tcs.com | Registration closes on 20th August, 2018

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When we mastered the masters

As *Gold* makes it to theatres, Balbir Singh (Sr) relives the memories of 1948 Olympics when the Indian hockey team routed Great Britain in the final

VIJAY LOKAPALLY





Finishing touch: Balbir Singh attacking the Great Britain goal during the Olympic final at Wembley Stadium in London; India's first Governor General, C. Rajgopalachari, shakes hands with Singh on the team's return; Singh with Akshay Kumar in New Delhi ▪ THE HINDU ARCHIVES, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT, PTI

Indian hockey is symbolised by two iconic names - Dhyan Chand and Balbir Singh (Sr). Dhyan Chand, winner of the gold in 1928, 1932 and 1936, is remembered every year when August 29, his birthday, is celebrated as the National Sports Day.

Balbir too won the gold thrice in succession - 1948, 1952 and 1956. The nation reaches out to him whenever the Indian team excels in world hockey.

Sadly, the career of neither has been captured in the form of a documentary or a feature film. Suddenly the focus is on hockey, and Balbir, because *Gold*, starring Akshay Kumar in the lead role, hits the screens nationwide today, bringing to this generation of youngsters the story of India's epic triumphs at the London Olympics in 1948.

India was not even one year old when the team, led by Kishan Lal, stood under the National Flag at the majestic Wembley Stadium, celebrating the country's domination in hockey. Often referred to as the national game of India, hockey has lost much of its sheen and glamour to cricket, badminton, and tennis even though it has been kept alive by the sustained efforts of the government.

In my many interactions with Balbir, the last one in March, he has never failed to undertake an emotional trip to London 1948, recalling some stirring moments. "The flag. My eyes still become moist when I remember that glorious day when we beat England in the final. We had mastered our masters."

The team, with a 'royal' allowance of five rupees a day, flew to London with the wishes of the country and took the sea route - 26 days on the water - after becoming the champion. "It was as if the entire country had come to welcome us," Balbir mumbles.

His frail frame today reflects the state of the game in the country - the last Olympic gold had come at Moscow in the depleted Games of 1980. His memory, however, has remained sharp, as he recalls the moves that brought India the four goals.

The London Olympics, with the city still recovering from the ravages of the World War, were the first to be televised and was also known for its austerity. But India returned rich, wearing the hockey crown.

The final was played on a slushy field - those were days when the game was contested on natural grass - but India found ways to tackle the challenge. At one stage, Kishan Lal and KD Singh Babu played barefoot.

Balbir says the team has been received at the airport by Sir John Bennett, a police officer known to him. "You can't afford to wait for the ball. You will have to go for it and move with it," Sir John has advised. Balbir acknowledges that priceless piece of counsel.

The England captain Norman Borrett was quoted, "I did not think they were going to have such a victory on the ground so unsuited to their play. But tonight showed how magnificent they are under any condition."

The team was feted on its return by the bigwigs of the nation - President Rajendra Prasad and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

Balbir was the only player from Punjab in that team which drew seven members from Bombay. Flamboyant hockey characterised the team, which had two managers - Pankaj Gupta and AC Chatterji.

The victorious Olympic team played a match at the National Stadium where Balbir scored the lone goal. Nehru was among the audience and reportedly backed the idea of an Asian Games. Delhi hosted it at the same venue three years later but hockey did not find a place in the schedule.

For Balbir, the memories of the 1948 win, relived in *Gold*, are unforgettable prizes from his career. And of course, the privilege to meet Prime Minister Nehru without "appointment."

The 1948 Indian team: Kishan Lal (captain), Ranganathan Francis, Leo Pinto, Walter D'Souza, Tarlochan Singh Bawa, Akhtar Hussain, Randhir Singh Gentle, Kunwar Digvijay Singh 'Babu', Keshav Dutt, Amir Kumar, Maxie Vaz, Leslie Claudius, Balbir Singh, Patrick Jansen, Latifur Rehman, Lawrie Fernandes, Gerald Glacken, Reginald Rodrigues, Grahanandan Singh, Jaswant Singh Rajput.





Blend of fact and fiction

Akshay Kumar, who plays Tapan Das, the enthusiastic manager of the Indian hockey team, in the Reema Kagti film, says *Gold* is not a biopic. "The characters and incidents are a blend of fact and fiction but the basic premise has been taken from real events."

"Covering a time period between 1936 and 1948, it has a patriotic undertone but it relies on cinematic moments and doesn't get preachy." Akshay admits he did not play hockey during his growing up days. "But I used to follow the game during the Asian games and the Olympics. Things are changing as we are getting medals in big events. And I am happy that there is a shift towards sports-based dramas like *Sultan*, *Dangal* and *Soorma*. For me, every game is a national game."

On playing a Bengali character, Akshay says as an actor, one just has to make a character sketch in the head. "I got the accent easily as I worked in Bengal for two years." He quips that he got into the character once he wore a really long dhoti. "50 to 60 % of work is done when you are in the character's attire and hairstyle. I realised it when I played a sardar in *Singh is King*."

ATIF KHAN

Midnight's children

Veera Hiranandani talks about her latest book *The Night Diary*, which is set against the backdrop of Partition

R KRITHIKA



Negotiating identity and faith: Veera Hiranandani ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"A new country is born, but my home is dying." It is August 1947 and Nisha – the 12-year-old narrator of Veera Hiranandani's *The Night Diary* – is trying to make sense of what's going on. Nisha and her twin Amil are from a Hindu-Muslim background and the story unfolds through extracts from Nisha's journal, in which she writes letters to her mother who died in childbirth. Veera admits that "the form has limitations" and that she has created "more expansive scenes than an actual 12-year old might write, but I hoped that readers would take a leap with me for the sake of the story."

Why 1947 and why now? While Veera "always wanted to attempt a story set during the Partition", she was initially intimidated. "The fact that it relates to some of the issues our world is facing – the global refugee crisis, or some of the divisiveness and xenophobia that is felt in the US and many places internationally right now – is something I started connecting with during the writing, but not the main reason I wanted to write the story now. I was just ready to tell it." Apart from reading and watching films and documentaries, Veera received a lot of inputs from her father and his family who had lived through those tumultuous times. She first heard about it when she was around 10 at a family gathering. Later her father told her "how his family had to leave what is now Mirpur Khas, Pakistan, when he was nine. As I spoke to more people in the last few years, I found some reluctant to talk about it. Others wanted to share."

A book about Partition has perforce to deal with violence, but Veera keeps it low-key. That's because, she says, she wanted to make it age-appropriate. "I tried to strike a balance between being sensitive to a younger reader and still staying truthful to the history."

Nisha is an interesting character; observant and full of questions but very shy and wary of voicing them. But the story initially had a male protagonist, "more a version of my father as a young boy". But when it didn't feel like her story, she began to develop Nisha and made the boy her twin. Nisha's confusion at her mixed heritage was also drawn from Veera's own background of Hindu father and Jewish mother. "At times I felt confused about my identity," she says.

When I point out that some of the most evocative passages in the book relate to food, Veera says that, for her, food was a way to connect to both sides of her family.

Finally I ask what she's working on. While there's a possibility of a follow-up to this book, her current novel for middle grade is "about Jewish girl growing up in Connecticut in the 1960s whose older sister elopes with a young Indian man studying in the US. This is partly inspired by my own parents' marriage. In 1968, they eloped against both their families' wishes and I wanted to explore that more."

All the President's men

National Geographic celebrates the legacy of one of Indian Army's oldest regiments — the President's Bodyguard

DEEPA ALEXANDER



On vigil: Guards taking their position

When it's winter in Lutyens' Delhi, you'll hear the sound of hooves on Willingdon Crescent. The mist lifts a little to reveal men on horseback in *jodhpurs* and maroon *turrahs* slip quietly into the vastness of the Presidential Estate. On Republic Day, these men, in rich ceremonial uniforms and gold braid, lead the parade escorting the Presidential cavalcade, their lanced pennants fluttering in the breeze. Who are these men that make up this elite force protecting the President of India and guarding a 245-year-old legacy that dates back to the early years of the Indian Army?

National Geographic's *The President's Bodyguard* throws the spotlight on the history and workings of the household cavalry regiment, the senior-most in the order of precedence among the units in the Indian Army. Raised in 1773 by Governor-General Warren Hastings, the President's Bodyguard was, in its early years, composed of Mughal troopers. By the time it took on its present nomenclature in 1950, it had distinguished itself in various battles such as the Burmese wars, Sikh wars and the Java campaign – the last, a battle honour it carries to this day. Today, the unit ethnically composed of men from Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan has been part of UN peacekeeping missions and risen to the defence of Chushul in the 1962 Sino-Indian War.

Commenting on the documentary, President of India Ram Nath Kovind says, "Ceremonial occasions like the Republic Day parade, oath-taking ceremony of a new President, or receiving a visiting head of state, are watched keenly in India and abroad.

The President's Bodyguard displays the best traditions of discipline and skills of our Armed Forces. These are untiring, dedicated and brave soldiers – as good as the best in the world. I am very proud of them."

The documentary explores the lives of these men as part of a mounted, ceremonial unit as well as in combat roles – all personnel are trained as paratroopers.

It delves into their regimental history, mirrored in their dress uniforms – among the few remaining in the world to wear napoleon boots. Since they escort and protect the President, the unit is based in Rashtrapati Bhavan, its high-vaulted stables home to horses and the vast acres practice grounds for tent-pegging.

A farrier is part of the unit and the bay mounts of the PBG are allowed to wear full manes; only the regimental trumpeter has a grey charger.

All these fascinating facts will be heard in Amitabh Bachchan's rich baritone, who says, "The film will take viewers a step closer to the history and heritage of one of the oldest cavalry units of our homeland."

The film premieres on NGC at 9 pm on August 15. The documentary will also be available on Hotstar.

To the last bugle call

When Partition was announced, the most remarkable division of household goods took place in the stables of the Viceroy's House, now Rashtrapathi Bhavan. The 12-horse-drawn carriages had ornate emblems, glittering harnesses and scarlet cushions that had been put to use every time a Viceroy paraded through the capital. When it was time to divide them, Lord Mountbatten's ADC, Lieutenant Commander Peter Howes, decided that India and Pakistan would toss for who would get the six formal state carriages in gold and the six semi-formal state carriages in silver. When the coin clattered onto the stable yard, India got to keep the gold carriages. Howes divided the harnesses, whips, boots and uniforms of the Viceroy's Bodyguards that went with each set of carriages. In the end only one item – the ceremonial horn used by the coachmen – remained. Knowing it was of no use if broken in two, Howes decided to keep it. Howes went on to become a Rear Admiral and the horn found pride of place in his living room.

5 EVENTS WORTH-YOUR-WHILE



EXHIBITION

Paintings
Mindscapes, a solo exhibition of recent works by Shashi Tripathi. The paintings on display are contemporary as well as figurative, that express the artist's experience in personal relations, human psychology and the myriad moods of mankind.
VENUE: Triveni Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg
TIME: 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.



FOOD

Biryani
Studio Xo has introduced gluten-free quinoa biryani to their menu. The restaurant offers it in three variants, chicken, lamb and vegetarian, prepared in the same dum biryani style of layering cooked rice and seasoned meat/veggies. It is served with raita and mirchi ka salan.
VENUE: Studio Xo Bar, M4, 2nd Floor, South Extension Part-II
TIME: 12 p.m. – 12 a.m.



THEATRE

Drama
Court Martial, written by Swadesh Deepak, is a story of Ram Chander, a junior ranked Army man, who is tried for murdering one of his officers and injuring another. The play deals with the issue of caste-based discrimination that still very much is part of our society.
VENUE : Shri Ram Centre for Performing Arts, 4, Safdar Hashmi Marg, Mandi House
TIME: 11:30 a.m.



CUISINE

Monsoon special
Nukkad Wala, a street food restaurant, comes with a special monsoon menu. It is offering Amritsari kulcha with chole, vegetarian and non-vegetarian tawa pulao, tawa soya chaap with kulcha or parantha, tawa chicken with kulcha or parantha. Its outlets are located in business centres, hospitals and malls.
VENUE: All outlets of Nukkad Wala
TIME: 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.



THEATRE

Wrong Number
This Hindi comedy drama, directed by Raman Kumar, focuses on three married couples whose lives are hopelessly entwined with confusions and suspicions. The cast of the play are seasoned actors Rakesh Bedi, Avtar Gill and Rajesh Puri. Delnaz Irani, Tanaaz Irani, Kishwar Merchant and Rahul Bhuchar are other actors.
VENUE: Kamani Auditorium, Mandi House
TIME: 4:30 p.m.

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

Freedom in black and white

Ace photographer Kulwant Roy's long-lost frames of our freedom struggle and a newly independent India find a new lease of life

PRIYA KANUNGO

He was too busy taking pictures, to bother about his uncle's. It took 25 years for Aditya Arya to shake off the dust accumulated on a box of pictures that photographer Kulwant Roy had bequeathed him. Arya was so wonder-struck by his late uncle's frames of the Independence struggle, that he's now all set to exhibit that collection in India Habitat Centre from August 19, 2018 in partnership with Google Photos. Just a sneak-peak...hope to see never-before-seen images of Gandhi in a private conversation with Sardar Patel; of a sari-clad freedom fighter giving a speech standing on top of the bonnet of a car; of a nattily dressed Lord Mountbatten wearing his shoes; and of the signing of the Constitution. These are records of history through another pair of eyes, that come under the category of "must see".

Arya himself has a large body of work too. This includes pictures of Nagaland, Leh, Ladakh, Jaipur, Bihar, and Germany. He is also one of the leading photographers in Project 365, a public photo art project that creates and preserves visuals of the ever-changing customs and lifestyle of Tiruvannamalai in Tamil Nadu.

Excerpts from an interview:

What prompted you to open this box of photographs after 25 years?

The constant reminder from my mother, accompanied by a guilt feeling that I had not bothered to open these boxes for so long made me do it. I was in shock when I opened the box and saw the deterioration of the negatives and prints. Unfortunately, it was easily accessible, but it always slipped my mind.

Which images among this collection are your personal favourites, and why?

Many! It's very difficult to isolate one single image, but maybe the 'Ghulami' is a classic image. It is a proud moment for every Indian to see the three iconic leaders, Gandhi, Patel and Sarat Chandra Bose against a map of India, where a man is trapped in shackles and slavery and how he is going to break them to emerge free. It is a time just before India got independence, and when you look at that photo, you want to know, what are these leaders talking about so intimately? It's like you want to hear their conversation, to live that moment with them.

What's it about black and white photographs that give them an edge over coloured ones?

For decades, the world of photography had only the purity of white and blacks with many shades of greys thrown in, but colour has created a distraction. Documentary stories always have more depth in black and white tones. Black and white allows you to make strong statements without any unhinging elements and uses minimalism.

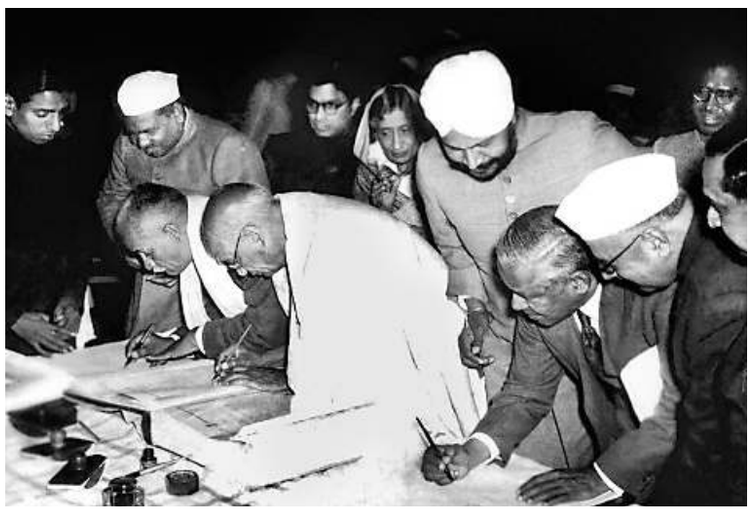
When would you use colour photography?











Breaking the shackles: (Clockwise from top) Mahatma Gandhi in conversation with Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel; Mahatma Gandhi and Mahadev Desai with Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan at Utmanzai in 1938; the signing of the Constitution of India; Lord Mountbatten at Rajghat; Rajendra Prasad using a possibly transparent telephone, as S. Radhakrishnan looks on; a young Aditya Arya with Kulwant Roy

▪ PHOTOS COURTESY INDIA PHOTO ARCHIVE FOUNDATION

Though colour photography should come more naturally, to handle colour is actually more difficult, as there is an overload of tonal information which could cause a distraction.

What drew you to photography? You've photographed many beautiful places. Would you say your strength lies in photographing places?

My lust is to constantly travel and explore new places and my work cuts across many genres. It's all about the art of seeing.

What made you set up a photography archive?

I have always been interested in connecting visuals to the written or heard histories because seeing the visuals is the closest to experiencing the moments. It's extremely important that visuals are preserved for posterity, as they are markers of time and contain a huge amount of information. It will help future generations interpret histories.

What are selfies doing to professional photographers? How does nostalgia play out today versus yesterday?

Selfies as a genre was always there because, since decades, cameras had a self-timer. Today, that self-timer has gone and as with everything in life, it is instant gratification.

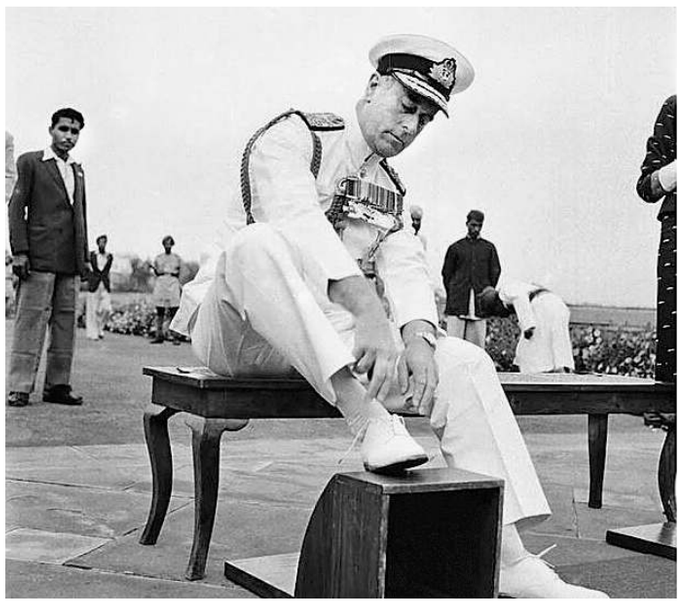
Why did you think of tying up with Google for this, and how do you plan to reach Kulwant Roy's work to the largest number of Indians?

I am happy to tie-up with Google, as I would like the digital generation or millennials, as they are popularly referred to, to see these iconic images of freedom fighters. Otherwise, they will only know them as the names of roads, markets, and buildings. Moreover, with the number of photos that we are clicking, I want to tell the millennials to cherish and save their photos. Google Photos is helping us save these photos for life and I want to ensure nobody loses photos like I lost some.

Documentary stories always have more depth in black and white tones. Black and white allows you to make strong statements without any unhinging elements....

If you were to photograph M K Gandhi, what aspect of his personality would you want to focus on?

I think I would just like to soak that moment and not shoot.



POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



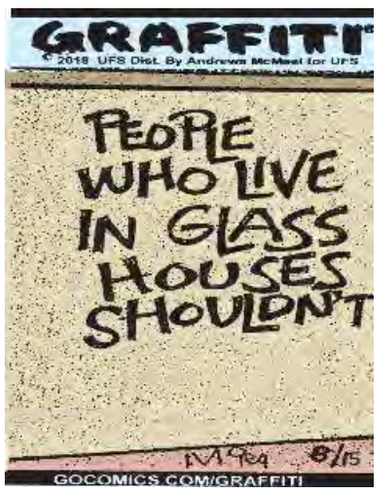
CALVIN AND HOBBES



TIGER



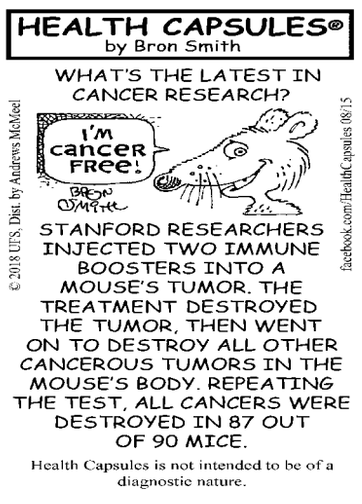
GRAFFITI



WUMO



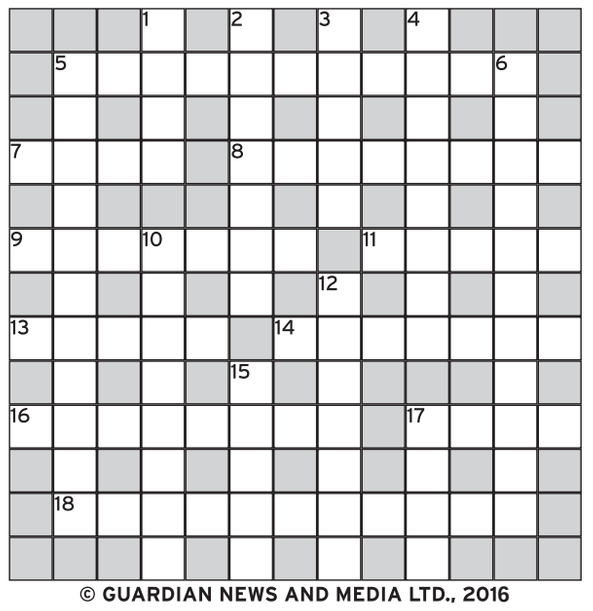
HEALTH CAPSULES



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD - 12840



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Across

5 Verbal abuse (4-7)
7 Saliva (4)
8 Hinged floor opening (8)
9 Small savoury snacks (7)
11 Circular (5)
13 Not silently (5)
14 Cambridge college founded by Henry VIII (7)
16 Reverie (8)
17 Tool with tines (4)
18 Jumping-off point (11)

Down

1 Flake of soot (4)
2 Strew (7)
3 Transparent (5)
4 Relax after stress (4,4)
5 A psalms unit (anag) – part of a Roman Catholic wedding (7,4)
6 Kind, friendly and patient (4-7)
10 Rocks (8)
12 Lincolnshire port (7)
15 French river – type of fishing net (5)
17 Young horse (4)

Solution will appear in Delhi Metro dated August 16, 2018

Solution No. 12839

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