https://t.me/pdf4exams https://www.estore33.com/ https://t.me/TheHindu_Zone_official

FOLLOW US:
thehindu.com
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu

THE HINDU

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2018

DELHI
CITY EDITION
24 pages • ₹10.00



Police claim to have traced all 48 inmates of Deoria shelter home
page 7



B.K. Hariprasad is Cong. candidate for RS Deputy Chairman
page 10



Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale in U.S. for talks ahead of 2+2 dialogue
page 12

India look to bounce back as second Test begins at Lord's
page 15



PRINTED AT · CHENNAI · COIMBATORE · BENGALURU · HYDERABAD · MADURAI · NOIDA · VISAKHAPATNAM · THIRUVANANTHAPURAM · KOCHI · VIJAYAWADA · MANGALURU · TIRUCHIRAPALLI · KOLKATA · HUBBALLI · MOHALI · MALAPPURAM · MUMBAI · TIRUPATI · LUCKNOW · CUTTACK · PATNA

NEARBY



Bihar Minister quits over shelter home rapes

PATNA

Facing flak for her husband's alleged role in the Muzaffarpur shelter home abuse case, Minister for Social Welfare Manju Verma on Wednesday resigned from her post. Ms. Verma later asserted that her husband was innocent and would be cleared in the CBI probe which is being monitored by the Patna High Court.

NATION ▸ PAGE 7

HC decriminalises begging in Delhi

NEW DELHI

Criminalising begging is a wrong approach to deal with the underlying causes of the problem, the Delhi High Court said on Wednesday as it quashed provisions in the law that made begging a punishable offence. The court declared 25 sections of Bombay Prevention of Begging Act as "unconstitutional" and struck them down.

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

DELHI METRO ▸ 6 PAGES

After HC drama, Karunanidhi laid to rest on Marina

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays his last respects at Rajaji Hall
- Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Ghulam Nabi Azad attend funeral
- After early morning hearing, HC nod to inter him alongside Anna
- Casket bears epitaph: 'He who toiled tirelessly, rests here now'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

A little after sunset on Wednesday, the body of DMK leader M. Karunanidhi, who ruled Tamil Nadu over five terms as Chief Minister for 19 years, was laid to rest on the Marina, alongside his political mentor C.N. Annadurai.

On the casket were etched words that he had, long ago, decided would go on his headstone: 'He who toiled tirelessly, rests here now.'

Members of his family wept inconsolably, with his son and DMK working president M.K. Stalin breaking down repeatedly.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid his respects to the DMK patriarch at Rajaji Hall. Former PM H.D. Deve Gowda, Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Ghulam Nabi Azad, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, and Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit were among those who attended the funeral.

High drama

There was high drama, rivalling Mr. Karunanidhi's racy film scripts, during the early morning hearing at the Madras High Court. The court entertained the DMK's plea for a resting place for the departed leader on the Marina and granted a judgment in its favour. As the news broke, the cadre at Rajaji Hall cheered their leader's "victory even after his death."

By around 4 p.m., the cortege left Rajaji Hall and took about two hours to reach the memorial spot, with Mr. Stalin and family members walking ahead and the crowd following.

The DMK leader got a grand farewell, with his family, party members and other politicians present during the last moments. He was interred, with his dark glasses, yellow shawl, gold ring and the pen he was so fond of.

The sun had truly set.

STALIN BREAKS DOWN ▸ PAGE 11
'THE WORLD OF TAMILS HAS LOST ITS LEADER' ▸ PAGE 11





Final journey: The funeral procession under way on Wednesday and, right, Kanimozhi and other DMK leaders consoling M.K. Stalin. ▪ M. VEDHAN & R. RAVINDRAN

Parliament bows to Karunanidhi

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

In a departure from tradition, both Houses of Parliament adjourned for the day on Wednesday in memory of DMK patriarch M. Karunanidhi, though he has never been a member of either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha.

Parliament was adjourned following the death of Jayalalithaa too last year, but she was then the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

The decision to adjourn Parliament came after Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu consulted senior leaders across parties, including NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Congress leader Anand Sharma, and Samajwadi Party leader Ramgopal Yadav.

All of them and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar, from the government, favoured an adjournment, and the decision was conveyed to Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan.

VVIPS HAVE A TOUGH TIME ▸ PAGE 11
PARLIAMENT PAYS HOMAGE ▸ PAGE 11

Three die in melee at Rajaji Hall

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Three people died and several mourners were injured on Wednesday during a melee at Rajaji Hall, where the body of DMK leader M. Karunanidhi was kept for the public to pay homage.

People surged on to the steps, trying to get close to the casket. When the police resorted to intermittent lathi-charge to clear the crowd, a stampede-like situation ensued. Around 51 persons suffered injuries and breathlessness and were admitted to the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH).

Shenbagam, 60, of MGR Nagar, and an unidentified man, aged around 60, were brought dead to the hospital around 11.20 a.m. Saravanan, a 37-year-old man, suffered a heart attack while standing in the crowd and died in the hospital around 4.45 p.m.

"We have to conduct a post-mortem to ascertain the exact cause of death for both victims," said a hospital source.

In the evening, a youngster fell from a tree he had climbed to catch a glimpse of the cortège. He sustained head injuries and has been admitted to the RGGGH.

Final resting place

The crowd started swelling especially after the announcement that the Marina had been allotted as the final resting place for Mr. Karunanidhi, close to 11 a.m. Wild cheers went up after the news broke, and in a burst of enthusiasm, many tried to push through the barricades and climb on to the stairs.

Some people fainted too and had to be helped outside. Post-noon, the crowd surged and became stronger. DMK working president M.K. Stalin later appealed to the crowd to maintain decorum, and not to indulge in any violence. As the situation went out of control, A.K. Viswanathan, Commissioner of Police, arrived at the scene and attempted to restore order.

Alarm over deadly pest in Karnataka

PRIYANKA PULLA
BENGALURU

The Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) has sounded the alarm after the invasive agricultural pest, Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*), was discovered in Karnataka this July.

A major maize pest in North America, the Fall Armyworm arrived in Africa in 2016. Since then, it has threatened the continent's maize crop, a staple which feeds 300 million people.

The Karnataka finding is the first report of the pest in Asia. The discovery is more worrisome because the pest feeds on around 100 different crops, such as vegetables, rice, and sugarcane.

Its discovery in Karnataka means its spread to the rest of the country, as well as neighbouring countries, could be just a matter of time.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Jail term for adultery does not make sense, says apex court

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Sending a person to prison for five years for adultery does not appeal to common sense, Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra orally observed on Wednesday. Adultery does not even qualify as a criminal offence and is, at the most, a civil wrong, he said, heading a five-judge Constitution Bench. He said adultery has a civil remedy: divorce.

First, an adulterous relationship is carried on with the consent of the woman. "If a third party attacks or molests the wife of another, it amounts to rape. Rape is an offence. But if a relationship is carried with the consent of the woman, how does it amount to an offence? If there is consent [between two adults], why punish the wife's lover?" CJI Misra asked.

The Bench was countering submissions by the Centre, represented by Additional Solicitor-General Pinky Anand, that adultery should remain in the Indian Penal Code as it ensures the sanctity of the marriage, and is for public good. "Protecting marriage is the responsibility of the couple involved. If one of them fails, there is a civil remedy available to the other. Where is the question of public good in a broken marriage," Chief Justice Misra asked Ms. Anand.

Justice D.Y. Chandrachud observed that there might be cases in which adultery was a consequence of a broken marriage.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

To help clean the Ganga, visit an ATM

You can donate by just pressing a button

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The cleaning of the Ganga is not only an environmental imperative but also an issue weighted by public sentiment and national prestige. In a bid to make it easier for the public to participate in the efforts, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is talking to the State Bank of India to make it possible to donate to the Clean Ganga Fund from ATMs.

"A major aspect of the CGF is that it isn't about collecting a lot of money but about ensuring that people from all walks of life are involved in the task of cleaning the river," said Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, director, NMCG. "Many individual donors contribute fixed amounts, and the ATM facility could be useful for them."



ATMs will come in handy for individual donors to contribute funds.

Separate corpus

While the NMCG, an affiliate of the Union Water Resources Ministry, is executing the government's ₹20,000-crore commitment to clean the Ganga, the CGF is a separate corpus made up of donations from corporates and individuals. At present, it has ₹250 crore in its kitty, which is being managed by the NMCG.

"We are in talks with the SBI to discuss how we can do this," said Rozy Agrawal, executive director (Finance), NMCG. The Mission already has an agreement with Yes Bank, under which its ATMs display messages on keeping the river clean. Since Ganga rejuvenation projects have been notified as Corporate Social Responsibility activities, donations to the CGF qualify for income tax exemption. A web page on CSR activities lists projects such as ghat/crematoria construction and development and cleaning of ghats and drains through bio-remediation, river surface cleaning, solid waste disposal and afforestation.

As of now, about 90% of the CGF comes from State and Central government public sector units, according to information from the Lok Sabha. About ₹250 crore was collected as of July, and projects worth ₹225 crore sanctioned, Mr. Agrawal said.

https://t.me/pdf4exams https://www.estore33.com/ https://t.me/TheHindu_Zone_official

DELHI Timings

THURSDAY, AUG. 09				
RISE	05:47	SET	19:06	
RISE	03:11	SET	17:20	
FRIDAY, AUG. 10				
RISE	05:48	SET	19:05	
RISE	04:16	SET	18:18	
SATURDAY, AUG. 11				
RISE	05:48	SET	19:04	
RISE	05:24	SET	19:12	

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	33	26
Safdarjang	33	26
Palam	34	25

Delhi Palam Today
34°C Sky will be cloudy with light rain likely. A warm and humid morning and afternoon likely.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
33°C Light breeze is expected. Sky will be cloudy with chances of a few spells of rain. A warm morning and hot day likely.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2018
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Now, it's Khaira's turn to hit back at Mann

'MP's resignation as Punjab AAP chief was a strategic move'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

Sukhpal Singh Khaira, leader of the dissident Aam Aadmi Party MLAs, on Wednesday claimed that Sangrur MP Bhagwant Mann's "outbursts" against him and party leader Kanwar Sandhu were out of "sheer frustration and personal hatred".

Mr. Khaira also claimed that Mr. Mann's resignation, after Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's apology to Shiromani Akali Dal leader Bikram Singh Majithia, was tendered as part of a "strategy" with the consent of the party leadership in Delhi.



Sukhpal Khaira and Kanwar Sandhu in Chandigarh on Wednesday. ▪ AKHILESH KUMAR

Massive march

Mr. Khaira also said that he and the MLAs supporting him would hold a massive march in October which would start from Talwandi Sabo.

The Bholath MLA's attack on Mr. Mann comes a day after the MP had called Mr. Khaira and Mr. Sandhu "opportunists".

"During a meeting at my home four months back, senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia told me that Mr. Mann's resignation (from the post of president, State unit) was part of a strategy and he resigned with our consent," claimed Mr. Khaira while addressing media here.

"Manish told me that I could also resign (as the Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly) with their consent and there will not be any problem," Mr. Khaira said, adding, "I told Manish ji I am not a man of double standards."

Replying to Mr. Mann's charge that he was fighting only for the "chair", Mr. Khaira said the MP's statement had upset him.

"I was not expecting such a statement from Mann. He had described me as courageous in his tweet. What sin have I committed in the last seven days which prompted Mann to make such a statement?" said Mr. Khaira.

Kharar MLA Kanwar Sandhu said they were compelled to raise their voice for autonomy in the Punjab unit as the party's graph was sliding fast in the State.

"After we went through the party's constitution, we came to know that the party has given immense power to volunteers. There has not been any State political affairs committee (PAC) and State executive committee yet in the State. The party was not functioning at all," claimed Mr. Sandhu.

Asked what if the party acts against them, Mr. Sandhu said "how" could they stop it but added it would be a wrong precedent.

Perilous journey



Recipe for disaster: An overcrowded boat crossing a flooded Ganga near Patna on Wednesday. ▪ RANJEET KUMAR

Ban on intoxicants while rafting, kayaking

Rawat Cabinet nod for revised policy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DEHRADUN

The Uttarakhand Cabinet on Wednesday approved a revised policy on adventure sports, imposing a total ban on the use of intoxicants by enthusiasts while rafting, kayaking or canoeing in the State.

The revised policy, which also fixes a minimum qualification for raft operators, got the Cabinet's nod at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, State Finance Minister Prakash Pant said at a media briefing after the meeting.

The amended rules on river rafting, kayaking and canoeing are more practical which will make adventure sports safer in Uttarakhand, Mr. Pant said.



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat. ▪

Taking a serious view of frequent accidents during rafting in the State, the High Court had put a ban on it at the peak of the season in June this year until a revised policy on adventure sports was not brought into force by the State government.

Petition for CBI probe against Raje dismissed

Over alleged sale of govt. land

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday dismissed a petition seeking registration of an FIR and a CBI probe against Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje and her son for allegedly getting compensation of ₹1.97 crore by selling a piece of government land to the National Highways Authority of India for widening a national highway in 2010.

Justice R.K. Gauba rejected the petition which had also challenged an April 18, 2015, decision of a special CBI court here.

The trial court had refused to order a probe into the allegation against Ms. Raje and her son, saying no prior sanction was obtained as required under the Prevention of Corruption Act.



Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje. ▪

The petition said Ms. Raje and her son had illegally claimed ownership of a piece of land adjoining the Dholpur Palace in Dholpur town and sold it to the NHAI for ₹1.97 crore, causing a loss to the State exchequer.

New breastfeeding policy comes into effect in Rajasthan

For encouraging its promotion among rural communities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

A new breastfeeding policy has come into effect in Rajasthan for encouraging the rural communities to promote exclusive breastfeeding along with its early initiation. The initiative has been taken as part of the National Nutrition Mission-2022 on conclusion of the World Breastfeeding Week observed between August 1 and 7.

Releasing the policy at Swasthya Bhavan here on Wednesday, Medical and Health Minister Kali Charan Saraf cited the figures of the National Family Health Survey-4, stating that the early initiation of breastfeeding in the State was only at 28.4%, while only 58% infants were able to exclusively breastfeed during the first six months of their lives.

Mr. Saraf called upon the mothers, family members, medicos and paramedical staff to contribute for promotion of breastfeeding by adopting the methods laid down in the policy.



The policy was released by Health Minister Kali Charan Saraf. ▪ FILE PHOTO

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which has been working with the State government on the fronts of maternal and child health care, said the initiative should be utilised for reducing infant and neonatal mortality and improving children's immunity towards infections. The policy is also expected to meet the nutritional needs of young children.

UNICEF nutrition specialist Minakshi Singh expressed the hope that the policy, jointly developed by the Department of Women and Child Development and National Health Mission, would ensure "more intensive work" towards improving the current breastfeeding rates.

Low percentage

Ms. Singh said while the State had made an impressive progress in institutional deliveries, which were currently at 86.6%, the early initiation of breastfeeding was low despite having doubled over the last 10 years. Exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months has also doubled during the last decade, as it was only 33.2% in NFHS-3.

The new policy stipulates initiation of breastfeeding within an hour inside the labour room, supporting mothers to ensure the continued exclusive breastfeeding and counselling till two years of the child's age.

Congress to repay debt of farmer who killed self

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR

The Congress on Wednesday announced that it will settle all dues of a debt-ridden farmer in who had committed suicide in Rajasthan's Nagaur district.

Manglaram Meghwal, 36, had taken a loan of ₹2.98 lakh from a bank and had repaid a part of it. Upon receiving a seizure notice from the bank, informing him that his land will be auctioned to recover the dues, he hung himself from the ceiling of his house on Sunday.

After visiting the family of the Dalit farmer, Rajasthan Congress chief Sachin Pilot lashed out at Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje and accused her of ignoring the plight of small and marginal farmers.

"A marginal Dalit farmer who was differently-abled committed suicide due to debt burden. The government is ignoring the plight of the farmers," he said.

Haryana launches portal

For grant-in-aid transfers to depts.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Haryana government on Wednesday launched an online portal for releasing grant-in-aids to various government departments.

Digital India initiative

Finance Minister Capt. Abhimanyu, who launched the online portal by transferring ₹84.58 crore to the Health Department, said that the initiative was in sync with the vision of 'Digital India' to assure transparent financial management.

"The online system of budgetary transaction would not only enhance transparency but also increase working efficiency of drawing and disbursing officers, treasury officers and other employees of the Finance Department," said Capt. Abhimanyu.

Single bank account

The Finance Minister said that in future all government departments would have to keep a single bank account for all their transactions.

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by S. Ramanujam at HT Media Ltd. Plot No. 8, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. 201306, on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Mukund Padmanabhan (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
Regd. DL(ND)-11/6110/2006-07-08 • RNI No. TNENG/2012/49940 • ISSN 0971 - 751X • Vol. 8 • No. 189

https://t.me/pdf4exams https://www.estore33.com/ https://t.me/TheHindu_Zone_official

After tent scare, Bengal BJP wants drone for Shah rally

Over 90 people were injured in tent cave-in during PM's rally in June

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

The State unit of the BJP has appealed to the Kolkata Police to grant permission to fly a drone for mass surveillance during party president Amit Shah's rally in the city on August 11.

The party, which has become wary after a tent collapsed at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Midnapore rally in June, also appealed to the police to allow the use of walkie-talkies during Saturday's rally.

Over 90 people were injured after a section of a tent caved in during Mr. Modi's speech on June 16.

"We have applied for permission from the Kolkata Police for using one drone during Amit Shahji's rally on Saturday. Drones will help us in keeping an eye on the proceedings in and around the rally area. This is merely for security reasons," West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh said.

The party is trying to take precautionary measures to avoid another untoward event, he said. "We have also sought permission for walkie-talkies as it would help in keeping a tab on the ground situation," Mr. Ghosh added.



BJP supporters near the tent, which collapsed during a rally addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in Midnapore in June. ▪ FILE PHOTO AFP

Not decided yet

A senior officer of Kolkata Police, however, said nothing has been decided on the issue.

"We are yet to make a decision on the request made by the BJP. A detailed report, stating the reasons, is required before granting permission for drone use," the officer said.

The Kolkata Police will provide foolproof security arrangements during Saturday's rally, keeping in mind Mr. Shah's stature as a political leader, he stated.

There will be two daises at the rally venue on Mayo Road, in the heart of the city, the officer said, taking a cue from the rally arrangement plans submitted by the BJP to the Kolkata Police.

"One will be for Mr. Shah and senior leaders of the party while the second one will be for other functionaries. We are taking all forms of security measures for it," he stressed.

The BJP had earlier alleged that the administration denied it permission to hold a rally at Rani Rashmoni Avenue in central Kolkata.

Amid speculation, Mr. Shah, too, had said he does not need the Bengal government's permission to come to Kolkata and dared the State administration to arrest him.

Refuting the allegation, the Kolkata Police clarified that it did not receive any application for any rally at Rani Rashmoni Avenue.

"Some unwarranted speculation on social media about denial of permission to a political party on 11 August has come to our notice. It is to clarify that on request permission for meeting has already been granted," it had said in a tweet.

Won't allow NRC here, says Bengal LoP

Cong. leader's assertion comes even as former Assam CM demands its extension

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA/NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader Abdul Mannan said on Wednesday that an NRC exercise would not be allowed in West Bengal and asked the propagators of this idea not to "play with fire", even as former Assam Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta urged the Centre to prepare a similar list for the residents of West Bengal saying the State was also "affected by illegal immigration" from Bangladesh.

"Parties should desist from trying to reap political dividends by polarising people in the name of NRC," said Mr. Mannan, the Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly.



SUCI activists raising slogans at a rally in Kolkata on Wednesday to protest against Assam's National Register of Citizens draft. ▪ PTI

Bengal BJP plea

BJP national secretary Rahul Sinha had on Tuesday urged the Indian Muslims, especially those living in West Bengal, to support an NRC exercise in the State claiming that it was becoming a hub for infiltrators under the Trinamool Congress rule.

West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh had also said that an NRC on the lines of the one in Assam would be published in the Bengal if his party is voted to power in the State.

Without naming the BJP, Mr. Mannan said, "Some people are also talking about conducting the NRC exercise in West Bengal if they came to power in the future. They should not play with fire. We assert this will never be allowed to happen in our State."

Senior CPI(M) leader Sujan Chakraborty termed Mr. Ghosh's statement on conducting an NRC exercise in West Bengal 'audacious'.

'NRC in all States'

Meanwhile in Delhi, Mr. Mahanta, a signatory of the 1985 Assam Accord which provided for identification and deportation of illegal immigrants from the State, said: "We want the NRC in all States. First, we want an NRC in West Bengal, which is also affected by illegal immigration from Bangladesh as language and culture of West Bengal and Bangladesh are same."

Mr. Mahanta, whose party Asom Gana Parishad is a part of the ruling alliance in Assam, also opposed the move to amend the six-decade-old Citizenship Act, seeking to grant citizenship to people from minority communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Assam flood situation improves

Over 77,000 people still suffering in Biswanath, Golaghat districts: ASDMA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUWAHATI

The flood situation in Assam improved marginally on Wednesday even though over 77,000 people were still affected in two districts.

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), over 77,200 people are still suffering due to flood in Biswanath and Golaghat districts.

Till Tuesday, over 81,000 people were affected in flood in Golaghat district in the State.



Villagers preparing to cast fishing net in floodwaters in Barpeta on Wednesday. ▪ PTI

Death toll 46

The total number of persons who lost their lives in the two spells of flood this year in the State stands at 46, including three in the landslides.

Currently, 107 villages are under water and 6,883 hectares of crop areas have been damaged, the ASDMA said.

The ASDMA said authorities are running 109 relief camps and distribution centres in the two districts, where 19,636 people are taking shelter at present.

Rivers above danger

Currently, the Brahmaputra at Nimatighat in Jorhat and Dhansiri at Numaligarh in Golaghat are flowing above the danger marks, it added.

Roads and bridges have been damaged in Lakhimpur, Biswanath and Kamrup Metropolitan, it added.

Impasse over Massanjore dam continues

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

West Bengal and Jharkhand held talks on Wednesday to end the impasse over the Massanjore dam in Dumka but both sides stuck to their stand.

West Bengal's Irrigation Minister Soumen Mahapatra admitted that the meeting was "not fruitful" but added that there is no reason why the State government, which had been maintaining the dam since 1955, cannot paint it the way it likes.

"I will get the details of what happened at the meeting from the officials and speak to the Chief Minister in this regard," he told *The Hindu*.

Controversy over painting the reservoir wall blue and white, the colours of West Bengal, erupted last week when members of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, youth wing of the BJP, stopped the painting of the dam located at Dumka in Jharkhand.

Since then, a war of words ensued between the leaders of the ruling parties from both the States. Dumka MLA and Jharkhand Minister Louis Marandi warned against painting the dam.

Odisha STF to visit New Delhi to quiz LeT militant's handler

'Will interrogate Rahman on his Odisha link, modus operandi'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHUBANESWAR

A team of the Special Task Force (STF) of the Odisha Police will soon visit New Delhi to interrogate Habibur Rahman, one of the handlers of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist Shaikh Abdul Naeem alias Nomi, arrested recently.

Habibur, alias Habib, is a native of Kendrapara district in Odisha.

"An STF team led by DIG Himanshu Lal will leave for New Delhi very soon to interrogate Habibur Rahman with the permission of the National Investigation Team (NIA)," Odisha police's Crime Branch ADGP S.K. Upadhya told reporters here.

The ADGP said the team will interrogate Rahman on his Odisha link and his modus operandi on terror activities in the State.

> **It will also seek details on how many times he had accompanied the Pakistan-based LeT terrorist Shaikh Abdul Naeem to Odisha**
>
> S.K. UPADHYA
> Crime Branch ADGP

"It will also seek details on how many times he had accompanied the Pakistan-based (LeT) terrorist Shaikh Abdul Naeem to Odisha," Mr. Upadhya said.

Rahman was arrested by the NIA in New Delhi on August 6 after being deported from Saudi Arabia. Naeem has been charge-sheeted along with 10 other co-accused including Rahman. It is alleged that Habibur had arranged hideouts and funds for Naeem on different occasions.

Acting Director General of Police and Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Police Commissioner Satyajit Mohanty had on Tuesday said that the Odisha Police was ready to provide all assistance to the NIA in its investigation.

Habibur Rahman's father Mir Aainuddin had on Tuesday said his son should be punished if he is found to be involved in any terror activities.

Mr. Aainuddin, a native of Mirmahala hamlet in Tendakuda gram panchayat of Kendrapara district, said the family had not been in touch with Rahman for 12 years as he was disowned for marrying outside his religion.

Criminal held after encounter

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

A hardened criminal was injured and arrested following an exchange of fire with police in Kodala police station area of Odisha's Ganjam district on Wednesday.

Police sources said Dillip Das (24), of Banapur area in Khurda district, has over 20 criminal cases pending against him in police stations of Ganjam, Nayagarh and Khurda districts as well as Bhubaneswar and Cuttack cities.

Das, who sustained a bullet injury in his right leg, was admitted to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur. A pistol, two rounds of live ammunition, a bike and ₹14,000 cash was seized from his possession, said the inspector in charge of Kodala police station, Susant Kumar Sethi. Acting on a tip-off, at 5 a.m., a special team of Ganjam police tracked him down near Pustapur under Kodala police station limits. Das fired at the police team, and the cops fired at him.

'Probe death of accused who escaped from police custody'

Officer told to submit his findings within fortnight

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUWAHATI

The Kamrup Metropolitan District Magistrate on Wednesday ordered an inquiry into the death of a person, who had allegedly escaped from the police custody and was found hanging from a tree in Chandrapur area.

District Magistrate Virender Mittal directed Chandrapur Revenue Circle Officer Pallab Jyoti Nath to conduct an inquiry to find out the circumstances leading to the death of the 23-year-old man, official sources said here.

Mr. Nath has been directed to submit his findings within 15 days for onward submission to the NHRC/AHRC (Assam Human Rights Commission).

'Harassed girl'

The person, identified as Chandan Bharali, was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly harassing a girl on social media and was taken to Panikhaiti outpost after being remanded in police custody for three days by the Chief Judicial Magistrate.

The accused was found missing on Tuesday night and the police claimed that he had escaped with his handcuffs.

A search was launched and the police found him early on Wednesday morning hanging from a tree in the jungle area, about 150 metres behind the Panikhaity outpost.

Bharali had allegedly committed suicide, according to the police.

NSCN(IM) cadre killed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
IMPHAL

One NSCN(IM) cadre was killed in an encounter with the members of a rival outfit in Noney district of Manipur, the police said.

The encounter took place between members of the NSCN (IM) and the Zeliangrong United Front at Khumji-Part 2 village on Tuesday night.

No one could be arrested so far, they said.

https://t.me/pdf4exams https://www.estore33.com/ https://t.me/TheHindu_Zone_official

IN BRIEF



Cabinet expansion on the cards in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Cabinet expansion talks in Kerala have suddenly picked up momentum in the Left Democratic Front with the CPI(M) mulling re-induction of former Industries Minister E.P. Jayarajan (in photo), if possible, before CM Pinarayi Vijayan leaves for the U.S. for treatment on August 19.

Prime accused held in Kerala mass murder case

IDUKKI

The police on Tuesday arrested Anish, prime accused in the murder of a family at Vannapuram. The bodies of Kanattu Krishnan, his wife Susheela, daughter Asha and son Arjun were found buried near their house last Wednesday. Anish planned the murder to 'get the tantric' powers of Krishnan, who allegedly practised black magic, the police said.

Latvian held captive for 24 hours, say police

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala police have told a court here that they have evidence to prove that the two persons accused of raping and murdering a Latvian tourist at a marshy locality near Kovalam in March last had a "foreign woman" in their custody for over 24 hours.

IKEA to say hello to Hyderabad today

HYDERABAD

Swedish home furnishings major IKEA is set to take its engagement with India, from where it has been sourcing for over three decades now, to the next level with its first store in the country opening in Hyderabad on Thursday. This is a landmark moment, the company said.

Search continues



Rescue mission: Navy personnel conducting a search operation on Wednesday to trace nine fishermen who went missing after a collision between a ship and a fishing vessel off the Kerala coast. Three persons died in the accident that took place 27 nautical miles off Chettuva in Thrissur district, on Tuesday. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kerala film awards given

Pinarayi calls for protecting and conserving free expression

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan presenting the J.C. Daniel Award to Sreekumaran Thampi. ▪ S. MAHINSHA

The 48th Kerala film awards were distributed at a sombre, yet nostalgic function here on Wednesday evening. The usual glitter was avoided as a mark of respect to former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi who passed away on Tuesday.

Inaugurating the function, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said Kerala was one place where artistes had a milieu for free expression and it needed to be protected.

Taking a dig at those who objected to the government's decision to have actor Mohanlal as the chief guest, Mr. Vijayan said that the choice was primarily based on the fact that he was a front-ranking actor.

Mr. Mohanlal said he had been part of the industry for 40 years and hence deserved to be in the midst of a function honouring his friends, even without an invitation.

Filmmaker Sreekumaran Thampi received the J.C. Daniel Award; M.K. Arjunan got the best music director award; Parvathy won the best female actor award; Indrans was given the best actor award; and Lijo Jose Pellissery got the best director award.

1 more terror suspect held in Bengaluru

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The National Investigation Agency has arrested Adil Asadullah, an alleged member of the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), near the Cantonment railway station here. According to the NIA officials, Asadullah, 29, is a close associate of terror suspect Mohammed Jahidul Islam, who was arrested on Tuesday and is wanted in several terror cases in India and Bangladesh.

The NIA recovered three mobile phones, bank slips, hand-written notes and a book with notes on chemical formulae for IED from Asadullah.

Beard turns barrier for Kashmir students

Denied entry into class at Karnataka nursing college

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Four students from Kashmir, enrolled in a nursing college in Bengaluru, were allegedly barred from attending classes until they shaved their beards. Citing reasons of 'hygiene', the college principal informed the students that their internal marks would be affected if they failed to comply.

The principal joined the college – the Adarsh College of Nursing in Mariyappana, Mallathahalli – less than a month ago.

The penalised students include three who are in the first year, and one who is in his second year. They told *The Hindu* that the principal, Priyadarshini, summoned them and asked them to shave off their beard if they wanted to be marked in their internals.

Sudden decision

"For the past week, we are being sent out of class on instructions from the principal for not shaving our beards. The management was fine with our beards when we filled the admission form and all of a sudden, the principal, who joined 20 days ago, asked us to shave it off. She barred us from entering class. The beards are part of our faith," said one student.

> **These people are serving the patients and it is our protocol to ensure that the boys come clean shaven**
>
> PRIYADARSHINI
> Principal, Adarsh College of Nursing

Another alleged that on Wednesday, he could only attend two lectures. "When the principal got to know that we were in class, she asked the lecturers to send us out," he claimed.

"We tried reasoning with her but she was adamant, citing discipline and uniformity."

When *The Hindu* contacted Ms. Priyadarshini, she said she stood by her decision as it was a professional course and that there was a need for students to be 'disciplined and maintain hygiene'. "These people are serving the patients and it is our protocol to ensure that the nails of our students are short and the boys come clean shaven and do not have piercing. Moreover, it's an internal issue which was resolved with the college management."

Bewildered by her decision, the four boys checked with other nursing colleges in the city to find out if it was mandatory for them to be clean shaven. "We were told that there is no such rule," they said.

College erred: RGUHS

The nursing college is affiliated to the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS). S. Sachidananda, Vice-Chancellor of the RGUHS, said the college management had erred as it could not hurt the religious sentiments of its students.

"We will inquire into the matter and issue directions to the college not to impose its views in this matter," he said. However, the students said they discussed with their families in Kashmir, who have advised them to shave off the beard and not to get involved in any trouble.

Kerala police bust poachers' gang

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Inside information helped Kerala forest enforcers on Sunday bust a gang of poachers who were operating for long with apparent impunity in the Kulathupuzha and Palode forest ranges.

The case has piqued immense public curiosity as the suspects included three police officers who are accused of using their uniform and patrol van as a cover for hunting game, mostly deer and wild buffalo, in Ponmudi.

Wildlife crime investigators said the gang was aided by a postmaster, who was an expert in crafting and handling country-made muzzle-loaders. They said three Gulf-based businessmen, who relished bush-meat during their sojourns in native Kollam, financed the illegal hunting. The gang had remained off the Forest Department's radar for long.

Acting on a tip-off, Forest Range Officer, Kulathupuzha, Abdul Jaleel raided the house of one Shameer at Oonthu Pacha in Kollam and seized nearly 5 kg of meat. A forest veterinarian testified the flesh to be that of Sambar deer, a protected species.

Investigators have sent a sample to the Rajiv Gandhi Biotechnology Centre here for forensic validation.

https://t.me/pdf4exams https://www.estore33.com/ https://t.me/TheHindu_Zone_official

IN BRIEF



Govt. to take education to last person: Das

RANCHI

Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das on Wednesday said the State government's aim is to take education to the last person through new technology. "Vision is necessary for quality education and education should be such that it should be employment-oriented," Mr. Das said. PTI

Young man killed in landslide in Chamba

SHIMLA

A man was killed in landslide during incessant rains in Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district, the police said on Wednesday. The deceased has been identified as Sanjeev Kumar (26) of Chauviya village in Bharmour tehsil, they added. He was on his way to Manimahesh lake when incessant rains triggered landslides near Dunali Nazad Chhanchau area and he died on the spot. PTI

Lone RSP MP steals the show

N.K. Premachandran punched above his party's weight in LS monsoon session

VIKAS PATHAK
NEW DELHI

In an unusually productive monsoon session of Parliament, one opposition MP punched much above the weight of his party and grabbed the attention of the government and the Opposition alike: N.K. Premachandran, the sole MP of the Revolutionary Socialist Party from Kollam in Kerala.

As the Lok Sabha passed one Bill after another in recent days, Mr. Premachandran became a familiar face, speaking on each Bill in intricate detail, sans rhetoric, and moving statutory resolutions and amendments.

On August 1, when the Commercial Courts, Commercial Division and Commercial Appellate Division of High Courts (Amendment) Bill to designate some courts as commercial courts was to be discussed, Mr. Premachandran got a chance to initiate the debate on the side of the Opposition despite being the sole member from his party.



N.K. Premachandran. ▪

The reason: he had moved a statutory resolution that the House disapprove the Centre taking the ordinance route to designate these commercial courts.

Clubbed together

Being on similar themes, the statutory resolution and the Bill were clubbed together and he got a chance to initiate the discussion on the side of the Opposition. In his speech, he sought to know what would happen to so many other cases if some courts are designated as commercial courts just for enhancing "the ease of doing business"?

The Congress' floor leader Mallikarjun Kharge complained that the largest opposition party should get this chance.

Deputy Speaker M. Thambidurai explained to him that Mr. Premchandran was getting this opportunity as the mover of the statutory motion, which has been clubbed with the Bill.

"Shri Premachandran is also from the Opposition. It is your group which is a combined group; not any other group," he told Mr. Kharge.

But it was not just the Congress that noticed the lawyer-politician from the RSP stealing the show.

Union Minister for Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad also made specific mention of the Kerala MP. He said, emphasising that he was speaking on a lighter note: "Mr. Premachandran is a very good friend of mine. But I learnt to my dismay that in the last four years he has not supported any Bill. I think for this Bill he should make an exception."

Mr. Premachandran replied that his statutory motion was to oppose the ordinance route.

Similar motion

The MP moved a similar statutory motion even when the National Sports University Bill came up for debate, repeatedly emphasising that Article 123 of the Constitution laid down clearly that ordinances could be promulgated only in matters that required immediate action when Parliament was not in session.

The Kollam MP is no novice to Parliamentary procedure. Before his present term, he was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1996 and 1998 and was a member of the Rajya Sabha from 2000 to 2006. Between 2006 and 2011, he was a Minister in Kerala.

"He is among those who read Bills meticulously and maintain an intellectual edge," said a BJP MP, explaining the lone RSP MP's stellar Lok Sabha showing.

Manipur fake encounters: CBI files 3rd charge sheet

Six policemen charged with murder and criminal conspiracy, seventh with destroying evidence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Wednesday filed a charge sheet in a special court against seven personnel of the Manipur Police in connection with an alleged fake encounter six years ago, officials said.

This is the third charge sheet in 41 alleged fake encounter cases handed over by the Supreme Court to the CBI last year.

The agency has charged six policemen with criminal conspiracy and murder, while another has been charged with destruction of evidence, they said.

The findings of the agency are based on forensic opinion, field investigation, expert opinion of the Central Forensic Science Laboratory and post-mortem report, they said.

The agency also elicited opinion of doctors from AIIMS and collected a huge volume of records during the investigation into the encounter of Zamir Khan on January 20, 2012, the officials said.

The alleged extra-judicial killing took place in the Kiyamgei Santipur area of Manipur.

"The NHRC collected reports from various authorities and examined the same. The commission did not accept police's account and held that Zamir Khan was not killed in a genuine encounter," the CBI FIR had alleged.

Closure report

The CBI also filed a closure report in the case of Longjam Dhamen, who was killed by a team of CDO Imphal West in an alleged encounter on February 21, 2012.

The agency said its investigation shows that Dhamen, an alleged kidnapper, was killed in police action. The abducted person was rescued. An investigation by the National Human Rights Commission is also under way.

Recently, the CBI had filed charge sheet in two encounter cases involving 14 police personnel.

During a hearing before the Supreme Court, CBI Director Alok Verma had to face tough questions about the 14 accused "loafing free" in the streets of Manipur.

The court had reportedly told Mr. Verma, "According to you, there are 14 murderers in these cases and they are loafing around Manipur freely?"

Asked about the SC's observation, the agency said it had informed the court that the CBI had filed two charge sheets against 14 personnel of the Manipur Police for "criminal conspiracy, murder and destruction of evidence" after thorough investigation.

"We have not made any further observations regarding the charge-sheeted persons other than submitting these facts before the Supreme Court. The matter is pending trial before the learned court," CBI spokesperson Abhishek Dayal said.

JMB member held from Jharkhand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

The Kolkata Police Special Task Force arrested a member of the terror outfit Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from Jharkhand on Wednesday for his alleged involvement in the Bodh Gaya blast case, an officer said.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of the STF arrested 26-year-old Dilwar Hasan alias Ali Hasan alias Umar, a resident of Malda district in West Bengal, from Pakur district of Jharkhand, he said.

"Dilwar is an active member of the JMB. We have arrested him this afternoon from Sidhu Kanu More in Pakuria police station limits in Jharkhand for his involvement in the Bodh Gaya blast case that took place earlier this year," he said.

He was booked under various Indian Penal Code sections, including 120B (criminal conspiracy), 121 (Waging, or attempting to wage war), 121A (conspiracy to commit offences), 123 (concealing with intent to facilitate design to wage war) and Explosive Substances Act, the IPS officer said.

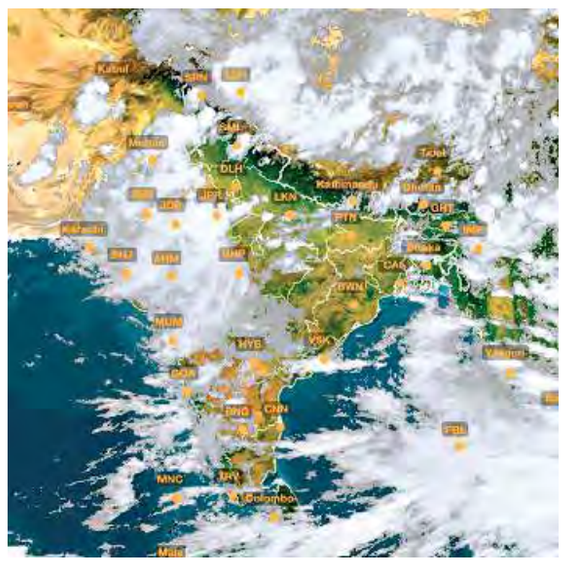
The Dalai Lama's sermon

A low-intensity bomb had exploded on January 19 this year, hours after Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama had finished a sermon at the Mahabodhi temple in Bodh Gaya.

A mobile phone, a voter card and an Aadhaar card were seized from Dilwar, though both the cards appeared to be fake, the officer said, adding that a bill for purchasing a phone was also seized from him. The NIA had arrested two residents of West Bengal from Kerala's Malappuram district on Tuesday for their alleged involvement in the blast.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rain is likely at isolated places over east Rajasthan, east & west Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Konkan & Goa, coastal Karnataka and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	1.6	34.6	25.6	Kozhikode	35	28.2	23.6
Ahmedabad	–	31.2	25.9	Kurnool	1.1	32.0	24.5
Aizwal	6	30.1	13.2	Lucknow	–	33.4	25.3
Allahabad	0.6	34.0	25.8	Madurai	–	35.4	25.2
Bengaluru	7.6	26.0	20.0	Mangaluru	3.6	27.3	24.0
Bhopal	–	25.8	23.8	Mumbai	0.8	30.3	26.8
Bhubaneswar	3.7	32.8	24.8	Mysuru	–	28.1	19.2
Chandigarh	4.3	34.1	26.3	New Delhi	3.9	33.5	26.5
Chennai	0.1	37.1	26.6	Patna	4.6	33.2	25.2
Coimbatore	5.2	27.0	22.0	Port Blair	7.7	27.7	24.2
Dehradun	9.9	32.5	23.1	Puducherry	–	35.9	24.9
Gangtok	–	23.3	17.5	Pune	–	27.3	22.2
Goa	6	30.8	26.0	Raipur	13.2	25.6	24.4
Guwahati	1	32.0	25.6	Ranchi	–	29.3	22.5
Hubballi	–	25.0	21.0	Shillong	14.6	23.8	17.6
Hyderabad	–	30.2	23.6	Shimla	4.8	22.9	15.6
Imphal	1	30.5	21.0	Srinagar	1.7	23.4	18.4
Jaipur	–	31.0	26.0	Trivandrum	14.4	28.4	22.8
Kochi	35	28.6	23.6	Tiruchi	–	35.3	26.6
Kohima	–	28.6	18.8	Vijayawada	13.6	31.8	24.4
Kolkata	13.6	32.1	26.0	Visakhapatnam	13.8	29.9	23.8

(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	61	58	29	64	–	
Bengaluru	9	27	89	44	90	
Chennai	10	40	47	65	–	
Delhi	–	61	21	110	69	
Hyderabad	3	98	18	19	44	
Kolkata	2	35	60	30	35	
Lucknow	8	10	63	48	–	
Mumbai	12	24	62	22	54	
Pune	36	13	55	43	49	
Vishakhapatnam	4	50	38	65	71	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Jaipur, Rajasthan recorded a moderate air quality index (AQI) score of 119 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Panchkula, Haryana 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/pdf4exams https://www.estore33.com/ https://t.me/TheHindu_Zone_official

IN BRIEF



Don't use plastic national flags, govt. tells citizens

NEW DELHI

Ahead of Independence Day, the Centre has urged all citizens not to use national flags made of plastic, and asked the States and the Union Territories to ensure strict compliance of the flag code. PTI

Farmers, trade unions to observe strike today

NEW DELHI

Farmers and workers under the aegis of the All-India Kisan Sabha and the Centre of Indian Trade Unions will participate in a nationwide protest on August 9 against the Centre's "anti-people" policies which have contributed to an acute agrarian crisis, according to the two organisations, affiliated to the CPI(M).

Dalit student tricked into drinking urine

JALANDHAR

A Class 8 Dalit student attempted suicide in Punjab's Jalandhar after he was tricked into drinking urine by his classmates, and his teacher slapped him for complaining about it, the police said on Wednesday. The student suffered multiple fractures after he jumped from the roof of his house on Friday. The teacher was booked on Tuesday for allegedly assaulting and using casteist slurs against the boy. PTI

Sailor, stranded for 18 months, to return home

LONDON

An Indian captain stuck aboard an Indian ship stranded at a U.K. port for 18 months due to a long-standing legal dispute over unpaid crew wages and port dues is set to return home, a media report said on Wednesday. Nikesh Rastogi, 43, is the captain of *Malaviya Twenty,* which has been held at a port in Great Yarmouth since July 2016. PTI



40 injured in blast, fire at refinery

Blaze under control, BPCL to order probe

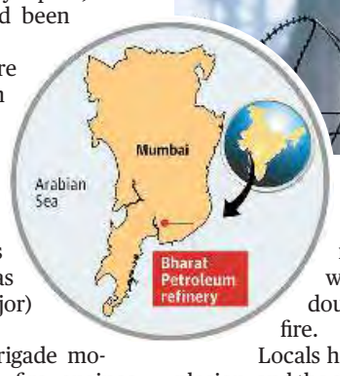
STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

At least 40 people were injured in a fire that broke out after an explosion at a hydrocracker plant in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited's (BPCL) refinery at Mahul in Mumbai on Wednesday.

Of the 40 injured, 22 were admitted to the Sushrut Hospital in Chembur and the rest were given first aid at the BPCL clinic. By 9 p.m., four of the 22 had been discharged.



Smoke rising from the refinery in the Chembur area of Mumbai after a fire broke out on Wednesday. ▪ PTI



The fire broke out in the compressor shed of the 72-tonne plant around 2.45 p.m., and was categorised as a level III (major) blaze.

The fire brigade mobilised seven fire engines, two jumbo tankers, and one quick response vehicle, and used four hose lines. The refinery's firefighting teams were leading the operations. Its fixed firefighting system, that sprays 4,500 litres of water per minute, was useful in dousing the fire.

Locals heard an explosion, and the shock waves were felt in Mahul and Chembur. Mahul resident Dayaram Mahulkar said, "When we came out of our houses, we saw flames billowing out of BPCL."

Chief Fire Officer Prabhat Rahangdale said, "Because of the intense heat and smoke, it was not possible to go near the site. In such cases, fixed firefighting systems are very useful. If the equipment wasn't in place, it could have led to a much bigger mishap."

BPCL, in an official statement, said the hydrocracker unit had been safely shut. The fire is under control and the company's fire-fighting teams are keeping a close watch on the refinery. "Our medical team is monitoring the status of the injured at the hospital," it said.

Hissing sound

Avadoot Parab, an electrician at the plant, said a hissing sound minutes before the blast alerted people of the danger and prompted them to run for their lives.

"Thank god for that sound that alerted us. All of us ran as far as possible within a few seconds," said Mr. Parab, who suffered injuries to his right leg and the back.

According to staff, who escaped unhurt, the explosion was so powerful that some machines weighing up to one tonne flew in the air.

A BPCL official told *The Hindu,* "The company will set up a team to investigate the matter."

Minister quits over shelter home rape

Her husband is accused of role in Bihar outrage

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA



Manju Verma

Facing flak for her husband's alleged role in the Muzaffarpur shelter home abuse case, Minister for Social Welfare Manju Verma on Wednesday resigned from her post.

Ms. Verma, later, asserted that her husband was innocent and would be cleared in the probe by the CBI, monitored by the Patna High Court.

Earlier in the day, the main accused in the case, Brajesh Thakur, said all charges against him were "frivolous and politically motivated", as he was to join the Congress soon and also intended to contest the election from Muzaffarpur.

While being produced in a local court, his face was blackened by workers of the Jan Adhikar Party, led by Madhepura MP Pappu Yadav.

'Faith in CBI'

"I have complete faith in the CBI and the Patna High Court and sure of getting justice," Ms. Verma told journalists at her official residence, after submitting her resignation to the Chief Minister.

She demanded that the complete CDR (Call Detail Records) be put in the "public domain" to reveal who else were speaking to Brajesh Thakur.

Earlier, a national news channel and the local media had reported that the CDR of Thakur revealed that he had called Chandeshwar Verma, husband of the Minister, 17 times since January to May 31 this year.

It was also reported that Mr. Verma had travelled to Muzaffarpur seven times but the Minister denied it earlier, saying, "My husband visited the shelter home only once, along with me."

SC constitutes panel to look into issues plaguing jails in country

Court resents A-G's remark on funding curbs

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



Justice Madan Lokur and Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal sparred on whether the Supreme Court's orders on PIL pleas, such as those on better facilities for undertrial prisoners, amounted to unreasonable expenditure on the public exchequer.

The exchange began when Mr. Venugopal, for the government, said courts should pass orders bearing in mind the budgetary restrictions. Concentrated spending on one issue may strain finances in other sectors, Mr. Venugopal reasoned.

Justice Lokur, heading a three-judge Bench, said the court was trying to resolve issues plaguing the nation and expects to utilise available funds wisely.

The court was examining ways to end the over-crowding of prisons and condition of undertrial prisoners languishing in jails. It also wanted to set up a committee to look into the conditions in prisons.

Justice Lokur pointed out that the Supreme Court had facilitated collection of "over a 100 thousand Crore Rupees" and that the government was not using these funds properly.

"The government is not using funds properly. Over 30 thousand crore rupees were collected for the benefit of building and construction workers but the money is spent in buying washing machines... They don't have clothes but washing machines are bought. Laptops are bought for illiterate people. The government is not using the funds that are lying with it properly," Justice Lokur said.

Mr. Venugopal responded that the court should pass orders on an issue with an eye on the impact it would cause in other sectors.

Justice Lokur said the orders of this court focussed on issues like prison conditions, child rights, women rights. The government has been able to receive several crore of revenue from the Supreme Court's orders in cases like mining, etc.

Duty to protect

The court said it could not abandon its duty to protect the citizens' fundamental right to life and dignity. Justice Lokur said the court and the government were not adversaries.

Mr. Venugopal said the efforts of the court has been "tremendous" over the past years. The court then ordered setting up of a committee to be headed by a retired Supreme Court Judge and assisted by "two or three other officers" to look into the issues of prison conditions.

Analytica: CBI initiates investigation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation has instituted a preliminary enquiry to determine whether U.K.-based Global Science Research and Cambridge Analytica illegally harvested and misused the data of Indian Facebook users.

"The preliminary enquiry has been initiated to probe the role of Global Science Research and New York-based Cambridge Analytica. It is alleged that GSR got the data and supplied it to Cambridge Analytica," said a CBI official. The agency may seek assistance from the parties concerned to examine the allegations.

The investigation is based on a reference from the government following allegations of illegal Facebook data harvesting. In April, admitting data pilferage by other agencies, Facebook had said that about 5.62 lakh Indians might have been potentially affected in thecase.

Responding to a notice, Cambridge Analytica earlier said that it did not have any Facebook data on Indian citizens. To a second notice, Facebook informed the government that the firm had violated its policy. It has not yet responded to the second notice.

All inmates of Deoria shelter traced: police

A young woman found at old-age home

OMAR RASHID
DEOIRA

Hours after Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath recommended a CBI probe into the irregularities and alleged sexual exploitation at a Deoria shelter home, the police on Wednesday claimed to have traced all 48 of the inmates who had been living there.

However, only 41 of them have been physically verified, Deoria Superintendent of Police Rohan P. Kanay told *The Hindu*, adding that the figure of 48 included minor boys and girls and adults.

The rescued inmates will be sent to shelter homes in Varanasi and Allahabad after their statements are recorded in front of a magistrate, a senior official said.

One of the inmates, a 21-year-old woman who was missing from the shelter home in Deoria, was recovered from an old-age home in Gorakhpur run by the same NGO on Saturday.

Same NGO

Girija Tripathi and her husband Mohan Tripathi, both arrested, ran the organisation. The ADM (administration) Gorakhpur, Prabhu Nath, said the young woman was recovered along with four elderly women whose names were listed in the register.

Mr. Kanay said the list submitted by Girija Tripathi was updated only till July 4 and did not include five adoptions made after the date, thus taking the total inmates at that time to 48.

Students help cremate ostracised villagers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Pabitra Borah and Pamila Kalita had something in common when they were alive – they had been ostracised by their villages, 200 km apart.

Their death within 48 hours of each other too had a link; their cremation was undertaken by groups of students they had probably never met. Pabitra, 35, died after prolonged illness on Sunday. No one in Borkathani Moliagaon, his village in Assam's Golaghat district, came forward to help his mother Monomati Borah as she had been excommunicated following a land dispute.

A group of students from neighbouring villages, many of them Muslims, came to know about her ordeal and offered to help perform the last rites of her son.

"My son might not have been cremated had it not been for them," she said.

"We ensured her son got a decent cremation, the least we could do for a fellow human being," Raja Ali, leader of the local unit of the All Assam Minority Students' Union, said.

A similar incident happened at Baghorbori village in Darrang district on Tuesday. Villagers there refused to help cremate 55-year-old Pamila Kalita because her son had married a woman belonging to a lower caste. Ms. Kalita had been suffering from cancer for a long time.

"We did not know what to do when some students from an adjoining village saw us through," the son, declining to be named, said.

About a dozen students - in their late teens and early 20s - defied the Baghorbori elders' diktat and helped perform the last rites of his mother at the cremation ground shared by a few villages in the area.

Why is carrying food to theatres a threat: HC

Seeks Maharashtra govt.'s response

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday asked the Maharashtra government to explain how permitting people to carry food from outside into multiplexes could pose a security threat.

A Division Bench of Justices Ranjit More and Anuja Prabhudessai was hearing a public interest litigation filed by Jainendra Baxi through advocate Aditya Pratap, seeking that the prohibition on outside food in multiplexes be revoked.

No specific law

The State government had filed an affidavit in the High Court on Tuesday saying that it does not deem it necessary to interfere with the ban on outside food in multiplexes, as it may create "chaos" or "security issues". The Bench, however, noted that people were not prohibited from carrying food from home or from any other place, to other public spots. It observed that the State's affidavit said there was no specific law or statutory provision that restrained people from carrying outside food into cinema halls.

"If people can be permitted to carry home food inside aircraft then why not to theatres?" the Bench sought to know. "Also, you (the government) yourself have said there is no specific legal provision behind such prohibition. So, what kind of security problems are you anticipating?" it said.

The court also dismissed the argument of senior advocate Iqbal Chagla, representing the Multiplexes Owners' Association, that one could not cite his fundamental right to seek that he or she be allowed to carry food inside theatres.

https://t.me/pdf4exams https://www.estore33.com/ https://t.me/TheHindu_Zone_official

Welcome clouds

The forecast is optimistic, but changing monsoon trends are a challenge

The most recent assessment put out by the India Meteorological Department, that the southwest monsoon will be "normal" after a short break, comes as a relief. At the end of two months the total rainfall has met the criteria for 'normality,' although there are wide variations in the patterns of showers, leaving some districts hit by drought as others face floods. Official data show that the realisation of 384.7 mm of rain as of July 25 is only a 3% negative departure from the Long Period Average. Yet, within this phase of the monsoon, some districts of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Telangana and Vidarbha experienced deficits ranging from 20% to 59%. In the case of Gujarat, it has been a story of both deficiency and heavy rainfall within the State. As with many previous monsoons, this rainy season has so far witnessed a lot of death and destruction: at least 465 people have died this year. Roads and infrastructure have been destroyed, and it will take massive investments to rebuild them. Thousands of people have had to shift to relief camps as floods have ruined their houses. Such displaced families urgently need relief to resume normal life. The rainfall patterns, with their spatial variations, have major implications for agriculture and groundwater recharge as well.

Water is the key determinant of India's agricultural output and the National Commission on Farmers chaired by the scientist, Professor M.S. Swaminathan, had several recommendations for its optimal use. Given that 60% of the 192 million hectares of gross sown area assessed by the Commission was found to be rainfed, an accelerated programme to harness the monsoon is vital. State programmes must take all measures to expand surface water storage, launch more minor irrigation schemes, and improve the recharge of groundwater. Altered rainfall trends in terms of intensity and variations across regions pose a new challenge. Scientists contend that the alluvial soil of the northern States benefit more from slow precipitation, while the hard-rock geography of the south needs heavy showers for groundwater recharge. Yet, many districts have been receiving short, heavy spells and not steady rain. A future-ready approach should therefore focus on augmented storage and greater participation of the farming community in managing the vital resource. The IMD has issued a "normal" outlook for August, which is encouraging, and there are signs of fresh monsoon activity in Odisha, south Chhattisgarh, north coastal Andhra Pradesh and parts of Telangana. If the forecast is accurate, and the trend of favourable climate conditions in the Indian Ocean continue, a further normal course of the season through September can be expected.

Dissent & diplomacy

The Saudi-Canada spat calls into doubt Riyadh's seriousness on social reform

Saudi Arabia's furious response to Canada's criticism of the arrest of rights activists in the Kingdom once again calls into question Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's professed commitment to reform. Having ascended last June to be second in line to the throne, he had promised progressive economic and political change. Since then, Saudi Arabia has allowed women to drive, cracked down on hardliners among the clergy and projected itself as a moderate Islamic country that respects people's rights, compared to "extremist Iran". But when Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland called for the release of Samar Badawi, a Saudi women's rights activist who was detained last week, and her brother Raif Badawi, Riyadh took a series of unilateral steps. Terming Ms. Freeland's appeal as interference in its domestic affairs, it expelled the Canadian Ambassador, called back its envoy from Ottawa, froze trade with Canada and said it would transfer out some 12,000 Saudi citizens studying in Canadian universities. Ms. Badawi has long campaigned against Saudi Arabia's guardianship laws that require all Saudi women to have a male guardian. Riyadh is yet to give reasons for the arrest. Her brother, who ran a website critical of the Saudi religious establishment, was sentenced to 10 years in jail and 1,000 lashes in 2014.

On overseas visits, Prince Mohammed has dwelt on his plan to improve women's rights and strengthen the economy. He is also obliquely critical of the guardianship laws, saying they did not exist in Saudi Arabia before 1979 – the year of the Iranian revolution and the siege of the Grand Mosque at Mecca. But despite this rhetoric on rights, the palace has shown little tolerance of political criticism at home. Since May, many women's rights activists have been detained. In addition, dozens of lawyers, human rights defenders and intellectuals have been arrested since September 2017. Interestingly, while most Western governments refrain from commenting on the crackdown against dissent in Saudi Arabia, Canada has given refuge to Mr. Badawi's wife and children. For Canada, the spat could prove costly. Saudi Arabia is its second largest export destination in West Asia. The two countries have signed a $12 billion arms deal, which is still in the works. But despite the aggressive Saudi response, Ottawa had stood by its Foreign Minister, saying it will continue to back "the protection of human rights, including women's rights". For Prince Mohammed, the diplomatic crisis is an opportunity to rethink the Kingdom's approach towards dissent and diplomacy. If he is indeed serious about reform, Riyadh should be lenient towards its advocates. Taking vengeful action against those who stand by rights activists will neither help Saudi Arabia's image nor attract investment into the country.

The last anchor

The modernising legacy of M. Karunanidhi will continue to shape the destiny of Tamil Nadu



NARAYAN LAKSHMAN

The passing of Muthuvel Karunanidhi, president of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and titan of the Dravidian movement, has come at a critical juncture in the politics of Tamil Nadu. On the one hand, he leaves a power vacuum in his party that mirrors the space vacated by the late Jayalalithaa of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) in December 2016. On the other, his death heralds a deeply troubling time for Tamil Nadu, which has seen what some describe as a secular decline in governance quality in recent years. Both dimensions of the current scenario must be studied to better understand the prognosis for the State.

Art of politics

Consider first what his passing means for the future of the DMK and the broader ripple effect on State politics. Historically and in the present day, there have always been vast complexities in the political mechanics of the DMK, and Karunanidhi was integral to every turn of its screw. From the early years of the Dravidian movement, when C.N. Annadurai and Periyar E.V. Ramasamy recognised their young protégé's talent for firing up people through his mastery of Tamil and his fearlessness in pushing back on hegemonic Brahminism, to the later years when after his meteoric rise to Chief Ministership of the State, he was noticed on the national stage for his brilliance as a party organiser, Karunanidhi's identity was inseparable from his party's for half a century.

Yet it was the subtle art of compromise that marked the ascendancy of the DMK for the best part of nearly 20 years in government, ever since it seized control from the Congress juggernaut in 1967. It was compromise that enabled Karunanidhi to hold the party together after the debilitating split with M.G. Ramachandran and the subsequent emergence of its arch-rival in 1972. It was compromise that deepened the DMK's electoral grip in constituencies across 32 districts, each with a different caste group dominating it, the leaders of each such middle and backward caste group clamouring for a share of the spoils of power. What immense knowledge of local issues and traditions, what a profound negotiating ability, and what a decisive personality it must take to bring together Mudaliars, Gounders, Pillais, Chettiars, and a smattering of Dalits and Thevars together into a veritable rainbow coalition of castes.

Effects of compromise

Later, the acknowledged heavyweight of southern politics made his presence felt on the national scene in a similar manner - with firm moral conviction in his vision of Tamil rights and welfare, but the flexibility to be accommodative toward that end. His most drastic compromise came in 1999, when he entered into an alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which stood for everything that the radical phase of Dravidianism militated against: Hindu nationalism, North India-based political vision, Hindi roots and hegemony of upper castes. That was a short-lived foray and, some argue, the result of expediency as he otherwise risked having his government dismissed for the third time by the Central government.



PTI

Whatever the faults of this open-ended approach to compromise, it resulted in a key differentiating factor for the DMK *vis-à-vis* the AIADMK – the party leadership structure under Karunanidhi did not get eroded to the extent that it did under both MGR and Jayalalithaa. Thus, today, the power vacuum of the DMK is mitigated to the extent that it had a formal succession plan in appointing Karunanidhi's son M.K. Stalin as working president, even if he remains untested at the helm in State and national elections. Jayalalithaa, contrarily, degraded at least four rungs of leadership beneath her, with the consequence that multiple vectors of contested power – a quelled rebellion led by O. Panneerselvam, a persistent, deep-pocketed challenge by T.T.V. Dhinakaran – have riven her party asunder, and bitter factionalism has filled the space her unvarnished authoritarianism had held captive.

With this asymmetric balance of power in the two major Dravidian parties, the inevitable has happened: the door has opened for opportunistic "outside" parties with long-term ambitions of breaching the Dravidian dam to start meddling in Tamil Nadu's affairs. For the BJP, this could be achieved by funnelling enormous amounts of money to finance the campaigns and coffers of parties and individuals with whom it could potentially form alliances. Similarly, the long arm of federal enforcement agencies, such as the CBI and the Income Tax department, may be used to punish and reward as required. Even the office of Governor may not be beyond the pale in a politically fraught climate, where procedural delays or discretionary actions can materially affect power outcomes.

Needs of Tamil people

This politically fluid situation brings us to the second dimension of the broader impact of Karunanidhi's passing: the needs of the common Tamil man and woman today. It is highly unlikely that they still require the same basket of welfare goods that the Dravidian movement leaders decided to provide them with in the late 1960s. Do they need State autonomy for fear of a distant New Delhi running roughshod over ethnic Tamil rights? Not any more. Do they require an ever-expanding offering of mass welfare policies mimicking the mid-day meal scheme, and giveaways of subsidised rice, colour television sets, bicycles and more? That space has already been saturated, often to the point of bankrupting the State, as it nearly happened around the turn of the century.

What has changed over recent decades, however, is the quality of governance. Under Jayalalithaa and Karunanidhi, benevolent autocracy went hand-in-hand with the relentless pursuit of rent-seeking opportunities. During years of AIADMK rule this meant unhinged grand larceny and extortion of private capital across the State – often at the behest of the rapacious V.K. Sasikala clan. When the DMK governed, it took a slightly less brazen, but equally damaging, form of shadowy nepotism of the "First Family" giving them control over gargantuan resources in telecom and other sectors.

Unsurprising then, that this has deepened the systemic institutional rot and contributed to a deterioration of the policy environment to the point where numerous industries have fled to other States. Simultaneously the weakening of government institutions has meant that the State's response to multiple socio-political crises has been lacklustre, if not utterly inadequate. The long list here would include the bumbling approach to the Jallikattu and Sterlite protests, mismanagement of water resources resulting in floods in Chennai and periodic drought-like conditions elsewhere, disparate crises facing sectors such as sand and electric power, and the cloud of collective uncertainty that all of these vagaries engender, putting a question mark on the economic future of Tamil Nadu.

Call for stability

The answer to the question of what the people of Tamil Nadu need today is thus a simple one: stability and the return of good governance. Yet that requires a wounded, limping AIADMK to have the foresight to set aside personal rivalries and hatred and pull itself together under one leader for the greater good; or if that is looking unlikely, it requires an aspirational Stalin to seize the day, infuse newfound energy into his party cadres and mobilise his constituents like never before. He can only steer the DMK ship through the choppy waters of Tamil Nadu's turmoil if he recasts the Dravidian movement's commitment to the Tamil ethos in a modern mould, reinventing the very design of his vehicle and charting a new course. It is here that the legacy of Karunanidhi matters most, as he was the last anchor to a political tradition that will continue to shape the destiny of the State.

narayan@thehindu.co.in

Going by the numbers

The complexity of the GST process is hindering collections and diminishing potential economic benefits



PUJA MEHRA

A little over a year after the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rollout, the revenue collections from the new indirect regime are at the centre of a debate. A member of the GST Council estimates a "shortfall" in the April-June quarter of this year at ₹43,000 crore. The Union Finance Secretary reportedly shot off a missive to Central tax officials over the lower number of returns filed under the Central GST (CGST), compared to the number filed under the State GST (SGST).

Gap in levies

The collection trends released evidently defy logic. The SGST and the CGST are applied at the same rate on the identical tax base. Logically, the two levies should yield equal revenue collections. But SGST collections over the past several months have been consistently exceeding CGST collections.

Then, in April, the beginning of this financial year, both CGST and SGST collections dropped and Integrated GST (IGST) collections took off sharply. In each of the months since then, IGST collections have overshot CGST and SGST collections.

Why is the Centre's GST collection falling behind that of the States' and why have the IGST collections shot up? The trends are a symptom of the problem, not the problem itself. First, let's understand these distinct levies.

Insecure over loss of fiscal autonomy, the States succeeded in pressing a GST that is made of two types of levies, the CGST and the SGST. The Constitution empowers the Centre to tax sales anywhere nationally, but it allows a State to collect taxes only on sales within its territory. So, all 29 States and two Union Territories with legislatures have separately enacted their respective SGSTs. The SGSTs have almost identical features and rates – to prevent tax arbitrage across States – but in effect, they are distinct SGSTs. This complicates the collection and refunds processes and system.

The GST is being levied at the point of consumption, not the factory gate, unlike many of the levies it has subsumed. Given the territorially limited tax jurisdictions of States, the collection of the SGST poses a problem every time goods and services get sold outside the State they were produced in. The solution that has been worked out to overcome this problem is the IGST. It is imposed on inter-State sales.



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Logically, the IGST ought to be imposed as a substitute for the SGST such that the GST equals the SGST plus CGST for intra-State sales and IGST plus the CGST for inter-State sales. In practice, needless complications have been introduced into the IGST.

On inter-State sales, the IGST, at a rate equal to the applicable CGST and SGST, is levied. This means, despite its national tax jurisdiction, the Centre has confined the levy of the CGST to intra-State sales.

A selling dealer in an exporting State collects the IGST from the buying dealer. The GSTN credits it to the IGST account. Of this, the part corresponding to the CGST is transferred immediately to the Centre. The balance is not all SGST revenue. It includes amounts to be refunded through a settlement process that can take months.

Some of the refunds are on account of input tax credits that the purchasing dealer in the importing State draws from this balance. (Tax paid on capital goods that go into making final products is supposed to be fully set off. This is to avoid cascading taxation.)

Because the IGST collection and refunds system is ungainly, estimating GST revenue cannot be a straightforward exercise. Although it is confused to be so, not all the IGST collected is GST revenue.

By design, the number of refunds required is more than necessary. Such as in case of exports. To avoid exporting taxes, no GST is to be levied on exports out of India. In practice, despite their GST-exempt status, exporters first pay the IGST and then it is refunded back to them. The excuse for this convoluted system is the need for a way to refund the input taxes exporters pay on components.

In effect, the GST system processes a whole set of IGST payments only to refund them – not an international best practice. Suppliers to exporters and SEZs are compulsorily required to register in the GST system even if they do not fall in the GST threshold. This has needlessly increased the working capital and compliance costs burden on exports. The systemic loss of export competitiveness is showing up in the country's trade balance.

Letters of undertaking or bonds can be submitted in lieu of IGST payments, but they increase exporters' vulnerability to bureaucratic rent-seeking.

The way out

The recommendation for introducing a GST had first come in 2004 from a task force formed by the Vajpayee government under economist Vijay Kelkar. The Modi government has consulted Mr. Kelkar on the GST, but has not accepted his recommendations on an alternative IGST system compliant with global norms. By these, the IGST would be simplified as a substitute for SGST in inter-State supplies, and exporters, while not subjected to the IGST, would be truly zero-rated. The NITI Aayog, it seems, concurs with this proposal.

The focus on GST collections is narrow. Collections are not necessarily proof of the success, or non-success, of an indirect tax. In truth, the complexity of the GST is complicating collections and diminishing the potential benefits. The economic impact of the GST ought to be the focus.

Puja Mehra is a Delhi-based journalist

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.

M . Karunanidhi

The passing of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK patriarch M. Karunanidhi signals the end of an eventful epoch in the annals of Tamil Nadu politics. *The Hindu*'s extensive and in-depth coverage of almost all aspects of the leader's political career and personal life was a collector's item. Several epithets can be used to describe the multi-faceted personality of 'Kalaignar', as he was affectionately known. A shrewd politician, an able administrator, a brilliant orator, artist, man of letters and a master strategist, Kalaignar strode the political arena like a colossus. His indomitable will, steely determination, political decency and never-say-die attitude in encountering and tackling numerous adversities in life has been duly acknowledged. One wonders whether any other mass leader could have commanded the same awe and respect in contemporary times as Kalaignar did.

He restored a sense of pride in the common Tamilian about his rich culture and roots. He was also successful in ensuring social justice to the deprived sections of society. That said, it is unfortunate that there was politics over his funeral and resting place. It certainly sullied the sanctity of the solemn occasion and has shown the Tamil Nadu government in poor light.

B. SURESH KUMAR,
Coimbatore

■ The ocean of people who moved to Chennai's Marina beach to witness the final journey of DMK patriarch M. Karunanidhi is testimony that the veteran politician touched a chord in many. The fact that leaders from across the political spectrum paid their respects to the departed leader shows his standing in the political firmament.

G.B. SIVANANDAM,
Coimbatore

■ The five-term Chief Minister was successful in using Tamil as an instrument of social and political change.

He also played a pivotal role in making Tamil Nadu the fulcrum of national politics on many an occasion. In the end, he will be known for successfully persuading the Centre to acknowledge the vital identity of States within the Indian federation as well as falling to the familiar failing of a long-term politician – promoting dynastic rule.

MEGHANA A.,
Shell Cove, NSW, Australia

■ It is unfortunate that politics crept into the decision over the final resting place of the DMK leader. The High Court verdict saved the day. The Tamil Nadu government should have desisted from playing politics.

B. PRABHA,
Varkala, Kerala

■ Against the backdrop of a precedent of "providing space" at Marina beach existing for Dravidian leaders in the past, the position taken by the Tamil Nadu government in trying to deny permission to lay to rest the mortal remains of M. Karunanidhi lacked tenability. Technicalities too do not matter much when emotions run high. But going forward, it is necessary to frame proper guidelines on providing permission to utilise public places as burial grounds to avoid acrimony and bitterness. Rapid urbanisation has affected most public places. A pragmatic approach is needed in the use of public places for purposes other than the ones for which they are actually meant for.

V. SUBRAMANIAN,
Dombivli, Maharashtra

TMC-speak

Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien's assertion that picking a Prime Ministerial candidate is unimportant because "you don't choose a captain and then choose a team" is nothing but clever obfuscation ('The Wednesday Interview'," August 8). The truth is that many Opposition leaders, including the TMC supremo have been nursing Prime Ministerial ambitions. Only a messy compromise can resolve the problem of plenty. The interviewer's question about the "shrinking Opposition space in Parliament" has irony written all over it.

V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN,
Thiruvananthapuram

Global heating

It is surprising that an important subject – heating of the earth – did not make it to the front page ('Life' page, "Planet at risk of becoming a 'hothouse'," August 8). The 10 "feedback processes" such as decreasing forest capture of CO_2, increased methane release around the Arctic, decreasing potential of oceans to capture CO_2, and less solar ray reflection because of melting ice are all likely to lead to human devastation in the lives of today's children – or at least their children. The media should take the lead in highlighting such a crucial issue.

CLARENCE MALONEY,
Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu

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

https://t.me/pdf4exams https://www.estore33.com/ https://t.me/TheHindu_Zone_official

Reforming the civil services

The lateral entry scheme has the potential to bring fresh talent to the bureaucracy



AMITABHA BHATTACHARYA



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

A recent move by the Centre seeking applications from 'outstanding individuals' to fill in 10 posts of Joint Secretary has caused consternation. A retired bureaucrat has filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court against the decision. The response from applicants, however, has been overwhelming.

Some apprehensions

Many serving Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers see this move as threatening their hegemony. Some retired officers and political opponents consider this as the beginning of the end of a "neutral and impartial" civil service with the likely induction of loyalists to the current dispensation. It has also been argued that this marks the "privatisation of the IAS". Doubts have been expressed if private business houses would "plant" their people in order to influence government policies. But the fact remains that most others think this is a bold decision that should be given a fair trial.

Since criticism is based on perception, a reality check is necessary. In our Cabinet system of government with collective responsibility, the secretariat plays a crucial role. The concept of a 'generalist' higher civil service can be contextualised against technical/specialised bodies on one side and the lay political executive on top. Political scientists like Prof. M.A. Muttalib have studied this aspect in their works on public administration.

How the Secretariat functions

Higher bureaucracy in the secretariat often has to examine proposals received from specialised departments/corporations (say, the Central Public Works Department, Central Water Commission, various Central public sector undertakings, manned largely by technical experts), and in consultation with other ministries/departments like Finance, Personnel and Law prepare a cohesive note to facilitate the Minister concerned or the Cabinet to take a final decision. This is a complex consultative process for which detailed procedures have been formulated. How to steer a proposal through this labyrinth requires both expertise and experience. A final government decision is obtained, after the file moves through this long internal and hierarchical process, when the proposal is approved. The key officials in the secretariat, from the Joint Secretary to the Secretary, are the point persons guiding this consultative process and advising the political executive to take a final call. How an abstract idea is to be given a concrete, implementable shape is one key concern of such officers.

A Joint Secretary to the government has this crucial "line" function to perform in policy formulation and its implementation. Though the original proposal is often prepared by technical experts and sent to the "government", the final decision rests with the Joint Secretary/Additional Secretary, the Secretary and finally the Minister/Cabinet. The question often raised, in this context, is whether the higher bureaucracy is equipped to comprehend complex economic and technical issues in order to properly aid and advise the Minister. Can a career civil servant, recruited through a tough competitive examination, cope with the increasingly complex matrix of decision-making at the senior levels of government? Can an IAS officer, however brilliant and diligent she might be, based on her experience at the sub-district and district levels, handle diverse portfolios from civil aviation to power to defence? These are valid questions that have been raised from time to time.

Generalist v. specialist

Evidently, terms like "professionalism", "specialisation", and "technical expertise" are often used vaguely and inter-changeably. Doesn't an IAS officer, after years of experience at the field level, become an expert in public systems? Can the expertise of a doctor or an engineer be of the same nature as that of a policeman or an auditor? Can a renowned oncologist, for example, be suitable to advise on how the health policy of the nation is to be formulated? How valid is the observation to 'keep experts on tap, not on top'? Admittedly, concerted efforts should be made to help IAS officers, after their first decade of "immersion" in districts, acquire specialisation in broad sectors like social, infrastructure and financial, based on their qualification, aptitude and preference. This idea had never been pursued seriously.

Specialists like engineers, doctors, agricultural scientists, lawyers have always had a substantial say in the decision-making process as also in its implementation. Lateral entry at the level of Secretary has met with some success. Besides, Secretaries to the Departments of Atomic Energy, Science & Technology, Scientific and Industrial Research, Health Research, and Agricultural Research have always been scientists of eminence. Similarly, in departments like the Railways, Posts, etc., all senior positions are manned by Indian Railway or Postal Service officers. Therefore, there is nothing very original in the new initiative to allow entry at the level of Joint Secretary.

However, those inside the system feel threatened that their territory is under assault. One perceived fear is that the number of such lateral entrants may be increased with time and that the political leadership, by creating a 'divide and rule' mechanism, would further demoralise the 'steel frame of governance'. The second related fear is that in the garb of recruiting outstanding individuals, politically indoctrinated persons will be inducted into the system. These fears could have been allayed by letting the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) handle the recruitment process, after defining the job requirements more explicitly.

The government must ensure that only candidates, the likes of whom are not available in the existing system, are appointed. If they turn out to be truly outstanding, there should be provisions to induct them permanently in the government, with approval of the UPSC, and consider them for higher postings. Ideas have also been advanced for IAS and other officers to gain work experience, for a limited period, in the private sector.

The government should have the best people at the helm of affairs and if there is a need to supplement the existing stock of talent by attracting fresh blood into the system, the IAS, in fact, should welcome such an inclusionary move. The automatic mode of every member of the higher services reaching the top echelons requires a hard look. In view of this recent move, it is hoped that IAS and other officers will introspect why many of them turn out to be indulgent, self-serving and subservient to the political executive and how the system can be shaken to discourage such officers from ceaselessly moving upward, even after retirement. This move to reform the services should have come from within than from without. The lateral entry scheme, if implemented properly, may foster more competitive spirit, break the complacency of the higher civil servants and eventually prove to be a pioneering initiative in public interest.

Amitabha Bhattacharya is a retired IAS officer who has also worked in the private sector and the United Nations. The views expressed are personal

Decoding the DNA Bill

Important safeguards are needed



HELEN WALLACE

The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2018 has been introduced in India's Parliament this week, with a view to creating a national DNA database for solving crimes and identifying missing persons.

Although DNA can be an important tool here, it is important that there are safeguards to protect human rights and prevent miscarriages of justice. Further, creating large databases is often not a cost-effective way to solve more crimes, and limited resources must be targeted effectively.

The Forensic Genetics Policy Initiative published its report, "Establishing Best Practice for Forensic DNA Databases", last year after extensive consultation and a review of policies worldwide. A comparison with the DNA Bill reveals a number of important issues.

First, using DNA effectively during criminal investigations requires proper crime scene examination, trained and reliable policing, a trusted chain of custody of samples, reliable analysis, and proper use of expert evidence in court. Without these prerequisites, a DNA database will exacerbate rather than solve problems in the criminal justice system (false matches or misinterpretation or planting of evidence, and diverting resources).

The Home Ministry circulated a set of guidelines to States in July on how to search crime scenes and collect, store and transport DNA samples in criminal cases. However, it is not yet clear whether these guidelines will be effective. Because many errors occur before samples get to the laboratory, the requirement for laboratory accreditation in the Bill should include quality assurance for crime scene examination. Consideration should be given to an independent forensic science regulator. There is also a need for elimination databases for police, crime scene examiners and laboratory workers, whose DNA may contaminate the evidence they touch.

The Bill's proposed DNA Regulatory Board is still too powerful and insufficiently transparent or accountable. An independent ethics board should be set up. Provisions which give the government or the Board the power to amend aspects of the safeguards in the Bill, and to avoid accountability in court, should be deleted.

The Board's responsibilities for privacy protections need an independent regulator: the easiest way would be prior adoption of a privacy or data protection bill (with a role for a data protection officer). This would allow individuals some recourse if their rights were not protected, important, especially following the Supreme Court's Right to Privacy judgment.

A number of other privacy protections are also missing – the need to restrict DNA profiling so that it uses only non-coding DNA, a commonly used international standard for one. Rightly, the Bill includes provisions for the destruction of DNA samples and removal of innocent people's DNA profiles from the database. However, these provisions are inadequate: currently, the removal of innocent people's records is not automatic. Any international sharing of DNA profiles should also be covered by a privacy or data protection law, and meet international human rights standards.

Database separation

Further, it is a best practice to separate the databases for missing persons and for criminals set up by the Bill, so that people who volunteer their DNA to help find their missing relatives are not treated as suspects for criminal offences. Provisions allowing the use of these databases for civil cases, for example to test paternity, should be deleted from the Bill. More detail is also needed to specify that volunteers must be fully informed about future storage and uses of their genetic information before they give consent.

The Bill allows two categories of persons to have their DNA collected without consent and their DNA profiles added to the database. These are persons suspected of any offence, where an order is made by a magistrate, and persons suspected of more serious offences, where an order from a magistrate is not required. Who should be included in the database, and whether a court should always have a say, is an important matter for national debate. However, there is no attempt to assess the cost effectiveness of these provisions or to estimate the database's likely size.

The financial memorandum to the Bill estimates that there will be a one-off cost of ₹20 crore to set up the database, with annual costs of ₹5 crore to maintain it. This is completely unrealistic: for comparison, the U.K. National DNA database cost £3.7 million to run in 2015-16. International evidence shows that the success of a DNA database is driven primarily by the number of crime scene DNA profiles loaded on to it, not by the number of DNA profiles from individuals, so proper crime scene analysis should be the top priority.

In short, important safeguards and a cost-benefit analysis are still lacking for this Bill, which needs full parliamentary scrutiny.

Helen Wallace is Director, GeneWatch UK

SINGLE FILE

New leader, same rules

Emphasising Imran Khan's role in India-Pakistan relations is a lot of sound and fury signifying nothing

MOHAMMED AYOOB



AFP

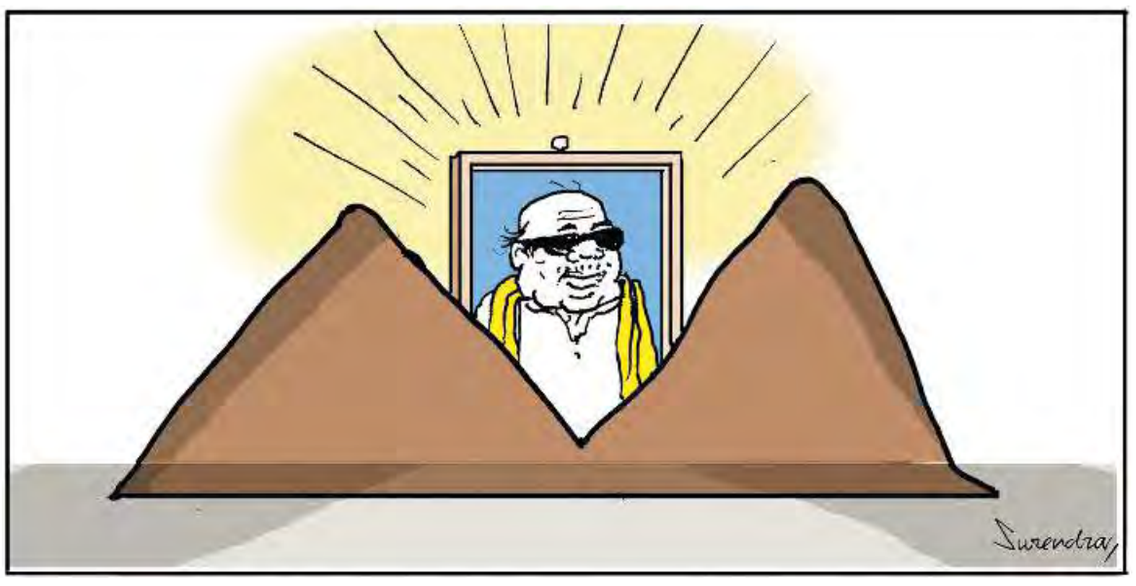
Imran Khan, Pakistan's Prime Minister-elect, is expected to take oath of office on August 14 or 15. His electoral victory has set off a great deal of speculation in India, much of it centred on its impact on Pakistan's relations with the country. Analysts have dissected his statements about the future of these ties and his views on Kashmir and terrorism to discern if a change in Pakistan's India policy is in the offing.

Much of this is a wasted exercise because it is based on the false assumption that the Prime Minister determines Pakistan's security and foreign policy and especially Islamabad's policy towards India. These are the exclusive preserve of the military high command. The civilian government acts in these spheres the way the military's General Headquarters (GHQ) orders it to do. A key reason for the military's hostility towards former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was that he attempted to deviate from the military's prescriptions on security issues. What the military resented most was Mr. Sharif's relatively soft line towards India, his bonhomie with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and his repeated calls that those Pakistani extremists involved in the Mumbai terror attack of 2008 be brought to justice by the Pakistani courts. His comment in May 2018 – "Militant organisations are active [in Pakistan]. Call them non-state actors, should we allow them to cross the border and kill 150 people in Mumbai?" – irked the military considerably.

Therefore, Indian policymakers and analysts should have no illusions that Mr. Khan will be able to change course on India, unless the military leadership approves this. Wariness bordering on hostility toward India is a part of the Pakistan Army's institutional memory. No civilian leader, least of all Mr. Khan, can change that. He was the military's chosen candidate for the job of Prime Minister as events leading up to the elections made evident. Mr. Sharif and several other leaders of the PML-N were either disqualified or incarcerated to prevent them from participating in the elections. Opposition stalwarts lost seats in their strongholds casting doubts on the fairness of the elections. Above all, the slow pace of results declaration indicated that the Election Commission had to wait for the "deep state" to approve the results before announcing them.

Mr. Khan is the military's man par excellence. However, to ensure his compliance with the GHQ's wishes, the military brass made sure that his party did not receive a clear majority of seats in the new parliament. Mr. Khan is, therefore, dependent upon independents and smaller parties, very amenable to the military's pressure, to form a governing coalition. The GHQ can always pull the plug on him by ordering these elements to withdraw support if he veers from the course set for him on relations with India. Emphasising Mr. Khan's role in India-Pakistan relations is a lot of sound and fury signifying nothing.

The writer is University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of International Relations, Michigan State University



CONCEPTUAL

Fine-tuned universe

PHYSICS

This refers to the view that the physical conditions prevailing in the universe are fine-tuned in such a way that it helps sustain various forms of life. It is argued that the different physical constants like the strength of gravity, for instance, as well as the laws of physics, are fine-tuned to support life. Accordingly, even a small change in the physical dimensions of the universe from its present form can make it inhabitable for any life form. The belief that the universe is fine-tuned for life has been used as an argument in favour of the creationist view that only the presence of a supernatural being can explain the universe being intelligently designed to sustain life.

MORE ON THE WEB

Watch: Karunanidhi's final journey

http://bit.ly/KarunanidhiFinalJourney

FAQ

An Article on J&K

Why Article 35A is in the news

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

As the Supreme Court begins looking into the validity of Article 35A, protests erupted in Jammu and Kashmir against the Article being altered. A look at what the Article is about.

What is it?

Article 35A is a provision incorporated in the Constitution through a Presidential Order, and not by parliamentary debate, giving the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature a complete say in deciding who the 'permanent residents' of the State are. The State Legislature can grant its permanent residents special rights and privileges in public sector jobs, acquisition of property, scholarships and other public aid and welfare programmes within the State.

How did the Article come about?

It was incorporated into the Constitution in 1954 by an order of President Rajendra Prasad on the advice of the Jawaharlal Nehru Cabinet. The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order of 1954 followed the 1952 Delhi Agreement entered into between Prime Minister Nehru and Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah extending Indian citizenship to the 'State subjects' of Jammu and Kashmir. Article 35A was added to the Constitution as a testimony of the special consideration the Indian government accorded the 'permanent residents' of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Presidential Order was issued under Article 370(1)(d), which allows the President to make certain "exceptions and modifications" to the Constitution for the benefit of Jammu and Kashmir. However Article 368(i) of the Constitution mandates that only the Parliament can amend the Constitution by introducing a new article.

Why is it in the news?

Writ petitions filed in the Supreme Court argue that the Article is violative of fundamental rights of equality and equal treatment enshrined in the Constitution as it restricts citizens from other States from getting employment or buying property within Jammu and Kashmir. The writ petitions also point out that any act of the State Legislature made under Article 35A is final and binding.

A three-judge Bench is currently hearing whether the petitions challenging Article 35A should be referred to a Constitution Bench for an in-depth examination. If referred, the Constitution Bench would look into questions like whether the President acted outside his jurisdiction or whether the fact of non-consultation with the Parliament renders the Article invalid.

The J&K government banks on a 1961 judgment by a five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court in *Puranlal Lakhanpal v. The President of India*. This verdict concludes that the President has the power to modify the Constitution when making it applicable to Jammu and Kashmir.

FROM The Hindu. ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 9, 1968

Nixon wins Republican Party nomination

Former Vice-President Richard Nixon who captured the Republican Presidential nomination yesterday [August 8, Miami Beach (Florida)] in the first ballot itself with an impressive margin told the party convention during its closing hours that all of America's peace-keeping institutions and all of America's foreign commitments must be reappraised. Referring to the $150 billion the U.S. has so far provided by way of military and economic aid to other countries, Mr. Nixon said the 'time had come for other free nations to bear their fair share of the burden for defending freedom and keeping the peace.'

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 9, 1918.

Sir D. Hamilton on Finance.

In opening the students co-operative store this evening [August 8, in Calcutta], Sir Daniel Hamilton delivered an interesting address on "spacious days to come." Mr. Justice Greaves presided. In the course of the lecture Sir Daniel referred to the reform scheme and said: We must found the Government of the country on the co-operation of her people. While the proposed foundations are excellent and must be well and truly laid, with all speech I am not so sure that it is wise to pull down the old structure with the same haste. After suggesting that in the proposed councils all classes and interests should be safeguarded, the lecturer said: But it is in the realm of finance that the scheme is weakest. Without money it will fail as a lever for lifting the people and the reformers threw no light on where to find money. Is it necessary to remind the eminent reformers that all money raised whether by taxation or by borrowing must come ultimately from the people and if the well is dry there is nothing for the bucket to lift? The Indian well is dry because Mahajan gets there first. A modern state cannot be built without a modern banking system. Clearly therefore the first and immediate task is to create one which will finance both the people and the Government.

DATA POINT

Porous border

Fake Indian currency notes worth ₹13.87 crore were seized in the States bordering Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh between November 9, 2016 and June 30, 2018. Close to 43% of the seizures were from Gujarat. The Statewise details:

State	Value of FICNs seized	% of FICNs seized
Gujarat	5,94,87,470	42.89
Uttar Pradesh	2,19,36,980	15.82
West Bengal	2,00,51,760	14.46
Punjab	1,01,11,700	7.29
Mizoram	1,00,63,200	7.26
Assam	90,74,610	6.54
Bihar	28,78,500	2.08
Rajasthan	24,74,550	1.78
Jammu & Kashmir	12,37,150	0.89
Himachal Pradesh	6,28,700	0.45
Uttarakhand	6,27,800	0.45
Manipur	78,800	0.06
Nagaland	24,400	0.02

Source: Lok Sabha Q and A

https://t.me/pdf4exams https://www.estore33.com/ https://t.me/TheHindu_Zone_official

FROM PAGE ONE

Alarm as deadly maize pest seen in Karnataka

Unwelcome visitor

The Fall Armyworm (FAW) is native to the Americas



The pest munching on maize in Zimbabwe

- FAW arrived in Africa in 2016. Since then, it has spread to 44 African countries
- It prefers maize, but can feed on 80 species of plants, including rice, sorghum, millet, sugarcane and cotton
- India's tropical climate could allow the pest to thrive
- It can be controlled with insecticides, through natural enemies, or by inter-cropping

Source: FAO

Entomologists C.M. Kalleshwara Swamy and Sharanabasappa from Shivamogga's University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences first suspected that something was amiss when the pest infestation in maize crops in Shivamogga spiked this year.

Initially, they suspected it was the Northern Armyworm, or *Mythimna separata*, a common local pest. But when they examined the moth, they were able to identify it as the Fall Armyworm through its distinctive genitalia. Further confirmation came through DNA barcoding at Bengaluru's Indian Institute of Horticultural Research.

The first line of defence against the Fall Armyworm will be insecticides like lambda-cyhalothrin. It's efficacy is currently being studied in field trials. Also, the researchers have found some natural predators such as coccinellid beetles, that can aid biological control. A fungal species called Nomuraea rileyi also infects the Fall Armyworm. But these natural enemies may not be as effective as insecticides, Prof. Swamy told *The Hindu*.

Not much can be done to keep it from spreading elsewhere in the subcontinent, said A.N. Shylesha, an entomologist at Bengaluru's National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources. Africa's experience shows how quickly the pest can colonise a new continent. First reported in Central and Western Africa in 2016, it has spread to 44 African countries today and has proved hard to control.

In India, Andhra and Tamil Nadu are at immediate risk.

And even though the pests reported in Shivamogga and Chikballapur, Karnataka, are only feeding on maize and sorghum, they may spread to other crops.

'Jail term for adultery does not make sense'

Justice Indu Malhotra pointed out that there might be cases in which the couple would have been staying separate for decades, waiting for a divorce decree, and the husband could foist a case of adultery on his estranged wife's paramour to trouble her.

Section 497 gives a husband the exclusive right to prosecute his wife's lover. A similar right is not conferred on a wife to prosecute the woman with whom her husband has committed adultery.

Secondly, the provision does not confer any right on the wife to prosecute her husband for adultery. Further, Section 497 does not take into account cases in which the husband has sexual relations with an unmarried woman.

Ms. Anand said the government was planning to make adultery gender-neutral. But the court countered what good would that do if a consensual relationship, though adulterous, between two adults was still considered a crime.

Justice Chandrachud asked the Centre why it was always the woman's burden to maintain the "sanctity of marriage". "You exact fidelity from the wife, but not from the husband. A woman has to remain loyal, but there is no need for a man to be loyal to his wife. Sexual fidelity applies only to a married woman," he said.

BJD move weakens Oppn. bid for RS post

Govt. reaches out to Odisha leader Naveen Patnaik ahead of polls for the post of Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Opposition nominee, Congress MP B.K. Hariprasad, and the NDA nominee, Janata Dal (United) MP Harivansh Narayan Singh, on Wednesday filed notices for election to the post of Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha.

The election will be held on Thursday, a day before the monsoon session of Parliament ends.

Loaded ranks

After initial enthusiasm, the Opposition is now staring at imminent defeat with the Biju Janata Dal likely to help NDA nominee Mr. Singh sail through.

According to sources, ahead of the no-confidence motion debate in Lok Sabha last month , Prime Minister Narendra Modi had phoned Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. He sought support for both the no-confidence motion debate and the Deputy Chairman election.

Mr. Patnaik is believed to have conveyed to Mr. Modi that a non-BJP candidate will make it comfortable for them to extend their support. Sources said the party will take a final call on whether to vote in favour of the NDA nominee or abstain from the voting, on Thursday morning. The BJD has nine members in the Rajya Sabha.

The BJP has managed to swing the support of dis-



B.K. Hariprasad

gruntled allies –the Shiv Sena and the Akali Dal to vote in their favour. In fact, according to the sources, Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut and Akali Dal's Sardar Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa will be proposing Mr. Singh's name for the post. BJP's former ally People's Democratic Party's two members are abstaining, thus bringing down the magic number required for victory.

The Opposition had three meetings to pick a joint nominee. At the last minute, the Nationalist Congress Party withdrew their candidate Vandana Chavan after it learned of BJD's support to the NDA. "Every party threw in the towel and the Congress was the only one left, so we told them to pick a candidate of their choice. As far as numbers are concerned, Congress is doing the calculations," Samajwadi Party's Ramgopal Yadav told *The Hindu*.

After giving the notices, Congress's deputy leader in Rajya Sabha Anand Sharma claimed that the numbers were in their favour. He said the Opposition had to contest the post as things were "not right" in the Rajya Sabha.

BJP's erstwhile ally, the Telugu Desam Party are firmly supporting the Opposition. Former Union Minister Y.S. Chowdary will be one of the proposers of Mr. Singh. "We are not supporting Mr. Hariprasad as a Congress candidate, we are supporting him as an Opposition candidate. He is a capable person who represents the interests of backward classes," Mr. Chowdary told *The Hindu*. The Aam Aadmi Party's support, however, is no longer certain for the Opposition with a Congress candidate. "Congress party takes AAP for granted. If Rahul Gandhi asks AAP Chief Arvind Kejriwal for party's vote then we will support them, else we are not interested in voting in their support," MP Sanjay Singh said. AAP has three members in the Upper House.

The Opposition ranks will be further whittled down with the death of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam patriarch M. Karunanidhi. It is likely that the four DMK members may not be able to participate in the election.

The post of Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman has been lying vacant since the retirement of P.J. Kurien on July 1.

4 militants killed in Baramulla operation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The Army killed four militants in a daylong operation in the forests of Baramulla's Rafiabad area in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday. One soldier was injured.

A batch of the Army's 32 Rashtriya Rifles joined the elite 9 PARA commandos to flush out a group of militants active in the forest area.

Director General of Police S.P. Vaid said at least five militants were trapped at the encounter site in the Doonigari forest. A Srinagar-based Army spokesman said the operation was still underway.

The police said it was ascertaining the identity of the slain militants.

Meanwhile, The Army paid tributes to four soldiers killed during a counter-infiltration operation in Bandipora's Gurez Sector on Tuesday.



High alert: CRPF personnel standing guard near the Dal lake in Srinagar on Wednesday following the Rafiabad encounter. ▪ PTI

Rahul goes to court against I-T dept.

Opposes reopening of a 2011-12 assessment for not disclosing that he was a director in Young Indian

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday challenged in the Delhi High Court, the reopening of a 2011-12 assessment by the Income Tax department for not disclosing that he was a director in Young Indian Private Limited (YIL).

YIL is an accused in the National Herald misappropriation of assets case.

A Bench of Justices S. Ravindra Bhat and A.K. Chawla posted the case for August 14, after Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta opposed issuance of any interim order by the court.

The Bench also rejected Mr. Gandhi's plea seeking restraint on publishing news by various media organisations on the case.

The I-T department has said that it decided to reopen Mr. Gandhi's assessment for the years 2011-12 as he did not disclose that he was a director in YIL since 2010.

The department has, in the instant case, applied Section 147 of the Income Tax Act, which provides for bringing under the tax net any income which has escaped assessment in the original evaluation.

Mr. Gandhi's counsel contended that the I-T department had asked his client during the scrutiny of his assessment, if he had any interest in any company or sister concern in which he was a director, and he had replied in the negative as YIL was a Section 25 company, a non-profit entity, and hence no director would have any interest in it.

The tax department has already issued a demand notice for ₹249.15 crore to YIL for the assessment year 2011-12.

YIL, which was incorporated in November 2010 with a capital of ₹50 lakh, had acquired almost all the shareholding of Associated Journal Ltd, the owner of the *National Herald* newspaper.

IN BRIEF



WhatsApp to roll out educational videos

NEW DELHI

Facing flak over the circulation of fake news on its platform, WhatsApp on Wednesday said it was rolling out educational videos in India asking users to double check facts before sharing messages received as forwards. The videos, in Hindi and English, will be available on Facebook — the parent company of WhatsApp — as the platform looks to combat spread of rumours that have incited mob fury cases in the country. "WhatsApp is expanding its user education campaign on how to spot fake news and hoaxes," it said. PTI

NRIs cannot file RTI applications, says govt.

NEW DELHI

Non-Resident Indians cannot file RTI applications to seek governance-related information from the Central government departments, the Lok Sabha was informed on Wednesday. "Only citizens of India have the right to seek information under the provisions of Right to Information Act, 2005. Non-Resident Indians are not eligible to file RTI applications," Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said in a written reply. He said subject to the provisions of the Act, the citizens of India could file online application under the Right to Information Act, 2005. PTI

'Bofors pales before Rafale scandal'

Yashwant Sinha, Arun Shourie and Prashant Bhushan say '₹35,000 crore scam' jeopardises national security

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Union Ministers Arun Shourie and Yashwant Sinha and activist-lawyer Prashant Bhushan on Wednesday demanded the government to immediately make public all details of the purchase of 36 Rafale fighter jets, while claiming that the Bofors scandal pales before what they alleged to be a ₹35,000 crore scam. The three of them said the 2015 purchase from France is "an enormous scandal that jeopardises national security."

In a statement issued on behalf of Rajesh K. Dhingra, CEO of Reliance Defence and Aerospace, the company denied all the allegations. It claimed that "no contract has been given to any Reliance Group company by the Ministry of Defence related to the purchase of the 36 Rafale aircraft", and pointed out that none of the 36 fighters are to be made in India.



Prashant Bhushan, left, with Arun Shourie, centre, and Yashwant Sinha at a press conference. ▪ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

He also denied that the Anil Ambani group was selected as the offset partner because of its proximity to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "As per DPP (Defence Procurement Process), the Ministry of Defence has no role in the selection of Indian partners by the foreign vendors. This has been the position right from 2005, when offsets were first introduced in the country," Mr. Dhingra said.

Mr. Shourie said the deal is a classical scandal that shows "criminal misconduct, misuse of public office and subversion of national security. Bofors was absolutely nothing before this."

"The clue then was the shifting statements of the government, the clues now are the shifting statements of the government," he said, while calling on the Opposition to relentlessly follow the case "like BJP followed Bofors." He also asked the media to dig deeper without succumbing to planted stories from the government.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan said the Rafale purchase was the "biggest defence scam this country has seen." He said the government-to-government purchase announced in April 2015 during Mr. Modi's visit to France was done "without a single person in the Air Force or the Ministry of Defence" being consulted. He also claimed that the present Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal B.S. Dhanoa – then the Vice Chief – was in Paris when the deal was announced, but he was not aware of the decision to buy just 36 jets, by cancelling the ongoing open tender negotiations for 126 Rafale fighters. Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar too was not aware, Mr. Bhushan claimed.

He said the Modi government on November 18, 2016 told Parliament that the cost of "each Rafale aircraft is approximately ₹670 crore and all the aircraft will be delivered by April 2022."

Not a grain of truth, says Jaitley

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Arun Jaitley on Wednesday declared that there was "not a grain of truth" in what he termed "wild allegations" levelled against the government by former Union Minister Arun Shourie and lawyer Prashant Bhushan over the Rafale aircraft acquisition deal.

"The unsubstantiated allegations against the Government constitute nothing but reprocessed lies by forces increasingly desperate to prove their relevance. The Government had already responded effectively to each and every distortion and misinformation on the issue," he wrote in a blog posted on Facebook.

Targeting the Congress, which has been at the forefront of raising alarms over the deal, Mr. Jaitley said that they must "realise their responsibility." "Meanwhile those raising alarm about the alleged danger to national security ought to realise their responsibility and refrain from politicising for narrow individual ends those very matters pertaining to defence of the nation that were consistently ignored by them and by those with whom they sympathise."

Kathua witness framed in rape case: cousin

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the J&K government to respond to a plea by a cousin of key Kathua rape case witness and social activist Talib Hussain, that he has been framed in a rape case and tortured in custody by the State police.

A three-judge Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, issued notice, but not before questioning why a *habeas corpus* (show the body) petition was filed in a case in which the arrest was legal.

Habeas corpus petitions are filed in cases of illegal or preventive detention.

"Was he not produced before a magistrate? There must have been a remand order...," Justice A.M. Khanwilkar asked senior advocate Indira Jaising and advocate Sunil Fernandes, representing Mr. Hussain's family member.

"There has been a complaint that he has attempted to commit rape," Justice D.Y. Chandrachud remarked.

Ms. Jaising explained that the basis of the petition was not whether he had been lawfully arrested or not, but whether he had been tortured in custody or not.

The senior advocate referred to the historic *Sunil Batra* judgment to contend that the arrest and remand might be initially lawful, but the subsequent use of "third degree" torture by the police in custody made it illegal and thus a *habeas corpus* plea would lie.

The petition is filed by Mumtaz Ahmed Khan, cousin of Mr. Hussain, contending that the police should produce him in court and call for his medical records while he was in custody.

Editors Guild slams government interference

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Editors Guild of India on Wednesday strongly criticised the government for interfering with the functioning of independent journalism. The Guild's statement follows the recent exit of senior journalists from two electronic media channels, with at least one of them blaming the government for exerting pressure on proprietors for his exit.

The statement said: "The Editors Guild of India condemns the manner in which the right to practise free and independent journalism is seen to be undermined by a combination of forces – some media owners' inability to withstand political covert or overt pressures from the political establishment and frequent instances of blocking or interference in the transmission of television content that is seen to be critical of the government."

Last month, at least two senior journalists of the Hindi television channel ABP News – its managing editor Milind Khandekar and senior anchor Punya Prasun Bajpai – left the channel. While Mr. Khandekar has not spoken about the reasons for his exit, Mr. Bajpai, in a long piece published online, said he was told to drop certain references to the government from his programmes and the pressure had been building up for days.

Corporate notice

The Editor's Guild of India has also decried the "cease and desist" notice served by a large corporate group on some newspapers, including *The Hindu,* in an effort to block the coverage of the Rafale fighter aircraft deal. The company should withdraw this notice, the Guild said, adding, "If needed, we hope the courts will weigh in for the right of journalists to investigate and raise questions."

APPEAL



NAME OF PATIENT: MD ARYAN, 8 Months. Hospital Name: Columbia Asia Hospital. Diagnosis: Congenital Heart Disease; Complete AV Canal. He requires to undergo an Open Heart Surgery at the earliest. The estimate subsidised cost of the surgery is **2,00,000/-.**

We request Kind Hearted Philanthropists to save him. Kindly send donation by Ch/D.D/M.O favouring Save Poor Lives A/c MD Aryan S/B Account No.20000913487, State Bank of India, Raja Annamalaipuram Branch, IFSC Code: SBIN0001855, which is exempted under 80G of IT Act.

Contact: SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, (ADMIN DIVISION) Flat No.A4, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No.76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai-600028. Ph: 044-42044165, Mobile: 9884607377, E-mail: savepoorlives@gmail.com. Our website: www.savepoorlives.com

DONATION SENT TO VARIOUS HOSPITALS IN JULY FOR 10 PATIENTS Rs. 5,23,344/-

https://t.me/pdf4exams https://www.estore33.com/ https://t.me/TheHindu_Zone_official

Leaders from across India pay tributes to Karunanidhi

DMK chief was an extraordinary leader, a veteran administrator: PM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

A host of national leaders led by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and former Congress president Sonia Gandhi paid tributes to late DMK president M. Karunanidhi who was laid to rest with full State honours beside his mentor C.N. Annadurai on Wednesday at the Marina beach here.

Both Ms. Gandhi and Mr. Singh conveyed their condolences to DMK working president M.K. Stalin in separate letters. Referring to Mr. Karunanidhi as a 'father figure', Ms. Gandhi said: "For me, Kalaignar's loss is very personal."

"Kalaignar was a towering figure in the world of politics and public service in both Tamil Nadu and our nation," Ms. Gandhi said in her letter.

Mr. Singh said the country had lost a versatile genius who was an outstanding artist, eminent writer and a true leader who always stood for the cause of the poor and downtrodden classes of society.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid his respects to the late DMK patriarch at Rajaji Hall, just a few minutes after the Madras High Court cleared the decks for Mr. Karunanidhi's body to be buried at Marina. Later, Mr. Modi in a tweet said Mr. Karunanidhi was an extraordinary leader and a veteran administrator whose life was devoted to public welfare and social justice.

Congress president Rahul Gandhi who paid his respects at Rajaji Hall stayed back to witness the final rites of the DMK leader at the Marina and left after Mr. Karunanidhi's body was laid to rest. Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda who was scheduled to arrive at Rajaji Hall, finally paid his respects to the late leader at the Marina, as the cortege started from the Hall before he arrived.

Ghulam Nabi Azad, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, told reporters that Mr. Karunanidhi was "one of those rare politicians who had so many diverse qualities."

Kerala Governor P. Sathasivam, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala, paid their respects at Rajaji Hall. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Akhilesh Yadav, and Leader of Opposition in Bihar Tejaswi Yadav too paid their respects.





Prime Minister Narendra Modi consoling DMK leader M.K. Stalin, son of party president M. Karunanidhi, in Chennai on Wednesday. At right, Congress president Rahul Gandhi paying his last respects. ▪ B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM & K. PICHUMANI

'World of Tamils has lost its leader'

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

DMK chief M. Karunanidhi's passing has evoked powerful messages of grief and solidarity from several senior Sri Lankan leaders, representing Tamils of the island's north and east, and the Malayaha Tamils living in the central and southern parts of the country.

Observing that the DMK leader was highly respected as an influential politician in the sub-continent, veteran Sri Lankan Tamil politician and Leader of the Opposition R. Sampanthan said: "Mr. Karunanidhi was closely engaged on Sri Lanka's Tamil question, and stood in solidarity with our people during the years of the [ethnic] conflict and drew the Indian government's attention to the plight of Tamils." The passing of the leader who, "as a rising sun, lit up lives of Tamils all over the world," is a great, irreparable loss, he said.

Valuable advice

Octogenarian Mr. Sampanthan recalled his long association with Mr. Karunanidhi, when the Sri Lankan leader lived in Tamil Nadu and later too, and pointed to the valuable advice and support that Mr. Karunanidhi extended to his seniors S.J.V. Chelvanayakam, known as the father of the Sri Lankan Tamil movement, A. Amirthalingam, leader of the Tamil United Liberation Front, and to himself.

Northern Province Chief Minister C.V. Wigneswaran said Mr. Karunanidhi put in place policies rooted in social justice, and championed reservation for the marginalised.

"He moved a resolution at the DMK general council at Chidambaram in 1956 condemning the 'Sinhala Only' policy in Sri Lanka, and since then led many protests in support of Sri Lankan Tamils. However, our people still feel that when the war intensified, he could have further pressured the Centre to prevent the massacre in Mullivaikkal," Mr. Wigneswaran said, referring to what some Sri Lankan Tamils see as Mr. Karunanidhi's ambivalent position on the Tamil question.

Varatharaja Perumal, who was Chief Minister of the erstwhile North-Eastern Province, in a Facebook post recalled how Mr. Karunanidhi, a Chief Minister for crores of Tamils, magnanimously accorded equal respect to him, when he was a leader for 25 lakh Tamils in the 1980s. "Once he promised to stand by us during difficult times; but when my dear comrades were in danger later, he abandoned them only because I didn't comply with his order to dissolve the Council. However, my grief about the world of Tamils losing him outweighs that sentiment."

Mano Ganesan, Cabinet Minister and leader of the Tamil Progressive Alliance, which represents Malayaha Tamils, said in a tweet: "Kalaignar Departs! Tamil world will identify rest of the times/period as after & before MK."

Ceylon Workers' Congress Leader Arumugan Thondaman conveyed his condolences on behalf of the hill country Tamils of Sri Lanka.

'A giant in Indian politics'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs Vivian Balakrishnan has condoled the passing of former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi. In a message to his son M.K. Stalin, he said, "Mr. Karunanidhi was a giant in Indian politics who devoted his life to improving the lives of the people of Tamil Nadu." He added: "Our hearts and prayers go out to you and your family on this sad day."

VVIPS have a tough time amid big rush

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

At Rajaji Hall, where the body of DMK president M. Karunanidhi was kept for public homage on Wednesday, the security protocol was breached many a time as leaders who are protected by different scales of security found themselves stuck in the middle of hundreds of emotionally charged party workers.

Special Protection Group (SPG) personnel guarding Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi were in for a rude shock after they realised there was only one narrow passage leading to the dais where the body of the DMK leader was placed.

VVIPs including Mr. Gandhi, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav and others had a tough time wading through the mourners. The staircase was so crowded that the SPG personnel had to walk precariously on the handrail.

With the police resorting to lathi charge every now and then to facilitate the movement of VIPs, enraged party cadre raised slogans and threw footwear and water bottles at them.

"The barricades were not breach-proof. VVIPs, women, children and senior citizens were all left to their own devices to move ahead and keep pace with a huge crowd of party cadres on a congested path leading to the dais from the rear of Rajaji Salai. It was a free-for-all situation," said a senior citizen who came to pay homage to Mr. Karunanidhi.

Parliament pays homage

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

Wednesday's adjournment of both Houses of Parliament as a mark of respect for M. Karunanidhi not only acknowledged the DMK patriarch's stature in politics but also indicated the importance of regional players for stitching up alliances for general elections in 2019.

And the image of top leaders including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and CPI(M) leader Prakash Karat landing in Chennai to pay their last respects to the former Chief Minister and regional strongman further underscored the political significance.

Speaker Mahajan described Mr. Karunanidhi as an "astute administrator, visionary and a leader of the masses".



The Tricolour flies at half mast at the Parliament building following the demise of M. Karunanidhi. ▪ SANDEEP SAXENA

Stalin in tears after verdict

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Having denied permission for the DMK's request for a resting place on the Marina for its patriarch on Tuesday, the Tamil Nadu government strongly argued in the High Court saying "no one had the right" to demand space there.

As the cases filed against the proposed Jayalalithaa memorial were withdrawn to provide a resting space for Mr. Karunanidhi, Acting Chief Justice Huluvadi G. Ramesh and Justice S.S. Sundar found no "legal impediments" as claimed by the State government, and directed it to grant space as desired by the petitioner, to bury Mr. Karunanidhi on the Marina. Mr. Stalin, who seemed stoic all through, broke down after the favourable verdict.

MHA calls off meet with NSCN(IM)

Arunachal Naga Students' Federation cites security issues and 'unavoidable' circumstances

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has "called off" a proposed meeting with representatives of the Isak-Muivah faction of the extremist National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) in Arunachal Pradesh following a wave of protests.

The meeting was scheduled for Thursday at Deomali in eastern Arunachal Pradesh's Tirap district bordering Myanmar.

"The meeting has been called off by New Delhi due to security reasons and unavoidable circumstances," a statement from the Arunachal Naga Students' Federation said.

Last week, the All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union had asked Chief Minister Pema Khandu not to allow the meeting on the State's soil.

'Bid to create confusion'

"It is a premeditated attempt on their [NSCN-IM] part to create confusion on the purported peace talks and sabotage peace in the State as the content of the Framework Agreement is still shrouded in mystery and yet to be made public," the students' union president, Hawa Bagang, said.

The NSCN(IM) and other factions operate in Tirap, Changlang and Longding districts of Arunachal Pradesh, together called the TCL region. These districts, along with large swathes of Assam and Manipur, are included in the NSCN(IM)'s map of Greater Nagalim encompassing all Naga-inhabited areas beyond Nagaland.

The three States neighbouring Nagaland are opposed to the idea of Greater Nagalim and suspect the Centre might have given in to the outfit's demand while signing the Framework Agreement on August 3, 2015.

Warning to people

The Eastern Naga National Government, a newly-formed insurgent group, had also warned the people of eastern Arunachal Pradesh against attending the MHA's meeting with NSCN(IM).

The group pointed out that the NSCN(IM)'s 'integration' demand has nothing to do with Arunachal Pradesh.

The perception that the Centre has come close to resolving the 70-year-old Naga political issue has made other States in the northeast restive too.

On Wednesday, the Kuki tribal group in Manipur observed a 24-hour shutdown in its areas demanding punitive action against the NSCN(IM) for the ethnic cleansing of Kuki people from 1992-1997.

The Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM), which called the shutdown, said the Centre should exclude "their land from any territorial deal with the NSCN(IM)".

Probe begins into NRC data leakage

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The administration in southern Assam's Cachar district has ordered a magisterial probe into the leakage of data related to the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Files with names of people within the Silchar Sadar circle had been leaked out before the draft was published on July 30. "Two executive magistrates and a State civil service officer have been tasked with investigating the leakage and submit a report within 48 hours," Cachar Deputy Commissioner S. Lakshmanan told newspersons on Wednesday.

FIR lodged

He said the investigators would soon zero in on one of the NRC Nagarik Seva Kendras in the circle where the mischief might have been done. Information pertaining specifically to the Madhurband area of Silchar had been leaked out 24 hours before the draft was published. An FIR was lodged at the local police station and a computer shop raided.

A grouping of 11 Left and democratic political parties and a forum against Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 on Wednesday said some forces within and beyond Assam were trying to derail the NRC exercise by giving it a communal slant.

CBI books its own unknown officials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered an FIR against unknown officials of its Anti-Corruption Branch-III and others for allegedly being part of a conspiracy to favour a Mumbai-based businessman, who was a co-accused in a disproportionate assets case.

Those arraigned are Rakesh Tiwari, a resident of Delhi, Neeraj Raja Kochar of Viraj Profiles Limited and his employee Deepak Sakkarwal. The CBI, in the FIR lodged on Tuesday, alleged that middleman Tiwari was in contact with "officers working in AC-III branch" of the CBI. The probe pertains to another FIR filed by the CBI in July 2017, against IRS official Vivek Batra, then posted with Mumbai's Income Tax Department, his wife Priyanka and others. The accused official had invested ill-gotten wealth in Kochar's Viraj Profiles.

Earlier in another case, the investigating officers had summoned Kochar and his employees. Tiwari allegedly accepted money from Kochar, for influencing CBI officials.

https://t.me/pdf4exams https://www.estore33.com/ https://t.me/TheHindu_Zone_official

ELSEWHERE



Razak pleads not guilty to laundering charges

KUALA LUMPUR

Malaysia's former Prime Minister Najib Razak pleaded not guilty to money laundering charges slapped on him on Wednesday, as the country's government looked for answers to how billions of dollars went missing from a state fund during his term. He was subsequently granted bail by the court. REUTERS

Saudi stops treatment programmes in Canada

RIYADH

Saudi Arabia said on Wednesday that it had stopped all medical treatment programmes in Canada and was working on the transfer of all Saudi patients from hospitals there, in an escalating row after Ottawa urged it to free rights activists. Riyadh froze new trade and investment and expelled the Canadian envoy this week. REUTERS

Gokhale in U.S. ahead of 2+2 talks

Foreign Secretary will meet officials from White House and Departments of State and Defense

VARGHESE K. GEORGE
WASHINGTON

Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale arrived in the American capital on Wednesday for talks with senior U.S. officials ahead of the first India-U.S. 2+2 dialogue in Delhi in September. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Defence James Mattis are scheduled to travel to India for the 2+2 dialogue with their Indian counterparts, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, respectively.

Mr. Gokhale is scheduled to meet with officials from the White House, and Departments of State and Defense over the next two days.

The conversations will cover a broad range of issues, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent meetings with Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump's summit meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in July, sources told *The Hindu*.



Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale and Ambassador to the U.S. Navtej Singh Sarna in Washington DC in March this year. ▪ PTI

Both sides are encouraged by the buoyancy in bilateral ties in the last two weeks, soon after the postponement of the 2+2 dialogue that was scheduled for the first week of July in Washington.

Mr. Pompeo had abruptly cancelled the meeting, citing his travel to Pyongyang, dampening the ties significantly. In the weeks that followed, the Trump administration persuaded the U.S. Congress to pass legislation that could allow a waiver for India from anti-Russia third party sanctions, and eased control of exports to India, paving the way for further enhancement of defence trade between the countries.

India has been granted the Strategic Trade Authorisation, or STA-1, status that placed it with a group of 36 countries, mostly NATO allies. Japan and South Korea are the only Asian countries in this group. The status allows for sale of more sensitive technologies to India than was earlier permitted. Indian Navy also participated in the Rim of Pacific Multinational Naval exercise last week.

Trade talks

But trade negotiations between the two countries remain the Achilles Heel for bilateral ties. The mid-July talks between India and the U.S. on outstanding trade disputes did not produce a deal as expected by observers. India had offered to amend its price control regime for medical equipment in return for America retaining India's Generalised System of Preferences status in trade.

Sources familiar with the developments told *The Hindu* that American negotiators raised the stake, and added new demands that were not acceptable to India. "There are multiple issues involved and a decision could be possible only at a higher level, perhaps at the political level," an official said.

Another official said both countries are in a position to "manage" trade disputes, and the Trump administration is cognizant of the reducing trade gap between the countries, thanks to the increase in energy and civilian aircraft purchases by India.

This is Mr. Gokhale's second visit to the U.S. capital as Foreign Secretary. His predecessor S. Jaishankar was considered an enthusiastic supporter of closer convergence of Indian and American priorities by U.S interlocutors.

With Mr. Gokhale at the helm at the Ministry of External Affairs, India and China have been mending ties that were disrupted in the initial years of the Modi government.

Tlaib to be first Muslim Congresswoman

Set to be chosen from Michigan district

ASTEAD W. HERNDON
DETROIT

By the time Rashida Tlaib was finished, not a dry eye remained in the room. "I want people across the country to know that you don't need to sell out," Ms. Tlaib said early on Wednesday, celebrating her victory in a Congressional primary. "You don't have to change who you are to run for office – and that is what this country is about."

Ms. Tlaib is poised to become the first Muslim woman elected to Congress after she narrowly defeated Brenda Jones, Detroit's City Council president, in a Democratic primary race to succeed long-time Rep. John Conyers Jr., a Democrat, in Michigan's 13th Congressional District. She will run unopposed in November.

Ms. Tlaib's win on Wednesday rounded off what was a mixed evening for many Muslim voters in Detroit and Michigan. Abdul el-Sayed – the former Detroit health director who was supported by Sen. Bernie Sanders – lost heavily in the primary race for Governor.



Rashida Tlaib. ▪ AP

More than 90 Muslims – mostly Democrats – have entered races for local, State or national public office, according to Jetpac, a nonprofit. With Ms. Tlaib, the group has now notched its most high-profile victory, which comes complete with a stunning visual: sending a Muslim woman who in 2016 heckled Donald Trump during a speech in Detroit to the floor of the House of Representatives. NY TIMES

'CPEC won't create debt burden'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Wednesday defended its economic partnership with China, amid fears that the terms of opaque multi-billion dollar investments by Beijing could be exacerbating Islamabad's economic woes as it considers a fresh IMF bailout.

"We have noted recent media reports questioning the viability of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), claiming that it would create an unbearable debt burden for Pakistan," the government said in a statement.

"Such media reports are often one-sided, distort facts, and are based on irresponsible statements by individuals who either have no understanding of CPEC or are driven by ulterior motives," the statement continued.

Opaque funding terms

The opaqueness of the CPEC terms has led to concerns as Pakistan faces a looming balance-of-payments crisis, with analysts saying it will need to take urgent action, potentially seeking a bailout from the International Monetary Fund.

"It is because of the favourable financing arrangements that Pakistan opted for Chinese investment under CPEC," said the statement, issued under the caretaker administration currently running the country. Chinese energy companies have "raised funds from Chinese banks and investors", and these do not constitute any debt obligation on Pakistan, the statement said.

The details come after U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo voiced concerns in July over any IMF bailout being used to repay Islamabad's debts to China, with whom Washington is engaged in a trade war.

Pak. troops to get training at Russian institutes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

For the first time, Pakistani soldiers will undergo training at Russian military institutes after the two countries signed an agreement related to it, in a sign of further strengthening their defence ties.

The agreement was signed on Tuesday at the conclusion of the first meeting of Russia-Pakistan Joint Military Consultative Committee (JMCC), the highest forum of their defence collaboration, according to Pakistan's Defence Ministry.

"Both countries signed the contract on admission of service members of Pakistan in RF's (Russian Federation) Training Institutes," the Ministry said.

The Russian side was led by Deputy Defence Minister Col Gen. Alexander V. Fomin, who visited Pakistan on August 6-7 to attend the first session of the JMCC. Lt. Gen (retd.) Zamir ul Hassan Shah, Secretary Defence, led the Pakistani delegation during the meeting.

Prior to the inaugural meeting, held in Rawalpindi, the visiting dignitary called on the Secretary Defence and the Defence Minister.



Pakistan's Army chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa.

The two sides discussed the present status of their defence relations with the aim to further strengthen, expand and diversify mutual cooperation.

During the inaugural session of the JMCC, both sides exchanged views on bilateral and major international issues, including the situation in West Asia and Afghanistan, the Ministry said.

A comprehensive issue-based review was also carried out during which the two countries expressed satisfaction on the milestones achieved since the signing of the defence cooperation agreement in 2014.

An Army spokesman said that Col. Gen. Fomin met Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and discussed the regional security situation and matters of mutual interest, including enhancement of bilateral defence and security cooperation.

Gen. Fomin expressed his appreciation for Pakistan Army's achievements against terrorism and expressed requirement of greater cooperative and collaborative approach among global community to defeat extremism.

Pakistan's defence ties with Russia have moved past the bitter Cold War hostilities in recent years and the chill in the relations between Pakistan and the U.S. has further pushed the country towards Russia and China.

Another Sikh man assaulted in the U.S.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW YORK

Sahib Singh Natt, 71, was brutally assaulted earlier this week by two unidentified men in the U.S. State of California, the second attack on a member of the Sikh community in about a week.

Footage from a surveillance camera shows Mr. Natt walking alone on the side of a road early morning on August 6 in Manteca, California when two men walking from the opposite direction approach him.

Mr. Natt stops on seeing the men and the two men are seen talking to him. Mr. Singh walks past them but they continue to follow and talk with him.

After a brief argument, one of them kicks Mr. Natt in the stomach and the elderly man falls down on the road. They later walk away, leaving Mr. Natt lying

Trump's lawyers ask Mueller to narrow down scope of interview

Reject the special counsel's latest terms in their response

MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT
MAGGIE HABERMAN
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump's lawyers rejected the special counsel's latest terms for an interview in the Russia investigation, countering on Wednesday with an offer that suggested a narrow path for answering questions, people familiar with the matter said.

Jay Sekulow, one of Mr. Trump's personal lawyers, confirmed that a response was sent but declined to comment on its content.

The letter marked the latest back and forth in the eight months of negotiations between Mr. Trump's lawyers and the special counsel, Robert Mueller. Last week, Mr. Mueller proposed a slightly altered format to the expansive interview he wants to conduct with the president. Mr. Trump's lawyers did not reject an interview outright but included the narrower counteroffer, one person familiar with the response said.



Special counsel Robert Mueller. ▪ NYT

However, the person said that Mr. Trump's lawyers did not want him answering questions about whether he obstructed justice.

Answering a subpoena

The special counsel could eventually take the extraordinary step of subpoenaing Mr. Trump to testify before a grand jury to compel him to answer questions. Only one President, Bill Clinton, has been subpoenaed while in office; he eventually agreed to a voluntary interview to avoid a prolonged court fight.

The negotiations have dragged on in part because the President's lawyers are concerned that if he is interviewed, Mr. Trump could perjure himself. They had been prepared last week to tell Mr. Mueller that Mr. Trump would decline an interview, but the President, who believes he can convince Mr. Mueller that he is innocent, pushed his lawyers to continue negotiating.

By making another counterproposal after months of promises that they were just weeks away from deciding about an interview, Mr. Trump's lawyers run the risk that Mr. Mueller could conclude they are negotiating in bad faith to prolong the investigation. NY TIMES

No one trusts the U.S., says Javad Zarif

'Hard to imagine new talks now'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Wednesday that it was hard to imagine new talks with the U.S. after it lost the trust of the world with its erratic decision-making.

"Imagine negotiating now – how can we trust them?" Mr. Zarif told reporters on state broadcaster IRINN. "America has zigzagged constantly, so now no one trusts them."

Mr. Zarif was speaking a day after Washington reimposed a first tranche of harsh sanctions following its withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal.

Also, Iran's Labour Minister Ali Rabiei was impeached on Wednesday after months of mounting anger over the government's handling of an economic crisis.



Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif. ▪ AFP

Mr. Rabiei lost a confidence motion in Parliament by 129 votes to 111, giving President Hassan Rouhani three months to replace him. Mr. Rouhani has been under mounting pressure in recent weeks to reshuffle his economic team.

Zimbabwe Oppn. vows to overturn results

MDC has until Friday to lodge its suit

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HARARE

Zimbabwe's MDC Opposition party on Wednesday vowed to overturn in court President Emmerson Mnangagwa's narrow election victory, alleging that he won the vote via "mammoth theft and fraud".

The MDC has until Friday to lodge its suit after Mr. Mnangagwa won 50.8% in last week's vote, just scraping in above the 50% run-off threshold.

The Constitutional Court must rule on the petition within 14 days, delaying Mr. Mnangagwa's planned inauguration.

Also, Senior MDC figure Tendai Biti was arrested as he tried to flee to neighbouring Zambia to seek asylum early on Wednesday, his lawyer said, allegedly on charges of inciting violence over the disputed vote count.



MDC leader Tendai Biti, who was arrested on Wednesday. ▪ AP

Mr. Biti last week claimed victory for the MDC, triggering celebrations the day before soldiers opened fire on MDC protesters and before the final presidential results were announced.

https://t.me/pdf4exams https://www.estore33.com/ https://t.me/TheHindu_Zone_official

MARKET WATCH

	08-08-2018	% CHANGE
Sensex	37,888	0.59
US Dollar	68.63	0.07
Gold	30,565	-0.06
Brent oil	72.72	-2.46

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	374.60	2.30
Asian Paints	1425.75	1.50
Axis Bank	596.30	3.25
Bajaj Auto	2660.60	-26.00
Bajaj Finserv	7051.60	57.40
Bajaj Finance	2813.15	65.80
Bharti Airtel	385.30	3.40
BPCL	387.30	-6.80
Cipla	632.55	3.10
Coal India	276.00	0.60
Dr Reddys Lab	2245.50	-13.30
Eicher Motors	27593.15	69.60
GAIL (India)	377.00	2.30
Grasim Ind	1009.10	-9.75
HCL Tech	964.55	-4.25
HDFC	1984.60	6.00
HDFC Bank	2136.35	5.45
Hero MotoCorp	3299.05	1.30
Hindalco	220.60	1.60
HPCL	282.70	-5.90
Hind Unilever	1757.15	27.10
Indiabulls HFL	1370.15	8.75
ICICI Bank	318.70	5.55
IndusInd Bank	2000.65	6.35
Bharti Infratel	290.45	4.55
Infosys	1362.75	-5.20
Indian OilCorp	165.90	-0.75
ITC	300.95	-0.15
Kotak Bank	1288.30	4.60
L&T	1298.25	2.95
Lupin	825.55	-41.05
M&M	928.30	1.30
Maurti Suzuki	9207.40	-204.10
NTPC	158.25	-0.60
ONGC	172.50	4.95
PowerGrid Corp	189.50	0.40
Reliance Ind	1217.70	33.50
State Bank	308.70	4.65
Sun Pharma	574.00	4.30
Tata Motors	255.15	3.55
Tata Steel	577.50	4.35
TCS	1974.00	6.65
Tech Mahindra	653.90	-4.85
Titan	935.00	7.75
UltraTech Cement	4244.10	37.40
UPL	647.85	0.65
Vedanta	224.80	-2.00
Wipro	278.50	1.05
YES Bank	382.75	1.10
Zee Entertainment	530.70	0.15

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 08

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	68.42	68.74
Euro	79.29	79.66
British Pound	87.99	88.41
Japanese Yen (100)	61.60	61.89
Chinese Yuan	10.01	10.06
Swiss Franc	68.67	68.99
Singapore Dollar	50.15	50.39
Canadian Dollar	52.29	52.54
Malaysian Ringitt	16.77	16.87

Source:Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

August 08 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	41.2	(41.3)
22 ct gold (1 g)	2822	(2828)

Strengthen PSB boards, IMF tells govt.

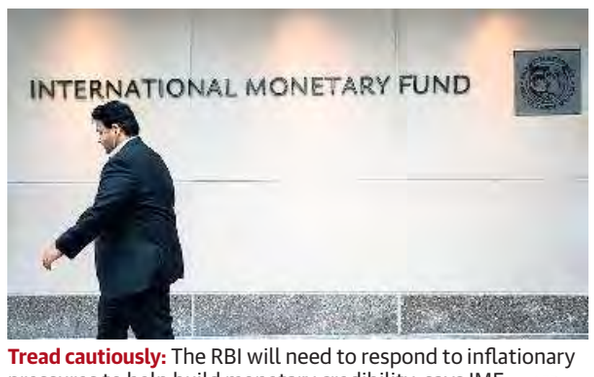
'Steps needed to enhance the efficiency of bank operations and foster more disciplined lending'

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI

India needs to improve the way state-owned banks are run by bolstering board-level autonomy, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in a report, adding that the government should consider eventually privatising them.

"[A] key area of reform is to strengthen governance in public sector banks," Ranil Salgado, IMF mission chief for India, said in the report on Wednesday.

"This is needed...to improve incentives to enhance the efficiency of bank operations and foster more disciplined lending practices by banks. A first step would be to strengthen the quality and independence of these banks' boards, and privatisation could also eventually be considered."



Tread cautiously: The RBI will need to respond to inflationary pressures to help build monetary credibility, says IMF. ▪ AFP

Projecting India's economic growth to recover in 2018/19 and strengthen in 2019/20 as stability-oriented macroeconomic policies and progress on structural reforms continue to bear fruit, the IMF said that high foreign reserve buffers and strong FDI inflows had helped contain external vulnerabilities.

"However, more can be done to sustain the recent foreign direct investment inflows and remove trade barriers – which remain significant," Mr. Salgado said. "These include: reducing trade documentation requirements and procedures, lowering tariffs, continuing to improve the business climate, and improving governance."

The IMF said risks to the outlook were, however, tilted to the "downside." The Fund listed "higher global oil prices and tighter global financial conditions" as key external risks that had grown in recent months.

"Domestic risks include tax revenue shortfalls and delays in addressing the twin bank-corporate balance sheet problems," the IMF added.

'Tighten policy'

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) would need to gradually tighten monetary policy further due to rising inflation, driven mainly driven by higher oil prices and a falling rupee, the IMF said.

The RBI raised the repo rate for the second straight meeting last week by 25 basis points to 6.5%, while warning about the inflationary pressures.

The average inflation is likely to rise to 5.2% in 2018/19 from a 17-year low of 3.6% in the previous fiscal year, the IMF said.

"The RBI will need to gradually tighten policy further, in response to inflationary pressures, which will help to build monetary credibility," the IMF said in its report.

The IMF projected global crude oil prices to average $72 a barrel in 2018/19, up from $62 in its earlier forecast.

(With Reuters inputs)



Clearing the air: Existing wallets and bank accounts continue to function without any restriction, says Paytm. ▪ REUTERS

'Paytm bank curbs tied to outsourcing of decision making'

Paytm admits licencing norm violation

MANOJIT SAHA
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India's direction to Paytm Payments Bank restraining it from adding new customers came after the RBI found that the bank had violated licencing norms by outsourcing the decision making on whether an account should be opened or not to business correspondents.

One 97 Communications – Paytm's parent entity – also acts as a business correspondent for the payments bank. According to RBI norms, banks are allowed to outsource collection and verification of 'know your customer' (KYC) documents to a business correspondent. But the onus on deciding whether the account should be opened or not rests with the bank.

"Even the decision making was outsourced," said a banking source familiar with the development.

Paytm Payments Bank has admitted that the banking regulator's decision to place a restriction on opening new accounts is due to violation of 'licencing conditions'.

"Paytm Payments Bank has been asked by Reserve Bank of India to not open new wallets and bank accounts with effect from June 20," the company said on its platform. "Restriction on new account opening is due to non-adherence to certain licensing and operating guidelines."

Paytm has clarified that existing wallets and bank accounts continue to function without any restriction. "Those who have minimal KYC wallets can complete their full KYC," it added.

Paytm Payments Bank declined further comment.

The RBI had also recently restrained Fino Payments Bank from opening new accounts after finding that some of the accounts had more than ₹1 lakh. As per norms, the aggregate limit for the customer of a payments bank is ₹1 lakh. "RBI advised us not to open new accounts till the upgraded processes are in place," Fino Payments Bank had said.

Airtel Payments Bank – the third payments bank which is operational out of the seven that received final licences from RBI – had also briefly run afoul of the banking regulator.

CCI approves Walmart, Flipkart deal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Competition Commission on Wednesday said it had approved U.S. retail giant Walmart's proposed acquisition of Flipkart.

In May, Walmart announced the acquisition of 77% stake in Flipkart, the biggest takeover by the U.S. company till date.

The transaction values the 11-year-old Indian e-commerce company at $20.8 billion.

Deals beyond a certain threshold are required to get clearance from the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

The regulator keeps a tab on unfair business practices in the market place.

Broader markets fall even as indices scale new highs

More than 1,400 stocks end in red; RIL, ONGC lead gainers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The benchmark equity indices continued their record breaking spree on Wednesday even as most of the mid caps and small caps continued to lose ground.

The 30-share Sensex gained 221.76 points, or 0.59%, to close at a new high of 37,887.56. The gains were led by index heavyweights Reliance Industries and ONGC, with both gaining almost 3% each. The banking majors like ICICI Bank, State Bank of India (SBI), Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Yes Bank also supported the Sensex rally.



The broader Nifty closed at a new high of 11,450, up 60.55 points, or 0.53%.

The broader market trend, however, remained weak as the sell-off in the side counters continued unabated.

On the BSE, more than 1,400 stocks ended in the red as against 1,296 gainers.

Market participants are of the view that while the sell-off in the mid cap and small cap space is not yet over, the sentiment is expected to improve slightly as the results season progresses.

"We see the momentum shifting to mid caps and small caps sectors as lot of quarterly results are awaited, which will give insights on the current year earnings." said B. Gopkumar, CEO, Reliance Securities.

Both the BSE mid cap and BSE small cap indices, along with all the other broader indices, just about managed to post marginal gains on Wednesday.

Govt. to get ₹50,000 cr. from RBI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will transfer ₹50,000 crore surplus to the government for the year ended June 30, 2018, the central bank said in a statement on Wednesday.

"The Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India, at its meeting held on August 8, 2018, approved the transfer of surplus amounting to ₹50,000 crore for the year ended June 30, 2018 to the Government of India," the statement said.

The RBI follows July-June accounting year.

Last year, the central bank transferred ₹30,659 crore surplus to the government.

T Rowe Price moves HC over UTI MF chief Leo Puri's term

Seeks direction to board to allow his continuance for a year

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR
MUMBAI

The boardroom tussle at UTI Mutual Fund has turned into a legal battle, with T Rowe Price International filing a petition in the Bombay High Court to restrain the other shareholders from removing managing director Leo Puri, whose term is coming to an end on August 13.

T Rowe Price, which has a 26% stake in the country's oldest asset management company, has asked the court to intervene in the matter by directing the board of the mutual fund to allow Mr. Puri to continue as MD for at least 12 months.

According to T Rowe Price, the government-owned promoters of UTI MF – SBI, LIC, Bank of Baroda and Punjab National Bank – are not in favour of granting an extension to Mr. Puri even though a successor has not yet been identified.



Leo Puri

'Adverse impact'

The petition stated that any move to remove the MD would have an adverse impact on the fund house which is in the midst of preparing for an IPO.

Responding to an email query from *The Hindu*, a T Rowe Price spokesperson said that the decision to move the court was taken after failing to get a timely response even after having "actively engaged with SEBI and the Ministry of Finance in hopes that they would intervene and require these stakeholders to adhere to regulations and the law."

"We are simply asking the court to instruct SEBI and the Ministry of Finance to fulfill their supervisory responsibilities by directing the other UTI shareholders and their nominee directors to comply with regulations, the law and, more specifically, the directions of the UTI Trustee Board, all of which they have ignored," the spokesperson added.

'Tata Sons must reply to Mistry plea'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) on Wednesday sought a reply from Tata Sons by August 10 to a petition filed by its ousted chairman Cyrus Mistry challenging the move to convert the holding company of salt-to-software conglomerate to a private firm from deemed public company.

The NCLAT set the hearing for August 14. The two-judge NCLAT Bench was hearing a petition filed by Cyrus Investments Pvt. Ltd., seeking a stay on conversion of Tata Sons into a private company as well as challenging a July 9 order of the Mumbai Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal that upheld Mr. Mistry's sacking.

Chinese exports accelerate even as Trump escalates trade war with further tariffs

China's trade surplus with U.S. remains near record highs; Beijing set to retaliate

REUTERS
BEIJING

China's exports surged more than expected in July despite U.S. duties and its closely watched surplus with the United States remained near record highs, as the world's two major economic powers ramp up a bitter dispute that some fear could derail global growth.

In the latest move by President Donald Trump to put pressure on Beijing to negotiate trade concessions, Washington is set to begin collecting 25% tariffs on another $16 billion in Chinese goods on August 23.

Tit-for-tat move

In a statement, China's commerce ministry criticised the U.S. move as being "unreasonable", saying it had no choice but to adopt the same measure on an equal amount of American goods ranging from oil and steel products to autos and medical equipment.



Battle rages: China's July exports rose a bigger-than-expected 12.2% year-on-year, showing little tariff impact. ▪ REUTERS

Wednesday's Chinese data provide the first readings of the overall trade picture for the world's second-largest economy since U.S. duties on $34 billion of Chinese imports came into effect on July 6. China's exports for July rose a bigger-than-expected 12.2% year-on-year, showing little tariff impact for now and beating June's 11.2% rise and analysts' expectations for 10% growth.

Of more direct consequence in the Sino-U.S. trade war, China's surplus with the U.S. shrank only marginally to $28.09 billion last month from a record $28.97 billion in June. Washington has long criticised China's trade surplus and has demanded Beijing cut it.

Those demands could get even more strident if the yuan's sharp drop in recent months raises the ire of the U.S., which has in the past repeatedly criticised Beijing for manipulating its currency to gain an unfair trade advantage. Economists say China appears to be taking a more hands-off approach to the yuan, which marked its worst 4-month fall on record between April and July and has provided some reprieve for exporters.

https://t.me/pdf4exams https://www.estore33.com/ https://t.me/TheHindu_Zone_official

IN BRIEF



HPCL Q1 profit surges 86% to ₹1,719 crore

NEW DELHI

Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd. (HPCL) reported a 86% jump in the June quarter net on higher refining capacity. Net profit of ₹1,719 crore in the April-June quarter of the current fiscal was higher than ₹925 crore posted in the year earlier period, CMD M.K.Surana said. The PSU oil firm earned $7.15 on turning every barrel of crude oil into fuel as compared to $5.86 per barrel gross refining margin a year earlier. PTI

Natco Pharma net rises 93%; declares dividend

HYDERABAD

Natco Pharma has posted a consolidated net profit of ₹181.1 crore for the quarter ended June 30, an increase of 93% from ₹93.7 crore in the year earlier period. Total revenue of the Hyderabad-headquartered firm increased 28% to ₹574.5 crore (₹448.7 crore). The company said in a press release that the board of directors had approved an interim dividend of ₹1.50 per equity share of ₹2 each.

Sundaram-Clayton posts ₹7.02 crore Q1 profit

CHENNAI

Sundaram-Clayton Ltd., a TVS Group company, has reported a standalone net profit of ₹7.02 crore for the first quarter ended June 30, against a net loss of ₹3.81 crore for the year earlier period. The company posted ₹468.72 crore in revenue from operations against ₹402.37 crore. During the period, the firm made an investment of $4.5 million in its U.S. subsidiary Sundaram Holding USA Inc., via 4.5 million equity shares.

Fonterra, Future Group form dairy JV

To unveil consumer products using locally sourced milk, supplies from New Zealand by mid-2019

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Fonterra, a leading global dairy exporter based in New Zealand, has partnered with Kishore Biyani-promoted Future Group to unveil a range of consumer and food service dairy products to help meet the growing demand for high-quality dairy nutrition in India.

Fonterra's joint venture (JV) with Future Consumer Ltd., which will be known as Fonterra Future Dairy Partners, will enable Fonterra to establish a presence in India.

Lukas Paravicini, Fonterra's Chief Operating Officer, Global Consumer and Food Service, said, "It [JV] will allow us to prepare the groundwork and make the most of our expertise as we enter the world's largest and fastest growing dairy industry. Consumer demand for dairy in India over the next seven years is set to increase by 82 billion litres – seven times the growth forecast for China."



Holy cow: Demand for dairy in India over the next 7 years is set to increase by 82 bn litres, says Fonterra's COO. ▪ REUTERS

The JV plans to unveil the first range of consumer products by mid-2019, using both locally sourced milk and dairy products from New Zealand.

Growth via profitability

"The partnership will be driven by growth through profitability. The initial stages of the partnership will focus on product development and marketing with the right capital investment made during this period. We will also use this time to settle in the partnership infrastructure, learn the market and prioritise geographies," Mr. Paravicini said.

Kishore Biyani, Group Chief Executive Officer, Future Group, said the association with Fonterra comes at a time when the dairy industry in India is flourishing.

"Consumption of milk and other dairy products in India are increasing and will continue to receive strong demand. With Fonterra, Future Consumer will enhance its food and FMCG portfolio and will offer a variety of dairy products which are high in demand and consumed daily," Mr. Biyani said.

Future Consumer is part of the Future Group which plans to unveil 1,100 stores this year. The stores will be within close proximity of target consumers, and feature a complete digital experience, the company said in a statement. Ashni Biyani, MD, Future Consumer Ltd., said, "Future Consumer is committed to provide not only the best, but the latest in food and other daily consumed products. We are delighted to partner with Fonterra, who globally leads the dairy industry in quality and innovation. Through this partnership, we will be able to reach our customers daily with quality dairy products."

Future Group has presence in 26 Indian states and has a nationwide cold-chain and ambient distribution network, the company said.

EID Parry net hit by low sugar prices

Posts ₹135.8 cr. profit on one-time gains

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

EID Parry India Ltd. turned a standalone first-quarter profit of ₹135.8 crore, after one-time gains helped offset a post-tax loss from continuing operations as a result of depressed sugar prices.

Standalone loss after tax from continuing operations for the quarter was ₹81.38 crore against ₹14.88 crore.

The fertilizer and sugar maker, which had posted a loss of ₹3.49 crore in the year earlier quarter, was helped by a profit of ₹208.76 crore through the sale of its bio-pesticides division and a gain of ₹35.16 crore from its investment in Parry America Inc.

These sales were made to its subsidiary Coromandel International Ltd.

Revenue from operations at the Murugappa Group company increased to ₹455.85 crore in the three months ended June 30, 2018, from ₹473.61 crore. Performance was largely impacted due to depressed sugar prices on account of higher sugar production in the country compared with the previous sugar year, said S. Suresh, MD.

The price of sugar went below cost of production due to mismatch in demand and supply position of sugar. "Low monthly release order quantity has impacted the sales, profitability and cash flows of the company," Mr. Suresh added.

SEBI orders forensic audit of Parsvnath

Suspects misuse of books by realtor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Delhi-based realtor Parsvnath Developers has come under the scanner of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), which has directed stock exchanges to appoint an independent forensic auditor to verify if the listed real estate entity has misrepresented its business and financials.

"I note that there is prima facie suspicion on misuse of books of accounts and misrepresentation of financials/ business of the company," SEBI whole time member Madhabi Puri Buch said in an order on Wednesday.

"I find that it would be appropriate that the financials of the company be independently audited to establish their genuineness of its transactions / contracts and sub-contracts... including the role of KMPs, directors and promoters," it added.

SEBI wants the auditor to verify whether there was any misuse of the books of accounts or funds including facilitation of accommodation entries or compromise of minority shareholder interest. Investigations reportedly showed that invoices were not backed by work completion certificates in certain transactions, while there were instances where there was insufficient data to identify the land for which contracts or sub-contracts were either taken or given.

Indian Bank net falls 44% on higher provisioning

Posts ₹209.31 cr. profit as gross NPAs rise to ₹11,827.60 cr.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Public sector lender Indian Bank has posted a 44% decline in its standalone first-quarter net profit at ₹209.31 crore against ₹372.41 crore in the year-earlier period, mainly on account of higher provisioning.

Total income for the quarter rose year-on-year to ₹5,131.97 crore from ₹4,788.04 crore. Interest income increased to ₹4,692.17 crore from ₹4,135.97 crore, the bank said in a statement on Wednesday.

Gross NPAs rise

Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) rose to ₹11,827.60 crore from ₹9,653.02 crore and net NPAs to ₹5,998.62 crore from ₹5,238.61 crore.



Provisions and contingencies for the quarter ended June were ₹1,029.56 crore against ₹715.56 crore, the year earlier.

Non-performing loan provision coverage ratio was 64.38%.

In respect of select borrowal account covered under the provisions of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, the bank has made a provision of ₹186 crore.

During the quarter, Indian Bank recovered ₹94.61 crore in a fully provided NPA account.

With regard to mark-to-market (MTM) losses on investment held in 'available for sale' and 'held for trading' for four quarters starting December 31, 2017, the bank has provided ₹362.75 crore for the first quarter of FY19.

City Union Bank net rises on stable assets

NPA provisions decline to ₹77.76 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Private sector lender City Union Bank Ltd. reported a 15.2% increase in standalone first-quarter profit at ₹161.65 crore, from ₹140.32 crore, a year earlier, on lower provisions and stable asset quality.

Net interest income grew 9.5% to ₹375 crore from ₹342 crore in same quarter last fiscal. Other income, pertaining to non-fund based banking activities, fell 4.6% to ₹129.11 crore from ₹135.33 crore.

Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) as a percentage of gross advances were lower at 3.02% for the quarter against 3.03% in the previous quarter, while net NPA stood at 1.70% against 1.79%.



During the first quarter, one account had slipped to NPA to the tune of ₹10 lakh, a bank official said during the investor presentation.

Provisions for bad loans declined to ₹77.76 crore from ₹116.64 crore. The provision coverage ratio was 65%.

https://t.me/pdf4exams https://www.estore33.com/ https://t.me/TheHindu_Zone_official

Kohli and Co. will look for an encore of 2014

England's recent record at the 'home of cricket' does not make for great reading, and India will be keen to draw level

INDIA IN ENGLAND

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
LONDON

It has been so hot in London that last month the Marylebone Cricket Club permitted members to enter the Pavilion at Lord's for a T20 game without a jacket – something that in ordinary times would have been deemed a horrifying scandal. So hot, in fact, that head groundsman Mick Hunt has had to resort to rolling the pitch at five in the morning.

Rain has lowered temperatures in the city this week but there is a belief that the playing surface at the home of cricket – as they like to call this old, banked rectangle of a ground in Saint John's Wood – will be dry when the second Test begins here on Thursday.

Whether that will actually be the case remains to be seen, but both India and England are considering the idea of fielding two spinners. It is not going to be a simple decision for Virat Kohli to make.



Time to deliver: After getting out in uncharacteristic fashion in the first Test, K.L. Rahul will have to tighten his game at Lord's. ▪ REUTERS

Illusion

One reason is the presence of Hardik Pandya in the side. Pandya is a talented cricketer and a force in limited-overs cricket, but he is far from being an undisputed all-rounder. He lends the team an illusion of balance, with Kohli tempted by the prospect of the sort of performance that Ben Stokes or Sam Curran turned in last week.

But it is just that: an illusion. In the first Test, Pandya was trusted with only 10 overs and he is yet to demonstrate that he has the discipline to score runs when the ball is swinging. Omitting a pace bowler to accommodate a second spinner would require Pandya to shoulder a greater bowling load.

And sacrificing a batsman simply isn't an option. Perhaps the wise thing to do, then, is to drop Pandya for Kuldeep Yadav, whose bewildering variety will trouble England's batsmen.

India's players have taken pride in the fact that they could easily have won the first Test but the truth is that with the noble exception of Kohli, the batting performance was a dismal one. It was unlike K.L. Rahul and Ajinkya Rahane to get out playing the shots they did; India will need them to show greater application.

Shikhar Dhawan, whose weakness against the moving ball no longer seems like an issue of mentality but one of technique, ought to make way for Cheteshwar Pujara, which will enable Rahul to open alongside M. Vijay.

India won its last Test at Lord's, back in 2014 when Ishant Sharma took seven for 74 in the second innings. A number of those players are still part of the squad; they should not want for confidence.

England's headache

England has a headache of its own. The absence of Ben Stokes, whose affray trial is under way in Bristol, is a huge blow. Chris Woakes has taken his place in the squad but he is no replacement for Stokes. Joe Root announced on Wednesday that Ollie Pope would make his debut, batting at four. Which leaves Moeen Ali, the last spin bowler to take a five-for at this venue, and Woakes battling for one spot.

England's recent record at Lord's does not make for great reading, with the home side having lost four of its last eight matches, going back to the India game four years ago. Kohli will hope to inflict another defeat; he will know that it can be hard to bounce back from 0-2 down.

India at Lord's

	Tests	Won	Lost	Drawn
Overall (1932-2014)	17	2	11	4
In the 2000s	4	1	2	1

▪ India's two wins came in 1986 (five wickets) and 2014 (95 runs)

ON THE HONOURS BOARD



Centuries: Ajit Agarkar, Mohammad Azharuddin, Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly, Vinoo Mankad, Ajinkya Rahane, Ravi Shastri, **Dilip Vengsarkar (3)**, G.R. Viswanath

Five-wicket hauls: Lala Amarnath, Bishan Singh Bedi, B.S. Chandrasekhar, Ramakant Desai, Kapil Dev, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Praveen Kumar, Vinoo Mankad, Mohammad Nissar, Venkatesh Prasad, Chetan Sharma, Ishant Sharma, Amar Singh, R.P. Singh

(Names in alphabetical order)

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO

The teams (from)

- **England:** Joe Root (capt.), Moeen Ali, James Anderson, Jonny Bairstow, Stuart Broad, Jos Buttler, Alastair Cook, Sam Curran, Keaton Jennings, Ollie Pope, Adil Rashid, and Chris Woakes.
- **India:** Virat Kohli (capt.), Shikhar Dhawan, K.L. Rahul, M Vijay, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Karun Nair, Dinesh Karthik, Rishabh Pant, R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Ishant Sharma, Mohd. Shami, Umesh Yadav, and Shardul Thakur.
- **On-Field Umpires:** Aleem Dar, Marais Erasmus; **Match Referee:** Jeff Crowe; **3rd Umpire:** Chris Gaffaney; **4th Umpire:** Alex Wharf. *Play starts at 3.30 p.m.*

Indian skipper backs his batsmen

Says they need to show more composure during the first 30 balls of their innings

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
LONDON

Virat Kohli has jumped to the defence of India's batsmen, believing that all they need to do to fix their issues is show greater composure.

"We should not judge them so fast and jump to conclusions," he said. "As a team, we keep patience. We don't judge so fast. We don't see any pattern to (the failures). As far as wickets falling in a heap is concerned, it is not about technique, it is more of a mental aspect.

"There must be a clear plan on how to face the first 20-30 balls, and more often than not that plan does not involve aggression. There we need some composure, other than aggression. As a batting unit we have discussed that."

Kohli added: "From the outside it looks very bad. It is Test cricket and we are playing in England where it is anyway difficult. But we only need to bring down the margin of error and beyond that we don't need to worry too much."

India's captain scored nearly half of the team's runs in the first Test at Edgbaston; he was asked if he felt let down by his colleagues.

"It is not like I feel bad that I got runs and we couldn't get across the line," he said.

"It is purely because we haven't won the games. If I hadn't got the runs and we had won, I would have got a totally different feeling.



Mainstay: Virat Kohli, who scored almost half the team's total in the first Test, believes it doesn't matter who gets the runs as long as India wins. ▪ AFP

> **We only need to bring down the margin of error and beyond that we don't need to worry too much**

"It doesn't matter whether I get the runs or Jinks (Rahane) does or Vijay does or KL (Rahul) does or whoever does. As long as we cross the line, that is the only thing that matters."

Kohli was also asked, perhaps a little harshly, if he had failed to inspire his teammates. "I am doing as much as I can as captain; there is constant feedback from the management.

"I feel I have had really good communication with all the players. Being in the right mindset is a very individual thing and as captain you can only have meetings and chats which we do on a regular basis," he said.

Kohli added: "I definitely leave no stone unturned when it comes to getting in there, talking to the guys wherever I can from the strategy point of view as well. Sometimes it doesn't come off.

"It is not like we are getting rolled over or dominated. Any Test match we are playing, we are competitive. That is something people are overlooking very easily. If we tweak a few things here and there we should be on the right side of the result."

'Two spinners a tempting thought'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LONDON

India could be "tempted" to field two spinners in Thursday's second Test at Lord's, Virat Kohli has stated. The pitch wore a coat of green on match-eve but the surface is expected to be dry underneath.

"It's a tempting thought," Kohli said. "The pitch looked very hard, the surface looked very dry. It has been very hot in London for the last couple of months. There is good grass cover in it and that is required basically to keep the wicket together, otherwise it is going to be very difficult to hold it together."

The Indian captain added: "The pitch is going to be all-round: if batsmen bat well, they can get runs; obviously the Dukes ball [will swing] in overcast conditions; and when the wicket wears off the spinners can come in. It's a tempting thought to field two spinners but we have to take a call on that depending on the team balance. But two spinners are definitely in contention."

His counterpart, Joe Root, was not certain if it would be a good idea but was still keeping his options open. England named a 12-member side on Wednesday, with Jamie Porter left out. "I'm not sure, having played quite a lot here, if it [the pitch] will change a huge amount. But we just want to make sure, be really clear, that going into the game we can be really confident we've got the best 11 players to take 20 wickets on that surface. So we'll turn up tomorrow, see if it looks any different, and then make that decision," he said.

Joe Root happy with his bowlers

Skilful of them to have manipulated Kohli off strike, says the England captain

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LONDON

Joe Root has derived encouragement from the manner in which England bowled to Virat Kohli in the first Test at Edgbaston.

"On that last morning he batted 55 minutes and he faced 13-14 balls," he said. "Very skilful [of our bowlers] to be able to manipulate him off the strike and starve him of facing the majority of deliveries.

"And in the first innings, to create two half-chances and two clear chances was testament to how we've got good plans against him and found a way to potentially get him out."

England has failed to beat Asian opposition at Lord's in its last five attempts, having lost twice to Pakistan, drawn twice with Sri Lanka and lost to India in 2014.



Blooding them young: England captain Joe Root says Ollie Pope, 20, is 'very mature' for his age. ▪ AFP

"Maybe, but every time you turn up here the surfaces can be quite different," said Root. "At the start of the summer we were below par and it would be easy to look too far into that."

The England skipper had no hesitation in naming Ollie Pope in his side, with the 20-year-old set to bat at two-drop.

"He's very mature for a young man. I can see that he thinks about the game a lot and has a very good understanding of where he's at within his own game.

"He's obviously batted at six for Surrey this season – but having seen him play a little bit, and the way his game is set up, I think it's very much transferable to bat at No. 4 in Test cricket.

"I know that might be seen as quite a big jump. But he's obviously an exciting talent and, with the guys around him, I think he fits nicely into that position in our team."

Never be satisfied with the runs you score: Tendulkar

Advises Virat to focus on what he wants to achieve

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

He has "been there and done that", which is the reason why Sachin Tendulkar's singular piece of advice for Virat Kohli is to worry less and follow his instincts.

When asked about what would he tell Kohli, Tendulkar told *ESPN Cricinfo*: "I would say, just continue, he's doing a fantastic job. So just continue. Don't worry about what's happening around you, keep your focus on what you want to achieve, and let your heart guide the way."

"Along the way, there will be plenty of things said and done, but eventually, if you are passionate about what you want in life, then the results will invariably follow."

Kohli has conquered the final frontier as a batsman after his Edgbaston century but the maestro said that irrespective of the quantum of runs scored, a performer should never be satisfied.

"I can tell you from my own experience, however many runs you score they are never enough. You want more runs, and that is the case with Virat. However many runs he scores, it will never be enough for him.

"The downfall starts when you are satisfied. It's nice to be happy, but never be satisfied when you are a batsman. Bowlers can only get 10 wickets, but batters can go on and on, so don't be satisfied, just be happy."

Ponting's tips to improve over-rate

'ICC may consider introducing shot clock'

ANI
MELBOURNE

Former Australian captain Ricky Ponting has recommended the use of 'shot clock' to deal with the declining over-rate in all three formats of cricket.

A shot clock is a timer, which is used in basketball to increase the pace and scoring of the game. According to the rules, the offensive team must attempt to get the ball into the basket before the shot clock expires.

Ponting said that introducing 'dead time' through shot clock might seem a bit extreme but could be considered by the ICC.



A good idea: Ponting feels a 'there and then' run penalty would definitely be worth looking at. ▪ REUTERS

Seems extreme

"It probably seems a little extreme, the idea of the shot clock. But once again this year, in all three formats of the game, the over-rates have been on the decline. So we've talked about the idea of the shot clock and that's basically for the dead time in the game," *cricket.com.au* quoted Ponting, as saying.

"It's not going to be when the bowler is at the top of his mark and running in because that's hard to gauge. It's the dead time. The end of the over. The fielders and bowlers have to be back in position and that's non-negotiable," he added.

The suggestion came during a two-day meeting of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) World Cricket Committee at Lord's.

Consolation win for Sri Lanka

SPORTS BUREAU
PALLEKELE

Suranga Lakmal bowled a miserly last over to help Sri Lanka win the fourth ODI by three runs here on Wednesday.

Needing eight runs from the 21st and final over, South Africa lost David Miller to the second ball and the last wicket pair could not reach the revised target of 191.

South Africa was in with a chance as long as Miller was around though wickets fell at regular intervals. Earlier, Dasun Shanaka hit a quick-fire 65 as Sri Lanka blasted 306 for seven off 39 overs.

Thisara Perera made an unbeaten 51 and Kusal Perera also hit 51 as the home side punished the South Africa bowlers. Rain delayed the start of the game which was eventually cut from 50 overs to 39.



Dasun Shanaka. ▪ AFP

SCOREBOARD SRI LANKA VS SOUTH AFRICA, 4TH ODI

Sri Lanka: N. Dickwella c de Kock b Duminy 34, U. Tharanga b Mulder 36, K. Mendis lbw b Maharaj 14, K. Perera c Miller b Duminy 51, A. Mathews c de Kock b Ngidi 22, D. de Silva c Dala b Ngidi 10, T. Perera (not out) 51, D. Shanaka c Mulder b Phehlukwayo 65, A. Dananjaya (not out) 1; Extras (lb-9, w-12, nb-1): 22; Total (for seven wkts. in 39 overs): 306

Fall of wickets: 1-61, 2-92, 3-100, 4-159, 5-183, 6-195.

South Africa bowling: Ngidi 8-0-65-2, Dala 8-0-64-0, Phehlukwayo 6-0-45-1, Duminy 6-0-35-2, Mulder 6-0-51-1, Maharaj 5-0-37-1.

South Africa: Q. de Kock b Lakmal 23, H. Amla c Kumara b Dananjaya 40, R. Hendricks c de Silva b Shanaka 2, J-P. Duminy (run out) 38, H. Klaasen c Mathews b de Siva 17, D. Miller b Lakmal 21, A. Phehlukwayo b Perera 9, P. Mulder c de Silva b Lakmal 4, K. Maharaj b Perera 17, C. Dala (not out) 3, L. Ngidi (not out) 1; Extras (lb-5, nb-1, w-6): 12; Total (for nine wkts. in 21 overs): 187.

Fall of wickets: 1-34, 2-51, 3-108, 4-129, 5-130, 6-149, 7-155, 8-183, 9-183.

Sri Lanka bowling: Lakmal 5-0-46-3, Dananjaya 3-0-30-1, Perera 4-0-32-2, Shanaka 2-0-20-1, Kumara 3-0-28-0, de Silva 4-0-26-1.

Man-of-the-match: Shanaka.

Toss: South Africa.

(Match reduced to 39 overs-a-side due to rain).

Sri Lanka won by three runs (D/L method), South Africa leads five-match series 3-1.

https://t.me/pdf4exams https://www.estore33.com/ https://t.me/TheHindu_Zone_official

TV PICKS

England vs India: Second Test, day 1, 3.30 p.m.; Sony Six, Sony Ten 3 (SD & HD).
Rogers Cup: 8.30 p.m.; Sony ESPN (SD & HD).

IN BRIEF



Burnley signs Czech forward Vydra

LONDON

Burnley has signed Czech forward Matej Vydra from second-tier side Derby on a three-year deal, the Premier League club announced on Tuesday. The 26-year-old, who scored a league-leading 21 goals in the Championship last season, will be hoping to have a bigger impact on the English top flight than he did in previous disappointing spells in the Premier League with Watford and West Brom. AFP

India invites Nepal U-19 cricket team

KATHMANDU

The BCCI has invited the Nepal U-19 team for One Day series next month. The series is scheduled to be held from September 9 to September 20. Interestingly, National Cricket Academy (NCA) will also be participating in the tournament, the State news agency Rastriya Samachar Samiti (RSS) reported. Reportedly, Nepal cricket team is still waiting for the permission from the ICC to participate in the event. ANI

India's chances will again rest on Saina, Sindhu and Srikanth

The country's shuttlers will be severely tested in team events

N. SUDARSHAN

At the recently-concluded Badminton World Championships in Nanjing, China, of the 20 medal winners, Carolina Marin, who won the women's singles gold, was the only non-Asian. This, if anything, should show the kind of challenge India has to be up for at the Asian Games in Jakarta.

Respite

There will be some respite because unlike at the Worlds, the continental competition limits the number of entries from a country to two players in singles and two pairs in doubles. But India's isn't a rich history at the Asian Games. While Syed Modi remains the only individual medallist (bronze, Delhi 1982), the bronze that India won in the women's team event at the 2014 edition in Incheon was the nation's first medal since 1986 Seoul.

"The first goal should be to try and defend what we won," legend Prakash Padukone told *The Hindu*. "Then we should look to improve upon that. But it will be tough because this is almost like the Olympics or the World Championship. We did well at the Commonwealth Games. But with due credit to the effort, this is going to be totally different."

India's chances will again rest on the trio of Saina Nehwal, P.V. Sindhu and K. Srikanth. However, if recent form is any guide, only Sindhu emerges with credit, courtesy her gallant silver in Nanjing.

Saina's loss to Marin was dispiriting, as she won a mere 17 points in a contest which lasted just 31 minutes.

Srikanth, who was the World No. 1 not so long ago, has had a middling season and his inability to capitalise on a relatively easy draw, won't help his confidence.

Sindhu, on the other hand, was outstanding for most part, reserving her best for the twin defeats of the Japanese duo of Nozomi Okuhara and Akane Yamaguchi in the quarterfinal and semifinal respectively. A repeat performance, though easier said than done, will fetch a medal in all certainty.

It will be in the team events however that India's depth will be severely tested, with the format – three singles and two doubles matches constituting a tie – requiring a country to be good at both. Among women, the huge a gap in quality below Saina and Sindhu will put a premium on a doubles win. While the seasoned Ashwini Ponappa and N. Sikki Reddy, along with Rutaparna Panda and Aarthi Sara Sunil will share this responsibility, the non-selection of a standby doubles team seems a gamble.

A scratch doubles pair involving one or more singles players is something India hasn't been averse to in the past but the inclusion of youngsters Akarshi Kashyap and Gayathri Gopi Chand – the latter, daughter of National coach P. Gopi Chand – despite their chances of playing seemingly remote, has invited controversy. The addition of Gayathri in particular has seen allegations of nepotism and bias levelled against Gopichand.

Quality players

The men, though, aren't as top heavy with a clutch of quality players in H.S. Prannoy, who won the bronze at the Badminton Asia Championships in April, B. Sai Praneeth and Sameer Verma out to prove their worth alongside Srikanth.

In Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, there is a doubles team with potential. Satwiksairaj, all of 17, even impressed in mixed doubles at the World Championships, as he and Ashwini became only the second Indian pair after V. Diju and Jwala Gutta to reach the quarterfinals.



High hopes: The Indian badminton team, coached by P. Gopi Chand, third from left, will hope to deliver the goods at Jakarta. ▪ FILE PHOTO: V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

COUNTDOWN

Manasi in search of an Asiad medal

Para shuttler pleased with her training

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

At 29, Manasi Joshi is a shuttler who belongs to a different breed! The Gujarat-based software engineer, is preparing for her first Para Asian Games in Jakarta in October, with chief National badminton coach P. Gopi Chand chipping in with useful tips at his Academy here.

"I am enjoying my training in what is obviously the best centre," said a beaming Manasi, who is an amputee, having lost her left leg in a road accident in December 2011 in Mumbai and has taken a four-month break from her job in search of an Asiad medal.

"I was never a serious or a professional badminton player, but always played the sport since my school days as my parents believe that sport builds an individual's character better. Sports taught me so many things in life," she said.

"It is very nice on part of Gopi and other players like Sindhu to keep my morale high. I am so pleased with the way they keep track of my training and progress," said Manasi, fresh from her women's singles bronze in Thailand Para championship recently.

Interestingly, ever since Manasi started competing in international events from 2015, she rarely returned without a medal – the high points being a silver in mixed doubles in the 2015 Worlds, bronze in 2016 women's singles, 2017 World championship bronze and a gold in a Spanish international event.



Manasi Joshi. ▪ K.V.S. GIRI

"Well, the biggest challenge for me is the society itself. It is sad that many still treat para athletes as lesser mortals though things have, of late, changed a lot thanks to the performances by our tribe at the highest level," said Manasi.

"I firmly believe that para athletes too are intelligent and knowledgeable and can be role-models for young talent given the way they fight adversity to win laurels at the highest level," said the spirited shuttler. "I hope to come back from Jakarta next month with a gold," said a confident Manasi.

Saksansin leads the field

More than 25 Asian Tour winners will tee off

TAKE MASTERS

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

Over 25 past Asian Tour winners will tee off at the TAKE Solutions Masters golf tournament at the KGA course here on Thursday.

The event, co-sanctioned by the Asian Tour and the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), offers a total prize money of $350,000 – an increase of $50,000 from last year.

Thailand's defending champion Poom Saksansin leads the field, while the Indian interest is represented by the likes of six-time Asian Tour winner S.S.P. Chowrasia, Chirag Kumar and local lads S. Chikkarangappa and Khalin Joshi.

Seasoned veterans Jeev Milkha Singh and Jyoti Randhawa will also be seen in action.

Khalin's home course

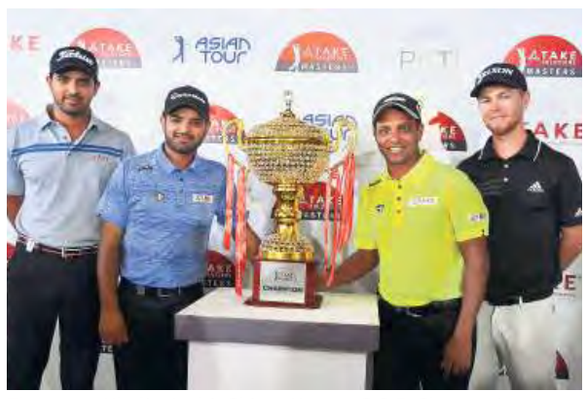
Khalin Joshi, who finished second here last year behind Saksansin, is keen to notch up his first victory on the Asian Tour. His familiarity with KGA, his home course, will help. "When I played in this tournament last year, I was fighting to keep my Asian Tour card. This time, I've already secured my card, which will allow me to play freely.

"Yes, there is a lot of pressure to do well on my home course, but it is exciting," Khalin said at a press conference here on Wednesday.

For Chirag, this tournament could mark a turnaround in fortunes. The Delhi golfer has made the cut only three times in his last 13 Asian Tour appearances.

"I injured my wrist last year, and it has been downhill from there. But I've been working hard, and my game feels good. So I think I can turn the corner here," Chirag said.

The KGA course will favour golfers who drive well and find the fairways frequently. Low scores are the norm here, though the competitors will have to fight the rain and strong winds that have affected the city recently.



The prize: Khalin Joshi, Chirag Kumar, S.S.P. Chowrasia and Scott Vincent at a media interaction on Wednesday. ▪ SUDHAKARA JAIN

- The event offers a total prize money of $350,000
- Jeev Milkha Singh and Jyoti Randhawa will be in action

Vincent's leap of faith paying off

This year, he has earned six top-10 finishes

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

Scott Vincent took a leap of faith when he joined the Asian Tour, via the Qualifying School, in 2016. There aren't many golfers from Zimbabwe who ply their trade in this part of the world, but Vincent has made the best of it.

In his debut season, Vincent won the 'Asian Tour Rookie of the Year' award, and followed this up with four top-10 finishes in 2017. This year, he has earned six top-10 finishes, including taking second-place in the Bank BRI Indonesia Open last month.

His journey began in Harare (Zimbabwe), when his dad – a social golfer – introduced him to the sport. He rose to become one of the best amateurs in the world, under the tutelage of Roger Baylis – the head professional at Chapman Golf Club, and national coach for Zimbabwe Golf Association (ZGA). "The junior programme in Zimbabwe was really good. My coach Roger poured hours and hours into my game," Vincent said.

His talent brought him a golf scholarship in Virginia Tech (USA).

After graduating, Vincent competed on the Sunshine Tour (professional golf tour based in Southern Africa) and on the Web.com Tour (developmental tour for PGA Tour), before making his move to Asia.

Jayaram and Rituparna advance

VIETNAM OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HO CHI MINH CITY

India's Ajay Jayaram and Rituparna Das progressed to the pre-quarterfinals of the $75,000 Vietnam Open Tour Super 100 badminton tournament here on Wednesday.

Jayaram defeated Indonesia's Gatjra Piliang Fiqihila Cupu 21-7, 21-16 to set up a clash with top-seeded Brazilian Ygor Coelho, who staved off a spirited challenge from India's Siril Verma 22-20, 17-21, 21-17.

In women's singles, Rituparna downed Japan's Shiori Saito 21-13, 21-14. The Indians who lost included Rasika Raje, Mugdha Agrey, Vaidehi Choudhari and mixed doubles pairs of Shivam Sharma and Poorvisha S. Ram and Dhruv Kapila and Meghana Jakkampudi.

Subah Ka Tara fancied for feature event

BENGALURU: Subah Ka Tara, who maintains form, may score an encore in the N.M. Lingaraju Memorial Trophy (1,200m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Thursday (August 9).

False rails (width about 2m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 COMMANCHE PLATE (1,400m), rated 00 to 20, 2.30 p.m.: 1. Revan Star (8) Shobhan 60, 2. Lassilo (6) Antony 59, 3. Happy Hours (7) Trevor 58, 4. Hunters Moon (2) Dhanu Singh 57.5, 5. Premier Premises (3) Vivek 57.5, 6. Music Divine (5) T.S. Jodha 57, 7. Securing Smiles (1) M. Naveen 55.5, 8. Arabian Promise (9) Kiran Rai 54.5 and 9. Track Striker (4) Samson 54.5.

1. LASSILO, 2. REVAN STAR, 3. HAPPY HOURS

2 STAR CONTENDER PLATE (1,600m), rated 15 to 35, 3.00: 1. Black Whizz (9) T.S. Jodha 60, 2. Fiorenzo (3) A. Qureshi 57, 3. Industrialist (10) Dhanu Singh 56, 4. Zala Princess (1) M. Shahid 56, 5. Declarationoflove (11) Trevor 55.5, 6. Jersey Storm (8) Antony 55, 7. Spirit Bruce (7) Sai Kiran 55, 8. Tiger Returns (5) Vinod Shinde 55, 9. Radiant Treasure (4) Yash 54, 10. Shaktiman (12) Arshad 54, 11. Proudprince (6) Sai Vamshi 53.5 and 12. All Said And Done (2) Adarsh 51.

1. SPIRIT BRUCE, 2. BLACK WHIZZ, 3. JERSEY STORM

3 ANGEL DUST TROPHY (Div. I), (1,100m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over, 3-30: 1. Bora Bora (1) Trevor 60, 2. Siyouni (3) Yash 59.5, 3. Grecian Light (6) S. Shareef 58, 4. Emidio (8) Dhanu Singh 57.5, 5. Iron Man (9) Md. Asif Khan 57, 6. Helenka (2) Antony 56.5, 7. Export Quality (7) Chetan G 55.5, 8. Astrild (5) A. Ramu 55 and 9. Tarini (4) Arshad 55.

1. HELENKA, 2. BORA BORA, 3. SIYOUNI

4 N.M. LINGARAJU MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), rated 45 to 65, 4-00: 1. Subah Ka Tara (6) Srinath 60, 2. Zafran (8) Zervan 60, 3. Akha Teej (5) Arshad 57, 4. Perfect Legacy (1) N. Ganesh 57, 5. African Emperor (10) T.S. Jodha 56, 6. Fair Warning (9) Trevor 55.5, 7. Madame Sultana (7) Irvan 54.5, 8. Dream Star (11) Vaibhav 54, 9. Alberetta (2) S. Shareef 53.5, 10. Tamara (3) Md. Asif Khan 53.5 and 11. Idealist (4) Dhanu Singh 51.

1. SUBAH KA TARA, 2. ZAFRAN, 3. FAIR WARNING

5 B. PUTTANNA MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 30 to 50, 4-30: 1. Dagobert (9) S. Qureshi 60, 2. Florencia (5) S. Imran 59.5, 3. Auric Force (10) Dhanu Singh 58.5, 4. Racing Fire (12) R. Manish 57.5, 5. Gandharva (3) Samson 57, 6. Teodoro (4) Zervan 57, 7. Triggar (6) Arshad 56, 8. Charmaine (8) Trevor 55, 9. Goodwill Warrior (7) Md. Asif Khan 55, 10. Areca Angel (2) Yash 54.5, 11. Morrane Gabriella (11) P. Surya 54 and 12. Lightning Attack (1) Darshan 53.

1. TEODORO, 2. AURIC FORCE, 3. CHARMAINE

6 ANGEL DUST TROPHY (Div. II), (1,100m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over, 5-00: 1. Beond Reach (6) M. Naveen 60, 2. Panama (1) Antony 60, 3. Princeazeem (10) T.S. Jodha 60, 4. San Bernardino (8) Darshan 59.5, 5. Mahanati (3) Nazerul 59, 6. Paradiso (2) Arshad 59, 7. Pink Smile (5) Ramesh K 59, 8. Alvarez (9) Samson 58.5, 9. Mischief Flyer (7) Vinod Shinde 58.5 and 10. Bazinga (4) Kiran Rai 56.5.

1. SAN BERNARDINO, 2. PANAMA, 3. MAHANATI

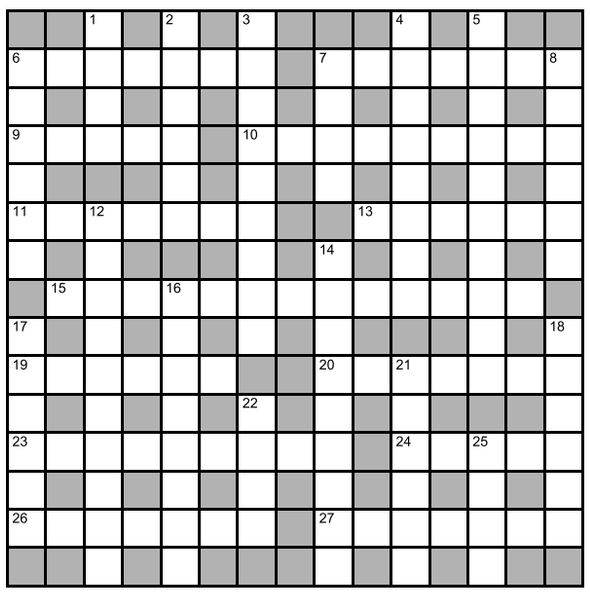
7 TUDOR JET PLATE (1,200m), rated 15 to 35, 4-y-o & over, 5-30: 1. Campari Girl (2) Anjar 60, 2. Daisy Duke (11) A. Qureshi 60, 3. Raw Gold (6) Chetan G 59.5, 4. High Admiral (3) Vinod Shinde 58, 5. Firing Line (5) P. Mani 58, 6. Youresohandsome (4) Nazerul 58, 7. Gumption (1) Darshan 57.5, 8. Land Of Liberty (8) Kiran Rai 57, 9. First Step (9) R. Manish 56.5, 10. Bellerophon (7) Yash 56, 11. Perfect Horizon (12) R. Pradeep 52.5 and 12. Vasuki (10) B. Harish 51.5.

1. DAISY DUKE, 2. FIRST STEP, 3. BELLEROPHON

Day's best: **TEODORO**
Double: **HELENKA-SUBAH KA TARA**
Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12391

(set by Aspartame)



ACROSS

6 A girl takes man to country (7)

7 6 hearts individual pulls out is deciphered by seers (7)

9 Stir-fry made, sold outside railway – that's never seen before (5)

10 Neither graduate managed to sleep (9)

11 No getting in between police officer and comrade – will get snubbed (7)

13 Left in war? This becomes an option (6)

15 Car, at midnight, departed supernaturally to roam around junction without human intervention (13)

19 The in-fighting is caused primarily by racial matters (6)

20 Moving closer to drunkard from behind to protect minor (7)

23 Important to have sex appeal and at heart, being very simple (9)

24 On it, atma can be taken to South Korean capital (5)

26 Princess's act is reportedly absent (7)

27 Warning to move right to the end of extremely erotic scene (7)

DOWN

1 Body parts said to be adjacent (4)

2 West Indian tern migrates around Christmas (6)

3 The duke entered vehicle beside a large church (9)

4 Dark area gets the Spanish lights primarily for protection (8)

5 Same as trigonal (10)

6 A beautiful female is in a relationship (6)

7 Accountants to buy big cars (4)

8 Ship loads little model chocolates (6)

12 Most arrogant leader gets ousted by knight whose antics are second to none (10)

14 Breaking into soldiers' toilets to empty out contents of medicines (9)

16 Master is eccentric (8)

17 Negotiated complicated Private Equity deal (6)

18 A woman picked up gold on dry land (6)

21 Informed study on intelligence agency gets pulled up (6)

22 Cant run? (4)

25 Starts designing one turquoise salwar with speckles (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12390

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Devotion sans humility

Besides being a great and valiant hero, Ravana is hailed for his unparalleled devotion to and love for Siva. Invariably, Gnanasambandar mentions Ravana in his hymns, perhaps to revere the tradition of Bhagavata bhakti; but there is also a powerful message of universal value in this allusion to Ravana, pointed out Dr. Sudha Seshaiyan in a discourse.

Though one may hail from a great family, if one does adharma, he has to meet the consequences. One can receive Siva's grace and pardon if sincere remorse is felt for one's misdeeds, for the Lord protects the offenders by punishing them and leading them in the right path. Finally devotion without humility leads to downfall. All these are applicable in Ravana's case. Ravana's lineage can be traced to Brahma. He is the grandson of Pulastya Rishi, who is a Manasika putra of Brahma and a sage of great repute. Paulastya, Dasagriva, Dasamuka and Lankesa are some of his other names. The name Dasagriva, one with ten heads, is symbolic of his big-headedness or ego. Ravana's ego and pride turn out to be disproportionate because of the combined effect of all his jnanendriyas and karmendriyas. The lesson is that the jivatma has to be careful of the senses and keep them under control. He gains the name Ravana, which has come to stay, during one of his exploits in Kailasa. It is held that Ravana's love for Siva makes him possessive to have the Lord all to himself in Lanka. He tries to uproot Mount Kailasa. To chastise and also grace this devotee, Siva presses Kailasa with His big toe and the twenty arms of Ravana get crushed. When he is unable to bear the weight, he cries in pain, and tears flow from his twenty eyes. The wailing sound causes fear and misery to others in the three worlds. Ravana means one who cries and causes fear and misery in others.

https://t.me/pdf4exams https://www.estore33.com/ https://t.me/TheHindu_Zone_official

IN BRIEF



Nicholas Bett killed in car crash

NAIROBI

Kenyan athlete Nicholas Bett, the 2015 world 400m hurdles champion, was killed on Wednesday in a car crash near his home in western Kenya, police said. "The accident occurred when his vehicle hit a bump and rolled and he died on the spot," Nandi county police commander Patrick Wambani said from the scene of the crash. AFP

Indian team for Deaf World Championship

NEW DELHI

A 10-member Indian team with Deaflympics bronze medallists Prithvi Sekhar and Jafreen Shaik will compete in the World Deaf tennis championship to be held in Antalya, Turkey, from Septemmber 22 to 29. The government will bear the expenses of the team, including air fare.

The team: Prithvi Sekhar, D. Hamsabhavi Prasanth, Dhanjay Dubey, Sai Chandan Lingapuram, Joshua Andrew Anhurai, Jafreen Shaik, Bhavani Kedia, Parul Gupta, Kirti Lata. Coach: Chandra Bhushan Prasad.

Krutika replaces injured Fatima

BENGALURU

Gujarat cricketer Krutika Chaudhari has replaced the injured Fatima Jaffer in India Green squad for the upcoming women's T20 Challenger Trophy, the BCCI stated on Wednesday. Mumbai player Fatima suffered a knee injury and will undergo rehabilitation. The tournament will be held from August 14 to 21 at Alur grounds here.

Sky's Moscon handed five-week ban

PARIS

Italy's Gianni Moscon, who was thrown off this year's Tour de France after an altercation with another rider, was banned for five weeks by world cycling's governing body on Wednesday. The Team Sky cyclist was involved in a fracas with Fortuneo's Elie Gesbert during the 15th stage of last month's race. AFP



Wolves snap up Spanish winger Traore

LONDON

Spanish winger Adama Traore became Premier League team Wolverhampton Wanderers's fifth signing of the close season on Wednesday after joining from second-tier Middlesbrough. The 22-year-old, capped by Spain at various age groups up to the u-21 level, signed a five-year contract for a reported fee of £18 million. AFP

The sport has a future in India, says World Rugby CEO

India is among the five countries that's likely to witness a big growth of the game

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The silver-gilt Webb Ellis Cup that's been presented to the winner of the Rugby World Cup and has been won by New Zealand three times, Australia and South Africa twice each and England, once, was unveiled at the Bombay Gymkhana on Wednesday.

India is one of the 18 countries among 120 Rugby Union countries that has been chosen by World Rugby to take the Webb Ellis Cup on a two-year tour.

The glittering cup unveiled in New Delhi and Mumbai will have its last India-stop at Bhubaneswar.

The World Rugby has identified India among the five countries – the other four being USA, China, Brazil and Germany – that's likely to witness a big growth of the game in the future. "India has a big following for the game. India, China and USA together constitute 33 per cent of the 800 million followers of the game globally. We see a market for Rugby in India,'' said Brett Gosper, Chief Executive, World Rugby and Managing Director of Rugby World Cup, before the cup was unveiled for the media.

Former India captain and presently, President, Asia Rugby, Aga Hussain said Japan, the first Asian country to host a Rugby World Cup in September 2019, will do a fantastic job of the competition.

India has about 80,000 registered Rugby players and according to former India captain Nasser Hussain and General Manager, Indian Rugby Union, the game is spread across 24 States.



Making strides: Indian rugby player Rahul Bose, right, with World Rugby CEO Brett Gosper as they unveil the Webb Ellis Cup 2019 trophy. PTI

Nitin Kumar comes back from the brink

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
JAKARTA

Asian junior champion Nitin Kumar Sinha survived three matchpoints before beating Sho Shimabukuro of Japan 3-6, 7-6(8), 7-5 in the pre-quarterfinals of the $25,000 ITF men's Futures tennis tournament here on Wednesday.

The 19-year-old Nitin saved the matchpoints at 3-6 in the second set tie-break and then converted the third setpoint to force the decider. Nitin was also down 1-3 in the third set but fought his way back by converting both breakpoints that he forced in the set.

Nitin had nine aces and six double faults in the match that lasted two hours and 47 minutes.

He converted three of six breakpoints in the match in which he won 120 points, the same as his opponent who converted four of 11 breakpoints.

The results: $150,000 Challenger, Jinan, China: First round: Miliaan Niesten (Ned) & Sasi Kumar Mukund bt Nikola Milojevic (Srb) & Hiroki Moriya (Jpn) 6-1, 6-3.

$25,000 ITF men, Jakarta: Second round: Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Sho Shimabukuro (Jpn) 3-6, 7-6(8), 7-5; Daniel Nolan (Aus) bt Mohit Mayur 6-2, 6-2; Michael Look (Aus) bt Aryan Goveas 2-6, 7-5, 6-2; Karunuday Singh bt Matthew Romios (Aus) 6-7(5), 6-1 6-4; Niki Poonacha bt Aaron Schmid (Sui) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. **Doubles: First round:** Congsup Congcar (Tha) & Connor Farren (US) bt Courtney John Lock (Zim) & Aryan Goveas 6-3, 5-7, [10-3]; S.D. Prajwal Dev & Mohit Mayur bt Charles Roberts (Tha) & Armando Soemarno (Ina) 4-6, 6-3, [10-5]; Francis Casey Alcantra (Phi) & Kaito Uesugi (Jpn) bt Kunal Anand & Karunuday Singh 7-5, 4-6, [10-8].

$15,000 ITF men, Sintra, Portugal: First round: Terence Das bt Pablo Vivero Gonzalez (Esp) 6-3, 6-2; Julien Eon (Fra) bt Adil Kalyanpur 4-6, 6-4, 7-5. **Doubles: First round:** Francisco Cabral (Por) & Alexandre Tsuchiya (Bra) bt Gilad Tamar (Issr) & Rishabdev Raman 6-1, 6-2.

$25,000 ITF women, Nonthaburi: Second round: Wang Xiyu (Chn) bt Karman Kaur Thandi 7-6(4), 7-6(8); Y. Pranjala bt Hua-Chen Lee (Tpe) 6-3, 6-1. **Doubles: Quarterfinals:** Rutuja Bhosale & Pranjala bt Genevieve Lorbergs & Kaylah Mcphee (Aus) 6-0, 7-5.

Gritty Jitin shocks Krishan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Jitin Kumar Chetry recovered from the brink of defeat to beat top seed Krishan Hooda 1-6, 7-6(7), 6-3 in the under-18 boys' quarterfinals of the AITA Championship series junior tennis tournament at the CLTA Complex on Wednesday.

In the girls' section, Poorvi Bhatt, Tanisha Pranjal and Suryanshi Tanwwar made the semifinals of both the under-18 and 16 events.

The results (quarterfinals):

Boys: Under-18: Jitin Kumar Chetry bt Krishan Hooda 1-6, 7-6(7), 6-3; Ajay Singh bt Yuvraj Singh Kooka 6-3, 6-1; Uddayvir Singh bt Akash Deb 6-1, 7-6(5); Lakshya Gupta bt Sukhpreet Singh Jhoje 6-1, 6-1.

Under-16: Gurstat Singh makkar bt Jitin Kumar Chetry 6-0, 6-3; Rohan Mittal bt Sarabjot Singh 7-5, 7-5; Smar Bir Singh Sidhu bt Kartik Parhar 7-6(5), 6-7(9), 7-6(1); Ajay Singh bt Sarthak Gandhi 6-1, 6-0.

Girls: Under-18: Poorvi Bhatt bt Mrunal Sagar Kurlekar 6-3, 6-4; Tanisha Pranjal bt Alisha Menon 6-3, 6-4; Suryanshi Tanwar bt Sana Khanna 6-1, 7-6(4); Harleen Kaur bt Japjot Kaur 6-1 (concd.).

Under-16: Poorvi Bhat bt Radhika Vasudeva 6-0, 6-2; Tanisha Pranjal bt Lavanyaa Sreekrishnan 6-2, 6-2; Suryansshi Tanwar bt Aditi Singh 6-1, 6-0; Paandeep Kaur bt Charanya Sreekrishnan 6-2, 6-1.

Pogba keen to leave United: Reports

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

France World Cup star Paul Pogba is determined to end his fractious relationship with Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho and move to Barcelona, according to British media reports on Wednesday.

The 25-year-old – who scored in the 4-2 World Cup final win over Croatia – has agreed terms with Barcelona for a deal worth $115 million over five years, according to the *Daily Mail*.

The reported agreement would see him earn almost double what he earns at United.

The Sun claims the former Juventus star – who joined United for a then world-record fee of €89 million in 2016 – has demanded the Premier League side increase his wages from €180,000 to €380,000 a week so he is paid almost on a par with Chilean star Alexis Sanchez, otherwise he will leave.

Reluctant

United, though, would be most reluctant to sell him, with the *Daily Mail* reporting it has already rejected a bid by Barcelona of €44.5 million plus Colombian central defender Yerry Mina and Portuguese midfielder Andre Gomes.

Mourinho has expressed his frustration over the club's transfer policy, and Pogba's departure would leave little time for executive chairman Ed Woodward to find a suitable replacement with the Premier League transfer window due to close on Thursday.

The club has had to deny the claim that Pogba sent a text message to Woodward demanding he be allowed to leave.

The Frenchman is keen to move to Barcelona – the Spanish transfer window does not shut till the end of the month – to play with Argentina superstar Lionel Messi, while his close friend and former Juventus teammate Arturo Vidal also recently moved to the Catalan giant.

India u-16 maintains winning run

ANI
NEW DELHI

The Indian under-16 national football team maintained its winning streak, defeating Yemen 3-0 in the five-nation WAFF u-16 football championship at Amman.

After central defender Harpreet Singh headed in the first goal in the 37th minute, two goals in two minutes immediately after resumption took the issue beyond Yemen's reach.

Ridge Demello headed in the second goal in the 47th minute, Rohit Danu made it 3-0 a minute later.

Head coach Bibiano Fernandes lauded the boys for their fantastic display.

"We are extremely proud of them. They came up with a superlative performance and executed it to perfection.

"The tournament has helped us gauge where we stand and we go back much richer in experience," Fernandes said.

India u-16 finished with three wins and a 1-2 loss against Japan. The team defeated Jordan 4-0 and then accounted for defending Asian champion Iraq in the previous match by a solitary goal.

Aryan Club stuns Sporting

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Aryan Club scored the first notable upset of the ongoing season when it downed former champion Mohammedan Sporting by a solitary goal in the Premier Division-A of the Calcutta Football League at Vidyasagar Stadium, Barasat, on Wednesday.

Ejiogu Chinedu Emmanuel found the target in the 37th minute to seal full points for Aryan Club.

The match also saw an interesting father-son duel on the sidelines with father Raghu Nandi, who is the technical director of Mohammedan sporting, losing against son Rajdip Nandi, the coach of Aryan Club.

The result:

Aryan Club 1 (Ejiogu Chinedu Emmanuel 37) bt Mohammedan Sporting 0.

Force India secures future with rescue deal

Effectively ends Mallya's 10-year reign

FORMULA ONE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

The future of Force India Formula One team was secured after its administrator accepted a bid backed by a consortium of investors, effectively ending Vijay Mallya's 10-year-old reign.

The team was put into administration ahead of the Hungarian Grand Prix last month following the legal action taken by its Mexican driver Sergio Perez.

According to a statement issued on behalf of administrator Geoff Rowley, all 405 jobs at Force India will be saved following a deal with the team management, joint administrators and consortium of investors led by Canadian billionaire Lawrence Stroll, who happens to be the father of Williams driver Lance Stroll.

Commenting on the deal, Force India COO Otmar Szafnauer, said: "This outcome secures the future of the Force India team in Formula 1 and will allow our team of racers to compete to our full potential.

"I am delighted that we have the support of a consortium of investors who believe in us as a team and who see the considerable business potential that Force India has within F-1 now and in the future."

Szafnauer also acknowledged Mallya's contribution in the success of the team.

"At Force India, our expertise and commitment has meant that we have always punched above our weight and this new investment ensures that we have a bright future ahead of us.

"I also would like to thank Vijay, Sahara Group and Mol Family for all of their support and taking the team as far as their circumstances would allow," added Szafnauer.

Mallya and Sahara had a 42.5% stake each in Force India while Mol Family owned 15%.

https://t.me/pdf4exams https://www.estore33.com/ https://t.me/TheHindu_Zone_official

IN BRIEF



'No meaningful child support from Brad Pitt'

LOS ANGELES

Angelina Jolie Pitt says she wants her divorce from Brad Pitt finalised before the end of the year. A court filing on Tuesday contends that Pitt "has paid no meaningful child support" since the couple's separation. It says he has failed to live up to their informal financial arrangements. AP



Ruby Rose cast as lesbian superhero Batwoman

NEW YORK

Ruby Rose is making history with her latest role as Batwoman, the first openly gay superhero to headline a TV series on the CW network. A stand-alone series about Batwoman, real name Kate Kane, is in development for the 2019-20 TV season. Kane is described as a highly-trained street fighter with a passion for social justice. AP



China bans release of *Christopher Robin*

BEIJING

Chinese censors have banned the release of *Christopher Robin*, a film adaptation of A.A. Milnes beloved story about "Winnie the Pooh". Winnie the Pooh, the cartoon bear, had become a light-hearted way for people across China to mock President Xi Jinping, the *Guardian* reported. IANS

Hot pizza delivered in the trenches

Ukrainian veterans bring the treat, paid for by donations, to cheer up soldiers on the frontline

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
VODYANE

There's no knock on the door, just the tantalising smell of melted cheese, ham and tomato sauce reaching the noses of Ukrainian soldiers.

The pizza delivery man has arrived.

As the war goes on in Ukraine's separatist east, some veterans of the conflict are risking their lives by going back to the frontline to bring pizza to those still in the trenches.

"Eat it up quickly, while it's hot and they're not shooting," says the bullet-proof-vested Oleksiy Kachko, opening a box of pizza in front of a group of surprised soldiers.



Slice of goodness: Aleksey Kachko handing out pizza to Ukrainian servicemen at the frontline. ▪ AFP

"This is for us?" the soldiers ask in amazement, smiling.

"The enemies are less than 80 metres from here. I reckon they can smell our pizza and their mouths are watering," Mr. Kachko says.

Mr. Kachko, 23, previously fought in the Azov volunteer battalion and his partner in the deliveries, Bogdan Chaban, is also a 23-year-old former volunteer fighter. Now they manage a pizzeria called Pizza Veterano in Mariupol, the only major city still under Kiev rule in the eastern regions controlled by the pro-Russia separatists.

Win-win effort

Opened in May, the pizza joint employs mostly veterans. One of the first things they did was to start delivering pizza to soldiers on the frontline, which is about 20 km from Mariupol.

Mr. Kachko and Mr. Chaban opened a franchise of the successful Pizza Veterano network launched in Kiev by another former soldier several years ago. "It's not just about earning money, it is employing veterans who find it very hard to get jobs," Mr. Kachko says, while the pizzeria helps them with "adaptation to peaceful life".

Every week Mr. Kachko and Mr. Chaban return to the frontline with pizzas paid for with donations made online and in the pizzeria.

For security reasons they have to agree the schedule and route of their visits with the military command.

It's not the food that really matters, says Vadym Sukharevskiy, the battalion commander. "When a soldier is stuck under constant fire and short of sleep and he sees a guy coming over with pizza, he realises he's not alone, that there are many people behind him, praying for him."

China's piglet stamps trigger online debate

Family planning rules to be relaxed?

REUTERS
BEIJING

A new "pig family" postal stamp has stoked debate about whether China may further loosen its family planning policy next year as couples delay parenthood and the world's most populous nation greys.

China Post unveiled the design of a stamp due for release in 2019 – the Year of Pig. The design features a family of two smiling pigs and their three cheerful piglets.

Many Chinese took the design as a sign that the government is seeking to promote a bigger family size, according to posts on social media. China allowed urban couples to have two children in 2016, replacing a decades-long one-child policy in place since 1979.



China's Year of the Pig stamp. ▪ REUTERS

The policy change was preceded by a stamp design with a zodiac theme four months earlier that portrayed a monkey family with two baby monkeys.

Grace, unruffled



Winging it: Swans being shifted in boats after they were caught at Hamburg's inner city lake Alster. Due to hot weather, the swans were collected from waterways in the city and taken to quarters where they usually spend the winter. ▪ REUTERS

Iconic Ford Mustang hits exclusive 10-million mark

Carmaker hopes nostalgia will help it increase market share

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
CHICAGO

The Ford Mustang – an iconic American brand and a symbol of cool – reached a major milestone on Wednesday as the 10 millionth vehicle rolled off an assembly line at a Detroit-area plant.

The car celebrated in American song and film, and recognised the world over as an iconic American cultural export, will get a big party at Ford's Michigan headquarters. It's a turning point for the carmaker, which is banking on the Mustang's wide appeal to help it grow global market share.

To celebrate the Mustang milestone, Ford is appealing to the sense of nostalgia for what is seen as the original "freedom vehicle" that exemplified Americans' love of the open road. After all, the car was named after a horse that roams free in the American West.



Retro cool: A 2019 GT Mustang, the 10 millionth Mustang built by Ford. ▪ AP

"I can think of no other American car that captures the love affair with the automobile that Americans have had... like the Mustang," automotive historian John Heitmann of the University of Dayton said.

"It is as American as one can have an American product," he added.