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THE HINDU

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Set up panel to study conditions of children who live in prisons: SC
page 7



ISRO to celebrate Sarabhai centenary, launch TV channel
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Somnath Chatterjee suffers heart attack, condition critical
page 11

Broad and Anderson hand India an embarrassing innings defeat
page 15



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NEARBY



'Quash suspension of telecom services rules'

NEW DELHI

Congress Rajya Sabha MP Husain Dalwai has moved a statutory motion to quash the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services Rules, 2017, which allow for temporary shutdown of Internet services in case of "public emergency or public safety".

DELHI METRO ▸ PAGE 1

'Rising drug abuse among women in Punjab'

CHANDIGARH

The problem of drug abuse in Punjab over the years has largely been focused on men, but experts and studies point out that the number of women addicted to drugs is rising "alarmingly" in the State.

NEWS ▸ PAGE 11

Farmers' agitation in Bhangar ends

KOLKATA

The farmers' agitation in the Bhangar area in South 24 Parganas district virtually ended on Saturday with the main leadership's decision to enter into an agreement with the West Bengal government.

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EDGE ▸ 4 PAGES
DELHI METRO ▸ 6 PAGES

Centre comes to Kerala's aid

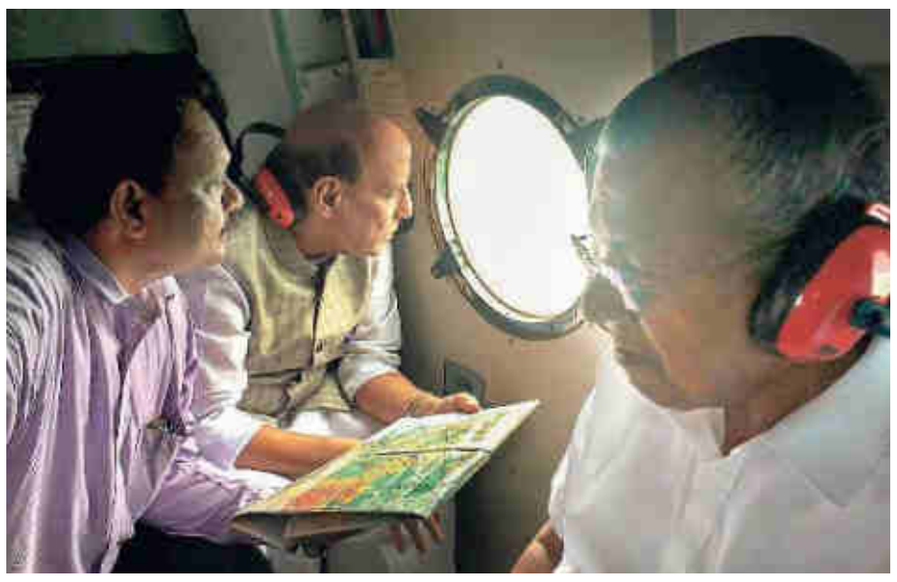
Rajnath announces ₹100 crore as immediate relief, terms situation serious

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI/THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday conducted an aerial survey of flood-ravaged Kerala and announced an immediate relief of ₹100 crore as the State braced for another spell of heavy rain after a fresh low pressure area developed in the Bay of Bengal.

State authorities said the death toll in the recent monsoon rain rose to 38 and more than 1,00,000 people had been shifted to 1,026 relief camps.

The Union Minister's announcement of aid came as the first response to the State's plea for ₹1,220 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund. The Centre had earlier sanctioned ₹80 crore and another ₹18.24 crore assistance to the State.



Taking stock: Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan during an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas in Kerala on Sunday. ▪ PTI

'Unprecedented floods'

Mr. Singh called the flood situation serious and unprecedented in the history of the State. He was accompanied by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Union Minister of State for Tourism K.J. Alphons and senior government officials.

Later, Mr. Singh told the media that the Centre was convinced about the losses Kerala had suffered. According to him, it was the worst floods the State had experienced since 1924. The tourism and agriculture sectors had suffered badly. Large tracts of paddy and cash crops and banana plantations were damaged. The infrastructure sector, including roads and buildings, were damaged and power lines had snapped, he said.

The rain-related calamities, he said, had rendered hundreds homeless and around 1,00,000 people had to be sheltered in relief camps.

Offering all support, Mr. Singh said the government would consider the demands for additional relief assistance after a detailed evaluation by an inter-ministerial team. A high-level team, headed by him, would evaluate the report of the inter-ministerial team. More men from the National Disaster Response Force would be deployed in Kerala, if required, he added.

RED ALERT AS STORM LOOMS ▸ PAGE 5

Ahead of 'Khalistan rally', India announces Guru fete

Move is seen as counter to the demonstration in London

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Hours ahead of the pro-Khalistan rally in London, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj announced on Sunday that all Indian diplomatic missions would celebrate the 550th birth anniversary of the founder of Sikh faith Guru Nanak.

The move is seen as a counter to the rally, organised by a U.S.-based group.

Last month, India issued a démarche over the 'Khalistani rally,' intended to drum up support for a non-binding referendum on a Sikh homeland in 2020.

Right to gather

The British government, however, said people had a right to gather and express their views, provided they did so within the law.



London show: Participants gather for the pro-Khalistan rally, in London on Sunday. ▪ VIDYA RAM

The pro-Khalistan rally, and a counter-rally to support India, took place in Trafalgar Square on Sunday, amid tight security. The Khalistan rally was organised by the Sikhs for Justice and supporters from outfits across the U.K. participated in it. Around 200 people attended the counter-rally held on the other side of the Square.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10
RALLIES IN LONDON ▸ PAGE 12

Mystery over death of 2 Patna home inmates

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

A woman (21) and a girl (17), both inmates of Aasra, a government-funded short-stay home here, have died under mysterious circumstances.

They were taken to the Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH) on Friday night with complaints of vomiting, diarrhoea, and high fever, but the hospital authorities declared them "brought dead."

Earlier on Friday, four inmates of the home at Nepali Tola of Chandra Vihar colony under the Rajiv Nagar police station had tried to run away but when the local people raised an alarm they were caught and brought back.

The Social Welfare Department had also conducted a surprise check at the home on Friday and had found several irregularities there.

It had also recommended that the home be shifted from the area.

On Friday night the two inmates reportedly fell ill and were taken to the PMCH. "When they were brought to the hospital they were already dead", Rajiv Ranjan, superintendent of PMCH said. But the police were informed about the deaths on Sunday.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Sir Vidia bids adieu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul, the Trinidad-born Indian-origin author and Nobel laureate known for his critical commentary on colonialism, religion and politics, died aged 85 on Saturday.

"He was a giant in all that he achieved and he died surrounded by those he loved, having lived a life full of wonderful creativity and endeavour," his wife Lady Nadira Naipaul said.

Naipaul was born on August 17, 1932, in Trinidad into an Indian Hindu family.

DISPLACEMENT ▸ PAGE 12
COMPLICATED MAN ▸ EDITORIAL

Address AIIMS manpower shortage, says panel

245 vacancies in the faculty in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Despite efforts by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, to fill up vacancies in the past one year, resulting in the recruitment of 300 additional faculty members and 1,000 nurses, a parliamentary panel has asked the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to formulate a personnel policy, covering optimum staff ratio.

The direction comes even as the Health Ministry has announced the opening and setting up of new AIIMS in several parts of the country.

2,025 vacancies

The committee on subordinate legislation on rules/regulations framed under the AIIMS Act, 1956, expressed disappointment over the submission of the government that there were 245 vacancies in the faculty and 2,025 vacancies in the non-faculty staff strength of AIIMS, New Delhi. There are 1,303 vacancies in the faculty of six new AIIMS established in the country.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Use Aadhaar freely, without fear: UIDAI

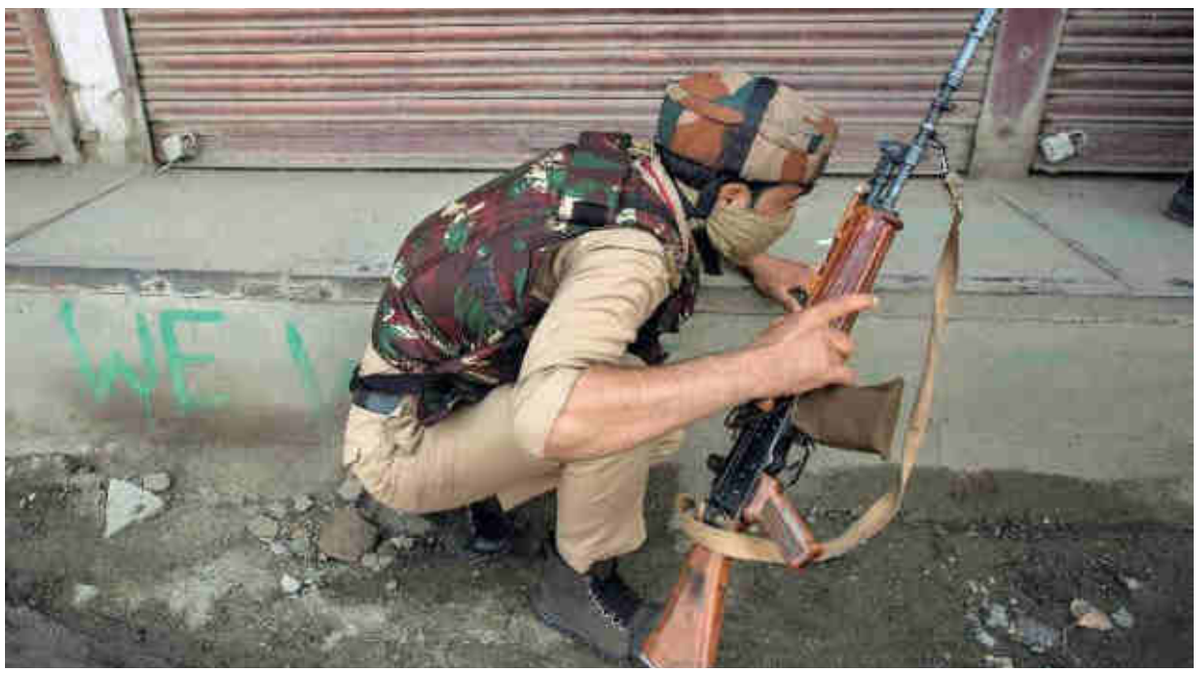
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

After Telecom Regulatory Authority of India chief's Aadhaar dare ignited a debate on the security of the 12-digit number, theUnique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is planning a user outreach to sensitise people to the dos and don'ts of sharing their biometric identifier.

"It is necessary to inform people that they should use Aadhaar freely, without fear, and a detailed FAQ (frequently asked questions) will be issued," Ajay Bhushan Pandey, the CEO of UIDAI, said.

DETAILS ON ▸ PAGE 11

Ready to fight



A policeman takes cover near the site of a gunfight in Srinagar on Sunday. One member of the Special Operations Group was killed and four, including three CRPF men, were injured in the fight with militants at Batamaloo. ▪ NISSAR AHMAD (REPORT ON PAGE 10)

How a cricket buddy brought 'junoon' to Imran party

Salman Ahmad hopes Khan's tenure as Prime Minister will lead to better ties with India

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Cricket brought musician Salman Ahmad and Imran Khan, now Pakistan's Prime Minister-designate, together more than 35 years ago, when Mr. Ahmad was picked by Mr. Khan to join the national team, along with players like Wasim Akram and Rameez Raja, on its historic first tour of Bangladesh in 1985.



Going long back: Imran Khan, left, at the wedding of former team mate Salman Ahmad. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Like older brother'

"Ever since the 1980s, IK [Imran Khan] has been like an older brother, mentor and guide. We have shared a common *junoon* (passion) for cricket and music, and a strong desire for social welfare and justice," Mr. Ahmad says.

The two then moved away to other fields, with Mr. Ahmad abandoning his cricket and medical careers to set up the famous rock band Junoon, while Mr. Khan went on to join politics.

But they remained close. As he prepares to attend Mr. Khan's swearing-in on Saturday, Mr. Ahmad says he had had no regrets about not having joined the electoral fray with his friend and former captain, whose party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI), won the largest number of seats in the election held on July 25. The party anthem, *Naya Pakistan*, and several campaign songs were performed by Mr. Ahmad, who emphasises that he has not joined the PTI.

"My music is my politics," he told *The Hindu* in an interview conducted over e-mail and telephone from Islamabad. "Junoon's music and message has always been very socially conscious. In 1996, I wrote a song called *Ehtesaab* [accountability], which has become an anti-corruption anthem in Pakistan."

In 1998, the band's musical tour of India coincided with the Pokhran blasts, and when he returned to Pakistan, Mr. Ahmad was handed a notice by the Ministry of Culture, which accused him of being a traitor.

Nevertheless, Junoon brought out a new album, *Azaadi*, which had equally politically charged lyrics.

Mr. Ahmad's journey will come full circle this week, as he and his group will perform as a band again, to mark the 20th anniversary of the song *Azaadi*, on Pakistan's Independence Day on August 14.

Mr. Ahmad says he hopes Mr. Khan's tenure will see better India-Pakistan ties, and particularly that artists and sportsmen can resume exchanges that have been stopped for several years. "We need to allow our respective artists to communicate, collaborate and travel regularly," he said, adding that he hopes to travel with a new album, *Dosti*, to India soon.

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AAP CM candidate to contest from Bhopal

Bhopal (South-West) Assembly constituency is considered a BJP stronghold

CORRESPONDENT
BHOPAL

The Aam Aadmi Party's chief ministerial candidate in Madhya Pradesh will contest from the Bhopal (South-West) constituency in the coming Assembly elections in the State. The seat is considered a BJP stronghold.

"Alok Agrawal will contest from Bhopal Dakshin-Paschim Assembly seat," party's Rajya Sabha member Sushil Gupta announced in Bhopal on Sunday. Mr. Gupta was in the State capital to attend the party's State Lok Sabha unit meeting.

The former Narmada Bachao Andolan activist, Mr. Agrawal is an IIT-Kanpur alumnus who joined the AAP ahead of the 2014 elections. He was fielded as an AAP candidate for the Khandwa Lok Sabha seat, where he got 16,800 votes.

Since 2008, the seat is represented by Madhya Pradesh Minister Uma Shankar Gupta. In the State, the Opposition Congress is in a direct face-off with the ruling BJP government, led by Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

The party has decided to contest all the 230 Assembly seats in the State, he added.

The AAP contested the Gujarat, Karnataka and Goa Assembly elections, but was unable to open its account. However, the party emerged as the second strongest party in Punjab's 117-member Assembly.

The party won 20 Assembly seats by contesting in 112 seats, under a tacit understanding with the ruling Congress in the State.

Appointment of forest research institute's V-C challenged

In contravention of UGC rules; incumbent did not have 'requisite qualification': plea

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

The appointment of a bureaucrat as the Vice-Chancellor of the country's premier Forest Research Institute Deemed to be University (FRIDU) in Dehradun has been challenged before the Delhi High Court by a plea claiming that it was in contravention of the University Grants Commission (UGC) rules.

IFS officer

The petition has sought to quash the appointment of Dr. Savita, an Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer, as the Vice-Chancellor of FRIDU, claiming that she did not have the 'requisite qualification'.

The plea filed by Hilaluddin, a former scientist with the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), has claimed that the

> **Appointment illegally regularised through a resolution on March 30, 2016, by the FRIDU Board of Management which included Dr. Savita**
>
> HILALUDDIN
> Petitioner

UGC's minimum academic qualification for the post of Vice-Chancellor is a Ph.D degree and the candidate should have spent a minimum of 10 years as professor in a university.

'Not a scientist'

It added that Dr. Savita, also the Director of FRI, Dehradun, has never held the post of a professor at any university nor was she posted as scientist in any academic institution.

During the hearing on the petition last month, the counsel appearing for the FRIDU Chancellor and V-C told the High Court that "there is no post of Vice-Chancellor of the Forest Research Institute, a deemed university and only the Director, Forest Research Institute is designated as a Vice-Chancellor".

Next hearing on Oct. 16

The High Court has asked the counsel to bring the documents which showed that there is no post of V-C before the next date of hearing on October 16.

Mr. Hilaluddin, in a petition filed through advocate Gyanant Kumar Singh, has claimed that the appointment of Dr. Savita as the Vice-Chancellor in violation of UGC regulations was "illegally regularised through a resolution on March 30, 2016, by the FRIDU Board of Management, which included Dr. Savita".

The petition claimed that the Board's resolution stood vitiated with the participation of Dr. Savita as Member Secretary in the meeting which was considering her case.

It further alleged that "prior permission of the UGC was not obtained by the authorities of FRIDU before diluting academic qualification of the Vice-Chancellor and altering structure of its Board of Management as mandated by the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be University) Regulations 2010".

The plea has sought direction for termination of appointment of Dr. Savita from the post of Vice-Chancellor of FRIDU and filling up the post in a time-bound manner in accordance with the UGC regulations.

Woman held for killing son over loan repayment

BAREILLY

A woman has been arrested for allegedly killing her younger son in December last year by conniving with his elder brother over not wanting to repay a loan taken from a grocery shop owner, the police said on Sunday. PTI

THE HINDU
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DELHI Timings

MONDAY, AUG. 13			
RISE	05:49	SET	19:03
RISE	07:41	SET	20:43
TUESDAY, AUG. 14			
RISE	05:50	SET	19:02
RISE	08:45	SET	21:23
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 15			
RISE	05:51	SET	19:01
RISE	09:48	SET	22:01

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

Delhi Palam Today
33°C Moderate rain is expected. The morning will be mildly warm. Sky will be mostly cloudy over the city.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
33°C Light rain is expected. Light winds are likely. The morning will be warm. The sky will remain cloudy over the city.

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BJP resorting to divisive politics in Haryana: Hooda

'Party made tall promises to farmers, soldiers; did not fulfil any'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Sunday hit out at the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party government in Haryana, accusing it of resorting to cheap politics, causing divisions in society.

"Unity and social harmony is our biggest strength and I appeal to all sections to defeat the divisive forces by staying united and maintain social harmony," the former CM said at a public meeting at the start of the fifth leg of his 'Jankranti Yatra' in Mahendragarh.

"The BJP made tall promises to farmers and soldiers before the elections. But after coming to power the BJP has not fulfilled any of the promises. Farmers were promised 50% profit for their crops but the BJP has betrayed their trust. The soldiers were promised One Rank One Pensions but they continue to agitate as they are not getting the same on the formula promised to them by the Congress government," said Mr. Hooda.

"The BJP government had promised the government employees to bring pay parity with their Punjab counterparts but like the other promises, this one too has been thrown in the dustbin. The result is that all work has come to grinding halt in the State," he said.



Bhupinder Singh Hooda ▪ FILE PHOTO

He added that the Congress would bring this pay parity after assuming power following the Assembly elections next year.

Flays INLD

Mr. Hooda also took a dig at the Indian National Lok Dal for their failure to bring any development in southern Haryana and challenged them to list even one development initiative during their six years of government from 1999 to 2004.

"INLD leaders criticise the Congress but never talk about their achievements because they have nothing to highlight. Instead of bringing any development to the region, they opposed the construction of the Hansi-Butana canal," he alleged.

Mr. Hooda added that both the BJP and the INLD were trying to mislead the people of the State. "The INLD did not vote against the BJP government in the no confidence motion moved by the Opposition in the Lok Sabha while they voted with the BJP in the recently concluded elections for the post of Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha," he said.

In Kurukshetra's Babain, senior Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala criticised the BJP government for not waiving farm loans despite the farmers distress.

"The BJP government imposed huge taxes on farmers, thereby increasing farm costs. Fertilizers, pesticides and farm implements earlier attracted zero per cent tax in most States but under the GST, the BJP government has imposed huge taxes," he said, addressing a 'Jan Chetna' rally. "The people have made up their mind to teach a befitting lesson to the BJP in the next polls," he said.

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Farmers' agitation in Bhangar ends

Agreement signed with Bengal govt.

STAFF REPORTER
KOLKATA

The farmers' agitation in the Bhangar area in South 24 Parganas district virtually ended on Saturday with the main leadership's decision to enter into an agreement with the West Bengal government.

The land agitation started about four years ago when the State government acquired 16 acres of farmland for the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) to set up a power distribution grid. Repeated assurance from the Chief Minister that no harm will come to the locals if the power grid comes up in the area failed to reduce the intensity of the agitation that has resulted in four deaths.

An agreement stating that no power grid but only a regional sub-station will come up in Bhangar and steps will be taken to withdraw cases against the agitators as per law was signed on Saturday between the agitation leadership and the State government.

However, a section of movement's leaders, mainly comprising rights activists, have accused the main leadership headed by Alik Chakraborty, a Polit Bureau member of the CPI(ML) Red Star, of adopting a "pro-government" position.

Accusing the top agitation leaders of "surrendering to the State government", Dibakar Bhattacharya, a State committee member of the CPI (ML) Liberation, pointed out that the agreement by the Land and Livelihood Protection Committee members does not mention the amount of compensation to be paid to the affected villagers.

Denying the allegations, Mr. Chakraborty told *The Hindu* that the "agitation started with a set of demands and when they were more or less met, the agreement was signed with the State government. There is no question of being pro or anti-government here." He also said the agreement had "satisfactorily" addressed the environmental issues regarding the power grid.

Justice Jhaveri takes oath as Odisha CJ

CORRESPONDENT
CUTTACK

Justice Kalpesh Satyendra Jhaveri was on Sunday sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court. Governor Ganeshi Lal administered the oath of office to the new Chief Justice at a brief ceremony held inside the High Court premises here on Sunday evening. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik was among those present at the ceremony.

YK A ND-NDE

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People participate in Nished rally against the Delhi incident. ▪ EMMANUAL YOGINI

Anti-quota group booked for sedition

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

The city police registered a case of sedition against unidentified persons in connection with the burning of a copy of the Constitution by anti-reservation activists during a protest in New Delhi earlier this week.

The Deccan police station registered an FIR under IPC Sections 124A (sedition), 153A (promoting disharmony or enmity between two groups), 295 (defiling any place of worship or an object with intent to insult the religion of any class), 298 (uttering words with deliberate intention of wounding the religious feelings of any person). The case was also filed under relevant sections of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

The Pune Police acted on a complaint filed by Satish Gaikwad of the Republican Party of India (Secular). Authorities said Mr. Gaikwad submitted a CD containing a clip of the incident in which members of an anti-reservation group are allegedly seen burning of a copy of the Constitution and raising slogans against Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and the SC/ST communities.

Govt. extends loan waiver scheme to individual farmers

Earlier, a farmer family was seen as a single unit, and waiver was on cumulative debt

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Still struggling to meet commitments made to the agricultural sector under the farm loan waiver scheme, the Maharashtra government has now decided to waive outstanding loans of individual eligible farmers. Till now, the State government has spent ₹14,000 crore on the scheme.

On Friday, the State government issued a Government Resolution (GR) on loan waivers to eligible farmers. The decision had been announced by the government the recently-concluded monsoon session of the State Legislature in Nagpur.

Prior to changing its definition of an eligible farmer, the government had considered a farmer family as a single unit and up to ₹1.50 lakh of agricultural debt was waived. Now, each individual with an outstanding agricultural loan will be covered in the scheme, and up to ₹1.5 lakh will be waived by the government. "Each individual's loan amount up to ₹1.50 lakh will be waived. The necessary instructions have been given to banks to prepare the list of potential beneficiaries," an official from the State Cooperation Department said.

Earlier, under the scheme, if a farmer had an outstanding loan amount of more than ₹1.5 lakh, the difference will have to be paid to the bank before he or she can avail of the State government waiver. The revised rule also states that farmers who have paid some money to the bank as per the earlier version of the scheme will be reimbursed if the cumulative outstanding loan amount is less than ₹1.5 lakh.



Bad loans: The State govt. is struggling to waive outstanding farm loans. ▪ FILE PHOTO

> **Each individual's loan amount up to ₹1.5 lakh will be waived... Banks will prepare the list of potential beneficiaries**
>
> SENIOR OFFICIAL
> Cooperation Dept.

The GR states: "For instance, as per earlier loan waiver scheme, if a family was having cumulative outstanding loan amount of ₹2 lakh, and to avail the benefits, ₹50,000 is already paid by the family, so the State would bear the burden of ₹1.5 lakh; as per revised norms, the ₹50,000 will have to be returned to the family because everyone in the family is entitled to loan waivers."

In March this year, the government said it has paid for bad farm loans worth ₹13,500 crore to banks, which benefited 35.32 lakh farmers. The government plans to cover at least 77 lakh farmers under the scheme.

Raj targets CM, Ajit Pawar at Water Cup event

Blames successive governments for poor irrigation situation in State

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

The third edition of the Paani Foundation's Satyameva Jayate Water Cup turned into a forum for political sabre-rattling, with Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray taking potshots at the erstwhile Congress-NCP government and the current dispensation. Mr. Thackeray targeted both governments over the State's irrigation woes.

Addressing the gathering at the ceremony, he said, "If actor Aamir Khan is doing the drought-proofing work and spreading awareness about it, then the question arises as to what governments were doing all the while since Maharashtra became a State in 1960. Where did all the irrigation money go?" said the MNS chief, during his address at the third edition of the Water Cup award ceremony.

The event, held at the Balewadi stadium, was attended by ruling and Opposition party leaders including Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, NCP's Ajit Pawar, State Congress chief Ashok Chavan and senior Congress leader Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil. Taking on Mr. Pawar, the MNS chief blamed successive governments for the situation. "However, this is not a podium for expressing political differences," he said.

In his address, Mr. Pawar, without naming Mr. Thackeray, said, "Some people are mere experts at talking. They neither want to do anything nor have the urge to strive for anything... All they do is to play to the galleries."

Mr. Fadnavis, responding directly to Mr. Thackeray's question, said, "It's not the fault of the people that Maharashtra is not yet drought-proof. We have indulged in factionalism and one-upmanship at regional and State levels."

AMBIS to increase detection, conviction rates: Fadnavis

Crime-fighting software will integrate databases across country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Once the Maharashtra government implements its ambitious Automated Multi-modal Biometric Identification System (AMBIS), crime detection and conviction rates in the State will go up, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Sunday.

He said the system is unique because it uses mobile live scanners, and a police patrol team can ascertain on the spot if a suspect has criminal antecedents. "Besides detecting crime through fingerprints at the crime scene, the system with the help of retinal scan, writers pad, palm and even bare sole scans can help trace criminals with 100% accuracy, and that too within a 0.46 milliseconds."

Prasad Joshi, Assistant Police Inspector (Cyber) and a biometrics expert, said in any crime, fingerprints as evidence is accorded very high value, and if available, it is accepted in a court of law. "Ever since the British introduced fingerprint identification in Kolkata in 1857, the Fingerprint Bureau has been under the jurisdiction of the State Criminal Investigation Department (CID). After the system crashed in 2012, the CID has been manually scanning and matching fingerprint data with available crime scene data, employing eight to 10 different characteristics. The task is huge as the CID has to go through 6.5 lakh fingerprints data stored with it."

Data sharing

He said fingerprint data can be shared by the State government with the National Crime Records Bureau, other State governments, investigation agencies, courts, crime experts and even with Interpol and foreign investigation agencies.



New options: Till now, crime-fighting agencies depended on fingerprints. ▪ FILE PHOTO

"The system will prove useful identifying bodies, especially in cases where the body is mutilated, does not have an arm or a hand is lost. In such cases, the bare sole scan can help identify the body," Mr. Joshi said.

According to him, another major irrefutable advantage of the system is that with retinal scans, it will be difficult for criminals to escape the law. He added that sometimes, fingerprints are not available if the criminals try to burn their hands, but they surely cannot burn their retina. "The retina of every individual is unique, and the blood vessels inside the retina too have unique arrangement," he said.

Another feature of the system is facial recognition of suspects in cases of mob violence and mob lynching, with the help of photographs and CCTV footage. Prof. Amol Deshmukh, a forensic and investigation expert and adviser to the State government, said the system will prove handy in cases of terrorist attacks in crowded places like railway stations, giving 50%-60% accuracy if 40% of the information available is accurate. In the case of a first-time criminal, the system will create complete biometric data which will be useful in future, Mr. Deshmukh said.

IGP (Cyber Crime) Brijesh Singh said the State has allocated up to ₹55 crore for AMBIS. Under the system, every police station in the State will have a scanner linked to the main server at the State Police headquarters.

Zero data loss

Mr. Singh said, "The hi-tech system ensures there will be no data loss, and has back-up facility at a very high level. Another feature of AMBIS is that it can be interfaced with any other operating system, whereby data can be accessed anywhere, anytime."

At present the world over, AMBIS is being used by Interpol and other European agencies. Mr. Singh added that it uses NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) file and process standards, which allow free interchange of data with Interpol and other international agencies, when required. He said though 22 States in the country have their own fingerprint data, nothing can match AMBIS.

Balsing Rajput, SP (Cyber), says the State government has taken the software, designing and technology from France and integrated it to suit our needs. He added that once the system comes into operation, the rate of conviction will rise substantially from the present 34%. "The system has been developed with the help of IIT professors, experts in the CID and local police. More importantly, the system has been developed taking feedback of local police station constables, who usually feed crime data online."

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IN BRIEF



10 gates of Telangana's Kadem dam opened

ADILABAD

As many as 10 gates of the Kadem dam in Nirmal district were lifted to a height of 10 ft. on Sunday to release 1.25 lakh cusecs of water into the Godavari, following heavy inflows. About 1 lakh cusecs of water is flowing into the reservoir, owing to heavy overnight rainfall.

Stock worth crores gutted in cotton godown

VIJAYAWADA

Fire broke out in the NCML Cotton Godown at Peddakakani in Guntur district early on Sunday. No casualties had been reported but stock worth crores of rupees was reportedly reduced to ashes.

Waves of grief engulf this Kanniyakumari fishing hamlet

Several men have been lost to mid-sea collisions in the Tamil Nadu district, but compensation eludes them

P. SUDHAKAR
TIRUNELVELI

The cab traverses a badly damaged 15-feet-wide road and enters the coastal hamlet of Mulloorthurai about 40 km from Nagercoil, district headquarters of the Kanniyakumari district. The tide roars just 50 metres away.

Further down, the loud crying of women from a small house submerges the sound of thudding waves.

When a ship rammed *Oceanic*, a mechanised fishing boat with a 14-member crew, off Munambam in Kerala in the early hours of August 7, this family lost two of its men – S. Sahayaraj, 46, who died on the spot of the accident, and J. Sahayaraj, 36, who went missing along with eight others from the nearby Ramanthurai village.

Maritime law requires a ship involved in a mid-sea collision to be detained immediately upon identification, and allowed to proceed, subject to conditions, only after depositing a significant sum of money, as directed by the court.

In the *Oceanic* case, a ship has been identified and detained at the Mangalore Port, but police have been unable to confirm the same vessel was involved in the mishap, although technology enables the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) to track vessels with accuracy.

Missing at sea

R. Yuganathan, 46, and A. Yakobu, 55, both from Ramanthurai, also died in the *Oceanic* incident. A. Edwin, 40, of Ramanthurai and Narain Sarkar, 33, of West Bengal were grievously injured, and are undergoing treatment at a hospital at Ernakulam. There has been no information on the nine missing men.

D. Jesu Balan and his brothers D. Rajesh and D. Dinesh are among the missing.



Lost in sorrow: Relatives and family members of J. Shalu of Ramanthurai in Kanniyakumari district. ▪ A. SHAIKMOHIDEEN

"The tragedy has virtually destroyed the family," says Joseph, Jesu Balan's uncle. Mr. Joseph's son Shalu is also missing.

Reverend Father Churchill, general secretary of the South Asian Fishermen Fraternity (SAFF), says, "In the past five years, more than 30 fishermen from the district have been killed or have gone missing in 15 similar mid-sea mishaps involving ships. This keeps happening because ships in the high seas are not properly monitored and the law is not enforced."

Four cases

The SAFF has taken four cases involving mid-sea collisions to court for compensation. Fr. Churchill adds that the district lost 164 fishermen to Cyclone Ockhi in December 2017.

He also cites three other recent mid-sea mishaps. In one of the incidents, a ship collided with a boat off the coast of Kanniyakumari on January 30, 2018.

Murugesan of Tharuvaikulam in the Thoothukudi district died in the incident, his fellow fisher Nixon suffered grievous injuries, and Nixon's brother Justin is still missing.

In another case, a ship damaged a fishnet off the Colachel coast in Kanniyakumari district, and although the fishermen took a photograph of the vessel and a complaint was lodged with the Coastal Security Group police, no action was taken.

In the third case of the recent past, a mechanised boat from the Chinnathurai village suffered extensive damage in a mid-sea collision with a ship off Kerala's Veppur coast in March.

"Though the ship involved in the accident was detained on the orders of the Directorate General of Shipping at Goa, it was allowed to go after 55 days without any action as the charges could not be proved," Fr. Churchill says.

Red alert as storm looms

Extreme heavy rain warning for Idukki, Wayanad as low pressure forms in Bay

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI/THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Emergency services in Kerala on Sunday remained on alert for heavy rains and flash floods, as weathermen maintained a sharp lookout for the development of a fresh low pressure area in the Bay of Bengal.

The State Disaster Management Authority has declared a red alert in Idukki and Wayanad districts up to August 14 in the light of the extremely heavy rain warning issued by the weather office.

Alappuzha, Kannur, Ernakulam, Palakkad, Malappuram and Kozhikode have been put on red alert till Monday.

One death was reported on Sunday in Palakkad, and five people are missing.



Pulling together: Soldiers clear the debris off a road in a flood affected area in Wayanad on Saturday. ▪ PTI

More than 100,000 people displaced by floods over the last four days have been shifted to 1,026 relief camps.

As many as 243 houses have been destroyed and 4,392 damaged in the heavy rains lashing the eastern parts of the State. Crops on 1,513 hectares have been damaged, causing an estimated loss of 10.66 crore.

The fourth shutter of the Idamalayar dam was opened on Sunday to stabilise the water level in the reservoir following intermittent heavy rains in the catchment areas. Wayanad continued to reel under floods as the Kabani river overflowed its banks, submerging vast tracts of land. The Kuttanad region also experienced heavy waterlogging due to the combined effect of tidal flooding and the discharge from the Kakki dam.

According to the mid-day weather report issued by the India Met Department on Sunday, a fresh low pressure area is very likely to form over northwest Bay of Bengal and neighbourhood during the next 24 hours under the influence of a lingering cyclonic circulation over north coastal Odisha. The weather office has warned of heavy to very heavy rainfall at one or two places in Kerala on Monday, followed by heavy rain on Tuesday.

Fishermen are advised not to venture into the Southwest and Central Arabian Sea.

Post MBA graduates in courts: CJI

STAFF REPORTER
HUBBALLI

Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra on Sunday suggested appointing graduates from specialised disciplines, other than law, in district courts to ensure speedy dispensation of justice.

Speaking after inaugurating a new court complex here, Justice Misra said MBA graduates could be appointed as court managers and they could operate as facilitators of cases and plan the hearing of different cases so that justice could be dispensed swiftly.

The High Court, in consultation with the district judiciary and the State government, needed to chalk out plans in this connection, he said.

CJI's advice reunites couple

Parents of four had filed a divorce petition in a Hubballi court

STAFF REPORTER
HUBBALLI

Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra's visit to Hubballi turned out to be a memorable occasion which will be cherished for long. Chief Justice Misra, who was here to inaugurate the new court complex, also officiated at a Special Lok Adalat that disposed of a divorce petition and reunited a couple to the delight of their children and others on Sunday.

The couple, Jagadish Shelagi and Parvati, who had filed a divorce petition, was presented before Chief Justice Misra with their four children.

Chief Justice Misra spoke to Mr. Jagadish and Ms. Parvati of family values. He told them about the demerits of divorce and its impact on their children's future. He said if the institution of family was weakened, it would have an adverse impact on society. He also advised them to give up the idea of separation and instead lead a quality life that would be a model for their children and the future generation.



CJI Dipak Misra distributing sweets to the family that was reunited at the special Lok Adalat in Hubballi. ▪ KIRAN BAKALE

The couple was convinced and withdrew the petition.

Later, Chief Justice Misra distributed sweets to the couple and their children.

NIA arrests two Hyderabadi youth for links with IS

Incriminating material recovered from them, say police

ABHINAY DESHPANDE
HYDERABAD

After questioning for almost a week, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday arrested two youths, including a teenager from Hyderabad, for their alleged conspiracy to carry out terrorist acts in the country.

The arrested persons were Mohammed Abdullah Basith, 24, from Hafeez Baba Nagar and Mohammed Abdul Qhadeer, 19, of Chandrayangutta here. Officials said that the accused were arrested to ascertain details of the ongoing conspiracy and also their role in furthering the agenda of Islamic State (IS) in Hyderabad.

On August 6, the NIA sleuths searched seven different places in the city for leads in Abu Dhabi terror module of Islamic State busted in 2016 and since then had questioned more than a dozen youths at their Begumpet office here. "Initial questioning has brought out the involvement of Basith, Qhadeer and other associates, who had pledged their allegiance to the proscribed terrorist organisation IS to carry out terror activities in the country," officials of the investigation agency said.

On January 28, 2016, the NIA, New Delhi registered a case against Sheikh Azhar ul Islam, Mohammed Farhan Shaikh and Adnan Hassan on the charge that the trio and their other unknown associates were members of IS and were involved in a conspiracy to identify, motivate, radicalise, recruit and train Indian Muslim youth on behalf of the proscribed outfit to carry out terror activities.

All the three were subsequently arrested by NIA at Delhi Airport after they were deported from the UAE on India's request. After completion of investigation, the NIA filed charge-sheet against the three on July 25, 2016.

During trial, Sheikh Azhar ul Islam and Mohammed Farhan Shaikh pleaded guilty and were sentenced to seven years of imprisonment, while trial against the accused Adnan Hassan is still going on.

The NIA officials believe that the duo from Hyderabad have been in touch Adnan Hassan. Further investigation was also continued against other accused persons, an official said.

Project paddy



A new field: College students participating in paddy transplantation on a field in Belma village near Konaje in Mangaluru on Sunday. ▪ H.S. MANJUNATH

Rahul to start campaign in Telangana from today

RAVI REDDY
HYDERABAD

AICC president Rahul Gandhi is all set to kickstart his party's poll campaign in Telangana on Monday, months ahead of the election notification, according to the elaborate programmes chalked out by the State Congress leadership.

About 14 months after Mr. Gandhi addressed a public meeting on June 1 last year in Sangareddy, his two-day visit to the city and parts of Ranga Reddy district is seen as a clear attempt to enthuse the partymen to get into the poll mode and carry the momentum till the election.

Going by the series of programmes finalised by the TPCC, Mr. Gandhi would interact with select self help group members, industrialists and students, besides addressing a public meeting in Serilingampally constituency.

The party, which suffered debacle in the twin cities and neighbouring Ranga Reddy district in the 2014 general election, now seems to be focussed on wooing the voters from Andhra/Rayalaseema regions of Andhra Pradesh settled in several parts of the State capital. Mr. Gandhi's segment-specific interaction is also a strategy to make inroads into these sections, which could influence the outcome of the next polls.

The party is banking heavily on the Serilingampally meeting which it feels would turn the tide in its favour.

Senior leaders admitted that the party paid a huge price for bifurcation of the State with even die-hard supporters from coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema regions residing here preferring to vote for other parties.

A defence against moving herds

Forest Dept.'s WhatsApp group goes a long way in reducing human deaths

R. KRISHNA KUMAR
MYSURU

Like many of us, Deputy Range Forest Officer K.M. Devaiah scans his WhatsApp messages every morning. And, they trigger him into instant action. Far from being 'good morning' messages, these are SOS from estate workers and owners in Ammathi range of Virajpet forest division in Kodagu district seeking his help to clear a wild herd of elephants from their terrain.

A routine act initiated among the Forest Department staff at the beat level, has become the first line of defence for people facing the brunt of conflict with elephants in the coffee plantations of Kodagu.

A WhatsApp group launched by Mr. Devaiah in 2016, with eight guards as members of the group, sharing information on elephant herds, has expanded and is now christened 'Rapid Response Team'.



Elephants in an estate in Kodagu. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Most popular interface

It has now become the most popular interface between the people and the department in tracking the movement of elephants in the estates around Ammathi.

"Ever since the WhatsApp group was launched, we have been on our toes following the herds wherever they are. Our very presence is an indication to the local community that the herds are not far off and they become more alert and cautious," said Mr. Devaiah.

With almost half a dozen alerts received daily, Mr. Devaiah and his team map the areas of elephant presence and this information is passed on to all stakeholders, who take precautionary measures to stay safe.

A senior forest official said it is a small initiative that has made a big difference at the ground level by minimising human deaths. Between 2011 and 2016 there were about 8 to 10 human deaths reported every year. But in 2017, the number of human deaths was down to one or two and there have been none so far in 2018, the official added.

However, the authorities admit that in the perception of the public, the larger issue – of the presence of elephants in plantations and estates and threat posed by them – remain, and this is only a temporary reprieve.

Family of 6 ostracised over land dispute in Telangana village

Community elders impose fine on villagers who talk to them

K.M. DAYASHANKAR
JAGTIAL

A land dispute between members of a community has allegedly led to ostracising of a six-member family at Telangana's Banda Lingapur village in Metpally mandal, around 50 km from Jagtial district headquarters.

The victim, Kandari Venkat Reddy, belonging to Gudeti Kapu community, said the dispute was over his 1.32 acres. Though he owns the land, the dispute began over its borders with Baddam Kotesh and Sama Venkatnarsaiah.

Despite the matter being in court, the village elders belonging to Godeti Kapu Sangham organised a panchayat and instructed him to hand over the land to the two persons belonging to the same community or pay a fine of ₹1.5 lakh to the Sangham. When he refused to pay the fine, the village elders ostracised his family.



Kandari Venkat Reddy and his family members. ▪ K.M. DAYASHANKAR

Besides, the village elders started imposing fine ranging from ₹10,000 to ₹30,000 on those who speak to Mr. Venkat Reddy and his family. Sathyamma, Venkat Reddy's sister, was imposed a fine of ₹30,000 for speaking to the family.

Unable to bear the harsh treatment being meted out to them, Mr. Venkat Reddy and his family members have left the village.

His son Bhaveen and daughter Vasudeepika have stopped going to school.

Mr. Venkat Reddy has been running from pillar to post seeking justice, and has even approached Korutla legislator K. Vidyasagar Rao, TRS leaders, police officials and others, but in vain.

Metpally Inspector B. Srinivas Reddy said that in spite of being urged to lodge a complaint under the PCR Act against his community leaders, the victim was not doing so. "And only when he files a complaint, can we take action," he added.

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IN BRIEF



Kanwaria goes missing while returning home

MUZAFFARNAGAR

A kanwaria, who was returning to Meerut after collecting holy water from Haridwar, went missing after reaching Muzaffarnagar, the police said on Sunday. They claimed that Preminder, a resident of Meerut, had gone to Haridwar as part of a Kanwar yatra. On his way back, he went missing from Muzaffarnagar on August 6. PTI

Vaishno Devi pilgrim commits suicide

JAMMU

A 26-year-old pilgrim from Jharkhand on Sunday allegedly committed suicide by hanging at Katra, the base camp for the Vaishno Devi yatra, in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, the police said. Vivek Lohia, resident of Jodhadih More, Bokaro, was found hanging from the ceiling fan of his hotel room. PTI

Two couples commit suicide in Rajasthan

JAIPUR

Two couples allegedly committed suicide by jumping in front of trains in Rajasthan's Sikar and Jalore districts apparently over their failed love affair, the police said on Sunday. In Sikar district, Pawan Kumar Meena (27) and Seema Meena (20) jumped in front of a freight train. In Jalore district, Satish Mali (18) and Aarti Sain (18) jumped in front of the Gandhidham-Jodhpur Express train. PTI

Woman beaten to death over dowry in U.P.

MUZAFFARNAGAR

A woman was beaten to death allegedly by her in-laws and husband over dowry at a village in Shamli district, the police said on Sunday. The woman's husband and mother-in-law were arrested. Her body has been sent for post-mortem. PTI

Monsoon musings



Awaiting 'good days': Commuters wade through a railway underpass, where posters of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath are pasted, following heavy rain in Allahabad on Sunday. ▪ AP

Man nabbed for eve-teasing ends life at M.P. police station

Relatives allege that he was beaten to death in custody

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAR (M.P.),

A man who was brought to the Bagh police station in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district in connection with an eve-teasing case, allegedly hung himself in the bathroom there, the police said on Sunday.

The man's uncle, however, claimed that he died after being beaten by the police.

Teasing allegation

Superintendent of Police Virendra Singh said Sohaib Khan (22) was brought to the police station on Saturday evening after a girl alleged that she was teased by him.

"The man hung himself in the bathroom on Saturday evening. We took him to Barwani hospital where he died while undergoing treatment," the police officer said.

Cops suspended

He said Bagh police station in-charge Kamal Singh Pawar and constable Mangilal Goyal have been suspended after the incident.

Salim Pathan, the uncle of the deceased, however, alleged that it was a case of murder. He claimed that police personnel had beaten Sohaib to death and demanded that they be booked on the charge of murder.

People protest

Once the news of the incident spread, several people gathered at the police station and staged a protest.

The SP said an inquiry had been instituted into Khan's death and further action would depend on the findings of the inquiry team.

Don't remain mute spectator to street violence: Assam DGP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUWAHATI

People should not remain mute spectators to incidents of street violence but take proactive steps to stop it, Assam Director General of Police Kuladhar Saikia has said.

'Spills over to home'

The violence does not remain confined to the street but spills over to one's home if a person continues to remain a mute spectator, the DGP said in his address at the Fourth Yamin Hazarika Woman of Substance Award, conferred on noted wildlife activist Purnima Devi Barman here on Saturday.

If people become immune to violence and do nothing to stop it, it will trickle to one's home with children assuming that there was nothing wrong with the situation, he said.

In this context, the DGP also stressed on instilling the right values in the younger generation.

Nurturing a child

Stating that it takes an entire community to nurture and bring up a child, Mr. Saikia said, "There is a saying in China that it takes a village to bring up a child. Earlier it was followed in our society too but unfortunately in recent times it is not so, leading to many problems."

One more from Odisha dies in A.P. quarry blast

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

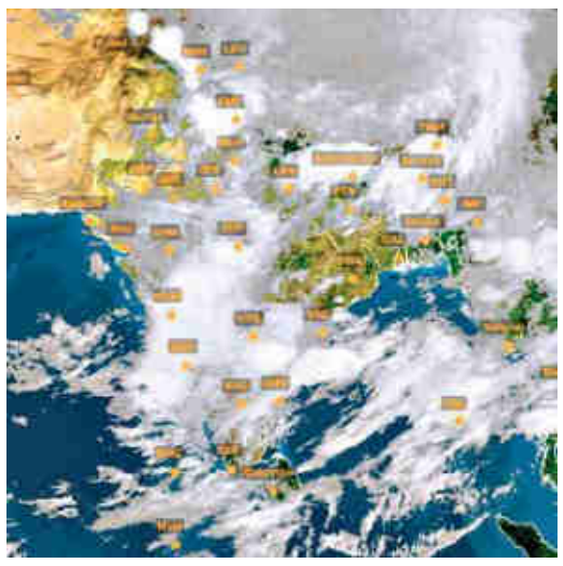
The death toll of Odia labourers killed in the blast at a stone quarry in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh on August 3 has risen to six.

All the six were migrant labourers from Rambha block of Ganjam district. According to sources, Ram Chandra Nahak (50) of Bandhatala Nuagaon died at King George Hospital in Visakhapatnam on Saturday night.

Four persons from Bandha Tali Nuagaon, who were working as migrant labourers, died in the stone quarry blast in Kurnool. The other deceased from the village were Duryodhan Nahak (42), Manoranjan Nahak (22) and Pandav Lenka (40). Bhima Nahak (30) of Radhagovindpur and Rajendra Nahak (40) of Diandein village had also died because of this blast.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rain likely at isolated places over Odisha, Uttrakhand, Telangana, coastal and interior Karnataka, Kerala, Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Konkan and central Maharashtra

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.1	33.0	26.4	Kozhikode	39.3	28.4	23.5
Ahmedabad	–	33.6	25.4	Kurnool	5.3	28.5	23.1
Aizwal	21	29.8	12.5	Lucknow	42	27.0	24.6
Allahabad	37.7	30.9	25.6	Madurai	–	35.7	25.7
Bengaluru	0.6	24.6	20.2	Mangaluru	15.6	26.2	22.3
Bhopal	–	30.3	23.8	Mumbai	14.4	29.4	25.2
Bhubaneswar	1.8	33.3	26.0	Mysuru	1	24.9	19.2
Chandigarh	34	31.2	25.1	New Delhi	0.7	32.5	26.8
Chennai	4.1	31.7	24.0	Patna	–	31.0	27.3
Coimbatore	–	29.7	22.4	Port Blair	16.4	29.3	23.3
Dehradun	26	28.5	24.2	Puducherry	0.2	33.6	24.0
Gangtok	1.9	22.4	18.0	Pune	3.3	26.0	21.6
Goa	17.9	27.6	24.0	Raipur	21.1	26.6	25.3
Guwahati	0.1	34.7	26.2	Ranchi	17	30.5	23.0
Hubballi	–	22.0	21.0	Shillong	9.4	24.3	18.4
Hyderabad	22.8	27.0	21.5	Shimla	6.6	21.4	16.7
Imphal	30.6	28.1	21.6	Srinagar	–	32.4	21.4
Jaipur	–	32.0	25.6	Trivandrum	4.2	29.0	24.2
Kochi	3	29.2	23.6	Tiruchi	–	34.8	27.4
Kohima	54.2	26.7	18.0	Vijayawada	7	29.8	24.4
Kolkata	1.5	34.8	27.9	Visakhapatnam	2	33.6	25.0

(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	30	.68	22	46	.....–	.....
Bengaluru	..9	.24	60	39	.105	.....
Chennai	..5	.38	46	46	.....–	.....
Delhi	28	.59	42	70	.128	.....
Hyderabad	..–	.82	44	..... –	...19	.....
Kolkata	..2	.29	57	30	...37	.....
Lucknow	10	.10	72	64	.....–	.....
Mumbai	15	.28	62	16	...44	.....
Pune	35	.13	49	31	...33	.....
Vishakhapatnam	..–	..–	.–	..... –	.....–	....–

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Patna, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 133 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Thane, Maharashtra recorded a healthy AQI score of 29

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

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

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

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

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

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IN BRIEF



'Air India grounded 19 aircraft for lack of spares'

MUMBAI

Debt-laden Air India has grounded as many as 19 aircraft, including nine Airbus A321, for want of spares, resulting in a significant loss of revenue besides flight cancellations, one of its pilots' bodies has alleged. "Almost 23% of the Air India fleet is grounded for lack of spares," the ICPA said. PTI

Hardcore Naxalite arrested in Jharkhand

DEHRI-ON-SONE

A hardcore Naxalite was arrested in the Palamu district of Jharkhand during a raid carried out on Saturday, the police said on Sunday. Tritiya Prastuti Committee area commander Ajay Rajbhar alias Surendra Rai was wanted in more than a dozen cases, they added. PTI

Woman gang-raped in J&K's Reasi

JAMMU

A 19-year-old woman was allegedly abducted and raped by two men, following which it is suspected that she committed suicide by jumping into the Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, a police official said on Sunday. The woman's father had lodged a missing complaint for his daughter on July 24, he said. PTI

Seven minor members of family killed in accident

AHMEDABAD

Seven members of a family, all minors, were killed when their car fell into a ditch in Gujarat's Panchmahal district. The incident happened around midnight on Saturday when one of the rear wheels of the car, carrying 10 people, came off at a sharp turn on the Halol-Bodeli Road, near Bhat village. Locals managed to rescue three people. PTI

23 children branded in Odisha village

BERHAMPUR

At least 23 children, aged between two and ten years, were branded with hot irons at a village in Papadahandi block of Odisha's Nabarangpur district on Saturday. Locals believe that the ritual, held on Chitau Amavasya, will keep children safe from stomach ailments and other diseases during the monsoon season.

BSP MLA claims threat to life from Dawood

LUCKNOW

Claiming threat to his life from underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, BSP MLA from Ballia Uma Shankar Singh has lodged a complaint with the police here on Sunday. The police are probing the case. PTI

3 held for stopping man from offering namaz

BAGHPAT

A Muslim man, who took part in Kanwar yatra, was allegedly stopped from offering namaz at a mosque here in Uttar Pradesh, prompting the police to arrest three persons in this regard. Babu Khan, a resident of Racharh village, alleged that he was also beaten up. PTI

ISRO set to launch its TV channel

Space agency to promote scientific temper in country

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will have an year-long Vikram Sarabhai centenary celebration starting in August 2019 to honour the visionary scientist and legendary founding father.

In a few months' time, it plans to roll out a dedicated ISRO TV channel, showcasing space applications, developments and science issues, targeting young viewers and people in remote areas in their language.



Loaded years ahead: ISRO Chairman Dr. K. Sivan gestures during the unveiling of a bust of Vikram Sarabhai, in Bengaluru on Sunday. ▪ PTI

Sky is the limit

ISRO has identified as many as 50 missions in the next three years. A lowdown of missions in the next nine months:

SEPTEMBER 2018: NovoSAR-S & SSTL-S1 (on PSLV-C42 rocket)

OCTOBER 2018: HYSIS + 30 small foreign satellites (PSLV-C43)

NOVEMBER 2018: GSAT-11 (launch by Arianespace), GSAT-7A (GSLV-F11)

DECEMBER 2018: EMISAT (PSLV-C44), GSAT-31 (by Arianespace)

JANUARY-MARCH 2019: Chandrayaan-2 (GSLV-Mk3)

JANUARY 2019: RISAT-2B (PSLV-C45)

MAY 2019: GSAT-30 (by Arianespace)

ALSO IN 2019:

Solar mission Aditya-L1 (PSLV)

Navigation satellite IRNSS-1J (PSLV)

Fixed or Geostationary Earth Imager GISAT (GSLV)

Series of events

Sarabhai, the architect of the Indian space programme, the first ISRO chief and renowned cosmic ray scientist, was born on August 12, 1919.

ISRO's tributes to Sarabhai start with naming the first Indian moon landing spacecraft of the Chandrayaan-2 mission 'Vikram'. The mission is planned for early 2019.

A chair each at Sarabhai's two alma maters, Cambridge University and Gujarat University, as also at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), would be set up, apart from giving awards, scholarships and fellowships in the country and abroad, ISRO Chairman K. Sivan said at a news conference on Sunday, the 99th birthday of the legend.

Sarabhai was only 28 when he sowed the seeds of a space agency around the late 1940s and 1950s. "We have planned an year-long centenary of the visionary architect of the space programme and our first Chairman, Dr. Sarabhai, during 2019-20. A series of activities will be organised nationally and internationally to commemorate the great international scientist," Dr. Sivan said.

The events are being taken up with an initial outlay of ₹50 crore.

Earlier, former Chairman of ISRO K. Kasturirangan unveiled a new bust of Sarabhai at the remodelled atrium of the ISRO headquarters, Antariksh Bhavan.

Dr. Sivan said 100 lectures by science luminaries would be held across the country and in association with the International Astronautical Federation, the global space networking body. Space clubs, knowledge centres and talk shows are also among the plans.

Public satellite launches

As it strengthens its public outreach, ISRO will shortly start allowing the public to watch satellite launches from its Sriharikota launch centre. "We are opening our space port to visitors just as NASA (the U.S.' National Aeronautical and Space Administration) does," Dr. Sivan said.

Small launcher will have a big impact

MADHUMATHI D.S.
BENGALURU

A small Indian satellite launch vehicle that was made in three days by a handful of people at about 10% of current costs looks set to revolutionise the global satellite launch industry.

The SSLV (small satellite launch vehicle) is being developed at a furious pace at ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre. The SSLV will be an on-demand rocket for small satellites weighing about 500-700 kg. It will be autonomous and highly intelligent, versatile and capable of adapting to different launch situations and requirements.

Its first test launch is planned for mid-2019. Once proven, the SSLV's production would be offered to industry through Antrix Corporation, according to ISRO Chairman K. Sivan.

The SSLV is said to be Dr. Sivan's dream concept for a quick-response space vehicle, and the project was initiated when he was the Director of the VSSC until January this year.

Children living in jails worries SC

Panel to be formed to study their plight

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A committee headed by a retired judge of the Supreme Court will be formed to tackle the issue of children living in prisons merely because their mothers are convicts.

A Bench of Justices Madan B. Lokur and Deepak Gupta has directed the government to form a panel headed by a former apex court judge, assisted by two or three Central government officers, to study the problems of mothers and children living inside prisons. Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal, for the Centre, agreed with the court's view.

The order came after Supreme Court's amicus curiae and advocate Gaurav Agarwal submitted a report showing that there were 18 jails exclusively for women. Plus there are separate areas for women in other jails, but there is a huge lack of space for women inmates. He said these jails were not modelled to house women inmates, especially those with minor children staying with them.

The committee would also look into what reforms could be introduced within the prison walls.

The court said the Centre should issue a notification on the setting up of the committee, highlighting the importance of prison reforms and the fundamental right to life and dignity of the prisoners.



The committee would look into what reforms could be introduced.

The court ordered training manuals to be circulated to the Directors-General of Prisons and Secretaries of Prison Department in each State government/ Union Territory and also to three training institutes, that is, Institute of Corrections Administration, Chandigarh; Regional Institute of Correctional Administration, Kolkata; and Academy of Prison and Correctional Administration, Vellore.

The court advised the Centre that criminals sentenced to imprisonment for six months or a year should be allocated social service duties rather than be sent to further choke the already overflowing prisons.

Golden tribute



Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in Mumbai illuminated with golden lights on Sunday to commemorate 70 years of independent India's first Olympic gold medal. On August 12, 1948, the Indian hockey team, led by Kishan Lal, an Indian Railways employee, won gold at the London Olympics. Another employee, Leslie Claudius, was also in the team. ▪ ARUNANGSU ROY CHOWDHURY

'Barricades hinder elephant movements'

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

The Wildlife Society of Orissa, an environmental pressure group, has alleged that barricades for plantation projects pose a threat to movement of wildlife, especially elephants, in the State.

"To protect these large plantations sites, artificial barricades like barbed wire fence and in some cases even stone rubble walls are being proposed which are a big impediment to free movement of wild animals," said Biswajit Mohanty, WSO secretary. "The barbed wire fence is a threat to wild animals as there is possibility of them getting stuck or seriously injured if they run into them while being chased by predators or hunters," he said.

Earlier the Forest Department used to set up green fences comprising bamboo and 'Amari' "We wonder why this cannot be done now to protect plantations instead of setting up barbed wires and stone rubble walls," he said.

6 sailors recall their historic voyage around the globe

All-women team of *INSV Tarini* felicitated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

"Most of the crew belong to the mountainous parts of the country and before we joined the Navy, we had not stepped on a boat or taken a boat into water," said Lt. Cdr. Vartika Joshi, skipper of the six member all-women team which circumnavigated the globe in the sailing vessel *INSV Tarini* early this year.

She was speaking at a felicitation ceremony on Sunday, jointly organised by Exim Bank and the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library here. "My biggest challenge as the captain of the team was to keep my emotional balance and keep the team intact to finish the journey," Lt. Cdr. Joshi said.

This is the first-ever Indian circumnavigation of the globe by an all-women crew.

Titled *Navika Sagar Parikrama*, the voyage began from Goa in the first week of September last year and culminated in May this year. During the 254-day-long voyage, the six officers covered about 22,000 nautical miles, visiting five countries – Australia, New Zealand, Falkland Islands (U.K.), South Africa and Mauritius. Apart from the Captain, Lt. Cdr. Joshi, the team included officers, Pratibha Jamwal, Aishwarya Boddapati, Patarapalli Swathi, Vijaya Devi and Payal Gupta.

During the voyage, the crew encountered rough seas on numerous occasions, in addition to extreme cold conditions.



Arduous journey: The crew encountered rough seas and extreme cold on numerous occasions . ▪ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Not without hitches

Apart from the challenges, Lt. Cdr. Joshi recalled the memorable sights that nature had on offer. In the second leg, they were sometimes stranded due to lack of winds but then, she said, "There was one night when we stepped out on the deck and saw green lights, the Southern Lights (Aurora Australis)."

However, the voyage wasn't without hitches. After Cape Town, the team was to head to India. But a steering compartment broke, forcing *INSV Tarini* to head to Port Loius in Mauritius.

"One morning, there was a loud notice in our steering compartment. The rudder had shifted from its position and broken the steering compartment. There is no redundancy for steering. So we had to repair it. We could not ask for help as it would be against the rules of circumnavigation," said Lt. Cdr. Jamwal. They headed to Mauritius, where a team from India repaired the boat. From there, the team of sailors headed to India.

During the eight-month voyage, the team also collected meteorological and ocean data.

Oppn. sees BJP leaders' role in groundnut scam

Gujarat police arrest 30, including four senior employees of co-op. institutions

MAHESH LANGA
AHMEDABAD

As Gujarat's groundnut purchase scam unfolds, it brings to the fore the alleged role of local BJP leaders in the Saurashtra region, where the police have already arrested 30 people, including four senior employees of cooperative institutions.

CM worried

Insiders in the government claim that Chief Minister Vijay Rupani appears worried over the fallout of the scam, involving alleged irregularities and financial wrongdoing in groundnut purchase worth ₹4,000 crore at Minimum Support Price (MSP) from farmers.

The irregularities include purchasing low quality groundnut, adulterating groundnut by mixing soil, mud and sand in sacks and setting warehouses on fire where the stock was stored. According to police officials, in each sack of 35 kg, more than 10 kg of mud and sand was mixed, while the same quantity of groundnut was removed and sold to millers in systemic fraud.

This is how the scam was carried out – a coterie comprising officials of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) and the Gujarat State Co-Operative Cotton Federation Limited (GUJCOT), along with local politicians and middlemen, allegedly stole and sold off the groundnut procured from farmers to oil millers.

Stocks adulterated

The stocks of groundnut were then adulterated with sand and pebbles to show that there was no loss of weight after groundnut was illegally sold off to oil mills in the region.



The groundnut stocks were first adulterated with sand and pebbles, then stored in warehouses and later set on fire.

Moreover, there have been four instances of fires in the past six months in warehouses where these stocks were kept. Investigators believe it to be an attempt to cover-up the adulteration. Around ₹50.45 crore worth of groundnut was destroyed in the fires.

The entire scam got exposed when 31,500 sacks, each containing 35 kg of groundnut, were found to contain huge quantity of pebbles and sand in a private warehouse, where the bags were stored after procurement.

These bags were kept by the NAFED in a private warehouse in Pedhla village of Rajkot district. Subsequently, the police have unearthed a racket to adulterate bags of groundnut in Junagadh district and other places.

Ex-Minister's role alleged

"There is direct involvement of the then Agriculture Minister Chiman Saparia because his Jamjodhpur Cooperative purchased groundnut, which was found mixed with mud and sand," said Leader of Opposition Paresh Dhanani, who has been campaigning in Saurashtra districts to expose the role of members associated with the ruling party.

Mr. Dhanani alleged that the former BJP Minister is being shielded by the State authorities and the police, who, he claimed, are arresting only small-time foot soldiers, leaving out senior politicians of the ruling party.

Among those arrested by the police include Magan Zalavadiya, warehousing manager of the Gujarat State Co-Operative Cotton Federation Limited (GUJCOT), for allegedly colluding with the members of a cooperative society of Junagadh in adulterating groundnut.

The investigators have found transactions worth several crores in Mr. Zalavadia's accounts when the procurement season was under way last year.

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

BCCI revamp

The Supreme Court has been pragmatic in tweaking the Lodha norms on running cricket

Two years after accepting the Justice R.M. Lodha Committee's recommendations, the Supreme Court has now extended some concessions to those aggrieved by the rigorous rules, which aimed to revamp cricket administration in the country. The reasoning given in the order of a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra suggests that it is a pragmatic modification rather than a significant climbdown. Justice Lodha, a former Chief Justice of India, however, feels that the court has now knocked out the foundation of his recommendations. The most significant change concerns the cooling-off period prescribed for office-bearers before they are allowed to contest for a subsequent term. Against the panel's view that every office-bearer of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, in the national board or in a State association, should have a three-year break after a three-year term, the court has now allowed two three-year terms – that is, a tenure of six years – before the mandatory break kicks in. The logic behind a cooling-off period is that office-bearers should not be given lengthy tenures that enable them to establish personal fiefdoms. The argument against it is that the experience and knowledge that an office-bearer gains over three years should not be frittered away, and a second term could help consolidate such learnings. The Bench has accepted the logic behind this and chosen to defer the cooling-off period until she completes two terms. Given that there is a nine-year aggregate limit as well as an age limit of 70 for any office-bearer, this change may not amount to any significant dilution of the core principle that there should be no perpetuation of power centres.

The Lodha panel had also favoured the 'one State, one vote' norm. This meant that an association representing a State alone should be recognised as a voting member of the BCCI, while associations representing a region within a State or entities that do not represent a territory should not have the same vote or status. This norm has been overruled. Gujarat and Maharashtra will have three votes each, as the associations of Baroda and Saurashtra in Gujarat, and Mumbai and Vidarbha in Maharashtra will have separate votes. In this, too, the court has accepted the reasoning that associations that had contributed significantly to Indian cricket need not be stripped of their full membership. It is now up to the administrators of the future to dispel Justice Lodha's apprehensions that this may lead to manipulation of votes. Whether the changes adopted by the court while finalising a new constitution for the BCCI differ in significant ways from what was proposed by the Lodha committee will be a matter of debate. However, judicial intervention has been immensely helpful in making cricket administration more efficient and professional, and addressing the credibility deficit of recent times.

A complicated man

V.S. Naipaul was among the greatest and most provocative writers of our times

Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul, who passed away at his London home on August 11 just six days short of his 86th birthday, will continue to challenge his readers and critics after death as he did in a writing career spanning more than five decades. It's the way with great writers, and Naipaul's claim to being among the greatest of them was settled long before he won the Nobel prize in 2001 – but he defied simple appraisals more than anybody else. To read Naipaul, to listen to him, to follow his life story, was to be perpetually nudged to reassess not just him, but also his subject matter and one's own view of the world. He once said, "All my work is really one. I am writing one big book." In that big book, he kept pushing back the chronological beginnings to understand how colonialism and migration shaped the modern world, and travelling ever wider to examine how post-colonial societies shape-shifted. It was an endeavour that started, and never veered too far, from his own biography. Born in Trinidad to parents of Indian origin, whose forebears had come to the West Indies as indentured labour, Naipaul was consumed by one ambition: to be a writer. It was, in large measure, acquired from his father, a journalist in Port of Spain struggling with the needs and bickering of a sprawling family and the lack of intellectual wherewithal to realise his dream. His father's story would inspire Naipaul's *A House for Mr Biswas* (1961), part of an early-life burst of brilliant fiction that began with *Miguel Street*, written when he was just out of Oxford University, and concluded in 1979 with *A Bend in the River*.

It was Naipaul's travels, however, that spanned the greater part of his writing life as he crafted his own way of seeing the world. He said in his Nobel lecture that as a child in Trinidad he felt himself "surrounded by areas of darkness", and these became his subjects. He travelled across continents, always with a theme in mind. He opened up lines of inquiry on identity and progress. His unsparing eye and spare, clear prose ensured that readers could not un-see what he saw, whether they were in agreement or not. He was criticised for depicting the developing world through an imperial filter; he was accused of Islamophobia in his travels in Muslim countries; he raised hackles with his India trilogy – *An Area of Darkness* (1964), *A Wounded Civilisation* (1977), *A Million Mutinies Now* (1990). But he presciently bookmarked the debates that coming events would spark. There was definitely low-grade bigotry at play, and misogyny, too. Naipaul's writings are too important to be overlooked on account of his intolerance; equally, his opinions cannot be excused while understanding his literary legacy.

Undoing a legacy of injustice

The Delhi High Court order striking down the Begging Act heeds the Constitution's transformative nature



GAUTAM BHATIA

In 1871, the colonial regime passed the notorious Criminal Tribes Act. This law was based upon the racist British belief that in India there were entire groups and communities that were criminal by birth, nature, and occupation. The Act unleashed a reign of terror, with its systems of surveillance, police reporting, the separation of families, detention camps, and forced labour. More then six decades after independent India repealed the Act, the "denotified tribes" continue to suffer from stigma and systemic disadvantage.

Instance of dehumanisation

The Act was one strand of a web of colonial laws that dehumanised communities and ways of life. The colonial administrators were particularly concerned about nomadic and itinerant communities, which by virtue of their movements and lifestyle were difficult to track, surveil, control, and tax. Through laws such as the Criminal Tribes Act, and other legal weapons such as vagrancy laws, the regime attempted to destroy these patterns of life, by using criminal laws to coerce communities into settlements and subjecting them to forced labour.

Independence brought with it many changes, but also much continuity. Despite the birth of a Constitution that promised liberty, equality, fraternity, and dignity to all, independent India's rulers continued to replicate colonial logic in framing laws for the new republic. They continued to treat individuals as subjects to be controlled and administered, rather than rights-bearing citizens. One of the most glaring examples of this is the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act. The Begging Act was passed in 1959 by the State of Bombay, and has continued to exist in as many as 20 States and two Union Territories. But last week, in a remarkable, landmark and long overdue judgment, the Delhi High Court struck it down as inconsistent with the Constitution.

The minutiae

What does the Begging Act do? It criminalises begging. It gives the police the power to arrest individuals without a warrant. It gives magistrates the power to commit them to a "certified institution" (read: a detention centre) for up to three years on the commission of the first "offence", and up to 10 years upon the second "offence". Before that, it strips them of their privacy and dignity by compelling them to allow themselves to be fingerprinted. The Act also authorises the detention of people "dependant" upon the "beggar" (read: family), and the separation of children over the age of five. Certified institutions have absolute power over detainees, including the power of punishment, and the power to exact "manual work". Disobeying the rules of the institution can land an individual in jail.

From its first word to the last, the Begging Act reflects a vicious logic. First, there is the definition of "begging". The Act defines it to include "soliciting or receiving alms, in a public place whether or not under any pretence such as singing, dancing, fortune telling, performing or offering any article for sale" and "having no visible means of subsistence and wandering about or remaining in any public place in such condition or manner, as makes it likely that the person doing so exist soliciting or receiving alms."



NAGARA GOPAL

Not only do these vague definitions give unchecked power to the police to harass citizens but they also reveal the prejudices underlying the law. The pointed reference to "singing, dancing, fortune telling, performing or offering any article for sale" makes it clear that the purpose of the Act is not simply to criminalise the act of begging (as commonly understood), but to target groups and communities whose itinerant patterns of life do not fit within mainstream stereotypes of the sedentary, law-abiding citizen with a settled job. And the reference to "no visible means of subsistence and wandering about" punishes people for the crime of looking poor – but it also reflects the lawmakers' desire to erase from public spaces people who look or act differently, and whose presence is perceived to be a bother and a nuisance. The Begging Act encodes into law the vicious prejudice that recently saw a prominent institution putting up spikes outside its Mumbai branch, to deter rough sleeping (they were removed after public outrage).

Once individuals fall within its clutches, the Begging Act effectively renders them invisible, by confining them to "certified institutions" after a truncated, summary judicial procedure. Like the poorhouses of 19th century Europe, it is based on a philosophy of first criminalising poverty, and then making it invisible by physically removing "offenders" from public spaces. Effectively, it places a cordon sanitaire around the poor and the "undesirable", keeping them from accessing spaces reserved for the use of "respectable" citizens. For these people, the constitutional guarantees of pluralism and inclusiveness do not exist.

The authorities have not hesitated to use the Begging Act as a weapon. Just before the 2010 Commonwealth Games, the Delhi government was engaged in combing operations to take beggars off the street, lest their presence embarrass the nation in the eyes of foreigners. Such operations are also a regular part of preparing for national events, such as Independence Day and Republic Day.

The judicial view

In its judgment delivered last week (*Harsh Mander v. Union of India* and *Karnika Sawhney v. Union of India*), a Bench of the Delhi High Court presided over by the Chief Justice, held that the Begging Act violated Article 14 (equality before law) and Article 21 (right to life and personal liberty) of the Constitution. In oral argument, the government conceded that it did not intend to criminalise "involuntary" begging. The High Court noted, however, that the definition of begging under the Act made no such distinction, and was therefore entirely arbitrary. More importantly, it also held that under Article 21 of the Constitution, it was the state's responsibility to provide the basic necessities for survival – food, clothing, shelter – to all its citizens. Poverty was the result of the state's inability – or unwillingness – to discharge these obligations. Therefore, the state could not turn around and criminalise the most visible and public manifestation of its own failures – and indeed, penalise people who were doing nothing more than communicating the reality of their situation to the public.

The Delhi High Court's judgment marks a crucial step forward in dismantling one of the most vicious and enduring legacies of colonialism. It is as significant and important as a judgment delivered by the same court more than nine years ago, when it decriminalised homosexuality (*Naz Foundation v. NCT of Delhi*). It is perhaps fitting that this judgment comes just a few days before the Supreme Court is likely to vindicate Naz Foundation after a 10-year legal battle. Both *Naz Found*ation and *Harsh Mander* recognise that our Constitution is a transformative Constitution, which seeks to undo legacies of injustice and lift up all individuals and communities to the plane of equal citizenship.

However, it remains only one step forward. Hopefully, other High Courts will follow suit and the constitutionality of vagrancy laws as well as other provisions in the Indian Penal Code that criminalise status will also be called into question. Nonetheless, it is important to remember one thing: a court can strike down an unconstitutional law, but it cannot reform society. Poverty – as the Chief Justice recognised in her judgment – is a systemic and structural problem. The Delhi High Court has done its job in striking down a vicious law that criminalised poverty. But it is the task of the Legislative Assembly and the government to replace the punitive structure of the (now defunct) Begging Act with a new set of measures that genuinely focusses on the rehabilitation and integration of the most vulnerable and marginalised members of our society.

Gautam Bhatia is a Delhi-based lawyer

The inexorable wheels of justice

India's legal history is replete with interesting cases of religious faith versus the law



N.L. RAJAH

The recent hearings in the Supreme Court relating to the Sabarimala case have turned the spotlight on the status of religious faith in a system governed by the rule of law and the Constitution. Any attention bestowed on such discussions by a person of faith and belief appears to leave the observer with an uneasy feeling that the Constitution is the prime suspect in these proceedings. It leaves him with the uncomfortable thought that from the time of the advent of the Constitution, no religious practice has been safe in a system of Constitution-controlled governance. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The clash between religious faith and the law is not of recent origin and it would be unfair to lay the blame at the doorstep of the Constitution. On the other contrary, it is an inevitable consequence of human evolution.

For centuries, religious faith and the principles it enunciated were the "law" that regulated society. But in a democracy with the Constitution as a guiding force, it is natural that the new order would challenge the old, and the litigative battles that we see in court today are the struggles between that old order and the new in the path of human evolution.

This is, however, not to say that the struggle between the law and religious faith did not exist before the Constitution came into existence. There were people who asserted the supremacy of the law over religious belief even in the pre-Constitution days. One such example was the "Tirupathi Mahant case" in the Madras High Court.

The Tirupathi case

Its facts are as follows. The East India Company, till the middle of the 19th century, oversaw the management and administration of the properties of the deity, Venkateswara or Srinivasa (or Balaji). After the Madras Regulation of 1817 was passed, the temple came under the Board of Revenue which supervised it through the District Collector. However, a movement in England (around 1840) disapproved a Christian company (the East India Company) administering Hindu and Muslim religious institutions. Consequently, the administrative reform management



GETTY IMAGES

of the temple was handed over to a mahant who, as the head of that mutt, had his headquarters in Tirupathi. He was also commonly referred to as the Mahant of Tirupathi.

When a flagstaff for the temple was erected, devotees donated large sums of money to acquire gold coins. These were to be placed in a vessel which was then buried at the base of the flagstaff. But soon a charge of criminal breach of trust and misappropriation was made against the mahant, with the allegation that the coins had been substituted with copper coins.

Such a charge could have been proved or disapproved only by digging up the base of the flagstaff. But religious faith proved to be an obstacle. The mahant pleaded that the flagstaff could not be dug up after it had been sanctified and installed and such a course would prove calamitous to the sentiments of worshippers.

Interestingly, the high priest, much against public sentiment, persevered and filed an application to have the vessel produced. The Magistrate ordered the application as prayed for. Against the order of the Magistrate, a revision petition was filed before the Madras High Court which in turn led to one of the most sensational cases in its history.

A legal battle ensued between two of the greatest legal luminaries. Subramania Iyer (who went on to become a judge of the Madras High Court) appeared for the high priest, while Eardley Norton, a formidable barrister, appeared for the mahant. The case was heard by the Bench of Chief Justice Arthur Collins and Justice Muthusami Iyer.

Upholding justice

P.S. Sivasamy Iyer, an advocate general and another High Court luminary, had a ringside view of the proceedings. In his memoirs he recalled: "He (Norton) invoked the religious sanctity of flagstaff and he appealed to the court to avoid a sacrilege, which could ring throughout the orthodox world, and he advanced every possible argument against digging up the site of the flagstaff. Norton went on for three hours. Sir Subramania Iyer's turn then came. He spoke for less than an hour, but the effect was electric. All of Norton's arguments were smashed completely within the span of less than half an hour. He wound up his magnificent speech, a speech of real eloquence, with that well-known saying, *Fiat justitia ruat caelum* which means as you know, 'Let justice be done even though the heavens fall'. It was one of the best speeches I have ever heard from him, compact, condensed, and full of vigour and eloquence, just like him."

The Bench upheld the Magistrate's order, (with the judgment delivered by Justice Muthuswami Iyer). It was a revelation. The vessel had no gold, just base metals.

Therefore, even before the adoption of the Constitution, our legal history is replete with interesting cases of religious faith versus the law. If for any reason the Sabarimala case were to induce heartburn among its ardent devotees, whatever be their sentiments, they must bear in mind that the Constitution cannot be blamed. For in the ultimate analysis, as Subramania Iyer appropriately observed, "*Fiat justitia ruat caelum*.

N.L. Rajah is Senior Advocate, Madras High Court

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.

Woeful neglect

One cannot fight nature – as the vigorous monsoon shows – but at the same time one cannot help ponder over the colossal waste of river water in the southern States.
Most of the southern States are in dispute with each other over the sharing of river water but seem to be doing precious little in ensuring water management ("At this time of plenty, a sense of déjà vu", August 12). Going by the data cited, perhaps this is the time the issue of the inter-linking of rivers must be thought of.

NAGARAJAMANI M.V.,
Hyderabad

■ As a country, we appear to lack foresight as far as water management is concerned. It is a shame that the rain bounty this year has been allowed to flow unchecked into the sea. A national policy should be drawn up on how to store a deluge of this volume.

A. JAINULABDEEN,
Chennai

Indian aid

There may be a steep decline in Indian aid to other SAARC nations but how can we ignore the financial might of China? Beijing is leveraging this huge advantage to boost its regional influence. The Hambantota port (Sri Lanka), a part of the Belt and Road Initiative in Pakistan, major investments in Nepal and other moves in the Maldives and the Indian Ocean Region cannot be missed. India needs to factor this in.

JELVIN JOSE,
Kunnappilly, Thrissur, Kerala

New eco-threat

The fascinating story of the "invasive bullfrog" in the Andaman Islands is a lesson about the consequences of tampering with nature ('Ground Zero' page, "The Andamans' new colonisers", August 11). These amphibians are a common sight in coastal Andhra Pradesh and are called '*Godhuru Kappa*' in Nellore and Prakasam districts. They thrive in the open wells and at quarry sites. They appear in armies during the monsoon. Their croaking fills people with dread as they also herald the arrival of large snakes. One hopes that the authorities can stop the bullfrogs from reaching the Nicobar islands.

PUSHPA DORAI,
Nurani, Kerala

Access eased

The government's move to remove restrictions on foreigners from visiting 29 inhabited islands in the Andamans may be a major step to boost tourism. But one wonders whether concerns to preserve the identity and culture of the tribals in these islands have been addressed adequately. Tribals have a right to their identity and it is the responsibility of the government, visitors and tourist guides to ensure that tribal values and privacy are respected at all costs. One hopes there are no repeats of a well-publicised case a few years ago, where the Jarawas were subject to unspeakable indignities by tourists.

CHITRAKANT SINGH,
Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Note to mothers

There is no quarrel with the fact that breastfeeding plays a crucial role in ensuring a healthy infanthood but the writer ('Being' page, "A note to mothers", August 12) fails to mention how most mothers in India barely focussed on this until recently. Many women have to share the burden of labour and barely get time to breastfeed their infants, leave alone exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months. It is only recently that even working women in the organised sector were granted paid maternity leave. The issue is about the nutrition that is available to many mothers because of poverty or entrenched superstitions. The focus has to be in creating an environment that facilitates breastfeeding, and not only the awareness about it.

SHIVPRIYA CHATURVEDI,
Bengaluru

Rafi's renditions

One more song can be added to the list of memorable (non-film) Mohammed Rafi numbers (Friday Review, "The legend lives on...", August 12). It is the recorded tribute to Mahatma Gandhi brought out by HMV just a few weeks after he was assassinated. Titled 'Bapu ki amar kahani', the song was in four parts in two 78-rpm records. Penned by brilliant song-writer Rajendra Krishan with music composed by the popular music director duo Husnlal Bhagatram, Rafi breathed life into in characteristic style.

SUKUMAR SHIDORE,
Pune

Hopes and a contingent

One hopes that India's move to send an 804-member contingent, which includes 572 athletes, to the Asian Games in Indonesia will fetch rich dividends. As most of the sportspersons are in athletics, canoe-kayaking, hockey and shooting, we look forward to a medal haul ('Sport' page, August 12).

YOJIT CHAUDHURY,
Rohtak, Haryana

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CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

The Editorial , "Endless war", on Saudi Arabia's strike in Yemen (Aug. 11, 2018), erroneously referred to an attack on a bus in *southern* Yemen. The attack was in *northern* Yemen.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

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The house that Naipaul built

It is not his travel writing that makes him one of the greatest writers of the 20th century, it is his fiction



TABISH KHAIR



AP

The joke, considered by some to be factual, runs like this. An Englishman, an admirer of the descriptive writing of the blind Ved Mehta, goes to a literary party in London in the 1980s because he has heard that Mehta would be there. The Englishman suspects that any writer who is so good at description cannot be truly blind. On arriving, he asks the hostess if Mr. Mehta is in the room. She says, yes, I think he is sitting on a sofa at the back of the hall. The Englishman navigates his way through the crowd and reaches the back. He spots an Asian sitting alone on a sofa. Sneaking up, the Englishman waves his hands in front of the Asian's face. No response. The Englishman pulls faces. No response. Just then the hostess passes by, so the Englishman turns to her and whispers, "You know, Mr. Mehta there is really blind". "But that is not Mr. Mehta," she replies. "That is V.S. Naipaul."

Like all good jokes, there are elements of truth in this one. V.S. Naipaul, or Sir Vidia as he was called after receiving his knighthood, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, was a man who did his own stuff, and seemed to be blind to those who pulled faces at him. This was misleading: he could see them and was often highly conscious of what they were doing. But he would not condescend to respond to them, except indirectly in his writing. This was an indication of his greatness as a writer.

Naipaul's hurt

Born on a small Caribbean island to a family of Indian origin, Naipaul made himself a major writer with a rare single-mindedness of purpose. He also brought this concentration, this ability to observe without seeming to be moved, to the best of his works. Of course, this ability was misleading. "Mad Ireland hurt you into poetry," W.H. Auden wrote of W.B. Yeats. The madness of the world was also essential to Naipaul's oeuvre. But while Yeats, the poet influenced by a Romantic sensibility, wore his hurt on his literary sleeve, Naipaul kept it deeply hidden. That is why Yeats's hurt translates into beautiful, lyrical poetry with little humour in it, and Naipaul's hurt translates into humorous, ironic or satirical fiction at its best.

Despite the fact that Western critics focus inordinately on it, it is not Naipaul's travel writing that makes him one of the greatest writers of the 20th century, it is his fiction. His travel writing comes across as hasty at times. I suspect the reason so many Western journalists do not see this is that, at a far higher level of accomplishment, Naipaul's travel books move through the non-West with something of the burden of received opinions and impatience that Western journalists often display in their incursions.

But even here, there is a difference. Naipaul's highly accomplished non-fiction was flawed not as much by what he saw critically and impatiently in other cultures, for these insights were often acute despite being politically unsavoury, but what he chose not to see in them – and in himself. This had to do with his hurt; his, at times, desperate trajectory from the margins to the centre, and its consequences.

The hurt that Naipaul does not easily show – or shows only as criticism, humour, satire – is revealed in the nature of the two of his greatest books, which are among the greatest 'novels' of the 20th century: *A House for Mr Biswas* (1961) and *The Enigma of Arrival* (1987). In very different ways, both occupy that particularly fruitful space between fiction and memoir. *A House for Mr Biswas*, with a story inspired by Naipaul's father's warped intellectual struggles in a discouraging postcolonial environment, is one of those rare recent novels in which the protagonist is basically conservative and yet gains the reader's sympathy. *The Enigma of Arrival* is the story of the writer V.S. Naipaul, told by the writer V.S. Naipaul: a memoir dressed up as a novel, or a novel dressed up as a memoir, depending on how you choose to look at it. Selecting deceptively from actual autobiographical facts, this 'novel' (which is what Naipaul chose to call it) is correctly read by critics as examining the ambiguities of leaving or arriving 'home'.

But what also needs to be recalled is that the place where Naipaul arrives, or fails to arrive, in this novel is next to Stonehenge, the very heart of England, so to say. This trajectory remains central to any understanding of Naipaul as a person and a writer. It relates to the hurt I have mentioned, which is primarily that of a great artist seeking to escape – and all artists seek this, consciously or not – the whirlwind of time. This might also mean escaping the lesser storms of ugliness, pettiness, disorder. For writers who feel, as the younger Naipaul obviously did, caught on the margins of history, to be 'post' not just the colonial but also at times the sensible, this hurt assumes compulsive force. It is an index of Naipaul's artistic greatness that he shaped it into highly honed creativity and did not allow it to seep, as it often does in postcolonial circles, into insistence, rhetoric, bitterness and resentment.

Contested politics

Naipaul's politics, especially but not only in his non-fiction, has been often indigestible to many, including, at times, me. This does not detract from his stature as a writer, especially a writer of fiction. But it cannot be ignored. In Naipaul's defence, one has to add that he often seemed to operate with a basic assumption that was anathema to the Left but that is largely justified. The Left (much more so in the past) operates on the assumption that if only the poor and the deprived could assume power, we would overcome the problem of power being abused. In all his writing, indirectly but clearly, Naipaul scoffs at this idea. For him, the fact that you are poor is no guarantee that you will be just if you assume power; the fact that you were deprived does not mean that, given a chance, you won't deprive others.

Hence, while acutely aware of the abuse of power within any conservative status quo, finally Naipaul prefers a coherent status quo to radical or revolutionary change. This explains his sympathy for extant English and (to a certain extent) Brahminical-centric tendencies over radical religious, social and political ideologies. Perhaps like Mr Biswas in his long-sought and finally half-achieved house, Naipaul knew that our house is not perfect and that it is ludicrously incomplete, but he preferred living ironically in it to pulling it down. Who, honestly speaking, can claim that he was entirely wrong? Who, in any case, with a roof over his head?

Tabish Khair is a novelist and academic who works in Denmark

FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

Making data speak

As a lot of information provided in a small box can be difficult to read, data stories should be given more space



A.S. PANNEERSELVAN

Sridhar Venkatraman, a subscriber of the e-paper from Milton Keynes in the U.K., wrote to us with a few interesting questions about data visualisation in news stories and on the oped page. He said: "First, hats off to the graphics team for making interesting charts and maps and introducing variety to the readers. The charts and maps help in understanding numbers better than tables do. However, the circle-style graph is becoming repetitive. And in some cases, the circles are too small and the text on them is so tiny that I have to zoom in to read. If I zoom in, the context of the entire graphic is lost and I can see only one or two points in close up. As a reader, I am not interested in zooming in and seeing every single State in the country." Mr. Venkatraman then listed seven data stories to substantiate his argument.



GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK PHOTO

Using scatter plots

The reader makes an important point about the inherent problems with data visualisation. The charts which he refers to are called scatter plots. The data team uses scatter plots specifically for those stories that require multiple variables to explain the complex nature of interplay.

The data team explained the rationale for relying on scatter plots rather than the usual pie charts for the stories cited by Mr. Venkataraman. For instance, in the story "Karnataka sees 300% jump in FDI inflows" (July 24), the data team used a scatter plot to show changes in FDI equity inflows between 2016-17 and 2017-18, respectively, for major States (represented by their Reserve Bank of India circle offices). The scatter plot sought to answer some questions: Which were the States with the highest and lowest FDI inflows? And among States within the high and low FDI inflow categories, which were the ones that registered an increase or decrease and what was the magnitude of those changes?

"By plotting the variables on a scatter plot and setting the graph with a trend line, we were able to isolate States above the trend line (increase in FDI) and below (decrease in FDI). With varying circle sizes in the plot (called bubbles), we indicated the percentage increase in FDI inflow. And by plotting the States on an x-y axis, we managed to show which States had the highest and lowest FDI inflows. All these were conveyed in a 2.5 column and 5 cm space. With the text, we managed to restrict the graphic to a rectangle of 3 column and 10 cm space," said a data team member.

The data team also explained a data story, "Mutually dependent", that appeared on the oped page in the 'Data Point' section on July 24. "We used a scatter plot to show that a higher number of patents are granted in States that have a flourishing start-up environment and vice versa. Data points have a fixed space of about 2 column x 9 cm. If we had not used scatter plots, we would not have conveyed the entire picture. The Data Point would have only managed to show either the number of patents granted per State or the number of start-ups there. It would have been a simple visualisation – a map of States or a bar chart that showed the States with the highest and lowest number. But it would have missed the bigger picture. The scatter plot, therefore, was again chosen specifically to enhance the information," he said.

Content and visual appeal

Space is a major constraint in print stories as the newspaper has to accommodate many stories on one page. The scatter plot is a useful device to conserve space and maximise information without missing out any important component. According to textbooks, data visualisation is defined as "the use of computer supported, interactive, visual representations of data to amplify cognition". While the primary focus of these academic exercises is to find out how to make numbers accessible, the aesthetic experience of the reader and the ease of reading is not given due consideration.

It is true that content comes first in a newspaper and visual aesthetics next. However, in the case of infographics, it is the visual appeal that invites the readers to a data set. Increasing the space for data stories may be an answer to this conundrum.

readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

SINGLE FILE

Exclusionary state

The plight of inter-State migrants is not very different from that of refugees who lack citizenship rights

AKRITI BHATIA



V. GANESAN

In India, you do not have to be excluded from the National Register of Citizens to experience a sense of loss of territory, identity, belongingness and livelihood. You could just as easily feel that way if you were a rural-to-urban migrant worker facing dislocation and "uprootedness" – a state of constant threat and anxiety with no sense of control over your spatial and temporal existence. This is akin to the experience of refugees who lack citizenship rights.

A large chunk of migrant labourers' shelter and work are deemed "illegal" within Indian cities. The 2011 Census pegs the total number of internal migrants in the country, including those who have moved within and across States, at a staggering 139 million.

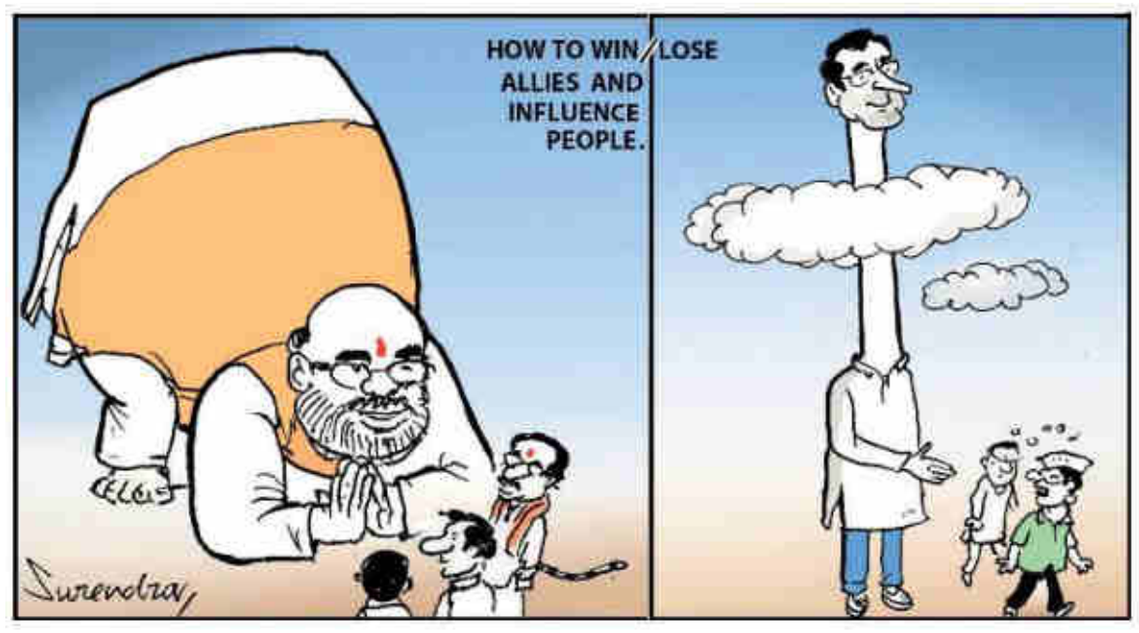
The state's role is not as dormant as it appears, when it comes to undocumented workers. It is proactive in allowing the absorption of cheap labour into cities, to serve the bulging demand of the urban middle class. Sometimes these labourers are exploited, required to work below subsistence levels, and reside in subhuman conditions, which is then perceived as encroachment.

When the onus of "giving back" is on the state – of providing migrant workers with proper documents, secure jobs, housing and provisioning of other public utilities – the state often consciously and systematically derecognises them, and conveniently brackets them as "illegal". Illegality, in turn, results in labels such as "criminals" that must be dealt with by the state again, to protect its "full" citizens, and to exclude the migrants further from the fruits of this "full" citizenship.

Consider the Smart Cities Mission of 2015 that proposed investment allocations of ₹2,039 billion to convert 99 Indian cities into smart cities. A mere 8% of the intended projects have been completed so far in the past three years, according to the recent report released by Housing and Land Rights Network. Interestingly, many smart city proposals identify slums as a "threat" to the city in their "SWOT" (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis while totally failing to account for migrant labour in the schemes. The report documents forced evictions and shelter demolitions in 32 out of the 99 proposed smart cities so far. Politically, inter-State migrants do not matter at all anyway because their votes do not count in the destination city.

The national obsession with bringing order to international boundaries could also be applied within nation states, cities and neighbourhoods. The state's role in ensuring equality, basic dignity, livelihood and providing minimum social security to its people must be upheld before all other priorities.

The writer is a PhD scholar at the University of Delhi, and Founding Partner, Jan Ki Baat



CONCEPTUAL

Donor's dilemma

ECONOMICS

This refers to a paradoxical situation where the offering of monetary incentives for the donation of human blood causes a fall in the actual number of donations. This is believed to happen because donors who previously donated purely out of their altruistic beliefs tend to no longer have enough altruistic incentive to continue donating blood when they are offered money in return for their donation. Critics, however, have argued that the offering of monetary incentives can actually increase the donation of blood as people willing to donate for money will more than offset the loss of altruistic donors.

MORE ON THE WEB

V.S. Naipaul: a life in pictures

http://bit.ly/NaipaulPics

SHELF HELP

The Obama years

The contested legacy of the former U.S. President

STANLY JOHNY

Barack Obama's election as the 44th President of the U.S. in 2008 was an "end-of-history moment," Ta-Nehisi Coates writes in *We Were Eight Years in Power: An American Tragedy*. "As Obama's election became imaginable, it seemed possible that our country had indeed, at long last, come to love us," he says, referring to the black community. Coates, a celebrated writer known for his chronicles of the culture, politics, and lives of the blacks in the U.S., compiles eight essays he wrote for *The Atlantic* in *Eight Years in Power*. Each essay deals with a different story, but the book has a common theme – the life of black people in the U.S.

The Obama era helped change the social fabric to an extent, Coates says. He observes that his own success as a writer, and of many others, was influenced by the Obama years; the new President's presence "opened a new field".

However, hope gave way to disappointment by the end of the President's first term. President Obama's acceptance in white America depended "not just on being twice as good but on being half as black," he writes in the 2012 essay "Fear of a Black President". Losing faith, Coates argues that "white supremacy was so foundational" to the U.S. that "it would not be defeated in my lifetime, my child's lifetime, or perhaps ever." Despairingly he concludes: "The American story, which was my story, was not the tale of triumph but a majestic tragedy."

If Coates takes a sociocultural view of America, American journalist and writer Jonathan Chait looks at the merit of the Obama administration in *Audacity: How Barack Obama Defied His Critics and Created a Legacy That Will Prevail*. This, book, in Chait's words, "makes an argument". And that argument is that the Obama presidency was "transformative" at home and "corrective" abroad. He writes that the President did well within the limitations of Washington politics on a host of issues, from climate change to healthcare reforms and economic revival. There could be short-term setbacks, such as the election of Donald Trump as President, but the benefits of the Obama years cannot be done away with, he argues. Obama as President left an indelible influence on a young America which is going to take his legacy forward.

Coates does not share Chait's optimism: "The election of Donald Trump confirmed everything I knew of my country and none of what I could accept. I was shocked at my own shock," he writes.

FROM The Hindu. ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 13, 1968

Business connections of Kantilal

The Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai, told the Lok Sabha to-day [August 12, New Delhi] that his son, Mr. Kantilal Desai, had not been appointed as his Private Secretary but he had, however, been assisting him in his non-official work since June, 1964. Mr. Desai made this statement in a written reply to Mr. Rabi Ray. The business connections of Mr. Kantilal Desai figured in four separate questions for which written answers were provided. Mr. Morarji Desai said his son did not receive any payment or allowance or any other remuneration from Trade Wings (P) Ltd. of which he continued to be a Director.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 13, 1918.

Co-operation in India. Registrars' Conference.

The eighth Conference of the Registrars of Co-operative Societies opened this morning in the committee room of the Imperial Secretariat [in Simla, on Aug. 12] and was attended by about 20 officials and 7 non-officials. Sir Claude Hill in opening the Conference welcomed the delegates and said Mr. Mant would preside over the deliberations. He also referred to the report of the co-operative committee over which Sir Edward Maclagan had presided. He dwelt on the third item on the agenda which related to the proposed amendment of Land Acquisition Act of 1894 and asked the Conference to make suggestion as to the removal of technical difficulties in the operation of the Act.

DATA POINT

CSR break-up

Nearly one-third of the total corporate social responsibility (CSR) expenditure was spent primarily on education in the last three years (till Nov. 30, 2017). The health and rural development sectors together garnered just above a third of the overall funds as well

Head	Total (₹crore)	% of total
Education/ Differently Abled	9,316.33	33.14
Health/ Hunger/ Poverty and Malnutrition/ Sanitation	7,913.85	28.15
Rural development	2,987.15	10.63
Other Sectors (Benefits To Armed Forces, etc.)	2,785.05	9.91
Environment, Animal Welfare, etc.	2,020.79	7.19
Gender equality / Old age homes	626.73	2.23
Prime Minister's National Relief Fund	526.93	1.87
Swachh Bharat Kosh	507.11	1.8
Heritage, Art and Culture	278.16	0.99
Encouraging Sports	239.85	0.85
Slum Area Development	116.64	0.41
Clean Ganga Fund	60.13	0.21
Others	732.91	2.61
Total	**28,111.63**	**100**

SOURCE: LOK SABHA Q AND A

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

FROM PAGE ONE

India announces Guru Nanak fete

"We will take the message of Guru Nanak to the world. His message of sharing the fruits of good deeds with all is the right teaching in this era when I, me, myself is the dominating idea. The Guru visited many places and so did Baba Farid. The message of One God taught by Guru Nanak is similar to the Indian teaching in the Shastras," said Ms. Swaraj in her remarks delivered at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas where she was the Chief Guest at a Sikh religious event organised by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

Indian diplomatic and cultural missions across the world will organise prayers and festivities to mark the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak.

The Minister did not refer to the London event in her speech but highlighted the inclusive elements of Sikhism. "We want to convey to the world that the Guru Granth Sahib is the best representative of the Indian understanding of multiple versions of truth. Guru Granth Sahib is the only holy book in the world which apart from the ten gurus of Sikh faith also contains messages (vaanis) of other learned saints and great souls (belonging to other faiths)," said Ms. Swaraj, highlighting the inclusivist nature of the Sikh faith.

Mystery over death of 2 Patna home inmates

"We were informed of the deaths on Sunday morning by the shelter home employees. We're waiting for the post-mortem report to know the exact cause of death," Kumar Ravi, District Magistrate, Patna told journalists.

The home is managed by NGO Anumaya Human Resources Foundation and houses 75 inmates, most of them mentally challenged.

An employee of the home, Baby Kumari, has been taken into custody along with another woman. Manu Maharaj, Patna senior superintendent of police, said, "We're investigating under what circumstances the two inmates died."

Meanwhile, Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Vijay Prakash demanded a CBI probe.

"The police were not informed immediately. Nitish Kumar is busy with Lok Sabha seat-sharing talks...while, morality has gone for a toss," said Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav.

However, JD(U) leaders said the law will take its course and "after the post-mortem report the cause of their deaths will come out."

Address AIIMS staff shortage, says panel

Stating that the staff shortage will lead to patients not getting adequate and timely treatment, the committee has recommended that a comprehensive study be done to address the cause of non-availability of doctors of high standards.

"May it be brain drain, comparatively lesser remunerations, facilities or shortage of undergraduate/ postgraduate seats and colleges," it noted.

(With PTI inputs)

Cong. has weakened: Deve Gowda

Former PM attributes it to the emergence of regional parties and dominance of caste politics

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Congress, which had monopolised political power across the nation when Jawaharlal Nehru was the Prime Minister, has lost its political strength and power after the emergence of regional parties and dominance of caste politics since the mid-1960s, Janata Dal(S) supremo and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda said here on Sunday.

Speaking after releasing the Kannada version of *The Indian Parliament: A Democracy at Work*, a book co-authored by Congress leader B.L. Shankar and Valerian Rodrigues, former Professor of Political Science at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Mr. Gowda said Nehru laid the strong foundations for democracy in India during the dominance of the Congress party in the 1950s and early 1960s.

However, the present regime ruling the country had questioned the contributions of Nehru, he said.

"Whoever comes to power, the democratic system in the country cannot be changed," Mr. Gowda said.

Narrating how he became a rebel Congress man and got elected to the Assembly in the early 1960s, Mr. Gowda said the emergence of regional parties contributed to the fall of the Congress in the State.



Regional parties emerged after the reorganisation of the States on a linguistic basis. Caste politics too became a dominant factor in regional politics, he said.

The successful functioning of democracy was not based on the majority in the Assemblies or Parliament. The Leader of the Opposition played a vital role in making democracy work.

The former Chief Minister D. Devaraj Urs had an eye for detail and used to provide information for all questions he used to ask in the Assembly, the JD(S) leader said.

The former Chief Justice of India M.N. Venkatachaliah hailed the contributions of legal luminaries, including B.R. Ambedkar, in drafting the Constitution.

Noting his work as the head of the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution, the former Chief Justice said he had rejected the term of reference to study the suitability of the presidential form of government in the country made by the NDA government headed by A.B. Vajpayee.

Kendra Sahitya Academy Chairman and Jnanpith awardee Chandrashekar Kambar, authors Shankar and Rodrigues and S. Sadananda, professor of Kuvempu University, Shivamogga, who has translated the book in Kannada, explained the relevance of the book in contemporary politics.

The book, which has eight chapters, covers election trends and debates from the first Lok Sabha to the 16th Lok Sabha.

CBI to probe top officials in graft case

DEVESH K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI

Top government officials, including an Additional Secretary posted at the highest level in the Central government and a former New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) Chairman, have come under the CBI scanner in a corruption case.

Among the suspects are two senior IAS officials of the 1980s batches. Details purportedly related to them were found the past week during a CBI search in the office of caterer Rakesh Tiwari at the NDMC's Palika Services Officers Institute here. The CBI officials seized "hawala" transaction records indicating that senior officials were illegally transferring thousands of dollars abroad.

However, the CBI's major concern is that a recent amendment to the Prevention of Corruption Act, which was introduced ostensibly for protecting honest government officials, would make it difficult to take forward the probe.

Policeman killed in Srinagar

Militant hideout near sensitive locations in centre of city busted ahead of I-Day



In full force: Security personnel carrying out searches following a gunfight in the Batamaloo area of Srinagar. ▪ NISSAR AHMAD

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

A policeman was killed and four persons were injured as security forces busted a militant hideout at Batamaloo here on Sunday morning. Though the three militants holed up in the house escaped, police sources said the operation had warded off a potential plan to strike on Independence Day.

Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Srinagar, Vidhi Kumar Birdi said Pervaiz Ahmad of the Special Operation Group died of injuries sustained in the encounter. Three jawans and the house owner, Neyaz Ahmad Bhat, were injured.

Congested area

Police sources said three Lashkar-e-Taiba militants, one of them "high profile", were trapped in the house in the congested area. "Two of their accomplices were arrested and incriminating documents recovered from the busted hideout," the police said.

The police zeroed in on the militants on Saturday night and a contact was established around 3.30 a.m. A blood trail was spotted on the encounter site. "There are reports that one militant has been injured. A search is on to nab him," Mr. Birdi said. The house was close to the main venue of the official Independence Day function and sensitive government installations such as the Civil Secretariat, the High Court and the police headquarters.

In another incident, one civilian was killed and two others injured when an explosive device went off at Tosamaidan in Budgam on Sunday.

CJI changes subject-wise roster in SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Chief Justice of India has changed the subject-wise roster for judges in the Supreme Court to categorise cases for Justice R. Banumathi, who now heads a Bench.

The change follows the recent appointment of Justices Indira Banerjee, Vineet Saran and K.M. Joseph in the Supreme Court, taking the judicial strength to 25 of a total sanctioned strength of 31.

While not touching the roster for other judges, the Bench headed by Justice Banumathi would hear a host of cases on family law issues, labour, civil cases, public premises eviction, land law, etc. The subject-wise roster was first implemented from February 5 this year after a press conference by four seniormost Supreme Court judges over "selective" allocation of cases to certain Benches by recent CJIs .

Dassault made Rafale offer, says Reliance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Caught in a political storm over the Rafale deal, the Reliance Group headed by Anil Ambani on Sunday denied receiving any contract from the Defence Ministry, and said "unfounded and incorrect" allegations were being deliberately made to "mislead people and cloud the issue".

Reliance Defence Ltd. CEO Rajesh Dhingra said Dassault, the French firm that will supply the 36 Rafale fighter jets, chose the group to meet its 'offset' or export obligation in the contract and the Defence Ministry had no role in the selection of Indian partners by the foreign vendors.

LJP to reach out to Dalits before polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Lok Janshakti Party, a BJP ally, will reach out to people nationwide to highlight the pro-Dalit measures taken by the NDA government, ahead of the 2019 General Election.

LJP secretary-general Abdul Khaliq said the party would hold events in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Karnataka, among other States, and its leader and Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan would take part in some of them.

While the party enjoys little clout outside Bihar, the BJP believes that the vocal support by a Dalit ally like Mr. Paswan, a key voice in the government on issues of the community, would help the alliance. The BJP has also asked its leaders, especially those from the Dalit and tribal communities, to reach out to their people, following the passage of a Bill to restore the stringent provisions of a law to curb atrocities against the communities.

Mr. Khaliq said the Centre had gone out of the way to ensure the passage of the Bill as the matter was in the Supreme Court.

Dalit votes will be crucial to the NDA, especially in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. In U.P., the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Samajwadi Party have joined hands, and in Bihar, the Opposition, led by Lalu Prasad's Rashtriya Janata Dal, has won over Dalit leaders like Jitan Ram Manjhi and Uday Narayan Choudhary. On Saturday, Mr. Paswan questioned the pro-Dalit credentials of the Opposition parties, and posed 14 questions to Congress president Rahul Gandhi.

PM slams Mamata's comment on NRC

Says only those who lack faith in India's institutions can use phrases like 'civil war' and bloodbath'

ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that only those who have lost faith in themselves and who fear loss of popular support and lack faith in the country's institutions can use phrases such as "civil war", "bloodbath" and *desh ke tukde tukde*, as they are "disconnected from the pulse of the nation".

He was answering a question on the statement made by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on August 1 that the draft NRC would divide the people and create a civil war-like situation in the country.

"As far as Mamata*ji's* stand is concerned, she should remember what she said on the floor of Parliament in 2005. Was that Mamata*ji* correct or is this Mamata*ji* correct," Mr. Modi said in an exclusive interview with Asian News International on Saturday.

He clarified that no Indian citizen would be made to leave the country over the NRC list, and due process would be followed to give all possible opportunities to those excluded to get their concerns addressed.

'Not about politics'

"The NRC was a promise of ours, which we are fulfilling under the guidance of the Honourable Supreme Court. It is not about politics but about people. If someone is making it about *rajneeti* (politics), it is extremely unfortunate. Our job in the political class is to work according to the will of the people and do what they have given us the mandate for," he said.

The second NRC draft was released on July 30 and included the names of 2.89 crore people out of the 3.29 crore applicants in Assam. Nearly four million people were missing from the list.

The Opposition has cried foul and called the list "politically motivated". The PM accused the Congress of indulging in vote-bank politics over the draft. "The roots of the NRC go back three decades, when [former PM] Rajiv Gandhi had to bow to public pressure and sign the Assam Accord. Since then, Assam voted Congress [to power] several times but the party did nothing about it and kept misleading the people. The Congress knew a problem existed, but allowed it to fester for decades because they were guided by vote-bank politics," he said.

'Rahul's stunt childish'

ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that Congress president Rahul Gandhi's wink at his colleague right after hugging him in Parliament proved how childish his stunt was.

"It is for you to judge whether it was a childish act or not. And if you are unable to decide that, watch the wink and you will get the answer," he said. Mr. Gandhi had hugged the PM after concluding his speech during the debate on the no-confidence motion against the NDA government. Moments later, he was seen winking at a fellow Congress MP.

Lies and crocodile tears: Congress

'Modi govt. made no achievements'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Reacting to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's interview to a news outlet, the Congress on Sunday said just nine months short of his five-year term, he could not list a single major achievement of his government.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera told reporters that Mr. Modi had only "spewed unadulterated lies" on the economy and "shed crocodile tears" on the "swiftly tearing social fabric of the country by weaving lies and concocting theories to build a narrative".

"This is not what the people of India want to listen to from their Prime Minister. At the last lap of his term, he wants the people of India to buy his massive failures as *Acche Din*," Mr. Khera said.

'Not a single presser'

He said that in the four years of his reign, Mr. Modi had not held a single press conference.

Mr. Khera hit out at the BJP government for failing to deliver even on its flagship schemes such as Swachh Bharat.

"In 2014, Shri Modi promised the moon for the next 60 months, but now all his 'so-called targets' are to be fulfilled in 2022 (108 months) – a self-extension of 48 more months! The Congress party would categorically like to tell Shri Modi, that his government shall not last beyond the upcoming nine months," he said.

The Congress has repeatedly said that Mr. Modi failed to deliver on his promise of two crore jobs every year. In his interview, the PM had said the problem was not with job creation but a lack of a proper mechanism to record the job data. He cited the increased employee provident fund enrolments as an indicator of increase in jobs.

"EPFO enrolments are not necessarily new jobs. They mostly reflect jobs moving from the unorganised sectors to the organised ones," Mr. Khera said. He said that instead of creating jobs, the Modi government destroyed around 1.26 crore jobs in the unorganised sector. "Mr. Modi extols the virtues of a MUDRA loan, but fails to tell the people of India that the average size of MUDRA loans for 91% beneficiaries is a mere ₹23,000. Will anyone be able to open a 'pakora' stall with this paltry sum of money?"

Tahilramani sworn in as Chief Justice of Madras HC

She will hear PIL petitions related to women's rights

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Justice Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court by Governor Banwarilal Purohit at a ceremony at Raj Bhavan here on Sunday.

The Governor administered the oath of office to the new Chief Justice, who had served in the Bombay High Court. Justice Tahilramani's appointment as the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court followed the elevation of her predecessor, Indira Banerjee, as a Supreme Court judge. According to the roster of the Madras High Court, the new Chief Justice, along with Justice M. Duraiswamy, would hear from August 13 public interest litigations relating to the rights of women, all criminal appeals and criminal cases, which are to be heard by a Division Bench, besides appeals arising out of the orders of the Central Administrative Tribunal.



Governor Banwarilal Purohit with the new Chief Justice Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani.

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami, Ms. Banerjee, former Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, judges, and other senior officials were present.

Born in 1958, Ms. Tahilramani started practising at the Bombay High Court and in city civil and sessions courts after enrolling in the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa in 1982.

She was elevated as a judge of the Bombay HC in 2001.

27 illegal resorts sealed along elephant corridor

ROHAN PREMKUMAR
UDHAGAMANDALAM

Revenue Department officials sealed 27 illegal resorts operating in the buffer zone of the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR) on Sunday as per a Supreme Court directive.

The resorts are among a total of 39 resorts that were constructed along the corridor in the buffer zone of the tiger reserve.

Officials said the Nilgiris District Administration formed three teams to seal the resorts at Mavanallah, Bokkapuram, Singara and Vazhaithottam areas on Sunday. On Friday, Revenue Department officials issued notices to the owners of the buildings, instructing them to vacate the premises by Sunday morning.

Police accompanied members of the three teams when they sealed the premises. Most owners watched passively as their properties were sealed.

However, the owner of one resort, 'Bear Mountain,' in Bokkapuram, argued with the officials. However, with the help of the local police, the premises were sealed.

SC directive

Apart from directing the district administration to close down 27 of the illegal resorts, the Supreme Court had directed 12 other resort owners to submit the required approvals and documents they claimed they had to to the district administration within 48 hours. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Nilgiris Collector Innocent Divya said that of the 12 resorts, 11 submitted documents claiming to have the approval to function.

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

Studies point to rising drug abuse among women in Punjab

Social stigma and lack of exclusive facilities are deterring many of them from seeking help, say doctors. Nearly 1 lakh women have reported using a substance

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

The problem of drug abuse in Punjab over the years has largely been focused on men, but experts and studies point out that the number of women addicted to drugs is rising "alarmingly" in the State.

Social stigma, a state of denial and lack of exclusive facilities are the key reasons why women are not seeking help, experts say.

The State government has been providing various treatment options for the youth, primarily focused on men. Punjab has 31 government de-addiction centres but there's only one centre exclusively for women – in Kapurthala – that was set up in 2017.

"On the basis of clinical experience, I can safely say that the problem of drug abuse among women is increasing. The national survey on drug abuse happened around 15 years back, where there was no mention of females, but now their numbers are figuring in surveys, which itself is indicative of the rising problem of drug abuse," Dr. Subodh B.N. of the department of Psychiatry in the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh told *The Hindu*.

'20 cases every year'

"While 15 years back, we used to hardly see any drug-related cases of females, of late we are treating 15-20 women patients per year. Moreover, amid fear of stigma most women do not come forward for treatment, which means the actual numbers are likely to be higher. These rising numbers are indeed worrying. Urgent attention is required to address the problem," said Dr. Subodh.



A wake-up call: In this file photo, inmates recover at a drug de-addiction and rehabilitation centre in Daulatpur, on the outskirts of Patiala. ▪ AKHILESH KUMAR

The recent study titled 'Epidemiology of Substance Use and Dependence in the State of Punjab', by the faculty of PGIMER, published in March 2018 in an indexed international journal, says that in Punjab almost 4.1 million people have been found to be using one substance or the other (licit or illicit) at least once in their lifetime.

Among the lifetime users, four million were men and around 0.1 million were women. The number of people dependent on any substance in their lifetime was 3.2 million, with 3.1 million men and 0.1 million women.

Licit substances consist of alcohol and tobacco, and illicit substances are opioids, cannabinoids, inhalants, stimulants, and sedatives. In terms of projected numbers, there were about 4.1 million lifetime users of licit substances and for illicit substances, the corresponding figure was 0.5 million.

Opioids (heroin, smack, crude opium, poppy husk) were by far the most commonly used illicit drugs in the State.

As per the study, 2,02,817 males and 10,658 females were found to be 'lifetime dependent' on opioids as per the international disease criteria standard ICD-10. Interestingly, while 1,56,942 males were found to be 'currently dependent' on opioids (ICD-10 criteria) the figure of females was 10,658, which the experts believe is "alarming" .

Apart from the PGIMER study, the Punjab Opioid Dependence Survey (PODS), 2014-15, which exclusively focussed on opioid dependence, found 1% of females to be dependents. The data was collected from 3,620 opioid-dependent individuals across 10 districts.

Based on analysis, and after projecting these figures to the total population, the size of the population in Punjab was estimated at 2,32,856.

"The figures of this study seem to be the micro-tip of an iceberg, as these were cases that came at least once to the treatment facility. So we can very well imagine that there must be a large number which never ever sought any help," Dr. Sandeep Bhola, associated with Outpatient Opioid Assisted Treatment in Kapurthala, told *The Hindu*.

He adds that at the de-addiction centre for women in Kapurthala, as many as 15 women have undergone treatment since July 2017.

Rise in queries

The Navjivan rehabilitation centre at Daulatpur in Patiala, which is privately run, has been witnessing an increase in queries on treatment of female drug addicts even though the centre is only for men. Rohit Puri, who is in charge of the centre, says: "We suggest they go to Delhi or Amritsar where there are private centres, exclusively for women, which can offer them privacy."

Mr. Puri says that the female patients come from various sections of society – rich, poor, educated and uneducated. The experts seek wider treatment access.

IN BRIEF



Army eyeing indigenous gear for Siachen soldiers

NEW DELHI

The Army is finalising a long-pending project for indigenous production of specialised clothing, sleeping kits and key equipment for soldiers deployed in the Siachen glacier. India spends ₹800 crore a year on the import of extreme cold weather gear for soldiers, according to official data. PTI

Raise speed only if trains are late, drivers told

NEW DELHI

The Railway Ministry has asked drivers to hit the top permissible speed only if trains are running late, instead of trying to speed throughout the journey, a source in the Ministry said. The new directive replaces an order issued in 2000 in which the Ministry said that trains should run at the maximum permissible speed even when they are on time. PTI

EC sets right glitches in paper trail machines

NEW DELHI

Steps have been taken to prevent malfunctioning of paper trail machines, Chief Election Commissioner O.P. Rawat has said. "A small hood was installed on the sensor so that even if it comes under direct light, it would not malfunction," he said. Also, humidity-resistant paper rolls will be used. The move comes after many machines failed in the recent bypolls. PTI

Pakistan releases 26 Indian fishermen

KARACHI

Pakistan released 26 Indian fishermen from Karachi's Malir jail on Sunday as a goodwill gesture, reports said. They had been arrested for allegedly trespassing into Pakistan's territorial waters. They would be taken to Lahore and sent to India through the Wagah border, *The Nation* said. The jail authorities gave them gifts and cash prizes, it said. PTI

Submarine training lax, says CAG

Report points to undue delay in securing simulators for training in damage control and firefighting

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

No facility exists for training Navy crew on various aspects of damage control and firefighting in a submarine, the Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) has observed in a report. This is among a series of deficiencies in training noted by the federal auditor.

In April 2014, *INS* Satavahana, the dedicated school for imparting all facets of submarine training, submitted a proposal to the submarine headquarters, indicating the requirement of a simulator to train in damage control and firefighting. "The proposal has, however, not yet been approved by the competent authority," the CAG said in the report tabled in Parliament last week.



Long way to go: The Navy inducted the submarine *INS Kalvari* in December 2017, a first in almost two decades. ▪ AFP

As a result, limited practical training is imparted through attachment to the Navy's facilities for damage control and firefighting, which are based on the layout of ships.

"Thus, even after identifying the requirement of a critical training facility and recommendations by a Board, which investigated a major submarine accident, there is undue delay in procurement and installation of the same," the report noted.

In August 2013, Russian-built Kilo class submarine *INS* Sindhurakshak sank in the Mumbai harbour after an explosion on board, killing 18 sailors. In the next year, a fire on board *INS* Sindhuratna killed two officers, following which the then Navy Chief, Admiral D.K. Joshi, submitted his resignation.

India has an ageing submarine fleet.

Training in damage control and firefighting assumes even greater importance as India inducts nuclear submarines into its fleet.

Critical need

Against this backdrop, the Navy is in the process of inducting two deep submergence rescue vessel systems from a U.K.-based firm, which are critical in case of any disaster in the depths of the sea.

The report highlighted delays in the completion of the Naval Academy Project at Ezhimala, non-availability of training equipment for new induction platforms, a deficiency in quality of training and other issues.

Somnath Chatterjee suffers a heart attack

STAFF REPORTER
KOLKATA

The condition of former Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee remained critical but stable after a mild heart attack on Sunday.

Mr. Chatterjee, 89, has been on ventilator support in a private hospital here after being admitted on Tuesday for kidney-related complications.

"Mr. Chatterjee suffered a mild heart attack, but has recovered from it," said a senior official of Belle Vue Clinic where he is admitted. Hospital authorities said Mr. Chatterjee was undergoing dialysis daily.

"He continues to be in a critical but stable condition



Somnath Chatterjee

... We are trying our best," Pradeep Tandon, CEO of Belle Vue clinic, told *The Hindu*.

He suffered a stroke in June and had been hospitalised for more than a month.

Mr. Chatterjee, a 10-time Lok Sabha member, had been the Speaker from 2004 to 2009.

Use Aadhaar freely, without fear: UIDAI

It will issue 'dos and don'ts' while sharing the number

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

After TRAI chief's Aadhaar dare ignited a debate on the security of the 12-digit number, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is planning a user outreach to sensitise people to the dos and don'ts of sharing their biometric identifier.

The UIDAI intends to draw a parallel between the Aadhaar number and other personal information such as PAN (Permanent Account Number) and bank account number to caution users against placing such details in the public domain, particularly on digital platforms.

'No cause for fear'

"It is necessary to inform people that they should use Aadhaar freely, without fear, and a detailed FAQ (frequently asked questions) will be issued," Ajay Bhushan Pandey, CEO of UIDAI, said.



The UIDAI has reiterated the safety features of Aadhaar.

The FAQ will address nearly six queries on the issue, which has been hotly debated over the past fortnight ever since TRAI Chairman R.S. Sharma, a former Director-General of the UIDAI, tweeted his Aadhaar number and dared Internet users to show how mere knowledge of the ID can cause him "real harm". His tweet caused a flutter after some users claimed to have accessed his bank account number and e-mail id, though the TRAI chief refuted their claims.

Cautioning people against publicising their Aadhaar number, the UIDAI, however, says it can be given freely for proving one's identity and for transaction purposes, just like one gives bank account or other details for a specific purpose.

Mere knowledge of Aadhaar cannot harm an individual or be misused for impersonation, as it is fortified with additional security layers such as biometrics and one-time password authentication, it says.

The UIDAI has also outlined the responsibilities of banks and other user organisations in carrying out the required checks in this regard.

Ranil hands over India-built houses

Relief for 400 families of Malayaha Tamils working on Sri Lanka's tea estates

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Over 400 families living on the famed tea estates in Sri Lanka on Sunday took possession of their new houses built with Indian assistance.

The construction of the homes is part of India's commitment to build 4,000 homes in the island's central highlands that is home to Malayaha Tamils.

During his visit to the island last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an additional 10,000 homes in the area.

A bilateral agreement formalising the project was signed at a special ceremony in Nuwara Eliya district on Sunday.



Sri Lankan PM Ranil Wickremesinghe handing over papers of a house to a beneficiary on Sunday. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The nearly million-strong hill country, or Malayaha, Tamil community, distinct from those living in the war-affected north and east, comprises descendants of labourers that the British brought down from South India to work on the estates.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, who handed over the houses on Sunday, appreciated India's commitment in partnering Sri Lanka in development projects, a press release said. Mr. Modi, joining the event through a video conferencing link, said: "Sri Lanka has been and will remain special for India," reiterating the commitment of the government and people of India, "to be with the people of Sri Lanka in their journey towards greater peace and prosperity."

India is supporting the construction of 60,000 houses across the island. As many as 46,000 in the north and east, being built for war-displaced persons, are already complete and 14,000 are now being built in the central and southern parts of the island.

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Trafalgar Square sees rally, counter-rally

2,000 pro-Khalistan demonstrators attend controversial event

VIDYA RAM
LONDON

A pro-Khalistan rally, and a counter-rally to support India, took place in central London on Sunday, with a considerable police presence.

Over 2,000 pro-Khalistan demonstrators took part in the rally on Trafalgar Square, dubbed the 'London Declaration', in support of a non-binding referendum in 2020 for an independent Sikh nation.

The group was organised by the U.S.-based group Sikhs for Justice, though the rally attracted demonstrators from across the U.K.



The event was organised by the U.S.-based group Sikhs for Justice. ▪ VIDYA RAM

Waving flags

Chanting slogans such as *Bole so Nihal Sat Sri Akal* and *Khalistan Zindabad*, the demonstrators waved flags and wore T-Shirts supporting the referendum. Alongside, speeches and chanting prayers took place. Among those to speak at the rally was Lord Nazir Ahmed, a non-affiliated member of the House of Lords, who had organised an anti-India rally outside the Indian High Commission on Republic Day earlier this year.

"I believe in Khalistan for my Sikh brothers and sisters," he said, speaking on a podium at the rally. He is not the only parliamentarian to have voiced support for the referendum: others to have made their support public include Caroline Lucas, the leader of the Green Party, and Labour MP Matt Western. "We want to take back Punjab," said Garbaksish, a young protester from Birmingham who joined the rally.

Around 200 people attended a counter-rally on the other side of the square to support India, waving placards such as "Sikhs for a United India" and "We stand for one united strong India". "We want to show the unity of India, it is a country for all religions and in our diversity we are stronger," said Bharathi, from London, who attended the rally.

"U.K.-India relations are strained at the moment and these omissions won't help," said Kuldeep Shekhawat, president of the Overseas Friends of BJP (UK) who attended the counter-rally. He said the counter-rally wasn't about numbers but sending the message that the diaspora stood for a united India "whatever happens". He added that they had been raising their concerns about the rally for over a year now with U.K. authorities, and said he believed that there was external influence, including from Pakistan, in the organisation of the rally.

The rallies come in the wake of the controversy over the shredding of an Indian flag on Parliament Square during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit earlier this year, for which the police had faced criticism for not intervening early enough. On Trafalgar Square on Sunday, there was a sizeable police presence, which kept the two rallies apart, separated by distance and barriers. At several points, small groups of participants in the pro-Khalistan rally attempted to walk close to the barrier near the Indian group but were told to move back by police.

The pro-Khalistan rally took place despite India's strong reservations about the event, which it viewed as an impingement on its "territorial integrity". The U.K. insisted that people had the right to gather together and demonstrate their views, provided they did so within the law.

He personified a sense of displacement

The Nobel Academy called Naipaul 'a literary circumnavigator, only ever really at home in himself'

RACHEL DONADIO

Nobel laureate V.S. Naipaul, who passed away on Saturday at his home in London, documented the migrations of peoples, the unravelling of the British Empire, the ironies of exile and the clash between belief and unbelief in more than a dozen unsparing novels and as many works of non-fiction.

In many ways embodying the contradictions of the postcolonial world, Mr. Naipaul was born of Indian ancestry in Trinidad, went to Oxford University on a scholarship and lived the rest of his life in England, where he forged one of the most illustrious literary careers of the last half century.

Compared in his lifetime to Conrad, Dickens and Tolstoy, he was also a lightning rod for criticism, particularly by those who read his portrayals of Third World disarray as apologies for colonialism.

A critical eye

Yet Mr. Naipaul exempted neither coloniser nor colonised from his scrutiny. He wrote of the arrogance and self-aggrandisement of the colonisers, yet exposed the

> **[N]on-fiction gave one a sense to explore... the other world, the world one didn't know fully**

self-deception and ethical ambiguities of the liberation movements that swept across Africa and the Caribbean in their wake. He brought to his work moral urgency and a novelist's attentiveness to individual lives and triumphs.

Mr. Naipaul personified a sense of displacement. Having left behind the circumscribed world of Trinidad, he was never entirely rooted in England. In awarding him the Nobel Prize in literature in 2001, the Swedish Academy described him as "a literary circumnavigator, only ever really at home in himself, in his inimitable voice".

Yet his existential homelessness was as much willed as fated. Although he spent his literary career mining his origins, Mr. Naipaul fiercely resisted the idea of being tethered to a hyphen, or to a particular ethnic or religious identity. A Hindu, though not observant, Mr. Naipaul was a staunch defender of Western civilisation. His guiding philosophy was universalism.

Mr. Naipaul was born on August 17, 1932, in Chaguanas, Trinidad, where his paternal grandfather had emigrated from India in the 1880s as an indentured servant to work on the sugar plantations.

Educated in English schools in Trinidad, Mr. Naipaul said he owed his writing ambitions to his father, who read to him, among other things, from Booker T. Washington's *Up From Slavery*.

His first novel, *The Mystic Masseur* (1957), about Ganesh Ramsumair, a failed schoolteacher who becomes a masseur and later guru and politician in Trinidad, was well received. Ferociously prolific, he published a book every year or two for much of his career. His breakthrough was his joyous, deeply autobiographical fourth novel, *A House for Mr. Biswas* (1961). Set in Trinidad, it is the story of a journalist's efforts to free himself of his dependence on his wife's domineering family.

Mr. Naipaul began writing non-fiction in the 1960s. "I thought non-fiction gave one a sense to explore the world, the other world, the world one didn't know fully," he said in 2005.

Cultural mimicry

For his first non-fiction book, *The Middle Passage* (1962), Mr. Naipaul returned to the West Indies. He charted inter-island racial tensions in Trinidad; analysed the cultural "mimicry" he saw as central to colonial identity; questioned how the region, then on the brink of self-rule, would govern itself; and observed that the smaller Caribbean islands "in the name of tourism, are selling themselves into a new slavery".

In 1964, Mr. Naipaul published the first of three travelogues about India, *An Area of Darkness*. He found that despite his Indian origins, he did not belong there at all. "No other country was more fitted to welcome a conqueror; no other conqueror was more welcome than the British," he wrote. "While dominating India, they expressed their contempt for it, and projected England; and Indians were forced into a nationalism which in the beginning was like a mimicry of the British."

> **No other country was more fitted to welcome a conqueror; no other conqueror was more welcome than the British**

Mr. Naipaul's novel *A Bend in the River* (1979) centres on an Indian from East Africa in an unnamed, newly independent African nation.

In a 1974 essay that marked a breakthrough in his own understanding of himself as a writer, Mr. Naipaul wrote of his debt to Joseph Conrad, who had also willed himself to be an artist in England and also travelled to the far corners of the colonised world. But in an interview with *The Times* in 2005, Mr. Naipaul revised this judgment. While conceding that Conrad was "great," he insisted that he "had no influence on me". "Actually, I think *A Bend in the River* is much, much better than Conrad," said Mr. Naipaul.

For all his pessimism, Mr. Naipaul was confident that what he called "Our Universal Civilisation" would prevail. In a 1992 lecture, he said his optimism derived from his belief in the idea of the pursuit of happiness, which lay "at the heart of the attractiveness of the civilisation to so many outside it or on its periphery". NY TIMES

SIR VIDIADHAR SURAJPRASAD NAIPAUL (1932-2018)

LIFE POINTS

1932: Born in Chaguanas, Trinidad and Tobago, to family of migrants from India. He would later go on to call his country of birth "unimportant, uncreative, cynical... a dot on the map"

1957: First novel *The Mystic Masseur* published

1961: His most famous work, *A House for Mr. Biswas* is published

1962: Visits India, where he writes *An Area of Darkness*

1966: Receives an invitation from Little Brown and Company to write a book on Port-of-Spain. Comes up with *The Loss of El Dorado* (1969)

1979: *A Bend in the River*, set in Central Africa, marks the beginning of his exploration of native traditions

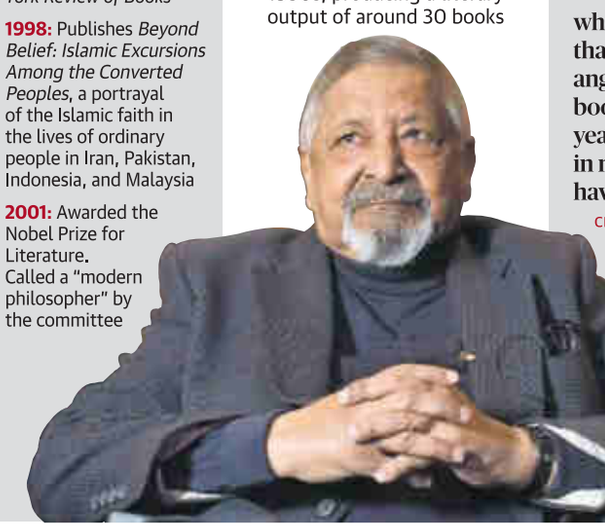
1984: Covers the Republican National Convention in Dallas and writes 'Among the Republicans' for *New York Review of Books*

1998: Publishes *Beyond Belief: Islamic Excursions Among the Converted Peoples*, a portrayal of the Islamic faith in the lives of ordinary people in Iran, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Malaysia

2001: Awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. Called a "modern philosopher" by the committee

Remembering Sir Vidia

Acclaimed as a great writer of English prose by most but also considered narcissistic and bigoted by many, V.S. Naipaul emerged as a writer in the early 1950s, producing a literary output of around 30 books



COMMENTS AND CONTROVERSIES

The Trinidadian-British writer had once said that "If a writer doesn't generate hostility, he is dead"

Africa has no future
INTERVIEW WITH NEW YORK TIMES, 1979

The trouble with people like me writing about societies where there is no intellectual life is that if you write about it, people are angry... Now India has improved, the books have been accepted... Forty years ago in India people were living in ritual. This is one of the things I have helped India with
CHELTENHAM LITERATURE FESTIVAL, 2001

I don't think so... I read a piece of writing and within a paragraph or two I know whether it is by a woman or not. I think [it is] unequal to me
INTERVIEW TO ROYAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, 2011, when asked if any woman writer was his literary match

LITERARY OUTPUT: A TORRENT OF EDITIONS


A House for Mr. Biswas – 238 editions published between 1961 and 2016 in five languages


A Bend in the River – 168 editions between 1979 and 2016 in eight languages


India: A Wounded Civilization – 106 editions in four languages between 1977 and 2013


Half a Life – 81 editions between 2001 and 2013 in six languages

Guerrillas — 101 editions between 1975 and 2013 in six languages | ***Magic Seeds*** — 59 editions between 2004 and 2013 in six languages

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA, NYT, WORLDCAT.ORG

U.S. urges U.K. to ditch backing for Iran deal

Britain had voiced its support last week

REUTERS
LONDON

The United States urged Britain on Sunday to ditch its support for the Iran nuclear deal and instead join forces with Washington to counter the global threat it says Tehran poses.

U.S. Ambassador to Britain Woody Johnson criticised Tehran for funding "proxy wars and malign activities" instead of investing in its economy. He said Iran needed to make tangible and sustained changes to behave like a normal country.

"Until then, America is turning up the pressure and we want the U.K. by our side," wrote Mr. Johnson in *The Sunday Telegraph*.

"It is time to move on from the flawed 2015 deal. We are asking global Britain to use its considerable diplomatic power and influence and join us as we lead a concerted global effort towards a genuinely comprehensive agreement."


U.S. envoy to the U.K. Woody Johnson ▪ REUTERS

Asked about Mr. Johnson's article, the British Foreign Office pointed to comments from Minister of State Alistair Burt, who last week ruled out Britain going along with the United States.

Mr. Burt said the deal was an important part of regional security and that, with the European Union, the government was trying to protect British companies from the U.S. sanctions when dealing with Iran.

39 killed in Syria arms depot blast

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIRUT

An explosion at a weapons depot in a rebel-held town in northwest Syria killed at least 39 civilians including a dozen children on Sunday, a monitor said.

An AFP correspondent at the site in Sarmada in Idlib province near the Turkish border said the explosion of unknown origin caused two buildings to collapse.

Rescue workers used bulldozers to remove rubble and extract trapped people from the flattened buildings, the correspondent said.

Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group, said most of those killed were family members of fighters from Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, an alliance led by jihadists from Syria's former Al-Qaeda affiliate, who had been displaced to the area from Homs.

Pak. Parliament to have its maiden session today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's newly-elected Parliament will meet on Monday for the first time to start the process of transition. President Mamnoon Hussain has already summoned the maiden session of National Assembly, the lower house, at 10 a.m. on Monday.

The tally of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has increased to 158 after it was allowed 28 out of 60 seats reserved for women. However, the party is still 14 short of simple majority of 172 in the house of 342.

ELSEWHERE



Ivanka condemns White supremacy, racism

WASHINGTON

Ivanka Trump, President Donald Trump's daughter and a White House adviser, explicitly condemned "White supremacy, racism and neo-nazism" late on Saturday. The tweets come on the anniversary of deadly unrest triggered by a White supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. AFP

Muslim woman asked to remove niqab in bus

LONDON

A niqab-wearing 20-year-old Muslim woman in the U.K. was treated like a "terrorist" after a bus driver demanded that she should remove her face cover over safety fears as he felt that she could "bomb the bus", media reports said. She said the driver told her "this world is dangerous", a BBC report said. PTI

Ties with India critical for growth of Texas: Governor

State is now the second biggest exporter of goods to India

VARGHESE K. GEORGE
HOUSTON

Expansion of trade ties with India was his top priority in office, Texas Governor Greg Abbott told a gathering of the State's business leaders on Saturday. "Texas and India aligning economically will be enormously beneficial for both," Mr. Abbott said in his keynote address at the annual meeting of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (IACCGH).

Houston and surrounding areas are emerging as a magnet for several Indian companies expanding their operations in North America. Texas is now the second largest exporter of goods to India and the fourth largest importer of Indian goods, among American States.

Oil imports

India has started importing crude and natural gas from America this year, and Texas, as the country's petroleum hub, stands to benefit.


Greg Abbott

"Texas energy can fuel the growth that is coming to India. Incidentally, the very first shipment of LNG from Texas of a 20-year contract for natural gas going to India, arrived when I was in India. I met Prime Minister Modi for more than one hour and l left with more optimism that Texas-India partnership has no limits," Mr. Abbott said of his nine-day business development tour of India in March. Petroleum imports from America has began to reduce India's trade surplus with it, partially blunting an irritant for the Donald Trump administration.

The Texas State and cities such as Houston have been on a drive to attract Indian investors, and buyers. Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said he would be leading a business delegation in October to India. "Trade between Houston and India is now worth $ 8.5 billion and we want to grow it more," the Mayor said.

Mr. Abbott thanked Mahindra for setting up Mahindra's North American headquarters in Texas and donating $1.5 million for relief after the State was struck by hurricane last year. Jindal Steel Works has announced plans to invest $500 million into expanding their steel manufacturing in Baytown, Texas, and Wipro Limited will set up a new Texas Technology Centre in Plano.

Heavy fighting continues in Ghazni

REUTERS
KABUL

Taliban insurgents attacked police headquarters and other government buildings in Ghazni in central Afghanistan on Sunday and were threatening to seize control of the city local lawmakers and residents said.

U.S. aircraft conducted at least four air strikes and local media said around 100 people, mostly members of the security forces, had been killed. But details of the fighting were unclear as most of the city's telecoms masts were destroyed in fighting.

Mohammad Sharif Yaftali, Afghan Army Chief of Staff, said the city was not under threat of collapse and heavy fighting was under way to push back the Taliban. But lawmakers from Ghazni who managed to talk to some residents said Taliban were in control of much of the city after launching an attack in the early hours of Friday.

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IN BRIEF



SBI to sell two NPAs worth ₹2,490 crore

NEW DELHI

SBI will sell two non-performing assets worth ₹2,490 crore and has invited bids for them. In terms of the bank's revised policy on sale of financial assets in line with the regulatory guidelines, "we place these accounts for sale to ARCs/banks/ NBFCs/ FIs", SBI said in the bid documents. The accounts on sale are Bombay Rayon Fashions Ltd. and Shivam Dhatu Udyog Pvt. Ltd., which owe ₹2,260.79 crore and ₹229.32 crore to the bank, respectively. PTI

GST audit of e-com firms stuck in jurisdiction row

NEW DELHI

The GST audit of e-tailers ordered by the National Anti-profiteering Authority is stuck over the issue of jurisdiction, as the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs said the NAA has no powers to give such directions, an official said. The NAA had written to the CBIC saying that DG Audit should scrutinise the firms' accounts to see if they had refunded to customers any excess GST collected. PTI

RBI is net seller of dollar for third straight month

MUMBAI

RBI continued to remain a net seller of the U.S. dollar for the third consecutive month in June, after it sold $6.184 billion of the U.S. dollar in the spot market, RBI data showed. In June, the RBI bought $4.020 billion of U.S. dollar, while it sold $10.204 billion in the spot market, according to RBI data. In May and April, RBI had net sold ₹5.767 billion and $2.483 billion of the U.S. currency, respectively. PTI

PVR to acquire SPI Cinemas

₹843 crore deal to help PVR reach goal of 1,000 screens by 2020, from 638 now

SANJAY VIJAYAKUMAR
SANGEETHA KANDAVEL
CHENNAI

PVR Ltd. will buy a majority stake in SPI Cinemas, south India's largest cinema chain and owner of the iconic Sathyam Cinemas in Chennai, in a deal valued at ₹843 crore.

The transaction would help PVR, which is listed on the stock exchanges, strengthen its base in Tamil Nadu, a key movie market.



Global impact: The deal will make PVR the seventh-largest cinema exhibitor in the world in annual admissions. ▪ REUTERS

71.7% to change hands

As per the terms of the proposal, PVR would buy 2,22,7711 equity shares or 71.7% stake in SPI Cinemas from existing shareholders for a total consideration of ₹633 crore. This involves a purchase of 1,91,534 equity shares or 61.65% stake of SPI from SS Theatres LLP and 31,177 equity shares, or 10.04% stake, in SPI from S.V. Swaroop Reddy, respectively. Further, PVR would issue 1.6 million shares or 3.3% shares in PVR as part of the transaction. Based on PVR Ltd.'s closing share price of ₹1,317.20 on Friday, the 3.3% stake amounts to ₹210.75 crore. Overall, the cash and stock transaction is valued at ₹843.75 crore. PVR currently operates a cinema circuit comprising 638 screens at 137 properties in 54 cities (19 States and UTs), serving 76 million patrons annually.

Post-transaction, PVR's total screen count will increase to 706 screens across 152 properties and 60 cities.

The acquisition will also make PVR the seventh-largest cinema exhibitor in the world in terms of annual admissions at its theatres, which will be in excess of 100 million, according to a statement.

As on March 2018, SPI had total assets of ₹319.63 crore and revenue of ₹309.60 crore. Ajay Bijli, chairman-cum-managing director, PVR, said the transaction is a significant step in helping the firm achieve its goal of 1,000 screens by 2020.

In a regulatory filing, PVR said there was also a provision for a call/put option for the firm to buy the remaining 28.3% stake in SPI from SS Theatres LLP at a price not exceeding ₹300 crore.

Flipkart: CCI says scrutiny of FDI compliance not under its ambit

'Deal unlikely to have adverse effect on competition'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Having cleared global retail giant Walmart's $16 billion acquisition of homegrown Flipkart, fair trade watchdog CCI has opined that complaints about the deal violating FDI rules 'may merit policy intervention' but do not fall under its ambit.

The Competition Commission also observed that the complaint about Flipkart's discounting practice or preference to select e-tailers is not specific to this merger deal and is 'already prevalent' in the market.

It also made it clear that there is no bar on the regulator to examine these issues under relevant provisions of the Competition Act about anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominance.



The deal has triggered opposition from several quarters including traders' lobby groups and the Swadeshi Jagaran Manch and several of them had submitted their complaints to the CCI, which was approached in May for approval of the acquisition.

In its order clearing the deal, the CCI has said it is 'not likely' to have an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India.

'Beyond scope of Act'

"Issues falling beyond the scope of the (Competition) Act cannot be a subject matter of examination by the Commission, though they may merit policy intervention," it said.

Noting that as per the foreign direct investment (FDI) policy an e-commerce platform cannot influence market prices directly or indirectly, the regulator said this was a matter of consideration for the 'appropriate regulatory/enforcement authority.'

Commodity options see steady rise on bourses

Incentives for market makers, attractive lot sizes and hedging opportunities help bolster business

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR
MUMBAI

Options contracts in non-agricultural commodities like gold and crude that were unveiled a few months ago are seeing good investor participation due to a combination of factors like market making, attractive lot size and the hedging requirements of market participants, though some of the other commodities are yet to register a strong traction.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX), crude oil options contracts have seen a steady rise since the debut in mid-May, while the turnover of gold contracts rose almost 10 times since the start of the year, partly also due to the exchange's liquidity enhancement scheme (LES).

Last year, the Securities and Exchange Board of India allowed commodity exchanges to unveil options contracts in certain commodities, thereby fulfilling a long-standing demand of the commodity market participants. Currently, MCX offers options contracts in gold, crude oil, copper, silver and zinc, while National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange has guar seed options contracts for trading.

Data showed the average daily turnover in gold options was about ₹64 crore in December, rising to more than ₹700 crore in July. The turnover in gold options contracts has surged since April when the exchange introduced a market making scheme in the contract.

Meanwhile, the average daily turnover in crude oil options contracts that does not have any market making support has risen from ₹117 crore in May to ₹137 crore in July. Market participants said that while commodity options is a good product for investors with hedging requirements, there are still some teething issues that the exchanges will have to resolve for turnover to pick up without market making. Market making refers to incentives provided to trading members that offer buy and sell quotes on the exchanges.

All that glitters

The average daily turnover in gold options surged from ₹64 crore in December to more than ₹700 crore in July

Month	Average Daily Turnover (₹ Cr.)				
	Gold	Crude Oil	Copper	Silver	Zinc
January	77.48	—	—	—	—
February	25.33	—	—	—	—
March	33.52	—	—	—	—
April*	125.73	—	—	—	—
May	646.05	116.84	33.41	31.9	—
June	519.88	127.99	45.78	59.59	24.17
July	728.15	139.79	20.49	19.54	17.31
Date of launch	17/10/17	15/05/18	21/05/18	24/05/18	21/06/18

*Liquidity Enhancement Scheme started from April 24 SOURCE: MCX

Quick acceptance for oil

"Options contracts are a good product and there is a high level of interest among investors," said Kishore Narne, head, Motilal Oswal Commodities. "While crude oil options contracts found immediate acceptance, others, most notably gold, needed the liquidity enhancement scheme primarily due to the big lot size.

There is a large number of retail investors in the commodity market and they find the lot size too big. If the exchange reduces the lot size in precious metals like gold and silver, the traction will go up significantly like we are seeing in crude without any market making scheme," he added.

MCX gold options contracts touched a record notional turnover of ₹2,931 crore on July 24. While the premium turnover was pegged at ₹33.26 crore, the notional volume witnessed on the day was 9,641 kg.

Market participants said physical players from the bullion and jewellery segment are using options as a hedging tool in addition to futures contracts.

However, the options contracts in copper, zinc and silver unveiled a couple of months ago are yet to gain traction.

DGCA to audit Jet's financials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Aviation regulator DGCA is set to conduct a financial audit of Jet Airways, amid its fiscal conditions coming under pressure due to surging jet fuel prices and low fares, a source said.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has already evaluated the financial health of Air India, besides a special audit on Air Deccan, the source said. The financial audit of airlines is done to assess fiscal health and also to ensure they do not compromise on safety. "We will conduct the... audit of Jet Airways from August 27," the source added.

On August 9, Jet's board deferred the consideration of the unaudited financial results for the June quarter.

IHCL, Hayre in pact for Vivanta in London

Hotel to become operational in 2021

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL) has signed an agreement with Hayre Group Ltd. to operate a Vivanta hotel at Heathrow Airport in London.

The 108-room hotel, to be located across terminals 1,2 and 3 of the Heathrow Airport, is scheduled to be operational in 2021.

IHCL owns and operates the Taj Group of hotels. The Vivanta brand caters to the upscale segment of business and leisure travellers.

"IHCL was the first Indian hospitality firm to foray into the U.K. with the iconic St. James' Court hotel in 1982," said Puneet Chhatwal, MD & CEO, IHCL. He added this was the first Vivanta-branded hotel for London. "This signing [of the pact] is in line with our growth strategy of adding hotels in key locations globally," he said in a statement.



Puneet Chhatwal

Besides 'spacious' rooms for guests, this hotel will have an all-day-diner, a bar and lounge, a gym as well as banqueting and meeting space facilities, the statement added.

UTI MF chief Puri not to seek extension

HC to hear T Rowe Price plea today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Leo Puri, MD & CEO of UTI Mutual Fund, has called for a meeting of the senior management of the fund house on Monday to officially announce his decision to not seek an extension as the head of the country's oldest fund house. Mr. Puri's tenure ends on Monday.

According to people familiar with the development, Mr. Puri has already emailed his decision to not seek an extension, to the firm's shareholders. The decision comes amid an ongoing legal battle between the promoters of UTI MF and T Rowe Price filing a petition in the Bombay High Court against the other shareholders namely State Bank of India (SBI), Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Bank of Baroda (BoB).

T Rowe Price, which holds 26% in UTI MF, has asked the court to direct the other promoters to pare their stakes to 10% each – in line with SEBI regulations on ownership of mutual funds. SBI, LIC, BoB and PNB each hold 18.24% in UTI MF. Mr. Puri's decision to step down assumes significance as the court will hear T Rowe's plea on Monday.

The petition also seeks court direction to allow an extension to Mr. Puri even as other shareholders are reportedly against it. A spokesperson for T Rowe Price declined to comment on Mr. Puri's decision and whether that would affect the court battle.

More banks report tightening of credit standards, shows survey

'Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code has placed recovery process on fast track'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

A survey conducted by FICCI and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) showed more respondents claiming they had tightened credit standards during January-June 2018, the period in which survey was conducted.

"67% respondents among participating banks have reported tightening of standards, steeply increasing from 28% in the last round of the survey," the industry bodies said in a statement.

A total of 22 public sector, private sector and foreign banks participated in the survey, which is conducted twice a year. These banks together represent 64% of the banking industry, as classified by asset size. This round has been conducted at a time when NPAs have shot past the ₹10-lakh crore mark and continue to rise.



▪ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Cautious approach

The survey noted that with stressed assets rising, banks have generally adopted a cautious approach in lending, to prevent fresh slippages.

As was the case in the previous round of the survey, 59% of the respondent banks reported a rise in NPAs in the current round of the survey.

"Infrastructure, metals and engineering goods were the key sectors reported with the highest NPAs," a statement said. "More than two-thirds of the respondents have cited these as sectors with high NPAs." At the same time, most participating banks agreed that the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) had made the recovery process faster and improved the recovery position of banks.

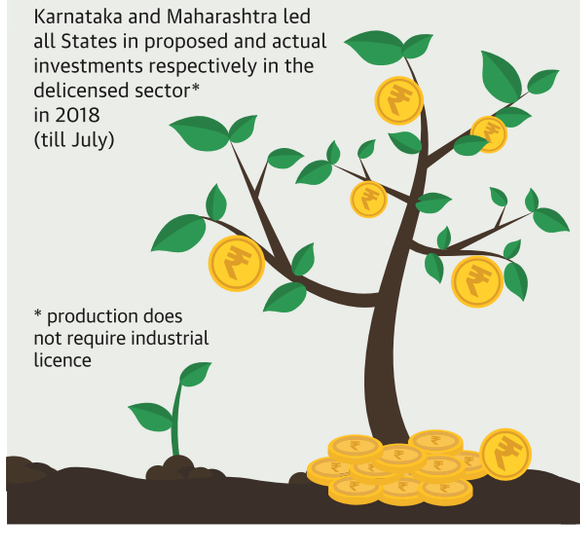
To improve the resolution rate, bankers suggested strengthening of the judiciary, enhancing capacity, empowerment of local level government officials, among other suggestions.

They also said that extension of the moratorium beyond 270 days for any reason should not be permitted.

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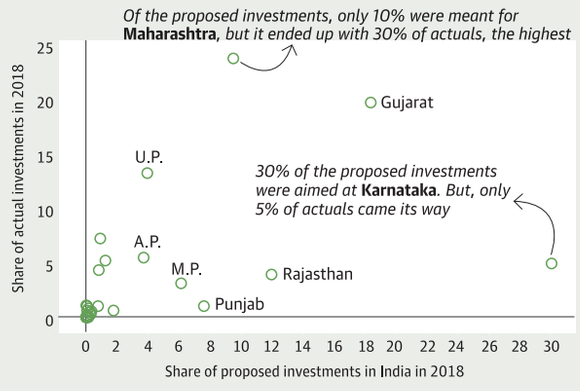
Promise and delivery

Karnataka and Maharashtra led all States in proposed and actual investments respectively in the delicensed sector* in 2018 (till July)



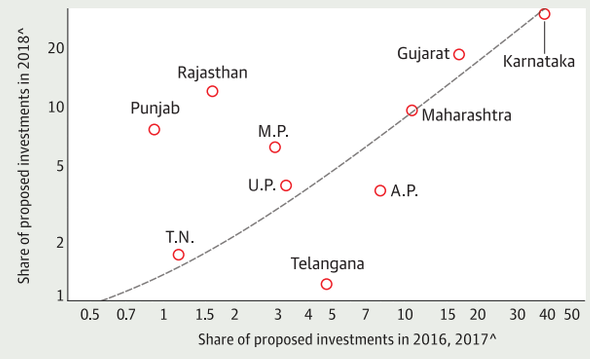
* production does not require industrial licence

PROPOSED VS ACTUAL | The graph plots each State's share of the **proposed** investments in India against each State's share of **actual** investments, in 2018. Each circle in this graph represents a State.



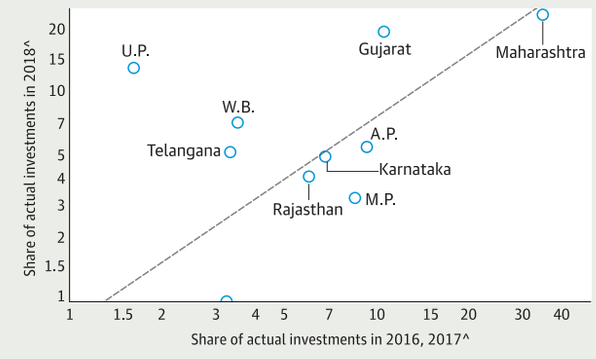
- States like **Odisha**, **Telangana** and **West Bengal** neither attracted proposals nor saw actual investments

PROPOSAL TRENDS | Graph plots each State's share of **proposed** investments in 2016 and 2017 combined, against its respective share of **proposed** investments in 2018. The States above the trend line showed improvement in proposals in 2018



- Other States did not attract investment proposals of significant value in 2018 or earlier

INVESTMENT TRENDS | Graph plots each State's share of **actual** investments in 2016 and 2017 combined, against its respective share of **actual** investments in 2018. The States above the trend line showed improvement in actuals in 2018



- Other States attracted little actual investment in 2018 or earlier

^ logarithmic scale

Compiled by Vignesh Radhakrisnan | Source: Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion

Are foreign direct investments at an ebb?

Debate rages, but a look at 5-year patterns shows there is little cause for concern. Focus on an 8% GDP growth is all that matters

AARATI KRISHNAN
CHENNAI

Have foreign direct investors warmed up to India under the NDA regime, or are they cold-shouldering it? A heated debate is now on, with the government claiming that total Foreign Direct Investment flows scaled a new record in FY18. Detractors argue that, on FDI as a proportion of GDP, NDA is yet to match the UPA's achievements in 2008.

But a study of patterns in FDI flows into India over the last fifteen years suggests that they really have little to do with the political dispensation at the Centre.

The UPA-2 government started off on a high note and fell victim to 'policy paralysis' at the end of its tenure.

End of term bounceback

But it kicked off its term with two consecutive years of sharp declines in FDI inflows and witnessed a bounceback in FDI in its final year. The NDA, seen as business friendly, flagged off with 20% plus FDI growth rates in its first two years. But despite implementing reforms such as the GST, it has had to contend with slumping FDI flows lately. So what really drives FDI? We studied UNCTAD data on cross-country FDI flows for the last fifteen years to arrive at some takeaways.

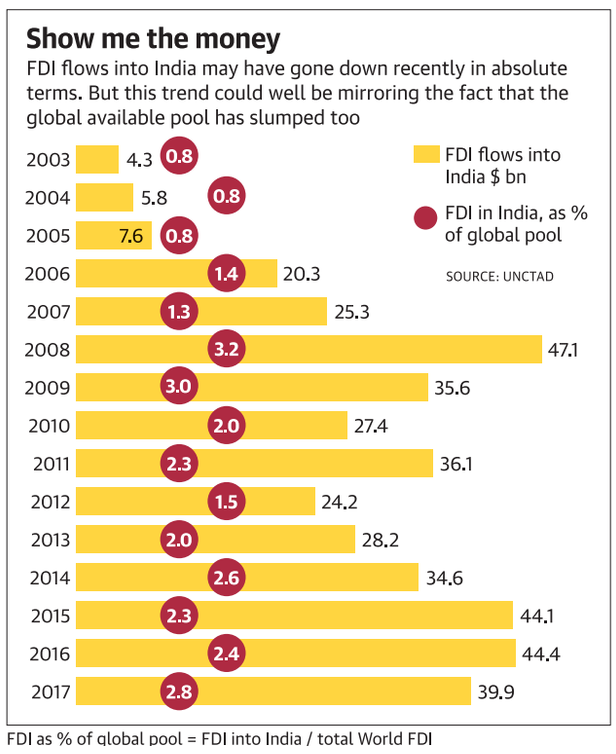
Economic, not political

FDI flows into India seem to track its economic fortunes more closely than its political fortunes. In the last ten years, strong GDP growth prints in India have inevitably been followed by an upsurge in FDI.

The largest annual jump in FDI till date, from $7.6 billion in 2005 to $20.3 billion in 2006 came about after India improved its GDP growth from 7.8% to 9.3% in 2005.

Similarly, 2008's record flows of $47 billion followed a GDP growth print of 9.8% in 2007. The FDI revival in 2015 unfolded after the economy returned to 8% growth after a long sluggish spell.

Given the lumpy nature of FDI, evaluating these flows on five-year averages makes more sense than dissecting annual growth rates. On this score, the news is good. From an average of $5 billion a year from 1998 to 2002, the annual flow vaulted to $12 billion in 2002-2007, climbed further to $34 billion in 2007-2012 and stood at $38 billion in the latest five years to 2017.



The larger an economy and the size of its consumer market, the more interested foreign investors are likely to be to set up shop in it.

This makes it important to evaluate FDI flows into a country as a proportion of its GDP.

According to the World Bank, FDI as a proportion of India's GDP hovered at 1-2% for many years before shooting up to 3.6% in the immediate aftermath of the global financial crisis in 2008, probably driven by the impression that India was 'decoupled' from the crisis.

Bottomed out in 2012

But as reality sank in in 2009, India's growth collapsed and FDI flows dwindled, bottoming out at 1.3% of GDP by 2012.

In the five years to 2017, they have staged a mild recovery to 1.5%. Globally, FDI flows average 2.4% of GDP. Clearly, India continues to punch below its weight on FDI, given its size and prospects.

FDI flows into countries depend not just on local economic prospects, but also on the total capital that global investors are willing deploy overseas in any given year. This pool is decided by global financial market conditions.

Share of pool

World Bank data tells us that after a stellar show in 2008 when India managed to grab 3.2% of the global FDI pool, its share fell steadily to 1.5% in 2012.

That was incidentally the year in which GDP growth hit a nadir of 5.5%.

Since then, India's share of the global FDI pool has charted a smart recovery, getting back to 2.8% by 2017.

This suggests that the slump in India's FDI flows in the last couple of years was driven more by the shrinking global FDI pool than by domestic factors.

Overall, for FDI to keep flooding into India, it needs to maintain a single-minded focus on sustaining 8%-plus growth. The political dispensation doesn't matter that much.

INTERVIEW | SRIDHAR VEMBU

'SaaS market will see consolidation'

Customer acquisition cost is very high; it is a challenge to get funding, says Zoho chief

K. BHARAT KUMAR

For an Indian software product company that has fended off takeover bids, Zoho Corp has not made much public noise about its growth. The firm, whose CEO **Sridhar Vembu** *said revenues were 'in excess of $300 million' a couple of years ago, is set to cross the $1-billion mark, sooner than five years from now. In an interview, Mr. Vembu elaborated on what he sees ahead for the firm:*

It is a year since you unveiled the Zoho One suite...

■ Currently, 12,000 organisations are paying customers of Zoho One worldwide, of which 36% are from India. The Indian IT market is not 36% of the global IT market. But for Zoho One it is, and it tells you that we are very strong here. On average, 16 of the 40 apps in our suite are being used. Six months ago, our average was at 10 apps. This shows that users are not superficially using 1-2 of our apps.

Zoho One's pricing seems key...

■ It is $30 per employee per month globally and in India it is ₹1000, for all 40 apps. We want to get to 100 million users. On average, every client firm of ours would have in excess of 10 users.

We have a 40-million user base across the globe using Zoho products which includes paid and unpaid users and 20%-25% of that is in India.

You recently announced data centres in India. Why is this critical for you?

■ The whole regulatory regime is changing. GDPR style legislation is spreading. Data localisation is becoming critical. Particularly governments, public sector entities now will be mandated not to hold data abroad. All these changes, prove that in the near future, data has to be kept in the relevant geographies... customers in Europe, Mexico demand that. So data centres in India are critical. For both regulatory and technical reasons, the Indian data centre market will grow and cloud services will become a possibility. We have two data centres in the U.S., two in Europe, two in China and two in India will be coming up soon.

You have talked about $1 billion in revenue over five years...

■ Now the revenue is much more the $300 million that it was when we spoke last and we are approaching the billion-dollar mark... we will definitely announce it sooner than five years from now.

At this point, what excites you? Do you have more goals?

■ To build a global technology company out of India. We use Samsung and Apple as the benchmark and we are not in that league yet... we have a long way to go and we want to put India on the global map in the league of technology giants for the next 10-20 years.

The mission of Zoho is to integrate India's vast talent pool to create global products because we consume global products.

Our mission is to bring these two together by creating opportunities for them. A lot of the talent pool are diamonds in the rough, which is where Zoho University comes in and polishes them.

We take in students fresh out of 12thgrade and diploma courses. In the past 13 years, we have had 625 graduates. This year, we have 140 students. We have trifurcated Zoho University into Zoho School of Technology, Zoho School of Design and Zoho School for Advanced Study. Anybody who successfully completes the programme gets placed in Zoho.

How has software-as-a-service evolved?

■ The SaaS market has grown but there are a lot of challenges. A lot of SaaS companies are not making enough money, one of the reasons being the high customer acquisition cost. In fact it is skyrocketing. This is a classic driver of consolidation and that is the change we have seen in the last two to three years.



This is why the funding environment has become more challenging now, and all of this is pointing towards consolidation.

EXPLAINER

Wars of the currency kind

Nations letting currency weaken can spur instability

B.R. SRIHARI
CHENNAI

Recently, RBI Governor Urjit Patel warned that the global trade war could escalate into a currency war. Trade wars erupt when countries impose tit-for-tat tariffs on imported goods, ostensibly to protect domestic manufacturers.

What is a currency war?

■ Currency wars are triggered when nations either allow their currencies to weaken appreciably or devalue them to gain a competitive advantage over trade rivals.

If other countries react by devaluing their respective currencies to retain competitiveness, this could lead to instability in markets.

What is devaluation?

■ Devaluation is a policy tool to reduce the value of a currency, relative to other currencies, in a fixed exchange rate. It is used to set the relative prices of domestic and international goods and services at a new footing. Devaluation is different from depreciation, which is a decrease in the currency's value due to market forces of demand and supply when the exchange rate of the currency is floating.

> **India devalued the rupee in 1966 after its wars, and in 1991 after a BoP crisis**

Does devaluation help?

■ Governments may resort to devaluation for any one of three major reasons: To boost exports. The lowered value of the domestic currency will make it less expensive for foreign buyers (holding the currency whose value has become relatively stronger) to obtain the local currency to buy locally produced goods or services.

In principle, more goods and services would be sold abroad, helping domestic businesses reliant on export markets such as software services companies, pharma firms and seafood exporters.

To shrink a trade deficit – a devaluation while making exports more competitive also makes imports more expensive and hence less affordable. This helps reduce the volume of non-essential imports thus helping to narrow the trade gap. To reduce the debt servicing burden – nations with significant sovereign debt sold domestically may find it advantageous to let the currency weaken as it helps lower the notional cost of debt servicing.

Was the rupee ever devalued?

■ In June 1966, hit by drought after two major wars (with China and Pakistan), India devalued the rupee by 36.5%. Again, in July 1991, a Balance of Payments crisis exacerbated by the sharp spike in oil prices in the wake of the Gulf War spurred India to devalue the rupee in "a two-step downward adjustment of 18-19%."

Where tourism helps sustain the farm

A resort in the middle of a farm is paying off for a U.S. returnee

S. ANNAMALAI
MADURAI

Is agriculture sustainable in the long run? Priya Vardeesh, a farmer from Kamanur hamlet near Thandikudi of Dindigul district in Tamil Nadu, has been toiling hard for the past six years to find an answer to this query. She is now closer to the belief that this could be possible if agriculture and tourism are brought together.


Priya Vardeesh

Her 81-acre farm on the West Palani Hills turns out to be a sensitisation centre in many aspects. Here, people are made to understand the travails of a farmer so that they respect farming.

Incidentally, the food produced and served here is 'poison-less', or free of chemicals, Ms. Vardeesh said.

Her participation in community farming in the U.S. helped Ms. Vardeesh become aware of the various methods by which non-toxic food could be produced. Ms. Vardeesh quit a lucrative job in the U.S. to take up 'cashless' organic farming in Tamil Nadu. Cashless farming is 'zero budget farming,' which does not require an investment on chemical pesticides and fertilizers. She also has the credit of planting 28,000 saplings.

She had reaped a bumper harvest of three tonnes of butter beans last year. The farm also houses Plumeria Eco Trails, a resort where visitors are introduced to healthy food and ethical farming. The resort emphasises that burning calories in farming is more productive than pedalling a stationary bicycle in a gym.

Ms. Vardeesh is now working on expanding farmers' collective and consumer groups. The farmers' collective is trained in zero-budget farming and encouraged to produce organic vegetables. Most members are landless as their holdings had been taken away as mortgage for loans.

'Organic but no premium'

Currently, vegetables are transported in buses. Vegetables from her farm are also sold in the farmers' market in Madurai under 'Narpayir,' a network of farmers.

"We sell organic vegetables at normal prices due to low transportation cost and absence of middlemen or traders," she said.

GUEST COLUMN

Indra Nooyi — the willing mentor

Her agenda for 'Performance with Purpose' meant healthier products and better use of scarce natural resources



SHIV SHIVAKUMAR

Indra Nooyi worked in PepsiCo for 24 years, as SVP-Strategy, CFO and then as Chairman and CEO for 12 years. I write about her, the person I saw and admired.

Indra was more than a CEO for everyone in PepsiCo India. To me, she was a willing mentor; for women in the PepsiCo India team, she was an ideal role model and someone no one wanted to let down. The PepsiCo India team had a unique bond with Indra and she was part of every employee's family stories. She made everyone feel special and had huge expectations of India.

I will always remember Indra for five things:

The 'Performance with Purpose' agenda she set in 2006 as CEO and then refined it in 2016 for the year 2025. She was ahead of her time in shaping responsible and constructive capitalism.

'Performance with Purpose' touched the 'Planet, People and Products' in PepsiCo and its ecosystem. This meant healthier products and better use of scarce natural resources like water and empowerment of women and differently-abled people.

The Nutrition category owes its shine in PepsiCo due to her belief in their mission. Indra prepared diligently for every meeting and event, big or small. She spent hours poring through every note asking great questions of the issues involved. Indra never turned up unprepared for a meeting. She wanted to know all the facts. Indra was a rare leader in PepsiCo who read every pre-read material sent to her despite her schedule. She loved thoroughness and abhorred slothfulness.

> **She was the ultimate Indian cricket team fan and followed its fortunes through SMS updates, even in serious meetings**

Indra loved music, movies, reading and cricket. She was the ultimate Indian cricket team fan and followed the fortunes of the team through SMS updates, even in serious meetings. Indra is now the first woman director on the International Cricket Council board.

'Stayed connected'

Indra stayed connected with everyone from Bollywood stars, musicians, Presidents, Prime Ministers to customers. She knew everyone's birthday and special days and made it a point to call or message the person.

She was a willing mentor to many, and their children too. She willingly marked time to talk to customers' children who were planning to study in the U.S. and gave them thoughtful advice. She insisted on getting products right for the local palate. Indra tasted the new Quaker Upma in Chennai in September 2016 and rejected it because she felt it was not a 'wow' product. Indra wanted it improved.

The team worked through the formulation again and gave her an improved Quaker Upma in March 2017. Indra instantly liked that and sure enough, the consumers loved it too. Indra is rich but frugal, Indra is strategic yet grounded; Indra is tough but caring. PepsiCo will be a different company without Indra. PepsiCo will get used to a new normal. Indra brought empathy, warmth and stature to the role. Thank you, Indra!

(The writer is ex-Chairman and CEO, India and South Asia Region, PepsiCo)

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

Another abysmal batting display sends India to its doom

Broad and Anderson capitalise on damp and gloomy conditions to scythe through the top-order and skittle the visitors out for a mere 130 in its second innings

INDIA IN ENGLAND

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
LONDON

All the fuss about the weather was for nothing. In the end it took England less than two full days in effect to blow India away at Lord's and claim a 2-0 series lead.

Stuart Broad and the incredible James Anderson combined to take eight wickets as India sank to defeat by an innings and 159 runs on the fourth day of the second Test. The humiliation was complete about an hour after tea, Virat Kohli's men having lasted all of 82.2 overs over two innings.

Big ask

There is no denying that this was a bad toss to lose, and that the touring batsmen had to deal with difficult batting conditions. But a side ranked No.1 in the world is held to a higher standard. Only one team in Test history has come back from 0-2 down to win a five-match series – Don Bradman's Australia in the 1936-37 Ashes. It's reasonable to presume that India has no Bradman to call on.

The downpour that had been forecast for Sunday did not materialise. Instead, England batted on under dull skies in the morning, declaring on a lead of 289. It was going to need a heroic effort from India's batsmen to deny the home side a win. And there wasn't one.

Vijay's pair

Where day three was sunny, day four was damp and gloomy. Anderson is not one to waste such opportunities. In the third over, he got one delivery to seam back into M. Vijay; it kissed the inside edge on its way to Jonny Bairstow. Vijay walked back having bagged a pair; once a trusted, reliable hand at the top of the order, he has this year been out of sorts.

K.L. Rahul was also flummoxed by Anderson, an inducker trapping him in front; he did not even bother with a review. Light rain forced an early lunch, at which stage India was 17 for two, giving Kohli an opening-pair headache with three Tests left in the series.

Painful stay

There were other aches too. India's skipper had a stiff back and had spent some time off the field on Saturday for treatment on it. He did not take the field on the fourth morning, and was thus not eligible to bat for the first 37 minutes of the Indian innings.

He seemed in pain during his stay at the crease, grimacing when pushing forward to defend and limping between the wickets. India will fret over his availability and condition for the third Test, set to begin on Saturday in Nottingham.

Ajinkya Rahane walked out at four instead. He batted with caution for his 13 until he chased a wider delivery from Broad and was caught at third slip.

Cheteshwar Pujara, run-out in unfortunate fashion in the first innings, was determined to stay at the crease, and made no pretense of entertaining anybody. He faced 87 balls for his 17, an innings that included 75 dot balls.

THIRD TEST
• **Nottingham**, *Aug. 18-22*

Broad had been causing him trouble and eventually bowled him with a big in-swinger, the ball brushing the pads and knocking the stumps over. Kohli and Pujara had kept England at bay for half an hour but hope was quickly evaporating.

Broad was humming now, bowling fast, getting the ball to tail in sharply. He soon claimed the Indian captain, who had clearly been struggling with his back. An awkward short delivery was fended off; the ball flicked the glove before ballooning off the batsman's thigh. Ollie Pope dived forward to hold a good catch at forward-short-leg.

Kohli was convinced he had not hit the ball and reviewed the decision, but replays showed there was slight contact with the glove. Broad was on fire and he struck again next ball, pinning Dinesh Karthik leg-before. At tea, India was six down.

The formalities did not take long. Hardik Pandya's exit triggered a collapse of four for 14 in five overs. Only R. Ashwin resisted, his side's top-scorer in both innings, braving a couple of blows on the knuckles. He should recover in time for Trent Bridge. India may not.

SCOREBOARD ENGLAND VS INDIA, SECOND TEST, DAY FOUR

India —1st innings: 107 in 35.2 overs.

England — 1st innings: Alastair Cook c Karthik b Ishant 21 *(25b, 4x4)*, Keaton Jennings lbw b Shami 11 *(22b)*, Joe Root lbw b Shami 19 *(53b, 2x4)*, Ollie Pope lbw b Hardik 28 *(38b, 3x4)*, Jonny Bairstow c Karthik b Hardik 93 *(144b, 12x4)*, Jos Buttler lbw b Shami 24 (22b, 4x4), Chris Woakes (not out) 137 *(177b, 21x4)*, Sam Curran c Shami b Hardik 40 *(49b, 5x4, 1x6)*; Extras (b-11, lb-10, nb-1, w-1): 23; Total (for seven wkts. decl. in 88.1 overs): 396.

Fall of wickets: 1-28 (Jennings, 7.3 overs), 2-32 (Cook, 8.2), 3-77 (Pope, 21.2), 4-89 (Root, 24.4), 5-131 (Buttler, 31.1), 6-320 (Bairstow, 74.4), 7-396 (Curran, 88.1).

India bowling: Ishant 22-4-101-1, Shami 23-4-96-3, Kuldeep 9-1-44-0, Hardik 17.1-0-66-3, Ashwin 17-1-68-0.

India — 2nd innings: M. Vijay c Bairstow b Anderson 0 *(8b)*, K.L. Rahul lbw b Anderson 10 *(16b, 2x4)*, Cheteshwar Pujara b Broad 17 *(87b, 1x4)*, Ajinkya Rahane c Jennings b Broad 13 *(33b, 2x4)*, Virat Kohli c Pope b Broad 17 *(29b, 2x4)*, Hardik Pandya lbw b Woakes 26 (43b, 5x4), Dinesh Karthik lbw b Broad 0 *(1b)*, R. Ashwin (not out) 33 *(48b, 5x4)*, Kuldeep Yadav b Anderson 0 *(7b)*, Mohammed Shami lbw b Anderson 0 *(3b)*, Ishant Sharma c Pope b Woakes 2 *(7b)*; Extras (b-6, lb-6): 12; Total (in 47 overs): 130.

Fall of wickets: 1-0 (Vijay, 2.2), 2-13 (Rahul, 6.1), 3-35 (Rahane, 18.6), 4-50 (Pujara, 26.5), 5-61 (Kohli, 30.3), 6-61 (Karthik, 30.4), 7-116 (Hardik, 42.1), 8-121 (Kuldeep, 43.4), 9-125 (Shami, 45.1).

England bowling: Anderson 12-5-23-4, Broad 16-6-44-4, Woakes 10-2-24-2, Curran 9-1-27-0.

Man-of-the-Match: Woakes.

England won the second Test by an innings and 159 runs to take 2-0 lead in five-match series.



Breached: Cheteshwar Pujara's determined stay was ended by a Stuart Broad in-swinger. ▪ AP



Chris Woakes at Lord's

Chris Woakes	Span	Mat	Runs	HS	Bat Av	100	Wkts	BBI	Bowl Av	5-for
Overall	2013-2018	25	**1,000**	137*	**32.25**	1	**66**	6 for 70	**33.71**	2
At Lord's	2016-2018	3	**261**	137*	**130.5**	1	**18**	6 for 70	**10.16**	2

Kohli hopes to be fit for third Test

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
LONDON

Virat Kohli believes he will be fit for the third Test in Nottingham though he may be unable to field as normal. The India captain has a sore back and was clearly in pain during the second innings on Sunday.

"As of yesterday and today, it hasn't been great," he said. "The back can be very tricky when it goes off. It happened in the last leg of the South Africa tour when I missed a T20 game (the third T20 in Cape Town). That was very sudden, it happened a day before (that game).

Time to rest

"The good thing (now) is that I have five days before the next Test. We are confident that with rehab and strengthening I should be ready for the next game."

Fielding and running between the wickets could be issues.

"Although [I may] not [have] the same intensity in the field, I should be good enough to hold a position in the field and be 100% with the bat.

"Again, I'll have to look at the running (between the wickets) bit, which was difficult today. As of now the back is sore – I'm not hiding that fact. That's part of the game. I had to do whatever I could to go out there and bat again and try my best. Five days is good enough time to be ready for the next Test."

Lord's Test in numbers

- This was the **first innings defeat** suffered by India under Kohli's captaincy in 37 Tests
- India's previous innings defeat was **also in England** (The Oval, 2014)
- England's lost innings victory **at Lord's** was against Pakistan in 2010
- **Anderson** became the first bowler to claim 100 wickets at Lord's and the second one after Muralitharan to achieve the feat at any venue. The Sri Lankan has 100 or more scalps at three venues — Galle, Kandy and SSC, Colombo)
- Broad (424) broke into the **list of top-10** bowlers in Tests

England won a Lord's Test against an Asian country after five attempts:

Draw vs SL, 2014 | **Lost** vs India, 2014
Draw vs SL, 2016 | **Lost** vs Pakistan, 2016
Lost vs Pakistan, 2018

- In 14th such instance, Adil Rashid joined the list of players part of a winning Test without batting, bowling, taking a catch or effecting a stumping
- Ashwin (29 & 33 n.o.) was the top scorer for India in both innings



'We didn't play good cricket in this game'

Kohli refuses to blame the conditions for the debacle; Root says India did put up a fight

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
LONDON

After enduring his first innings-defeat as captain, a hurt Virat Kohli admitted that India was outplayed by England at Lord's.

"There's no hiding from the fact that mistakes have been made," he said. "We didn't play good cricket in this game. We bowled well in the beginning but didn't hit our areas consistently.

"We didn't get enough chances in the field to miss any, but with bat and ball we could have done much better than we did. We're certainly not thinking of anything else but making it 2-1 in the series and building on that strongly."

Improve in next game

He added: "This is the first time in the last five Tests that we've been really outplayed. We've competed in every game before.

"A side like England, when they play like that, they can outplay any opposition, especially when they play at home and the ball is doing a bit. We'll have to accept that, put it aside and improve in the next game."

Kohli did not want to use the conditions as an excuse. "A lot of people are talking about the conditions, that we batted during a difficult time. On the day that was good for batting, we had to bowl. If we think about these things, we won't be able to plan for the future. You can't control the toss or how the weather will be on a particular day," he said.

Kohli was asked if the team was a 'one-man army'. "We definitely as a team don't and can't think from that point of view.

"We've been selected to play for the country. We need guys putting their hands up and saying 'give me a tough situation, I'm going to pull the team out.'

"As I said before the game, it's all in the head. It's nothing to do with the game. You can play well in any condition if you are mentally ready for it. We should want the next Test match to come early rather than thinking we have five days till the next Test match comes."

Meanwhile, Joe Root refuted the idea that India failed to put up a fight.

"I don't see any lack of fight, or lack of trying. India are doing everything they can, but from my perspective, I'm so pleased we're bowling as well as we are.

"That's what's been the difference, not necessarily India but how well we have performed, the areas we've put the ball in, the questions we have asked of them. When you build pressure for long periods it's difficult as a batter to get through that sometimes. We've given them nothing," he said.

'Anderson is special'

Root hailed James Anderson's contribution.

"He's a special, special commodity, isn't he. He's something that doesn't come along very often and we've got to enjoy him while he's around, there's been chat about his longevity but at the minute he's bowling better than he ever has before. [He has] 100 wickets here at Lord's now, time and again he puts in fantastic performances."



Delighted: The England team celebrates a clinical victory. ▪ GARETH COPLEY/GETTY IMAGES

India-A pulls it back



Checkpoint: Umpires inspect the pitch. ▪ G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

SA-A IN INDIA

SPORTS REPORTER
BENGALURU

Only 32.4 overs were possible on day three of the second 'Test' between India-A and South Africa-A. The visitors slid to 294 for seven at close.

The scores: India-A — 1st innings: 345.

South Africa-A — 1st innings: Pieter Malan lbw b Siraj 0, Sarel Erwee lbw b Chahal 58, Zubayr Hamza c Shreyas b Chahal 93, Hendrik van der Dussen c Bharat b Rajpoot 22, Rudi Second c Shaw b Rajpoot 47, Senuran Muthusamy (batting 22), Dwaine Pretorius c Siraj b Yadav 10, Dane Piedt b Siraj 22, Extras (nb-15, lb 4): 19; Total (for seven wkts. in 92.3 overs): 294.

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

India-A bowling: Siraj 18.3-3-58-2, Saini 21-9-41-0, Rajpoot 17-6-42-2, Yadav 14-2-65-1, Chahal 22-1-84-2.

Tests hone bowlers' skills: Chahal

Says selectors want him to play more red-ball cricket

S. DIPAK RAGAV
BENGALURU

The Indian team management has committed to the idea of preferring wrist spinners and using them as much as possible. Even as Kuldeep Yadav made his first Test appearance outside the sub-continent in the ongoing Lord's Test, for the last fortnight Yuzvendra Chahal has also been made to get ready with some red-ball cricket by the selectors.

The Haryana leg-spinner's last First Class game was in the Ranji Trophy quarterfinal against Jharkhand in 2016 and missed last year's domestic season due to a heavy international workload.

As part of the India-A side playing against South Africa-A, Chahal has picked up only four wickets so far in two matches and is slowly warming up after a two-year break.



Chahal. ▪ G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

Speaking after the third day's play, the 28-year old said, "I am playing after two years. It takes time to adjust. There is no pressure on the batsmen here. In limited-over cricket, if there is a run rate pressure, the batsmen try to go after you, but a bowler needs to use his skills to get the batsmen out."

Chahal, who has more or less become the primary spinner in the shorter formats, felt playing longer-format actually helps the bowlers in being mentally sharp for other formats.

"If you are playing Tests, your bowling will improve and your mind will get sharper. You need to adjust and think how you can get a batsman out."

Only focus

Asked about a likely National call-up, Chahal said, "I am just focused on this tournament. If I am not selected, then there is the Asia Cup."

"I have to play a little bit more of red-ball cricket, that's why the selectors sent me here. Two years is a long gap, you need to keep yourself fit too to bowl long spells. Bowling a good delivery and getting a wicket off a good delivery are two things and you need the latter. The more I play, the more mature I will get in this format."

Lanka wins final ODI

SA IN SRI LANKA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

Angelo Mathews hit 97 and Akila Dananjaya took six wickets as Sri Lanka hammered South Africa by 178 runs in the final ODI here on Sunday.

With the brilliant innings from Mathews, backed by Niroshan Dickwella's 43, Sri Lanka made 299 for eight off its 50 overs.

South Africa, needing to make the biggest target ever achieved by a visiting team at the Colombo ground, was dismissed for 121 at just under 25 overs. Captain Quinton de Kock made 54 but other wickets fell thick and fast as Akila's spin took a toll on the visitors.



Akila Dananjaya. ▪ REUTERS

SCOREBOARD SRI LANKA V SOUTH AFRICA, 5TH ODI

Sri Lanka: Niroshan Dickwella c de Kock b Phehlukwayo 43, Upul Tharanga c de Kock b Dala 19, Kusal Perera c Klaasen b Mulder 8, Kusal Mendis c de Kock b Maharaj 38, Angelo Mathews (not out) 97, Dhananjaya de Silva c Hendricks b Mulder 30, Thisara Perera c Amla b Phehlukwayo 13, Dasun Shanaka c Duminy b Rabada 21, Akila Dananjaya run out 5; Extras (b-10, lb-5, w-7, nb-3): 25; Total (for eight wkts. in 50 overs): 299.

Fall of wickets: 1-50, 2-64, 3-114, 4-142, 5-195, 6-247, 7-291, 8-299.

South Africa bowling: Rabada 10-0-47-1, Dala 9-0-57-1, Mulder 8-0-59-2, Phehlukwayo 8-0-60-2, Maharaj 10-0-32-1, Duminy 5-0-29-0.

South Africa: Hashim Amla b Lakmal 0, Quinton de Kock b Akila 54, Aiden Markram c & b Akila 20, Reeza Hendricks b Akila 0, Heinrich Klaasen lbw b Akila 3, J-P. Duminy c & b de Silva 12, Willem Mulder lbw b Kumara 2, Andile Phehlukwayo c Dickwella b Akila 3, Keshav Maharaj c Lakmal b Akila 8, Kagiso Rabada (not out) 12, Junior Dala c de Silva b Kumara 5; Extras (lb-1, w-1): 2; Total (in 24.4 overs): 121.

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-31, 3-31, 4-39, 5-85, 6-92, 7-94, 8-95, 9-115.

Sri Lanka bowling: Lakmal 4-0-22-1, Akila 9-0-29-6, Dhananjaya 4-0-21-1, Perera 2-0-14-0, Kumara 5.4-0-34-2.

Toss: Sri Lanka

Man-of-the-match: Akila.

Sri Lanka won by 178 runs; South Africa claimed the series 3-2.

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Indian paddlers will fancy their chances in team events

Despite entering the Games on the back of some ideal preparation, it could be tough going for the players in the singles draw

AMOL KARHADKAR

They returned from Gold Coast with a bagful of medals. And followed it up with a creditable 13th and 17th-place finish for men and women respectively at the World Table Tennis Championship. Never have two Indian men featured in the top-30s in World rankings.

According to the National coach, the paddlers' performances have forced the international table tennis fraternity to treat the Indian teams with respect.

And the franchise-based global league has given Indian table tennis a presence on television and on the world map like never before.

But if one feels these factors – especially the eight-medal haul at the Commonwealth Games, including an unprecedented three gold – would make India a medal-contender at the 18th edition of the Asian Games, one would be overestimating its chances. Though it is the best chance to return home with its first-ever medal from the quadrennial continental extravaganza, to refer to India as a medal contender would be far-fetched.

Depends on the draw

Of the five gold medals on offer at Jakarta, India has its best chances in the men's and women's team events. In a discipline that's globally dominated by the Asian superpowers, no way will A. Sharath Kamal's or Manika Batra's teams be expected to repeat their Gold Coast performance.

But if the draw pits them against the fourth-placed team in both the events, India may hope to win a historic bronze. The table tennis competition will see both losing semifinalists winning bronze.

COUNTDOWN

The men's and women's teams are seeded between fifth and eighth positions. China, Japan and Korea will be assured of being the top three teams from the group stages in both the events.

If the Indian teams are pitted against the fourth-seeded team in the quarterfinals, they can hope to stage an upset and win a medal.

In singles, despite Sharath, G. Sathiyan and Batra being at the prime of their form, a medal would be far from their minds at the start of the tournament.

After all, all three will start off seeded 9/16. It would mean they will have to be not just on top of their form but also upstage two top-eight paddlers each to get into medal contention. Considering the prowess and the consistency of the top paddlers, it would be an uphill task.

It is heartening to see that the Indian contingent will enter the Asian Games on the back of some ideal preparation.

After featuring together in the prestigious Inter-institutional tournament in Coimbatore last week, the whole squad under the watchful eyes of head coach Massimo Costantini have been training at the Sichuan Sports Technic in Chengdu, China.

Besides training at a facility that's considered to be among the best in the world, the fact that they have been practising with the Chinese second teams will also hold the Indian paddlers in good stead by the time they arrive in Jakarta.



Capable duo: G. Sathiyan and Manika Batra have the wherewithal to help India get a team medal. ▪ MARK METCALFE/GETTY IMAGES

Punia aiming for gold, nothing less

Says he now gives equal emphasis to holding off his opponents

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

His last seven tournament outings all ended with podium finishes, five on top. Bajrang Punia, the 24-year-old considered both a protege and successor to Yogeshwar Dutt, has been in his career-best form since September 2017 and is firm favourite for gold.

Punia admits a changed technique has helped, with the emphasis now as much on scoring points till the end as on holding off the opponent early on.

"Earlier, I used to attack early and try to get points but ended up conceding and then fighting to recover lost ground. A bout is just six minutes, you do not have much time. Now I try to hold on for the first 1-2 minutes and then fight my own game to score the points," he told *The Hindu* at an interaction here on Sunday.



Plenty of hope: The wrestling contingent at a send-off ceremony. ▪ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

"My game has always been about stamina, about fighting back. Now I have worked much harder on improving it. Earlier I used to concede points towards the end, now it is all about fighting till the very last second. The presence of foreign coach (Georgian Emzario Bentinidis) has helped a lot. Besides, Yogi (Yogeshwar) *bhai* is always there to guide me," he added.

Even as Vinesh Phogat – the other favourite for a medal – laughingly interjects to warn him of not revealing too much, Punia remained unperturbed. "Eventually I have to fight for six minutes on the mat, that is what matters, nothing else. Everyone knows everyone else's game, it is the actual action that counts," he shrugged.

His recent stints in Georgia and Turkey – where the Indian wrestlers participated in training camps and competition – have helped increase his confidence. "No opponent is easy but everyone can be defeated as well. When you train and compete against the best you learn a lot about your own strengths and weaknesses also," he said.

While Yogeshwar loved the Fitle – literally, tying up his opponents in knots – Punia says he prefers anything that helps him win a bout. But the *dhobi pachad* (shoulder throw) remains his favourite.

The 2014 Asiad silver medallist is not satisfied with any medal any more. "Medal to gold *hi hota hai, baki sab to bas* consolation prize *hote hain*. *Ab to wohi lena hai*," he declared.

'That Indian team had no fear'

Afzal says winning 1962 football gold is his greatest moment

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

It was at Goshamahal Stadium here that the legendary coach, the late S.A. Rahim, formulated all the strategies during the Indian team's preparatory camp for the 1962 Asiad, which eventually helped it win what remains it's only football gold in the games.

"The mantra of Rahim Saab which clinched the issue for India in the final was to advise the players not to play for the off-side trap, as they could be confused by whistling from the crowd as it was not only boisterous but anti-India too. He just wanted the Indians to always have possession," D.M.K. Afzal, a member of the team who played in two league matches, said.



D.M.K. Afzal with his gold medal. ▪ V. V. SUBRAHMANYAM

"There was uncertainty about the team's participation as there was a delay in the Finance Ministry giving the go-ahead. But, Rahim Saab ensured that the players were fully focused during the camp.

"All the players stayed on the first floor of the stadium and never really moved out till another camp was held in Kolkata before we left for Jakarta," recalled the 75-year-old Afzal on Sunday. "It is a pity that the renowned coach passed away within one year of that memorable feat," he said.

"That Indian team had no fear and was never under pressure despite the odd setback. It was guided by a coach who knew how to get the best out of his players. It was a star-studded line-up which included the likes of P.K. Banerjee, captain Chuni Goswami, T. Balaraman, and goal-keeper Peter Thangaraj," Afzal said.

"That remains my greatest moment despite not playing in the final and I have no regrets," said Afzal. "I don't remember any of the players getting incentives. Honestly, we played with passion, sense of pride and for the sheer love of the sport," Afzal said about being part of a truly historic campaign.

Anand in tied fourth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ST. LOUIS (USA)

Five-time World champion Viswanathan Anand had a mixed opening day with a win, a loss and a draw in the rapid and blitz chess event that got underway here.

Starting off with a brilliant victory over Hikaru Nakamura of the United States, Anand missed the thread against Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France in the second round and then settled for a draw with Sergey Karjakin of Russia to end the day on three points.

With two points for a victory in the rapid section being the award here, Fabiano Caruana of the United States became a runaway leader on six points winning all his three games.



Viswanathan Anand.

Standings after round 3 (rapid): 1. Fabiano Caruana (6); 2-3. Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Sergey Karjakin 4; 4-6. Shakhriyar Mamedyarov, V. Anand, Hikaru Nakamura 3; 6-9. Levon Aronian, Leinier Dominguez , Alexander Grischuk 2; 10. Wesley So (1).

Manchester City begins title defence in impressive style

Liverpool routs West Ham as it bids to challenge Guardiola's team for the crown

PREMIER LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LIVERPOOL

Manchester City began its Premier League title defence with an impressive win away to an Arsenal side playing under new Spanish manager Unai Emery on Sunday.

Attempting to become the first team since Manchester United in 2009 to retain the title, the champion was good value with goals by Raheem Stirling and Bernardo Silva.

Sterling went past two weak challengers to put City ahead in the first quarter of an hour with his 50th league goal.

Soon after debutant Riyad Mahrez was substituted, Bernardo Silva added the second in the 65th minute.

Defender Sokratis Papastathopoulos and teenage French midfielder Matteo Guendouzi made their Arsenal debuts but like so many teams last season the London side found City hard to cope with.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, who finished last season with four goals in three games, had few chances and Alexandre Lacazette wasted one within a few minutes of coming on in the second half.

City's strength in depth was illustrated when Mahrez made way for Kevin de Bruyne just before the hour mark.

Soon afterwards Sergio Aguero was guilty of shooting instead of playing in De Bruyne but in the next attack Benjamin Mendy, making his first league start since last September, set up Bernardo Silva to score.

City has now lost only one away game in the league – at Liverpool – of its last 21.

"I think we were better than them today," Bernardo Silva told Sky Sports. "We wanted to be professional and we did it. We defended very well and were a very compact team."

Earlier, Mohamed Salah opened his account for the new campaign as Liverpool backed up the pre-season hype it can challenge City for the title by sweeping aside West Ham 4-0 at Anfield.

Sadio Mane scored twice and Daniel Sturridge added a late fourth in an impressive display by Jurgen Klopp's men as £65 million goalkeeper Alisson Becker kept a clean sheet on debut.

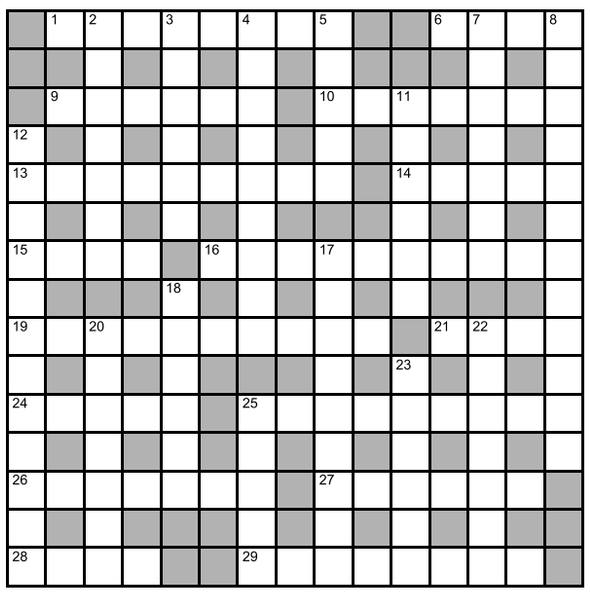
The results: Arsenal 0 lost to Manchester City 2 (Sterling 14, B. Silva 64); Liverpool 4 (Salah 19, Mane 45+2, 53, Sturridge 88) bt West Ham 0; Southampton 0 drew with Burnley 0.



Winning start: Raheem Sterling, followed by Bernardo Silva, were on target for City. ▪ SHAUN BOTTERILL/GETTY IMAGES

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12394

(set by Gridman)



ACROSS

1 Indication of cost of power, grain and gun withdrawn (5,3)
6 Puts a limit on headgear (4)
9 Sailor goes after woman – a divine form (6)
10 Aglow, that man takes turn for drug (7)
13 Advice to loiterers summons Golan (4,5)
14 Having toiled, make use of its heart (5)
15 Yet no time for what's outside the window (4)
16 Urge in favour of old fellow's copy for print run (5,5)
19 Spry line-up – an arrangement that's not likely to skid (10)
21 Western wing's sympathetic (4)
24 Boy – one boy – one in need of legal defence (5)
25 Partial or total transformation of birds of prey (9)
26 Hint kin's crazy for fish (7)
27 Not that they act more and more in films (6)
28 Are excited about zoophilist's first book (4)
29 Broadcast, passed on around, is rejected (8)

DOWN

2 Comeback on test beginning to lag (7)
3 Farm labourer's vehicle contains books about origin of tillage (6)
4 Engine trouble having worsened, the French withdraw support (9)
5 Girl, primarily upright, meets another girl rising in prison (5)
7 Activist run out – played restlessly (7)
8 One that is relatively uncomplicated (6,6)
11 Mother in unfamiliar parts takes a hike (6)
12 Deprived of strength, copper's relative not on – same degeneration ahead (12)
17 Parts falling off lowlier sort of beachwear (9)
18 Short piece, variety falling short – one beachwear (6)
20 With small heart, he's a persistent person (7)
22 Put life into main tea break (7)
23 Savvy town's new leaders fall down to act the toady (6)
25 Cool, no female is steely (5)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12393

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Vairagya is the means

Sastras claim that there is no other means except vairagya that can lead to salvation. Krishna explains the various steps for the practice of dhyana or meditation that Patanjali claims is the seventh stage of yoga that can lead directly to the state of Samadhi, said Srimati Rukmini Ramamurthy in a discourse. Meditation practised in solitude helps to keep off external distractions and enables one to see, feel and hear the indweller in each being. Trying to have a constant control over the senses, body and mind, the aspirant should strive to give up desires and also not expect anything from others. The extremities of emotion, raga and dvesha, arising from worries, attachment to family and friends, have to be shed. One should choose a suitable seat and asana to practise meditation in such a way that it will be conducive to bring the mind under control. Dhyana is effective when the mind is pure and there is "Chitta vritti nirodha," cessation of the innumerable thought patterns that keep crisscrossing in the human mind endlessly like the river flow. The mind that is naturally attracted to the outside world has to be turned inwards. Hence Krishna suggests that the aspirant meditate on what is most worthwhile. If one is convinced that he is seeking the Highest and Supreme Being ever, the Supreme Lord, who alone is the only resort for all, he begins to worship Him through meditation. There are options for inward mediation; the aspirant can focus on the Supreme Being as Saguna Brahman, one with all the adorable and auspicious qualities; or on the Nirguna Brahman, one beyond all these attributes. Then one can experience tranquillity of mind even amid the hectic tensions of daily life. For the success of this endeavour, one has to have the backing of sincere and genuine practice, determination and tremendous effort.

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

IN BRIEF



Pique announces international retirement

BARCELONA

Spain centre-back Gerard Pique confirmed that he had ended a glittering international career on Saturday, saying that the appointment of his former Barcelona coach Luis Enrique would not change his mind. The 31-year-old made the last of his 102 international appearances in Spain's World Cup last-16 loss to Russia. "I talked to him (Enrique) a week or two ago. I told him that the decision was already made," Pique said. AFP

Kerala defeats Andhra Pradesh

HYDERABAD:

Kerala scored a 3-0 win over Andhra Pradesh in the league phase of the sub-junior National football championship here on Sunday.

The result:
Kerala 3 (Jasim Kabbar, Muhammad Irfad, Muhammed Mishal) bt Andhra Pradesh 0.

Vijay Shankar ruled out of Quadrangular



Vijay Shankar.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Injured Tamil Nadu all-rounder Vijay Shankar has been ruled out of the upcoming Quadrangluar A series involving India (A and B), South Africa A and Australia A, starting on Aug. 17.

The all-rounder is suffering from a left hamstring injury and undergoing rehab at NCA, Bengaluru.

ROUND-UP

Suresh, Rahul shine

NEW DELHI: Man-of-the-match Suresh Kohli top-scored with 56 and Rahul Kumar picked up three wickets as DDA beat PSM by two wickets in the Sports Sun cricket tournament.

The scores: PSM 172 for eight in 40 overs (Anurag Kumar 53, Chetainya Sharma 38; Rahul Kumar three for 37) lost to DDA 174 for eight in 31.2 overs (Suresh Kohli 56, Nikhil Bhati 41; Kartik Goyal four for 28).

Lalit scores century

Lalit Yadav's 113 and Prince Yadav's four wickets helped Sporting Club beat RP Academy by 26 runs through DLS method in the 2nd Shanti Devi memorial cricket tournament.

The scores: Sporting Club 222 in 34.2 overs (Lalit Yadav 113, Rajat Lochab 45; Suraj Kumar three for 23) bt RPA 157 for seven in 33 overs (Abhinav Tej Rana 49, Himanshu Bisht 39; Prince Yadav four for 30, Manish Sehrawat three for 29). Revised target: 184.

Dicka scores Bagan's winner

KOLKATA: Dipanda Dicka's 72nd minute goal helped Mohun Bagan post a 1-0 victory over George Telegraph in a Calcutta Football League (CFL) match here on Sunday.

Following a period of resistance, Bagan benefited from its move to bring on Tirthankar in the 68th minute.

Within four minutes, Tirthankar sent in a left-footer from the right and Dicka headed it in to score the all important goal of the match.

Bagan leads the table with nine points from three matches.

Magical finish for Madappa

The 20-year-old becomes the youngest Indian to win an Asian Tour title

TAKE SOLUTIONS

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

Despite turning professional barely two seasons ago, Viraj Madappa walked the KGA course with the confidence of a past master.

While his nearest rivals crumbled in the face of pressure and testing conditions, the 20-year-old held his nerve and collected the TAKE Solutions Masters trophy with a four-under 67 final round on Sunday. The maiden Asian Tour title also made him richer by $63,000. Madappa became the youngest Indian to win on the Asian Tour, beating the record held by Gaganjeet Bhullar who won the Indonesia Invitational when he was 21.

A victory seemed unlikely at the end of the 10th hole, when Zimbabwe's Scott Vincent returned an eagle and moved two shots clear of the field. Madappa, however, retained a positive outlook and came within one stroke of Vincent by the 15th hole.

On the 16th, a nervous Vincent three-putted for a bogey, while Madappa made a birdie to take the sole lead. A terrible approach shot on the 17th cost Vincent another bogey and the title.



Well done! Viraj Madappa with his reward. ▪ SUDHAKARA JAIN

Move pays off

For Madappa, his decision to move to Bengaluru to train with renowned coach Tarun Sardesai had paid off. "I moved to Tarun's academy here from Kolkata in 2016. It was a big decision, which involved a lot of sacrifices. Tarun and I had a lot of work to do on my game," Madappa said.

A large group of supporters cheered the champion's every move. "The energy in the crowd was fantastic. A lot of kids from our Tarun Sardesai Golf Academy watched me play. They were so loud and supportive. It made a huge difference," Madappa said.

Also part of the crowd was his mother, Vidya Madappa, who after each hole, gracefully accepted well wishes and encouraging messages from enthusiastic spectators.

With a title in the bag, Madappa has secured his Asian Tour card until next year. "When I was an amateur in late 2015, it was a difficult time for me. My scoring average was around 75-76, and I was really questioning my game. It has been an incredible journey," Madappa said.

Vincent finished two strokes behind the winner in tied-second, alongside the Thailand duo of Danthai Boonma and Y. Suradit, and overnight leader Miguel Carballo.

Bengaluru lad and KGA's very own Khalin Joshi, who started the day in tied-second, only managed an even-par to take tied-third.

Top scores: 268: Viraj Madappa (Ind) (70, 65, 66, 67).
270: Danthai Boonma (Tha) (66, 61, 73, 70), Scott Vincent (Zim) (66, 71, 65, 68), Y. Suradit (Tha) (66, 69, 69, 66), Miguel Carballo (Arg) (66, 66, 67, 71).
272: Khalin Joshi (Ind) (67, 69, 64, 72), Honey Baisoya (Ind) (70, 66, 66, 70), S.S.P. Chawrasia (Ind) (69, 65, 68, 70).
273: S. Chikkarangappa (Ind) (69, 64, 68, 72).

Nadal sets up Tsitsipas showdown

Latter has beaten four top-10 players



In red-hot form: Stefanos Tsitsipas saved a matchpoint before beating Kevin Anderson in the semifinals. ▪ AP

ROGERS CUP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TORONTO

Rafael Nadal beat Karen Khachanov 7-6(3) 6-4 on Saturday to set up a final with birthday boy Stefano Tsitsipas at the Toronto Masters.

The Spanish icon will try on Sunday to spoil the 20th birthday celebrations of the Greek youngster, who reached the second final of his career by beating Wimbledon finalist Kevin Anderson 6-7(4), 6-4, 7-6(7), saving a match point in victory.

World No. 1 Nadal won a battle of the tennis generations with Tsitsipas last April in the Barcelona title match.

"To win this match is important, it's very important to be in the final of Toronto," Nadal said.

The results (semifinals):
At Toronto: Rafael Nadal bt Karen Khachanov 7-6(3), 6-4.
Stefanos Tsitsipas bt Kevin Anderson 6-7(4), 6-4, 7-6(7).
At Montreal: Simona Halep bt Ashleigh Barty 6-4, 6-1.
Sloane Stephens bt Elina Svitolina 6-3, 6-3.

Koepka takes two-stroke lead

Tiger still in the hunt; Shubhankar and Lahiri miss the cut

PGA C'SHIP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ST. LOUIS

Two-time US Open champion Brooks Koepka seized a two-stroke lead after Saturday's third round of the PGA Championship while Tiger Woods charged into contention for his first Major title in 10 years.

Fourth-ranked Koepka, who had stretched the lead as large as five shots, fired a four-under par 66 to stand on 12-under 198 after 54 holes at the Bellerive Country Club in the year's final Major.

The laid-back 28-year-old American has never before led a Major entering the final round but he shrugged off having 13 rivals within five strokes, even a long-awaited Woods challenge among seven Major champions in that pack.

"I'm just focused on me. I feel like, if I do what I'm supposed to, I should win the golf tournament," Koepka said. "I'm extremely confident. I like the way I'm hitting the ball."

Koepka, who became the first back-to-back US Open winner since 1989 in June at Shinnecock, birdied five of the first nine holes but stumbled with bogeys at 14 and 15 only to boost his lead with a birdie at the par-5 17th. "I played pretty well. Got off to a hot start," Koepka said.



Front-runner: Brooks Koepka, who plays a shot from a bunker on the 18th hole, could have built a considerable lead had he not bogeyed on the 14th and 15th. ▪ AFP

Australian Adam Scott, the 2013 Masters champion, was second on 200 after shooting 65 on Saturday with Spain's Jon Rahm and Americans Rickie Fowler and Gary Woodland, each chasing his first Major title, sharing third on 201.

Woods fired a 66 to share fourth on 202 with second-ranked defending champion Justin Thomas, 2009 British Open winner Stewart Cink, Ireland's Shane Lowry, Australia's Jason Day and South African Charl Schwartzel.

Woods birdied five of the first eight holes then closed with 10 consecutive pars and finished four off the pace of Koepka, who took his second consecutive US Open triumph in June at Shinnecock.

Turning back the clock

The 42-year-old former World No. 1 finished off the last 11 holes of a storm-halted second-round 66 on Saturday morning, then delighted spectators with a sizzling afternoon start.

India's Anirban Lahiri and Shubhankar Sharma missed cuts after poor show on their respective back nine.

Top scores: 198: Brooks Koepka; **200:** Adam Scott; **201:** Jon Rahm, Rickie Fowler and Gary Woodland; **202:** Tiger Woods, Stewart Cink, Jason Day, Justin Thomas, Shane Lowry and Charl Schwartzel; **203:** Julian Suri, Francesco Molinari, Kevin Kisner.

My Opinion claims Governor's Cup

HYDERABAD: My Opinion (Akshay Kumar astride) won the Governor's Cup, the chief event at the races held here on Sunday (August 12). The winner, trained by B. Suresh, is the property of M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust rep. by A.C. Muthiah. Trainer Deshmukh saddled three winners.

1 NIZAM SAGAR PLATE (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 26 to 46 (Cat. III): GOLDEN FORTUNE (Hannam) 1, Guiding Force (N. Rawal) 2, Kohinoor Legend (Ajeeth Kumar) 3 and Vijay's Harmony (Gaddam) 4. 5, 3 and 1-3/4. 1m, 43.93s. ₹7 (w), 5, 6 and 7 (p), SHP: 10, FP: 9, Q: 7, Tla: 14. Favourite. Golden Fortune. Owners: M/s. Zaveri Stud Farm Pvt.Ltd. rep. by Mr. Champaklal Zaveri, Mrs. Bindu C. Zaveri, Miss Harsha N. Desai & Miss. Niti N. Desai. Trainer: Deshmukh.

2 NOBLE QUEST PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms): EVON VON BRANDO (Hannam) 1, Shiloh (Deepak Singh) 2, Naucratis (Kuldeep Singh) 3 and That's My Magic (Akshay Kumar) 4. 2-3/4, 1/2 and 1. 1m, 15.35s. ₹46 (w), 10, 13 and 7 (p), SHP: 41, FP: 766, Q: 293, Tla: 5,849. Favourite: Tokyo Jam. Owner: Mr. Ahmed Alam Khan. Trainer: Deshmukh.

3 NOBLE QUEST PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms): KINGSWOOD (Ashhad Asbar) 1, City Of Ayaansh (Suraj Narredu) 2, Once More (Nakhat Singh) 3 and Southern State (Akshay Kumar) 4. Not run: Country's Gift. 1-1/2, nk and 3/4. 1m, 14.81s. ₹23 (w), 8, 6 and 9 (p), SHP: 15, FP: 91, Q: 35, Tla: 357. Favourite: City Of Ayaansh. Owner: Mr. Dilip Thomas rep. Rajagiri Rubber & Produce Co.Ltd. Trainer: S. Abbas.

4 WANAPARTHY CUP (1,200m), 5-y-o & over, rated 42 to 62 (Cat. II): SCOOBY DOOBY DOO (Suraj Narredu) 1, Mighty Swing (Nakhat Singh) 2, Humaaghar (Arshad Alam) 3 and Big Flash (Deepak Singh) 4. 2, 2-1/2 and 1/4. 1m, 14.45s. ₹13 (w), 7, 8 and 8 (p), SHP: 26, FP: 74, Q: 42, Tla: 323. Favourite: Scooby Dooby Doo. Owner: Mrs. Junaid Ali Khan. Trainer: M. F. Ali Khan.

5 KALAMARIS PLATE (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 26 to 46 (Cat. III): PROCLAMATION (Suraj Narredu) 1, Solar Heights (Koushik) 2, Meka's (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Exclusive Shanghai (R. Ajay Kumar) 4. Not run. Platts Tour. 3-3/4, 2-1/4 and 3-1/4. 1m, 28.55s. ₹8 (w), 6, 7 & 8 (p), SHP: 14, FP: 21, Q: 15, Tla: 40. Favourite: Proclamation. Owners: M/s. Vijay Rac. Farms P. Ltd. rep. by M/s. V.K. Gupta & S.K. Gupta, M/s. Poonawalla Rac. & Breed P. Ltd. rep. by Mr. Z.S. Poonawalla & Ms. S.Z. Poonawalla & Mr. V. N. Babu. Trainer: Deshmukh.

6 GOVERNOR'S CUP (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 74 & above (Cat. I): MY OPINION (Akshay Kumar) 1, Mahateji (Jai Shankar) 2, Exclusive Wind (Arshad Alam) 3 and Like Wise (Koushik) 4. Not run: Mr. Baahubali. 3-1/2, 1/4 and 1-3/4. 1m, 40.45s. ₹11 (w), 5, 6 & 9 (p), SHP: 15, FP: 33, Q: 17, Tla: 246. Favourite: My. Opinion. Owner: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust rep. by A.C. Muthiah. Trainer: B. Suresh.

7 BEST OF BOLD PLATE (1,600m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III): CANNON FURY (N. Rawal) 1, Halo's Princess (Ashhad Asbar) 2, Royal Dancer (Uday Kiran) 3 and Tough Sussex (Ajit Singh) 4. Not run: Forever Bullish. 1/4, 1-3/4 and shd. 1m, 44.37s. ₹28 (w), 9, 9 and 39 (p), SHP: 25, FP: 148, Q: 74, Tla: 4,244. Favourite: All That Jazz. Owner: Mr. K.R.K. Raju. Trainer: Prasad Raju.

Jackpot: ₹3,672 (147 tkts.), runner-up: 107 (2,147 tkts.), Treble (i): 1,809 (43 tkts.), (ii): 178 (840 tkts.).

Iniyan beats Sanan



Iniyan. ▪ FILE PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ABU DHABI

Young Indian IM P. Iniyan caused a flutter, defeating highly rated Grandmaster Sjugirov Sanan in the fifth round of the Abu Dhabi Masters.

Iniyan, who took his tally to 3.5 points out of a possible five, raised expectations of a Grandmaster-norm, especially after the way he crashed through the defence of his famous Russian rival.

Nihal Sarin, too, remained on course for a GM-norm after playing out a draw with Ivan Cheparinov of Georgia. The 14-year-old, already well over 2500 in Elo rating, also took his tally to 3.5 points.

The other Indian within striking distance of a GM-norm was E. Arjun who held Tigran Petrosian of Armenia.

Ajay Jayaram loses in the final

IANS
HO CHI MINH CITY

Indian shuttler Ajay Jayaram lost to Indonesian Shesar Hiren Rhustavito in straight games in the final of the $75,000 BWF Tour Super 100 badminton tournament here on Sunday.

World No.79 Rhustavito defeated the 93rd rank Jayaram 21-14, 21-10 in 28 minutes to win the title at the Nguyen Du Cultural Sports Club.

In the first game, Jayaram and Rhustavito fought well till the mid-game interval.

But Rhustavito raced to victory with a dominating show after the break.

The Indonesian kept up the momentum as he took a 14-5 lead to make the win a mere formality.

Jayaram surrendered at 21-10 in the second game.

Losing rhythm

Jayaram wrote in an Instagram post after the defeat: "Silver it is. Hurts to describe today's match.

"Started badly, never found any rhythm and couldn't find a way to get myself back into the match. All credit to the Indonesian for staying on top," Jayaram wrote.

DDCA in turmoil

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

In an act viewed as "gross misconduct" by a majority of the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) Executive Committee members, one of its office-bearers has unilaterally issued directions staying the recent administrative appointments.

Through a circular, the DDCA secretary has directed that the appointments made by the DDCA should be put on hold.

He has claimed that the appointments of Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operating Officer and General Manager have been made without informing the secretary and other EC members.

Claims contested

A member of the EC, however, contested the claims, insisting that the resolution appointing the administrative officers had been signed by 14 EC members, including the secretary himself.

The circular issued by the secretary, asserted the member, was done at this stage as his nominees were not selected for the posts.

The member added that the secretary's act would invite disciplinary action since the appointments had been made in a transparent manner with the consent of the majority of the EC members.

The secretary had also taken the decision to "dismiss" the Cricket Committee and all other appointments which have the sanction of the DDCA president Rajat Sharma and a majority of the EC members.

Welcome change

Parmod Jain, a veteran DDCA official, said "the appointments made by the president can't be revoked by the secretary as the mandate of the EC is with Rajat Sharma.

Some people in the past have run the DDCA as their personal fiefdom, but pleasantly, the new EC has changed that trend."

The Cricket Committee, comprising Virender Sehwag, Aakash Chopra and Rahul Sanghvi, has already announced the selectors in the senior and junior categories, and conducted interviews for coaches and support staff.

The announcement of the support staff, according to a DDCA source, has been delayed as their remuneration is being finalised.

Argentina's humility praiseworthy, says Pinto

NANDAKUMAR MARAR
MUMBAI

Argentina's humility in victory at the COTIF Cup in Valencia left a positive impact on India U-20 coach Floyd Pinto. The Latin American U-20 squad emerged champions with a 2-1 triumph over Russia U-20 in the final.

The India U-20 players were present in the Valencia hotel when the Argentines – coached by World Cuppers Lionel Scaloni and Pablo Aimar – returned with the trophy.

"We were staying in the same hotel for the entire tournament. Just as they returned after celebrations and before we left the place, Scaloni and Aimar were requested to speak to our boys, since both were senior World Cuppers," said Pinto.

Pinto revealed: "Scaloni and Aimar were very humble with us.

"There was nothing like they had won the title (after losing to India). Both were respectful."

Madeleine treasuring her time in India

Overseas boxers making the most of training in the country

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

Over the years, the success stories of Indian boxers have not only earned respect but also attracted athletes from overseas to train and enrich their game in India.

The trend of Indian boxers going abroad to avail state-of-the-art facilities and train with tough sparring partners is a routine affair in the run-up to any important assignment.

Likewise, foreign boxers too train in Indian conditions, avail facilities and gain some experience. Currently, Norwegian Madeleine Angelsen has been training with the National campers in Delhi as part of a three week long programme.

A European youth women's championships bronze medallist in 2016, Madeleine treasures her time in India. "In Norway there is barely any following for boxing. The biggest challenge was I barely got partners to spar and train with. My experience of training in Delhi has been fantastic...one major difference is, back home either I train alone or with one coach. Here, there are 40 women boxers with varying style and talent. There are 14 coaches who give inputs to help improve your game," said Madeleine.



Gaining experience: Madeleine Angelsen feels her India stint would be a value addition. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The 20-year-old, who has been selected in the Norwegian National elite team for the upcoming World championships, feels her experience here will be valuable.

High performance director Santiago Nieva said, "It is a great opportunity for us as a federation and a country to open up our facilities as our boxers also get opportunities to spar with a quality international boxer at home."

Former National chief coach G.S. Sandhu remembers that during his stint boxers from Australia and Singapore had come to India.

Satish K. Sarhadi, a SAI deputy director who heads the National Boxing Academy in Rohtak, shares his experience of hosting foreign pugilists.

"Boxers from England and Sri Lanka had come here to train. Some Afghanis boxers were keen to come but did not get the visa.

"We have organised AIBA courses, which were attended by candidates from Iran, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan," said Sarhadi.

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DELHI
MONDAY • AUGUST 13, 2018

Be curious, not judgmental.
WALT WHITMAN



ON OUR WISHLIST...

As India steps into the 72nd year of independence we asked college students the one rule they want changed on their campus. The response was overwhelming. Read on to see what they have to say — on campus elections, outdated syllabus, dress code, assessments and more.



M. MOORTHY

Cleanliness is key



I have been a part of National Service Scheme, Hansraj, from my first year of college. We work under five wings, one of them being the environment and disaster management, wherein we organise numerous rallies, cleanliness drives and awareness campaigns in and around the campus, with the motive to provide a greener and cleaner environment. The college authorities have placed several dustbins in the premises, and we, the NSS team and other societies work towards this cause; despite this there are many who continue to litter. If I get an opportunity to change a rule in my college, it would be to impose a fine or immediately suspend any student found littering the place.

Ushmeet Kaur,
III, BA (Hons) Economics, Hansraj College, Delhi

Stress-free travel

It is a must that teachers accompany us in the college bus so that nothing untoward happens. The lecturers in our buses do not allow us to sit at the back and mingle with the seniors. Hence, we don't get a chance to interact with them. Many students feel that the seniors are rude, which is not true. As juniors, we need some freedom in the college buses.



P. Sai Surya Teja,
I, ECE, Lendi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh


A. MURALITHARAN

Freedom to be free



If I had the chance to change a rule, it would be one that allows hostelites to move freely outside, to any place and at any time they want. Additionally, the girls' hostel has no 'self-outing' permission, along with a strict curfew which restricts them from moving around, even inside the campus. We are capable of taking steps to ensure our safety. College is where we understand the world and gradually become mature enough to be independent. To live in cages in the name of safety prevents us from experiencing life as it is meant to be.

Sairam,
III, BTech Computer Science and Engineering, Gitam University, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

Compulsory attendance?

If I was given the freedom to change any rule in our college campus then it would be the one that mandates compulsory attendance. This makes no sense because students are now mature enough to know the consequences of their actions. Not attending classes does not always mean wasting time. Further, while compulsory attendance can ensure physical presence in class, it does not warrant the mental involvement of students, and so the rule is absurd. In this era of smart work, we should be trained to manage our time efficiently and expand our skillsets, rather than focussing on the regressive policy of compulsory attendance.



Gunjan Vats,
III, BSc Hons Zoology, SGTB Khalsa College, North Campus, University of Delhi

The freedom to know the fee structure breakdown is a necessity. When we start college, most of us are 18, and according to Indian law, we have the right to vote. However, we still do not have the freedom to know details about the fee structure, especially in private colleges. We cannot understand what we are paying for, unless there is breakdown given.

Mithun Sundhar B,
Graduate, 2018, Mechanical Engineering, Sri Sairam Institute of Technology, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Dress code?

I would certainly rule out the uniform code in college, as it cannot be enforced on students. Many colleges in the state enforce strict rules regarding uniforms. Do they really believe they can mould a good future by insisting? They should keep in mind that we are above 18 years and are mature enough to know how to dress decently. We are the ones who need to vote for the future, and if we are not allowed to decide what to wear how are we supposed to do that?



Evaan Pallimalil,
II, Mechanical Engineering, MBITS College, Kothamangalam, Kerala

Teaching Gen next



As India has the largest population of youngsters, it is our duty and professional responsibility to be inventive and incorporate a wide range of changes in what we are teaching Gen next. I would like to change the rule to study outdated and arbitrarily-formed syllabi. Rather, educators, industrialists and students should sit together to completely overhaul the syllabus, annually. This will ensure that when we pass out of college we will be economically-productive and socially aware.

Swapnil Joglekar,
Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism, Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Dhenkanal, Odisha

Bridging the college-industry gap

I would like to see some changes in the process of this system to reduce the gap between the industry needs and college education, mostly in the core engineering areas. I don't think it is an Herculean task. It is just about understanding the industry needs and implementing them in the education system, rather than complaining about the quality of education and lack of opportunities. Let companies come to the colleges or at least colleges reach out to them and understand what is expected of them, early on, and find ways to eqiup students accordingly. The gap between current technology and education should be reduced because it lacks practicality and reduces innovation, employment and development of individuals.



Ramakrishna Thota,
IV, B.Tech, VR Siddhartha Engineering College, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

Break down walls



"You are not supposed to talk to her even if she is your sister and that's a rule here," was the first instruction I got from the class incharge. This rule continues to annoy me. Merely talking to the opposite gender will not cause any trouble, and preventing us from doing so cannot guarantee the absence of mischief. This practice of avoiding interaction with co-students prevents us from fostering healthy friendships. If I were given a chance, I will change this rule to make college a better place.

Aravind S.K.,
II, BCom, Emerald's Degree College, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh

Cut down expenses

One rule which I most certainly want to change is to stop the Book bank service from the college for which the management charges close to ₹ 10,000 for the same old pile of our technical subjects books, which we have to return. It adds to the already sky-rocketing fee of private colleges, burdening our parents who are already doing their best to provide us with good education. The college also charges us for other expenses such as wifi, magazines which we don't have proper access to. These miscellaneous charges add up to about ₹ 25,000 in addition to the already high tuition fee. Instead, the management can create some kind of fund which can help underprivileged children not only through teaching, but also by providing clothes and study material which can go a long way in improving the country's stagnant literacy rates.



Prabhat Nigam,
IV, Civil Engineering, JSSATE, Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Not just academics

If I was given the freedom to change any one rule , it would be to change the way students are assessed. They should not be judged only on the basis of marks. Today, colleges or university mark sheets reflect only the academic performance, irrespective of what they have achieved in their extracurriculars. Universities need to develop a system wherein a student's mark sheets project how he/she has fared in academic and extracurricular activities such as debates, sport, research, and so on.



Rishi Mohan,
BA (Hons) Political Science, Lucknow University, Uttar Pradesh

A right for all



The upheaval of modern educational machinery calls for eroding certain prevalent norms in the selection system in our institutions. I would like to bring to light the reservation system. This system was formulated just after Independence because there was a need to create a congruent and symmetrical educational framework that could be accessible to one and all, irrespective of their socio-economic conditions. But this system has paved way for inequality and nepotism. Many students are not able to get a place in central institutions because other less-deserving candidates have access to it.

Ojaswini Mishra,
MSc (Mathematics), University Of Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh

Revive elections

If I could change a rule in my college, it would be to revoke the ban on student union elections, which were stopped in 2015, citing reasons of violence and interference in studies. But, such events are necessary, especially as they effectively teach students how an election works. Also, being a citizen of such a large democracy makes it all the more relevant. An environment of political awareness would prevail. Besides, it induces leadership skills among contestants and other union workers, at an early stage. Measures can be taken to see it is done within limits, and without any damage or distraction.



Siddharth Verma,
B Sc (PCM), S S Jain Subodh PG College, Jaipur, Rajasthan

If I were given the freedom to change any one rule in my college, that will be the removal of dress code. Eventually,with the passage of time, clothing has translated from merely a demeanour to a tool to express our thoughts and emotions. Demarcating students from their choice of dressing is like curtailing their thoughts and senses.

H. Haripriyaa,
II, BCom(C.S), Bhaktavatsalam Memorial College for Women, Chennai, Tamil Nadu


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

Top ranked or high class?

What indicators should be used to measure the quality of engineering institutions?



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WIDE ANGLE

ALBERT P'RAYAN

Recently, I received numerous phone calls from friends and relatives who were anxious to choose the right engineering college for their wards. The questions that they raised included: Which are the top-ranked engineering colleges? Are the so-called top-ranked colleges really top colleges? Is it worthwhile to study in a particular engineering college? Are the details given on the websites of certain colleges true? How to find out whether the colleges have made empty promises and tall claims? It was clear that many engineering aspirants and their parents believe many myths about engineering education and colleges.

I asked two questions to whoever contacted me to get my views on choosing colleges: First, do you want your ward to study in a coaching centre type of institution or in an institution where his/her talents and skills are recognised and nurtured? Second, do you want your ward to be programmed and treated like a robot, or like a human being?

I am happy that some students do enquire about colleges and courses before making good choices. Unfortunately, some are misguided and land in the wrong place. A student who had impressive cut-off marks for engineering decided to choose a college that is not top-ranked. When asked why she did so, her father replied, "I want my daughter to study in an institution where there is freedom and where she can shine not only in curricular but also in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities." Quite shockingly, another student who had good cut-off marks paid a huge amount of money as capitation fee and joined a so-called top-ranked institution as a management quota student, as he thought he would not get admission in the college on the basis of merit.

It is undeniable that many engineering colleges are run like marks producing factories. These institutions focus on tests and exams, marks and results, and not on individuals' knowledge, skills, talents and aspirations. Such institutions achieve higher pass percentage and, unfortunately, are ranked above other institutions which impart holistic education and encourage students to acquire not only knowledge and skills but also find meaning and purpose in what they do.

Myths

Many aspirants and their parents are quite confused and do not know which institute to choose. Advertisements in the print and electronic media misleads them, causing them to be carried away by certain myths:

1 Institutions that make most students pass exams and produce good results are excellent

2 Engineering students who pass their exams with a high percentage have sound engineering knowledge and skills.

3 Institutions which have strict rules can produce good students and prepare them for the workplace.

4 Engineering is a serious programme and therefore, students should focus only on their courses and not take part in non-academic activities.

Contrary to these popular myths, many students who have graduated from liberal institutions excel in their career, and attribute their success to the education they had in the colleges which were not obsessed with higher pass percentage and meaningless rules, but were interested in creating opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills. Those who have scored good marks are academically bright and successful in life is a myth because many who scored less in engineering programmes have cracked many competitive exams such as civil services and CAT, and are quite successful in their career.

Yardsticks

What kind of indicators should be used to measure the quality of engineering institutions? On what basis should professional colleges be ranked? Definitely, it should not be based on pass percentage and the number of university ranks colleges have produced. To make students just pass exams good teachers are not required but only task masters are required. Educational institutions that are obsessed with pass percentage focus more on coaching than on teaching and do not allow teachers and students to think creatively and critically.

The faculty are the backbone of any educational institution. Any reputed college should have qualified, experienced, open-minded and resourceful faculty who create opportunities for their students to develop their knowledge and skills and inspire their students by their own academic achievements. It is a shame that many so-called top-ranked institutions do not have such faculty.

Besides the quality of faculty who contribute to the creation of new knowledge and encourage innovation and research, the other factors that should be considered are infrastructure, employability of graduates, institution-industry connect, alumni and public perceptions of the institutions.

Accrediting bodies

Engineering institutions that are really interested in and committed to improving the quality of education strive to meet standards set by accrediting bodies. ABET, a globally recognised organisation that accredits college and university programs in engineering and engineering technology, makes it mandatory for engineering institutions that apply for accreditation to articulate a number of student outcomes for engineering graduates including field-specific knowledge, an ability to apply knowledge, analytical skills, problem solving skills, communication skills, knowledge of the world and contemporary issues, and so on.

The question is whether engineering institutions that are really committed to enabling students "to study engineering in the context of service to society and the need to address complex challenges" posed by the modern world and to acquire the much needed 21st century skills, 4Cs: communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking will be recognised as real top institutions.

The author is an academic, columnist and freelance writer. E: rayanal@yahoo.co.uk T:@albertprayan

GAME ON

SARTHAK SARASWAT



The Banner Saga 3

Genre: Tactical role-playing
Publisher: Versus Evil

Does the battle of light against darkness pique your interest? This turn-based strategy/role-playing game developed by Stoic Studio encompasses this and more. Steeped in Viking culture, The Banner Saga 3 has won over 20 awards and has been nominated for four BAFTA awards. In this story-driven game, every decision you make has far-reaching consequences and impacts how the events unfold. It is aimed at gamers who appreciate art, story and strategy. According to its developers, every scene is hand painted and has been combined with traditional animation techniques to provide it a vintage look. The immersive soundtracks will definitely keep you mesmerised. It has been released on Microsoft Windows, macOS, PlayStation 4, Nintendo Switch and Xbox One.



FAR: Lone Sails

Genre: Exploration adventure
Publisher: Mixtvision Digital GmbH

Far: Lone Sails is a "vehicle adventure game", set in a post-apocalypse world, where the player controls a hybrid vehicle that can be driven on both land and water. Overcoming various obstacles and natural hazards, you need to travel across a dried-out seabed on which the remains of a once-thriving civilisation are scattered. Along the way, you'll encounter different puzzles and will have to keep repairing your vehicle in an attempt to explore and travel as much as possible. There are no traditional enemies or zombies in the game. The hazards are mainly environmental. It has been released on Xbox One, PlayStation 4, Microsoft Windows and OS X.

Moonlighter



Genre: Action-RPG indie
Publisher: 11 bit studios

Developed by Spanish indie studio Digital Sun, this game revolves around Will, an adventurous shopkeeper, who secretly wishes to become a hero. He stays in a small village named Rynoka which is located near a set of ancient passages – discovered after an archaeological excavation – that lead to different realms and dimensions. Adventurers return from quests and sell their riches in the village. As Will, players need to be involved in activities such as shopkeeping, fighting off enemies, interacting with the neighbours, crafting armour and weapons, and travelling to other dimensions on adventures. The game has been praised by critics for its art style and animation. It has been released on PlayStation 4, Microsoft Windows, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch and macOS.

Habits for a rainy day

Hobbies are what we do with a certain level of persistence, and with no expectation of payback, other than satisfaction



BACKPACKER'S GUIDE

USHA RAMAN

I learned a new word today: tsundoku. In a strange synchronous moment, two unrelated people in my social network mentioned it, and I hurried to the nearest online source (bypassing good old Wikipedia for a somewhat more legitimate site for words – oxforddictionaries.com), to find that it is "a Japanese word that has no direct synonym in English." But, it more or less translates as "the act of leaving a book unread after buying it, typically piling it up together with other such unread books." All my bibliophile friends – and I – promptly hit the like button on those posts, the word having resonated deeply within our beings, faced as we are with overflowing shelves and surfaces occupied almost entirely by books that have turned into good intentions.

So, book-buying-for-deferred-reading is practically a hobby for many of us. It is something we do in our spare time. As opposed to actually reading. Well, that too. In my own list of hobbies, I would count the latter, not the former, as I imagine, would most of you. It is a hobby, we are told, that is worth cultivating. Which brings me to the actual point I want to make in this fortnight's column – the value of a hobby.

For leisure

A reader recently wrote to me mentioning a set of questions in the civil services examination that had to do with hobbies (starting with the somewhat obvious therefore puzzling: "what is a hobby?"). Let's get that one out of the way – a hobby is something we do in leisure, for our pleasure or satisfaction. Reading purely for the pleasure of it (as opposed to studying) for instance. Arts, crafts, or sports, when not done as part of one's livelihood or profession, would be common hobbies. But, the fact that this could be asked in a national exam of some gravity made me wonder if the idea of a hobby has become outdated in some way. Yes, we all have some leisure, but more often than not, we spend that time doing things that involve screens – watching, scrolling, swiping, clicking. Old-fashioned hobbies such as collecting stamps, coins or other thingamajigs, exercising one's artistic or creative faculties, like embroidery, baking, carpentry, or more, painting, music, or outdoor activities like gardening or trekking seem to be just that – old fashioned.

A hobby is also something we do with a certain level of persistence, and with no expectation of payback, other than our own satisfaction or enjoyment. It is something we can lose ourselves in, and can keep coming back to. Sometimes they turn into alternative livelihoods, rescuing us when our regular jobs seem to dry up, or helping us energise ourselves from the daily grind. Having a hobby saves us from the wearying routine of our other everyday activities, and reminds us that our minds and hands can do other things. So maybe it is time we got a little old fashioned?



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Time to invest: Healing hobbies

The author teaches at the University of Hyderabad and edits Teacher Plus. usha.bpgll@gmail.com

Believe in yourself

You are worth more than you think, and it is only when you start accepting this will people also see you in the same light



EQ....SELF WORTH

KRITHVI SHYAM



FREEPIK

Do you ever feel like you are not good enough? That when other people achieve something, it is because of their general awesomeness, but when you accomplish something, it is probably by fluke? Do you set really low expectations for yourself and try not to get your hopes up, in the assumption that if things don't go your way, you won't be badly hurt, but when they do, you will be pleasantly surprised?

I think like this quite often and have been working on trying to change and "owning my awesomeness". All of us have something special about us that another person doesn't have, and if we place the right amount of value on our self-worth, it allows the awesomeness to shine.

If you have low self esteem, it can really mess with you – you end up having negative thoughts, take time to bounce back from setbacks and make yourself more vulnerable to stress. It could also impact your confidence and the way you come across to people. If they see you putting yourself down, then eventually they might start to believe in it too.

There are no overnight cures for changing the way you think about yourself, but here are some ideas to get started:

Stop making excuses for your accomplishments: If you have done something well, own up to it. Accept compliments saying "thank you, I worked hard for it so I'm really happy about this!". Don't look a gift horse in the mouth. If you did something well, take time out to celebrate your success instead of wondering why it happened to you.

Refrain from making comparisons with others: As our fingerprints tell us, no two people are alike. When comparing yourself to others, you end up focusing more on your flaws than on what's going right for you. If you make comparisons to set goals, change the way you go about it. It's no longer about "X is the class topper and I need to beat her", but "I've done well but I know I can do better next time." Set your own standards instead of using others as a benchmark.

All of us have something special about us that another person doesn't have.

Believe in your strengths: If there are some things you are good at, recognise this and keep doing more of it. There will be times when you encounter failure, and it will be tempting to start thinking negatively because of this. At those times, remind yourself that you do have strengths too, and your times of failure perhaps did not capitalise on them.

Give back to society: Altruistic acts contain an element of self-interest. In this case, volunteer your time and skills for a positive cause. This will help you create a tangible difference in others' lives, while also allowing you to appreciate what you have to give and to be thankful for what you have.

They say "treat others the way you would like to be treated", but I believe the corollary is also important : "treat yourself the way you want others to treat you".

The author is a psychologist and management consultant. krithvis@gmail.com

ON THE SHELF

MADHUVANTI S. KRISHNAN



Aspire C1 - Practice tests with key

Publisher: Pearson

The Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE) is a computer-based English Language test that measures your reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. The C1 scale is the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, 2001), which refers to a proficient user of the language. This book provides you with practice tests designed to challenge you at the C1 level.

The practice tests are divided into four sections. Sample answers with explanations are provided. Apart from this, the book also provides a score guide, audio scripts, and answer key. Student answer test 2 not only contains the answers, but also comments by the examiner on what worked in the answer, and what could be improved.

The thief is a history-sheeter



KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

S. UPENDRAN

What is the difference between 'populous' and 'popular'? (B Venkatesh, Bengaluru)

Both words come from the Latin 'populus' meaning 'people'. Of the two, 'popular' is much more frequently used than 'populous'. When you say that someone is 'popular', what you are suggesting is that the person is liked or admired by many people. A restaurant that is 'popular' is frequented by many people; a lot of people eat there. 'Populous', on the other hand, is mostly used with a place – it could be a country, state, area, etc. When you say that a place is 'populous', what you are suggesting is that it is full of people; it is 'densely populated'. India, for example, has a very big population – it is a populous country.

These types of shoes are popular with teenagers.

I don't wish to live in a populous metropolitan city after I retire.

By the way, the word 'pop' in 'pop music' – the kind of music that a lot of people like to listen to – is actually a contraction of 'popular'.

How is the word 'emolument' pronounced? (S Jyothi, Kanpur)

The first vowel sounds like the 'i' in 'bit', 'sit' and 'kit', while the second is like the 'o' in 'cot', 'got' and 'hot'. The 'u' sounds like the 'ou' in 'could'; and 'would' and the final 'e' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'china'. The word is pronounced 'i-MOL-yument'; with the stress on the second syllable. Like 'popular' and 'populous', this word too is of Latin origin. It comes from 'emolumentum' meaning 'profit' or 'gain'. In Latin 'emolere' means 'grind out'; the word emolument was first used to refer to the money that people paid the miller for grinding their corn. Nowadays, of course, the word is used to refer to the payment one receives for the work one has done – it could be in the form of cash or something else.

What is the meaning of 'history sheeter'? (R Meenakshi Sundaram, Chennai)

Not all standard dictionaries list the terms 'history sheeter' and 'rowdy sheeter'; those that do include them make it clear that they are examples of Indian English. The terms are used in our country to refer to a person with a criminal record – someone who has been arrested by the police. Native speakers of English refer to the sheet that the police use to list the crimes committed by an individual as 'rap sheet'. In India, it is called 'history sheet'. It contains the history of the crimes that the individual has committed or has been accused of committing. The term 'history sheeter' and 'rowdy history sheeter' were coined to refer to someone who has a criminal record –- someone who has a 'history sheet'. Native speakers, however, do not refer to someone with a 'rap sheet' as a 'rap sheeter'.

Chances are, the well-known history sheeter, will be our next CM.

The police refused to file an FIR against the rowdy history sheeter.

Which is correct 'discharge from hospital' or 'release from hospital'? (B Krishnaveni, Chennai)

Dictionaries on collocations suggest that 'discharge' is the appropriate word. When you say that someone was released from hospital, it suggests that the authorities forced the individual to stay – much against his will. I suppose this is possible in the case of psychiatric patients. In most cases, people would use 'discharge'.

****

A hospital should also have a recovery room adjoining the cashier's office. Francis Owalsh

The author teaches at the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad. upendrankye@gmail.com

EAR SHOT

ASHOK RAJAGOPALAN



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

MY COLLEGE YEARS



'Learn from everyone'

"Don't put all your eggs in one basket. Keep an eye out for opportunities," says Sidd Coutto Indian drummer of the alternative rock band, 'Zero'

DEEKSHA TERI

Musician Sidd Coutto, one whom almost every 90s kid grew up listening to, believes that there is something to learn from everyone. The singer/ songwriter/ drummer/guitarist is famous for being a 'one-man-army'. Coutto went to Our Lady of Salvation High School in Dadar West, Mumbai, for primary education and later to Shrimati Sulochandevi Singhania High School in Thane. So, what kind of a student was he, and pat comes the reply, "I was a nerdy and studious kid for most part of my school days." Talking about the special moments and memories from his schooling days, he reminisces, "School holds more memories, but particularly funny is leading the school band at sports day, waving the baton around."

Multiple interests

While school was fun, his career in music started in college. Coutto went to St. Joseph's in Bengaluru for a year before majoring in economics and commerce from St. Xavier'. His four years in Mumbai was when he began his musical journey. "College is where I started playing in rock bands, and I put all my energy into music," says Coutto. Like every other youngster, the 'Hotbox' artist too had a number of ideas cooking in his head. "I have had so many ideas growing up, that this is just one of the things I planned on pursuing."

School and college are all about human interaction and social intelligence.

Talking about his early days in the music industry, Coutto, who is considered to be one of the best in India when it comes to playing 'looper sets', explains how music came naturally to him. "I realised after college that I had spent years developing my skills, and it made sense to utilise them professionally. After that, it was about constantly meeting people and playing my music. Music came to me naturally, thankfully, but I do have to work hard at learning to play instruments."

When asked if he would have been happy if he was in some other profession, his answer reminds us of his song 'Happy', "I would have been the same in any profession, doing my own thing one way or another."

"School and college are life lessons. They are all about human interaction and social intelligence. There are rules, some of them are dumb to you, but you have to follow them, just like in life, because that is the way it is. You can choose to go against the system, but the same thing that happens in school, happens in real life," he continues. "I don't have kids. So, I have no idea what the present education system is like. But everyone has access to Google and YouTube, and there is nothing one can't learn from the Internet, when necessary."

Words of wisdom

Coutto learnt from his father that "the only thing constant in life is change." Consequently, he encourages youngsters to look out for opportunities. "Don't put all your eggs in one basket. Develop multiple skills and constantly keep an eye out for opportunities."

POSTCARD FROM...SOUTHAMPTON

Medico on campus

From making case histories to witnessing a birth in the first few weeks of his course, Vineeth discovered how different studying medicine in the U.K. was



Medicine has always been my first choice when it came to career. While scouting for institutions that had the best mix of practice and research, I discovered that the University of Southampton's Faculty for Medicine is a thriving multi-disciplinary faculty and one of the leaders in the medical education in the U.K. I also learnt that Southampton is a pleasant sunny town just 80-minute from London. The decision to study abroad is not always easy, but all my apprehensions vanished once I came here. Once on campus, the freshers' festivities, continued for over a week before the start of our course, which helped me make friends. The course is designed in an engaging manner where students simultaneously participate in a range of activities. For example, in my first week, I was able to meet patients and start learning how to make case histories. A few weeks later, I witnessed a birth..

Teaching methodologies

I will be starting my third year at Southampton soon and so far, we have been taught all the basic sciences by organ system. I find this approach useful as I am able to make connections between subjects such as anatomy, physiology, pathology and pharmacology as each of them was taught at the same time as they relate to that organ system. This is different from the Indian teaching methodology where medicine is taught subject-wise, so you learn the anatomy of all the organs first and then the physiology, and so on.

The best thing about the course is the friendly and approachable faculty. They are always willing to help. The academics are extremely passionate about their subject and that comes across in the way they teach. We are given quick, comprehensive and constructive feedback on whatever we do, so we always know how to improve our performance.



NAME: **Vineeth Lekkala**
COLLEGE: **University of Southampton, the U.K.**
COURSE: **Medicine**

Life at the university is made exciting by a host of extracurricular activities that are a regular part of the culture here. Currently, I am a part of the International Medics Society and we host events where several medics from the international fraternity get together, interact with and support each other. My overall experience so far has been exhilarating and unforgettable. Southampton now feels like a home away from home.

Vineeth Lekkala is a second-year student of medicine at the University of Southampton, the U.K.

VOICES

Gender-neutral spaces

The introduction of India's first gender-neutral hostel by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, is an affirmation in the continued struggle for the recognition of gender diversity. Sone views.

NEHA RUPEJA



SHREYA UPENDRA, III, BA PSYCHOLOGY (LIBERAL ARTS), DOUBLE MINOR IN SOCIOLOGY AND MEDIA STUDIES, SYMBIOSIS SCHOOL FOR LIBERAL ARTS, PUNE

Gender has been perpetually recognised through a universal and normative category that has inevitably led to its homogenisation. However, this endeavour has acknowledged gender as an analytical category that allows self-expression dictated solely by personal choice, leaving little or no room for victimisation. Gender-inclusive spaces are, therefore, necessary to build acceptance and tolerance towards non-binary or gender non-conforming individuals in a collectivistic society.



MOHIKA MUDGAL, II, BSC. (HONS) ECONOMICS, INDIAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND FINANCE, NEW DELHI

It is imperative to acknowledge the need for more gender-neutral spaces. This is more of a cultural notion than a biological construct. Gender is a game played by the cells in our body. It is easy to confuse it with sex. Gender is not sex. Our homes do not have separate washrooms.

When we sleepover at our cousins', everybody shares the same room. There is no bias. In fact, it would be disturbing if we had exclusive spaces. A baby step at a time is how we transform the world.



RAMKRISHNA RAJAK, I, L.L.B, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

A gender-equal society should be one where the word 'gender' does not exist. Since time immemorial, the issue of gender divide has been embedded in our society, in which the discrimination in hostels is the most common one. The recent move of TISS, Mumbai, towards gender inclusivity is a major reform which will enable students to study in an ecosystem that enables their dignity. But to make this a reality in its full potential, there should be increased awareness and behavioral change among every section of our society along with required infrastructure.



NIVETHA SEKAR, TELEVISION JOURNALISM, ASIAN COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM, CHENNAI

Creating gender-inclusive spaces drives home the importance of indiscrimination at the very outset. It helps break the stigma of gender fluidity and discrimination based on specific genders. If hostels and washrooms are made gender-inclusive in colleges and workspaces, it will break down the barriers pertaining to specific genders within the community and will be a step towards gender equality and inclusivity. Though the concept of gender-inclusive hostels is alien to our country, it is high time we took the necessary step

ETCETERA

#SortedHai

To make most of your campus life, Mithila Palkar shares interesting hacks with Vodafone U in a web series 'Mithila's SortCuts'. The digital campaign #SortedHai welcomes the youth to the new academic year with exciting propositions. The first webisode 'Having Friends Over' caters to the partying needs of college students. With Vodafone's 50% off on Amazon Prime subscription, Mithila shares her movie night ideas. For those with big dreams and small budgets, offers on phone recharges, F&B, fashion, youth centric spaces and more are here to save you every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.



Imagine Cup Finals

Three Indian students, Chidroop I, Pratik Mohapatra, and Srihari HS from R. V. College of Engineering, Bengaluru, recently won a special award at the Microsoft Imagine Cup Finals 2018 held in the U.S.A.

Team DrugSafe encountered the issue of fake medicines when one of their friends showed no signs of recovery after weeks of taking a prescribed medication. They then decided to create an app that could authenticate medicines and trace them back to their source. Team smartARM of Canada emerged as the world champion.

Fast track programme

FIITJEE introduces LEAP, a fast track programme specially designed for preparing students for JEE Main 2019 in 280 hours. With JEE exams conducted twice a year by NTA, students planning to appear for the main have a great opportunity through LEAP. Methodical teaching, phase tests and online test series for JEE Main are a few highlights of the course. To register online, log on to www.fiitjeelogin.com

Feedback
Mail your suggestions and feedback to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com

INTERNSHIPS

Client Relationship Intern at Book Eventz
CATEGORY: Sales/Business Development
LOCATION: Mumbai
STIPEND: ₹3000-5000/month
WHO CAN APPLY: All students
DEADLINE: August 16
https://goo.gl/MV4FZu

Research Intern at Industry ARC
CATEGORY: Market Research/Analytics
LOCATION: Hyderabad
STIPEND: ₹10,000/month
WHO CAN APPLY: All students
DEADLINE: August 15
https://goo.gl/gKGDTx

Operations Intern at Twenty19
CATEGORY: Operations
LOCATION: Coimbatore
STIPEND: ₹5000/month
WHO CAN APPLY: All students
DEADLINE: August 31
https://goo.gl/5Le6PR

Web Designer Intern at Cyzer Technologies
CATEGORY: Web Development/Frontend
LOCATION: Work from home
STIPEND: ₹5000-12000/month
WHO CAN APPLY: Computer Science/IT-UG
DEADLINE: August 15
https://goo.gl/4g5htb

Wedding Planner at Facts n Fiction Creative Studio
CATEGORY: Event Management
LOCATION: Gurgaon
STIPEND: ₹3000-5000/month
WHO CAN APPLY: All students
DEADLINE: August 30
https://goo.gl/J6mJh4

Courtesy: www.twenty19.com

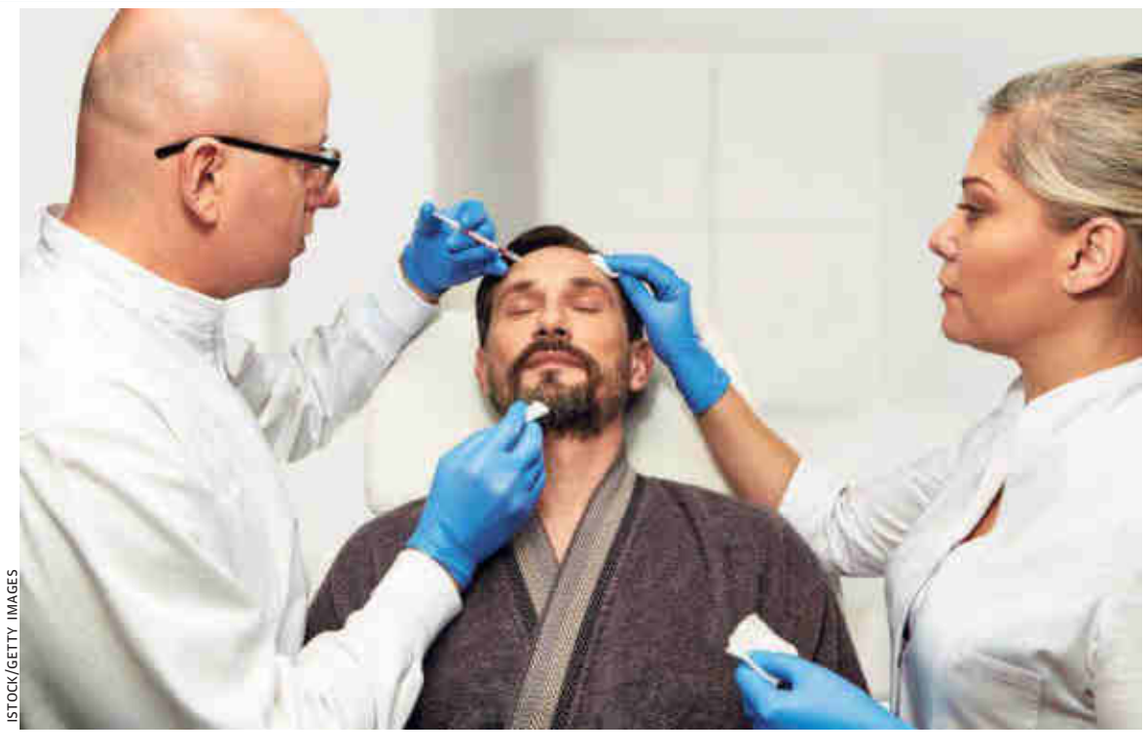
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OFFBEAT... REGENERATIVE AESTHETIC MEDICINE

Career uplift

Advancements in aesthetic medicine have opened up lucrative and promising options

■ DR. PRABHU MISHRA



ISTOCK/GETTY IMAGES

Effective treatment: Various clinical applications

Becoming a reputed doctor is the prime goal of every medical aspirant. The advancement in IT has opened up more roles and specialisations in medical science than before – one of them is regenerative aesthetic medicine.

Often touted as a magic bullet for various clinical applications, stem cell therapy, also known as regenerative medicine, is medically defined as the capability of renewing tissue for the lifetime of an organism. It has emerged as the latest method to help the body repair and regenerate ageing cells, tissues, and organs. It not only helps in improving or rehashing appearance, but also in repairing dysfunctional or injured tissues.

The technology is an effective treatment for neurological conditions, chronic kidney diseases, COPD and other lung diseases, liver diseases, autoimmune disorders, ophthalmolic diseases, infertility, and conditions related to orthopedics, cardiology and cosmetic procedures. It has also been identified as a potential treatment for Type 1 diabetes mellitus, rheumatoid arthritis, Parkinson's disease and a variety of cancerous conditions.

Over the past decade, aesthetic medicine has gained a distinct status, setting it apart from skin medicine or dermatology. It offers career opportunities not just to doctors and aesthetic physicians but also to non-medicine trained staff. Students with degrees such as MBBS and above, BDS, BAMS, MTech, PhD and MSc can apply for the course. The course modules include orthobiologics, aesthetics for face and genital, PRP therapy, bone marrow stem cells, adipose derived stem cells and metabolic medicine.

Demand

According to industry reports, the stem cell therapy market in India is estimated to reach ₹2 billion in 2018, owing to the growing number of stem cell banks and stem cell depositors. Liberalisation of stem cell research and government support are also strong driving forces.

India has established itself as a major player in biotechnology across the Asia Pacific region, alongside giants such as Japan and South Korea. Bengaluru in specific is a major hub for work related to stem cells. Experts also estimate that the country's investment in stem cell research would be more than ₹1,000 crore. The rise in popularity has resulted in a need for skilled and trained manpower.

Lucrative career

One of the major factors contributing to the growth of the field is the rapidly rising ageing population. Researchers have identified an increase in the number of aged people spending on therapeutics and medicinal services. Since regenerative medicine has been identified as a potential cure for conditions such as heart diseases, cancer, diabetes and so on, medical students pursuing courses in the field can opt for mainstream specialisations such as cardiology and neurology. However, using 'in-demand' technology to offer patients more refined and effective treatment will add an edge.

Students with knowledge of regenerative aesthetic medicine can work in consonance with a multi-disciplinary team.

Additionally, doctors and medical students graduating in dermatology can enhance their dermato-surgical skills with training in regenerative medicine. Although cosmetology and aesthetics are thriving as lucrative career options, students with additional knowledge of regenerative aesthetic medicine can also work in consonance with a multi-disciplinary team to help victims of burns and accidents. Students can also opt for careers in quality, research and development, production, clinical research, supply chain and human resources, finance and administrative functions.

The writer is the founder of CosmoStem Institute Of Regenerative Aesthetic Medicine, New Delhi.

INITIATIVE

Innovation for change

Two engineering students aim to improve the quality of life for patients with their medical aid

■ BHAVYA VENKATESH

It is estimated that five in every 1,00,000 people in India suffer from amyotrophic laterals sclerosis (ALS), a rare, progressive and debilitating condition that weakens muscles and affects physical function. People with ALS and other neuromuscular disorders are known to suffer from the 'dropped head' condition, and being able to continue normal functions such as maintaining eye contact with others could improve their quality of life.

For the disabled

For Viswanath S. and Praveen Kumar G., final year students of biomedical engineering at SSN College of Engineering, Chennai, a visit to an institute supporting persons with disabilities sparked an idea. After two years of study, research and hard work, the duo has come up with an external aid for ALS patients – one that offers head, chin and neck support.

"The products that are currently available weigh one to three kgs and cost more than ₹ 40,000. With our aid, we aim to reduce both the cost and the weight, without compromising on the quality of support it provides," says Viswanath. "We have been studying the biomechanics behind the device and have designed it using 3D-modelling software," he adds.

The device is largely made of aluminium – which makes it comparatively light, at around 800 grams – and is designed in such a way that the head's load is distributed equally over the thoracic and back region of the body. The product can be created in multiple sizes, with adjustable height. Additional features such as cushion support and nylon straps aim to increase comfort and reduce difficulties in swallowing, speaking or breathing while wearing the aid. The team estimates that the cost of producing a piece could be around ₹1,000.

Way forward

With initial funding from SSN, the students are obtaining validation from the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities and the Spastics Society of Tamilnadu. Trials are being conducted with patients, and the aid has been constantly modified based on user feedback. "Once we are satisfied with the trials, we plan to mass-produce the device in collaboration with orthotic and prosthetic centres," hopes Viswanath. The duo is open to prospective collaborations to scale up production.

With a patent being filed and the process of validation and approval underway, the device is close become a reality. "We believe that the aid can help patients lead normal lives," signs off Praveen Kumar.



SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Dedicated: Viswanath S. and Praveen Kumar G. with mentor Prof. M. Dhanalakshmi

UPSC

Cracking the civil services code

It is essential to stay updated on what is current, and master time management, in order to ace the exams

■ C. SYLENDRA BABU



M. PERIASAMY

Hone your skills: Hard work pays off

Eleven thousand candidates were selected by the UPSC, out of five hundred thousand candidates who wrote the preliminary examination for the civil services main examination. The score in the main exam will be added with the score in the interview for the appointment of 782 candidates to various services including the coveted IAS, IFS, IPS and the IRS. The main examination commences on September 28.

The pattern of main examination is descriptive answers. Both the language papers, the Indian language and the English language, are qualifying in nature. But candidates have failed to score the minimum marks of 75 out of 300, because of which their seven other papers were not taken up for valuation. Candidates must pay attention to the native language.

A candidate's ultimate success depends on the score in seven papers of main exam – the general essay, four general studies papers and two optional papers, all amounting to 1,750 marks. The general essay carries 250 marks. There are two essays, one essay to be selected from each of the two sections, each essay to be answered in 1,000 to 1,200 words. Three hours should be divided equally between the two essays. Taking two hours for the first essay and then rushing through the second could be risky. The word limit is meant for a thoughtful comprehensive essay. A candidate has to spend some time to decide on the choice question he is more comfortable with. Spend 15 minutes to choose the question, organise the replies and then to write. The essay shall have an introduction, body and the conclusion.

The four papers of GS comprise ten 10-mark questions, to be answered in 150 words or 15-mark questionsto be answered in 250 words. It can also be 12.5 marks questions to be answered in 200 words or a combination of all. There is no choice. As a matter of strategy, a candidate may spend a little longer on the questions he or she is sure of. But it is unwise to lavish time on such questions beyond the required word limit. Plan your time to attempt all questions, for there is no negative making. A candidate is likely to panic when he or she is running short of time. Time management is the key.

Current is relevant

The affairs of the state that were reported and debated recently, and those which have relevance are likely to appear in the GS papers. In economics, for example, the economic and social consequences of demonetisation and GST are the most likely questions. From the constitution and law, the appropriateness of the death penalty for the offence of rape of children below 12 years of age, is the most likely question. Salient features of the Constitution (the one hundred and first amendment) was a question which appeared last year because it was current and had significance.

As questions can be asked from any sphere, you must be familiar with the syllabus, the topics and the subtopics. What pays is taking down notes as you read under appropriate topic head, and frequently revisit them. Ultimately, you have to improvise these notes according to the nature of the question.

Read the question a few times to get the clarity as to what the task is. It might be any of these; to discuss, explain, analyse, critically examine, evaluate, and so on. Each is different from the other. If you miss the catch word, you might miss the correct answer. The correct approach in the GS should be multi-dimensional answers; highlighting the social, economic, and political aspects along with your view point. But in the optional papers, an expert's approach is ideal. In the ethics case studies, you can give personal examples keeping in mind the constitution, the law, and the conduct rules.

In the era of touch screens, it is obvious that handwriting skills are at a premium. If the handwriting is illegible, it might affect your chances of good score even if the answers are well-written. It is therefore, imperative, that you practice handwriting skills, which can be combined with essay writing practice or the test series of the coaching centre.

The author is Additional Director General of Police, Railways, Tamil Nadu.
www.sylendrababu.com

International workshop

IIT Mandi is planning to conduct an international workshop on nano/micro 2D-3D fabrication technology and manufacturing of electronic-biomedical devices from October 31 to November 2. The workshop aims to bring together engineers, industrialists, scientists and researchers from across the world to discuss the progress and trends in the field. Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, will be the chief guest.

SCHOLARSHIPS

■ **FICA Emerging Artist Award 2018**

To promote young artists studying or practising in India who have demonstrated extraordinary skills and promise in the visual arts, Pro Helvetia Swiss Arts Council, New Delhi and FICA is offering grants to budding artists to present their art to the world.

ELIGIBILITY: Candidates who are between 18 to 35 years of age with valid Indian passport.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: 90 days residency in Switzerland, round trip air and local travel and participation in FICA annual exhibition in 2020.

APPLICATION: Online

DEADLINE: August 31

http://www.b4s.\in/edge /FEA3

■ **Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY) 2018**

Students with exceptional brilliance, planning to pursue Basic Science programme (BSc, BS, BStat, BMath) or Integrated MSc, MS and build their career in research, are invited by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, to apply for the scholarship.

ELIGIBILITY: Applicant must meet varying eligibility criteria, depending on the programme under taken. Relaxation is offered to reserved category students.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Monthly stipend of ₹ 5,000 to 7,000 and annual contingency grant of ₹ 20,000 to 28,000.

APPLICATION: Online

DEADLINE: August 30

http://www.b4s.in/edge /KVP8

■ **National Child Award for Exceptional Achievement 2018**

Exemplary students from the field of academics, arts, culture, design, sports, social service, music or fields that are deserving as per the decision of Central or National Selection Committee, are invited by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.

ELIGIBILITY: Students falling between the age group of 5 to 17 years.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Gold and silver medal, award money up to ₹ 20,000, book vouchers up to ₹ 10,000 with certificate and citation.

APPLICATION: Online

DEADLINE: August 31

http://www.b4s.in/edge /NCA6

Courtesy: www.buddy4study.com

GLOBAL ED



E-learn agriculture

An e-learning hub for African universities mooted by the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in 2017 has now gone live. The hub offers free content, intended to enhance the teaching of agriculture, to more than 35 member universities across Africa.



CubeSat

The Iranian Space Agency has signed agreements with three Iranian universities to jointly work in manufacturing CubeSat and a Small Student Satellite project in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation (APSCO). According to Morteza Barari, Director of ISA, natural disasters such as drought, dust and water management can be controlled by remote sensing satellites.



Fast track

Under the European Council (EIC) pilot, 14 top-class projects will be supported by the European Commission to usher their innovations into the market. From the Fast Track to Innovation strand, each project will receive around € 2 million, funded under Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation programme.

COMPILED BY AALIA AHAMED

Research workshop



A two-day workshop on Research Methodology with Data Analysis using SPSS was organised by D.Y. Patil University, School of Management, Navi Mumbai. The workshop explained practical methods, tools and ideas to conduct research. Over 20 faculty members and research scholars from several colleges participated.

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Change of plans

Redesign of south Delhi redevelopment projects is likely to save more times, say urban planners and architects Page 2



Loom of consciousness

India celebrated National Handloom Day, shining the spotlight on artisans and weavers. Is the initiative working? Page 4



Soni goes to Venice

Director Ivan Ayr on how his début feature film goes beyond gender politics Page 5



Facilitator of change

The Chief Wellness Officer will be a powerful new influencer within the new order of work Page 6

IN BRIEF



Former law panel chief bats for gender diversity

NEW DELHI

Former Law Commission of India chairperson Justice A.P. Shah has said that gender diversity in judiciary is equally important an issue to tackle as that of pendency and judicial delay. Justice Shah said, "Merit and diversity should be seen as complementary rather than contradictory values."

CITY ▸ PAGE 2

Woman killed by jilted neighbour, accused held

NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old woman was killed by her neighbour in Bhalswa Dairy in north-west Delhi on Saturday afternoon, the police said on Sunday. The accused, who had allegedly been forcing her to leave her husband and marry him, has been arrested.

CITY ▸ PAGE 3

Multilayered security system in place ahead of I-Day

70,000 security personnel deployed as Capital turns into fortress; all-women SWAT team to be part of arrangements for the first time

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Capital on Sunday turned into a fortress with a multilayered security system in place ahead of Independence Day celebrations.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the nation from the Red Fort on Wednesday (August 15) to mark the 72th Independence Day. More than 70,000 security personnel have been deployed across the city to keep a check on suspicious activities.





Security personnel keep vigil at Red Fort (right) and India Gate. ▪ SHANKER CHAKRAVARTY

No kite-flying zone

"We had an inter-State coordination meeting with adjoining States over security in the Capital during Independence Day celebrations. Unmanned aerial vehicles [UAV] and unmanned aircraft systems [UAS], including drones and hang-gliders, have been banned completely in Delhi-NCR till Independence Day celebrations end," said Delhi Police PRO Madhur Verma.

He said the area around the Red Fort has been declared as a no kite-flying zone till 11 a.m. on Wednesday. The restriction has been communicated to various residential colonies around the fort.

In view of route diversions, the police are putting up information related to alternative routes via social media and placards on roads that have been diverted.

More than 200 windows opening towards the Red Fort have been sealed and security personnels deployed on each building. The entire route that will be taken by the Prime Minster to reach the fort has been covered with CCTV cameras. Six CCTV control rooms will monitor these cameras.

"We have installed high-definition quality CCTV cameras around the fort for better surveillance. Each corner of the Red Fort is under surveillance," said a police officer. Senior police officers held meetings with other security agencies to review security measures.

Foot patrol

The entire fort has been sanitised. For anti-terror measures, Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) teams of the Delhi Police have been deployed at vital locations in the city.

"For the first time, an all-women SWAT team comprising 36 commandos will be part of security arrangements on Independence Day," said an officer.

"All senior officers have been instructed to conduct foot patrol in their jurisdiction. Shopkeepers and locals have been asked to be the ears and eyes of the police and inform us in case they spot suspicious activities in their localities," added the officer.

The police, NSG, Army and Intelligence officers also discussed surprise situations like Mr. Modi choosing to meet people at the venue by breaking security cover. He broke security cover earlier to meet children at the Red Fort.

SEE ALSO ▸ PAGE 3

Additional Secy in top govt echelons under CBI scanner

'Officials were illegally transferring thousands of dollars abroad'

DEVESH K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI

Top government officials, including an Additional Secretary posted in the highest level of the Central government and a former New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) chairman, have come under Central Bureau of Investigation scanner in a corruption case.

Among the suspects are two senior IAS officers of 1980s batches.

Details related to them were found this past week during a CBI search in the office of caterer Rakesh Tiwari at the NDMC's Palika Services Officers Institute in Chanakyapuri here. CBI officers seized 'hawala' transaction records indicating that senior officials were illegally transferring thousands of dollars abroad.

Roadblock for agency

However, the CBI's major concern is that a recent amendment to the Prevention of Corruption Act, introduced ostensibly to protect honest serving and retired government functionaries, will make it difficult for the agency to take forward the probe against these top officials.

The amendment makes it mandatory for probe agencies to take prior approval from competent authority before initiating investigations against public servants.



The CBI headquarters in the Capital.

One of the suspected officials had earlier been investigated in connection with another case of allegedly causing losses to the exchequer, said an agency source.

The current probe began with lodging of an FIR alleging that Mr. Tiwari, who earlier ran a canteen at the CBI headquarters, had been receiving money through 'hawala' from Neeraj Kochar, owner of Mumbai-based Viraj Profiles, to help get information and favours in a disproportionate assets case against an Indian Revenue Service officer. He is also an accused in the case.

The FIR alleges that Mr. Tiwari was in regular contact with certain officers of the CBI's Anti-Corruption Branch-III. Five officers of the unit, including those belonging to the rank of the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Inspector and Sub-Inspector, have been examined so far to determine identities of those involved.

Crucial seizures

After Mr. Tiwari and Mr. Kochar were arrested for alleged involvement in the conspiracy, the CBI carried out searches on their premises. During the first round, the agency seized ₹2.86 crore.

However, crucial seizures were made from the Chanakyapuri-based NDMC institute's office occupied by Mr. Tiwari.

"Documents related to hawala transactions involving senior officials were seized, besides 21 luxury watches, ₹80 lakh and jewellery worth ₹1.6 crore from a cupboard in his office," said an officer.

Mr. Kochar had allegedly sought favours pertaining to the FIR lodged by the CBI on July 26, 2017, against IRS officer Vivek Batra, then posted with Mumbai's Income Tax Department, and others.

It was alleged that the IRS officer had invested his ill-gotten wealth in Mr. Kochar's Viraj Profiles.

Unholy nexus between CBI and IAS officers: AAP

'Agency silent on Palika institute raids'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Sunday alleged there was an "unholy nexus between the CBI and IAS officers" in the city as the probe agency has chosen to stay silent on raids conducted at the Palika Services Officers Institute (PSOI).

The caterer of the institute was allegedly found acting as the middleman between the CBI and IAS officers accused in corruption cases.

Speaking at a press conference, AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj said reports suggest that cash up to ₹3.6 crore, jewellery worth ₹1.6 crore, personal documents like passports, details of hawala transactions, etc., of IAS officers of the UT cadre were found but the CBI is yet to disclose the names of the IAS officers.

'Press release'

"Can the CBI deny it conducted a raid at PSOI, Chanakyapuri, last week? The CBI normally issues a release when it makes recoveries between ₹50,000 and ₹2 lakh. Why did the CBI not issue any press release or inform the media about the PSOI incident? Was an FIR filed?" were some of the questions Mr. Bharadwaj raised during the press conference.

> **Can the CBI deny it conducted a raid at PSOI, Chanakyapuri, last week? The CBI normally issues a release when it makes recoveries between ₹50,000 and ₹2 lakh. Why did the CBI not issue any press release or inform the media about the PSOI incident? Was an FIR filed?**
>
> SAURABH BHARADWAJ
> AAP chief spokesperson

He added that the bureaucracy had surrendered to the Central government as they were aware the Kejriwal government will not compromise on corruption.

Welfare projects

The Central government, in turn, needed the bureaucracy to stall welfare projects being launched by the AAP government in Delhi, he alleged.

The AAP demanded that the CBI come clean on what happened during the raids at PSOI Chanakyapuri, and also requested the Congress and the BJP not to stay silent on the issue and protect corrupt officers.

Lal Kuan's kite sellers cut the lethal cord

Police keep an eye out for banned 'Chinese manjha'

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI

Whether or not a *mahagatbandhan* (grand alliance) will be possible before the next elections, kites being sold in Old Delhi in the run-up to the Independence Day celebrations have declared a *mahasangharsh* (mega struggle) between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress president Rahul Gandhi. But the cut-throat competition will be kept at bay with the police keeping a tight check on use of the banned Chinese *manjha*.

"Do not take that name! You will get us into trouble," said Mohammed Nadiq, one of the hundreds of people who have set up makeshift shops alongside older establishments to sell kites in Chawri Bazar's Lal Kuan.

Locals said many such shops have sprung up in the area over the past week alongside those selling Tricoloured trinkets to cash in on patriotic fervour. Kites reportedly manufactured in Bareilly are bought at wholesale rates and sold here out of the backs of pick-up vans or cardboard boxes. Stores that generally sell other wares also stock up on kites owning to heavy demand.

Shot in the dark

However, the notorious 'Chinese *manjha*' is hard to find. On Sunday, head constable Manish Singh, who is incharge of the area, was seen going from store to store, keeping an eye out for the banned thread.

"We have not found any violations yet but we check people's bags and conduct surprise inspections. We will lodge a case if we find anything, but right now it is just a shot in the dark," he said.

As opposed to the traditional spool of cotton thread or '*manjha*' that is attached to kites, 'Chinese *manjha*' is made of a synthetic material and comparatively much harder to break. And this is exactly what makes it popular in kite-flying competitions, where the objective is to make the opponent's kite fall by cutting the thread. The thread is usually coated with glass, plastic or even metal powder to make it more lethal.

After two children died when their throats got slit by the thread in 2016, the Delhi government banned the sale and production of 'Chinese *manjha*'. In 2017, the National Green Tribunal declared a nationwide ban on it. However, reports of its use in different parts of the country continue to surface.

Strict implementation

Most shopkeepers in Lal Kuan cringe at the very mention of 'Chinese *manjha*'.

"No one here is selling it. We do not want to get fined and destroy our business," said Moolchand, a kite seller.

However, many believe it can still be found if one knows where to look. Young men walking the busy streets with large stacks of kites and a sense of purpose in their stride are regularly on the lookout for the 'expert tout' for supply of this contraband.

A July order by Delhi Environment Minister Imran Hussain instructed officials to strictly implement the ban, which is said to extend to cotton threads coated with glass powder as well. But as one shopkeeper put it, "Have you never flown a kite before? All *manjhas* are coated with glass. We do not sell fake goods."



Flying high: Kite sellers at Lal Kuan in Old Delhi on Sunday. ▪ V.V. KRISHNAN

'Tradition likely started after Independence'

'Season associated with wind pattern'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Various reports suggest that kite flying has been associated with Independence since kites with the phrase "Simon Go Back" were supposedly flown in 1927.

However, historian Sohail Hashmi said the tradition likely started soon after Independence. "The kite-flying season is typically associated with wind pattern. The Easterly winds that bring in the monsoon make it an ideal time," he said.

Commenting on the origin of kite flying, he said, "Kites would not have flown in India at least till the 13th century. After all, paper was invented in China and no tradition linked with it can be viewed as indigenous."

China and Afghanistan, on the other hand, do have a rich tradition of kite flying.

Cong MP seeks quashing of suspension of telecom services

Move comes in wake of Internet shutdown spree in States to prevent unrest or cheating during exams

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

Congress Rajya Sabha MP Husain Dalwai has moved a statutory motion to quash the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services Rules, 2017, which allow for temporary shutdown of Internet services in case of "public emergency or public safety".

The move came in the wake of Internet shutdown spree in different States across the country either to prevent unrest or cheating during examinations.

Press Freedom Report

The UN's South Asia Press Freedom Report said 82 Internet shutdowns were reported across various States in India between April 2017 and March 2018.

The directions for temporary suspension of telecom services, including Internet services in an area, can either be issued by the Union Home Secretary or the State Home Secretary.

Ministry's claims

The Home Ministry, however, has claimed that it has not ordered any Internet shutdown since the Rules came into effect last August.

Mr. Dalwai said the Internet was suspended for two days in several major cities of Rajasthan during a police constable exam to prevent cheating. He said this affected other people in those cities who had nothing to do with the exam.

The Manipur government suspended Internet services in the State for five days between July 20 and 25. Mr. Dalwai said a majority of Internet shutdowns which have been reported in the country have happened in Jammu and Kashmir.



Husain Dalwai

Seeking to quash the 2017 Rules, Mr. Dalwai contended that Internet shutdowns constitute unconstitutional prior restraint on free speech.

Internet shutdowns affect communication, businesses and even access to essential services like emergency services and banking, he added. He said the rules do not require notification of a shutdown that is ordered.

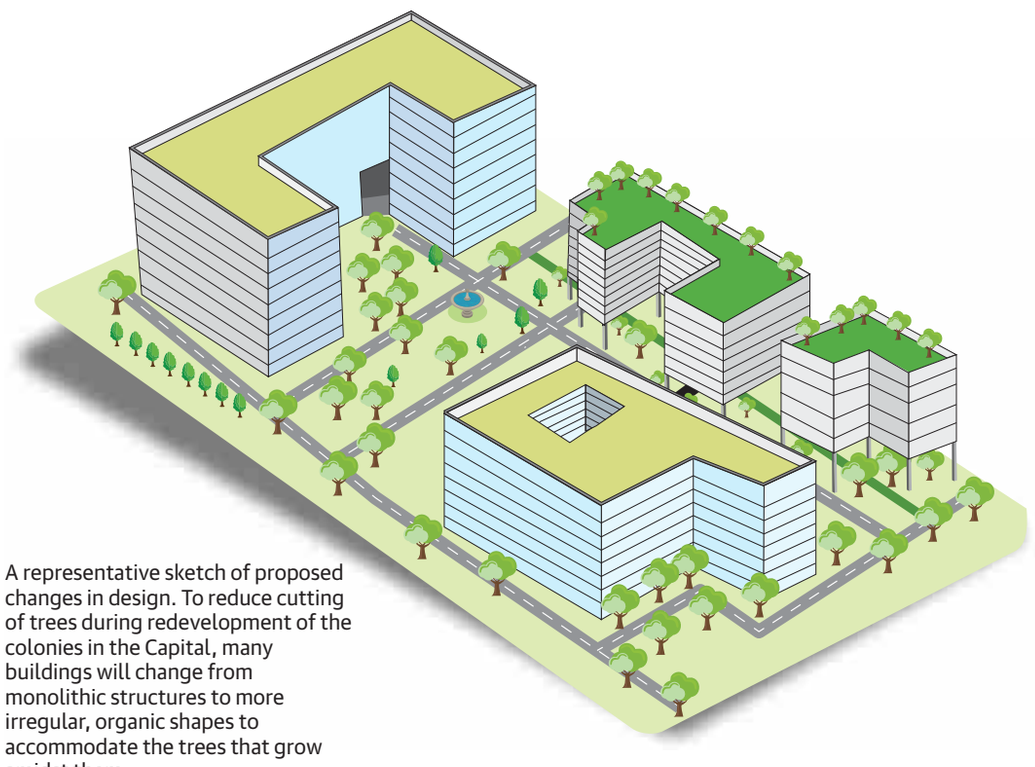
"People in affected areas do not know of a shutdown till the order actually takes effect on the ground. This does not allow the potentially affected people to prepare their schedules and activities accordingly," said Mr. Dalwai, adding that Internet shutdowns do not distinguish between people instigating public disorder and those who are uninvolved.

He claimed the government did not follow the pre-legislative consultation policy, in place since 2014, which requires that any law, including Rules, must be made through a transparent process of public consultation.

"It is unclear what consultations were held. In response to a petition made to it, the Department of Telecommunications responded that it consulted appropriate stakeholders but did not provide any details on who these stakeholders are," he said adding, "These details were even denied in an RTI."

> **People in affected areas do not know of a shutdown till the order actually takes effect on the ground. This does not allow the potentially affected people to prepare their schedules and activities accordingly**
>
> HUSAIN DALWAI
> Congress Rajya Sabha MP

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A representative sketch of proposed changes in design. To reduce cutting of trees during redevelopment of the colonies in the Capital, many buildings will change from monolithic structures to more irregular, organic shapes to accommodate the trees that grow amidst them.

CHANGE OF PLANS

Redesign of seven south Delhi redevelopment projects to avoid tree cutting, following the government's demand, is likely to save three times more trees in their original locations than the earlier designs, urban planners and architects tell ***Priscilla Jebaraj***

Planners and architects are reducing parking slots as well as housing units, reclassifying green areas, incorporating innovative building designs and reverting to original street networks in order to comply with the government's demand to redesign seven south Delhi redevelopment projects to avoid tree cutting.

The redesign is likely to save three times more trees in their original locations than the earlier designs, they said.

Seven Central government housing colonies are being redeveloped, replacing narrow tree-lined streets and small two-storey homes – many of which are in urgent need of repair – with modern apartments in 12-20-storey residential towers. The development of commercial spaces alongside is expected to pay for the project.

While the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) is responsible for the colonies at Kasturba Nagar, Thyagraj Nagar, Srinivaspuri and Mohammadpur, the NBCC is incharge of projects at Sarojini Nagar, Netaji Nagar and Nauroji Nagar. The original plans called for felling of almost 17,000 trees.

Widespread protests

Widespread citizen outrage and protests against felling of trees in June led the government to halt work, and order that the designs of the projects be reworked to avoid tree-cutting.

The redesign has been completed in some projects where initial drafts are ready for submission to the government, but is still ongoing in others. *The Hindu* spoke to several planners and architects involved in the redesign, and viewed maps and layouts for some projects.

However, the one colony where tree-cutting has already taken place – Nauroji Nagar – will not be redesigned substantially as it is being developed as a commercial rather than residential complex. In fact, construction work has already begun, with developers vowing not to cut any more trees – apart from the 1,100 trees already removed – and to replant trees once construction is complete.

In residential projects, the existing layout has a multitude of small plots divided by a criss-crossing network of narrow, tree-lined streets. Earlier designs for redevelopment called for this intricate street network to be wiped out.

Planners kept the existing main roads but treated the rest of the space as a clean slate on which they proposed a layout of open green spaces and residential towers with a footprint several orders of magnitude larger than the old plots. Obviously, this meant that trees lining the streets would have to be cut or moved.

Under the redesign, planners will stick to the old street network as far as possible, making it easier to retain trees. However, a more fragmented layout will also result in less wide open spaces.

"It is a more restrictive vision," said an architect.

The total number of flats will also be reduced by 10%-15%. It has inspired some innovation in design, as many buildings will change from monolithic structures to more irregular, organic shapes to accommodate the trees that grow amidst them. Different vertical shapes are also being tried out, especially in commercial areas, said the architect.

Some buildings are being planned so that the floors above the level of tree cover jut outward in such a way that they do not block sunlight reaching the trees below.

The other major culprit with regard to tree-cutting was the government's initial insistence that all parking must be underground, planners said. This will avoid the current situation of roads clogged by parked cars.

Delhi Master Plan

The government also insisted that parking requirements for redevelopment be calculated according to the Delhi Master Plan 2021's Unified Building Bye-Laws (UBBL), which uses the area of a house as the base to calculate how many parking spots are required. An initial proposal to replace UBBL with government housing norms – which allot parking slots based on type of unit rather than area – was vetoed by the government. That proposal would have reduced required parking space by 30%.

For example, for the 10,600-odd flats originally proposed for the Sarojini Nagar project, more than 24,500 parking spots were required and the plan called for three levels of basement space to accommodate them.

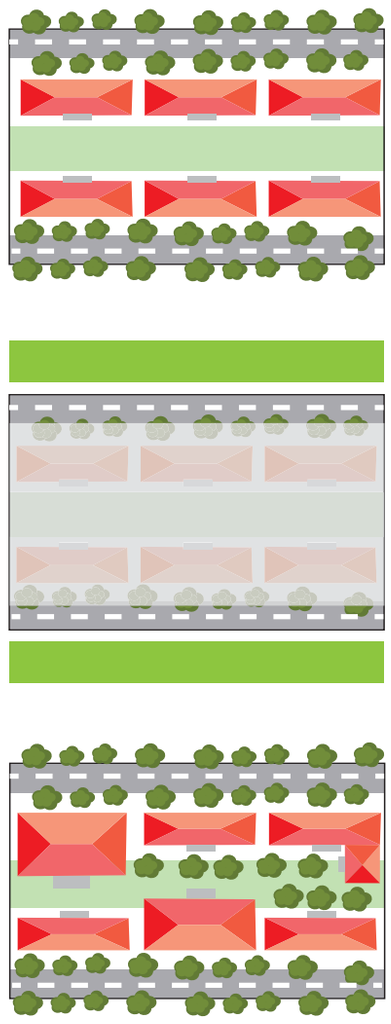
"When you excavate for a three-tier parking, there is simply no possibility of keeping the trees," explained one planner.

When asked to redesign, architects took several steps to mitigate the parking issue. Only some parking spaces will now be placed underground; others will use stilt parking and multilevel car parks are being built above ground as well. Podium slabs are also being built in open spaces, with the concrete cut out around tree trunks; below the slabs lies basement parking, while a thin layer of soil is planted with grass above. One of the uncertainties lies in whether these slabs can be counted as part of the required "green space" under government norms or not.

With all the changes, planners have been able to pare down the number of trees which will have to be removed to a fraction of the number needed in their earlier designs. Sarojini Nagar, for example, has more than 11,000 trees scattered across its area.

Under the earlier design, developers had got permission to cut or remove almost 8,000 trees. In the latest draft of the redesign, that will drop to no trees being cut and about 2,000 trees needing to be transplanted.





(Top) The existing layout of a government colony. (Centre) The earlier redevelopment plan proposed a building block flanked by green spaces at the cost of wiping out the tree-lined street network. (Below) The new redesign proposes construction of buildings around existing trees to minimise removal of green cover.

The design for podium slabs, which will have parking beneath, and a thin layer of soil and grass above. There will also be cutouts in the slab for the trees.

'Redevelopment projects to become common in metros in next decade'

It will take place whether policies are in place or not, say experts

While recent outrage about tree-cutting put these seven projects in the headlines, urban planners say such densification and redevelopment projects are going to become increasingly common in the heart of Indian metros over the coming decade.

Holistic redevelopment

"All those urban areas which came up in the 1960s and 1970s will be due for redevelopment soon...Our policies and by-laws are not geared towards holistic redevelopment," said Raman Sikka, a Delhi architect whose firm has worked on urban projects across the country.

There is need to see redevelopment projects through a wide lens and consider issues of connectivity, green spaces, landscapes and skylines, he suggested.

Mitu Mathur, an urban planner and architect with GPM Associates, pointed out that redevelopment will take place whether policies are in place or not.

> **In Delhi for example, you have redevelopment happening on both sides of Ring Road. In Kidwai Nagar, it is planned government projects, while in South Extension, it is unplanned and being done haphazardly by every individual plot owner**
>
> MITU MATHUR
> Urban planner and architect

"In Delhi for example, you have redevelopment happening on both sides of Ring Road. In Kidwai Nagar, it is planned government projects, while in South Extension, it is unplanned and being done haphazardly by every individual plot owner," Ms. Mathur said.

While several cities are developing land pooling policies, they may not work if the government demands that owners give up rights to a substantial chunk of their land, said Arun Rewal, an architect and urban planner with Raj Rewal Associates.

He suggested that if policies are put in place to facilitate cooperative land pooling by owners themselves, that may offer better ways for plot reconstitution and redevelopment.

While Mr. Rewal emphasised that the design of a redevelopment project must protect the existing vision of the city it is located in, even as it plays around with new typologies, Ms. Mathur said that redensification projects are an opportunity to reinvent the vision of a city.

Any densification project must consider its impact on infrastructure and ecology of surrounding areas as well, but several planners said existing policies to assess impact on traffic, water resources, flooding and pollution are either insufficient or poorly implemented.

Equity is another key factor to be considered.

"There needs to be inclusive planning which allows for mixed housing, with accommodation for all socio-economic classes...We cannot create ghettos," said Mr. Rewal.

Kanchi Kohli, who heads an environmental justice programme at the Centre for Policy Research, agreed. "We cannot demolish public spaces and turn them into gated communities. It is not just an ecological problem, but a social justice issue," she said.

Under existing policies, there are few ways for public participation and input into real estate projects, she added.

Noida to go green with vertical gardens

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA

Taking a cue from China and Italy's vertical forests, Noida has started setting up vertical gardens to help curb pollution. A vertical garden grows upward using a trellis or a similar support system.

These gardens will come up on pillars under Metro corridors, elevated roads, flyovers and drains, among other places in the city, Noida Authority officials said. The Authority has already come up with vertical gardens at its office in Sector 6, besides one under the Sector 15 flyover.

Former law panel chief for gender diversity in judiciary

Justice Shah was speaking at a two-day conference organised by Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Former Law Commission of India chairperson Justice A.P. Shah has said that gender diversity in judiciary is equally important an issue to tackle as that of pendency and judicial delay.

'Merit and diversity'

Speaking at a two-day conference on diversity in the judiciary organised by the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, Justice Shah said, "Merit and diversity should be seen as complementary rather than contradictory values."

He called upon the Ministry of Law and Justice to partner with High Courts across the country to publish annual diversity statistics for both the higher and lower judiciary similar to what is already being done in other countries.



Justice A.P. Shah called upon the Law Ministry to partner with High Courts across the country to publish annual diversity statistics for both the higher and lower judiciary.

> **Merely improving diversity on the Bench will not suffice. The need of the hour is judicial sensitisation. The onus is on judicial academies to ensure that judges were well-equipped to handle any case irrespective of the social background they may belong to**
>
> JUSTICE NISHITA NIRMAL MHATRE
> Retired Acting Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court

Earlier this month, appointment of Madras High Court Chief Justice Indira Banerjee as Supreme Court judge saw the strength of women judges rise to three for the first time since the inception of the apex court.

Data portal

The conference also saw the launch of a dynamic judicial data portal by Vidhi that contains data on gender-wise representation of courts across all levels of the judiciary, including district-level data.

Justice Nishita Nirmal Mhatre, who retired as the Acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, pointed out that merely improving diversity on the Bench will not suffice and that the need of the hour was judicial sensitisation.

The onus, she said, was on judicial academies to ensure that judges were well-equipped to handle any case irrespective of the social background they may belong to.

Former Madras High Court judge Justice K. Chandru highlighted the need to change training and learning practices of judges.

Inclusive bar

Senior advocate Rebecca John stressed that it was equally important to have an inclusive bar as much as a diverse Bench. Among other things, the participants pointed at the lack of training provided to higher judiciary, which could have a direct impact on the quality of adjudication.

HC: OCIs appear to enjoy freedom of equality, speech

Plea by US-based Indian-origin doctor

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has said that Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) appear to enjoy the fundamental rights of equality before law, and freedom of speech and expression just like any other Indian citizen.

The court's observation came while asking the Centre to place before it the material based on which an Intelligence report had recommended cancellation of the OCI registration of a United States-based Indian-origin doctor.

Christo Thomas Philip had challenged cancellation of his OCI registration for alleged missionary activities in Bihar.

Citizenship Act

"In terms of Section 7B [1] of the Citizenship Act, 1955, all rights other than those specified in Sub-Section [2] of the said Section are available to an OCI cardholder. Although, Article 16 of the Constitution is specified in Section 7B [2] of the Act, Articles 14 and 19 are not included. Thus, prima facie, the rights under Article 14 [equality before law] and 19 [freedom of speech and expression] of the Constitution, which are guaranteed to the citizen of India, also appear to be extended to an OCI cardholder," Justice Vibhu Bakhru said.

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IN BRIEF



Man held at IGI with drugs in thigh guards

NEW DELHI

A Zambian man has been apprehended by the CISF at the Delhi airport for allegedly trying to smuggle 24 kg drugs by concealing them in thigh guards used by cricketers, a senior official said on Sunday. R. Silavwe (39) was intercepted by security officials on August 11 on the basis of suspicion. PTI

GDA to start sealing, demolition today

GHAZIABAD

The Ghaziabad Development Authority will launch a massive demolition drive against illegally constructed buildings here from Monday. GDA vice-chairperson and DM Ritu Maheshwari said 650 buildings have been identified and they will be sealed by the end of this month. PTI

2 held for hooliganism outside Gurugram mall

GURUGRAM

Two men have been arrested for alleged hooliganism outside Sahara mall here, the police said on Sunday. Over a dozen youth in inebriated state assembled after night clubs in the mall closed for the day on August 11, and began torching properties, including police barricades, the police said. PTI

1 arrested over Greater Noida village clash

NOIDA

A 25-year-old man was arrested here on Sunday night in connection with a clash that broke out between two groups at a village in Greater Noida and claimed one life, the police said. Sumit (23) was killed in the clash at Bodaki village under Dadri police station on August 9, they said. Accused Sohit Kartar was arrested from Tilbata crossroad in Greater Noida. PTI

Constable saves man from drowning

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
GURUGRAM

A police constable saved a man from drowning in a Faridabad canal here on Sunday.

A senior police officer said a Crime Branch team of Sector 39, headed by its chief Rajkumar, was on its way to conduct a raid in Faridabad.

The team saw a man drowning in the Yamuna canal in Faridabad. People had gathered and were shouting for help to rescue the man.

"Constable Lukman Khan, who is part of the Crime Branch team, took off his uniform and jumped into the canal to save the man," the police said in a statement in Gurugram.

To receive award

"Mr. Khan will receive a cash prize and an appreciation letter," a police officer said, quoting Gurugram Commissioner of Police K.K. Rao.

The man rescued was identified as Mangal Singh, a resident of Sihi village in Faridabad.

The police are investigating how Mr. Singh fell into the canal.

DELHI TODAY

Music: "Seasons with Krishna" - Vocal recital by Vidhi Sharma at The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 6:30 p.m.

Exhibition: "A Tale of Two Cities: Hampi and Newtown - A photographic study of urban memory", an exhibition of photographs by Rajib De from Kolkata at Main Art Gallery, Kamaladevi Complex, India International Centre (IIC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Prarambh" - group show of paintings at Roop Chand Institute of Fine Art (RCIFA), 23, Central Market, Ashok Vihar, Phase-1, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditordelhi@thehindu.co.in)

Woman killed by spurned neighbour, accused held

Accused was about to flee; said he killed her in a fit of rage

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old woman was killed by her neighbour in Bhalswa Dairy in north-west Delhi in the afternoon on August 11, the police said on Sunday. The accused, who had allegedly been forcing her to leave her husband and marry him, has been arrested.

Accused Ravi Kumar (28), a contractual labourer at a godown, lives opposite the woman's house. Ravi was arrested while planning to flee to his village in Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh. The woman's one-year-old son was in the house when she was killed.

During interrogation, Ravi said he was in love with the woman but she did not reciprocate his feeling. He told the police he killed her in a fit of rage. The police control room received a call at 2.30 p.m. The caller told the police that a woman had been found dead at her residence in Bhalswa Dairy.

> **The accused had been expressing his love for the woman for a long time but she always turned him down**
>
> ASLAM KHAN
> DCP (North-West)

The police said the woman was strangled in the afternoon on August 11 while her husband, a vegetable vendor, had gone out for work. The was found woman lying on the floor with a dupatta tied around her neck. The landlord thought she had committed suicide. However, the police suspected foul play .

"The husband, identified as Rajesh Singh, was informed about the incident. He told the police that he suspected Ravi," said a police officer.

Rajesh said his wife had told him about Ravi, who had allegedly been harassing her. They were also planning to shift. "Ravi was held from the same area," the officer said.

"He had been expressing his love for the woman for a long time but she always turned him down. When he approached her again on August 11, she threatened to call the police and also said that she would inform her husband," said DCP (North-West) Aslam Khan. The accused was aware that her husband was at work at the time of the incident.

Mirror image



Shadow follows: People seen crossing a waterlogged road near Seelampur metro station on Sunday in New Delhi. ▪ R.V. MOORTHY

Schools near Ring Road to open at 10 a.m. today

City to witness heavy police arrangements due to full dress rehearsal for I-Day



Security has been tightened across the city ahead of Independence Day. ▪ R.V. MOORTHY

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Several schools situated adjacent to Ring Road will start from 10 a.m. on Monday to avoid inconvenience due to police arrangements since a full dress rehearsal of Independence Day celebrations will be held on the same day.

In a communication to all schools, the Directorate of Education, on advice of the Traffic Police on Sunday, said, "The full dress rehearsal of the Independence Day celebrations will be held on Monday. Therefore, in order to avoid inconvenience to students, schools in the affected areas will open at 10 a.m. tomorrow [Monday] instead of regular timings."

The areas likely to be affected by heavy police arrangements will be the ones adjacent to Ring Road from ISBT to Rajghat, JLN Marg from Rajghat to Ranjit Singh flyover, Asaf Ali road, Church Mission Road, SPM Marg, Pul Duffrin North, Zoravar Singh Marg and Yamuna Bazar up to Hanuman Sethu, the statement also said.

Apart from schoolchildren, commuters using this route to get to work in the morning will also need to take diversions before 10 a.m.

Anti-kite flying campaign launched

By DoE ahead of Independence Day

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Flying kites in an overcast August sky is a favourite pastime of Delhiites on Independence Day. However, due to several accidents it has led to, flying kites has become an activity that is being discouraged among children.

The Directorate of Education (DoE) has launched an anti-kite flying campaign and has issued a circular to all heads of schools to sensitise students and staff members during the school assembly about the menace of flying of kites.

A circular issued by the DoE reads, "Flying of kites sometimes leads to accidents causing harm and injury to humans, animals and birds. It becomes lethal and hazardous because of metal coated string used in flying kites. Often accidents involving kite flying have been reported causing injuries – small, grievous and sometimes fatal."

'Grave concern'

The circular also stated that it is a matter of grave concern and therefore, the passion for kite flying among the students should be discouraged by creating awareness about the danger it can pose for people as well as animals and birds around.



Parking will not be available at all metro stations from 6 a.m. on Tuesday till 2 p.m. on Wednesday. ▪ PTI

DMRC to close parking at metro stations

As part of security measures for I-Day

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has said that as part of security measures taken on the occasion of Independence Day, parking facilities at all metro stations in the national Capital will not be available from 6 a.m. on Tuesday till 2 p.m. on Wednesday.

'Swachh Bharat'

The DMRC has instructed all parking contractors to use the opportunity to clean the parking lots thoroughly in the spirit of 'Swachh Bharat'.

"Parking facilities will not be available at Delhi Metro stations from 6 a.m. on Tuesday [August 14] till 2 p.m. on Wednesday [August 15] as part of security measures undertaken on the occasion of Independence Day," the DMRC said in a statement. It also said that it will deploy its officials to inspect parking sites to ensure strict compliance with the decision.

4 held with 180 bottles of foreign liquor

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Four persons were apprehended and 180 bottles of imported liquor were seized from their possession on Sunday, the Geeta Colony police said.

The imported liquor was being circulated in the Delhi and the National Capital Region in luxury vehicles. The vehicles – a black SUV and a white sedan – carrying the illegal liquor were also impounded.

A case under Sections 33, 38, and 58D of the Delhi Excise Act has been registered in connection with the matter at Geeta Colony police station.

The accused have been identified as Paramjeet alias Pammi (58), Parvinder (52), Varun (20) and Rakesh Marwah (40). Paramjeet was involved in two similar cases in 2012 and 2015.

Further investigation in the matter is on, the police said.

Victim moves HC over acquittal of convicts in 2000 assault case

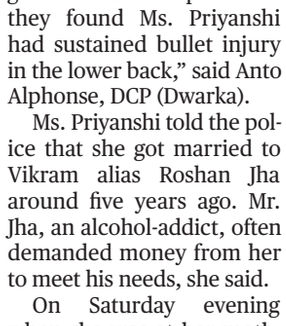
Convicts were released on probation by a trial court here

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A man, who was assaulted at his residence by five men in 2000, has moved the Delhi High Court challenging the release of the accused on probation by a trial court here.

Sunil Jain, an electrician by profession, has in his plea before the High Court sought to set aside the May 29 judgment of a trial court that let off three of the convicts on probation. Two of the assailants expired during the course of the trial.

Mr. Sunil had filed a complaint against the five persons for house trespass and assault on him and his family. Mr. Sunil's advocate Dhananjai Jain said that the police did not take any action and that constrained his client to file a private complaint.



The victim sought to set aside a May 29 judgment of a trial court here. ▪

'Long-drawn trial'

He said the complaint was decided after 17 years in which the Magistrate convicted all the three accused persons and sentenced them to one-year imprisonment. Subsequently, on appeal by the convicts, the trial court here let off all the convicts on probation, citing that they had already suffered long-drawn trial for 17 years.

"The Sessions Court, ignoring the suffering of the complainant or the victim completely and only concerned about the sufferings of the accused persons, has admitted the convicts to the benefit of probation," Mr. Dhananjai said. It was further argued by the petitioner that such an approach would only promote vigilantism which can never be in the interest of the society at large.

Company chief molests trainee, arrested

Incident happened on May 15, came to light on August 8; victim was a minor then

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

An owner of a private company was arrested on August 11 for allegedly molesting a minor trainee of the company in west Delhi's Naraina, the police said on Sunday.

The police said that the victim, who lives in a shelter home of an NGO, joined the accused's company for a three-month job training in April. She was a minor when the incident happened.

> **We have registered a case under IPC Section 354 A and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act**
>
> VIJAY KUMAR
> DCP (West)

Complaint on August 11

The accused Dinesh (35) was arrested from his office after the girl approached police with a complaint of molestation against him on August 11. "We have registered a case under IPC Section 354 A and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. The accused was arrested from his office," said Vijay Kumar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (West).

The complaint stated that the accused used to stare at her and molested her on May 15 when she was alone in the office. The matter came to light on August 8 when the victim reveal her ordeal to a woman counsellor who visited the shelter home for motivational classes. The matter was brought to the knowledge of other officials of the shelter home.

"The victim came to Naraina police station along with shelter home officials. An FIR was registered based on her complaint. She has been counselled," Mr. Kumar said.

The girl studies in Class X and has been staying in the shelter home since 2015. She joined a Naraina-based company, which was run by Dinesh, as an office executive trainee.

She had joined the company on April 1 and left on June 30.

Woman shot at by husband

Accused absconding; attempt-to-murder case registered

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A woman was shot at by her husband in Dwarka's Mahavir Enclave on Sunday, the police said.

The police said that a PCR call was received regarding the incident that took place on the third floor of a house in Mahavir Enclave. A police team reached the spot and the family informed that the injured woman, later identified as Priyanshi alias Tannu, has been taken to the hospital.

"The police reached Bhagat Chandra Hospital and they found Ms. Priyanshi had sustained bullet injury in the lower back," said Anto Alphonse, DCP (Dwarka).

Ms. Priyanshi told the police that she got married to Vikram alias Roshan Jha around five years ago. Mr. Jha, an alcohol-addict, often demanded money from her to meet his needs, she said.

On Saturday evening when she was at her mother's house, Mr. Jha arrived. She had gone to bring water from the refrigerator for him, when he fired at her back and fled.

The police said that Ms. Priyanshi has been declared fit for a statement and a case under IPC Section 307 (attempt to murder) has been registered at Dabri police station based on her complaint.

"The case is under investigation. The couple used to have frequent fights. Efforts are being made to arrest the accused husband," said Mr. Alphonse.

One held for burning Constitution

Protest took place on August 9; other accused on the run

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A member of Arakshan Virodhi Party has been arrested for burning copy of the Constitution during a protest on August 9 at Parliament Street, the police said on Sunday.

Deepak Gaur, a resident of Faridabad has been booked under the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971. He was the main accused in the case.

The police said that they received a complaint on August 10 from one Anil Tanwar, national incharge of Akhil Bhartiya Bheem Sena, regarding burning the copies of Constitution and slogan shouting against B.R. Ambedkar and the SC/ST community by protesters of organisation named Youth for Equality on August 9 at Parliament Street. The complainant had submitted a CD containing a video of the incident in which people were seen burning a book and shouting slogans.

On August 9, two different organisations – Youth Equality Foundation (Azad Sena) and Arakshan Virodhi Party – held a joint protest at Parliament Street. Mr. Gaur was heading Arakshan Virodhi Party while Abhishek Shukla was heading Youth Equality Foundation.

"We have formed teams and several raids were conducted in Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Many of the accused were found absconding from their houses. We got an information regarding him [Mr. Gaur] and he was apprehended from Faridabad," said Madhur Verma, DCP (New Delhi).

During interrogation, Mr. Gaur revealed that he and Abhishek Shukla conspired to burn the Constitution with an intention to grab the attention of the government against the amendments in the SC/ST Act. They also issued press notes and got the video viral on social media, said the police.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Sunday said that the burning of a copy of the Constitution was done at the behest of those in power at the Centre at a place (Jantar Mantar) that is used as a platform by people to raise their voices to protect the Constitution.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has called the incident "shocking".

Woman falls into Najafgarh drain, dies

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A woman has died after she fell into a Najafgarh drain, the police said on Sunday.

The police said that a police control room call was made at 4.13 p.m. and they were informed that a woman had fallen into the main Najafgarh drain near Ghasipura.

They rushed to the spot. The woman was brought out of the drain with the help of a fire brigade team.

She was rushed to Rao Tularam Memorial Hospital where doctors declared her brought dead.

"The woman seems to be in her late twenties. Efforts are being made to identify the body," said a police officer.

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Loom of consciousness

This past week, India celebrated National Handloom Day, shining the spotlight on artisans and weavers. Is the initiative working?



MALIKA VERMA KASHYAP



Three years ago, when National Handloom Day was inaugurated on August 7, Border&Fall's social media commentary – while appreciating the effort to make the craft more accessible – discussed how the initiative felt contrived. Today, despite continuous government investment and Textile Minister Smriti Irani's 2016 social media campaign #IWearHandloom that is still going strong, public awareness and chatter on social channels grow slowly. My initial sentiment that perhaps not all is to be celebrated? It still remains.

I will always remember a quote that textile historian Rahul Jain gave to *Mint* in 2015, stating, "If equitability was a real concern in India, say, via a wage increase that reflects a 21st century valuation of traditional crafts, skills and labour, a lot of private players in the field would simply exit. Their profits would fall dramatically." This remains the singular issue (and answer) to the entire plight surrounding handloom: if we were to pay higher wages to weavers, we would have a healthy socio-economic handloom community. However, it is not in the best interest of most designers to petition for this change.

The weaver's tale

The irony of this conflict of interest is responsible for much of my apprehension towards celebrating a day even as inequity continues to exist. Understandably, a National Handloom Day is too public-facing, fleeting, and topical to address this kind of change, but I do think a smart and strong digital campaign funded by the government could do much to address a necessary perception shift.

Renewing a widespread interest in handloom has the power to change the lives of millions. One such invention was *khadi* denim, which I called "potentially revolutionary" when Border&Fall first reported it in 2014. It stood to be a unique proposition within the nine billion dollar denim industry. I sincerely thought it was revolutionary, as did Levi's, which bought out the production and began to market it. Apparently, soon after, The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) sued Levi's for use of the word *khadi,* and it was pulled off the shelves. This June, it was publicly reported that KVIC sued FabIndia for selling products with the *khadi* tag. That a government-run organisation (which itself uses semi-mechanised processes to make *khadi*) is prohibiting the use (and sale) of products claiming to be "handwoven and handspun" is preposterous. This is a handloom reality being swept under the rug, of little interest to Instagram or the Ministry of Textiles.

Meanwhile, Bollywood, a perennial favourite for mass information, has also tried its hand at bringing handloom into its rhetoric. August 7 saw the "logo launch" of the Anushka Sharma and Varun Dhawan-starrer *Sui Dhaga* (where the former plays an embroiderer, and the latter a tailor). Stencils of the film's logo were sent to artisans across the country to be embroidered using native techniques. The resulting styles ranged from *banjara* and *gota patti* to *kasuti*. That handloom day factored into a big ticket movie's launch strategy is interesting – a sign that it is on people's minds, even if only as a possible PR stunt.





Threadbare: (Clockwise from top left) Designer Sanjay Garg of Raw Mango (in grey); a handloom at Maku; creations from 11.11 and Maku

Like and share

Among the design community though, National Handloom Day saw a weak show. However, a lack of hashtags does not necessarily mean a lack of support. Santanu Das of Kolkata-based Maku Textile respects the initiative and would have engaged, but states, "I manage my social media myself, there is only so much I can do."



At Raw Mango, where I serve as Strategic Director, we had multiple conversations on the importance of the day as a communication tool. Much internal dialogue resulted in a well-received digital campaign highlighting the contributions of handloom heroes such as Martand Singh and local farming communities. We also conducted candid interviews asking people a range of questions including, "Do you know what handloom is?" and "Do you wear handloom?" Answers, respectively, were "mostly no", and "no".

What's in a name?

Designer Rajesh Pratap Singh, who works extensively with handloom states, "the day is good to raise awareness – any excuse to revisit this conversation is a good one, even if it is as formal as this. It is much more than a Valentine's Day. If this is what is needed to bring about a discussion on handloom, then why not? What comes of it is another story."

It is telling that today, weavers are still called "weavers", whereas designers are felicitated with the decency of a full name. It is a contentious space, and one of the concerns with National Handloom Day is that it will further sweep the overwhelming reality of this relationship under the rug. For this reason, it can feel slightly disingenuous to some. For others, the reality is that handloom is a way of living and working, with no special reason to highlight the human condition to such "PR lengths".

Despite all this, some believe that India already has a leg up. Santanu Das believes that government policies have, in fact, helped. "We are better off than our neighboring countries," he opines. "I went to Bangladesh and felt sorry for their craft sector in terms of access to market and sense of quality. For us in India, handloom and craft are part of the mainstream market and today handloom is a buzzword – at least we have made this happen."

The writer is the Founder of Border&Fall and Strategic Director for Raw Mango.

POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBES



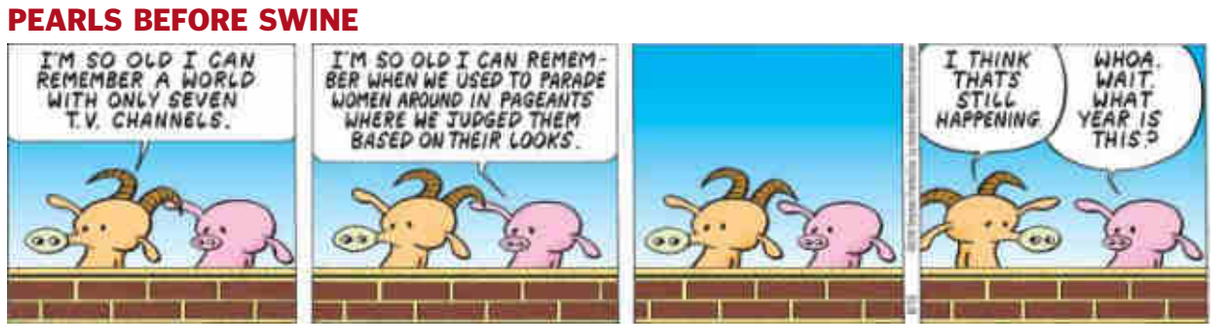
TIGER

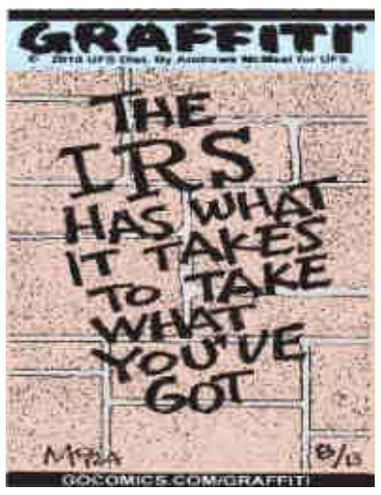


WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE





HEALTH CAPSULES®

by Bron Smith

HOW DO PEOPLE GET ARSENIC POISONING?

1 SERVING of RICE PASTA COULD PUT a CHILD OVER the WEEKLY GUIDELINE for ARSENIC CONSUMPTION.

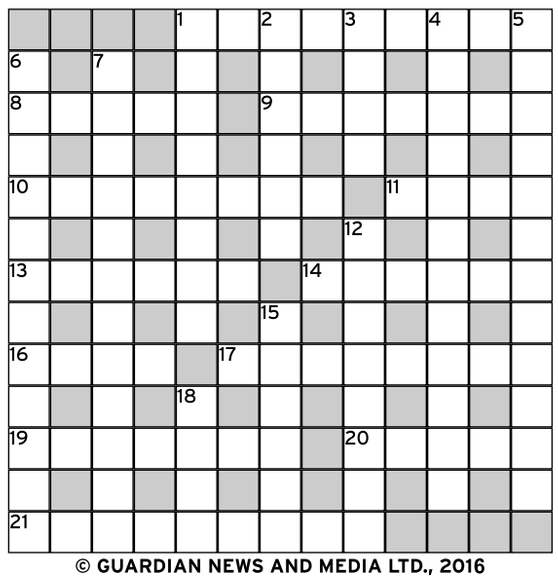
THAT'S SCARY!

BECAUSE ARSENIC IS FOUND IN THE EARTH, THE MOST COMMON WAY THAT PEOPLE ARE POISONED BY ARSENIC IS BY WAY OF CONTAMINATED SOIL OR GROUNDWATER. THE EARTH NATURALLY CONTAINS VARYING LEVELS OF ARSENIC, BUT MINING AND AGRICULTURE PRACTICES CAN ALSO RAISE ARSENIC LEVELS.

Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.

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THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-12838



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4 Most especially (5,3,4)
5 Nervous and easily upset (6,6)
6 Common breakfast fare (5,3,4)
7 Spanish farewell (5,2,5)
12 Indecorous (8)
15 Looked for (6)
18 Relating to China (prefix) (4)

Solution will appear in Delhi Metro dated August 14, 2018.

Solution No. 12837

S	O	M	E	■	A	S	S	E	S	S	E	D
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■ **Across**
1 Medicated solution used for gargling (9)
8 Separated (5)
9 South African sun-dried meat (7)
10 Sudden occurrence (as of disease) (8)
11 In good health (4)
13 In poor health (6)
14 Low joints (6)
16 Prima donna (4)
17 Ancestor (8)
19 Young goose (7)
20 Stoneworker (5)
21 Fit to sail (9)

■ **Down**
1 Driving a car (8)
2 Cheerful – optimistic (6)
3 One of two equal parts (4)

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Soni goes to Venice

Director Ivan Ayr on how his début feature film, which premières at the Venice International Film Festival later this month, goes beyond gender politics





NAMRATA JOSHI

The synopsis of *Soni* – two Delhi policewomen dealing with the growing violent crimes against women – makes one reflexively think of gender and the sorority of women. However, filmmaker Ivan Ayr (his nom de plume) on a long distance call from San Jose, is quick to put things in perspective about the film that will have its world première in the Orizzonti Competition section at the Venice International Film Festival later this month. "Gender is the premise. It is one of the things the film looks at. The subject is live in the backdrop but my intent has been to go deeper... it is not something I wanted to beat in the head with a stick."

His characters are not victims nor did he want to glorify them; the two extremes are what he finds our cinema always veering towards. Instead, he wanted to portray simple, regular women, show their aspirations, weaknesses and strengths. In that sense Ayr refers to *Soni* as a character study.

Ayr elaborates on how he wanted to explore the 'humanness' of the two characters caught in a certain situation. He wanted the audience to grapple with the moral dilemmas such a moment would have thrown at them. Gender plays a role to the extent that the two protagonists are women but the film could have been about two men as well.



ALSO AT THE FEST

- Rai Anil Barve and Adesh Prasad's horror-fantasy *Tumbbad*, will be the first Indian film ever to open the Venice International Film Critics' Week this year. The only other Indian film at the festival with *Soni*, it will release in India on October 12 in Hindi, Marathi, Tamil and Telugu.

Muted emotions

At a deeper level, *Soni* is about the power imbalance intrinsic in our society, even in the supposedly empowered sections like law-enforcers. "The assumption is that if they are female cops they will be in a position of power, they won't be susceptible to everyday crimes that other women face," says Ayr. But is that really so? "It's about how we may have the power to curb the menace but could ourselves be targets."

The film was inspired by "the unspeakable incidents that brought Delhi under the spotlight of shame". But Ayr says it is not a kneejerk reaction to the Nirbhaya rape case of 2012. "May be the seed was sown then but it took time to settle in the subconscious."

The cop's point of view is the pivot. "People in uniform are supposed to keep emotions in check and enforce the law," he says. But what of the emotional tussle, the rage within? For him, the vantage point of the police is crucial for the broader view of the situation on ground and a closer look at reality. "A police station is where the actual weaknesses of a society are in full display," adds Ayr who has worked with first time actors for *Soni*. It took him six months to find Geetika Vidya Ohlyan and Saloni Batra, who play the lead roles. "I didn't want a casting director to present me with a pool of actors; I wanted to audition as many professional and non-professional actors as I could."

Gender bender: (clockwise from left) Ivan Ayr and stills from the film



Single take

We go on to talk about the technicalities of filmmaking. There is a story but not a typical three-act screenplay. One thing leads to another but there are no plot twists, no expectations. There are silences to offer both the characters and the viewers pauses for reflection. Each scene has been shot in one take; all for realism, to make it seem credible. "I wanted to stay in a particular space and time with the characters, without the intrusion of cuts. I wanted them to react organically to things within that frame," says Ayr.

Filmmaking has been a passion fuelled on the side for him, beyond the day job of technical writing. Home is Chandigarh and he keeps returning from the US to spend 2-3 months in India every year. An electrical engineer by training, Ayr had always been interested in writing and he started taking short courses in literature and history. He vividly remembers a class on adapting novels to screenplays that piqued his interest in particular: "It showed me how cinema has its own language," says Ayr.

On *Soni*

The film's idea occurred to him in 2014 and he kept building on the characters while parallely making shorts. The preproduction started in November 2016, which is when he spent a lot of time with Delhi police personnel, observing the daily grind, the dynamics and hierarchies within. Ayr kept revising the script until the end of January 2017 and shot in a 24-day schedule in Delhi in February.

Soni was picked by the Work In Progress Lab of National Film Development Corporation's Film Bazaar in November last year where it got further refined under the mentorship of renowned French editor Jacques Comets and veteran director, Marco Mueller.

Ayr thinks that had it not been for the Film Bazaar, Soni would not have got the kind of attention it did, especially from the international delegates, festival programmers and curators. "It gave a big push towards the place we find ourselves in today," he says, hoping to take the City of Canals by storm.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

A mysterious 'encounter'

The violent death of Raja Man Singh of Bharatpur remains an unsolved puzzle

R.V. SMITH

Who killed Raja Man Singh of Bharatpur? The mystery remains unsolved even 33 years after his death on February 21, 1985. The event keeps returning to mindspace with TV channels playing up the long-drawn-out legal case (with 15 suspects) that has figured in the Rajasthan High Court in Jaipur, in Gujarat and now in UP after the Supreme Court directive, with a galaxy of lawyers camping on the lawns. Incidentally, three dozen judges and lawyers have been associated with the case, which caused a big sensation in Delhi when the alleged murder took place. It was said to be the fallout of a dispute between Man Singh and the then Rajasthan Government, with the Congress assuring the Raja that in the forthcoming election the Chief Minister, S. C. Mathur would not canvass against him. But even so the CM arrived in Bharatpur in a helicopter for the purpose which angered the mercurial Raja so much that he drove his jeep twice into it, wrecking the copter. The next day when Man Singh was driving through the grain market there was a shoot-out between his party and the police in which the Raja was killed, causing tension not only in Bharatpur but the whole of Rajasthan. The repercussions were felt in Delhi too, where the Central Government was also caught in the loop at the outrage.



A flight of birds: At the Keoladeo National Park ▪ PTI

Raja Man Singh was the second of four brothers of Maharaja Brajendra Singh, an honorary Colonel, who had succeeded his father, Maharaja Kishen Singh to the gaddi in 1929. Their connection with Delhi begin in mid-18th Century. After his succession, Brijendra Singh also became the custodian of the once impregnable fort of Bharatpur (Mitti-ka-Qila or mud citadel which had defied the might of the British under Lord Lake in 1805 and was captured only in 1826 when Lord Combermere lead the assault. The first man to enter it was Anthony John (Antonious Jonadies) a Greek soldier of fortune who later became a gem merchant and started the chain of the once famous Johns' Mills in Delhi, Agra, Kanpur and other places.

Delhi connection

Raja Man Singh was a frequent visitor to Delhi, staying at the Bharatpur House and also the one at Agra. I met him once but it was his brother, Maharaja Brajendra Singh with whom I had at least three meetings during Army events. He was a prominent presence wearing a blue blazer. Man Singh was also a nattily dressed man, conspicuous in a felt cap, like the one sported by Dev Anand in Bollywood films. He was wearing the same sort of cap when he met his end. One thing worth mentioning is that both the Maharaja and Raja were robust Jat-Rajputs physically very fit for the Army. Raja Man Singh was a lieutenant when he left service because of State pressures.

One thing that always comes to mind is the Bharatpur duck shoot which my brother and I attended in 1962 as Press representatives, along with Nawabzada Farooqur Rahman Khan. We were housed in a palace room and after a lively evening were taken to the shoot-site the next morning.

The experience that followed is worth recounting. Bharatpur is among the places where you can find a wide assortment of vintage cars owned by members of the former ruling family, their nobles and officials. The cars are still in use and hardly raise an eyebrow as they weave in and out of narrow bazaars and streets. They are an accepted mode of life just as the surrounding medieval havelis are. Bharatpur brings back memories of the duck shoot held during the time that General "Timmy". Thimayya was the Army chief. He was among the guests, along with all the rajas and maharajas.

The Maharaja of Mysore was conspicuous. It was from his family that the Bharatpur ruler had married a princess, who became his second wife. Another name that is not forgotten is that of the junior Rani of Dewas. All of them came in cars of different vintage. Some members of the diplomatic community were also there, and among them one who got rather tight at dinner on the evening preceding the shoot. Housed in the same building as the journalists, he returned around midnight, calling out, "Press, Press, where are you?" Rahman Khan replied, "The Press is resting now". "Very good," said the old colonel, "rest well for tomorrow you are going to have a hectic time".

And so it turned out to be. Early in the morning the invitees moved to the jheel in a fleet of cars, which should all now qualify for the Vintage Rally. The rajas and maharajas, the ranis and special guests had their gun-bearers. The others moved about with their own weapons. The collection of guns was amazing. There were modern weapons and some very old ones too.

Hunting expedition

The obese Maharaja of Mysore was not particularly mobile and just sat in one place; his attendants handing over the guns to him. But his aim was good like that of Raja Man Singh. As the first shots were fired, the birds rose with a great flapping of wings and it seemed as though a huge cloud had descended on the lake. Everybody who counted had been assigned a butt. The shooting continued till lunch time. The junior Rani of Dewas was a good shot and bagged a large number of birds. There were other ladies shooting too, but none to beat her or Brajendra Singh. The afternoon repast was taken. It was sumptuous amid a picnic atmosphere. Gin and beer were aplenty and those not keen on shikar excelled themselves in guzzling. But later Colonel Brajendra Singh bid goodbye to hunting and converted the lake and its environs into the Keoladeo National Park with the help of Raja Man Singh. But the question remains: Who killed him?

THE AUTHOR IS A VETERAN CHRONICLER OF DELHI

The design of success

Motivational speaker Shiv Khera says a person with a positive attitude cannot be stopped

RAJAT SINHA

Shiv Khera, popular motivational speaker and best selling author of books like "You Can Win" and "Living With Honour", held the audience captive with his charm and eloquence at the launch of his latest offering "You Can Achieve More: Live by Design, Not by Default" (Bloomsbury) at New Delhi's NCUI auditorium, recently. His new book, which is a result of "15 years of hard labour," is purposed to serve as a blueprint to unlock the limitless potential that resides within each individual regardless of intelligence, education or skill. Through an engaging and thought provoking speech, he gave an overview of what he wished to convey through his work.



Making a point: Shiv Khera

As the title of the book suggests, he urged readers to "live by design and not by default". According to Khera, individuals who live by design, lead a life filled with happiness and well being by taking control of their own circumstances. On the other hand a life lived by default is marred with guilt, remorse and resentment. "A person with a positive attitude cannot be stopped and a person with a negative attitude cannot be helped, therefore to change the reality we should first change our mentality."

He laid special emphasis on five types of strengths that are essential for attaining and sustaining success, namely - physical, financial, mental, emotional and spiritual. Khera elaborated upon each strength. First of all, he said that a healthy body is a necessary prerequisite for all our endeavours in life thus physical strength is something that should never be ignored. Financial strength pertains to wealth and financial security, and contrary to the general understanding that money can't buy happiness. He asserted that money earned through fair means did, in fact, brought happiness. "Mental strength and fortitude keeps us from drowning in the tides of hardships and when it comes to emotional strength, relationships are of prime importance. A person who lacks healthy relationships is emotionally bankrupt and such an emotionally unstable person is never to be trusted." Lastly, he said, spiritual strength was something that provided us a moral compass and a strong value system that always kept us on track.

Delving deeper into his thesis, Khera mentioned that in this fast moving world, technology and most importantly ideas were getting obsolete almost on a daily basis. "This can either be seen as a problem or an opportunity that can be exploited. Even in this era of rapid transitions, people skills, persuasion skills and skills of prioritisation hold their ground as immovable constants and the one who masters them is destined to great achievements in life."

SHORT TAKE



Gali Guleiyan in Melbourne

Gali Guleiyan will be travelling to Indian Film Festival of Melbourne along with the other critically-acclaimed films. *Gali Guleiyan* (In the Shadows) is a psychological drama about an isolated paranoid man, who is slowly losing his grip on reality. In 2017, the film premièred at Busan International Film Festival and also went on to win the Grand Jury award. The film stars Manoj Bajpayee in a pivotal role.

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Facilitator of change: CWO will look at human resources, company culture and infrastructure ▪ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Introducing, the Chief Wellness Officer

From creating a community that will cycle to work to helping with smoking cessation and developing greener spaces in the office, the CWO will be a powerful new influencer within the new order of work

SUNALINI MATHEW

"We know exactly when we need to recharge our mobile battery, but we don't know when our own batteries are down," said a participant at Thrive Global's Masterclass for CEOs and CMOs in Gurugram. Thrive Global, the brainchild of Arianna Huffington, helps companies prioritise well-being, thereby upping productivity and the bottomline. The thought resonated with most participants at the workshop, who echoed that stress and burnout were almost a norm in today's workplace. "Recovery can't be chocolate cake at night," reiterates the trainer at the session, Joey Hubbard.

Last month, the University of Pennsylvania appointed its first Chief Wellness Officer, Dr Benoit Dube, an associate professor of Clinical Psychiatry. The job description said the person would undertake "initiatives that promote the physical, psychological, emotional, intellectual, and social well-being" of Penn's student population. Meanwhile, at Stanford Medicine WellMD Center, there is a week-long Chief Wellness Officer course, meant for "wellness leaders".

We have finally realised that the HR department's episodic or reactive measures aren't going to work in the long run. The odd yoga session at work is not a fix for long-term stress that's almost baked into our work systems. And that it's hard to change poor lifestyle habits when people's jobs involve sitting for a large part of the day. "The corporate structure is not built for care; it's difficult to scale. But that's exactly what human beings need," says Sairee Chahal, founder-CEO, Sheroes, Delhi. "Care is not going to happen because it's on HR's list."

In fact, that is how it will be different from an HR role, because it's not just about looking at human resources, but also about company culture and infrastructure. Where a Chief Medical Officer is a doctor who primarily looks at curative measures, diagnosis and treatment, a CWO will be focussed on preventive measures, says Dr Arun Chaudhary, CMO at Maruti Suzuki India. He says that things are already going the wellness way, even in his own organisation, where food at the canteen is customised for those with special dietary needs. How then will the post of a Chief Wellness Officer evolve, and what is the environment she will bring to the office? We asked people who work across industries.

FUNNIES AT WORK

Comic strip *Dilbert's* creator Scott Adams revealed that the name for the office satire series was suggested by his former boss.



The CWO will be a facilitator of radical change

"The design of the company, the language used, what is valued, all this will be a part of the agenda," says Sairee. And the change is usually driven by the CEO. At her own company, she says, "We've done away with Monday meetings, changing them to a once-a-month reflection, where we sit on the floor and have *chai*. The idea is to diffuse built-up stress, and see ourselves as a community." Sairee's company has also put in place corporate counselling helplines.

"Empathy is our core value, because you can't pour from an empty cup," she says. Health 'coverage' is not restricted to a top-up plan on insurance. "There's 100% OPD coverage and both sets of parents are covered, and at any given point, about 30% of the staff is on a remote working arrangement," she says. "Living in cities is a perennial challenge, and teams should be cushioned; they should feel supported." By extension, the CWO will not be a 'support' function, but will be key to how operations are managed, businesses are run, not limited to a smoking cessation programme or a group walking challenge, or even putting in a gym. She will look deeper. She may, for instance, find that many in the organisation have a lower-back problem, from sitting too many hours, and so look at how to minimise that.

So while the CWO may or may not be a doctor, the key is for the person to have the ability and experience to work with large teams and run large-scale programmes. She should have worked at a senior management level and have the passion for health, living the life herself, says Vijayalakshmi S, a life coach in Chennai.

The individual's health will be linked with the company's

It's quite clear that the CWO's role can come into being only if it has the board's approval and their conviction that it can be held accountable. At one level, boards will examine whether employee well-being endeavours genuinely reduce cost burden and increase productivity. "The role will have a P&L (profit and loss) responsibility, linked to certain KPIs (key performance indicators)," says Vijay Raaghavan, Associate Director - Management Consulting, Healthcare, PwC, Bengaluru.

"As Indians, we're very data-centric and analytical; we like seeing logic," says Dr Marcus Ranney, who heads Thrive Global's India operations. "Not sleeping seven hours a day leads to a 29% drop in productivity, for instance." He talks about certain specific RoIs that companies look at, that can be improved by better employee well-being. "JP Morgan wanted to look at millennial retention, Safaricom wanted to look at road traffic accidents, Hilton wanted to look at the enhancement of revenues per room by night, and we put employees through the programme, and people got better service," he says. "Adoption will increase because leadership is mission-driven."

At another level, they will also see it as risk mitigation – the prevention of an untoward incident. No one wants an employee collapsing under stress. On a more positive note though, companies will see what they put into well-being as an investment, rather than expenditure, with long-term goals in mind.

"Look at the three stakeholders: the provider of mind-body-soul services, senior leadership, the employee who will benefit. Just as life insurance has a top-up scheme, the CWO can bring programmes into the company with a base offering, and see how many are pushing top-up packages. "It becomes a way of the CWO saying, 'We are not only delivering, but employees think it is worth spending on'," says Vijay. This care may become the second-most important reason for people choosing it, attracting better talent. There's likely to be less absenteeism, higher retention.

Wellness will be redefined

Wellness is seen in terms of comprehensive well-being. Thrive Global has 'nine pathways to thrive', including well-being, wisdom, connection, purpose, recharge, productivity, resilience, innovation.

The welfare officer was a common portfolio during the 1920s and 30s, when industry was being set up in India, says Pankaj Bansal, Co-founder-CEO, PeopleStrong, Delhi. "He was at the forefront of basic safety and amenities, like lighting or leave. It was a proactive role that helped both individuals and the company." Pankaj says that the role of the CWO will help align the person with the work they do, so they see it as an extension of themselves and their values.

Pankaj hopes to see an office connected via technology to form communities. So there may be a space for a group of employees to cook together. Or another may cycle to work together.

Communication plays a huge role, whether to the board, about looking at it as an investment, or to employees. "They need to be given the comfort that this is not short-term, that it is holistic, and exactly how it will work for the individual," says Praful Akali, Founder-MD, Medulla Communications. The CWO then is the caretaker of the company's health.



TARINI MEHTA



Fit and fast!

Cricketers Jasprit Bumrah and Bhuvneshwar Kumar talk fitness, food, and shoes

Newly appointed as the brand ambassadors for Japanese footwear and sports equipment company Asics, fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah and all-rounder Bhuvneshwar Kumar speak to us about their fitness mantras, strict diets (and cheat days), and their advice for youngsters. Here are edited excerpts from the interview.

What is your fitness routine on an ordinary day?

● **Bumrah:** It's different for different days and for each player. We have a fixed plan made by our trainers. The plan reflects what we need to improve: if I need to work on my speed or strength, my fitness schedule will be designed according to that. I usually bowl three to four days a week, plus I do running sessions, gym sessions, and pool recovery sessions (after a heavy workout). Bowling in the morning, gym in the evening, and then recovery – that's a typical day.

● **Bhuvi:** Our Indian team trainers give us a programme for the off season. I mean, there's no off season (laughs) but we are given a schedule for every day of whatever seven to ten days we get off. Whether you're a batsman, bowler, or an all-rounder, fitness is tough if you follow your regimen religiously. We play cricket, gym, run, and so on – it's like playing three to four sports all together.

To what extent does the quality of the shoes you're wearing affect your performance or your fitness?

● **Bumrah:** For training and high-velocity running, shoes are very important. This is especially true for fast bowlers because we run a lot. Our shoes are to us what batsmen's bats are to them.

● **Bhuvi:** If you do not have good shoes, you can get injured. I injured my ankle and was out for almost four months. If you have good gear and shoes, you can go for long runs and sustain yourself for a longer duration.

If you had to fix a fitness regimen for school children, what would you suggest?

● **Bumrah:** School children don't need to get into fitness regimens as of now. They should just play and enjoy the sport they like.

● **Bhuvi:** Playing sports is enough to stay fit. I'm a sports lover. Not just cricket; I play badminton and football too. When I get some time off, I prefer to play sports rather than working out.

What does your daily diet look like?

● **Bumrah:** It's usually quite a strict diet. I don't eat breads, fried food, or sweets. I wanted to lose weight earlier; now that I am in a good position, I have anything and everything – *biryani*, pastries, Indian sweets – but once a week. When I'm playing test matches, I sometimes get more than one cheat day per week. But generally, it is healthy protein-oriented food six days a week. Lots of grilled food and fish. It's great to have cheat days! Your craving goes away and it's in limitation too. So, six days is maintenance and one day is enjoyment.

● **Bhuvi:** During off season, my diet is... I don't want to tell you! (laughs) It's basically lots of sweets. I have a sweet tooth. If I am on a strict diet, which I mostly am, I try to have proteins, carbs, fibre, and vitamins in every meal. That helps me recover. Until three years ago, I wasn't the kind of person who'd follow a diet, so I just used to eat everything. Since then, what I have changed most drastically is my diet, and my fitness has improved so much.

Most people don't take proper care of their fitness these days. What's your advice to them?

● **Bumrah:** When we were small, all we had was outdoor games and we used to be outside all day. It was fun for us and we kept fit too. Nowadays, kids spend a lot of time on their gadgets. I like to see kids playing outside. If you don't keep fit, your body can become vulnerable to illnesses.

● **Bhuvi:** India does not have a sports culture now. Most people don't believe in working out. If you're not fit, you won't be able to do things you want to. You have to be fit, whether you're working a nine-to-five job or you're a sportsperson.

THE CREAKING TREE



▪ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Did someone say 1984?



SHOVON CHOWDHURY

I have always been afraid of Big Brother, even before I read *1984*, which only confirmed my suspicions. Most of us are, to a greater or lesser extent. It's because of the circumstances of our birth. When we first come into the world, naked and wriggling, we feel like we can do anything. We are wild and free. After the initial euphoria, things go rapidly downhill.

Soon people begin to order us about. Get your hand out of the potty! Drink your milk! Don't wear your underwear on your head! Stop flushing the Lego! Stay away from the bougainvillea! Shortly afterwards, you find yourself staying in late at the office, making elaborate, meaningless diagrams for your boss' PowerPoint presentation. The fascists are all around us, making us bow to their will.

You could argue that resistance is unnecessary, and we should simply go with the flow. But if there's one thing I've learnt, it's this. Things can always get worse. We may be living and dying in subjugation, but there are times when men and women of principle have to stand up against the forces of tyranny. This is one of those times.

A new threat has arisen. The concept of Chief Wellness Officer is being floated, even in reputable publications like *The Hindu*. It's a call to arms. Action is needed. We cannot stand idly by while they proliferate. Companies have always focused on health. It's a way to pretend that they care. By and large, this involved an annual visit to the company doctor. He would feel your pulse, ask you to cough, and certify you completely fit. He never even took a blood sample, because the company was already sucking enough of it. He was pleasant, and happy to chat. He never took too much interest.

The Chief Wellness Officer, on the other hand, will be deeply interested, but have no budget, because the last thing the company wants to do is spend more money on you. He will not, therefore, be in a position to give you analgesics, or mild laxatives, or perform minor procedures. Instead, he will provide advice and instruction. He will define principles and lay out guidelines. He will examine lifestyles and regulate food choices. He will ask you to cut down on drinking. These were the few parts of your life that you could still call your own, but not any more.

Now they will be part of your Annual Assessment, with adverse remarks such as 'tends to lose focus during meditation' and 'refuses to eat yoghurt.' Your bonus will be linked to your Body Mass Index. Meetings will end with Vedic chanting. If your company has hired a Chief Wellness Officer, there's no time to waste. Rise up now, before it's too late. Your lifestyle is all you have left. Don't let them take it away.

In Shovon Chowdhury's most recent novel, Murder With Bengali Characteristics, Governor Wen is unable to procure the penis of a Royal Bengal Tiger, because there aren't any