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THE HINDU

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The man who reshaped the Dravidian movement
Delhi Metro page 3



A writer who took his ideology to the masses
Delhi Metro page 3



A champion of the Sri Lankan Tamil cause
Delhi Metro page 4

A diehard proponent of the Tamil language
Delhi Metro page 4



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DMK stalwart M. Karunanidhi passes away after 11-day battle in a Chennai hospital

Tamil Nadu government announces 7-day mourning for former Chief Minister

Top leaders, including Prime Minister Modi, to attend funeral

At 94, the passing of a patriarch

Mourners throng hospital

To lie in state at Rajaji Hall

B. KOLAPPAN
CHENNAI

M. Karunanidhi, five-time Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president for nearly 50 years, died at 6.10 p.m. on Tuesday after battling infection and age-related ailments for 11 days at the Kauvery Hospital in Chennai. Affectionately called *Kalaignar* (artiste and man of letters), he was 94.

Leaders across the political spectrum, led by President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, paid rich tributes to the DMK patriarch.

"Despite the best possible efforts by our team of doctors and nurses to resuscitate him, he failed to respond," Dr. Aravindan Selvaraj, executive director, Kauvery Hospital, said in a press release.

Flag at half mast

The Tamil Nadu government announced a public holiday on Wednesday and declared a seven-day State mourning for the departed leader.

The Central government also announced cancellation of all official functions and a day's mourning on Wednesday. The national flag will be flown at half mast on Wednesday. As news of Mr. Karunanidhi's death spread, DMK cadre made their way to the hospital in Alwarpet in large numbers. Shops downed shutters and transport services were withdrawn.

The stalwart of the Dravidian movement is survived by wives Dayalu Ammal and Rajathi Ammal; children M.K. Muthu (born to his first wife Padmavathy); M.K. Alagiri, M.K. Stalin, M.K. Tamilarasu and daughter Selvi (through Ms. Dayalu Ammal); and M. Kanimozhi born to Ms. Rajathi Ammal.

Amid crowds of mourners, the DMK leader's body was taken to his house in Gopalapuram in the evening to enable family members to pay homage. It will be taken to Ms. Rajathi Ammal's house early on Wednesday. Thereafter, it will lie in state at the Rajaji Hall on Anna Salai for the public to pay homage.

Outlived his peers

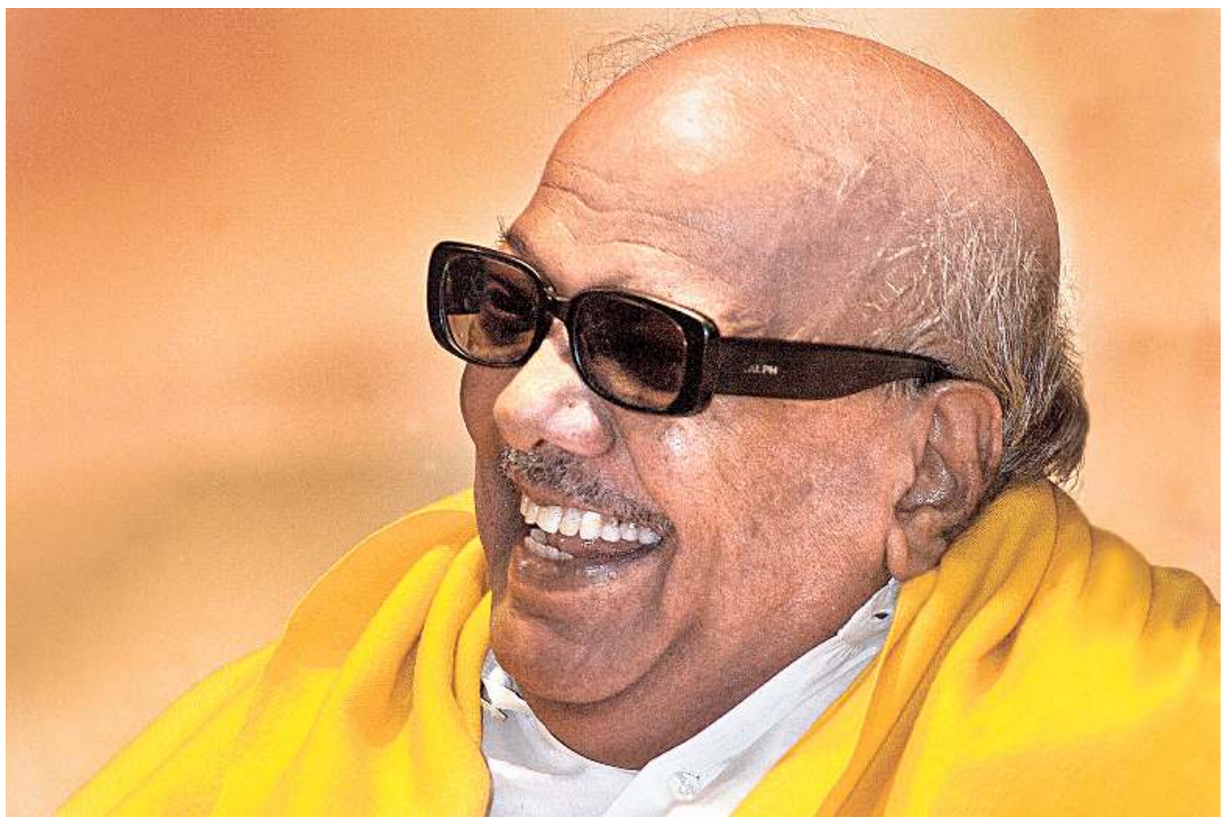
Mr. Karunanidhi, who outlived all his contemporaries in the Dravidian Movement, except general secretary K. Anbazhagan, was rushed to the hospital early on July 28 after his blood pressure dropped sharply. He had been under treatment at the hospital since then.

His health had begun to deteriorate on Monday, with doctors acknowledging that maintaining his vital functions remained a challenge, considering his age-related ailments. At 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday, doctors announced that his condition was "extremely critical and unstable".

For the record

Mr. Karunanidhi was the only Chief Minister in the State whose government was dismissed twice – during the Emergency in 1976 and in 1991 – by invoking Article 356. He created a record by winning all 13 Assembly polls he contested since 1957.

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M. KARUNANIDHI, 94 ▸ EDITORIAL
END OF AN EPOCH ▸ PAGE 8
MORE REPORTS ▸ ON DELHI METRO PAGES 3, 4, 5, 6



M. Karunanidhi, five-time Chief Minister and DMK president for nearly 50 years, died at 6.10 p.m. on Tuesday. ▪ THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Extremely sad to learn of the passing of Thiru M. Karunanidhi. A doyen of our public life, as a contributor to the development of Tamil Nadu and of India he has few peers
– RAM NATH KOVIND, President

We have lost a deep-rooted mass leader, prolific thinker, accomplished writer and a stalwart whose life was devoted to the welfare of the poor and the marginalised
– NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister

Kalaignar strode the stage of Tamil politics, like a colossus, for over 6 decades... My condolences to his family as also to the millions of Indians who grieve for their beloved leader
– RAHUL GANDHI, Congress president

This is not only a big loss to Tamil Nadu but also to India's politics. I express my condolences to his family members and son, Stalin. I pray for his soul to rest in peace...
– EDAPPADI K. PALANISWAMI, T.N. CM

Row over resting place

Court holds urgent hearing on DMK plea for Marina site

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

A controversy erupted over the final resting place of DMK leader M. Karunanidhi with his party seeking to bury his body at Anna Memorial on the Marina beach, while the AIADMK government – citing legal hurdles – offered a two-acre site at Gandhi Mandapam on Sardar Patel Road, opposite the Anna University.

Former Chief Ministers C. Rajagopalachari, K. Kamaraj and Bhaktavatsalam have memorials at the Gandhi Mandapam, while C.N. Annadurai, M.G. Ramachandran and Jayalalithaa were interred at the Marina.

At the time of going to press past midnight, the Madras High Court acting Chief Justice Huluvadi G. Ramesh, along with Justice S.S. Sundar, commenced an urgent hearing at his house on a late-night petition filed by the DMK seeking a place next to Mr. Karunanidhi's political mentor and DMK founder Annadurai.

Several leaders, including Congress president Rahul Gandhi, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, MDMK founder Vaiko, DMDK chief Vijayakant and actor Rajinikanth, urged the government to honour the veteran by facilitating a burial for him at the Marina.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10



Grieving followers: The body of M. Karunanidhi being taken to his Gopalapuram residence on Tuesday. ▪ S. R. RAGHUNATHAN

Stalin appeals for peace

Asks party cadre not to give room for untoward incidents

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

DMK working president M.K. Stalin on Tuesday night called upon cadre to maintain peace following the death of party president M. Karunanidhi, and not damage the reputation of the departed patriarch.

In a statement, Mr. Stalin said: "Maintain peace and do not earn a bad name for him. Do not give any room for untoward incidents and cause inconvenience to the public. Do not damage public property."

'Uphold principles'

He asked them to uphold the party's principles of '*kadamai, kanniyam, kattupaadu*' (duty, dignity and discipline).



M.K. Stalin

"Prove that the DMK is a disciplined movement and cooperate with the police force for maintaining peace," he said.

He asked them to be wary of anti-social elements, who could indulge in violence with a view to putting the blame on the DMK cadres. "Identify them and hand them over to the police."

While thanking the Kauvery Hospital for providing treatment to Mr. Karunanidhi for more than one-and-half years and during the 11-day hospitalisation, Mr. Stalin said the cadre should disperse from the vicinity of the hospital without causing any problem. Though no one is left of his stature, "his ideals, principles and the discipline taught by him would be in our blood," Mr. Stalin said.

He reminded them that Mr. Karunanidhi had been a source of support for the party all through his life with his words '*Uyirinum Melana Udanpirappe* (Brethren above my life)'.

COUNTRY IS POORER TODAY, SAYS KOVIND ▸ PAGE 10

IN BRIEF



K.M. Joseph takes oath as Supreme Court judge

NEW DELHI

Justice K.M. Joseph, who as Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court set aside the Centre's decision to impose President's Rule in the State in 2016, was sworn in as a judge of the Supreme Court on Tuesday.

NEWS ▸ PAGE 10

4 soldiers, 2 militants killed in Gurez

SRINAGAR

Four soldiers, including a Major, and two militants were killed in a gunfight sparked by a large group of infiltrators that tried to breach the Line of Control (LoC) and enter the Kashmir Valley in the Gurez Sector of Bandipora on Monday night.

NEWS ▸ PAGE 10

OPPORTUNITIES ▸ PAGE 14

Court pulls up NRC official, Registrar General of India

Warns them of contempt for media interaction over NRC

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

In a specially convened hearing on Tuesday, a furious Supreme Court Bench threatened to send Assam National Register of Citizens (NRC) coordinator Prateek Hajela and Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India Sailesh to jail for contempt of court.

In an unexpected turn of events, a Bench of Justices Ranjan Gogoi and Rohinton Fali Nariman monitoring the progress of the NRC update in Assam, pulled up Mr. Hajela and Mr. Sailesh for their comments to the media about how authorities would deal with the claims and objections filed by over 40 lakh persons excluded in the second and final draft NRC list published on July 30.

The government is preparing a standard operating procedure (SOP) to deal with the claims and objections. It has to submit the SOP to the Bench for approval.

The Bench had given the government time till the middle of August to frame the SOP and fixed August 16 to hear submissions on it.

"We should hold both of you guilty of contempt and send you to jail," Justice Gogoi told the two officers.

'Highly improper'

In a short order, the court said the comments made by them were "highly improper." It said the court could have taken "sterner" action against the officers but was refraining from doing so considering the work ahead for the publication of the final NRC. The court asked them to be cautious and "devote their time" to the preparation of the NRC.

"You are officers of the court, whatever you say reflects on us...What is your authority to make such statements? What impelled you to go to the press like this? Your job is to prepare an error-free list (NRC). Your job is not to go to the press holding a brief for anybody," Justice Nariman observed.

Mr. Hajela and Mr. Sailesh gave comments to newspapers early this month about the manner, documents and modalities for hearing the claims and objections.

You are officers of the court, whatever you say reflects on us... Your job is to prepare an error-free list. Your job is not to go to the press, holding a brief for anybody
Justice ROHINTON FALI NARIMAN





We should hold both of you guilty of contempt and send you to jail
Justice RANJAN GOGOI

WHO ARE YOU TO SAY ALL THIS, ASKS SC ▸ PAGE 11
'INDIA WON'T DEPORT ANYONE TO BANGLADESH' ▸ PAGE 11

3 die as ship rams boat off Kerala

HIRAN UNNIKRISHNAN
KOCHI

Three persons were killed and nine went missing in yet another mid-sea collision off the Kerala coast, when a merchant vessel rammed a fishing boat around 3.30 a.m. on Tuesday.

The fishing vessel Oceanic, owned by Sambasivan of Munambam, was hit by an unidentified vessel, 27 nautical miles northwest of Chettuva barmouth in Thrissur.

The dead were identified as Yuganathan, 43, Manikodi, 50, and Yakob, 57, natives of Colachel and Ramanthurai in Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu.

Two fishermen, Edwin, 42, of Colachel, and Narain Sarkar, 43, of Kolkata, rescued after the accident were admitted to the Government General Hospital in Ernakulam.

While Sarkar reportedly developed complications after ingesting water mixed with fuel, Edwin, driver of the boat, suffered a fracture in the hand.

SEARCH ON ▸ PAGE 5

SC slams Bihar on rapes at shelter home

Shocked that State had funded NGO

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday slammed the Bihar government over the horror at a girls' shelter home in Muzaffarpur, where many of the children were found to have been sexually abused over the years.

A Bench of Justices Madan B. Lokur, Deepak Gupta and K.M. Joseph expressed shock that the NGO running the home was funded by the State government.

"People pay taxes and their money is being used for these things?" Justice Lokur asked the Bihar government.

'Left, right and centre'

The Bench rued how crimes against women and children continue to be committed "left, right and centre."

The court observed that some of the funding from the State to the NGO, run by the politically connected accused Brajesh Thakur, dates back to 2013.

The funds were provided without conducting any inspections.

The court ordered the Centre to apprise it on steps proposed to be taken to prevent sexual abuse of minors in shelter homes.

Bar on media

The court issued a national ban on the media from publishing or displaying photographs of minor victims of sexual abuse even in blurred or morphed forms.

It also banned interviews of minor victims of sexual abuse saying it seriously affected them.

The Bench directed that child sex abuse victims be interviewed only by members of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights in the presence of counsellors.

Justice Lokur referred to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, which show that a woman is raped in India every six hours.

Alarm bells rang when the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) raised grave concerns about 15 of these institutions.

The court would hear the matter next on August 14.



Jaitley to return to work soon

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry said on Tuesday that Union Minister Arun Jaitley is expected to return as Finance Minister this month.

"Preparations are under way for Mr. Jaitley's return in August, but the exact date can't be confirmed at the moment," the Ministry spokesperson told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Jaitley had undergone a kidney transplant surgery on May 14, following which he stayed at home. Piyush Goyal, Railway and Coal Minister, was given the additional charge of Finance.

Mr. Jaitley has been active on social media during his bed rest, having written blogs on topics such as the GST, the no-confidence motion and the National Register of Citizens.

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DELHI Timings

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 08			
RISE	05:47	SET	19:07
RISE	02:12	SET	16:18
THURSDAY, AUG. 09			
RISE	05:47	SET	19:06
RISE	03:11	SET	17:20
FRIDAY, AUG. 10			
RISE	05:48	SET	19:05
RISE	04:16	SET	18:18

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

Delhi Palam Today
33°C A few spells of rain are expected. The morning will be warm. A cloudy sky is likely.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
35°C Mild breeze is expected. The sky will be cloudy over the region. Night is likely to be warmish.

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Punjab AAP leaders trade charges as crisis deepens

Sangrur MP Mann accuses Khaira of weakening the party for personal interests

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

Senior Aam Aadmi Party leaders of Punjab were embroiled in a war of words on Tuesday even as the crisis within the party only seems to deepen.

Sangrur MP Bhagwant Mann lashed out at Sukhpal Singh Khaira, who was recently removed as the Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly, and Kharar MLA Kanwar Sandhu, accusing them of weakening the party for their personal interests.

"Mr. Khaira and Mr. Sandhu are trying to break the party in Punjab and are misguiding the volunteers in the name of 'Punjabiyat'. I always stood by the people of Punjab, but I want to ask them why this love for Punjab just after the change of the Leader of the Opposition," said Mr. Mann here.


AAP MP Bhagwant Mann in Chandigarh on Tuesday. ▪ AKHILESH KUMAR

He alleged that Mr. Khaira and Mr. Sandhu's fight is just to grab power. "When Mr. Khaira was in the Congress, why did he never demand autonomy from the Congress's central leadership," he asked.

Legal action
Rejecting the announcement by the duo to reconstitute the organisation in the State, Mr. Mann warned that the party will take legal action in case Mr. Khaira and Mr. Sandhu continue to violate party guidelines.

Mr. Khaira hit back, saying Mr. Mann was acting as a mouthpiece of the Congress and that the national leadership of the AAP had forged a secret alliance with the Congress.

He said the allegations levelled by Mr. Mann were not only false but that he was appalled to see the "cheap theatrics by an elected Member of Parliament".

The Khaira camp also announced its eight-member ad hoc political affairs committee for Punjab.

"The ad hoc PAC will monitor and supervise the reconstitution of the entire political structure of the party's State unit, including the appointment of the State president-convener. Once the State unit's political structure is in place, the ad hoc PAC and ad hoc State executive will stand dissolved. A new executive and PAC would be constituted," said Mr. Sandhu.

Man dies after toilet wall collapses at Patna station

Washroom was closed for use owing to repair work: Rly

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

A 70-year-old man died on Tuesday after a wall of a washroom collapsed in the second-class passengers' waiting room at platform number 1 at Patna railway station.

The man, Veer Bahadur Singh, was a resident of Vishunpur area of Mahnar in neighbouring Vaishali district. He was to catch a train from Patna to Kolkata. A ticket of the Howrah-Patna Jan Shatabdi Express was found in his pocket.

Eyewitnesses said he was sitting inside the waiting room before going to the washroom. Suddenly, a wall of the toilet fell on him and he succumbed to his injuries.

Some other passengers too are believed to have been injured in the incident. The rail authorities have not confirmed any injuries yet.

According to railway officials, renovation work going on inside the toilet and a display board reading "under repair" was put up outside.


Scene of tragedy: The washroom wall that collapsed at the Patna railway station on Tuesday. ▪ RANJEET KUMAR

"The toilet at the second-class waiting hall had been closed for use owing to the repair work that began on Sunday. The doors of the washroom were removed to prevent people from using it. It is shocking that the victim tried to use the washroom despite the warnings displayed outside," said Sanjay Prasad, Public Relations officer, Danapur railway division.

JE suspended
He later told journalists that the railway department has put junior engineer Ashok Kumar under suspension following the wall collapse incident.

"A probe has been initiated into the incident and the railway department has decided to provide an ex gratia of ₹15,000 to the deceased's family," he added.

Woman IRS officer hangs self in Jaipur

'Suicide note hints at marital discord'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

A 35-year-old woman officer of Indian Revenue Service allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling of a room in her house in Bajaj Nagar area here late on Sunday night. She left a suicide note with a few lines scribbled on it.

The deceased, Binny Sharma, a 2008-batch IRS officer, was posted as Deputy Commissioner in the Central Goods and Services Tax Commissionerate here.

Her husband, who is also a government officer, is posted in Chandigarh.

Police said on Tuesday that the reason for suicide was being investigated. After the post-mortem of the body, the suicide note was sent for forensic examination. Since the note reportedly indicated that Ms. Sharma had trouble in her marital life, the police were not ruling out the possibility of harassment by her in-laws.

When she did not come out of her room for dinner, her mother checked on her and found the door bolted from inside. Police reached the spot on being informed and found her hanging.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health,

Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 am -7.30 pm

Rijiju seeks probe into death of youth

Arunachal resident was aboard a train

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday asked the Uttar Pradesh government and the Ministry of Railways to conduct a proper investigation into the death of a youth from Arunachal Pradesh while travelling in a train.

Upon hearing about the death of Tage Dule, the Minister immediately took up the matter with the offices of the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and the Railway Minister with the request to investigate the incident to ascertain the facts and circumstances leading to the death of the youth, an official statement said.


Union Minister Kiren Rijiju. ▪

Expressing concern over the death of Dule, a resident of Ziro in Arunachal Pradesh, on August 3, Mr. Rijiju sought action against the culprits and a probe to find out whether there was any malafide intent in the youth's death.

IN BRIEF



Gurukuls to get free land in Haryana, says CM

CHANDIGARH

Haryana government will give land free of cost to 'gurukuls' which provide free education to children, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said on Tuesday. The State government would also assist in making all necessary arrangements required to run such schools including teachers, he said. Mr. Khattar was speaking as the chief guest at a programme here.
PTI

INTACH bats for heritage buildings

Says their demolition would contribute to global warming

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) has called for transforming heritage buildings in Rajasthan into "economic assets" for the society. Economic benefits could be derived from these properties as an alternative to paying for their upkeep on a regular basis.

INTACH chairman Maj. Gen. (Retd.) L.K. Gupta said here that the demolition of heritage buildings would contribute to global warming. He said an exercise had been launched for mapping of natural heritage in Thar desert with the participation of local communities for modern planning.

Heritage protection
Addressing a State-level meeting of INTACH here, Maj. Gen. Gupta said the trust was working for protection of natural heritage, geo-heritage, water bodies, stepwells, sacred groves, wall paintings and rock paintings.

"The mapping of natural heritage in the Thar desert area will build up the capacity of local communities. Since they have a better knowledge of their resources, their techniques should be documented and implemented for modern planning," Maj. Gen. Gupta said.

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2 States' officials to meet today

Bid to end impasse over Massanjore Dam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA/DUMKA

Officials of West Bengal and Jharkhand will meet on Wednesday in a bid to end the impasse over the painting of a part of the Massanjore Dam in the shades of white and blue.

The two States have been at loggerheads since Friday when West Bengal's TMC government painted the walls of the dam situated in Dumka district in Jharkhand where the BJP is in power.

In retaliation, the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), BJP's youth wing, erased 'Bengal' and painted 'Jharkhand' on a dam gate. They also covered the Biswa Bangla logo with a Jharkhand one, media reports said.

West Bengal Irrigation Minister Soumen Mahapatra said in Kolkata on Tuesday that a meeting was likely to take place on Wednesday.

A senior official of the Irrigation Department and District Magistrates of Birbhum and Dumka would meet to find out a solution to the issue, Mr. Mahapatra said.

"At the moment there is no problem here. There will be a meeting tomorrow regarding the issue and hopefully it will be resolved," Mr. Mahapatra added.

The Minister had earlier asserted that the dam was maintained by his government, and "nobody had any right" to stop its workers from the carrying out the work.

Refusing to back down, BJP Dumka MLA and Jharkhand Minister Louis Marandi had on Sunday threatened to "gouge out eyes" of those who dared to look at the barrage.

Tea garden workers go on strike

STAFF REPORTER
KOLKATA

Nearly four lakh workers of about 350 tea gardens in north Bengal went on a three-day-long strike on Tuesday demanding higher minimum wages.

The strike began after a tripartite meeting between the Labour Department officials, tea garden owners and leaders of the Joint Forum of Trade Unions fell through. The meeting was held at Uttar Kanya in Siliguri which serves as Secretariat for north Bengal.

"The State government officials walked out of the meeting after we rejected their offer of fixing the minimum daily wage for tea garden workers at ₹172. Even if only the daily expenditure for food is taken into consideration, the daily minimum wage should be ₹239," said Zia-ul-Alam, convenor of Joint Forum of Trade Unions.

Open hospital wards for poor: OHRC

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Human Rights Commission has asked the State government to consider opening dedicated wards for destitute people and make all services available to them in all medical college hospitals.

During a recent surprise visit to the SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack, OHRC Acting Chairperson Justice B.K. Mishra and Director (Investigation) S.M. Narvane came across destitute patients lying unattended in the verandah.

On seeing Justice Mishra and Mr. Narvane on campus, some attendants volunteered to show the "pathetic healthcare facilities for the poor" at the hospital. "During the visit, as many as 15 destitute female patients and eight destitute male patients were found lying in the verandah," said Justice Mishra.

Heavy rain disrupts life in coastal Odisha



Vehicles with their headlights switched on at an overpass in Bhubaneswar on Tuesday. ▪ BISWARANJAN ROUT

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

Heavy rain triggered by a low pressure area over the Bay of Bengal lashed the coastal region of Odisha disrupting normal life since Monday afternoon.

The pilgrimage town of Puri was worst affected, recording rainfall of more than 300 mm over a span of 24 hours. All 11 blocks recording over 100 mm rainfall during this period are from Cuttack and Khordha districts.

Incessant rain forced the Khordha and Cuttack district administrations to shut down schools. University examinations were also postponed. Train services were hit due to waterlogging and flooding at Puri Railway Station Yard. Trains were either cancelled or rescheduled.

Ex-cop's husband arrested

STAFF REPORTER
KOLKATA

The husband of former IPS officer Bharati Ghosh was arrested by the State's Crime Investigation Department after his anticipatory bail plea was rejected by the Calcutta High Court on Tuesday.

"Anticipatory bail plea of M.V. Raju, husband of Ms. Ghosh, has been rejected by the Calcutta High Court. He has been taken in custody," a CID officer said.

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Aug. 9 bandh is on: Maratha groups

Coordinators to meet in Aurangabad today; protest will be peaceful, say members

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

The Maratha Kranti Morcha on Tuesday hinted that it will go ahead with its State-wide 'bandh' on August 9 even as the Bombay High Court urged restraint upon agitators till the quota issue was decided.

Appeal to youth

Morcha coordinators from across the State will meet in Aurangabad on Wednesday to decide on the nature of the shutdown, said sources.

Shantaram Kunjir, one of the coordinators, said that the meeting would impress upon the agitating youth to desist from taking the law into their hands.

"Through appeals and exhortations, we are trying to ensure that the August 9 'bandh' is a peaceful one. There has already been much destruction of property during the agitation especially in Chakan, Solapur and Aurangabad," Mr. Kunjir told *The Hindu*.

'Need to demonstrate'

Underscoring the need for a demonstration without road blockades, he said the Morcha leaders would be urging protestors to stay within limits as several cases had already been lodged against a number of agitators in the past weeks.

"There is no question of calling off the bandh as we have already announced it. We will be requesting all establishments and the public to cooperate during the shutdown. However, we will ensure that agitators do not resort to violence, " Santosh Shinde of Sambhaji Brigade told *The Hindu*.

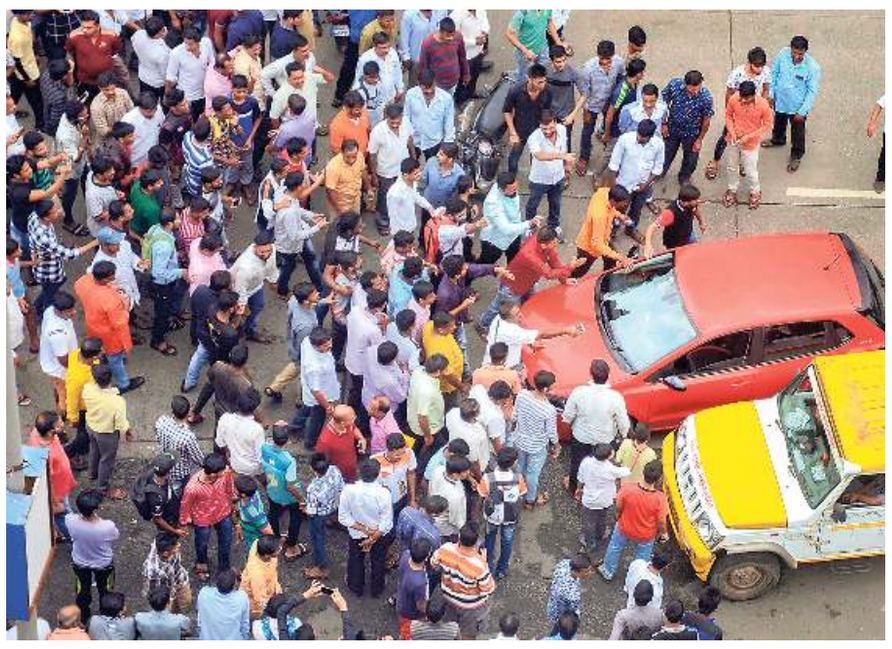
Sit-ins staged

Meanwhile, Morcha members continued to stage sit-ins outside the homes of prominent politicos, including Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar's residence in Baramati and Maharashtra Congress president Ashok Chavan's in Nanded. Both leaders have announced their firm backing for the quota agitation.

Congress-NCP rule

In an attempt to pacify them, Mr. Chavan's wife, Ameeta Chavan, joined the protestors clamouring for immediate reservation for the Maratha community.

Despite declarations of support for the quota issue, Mr. Chavan has faced flak from Morcha activists who have accused him of proving ineffectual over the reservation question when the Congress-NCP coalition was in power and Mr. Chavan was the Chief Minister.



On the boil: Maratha Kranti Morcha activists had stopped traffic, indulged in arson and stone-pelting during their State-wide bandh in their demand for reservation. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Don't resort to violence, HC tells Marathas

Says reservation issue is sub judice, directs State to decide expeditiously

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday requested Maratha agitators to desist from resorting to violence and ending their life till the time the issue of reservation is decided as it is sub judice.

It also directed the State government to decide on the matter expeditiously.

Senior counsel Ravi Kadam, appearing for the State, informed a Division Bench of Justices Ranjit More and Anuja Prabhudessai that the Maharashtra State Commission for Backward Classes had completed the collection of data related to the community's socio-economic status from government agencies, village panchayats and educational institutes.

The commission had constituted a three-member panel to analyse the data. The panel is likely to submit its report by September 5, Mr. Kadam said. Thereafter the commission would require three months to submit its recommendations to the State, he added.

"Due process is being followed by the commission and the State and members of the community must remember this," the court said.

In November 2017, the State government had appointed retired Justice M.G. Gaikwad as chairman of the commission.

On November 29, 2017, it was decided to conduct a sample survey under the supervision of its members about the social and educational backwardness of the community. This was done with the assistance of gramsevaks, talathies, sarpanchs, village kotwals and teachers.

The commission had also called for information from universities across the State, relating to college students at all levels.

The commission also collected information from Maharashtra Public Service Commission about candidates from the community who had been selected for different posts in the last three years.

On February 9, the commission had conducted a survey by appointing five agencies and organising public hearings.

Meanwhile, the Bench directed the State to file a progress report and adjourned the matter to September 10.

(With inputs from PTI)

Governor concerned at drugs on Goa campus

But happy with dip in ragging cases

PRAKASH KAMAT
PANAJI

Goa Governor Mridula Sinha on Tuesday expressed satisfaction over reports of almost no ragging cases in educational institutions in the State but raised concern over reports of students consuming drugs on college campuses and an increase in road accidents.

Addressing the 10th State- level meeting of Anti-Ragging Monitoring Cell at the Raj Bhavan in Goa, Ms. Sinha said that the word "ragging" should be avoided in the programmes of educational institutions.

The Vice Chancellor of Goa University, Varun Sahni, said that only one case of cyber ragging was reported in Goa this year. He said that nowadays the nature of ragging is changing and asked institutions to be more vigilant.

Ms. Sinha also appreciated the steps taken by Goa Directorate of Education for including civic sense subjects such as Road Safety, Hygiene and Garbage Cleaning in the current syllabus.

'Will fix Mumbai-Goa highway by September 5'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) assured the Bombay High Court on Tuesday that they would repair potholes on the Mumbai-Goa National Highway by September 5.

A Division Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and Riyaz Chagla was hearing a PIL by Owais Pechkar, raising the issue of potholes between Panvel and Goa on National Highway 66 every year during monsoons.

Debate on EVMs will go on: CEC

Says election by ballot paper involved many dangers

PAVAN DAHAT
NAGPUR

The Chief Election Commissioner of India O.P Rawat has reiterated that Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were "unbiased and tamper-proof" and said the EC will allay concerns of all political parties on the matter.

Mr. Rawat, who was in Nagpur on Tuesday to deliver a lecture on "Questions on the Electoral process: Apprehensions and Solutions", claimed that the EVMs did not witness any malfunction and its failure rate was 0.5 %.

"Today, many political parties are raising apprehensions about the EVMs. When the ballot papers were being used, lakhs of votes would get invalidated because of some small reason and at times, the victory margin would be less than the invalidated votes. Election by ballot paper involved many dangers and risks of manipulation. Our two neighbouring countries recently witnessed elections using ballot paper. But in both these countries, large-scale complaints are being received. Our technical experts from IIT Mumbai, Delhi and Bhilai have done a root cause analysis (of the EVMs) and improved it. Now you don't witness [EVM] failures like the previous elections. Despite all this, some political parties are going to demand election by ballot paper. We will give them time and try to address their concerns," Mr. Rawat said.



Chief Election Commissioner O. P. Rawat in Nagpur on Tuesday. ▪ S SUDARSHAN

Posing a counter question to those who raise doubts over the EVMs, Mr. Rawat said, "Common people, political parties, and the election commission have to decide [on the EVM]. If you can do transactions involving crore of rupees by electronic means, why do you want to go the other way [in terms of voting]?" Blaming the non-seriousness of some polling officials while taking training for EVM snags, Mr. Rawat said that some polling officials miss out on important details during training which causes EVM snags but the blame goes to the EVM.

Terming the media management, including social media, and money management during elections as a worry for the Election Commission, Mr. Rawat said he was concerned over the misuse of money and public data during elections.

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IN BRIEF



Sumatheendra Nadig, Kannada writer, dead

BENGALURU

Kannada writer, poet, critic and translator Sumatheendra R. Nadig, 83, passed away on Tuesday after a brief illness. He is survived by wife, son and two daughters. He was a close associate of poet Gopalakrishna Adiga, a tall figure in the modernist tradition (Navya) in Kannada literature, and was deeply influenced by him. Mr. Nadig published 11 collections of poetry, the last one being *Jade Mattu Chetana*. He has to his credit nine collections of literary criticism, four collections of short stories, and eight works of children's literature.

Junior doctor ends life in Andhra Pradesh

CHITTOOR

A junior doctor Shilpa, 28, pursuing PG in paediatrics at Sri Venkateswara Medical College at Tirupati, was allegedly found hanging in her flat at Piler town, 60 km from here, on Tuesday. According to information, Dr. Shilpa, who married Rupesh Kumar five years ago, had been living in Piler for some time. In April, she complained about sexual harassment by the teaching faculty at the medical college to the Vice-Chancellor of the NTR Health University, IT Minister Nara Lokesh and the district administration.

TRS, Congress activists fling stones at each other

NAGARJUNASAGAR

Activists of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi and the Congress pelted each other with stones here on Monday, allegedly after an argument on who would win the Nagarjunasagar constituency in 2019. The altercation that started as a petty quarrel resulted in members on both sides being injured.

Search on for 9 missing fishermen

Two were rescued after four hours

HIRAN UNNIKRISHNAN
KOCHI

Navy and Coast Guard vessels, along with 50 fishing vessels, are searching for the nine fishermen missing after an unidentified merchant vessel rammed fishing vessel Oceanic off Chettuva barmouth in Thrissur early on Tuesday.

The Coastal police in Fort Kochi are in the process of identifying the missing persons.

Of the 14 men aboard, 11 were from Tamil Nadu, two from West Bengal, and one from Kerala. The boat was operating from the Munambam harbour.

The helmsman of the fishing boat, Edwin, in a statement, told the Munambam sub-inspector that all on board, except him, were sleeping. "The ship rammed the boat from the rear, breaking it into two, throwing the fishermen into the sea. The vessel made a brief halt and resumed its journey without bothering to undertake any rescue operations. Edwin and Narain Sarkar stayed afloat for about four hours before being rescued," the sub-inspector said.

The Coastal police registered a case under IPC 304 (a) for causing death by negligence, 280 for rash navigation of vessel, and other relevant sections, including IPC 337 and 338. A Coastal police team rushed to the spot in a fishing vessel but had to return halfway due to rough sea conditions. Preliminary investigations suggested that the merchant vessel was Indian-registered oil tanker MV Desh Shakti. The officials said further investigation would be required for a confirmation.

Tragedy in mid-sea

- Three persons were killed and two injured in the mid-sea collision 27 nm north west of Chettuva barmouth



- All three deceased persons are from Tamil Nadu while one of the missing persons is a Keralite
- Out of the 14 men aboard, 11 were from Tamil Nadu, two from West Bengal and one from Kerala

2012 February
Italian marines on board Enrica Lexie shot dead 2 fishermen 20.5 nautical miles off Kerala

2012 March
3 killed when Singapore-flagged MV Prabhu Daya rammed fishing vessel Don-1 20 nm off Kochi

2017 January
7 injured after a ship collided with a fishing boat 65 nm off Kochi

2017 June
3 dead, 11 injured when Panama-flagged Amber L hit fishing boat Carmel Matha 14 nm off Kochi coast

2017 August
Hong Kong-flagged ship collided with fishing boat Arockia Annai 39 nm off Kollam coast

2017 October
Unidentified ship rammed fishing boat Immanuel 50 nm off Beypore, killing 4 persons

2018 July
2 injured when a cargo vessel hit fishing boat Divine 20 nm southwest of Munambam harbour

Graphics: Satheesh Vellinezhi

Offenders may be tried under IPC

DG Shipping orders inquiry

K.S. SUDHI
KOCHI

Those responsible for the maritime accident off Thrissur will be tried under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) as the accident took place in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the country.

Moreover, the ship was flying an Indian flag and the fishing vessel was registered in Kerala.

Since the two vessels were registered in India and the accident took place in the EEZ of the country, the offence will be tried under Indian laws.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The Directorate General of Shipping has ordered an inquiry into the mid-sea collision off Thrissur.

An official said the ship involved in the accident would be taken into custody and proceedings would be instituted according to law.

The Directorate was coordinating the inquiry in cooperation with the Navy and the Coast Guard.

Moreover, no foreign element was involved in the incident, said V.M. Shyamkumar, a lawyer specialising in maritime law.

The criminal case will be registered at the Fort Kochi police station, which is one of the 10 designated coastal stations to try maritime offences along the Indian coast.

I had given up all hope, says survivor

STAFF REPORTER
KOCHI

Clinging on to a small piece of wood that was once a part of his boat, Narain Sarkar kept his head just above the frigid but rough water for about two hours before being rescued.

"I was losing hope and started thinking of giving up when a boat emerged out of the waves. I waved at them, though it seemed they had already seen me," he said.

A native of West Bengal, Narain was inside the Oceanic when he heard a loud thud in the rear of the fishing boat. "Before I could figure out anything, I was thrown into the water, going deep down instantly and bouncing back at once'' he said. Unable to recover from the shock of his life, Narain began swimming until he found a piece of wood.

'Manjumatha', the boat which came to the rescue saved both Narain and Edwin, who was also floating around in the same area.

Those missing from the boat were identified as Yesunathan, Rajesh, Dinesh, Paulson, Arun, Sahayaraj, Salom - all natives of Tamil Nadu and Bipul Das of West Bengal. Shaiju, the lone Keralite on board is a native of Maliankara, in North Paravur, Kochi.

The Munambam fishing harbour witnessed some anxious moments after the news of the mid-sea collision broke out. People began to throng the harbour from the morning and they refused to disperse even after three bodies were brought to the shore.

Top militant leader held in Bengaluru

Accused in 2014 Burdwan blasts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency claimed on Tuesday that it had arrested a top Indian operative of the Bangladesh-based militant outfit Jamat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from Bengaluru. Mohammed Jahidul Islam alias Kausar was picked up from his rented house near Ramanagara area.

He is accused of conspiring to plant two bombs at Bodh Gaya in Bihar in January this year and the 2014 Burdwan blasts in West Bengal.

Bodh Gaya case

Some electronic devices and "traces" of explosives were found during a search of the house. The NIA said in a release that 38-year-old Islam was the mastermind of the Bodh Gaya explosives case.

It was on his directions that his close associate Mustafizur Rehman alias Shahin had arranged and assembled the bombs that were found on January 20 when the Dalai Lama was on a visit to the pilgrimage town. The bombs were later deactivated.

"He is the top leader of JMB in India and is wanted in the Burdwan blast case and in many other cases in Bangladesh," NIA said.

Islam was produced before the special court for NIA cases here, which granted five days' transit remand.

AMMA-WCC meeting ends on positive note

'Special general body meet soon'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The crucial meeting between the executive committee of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artistes (AMMA) and three members of the Women in Cinema Collective (WCC) ended on a positive note here on Tuesday.

Actor Mohanlal, president of the association, said that a special general body meeting would be convened soon to discuss the issues raised by its three members – actors Revathy, Padmapriya and Parvathy. "The discussions will continue. But there are no issues that could not be resolved among us. We have decided to amend the bylaws of the association and to set up a disciplinary committee," he said. Asked whether AMMA's executive committee had accepted the issues raised by the WCC, Ms. Revathy said that they had attended the meeting not as representatives of the collective, but as lifetime members of AMMA. "We had a healthy discussion," said Ms. Padmapriya.

However, the three WCC members declined to comment on whether the executive committee accepted their position that the issue of reinstating actor Dileep, a key accused in an actor abduction case, into the association was not included on the agenda of the general body meet held on June 24.

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IN BRIEF



Proud of PM Modi for respecting mother: Deb

AGARTALA

Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb on Tuesday said that he is proud of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for respecting his mother, and appointing two women, Sushma Swaraj and Nirmala Sitharaman, as Cabinet Ministers. Addressing a seminar on Gender Sensitisation here, Mr. Deb said the country where people respect their mother is the best country in the world. PTI

U.P. Health Minister undergoes angioplasty

LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Health Minister Sidharth Nath Singh underwent angioplasty at a civil hospital on Tuesday night after complaining of chest pain. Mr. Singh (54) was rushed to a hospital here where the doctors performed angioplasty and inserted three stents, a release said. PTI

Plane overshoots airstrip, hits boundary wall

JAIPUR

A Cessna aircraft carrying seven passengers overshot the airstrip while landing and hit a boundary wall in Sri Ganganagar district of Rajasthan on Tuesday, officials said. All the passengers and crew were safe, they said. A representative of Supreme Airlines, which operates the flight service, said the pilot could not land properly due to the presence of birds on the airstrip and the plane overshot it. PTI

Class X student drowns while going to school

BHADARWAH (J&K)

A 16-year-old boy studying in Class X got washed away in flash floods while crossing a stream on his way to school in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Tuesday, officials said. Raja Owais, who was going to appear in the first-term examination, drowned in Chinyass nullah (stream) in the Bhalessa area on Tuesday morning. PTI

Kathua case: SC to hear plea

Witness reports cruel torture in custody of Jammu and Kashmir police

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to urgently hear a plea by the family of key Kathua rape case witness and social activist Talib Hussain that he has been framed in a rape case and cruelly tortured in custody by the police in Jammu and Kashmir, which is under Governor's rule since June 19.

A Bench led by Chief Justice Dipak Misra scheduled the habeas corpus petition filed by Mumtaz Ahmed Khan, the cousin of Mr. Hussain, for hearing on Wednesday. Mr. Khan, represented by senior advocate Indira Jaising and advocate Sunil Fernandes, contended that the police should produce Mr. Hussain in the Supreme Court and produce his medical records while he was in custody.

Bakharwal community

Mr. Hussain, who belonged to the Bakharwal community as the minor victim of rape and murder in Kathua, is one of the prominent voices of justice for her.

"Talib Hussain, who played a crusading role as a social activist in highlighting the unfortunate rape and murder of the minor girl from Kathua, has been implicated with false charges and has been in custody under an FIR dated July 28, 2018 at Samba police station in J&K... Mr. Hussain has been subjected to third degree torture of the worst kind," the petition said.

Basic human rights

The FIR has charged him with rape and offences under the Arms Act. The petition said that his custody and alleged torture was in blatant violation of his fundamental right to life and violative of the Supreme Court's landmark D.K. Basu judgment, which had held that "custodial violence, torture in police custody/ lock-up infringes Article 21 as well as the basic human rights and strikes and blow at rule of law."

The Supreme Court had earlier intervened to provide justice in the Kathua case. On May 7, the apex court had transferred the trial in the case from Kathua to Pathankot district in Punjab in anticipation of a fair trial.

On June 19, the elected government fell and Governor's Rule was imposed in Jammu and Kashmir. The petition points out that on June 26, Mr. Hussain's estranged wife lodged an FIR against him, alleging demand of dowry and money from her. She had accused him of physical abuse. A month later, a second FIR was registered on the complaint of a woman at the Samba police station. She accused him of rape.

NGT junks plea to retain wall on elephant corridor in Assam

Numaligarh Refinery had pleaded that entire wall wasn't part of a reserve forest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI/GUWAHATI

The National Green Tribunal has dismissed a review petition by a refinery in Assam for retaining a concrete boundary wall with barbed wire on a part of a reserve forest, stating that elephant corridors need to be protected.

Dismissing a review petition filed by Numaligarh Refinery Limited, a Bench headed by NGT chairperson Adarsh Kumar Goel said, "The counsel for the review petitioner submits that the entire wall need not be demolished as the same is not a part of the Deopahar Reserve Forest. We are of the view that in view of categorical finding already recorded by the tribunal, that the area where the wall came up and the area where proposed township is to come up is a part of the Deopahar Reserve Forest, rehearing on merits is not permissible."

The NGT gave its order after hearing a plea filed by Assam-based green activist Rohit Choudhury, who had sought directions to demolish the 2.2 km wall constructed by the refinery near the reserve as it was obstructing the movement of elephants.

Based on an earlier petition by Mr. Choudhury, the NGT had in August 2016 asked NRL to demolish the wall around an extended part of its township acquired for residential complexes.

The green panel had also imposed an environmental compensation of ₹25 lakh on the refinery for constructing a boundary wall for a golf course, that had led to the flattening of a hill measuring 5 hectares and destruction of forest.

Close to National Park

The refinery, close to Kaziranga National Park and about 260 km east of Guwahati, was expected to demolish the wall within a month. It wasn't until March this year the Golaghat district administration and forest department demolished about 220 metres of the wall.

But the refinery filed the review petition saying that the tribunal had not taken into account the clearance of the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority for the project.

Noting the death of 12 elephants due to the "barbed-wire and razor's edge fencing" atop the boundary wall, the tribunal said it was clear that the NRL constructed the barrier in 2011 in the way of an elephant corridor and encroaching upon Deopahar as well as a no-development zone the Ministry of Environment and Forest had notified around Kaziranga National Park in 1996.

Apart from the high-rise wall, the NGT noted that the refinery had flattened a tree-rich hill covering about 5 hectares to make a golf course without approval of the Centre or compensatory afforestation, "thereby leading to environmental degradation".

The NRL had in 1996 acquired 750 bighas (107.14 hectares) of land for its old township and secured it with a boundary wall. It acquired another 67 bighas (9.57 ha) of tea estate land in 2008 for expansion of the township.

'Referendum bid to disturb Punjab's peace'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Communist Party of India has called the proposed 'Sikh Referendum 2020', slated to be held in the United Kingdom on August 12, an attempt to disturb the hard-earned peace in Punjab.

"The talk of referendum is nothing but terrorism through other means," Joginder Dayal, member of the CPI national council, said in a statement here.

Condemning the move, Mr. Dayal said extraneous elements were clearly at work to disturb the peace in Punjab.

"We oppose the idea of any kind of a theocratic State, be it the Hindutva idea of India that the RSS-BJP promotes, or any kind of religion-based secessionist movement like that of Khalistan," said Mr. Dayal.

'No traction'

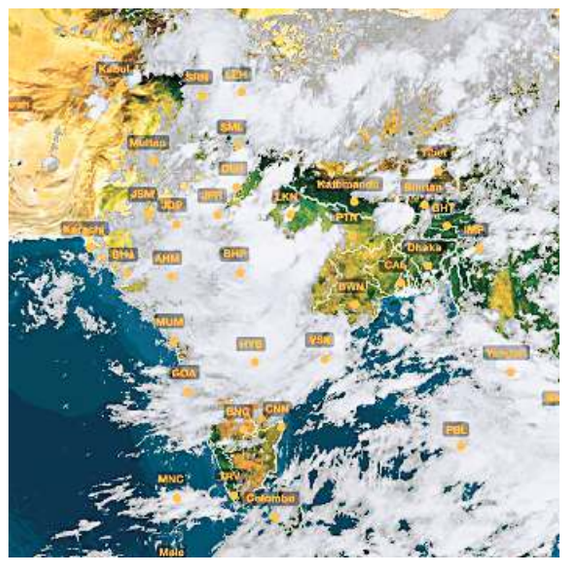
"All talk of the 'Sikh Referendum 2020' has been emerging from the soil of Canada or the United Kingdom. Both Ottawa and London are most welcome to carve out a Khalistan in any shape, form or fashion if they want to, since they are sovereign countries. As far as India is concerned, there is no traction for such a demand," added Mr. Dayal.

Meanwhile, radical outfit Dal Khalsa and Simranjeet Singh Mann-led Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) has urged Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) to clear the "vagueness and ambiguity" in its 2020 referendum proposal.

SAD (Amritsar) president Simranjeet Singh Mann and Harpal Singh Cheema, president of the Dal Khalsa, in a letter to the SFJ leadership have asked it to spell out, during the event in London on August 12, how they were going to implement the proposal as there were many grey areas in it.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy/very heavy rain is likely at isolated places over Chhattisgarh, Vidarbha, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, east Rajasthan, east & west Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Odisha, Konkan & Goa, Telangana, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, coastal & south interior Karnataka and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	1	34.0	26.2	Kozhikode	8.4	32.4	24.5
Ahmedabad	–	33.1	25.7	Kurnool	–	32.1	24.2
Aizwal	–	29.7	13.0	Lucknow	40.2	32.7	24.4
Allahabad	1.8	34.3	26.2	Madurai	–	35.8	26.6
Bengaluru	3.4	25.4	19.7	Mangaluru	0.6	29.2	23.3
Bhopal	–	28.2	24.0	Mumbai	2.4	30.4	26.6
Bhubaneswar	173.2	27.0	24.0	Mysuru	1.8	27.9	18.6
Chandigarh	4.3	30.4	24.6	New Delhi	2.1	33.3	26.4
Chennai	–	34.3	27.4	Patna	–	33.6	26.0
Coimbatore	–	30.8	22.6	Port Blair	114.9	28.2	22.2
Dehradun	17.1	27.7	22.1	Puducherry	1	35.4	25.0
Gangtok	66	23.8	17.2	Pune	0.7	27.6	21.6
Goa	5.6	29.8	25.7	Raipur	2.9	28.2	23.4
Guwahati	–	35.2	26.2	Ranchi	2.4	28.0	22.3
Hubballi	–	–	18.0	Shillong	–	26.6	18.0
Hyderabad	0.3	29.9	22.7	Shimla	27.1	18.4	14.6
Imphal	3.2	28.2	24.0	Srinagar	40.6	21.5	20.1
Jaipur	–	32.6	26.2	Trivandrum	6	30.2	23.9
Kochi	–	29.8	25.2	Tiruchi	–	35.8	26.6
Kohima	–	27.2	20.3	Vijayawada	4.8	32.1	25.0
Kolkata	0.9	32.2	26.7	Visakhapatnam	1.7	29.6	26.0

(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	101	.57	.20	...85	.....–	....
Bengaluru	.10	.31	.83	...48	.116	....
Chennai	...8	.35	.47	.113	.....–	....
Delhi	...–	.70	174	...72	.117	....
Hyderabad	...5	.90	.27	...27	...50	....
Kolkata	...2	.35	.58	...33	...41	....
Lucknow	.10	.41	.59	.186	.....–	....
Mumbai	.12	.26	.62	...21	...53	....
Pune	.35	.13	.55	...36	...47	....
Vishakhapatnam	...3	.45	.32	...78	...88	....

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 410 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Rupnagar, Punjab recorded a healthy AQI score of 27

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

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

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

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

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

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IN BRIEF



Hapur lynching: SC to hear plea for SIT probe

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to hear on August 13 the plea of a survivor of the Hapur lynching case, seeking an SIT probe into the incident in which one person was killed for his alleged involvement in cow slaughter.

Life sentence to teacher for molesting student

KORAPUT

A school teacher has been sentenced to life imprisonment by a court in Odisha's Rayagada district for sexually abusing an eight-year-old student. Additional district judge Debdutta Das Mohapatra imposed a fine of ₹3 lakh on the teacher. PTI

Smuggling racket: CBI probing security concerns

NEW DELHI

The CBI is looking into possible security implications of a smuggling racket that it has busted at Tiruchy airport with the arrest of 19 persons, including six officials. Among those booked are three Sri Lankan nationals.

CRPF men die more of heart attacks, suicides

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Heart attacks, depression and suicides claimed lives of more Central Reserve Police Force personnel than anti-Naxal operations, Minister of State for Home Hansraj Gangaram Ahir said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday. From 2016 to July this year, 1,294 personnel died due to heart attacks and depression or committed suicide, compared to 85 who died in Left Wing Extremism related operations.

According to data, last year 156 CRPF personnel died due to heart attack, six due to malaria and dengue, 38 because of depression and suicide and 435 due to other non-operational reasons.

Similarly, the data for 2016 reveals that 92 troops of the force died due to heart attack, five due to dengue or malaria, 26 because of depression and suicides while 353 lost their lives due to other reasons.

Scrub typhus is key encephalitis cause in eastern U.P.: study

This finding is important, given that the mite-borne disease can be treated easily if doctors look for it early

PRIYANKA PULLA

Three years of data from Gorakhpur's Baba Raghav Das (BRD) Medical College has confirmed that the majority of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) patients admitted to the hospital between August and October each year have scrub typhus. This finding is important, given that scrub typhus can be treated easily if detected early. The first indication of scrub typhus' role came during a 2014 study at BRD by researchers from Karnataka's Manipal Centre for Viral Research. But there was much scepticism about this hypothesis then.

In the following years, however, other researchers reported similar findings. In 2015, a team led by the director of Chennai's National Institute of Epidemiology, Manoj Murhekar, found that out of 370 AES patients tested during September-October, 63% had antibodies to scrub typhus. The findings were reported in the *Journal of Infection*. In 2016, out of 407 AES patients during the same period, 65% had the illness.

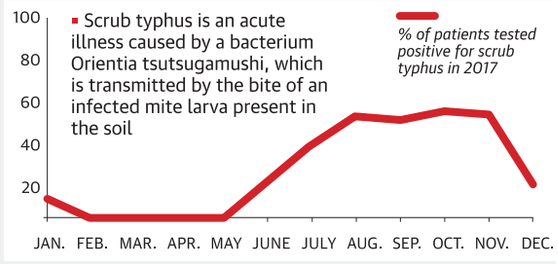
Also, when all AES patients were given azithromycin, a treatment for scrub typhus, 35% of non-scrub-typhus patients died, while only 15% of scrub patients died, indicating that azithromycin was effective. These findings were published in the *Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal* in May this year. Finally, in 2017, over 50% of patients admitted to BRD in August-September were positive for scrub typhus, according to data shared with *The Hindu* by the Indian Council of Medical Research.

Study of mites

Further evidence for the role of scrub typhus comes from a study of trombiculid mites in eastern Uttar Pradesh by Chennai's Vector Control Research Centre (VCRC). They found that the mites carried Orientia tsutsugumashi, the bacterium which causes scrub typhus. While this study was published in Vector Borne and Zoonotic Diseases in July 2018, P. Jambulingam, VCRC Director, also told *The Hindu* that unpublished research has shown an increase in infestation of rodents by trombiculid mites during August-October. This explains why scrub typhus incidence peaks during monsoon, he said.

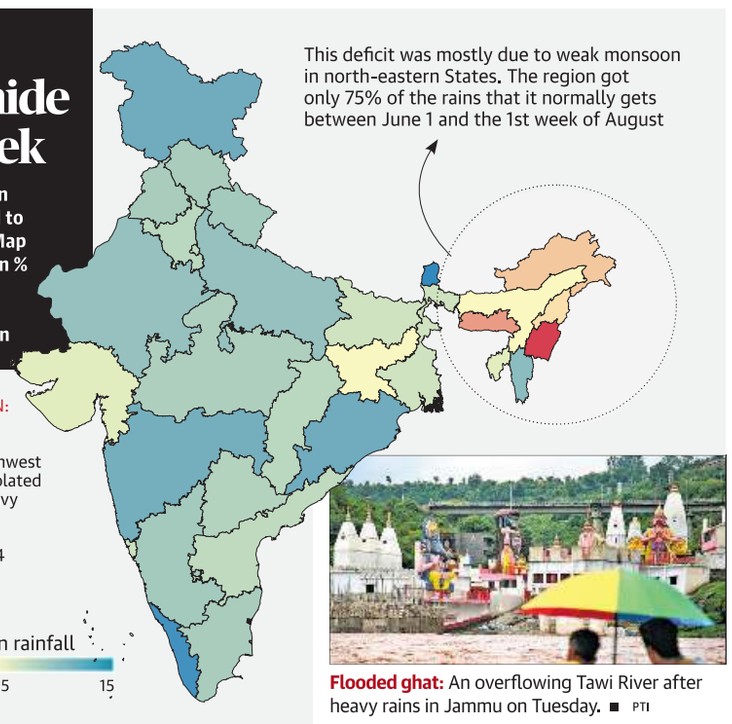
Spike in scrub typhus

Majority of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) patients hospitalised between August and October in the last three years had scrub typhus



Rain plays hide and seek

India's monsoon deficit widened to 10% this year. Map shaded based on % departure in rainfall this monsoon season



Flooded ghat: An overflowing Tawi River after heavy rains in Jammu on Tuesday. ■ PTI

Access to Andamans eased

Foreigners can visit 29 inhabited islands without Restricted Areas Permit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Foreigners no longer need a Restricted Areas Permit to visit 29 inhabited islands in the Andaman and Nicobar chain. The Union Home Ministry decided on Tuesday to lift restrictions as the government intends to boost tourism.

An official said 11 other uninhabited islands will also be thrown open to foreigners.



A view of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The Centre is planning to boost tourism in the islands. ▪ R. RAVINDRAN

Area permits

The 29 inhabited islands have been excluded from the restricted area permit (RAP) notified under the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963, till December 31, 2022, subject to certain conditions.

However, citizens of Afghanistan, China and Pakistan and foreign nationals having their origin in these countries would continue to require RAP to visit the Union Territory, the official said.

For visiting Mayabunder and Diglipur, citizens of Myanmar will continue to require RAP, which shall be issued only with the prior approval of the ministry.

"To ensure preservation of natural and marine resources, including marine parks and environment, of the Union Territory without affecting tourism and business at large, it should be ensured by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands administration that the guidelines issued by the Environment and Forests Ministry are strictly adhered to," said the official.

Separate approvals of the competent authority would be required for visiting reserved forests, wildlife sanctuaries and tribal reserves, the official said.

Bihar Cabinet hikes legislator's fund

Increased to ₹3 crore p.a. from ₹2 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA

The Bihar Cabinet on Tuesday approved a proposal to increase the legislators developmental fund to ₹3 crore annually from existing ₹2 crore.

The approval was given at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar here.

On the last day of monsoon session of the State Assembly on July 26, the Chief Minister had announced the hike in the quantum of funds from the existing ₹2 crore to ₹3 crore per annum for legislators who can recommend development work in his/her area.

Giving its nod to a proposal of the Planning and Development Department, the Cabinet sanctioned ₹318 crore for the purpose to be spent in the current financial year of 2018-19, Cabinet Secretariat Principal Secretary Arun Kumar Singh told reporters here during a post-Cabinet briefing.

The decision was taken in view of the increase in the cost of construction material and other items, he said.

The Cabinet also gave its nod to the amendments in various sections and subsections of the Bihar Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1994, read with Bihar Finance Act 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2015, Mr. Singh said.

Most babies not breastfed in their first hour

Report cites lack of supportive work environment, inadequate skills of health care providers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

As many as 6 out of 10 babies born in the country are not able to begin breastfeeding within one hour of birth despite an improvement in institutional deliveries due to a lack of supportive work environment, inadequate skills of health care providers as well as caesarean deliveries, according to a new report made public on Tuesday.

First milk

Mother's breast milk within one hour of birth ensures that the infant receives the colostrum or first milk, which is rich in protective factors. The WHO and UNICEF also recommend exclusive breastfeeding for infants up to the age of six months and thereafter complementary foods with continued breastfeeding up to 2 years of age or beyond.



The report lays onus on breastfeeding newborns within the first hour of their birth.

The 5th Report of Assessment of India's Policy and Programmes on Breastfeeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding in 2018 also gives India a score of 45 out of 100 on 10 parameters under the category of policy and programmes. However, India performs better in terms of infant and young child feeding practices scoring 34 out of 50 on five parameters.

The report has been prepared by a national consortium of public health groups and agencies including government departments, AIIMS and UNICEF, under the aegis of World Breastfeeeding Trends Initiative (WBTI).

Early initiation of breastfeeding within one hour of birth is 41.5%, exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months is 54.9%, inclusion of complementary feeding between 6-8 months is 42.7% and adequate complementary feeding and minimum acceptable diet among 6-23 months children is as low as 9.6%, the report cites data from NFHS-4.

Inching forward

India has made some progress over the years and between National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-3 and NFHS-4, early initiation of breastfeeding has improved from 23.4% to 41.5% children breastfed within one hour of birth.

This hasn't kept pace with the stark increase in institutional deliveries which more than doubled during the same period, from 38.7 % to 78.9%.

Tolerance is the essence of democracy: Jaipal Reddy

Manmohan launches Jaipal Reddy's book

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Tuesday released former Union Minister and Congress leader S. Jaipal Reddy's book *Ten Ideologies: The Great Asymmetry between Agrarianism and Industrialism*, brought out by Orient Blackswan, here in the presence of several political leaders.



Manmohan Singh, left, with S. Jaipal Reddy in New Delhi on Tuesday. ▪ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Dr. Singh said the book, which offers a rich perspective on human history, shows that while religion, castes, colours are products of history, they cannot be accepted as a holistic reading of history. The book has brought out oneness in history, he added.

Mr. Reddy said tolerance is the essence of democracy, and called upon people to critically and unsparingly review his book.

Ashoka University Vice-Chancellor Pratap Bhanu Mehta and political scientist Neera Chandhoke also spoke on the occasion.

In the book, Mr. Reddy has discussed 10 major ideologies that have shaped the world: nationalism, democracy, liberalism, capitalism, evolutionary socialism, revolutionary socialism, feminism, environmentalism, nuclear pacifism and globalism.

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

M. Karunanidhi, 94

His passing marks the end of an era in Tamil Nadu's politics, and leaves a political void

The life story of Muthuvel Karunanidhi is also a history of Tamil Nadu politics. A five-time Chief Minister, and the longest serving legislator, winning 13 terms in the Assembly and not losing even once, Karunanidhi was the engineer of many of the progressive measures adopted by the State since Independence. As the leader of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, an offshoot of the rationalist social reform movement, the Dravidar Kazhagam, he was an influential figure at both State and national levels, whether in or out of power. He excelled as both administrator and organiser, adopting different styles, but always displaying a clinical efficiency while interacting with bureaucrats and party workers. Although his administrative acumen was often contrasted with the welfarism of his political rival, M.G. Ramachandran, Karunanidhi was not beyond the draw of populism. Extending the Public Distribution System and increasing food subsidies were coupled with efforts at generating employment and encouraging industrial investment. Towards the latter part of his political career, he emulated his political opponents, MGR and Jayalalithaa, in handing out freebies indiscriminately to every household, rich or poor. He was a crusader for federalism, often standing up to the Centre for the State's rights. He was one of the foremost opponents of the Emergency. In 1976 and 1991, his governments were dismissed by the Centre, the first time citing corruption charges, and the second time citing support to the terror outfit, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

In his home State, he ran the DMK with an iron hand; at the same time, he provided some space for the second rung, even indulging the odd dissenter now and then, as long as there was no threat to his leadership. District secretaries and ministers had a long reign under him. His longevity permitted him the leeway to promote his immediate family members to positions of power within the party and the government. His designated successor, his younger son M.K. Stalin, had to work his way up the party ladder – from ordinary worker and youth wing leader before being accommodated in the top rungs of the party and government. But elder son M.K. Alagiri and grand-nephew Dayanidhi Maran were rewarded with Cabinet berths in their very first terms in the Lok Sabha. Karunanidhi will be remembered for being an astute politician, one with a quick wit and ready repartee; an able administrator with an uncanny eye for detail and a keen sense of the occasion; and as an elder statesman who could take the long-term view of events and issues. He straddled different generations and contrasting worlds with a reflexive ease. With his passing, less than two years after his rival Jayalalithaa succumbed to illness, Tamil Nadu is staring at a huge political void, one that that will be very hard to fill.

Pause, refresh

The GST Council does well to focus on the concerns of small firms

The Goods and Services Tax Council met last Saturday for the second time within a fortnight. However, this time it refrained from further rate rejigs. While the new indirect tax regime has expanded India's tax base and brought more firms into the formal economy, revenues have slipped somewhat after peaking at ₹1.03 lakh crore in April (for taxes accrued in March) this year. The first three months of this financial year have yielded ₹94,016 crore, ₹95,610 crore and ₹96,483 crore, respectively – this is well short of the ₹1.lakh crore revenue target a month for 2018-19. The steep rate cuts effected on several items in the last Council meeting were to kick in from July 27, so their full impact on revenue collections may take more time to unfold. Moody's Investors Service reckons that the revenue loss from the most recent tax cuts may be 0.04-0.08% of GDP annually. This is marginal at best, and could be offset by stronger consumption-led growth and better tax compliance. But it is in this context of revenue concerns that the Council's dedicated focus at its latest meeting on issues facing micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) is a creditable move.

Setting up a ministerial group to look into the problems faced by MSMEs since India moved to the GST regime last July is a signal that the government is not brushing aside the implementation issues that still trouble smaller players. Firms with an annual turnover of less than ₹5 crore constitute 93% of the registered taxpayers under the GST. At its previous meeting, the Council had decided that such businesses need no longer file cumbersome returns every month, but only on a quarterly basis. There may be more room for the ministerial panel to recommend further easing of compliance for micro firms with turnover far below ₹5 crore and enhancing the ₹50,000 threshold for mandatory use of e-way bills to track movement of taxable goods. A deeper dive to understand why 1.7 million taxpayers had registered under the GST by December 2017 although their operations were below the taxable limit could also yield some pointers. The Council meeting has also, wisely, returned to a consensual approach on decisions. While a few States had reservations about the rate cuts at the last meeting, this time their concerns on a proposal to push digital payments by offering a cash-back to consumers using RuPay cards or the UPI platform have been incorporated. Now, States will volunteer to run a pilot on these lines and a final decision will be taken after a detailed system-wide evaluation of such incentives. This indicates the Centre's keenness to retain a cooperative approach with States that has generally marked the Council's functioning.

End of an epoch

M. Karunanidhi will be remembered for his passion for Tamil and uncompromising secularism



GOPALKRISHNA GANDHI

"*Jakkirathaiya irunga,*" he said in Tamil, over which his command was legendary. "Take care" is how the phrase would translate. But in the way he said it, laying stress on the double '*kk*', I could see he meant to say, "Take every care." This was on August 13, 2000. I was on my way to Colombo to join duty as High Commissioner.

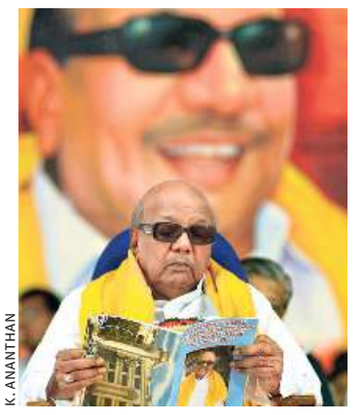
A federal mind

Calling on Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi would have been on the wish list and task list of any Indian envoy on her or his way to Sri Lanka. But, for me, this was not just about protocol. Nor was it about politics, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) then being a crucial presence in the National Democratic Alliance government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It was about plain common sense, sheer self-interest. There was no way I would present letters of credence in Colombo without finding out what Tamil Nadu's senior-most and completely wide-awake leader thought about the island nation's travails, the present and future state of its Tamil population and that of the Liberation Tiger of Tamil Eelam's supremo, Velupillai Prabhakaran. To go to Colombo without the 'input' – to use a crassly opportunistic expression – of a veteran of Tamil Nadu's political chemistry would be absurd. What I needed and was to get from him was the insight, as knowledgeable as it was detached, of 'one who knew'. The hinterland of any foreign policy is ground knowledge of the roots of that policy in the soil of its origin.

It was not easy, even for one on 'relevant' official duty, to get an appointment with the Chief Minister. He had his hands more than full with the complexities of Tamil Nadu's polity, where facing the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and its charismatic leader J. Jayalalithaa meant being alert 24x7; where running a government of which he was the alpha and the omega meant working harder than the mind and body could take. And where, to make matters more complex for him, explaining to the people of Tamil Nadu how and why India-Sri Lankan relations were a foreign policy matter and foreign policy was the prerogative of the Union government was just about impossible. He was on the cusp of India's federal dilemmas.

A lesser politician could have played politics on that fluid crest, just to remain 'on top'. But, as the direct successor-in-office to C.N. Annadurai (CNA) who had given up secession as the DMK's policy goal, he was going to do nothing of the kind.

The Chief Minister was seated in the sitting room on the first floor of his Gopalapuram residence in Chennai. He half-rose to greet me, a gesture that neither his age – he was 76 at the time – nor his high office necessitated. "Sir... sir... Please do not get up," I protested. Sitting back, he commenced what was for me a lesson on the limitations of diplomacy and of politics. He said I was going to a highly troubled land at a highly incendiary time. "Ranil Wickremesinghe [now Prime Minister of Sri Lanka] met me the other day," he said, "and we spoke for more than an hour. He is a visionary... He wants



K. ANANTHAN

to build a physical bridge from Rameswaram to Talai Mannar... I welcomed the idea and told him that our own Bharathiar [Subramania Bharati] had envisioned the very thing...*palamaippom*... But today who is going to be crossing that bridge and in which direction?" Then followed an analysis of the ethnic problem on the island which for its crisp pragmatism could not have been equalled, let alone bettered.

"Nobody knows Prabhakaran's mind," he said. "Nobody from our side is in touch with him... Nobody can be... We used to know his deputies... Amirthalingam... Now they are all dead... assassinated. But militancy is no solution... Secession will never be countenanced by Sri Lanka... And it will never be given up by Prabhakaran... We grope in the dark." And then doing a fast-forward: "Yet, we have to keep trying for our Tamil kin's *urimai* (rights) there." The insights continued for some 10 more minutes and then he rose to conclude the call, saying, as if in a summing-up: "Prabhakaran will never have a change of heart." As I thanked him and prepared to leave, he gave the advice I started this tribute with, very softly, "*Jakkirathaiya irunga*."

I had received briefings, each very helpful, very skilled, from officials, ministers, politicians, military leaders, strategists. But the one I got at Gopalapuram that afternoon covered every facet of the Sri Lankan scene in brief sentences, replete with historical, geopolitical and diplomatic nuances, topped with an intuitive sense of *urimai* being the long-shot aim and *jakkirithai* an immediate concern.

Another meeting

Seventeen years later, last year, I was to see him again, in the same room. He was seated on a wheelchair. And this time he did not – could not – get up. His son, M.K. Stalin, and his daughter, Kanimozhi, who were beside him, gave him the caller's name. The 93-year-old looked long and steadily at me. No sign of recognition appeared on his face. There was no immediate response, but a few seconds later, when everyone present was waiting for a response, a wisp of a half-smile played across his face for but a fleeting moment. I will not presume to imagine he recognised me. But that was not really necessary.

Kalaignar Karunanidhi was now a legend, an icon of the old mould, but without the patina of obsolescence on its form or features. He was a living legend, an icon of the here and now as a symbol of aspirational politics negotiating electoral quicksands. In his case the aspirational politics was Dravida self-esteem combined with social radicalism, derived from Periyar and C.N. Annadurai (CNA). And the quicksands were Tamil Nadu's political uncertainties, with his mentors having become history and rivals from a different 'stage' scripting a very new, very glitzy theatre. Here was an idealism being taunted by reality to be pragmatic, a pragmatism being haunted by history to be idealistic. Some predicaments are cruel.

And yet, he emerged from it, un-bowed, the see-saw of electoral results being another matter.

He will be long remembered for three outstanding accomplishments – his passion for Tamil as a language and a metaphor for the dignity of its users; his refusal to be bullied by political hubris during the national emergency; and his uncompromising secularism.

Such a long journey

CNA was in office for far too little for the dust of any controversy to settle on him. The Kalaignar was in office for far too long for that dust to stay away. Did he shake it off?

Did the flatterer and the tale-carrier manage to reach ear-distance? Was the sponger spurned, the money-spinner, the corrupter, family-splitter, the party-breaker turned away? Was the fear-instiller, the superstition-planter, the suspicion-sower shown the door? Equally, was the caring critic, the daring dissenter, the worried warner given welcome? Was the frank friend, the bold biographer shown in, given time, consideration?

Only his family would know.

On it – all generations of it – falls the privilege and the challenge now to stay and work together, to take the legacy of this extraordinary statesman further afield and make it a force for Tamil Nadu's redemption from localism, myopia and the power of floating cash. And beyond that, a force for India's federal intelligence, her plural wisdom and, above all, her Constitution-enshrined mandate for justice – social, economic and political.

Gopalkrishna Gandhi is a former administrator, diplomat and Governor

Confrontation in Dhaka

The Bangladesh government clamps down on dissent and democratic challenges



VIJAY PRASHAD

Students in Dhaka, Bangladesh, have long worried about their journey to school. Dangerous driving cost the lives of two students in the last week of July – they were run over by a bus – which triggered mass rallies of students across the centre of the capital. The students wanted the government to act – finally – to protect them. This was an opportunity for the government to do something following a simple plea by the students. But it did not.

Documenting violence

Instead, ruffians went along the avenues, threatening and beating protesting students. Photographs of the violence were quick to reach social media. The award-winning Bangladeshi photographer and activist, Shahidul Alam, documented the protests and also the violence with his camera. On social media, he published his pictures of what appeared to be the organisers of the violence meeting with ruffians, who were then set out to attack the students. This did not go down well with the establishment.

Mr. Alam had received a request from the media outlet, Al-Jazeera, to appear on the channel and talk about the protests. He went on air and pointed out that the protests, while about traffic safety, also indicated a far wider set of concerns – 'the looting of banks, the gagging of the media, extrajudicial killings, disappearances, bribery, corruption'. What he narrated was of little surprise to the people of Bangladesh. Protests are a constant feature of life, both in the past and in the present, in the country – over electricity supply in Kansat; over open-pit coal mining in Phulbari; against a coal plant at the rim of the Sundarbans; against stock market scandals that defrauded millions of small investors; and against quotas in government jobs for the descendants of 'freedom fighters' in the 1971 war.

Mr. Alam, who had been following the protests and the crackdown, also reported on social media: "Today, the police specifically asked for help from armed goons to combat unarmed students demanding safe roads." This struck him as an important departure for



AP

the government which had now publicly gone after the students. "The government has miscalculated. It thought that fear and repression would be enough, but you cannot tame an entire nation in this manner," he added.

On August 5, a group of men arrived at Mr. Alam's home in Dhaka's Dhanmondi area and took him into custody. It is said that the men taped over CCTV cameras in the area and forbade taking any photographs of his arrest. Rahnuma Ahmed, a journalist and Mr. Alam's partner, said she rushed to the local police station but it turned out that Mr. Alam had been taken away by the Detective Branch. A police officer later said, "We are interrogating him for giving false information to different media and for provocative comments." Mr. Alam's lawyer has said that the police only registered the first information report after she called him and kept up the pressure on them. There was no appetite in the Bureau to follow common procedure.

Action and reaction

Mr. Alam was arrested after being charged under Section 57(2) of the Information and Communication Technology Act for "spreading imaginary propaganda against the government." The Act is often used as a broad-brush tool to muzzle journalists. As he was taken from the court, Mr. Alam said, "I was hit (in custody). They washed my blood-stained Punjabi [kurta] and then made me wear it again." Mr. Alam, a recipient of the Shilpakala Padak, one of Bangladesh's prestigious awards, was now on a seven-day remand. . On Tuesday, the High Court ordered that the remand be suspended and that Mr. Alam be transferred to the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University for care. Whether the case against him will be pursued and whether this will send a message against such abductions in the future is to be seen.

The United Nations has said that it is "deeply concerned about the reports of violence" during the protests for road safety in Bangladesh and has appealed for calm. Dhaka's streets remain tense. Some students have braved the crackdown, but the mood is sombre. It appears that the government is unwilling to negotiate with the students. Mr. Alam's experience suggests that it is even unwilling to accept that there is a problem here – one that is bigger than road safety. Human rights groups and PEN International (a worldwide association of writers) have condemned his arrest.

This is an election year for Bangladesh. The crackdown on the students sends a very strong message – that the government will tolerate neither dissent nor democratic challenges.

It is fitting to recall that in the mass protests in Bangladesh in 1990, the longest running military junta led by General Ershad was affected after an army truck ran over a group of protesting students. When he came to power in 1982, there had been a conflagration over buses and students. It is no wonder then that the government is so sensitive to protests around the traffic.

Vijay Prashad is the Director of Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

M. Karunanidhi

The DMK patriarch, 'Kalaignar' M. Karunanidhi, was a mass leader who held sway over Tamil Nadu with his magnetic personality for decades. As a protégé of Periyar and Anna, he came to symbolise the Dravidian movement and stood for self-respect, social justice and women's emancipation. As a rationalist and an iconoclast, he did ruffle a few feathers. As a political leader, he was in a league of his own. The scripts he penned with felicity sowed the seeds of social change. He was a fine political orator who held audiences spellbound. His speeches were spiced with witticisms and semantically-related words. It is no wonder that people flocked to hear him speak. His advocacy of 'State autonomy' reflected his concern about safeguarding regional interests. He was also a rare political leader who accepted his party's election defeats with equanimity. Nevertheless, outpourings of praise for the great leader should not hold us back from conceding some of the spots that took a bit of the shine off his long, illustrious career.

G. DAVID MILTON,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

■ The passing of DMK patriarch M. Karunanidhi marks the end of an era. The beacon for the poor and the downtrodden has put down his sails and oars.
It is a great loss not only for Tamil Nadu but also for the rest of India.

THARCIUS S. FERNANDO,
Chennai

■ The passing of the DMK leader has created another political vacuum in Tamil Nadu that will be difficult to fill. From free electricity to farmers to reservation for women in government services, he led the way. His electoral success was remarkable. The multi-faceted leader's contribution in the fields of politics, literature and theatre will always shine.

J. BHARATH,
Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu

■ Tamil Nadu, and India in general, has lost a towering political icon. Tamil Nadu and Dravidian politics without M. Karunanidhi and J. Jayalalithaa will not be the same again.
N. Nagarajan,
Secunderabad

■ M. Karunanidhi was a leader of the masses, a seasoned politician and a statesman. He will be remembered as the architect of a number of welfare schemes. He will be noted as a multifaceted personality, an orator par excellence, a great playwright and a poet of all times. He was a leader who was committed to the uplift of the poor and the downtrodden.

A.J. RANGARAJAN,
Chennai

■ In the passing of M. Karunanidhi, one of the greatest chapters in Indian politics has come to an end. As a key player in State politics, he was noted for his political acumen. He was an outstanding intellectual – as orator, author, script and dialogue writer and humorist. He used his wit and charm to make an impact in politics and cinema. His sharing of political space with several politicians is unparalleled. He managed to emerge phoenix-like in many a political conflict.

R. SIVAKUMAR,
Chennai

■ Tamil Nadu has lost a titanic leader. His achievements in the fields of cinema, literature and politics cannot be matched. He leaves behind big shoes that cannot be filled easily.

K. PRADEEP,
Chennai

■ The DMK leader's demise is a huge loss for Indian politics. He will be remembered for his social reforms. He was perhaps one of the last links to the Dravidian movement which ushered in the rise of the backward classes.

ALBERT DEVAKARAM,
Chennai

■ The passing of the veteran politician, statesman and reformer has left a void in the national polity. Not only did he dedicate his life to the uplift of Tamil Nadu but his determination also led to many firsts in Indian politics. One hopes that his party, the DMK, is able to carry forward his ideals.

SANJIB KUMAR DAS,
Cuttack, Odisha

■ M. Karunanidhi was a politician who changed political trends. He has left an indelible mark on politics in the State. His era will be noted for his drive to alleviate the sufferings of the poor. There is a lot to learn from his ideology.

M. AMEER BASHA,
Anantapuramu, Andhra Pradesh

ITI woes

As a teacher in a polytechnic, I am in complete agreement about the problems that ITIs in India face (Editorial page, "Rebooting the system for a skills upgrade", August 7).

These institutions are the backbone of a skilled India and can contribute to the spirit of 'Make In India'. It is the lack of an institutional framework and an outdated syllabus that has led to the descent.

RAJESH LOHANI,
Nainital, Uttarakhand

Infection worry

India cannot afford to lapse to a situation where the gains in fighting the spread of HIV are lost ("Three northeastern States emerge as new HIV hotspots", August 7). The health departments should hold health camps at regular intervals. Awareness camps for young people on the dangers of unprotected intimacy and unsafe drug use practices can have a significant impact.

VIMAL VASUDEVAN,
Alathur, Palakkad, Kerala

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

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

The first paragraph of a report, "Hearing likely today in Alchemist case" (August 7, 2018) erroneously expanded SEBI as the Securities and *Exchanged* Board of India. It is the Securities and *Exchange* Board of India.

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THE WEDNESDAY INTERVIEW | DEREK O'BRIEN

'You don't choose a captain and then choose a team'

The Trinamool Congress leader on Opposition unity and why picking a prime ministerial candidate is not important right now

SOBHANA K. NAIR

From campaigning against demonetisation to voicing its criticism of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, the Trinamool Congress has taken the lead in rallying against the Narendra Modi government. In this interview, TMC leader Derek O'Brien, who is a member of the Rajya Sabha, says the NRC is a national issue, calls the BJP a "non-starter" in West Bengal, and explains why he thinks the BJP will lose in 2019. Excerpts:



SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has been criticised for saying that the NRC exercise could lead to a "bloodbath and civil war".

■ She didn't say there is a civil war. She said that if a situation like this continues, it could lead to a civil war. People are twisting her words. The entire issue is a dirty, devious political plan of the BJP. It is not about Assam alone. It is about Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bengal, Bihar and many other States. It is a national issue. The BJP wants to polarise India. Indian citizens cannot be refugees in their own country. Unfortunately, the BJP is [indulging] in doublespeak. At one end, you have the Home Minister telling Parliament that it is only a draft list and that it will be revisited. And then you have senior BJP leaders, including the party president, thumping their chests and calling the ones excluded in the NRC list as "*ghuspetiya*" or illegal. The reason all this happening is because the BJP knows that its time is up. It's looking at using all these issues for its own devious political gains.

If it is a question of humanity, why did the West Bengal government not provide legacy data for the NRC exercise, which could have saved many from exclusion?

■ This is not about legacy data. No State government was consulted. How do they explain leaving out Army personnel, educationists, bureaucrats? It is an issue that needs to be dealt with very tactfully. Home Minister Rajnath Singh said in Parliament that some on social media are trying to stoke communal passion. He is right. Who is stoking communal passion? It is the BJP and the RSS.

During her recent visit to Delhi, Ms. Banerjee said that the BJP will be "finished" in 2019. What is your party's confidence based on?

■ Our confidence is based on only one thing: the people of India. I am absolutely certain that the people of India will know that they gave this Prime Minister a great chance in 2014. The BJP was brilliant – and still is – when it comes to advertising, marketing and propagating fake news. But it has failed on delivery. There is a great advertising guru, David Ogilvy, who said that the easiest thing to do is to sell somebody a product. So the BJP sold this *achhe din* concept in 2014. Ogilvy also said that what is more difficult is to make a person purchase the same product a second time. It is the same issue with the BJP. They sold *achhe din* in 2014 and everyone believed them. We don't have to wait till 2019; the people of India have already made up their minds. In Bengal, the Trinamool Congress will demolish them; they will lose in Odisha; M.K. Stalin and the DMK will defeat them in Tamil Nadu; they will meet the same fate in Andhra Pradesh; in Bihar, Lalu Prasadji will do the job; in Karnataka, the combination of Kumaraswamyji and the Congress will finish them. As a student of politics, I think the BJP will only manage 150 [seats].

The BJP has been asking 'Modi versus who' in 2019. Will a collective Opposition leadership be the answer to the party's presidential-style campaign?

■ The last time I checked the Constitution, it was a parliamentary democracy, so where is this presidential form coming from? For their own convenience, they [the BJP] may want to pitch it as any form of government, from dictatorship to presidential. I think leaders of my party and many other parties have made it clear that the Prime Minister will be decided after the elections end. All these like-minded parties will do very well and we can decide once the BJP and Mr. Modi are removed. For us, the common agenda is to take up people's issues. We want to bring back the India we love. Not a divisive India, not an India where promises are not delivered. It is not about who will win the election. India must win in 2019.

Ms. Banerjee has taken the lead in the campaign against the Modi government on various issues and has made frequent trips to the capital. Is she positioning herself as a prime ministerial candidate?

■ With her 25 years of experience as an MP, twice as Chief Minister, with her experience as a Cabinet Minister, and 40 years of struggle, Mamata-di doesn't need to roam around in Delhi with her CV. Her track record, experience, acceptability with everybody, and ability to manage relationships will play an important role. We are like the squirrel in the garden. The squirrel does a lot of work and is indispensable for the garden. We are not chair-hunting.

The BJP is [indulging] in doublespeak. At one end, you have the Home Minister telling Parliament that the NRC is only a draft list and will be revisited. And then you have senior BJP leaders calling the ones excluded in the NRC list as "*ghuspetiya*" or illegal.

What is India without its institutions? If its institutions are under threat, we are in real danger.

Do you see Congress president Rahul Gandhi in the driver's seat in an Opposition alliance? What will be the Congress's role in 2019?

■ It is not about individuals. India needs the BJP-RSS government out. That is the focus now. By propping names you only divide the Opposition. None of the biggest leaders in this wonderful collection of federal parties is putting up their hands to be Prime Minister. Think about it, we are talking about this in August 2018. Could you have imagined such a conversation after the U.P. elections, where despite the demonetisation *jumla*, the BJP did so well? The momentum is not with the Opposition parties, it is with like-minded parties. In 2014, the biggest ally of this government was the Shiv Sena. In 2018, in the no-confidence motion, did they vote for the government? No, they did not. The second largest ally of the BJP, the TDP – who did they vote for? Not only did they not vote for the BJP, they were the ones to move the no-confidence vote against the government! To me these are the two biggest takeaways from the present political situation. Every party will have a role, it is not about one-upmanship. You don't choose a captain and then choose a team. We are a well-balanced team, where there are all-rounders, opening batsmen and bowlers. I am saying this because Mamata-di also looks at life like this. The Congress too has an important role to play in the States where it is strong – like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Chhattisgarh.

How does the conflict between your party and the Left parties play out in this collective leadership?

■ We will work just the way we do in Parliament. The same spirit of floor coordination can happen outside Parliament.

There have been complaints that the Opposition space is shrinking within Parliament. How serious is the situation?

■ Institutions are important. What is India without its institutions? If its institutions are under threat, we are in real danger. Parliament is one of those institutions. We are not here to sit and complain. The TMC will, along with everybody else, protect these institutions. There are certain procedures, rules and conventions which must be strictly adhered to. We will not allow Parliament to turn into a private backyard of the BJP.

From bank frauds to Rafale, the Opposition has made various allegations of corruption against the Modi government. How confident are you that these allegations will stick?

■ Corruption is an issue, but it is largely an urban issue. There are bigger issues. I call it JUDGE (jobs, underperformance, demonetisation, GST and the economy). Yes, you can add 'c' for corruption also. Essentially, the larger issue that people will be looking at is delivery on promises. I can give you 500 examples of how the Modi government has failed on this account, but I will restrict myself to two. One, in 2014, the Modi government promised to double farmers' incomes. In 2018, they pushed the deadline to 2022. Even for doing that, agriculture has to grow at 12%; at present, we are growing at a rate of 2%.

Second, the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' programme is one of the big-ticket projects of the Modi government. If you look closely, the total budget since its inception is ₹700 crore, it comes to some ₹100 crore per year and that comes to ₹3 crore per State. How many girls' lives have they touched? Now come to the Bengal government's Kanyashree. It has touched the lives of 50 lakh girls and has a budget of ₹5,500 crore for a single State. Like-minded parties have to get the message across that the Modi government has failed to deliver on its promises.

With the growing influence of the BJP in West Bengal, it seems that it is dictating the agenda for the Trinamool Congress too. Your party followed the BJP's example of taking out a Ram Navami procession. Is your party also peddling soft Hindutva?

■ Our social welfare and development schemes are not for Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains; they are for the 10 crore people of Bengal. That is the reason we did so well in the Assembly polls. We are not following their agenda at all. We have an understanding of Bengal, its culture, its ethos. The BJP is a non-starter in Bengal. I am not going to comment on who comes second or third. Their brand of bilious politics does not represent Bengal. We are not the ones who took out the procession with swords. We can discuss this ad nauseam, but if the BJP was so good, why did they win only three seats in the 2016 Assembly polls? How come in every by-poll in the last two years, their tally has gone down?

Your party has been battling corruption charges from Sarada to Narada. Will it not cast a shadow on the party's prospects in the 2019 polls?

■ Sarada and Narada are all over. The cases were a result of political vendetta. These cases were there in the 2016 Assembly elections. What happened then? We came back stronger improving our tally. When you throw mud on Ms. Banerjee's white saree, it does not stick. People have known her for 40 years.

All the like-minded parties have been mulling over requesting the Election Commission to replace EVMs with ballot papers. Wouldn't you be driving our democracy in reverse gear with this move?

■ Technology can't replace democracy. The technology has to be 100% foolproof. When we get to the situation that is 100% foolproof, then it is fine.

SINGLE FILE

Contemplating no Brexit

The EU's greatest failure is not to have quickly integrated politically with strong central controls

UDAY BALAKRISHNAN



AP

As Brexit draws closer, there is growing desperation among the British. The front-page headline in *The Sunday Times* of July 22, "Voters turn to far right, Boris – and Remain", reflected the state of confusion in people's minds.

The Brexit process is proving to be emotionally and economically wrenching for the British. The feeling that the country has been tricked into it has given rise to the chorus to let the people once again decide whether Britain should stay in the European Union or not. A second referendum, latest opinion polls indicate, could lead not just to a soft Brexit, but possibly to a dropping of the idea of quitting the EU altogether.

At the heart of Brexit is the tired argument that immigrants are stealing jobs. The ubiquity of migrant workers across the U.K. cannot be missed, while the extent to which they contribute to making the economy stronger is less obvious. A city like London cannot run for a day without them. For instance, the £8 billion sandwich industry, a homegrown mega success, runs mostly on East European labour.

It is turning out to be increasingly hard for the U.K. to contemplate divorce from the rest of Europe. It has been a member of the European Economic Community and later the EU for a greater part of the post-Second World War period. Brexit could also mean the loss of the massive and reliable EU market. Now faced with a whimsical U.S. President, hanging together with the rest of Europe seems to be the most obvious survival option.

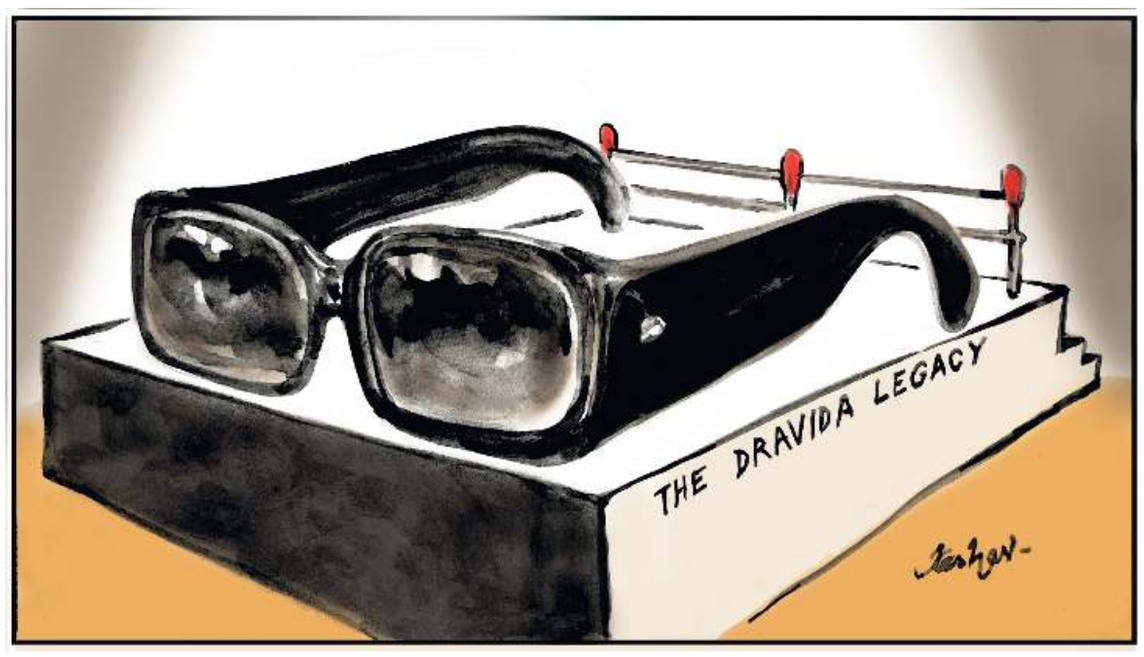
At a recent party in Oxford, I met one of those who helped found Oxfam. Now in her nineties, she wistfully recalled how, along with others, she went to Germany in 1946 to help its people cope with the disaster of defeat, vowing that such a conflict should never be allowed to recur, and that the solution lay in Europe pulling together.

This is at the heart of the European integration project, resulting in the emergence of the EU, collectively the world's largest economy. For Britain to withdraw into an isolationist hole looks too absurd to contemplate but also one that is despairingly difficult to avoid – all for the want of inspiring political leadership and a new political class less committed to the common good than its own.

Not to have quickly integrated politically with strong central controls, as India did after Independence, is the EU's greatest failure. If a key member like the U.K. should leave, one wonders how long the EU, not yet a state, will last.

By contrast we need to thank Jawaharlal Nehru. With great prescience he successfully cast India as a union – not as a federation – of States with a strong Centre, enabling us to hold together. That is something that should not be lost on those of us rooting for a federal India.

The writer is visiting faculty at the Centre for Contemporary Studies, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru



CONCEPTUAL

Lamarckian inheritance

BIOLOGY

This refers to the hypothesis that an organism can pass on the different characteristics that it acquired during its own lifetime to its offspring. It is argued that the various changes that happen to the body of an organism in order to enable it to adapt to changes in its environment can actually be passed on to its offspring. The Lamarckian inheritance of acquired characteristics, apart from Darwin's famous theory of natural selection, has been used to explain the natural process of evolution of species. It is named after French biologist Jean-Baptiste Lamarck.

MORE ON THE WEB

In pictures: M. Karunanidhi – a Titan of Tamil Nadu politics

bit.ly/KarunanidhiTitan

NOTEBOOK

Remembering Karunanidhi's wit

He will be missed by journalists

B. KOLAPPAN

Unlike many leaders, M. Karunanidhi was willing to take the most embarrassing questions in his stride during press conferences. He was extremely witty, and would pepper his comments with Tamil idioms and phrases unheard of in recent times. Sometimes, he would include references from ancient Tamil literature. Listening to him speak or intervene during debates in the Tamil Nadu Assembly was a rewarding experience for reporters. Many of his comments are still fresh in my memory.

Despite his close proximity to many national leaders, Karunanidhi chose to remain in Tamil Nadu; he was content with State politics. Once, he was sitting in the front row at a function to mark the release of the digitised album of the film *Parasakthi*, for which he had penned the dialogues. The organiser of the function, former Minister Parithi Ilavmvazhuthi, requested him to move to a seat in the centre of the row. "I don't want to come to the centre. I will remain in the state," he said.

When Congressman C. Gnanasekaran complained that the tubelights in Vellore municipality were not functioning, Karunanidhi said: "The honourable member should realise that fluorescent tubelights will take some time to burn."

Another time, when asked whether he had any problem (*sikkal*) in allotting the Nagapattinam Lok Sabha constituency to the Communist Party of India ("*Nagapattinam thoguthiayai CPI-ikku koduppathil sikkal irukkirathaa?*"), he quipped, "*Nagapattinathukku pakkathil thaan Sikkal irukkirathu* (Next to Nagapattinam is Sikkal.)" Sikkal is a town near Nagapattinam.

When BJP MP L. Ganesan once said that his party would enter into a "*siddhantha por*" (ideological war) with the DMK, Karunanidhi retorted that the BJP was indeed a "bore" in Tamil Nadu.

Journalist and writer Sa. Viswanathan, known as Saavi, once complained that the spectacles on the statue of DMK founder C.N. Annadurai were missing. Karunanidhi wondered whether the writer had looked at the statue closely. Saavi said that he had. "Did Anna hold a book in his hand?" Karunanidhi asked. "No," said Saavi. "What is the need for spectacles if he is not reading anything?" Karunanidhi smiled.

And sometimes, when provoked, Karunanidhi would also respond controversially. That was how he compared the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh to the Dravidar Kazhagam and invited criticism.

Journalists will definitely miss his wit, knowledge, and easy way with reporters.

FROM The Hindu. ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 8, 1968

Tribunal to go into Krishna-Godavari dispute

Dr. K.L. Rao, Union Minister for Irrigation and Power, informed the Rajya Sabha to-day [August 7, New Delhi] that the Krishna-Godavari water dispute would be referred to a Tribunal consisting of three serving Judges shortly. He was replying to the general debate on the Inter-State Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill. The amendment seeks to provide that the Tribunal would have three serving Judges instead of one as provided for in the original Act. Dr. Rao said that the Bill had been prepared in "considerable haste", because of the urgency of submitting the Krishna-Godavari dispute to a Tribunal. As soon as the amending Bill was passed by Parliament, the dispute would go to the Tribunal, he added.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 8, 1918.

Suggested European Electorate.

Mr. L.P.E. Pugh has written a lengthy letter to the Press in support of his proposal that Europeans in order to secure separated electorate should join Indians in claiming election of councillors and ministers. The letter is a reply to Mr. Welby, Secretary, European Association who opposed Mr. Pugh's views saying that Europeans should assert their just claim and preserve their convictions. Mr. Pugh in reply says: Our claim though a just claim has been rejected on at least three occasions by the Government of India. It has again been considered and rejected in the reform scheme, though it is admitted that we have interests out of all proportion to our numbers. Does experience lead us to suppose that the simple reassertion of the justice of the claim with some possible support from the Indo-British Association will lead to its recognition? The question supplies the answer "No". India is a new proposition with different conditions from any other as regards constitution building.

DATA POINT

Serving justice the longest

The judge with the longest tenure in the Supreme Court was Justice P.N.Bhagwati (13 and a half years), followed by Justices Hidayatullah and Y.V. Chandrachud (12.9 years each). Justice Chandrachud served the longest as Chief Justice (nearly seven and a half years)

Supreme Court judge	Appt. date	Retirement date	Tenure (in years)	CJI tenure (in years)
P.N. Bhagwati	17-07-'73	20-12-'86	13.4	1.4
M. Hidayatullah	12-01-'58	16-12-'70	12.9	2.8
Y.V. Chandrachud	28-08-'72	11-07-'85	12.9	7.4
R.S. Pathak	20-02-'78	18-06-'89	11.3	2.5
J.C. Shah	10-12-'59	21-01-'71	11.1	0.1
E.S. Venkataramiah	08-03-'79	17-12-'89	10.8	0.5
S. Murtaza Fazal Ali	02-04-'75	20-08-'85	10.4	0.0
S.P. Bharucha	07-01-'92	05-05-'02	10.3	0.5
A.P. Sen	17-07-'78	19/09-'88	10.2	0.0
A.S. Anand	18-11-'91	31-10-'01	10.0	3.1

Source: Supreme Court of India

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FROM PAGE ONE

At 94, the passing of a patriarch

A strong advocate of the rights of State governments, State autonomy and federalism, Mr. Karunanidhi secured the right for Chief Ministers to hoist the national flag on Independence Day. He also adapted Manonmaniam Sundaranar's poem *Neerarum Kadalodutha* into a separate invocation song for the State – *Tamil Thai Vaazthu*.

"During the Emergency, when there were fears that regional parties could be banned and even leaders like V.R. Nedunchezhian suggested that the DMK should drop the word Dravida from its name, he stood his ground," said K. Thirunavukkarasu, historian of the Dravidian Movement and author of the three-volume history of the DMK.

Born in Tirukkuvalai, a small hamlet 40 km from Tiruvarur in the then composite Thanjavur district, to a family of musicians – his father Muthuvelar was a nagaswaram player – Mr. Karunanidhi was also sent to learn the instrument. But the rebel in him turned his back on music, as nagaswaram players in those days were not allowed to wear a shirt or *angavastram* (a stole worn by men).

Anti-Hindi agitation

His political career began when he organised students against the imposition of Hindi in 1938. He was just 14 then. Even though his formative years belonged to a period when the Communist movement dominated East Thanjavur, Mr. Karunanidhi, with a passion for Tamil language and social justice, gravitated towards the ideas of the Justice Party, Periyar E.V. Ramasamy and C.N.Annadurai.

He had a meteoric rise, first in the Dravidar Kazhagam and subsequently in the DMK and he always proved that he was possessed with the skill and calibre to run the party after the demise of Annadurai.

He was the first president of the DMK, a post created after Annadurai's time. Nedunchezhian who was also in the race for the Chief Minister's post, became the general secretary.

His rise in the party and government as Chief Minister put an end to the team of leaders who wielded power and enjoyed clout almost on a par with party supremo Annadurai.

He gained control over the party gradually and at one point the DMK became synonymous with Mr. Karunanidhi.

Welfare reforms

As a Minister and later as Chief Minister, Mr. Karunanidhi heralded sweeping and bold reforms. As Transport Minister in Annadurai's government, he nationalised bus services. The DMK government headed by him later introduced land reforms in the State. Communist leader Manali Kandasami remarked that Mr. Karunanidhi was able to achieve land reforms with a drop of ink – a signature – what the Communists had struggled to achieve through blood.

A writer, orator and journalist, who founded the DMK's official organ *Murasoli*, Mr. Karunanidhi's end came nearly a year after the platinum jubilee of the newspaper was celebrated.

Coded message

During the Emergency, he braved the censors and at times hoodwinked them while continuing to publish the party organ. As he could not publish the names of those who had been arrested under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA), he just published the list as those who could not pay their respects to Annadurai, the founder of the DMK – a message that party cadre understood clearly.

As a dialogue and screenplay writer, he worked for 77 films. Mr. Karunanidhi penned the dialogue for films that propelled three actors of Tamil cinema as heroes. *Rajakumari*, the first film he worked on as a dialogue writer was also the film that introduced MGR as a hero. *Parasakathi*, for which he wrote the dialogue, announced the arrival of Sivaji Ganesan, another formidable talent. S.S. Rajendran was introduced as a hero in the film *Ammaiappan*, for which again Mr. Karunanidhi was the script writer.

Even when out of power for 13 years during the reign of MGR and President's rule, he was able to draw the limelight through his constant political activities, writings and public speeches. He released the report of the Justice Paul Commission that probed the death of Subramania Pillai, the official of the Tiruchendur Murugan temples and gave a tough time to MGR and his Cabinet colleagues.

Country is poorer today: President

Tributes pour in for Karunanidhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Condolences poured from every corner of the country for DMK patriarch Karunanidhi, with President Ram Nath Kovind calling him peerless and saying that the "country is poorer today".

"A doyen of our public life, as a contributor to the development of Tamil Nadu and of India, he has few peers," said a tweet from the President's Twitter handle.

PM to reach Chennai

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Chennai to pay his respects. "Firmly committed to democratic ideals, his strong opposition to the Emergency will always be remembered," Mr. Modi tweeted.

Calling him a colossus of Tamil politics, Congress president Rahul Gandhi said: "India has lost a great son."

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

Congress leader P. Chidambaram said the nation and the Tamil people had lost a colossus.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee tweeted: "Today India lost one of its greatest sons. And Tamil Nadu lost its father figure."

Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu said he leaves behind a rich legacy.

"He leaves behind a big void," CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said.

CPI leader D. Raja said Tamil Nadu's history can never be discussed without mentioning Mr. Karunanidhi.

In his condolences, Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena said he was "deeply saddened".

U.S. Ambassador to India Kenneth Juster tweeted: "Karunanidhi will be remembered for years of public service to the State."

(With PTI inputs)

Major, 3 soldiers killed in J&K

Two militants killed as Army foils infiltration bid amid ceasefire violations by Pak.

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Four Army personnel – a Major and three soldiers – and two militants were killed in a gunfight as a large group of infiltrators tried to breach the Line of Control and enter the Kashmir Valley in the Gurez Sector of Bandipora on Monday night.

A Defence Ministry spokesman in Srinagar said the Army foiled the infiltration bid at Bakhtoor, over 125 km from Srinagar. Sources said six to nine heavily armed militants tried to infiltrate into the Valley. "The Army pushed them back [into Pakistan-occupied Kashmir]," a police officer said.

Para-commandos also joined the operation to flush out the militants. Efforts are on to locate the bodies of the militants that fell into a ravine.

"There were ceasefire violations [by Pakistan] in the area," Deputy Commissioner, Bandipora, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary said. Sources said the Pakistani Army targeted a few places along the LoC at night to give cover to the infiltrators. Major Kaustubh Prakash Kumar Rane, Grenadier Vikram Jeet Singh and Riflemen Hameer Singh and Mandeep Singh Rawat, who lost their lives, belonged to 36 Rashtriya Rifles.



(From top left) Major Kaustubh Prakash Kumar Rane and rifleman Hameer Singh, rifleman Mandeep Singh Rawat and grenadier Vikram Jeet Singh, who were killed in Gurez, north Kashmir, on Tuesday. At right, CRPF jawans on duty in a rain-hit area in Srinagar. ▪ PTI

Gurez, home to tough mountain passes, had fallen silent as an infiltration route two years ago. It has again attracted terror groups in the PoK to send militants in the past two years, said an official.

In New Delhi, Minister of State for Home Hansraj Gangaram Ahir informed Parliament that 69 militants had infiltrated into Jammu and Kashmir till June this year, and there had been 133 infiltration attempts. "Fourteen militants were killed, while 50 returned."

Farooq seeks inquiry

Meanwhile, a spokesman of the National Conference said party president and MP Farooq Abdullah met Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday and sought an impartial inquiry into the circumstances leading to the death of a young man during a security breach" at his Bhatandi Jammu residence on Saturday.

CRPF personnel shot dead Murad Ali Shah, 25, when he entered Mr. Abdullah's house. "The family of the deceased needs to be apprised of the circumstances leading to the unfortunate death," Dr. Abdullah was quoted as saying.

RS post: Cong. to pick candidate

Consensus eludes Opposition after three meetings; NDA yet to declare choice

SOBHANA K NAIR
NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties have left it to the Congress to pick a candidate for the post of Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha after three meetings.

The decision was taken during a final meeting in Parliament House at 6 p.m. Sources said NCP leader Praful Patel, who attended the meeting, clarified that his party never wanted to put up a candidate and speculation about its MP Vandana Chavan was unfounded.

DMK cautious

Tiruchi Siva of the DMK lost the race, after he failed to get the green signal from the party's working president, M.K. Stalin. According to sources, the DMK felt it was not right time to get into a direct fight with the NDA.

"It was decided that the Congress should pick a candidate; it could be anyone from within the party or outside such as the nominated member, K.T.S. Tulsi. Mr. Tulsi's name came up during the discussions. However, someone mentioned that he only has 14 months of tenure remaining. The Congress will inform us by tonight [Tuesday]," a senior Opposition member said.

The government is yet to announce formally that it would back Janata Dal(U) MP Harivansh Narayan Singh as its candidate.

NDA fissures

The ruling BJP is faced with depleted ranks with former allies and existing ones turning against them.

The Shiromani Akali Dal, which felt it had some claim on the seat, has publicly aired its differences. The party was yet to clarify its position.

The AIADMK, which has 13 MPs, has announced that it will be backing the government's candidate.

Suspense continues to prevail over the stance of the other disgruntled ally, the Shiv Sena, which has three MPs. The party could refrain from voting just the way it did during the no-confidence motion in the Lok Sabha on July 20.

The YSR Congress Party has declared that it would not be supporting the government, while an erstwhile ally, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), with two MPs, said it would be abstaining.

Sources said BJP president Amit Shah and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar spoke to Biju Janata Dal (BJD) chief Naveen Patnaik for support from his chunk of nine MPs. However, Mr. Patnaik has not clarified his position.

Trinamool MPs disrupt Rajya Sabha

House adjourned for the day

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



Venkaiah Naidu

Protests by Trinamool Congress members led to multiple adjournments during the post-lunch session in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, disrupting a short-term discussion on the issue of minimum support price (MSP) initiated by BJP president Amit Shah.

The discussion on the increase in the MSP of kharif crops and challenges in the agriculture sector was to start when Trinamool member Manas Ranjan Bhunia reminded the Chair of a notice given under Rule 267 for suspension of business for another discussion. His party colleague Nadimul Haque also intervened.

Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu said the issue raised by them would be taken on a priority basis on Wednesday morning, as agreed by other members, stating that the MSP was an issue of national importance, particularly for farmers.

The Trinamool members then took their seats, and Mr. Shah started his speech.

The BJP president had spoken for about five minutes when Trinamool members again drew the Chair's attention to their notice and some of them gathered in the Well of the House. Mr. Naidu said the discussion on the MSP had already started.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Vijay Goel accused the Trinamool MPs of deliberately disturbing proceedings. Ministers Ravi Shankar Prasad, Prakash Javadekar and J.P. Nadda also protested against the disruption, saying they were not allowing Mr. Shah to speak.

"Suddenly, what happened to you? The farmers' issue is a burning issue of the country, and you are now obstructing discussion on it. Please go to your seats," the Chairman said.

No stop to protests

The protests did not stop, at which Mr. Naidu adjourned the House for 10 minutes. When the proceedings resumed, the Trinamool members again gathered in the Well of the House.

The Chair then said he would name them under Rule 255 (withdrawal of member from the proceedings for the day).

"You had raised this issue and I had answered it. Suddenly, you have gone into a disruptive mood. I do not know what the reason is," Mr. Naidu said.

However, the MPs continued to protest, leading to adjournment till 3 p.m. As the slogan-shouting continued, the Chair adjourned the proceedings for the day.

BJP to observe social justice week

Bills on Backward Classes Commission and SCs/STs historic, says Modi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked BJP MPs to observe a "social justice fortnight" from August 15 to 30 this year and a "social justice week" from August 1 to 9 every year to mark the passage of a Bill that grants constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes, and the likely passage of the SC/ST Bill this week in the Rajya Sabha. The SC/ST Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on Monday.



Grand welcome: MPs felicitating PM Narendra Modi at the parliamentary party meet on Tuesday. ▪ SANDEEP SAXENA

'Important dates'

At a meeting of the BJP Parliamentary Party, Mr. Modi said these were important dates in the history of social justice and important milestones for his government.

He said the Quit India movement that Mahatma Gandhi launched in 1942 was also referred to as 'August Kranti,' and that these "historic" Bills were also passed in the same month in a serendipitous development.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar told presspersons after the meeting that Mr. Modi recalled that in his speech after the BJP's victory in 2014, he had said his government would be dedicated to the poor, the villages and the backward sections of society, and these Bill underlined that commitment. "A historic law has been passed, and another is likely to be passed in a day or two," he said.

BJP leaders were asked to reach out to the people far and wide between August 15 and 30 to inform them of the work done by the government, he said.

Controversy erupts over resting place

Senior advocate Duraisamy told journalists at Justice Ramesh's residence that "the Anna Memorial does not fall under the Coastal Regulatory Zone since it was facing landward. Therefore, there should not be any problem in allowing Kalaignar to be buried there."

Earlier in the day, advocate V. Gandhimathi, 48, had withdrawn a public interest litigation (PIL) petition filed by her last week to prevent the Greater Chennai Corporation from granting permission for the disposal of dead bodies in the coastal area.

On Tuesday, the PIL petition was listed as the 17th case of the day before the acting Chief Justice and Justice Sundar. Even before the case could be taken up, the petitioner's counsel mentioned the matter before the Bench led by the acting Chief Justice and sought the permission of the court to withdraw it.

Accepting the plea, the Bench dismissed the PIL petition as withdrawn.

DMK cadre resorted to protests across the State condemning the government's denial and the police had to resort to lathicharge to disperse agitated partymen in front of Kauvery Hospital, where Mr. Karunanidhi died.



A DMK supporter in tears outside the Kauvery Hospital. ▪ M. KARUNAKARAN

After the DMK president was declared dead, party principal secretary Duraimurugan told reporters that the family had placed a request with the Chief Minister to have a memorial near that of Anna's on the Marina. He said the Chief Minister only said, "We will see."

Mr. Duraimurugan, along with former Ministers Ponmudi and K.N. Nehru, gave a representation to the government. "They have not given a reply to us yet. We are waiting," he said.

In the representation, DMK working president M.K. Stalin pointed out that Mr. Karunanidhi was a five-time CM helming the State for 19 years, a 13-time MLA and a leader of the DMK for a staggering 50 years.

SC now has 3 women judges

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

With the swearing-in of Justice Indira Banerjee, the Supreme Court on Tuesday, for the first time in its history, has three sitting women judges.

Justice Banerjee was sworn in by Chief Justice Dipak Misra along with Justices Vineet Saran and K.M. Joseph. The two other women judges are Justices R. Banumathi and Indu Malhotra, the first Supreme Court woman judge who was directly appointed from the Bar.

Justice Banerjee is the eighth woman judge in the Supreme Court since Independence. Among the three sitting women judges, Justice Banumathi is the seniormost.

'Modi train heading for disaster'

Congress chief says people's anger is rising against the Union government

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Comparing the first four years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to a train journey, Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said the "train is being driven to disaster by an autocratic, incompetent driver" and it is heading for a bad accident.

Addressing the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) meeting in Parliament House, Mr. Gandhi said, "There is a rising tide of anger against the ruling dispensation." Mr. Gandhi said people were looking to the Congress and its allies to remove the Modi government and replace it with one which would listen to them, understand their problems and provide solutions to help reduce poverty, unemployment and inequality.



Congress president Rahul Gandhi addressing the 'Mahila Adhikar Sammelan' in New Delhi on Tuesday. ▪ R.V. MOORTHY

'Bogus promise'

He alleged that "corruption, economic failure, incompetence and spread of social divisiveness is at its peak under the Narendra Modi government", and asked party MPs to provide an alternative to the bogus promise of Modiji's *Achche Din*.

At another event of the Mahila Congress, the Congress chief questioned the Prime Minister's silence on crimes against women and alleged that "women in the past 3,000 years have never faced what they are facing today."

Though the CPP is still headed by the former Congress chief, Sonia Gandhi, she did not address it on Tuesday as she is reported to be unwell.

Mr. Gandhi recalled Mr. Modi's remarks in 2014 that India had been a slow "passenger train" for 70 years after Independence that would transform into a sleek and shining "magical train" destined for *achhe din* under his guidance and rule.

"Since the RSS and the BJP came to power, we have seen a systematic attack on every institution," the Congress chief said.

Centre to send advisory on shelters

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Home Minister Rajnath Singh informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday that the Centre will issue advisories to States about the safety of children in shelter homes. It will also direct the Ministry concerned to ensure safety audit of all homes.

Speaker Sumitra Mahajan asked members to personally inquire into the condition of shelters in their constituencies. Repeated instances of sexual abuse have surfaced after the Muzaffarpur and Deoria shelter cases. The issue was raised during Zero Hour by Samajwadi Party MP Dharmendra Yadav. "This is not a matter of politics, but one that shames humanity," he said.

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

As Deoria shelter home case gets murkier, Uttar Pradesh orders CBI probe

Police kept sending girls to the facility, though the State government derecognised it in June 2017; officer says it did not become illegal as it only lost its validity

OMAR RASHID
DEORIA

The Uttar Pradesh police on Tuesday admitted that it had been sending girls to the shelter home in Deoria – under the scanner for alleged sexual exploitation of inmates – even after the institution was de-recognised by the government.

Late in the day, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced that the investigation would be handed over to the CBI. Also, a three-member SIT led by the Additional Director-General of Police, Crime, would hold an investigation.

Terming the incident unfortunate, Mr. Adityanath said at a hurriedly called press conference in Lucknow that the Additional Director-General, Gorakhpur, would investigate the role of the police. He expressed displeasure at the negligence of the district administration and officials, and said the District Magistrate, now suspended, would face charges. The inmates would be shifted to Varanasi from Deoria.

The Chief Minister said the shelter home received generous grants from the previous governments, and it was the BJP government that unveiled the entire matter and the "sins" of the previous regimes.

A senior police officer told *The Hindu* that they "had no choice" but to send the girls to the shelter home as there was no other such facility in Deoria. "And we could not take them to the police station. Also, the grounds were not clear to us. After losing recognition, the shelter home did not become illegal, but it only meant that its validity had been suspended," the officer said.

The police said they did not know about the alleged mistreatment of inmates and they raided the place the day illegal activities were brought to notice by a minor who escaped from the shelter.


A view of the shelter home at Deoria in Uttar Pradesh, from where 24 girls were rescued after allegations of their sexual exploitation came to light. ▪ RAJEEV BHATT

A two-member probe committee submitted its report to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday. But there was no official confirmation if the panel had found instances of sexual abuse or exploitation.

Minister admits laxity

U.P. Women and Child Welfare Minister Rita Bahuguna Joshi said in Lucknow that there was a possibility of sexual exploitation, and admitted there had been a laxity at the local level.

"It was either negligence or connivance, that has to be determined ... Nobody who is found involved or connected in any way, will be spared," Ms. Joshi said.

While doctors refused to divulge details of the medical report and an official report could be released soon, a senior police officer said there were signs of "consensual sex" in some girls but "no definitive hints or signs of forced [sex], struggle or wounds".

Ms. Joshi said the government would investigate "why and how many girls" continued to be sent to the shelter homes by the local police despite orders from Lucknow to shut it down last June.

Chief Medical Officer Deoria Dhirendra Kumar said age verification tests revealed that the 20 girls rescued on Monday were aged between eight and 21.

Supervisor's allegation

Just before her arrest, Girija Tripathi, supervisor of the shelter home, said the allegations against her were baseless and the inmates were being coerced to give statements in police custody.

Rohan P. Kanay, Superintendent of Police, said the accused had escaped action for long due to her "social influence".

A teacher at a private school here alleged that his 15-year-old daughter was forcibly held in the shelter home for more than two weeks, indicating that girls were sent to the shelter home as recently as July.

He said his daughter had allegedly eloped or was lured by the son of a village leader on July 18. He lodged a police complaint on July 19 and an FIR was lodged the next day at the Barhaj police station.

He said that that while he had listed possible rape and murder of his missing daughter in his complaint, the local police officer diluted the FIR and tried to brush the case under the carpet.

The FIR, a copy of which is with *The Hindu*, shows a case registered for kidnapping and abduction for marriage under Sections 363 and 366 of the Indian Penal Code. The girl was found by the police on July 25 and then allegedly sent for a medical examination and produced before a magistrate who ordered that she be sent to the shelter home. All this allegedly happened without her parents being informed.

"I was not allowed to meet my daughter. Whenever I went to the shelter home ... eight times ... they rejected me outright and told me to go the female constable concerned who then asked me to contact the investigating officer," the father said.

According to him, the court had issued notice to the police to produce his daughter, who is possibly among the rescued inmates, in court on Wednesday.

A police source also said most of the 18 inmates, including some adults, who were missing from the shelter had been tracked.

IN BRIEF



Gurumurthy appointed to the board of RBI

AHMEDABAD

The Centre on Tuesday appointed RSS ideologue S. Gurumurthy and Satish Kashinath Marathe as part time non-official directors on the central board of Reserve Bank of India for four years. The Department of Personnel and Training issued their appointment notification after the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved their names as recommended by the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.

Police register case against DSGMC chief

NEW DELHI

The police have registered a case against Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee president Manjit Singh G.K. on a complaint by Congress leader Jagdish Tytler, the police said on Tuesday. The Congress leader, an accused in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots case, had filed the complaint in February accusing Mr. Singh of circulating a "doctored" video clip. Based on the complaint, a case was registered a couple of days ago on the directions of a city court. PTI

U.S. Ambassador meets J&K Governor, Omar

SRINAGAR

United States Ambassador to India Kenneth I. Juster on Tuesday met J&K Governor N.N. Vohra and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in Srinagar. A Raj Bhavan spokesman said Mr. Juster discussed the bilateral understanding on several fronts, particularly the war against terrorism. The Governor mentioned to the Ambassador the areas with high potential for Indo-U.S. collaborations.

Railways' focus misplaced: CAG

'It must remove bottlenecks to ensure timely arrival and departure of trains'

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

The focus of Railways' modernisation plans for its stations is mainly on improving the façade and passenger facilities, rather that removing bottlenecks to ensure timely movement of trains. The latter should be one of the most important parameters to judge the quality of service being provided to the passengers, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has said in its report tabled in Parliament on Tuesday.

Important activities such as providing platforms with adequate length for easy boarding of long trains, providing adequate facilities for stabling trains and for their maintenance in stations, and adequate yard capacity significantly contribute to timely arrival and departure of trains, the CAG pointed out.

> **Expansion of stations by adding more platforms needs to be considered**

Blockage of lines

During a review of the existing infrastructure at 15 selected stations, the audit noticed that infrastructure such as platforms, washing pit lines and stabling lines at the stations were not augmented to match the increase in number of trains handled in all these stations.

Non-availability of adequate washing pit lines and stabling lines led to movement of empty trains to other depots for maintenance purposes. This caused blockage of lines.

Longer platforms

"Before taking up modernization/redevelopment of stations and constructing new buildings, the possibility of further expansion of the stations by adding more platforms needs to be considered. The modernisation/redevelopment of stations should also address infrastructural constraints and works such as construction of additional platforms, stabling and washing pit lines and remodelling of yards should be included in its scope," it recommended.

Of the 2,436 trains handled by the 15 stations as of March last year, 638 are being run with 24 or more coaches every day. To accommodate these longer train rakes, there should be platform of adequate length and adequate facilities of stabling and washing pit lines, it said.

'UPA govt. unduly favoured Boeing'

CAG says it changed parameters to favour the U.S. company in aircraft deal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has pulled up the UPA government for changing the parameters of the deal for the procurement of Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance Anti-Submarine Warfare (LRMRASW) aircraft to unduly favour Boeing of the U.S.

In a report presented in Parliament on Tuesday, the CAG said Boeing was yet to fulfil the offset obligations as part of the contract for the deal signed in 2011.

Product support

Two companies, Boeing and EADS CASA of Spain, were found to be technically compliant among the five bids that were received.

"The Ministry while concluding the contract for the acquisition of LRMRASW aircraft enhanced the financial bid of EADS CASA, Spain, to cater for 20 years' product support cost, while ignoring this element in respect of Boeing. At a later date, Boeing, USA, offered product support under a separate contract and consequently the deduced ranking of Boeing as L-1 turned out to be incorrect," the CAG said in the report. The commercial bid of Boeing was ₹8,700 crore, while EADS CASA had quoted ₹7,776 crore, which also included product support for two years.


Courting controversy: Boeing is yet to fulfil its obligations as part of the contract for a deal signed in 2011. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Boeing was awarded the contract for eight aircraft in January 2009 at a cost of ₹10,773 crore and the aircraft were delivered between May 2013 and October 2015, with warranty of two years post-delivery.

In July 2016, India exercised the optional clause for four more aircraft at a cost of $1 billion.

Further, the critical role equipment offered by Boeing did not fully meet the needs of the Indian Navy, the report said. "Owing to capability limitations of radars installed on board, the aircraft is not able to achieve the envisaged coverage area requirements."

Contract for bombs

For Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), the Naval Staff Quality Requirements (NSQR) had envisaged procurement of torpedoes and certain bombs as the ammunition.

However, the contract for procurement of the bombs had not yet been concluded, the CAG observed. The reasons for non-procurement of the bombs were yet to be intimated by the Navy as on September 2017.

Offset obligations to the tune of $640.26 million to be fulfilled by Boeing within seven years [August 2016] had not been fulfilled till date. "Boeing had claimed offset credits on mere placement of purchase orders, defeating the very purpose of offset obligations," the CAG said.


Tough times: A file picture of people waiting in a queue to check their names in the final draft of the National Register of Citizens in Morigaon district of Assam. ▪ PTI

India will not deport anyone: Bangladesh leader

Says New Delhi has given assurances on Assam's NRC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India has given an assurance that none of the four million individuals who were excluded from the draft NRC in Assam will be deported to Bangladesh, a leading member of the ruling coalition of Dhaka said here on Tuesday.

Al-Haj Syed Nazibul Bashar Maizvandary, leader of the Bangladesh Tariqat Foundation, said he had received promises in this regard from the leading members of the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit.

"The Government of India has conveyed to me that the 40 lakh people (left out of the draft NRC) of Assam will not be sent to Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, we are anxiously looking at their condition. I met the Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju and he said that they are not going to Bangladesh as they are part of the Indian economy and the government is trying its best to manage the situation," said Mr. Maizvandary.

He said Dhaka would not allow sudden influx of people into its territory. "Border arrangement is strong on both sides and we will not tolerate anyone coming into our country. They have acquired identity cards and they are now Indian citizens."

This is the first comment from a member of the government of Bangladesh since the draft NRC-list was released on July 30.

Mr. Maizvandary is from the Chittagong region, which is facing the brunt of the Rohingya crisis. "The condition of the Rohingya is a very big issue for Bangladesh and needs to be resolved. It is not just an internal matter of Bangladesh. Peace in Bangladesh will help peace in India," he said.

Kin left out of NRC, man commits suicide

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

A 70-year-old man in Dhubri district of Assam reportedly committed suicide on Tuesday as the names of his son and two grandchildren did not figure on the complete draft of the NRC published on July 30.

The police said the cause of death of Deben Barman could not be ascertained, but local people said he had been depressed over the exclusion of the names of his son, Mahendra Barma, grandson Kishan and granddaughter Mousumi. Barman was a resident of Bishkhowa in Golakganj on the Bangladesh border.

"He was behaving strangely for a week or so. We found him hanging from a tree today [Tuesday]," a neighbour said.

Government introduces 4 GST amendment Bills

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government on Tuesday introduced four Bills seeking to amend the Goods and Services Tax (GST) laws that will make return forms simpler and raise the turnover threshold for availing composition scheme to ₹1.5 crore.

Finance Minister Piyush Goyal said the amendment Bills – the Central GST (Amendment) Bill, the Integrated GST (Amendment) Bill, the GST (Compensation to States) Amendment Bill and the Union Territory GST (Amendment) Bill – were primarily aimed at helping the MSME sector and small traders.


Piyush Goyal

Congress member Sunil Jakhar, however, charged the government with bringing these Bills "hurriedly" and said it would hurt the interests of the MSME sector.

He alleged that Punjab was suffering on account of GST implementation and the Centre should have consulted stakeholders before amending the GST laws.

Responding to Mr. Jakhar, Mr. Goyal said the government had held wide consultations with all stakeholders, including Punjab, and the changes were intended to help small traders.

Mr. Goyal said the threshold for composition scheme was being raised from ₹1 crore to ₹1.5 crore.

Who are you to say all this, SC asks NRC coordinator

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

A Bench of Justices Ranjan Gogoi and Rohinton Fali Nariman monitoring the progress of the NRC update in Assam on Tuesday faulted the National Register of Citizens (NRC) coordinator Prateek Hajela and Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India Sailesh for talking to the media over how the authorities would handle the objections and claims.

As soon as the hearing began, Justice Gogoi picked up the folded newspapers carrying the interviews and asked the court staff to give it to Mr. Hajela.

"Who are you to say all this," Justice Gogoi asked Mr. Hajela.

After reading out certain excerpts from the news items from separately typed prints, Justice Gogoi asked Mr. Hajela whether he was in any manner concerned with the claims and objections procedure.

"We find it strange... don't forget you are an officer of the court. On the one hand we are monitoring the claims and objections procedure and on the other hand you go to the press...We are appalled. This is fantastic," Justice Nariman addressed Mr. Hajela, before Justice Gogoi asked Mr. Sailesh to come to the front row in the courtroom.

Both Mr. Hajela and Mr. Sailesh said their intention was to allay the fears of the people. They apologised to the court.

The NRC final draft lists 2.9 crore names out of the total 3.29 crore who applied.

The names of 40.07 lakh applicants were not included in the historic document, considered proof of Assamese identity.

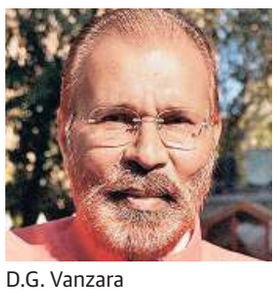
CBI court rejects D.G. Vanzara's plea

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

A special CBI court on Tuesday rejected the discharge applications of former police officers D.G. Vanzara and N.K. Amin in the Ishrat Jahan fake encounter case. The two had sought discharge on the ground of lack of evidence.

The CBI had filed charge sheets in the case against officials of the Gujarat police and the Intelligence Bureau, including the then Special Director of the Bureau, Rajinder Kumar. Retired SP N.K. Amin is a co-accused.

The court had concluded the hearing of arguments of the two police officers and Ishrat Jahan's mother, Shamima Kauser, who had challenged Mr. Vanzara's discharge plea arguing that he had been directly involved from the planning stage to the execution of the staged killings.


D.G. Vanzara

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ELSEWHERE



Indian-origin candidate bracing for tough battle

WASHINGTON

Finding it difficult to defend the Trump administration's policies as a diplomat, Sri Preston Kulkarni last December decided to quit his dream job at the U.S. State Department to run for Congress. Six months later, he has won the Democratic primary and is pitching for a tough battle against five-term Republican incumbent Pete Olson. PTI

Israeli strike kills 2 Hamas militants

GAZA

Israeli tank fire killed two Hamas militants in Gaza on Tuesday in a strike the Israeli military said was launched against a position from which its troops had come under fire. Hamas and Palestinian health officials in Gaza confirmed the deaths near Beit Lahiya in northern Gaza, shortly before noon. REUTERS

Tokyo college admits to altering test scores

TOKYO

A Tokyo medical school on Tuesday admitted that entrance test scores for women applicants were routinely altered to keep women out and apologised for the discrimination. "We betrayed the public trust. We want to sincerely apologise for this," said Tokyo Medical University managing director Tetsuo Yukioka. AFP

North Korea releases South's national

SEOUL

North Korea on Tuesday released a South Korean who was arrested after crossing the border last month, Seoul's Unification Ministry said, welcoming the "humanitarian" gesture. The man was detained for crossing into the country on July 22. AFP

Trump warns world against doing business with Iran

Says the U.S. has imposed the most biting sanctions ever on the Islamic Republic

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
TEHRAN

U.S. President Donald Trump warned countries against doing business with Iran on Tuesday as he hailed the "most biting sanctions ever imposed", triggering a mix of anger, fear and defiance in Tehran.

"The Iran sanctions have officially been cast. These are the most biting sanctions ever imposed, and in November they ratchet up to yet another level," Mr. Trump wrote in an early morning tweet.

"Anyone doing business with Iran will NOT be doing business with the United States. I am asking for WORLD PEACE, nothing less."

Within hours of the sanctions taking effect, German automaker Daimler said it was halting its business activities in Iran.



A mural painting on a building in downtown Tehran. ▪ AFP

A run on the rial

Mr. Trump's withdrawal from a landmark 2015 nuclear agreement in May had already spooked investors and triggered a run on the Iranian rial long before nuclear-related sanctions went back into force.

"I feel like my life is being destroyed. can't afford to buy food, pay the rent..." said a construction worker on the streets of the capital.

The sanctions reimposed on Tuesday – targeting access to U.S. banknotes and key industries such as cars and carpets – were unlikely to cause immediate economic turmoil.

Iran's markets were actually relatively buoyant, with the rial strengthening by 20% since Sunday after the government relaxed foreign exchange rules and allowed unlimited, tax-free gold and currency imports.

But the second tranche on November 5 covering Iran's vital oil sector could be far more damaging – even if several key customers such as China, India and Turkey have refused to significantly cut their purchases.

In a statement on Monday before the sanctions were reimposed, Mr. Trump said: "The Iranian regime faces a choice. Either change its threatening, destabilising behaviour and reintegrate with the global economy, or continue down a path of economic isolation."

'Open to a new deal'

"I remain open to reaching a more comprehensive deal that addresses the full range of the regime's malign activities, including its ballistic missile programme and its support for terrorism."

But his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani dismissed the idea of talks while crippling sanctions were in effect. "If you're an enemy and you stab the other person with a knife, and then you say you want negotiations, then the first thing you have to do is remove the knife," he told state television.

"They want to launch psychological warfare against the Iranian nation," Mr. Rouhani said. "Negotiations with sanctions doesn't make sense."

Deeply disappointed by U.S. steps, says Russia

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

Russia on Tuesday said that it was "deeply disappointed" by U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to re-impose unilateral sanctions on Iran.

"We are deeply disappointed by U.S. steps to reimpose its national sanctions against Iran," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement. It said it will do "everything necessary" to save the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

"This is a clear example of Washington violating UN Resolution 2231 (on the Iran deal) and international law," the statement said. Moscow said the nuclear agreement has "shown its effectiveness".

It called on the international community "not to allow such significant achievements in multilateral diplomacy to be sacrificed in the name of American aspirations to settle political scores with Iran".

PM-in-waiting quizzed by Pakistan anti-graft body

It is alleged that Imran misused government helicopters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PESHAWAR

Imran Khan, who is set to become Pakistan's new Prime Minister, was questioned on Tuesday by the country's anti-graft body and asked to respond to a questionnaire within 15 days in connection with the alleged misuse of helicopters of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government by him, which allegedly caused Rs. 2.17 million loss to the exchequer.

The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on August 3 had summoned Mr. Khan, 65, in the case.



Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party chief Imran Khan. ▪ AP

Used for 72 hours

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mr. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has led the provincial government since 2013. The NAB wanted to question Mr. Khan as part of the preliminary probe into allegations that he caused a loss of Rs. 2.17 million to the provincial exchequer by using the government's helicopter for over 72 hours.

The NAB had prepared a questionnaire with 15 queries for Mr. Khan and his lawyers. The questionnaire has to be completed within 15 days, according to the NAB officials.

Security around the NAB's Peshawar office was tightened as Mr. Khan appeared before the body. Former Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pervez Khattak, and former Speaker of Provincial Assembly, Asad Qaiser, accompanied Mr. Khan to the NAB's Peshawar office, where he stayed for an hour.

Mr. Khan was earlier summoned on July 18, but he failed to appear before the panel, citing elections.

His lawyer had filed an appeal requesting the accountability watchdog to fix the date for case after the general elections, "preferably on August 7".

Bangladesh protests fizzle out as students return to classes

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DHAKA

Days of protests over road safety in Bangladesh looked to be fizzling out on Tuesday after around 150 people were injured in clashes with riot police and pro-government thugs started wielding iron bars.

Nine days of protests saw tens of thousands of teenagers and students paralyse traffic in the capital Dhaka and beyond. Eight buses were torched and hundreds of vehicles vandalised.

Students said on Tuesday that many went back to school as they fear further government repression if the protests continued. "We are panicked. We hear that some of the students who took part in yesterday's protests have been arrested," said a student.

Another student, Ratul Abdullah, said four of his friends have been missing since Monday. "Today everything is normal. Students have returned to their classes," said Mahbubur Rahman, head of Bangladesh's secondary and higher education authority.

Some 200 students at a state-run university in western city of Rajshahi however joined a march and rally, a student activist of the university said.

Court order

Also, a court on Tuesday ordered authorities to send award-winning photographer Shahidul Alam to hospital for treatment, a lawyer said, after the veteran journalist and rights activist accused police of beating him up in custody.

Mr. Alam, 63, was arrested at his Dhaka residence by plainclothes policemen on Sunday after he went live with Al Jazeera speaking about the protests.

A lower court on Monday remanded him into custody for seven days after police pressed preliminary charges against him under the country's controversial Internet law.

But in a rare move, the High Court on Tuesday suspended the remand and instead ordered him shifted to a state-run hospital in Dhaka after his wife filed a petition, said his lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua.

My turban saved me, says Sikh American who was assaulted

Malhi was ambushed, beaten up and asked to 'go back'

SARAH MERVOSH
MELISSA GOMEZ

Surjit Singh Malhi, 50, who was recently ambushed, beaten up and told to return to his country, said he believed that the very thing that may have prompted the assault also protected him from further harm. "My turban really saved me," Mr. Malhi, who lives in Turlock, California, said in an interview on Monday.

Mr. Malhi was putting up political campaign signs near his home on July 31 when, he said, two men came up behind him and accosted him. They threw sand in his eyes so he could not see, he said, and struck his head and back with what appeared to be a stick and a belt. "You don't belong here," he said they told him.



Surjit Singh Malhi, a resident of Turlock, California.

His truck was also vandalised. A photo posted on Facebook shows the white pick-up defaced with a similar message: "Go back to your country."

Investigations on

Sheriff Adam Christianson of Stanislaus County said his office was aggressively investigating the case and looking for suspects.

Rep. Jeff Denham, R-Calif., released a statement on Monday condemning the attack, which occurred in his district. Central California is home to a large Sikh community, and Mr. Malhi leads a group of Sikh volunteers for the Congressman's campaign.

Mr. Malhi came to the U.S. from India in 1992 and is now a permanent resident, he said. He is married with four teenage children, owns a small trucking business and is known locally as a community and political advocate.

He said he was placing campaign signs for Denham and the local district attorney when he was assaulted. While he still feels sore from the attack, he said a CT scan showed that his brain was not injured. He said his turban acted "like a helmet, but stronger". NY TIMES

Shaken and shattered



More deaths: The death toll from a powerful earthquake on the Indonesian island of Lombok rose to 105 on Tuesday as rescuers clawed through the rubble of homes, schools and mosques for survivors, and evacuees faced another night in the open. Picture shows a resident at a damaged mosque in North Lombak. ▪ AP

Ohio poll is a key test for Trump

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Tuesday's special congressional election in Ohio was the final direct face-off between Republicans and Democrats before the November mid-terms.

Democrats, who anticipate their grass-roots activism propelling a "blue wave" this year, see a genuine shot at flipping a district long held by the GOP, and sending a message that President Donald Trump's brand of attack politics is in trouble.

Campaign appearances

In recent weeks, Mr. Trump has made several campaign appearances ahead of State primaries, endorsing candidates for Congress and Governor and imploring his supporters, as he did in Ohio on Saturday night, to get out and vote.

Pollsters rate the Ohio race between Republican State Senator Troy Balderson and Democratic lawyer Danny O'Connor, 31, as a toss-up. In a swing State that Mr. Trump won by eight points in 2016, Mr. Balderson's 10-point lead from June has evaporated.

"Ohio, vote today for Troy Balderson for Congress," the President tweeted on Tuesday morning, saying that Mr. O'Connor "is weak on Crime, the Border, Military, Vets, your 2nd Amendment – and will end your Tax Cuts."

An O'Connor victory in the race to succeed retired GOP congressman Patrick Tiberi, in a wealthy suburban district that has voted Republican for decades, would be a massive shot in the arm for Democrats seeking to take back the House. Experts, including those at the nonpartisan Cook Political Report, say the Republican challenge of holding their House majority in November is looking increasingly difficult.

Venezuela is in crisis but its President might be stronger for it

Nicolás Maduro has weathered attempted rebellions, falling oil prices, isolation from neighbouring countries and threats of U.S. intervention

NICHOLAS CASEY
BOGOTÁ

The widely circulated videos seemed to capture a presidency in free fall.

One shows President Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela chased by a hungry mob brandishing pots and pans in 2016. In another, Mr. Maduro enters a plaza before Election Day in May to drum up a crowd – but finds the square practically empty. Then there are the images from this past week: as the President's stage shakes from an explosion on Saturday, hundreds of troops break ranks and flee in panic.

This portrait of vulnerability comes as Venezuela faces the biggest economic crisis in its modern history. And yet, Mr. Maduro has remained in power. Many are now wondering whether he has not only held on despite the disasters, but perhaps, by some measure, because of them.



Semblance of support: Venezuela's pro-government activists demonstrating during a rally in Caracas, on Tuesday. ▪ AFP

"There's an area between democracy and outright dictatorship in which economic crises can actually help the leader consolidate power," said David Smilde, a sociology professor who studies Venezuela at Tulane University.

Indeed, Mr. Maduro has weathered attempted rebellions, months of mass street protests, isolation from neighbouring countries, threats of military intervention from U.S. President Donald Trump, declining oil revenues, dissent within his own party, a mass exodus of his people and an election in May, widely described as rigged, that extended his term until 2025.

Courting the military

Mr. Maduro has gone to great lengths to court those who might topple him, like Venezuela's military, which observers have long seen as the most powerful group that could turn on him.

As the economy collapsed, leaving the country short of food and medicine and the currency worthless, Mr. Maduro has offered the military the lucrative prizes that remain. Military leaders run the food and oil industries and control the region where gold, diamonds and coltan are mined. So far, the arrangement has secured loyalty, analysts say, as Generals calculate that it is more profitable to remain aligned with the current government than to return to democracy, where their future is uncertain.

Mr. Maduro could still face the threat of street protests like those that raged in Caracas and other cities for months last year, and left more than 100 dead after the President's bloody crackdowns. Yet these days, the unrest has petered out. The rallies that still occur are less political now, and often have to do with putting pressure on local officials to restore services like water and electricity. A power failure left 80% of Caracas, the capital, without electricity for hours last week, and such shortages are becoming common in other cities.

Hebert García Plaza, a former General who fled the country after the Maduro government accused him of corruption, said Venezuela's security agencies now shut down protests as soon as they were planned, to prevent another outbreak of demonstrations like those in 2017. "They remove the tumour at its source," he said, saying spy agencies now make arrests at any sign of "social unrest or attempt to rise up".

Stark differences

The circumstances are reminiscent of some of Latin America's strongmen of the 20th century. But there are stark differences: if then, Generals stood stone-faced in dark sunglasses as military formations stood at attention, Mr. Maduro appears in constant crisis, as was on display on Saturday when his national guardsmen fled the attack and he sought cover.

While Mr. Maduro may not exactly fit the model of a military dictator, he has followed an example left by former Cuban leader Fidel Castro: he relied on the exodus of unhappy citizens as an escape valve.

Castro's reign was accompanied by two large migrations that followed his takeover of the government.

Venezuela has seen similar migrations. Colombia is now home to almost one million Venezuelans, mainly poor, who have sought refuge there and in Brazil, with which Venezuela also shares a border. Educated Venezuelans have sought refuge in Europe and the U.S., as well as some South American countries, like Peru and Chile, which have recruited professionals. NY TIMES

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MARKET WATCH

	07-08-2018	% CHANGE
Sensex	37,666	-0.25
US Dollar	68.68	0.29
Gold	30,585	0.00
Brent oil	74.56	0.62

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	372.30	-25.05
Asian Paints	1424.25	26.85
Axis Bank	593.05	-3.75
Bajaj Auto	2686.60	-1.30
Bajaj Finserv	6994.20	75.15
Bajaj Finance	2747.35	51.10
Bharti Airtel	381.90	-3.85
BPCL	394.10	-6.90
Cipla	629.45	-8.50
Coal India	275.40	-7.75
Dr Reddys Lab	2258.80	24.40
Eicher Motors	27523.55	486.05
GAIL (India)	374.70	-1.65
Grasim Ind	1018.85	19.45
HCL Tech	968.80	12.30
HDFC	1978.60	-0.70
HDFC Bank	2130.90	16.60
Hero MotoCorp	3297.75	0.65
Hindalco	219.00	2.90
HPCL	288.60	-5.50
Hind Unilever	1730.05	-0.25
Indiabulls HFL	1361.40	-6.70
ICICI Bank	313.15	-1.95
IndusInd Bank	1994.30	-5.50
Bharti Infratel	285.90	-1.15
Infosys	1367.95	7.30
Indian OilCorp	166.65	-1.50
ITC	301.10	-0.70
Kotak Bank	1283.70	0.90
L&T	1295.30	4.85
Lupin	866.60	-6.55
M&M	927.00	-5.40
Maurti Suzuki	9411.50	125.10
NTPC	158.85	2.10
ONGC	167.55	-1.70
PowerGrid Corp	189.10	-0.35
Reliance Ind	1184.20	-8.40
State Bank	304.05	-4.45
Sun Pharma	569.70	-6.45
Tata Motors	251.60	-2.45
Tata Steel	573.15	19.90
TCS	1967.35	-8.20
Tech Mahindra	658.75	-8.35
Titan	927.25	25.60
UltraTech Cement	4206.70	28.90
UPL	647.20	-8.90
Vedanta	226.80	2.45
Wipro	277.45	0.40
YES Bank	381.65	3.75
Zee Entertainment	530.55	7.50

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 07

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	68.48	68.80
Euro	79.44	79.81
British Pound	88.77	89.19
Japanese Yen (100)	61.62	61.91
Chinese Yuan	10.04	10.09
Swiss Franc	68.90	69.22
Singapore Dollar	50.21	50.46
Canadian Dollar	52.80	53.05
Malaysian Ringitt	16.80	16.90

Source:Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

August 07 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g)	41.3	(41.2)
22 ct gold (1 g)	2828	(2825)

Banks take about ₹70,000-cr. hit due to frauds in last 3 years

'Impact in 2017-18 at ₹36,694 cr. more than twice seen in previous 2 years, each'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Indian banks reported a total loss of about ₹70,000 crore due to frauds during the last three fiscals up to March 2018, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

The extent of loss in fraud cases reported by scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) for 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 was ₹16,409 crore, ₹16,652 crore and ₹36,694 crore, respectively, Minister of State for Finance Shiv Pratap Shukla said in a written reply quoting RBI data.


GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

'Gross advances rise'

The Minister said that data of frauds is as per the year of reporting and not the year of occurrence of fraud or sanction of loan or letter of undertaking, which may might be of an earlier period. The Minister also informed the House that gross advances by SCBs increased from ₹25.03 lakh crore on March 31, 2008, to ₹68.75 lakh crore on March 31, 2014.

On stressed assets, he said the spurt was due to aggressive lending practices, wilful default, loan frauds, corruption in some cases and economic slowdown.

Replying to another question, he said as per RBI data, there were 139 borrowers with aggregate gross NPAs of more than ₹1,000 crore.

Mr. Shukla said the RBI had issued directions to banks in June 2017, instructing them to file applications for initiation of corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) in respect of 12 borrowers. These borrowers had cumulative fund-based and non-fund based outstanding amount of ₹1,97,769 crore as on March 31, 2017.

"It subsequently issued further directions to banks advising them to finalise and implement resolution plans in respect of 29 accounts by December 13, 2017," he said.

'Govt. to fill top posts in PSBs soon'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The government will expedite the process of appointing the chiefs of several public sector banks, Finance Minister Piyush Goyal told the Rajya Sabha.

He was responding to a query by Congress member Jairam Ramesh who asked the Centre why one-third of public lenders remained headless for a long time, though several colourful schemes had been announced.

"The Banks Board Bureau has completed the interviews of candidates... We will expedite the process," Mr. Goyal said, adding that the eligibility criteria had been expanded to allow even top officials of private banks to apply.

Norms don't affect independence, say proxy advisories

Their influence on investors irks some

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR
MUMBAI

A day after Uday Kotak raised concerns over global advisory firms influencing HDFC shareholders to vote against the reappointment of Deepak Parekh, top officials of Indian advisory firms said regulation did not mean ensuring an opinion or recommendation that suited the company.


Deepak Parekh

While Mr. Kotak called for some kind of regulation on such global entities, domestic firms are of the view that though proxy advisory firms can be regulated or registered – as is the case in India – that did not mean their recommendations can be controlled.

"Regulation of proxy advisory firms does not mean that one can regulate the way they make recommendations," said Shriram Subramanian, founder and MD, InGovern Research.

'Investor makes choice'

"Indian firms are registered with SEBI and have voting policies, but advisory firms make recommendations; it is eventually the investor who votes. In a corporate democracy, investors are allowed to vote as per their mind. And, corporate democracy is beyond personalities," added Mr. Subramanian.

On Monday, while speaking on the occasion of the listing of HDFC Asset Management Company, Mr. Kotak highlighted the fact that close to 23% shareholders voted against the reappointment of Mr. Parekh at the company's annual general meeting.

"Even if global proxy advisory firms were regulated, the outcome of the HDFC AGM would have been the same. HDFC has near 75% foreign shareholding and one should not cry foul if they vote in a certain manner on any specific set of resolutions. One cannot have the cake and eat it too, one cannot seek investments, and not be accepting of the way the investor votes," said Mr. Subramanian.

InGovern had recommended voting against the resolutions seeking reappointment of Bimal Jalan and Bansi Mehta as independent directors. Interestingly, both Mr. Jalan and Mr. Mehta withdrew their nominations for reappointment before the AGM.

Stakeholders Empowerment Services (SES) had also recommended voting against the resolutions seeking reappointment of J.J. Irani along with Mr. Jalan and Mr. Mehta.

"Regulation does not mean taking away the independence of the proxy advisory firm," said J.N. Gupta, MD, SES. "However, global proxy advisory firms that track Indian companies should be registered in India just like domestic advisory firms are."

PNB posts ₹940 cr. loss on higher provisioning

'Provisions of ₹1,800 cr. due to fraud'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Punjab National Bank suffered a net loss of ₹940 crore in the quarter ended June due to higher provisioning for the multi-crore Nirav Modi scam and NPAs, despite a recovery of ₹8,445 crore of bad loans.

The bank had earned a profit of ₹343.40 crore in the year-earlier period. "During the quarter, the bank made a total provisioning of ₹5,135 crore. Of this, the provision for the Nirav Modi fraud was ₹1,800 crore," PNB managing director Sunil Mehta said. He, however, expressed hope of getting into the black in the ongoing financial year. The bank has made 63% provisioning for the more than ₹14,000-crore fraud against 50% as per RBI's dispensation. Following the scam, PNB posted a loss of ₹13,416.91 crore for the fourth quarter of 2017-18, the largest ever by any domestic lender.

Optimistic note

Sounding optimistic, he said bank hoped to make recovery of ₹20,000 crore in the first half of this fiscal.

The bank has recovered ₹8,445 crore in the first quarter against its own estimate of ₹7,000 crore. The resolution of two accounts, Bhushan Steel and Electrosteel, under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code has contributed about ₹3,200 crore.

NCLAT to hear Mistry's plea today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The NCLAT said it would hear Cyrus Mistry's appeal against the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) order in his case against Tata Sons on Wednesday as the counsel for the conglomerate was not present on Tuesday to put forth arguments before the Bench.

On July 9, the NCLT Mumbai dismissed Mr. Mistry's pleas challenging his removal as Tata Sons chairman and allegations of rampant misconduct on part of Ratan Tata and the board. A special Bench held that the board of directors at Tata Sons was "competent" to remove the executive chairperson of the company.

'Axle norms apply to existing vehicles, too'

'Ministry's clarification clears the air'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The revised norms governing load carrying capacity of commercial vehicles will be applicable to existing vehicles and not just new ones, the Road Transport and Highways Ministry has clarified.

"The above maximum safe axle weight shall be considered for revising the Gross Vehicle Weight of the vehicles, subject to overall limits specified in paragraph 2 for the existing vehicle models, that are manufactured in accordance with the type approval certificate granted prior to July,16, 2018," as per the notification issued on August 6.

In the July 16 notification, the Centre had raised safe limits for axle weight for transport vehicles by 20-25%. Though the order didn't state whether it would be applicable to new or existing vehicles, Road Minister Nitin Gadkari had told reporters that the revised norms were for new vehicles. "The earlier notification was silent on whether the axle norms were applicable for old or new vehicles. Because of this lack of clarity, truckers were facing harassment as they would be stopped on charges of overloading. The latest communication addresses that problem," said secretary general of All-India Motor Transport Congress, Naveen Kumar Gupta.

Nayara raises ₹2,400 crore via NCDs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Rosneft and Trafigura-UCP promoted Nayara Energy Limited, India's second-largest private refiner, has raised ₹2,400 crore via its maiden placement of non-convertible debentures (NCDs) in the domestic market.

Axis Bank was the sole arranger for the issue, which was subscribed 1.6 times the base size of ₹1,500 crore, said a company statement. The issue proceeds would be used for working capital requirements and refinancing of existing debt.

"It is a landmark event in the history of the company being the first foray in the Indian debt capital market," said B. Anand, CEO, Nayara Energy.

M&M net profit soars 67% to ₹1,257 crore on higher sales

Good monsoon, infra spending boosted volumes: Goenka

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Backed by rising sales, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (M&M), along with its wholly-owned subsidiary Mahindra Vehicles Manufacturers Ltd. (MVML), has reported a 67% growth in consolidated net profit to ₹1,257 crore.

Revenue and other income grew 23% to ₹13,551 crore. Standalone net profit rose to 63% ₹1,221 crore. Standalone revenue and other income increased 10% to 13,785 crore.

In the quarter ended June, the total domestic automotive volume grew 16.2%. The heavy commercica vehicle volumes grew 123.4% resulting in a market share of 5.7%.


Pawan Goenka

The company exported 9,360 vehicles in the quarter, a growth of 100.2% over a year earlier.

Domestic tractor sales grew 18.8% in the quarter and the Farm Equipment Segment revenue and results crossed ₹5,000 crore and ₹1,000 crore respectively. "The result is an outcome of good monsoon resulting in more sales of our vehicles. Increased spending on infrastructure also helped as well as affordable auto finance," M&M MD Pawan Goenka said. "Industry forecast on tractor growth has been revised to 13-15% while on PVs, it remains at 15%," he said.

Plant expansion

M&M was working on a second level of expansion for its Chakan plant which will raise the production to seven lakh vehicles a year, he added.

"Mahindra is entering its product introduction season and two auto launches have been planned before the festive season including Marazzo and one in January, 2019," he said.

Ola drives to U.K. in challenge to Uber

Ride-hailing app set to start operations in South Wales and Greater Manchester

VIDYA RAM
LONDON

Ola is set to enter the U.K. market as the Indian ride-hailing app operator steps up competition with rival Uber. Ola, which had obtained a license to operate in South Wales and Greater Manchester, said it would start operations within the next month. The start-up hopes to expand across the rest of the U.K. by year end.

The ride-hailing firm will offer both private hire vehicles and black cabs on its platform and said more options would be added in the future. Announcing its entry, Ola sought to attract drivers in South Wales and Greater Manchester, emphasising low introductory commission rates for both private hire and metered vehicles.

"We're bringing Ola to the UK! Very excited to offer a responsible, new ride-hailing service to one of the world's most sophisticated transportation markets & one that we share so much history. It's a momentous moment," tweeted Bhavish Aggarwal, who co-founded the company in 2011. Ola has over 1 million drivers and 125 million customers across 110 cities and says 1 billion rides are made through the app annually. Earlier this year, Ola made its first foray beyond India, as it ventured into Australia, where it now has more than 40,000 drivers operating across 7 cities.



Duel on devices: Ola is very excited to enter the sophisticated transportation market, says Bhavish Aggarwal. ▪ REUTERS

Common investor

Like Uber, which operates across the U.K., Ola is backed by Japan's SoftBank Group. While the U.K. is a key market for Uber, it has also faced criticism over passenger safety and treatment of drivers.

Last month, a court granted Uber a 15-month extension to its London license, after Transport for London (TFL) initially stripped the U.S. firm of its license last year. However, the U.S. firm's legal woes continue as the Licensed Taxi Drivers Association said it was seeking advice about potential class action against Uber, over losses to earnings.

Uber has also won considerable public backing: more than 8,00,000 had signed a petition urging TFL to change their decision.

Separately, Ola sought to address some of the concerns around ride sharing apps, promising that it would put in place industry-leading passenger safety measures, including drivers screened by Britain's Disclosure and Barring Service, 24/7 voice support, options to share ride details with emergency contacts and in-app emergency features.

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Will you 'play' the magazine for me?

Podcasts and other digital tools are fast replacing in-house publications



ILLUSTRATION: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

LIFFY THOMAS

In many companies, internal magazines and newsletters are not distributed anymore; they are played. We are not even talking about online newsletters, which are considered *passe* by many companies.

Here is a situation that illustrates our point. With podcasts and Yammer-driven features, Mondelez India's monthly newsletter *Joy Flash*, is an out-and-out visual presentation. The traditional concept of an editorial/content management team has also been dispensed with. The stories are crowd-sourced. A gamification app to engage colleagues to help them share information is on the cards.

This trend is not restricted to companies that have appeared on the horizon in the last few years. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and Johnson & Johnson among companies that have stopped printing newsletters and gone in for digital alternatives.

The RPG Group brings out a video magazine every two months with employees narrating their stories. The video magazine is sometimes screened in the cafeteria or before a meeting gets under way.

At the Chennai office of Freshworks, Workplace, a collaboration platform on Facebook, is made to serve a variety of purposes, which may include helping a colleague find a house for rent, identifying volunteering opportunities for the weekend, celebrating milestone achievements by teams and communicating a major decision taken by the company.

T.P. Pratap, co-founder, QwikCilver Solutions, says "We have noticed that people are more spontaneous with their responses when internal communication is sent through social media instead of formal email."

Pratap says he uses Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook, in that order, to communicate with his teams and customers across the globe.

For Friendship Day, he shared a note on LinkedIn for his customers. The note included a link to an article in the *Harvard Business Review* where QwikCilver Solutions had been featured as a case study. His note ended with the announcement of a 'Uber Gift Card'.

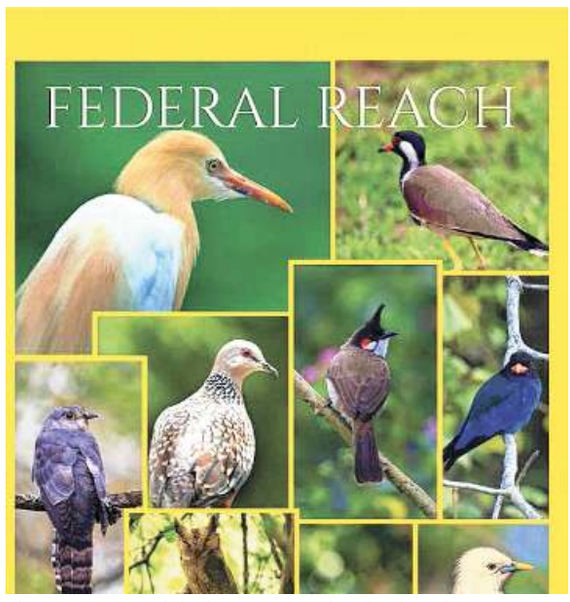
People are more spontaneous with their responses when internal communication is sent through social media instead of formal email

For some, paper still works

LIFFY THOMAS

Though our lives are getting more and more digital, it may not be time yet to sound the death knell for printed in-house magazines. There are some that still do well – in fact, very well.

Federal Reach, the quarterly in-house magazine of Federal Bank, is around 10 years old and its popularity among its target group has not waned. Every quarter, 12,500 copies of the magazine are printed for the company's workforce spread across India. Even a short delay in the release of the magazine triggers a flurry of calls to the company's headquarters in Aluva.



The cover page of the latest issue of Federal Bank's quarterly newsletter. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Being a part of this magazine's editorial team is a matter of prestige to many employees Every year, there is a waiting-list of people who want to join the team.

"This year, we received 88 applications for the role of a 'sub-editor'. To ensure many employees get to function in an editorial capacity, we choose a new team every year," says N. Rajanarayanan, deputy vice-president (Marketing and Investor Relations). The team consists of 10 members. Zonal coordinators drawn from its branches coordinate with the editorial team to get content for the 50 to 60 pages of the magazine.

For 26 years, TVS Motor Company's quarterly newsletter – *TQC News (Total Quality Control)* – is being published in English, Tamil and Kannada with tailor-made content being created for the employees at its factories in Mysore and Hosur.

Around 2,000 copies of the newsletter are printed and distributed to both executives and shopfloor employees. The newsletter is also shared on the company's intranet. In an effort to go paperless, RPG Group is working towards reducing the number of printed copies of its quarterly newsletter. From 2,500 copies, it recently reduced the number to 2,000.

Career fair for returning mothers



File photo

The second edition of RestartHer, a conference and career fair organised by JobsForHer for returning mothers, will be held in Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru, on September 1, 8 and 15 respectively. Over 100 companies are expected to take part in the day-long event which will offer mentoring, reskilling and networking opportunities for women.

The first edition of RetartHer took place in Bengaluru last year and it drew more than 3,000 women who were on comeback trail in their careers, says a press release.

Speakers at the event include Aruna Newton, ELCIA Trust and Global Head Diversity and Inclusion, Infosys; Anuranjita Kumar, managing director, Human Resources, RBS; Madhavi Lal, managing director and head, Human Resources, India, Deutsche Bank; Bianca Ghose, chief storyteller, Wipro; and Roopa Moudgil, Inspector General of Police, Bengaluru.

According to the release, Neha Bagaria, founder and CEO, JobsForHer, has said the platform is not just focused on providing jobs, but also giving women the necessary tools and connections to enable them to return to work.

HR BUZZ

HR issues in focus

National Human Resources Development Network, Hyderabad, is organising a human resource conference on August 17 and 18. Topics to be discussed include 'New Paradigm of Purpose: Organisation, people and process', 'The new face of Industrial relations', 'New models for rewards', 'Liquid workforce: myth or reality' and 'Employer and employee response to new age industrial relations'. Chief human resources officers and heads of leading organisations will be the speakers at the event. For details, visit www.nhrdnconference2018.com

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The digital question

As part of its CEO Connect Series, NASSCOM is hosting 'Internet For Every Indian' on August 8 at Gurugram. According to www.nasscom.in, Rajan Anandan, managing director, Google India, will talk about digital penetration in India, digital influence on offline purchase, use of AI/ML and the company's mission for India. The event is open for CEOs, CXOs and COOs.

Hiring activity sees 9% increase



Representational picture

The Naukri JobSpeak Index for July 2018 marked a 9% increase in hiring activity. With 34% and 28% growth respectively, the insurance and real-estate sectors were clearly ahead in July, said a release.

The automobile sector, which witnessed a slowdown last year, started well this year and with 31% growth, the momentum in hiring continues.

Hiring in the FMCG has witnessed a year-on-year increase of 18% in July 2018. Banking and insurance sectors have seen a growth of 26% in hiring. Among the metropolitan cities, Delhi NCR saw a rise of 14% in hiring activity; Chennai was up by 13% and Mumbai by 4%.

Hiring in Bangalore remained flat. In Pune it grew by 4% and in Hyderabad by 7%. IT-Software, Insurance and BPO sectors shone as high job creators.

In Kolkata, hiring activity saw a growth of 17%; the sales and production/ maintenance sections drew a good number of new hires.

Insurance and real-estate sectors saw maximum activity hiring

The demand for HR professionals in the consultant and recruitment space grew by 23%, added the release.

Hiring for leadership roles, with over 16 years of experience, saw a rise of 12%.

Recruitment to entry-level jobs with a experience band of 0-3 years witnessed a 10% rise. Hiring for trained talent with 4-7 years of experience grew by 9%.

Finding candidates with 8-12 years of experience to middle management roles of grew by 7%; hiring candidates with 13-16 years of experience to senior management roles witnessed a 3% increase.

QUOTING THE GURU

Seven leadership tips from Steven R. Covey

"Retire from your job but never from meaningful projects. If you want to live a long life, you need eustress, that is, a deep sense of meaning and contribution to worthy projects and causes, particularly your intergenerational family."

– *The 8th Habit : From Effectiveness to Greatness*

**

"The power to distinguish between person and performance and to communicate intrinsic worth flows naturally out of our own sense of intrinsic worth."

– *Principle-Centred Leadership*

**

"Give no answer to contentious arguments or irresponsible accusations. Let such things 'fly out open windows' until they spend themselves."

– *Principle-Centred Leadership*

**

"The key is not to prioritize what's on your schedule, but to schedule your priorities."

– *The Seven Habits Of Highly Effective People*

**

"Trust is the glue that holds everything together. It creates the environment in which all of the other elements – win-win stewardship agreements, self-directing individuals and teams, aligned structures and systems, and accountability – can flourish."

– *First Things First*

**

"We present a dramatically different approach to time management. This is a principle-centered approach. It transcends the traditional prescriptions of faster, harder, smarter, and more. Rather than offering you another clock, this approach provides you with a compass – because more important than how fast you're going, is where you're headed."

– *First Things First*

**

"Remember, to learn and not to do is really not to learn. To know and not to do is really not to know."

– *The Seven Habits Of Highly Effective People*

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Panesar and his battle with inner demons

The Asian community does not understand mental illness, says the spinner

INDIA IN ENGLAND

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
LONDON



Halcyon days: Monty Panesar celebrates dismissing Sachin Tendulkar with a peach of a delivery back in November 2012. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Monty Panesar is looking for a county. He has not played First-Class cricket since 2016 and these days turns out for Hornchurch in the Essex League Premier Division to keep himself active.

"The ball is coming out nicely out of my hand," he says. "The fitness is really good. I just need a county to say, 'come and have a net with us, come and have a trial with us. Play a few games, let's see how it goes.' I would love that opportunity."

Time was when Panesar was England's premier spin bowler, his undeniable talent, his child-like enthusiasm, his comical fielding all turning him into a cult figure with the Barmy Army.

But the last of his 167 Test wickets came nearly five years ago and the time he was being serenaded with chants of 'Monty Monty Monty Monty Panesar' on the boundary now seems like a different life.

It's been a rough few years for Panesar. There was the infamous nightclub incident in 2013, when he was released by Sussex after urinating on bouncers.

He joined Essex, who cut him adrift in 2015 for off-field "issues". His love for cricket had waned, he said. There followed an emotional return to Northamptonshire – his first county – but the reunion was all too brief.

Paranoia and anxiety

Panesar revealed he had been battling mental health issues, suffering from feelings of paranoia and anxiety. He had not dealt with it well at first, he admitted, but the 36-year-old has since recovered, bit by bit.

"I did yoga, boxing, had my own personal trainer, did a lot of gym work and reading. My physio asked me not to do anything that was pulling me down and just keep doing things that would elevate me rather than go on medication. I feel like I'm back where I used to be," he says.

Panesar did not realise for a long time how bad things were. "The Asian community doesn't have the education or understanding (of mental illness). They understand you have a broken leg and that if you put a plaster over it, it will take six weeks to heal.

"But a broken mind, they think let's just stay away from that (person) because they think their mind might get broken with it. The mind also takes time to heal. In the Asian community, when a person is mentally down, they don't want to touch him."

English cricket has seen a few notable cases of mental illness, like those of Marcus Trescothick and Jonathan Trott. The nature of the sport perhaps has something to do with it, Panesar believes.

"It's a combination of being away from home and also the pressure of playing cricket. Sometimes it's your own desire. You are playing for your country and you are fighting for your spot. Sometimes it gets a bit too much."

Warning signs

Players need to look for warning signs in the dressing room, he says. "When you go out for team meals, and you see a team-mate ordering room service or not wanting to mix, you can pick up on those signs. You can spot future cases early. Human behaviour is similar."

Back in 2006, Panesar made his Test debut in Nagpur against a strong Indian team. His first wicket was Sachin Tendulkar's, out leg before. Six years later, Panesar starred in England's series victory in India, notably bowling Tendulkar in Mumbai with a delivery that pitched outside leg-stump and hit the top of off.

He's still got the turn, Panesar insists, that led Duncan Fletcher to once declare him the best finger-spinner in the world.

"I can still pitch the ball outside leg and turn it past off-stump," he says.

"That's still happening. In my humble opinion, the ability is still there. I just need a chance."

Bumrah will not play in second Test: Arun

Says it's too early to field him in a Test

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LONDON

Bharat Arun has expressed happiness with the performance of India's bowlers in the first Test against England, while refusing to comment on the possibility of fielding two spinners in the second Test at Lord's.

"We'll take a call tomorrow [on playing two spinners] after taking a look at the wicket but our bowlers have done extremely well in the last game.

"There was huge improvement from the first innings to the second and that was most welcome. So we really need to look at any change in strategy depending on the wicket," he said here on Tuesday.

Arun, India's bowling coach, felt Umesh Yadav had gone against his nature in the first innings at Edgbaston before correcting course. "Umesh is at his best when he is bowling quick. In the first innings he was more looking at bowling to one line. But in the second innings he was being himself," he said.

Jasprit Bumrah, who bowled briefly in the nets, would not be ready for Thursday's second Test, Arun stated. "He's bowling-fit right now but it's too early to put him into a game-like situation. The plaster on his hand needs to come off first. He's out of contention for the second Test."

Arun suggested that India was not considering fielding a sixth specialist batsman. "Playing an extra batsman here, I would consider a conservative move," he said. "If the conditions are not going to be as (bowler) friendly as they were in the first Test, it makes more sense to play five bowlers."



Longer wait: Though Bumrah has been ruled out of the Lord's Test, Kohli will need him as the series progresses. ▪ AP

Kohli among Indian greats: Manjrekar

ANI
DUBAI

Former Indian cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar has asserted that skipper Virat Kohli has made a special place for himself "among the Indian greats." Speaking at the MCC Spirit of Cricket Cowdrey Lecture, the 53-year-old further praised Kohli for his phenomenal batting skills.

"Even among Indian greats now, he's finding a special place.

" It's amazing. Indian waters keep producing these kinds of phenomenal batting talents, year after year, generation after generation," the ICC website quoted Manjrekar, as saying.

"Sunil Gavaskar quit in 1987. We had Tendulkar two years later, in 1989. And as he was winding up his long career, here comes Virat Kohli," he added.

"Where I find him different from other batting greats is his self-belief, his self-confidence. I remember he averaged 13 (13.4) the last time he was here in England. The very next Test match was in Adelaide, and he walked out like he was king of Adelaide," he said.

"His self-confidence doesn't dip, it takes a lot for that," he added.

Pope's incredible journey

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LONDON

Two years ago, Ollie Pope was still playing school cricket. On Thursday, the 20-year-old will, in all probability, make his Test debut at Lord's.

Pope, who made his First Class debut only last year, is Surrey's second highest run-scorer in the County Championship (Division One) this season, with 684 runs at an average of 85.50. "It's been a bit of a whirlwind. If someone told me I'd be in the squad for the second Test at Lord's at the start of the season, I wouldn't have really believed them," he said.

A wicket-keeper batsman with the ability to play all manner of innovative shots, Pope is regarded as a fine player of spin bowling. He was confident of facing R. Ashwin.

"He's not your regular off-spinner. He bowls a ball that swings away and one that swings back in. You play him like a normal off-spinner, you've just got to watch him a bit closer out of the hand. You can't just premeditate with him," he said.

Fearless

Pope's Surrey teammate – and good friend – Sam Curran made his England debut earlier this year against Pakistan. When Sachin Tendulkar's belief that young players were fearless was put to him, Pope agreed.



Full of hope: The 20-year-old Ollie Pope is likely to make his Test debut at Lord's. ▪ AFP

"It's almost that naivety in the whole thing. Looking back on people like him (Sachin Tendulkar), what was he, 16, 17? I think it's the fearlessness. Hopefully, we can play and express ourselves the way we want to," he said.

Unlike Indian players who like to insist that they don't read anything written about them, Pope admitted that he had read news stories about his possible call-up.

"I read an article or two that I was tagged in on Twitter; I clicked out of curiosity," he said. "I didn't really take them in, because you don't want to get your hopes up too high or you'll get let down. I had an idea."

Swansong to a distinguished career at Lord's

Groundsman Hunt's favourite match is 2002 Natwest final

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
LONDON

As far as workplaces go, Mick Hunt has little competition. As Head Groundsman at Lord's, he has the enviable task of tending to the most hallowed real estate in cricket. Hunt joined the ground-staff in 1969 but after 49 years in the job, he is retiring. Thursday's Test match, between India and England, is set to be the last of a distinguished career.

"It's been testing at times; there have been good and bad times. A lot of people have said that [I had to complete 50 years] but figures are not important. When your body tells you it's enough, it's enough. I've got a family to think of, my health to think of," he says.

Hunt was a wicket-keeper for Middlesex Colts but wasn't good enough to play professionally. He joined the ground-staff instead, to remain involved with a game he loved dearly.

Since he took over as Head Groundsman, in 1985, Hunt has developed a reputation for producing good pitches. "I've always played it fair," says the 66-year-old. "A lot of visiting captains over the years have said, 'At least we know Lord's is going to be fair.' And that's very heartening.



Mick Hunt. ▪ SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA.

Thankless job

A curator's job is a thankless one, rues Hunt. "Years ago, most of the commentators weren't ex-cricketers, they just loved cricket. Today, most of them are ex-cricketers. They speak as if they never dropped a catch or bowled a bad ball in their lives. It does annoy you sometimes when after the first over of a five-day Test match they've already passed their judgement on the pitch, which is total nonsense."

He still feels nervous on the morning of a Test match. "For the first few overs you're thinking, 'Have I done it right? Have I done it wrong?' It's nerve-wracking. I don't enjoy Test matches. Too much stress."

There's no secret to pitch preparation, Hunt says. "I don't think there's a special ingredient. Mother nature plays a part. The pitch for this India Test match has been very challenging because it's so hot. Out in the middle it's 34-35 degrees.

"We've had the pitch covered a lot more than usual, to keep the moisture in and keep the sun off. I've been out there at five o'clock in the morning with a roller. It's cooler then. It's just me and the pigeons and the old fox out there."

All-time favourite

His favourite match of all time is the Natwest Series final of 2002, when India came from behind to beat England. "It's probably the best game of cricket I've seen. Towards the end, I was cheering for India," he chuckles. His advice to aspiring groundsmen is simple: "We curators are here to ensure people are entertained. So keep it fair. A good contest is what you want."

With a World Cup and an Ashes series scheduled for next year, he has no desire to continue. "I'm a bit sad to be leaving," he smiles, "but the time is right."

'Ben Stokes made camp gestures'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Ben Stokes made "stupid noises" and "camp gestures" to mimic two gay men outside a nightclub, a doorman said on Tuesday at the England cricketer's trial for alleged affray.

Stokes mimicked the "high-pitched" voices of William O'Connor and Kai Barry, two "quite effeminate" regulars at Mbargo nightclub in Bristol, southwest England, said doorman Andrew Cunningham.

On Monday's opening day of the trial at Bristol Crown Court, jurors saw footage of Stokes, 27, brawling with 27-year-old Ryan Ali and Ryan Hale, 28, outside Mbargo in the early hours of September 25 last year.

Stokes, Ali and Hale each deny a charge of affray.



Ben Stokes. ▪ REUTERS

Nothing new under the burning sun — India's batting not so hot

Batsmen, apart from Kohli, have to remind themselves that they have a responsibility too



BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

For comments on the 2018 tour of England (so far), read comments on the recent tours: lack of proper acclimatisation, poor selection of playing eleven, the refusal to accept that in the first game of a long series, it is better to play the extra batsman and be safe rather than feel sorry. India have lost the first Test of a series for so long and so often that there is a depressing pattern here.

The Shastri-Kohli combination thinks positively, wants to attack from the start and stamp the game and series with their personality. All of this is good. But you have to consider that Kohli apart, the batting isn't so hot. And while the *cliché* is that bowlers win matches, in India's case at least, batsmen lose them.

Old-timers here in England recall that the last time it was so hot and uncomfortable was in 1976, and the highlight of that series was a magnificent bowling spell by Michael Holding who took 14 wickets at the Oval without any extra help from the wicket.

The conditions, in fact, should suit the visitors better than the home side which is a paradox in sport but understandable.

For Kohli to have made 200 runs in the Edgbaston Test, it was not just a test of skill and temperament but adaptability too. His colleagues seemed to be happier getting back to the cooler rooms in the pavilion.

It isn't just India, of course. Most countries, given the amount of cricket they play, tend to go into a series with just one game or a knockabout (as India did here against Essex).

Perhaps the International Cricket Council should mandate that every touring team plays at least two, if not three first-class matches before a Test series. This is a suggestion former editor of Wisden, Scyld Berry has made. If they won't do it voluntarily, then force them to. It is a thought. The odds are in favour of the home team anyway, and anything to reduce them should be considered.

And so to Lord's, where four years ago, and thanks to a clever spell of bowling by Ishant Sharma, India beat England. Ishant kept bowling short, and the batsmen kept pulling into the hands of fielders with embarrassing monotony. If traditionally the first Test of a five-match series is an opportunity to suss out the opposition, the second is a chance to go for a win and establish an early lead. After losing the first, India need to pick a team capable of winning the second, and hence the need for a better balanced team geared towards a win rather than a draw. Opportunities slip away as fast as they arise.

Time to play Kuldeep

Funnily enough, both teams probably regret having left out the second spinner; India more so. Wrist spin was expected to play a role in India's approach, and the time has come to play Kuldeep Yadav. The counter argument might be that it wasn't the bowling that was India's problem in Edgbaston where they restricted England in both innings. But a team with a victory under its belt and oozing with confidence is a different proposition.

Yadav is the kind of bowler who can upset that feeling of superiority; in fact can use the batsman's confidence against him.

By the second Test of away series where India have lost the first, it has become a *cliché* to say that it is not yet time to panic. But perhaps it is. Part of the new world of away matches is that there are no First Class matches once the series has got underway. So from here on selections are no longer made on match fitness or current form, but on instinct, feel and hunch. Will Shikhar Dhawan find his touch or Rahul be prepared to play the long innings? Net sessions can reveal only so much. This means that those who have been in the reserves might find their chances improving with every ball they don't play.

Perhaps in future, key players looking for form might be distributed among the counties as guests for a match or two.

In 2011, India came to England riding a crest. This was likely to be the last tour here by Sachin Tendulkar and his golden generation. India lost every Test. This time too India came in as the No. 1 team in the world, with Virat Kohli's record in England in need of severe repairs. The Kohli conundrum has been resolved. His two innings in the first Test are the stuff of legends. Had he batted another half an hour, the problems before the Lord's Test would have all been in the England dressing room. It was always assumed that a successful Kohli would mean a successful India. That hasn't been the case, and India's batsmen have to remind themselves that they have a responsibility too.

Lord's could decide the direction of the series. For once in England, with temperatures in the 30s and the heat close to being unbearable, no one expects rain.

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

Kohli has already reached status of a legend: Dhoni

He keeps taking the team forward and that is what you want from a leader, says the stumper

NANDAKUMAR MARAR
MUMBAI

Former India Test captain M.S. Dhoni firmly felt the Indian Test squad in England was on the right track due to its wicket-taking ability. The visitors lost an enthralling first Test by 31 runs at Edgbaston. "To win a Test match, a team needs to take 20 wickets and we did that (at Edgbaston)," he said.

England won on the fifth and final day after the Indian batting came up short in the chase for victory. Dhoni looked at the situation from a different angle.

"It doesn't matter how well you batted, how long you were out there for five days. If you take 20 wickets you win a Test match," he said, speaking on the sidelines of a sporting app launch for Run Adam, which aims to connect athletes with resources using technology.

Virat Kohli emerged the lone fighter at the crease, defying the England bowlers in both innings with a marvelous century and a half-century under pressure. The aggressive-minded Indian skipper is currently ranked No. 1 in the ICC Test rankings.

Dhoni, responding to a query on the distinction, appreciated his craft and captaincy qualities. "He is the best and has already reached the status of a legend."

He added: "I feel very happy for him, the way he has batted everywhere and made runs for India. He keeps taking the team forward and that is what you want from a leader."

Stake in the app

Run Adam, an analytics-based sporting platform, is the brainwave of K. Yeragaselvan, CEO and MD. Dhoni has taken a 25% stake in the technology start-up and will be the mentor and brand ambassador.

"Pursuing sport is expensive in India, in terms of money, time and sacrifices. Sportsperons cannot reach their goal due to lack of access to resources. Run Adam aims to bridge that gap in sport."



New venture: M.S. Dhoni, brand ambassador, with K. Yeragaselvan, CEO & MD, at the launch of Run Adam. ▪ SHASHI ASHIWAL

Dhoni reveals why he took the match ball

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

M.S. Dhoni explained the reason behind collecting the match ball from the umpire after the third ODI against England.

Dhoni, always looking for an edge over the competition, revealed the logic behind his act.

"We will be playing the World Cup in England and I wanted to know what do we need to do to get it to reverse swing.

"After 50 overs, the ball is useless to the ICC (from usage point of view).

"So I requested the umpire and gave the ball to bowling coach (B. Arun) so that he can work out a way to help our bowlers to get those yorkers going and get wickets close to the 40-over mark."

'ISL's effect showing in u-20 win'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

M.S. Dhoni, the goalkeeper-turned-wicketkeeper attributed the India U-20 youth team's win over Argentina at the Cotif Cup to the Indian Super League.

Dhoni, said, "ISL gave us the chance to rub shoulders with successful world footballers. Some of them (foreigners) were not at their peak but gave the Indians a benchmark on fitness to aim for."

He added: "It gave the Indians a new challenge, how they (foreigners) play the entire 90 minutes and ways of preparation.

"The world stars managed to push their teammates here to higher benchmarks.

"Over the years, we felt the matches getting better (in the ISL)."

Mayank, Shaw's selections not for me to decide: Dravid

Our goal is to give the National selectors options, says the India-A coach



Rahul Dravid. ▪ G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

India-A coach Rahul Dravid sidestepped questions on whether opening batsmen Mayank Agarwal and Prithvi Shaw should be picked for the Indian team, stating that it is up to the national selectors to decide their fate.

Dravid addressed the need for the India-A set up and other topics at a press conference here on Tuesday. *Excerpts:*

Given that Mayank and Prithvi are batting so well, do you think they are ready to be picked in the India side? If not, what can they do to make it to the Indian team?

This is a bit of a loaded question, and I know what the headlines will be tomorrow if I answer this question. All I will say is that they have been playing very good cricket over the last year or so. Mayank was quite exceptional in this game (220 against South Africa-A), and Prithvi has shown continuous improvement in every level he has played.

Whether there is an opportunity (to be picked for the Indian team) or not is not for me to decide.

Siraj's steady progress

To get 25 wickets in the last three First Class games is terrific.

He has been bowling in much better areas, and has grown physically. It's his maturity that stands out.

Siraj has played very few First Class matches, and he hasn't really been a part of the junior cricket system. So he is learning all the time. Even in white ball cricket, I won't be too harsh on him as he hasn't played much.

Purpose of India-A set up

In the 'A' structure, winning and losing is not the be-all and end-all. Our job is to give opportunities to young talent.

We know the requirements of the national team, and we want to provide that. We are in constant touch with the Chairman of Selectors (M.S.K. Prasad).

He was here at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, and he will watch the next game (at Alur) as well.

Conversations keep happening with the selectors on what the national team is looking at, and how we can provide that.

If players keep performing, like Mayank, Prithvi, Siraj and K.S. Bharat have done, it opens up options for the national selectors. That's our goal.

Chahal in red-ball cricket

Chahal has had a lot of success in white-ball cricket, but he wasn't considered a red-ball player.

We wanted to give him an opportunity in the India-A team to showcase his skills in red-ball cricket.

We want to create good options for the Indian team. They (Indian team management) were very keen to know how Chahal performs in red-ball cricket.

India-A snatches a thrilling win

SA-A IN INDIA

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

South Africa-A fought hard but stumbled at the last hurdle to lose the first 'Test' against India-A by an innings and 30 runs at the Chinnaswamy Stadium on Tuesday.

Last man Duanne Olivier was dismissed with just seven balls to go for close of play. Mohammed Siraj got the batsman to nick behind, sparking celebrations in the home camp. The impressive Siraj registered match-figures of 10 for 129.

Rudi Second (94, 214b, 15x4) and Shaun Von Berg (50, 175b, 6x4) blunted the Indian attack for a brief period, but it was the hosts who had the final say.

The scores: South Africa-A — 1st innings: 246.
India-A — 1st innings: 584 for eight declared.
SA-A — 2nd innings: Sarel Erwee c Bharat b Siraj 3, Pieter Malan c Bharat b Siraj 0, Zubayr Hamza c Vihari b Gurbani 63, Khaya Zondo lbw Siraj 0, Senuran Muthusamy c Vihari b Siraj 41, Rudi Second lbw b Chahal 94, Shaun Von Berg c Samarth b Gurbani 50, Dane Piedt c Bharat b Saini 8, Malusi Siboto (not out) 7, Beuran Hendricks c Bharat b Axar 10, Duanne Olivier c Bharat b Siraj 0; Extras (b-17, lb-8, nb-5, w-2): 32; Total (in 128.5 overs): 308.
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-6, 3-6, 4-92, 5-121, 6-240, 7-277, 8-286, 9-304.
India-A bowling: Siraj 27.5-9-73-5, Saini 21-11-24-1, Gurbani 15-4-45-2, Axar 30-13-43-1, Chahal 31-8-85-1, Vihari 3-0-3-0, Iyer 1-0-10-0.

India-A won by an innings and 30 runs.



Jubilant: India-A players celebrate the win. ▪ G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

Injured Mirabai pulls out of Asiad

No replacement, says IWLF secretary

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

India's campaign for the 18th Asian Games, starting in Jakarta and Palembang on August 18, received a setback with reigning women's 48kg World champion weightlifter S. Mirabai Chanu pulling out on Tuesday due to pain in her lower back.

Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF) issued a statement confirming Mirabai's exclusion.

"Mirabai Chanu has encountered a spinal spasm which resulted in severe back pain. Presently she is going through rehabilitation... Owing to the pain, Mirabai's entry has been withdrawn from the Asian Games," said the release.



S. Mirabai Chanu. ▪ PTI

IWLF secretary Sahdev Yadav told *The Hindu* that "there will be no replacement for Mirabai."

National chief coach Vijay Sharma welcomed the 24-year-old lifter's decision.

Asian Games will be the acid test for shooters

It has been a record-breaking season for Indian shooting, thus far

COUNTDOWN

KAMESH SRINIVASAN

It has been a record-breaking season for Indian shooting, so far.

Indian shooters had the rare distinction of topping the medals table ahead of US and China, with nine medals, including four gold, in the Mexico World Cup.

It is another matter that India could win only one more medal, a silver through air pistol shooter Shahzar Rizvi, in the rest of the World Cups in Korea, US, Malta and Germany.

Ironically, the man who won two World Cup medals this season, Shahzar Rizvi, including the gold in Mexico, does not find a place in the Asian Games squad, thanks to a selection policy that is driven by simple arithmetic.

The Indian juniors have consistently been on top of the world, winning 48 medals in all in the Sydney and Suhl Junior World Cups.

India had finished second to China in Sydney, on the basis of the lesser number of bronze medals, and beat China to top the table in Suhl.

The 19-year-old Elavenil Valarivan, with two junior World Cup gold medals, who can shoot a world record any day in women's air rifle is perhaps the best hope. Anjum Moudgil has a world record 1180 out of 1200 in women's rifle 3-position event, and could use the Asian Games to draw some attention to her abilities.

If we focus just on the gold medals in Asian Games, it is a bit discouraging to find only Randhir Singh, Jaspal Rana, Ronjan Sodhi and Jitu Rai have been able to win the individual gold over the years.

Jitu Rai has missed selection and that has particularly shaken India's ability to sustain the mixed air pistol dominance.

Jaspal Rana who has won four of the country's seven gold medals from the Asian Games, could pass on the trick to two of his brightest wards, Manu Bhaker and Anish Bhanwala.

Both Manu and Anish had won the gold medals in the Commonwealth Games in Gold Coast, and have been performing very well in the international circuit, among the juniors in particular.

The 16-year-old Manu, of course, has been phenomenal with a clutch of gold medals among the women, juniors, individual and mixed pistol events.

The Asian Games will be the acid test for her.

The presence of Sanjeev Rajput, Akhil Sheoran, Ravi Kumar, Manavjit Singh Sandhu, Heena Sidhu and Apurvi Chandela lends a lot of respectability to the 28-member shooting squad, but it will be a challenge for them to deliver the medals, against world class opposition.

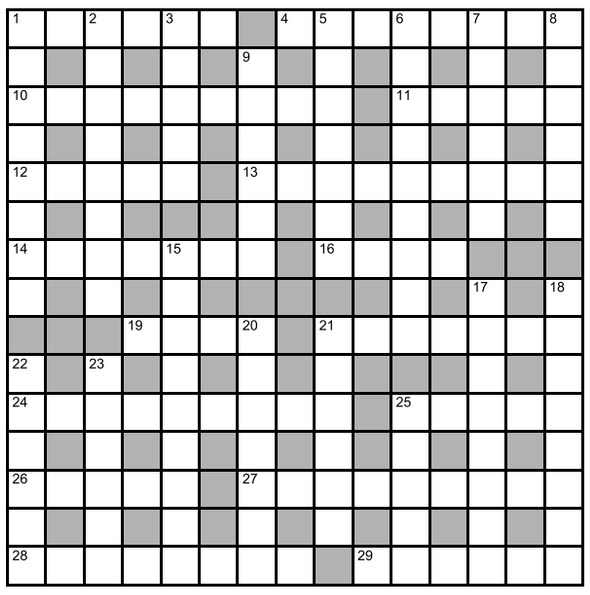
The twist, this time, is that there is no team competition in shooting.



Bright prospects: Manu Bhaker and Anish Bhanwala have been performing very well in the international circuit ▪ PTI

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12390

(set by Sunnet)



ACROSS

1 Setter's hosted drunk Earl Singer (6)

4 Reminder to store a Japanese beverage (8)

10 Private bar is covered by new Ontario insurer (9)

11 Strange English lake (5)

12 Sum to invest is brought back (3,2)

13 Cut tubes of water dispensers (4,5)

14 Animal lover with a request to See (7)

16 Explosive belonging to me (4)

19 Menageries with large Tibetan cattle in front (4)

21 Country to block top class accountant (7)

24 Mary Jane's kettle is literally a quick money spinner (9)

25 Tiara dissolved in a dish (5)

26 Oracle's missing quiet city (5)

27 This minor turned out to be a forger (9)

28 Clean express crossed dirty train (8)

29 Pale's measure is senseless (6)

DOWN

1 Worker to take Robot-1 back to a Canadian province (8)

2 For a second time announce that gambling city's set to back Yen (8)

3 Get ready to handle pique (5)

5 Former's right to cry (7)

6 Perhaps dupe my son with Ayn Rand (9)

7 Accountant takes a day to find a place (6)

8 Very clever son holds it (4,2)

9 Drunk by Baron Bingo (6)

15 Heart's supporting a game defender (9)

17 Greeting discovered in metal record is revolutionary (8)

18 Run and damage a clipped footwear (8)

20 Unite with one man (7)

21 Talk by Jack? One that does not provoke any reaction (6)

22 Suit some tools (6)

23 Hot number by Scarf (6)

25 Heart replacement at 25 for some West Indian (5)

SUDOKU

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12389

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Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

The way of penance

Practice of austere discipline is known as tapas, and the Puranas and the Itihasas show how various attainments, worldly or spiritual, have been gained through such rigorous penance. A Ravana or a Hiranyakasipu or a Soorapadman, being motivated to achieve worldly goals, engage in severe penance by subjecting themselves to intense physical and mental discipline. Each one of them is trapped by their individual flaws – Ravana by desire (kama), Hiranyakasipu by anger (krodha) and Soorapadman by his ego (ahamkara), pointed out Sri B. Sundarkumar in a discourse. They lack bhakti to the Supreme Lord who has bestowed on them this power to engage in penance. Ravana desires Sita with great obstinacy. Hiranyakasipu gives in to anger and fails to recognise the Supreme Lord in front of Him. Instead of paying obeisance to Him he foolishly attacks Him. Soorapadman succumbs to his own ego. In the case of Duryodhana, greed brings his downfall. So instead of leading to chitta suddhi, the springboard for liberation, penance is directed towards gaining unassailable powers. The wise should avoid these flaws that easily bind one to samsara and instead practice self discipline to attain a state of chitta suddhi. Kapila advises Devahuti on the doctrine of the Self and on the practices of spiritual discipline as a way of life. Devahuti imbibes the essence of Kapila's teaching and faithfully follows it to finally attain His feet. The child Dhruva attains vision of the Lord through severe penance. Sastras advise that yagna, dhana and tapas are compulsory practices for disciplining the body and the mind. Penance is the basis of spiritual sadana, as it helps to align one's thought, word and deed so that one is guided by the right spirit behind all actions. Chitta suddhi is the prime requisite to dhyana.

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IN BRIEF



El Hadary retires aged 45

Veteran Egyptian goalkeeper Essam El Hadary has retired from international duty aged 45, after breaking the record for oldest player to appear at a World Cup in Russia. "After reflecting at length and asking God, I have decided to retire from international football," El Hadary wrote on Facebook. AFP



Joe Hart signs for Burnley

LONDON

Former England goalkeeper Joe Hart has signed for Burnley from Manchester City, with City chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak hailing his enormous contribution to the success of the Premier League champion. The 31-year-old has signed a two-year contract with Burnley for an undisclosed fee, the club said on Tuesday. AFP

T10 league gets ICC's official sanction

SHARJAH

The ICC has officially sanctioned the second season of the T10 League to be held in Sharjah from November 23. The apex body's validation comes as a shot in the arm for the league that will have two new teams, making it an eight-team affair. PTI

Bagan rallies past Rainbow

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Mohun Bagan struck thrice in the second half to record a hard-fought 3-2 victory over Rainbow Club in a Calcutta Football League match at its home ground here on Tuesday.

Rainbow took the lead when Abhijit Sarkar slotted home in the 39th minute. Bagan drew parity as Dipanda Dicka headed home a Mehtab Hossain free-kick minutes after the break.

Abhishek increased Bagan's lead in the 67th minute. Azharuddin Mallick converted a corner kick six minutes later to make it 3-1.

Joel Sunday's 82nd-minute header narrowed the lead, but Bagan withstood the pressure to post its second win.

The result: Mohun Bagan 3 (Dicka 48, Abhishek 67, Azharuddin 73) bt Rainbow 2 (Abhijit 39, Sunday 82).

'Sindhu should prioritise events'

Prakash Padukone says she should be supported and not criticised

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Prakash Padukone feels P.V. Sindhu needs to skip a few smaller tournaments leading to big events, like the World championship, in order to be fresh for the key matches.

Speaking to mediapersons on the sidelines of a junior badminton event here on Tuesday, the former All England champion said, "I don't think she suffers from any mental block (in the final). We need to remove the pressure from Sindhu so that she can play more freely in the title-matches. Let us not forget that she has consistently entered back-to-back World championship finals which in itself is a great achievement."

Prakash was clear that there was no cause for concern over Sindhu losing a series of finals in the past year. "She should be supported by one and all. The media, too, should be supportive instead of pointing out that she had lost a few finals."

Elaborating further on what he thought Sindhu should do going forward, Prakash stated, "I think, Sindhu and her coach (P. Gopi Chand) should sit down and prioritise the events she should take part in. If she skips six to eight weeks of competition, she could peak during the big events. As a player, I think, it would be nice to reach the venue four or five days before the event."

When asked about India's medal prospects in the upcoming Asian Games, Prakash said, "Since all the major badminton powers are in the continent, Indians returning with a medal will be tough, but not impossible."



Plainspeak: Former badminton player Prakash Padukone feels P.V. Sindhu does not suffer from any mental block in the finals. ▪ PTI

TENNIS

Prajnesh gets past Holt

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
APTOS

Prajnesh Gunneswaran defeated Brandon Holt of the United States 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 in the first round of the $100,000 Challenger tennis tournament.

Other results:

$150,000 Challenger, Jinan, China: First round: Harri Heliovaara (Fin) bt Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-3, 6-4; Lee Duckhee (Kor) bt Manish Sureshkumar 6-1, 6-3.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Zhe Li & Di Wu (Chn) bt Toshihide Matsui (Jpn) & Arjun Kadhe 3-6, 7-5, [11-9].

€127,000 Challenger, Pullach, Germany: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Sander Gille & Jora Vliegen (Bell) bt Sriram Balaji & Vishnu Vardhan 7-5, 6-4.

$100,000 Challenger, Aptos, USA: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Purav Raja bt Hunter Johnson & Yates Johnson (USA) 6-2, 6-4.

$25,000 ITF men, Jakarta, Indonesia: First round: Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Gabriel Petit (Fra) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; Mohit Mayur bt Quentin Robert (REU) 6-3, 1-6, 6-3; David Agung Susanto (Ina) bt Kunal Anand 6-4, 6-0; Aryan Goveas bt Lance-Pierre Du Toit (RSA) 6-2, 7-5; Matthew Romios (Aus) bt Jayesh Pungliya 6-3, 6-1; Karunuday Singh bt Justin Barki (Ina) 6-3, 7-6(5); Niki Poonacha bt Connor Farren (US) 2-6, 7-6(12), 6-3. **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Hady Habib & Giovani Samaha (Lbn) bt Lance-Pierre Du Toit (RSA) & Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-4, 6-4.

$60,000 ITF women, Jinan, China: First round: Ankita Raina bt Jia-Qi Kang (Chn) 7-6(8), 7-5.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Anastasia Gasanova (Rus) & Ankita Raina bt Hanyu Guo & Ying Zhang (Chn) 6-4, 7-6(6).

$25,000 ITF women, Nonthaburi, Thailand: First round: Karman Kaur Thandi bt Yuuki Tanaka (Jpn) 6-3, 6-2; Zhang Ling (Hkg) bt Mihika Yadav 6-7(6), 6-1, 6-4.

Raonic defeats Goffin

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TORONTO

Milos Raonic posted a second Canadian victory on Monday, joining Peter Polansky in the second round of the ATP Toronto Masters after a 6-3, 6-4 defeat of David Goffin.

Vasek Pospisil missed out on a local hat-trick in a night match as the Canadian lost to Croatian Borna Coric 6-4, 6-3 after a three-hour afternoon rain interruption.

The results (first round):

Men: Borna Coric bt Vasek Pospisil 6-4, 6-3; Benoit Paire bt Jared Donaldson 6-3, 6-4, Peter Polansky bt Matt Ebden 7-6(3), 6-4.

Illya Ivashka bt Yuichi Sugita 6-2, 6-3; Fernando Verdasco bt Peter Gojowczyk 6-2, 6-2; Marton Fucsovics bt Joao Sousa 6-4, 7-6(2).

Daniil Medvedev bt Jack Sock 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; Bradley Klahn bt David Ferrer 7-6(5), 6-4; Pierre-Hugues Herbert bt Albert Ramos 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; Pablo Carreno-Busta bt Yoshihito Nishioka 6-0, retd.

Diego Schwartzman bt Kyle Edmund 6-1, 6-2; Milos Raonic bt David Goffi n 6-3, 6-4.

Women: Karolina Pliskova bt Katerina Siniakova 6-4, 6-4; Anett Kontaveit bt Ekaterina Makarova 4-6, 6-3, 6-1; Anastasija Sevastova bt Aleksandra Krunic 6-1, 6-0.

Lucie Safarova bt Daria Gavrilova 4-6, 6-4, 7-5; Julia Goerges bt Timea Babos 3-6, 7-6(3), 6-4; Lesia Tsurenko bt Katie Boulter 6-4, 6-2.

Venus Williams bt Caroline Dolehide 7-5, 6-1; Magdalena Rybarikova bt Barbora Zahlavova Strycova 3-6, 7-6(6), 6-2.

Indian colts make it 2-2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MORATUWA (SRI LANKA)

Spinners Ayush Badoni and Harsh Tyagi shared six wickets after a collective batting show by the visitors as India under-19 mauled Sri Lanka u-19 by 135 runs in the fourth ODI to level the series 2-2 here on Tuesday.

The deciding fifth ODI will be played on Thursday at the same venue.

The scores: India under 19 278 for six in 50 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 71, Aryan Juyal 60) bt Sri Lanka under-19 143 in 37.2 overs (Navod Paranavithana 45, Ayush Badoni three for 35, Harsh Tyagi three for 37).

Sathiyan and Divya rule the roost

Both score thrilling wins over their opponents in the final

TABLE TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

G. Sathiyan, the country's No. 2 star in the world, had not played any domestic event this season. Obviously, one would have thought it would be a difficult journey for the PSPB product. But, the 25-year-old did one better to emerge the men's champion of the AAI 48th all-India inter-institutional table tennis championship at the Bharathiar University Indoor Hall here on Tuesday.

It was not easy though for Sathiyan in the final. He had an aggressive-looking youngster and teammate Harmeet Desai (PSPB) playing to his full potential. But the former stood up to the challenge to defeat the latter 11-9, 12-14, 11-7, 11-7, 9-11, 9-11, 11-7 for the title.

He was quite delighted with the victory. "I never expected it to go down to the wire as I was 3-1, 9-8 up. But I missed an easy sitter and he pounced on that to take the match to the decider," he said.

"We have been paddling together and we know each other's game well. I have had the edge over him but, today he showed strong attitude and I just managed to scrape through," added Sathiyan..

Divya Deshpande (PSPB) did likewise, scoring an exciting 11-8, 11-6, 7-11, 3-11, 13-11, 5-11, 11-5 win over her teammate Archana Kamath for the women's crown.

She had to battle through the whole championship without a coach. "It was quite difficult, but it was good for me as I was able to analyse my game much better," said Divya after the match.

The results (final):

Men: G. Sathiyan (PSPB) bt Harmeet Desai (PSPB) 11-9, 12-14, 11-7, 11-7, 9-11, 9-11, 11-7.

Doubles: Jeet Chandra & Siddesh Pande (PSPB) bt Abhishek Yadav & SFR Snehit (AAI) w/o 3-0.

Women: Divya Deshpande (PSPB) bt Archana Kamath (PSPB) 11-8, 11-6, 7-11, 3-11, 13-11, 5-11, 11-5.

Doubles: Archana Kamath & Mouma Das (PSPB) bt Ayhika Mukherjee & Priyadarsini Das (RBI) 11-2, 10-12, 5-11, 11-7, 11-8.

Mixed doubles: Manav Thakkar & Archana Kamath bt Sanil Shetty & Reeth Rishya (PSPB) 11-9, 6-11, 7-11, 11-9, 11-6.



Happy and proud: G. Sathiyan and Divya Deshpande were pushed to their limits in the title clash. ▪ S. SIVA SARAVANAN

Ministry summons EFI officials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

With only 10 days to go for the 2018 Asian Games to begin, selection and clearance issues over the Indian contingent are still not over.

While the Sports Ministry is yet to officially clear the entire list of athletes and support staff presented by the IOA for the Games, there is more drama likely in store with the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) secretary general being summoned by the ministry seeking an explanation for ignoring pecking order of horse-rider combination.

The EFI has reportedly changed the horse-rider combination for Jitendra Singh, bypassing the original merit list. Jitender was initially named as riding Dalakhani Du Routy in the list announced on June 3.

It was then changed to Viril Peccau in the revised list sent after the selection committee meeting on June 27. Yet another change in the combination would not go down well with the ministry.

The ministry is also seeking an explanation on the large number of French officials in the support staff for the equestrian contingent.

Delhi HC orders fresh election for AICF

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has upheld the communication of the Union Sports Ministry dated February 2016, and ordered fresh elections for the All India Carrom Federation (AICF) within ten weeks from August 16.

In the 80-page judgement delivered on Monday, Justice V. Kameswar Rao, has ordered the previous management committee of the AICF as of 2012 to take charge of the federation till the elections.

The court has also appointed the retired Justice R.V. Easwar as the observer for the election process on a remuneration of ₹1.75 lakh, to be paid by the AICF.

The order has also directed that the result of the election be reported to the Union Sports Ministry for its approval, and the International Carrom Federation (ICF) to be informed about the court order.

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Tokyo 2020 to deploy facial recognition

Athletes, staff, reporters will be scanned

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TOKYO

Hundreds of thousands of Tokyo 2020 athletes, staff and reporters will be scanned by cutting-edge facial recognition technology in an Olympic Games first, organisers said on Tuesday.

About 3,00,000 athletes, staff members, volunteers and reporters will be required to use their ID card and be verified with the facial recognition system.

The security overhaul will prevent fraudulent entry by people borrowing, stealing or faking an ID card, said electronics giant NEC.

It will be rolled out across all facilities – including the 43 competition venues, athlete lodgings and media centres – but would not be used for spectators.

The technology takes only 0.3 seconds to match up a face with a pre-registered photo, an official said.



'Fixing' politics through free household repairs

Pro-democracy group in Hong Kong launches unique effort

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

As attendance at Hong Kong's traditional protest rallies wanes, one pro-democracy group is trying to win hearts and minds in a more pragmatic way – through plumbing, electrics and household repairs.

Calling themselves Fixing Hong Kong, the group's volunteers mend broken appliances, furniture, pipes and wiring, hoping that forging community spirit will lead to greater political awareness.

The novel approach comes as semi-autonomous Hong Kong's freedoms are under threat from an increasingly assertive Beijing and the city's splintered democracy movement struggles for momentum.

Volunteers visit homes in the To Kwa Wan neighbourhood each week, making appointments for do-it-yourself jobs and offering repair services for free, with residents usually paying for their own replacement materials.

They work in pairs, one fixing, the other chatting. Sometimes the conversation will turn to politics, other times not.

"We hope to gather more energy bit by bit through these most simple contacts and bonding," Fixing Hong Kong member Max Leung said. Wong, a resident, said volunteers from the group had fixed his television. They also helped him and others write letters to officials over concerns that local people were being rehoused in poor conditions to make way for new development projects.



Friendly chat: A volunteer plumber from Fixing Hong Kong speaking to a resident in To Kwa Wan. ▪ AFP

Power of many

"Just one person's power is not enough. We need neighbours joining forces for results," Mr. Wong said.

Another resident Cheng, a wall painter originally from southern mainland China, said he had not discussed politics with the group, but appreciated their help.

Mr. Cheng's flat is housed in one of numerous rundown blocks in To Kwa Wan, home to low to middle income families and refugees.

He said he was too preoccupied with daily struggles to join any of the group's activities, which range from barbecues to political campaigns, but did not mind the volunteers' pro-democracy ideas.

Fixing Hong Kong was formed by activists who ran a recycling operation at protest camps set up during the massive 2014 Umbrella Movement rallies, which called for free and fair leadership elections in Hong Kong.

The group believes that going back to the neighbourhood-level is the best way to rebuild support.

The approach is a legacy of the rallies, says researcher Klavier Wong, who says the protests gave a rare opportunity for young Hong Kongers to "become aware of how to communicate and interact with strangers, and to do something together".

Planet at risk of becoming a 'hothouse'

REUTERS
LONDON

The world is at risk of entering "hothouse" conditions where global average temperatures will be 4-5 degrees Celsius higher even if emissions reduction targets under a global climate deal are met, scientists warned this week.

Around 200 countries agreed in 2015 to limit temperature rise to "well below" 2°C above pre-industrial levels, a threshold believed to be a tipping point for the climate.

However, it is not clear whether the world's climate can be safely "parked" near 2°C above pre-industrial levels or whether this might trigger other processes which drive further warming even if the world stops emitting greenhouse gases, the research said.

Scientists from the Stockholm Resilience Center, the University of Copenhagen, Australian National University and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research said it is likely that if a critical threshold is crossed, several tipping points will lead to abrupt change. Such processes include permafrost thaw; the loss of methane hydrates from the ocean floor; weaker land and ocean carbon sinks; the loss of Arctic summer sea ice and the reduction of Antarctic sea ice and polar ice sheets.