



Govt. not holding up appointments, says CJI Ranjan Gogoi

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PM gets Seoul Peace Prize for fostering global cooperation

Page 11



Saudi Arabia, China cement ties during visit of Crown Prince

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Ekta spins it India's way in opening ODI against England

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NEARBY



Sedition charge against AMU students dropped

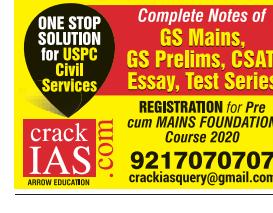
ALIGARH/LUCKNOW
The police have dropped sedition charge slapped on 14 Aligarh Muslim University students after the recent protests on the campus, even as SP leader Akhilesh Yadav accused the BJP government of using the legal provision as a weapon.

NORTH ▶ PAGE 3

Ground Zero

A drop in an ocean of debt
The first transfer of money under the PM-KISAN scheme is scheduled for Sunday. Priscilla Jebaraj reports from villages in Warangal, Telangana, on how farmers have benefited from Rythu Bandhu, seen as the inspiration behind PM-KISAN

ON OP-ED PAGE



DELI METRO ▶ 4 PAGES

Olympic dream under threat as visa is denied to 2 Pak. shooters

Global body says all future international events in India will be put on hold

Patriot games

Denial of visa to Pakistani shooters has hit India's chances of hosting the Olympics with the IOC suspending all talks



■ India aspires to host the 2026 Youth Olympics, the 2032 Summer Olympics and the 2030 Asian Games. The Indian Olympic Association has sent an expression of interest to the IOC for the 2032 Games

■ IOC said its stand will remain until "guarantees are obtained from the govt. to ensure the entry of all participants in such events in full compliance with the rules of the Olympic charter"

tional Sports Federations] neither award to nor hold sports events in India until the guarantees are obtained," the IOC ruled.

According to the IOC, it was "informed on 18 February that the Indian government authorities failed to grant an entry visa to the Pakistani delegation comprising two athletes and one official who were meant to participate in the ISSF World Cup. This is a qualification competition for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 in which direct quotas are earned by the respective NOCs. The two Pakistani athletes were due to compete in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol event, starting on Saturday, in which two quota places are available for the Games."

The IOC decided to restrict the withdrawal of recognition as an Olympic qualification event to the 25m rapid fire pistol competition in which the two Pakistani athletes were supposed to participate. "This happened in the interest of the other 500 athletes from 61 countries participating in the other events," the IOC noted.

Efforts made to salvage the situation proved in vain. "The ISSF (International Shooting Sport Federation) was asked to make a proposal on how the two available Olympic quota places will now be otherwise reassigned," the IOC said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10
EDITORIAL ▶ PAGE 8
DIFFERING OPINIONS ▶ PAGE 15

Shun terror sponsors, BCCI tells ICC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Friday called for a boycott of countries encouraging terrorism, in the wake of the terrorist attack in Pulwama on February 14.

In a letter to the International Cricket Council (ICC), Board CEO Rahul Johri also said the BCCI feared for the safety of players and officials participating in upcoming events, including the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019.

The mail to the ICC followed a meeting of the Committee of Administrators (CoA) here.

On the possibility of India not playing its league match against Pakistan at the World Cup, CoA chairman Vinod Rai said, "(June 16) is very far away. We will take a call on that much later in consultation with the government."

The government has said the final call will be the BCCI's.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Shadow of terror

The Financial Action Task Force decided to continue 'grey' listing of Pakistan for its failure to stop funding of terror groups

■ The international terror financing watchdog urged Pakistan to swiftly complete its action plan, particularly those with timelines of May 2019. Following this, a review will be carried out in June 2019

■ In June 2018, Pakistan was placed in the 'grey' list and given a 27-point action plan by the FATF. This plan was reviewed at the last plenary in October 2018 and for the second time in this week-long meeting that just ended

■ The listing means downgrading of the country by multilateral lenders like IMF, World Bank, ADB, EU and also a reduction in risk rating by Moody's, S&P and Fitch

put the Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) and the Falah-e-Insaniat Foundation (FIF), two offshoots of the Hafiz Saeed-led Lashkar-e-Taiba on its 'schedule-I' list of banned organisations. The FATF criticised Pakistan for not demonstrating "a proper understanding" of the terror

financing risks posed by "Daesh (Islamic State), al Qaeda, Jamaat-ud-Dawa, Falah-e-Insaniat Foundation, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Haqqani Network, and persons affiliated with the Taliban."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Terror monitor keeps Pak. on grey list, seeks action

Condemns Pulwama attack, in which 40 jawans were killed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Condemning the Pulwama February 14 attack, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), issued a stern statement to Pakistan to comply with an action plan on terror financing or face further action, according to a decision taken at its plenary session in Paris on Friday.

The week-long deliberations of the 37-member group decided not to remove Pakistan from the 'grey list', as Islamabad had lobbied for, but also did not accept an Indian demand to move Pakistan to the 'black list' yet.

The 'grey-listing' continued despite a last-minute decision by the Pakistan government on Thursday to

put the Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD) and the Falah-e-Insaniat Foundation (FIF), two offshoots of the Hafiz Saeed-led Lashkar-e-Taiba on its 'schedule-I' list of banned organisations. The FATF criticised Pakistan for not demonstrating "a proper understanding" of the terror

financing risks posed by "Daesh (Islamic State), al Qaeda, Jamaat-ud-Dawa, Falah-e-Insaniat Foundation, Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Haqqani Network, and persons affiliated with the Taliban."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

CBI issues lookout notice for Kochhars, Dhoot in loan case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

"As part of the standard procedure, the circulars were issued around the time an FIR was filed against the accused in January," an official said. The circulars are meant to seek information from all the entry-exit ports across the country on the movement of the accused.

The CBI has booked the

Kochhars and others for sanction of credit facilities to Videocon Group entities allegedly in violation of rules. Ms. Kochhar was then managing director and CEO of ICICI Bank. The agency has alleged that as quid pro quo, her husband's company Nu-power Renewables Limited had received ₹64 crore.

Adulterated liquor claims 29 lives in Assam

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

Country liquor laced with toxic chemicals has killed at least 29 people, including 16 women, in villages inhabited by tea plantation workers across eastern Assam's Go-

laghat and Jorhat districts.

Officials in these two districts said more than 45 people had been admitted to hospitals, with the condition of four being critical.

The hooch tragedy first struck Salmara Tea Estate in

Golaghat district on Thursday night. By Friday evening, it left 20 people dead. Some of the victims were from the nearby Jigabari and Gorongola villages in the district.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 7



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Brand connect initiative

Caring for stray animals



We all see dogs on the streets and some of us feed them food, and some of us pet them, but how many of us think of vaccinating them and even sheltering their puppies till they are old enough to fend for themselves?

Here is the Principal of Jain Heritage School in Hyderabad, Mona Mendi, who out of her personal love for animals decided to lead her entire school to work for the betterment of stray animals.



"September 28th is celebrated as Anti-Rabies Day but being an animal lover and constantly working for straying dogs, I know that it is not enough to restrict this to one day. So I decided to launch an anti-rabies

drive. The children in our school have dogs at home, but they do not know much about stray animals. We got them to participate in the drive by making them

pay a visit to supermarkets and Governor of Telangana, Shri E S L Narasimhan, the Minister for Information Technology, Mr K T Rama Rao and to the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, about their campaign.

"My nephew and I have also created a shelter at

home where we bring in their puppies and take care of them till they are old enough to be on their own," says Mona.

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I WILL HELP STRAY ANIMALS

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Sealed items rate tender are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Shimla Rural Division, H.P.P.W.D., Dhami, on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, on the prescribed form, from the eligible and experienced contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted with Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department.

| Sr. No. | Tender Schedule | Date |
|---------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | The last date of receipt of application for tender form | Upto 13-03-2019 at 4.00 PM |
| 2 | The last date of issue of tender form | Upto 14-03-2019 at 4.00 PM |
| 3 | The last date of receipt of tender. | Upto 15-03-2019 at 10.30 AM |
| 4 | The date of opening of tender. | Upto 15-03-2019 at 11.00 AM |

The tender form can be obtained against payment of Rs. 350/- (Rs Three hundred and fifty only) non refundable and contractor will be required to produce documents of registration in appropriate class, list of completed works and sale tax registration certificate. The tenders shall be opened in the presence of contractors or their representative.

The earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificate / Time Deposit Accounts / FDR of Nationalized bank duly pledged in the favour of the Executive Engineer, Shimla Rural Division, H.P.P.W.D., Dhami, must accompany with the application form for the tender offer. The tender received without earnest money for each work in the prescribed mode and so also the conditional / telegraphic / ambiguous tender shall not be entertained and the Executive Engineer, reserves the right to reject the conditional / telegraphic / ambiguous tender without assigning any reason thereto. Also tender sent by Fax / e-mail shall not be entertained /considered and will summarily be rejected.

The request for issue of tender should be on the PRESCRIBED APPLICATION which can be obtained from the office of undersigned on the above mentioned date and time and tender will be issued only to those contractors who qualify the criteria, after the scrutiny of application form. The request on prescribed application should accompany the registration of appropriate class, (attested copy be attached) GST, registration No., and work done certificate for similar nature of work and proof of registration under Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provision Act, 1952.

The validity of tender have been given in the tender document. If any contractor / firm withdraw the offer within validity period then his earnest money shall be forfeited and shall finally be at the disposal of State Government. The contractor is advised to write the rates both in figures and in words, failing which the tender shall be rejected straight way.

| Sr. No. | Name of Works | Estimated Cost | Earnest money | Time | Cost of Form |
|---------|---|----------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 | Construction of Work Shop-B to ITI Sunni Pre Engineer Technology of light gauge Steel Fabrication (Sh- C/o R/Wall in front of Work Shop Block). | Rs. 4,95,126/- | Rs. 10,000/- | Three Months | 350/- |
| 2 | Restoration of rain damaged roofs on Phayalwati via Shamleeg road km. 0/00 to 4/135 (Sh- C/o R/Wall in between km. 3/825 to 3/840). | Rs. 3,06,930/- | Rs. 6,200/- | One Months | 350/- |
| 3 | Special Repair and maintenance of Veterinary Hospital at Tara Devi Tehsil and District Shimla H.P. (Sh- P/F Gate and railing in Vety/Premises etc). | Rs. 2,87,762/- | Rs. 5,800/- | Two Months | 350/- |
| 4 | Construction of road from Nehawat to Nayaser Ghani Devi-dar km. 0/00 to 13/600 (Sh- Providing Kharanja Stone soilings in km. 3/00 to 4/00). | Rs. 2,67,900/- | Rs. 54,000/- | Two Months | 350/- |
| 5 | Construction of Missing CD on Shamaghata to Manjagou road km. 0/0 to 1/780 (Sh- C/o RCC 900mm dia Hume Pipe culvert at RD. 1/120). | Rs. 1,51,159/- | Rs. 3,000/- | Two Months | 350/- |
| 6 | Construction of Missing CD on Shamaghata to Manjagou road km. 0/0 to 1/780 (Sh- C/o RCC 900mm dia Hume Pipe culvert at RD. 1/490). | Rs. 1,51,159/- | Rs. 3,000/- | Two Months | 350/- |
| 7 | Construction of Missing CD on Shimla Mandi road km. 39/200 to 45/550 (Sh- C/o RCC 900mm dia Hume Pipe culvert at RD. 46/300). | Rs. 1,36,090/- | Rs. 3,000/- | Two Months | 350/- |

-Sd-
Executive Engineer,
Shimla Rural Division,
H.P.P.W.D.Dhami.
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Arunachal drops issue of PRC for non-tribals

Govt. buckles after violent protests

siege to the Assembly building.

They set fire to more than a dozen vehicles and damaged a few more, including that of former Congress CM Nabam Tuki which was caught in the melee. The protesters also damaged private and government property and vandalised the office of the All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union, which they alleged had compromised with the government on the PRC issue.

A conglomeration of 18 student and civil society organisations had imposed a 48-hour shutdown from Thursday to protest against the government's move for granting PRC to the six communities, some of whom are Scheduled Tribes in Assam.

While the shutdown on Thursday was more or less incident-free, protesters went on the rampage from Friday evening in State capital Itanagar. As their number swelled, the protesters resorted to arson and stone-pelting and virtually laid

"Keeping in view the present situation, the government has decided not to take up the PRC matter in the current Assembly session," Mr. Khandu said in a late night message.

8 suspended for posting papers on social media

PRADIP DAS CUTTACK

The Board of Secondary Education, Odisha, which conducts matriculation examination in the State, on Friday suspended four

centre superintendents and four invigilators for their alleged role in circulating images of question papers on social media. The examination began today and will continue till March 8.

DELHI Timings

| SATURDAY, FEB. 23 | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| RISE 06:53 | SET 18:17 |
| RISE 22:24 SET 09:33 | |
| SUNDAY, FEB. 24 | |
| RISE 06:52 | SET 18:17 |
| RISE 23:26 SET 10:12 | |
| MONDAY, FEB. 25 | |
| RISE 06:51 | SET 18:18 |
| RISE 00:00 SET 10:52 | |

'Bangladesh obstructing sealing of border'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA GUWAHATI

The Assam government on Friday said the Border Guards Bangladesh is obstructing the sealing of around 3.5 km on the Indo-Bangla border in Karimganj district.

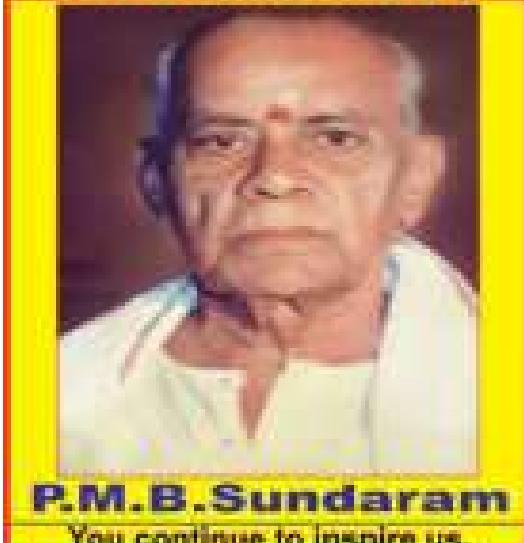
Border sealing with barbed fencing is being done by Central agencies like NPCC, CPWD and NBC, State's Parliamentary Affairs Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary said responding to a Zero Hour notice by AGP member Prodip Hazarika in the Assam Assembly.

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

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FIRST ANNIVERSARY



DEATH

Mr. M. Sadashivam (87), Retired Head Cook, Canteen Department, The Hindu, Chennai, passed away on 21-02-2019. Address: FLAT NUMBER 003, SHRUTI ENCLAVE, MARANMIKATTU, JEPPU, MANGALURU – 575001 | Mobile: 9448696193.

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DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

Sedition charge against AMU students dropped

No proof or evidence to support the claim of anti-India slogans: Aligarh SSP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ALIGARH/LUCKNOW (U.P.)
The police have dropped sedition charge slapped on 14 Aligarh Muslim University students after the recent protests on the campus, even as SP leader Akhilesh Yadav accused the BJP government of using the legal provision as a weapon.

The students were booked for sedition after Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha district president Mukesh Lodhi alleged that he

was assaulted by some students who chanted pro-Pakistan slogans, the police said.

Aligarh's Senior Superintendent of Police Akash Kulhari said on Friday that the charge was dropped three days ago as there was no evidence to support it.

'Serious breach'
Reacting to the development, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said, "Using sedition charge as a

weapon against students is a serious breach of constitutional norms. While the charge against the AMU students has been withdrawn, it is clear that the BJP continues to be defined by the politics of fear and division."

Mr. Kulhari said that there was no videographic proof or any other evidence to support the claim that anti-India or pro-Pakistan slogans were raised by these students during the clash between the two groups at University Cir-

cle on February 12.

Meanwhile, the police raided a house in Noida on Friday looking for Kashmiri student Basim Hilal over a tweet mocking the security forces after the Pulwama terror attack.

They failed to find the student who has already been suspended by the AMU authorities.

A case under Section IPC 153 A (promoting enmity between different groups) had been registered against him.

Contempt of court notice to CAT Chairman

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Uttarakhand High Court has issued contempt notice to the Central Administrative Tribunal Chairman on whistle-blower bureaucrat Sanjeev Chaturvedi's plea alleging non-compliance of the HC orders in a case related to downgrading of his appraisal report.

Mr. Chaturvedi, a Magaysay award winner, said in his contempt petition that Chairman Justice L. Narasimha Reddy deliberately kept pending a transfer petition moved by AIIMS to shift the case from the Nainital Bench of the Tribunal to a Delhi Bench.

This, Mr. Chaturvedi said, was in violation of June 2017 and August 2018 orders of the High Court to the Tribunal's Nainital Bench to decide his case within a period of six months.

The Uttarakhand HC Bench of Justice Sharad Kumar Sharma in its February 20 order had directed Justice Reddy to respond "as to why contempt proceedings may not be drawn against him and he may not be punished for wilful disobedience" of the court orders.

The HC has posted the case for further hearing after four weeks.

The present case stems from a petition filed by the Indian Forest Service officer of Uttarakhand cadre challenging poor grading in his appraisal report for the year 2015-16, when he was on deputation at AIIMS. Since the plea was in the nature of service matter, the Uttarakhand HC had asked the Tribunal to decide it.

Parkash Badal indulging in theatrics, says Amarinder

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

A day after Shiromani Akali Dal patron Parkash Singh Badal accused the ruling Congress of "political witch-hunt", Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Friday said "Badal senior" was indulging in theatrics after finding himself cornered on the issue of sacrilege cases.

"Why is he so rattled if he has nothing to hide?" asked Capt. Amarinder, pointing out that the former CM was in the habit of indulging in theatrics, especially when faced with an uncomfortable situation.

Capt. Amarinder said he had never mentioned Mr. Badal, or anyone else for that matter, in connection with the Bebhal Kalan and Kotkapura firing incidents and desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib. Capt. Amarinder wondered if Mr. Badal's reaction was because of a sense of guilt.

Rejecting the allegation of political witch-hunt by his government, Capt. Amarinder said, "such shameful and petty tactics were the domain of the Akalis and the Congress leadership never believed in indulging in such acts".



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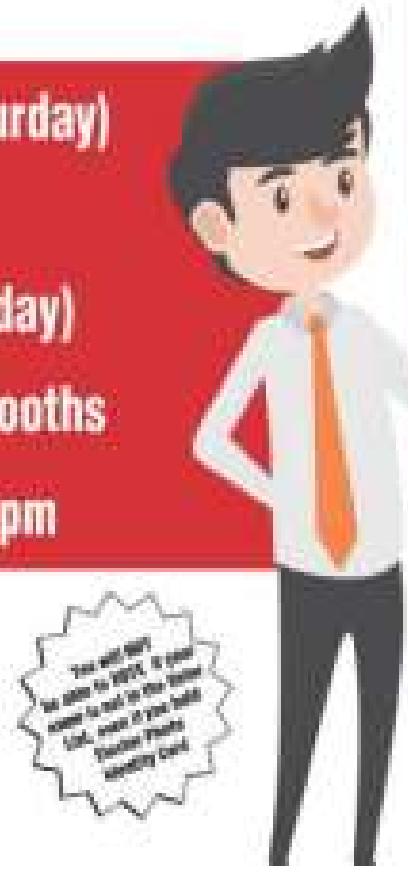
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Corrigendum - 1

Ref.PR No: 201723

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TenderID: 2019_UDD_36220_1

ProjectName: Request for Proposal for Selection of Consultant for preparation of Detail Project Report and providing Project Management Consultancy services for following Four Flyover Projects in Ranchi: (1) Flyover from Raj Bhawan to Harmu (2) Flyover at Argora Chowk (3) Flyover at Lalpur Chowk (4) Flyover at Karamtoli Chowk.

All the bidders are hereby informed that Corrigendum 01 for the TenderID: 2019_UDD_36220_1 Project Name: "Request for Proposal for Selection of Consultant for preparation of Detail Project Report and providing Project Management Consultancy services for following Four Flyover Projects in Ranchi: (1) Flyover from Raj Bhawan to Harmu (2) Flyover at Argora Chowk (3) Flyover at Lalpur Chowk (4) Flyover at Karamtoli Chowk," has been published on the procurement website of Government of Jharkhand, and they may submit their bid proposal accordingly.

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IN BRIEF



Call to remove Imran Khan's photo at Eden

KOLKATA
West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh on Friday demanded that photographs of former cricketer and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan be removed from the Eden Gardens. "Photographs of Imran Khan and other Pakistani players have been removed from a stadium in Mohali... their photographs should be removed from Eden Gardens also," he said. He claimed his party members will take to the streets if their demands were not met soon.

4 die in cracker unit blaze in Tamil Nadu

TIRUNELVELI
Four persons, including three women, were killed and six others injured in a blaze that was followed by a series of explosions at a firecracker unit at Varaganur in the district on Friday. The death toll is likely to go up as some workers suffered severe burns, police said.

Marijuana worth ₹1.7 cr. seized in Odisha

BERHAMPUR
A special drive by the Odisha police ahead of the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections has led to the seizure of 1,709 kg of marijuana in Koraput, Malkangiri and Rayagada districts of Odisha in the last 24 hours. Six persons were arrested and five vehicles involved in smuggling the narcotic were seized, a senior police official said.

Statue of Unity: special drive to pull tourists

NEW DELHI
In an attempt to draw tourists to the Statue of Unity in Gujarat, the Centre has planned special trains, night safari and helicopter rides. The Railways said it will run a special train from March 4. The 7 night-8 day tour will cost ₹7,560 per person.

Railways plan to issue linked PNRs

No cancellation fee in case of delay

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Just like airlines, railways will now issue linked PNRs for connecting journeys allowing passengers to cancel their onward journey without any cancellation fee, if it is due to delay in the first leg, a senior official of the Railways said on Friday.

The facility, which will begin from April 1, will be beneficial for those passengers who are booked on continuous trains for their onward journeys and get delayed due to fog, protests or any other reason during their trip.

"In case of linked PNRs, if a rail passenger misses connecting train owing to late running of the train by which he had been travelling, the fare for untravelled portion shall be refunded, without levying any cancellation or clerical charge," a Railway Board order accessed by PTI said.

However, it states that the passenger has to surrender the ticket for such refund within three hours of the actual arrival time of the first train.

This facility is applicable

India, Russia close to inking multi-billion agreement for AK-103 assault rifles

They are slated to be bulk produced in India with technology transfer

DINAKAR PERI
BENGALURU

India and Russia are close to concluding an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) for a multi-billion deal to locally bulk manufacture AK-103 assault rifles in the next few months, Victor N. Kladov, Director International Cooperation and Regional Policy of Rostec State Corporation told *The Hindu* at the ongoing Aero India.

However, he brushed aside concerns of U.S. sanctions on the defence deals, flagging money transfers as the issue.

India has signed several multi-billion dollar defence deals with Russia in the last couple of years and more are in the pipeline.

"We expect it to be signed anytime soon. It is in the final stage of negotiations. A Government-to-Government agreement is being prepared and will be signed in the

King of assault



The AK-103 assault rifle is the third generation of the Kalashnikovs, an upgrade of the AK47 and AKM

- Weight: 3.6 kg
- Length: 943 mm
- Barrel length: 415 mm
- Cartridge: 7.62×39mm

- Caliber: 7.62 mm
- Rate of fire: 600 rounds/min
- Effective firing range: 500 m

Forearm, magazine, butt stock and pistol grip are made of high strength plastic and feature great durability to stress. Protective coatings ensure excellent corrosion resistance of metal parts

▪ The AK-103 can carry a 40 mm grenade launcher or a bayonet

Users: Countries which use variants of AK-103 include Russia, Ethiopia, India, Iran, Libya, Namibia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Venezuela

Source: Kalashnikov Concern

nearest future. Upon signing there will be direct business negotiations between Kalashnikov from our side and India's Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), Mr. Kladov said in a conversation with *The Hindu*.

The Army has recently signed a contract for 72,400 assault rifles from Sig Sauer of the U.S. and another ten-

der for 93,895 Close Quarter Battle (CQB) carbines is in advanced stage of conclusion. These rifles are for frontline troops deployed in forward areas.

However, the Army is looking to replace the indigenous INSAS (Indian National Small Arms System) rifles in use with a modern rifle. The AK-103 will be bulk pro-

duced by the OFB with technology transfer.

Mr. Kladov stated that initially different companies were proposed from the Indian side for the tie-up. However, the Indian government realised it would be "wrong to pick up a start-up company" and arrange for production of such sophisticated equipment, he stated.

BEML in talks for small plane project

It is proposing to jointly assemble a twin-seater craft

MADHUMATHI D.S.
BENGALURU

Defence and mining equipment maker BEML Ltd is exploring a proposal from Russian aircraft maker Irkut Corporation to jointly assemble small twin-seater, civilian aircraft in the country, BEML CMD Deepak Kumar Hota said on Friday.

The plane could be used to train civilian pilots or for private owners.

"We had a series of talks with Irkut but we are at a ve-



Visitors at the Aero India show on Friday.

ry early stage. We must also assess the market. Details should unfold in the next few months," Dr. Hota said at the ongoing Aero India 2019 here.

Irkut is the original maker of the Sukhoi-30 fighters.

The Indian Air force operates Su-30s that are customised and licence-manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd at Nashik.

The Bengaluru-based BEML set up an Aerospace Division in Mysuru about a

decade back. It supplies airborne structures used in Su-30 as well as ground handling equipment, apart from systems and components for Akash and other missiles.

Dr. Hota said, "The Ministry of Civil Aviation estimates an addition of 1,600 aircraft in the country in the next five years from the current 600-700. I expect aerospace to be a big growth area for us. It is now a small business of ₹40-50 crore."

Aviation contract offsets are another area that BEML is keen on; MoUs have been signed with Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Rosoboronexport and Irkut, which are pursuing sales in India.

Adulterated liquor claims 29 lives

Over 45 admitted to Assam hospitals

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

Country liquor laced with toxic chemicals killed at least 29 people, including 16 women, in villages inhabited by tea plantation workers across eastern Assam's Golaghat and Jorhat districts.

Officials in these two districts said more than 45 people had been admitted to hospitals, with the condition of four being critical.

The hooch tragedy first struck Salmara Tea Estate in Golaghat district on Thursday night. By Friday evening, it left 20 people dead. Some of the victims were from the nearby Jigubari and Goronga villages in the district.

Seven others, including three women died in a tea estate at Borhola in the adjoining Jorhat district.

"So far, 20 people have died from consuming spurious liquor in three places while 33 others are undergoing treatment at the Civil Hospital in Golaghat and Jorhat Medical College Hospital," Golaghat Deputy Commissioner Dhiren Hazarika told *The Hindu*.

Passengers travelling by air are given the same PNR for their onward journeys if they are travelling by the same airline or are part of an alliance of airlines.

"Autopsy of the bodies



A woman who consumed the liquor being treated at a hospital in Jorhat on Friday.

and examination of the container seized by the police will let us know the exact cause of the deaths. But the container appears to be of some toxic chemical," he said. The person who sold the liquor at both Salmara and Borhola died.

2 suspended

The police in Golaghat district arrested two liquor vendors while two local district officers of the State's Excise Department were placed under suspension with immediate effect. The duo, ironically, claimed to have conducted anti-liquor campaigns in the areas where the tragedy struck.

Refinery in Assam told to demolish wall

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Assam government has been urged to take action against the Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) for non-compliance of the Supreme Court and the National Green Tribunal's orders to demolish a wall erected on a major elephant corridor.

The refinery is in Golaghat and a 2.2 km wall around its extended township is on the Deopahar Reserve Forest, besides blocking the route of elephants. The reserve forest falls within the No-Development Zone around Kaziranga National Park.

"We are pursuing the matter," the district's Deputy Commissioner Dhiren Hazarika said.

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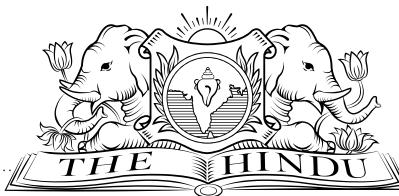
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Missed target

In sending a strong message to Pakistan, India should not shoot itself in the foot

The decision of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to revoke Tokyo 2020 Olympics qualification status for the men's 25-metre rapid fire pistol event from the New Delhi shooting World Cup is a controversy Indian sport could have done without. This has come after India refused visas to two Pakistani competitors, in the backdrop of heightened bilateral tensions after the terror attack in Pulwama. The IOC has declared that this is against the Olympic Charter's principles, of which non-discrimination, equal treatment of all athletes and sporting delegations and political non-interference are supreme. It is clear that in the clamour to send Pakistan what it perceives to be the right message, India has shot itself in the foot. In the short term, the scrapping of two out of 16 quota places will deny three Indian shooters, including 16-year-old Anish Bhawala who won the gold in the event at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, an opportunity to make the Olympic grade at home. While the National Rifle Association of India has thanked the IOC for sparing the 14 other places by restricting the withdrawal of recognition to just one event, three Indian shooters, for no fault of theirs, have ended up as collateral damage.

The long-term consequences, however, could be more severe. The IOC, in a strongly worded statement, said that it has decided to "suspend all discussions with the Indian National Olympic Committees and government regarding the potential applications for hosting future sports and Olympic-related events until clear written guarantees are obtained...to ensure the entry of all participants." This means negotiations regarding India's potential bids for the 2026 Youth Olympics, 2030 Asian Games and 2032 Olympics are set to go into cold storage. While it is true that the IOC's record in dealing with the overlapping worlds of geopolitics and sports is uneven, there have been precedents of strong action in similar cases. Ahead of the 2016 Rio Olympics, the Asian Shooting Championship in Kuwait had its qualification status removed after an Israeli delegate wasn't granted a visa. Less than a month ago, Malaysia was stripped of the World Para Swimming Championship for turning down visa requests from Israeli participants. The entire episode has also played out at a time when sections of the BCCI, egged on by a few yesteryear greats, seemingly mulled over the option of calling for a complete ban on Pakistan from the upcoming ICC World Cup in England. Going by experience, beyond feeding into a certain kind of atmospherics, such bans on sportspersons and interactions in international sports events will have no meaningful effect.

Mixed optics

The Saudi Crown Prince's visit highlighted the complexities in bilateral ties

As a standalone visit, the day-long trip of Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud (MBS) to New Delhi will be regarded as a diplomatic success, given the numerous outcomes. After talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the two sides announced measures to upgrade the defence partnership, create a "Strategic Partnership Council" to coordinate on security issues, and institute regular talks between the two national security advisers to discuss counter-terrorism, intelligence-sharing and maritime security. Saudi Arabia has also expressed its interest in investing in infrastructure projects worth about \$26 billion. This is beyond its already committed investments in India of \$44 billion for the existing joint venture with the public sector oil undertakings and public fund investments of \$10 billion. The language on terrorism in the joint statement was something of a dampener for those who would have hoped there would be stronger condemnation of the terror attack in Pulwama. But it was significant that the Saudi government agreed to insert an extra clause calling on states to renounce the "use of terrorism as an instrument of state policy". It also acknowledged that disputes between India and Pakistan must be resolved bilaterally. At the leadership level, Mr. Modi extended more than a personal touch to the visit by going to the airport and embracing the Crown Prince on landing. The prince repaid the compliment, agreeing to increase Hajj quotas and release 850 Indians from Saudi jails after a plea from Mr. Modi.

These announcements and gestures would have been far more significant had it not been for the fact that MBS's trip came on the heels of his visit to Pakistan just after the Pulwama attack. As a result, his India visit is being measured against the statements made during his Pakistan visit, where he praised Islamabad for its fight against terrorism. He also announced \$20 billion worth of investments, in addition to previously announced aid of \$6 billion in cash and reserves. While such comparisons may be unwarranted, the visit to Delhi would have benefited in terms of optics if it hadn't been preceded so closely by the one to Islamabad. The Modi government also overplayed its expectations from the visit by billing it as part of a diplomatic offensive aimed at 'isolating' Pakistan in order to hold it to account for Pulwama. India and Saudi Arabia have steadily built bilateral relations and taken great care over the past two decades to 'de-hyphenate' them from ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. India-Saudi Arabia ties were strengthened into a strategic partnership announced in 2010 in the Riyadh Declaration when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh paid a visit, and were bolstered by King Salman's visit in February 2014 and Mr. Modi's 2016 trip to Saudi Arabia. Point-scoring with Pakistan, or attempting to compare the outcomes of the two visits, now only undermines the carefully built compact between New Delhi and Riyadh.

Without land or recourse

The Supreme Court order on the eviction of forest dwellers raises very disturbing questions



KALPANA KANNABIRAN

The order of the Supreme Court issued on February 13 with respect to the claims of forest-dwelling peoples in India – the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers – is a case of the Supreme Court speaking against itself. In effect, the court has ordered the eviction of lakhs of people whose claims as forest dwellers have been rejected under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, or FRA. That this order negates the claims of citizens under special protection of the Constitution, viz. the Scheduled Tribes and other vulnerable communities already pushed by gross governmental neglect precariously to the edge, is another matter altogether. The question before us today centres on the responsibility of the Supreme Court in upholding constitutional claims and equal citizenship.

The background

The order in question was issued in the case of *Wildlife First & Ors v. Ministry of Forest and Environment & Ors*. The question before the court as stated in the order of 2016 when the matter was last heard related to "the constitutional validity of the [FRA] and also the questions pertaining to the preservation of forests in the context of the above-mentioned Act." The details regarding claims made under the FRA that were placed before the

court by the petitioner in 2016 showed that of the 44 lakh claims filed before appropriate authorities in the different States, 20.5 lakh claims (46.5%) were rejected. The order of 2016 went on to observe: "Obviously, a claim in the context of the above-mentioned Act is based on an assertion that a claimant has been in possession of a certain parcel of land located in the forest areas." True. A claim is made either for individual or community rights by the people/communities covered by the FRA. This is a plain reading of the Act, which is unambiguous on this score.

From here, however, that order did a jurisprudential somersault to observe, "If the claim is found to be not tenable by the competent authority, the result would be that the claimant is not entitled for the grant of any Patta or any other right under the Act but such a claimant is also either required to be evicted from that parcel of land or some other action is to be taken in accordance with law" (emphasis added).

This was the material part of the order. In other words, the claimant cannot contest the decision of the authority, said the court. With respect to action to be taken against those "unauthorisedly in possession of forest land", the States were then asked by the Supreme Court to report on concrete measures taken to evict the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers from the forest. In the very next paragraph, which pertained to the State of Tamil Nadu, the order referred to action against those people whose claims had been rejected as "eviction of encroachers".

What now?

In the present order of February 2019, the Supreme Court specifically



K.R. DEPAK

directs governments in 21 States by name to carry out evictions of rejected claimants without further delay and report on or before July 12. There are several questions that must be foregrounded for immediate attention.

The most obvious one has to do with the meanings attached to the rejection of claims. According to the 2014 report of the High-Level Committee on Socio-Economic, Health and Educational Status of Tribal Communities in India, constituted by the Government of India (Xaxa Committee), 60% of the forest area in the country is in tribal areas – protected by Article 19 (5) and Schedules V and VI of the Constitution. With specific reference to claims under the FRA, reiterating the finding of several other studies that have documented the deep procedural flaws in processing claims, the Xaxa Committee observed that "claims are being rejected without assigning reasons, or based on wrong interpretation of the 'OTFD' definition and the 'dependence' clause, or simply for lack of evidence or 'absence of GPS survey' (lacunae which only require the claim to be referred back to the lower-level body), or because the land is

wrongly considered as 'not forest land', or because only forest offence receipts are considered as adequate evidence. The rejections are not being communicated to the claimants, and their right to appeal is not being explained to them nor its exercise facilitated." The mere rejection of claims by the state therefore does not add up to a finding of the crime of "encroachment" – the sheer volume of rejections should instead set alarm bells ringing in the court of procedural improprieties.

Interestingly, in this case it appears as if a private party – Wildlife First – is pitted against the state. A closer examination reveals that it is, in fact, Wildlife First and the state together which have joined forces against the most vulnerable communities in the country living in areas constitutionally protected from encroachment even by the state – can we forget the stellar *Samata* judgment of the Supreme Court in 1997?

Why must we worry about this order of the Supreme Court in 2019? As has been widely reported, the immediate result will be the forced eviction of over one million people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes and other forest communities.

Importantly, the area marked for eviction falls under areas designated under Schedule V and Schedule VI of the Constitution – there is no reference to the implications for governance in the Scheduled Areas and whether the Supreme Court, in fact, has the authority to order evictions of Scheduled Tribes from Scheduled Areas. In a democratic country with citizens (not subjects) and a written Constitution which is affirmed by the people who are sovereign, how can we countenance the dismantling of an entire consti-

tutional apparatus that prescribes the non-derogable boundaries to Adivasi homelands and institutional mechanisms that promote autonomy and restrain interference in self-governance?

Against the safeguards

At an even more fundamental level, we are speaking of special protections under the Constitution – even more today than ever before. The presence of Article 19(5) in the Fundamental Rights chapter of the Constitution, which specifically enjoins the state to make laws "for the protection of the interests of any Scheduled Tribe", is vital. How has the Supreme Court ordered the eviction in complete disregard of this core and express fundamental right protection to Adivasis (as distinct from legal/statutory protection), which protects them from a range of state and non-state intrusions in Scheduled Areas as well as from the perennial threat of eviction from their homelands? Is not the supreme obligation of the Supreme Court to protect the Scheduled Tribes and other vulnerable communities from the grave harms of violent dispossession?

Finally, in the recent judgments of the apex court on the right to privacy and Section 377, the court has sung paean to autonomy, liberty, dignity, fraternity and constitutional morality – the pillars of transformative constitutionalism. It is the same court in the same era that has now ordered the dispossession of entire communities protected under the Constitution. We, as citizens, have every reason to worry.

Kalpana Kannabiran is Professor & Director, Council for Social Development, Hyderabad

How the U.S. aids Maduro

It allows him to present himself as the last bulwark against a return to American corporate domination



LESLIE C. GATES

On February 18, U.S. President Donald Trump amped up yet again the pressure on Venezuela's recalcitrant military. If they do not defect to Juan Guaidó, Venezuela's head of the national legislature who proclaimed himself the constitutional president in late January, Mr. Trump declares they will not benefit from amnesty. It is widely believed that many in the military fear sanctions for corruption, illicit narcotics trafficking and human rights abuses. Thus far, though, the U.S. has failed to recruit their Venezuelan equivalent of Chile's Pinochet, the leader of the 1973 coup against the elected socialist, Salvador Allende. Nor has Mr. Guaidó succeeded as Nicaragua's Violeta Chamorro did in 1990, to leverage devastating economic sanctions to win over large swaths of the population once sympathetic to Nicaragua's Sandinista-led revolution against a U.S.-backed dictator.

Venezuelans' dilemma

Why wouldn't Venezuelans flock to Mr. Guaidó? Why would anyone support Mr. Nicolás Maduro? After all, his claim to the presidency is

based on elections last year widely deemed fraudulent with the lowest turnout in Venezuela's long democratic history. His regime has clamped down on freedom of the press, jailed dissenters and stands accused of numerous human rights violations. His military is blocking humanitarian aid.

Ironically, the answer points back to the U.S. I don't mean that the U.S. and its oil companies support Mr. Maduro. Nothing could be further from the truth. Although, of course, we should not forget that the U.S. oil industry has remained one of Venezuela's biggest clients since 1998 when Hugo Chávez won in a landslide. I mean we cannot understand the contours of politics today without an appreciation for how U.S. oil companies "developed" Venezuela.

Venezuela is not just any oil-producing society. It is the U.S.'s oil society. It was the cash cow for the largest of Rockefeller's duelling sister companies after the company's court mandated breakup in 1911: Standard Oil of New Jersey. We know this company today as ExxonMobil. Jersey took a significant interest in Venezuela in 1928, shortly after the first major gusher in 1922. It quickly towered over Venezuela's oil industry. By 1941, it controlled 65% of its reserves. By 1945, it produced more oil than all other oil companies in Venezuela. Venezuela made Jersey rich. By the mid-1940s, it generated more than half of Jersey's total revenue. Venezuela's oil, indeed,

facilitated the U.S.'s rise to world hegemony, an ascent rooted in shifting the world to rely on the primary energy source it controlled: oil.

Moreover, as historian Miguel Tinker Salas reveals, Jersey did

more than just suck oil out of the ground. It sought to re-make Venezuelan social and political life in its own image. It proclaimed that what was best for the oil companies was best for Venezuela. It did so, even as it crushed employee dissidents and effectively turned labour unions into company spies. This was oil's "enduring legacy," a lore which Chávez burst. Even after they nationalised oil in 1976, the industry remained in the hands of professionals seasoned by the company's long-standing commitment to maximise profit. Venezuela's establishment parties struggled to deliver credibly on the promise to "sow the oil": to use the oil revenue to grow Venezuela's domestic industry.

The U.S. companies, in fact, sowed a very different kind of seed: deep distrust of U.S. oil companies and Venezuela's political establishment which collabo-

rated with them for decades. This is the distrust which anchored support for Chávez's Bolivarian revolution for a 21st century socialism; a distrust only intensified by their 1990 efforts to re-privatise elements of the oil industry. Seen from this vantage point, even Mr. Maduro's blatant vote-for-food campaigning may appear as a means of delivering, literally, Venezuela's oil-based revenue to the people. This history also likely complicates Mr. Guaidó's prospects of unifying Venezuelans against Mr. Maduro. Plenty of Chavistas oppose Mr. Maduro's corruption and repressive turn, even as they still believe in Chávez's initial goals to take back national control over oil. Mr. Guaidó is a hard sell for this loyal opposition among Chavistas. His unwillingness to denounce the U.S.'s thinly veiled attempt to force regime change likely deepens such misgivings.

The U.S.'s current hard-driving strategy may actually backfire. It validates Mr. Maduro's appeal to stick with him as the last bulwark against a return to U.S. corporate, not to mention military, domination. The appointment of Elliott Abrams, as Special Representative for Venezuela, plays right into such an appeal. After all, he notoriously defended El Salvador's brutal military offensive against that country's national liberation movement, denying its role in one of that country's bloodiest massacres. He was deeply implicated

in the U.S.'s covert efforts to fund the Contras against Nicaragua's democratically elected socialist government. In naming Abrams, Mr. Trump signalled that the U.S. believes that Venezuela could go the way of Nicaragua in 1990: erode sympathy for the regime by combining crippling economic sanctions with the threat, if not the actual use, of lethal force.

The EU initiative

Not surprisingly, the best chance for a peaceful transition comes not from the U.S. The European Union announced the formation of an "international contact group" in January 2019 to address the Venezuelan crisis. The group includes nations that have already recognised Mr. Guaidó (France, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, The Netherlands, the U.K. and Costa Rica) as well as those with more ambiguous positions (Italy, Ecuador, Uruguay and Bolivia). When the group met for the first time early in February, they committed themselves to establish the "necessary guarantees for a credible electoral process" and to "enable... delivery of assistance." Cornered, Mr. Maduro and Mr. Guaidó have yet to agree to talk. Meanwhile, millions of Venezuelans starve and flee.

Leslie C. Gates is Associate Professor of Sociology at Binghamton University, New York, and is the author of 'Electing Chávez: The Business of Anti-neoliberal Politics in Venezuela'

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.

An eviction?

The Supreme Court's order to 21 State governments which could lead to the eviction of lakhs of forest dwellers seems unfair and will lead to countless innocent and poor tribals being denied their rights (Inside pages, "Lakhs of forest dwellers face eviction", February 22). Most of the claimants are illiterate and are not in a position to assert their rights with necessary documentary evidence. The government, which is supposed to be defending them, appears to be treating the issue in a casual manner, especially as the numbers are massive.

Dn. D.V.G. SANKARARAO,

Nellimarla, Andhra Pradesh

national mood is, understandably, that of retribution (OpEd page, "Yes, No, It's Complicated," "After the terrorist strike in Pulwama, is war even an option?", February 22). But any sudden reaction might compromise the long-sought peace for which our jawans have bled for long. Instead of a pompous surgical strike, what is needed is a comprehensive, long-term strategy which can cut off the assistance the Pakistan military army extends to terrorist groups and eliminate all terrorist bastions stealthily.

KSHITIJ MANI TRIPATHI,
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

■ While expressing outrage at the Pulwama attack, a distinction ought to be made between Kashmiri militants and innocent Kashmiris. The ostrich-like attitude of the Union Minister concerned

and a certain Governor only give legitimacy to the "oust-Kashmiri" line. I am afraid that with such an attitude, we are playing right into the hands of militants and Pakistan who want Kashmiris to be disowned by India. The whole nation should stand up to this divisive communal onslaught and the militancy. The rest of India needs to assure Kashmiris that they have been, are and will be very much a part and parcel of the Indian nation, and not just a piece of land sans its people (Editorial, "Healing touch", February 22).

ABDUL ASSIS P.A.,
Thrissur, Kerala

■ It is a strange situation where we have the country being united in ending terror but spewing venom against those from Kashmir. Targeting the people of Kashmir will never yield any positive outcome. Rooting

out every terror organisation should be the sole goal.

JASPREET SINGH,
Patiala, Punjab

■ There is no doubt that what happened at Pulwama is horrendous and that India needs to take steps to make Pakistan see reason. However, the move to stop India's share of the Indus going to Pakistan may be a bit extreme ("Will stop India's share of water going to Pak," says Gadkari", February 22). It is against *pacta sunt servanda*, an important principle in international law. Governments should abide by the treaties they have signed. Denying anyone access to water, the elixir of life, will be depriving innocent citizens a basic right. India should go for a pacific means of settlement of international disputes such as mediation and

seeking good offices.

SHIVAM AGGARWAL
Ludhiana, Punjab

Angel tax

Fixated on tax evasion, money laundering and the like, diligent bureaucrats conjure up demons where none need exist. Instead they ought to lay out formats that provide information on investments into such ventures. Adequate laws exist to tackle the deviants. The U.K. provides up to as much as 60% tax relief on investments in eligible startups, to introduce more capital into this risk-prone

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

It was a 20-20 match: The scorecard in "Rajasthan roars past Tamil Nadu in a one-sided contest" (Sport, Feb. 22, 2019) erroneously said that Rajasthan scored 181 for 21 overs.

The opening sentence in "Alone, you are nothing, says Wenger" (Sport, Feb. 21, 2019) erroneously said that Arsene Wenger once called Jose Mourinho a specialist in failure. Actually, it's the other way. It

Early one morning in the second week of February this year, A. Kumaraswamy, 30, set out from his home in Devanoor village in Telangana's Warangal district and walked towards his cotton field. He was staring at a third straight year of crop failure due to rainfall shortages, but he still took out his plastic canister of expensive pesticide – he uses at least ₹2,000 worth of the chemicals each week – and began spraying. Once done, he took a costly drink.

Two weeks later, Kumaraswamy sits slumped on the steps of his un plastered brick home, his fingers shaky, his eyes averted. "I was in the fields, feeling quite depressed. So I decided to drink the rest of the pesticide I had used for that morning's spraying." Seeing him fall down, a farmer in the neighbouring field had run across, thrown him on the back of his motorcycle and rushed him to the government hospital in Warangal town 35 km away. It's now a week since he was discharged, and he has spent his first day in the fields again. "I still feel dizzy," he says.

Five days before Kumaraswamy's suicide attempt, the Union Interim Budget had announced the launch of a new scheme meant to provide income support for small farmers like him: the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, or PM-KISAN scheme. It promises ₹6,000 per year to all families who own less than two hectares – that is, five acres – of farmland. The first instalment of ₹2,000 is to be paid by this March, before the Lok Sabha polls.

In many ways, the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government at the Centre is following in the footsteps of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) government in this State. Last May, just four months before dissolving the State Assembly and calling for fresh polls, the Telangana government launched the Rythu Bandhu or farmers' investment support scheme, offering farmers ₹8,000 per acre in a bid to "enhance agricultural productivity and... break the vicious cycle of rural indebtedness". Only land-owning farmers are eligible beneficiaries and there is no cap on the number of acres owned. The scheme has a budget of ₹12,000 crore for 2018-19 for a total of 57 lakh targeted beneficiaries, although farmers groups say that at least nine lakh beneficiaries are yet to receive any money.

When Assembly elections were held in December, after the first instalment of Rythu Bandhu had been paid, the TRS swept the polls, winning 88 out of 119 seats, including the entire Warangal area. Rythu Bandhu was seen as one of the major reasons for the victory.

'It solves no problems'

Kumaraswamy had been a beneficiary of the Rythu Bandhu scheme, receiving ₹8,000 for the one acre he owns. However, he received no benefit for the five acres he leased.

He had started leasing land six years ago, lured by the solid profits then enjoyed by cotton farmers. He hoped that a higher investment would rake in higher returns, help him pay off some pending loans, and finance his children's education. It paid off for a couple of years, before three consecutive years of drought and poor rainfall threw him into a nightmare of higher investment, higher losses, and higher debt. He says: "I need to pay for labour, tractor rental, 10 bags of fertilizer per acre, plus lease of ₹10,000 per acre per year. Every week, I spend ₹2,000-₹3,000 on pesticides because every week there is a new pest, even though Bt cotton was supposed to cut down on pesticides. I have no money to dig borewells." He used the money from Rythu Bandhu to buy fertilizer, but it was merely a drop in an ocean of bills. He now has pending loans of more than ₹6 lakh, mostly taken from family and friends at an interest rate of 2% per month.

Indebtedness is a taboo topic in this area; farmers are unwilling to talk about the quantum of their unpaid debts in front of their neighbours, though it is almost certain the neighbour is also in debt. A survey in 2016-17 by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) showed that 79% of agricultural households in Telangana are in debt, the highest rate in the country. The national rate of indebted farming households is 52.5%.

Warangal in particular has become known for farmer suicides linked to unpaid debt. There have been 15 cases in Devanoor itself, including one last December. Following the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and the creation of Telangana State in 2014, the district was split into five new districts, in 2016. Warangal (Urban), where Devanoor is located, has less than 15% of its cultivable area covered by irrigation. Nearly 92% of its farmers fall into the 'marginal' or 'small' categories, cultivating less than one or two hectares of land, respectively. There is no official data on tenancy, but local farmers' groups estimate that 40% of farmers in the area are tenants, paying a yearly rental to cultivate lands that belong to others. Often, they also own a small amount of land themselves.

This rabi, or winter season, Kumaraswamy has leased out one acre with a borewell on it. He is planting tobacco under contract to a local company which has sold him the seed and will procure his crop. He hopes this guaranteed earning, along with work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) will



The key: "PM-KISAN may have good intentions, but it will be lost in translation without accurate land records." Mudika Kumar, 28, on his dried out cotton fields in Sripathipalli village, Chilpur mandal, Jangaon district. He is a tenant farmer who is forced to depend on his livestock for sustenance. • NAGARA GOPAL

A drop in an ocean of debt

The first transfer of money under the PM-KISAN scheme is scheduled for Sunday. **Priscilla Jebaraj** reports from villages in Warangal, Telangana on how farmers have benefited from Rythu Bandhu, the income support scheme seen as the inspiration behind PM-KISAN



tide him over. However, next season, he intends to go back to cotton.

Says P. Srinivas, a former ward member who now leads a village farmers' committee: "What other option does he have? There is no irrigation. If there are wells, we can opt for paddy or maize. When we were young, they planted jowar and dal on these lands. But the rains are less now, groundwater is low, the soil is no longer fertile, and monkeys and wild boar come and eat any food crops as they are not able to get enough food in the forests anymore... Rythu Bandhu helps a little, but it does not solve any of these problems."

Under the tamarind tree

Three kilometres from Devanoor is the Dharmasagar reservoir, which was originally meant for irrigation when it was constructed 30 years ago. But today it's used mostly for the drinking water needs of Warangal town.

Sripathipally, a village of about 500 households, lies in neighbouring Jangaon, another new district carved out of the erstwhile 'undivided' Warangal district. This village is lucky to have borewells and open wells watering some of its fields, making for a stark divide. On the outskirts of Sripathipally, the dirt road winds past the last few houses and peters out at a clearing shaded by a spreading tamarind tree. On one side of this clearing are lush paddy fields. The rabi crop flooded after transplantation; on the other, a few white fluffs dot the bleak landscape of dried out cotton fields.

She says, "See, this rice was planted two months ago, but it's not growing properly because the water level in the field is not enough." She is worried that the borewell which waters the field is drying up this season.

Rajitha's grandparents were assigned one acre of land 40 years ago during a government redistribution drive for landless workers. Says Rajitha, who is

already a grandmother herself, "The Rythu Bandhu scheme is for landowners, so I don't want to ask for any benefits for my leased land, but I will fight for my rights for the one acre of land that I do own. I have the passbook, but have not got any money." She wants the money to help pay off a loan taken to buy buffaloes. She adds, "The VRO [Village Revenue Officer] keeps my issue pending, and he is a government employee. How can I fight him?" Several farmers in the village claim that their VROs are demanding bribes to correct their patta and passbooks or to include them in the list of beneficiaries. They plan to form a delegation and appeal to the Mandal Revenue Officer (MRO).

No time to update records

VROs are the lowest link in the chain of officials who were engaged in the State government's massive drive to update land records a year before the Rythu Bandhu scheme was launched. Further up the chain is District Collector Prashant J. Patil, who sits in a sprawling 133-year old bungalow which originally housed the prime minister of a province under the Nizam of Hyderabad.

He says, "The first land survey in this area was done in 1935 in the Nizam's time. A few minor additional surveys were done in the 1940s and the 1960s to cover areas that were left out of the Nizam's survey, but that was it. Now 80 years have passed, and at least four generations have come and gone. Industrialisation and urbanisation have created a lot of land use changes. Many people still have handwritten patta in their ancestors' names. So it was impor-

tant to overhaul the entire land records. No other State government has done such a comprehensive pan-state survey since Independence."

In the wake of Rythu Bandhu, several other States, including Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand, have announced similar schemes, and of course, there is the Centre's PM-KISAN scheme. Patil, however, warns that without a similar exercise to update land records, such schemes will fail.

He says, "PM-KISAN may have good intentions, but it will be lost in translation without accurate land records. It is even more complicated because they want to give out money per family, not per acre. How will you identify the total land-holding of a family? Land records are held by an individual."

He is appalled that the Centre gave the States just a few weeks to update their databases before starting money transfers under PM-KISAN. The scheme was announced in the Budget on February 1, will make the first transfers on February 24, and has a March 31 deadline to complete disbursal of the first instalment.

He says, "It will be impossible for the States to clean up their records in that period of time. Many farmers will lose out." He adds that several States have approached Telangana to learn from their experience. A few weeks ago, he briefed a Jharkhand delegation that wanted to replicate the State's efforts.

Handing out the Rythu Bandhu cheques was "only the tip of the iceberg", explains Patil. The bigger process was the Land Records Updation Programme which preceded it. Launched on September 15, 2017, it was initially planned as a 100-day "purification" exercise, but increasing hurdles dragged it out to almost one year.

Teams led by local officials spent a week or more in each village. He says, "This was meant to be a survey out in the field, not an exercise conducted sitting in the office. Before the exercise, the records were maybe 40% complete. Even now, I would say only about 80% of the records in my district have been cleaned up. In some areas, it will be even lower."

Apart from cases which are being disputed in court, major snags include the "sada bainama" records, or white paper transactions certified by the elders of a village which have no actual legal sanctity, and "assigned lands" which were allotted to the poor, landless, Dalits and Adivasis without actual ownership papers. The government has agreed to a one-time regularisation of such lands for small and marginal farmers, but the process is slow and still incomplete.

Land not meant for paddy

Back in Devanoor village, Banda Kumar, a grizzled 60-year-old, holds out a torn and yellowed paper, now carefully laminated. It has a one-rupee stamp from the Nizam's era. In handwritten Urdu, it states that his grandfather was assigned

one acre of land. This plot was inherited by Kumar's brother, who then sold it to Kumar in 1996, recording it as a sada bainama transaction on another handwritten document, this time in Telugu.

He says, "The government says their records don't include my land even when I show them my documents. But I am making losses cultivating cotton on this land that their records do not show. Why should I be denied Rythu Bandhu benefits?"

Srinivas, the leader of the farmers' committee, says that out of approximately 700 small farming households in Devanoor, only half have received Rythu Bandhu benefits in the first year.

Out of the total 2,000 acres of cultivable land in the village, about 800 acres are redistributed forest land, allocated to small farmers during the Naxalite movement, and many of them are yet to receive new passbooks. State-wide grassroots activists estimate that about 30% of eligible farmers did not receive Rythu Bandhu benefits in the rabi season.

The PM-KISAN is expected to face further hurdles, even in a State that has updated its records. Says Ch. Kavitha, who was elected Devanuru village sarpanch a month ago, "There is only a small list approved for PM-KISAN in our village so far. The revenue officer says that other names may be included later, but they are in a hurry to give out the money now, so only a few verified names will benefit."

Like many farmers across the district, the group of village leaders gathered in her courtyard don't think the PM-KISAN will have much of an impact on the Lok Sabha polls or re-appeal votes for the BJP in the way Rythu Bandhu is reported to have benefited the TRS.

Says ward member G. Kavitha, "Voting is more complex than that, it's not only on the basis of such schemes. If you give us water, we don't need your Rythu Bandhu. We don't need your PM-KISAN. We will grow a profitable crop on our own, and give you back our money."

Groundwater, however, is a fast-disappearing resource. Its rate of disappearance is hastened by free 24-hour electricity supply to farmers, which powers more than 22 lakh pump sets and borewells across the State. Public investment is also flowing into reservoirs and massive irrigation projects, but some experts are pushing for a more holistic policy approach.

Says Divya Veluguri, a researcher with the Centre for Sustainable Agriculture in Hyderabad, "Income support schemes like Rythu Bandhu and PM-KISAN will not be sustainable without a focus on basic resources such as soil fertility and water availability."



A. Kumaraswamy, 30, outside his home at Devanuru village, Dharmasagar mandal in Warangal (Urban) district. • NAGARA GOPAL

FROM PAGE ONE

India denies visa to two Pakistani shooters

In IOC's view, the Indian stand was, "against the Fundamental Principles of the Olympic Charter, in particular the principles of non-discrimination, as well as the IOC's and the Olympic Movement's position, reiterated on many occasions over the past few years, that equal treatment must be guaranteed for all participating athletes and sporting delegations at international sports events, without any form of discrimination or political interference from the host country."

Reacting to the development, former IOC member Randhir Singh told *The Hindu*, "This issue has to be taken seriously. It can impact Indian sports in a big way. The government will have to

give it in writing that no individual would be denied visa to participate in a sporting event in India."

Former IOA president and veteran sports administrator Vijay Kumar Malhotra wanted a policy on this subject.

"The IOC has a policy which we have to adhere to as far as uniform participation is concerned. We can't discriminate," he said.

The IOC sanctions may lead to cancellation of international events this year in badminton, chess, golf and hockey, among others.

"The government will have to draw up a clear policy on this. We can't afford to be denied sporting events," Mr. Malhotra added.

Shun terror sponsors, cricket board tells ICC

Mr. Johri said in his letter, "The BCCI wishes to address concerns and sentiments that have emerged after the recent dastardly terrorist attack which was carried out on Indian soil by a terror outfit based out of Pakistan which resulted in the death of 40 Indian security personnel. In view of the aforesaid terrorist attack, BCCI fears for the safety and security of players and match officials..."

"The BCCI trusts that the ICC and ECB will ensure that the most robust security is provided to players, match officials and fans of Indian cricket for the upcoming World Cup," he wrote.

The letter said, "Most countries from which the members of the ICC hail (including United Kingdom) have strongly condemned this terrorist attack and expressed solidarity with India. BCCI urges the cricketing community to sever ties with countries from which

'Cricket ties must go on'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

Bihar's Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav said on Friday that cricket ties must continue.

"There has been war between the two countries earlier, but we've been playing cricket after that," he said.

"terrorism emanates." The CoA meeting, chaired by Mr. Rai and attended by the other two members, Diana Edulji and Lt. Gen Ravi Thodge, decided to scrap the opening ceremony at this year's IPL. "We will not have a regular IPL opening ceremony and the amount (the budget) from that opening ceremony will be given to the families of those who have been victims of this terror attack," Mr. Rai said.

Terror watchdog retains Pakistan on its grey list

The body told the Pakistani government to show that remedial actions and sanctions are applied as well as demonstrating that its authorities were taking action on "illegal money or value transfer services" to these groups, sources told *The Hindu*.

Pakistan was put on the 'grey list' or watch list of the FATF in June 2018 after a proposal moved by the U.S., the U.K., Germany and France was passed.

In its public statement that did not name any coun-

tries or groups, President of the body Marshall Billingslea said the group "notes with grave concern and condemns the violent terrorist attack last week that killed at least 40 Indian security forces in Pulwama in the State of Jammu and Kashmir..."

"While all these attacks kill, maim, and inspire fear, they cannot occur without money and the means to move funds between terrorist supporters," calling on all countries to choke off the supply of those funds.

Ensure safety of Kashmiris, orders SC

The petitioner wanted the court to direct the Centre to "forthwith take steps to prevent threats, assaults, violent attacks, social boycotts, ostracism, evictions and other coercive acts committed by groups and mobs against Kashmiris and other minorities, particularly in the wake of the Pulwama attack."

The petition referred to incidents of violence against these communities in the States of Bihar, Chattisgarh, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. Two more States – Punjab and Maharashtra – have been added to the watch list. The court has also asked the Delhi Police Commissioner to be alert. The court scheduled the next hearing in the case for February 27.

Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal, for the Centre, informed the court about an advisory sent out to the States and Union Territories on February 16 to thwart

violence against vulnerable groups after the Pulwama incident. Mr. Venugopal said the Centre could only go so far as law and order is a State subject.

Mr. Gonsalves apprised the court that 10 more incidents targeting Kashmiris or the minorities had occurred across various States even after this petition was filed in the apex court.

He said the government machinery must protect citizens from harm and discourage hate.

"These incidents are a part of an organised hate campaign against Muslims and Kashmiri people," the petitioner asserted. "Most cases are fabricated. The hysteria that now surrounds India has been engineered to gain political mileage," Mr. Adeeb submitted.

The court took a leaf from its July 2018 judgment, wherein the court had said that "horrendous acts of mobocracy" threaten the country's "pluralistic social fabric".

J&K wants Pak. undertrials out

State tells SC detenus are radicalising Kashmiri youth, wants to transfer them

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Jammu and Kashmir government has filed petitions in the Supreme Court seeking permission to transfer Pakistani undertrials out of the State to high-security prisons like Tihar Jail in the National Capital, citing the risk these detenus pose by "radicalising" Kashmiri youth inside the State's prisons.

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to examine the case of each prisoner individually.

Seven undertrials

While the J&K government has so far moved the court in the case of seven undertrials who are Pakistani nationals, the State's counsel Shoeb Alam said more such petitions seeking transfer of other Pakistani prisoners would be filed. The State also wants their trials to be shifted out of the Valley.



Safe distance: Volunteers frisking people entering the Jamia Masjid in Srinagar on Friday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

The State has filed transfer petitions in the cases of Waqas Manzoor, Zaffar Iqbal, Mohd. Abdullah, Zubair Talha Zarrar, Mohd. Ali Hussain, Hafeez Naveed Baloch and Zia Mustafa.

In one of the petitions, the J&K government said the Pakistani prisoners were

"brainwashing" Kashmiri youth. The State said it had confidential information that the undertrials had close links with terror outfits like the Jaish-e-Mohammed and the Lashkar-e-Taiba.

It said such indoctrination of local Kashmiris in prison had been put to "perilous

use by spreading anti-national sentiments within and outside the prisons and planning attacks on the sovereignty and integrity of the nation".

The petition gains significance in the aftermath of the Pulwama attack that killed at least 37 CRPF personnel.

Creating sympathisers'

"There is a concentration of prisoners with similar backgrounds and linkages to terrorist organisations in local prisons in the State of J&K.

The effect of such radicalisation is that the brainwashed local youth who are inmates with these prisoners, are spreading the menace of terrorism and creating sympathisers by influencing, mobilising against the State and winning over, their local contacts on being released or during visitor meetings, etc.," the State submitted.

UGC issues advisory to universities

'Campuses must be safe for Kashmiris'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

With Kashmiri students facing harassment and assault on campuses in the wake of the Pulwama attack that killed at least 37 CRPF personnel.

The petition gains significance in the aftermath of the Pulwama attack that killed at least 37 CRPF personnel.

"In the context of reports being received through various media regarding the safety of students from Kashmir studying in various higher educational institutions, all universities and colleges affiliated to them are advised to ensure the safety and protection of the students on the campus," said the letter sent on Friday by UGC Secretary Rajnish Jain. "They may keep a watch on the situation and seek support of law and order machinery in case of

any untoward incident."

Mr. Jain also requested the Vice-Chancellors "to look into the matter personally for the safety of the students" and maintaining peace and harmony in universities/colleges.

Jaitley rakes up 2016 surgical strikes

Minister takes a swipe at Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A day after the Congress roped in Lt. Gen. D.S. Hooda (Retd), the man considered the architect of the surgical strike after the Uri incident, to head a task force on national security, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley termed it a "belated and grudging" recognition of the strikes by the Congress.

In a blogpost entitled "What's Advisors Must Tell the Congress Party on National Security", Mr. Jaitley said it was "intriguing that the party which ruled India for half a century, needs to be educated on national security issues".

Acknowledging Gen. Hooda as an experienced and distinguished former officer of the Indian Army, Mr. Jaitley said, "I have not the least doubt that he would give a very valuable advice to the grand old party."

"I am sure the Head of the Advisory Panel (Gen. Hooda) would educate the Party leaders that the surgical strikes were no routine step which had been taken several times in the past, but a significant first for India," he said.

The Congress has been accusing the Modi government of politicising the surgical strikes. On September 29, 2016, the Army had carried out the strikes on seven terrorist launch pads across the Line of Control (LoC) in retaliation to an attack on its base in Uri earlier that month.

Mr. Jaitley hoped the experts would render advice to the Congress president on strategic issues while



Intriguing that the party which has ruled India for half a century, needs to be educated on national security

ARUN JAITLEY
Finance Minister

highlighting "some of the basic points" which are integrally connected to consistency on the issue of national security.

"Do not give an impression to the world that India is divided on how to fight terrorism. When the world is rallying around India, the Opposition in India should not be striking a discordant note," he said.

Further, Mr. Jaitley said, "next time if extremists and separatists raise slogans on how to break India (referring to the JNU incident), no one from mainstream parties should pay a supporting visit to them".

"There is no freedom of speech to advocate a breakup of India," he said.

In an apparent reference to the Congress' questions on the Rafale fighter jet deal, Mr. Jaitley said political parties should not politicise defence procurement on false and imaginary facts for petty gains as it hurts defence preparedness.

Two Kashmiri youth held in U.P.

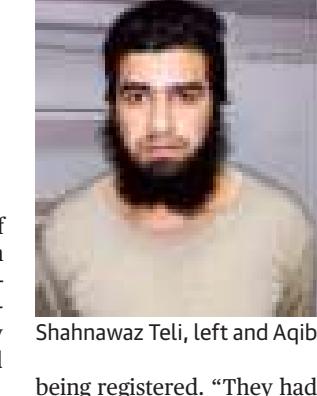
Duo in Deoband are Jaish operatives: ATS

OMAR RASHID
PEERZADA ASHIQ
LUCKNOW/SRINAGAR

The Anti-Terrorism Squad of the Uttar Pradesh police on Friday arrested two Kashmiri youth in Deoband, Saharanpur, alleging that they were Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) operatives.

The two have been identified as Shahnawaz Teli and Aqib Ahmed Malik. Teli is from Kulgam and Malik from Pulwama district, the ATS said.

The arrests were made on inputs from a student in Deoband, the ATS said, without revealing his identity. The two were recruiting people for the terror outfit and had been living in Deoband disguised as students without



Shahnawaz Teli, left and Aqib Ahmed Malik

being registered. "They had come to U.P. for recruitment purpose," Director-General of Police O.P. Singh said.

Briefing media about the arrests, he said Teli was a "grenade expert", who would provide training in launching and lobbying grenades. Two .32 bore pistols and 30 live cartridges were found in their rooms after a search.

Asked if the two had any role in the Pulwama attack, Mr. Singh said it was "difficult to say" and only a detailed interrogation would be able to ascertain if they had come to Saharanpur before the attack or after.

Officials of Counter-Insurgency Kashmiri, a special cell handling militancy-related cases in J&K, said the two men "are not facing any militancy-related charges nor any mention in any FIR in the Valley".

"However, we are also do-

Two militants killed in Sopore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Two unidentified militants were killed in an operation in north Kashmir's Baramulla on Friday. The police said arms and ammunition were recovered from the encounter site.

ing a background check," said an officer.

Teli's family said he moved to Uttar Pradesh in 2016-17 for a course to become a *mufti*. The relatives said they were "shocked by the disclosure of the police and demanded his release".

Malik's family also questioned the police's claim.

"First investigate their links [with militants] and desist from labelling them as militants," a relative said.

Pakistan takes control of JeM headquarters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAHORE

Succumbing to international pressure to rein in militant groups operating from its soil, the Pakistan government on Friday took over the administrative control of the headquarters of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), the terror outfit which claimed responsibility for the Pulwama attack.

"The Punjab government has taken over the control of the JeM headquarters in Bahawalpur," Pakistan's Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry stated.

Centre lists projects to stop flow of India's share of water to Pak.

Ravi-Beas link below Ujh will help, says Water Ministry

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A day after Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said India had decided to "stop" the flow of its share of river water to Pakistan, the Water Resources Ministry on Friday issued details of various projects being implemented for the same.

The Indus system comprises the rivers Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej. The basin is mainly shared between India and Pakistan with a small share

schemes is the Shahpurkandi project that will help in utilising the water from the Thein dam to irrigate 37,000 hectares of land in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, and generate 206 MW of power, the statement said.

Another facility is the Ujh multipurpose project that will create a storage of about 781 million cubic metre of water on river Ujh, a tributary of Ravi.

The third project is the second Ravi-Beas link below Ujh, the statement said.

Rahul flags Doordarshan clip post-attack, terms Modi 'Prime Time Minister'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress continued its attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with party president Rahul Gandhi on Friday calling him "Prime Time Minister" for carrying on with the shooting of a documentary on February 14 at the Corbett Park even after the Pulwama strikes.

The party also released a video clip from state broadcaster Doordarshan to allege that the Prime Minister addressed a public rally in Uttarakhand via his mobile phone but did not condemn the attack or mourn the death of the jawans.

Tagging photographs from the Corbett National Park where Mr. Modi was filming for the Discovery channel, Mr. Gandhi tweeted, "Even after three hours after 40 jawans were martyred in the Pulwama terror attack, 'Prime Time Minis-

tress' continued with his film shoot." As an ocean of pain ran through the country's heart and the families of the martyrs, he was smiling and on a photo shoot by the lake," he tweeted in Hindi with the #PhotoShootSarkar... This man has never given & only taken

RAHUL GANDHI, Congress president

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would not allow its share of water from the Indus network of rivers to flow into Pakistan, Mr. Tewari said, "Of the two projects he referred to, one was cleared in 1999, the other was cleared by Union Cabinet in 2006."

The Congress leader said asking tough questions and standing in solidarity during a crisis are not mutually exclusive. "Mr. Prime Minister, we will not let you and your Government get away by playing with the security of the Indian nation," he said.

No to cricket

On whether India should play cricket with Pakistan, he said first Pakistan must crack down on terror outfits. "Everyone knows that JeM got people to vote

Labour Bureau files MUDRA job report

May give the Centre a potential data tool to combat surveys showing a dismal employment scene

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ

NEW DELHI
The Labour Bureau has completed its survey on employment generated by the MUDRA loan scheme, giving the Centre a potential data tool to combat other reports showing a dismal scenario on jobs.

"We have completed the survey and submitted the report to the Labour Ministry," said a senior Labour Bureau official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"It is awaiting the Minister's approval now... it is likely to be released in the first week of March," the official said, declining to comment on the survey's findings.

The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana was introduced in April 2015 as an effort to extend affordable credit to micro and small enterprises. Loans up to ₹10 lakh are ex-

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana

The scheme was launched in April 2015 to extend affordable credit to micro and small enterprises

INTENDED BENEFICIARIES:

Small manufacturing units, service sector units, shopkeepers, fruits and vegetable vendors, truck operators, food-service units, repair shops, machine operators, small industries, artisans, food processors and others in rural and urban areas

LOAN SIZE:

Up to ₹10 lakh

TOTAL DISBURSAL:

15.56 crore loans worth a total of ₹7.23 lakh crore have been disbursed

VALUE PROPOSITION:

Use of a variety of innovative financing means, including technology, to bring down the cost of funding

the failure to create job opportunities, the Labour Ministry had asked the Labour Bureau to initiate the survey on jobs created through the MUDRA scheme.

NSO SURVEY

The Labour Bureau's completed report on MUDRA loans has now been submitted to the Centre at a time when it is taking flak for not releasing the results of the National Sample Survey Organisation's periodic labour force survey.

According to reports, a leaked copy of the NSO's findings showed that unemployment hit a 45-year high of 6.1% in 2017-18.

Central government ministers and officials have already attempted to use the MUDRA scheme's performance to combat criticism based on the leaked NSO

job survey report.

Some economists, however, have advised caution in the interpretation of MUDRA data, especially as it relates to jobs.

"Every new loan certainly doesn't imply creation of a new job," ICRER fellow Radhika Kapoor, wrote in a working paper titled 'Waiting for Jobs'.

"It is improbable that these loans are being given to those who were formerly unemployed. They are more likely being given to people who are moving to self employment from other jobs resulting in no new net job creation."

Further, she asserted: "Given that the average size of the loan disbursed under MUDRA is quite small, it is unlikely that the loan seekers are providing a job to anyone other than themselves."

tended to these non-corporate, non-farm enterprises by the Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency (MUDRA) through last-mile financial institutions. So far, 15.56 crore loans worth a total of ₹7.23 lakh crore have been disbursed.

Before stepping down as vice chairman of Niti Aayog in August 2017, Arvind Panaiya, had submitted a report on the recommendations of a task force he had chaired on improving jobs data.

One recommendation was to analyse the extent of employment and self-employment generated by MUDRA loans.

In December 2017, faced with mounting criticism on

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In December 2017, faced with mounting criticism on



Korean honour: Narendra Modi receiving the Seoul Peace Prize in Seoul on Friday. ■ PTI

SC to hear Rafale review plea on Feb. 26

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

A Supreme Court Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi will consider the review petitions filed in the Rafale case against the December 14 judgment in chambers at 1.45 p.m. on February 26.

The Bench, consisting also of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and K.M. Joseph, will examine whether the petitions deserve to be heard in an open court.

The review petitions, filed by former Union Ministers Yashwant Sinha and Arun Shourie, advocate Prashant Bhushan and Aam Aadmi party MP Sanjay Singh, allege that the court's judgment was riddled with fault lines. They want the apex court to reconsider its "erroneous" judgment, which relies on a "non-existent" CAG report to uphold the Rafale deal.

The petitioners contend the judgment, based on a hypothetical CAG report, was not merely a "clerical or arithmetical slip" but a substantial error and want a "recall" of the verdict. The petitioners said the CAG was an independent constitutional body accountable only to Parliament.

Modi gets Seoul Peace Prize for fostering global links

Dedicates ₹1.42 crore prize money to Namami Gange

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SEOUL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was given the Seoul Peace Prize for 2018 on Friday for his contribution to international cooperation and fostering global economic growth.

The Seoul Peace Prize Foundation presented the award at a grand ceremony here. A short film on the life and achievements of Mr. Modi was screened.

Mr. Modi said, "This award belongs not to me personally, but to the people of India. The success that India has achieved in the last

five years is due to aspirations, inspiration and efforts of the people of India. On their behalf, I accept the award and express my gratitude."

He said he was honoured that the award is being conferred on him in the year that India celebrated the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Prime Minister dedicated the \$200,000 (₹1.42 crore) prize money to the Namami Gange programme that seeks to stop pollution in the Ganga and rejuvenate the river.

Mr. Modi expressed con-

cern over terrorism, and recalled that a few weeks before the Seoul Olympics in 1988, an organisation called the Al-Qaeda was formed. As South Korea, India also suffered the pain of cross-border strife.

"Our endeavour towards peaceful developments has only too often been derailed by cross-border terrorism. While India has been the victim of cross-border terrorism for over 40 years, all nations today face this grave threat which respects no borders," he said, in an apparent reference to Pakistan.

The petitioner sought directions to register a hash function of the source code with an appropriate public authority, as part of software audit review process.

Hopes dim for solving Naga issue before polls

Centre to update NGOs on the process

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

Deputy National Security Adviser R.N. Ravi is scheduled to hold a meeting with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Nagaland on February 26 to update them on the progress of the peace process with Naga extremist groups.

Hopes for a solution to the "Indo-Naga political issue", under discussion since 1997, before the Lok Sabha election, has dimmed in Nagaland, with the Congress criticising the BJP for eyeing a settlement after the polls.

"We have no expectation from Mr. Ravi's visit, which is meaningless," said Chuba Ozukum, president, Naga Hoho, the apex organisation of Naga tribes.

'Solution before election' has been the credo of the Naga Hoho.

Centre flayed

"The Centre had promised a solution after the Nagaland Assembly election [in February 2018]. Now, the BJP is promising a solution after the parliamentary election. They have made a mockery of the issue," Mr. Ozukum said.

A statement by the Isak-Muivah faction of the extremist National Socialist



R.N. Ravi

Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) said Mr. Ravi would meet Naga lawmakers, civil society and tribal organisations during his visit for consultations on the progress of the peace process. The meetings are scheduled in Dimapur, Nagaland's commercial hub, and Kohima, the State capital.

The Deputy NSA, a former intelligence head, was appointed as the emissary for the Naga talks in 2014.

He is credited for bringing seven other extremist groups in Nagaland to the talks table.

Only the Khaplang faction of the NSCN, or the NSCN-K, is outside the purview of the peace process. The outfit had walked out of a 14-year-old ceasefire in March 2015 and has been fighting the armed forces in India and in Myanmar, where it is based.

| DELHI JAL BOARD OFFICE OF THE EE(SDW)VI W.S.T.P. KESHOPUR : NEW DELHI - 110018 PRESS N.I.T. No. 18(2018-19) | | | | | |
|---|--|---------------|------------|------------|---|
| S. No. | Name of Work | Estimate Cost | E/Money | Tender Fee | Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution |
| 1. | Providing Consultancy services for the work of "Rehabilitation of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) at Keshopur Phase II and Phase III) to achieve the prescribed effluent parameters | 297.92 LAC | 6,00,000/- | 1500/- | 2019_DJB_169157_1 Dt. 19.02.2019 |
| Further details in this regard can be seen at (https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in) | | | | | |

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 852/2018-19

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW)VI

PUBLIC WORKS, PORT & INLAND WATER TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Office of the Executive Engineer, (National Highways) Division,

Kalaburagi - 585 103.

No.EE/NHD/KLB/AE-3/CRF-3/NIT/2018-19/1884 Date: 19-2-2019

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, National Highway Division, Kalaburagi on behalf of Governor of Karnataka, invites online tenders in Two Cover Bid System as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000 and as per Standard Bidding Documents from eligible Class-I Contractors, Registered in KPWD for the construction of road works detailed in the below. For detailed tender notification, conditions of contract and E-Tendering process etc, can be obtained by logging on to <https://eprocure.gov.in>. The details of works and time schedule are as under.

Name of work: 1) Reconstruction of Road from Handarki Cross to Bandalli (Via K.Hosahalli-Kotegara-S.Hosahalli-Honagera) from Km 0.00 to Km 15.00 (MDR) in Yadgir Taluka, Yadgir District (Job No. CRF-KNT- 2017-18-2408). 2) Reconstruction of Road from Kanekal to Kadechur (via Baichal-Sourastrahalli-Kadechur-Join NH-150) from Km 0.00 Km to Km 12.00 (MDR) in Yadgir Taluka, Yadgir District (Job No. CRF-KNT-2017-18-2409). Approximate value of work put to tenders: Max: Rs. 208.02 Lakhs. Min: Rs. 170.09 Lakhs. Earnest Money Deposit (Bid Security): Max: Rs. 31,24,000 and Min: Rs. 30,00,000 As per clause 16.1 of Standard Bidding document. Tender Processing Fee: 5000 (Non Refundable). Period of Completion: 11 Months (including monsoon period).

1) Downloading of tender documents (through online): From 1-3-2019 and upto 22-4-2019 at 16:00 Hours. 2) Last date & time for submission of tender quaries: 11-4-2019 upto 17:00 Hours. 3) Pre-bid meeting: 12-4-2019 at 11:00 Hours. 4) Last date & time for submission (uploading) of e-Tenders: 22-4-2019 Upto 16:00 Hours. 5) Deadline for submission of hard copies of uploaded tender documents (except financial bid): 23-4-2019 at 11:00 Hours. 6) Opening of Technical Bid: 23-4-2019 at 16:00 Hours. 7) Opening of Financial Bid: To be notified after evaluation of technical bids. Any other details can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours. E-mail:eenhdnlkb@gmail.com, Contact: +91-9945455503

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
National Highway Division, Kalaburagi
DIP/Kalaburagi/1057/MC&A/2018-19

BJP's allies in U.P. again threaten to part ways

Apna Dal, SBSP accuse senior partner of not resolving issues

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LUCKNOW

The BJP's key allies in Uttar Pradesh, the Apna Dal and the Suhdev Bhartiya Samaj Party, have expressed "displeasure" with it for allegedly not taking care of its alliance partners and said they were "open" to taking their own course of action in the run-up to the Lok Sabha election.



Anupriya Patel ■ FILE PHOTO

O.P. Rajbhar ■ FILE PHOTO

in Bareilly on Friday.

"Now, the Apna Dal is free to make its own decision. A party meeting has been called to chalk out our future course of action," she said.

The party, a crucial ally of the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, had won two seats – Mirzapur and Pratapgarh – in the 2014 Lok Sabha election.

In Ballia, Uttar Pradesh Minister and SBSP chief Om Prakash Rajbhar on Friday accused the BJP of creating confusion and not fulfilling his party's demands.

The SBSP, which has four MLAs in the 403-member Assembly, had contested

the Uttar Pradesh civic polls separately.

Mr. Rajbhar said he was in talks with Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee, Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray, Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav, SP president Akhilesh Yadav and BSP chief Mayawati, and a decision on retaining or severing ties with the saffron party would be taken after February 24. Asked about the possibility of him parting ways with the BJP, he said, "The option of tying up with the SP-BSP alliance or with any other party is open. We can go anywhere."

Govt. must protect Adivasi families, says Ahmed Patel

Questions Centre's silence on SC order to evict families

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

China uses DNA to track its people, with U.S. help

Govt. is preparing a DNA database that could be used to chase down Uighurs who resist Beijing's plans, say rights groups

SU-LEE WEE
BEIJING

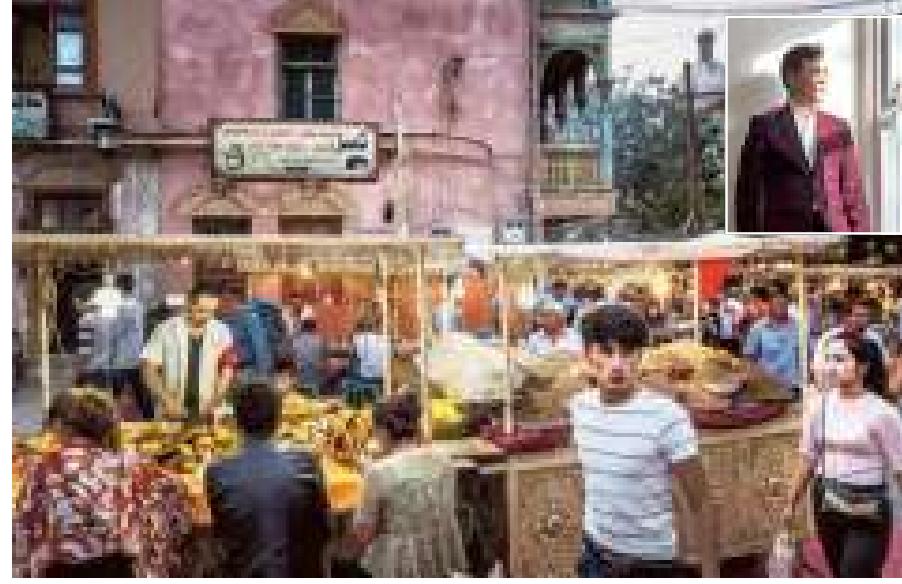
The authorities called it a free health check. Tahir Imin had his doubts.

They drew blood from the 38-year-old Muslim, scanned his face, recorded his voice and took his fingerprints. They didn't bother to check his heart or kidneys, and they rebuffed his request to see the results.

"They said, 'You don't have the right to ask about this,'" Mr. Imin said. "If you want to ask more," they said, "you can go to the police."

Mr. Imin was one of millions of people caught up in a vast Chinese campaign of surveillance and oppression. To give it teeth, Chinese officials are collecting DNA — and they got unlikely corporate and academic help from the U.S. to do it.

China wants to make the country's Uighurs, a predominantly Muslim ethnic group, more subservient to the Communist Party. It has detained up to 1 million people in what China calls "re-education" camps, drawing condemnation from human rights groups and a threat of sanctions from the Trump administration.



Under watch: A market in Kashgar, a city in the Xinjiang region of China, and, inset, Tahir Imin, whose blood was drawn, his face scanned and voice recorded by authorities. ■ NYT

Collecting genetic material is a key part of China's campaign, according to human rights groups and Uighur activists. They say a comprehensive DNA database could be used to chase down any Uighurs who resist conforming to the campaign.

Police forces in the U.S. and elsewhere use genetic material from family members to find suspects and solve crimes. Chinese offi-

cials, who are building a broad nationwide database of DNA samples, have cited the crime-fighting benefits of China's own genetic studies.

U.S. company

To bolster their DNA capabilities, scientists affiliated with China's police used equipment made by Thermo Fisher, a Massachusetts company. For comparison with Uighur DNA, they also relied

on genetic material from people around the world that was provided by Kenneth Kidd, a prominent Yale University geneticist.

On Wednesday, Thermo Fisher said it would no longer sell its equipment in Xinjiang, the part of China where the campaign to track Uighurs is mostly taking place. The company said it was working with U.S. officials to figure out how its

technology was being used.

Mr. Kidd said he had been unaware of how his material and know-how were being used. He said he believed Chinese scientists were acting within scientific norms that require informed consent by DNA donors.

China's campaign poses a direct challenge to the scientific community and the way it makes cutting-edge knowledge publicly available. The campaign relies in part on public DNA databases and commercial technology, much of it made or managed in the U.S. In turn, Chinese scientists have contributed Uighur DNA samples to a global database, potentially violating scientific norms of consent.

Cooperation from the global scientific community "legitimises this type of genetic surveillance," said Mark Munsterhjelm, an assistant professor at the University of Windsor in Ontario who has closely tracked the use of U.S. technology in Xinjiang.

In Xinjiang, in northwestern China, the programme was known as "Physicals for All." From 2016-17, nearly 36 million people took part in it, according to Xinhua. Officials collected DNA samples, images of irises and other personal data, according to Tahir Imin and rights groups. Xinjiang has a population of about 24.5 million.

according to Xinhua. Officials collected DNA samples, images of irises and other personal data, according to Tahir Imin and rights groups. Xinjiang has a population of about 24.5 million.

'Internal use'

In a statement, the Xinjiang government denied that it collects DNA samples as part of the free medical check-ups. It said the DNA machines that were bought by Xinjiang officials were for "internal use". China has for decades maintained an iron grip in Xinjiang. In recent years, it has blamed Uighurs for a series of terrorist attacks in Xinjiang and elsewhere in China, including a 2013 incident in which a driver struck two people in Tiananmen Square in Beijing.

In late 2016, the Communist Party embarked on a campaign to turn the Uighurs and other largely Muslim minority groups into loyal supporters. The government locked up hundreds of thousands of them in what it called job training camps, touted as a way to escape poverty, backwardness and radical Islam. It also began to take DNA samples. ■ NYT

Saudi Arabia, China cement ties during Crown Prince's visit

Riyadh distances itself from Beijing's approach in Xinjiang

ATUL ANEJA
BEIJING

China and Saudi Arabia have cemented ties based on a stronger energy relationship as well as Riyadh's decision to distance itself from the controversy surrounding Beijing's approach towards Xinjiang.

Saudi Arabia has also pledged support for the Belt and Road Initiative — Chinese President Xi Jinping's signature connectivity enterprise.

A statement by the Saudi energy giant, Aramco, said the company had agreed to set up a joint venture with China's military equipment heavyweight, Norinco. The two would build a refining and petrochemical complex, worth more than \$10 billion in the northeastern Chinese city of Panjin.

They would form the Huajin Aramco Petrochemical Company — a new firm that would include a refinery processing 300,000 barrels



Strong bond: Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing on Friday. ■ AP

per day, as well as an ethylene cracker. The deal was signed during Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's visit to China.

Reuters referred to a report from Chinese state-television, which quoted President Xi as saying that the two countries must strengthen international cooperation on de-radicalisation to "prevent the infiltration and spread of extremist thinking".

According to the report, Prince Mohammed told Pre-

sident Xi that Riyadh respected and supported China's right to protect its own security and take counter-terror and de-radicalisation steps.

The state-run English language China Global Television Network also quoted President Xi as saying that Beijing and Riyadh should promote counter-terrorism cooperation in West Asia, strengthen international cooperation, and prevent the spread of "extreme ideas".

Pakistan Army strips ex-ISI boss of benefits

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's army has stripped a former spy chief of his pension and other benefits over a book he co-authored with his former Indian counterpart.

Maj. Gen. Asif Ghafoor, an army spokesman, said on Friday that a military court had found retired Lt. Gen. Asad Durrani guilty of violating the military's code of conduct. He did not elaborate.

Lt. Gen. Durrani co-authored *Spy Chronicles*, a book that documents his exploits as head of Inter-Services Intelligence from 1990 to 1992, with A.S. Daulat, the former head of India's Research and Analysis Wing, and Indian journalist Aditya Sinha. Released last year, it suggests Pakistan cooperated with the U.S. in the 2011 raid that killed Osama bin Laden.

Maj. Gen. Asif Ghafoor added that two military officers were also in custody, facing espionage charges.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

A ninth lawmaker quit Britain's main Opposition Labour Party on Friday, blaming leader Jeremy Corbyn's handling of accusations of anti-Semitism within its ranks.

Ian Austin's resignation adds to a mounting rebellion against Mr. Corbyn over the issues of anti-Semitism and Brexit. Mr. Austin said he



was "appalled at the offence and distress Jeremy Corbyn and the Labour Party have caused to Jewish people"

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice Tender No. 14 & 15/18-19/SE/PHC/PKD

CWSS to Kozhikampara, Vadakarapathy and Eruthempathy in Palakkad District - Package II - Construction of 8Mld WTP, 9.8 LM OHSR, Supplying and Laying CWPM and CWGM & CWSS to Perumatti, Pattancheri, Elappally and Nalappilly Phase-II Package I - Construction of 16GL, 5LL, 17.5LL OHSSRs, Supplying and Laying CWPW and CWGM

EMD : Rs. 5,00,000/- each

Last Date for submitting Tender : 18-03-2019, 03:00pm

FORM PRICE : Rs. 16,800/- each

Phone : 04912544927, Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, Superintending Engineer : www.etenders.kerala.gov.in KWA-JB-GL-6-675-2018-15 PH Circle, Palakkad

Terms & conditions, Qty., Tender Fee, EMD are available in tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in

DPR/1316/Tender/2019

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu
Phone : 04324-277001 (10 Lines)
E-mail : purchase.mjn@tnpl.co.in / purchase.awmatl@tnpl.co.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

| Tender No. | Material Description | Due Date |
|------------|--|------------|
| 181913 | HW Refiner Segments (Stator & Rotor) for Paper Machine # 3 | 16.03.2019 |
| 181913 | Non Ferric Alum (Al2O3 Min. 16.5%) | 09.03.2019 |
| 181913 | Sodium Silicate - Alkaline | 12.03.2019 |
| 181913 | Hydrogen Peroxide 50% | 12.03.2019 |
| 007226 | | |

Terms & conditions, Qty., Tender Fee, EMD are available in tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in

DPR/1316/Tender/2019

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KARNATAKA SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION BOARD

6th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560 003
Ph: 080- 23349434 Fax: 23347670

No.B3/M.Q.Upgradation.18/2018-19 Date: 21.02.2019

e- TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Director, Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board, hereby invites tenders from eligible bidders for the "Supply of pre-printed S.S.L.C. marks cards using 'monolayer tear resistant and water-resistant synthetic paper' along with over printing of variable data and scanning pertaining to April and June 2019 S.S.L.C. examinations" as per K.T.P.P. Act 1999, through e-procurement portal only. Tender document may be downloaded from www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in or www.kseeb.kar.nic.in. Tender commences on 23.02.2019 and the last date for submission 25.03.2019 at 4.00 PM. Tender pre-bid meeting on 12.03.2019 at 11.00 am in the office of the Director, Exams, opening of technical bid on 28.03.2019 at 04.00pm, opening of commercial bid tentatively on 01.04.2019 at 04.00PM, approximate value of tender is Rs.1,87,50,000/-, tender EMD is Rs. 3,75,000/- For more details visit above mentioned office during office hours.

Sd/- Director, (Exams).

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

Lifetime of Odisha (A Government of Odisha Undertaking)

Regd. Office : Janpath, Bhubaneswar - 751 022, Odisha, CIN : U40102OR2004SCGC007553

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
DOMESTIC COMPETITIVE e-BIDDING

e-TENDER NOTICE NO. CPC-60/2018-19 Date : 23.02.2019

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD, invites bids (in e-tendering mode only) under single stage two-envelope system from reputed EPC/Turnkey Contractors for Engineering, Supply, Erection and Commissioning of 2x40 MVA, 132/33 KV Pooling sub-station (AIS) with SAS at Mamundia & associated 132 KV LILO line from Sonarpur-Boudh line to proposed Mamundia sub-station and Stringing of 2nd 132 KV Circuit from 132/33 KV Grid S/S Sonarpur to 132/33 KV Grid S/S Sonarpur and Boudh with an Estimated Cost of the Package for Rs.36.12 Crore in Boudh district on "Turnkey CONTRACT BASIS". Interested bidders are required to enrol themselves in the tender portal www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL. Complete set of bidding documents are available on www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL portal from 23.02.2019 (11.00 AM) up to Dt. 27.03.2019 (12.00 PM). Interested bidders may visit OPTCL's official website http://www.optcl.co.in and Tender Portal http://www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL for further detail.

Note : Bidders are requested to regularly visit Official website of OPTCL / Tender Portal only for amendment / errata / corrigendum (if any) and any other information regarding these tenders, as the same shall be published only on the OPTCL website/Tender Portal.

CR. Adv. No.81/18-19 Chief General Manager (C.P.C.)

Please connect us : optcl.odisha optcl_odisha energyodisha

IN BRIEF



Suu Kyi seeks investment for strife-torn Rakhine

NGAPALI
Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi touted Rakhine state's "untapped" economic potential to investors on Friday, but glossed over violence that has scorched the area. ■ AP

Democrats move to block Trump's emergency

WASHINGTON
U.S. Democrats on Friday rolled out their measure aimed at blocking President Donald Trump from circumventing Congress to seize federal dollars for the construction of a southern border wall. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the chamber would vote next Tuesday on the so-called disapproval resolution aimed at terminating the national emergency. ■ AFP

French troops kill top al-Qaeda commander

PARIS
French forces have killed a top commander of the al-Qaeda, Yahya Abou El Hamame, in an operation in Mali, Defence Minister Florence Parly said on Friday. The Algerian was reportedly responsible for kidnapping a number of Westerners in North and West Africa. ■ AFP

White House says 200 troops will stay in Syria

Earlier Trump had announced full withdrawal



On the lookout: U.S. troops near Manbij, Syria, on February 7. ■ NYT

zones. Defense Department officials declined to comment and referred questions to the White House.

But a senior administration official said the move was aimed at encouraging France and Britain to keep troops in Syria, as well as to help secure a safe zone near the Turkish border.

Senator Lindsey Graham (Republican), a vocal critic of Mr. Trump's earlier withdrawal decision, praised the announcement on Thursday. Leaving a residual force in Syria would "ensure ISIS does not return and that Iran does not fill the vacuum that would have been left if we completely withdrew," he wrote in a statement posted on Twitter, in a reference to the Islamic State.

The official said the troops would be based in northeast Syria as well as at a small outpost in al-Tanf, in the country's southeast, near its border with Iraq and Jordan. ■ NYT

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT IDENTIFICATION NO. RWS&S DIVN., PURI - 99 OF 2018-19 (06752) 251276; E-mail:- erewss_puri@nic.in

1787-O:
The following changes are to be considered for the Bid Identification No.erewss_puri-99/2018-19. All the bids will be drawn up in the standard Percentage rate contract form of OPWD instead of item rate contract.

| Sl. No. | Name of the Work | Appx. Value of work (Rs. in Lakhs) | EMD to be deposited (In Rs.) | Cost of Tender Paper | Class of Contractor | Period of Completion |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

<tbl_r cells="7" ix="1" maxcspan="1" maxrspan="1

MARKET WATCH

| | PRICE | CHANGE |
|-----------|--------|--------|
| Sensex | 35,871 | -0.07 |
| US Dollar | 71.14 | 0.14 |
| Gold | 34,500 | -0.95 |
| Brent oil | 67.09 | 0.09 |

NIFTY 50

| | PRICE | CHANGE |
|-------------------|----------|--------|
| Adani Ports | 354.30 | -1.45 |
| Asian Paints | 1397.80 | 0.00 |
| Axis Bank | 702.05 | 4.85 |
| Bajaj Auto | 2816.85 | 2.90 |
| Bajaj Finserv | 6195.65 | 26.55 |
| Bajaj Finance | 2640.40 | -14.30 |
| Bharti Airtel | 313.85 | 3.95 |
| BPCL | 344.20 | 8.90 |
| Coal India | 214.95 | 1.25 |
| Dr Reddy's Lab | 2639.50 | 53.20 |
| Eicher Motors | 20595.45 | 148.00 |
| GAIL (India) | 327.15 | -4.55 |
| Grasim Ind | 758.70 | 10.90 |
| HCL Tech. | 1066.15 | 12.75 |
| HDFC | 1887.40 | -4.05 |
| HDFC Bank | 2091.45 | -24.45 |
| Hero MotoCorp | 2679.85 | 38.60 |
| Hindalco | 196.45 | 2.05 |
| ITC | 274.30 | -0.75 |
| JSW Steel | 285.85 | 8.80 |
| Kotak Bank | 1237.90 | -51.25 |
| L&T | 1280.35 | -3.75 |
| M&M | 646.60 | 12.40 |
| Maurti Suzuki | 6912.40 | 110.85 |
| NTPC | 139.70 | 3.25 |
| ONGC | 148.60 | 1.65 |
| PowerGrid Corp | 181.90 | 0.10 |
| Reliance Ind | 1232.35 | -14.55 |
| State Bank | 270.95 | 2.95 |
| Sun Pharma | 430.50 | 0.80 |
| Tata Motors | 174.30 | 4.60 |
| Tata Steel | 502.30 | 3.45 |
| TCS | 1923.65 | 11.45 |
| Tech Mahindra | 826.00 | 5.35 |
| Titan | 1041.60 | -0.90 |
| UltraTech Cement | 3625.70 | -5.55 |
| UPL | 827.35 | 1.10 |
| Vedanta | 169.65 | 5.05 |
| Wipro | 378.75 | 4.20 |
| YES Bank | 222.00 | 6.85 |
| Zee Entertainment | 448.25 | 1.75 |

EXCHANGE RATES

| CURRENCY | TT BUY | TT SELL |
|--------------------|--------|---------|
| US Dollar | 70.94 | 71.26 |
| Euro | 80.40 | 80.76 |
| British Pound | 92.24 | 92.67 |
| Japanese Yen (100) | 63.98 | 64.27 |
| Chinese Yuan | 10.56 | 10.61 |
| Swiss Franc | 70.87 | 71.19 |
| Singapore Dollar | 52.44 | 52.68 |
| Canadian Dollar | 53.67 | 53.91 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 17.39 | 17.48 |

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

February 22 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g) 43.7... (43.5)
22 ct gold (1 g) 3189... (3206)

Relief for start-ups with tax notice

CBDT may direct quick disposal of appeals from 300 firms having demand orders

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

NEW DELHI

About 300 start-ups which had received tax payment orders due to issues related to 'angel tax' may soon get relief, as the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has asked industry representatives to submit the names and PAN details of all the affected start-ups.

Though the government, earlier this week notified the new rules pertaining to angel tax that exempted registered start-ups of a specified size from the tax, and any scrutiny to do with its applicability, it did not address the issues of start-ups that had already received assessment orders. Once the list is handed over, the CBDT, which met industry representatives on Friday, may issue direc-



Great escape: The CBDT has sought PAN details and names of all start-ups that have received the orders. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

tives to its officers for "expeditious disposal of appeals."

Exemption certificates
We have requested the CBDT to consider issuing exemption certificates to start-ups having demand order/

in appeal," Sachin Taparia, founder and chairman of LocalCircles, who was part of the meeting, told *The Hindu*. He added that the CBDT had requested them for the PAN details and names of all start-ups having orders and

Joint effort vital for 5G roll-out

Regulation, licensing framework should be an enabler: TRAI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

A combined effort by industry players and regulators will be essential for timely roll-out of 5G services in India, as per a white paper on 'Enabling 5G in India' by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

"There should not be any regulatory or licensing barrier on the path of adoption of newer and better technologies; rather, regulation and licensing framework should be an enabler in fostering newer technologies," the white paper said.

The Centre is aiming to launch 5G in India by 2020. It is expected that the cumulative economic impact of next generation technology



would be about \$1 trillion by 2035. 5G, the white paper said, would enable new capabilities and use cases, which were set to impact not only consumer services but also many industries.

"With the range of 5G use cases across industry verticals requiring different cha-

racteristics, for example, low latency and high reliability application for robotics in manufacturing and automotive sectors; high data throughput requirements for augmented reality use cases; the traditional offerings based on connection speed and volume of usage could see a shift," it said.

"Combined efforts of industry players and regulators to align on various related aspects will be essential for timely roll-out of the services," it said. It added that operators with existing 4G footprints would be able to leverage their 4G infrastructure for providing 5G services and hence, their investment requirement would be relatively lower.

Promoter stake sale buzz propels Suzlon

Energy firm's shares surge 31% to ₹5.80

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Shares of debt-laden Suzlon Energy jumped 39% before closing up 31% on the buzz that the promoters are in talks with several companies including Danish firm Vestas Wind Systems to sell a majority stake in the company.

This comes four years after Suzlon was forced to sell its prized subsidiary Senvion (earlier known as RE-power) for €1 billion in 2015, and which it had purchased for €1.4 billion in 2007. The company had been forced by the lenders, led by SBI, to sell the asset to repay debts, which had stood at a little over ₹7,000 crore.

"We wish to clarify that the company does explore multiple options for debt reduction along with its lenders.

"However, we wish to submit that as a company, we do not comment on market speculation. At this point, there is no information [or] event that requires disclosure," said Suzlon in a statement.

Tulsi Tanti-led promoter and promoter groups own 19.82% stake in the company. Sun Pharma promoter Dilip Sanghvi, through Dilip

Vistara, Japan Air sign code share deal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Shanghi and Associates (DSA) had picked up 23% in Suzlon for ₹1,400 crore in 2014, with additional funding of ₹450 crore to develop a wind farm business. Since then, Suzlon's market capitalisation has fallen by a third to ₹3085.5 crore and the company's debt now exceeds ₹7,000 crore.

"We wish to clarify that the company does explore multiple options for debt reduction along with its lenders.

"However, we wish to submit that as a company, we do not comment on market speculation. At this point, there is no information [or] event that requires disclosure," said Suzlon in a statement.

Suzlon Group CFO Kirti Vagadia, in a text message, denied any stake sale by the promoters.

India to have own DNS for safe browsing

'Move will also ensure domain name server availability to smaller providers'

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

NEW DELHI

The government will soon roll out a public Domain Name Server, or DNS, for India aimed at providing a faster and more secure browsing experience for Internet users in the country, while ensuring that citizens' data is stored locally.

A DNS is like a directory for the Internet. It helps to convert domain names that are easy for people to remember into IP addresses, which are used by computers/machines to communicate. If the DNS is either slow or fails to work, users will not be able to locate web addresses.

The main aim of bringing our own public DNS is to ensure availability, particularly for smaller Interest Service Providers (ISPs) who don't have credible DNS. Bigger

ones usually have their own DNS," an IT Ministry official said.

Pointing out that there were other open DNS servers, including Google Public DNS, the official said the government's system would prevent users from visiting malicious websites.

The roll-out, which will be executed by the National In-

formatics Centre - the technology arm of the government - will be completed in the next four to six months, the official said. NIC is already using the public DNS within the government network.

The ministry, as part of its ongoing awareness campaign for safer Internet, also plans to reach out to end-users to educate them on DNS and how they could shift to an Indian public DNS if they desired.

Mechanism in place
Asked if the move would en-

able the government to

block content or help in surveillance, the official said, "If the government wants to block a website, we have a mechanism in place. We can send a list to the ISPs for reasons such as child porn or fake news, and they have to comply with the order."

"If you use any public DNS, they access and use all your data. It is not that users will compulsorily need to shift to India public DNS. A user is free to choose any DNS," the official said, adding that with the government's public DNS, Indian users' data would be stored within the country.

The ministry, as part of its

ongoing awareness campaign for safer Internet, also plans to reach out to end-users to educate them on DNS and how they could shift to an Indian public DNS if they desired.

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**IN BRIEF**

ING exits Kotak Mahindra Bank by selling residual 3% stake

Nominee of Dutch financial services firm also resigns from lender's board

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

ING Group has sold its entire 3% stake in private sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank.

As a result, ING's nominee on the board of the lender has also resigned.

"Earlier today, ING Group sold its remaining stake in the bank. I hereby resign from my position as a director of the company with immediate effect," Mark Newman, the ING nominee who was a non-executive, non-independent director, told the Kotak board in a communication.

ING Mauritius Investments held about 3.06% stake, or 58,453,476 shares



Declining interest: In the October-December period of 2018, ING Group had sold 1% stake in the bank. • VIJAY SONEJI

in Kotak Mahindra Bank, as of December 31, 2018.

In November 2014, the ING Group decided to merge its banking unit in India –

ING Vysya Bank – with Kotak Mahindra Bank, in an all-stock deal.

After the transaction concluded, ING Group had 6.5%

Horra Luxury plans offline expansion

Eyes south and east India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Horra Luxury, co-promoted by PB Global president Anant Berlia, is planning to expand its offline presence in south and east India, a top executive said.

PB Global is a diversified business conglomerate founded 80 years ago and has interests in chemicals, telecom and fashion businesses, among others.

Horra, an affordable luxury brand which started off as an online retail store, is gradually going offline with the company opening more brick and mortar stores.

The company said it had already established retail presence in the north and

western parts of India.

Having covered the metros, "we will be opening stores in two or three more cities in the coming fiscal. We have plans to open four premium new exclusive outlets in key markets. At the same time, our online sales are also growing," said Anant Berlia, president PB Global and co-founder Horra.

"Though we have opened a number of stores in the west and north, we are now planning to expand to east and south India," he added.

Horra deals with watches, wallets, clutches, pouches, totes and backpacks and targets both men and women.

NALCO eyes ₹2,000 crore net by 2020

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BHUBANESWAR

Aluminium major NALCO aims to raise its net profit to more than ₹2,000 crore by 2020 and Rs 2,500 crore in next three years using a new business model, a top company official said on Friday.

When the global economy was reeling under economic slowdown, with the metal sector being affected the worst, NALCO took a conscious decision of introducing an all weather business model that focused on benchmarking and quantification, the company's chairman and managing director Tapan Kumar Chandra said after inaugurating an event here.

The new JV would retain the 'Royal Sundaram' brand name. Ageas has forked out ₹1,520 crore for the 40%

C In Nov. 2014, ING Group merged its India banking unit with Kotak Mahindra Bank. Post-deal, it held 6.5% in the lender

in the bank, which it started reducing gradually.

In the October-December period of 2018, the group had sold 1% stake in the bank.

Last year, ING Group, Netherlands' largest financial services provider, was fined \$900 million for failing to spot money laundering.

Kotak Mahindra Bank shares declined 3.7% on Friday to close at ₹1,241.05 on the BSE.

Bank staff wage negotiations with IBA hit a roadblock

Two officers' associations strike a discordant note

N. ANAND

CHENNAI

The 11th round of wage negotiations between United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has hit an impasse with two officers' associations in the UFBU refusing to be a part of the deliberations, sources said.

The wage revision talks between the IBA and the UFBU had been under way since May 2017. The tenth round of negotiations, which concluded in May 2015 (for the period November 2012-17), had resulted in a 15% increase in wages.

When the UFBU sought to expedite a deal, the two officers' associations – the All India Bank Officers' Conference and National Organisation of Bank Officers – decided not to participate in the talks saying the deal would be restricted only to those up to the rank of assistant general managers. The unions wanted the proposed wage pact to cover deputy general managers and general managers also, which was not acceptable to the IBA because those ranks comprised top executives that did not belong to any union.

erated and National Organisation of Bank Officers – decided not to participate in the talks saying the deal would be restricted only to those up to the rank of assistant general managers. The unions wanted the proposed wage pact to cover deputy general managers and general managers also, which was not acceptable to the IBA because those ranks comprised top executives that did not belong to any union.

tricted the discussions to workmen's demands.

On wage revision for officers, the IBA said: "Whatever is finalised for the workmen, on the same basis, it will be extended and implemented for the officers also."

If the two unions were not participating, talks would be restricted only to workmen unions, the IBA said.

The workmen unions said they would meet on March 1 to finalise their stand.

"We are negotiating for nearly 9.5 lakh workmen and officers. Officers above scale V are less than 1%. We hope to conclude the talks soon," said C.H. Venkatachalam, general secretary, All India Bank Employees' Association.

Royal Sundaram becomes a JV again

Ageas to have two nominees, Sundaram three on the insurance firm's board

K.T. JAGANNATHAN

CHENNAI

Sundaram Finance Ltd. (SFL) and Ageas Insurance International N.V. have officially sealed the non-life insurance joint venture transaction that they had signed in November last year.

This signals the transition of Royal Sundaram General Insurance Co. Limited, the country's first privately owned insurance firm, into a joint venture again.

Ageas would hold 40% stake in the new joint venture format of Royal Sundaram and SFL, 50%. Some existing Indian shareholders would hold the balance 10%.

The new JV would retain the 'Royal Sundaram' brand name. Ageas has forked out ₹1,520 crore for the 40%

managing director, SFL, said the operations of Royal Sundaram had come under "the joint venture as of today." He said that the board of Royal Sundaram would have three nominees from SFL and two from Ageas.

planned at the moment for the joint venture.

Growth of 19%

Royal Sundaram has posted strong growth in the last three years, registering an average annual growth rate of 19% and 56% in GWP (gross written premium) and profit, respectively.

For the year ended March 31, 2018, Royal Sundaram generated gross written premium of ₹2,643 crore and recorded profit after tax of ₹83 crore.

Royal Sundaram came fully under SFL in July 2015 when it acquired the 26% equity holding from Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance plc. Consequently, SFL held 75.9% and other Indian shareholders 24.1%.



T.T. Srinivasaraghavan

stake. SFL, which held 75.9% in Royal Sundaram, sold 25.9% to Ageas and retained 50%.

Ageas acquired the rest from Indian shareholders. SFL reportedly got ₹984 crore for part-sale of its shares to Ageas.

T.T. Srinivasaraghavan,

THE GOD OF CRICKET LIES IN THE DETAILS

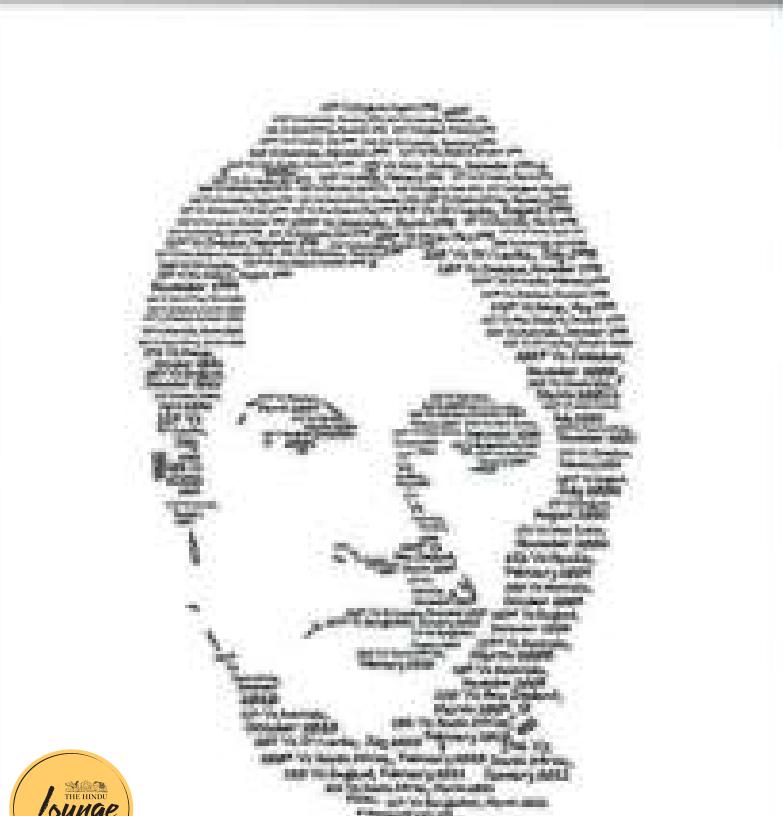
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THE HINDU GROUP

Pakistan issue: India greats differ

Tendulkar echoes Gavaskar's views; Ganguly calls for a boycott of the WC match



Meet again: Sunil Gavaskar and Sachin Tendulkar feel that India should play Pakistan in the World Cup as it has won all its matches against the neighbour, including the last time the two met at Adelaide in 2015. ■ FILE PHOTO

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

Even as the campaign 'not to play against Pakistan' gained momentum, differing views have emerged in the cricket fraternity.

Sunil Gavaskar and Sachin Tendulkar struck a balanced view on the issue of India playing against Pakistan in the World Cup on June 16 in England this year.

Former Test off-spinner Harbhajan Singh triggered the debate, saying "country comes first. India should not play against Pakistan. What is two points (which India would concede for forfeiting)? Pakistan is known to promote terrorism and the (Pulwama) attack was shocking. We can make up for the loss of two points. India has a very strong team. Not playing Pakistan would send a strong signal."

For former India captain Sourav Ganguly, the issue

went beyond the World Cup. He advocated isolation of Pakistan. "We should cut off all ties with Pakistan. Why just cricket? India should not play against Pakistan at all," said Ganguly. He also supported the move to boycott the World Cup match.

Tendulkar wanted India to play Pakistan. "India has always come up trumps against Pakistan in the World Cup. Time to beat them once again."

"Would personally hate to give them two points and help them in the tournament. Having said that, for me India always comes first, so whatever my country decides, I will back that decision with all my heart," he said in a statement.

Gavaskar had struck a different note on Wednesday when he advocated that playing Pakistan was important. "Who gains from not playing Pakistan? India

would lose two points and in turn gift two to Pakistan. It can become tricky in the ultimate qualification race.

"India is a strong team

and can beat Pakistan. Remember, India has never lost to Pakistan in six World Cup meetings and I can't see a different result. India is a very strong team."

Dominant

An India-Pakistan contest is always exciting and becomes very special at a stage like the World Cup. In 1992, when the two first met in a World Cup match, India won at Adelaide to set a wonderful trend.

It came out on top at Bengaluru (1996), Manchester (1999), Centurion (2003) and Mohali (2011) and twice in the inaugural T20 World Cup in South Africa in 2007.

The win at Manchester had come at the height of the Kargil War. Venkatesh Pra-

sad bowled his heart out with a five-wicket strike as India defended a total of 227. "At the top of the list," is how Prasad rated that show.

Navjot Singh Sidhu would reserve his best for Pakistan and his 93 at Bengaluru was the difference between the teams. The fans relished it as much as Sidhu. "I did not sleep the night before the match and don't remember having concentrated as hard as that ever," Sidhu had told this reporter.

No different was the 98 by Tendulkar at Centurion when India chased down 273 against Wasim Akram, Shoaib Akhtar and Waqar Younis.

For all the acrimony the two generate on the cricket field, one can remember a stand-out moment – Javed Miandad visiting the India

'nets' at Lord's in 1996 to guide the batsmen on how to tackle seam and swing.

Shimron Hetmyer's unbeaten 104 took West Indies to 289 for six in the second ODI at Bridgetown on Friday.

Ekta is heroine as India draws first blood

Englishwomen all at sea against home spinners

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

Ekta Bisht played a big part in India's 66-run win over England in the first of the three ICC Women's Championship matches at the Wankhede Stadium here on Friday.

For the third time in 56 matches, the 33-year-old frontline spinner returned a four-wicket haul, the last three off five balls of her eighth and last over of the match that hastened England's doom.

England's slender hopes of turning the match around hinged on the hitting power of Anya Shrubsole. She joined skipper Heather Knight after Jhulan Goswami had breached Georgia Elwiss' defence.

But, much to England's dismay, Ekta restricted Shrubsole's tenure in the middle to a five-ball duck,

latching on to a return catch.

After dispatching the potentially dangerous Shrubsole off the second ball of her eighth over, Ekta hoodwinked Sophie Ecclestone for a first-ball duck.

Alex Hartley denied Ekta a hat-trick, but fell next, beaten by the turn. Bisht finished with stirring figures of four for 25 and was declared Player-of-the-Match.

England was clueless against the variety of spin sent down by Deepi Sharma (off-break), Ekta (left-arm) and Poonam Yadav (right-arm leg-break); the initial breakthrough, though, was given by seamer Shikha Pandey who trapped opener Amy Jones and Sarah Taylor leg before.

Skipper Mithali Raj stemmed the tide and made a useful 40. Jhulan's fearless hitting then took India past the 200-mark.



The final nail: Ekta Bisht ends the England chase with the wicket of Alex Hartley.

■ PRASHANT NAKWE

SCOREBOARD INDIA VS ENGLAND, FIRST ODI

INDIA

Jemimah Rodrigues c & b Ecclestone 4/ (58b, 8x4), Smriti Mandhana b Elwiss 24 (42b, 3x4), Deepi Sharma st Taylor b Ecclestone 7 (12b), Mithali Raj lbw b Elwiss 44 (74b, 4x4), Harleen Deol c Jones b Sciver 2 (8b), Mona Meshram lbw b Sciver 0 (2b), Tanya Bhatia run out 25 (41b, 2x4), Jhulan Goswami c Elwiss b Shrubsole 30 (37b, 3x4, 1x6), Shikha Pandey run out 11 (22b, 1x4), Ekta Bisht run out 0 (1b), Poonam Yadav (not out) 0 (1b); Extras (lb-3, w-8): 11. Total (in 49.4 overs): 202.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-5 (Jones, 1.4), 2-27 (Taylor, 9.6), 3-38 (Beaumont, 13.2), 4-111 (Sciver, 30.5), 5-114 (Wyatt, 32.2), 6-126 (Brunt, 36.4), 7-135 (Elwiss, 39.2), 8-136 (Shrubsole, 40.2), 9-136 (Ecclestone, 40.3).

ENGLAND

Amy Jones lbw b Shikha 1 (10b), Tammy Beaumont c Poomabam b Deepi 18 (32b, 2x4), Sarah Taylor lbw b Shikha 10 (31b), Heather Knight (not out) 39 (64b, 2x4), Natalie Sciver run out 44 (66b, 5x4), Danielle Wyatt c Ekta b Deepi 1 (6b), Katherine Brunt st Tanya b Ekta 7 (19b, 1x4), Georgia Elwiss b Jhulan 6 (9b), Anya Shrubsole c&b Elka 0 (5b), Sophie Ecclestone b Ekta 0 (1b), Alex Hartley b Ekta 0 (3b); Extras (lb-10): 10. Total (in 41 overs): 136.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-5 (Jones, 1.4), 2-27 (Taylor, 9.6), 3-38 (Beaumont, 13.2), 4-111 (Sciver, 30.5), 5-114 (Wyatt, 32.2), 6-126 (Brunt, 36.4), 7-135 (Elwiss, 39.2), 8-136 (Shrubsole, 40.2), 9-136 (Ecclestone, 40.3).

INDIA BOWLING

Brunt 9-1-36-0, Shrubsole 8.4-1-40-1, Elwiss 9-1-45-2, Sciver 6-0-29-2, Ecclestone 10-2-27-2, Hartley 7-1-22-0.

Jhulan 8-0-19-1, Shikha 8-1-21-2, Ekta 8-0-25-4, Deepi 9-0-33-2, Poonam 8-0-28-0.

Toss:

Player-of-the-Match: Ekta. India won by 66 runs.

West Indies scores 289 in second ODI

■ Shimron Hetmyer's unbeaten 104 took West Indies to 289 for six in the second ODI at Bridgetown on Friday.

.....

Indian colts cruise to victory

M.R. PRAVEEN CHANDRAN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

India completed an easy nine-wicket win over South Africa Under-19 in the first 'Test' at the KCA-St. Xavier's College ground on Friday.

Makhakha bats well

South Africa, which resumed at 34 for three, folded up for 167 with only Bonga Makhakha (74) defying the Indian attack.

The spinners Manav Suthar (three for 44) and Hrithik Shokeen (three for 52) scythed through the line-up, taking six of the seven wickets on the penultimate day.

Makhakha showed the temperament and skill to survive on the pitch which offered some turn and bounce to the spinners. Most of the South African batsmen made the error of playing the Indian spinners on the backfoot, turning sitting ducks to the sharp bouncing balls.

Makhakha used his feet to smother the spin, and also swept the spinners. However, the productive sweep shot also led to his downfall as he lost his balance while trying to sweep Shokeen and Suraj Ahuja pulled off a

smart stumping.

Earlier, the overnight pair of Makhakha and Andile Mogokane (30) negotiated the opening hour safely. However, the introduction of Shokeen brought instant reward as he clean bowled Mogokane with a ball that held its line. The only partnership of note was the 43-run stand for the sixth wicket between Makhakha and Luke Beaufort (11). The duo resisted the Indian spinners on the backfoot, turning sitting ducks to the sharp bouncing balls.

Makhakha used his feet to smother the spin, and also swept the spinners. However, the productive sweep shot also led to his downfall as he lost his balance while trying to sweep Shokeen and Suraj Ahuja pulled off a

after the break, playing back to a ball from Shokeen which bounced a little more and gave Varun an easy catch at silly-point.

Marc Jansen and Achillie Cloete tried extravagant shots off left-arm spinner Manav Suthar and perished.

It was all over when Lifa Ntanzi ran himself out trying to take a non-existent single.

The scores: South Africa U-19 197 & 167 in 66 overs (Bonga Makhakha 74, Andile Mogokane 30, Manav Suthar three for 44, Hrithik Shokeen three for 52) lost to India U-19 330 & 37 for one in 7.5 overs.

Divyaansh receives the Man-of-the-Match award from match referee Pankaj Dharmani. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Sri Lanka hits back

REUTERS
PORT ELIZABETH

Sri Lanka's seamers set up a thrilling finish to the second and final Test against South Africa after closing the second day on 60 for two in pursuit of a victory target of 197 on Friday, leaving the series finely balanced at the

St. George's Park.

Eighteen wickets fell on the second day, the most at this ground since 1914.

First the visitor capitulated to 154 in its first innings and then bundled out the host for 128 in its second innings with Suranga Lakmal taking four for 39.

SCOREBOARD SOUTH AFRICA VS SRI LANKA, SECOND TEST

South Africa — 1st innings:

222.

Sri Lanka — 1st innings:

D. Karunaratne c de Kock b Rabada 17, L. Thirimanne c & b Olivier 29, O. Fernando b Olivier 0, K. Mendis c de Kock b Olivier 16, K. Rajitha b Rabada 20, D. Perera c de Kock b Rabada 20, D. de Silva c de Kock b Mulder 19, N. Dickwella c Elgar b Rabada 42, S. Lakmal lbw b Rajitha 7, V. Fernando (not out) 0, L. Embuldeniya absent injured; Extras (lb-1, nb-2); 3; Total (in 37.4 overs): 154.

Fall of wickets:

1-10, 2-31, 3-51, 4-90, 5-91, 6-100, 7-113, 8-115, 9-116.

Sri Lanka bowling:

Lakmal 16.3-3-39-4, V. Fernando 10-1-32-1, Rajitha 7-1-20-2, de Silva 11-1-36-3.

Sri Lanka — 2nd innings:

D. Karunaratne c de Kock b Olivier 19, L. Thirimanne c de Kock b Rabada 10, O. Fernando (batting) 17, K. Mendis (batting) 10; Extras (lb-4); 4; Total (for two wkts. in 16 overs): 60.

Fall of wickets:

1-32, 2-34.

South Africa bowling:

Steyn 5-0-20-0, Rabada 6-1-18-1, Olivier 3-1-10-1, Mulder 1-0-0, Maharan 1-0-8-0.



The showman's regret

STAN RAYAN
KOCHI

When Andre Agassi won Wimbledon in 1992, he was thrilled. But there was disappointment too.

"The women's champion has to open the Champions Dance with the men's champion. And I was very excited about dancing with Steffi Graf," said Agassi.

"After the match, I waited and waited and then they announced that for the first time in the history of the Wimbledon Ball, based on how players had responded to it, that they were not going to have the female and male champions dance."

"I was thinking to myself, you are all about tradition and during my moment, you are not going to have the traditional dance. I'm never going to win this tournament again."

With wife Graf – a winner of 22 Grand Slam titles – around, Agassi was always the No. 2 at home.

"Do you hit tennis balls with your hitting partner at home?" Vijay Amritraj asked. "She is tough to play tennis with, because...what's the first thing you learn in tennis? 'Watch the ball.' But when you play Steffi Graf, you can't watch the ball," said Agassi.

Djokovic can surprise the world with something never seen: Agassi

STAN RAYAN

KOCHI

He lives in Las Vegas and may have lost a number of bets with his predictions on Roger Federer, but Andre Agassi feels that Novak Djokovic will overtake the Swiss great's record of 20 Grand Slam titles.

"Absolutely, Novak has 15 now and he is 32 but his

Spartans stop Heroes in final

The Chennai team registers an emphatic straight-set win

PRO VOLLEYBALL

S. PRASANNA VENKATESAN
CHENNAI

The supremely confident Calicut Heroes was widely tipped to win the RuPay Pro Volleyball League (PVL) title on Friday. After all, it had entered the final unbeaten. So, Chennai Spartans' task was to snap the winning streak and prove that Calicut is vulnerable.

Spartans did it rather emphatically, managing a straight-set win – 15-11, 15-12, 16-14 – to emerge the champions of the inaugural season of the RuPay Pro Volleyball League at the Nehru indoor stadium.

Crowd support

The much-talked-about crowd support (for Chennai) came to the fore as the stadium was nearly filled, mostly by the Chennai fans.

The crowd was on its feet as the Chennai team took a victory lap to acknowledge the fans' support.



Winning smiles: Chennai Spartans cannot control their joy after subduing favourite Calicut Heroes to pocket the title. ■ M. VEDHAN

Rudy Verhoeff was the top-scorer for Chennai with 13 points. Calicut was unusually sloppy in the first set, committing a lot of unforced errors, while Chennai precisely placed the ball mostly. Verhoeff and Naveen Raja Ja-

cob scored four points each as Chennai took the first set 15-11.

Chennai rode the momentum in the second set. It went up 4-1 in no time. It called for super point and clinched it to get to 12-10, as

Verhoeff's spike bounced sideways off an opponent's hands into the crowd.

In the third set, after Ajith Lal and Naveen successfully spiked once each for the score to be 1-1, it was 2-2 and 3-3 before Rudy's spike

From there, Calicut let it slip as Chennai drew level 13-13. Akhin's block made Chennai play for the Championship point on 14-13, but a spike from Ajith Lal made it 14-14. Two successive errors from the Calicut captain Vinith made Chennai the eventual winner.

The result (final): Chennai Spartans bt Calicut Heroes 15-11, 15-12, 16-14.

Time for some earnest action

Indian shooters will aim for 12 of the Olympic quota places



Talking tactics! Manu Bhaker and Abhishek Verma in an extended discussion with coach Pavel Smirnov.

Delhi HC rejects Minerva plea

ANI
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday rejected the plea of Minerva Punjab FC challenging the decision of All India Football Federations (AIFF) league committee to not postpone the I-League match against Real Kashmir FC in the wake of the Pulwama attack.

The plea was disposed of after Minerva Punjab's counsel informed the court that the matter has now been taken up by the AIFF's league committee and that the league committee would take up the matter on February 25.

Prajnesh downs Soeda

SPORTS BUREAU
BANGKOK

Top seed Prajnesh Gunneswaran cruised past Go Soeda of Japan 6-3, 6-3 in the quarterfinals of the \$54,160 Challenger tennis tournament in Bangkok on Friday.

In the semifinals, Prajnesh will play James Duckworth of Australia. Prajnesh had beaten Duckworth in the quarterfinals of the Chennai Challenger recently.

The results: \$54,160 Challenger, Bangkok: Singles (quarterfinals): Prajnesh Gunneswaran bt Go Soeda (Jpn) 6-3, 6-3.

There are quite a number

of other Indian trap shooters in the field.

They include the other members of the national men's squad, Manavjit Singh Sandhu and Kyan Chenai apart from Zoravar Singh Sandhu, and juniors like Viyana Kapoor, Bhowneesh Mendiratta and Manavadiya Rathore.

Shagun Chowdhary, Ra-

jeshwari Kumar, Varsha Tomar are the leading Indian women shooters, scheduled to compete in the trap event.

To be shot over five ranges, the field has enough competitors to fill up 29 squads.

There will be three rounds on Saturday, followed by two rounds of qualification on Sunday and the final for the top-six.

Going for 83kg in snatch, Mirabai lost balance and landed on her hips in her first attempt. She was dismayed when the barbell fell backwards on her second try. However, the champion lifter beat the nervousness by tasting success on her third and final effort.

In clean and jerk, the 24-year-old, achieved her initial target of 107kg and then followed it up with 111kg.

The results:

Men: 55kg: 1. C.H. Rishikanta

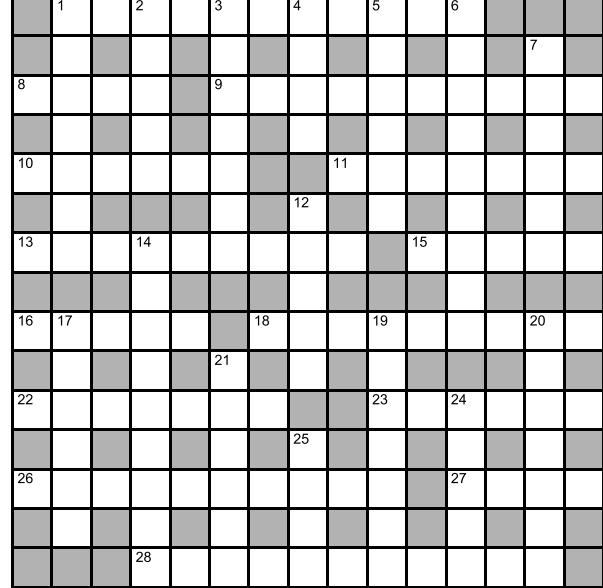
67kg, 87kg, 154; 2. Dipali Gur-

sing (Mani) 70kg, 83kg, 153kg, 3. Thushmita M.V. (Kar) 62kg, 88kg, 150kg.

49kg: 1. S. Mirabai Chanu (RSPB) 83kg, 111kg, 194kg; 2. Deepika (Har) 78kg, 102kg, 180kg; 3. S. Bindyaran Devi (Mani) 72kg, 100kg, 172kg.

After break, Lajong continued its attacks on the counter and was rewarded in the 65th minute when Mahesh was brought down by Daniel Addo. Lalmuanpuia scored from the spot.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12557



ACROSS

- New head of state to continue causing controversy (11)
- Mark of designation (4)
- Things about a man shown in a film (10)
- As a matter of reality, it's not quite fine, shoddy work (2,4)
- Asian queen featuring in one article (7)

(set by Vulcan)

13 Less cryptic clue in lower case (9)

15 Ship's course on river (5)

16 Team's in decline – loss sinking in (5)

18 Exotic green site/place in Africa (9)

22 Traveller from Michigan gets concession (7)

23 Teams regularly having troubles with communication systems (1-5)

26 1/2 O? (10)

27 Article is quite meaningful in part (4)

28 Right mixture of Tin and Titanium firstly added to this component (11)

4 So, it's time for a drinking spree (4)

5 Shoe with cloth (6)

6 Fancy new ceiling fixtures eventually cutting off sound (9)

7 This home overwhelms anyone basically (6)

12 Circular one in the skies (5)

14 Inferior launch drawing criticism (5,4)

17 Idle American measure with nothing in it (6)

19 Biblical scholar, say, residing in English town for the most part (7)

20 Most difficult examination, everybody's consumed by it (7)

21 Recruit some keen listeners (6)

24 Accept an offer that's excellent primarily (5)

25 Tail – it's small/shortened (4)

3 DISTINCTION

RENDITION NOUGHT

ENRAGED ROMANCE

EXACT PEEPLES

ENDSBALANCE

HEADSTRONG

NHLESES

CARPENTERS ISLES

LAMBADA TALESS

DIAATRAI

BARRONABANDON

PIACINE

STEADYGOING

War Hammer wins feature event

BENGALURU: War Hammer (Srinath up) won the Bangalore Juvenile Million, the chief event of the races held here on Friday (Feb 22). The winner is owned by Dr. C.A. Prashanth, Mr. Gautam Basapa, Mr. Manjunath B.S. & Mr. Apna Subaiya P and trained by Prasanna Kumar.

1 FLASHING STAR PLATE (DIV. 1), (1,200m), rated 15 to 35, 5-y-o & over; **BOLD MOVE** (Anjar Alam) 1, Island Pearl (K. Raghu) 2, Capstone (Kiran Rai) 3 and Duty Call (Trevor) 4. 3-3/4, Snk and 1/2, Im, 14.74s, 361 (w), 18, 22 and 15 (p), SHP: 63, THP: 58, FP: 704, Q: 415, Trinella: 2,391 and 1,025. Exacta: 4,683 and 1,605. Favourite: Duty Call. Owners: Skambha Equine Enterprises Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Mr. Martin John Tower & Mr. John Thomas D. Trainer: Ifran Ghatala.

2 GAGANACHUKKI PLATE (DIV. 2), (2,000m), rated 15 to 35, 5-y-o & over: **STAR CARNATION** (A. Imran) 1, Fire Glow (T.S. Jodha) 2, Sagrada (B. Harish) 3 and Mansutti (Akshay) 4. 2-1/4, Shd and 1/2, Im, 24.85s, 346 (w), 14, 36 and 49 (p), SHP: 104, THP: 101, FP: 2,123, Q: 673, Trinella: 22,873 and 33,657. Favourite: Saint Petersburg. Owner: Mr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust rep. by Mr. A.C. Muthiah. Trainer: S. Ganapathy.

3 HAVERI PLATE (DIV. 3), (1,400m), rated 15 to 35, 5-y-o & over: **CALL ME MAYBE** (T.S. Jodha) 1, Amazonite (S. Shareef) 2, Ultimate Power (Darshan) 3 and Royal Rein (Md. Asif Khan) 4. Not run: Annalease, 1,3/4 and 41 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 100, FP: 44, Q: 32, Trinella: 364 and 293. Exacta: 9,008 and 6,177. Favourite: Kashkha. Owners: Mr. Marthand Singh Mahindra, Mrs. Rina Mahindra & Mr. P. Prabhakar Reddy. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

4 BLACK CAVIAR STAKES (PLATE 1), (1,200m), rated 45 to 65: **BLUE BLAZER** (Darshan) 1, Miniver Rose (R. Manish) 2, Madame Sultan (Irvan) 3 and Castaway (Trevor) 4. 3-3/4, Hd and 1-1/2, Im, 12.85s, 300 (w), 29, 35 and 30 (p), SHP: 102, THP: 68, FP: 4,156, Q: 1,985, Trinella: 12,469 and 5,344, Exacta: 97,786 (carried over) and 41,908. Favourite: Castaway. Owner: Mr. Gautam Mahijha. Trainer: Kishan Thomas.

5 SRIKANTADATTA NARASIMHA RAJA WADIYAR MEMORIAL TROPHY (I), (1,400m), rated 75 & over: **STAR CARNATION** (A. Imran) 1, Fire Glow (T.S. Jodha) 2, Sagrada (B. Harish) 3 and Mansutti (Akshay) 4. 2-1/4, Shd and 1/2, Im, 24.85s, 346 (w), 14, 36 and 49 (p), SHP: 104, THP: 101, FP: 19, Q: 673, Trinella: 22,873 and 33,657. Favourite: Saint Petersburg. Owner: Mr. M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust rep. by Mr. A.C. Muthiah. Trainer: S. Ganapathy.

6 BANGALORE JUVENILE MILLION (I), (1,400m), 3-y-o, only: **WAR HAMMER** (Srinath) 1, Star Appearance (Suraj) 2, Kirkwood (Sandesh) 3 and Star Cavalry (David Allan) 4. 6, 2-1/2 and 1-1/2, Im, 26.16s, 335 (w), 17, 21 and 32 (p), SHP: 54, THP: 73, FP: 491, Q: 308, Trinella: 3,848 and 1,649. Exacta: 19,845 and 8,505. Favourite: Reczai. Owners: Mr. J.A. Khan & Mr. R.R. Byramji. Trainer: Parvati Byramji.

7 GALLOPING ACRES STUD PLATE (I), (1,200m), rated 45 to 65: **BLUE BLAZER** (Darshan) 1, Miniver Rose (R. Manish) 2, Madame Sultan (Irvan) 3 and Castaway (Trevor) 4. 3-3/4, Hd and 1-1/2, Im, 12.85s, 300 (w), 29, 35 and 30 (p), SHP: 102, THP: 68, FP: 4,156, Q: 1,985, Trinella: 12,469 and 5,344, Exacta: 97,786 (carried over) and 41,908. Favourite: Castaway. Owner: Mr. Gautam Mahijha. Trainer: Kishan Thomas.

8 FLASHING STAR PLATE (DIV. 1), (1,200m), rated 15 to 35, 5-y-o & over: **SAN BERNARDINO** (Akshay) 1, Habanero (Md. Asif Khan) 2, Blarney Stone (A. Imran) 3 and Fotogenic (Praveen Shinde) 4. Nk, 1 and 2-1/4, Im, 14.66s, 34 (w), 15, 22 and 27 (p), SHP: 53, THP: 58, FP: 243, Q: 132, Trinella: 2,344 and 1,435. Exacta: 53,902 and 92,404. Favourite: San Bernardino. Owners: Mr. Clinton Miller, Mr. Sujay Chandras, Mr. Martin Alan Wheeler & Mr. Dean Stephens. Trainer: Neil Davyane.

9 HAVERI PLATE (DIV. 1), (1,400m), rated 30 to 50, 5-y-o & over: **PIPER REGINA** (Srinath) 1, Brooklyn Supreme (Chetan) 2, Bluejay (T.S. Jodha) 3 and Deepalki (R. Pradeep) 4. 1-1/4, 1 and 1, Im, 26.16s, 335 (w), 17, 21 and 32 (p), SHP: 54, THP: 73, FP: 491, Q: 308, Trinella: 3,848 and 1,649. Exacta: 19,845 and 8,505. Favourite: Reczai. Owners: Mr. J.A. Khan & Mr. R.R. Byramji. Trainer: Parvati Byramji.

10 JACKPOT: ₹8,016 (80 tks.); Runner-up: ₹825 (333 tks.); Treble (i): 323 (32 tks.); (ii): 226 (53 tks.); (iii): 8,794 (three tks.).

11

12

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TV PICKS

South Africa vs Sri Lanka: 2nd Test, Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 1.30 p.m.
Afghanistan vs Ireland: 2nd T20I, D Sport, 6.30 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



McIlroy roars into the lead at WGC-Mexico

MEXICO CITY
Rory McIlroy fired seven birdies and a sensational eagle on way to an eight-under par 63 and a one-shot lead over Dustin Johnson at the WGC-Mexico championship on Thursday. Johnson had seven birdies and no bogey in his 64 and was two shots clear of Justin Thomas and Matt Kuchar. Tiger Woods had an even-par 71. AFP

Arsenal and Chelsea march ahead

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE PARIS

Arsenal and Chelsea reached the last 16 of the Europa League on Thursday after the Gunners comfortably saw off BATE Borisov 3-0 and Maurizio Sarri's troubled side relieved some of the pressure on him with the same scoreline against mediocre Malmo.

Important results: (last 32): Chelsea 3 (Giroud 55, Barkley 74, Hudson-Odoi 84) bt Malmo 0 (Chelsea won 5-1 on aggregate); Inter Milan 4 (Vucinic 11, Ranocchia 18, Perisic 80, Politano 87) bt Rapid Vienna 0; (Inter Milan won 5-0 on aggregate); Benfica 0 drew with Galatasaray 0 (Benfica won 2-1 on aggregate); Dynamo Kiev 1 (Sol 32) bt Olympiakos 0; (Dynamo Kiev won 3-2 on aggregate); Real Betis 1 (Lo Celso 41) lost to Rennes 3 (Bensebaini 22, Hunun 30, Niang 90+4); (Rennes won 6-4 on aggregate); Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Aranguiz 87) drew with Krasnodar 1 (Suleymanov 84); (Krasnodar qualifies on away goals); Arsenal 3 (Volkov 40, Mustafi 39, Sokratis 60) bt BATE 0 (Arsenal won 3-1 on aggregate); Villarreal 1 (Formas 80) drew with Sporting 1 (Bruno Fernandes 45+1) (Villarreal won 2-1 on aggregate); Valencia 1 (Gameiro 70) bt Celtic 0; (Valencia won 3-0 on aggregate);

Massive victory for Andhra

Sashikanth, Karn and Ismail scalp three apiece

MUSHTAQ ALI

SPORTS BUREAU
VIJAYAWADA

Ricky Bhui cracked an impressive unbeaten 108 off 42 balls to fashion Andhra's emphatic, 179-run win over Nagaland in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 cricket championship league match at the Mulapadu Cricket Complex here on Friday.

Stroke-filled innings
Batting first, Andhra scored 244 for four in 20 overs with Ricky Bhui playing a stroke-filled innings.

The other notable contributor was Hanuma Vihari (48). In reply, Nagaland folded for 65 in 13.1 overs.

Pace bowler KV. Sashikanth, leg-side Karn Sharma and Sk. Ismail picked three wickets apiece.

In another match, opener Ishan Kishan slammed a belligerent unbeaten 100 to guide Jharkhand to a nine-wicket win over Jammu & Kashmir.



In control: Ishan Kishan slammed a belligerent unbeaten 100 to guide Jharkhand to a nine-wicket win over Jammu & Kashmir. ■ FILE PHOTO

win over Jammu & Kashmir.

Put in to bat, J&K scored a challenging 168 for nine in 20 overs.

When Jharkhand began the chase, it seemed to be in

a hurry with opener Anand Singh and Ishan Kishan putting on 104 runs in 11.4 overs before the former was dismissed.

Delhi discovered winning

ways with a 10-wicket win over Manipur in another match. This was possible with half-centuries from the free-stroking openers Unmukt Chand and Hiten Dalal.

CRPF women keep crown

Rajputana Rifles Centre men take the honours

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) retained the women's title and Rajputana Rifles Centre (RRC) emerged new champion in the men's section of the 22nd New Delhi YMCA invitational volleyball ball here on Friday.

CRPF women spikers defeated Jaunti Club 25-18, 25-12, 30-28. RRC faced stiff resistance from YMCA before winning 25-22, 25-23, 25-22. Former junior World Champion Nikhat Zareen and Meena Kumari Devi who returned with gold medals in the international boxing meet in Sophia, Bulgaria, on Thursday, met the players.

The results:

Finals: Men: Rajputana Rifles bt YMCA 25-22, 25-23, 25-22. **Women:** CRPF bt Jaunti Club 25-18, 25-12, 30-28.

Third place: Men: Pran Nath Club bt Master Club 23-25, 25-21, 25-25-18, 25-20. **Women:** IP College bt Master Academy 25-15, 25-23, 20-25, 25-10.



Triumphant: CRPF successfully defended its title in the YMCA invitational volleyball tournament. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

WHAT HAPPENED ON DAY TWO

Group A (at Mulapadu)

Manipur 113 for six in 20 overs (Yashpal Singh 50, Pravallomani Singh 25, Suboth Bhati three for 15) lost to Delhi 119 for no loss in 11.4 overs (Unmukt Chand 53 n.o., Hiten Dalal 56 n.o.).

J&K 168 for nine in 20 overs (Jatin Wadhwan 47, Shubham Khajuria 31, Manzoor Dar 39, Rahul Shukla five for 36) lost to Jharkhand 170 for one in 16.4 overs (Anand Singh 48, Ishan Kishan 100 n.o.).

Andhra 244 for four in 20 overs (Hanuma Vihari 44, Ricky Bhui 108 n.o., Girinath Reddy 62) bt Nagaland 65 in 13.1 overs (Rongsen Jonathan 30, K.V. Sasikanth three for eight, S.K. Ismail three for 25, Karn Sharma three for 14).

Group B (Surat)
Rajasthan 143 for seven in 20 overs (Manender Singh 48, Robin Bist 46, Tejas Patel four for 26) lost to Gujarat 143 for seven in 20 overs (Dhruv Raval 25, Axat Patel 33, Khaleel Ahmed three for 19) in Super Over (Gujarat four for one bt Rajasthan four for two).

Himachal 207 for four in 20 overs (Ankush Bains 68, Prashant Chopra 53, Ekant Sen 44) bt Meghalaya 142 for six in 20 overs (Raj Biswa 26, Yogenesh Nagar 44, Gurinder Singh 49 n.o., Ankit Maini three for 24).

Bihar 103 for eight in 20 overs (Pallavkumar Das 43, Ravi Chauhan 62 n.o.).

Rishav Das 56, Riyan Parag 63 n.o.) bt Mizoram 70 for six in 20 overs.

Chhattisgarh 215 for three in 20 overs (Rishabh Tiwari 81, Harpreet Singh 34, Amandeep Khare 61 n.o.) bt Arunachal Pradesh 118 for eight in 20 overs (Samarth Seth 34, Vishal Kushwah four for 16).

Group E (New Delhi)

Hyderabad 139 for seven in 20 overs (B. Sandeep 33, Amrit Rayudu 29, Ankit Rajpoot three for 31) lost to Uttar Pradesh 143 for four in 18.3 overs (Upendra Yadav 25, Samarth Singh 36, Suresh Raina 54 n.o., Ashish Reddy three for 33).

Puducherry 101 for six in 20 overs (Thalaivai Sargunam 29, Paras Dogra 32, Divyang Hilmanganak four for 19) lost to Maharashtra 105 for two in 15.4 overs (Rituraj Gaikwad 55 n.o., Naushad Shaikh 44 n.o.).

Baroda 152 for five in 20 overs (Kedar Devdarh 61, Deepak Hooda 26, Yusuf Pathan 47 n.o.) lost to Uttarakhand 153 for three in 19 overs (Karn Veer Kaushal 25, Saurabh Rawat 41, Vaibhav Singh 49 n.o.).

Tripura 157 for six in 20 overs (Manisanth Murasingh 52, Ninad Kadam 32 n.o.) lost to Services 158 for two in 16.5 overs (Nakul Harpal Verma 73, Ravi Chauhan 62 n.o.).

Assam 201 for four in 20 overs (Pallavkumar Das 43, Ravi Chauhan 62 n.o.).

Indian GP season kicks off today

Field depleted as stars training abroad will miss the action

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATIALA

The Indian athletics 2019 season kicks off with the first leg of the Indian Grand Prix here on Saturday. But, with many of the big names still training abroad, the competition will be more of a chance for the rest to impress with their performances in the Olympic qualifying year.

Neeraj Chopra, Hima Das, Arpinder Singh and Tejaswin Shankar are among those in training, while Jinson Johnson has expressed intent to concentrate on the 1500m and as such will be unavailable.

The stars are expected to return in time for the final two legs of the IGP or the Federation Cup next month, which is a selection event for the Asian championships.

Asiad medallists

Among those present will be Commonwealth Games javelin thrower Vipin Kasana and Asian Games gold medallists Tejinder Pal Singh Toor (shot put) and Manjit Singh (800m).



Welcome presence: Manjit Singh will be among the few big names making an appearance in Patiala. ■ FILE PHOTO: PTI

know for sure. The IGP constitutes mainly build-up events ahead of the Federation Cup and also gives a chance to some of the lesser-known athletes to impress the officials and selectors," an AFI official explained.

Making up the numbers

Participation is further curtailed among the women with several events having just two entries – including discus, long jump and 400m hurdles – while Dutee Chand has been listed as one of only three runners in the 100m.

"His entry is a surprise, but we will have to wait till the morning of the event to

three entries will take place. For those with less than three, we are trying to add entries from among NIS trainees.

That would ensure a competition petition for those who have registered while also giving the trainees a chance to assess their own performance," the official added.

Ahmed, Asima elected

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Hockey India president Mohd. Mushtaq Ahmed and vice-president Asima Ali were elected to the Asian Hockey Federation at the continental body's Congress in Gifu, Japan on Friday.

While Ahmed was elected unopposed for a four-year term as vice-president – replacing Abhijit Sarkar who was the lone Indian in the previous executive board – Asima was elected unopposed as EB member.

Japan's Fumio Ogura is the new AHF president.

Neeraj and Renne win



Top honours: Neeraj Yashpaul and Renne Singla who won the titles in the AITA ranking tennis tournament. ■

NEW DELHI: Neeraj Yashpaul and Renne Singla won the men's and women's titles in the ₹50,000 AITA ranking tennis tournament here on Friday.

Neeraj outplayed Ritik Rana 6-2, 6-0 in the men's fi-

nal, while Renne was equally dominant in her victory over Avika Sagwal.

The results (finals):

Men: Neeraj Yashpaul bt Ritik Rana 6-2, 6-0.

Women: Renne Singla bt Avika Sagwal 6-3, 6-1.

Llorente, Rathore shine

NEW DELHI: Garcha Group-Aravali Polo scored a 12-9 victory over Jindal Panther in the last league match of the La Pegasus Northern India polo championship here on Friday.

In the final on Sunday,

Garcha Group-Aravali Polo will face Sahara Warriors.

The results (league): Garcha Group-Aravali Polo 12 (Manuel Llorente 6, Ravi Rathore 4, Anil Kalan 2) bt Jindal Panther 9 (Simran Shergill, Tom Brodie, Dhananjay Singh, handicap 6).

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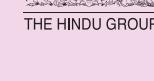
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THE HINDU

Magazine



18 WEEKEND SPORT

THE HINDU
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2019SINGLES
TITLES2 ATP
Challenger8 ITF
FuturesMEDAL
RECORD

Bronze

Asian Games
(2018,
singles)HIGHEST
RANKING

97

CAREER
WIN-LOSS

172-98

Prajnesh Gunneswaran, India's top-ranked male tennis player, believes he has what it takes to be among the world's best. But at 29, with an injury-riddled past, he knows he will have to nurse his body to get there

'I want to be IN THE TOP 20'

S. DIPAK RAGAV

Prajnesh Gunneswaran has risen remarkably over the last few years, from No. 484 at the start of 2016 to No. 97 at present. Just the third Indian to break into the top 100 this decade – Somdev Devvarman and Yuki Bhambri, the others – the 29-year-old from Chennai is currently the country's No. 1 singles player. In a chat with The Hindu, Prajnesh talks about his journey, his game, his injuries, and his goals. Excerpts:

Back in 2013, after winning a Futures event in Chennai, you said breaking into the top 100 was the only ranking improvement that mattered. You've done that. What has the journey been like?

■ It has been up and down... I wouldn't say it was one steady progression upwards. There was a time where in one year I did not actually make many [ranking] places. I have had to work pretty hard to get where I am now. So I am not dwelling on it too much, but I am happy to be in the top 100. At the same time, I know being here just for one year is not enough.

A string of injuries hampered your junior years. What caused them? What was that time like?

■ I just had to deal with the fact that I was injured. I couldn't find any answers but I went about my rehab. I accepted that I couldn't play unless I was fit. I was in India for long periods and the coaches

back in Germany [Waske Tennis University] kept asking me to come back. They referred me to physios and new training methods, but somehow nothing was working and I could never fix it. The reason for the injury was a combination of overtraining and some muscular imbalance.

Was there a point where you thought of giving the game up? Can you tell us about your support system back then and the people who helped you?

■ Yes, there were a couple of times I nearly threw in the towel. I had almost decided to quit in early 2015. [But] I decided to just play as many tournaments as possible that year and see one last time before quitting. Luckily, everything fell in place and I was able to continue.

One key person who helped

me was my trainer Christian Bosse. I have known him since I was 15, from my time at the High Performance Centre in Bengaluru. He is now with the Netherlands' Olympics team. I asked him to design a programme for me. I think the entire credit should go to him. I just executed whatever he asked me to do.

In terms of a support system, my parents, especially my dad, really helped me. It was he who suggested that I play one more year in 2015. It was tough on them

as well because at times even they were not sure. Without a support system, I would have quit long ago after being injured for three to four years.

Over the last three seasons, did you set yourself targets each year? If so, how did you go about reaching them?

■ The first target was to be injury-free and play a full season, which I had not done till 2016. Even that year I played only about 19 events and ended the year No. 320. I think 2017 was

not young either.

If you had to pick a few matches that gave you belief at each stage of your progression, what were they?

■ The match against Denis Istomin in the 2017 Australian Open wildcard playoff event was definitely one because he had already been a top-40 player. At that time I didn't understand how close I was, but I realised that if I could get closer then I could get there eventually.

But at the same time it was important to ensure it was not just a flash in the pan.

After that, the first Challenger win in China [in 2018] gave me a lot of confidence. I did not beat any top-100 or top-120 players, but I produced consistent performances over the week. Another match was in the Davis Cup – the deciding tie against Wu Yibing [of China].

The match [win] against Denis Shapovalov at Halle last year... in fact I played three good matches, including during the qualifying in that tournament. But that gave me confidence about my play and a lot of belief.

How has your playing style evolved over the years?

■ It has not changed much because the basics that you have built your game on remain the same. I still have a big forehand and a serve. The core of your game doesn't change. You then just try to improve your overall game, footwork, aggression and so on. Over time you read the game better and plan how to beat a player ranked 50 spots higher than you.

You are 29 and playing your best tennis. Realistically, how do you see the next two years?

■ I genuinely believe I can be in the top 30 or 40, and it is a matter of how fast I improve. I don't know what the toll on my body will be and how long I can play for, but the top four have proven otherwise. Players' career spans in the top 100 have increased. So the challenge for me is to understand and preserve my body.

I have to maximise my tennis skills to win matches rather than just hope to do it with the body by trying to outlast the opponent. If I play brute tennis, there is a chance I could burn out.

At the moment, I am not de-

WORD PLAY

Rabbit

● **What is it?** It's the informal term for a pacemaker or a pacesetter – a runner who leads a middle- or long-distance event for a certain section of the race to ensure a fast time, avoid excessive tactical racing and reduce the pressure on the actual contenders to lead.

● **How does it work?** The 'rabbit' primarily acts as a visible cue. Runners can judge their pace from how close they are to the 'rabbit'. Another role is to facilitate 'drafting' – runners often follow in the slipstream of a team of 'rabbits' to avoid the effects of wind resistance.

● **What is the origin story?** The term likely comes from coursing, a form of hunting. Illegal in some countries, coursing involves hounds chasing game, often rabbits. In greyhound racing, run around a track, an artificial lure simulates a rabbit, getting the dogs to pursue it.

● **Not to be confused with A** 'frontrunner', who tactically chooses to lead the race to win it, not set the pace. There have, however, been cases of 'rabbits' winning: Simon Biwott's Berlin Marathon triumph in 2000 is perhaps the most famous of them in recent memory.

ON THE BOX

STACKING UP



■ **Premier League: SAT:** Burnley v Tottenham, 5.50 P.M.; Newcastle v Huddersfield, 8.20 P.M.; Leicester v Crystal Palace, 10.50 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 1 & HD. ■ **SUN:** Manchester United v Liverpool, 7.20 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 & HD.

■ **La Liga: SAT:** Sevilla v Barcelona, 8.45 P.M.; SONY TEN 2 & HD. ■ **SUN:** Leganes v Valencia, 4.30 P.M.; Atletico Madrid v Villarreal, 8.45 P.M.; Levante v Real Madrid, 1.15 A.M. (MON); SONY TEN 1 & HD.

■ **Serie A: SAT:** Torino v Atalanta, 7.30 P.M.; SONY TEN 1 & HD. ■ **SUN:** Frosinone v Roma, 1 A.M.; Bologna v Juventus, 7.30 P.M.; Calcio v Napoli, 10.30 P.M.; SONY TEN 2 & HD.

■ **Bundesliga: SAT:** Bayern Munich v Hertha Berlin, 8 P.M.; Fortuna v Nurnberg, 10.45 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 & HD. ■ **SUN:** Dortmund v Leverkusen, 10.30 P.M.; STAR SPORTS SELECT 2 & HD.

■ **NBA: SAT:** Oklahoma City Thunder v Utah Jazz, 8 A.M.; SONY TEN 1 & HD, SONY TEN 3 & HD. ■ **SUN:** Golden State Warriors v Houston Rockets, 7 A.M.; SONY TEN 1 & HD, SONY TEN 3 & HD.

ICC Test Rankings

| # | TEAM | M | PTS | RATE |
|----|--------------|----|-------|------|
| 1 | India | 43 | 5,007 | 116 |
| 2 | South Africa | 39 | 4,280 | 110 |
| 3 | New Zealand | 30 | 3,213 | 107 |
| 4 | Australia | 44 | 4,566 | 104 |
| 5 | England | 53 | 5,490 | 104 |
| 6 | Sri Lanka | 48 | 4,256 | 89 |
| 7 | Pakistan | 32 | 2,803 | 88 |
| 8 | West Indies | 39 | 2,995 | 77 |
| 9 | Bangladesh | 25 | 1,727 | 69 |
| 10 | Zimbabwe | 11 | 138 | 13 |

ODI Rankings

| # | TEAM | M | PTS | RATE |
|----|--------------|----|-------|------|
| 1 | England | 55 | 6,918 | 126 |
| 2 | India | 66 | 8,058 | 122 |
| 3 | New Zealand | 52 | 5,788 | 111 |
| 4 | South Africa | 50 | 5,545 | 111 |
| 5 | Pakistan | 48 | 4,872 | 102 |
| 6 | Australia | 43 | 4,290 | 100 |
| 7 | Bangladesh | 40 | 3,669 | 92 |
| 8 | Sri Lanka | 57 | 4,426 | 78 |
| 9 | West Indies | 40 | 2,899 | 72 |
| 10 | Afghanistan | 36 | 2,394 | 67 |

T20I Rankings

| # | TEAM | M | PTS | RATE |
|----|--------------|----|-------|------|
| 1 | Pakistan | 39 | 5,280 | 135 |
| 2 | India | 45 | 5,590 | 124 |
| 3 | South Africa | 25 | 2,960 | 118 |
| 4 | England | 22 | 2,586 | 118 |
| 5 | Australia | 28 | 3,266 | 117 |
| 6 | New Zealand | 29 | 3,367 | 116 |
| 7 | West Indies | 27 | 2,725 | 101 |
| 8 | Afghanistan | 27 | 2,490 | 92 |
| 9 | Sri Lanka | 30 | 2,580 | 86 |
| 10 | Bangladesh | 30 | 2,321 | 77 |

Biggest Movers ▶



Men's Top Five

| # | PLAYER | AGE | POINTS | EVENTS |
|---|-----------------------|-----|--------|--------|
| 1 | Novak Djokovic | 31 | 10,955 | 18 |
| 2 | Rafael Nadal | 32 | 8,320 | 13 |
| 3 | Alexander Zverev | 21 | 6,475 | 20 |
| 4 | Juan Martin del Potro | 30 | 5,060 | 17 |
| 5 | Kevin Anderson | 32 | 4,595 | 19 |

Reilly Opelka (USA)

Rank 56 ▲ 33 spots

Aljaz Bedene (SLO)

Rank 83 ▼ 26 spots

Women's Top Five

| # | PLAYER | AGE | POINTS | EVENTS |
|---|-------------------|-----|--------|--------|
| 1 | Naomi Osaka | 21 | 6,970 | 19 |
| 2 | Simona Halep | 27 | 5,537 | 16 |
| 3 | Sloane Stephens | 25 | 5,307 | 21 |
| 4 | Petra Kvitova | 28 | 5,120 | 21 |
| 5 | Karolina Pliskova | 26 | 5,055 | 22 |

Vitalia Diatchenko (rus)

Rank 81 ▲ 9 spots

Marketa Vondrousova (cze)

Rank 81 ▼ 9 spots

English Premier League Standings

| # TEAM | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | PTS</ |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |

That winning feeling: Prajesh will need more moments like these if he is to realise his ambitions of breaking into tennis' top tier. ■ PTI

fending points in the first half of the year and with a few good results, I could be in the top 70 by the middle of the year. But the challenge then is to stay at that level and move up without having wild swings, the big ups and downs. Eventually, I want to be at least in the top 20, but we will see how it goes over the next two years.

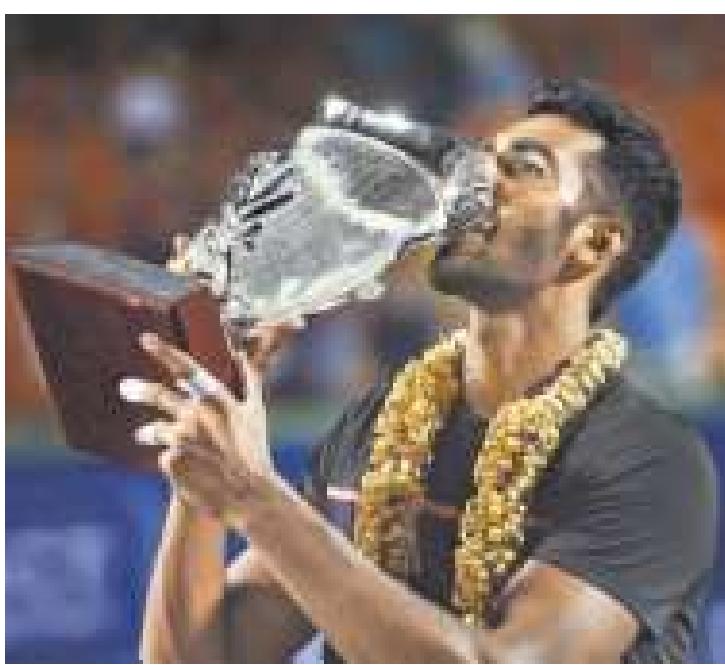
If you had received the right support in your formative years, could you have been a notch higher by now? In terms of the specifics, what do you wish you had – something future generations could benefit from?

■ Sure, that would have helped. But at the same time, you have to [work] with what you have. I have to say I was very lucky and privileged that way because I got the best training that one could get in India. I went to the High Performance Centre in Bengaluru and worked with coaches like M. Balachandran, Jonathan Stubbs and Christian Bosse.

To be successful in this sport, you need a good coach and trainer, but at the same time, parental support is very important. What we need in India right now is a system that can produce high-quality coaches. Once you have the right coaches, you will have a pool of quality players against whom you can measure yourself and improve during the formative years. That is why the standard in Europe is so good.

Like our players, our coaches also need exposure from the best and have to go abroad. We need a national centre with the right coaches and trainers where some of our best juniors can go and train. That is the starting point, that's how you breed success.

We don't lack talent, as Ramkumar [Ramanathan] and Sriram



I don't have a particular favourite... I just enjoy watching tennis. I like to watch the top four [Federer, Nadal, Djokovic and Murray]. At the same time, I like Dominic Thiem, especially on clay, or a Gael Monfils. These are players with different styles and attitudes and somehow have managed to succeed on their own. I would like to test myself against the top four because they are the best at what we do, and maybe I could even draw one of them in the first round of the French Open.

How do you deal with defeat? Do you have a system of processing it so you can improve?

■ I don't talk to anybody for a day [laughs]. Every defeat is tough but some are very hard. I am a very analytical person and I analyse all my matches. I try to forget it quickly if I lost because of just a few small issues or mistakes. But if I feel there were bigger issues, then I try to focus and work extra on covering that base. Every loss is painful and every match is a knockout. Tennis is a brutal sport that way and there is no hiding here. You lose most of the

tournaments you enter, but over time I have managed to do a pretty good job of overcoming a loss.

Finally, what does being India's No. 1 player mean to you?

■ I am happy and lucky to be where I am today even though I wouldn't say I deserve to be here or anything. Actually, it is something that happened really fast over the last year. I was quite far behind Yuki [Bhambri] and Ramkumar. Towards the end of last year, the Australian Open qualifying was the target. Then I reached the final of a Challenger in China and I thought I could get seeded for the qualifying.

Then I won the Bengaluru Challenger and felt a main draw was possible if I could win in Pune. I lost in the final in Pune and though I wouldn't say the thought of the main draw had an influence, it certainly did not make it easy. So over five events in just one and a half months, I made up nearly 300 points. It feels amazing to be No. 1 in the country.

Now the challenge is to sustain it and probably motivate others in the country. I am going to be 30 this year and I hope any youngster watching is inspired, saying, 'If he could do it, then I too can do it and should be even better.'

What we need in India right now is a system that can produce high-quality coaches. Like our players, our coaches also need exposure from the best and have to go abroad

Balaji have shown with how they improved once they went abroad. We have seen in badminton what can be done and we need to find out how they did it and adapt the right methods from there to tennis.

Whom do you enjoy watching on tour? Anybody you'd like to play and test yourself against?

GAME THEORY

The stuff of bowlers' nightmares

Hanuma Vihari's twin hundreds in the Irani Trophy lifted his First Class batting average to 59.98. Of all batsmen to have played at least 50 First Class innings, only eight have averaged higher

TOP 10 FIRST CLASS AVERAGES

| Rank | Batsman | Span | Mat | Inns | NO | Runs | HS | Ave | 100s | 50s |
|------|-------------------------|-----------|-----|------|----|--------|------|-------|------|-----|
| 1 | Don Bradman (Aus) | 1927-1949 | 234 | 338 | 43 | 28,067 | 452* | 95.14 | 117 | 69 |
| 2 | Vijay Merchant (Ind) | 1929-1951 | 150 | 234 | 46 | 13,470 | 359* | 71.64 | 45 | 52 |
| 3 | George Headley (WI) | 1927-1954 | 103 | 164 | 22 | 9,921 | 344* | 69.86 | 33 | 44 |
| 4 | Ajay Sharma (Ind) | 1984-2001 | 129 | 166 | 16 | 10,120 | 259* | 67.46 | 38 | 36 |
| 5 | Bill Ponsford (Aus) | 1920-1934 | 162 | 235 | 23 | 13,819 | 437 | 65.18 | 47 | 43 |
| 6 | Bill Woodfull (Aus) | 1921-1934 | 174 | 245 | 39 | 13,388 | 284 | 64.99 | 49 | 58 |
| 7 | Shantanu Sugwekar (Ind) | 1987-2002 | 85 | 122 | 18 | 6,563 | 299* | 63.10 | 19 | 26 |
| 8 | K.C. Ibrahim (Ind) | 1938-1950 | 60 | 89 | 12 | 4,716 | 250 | 61.24 | 14 | 22 |
| 9 | Hanuma Vihari (Ind) | 2010-2019 | 70 | 109 | 13 | 5,759 | 302* | 59.98 | 17 | 27 |
| 10 | Mosaddeq Hossain (Ban) | 2014-2018 | 36 | 56 | 6 | 2,993 | 282 | 59.86 | 11 | 11 |

■ Sugwekar is the only one from this list not to have played Test cricket

■ Other Indians in the top 20: Vinod Kamli (11th, 59.67), Vijay Hazare (12th, 58.38), Surendra Bhave (14th, 58.18), and Sachin Tendulkar (15th, 57.84)



Plenty at stake in Sunday's North West Derby

Liverpool needs to avoid defeat against Manchester United at Old Trafford in the weekend's main-event to stay in control of the title race

PREVIEW PACK

FORM GUIDE

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Manchester United | W | W | W | D | W | W |
| Liverpool | L | W | W | D | D | W |

HEAD TO HEAD (PREMIER LEAGUE)

| OVERALL | | Liverpool: 14 | Draw: 11 |
|------------|--|---------------|----------|
| United: 28 | | | |

AT OLD TRAFFORD

| OVERALL | | Liverpool: 5 | Draw: 5 |
|------------|--|--------------|---------|
| United: 16 | | | |

MOST GOALS

| | | |
|-----------|---------|----|
| United | Pogba | 11 |
| Liverpool | Salah | 17 |
| Liverpool | Mane | 12 |
| Liverpool | Firmino | 9 |

MOST ASSISTS

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|---|
| United | Pogba | 8 |
| Liverpool | Salah | 7 |
| Liverpool | Robertson | 6 |
| Liverpool | Milner | 4 |

ly in good shape. It's another tough one, but that's how it is at a top club. That's cool actually, but it won't be easy of course."

Adding to Liverpool's difficulties are injury problems at the back. Klopp confirmed that central defender Dejan Lovren, who is nursing a hamstring injury, will miss Sunday's game after sitting out Tuesday's round-of-16 clash against Bayern Munich. This is in addition to the long-term absence of Joe Gomez.

Klopp will have to choose between defensive midfielder Fabinho, who dropped into defence against Bay-

ern, and fourth-choice centre-back Joel Matip to partner Virgil van Dijk. Another thing that could occupy the Liverpool manager's mind is talisman Mohamed Salah's record against United: the Egypt international has played a total of 258 minutes against the Red Devils without registering a goal or assist.

Recent history is on United's side: it has won seven of its last nine home league matches against Liverpool. It will also carry a lot of belief into the game, despite last week's reverse in the Champions League against PSG interrupting a dream run.

"Obviously you get confidence from winning games," defender Ashley Young said. "We beat Spurs away and Arsenal away and now Chelsea away [FA Cup]. I think we had another gear to go. That says a lot about us bouncing back from midweek."

Ander Herrera, whose industry in midfield has helped liberate Paul Pogba's creative forces, says United has found a formula that works.

"The mood at the moment, the atmosphere, it's fantastic and I think the fans feel like we're doing what they want us to do," Herrera told the club's official magazine.

"We're going now in the way they want us to go – winning, but also always trying to be the protagonist team on the pitch."

Liverpool, though, will be determined to sour United's mood and stay in control of the title race. It has the added incentive of knowing it can complete its first league double over the nemesis since 2013-14.

PICTURE THIS



Walls of glass

Squash – the racquet sport played with a hollow, squashable rubber ball inside a giant glass box – is slowly gaining popularity around the world. Studies have shown a steady rise in the number of squash courts

after people became aware of the benefits associated with it – you can burn 1,000 calories in an hour, working the upper and lower body muscles equally.

At one point, squash was even ranked the healthiest sport to play. On the professional front, too, the future looks bright.

Squash has regularly been featured in the Commonwealth and Asian Games, and was accepted as a demonstration sport for the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics.

The PSA World Squash Championship, beginning today, has been held every year since 1976. Top players from over 30 countries

have landed in Chicago, only the third host city to conduct competitions concurrently for men and women.

This year also marks the end of an era, with Malaysia's Nicol David, one of the sport's most successful players, set to call time on her career at the end of the season.

IN BRIEF



Backlash at Meghan's lavish U.S. baby shower

LONDON Meghan Markle, the Duchess of Sussex, drew fresh scorn from British media after celebrating the imminent arrival of her first baby with what they described as an "extravagant" trip to New York in a private jet. AFP



MJ estate sues HBO over documentary

LOS ANGELES Michael Jackson's estate has filed a \$100 million lawsuit against HBO over plans to air a documentary that alleges the singer abused two young boys. The suit claims HBO was violating a agreement by airing *Leaving Neverland*. AFP

An artistic ode to Bengali language

Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata exhibits 18th-century copy of *Gita Govinda*

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

KOLKATA Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata has put on display one of its oldest manuscripts, a handwritten 18th-century copy of *Gita Govinda*, to mark the International Mother Language Day on Thursday.

The manuscripts, composed by poet Jayadeva, is being exhibited as object of the month at the Prince Hall.

Emphasising on the relevance and topicality of the manuscripts, Jayanta Sen Gupta, secretary and curator of the museum, said that though the language of the text is Sanskrit, the script is

What pushed dinosaurs to extinction

Scientists recreate the order of events at the end of the Cretaceous period with data from Deccan traps

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

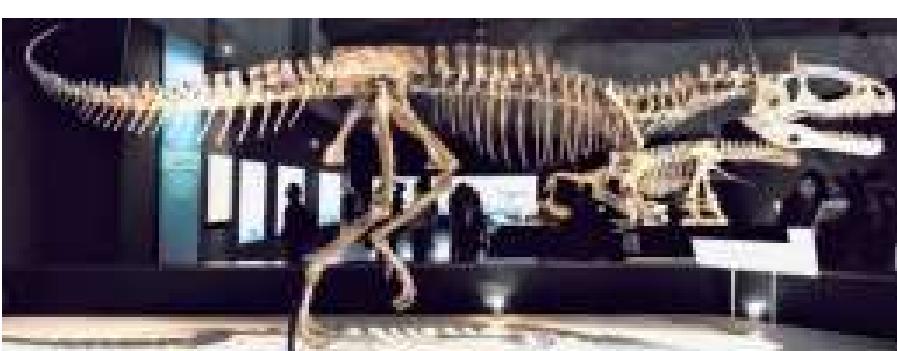
Every school child knows the dinosaurs were killed off by an asteroid smashing into the Earth some 66 million years ago.

But scientists say the story may not be quite that simple, and that massive volcanic eruptions over hundreds of thousands of years may have contributed to the dinosaurs' demise at the end of the Cretaceous period.

Two studies published in the journal *Science* contributed to a longstanding debate on what exactly finished off the mighty reptiles.

Before the 1980s, the dominant theory had been that huge and prolonged volcanic eruptions caused a deadly shift in the planet's climate by sending vast clouds of ash, gas and dust into the atmosphere.

Then scientists discovered the huge Chicxulub crater of an ancient asteroid impact off the Caribbean coast of



Lost world: The *Cryolophosaurus ellioti* skeleton at the National Science Museum, Tokyo. • AFP

Mexico, which they posited had sent so much debris into the atmosphere that it hampered photosynthesis in plants and killed off three-quarters of life on Earth.

The authors of the two reports were able to date massive lava flows with far greater precision, whittling it down from around a million years to a period of tens of thousands of years.

"We are able to recreate with great precision the order of events at the end of the Cretaceous period," Loy

Vanderkluysen, a professor of geoscience at Drexel University in Philadelphia, said.

He was part of a team that dated the vast lava flows known as the Deccan Traps in India using radiation measurements. The other team used a different dating method.

The expulsion of lava there over a million years left the Deccan flows more than 1,200 meters thick in places today, a volume large enough to cover an area the size of France to a depth of several

hundred meters, he said.

The new dating made by the two teams match up: one found that a "pulse" of volcanic eruptions occurred just before the mass extinction.

No coincidence

The other is less precise but suggests that the majority of lava flows came after the asteroid hit Earth, backing up the idea that the impact triggered an earthquake so massive it would have registered 11 on the moment magnitude

scale, something never witnessed by humans.

That in turn set off a wave of volcanic eruptions that lasted some 3,000 years.

"That bolsters the theory that the impact was the main cause," said Mr. Vanderkluysen. "It's like shaking a bottle of Orangina, it can accelerate volcanic activity."

The close correlation of the two events – eruptions and extinction – is unlikely to be a coincidence, the researchers say.

Other periods of intense volcanic activity have coincided with mass extinction events said Blair Schoene, a professor of geosciences at Princeton and a co-author of the other study.

"The big question is, would the extinction have happened without the impact, given the volcanism, or conversely, would the extinction have happened without the volcanism, given the impact? I don't think we know that answer," he said.

'Flying bulldog': world's largest bee spotted again

Its status is 'vulnerable' in IUCN red list



Megachile pluto is nearly four times bigger than a European honeybee. • AFP

specialist bee photographer who snapped the enormous insect.

The bee (*Megachile pluto*), which lives in the Indonesian island region of North Moluccas, makes its nest in termite mounds, using its large fang-like mandibles to collect sticky resin to protect its home from the termites.

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6. Submission of Online Application Form will commence from 28.02.2019, 10:00 Hrs. The Last date for online application is 30.03.2019 till 24:00 Hrs.

Declining biodiversity threatens food supply

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ROME

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on Friday warned about the threat to the future of the world's food production from a lack of biodiversity at all levels, declining around the world."

environment.

In a first-of-its-kind report, the UN agency said there was "mounting evidence that the biodiversity that underpins our food systems, at all levels, is declining around the world."

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Display of Rare pictures of Railway heritage

23 - 28 February, 2019
(Timing : Full day)

Guided Theme Tour

60 minutes tour on Maharaja Safari & more

23 - 28 February, 2019
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John Morris Fire Engine

Display of 105 years old vintage car

23 - 28 February, 2019
(Timing : Full day)

Trivia Quiz

Easy quiz on Indian Railways & National Rail Museum

23-24 February, 2019
(Timing : 12:00hrs. & 15:45hrs.)

Mini Toy Train Run

An exclusive ride on Mini Steam Toy Train

24 February, 2019
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Entry Ticket

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Adult - ₹100
Child (3-12 Yrs.) - ₹20

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A wall painted by Georgia Hill and Hanif Kureshi at the Lodhi Art Festival; (from top right) Nabil and Mohsina, Himanshu Verma, Himesh Jethwani, Michaela and Karan, and Pooja Saxena

Think twice

Comedian Naveen Richard débuts on our pages with a take on why he detests the phrase 'be careful' p2



Bagful of style

Rachel Koffsky, handbags and accessories expert, lays down the rules for us Birkin hopefuls p4



Kaiser of couture

Karl Lagerfeld has left behind an unmatched legacy. Designer Tarun Tahiliani remembers his 'inspiration' p5

ART AND ITS CRUSADERS

Celebrating the next wave of cultural entrepreneurs who are making a case for local voices and ensuring new talent isn't overlooked

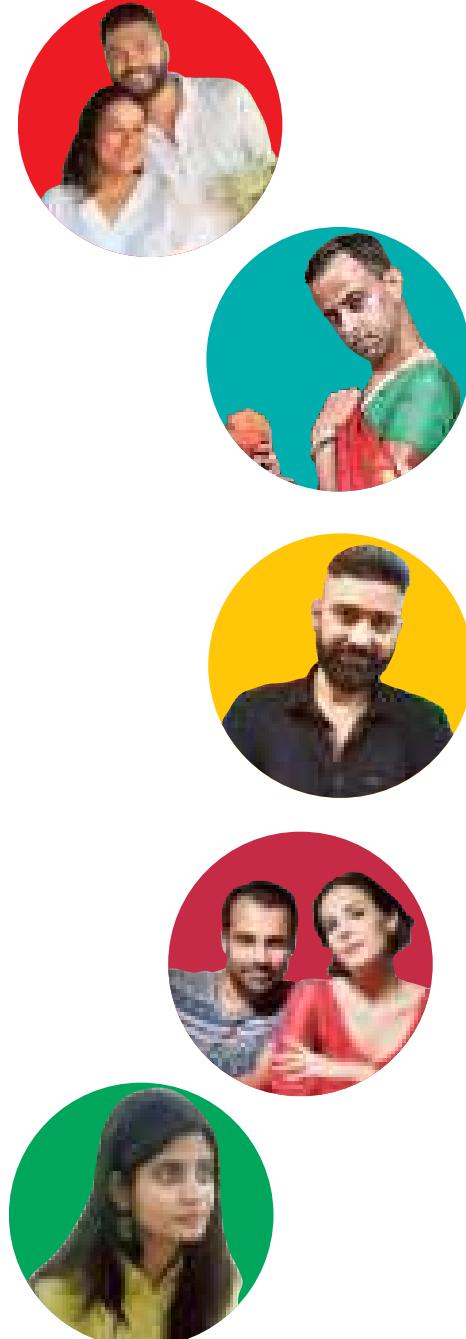
Culture curators 2019

Art and culture have always had champions, but the last decade or so has seen a spurt in ideas, in initiatives, in cultural entrepreneurs. It is not a case of a new order replacing the old, but more a reaction to the times, feels artist and cultural theorist Ranjit Hoskote. "There is no singular, monolithic public anymore. Instead, we have a variety of micro publics," he says, explaining that the new wave of 'warriors' who are reviving old traditions and working with local talents, is a response to this. "There is also a sense that there are no institutions that will support this kind of work. So people are going out and creating their own, which is a good thing," he adds. Examples include artist Jagannath Panda, who revitalised Bhubaneswar's old city with an art trail last year; Anurupa Roy of Kathakatha, who works with puppetry; or Junoon Theatre Company's Bombay Local series, that organises talks featuring theatre personalities, which are free to the public.

Even as established platforms, like the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, have started exploring alternative spaces to showcase world-renowned artists, initiatives like five-year-old St+art are taking art projects right to where the people are. The difference: they also have sign artists, Gond painters and local artists painting walls alongside international names. The art scene today is made up of such small, interlocking, occasionally converging groups that create a diverse ecology. We look at a few who are making an impact, preserving our heritage, ensuring local voices are heard.

— Surya Praphulla Kumar, Nidhi Adlakha, Susanna Myrtle Lazarus, Sindhuri Nandhakumar and Lavanya Narayanan

Continued on pages 6-7



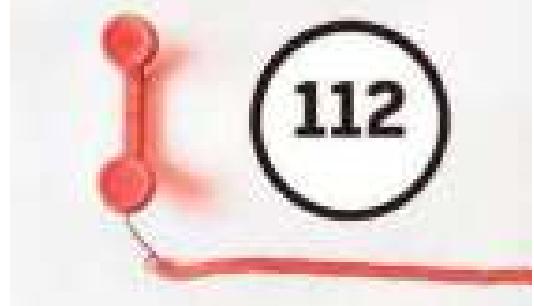
— with —
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 LONDON

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Instapick

Aero India: The 12th edition of this biennial show is on at Yelahanka Air Force station, Bengaluru. If you aren't in the city this weekend, follow #aeroindia2019 to catch a glimpse of the 57 aircraft on display, aerobatics teams from the Indian Air Force and the infamous Rafale fighter jet in action. There is also the Drone Olympics for start-ups and young adults. Till February 24.



Talking point

112: India is getting its own version of 911, and it has been rolled out in 16 states in the first phase, including Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu. Access the Emergency Response Centre by dialling 112, pressing the power button of a smart phone three times quickly or long-press the '5' or '9' key on a regular phone. There's also an app (for both Android and iOS) to send SOS alerts and emails.



Unplugged

Imphal to London: No, not by flight — by road. So get your superbikes and cruisers ready to go international. Tourism Solutions is organising a 50-day ride from Imphal to London in May this year, which will cover over 18 countries. At ₹19 lakh per person, comprising accommodation, visas, on-ground logistics and roadside assistance. For details, visit tourismsolutions.in. ☎ 06379910076



On the table

Robab-Tenga: This popular citrus fruit from Assam is very similar to a pomelo or grapefruit, and is widely used for ritual purposes, says Himadri Deori. "It tastes sweet and sour, and can be found in two colours — pink and off white," she says, adding that they grow without much maintenance needed. It's best to eat them as they are to let the flavours shine. Himadri suggests: "Peel the robab tenga, mix with desired levels of chillies, mustard oil, chaat masala, and salt. Make sure you serve/eat it right away, as it gets more sour with time."

BUY IT RIGHT: These can be found in local markets across Assam.
HIMADRI DEORI from Dibrugarh, Assam, is the founder of eeh_mojah food blog, a food photographer and psychologist.

Pick of the week

Art, entertainment, shopping, and other events you just can't miss



Sound wise
February 23

HYDERABAD

Get set for the Transitions featuring Arbat. The Ukrainian duo making a huge noise after releasing on lynchpin labels such as DIYNAMIC MUSIC, Sura and fryhide. The key to their success lies within their powerful and inventive sound of the highest quality. Their tracks have an impressive capacity to fuel intimate dance floors. Priced at ₹499, the tickets are available on BookMyShow. The event is @Block 22 Club, Madhapur.



Ismat again
Hyderabad

FEBRUARY 24

One can never tire of Ismat Chughtai. Sutradhar presents Ek Aurat, Do Kahanian, a dramatized performance of two short stories - Saas and Chidi Ki Dukki of the legendary Urdu writer as vignettes, by a different artist in a sequence. Deepi Girota, Pallavi Varma Minnaganti perform the dramatic monologues in over 55 minutes. @ Nritya- Forum for Performing Arts, 7 pm. Ticket ₹199 on bookmyshow. ☎ 9581627038/7993525091



Horsing around
Mumbai

FEBRUARY 25

The National Equestrian Championship returns to Mumbai after 21 years, at the Mahalaxmi Race Course. The premier show jumping competition, organised by the Amateur Riders' Club, will see around 100 horses and their riders (including actor Randeep Hooda and his Dream Girl) from across the country. Polo and dressage will also be demonstrated. From February 25 to March 3. Details and registration on arcmumbai.com.



Moving Yarns
Hyderabad

FEBRUARY 26

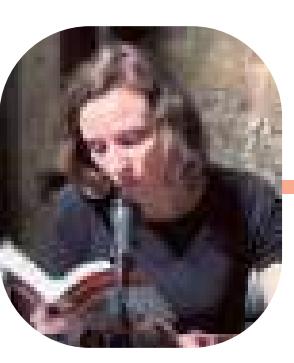
Human relations are as complex as the web of yarns set in a loom, connected through visible and invisible threads. Six city-based artists Anindita Chakraborty, Koeli Mukherjee Ghose, Poosapat Parmeshwar Raju, Pallavi Verma, Palakshi Dass and Sonali Laha share the idea with performances and an exhibition of their recent works. Also includes two-day workshop on frame weaving for ₹2000. From February 22 to 28 @ Alliance Francaise, 7 pm.



Queer counselling
Hyderabad

FEBRUARY 27

Hyderabad Queer Swabhiman Yatra presents 'Loneliness & Emotional First Aid: A Talk' by Deepak Kashyap, a wellness counsellor and life skills trainer who runs Toronto Mindfulness Centre. He speaks of mental health issues that afflict the queer community and our responses to them; finding belongingness within the community and exploring responses to depression and anxiety @ Nritya Forum for Performing Arts, 7 pm.



Sonic scapes
Hyderabad

FEBRUARY 28

Experimental audio artist Akash aka Sound.Codes and theatre-poetry performer Sarah Bahr conduct SonicSkins session, a performance that uses the body as an electroacoustic instrument, with bio-captors and sonification devices, to explore the roles played by internal and physiological states that are signalled to the environment. SoundCodes catalogues acoustic signatures of heritage structures across India @ Lamakaan, 7.30 pm.



Groovy violin beats
Hyderabad

MARCH 01

Ever thought a violin can get you on the dance floor? Abhijith Nair is out to show you just that! Get over your workday blues with the award winning, hugely popular, sensational violinist Abhijith P S Nair and team as you grab a drink, cool down and get ready to have the time of your life to A.R.Rahman hits and other favourites. For details, ☎ 98799967000. Tickets ₹1000 on bookmyshow.com @ Vapour Brew Pub, Jubilee Hills, 8 pm

Too little, too late

Why this writer finds one particular phrase completely pointless, good intentions or not

■ NAVNEEN RICHARD

I was walking home the other day when I stubbed my toe against a slightly protrusive bit of pavement, and tripped. "Be careful," a stranger said, as he walked past. Be careful? What sort of redundant advice is that? I should've punched him right then for being condescending.

Now you're probably thinking I'm over-reacting, and that the man's intentions were nothing but good. "He was looking out for your safety," you say. Yeah right. What's the point of telling me to be careful about something after that something has already affected my life in a negative way? You might as well be saying, "Hey, idiot! Next time you walk past that spot, try not to make a fool of yourself in public."

I don't see how else his advice could be helpful. Perhaps if he had been trying to tell me to be careful of several other slightly protrusive bits of pavement that lay in my path. If so, then he would have been assuming that I



■ SREEJITH R KUMAR

don't have the basic common sense to figure that out for myself. Thank you, Stranger Uncle, for your concern, but Mother Nature has already beat you to the advice giving through the medium of pain. I hurt my toe once, and I will ensure that it won't happen again. In the near future, at least.

I began to realise that this sort of condescending fake advice is being doled out all the time.

The other day, my Tamilian friend made some sambhar to make me feel more at home in Mumbai. If she had bothered to ask me what I was really craving, I would've said sweet pongal. But seeing as it wasn't the season of

harvest, I didn't want to make unreasonable demands. Once the sambhar was prepared, it was poured into a hot case from which I tasted a spoonful. Needless to say, it burned the taste buds right off my tongue, after which my vocal chords used said numb tongue, merely milliseconds later, to yell out in pain.

"Careful, it's still hot," cried my friend. "Well I know that now, don't I," I yelled back. She was offended that I was offended at her concern. Well then, where was she in the crucial seconds before the scalding hot ladies finger gravy entered my mouth?

I'm sure you've all been there, too. I honestly think that the reason people jump at the chance to offer their terrible hindsight advice is that it makes them feel like they're better than us. "Be careful" might as well translate to, "Hey! I didn't make the stupid mistake you just did, so try to be more like me, won't you?"

So the next time you see someone trip or fall or burn their tongue, tell them something they could actually use, like, "Don't be embarrassed, it happened to me too!" Or, "Put some ice on that." Or better yet, just laugh in their faces. It will hurt less.

Naveen Richard, a comedian, actor and writer based out of Bengaluru. Columnist Jane De Suza will be back in a fortnight.

Eating out



The Kashmiri Tales
@ Radisson Blu

Delve into the cuisine of February with the true taste of Wazwan, the speciality wedding feast of Kashmir. Relish authentic delicacies like Nadroo Kebab, Chouth Wangun, Dal Wazish and much more, curated by Chef Farooq, a renowned culinary artist from Srinagar. On till February 24, lunch and dinner @ Radisson Blu, Banjara Hills. For reservations, ☎ 897 822 2662



Bohri Feast @ Fusion 9

Take a sensational journey into the Bohri Kitchen with a first of its kind Bohri Food Festival, presented in collaboration with Taheri Delights (Alifiya Amrelwala) from Mumbai! The feast is on till February 28 for ₹999 (vegetarian) and ₹1200 (non vegetarian) + Taxes @ Fusion 9, Jubilee Hills. For details and reservations ☎ 98489 68949 / 96181 16000 / 98665 10077.



Godavari Palle Ruchulu
@ The Westin Mindspace

Indulge in the aromatic flavours of the coastal Godavari belt in Andhra Pradesh. Curating the flavourful concept, chef Sekhar Babu brings authentic traditional delicacies like Bommidala Pulusu, Beerakaya - Dry Shrimp - Egg Curry, Pappu Chinta Chiguru, Kodi Joint Masala, Pootharekulu, Bellam Jeedulu and much more. Enjoy this culinary sojourn @ Seasonal Tastes, The Westin Hyderabad Mindspace till March 6, dinner. Price: ₹1899 (all inclusive).

packed day with a panel discussion on theatre culture, a navaras workshop and Harikatha performance. Sutradhar's *Ismat - Ek Aurat* is a collage of Ismat Chughtai's short stories and *Skepticism* by The Unknown Pen for audiences above 15 years is a one-act play and depicts an artist's disturbed mind. "The confused and psychologically disturbed artist is surrounded by his emotions. The emotions have philosophical debates and insanity instigates the artist towards suicide. The play touches the elements of absurdism, surrealism and skepticism," he adds.

While the sessions and workshops are free, the plays are ticketed events.

(*Hyderabad Theatre Weekend at Nritya Forum for Performing Arts on February 23 and 24*)

Experimental audio artist Akash aka Sound.Codes and theatre-poetry performer Sarah Bahr conduct SonicSkins session, a performance that uses the body as an electroacoustic instrument, with bio-captors and sonification devices, to explore the roles played by internal and physiological states that are signalled to the environment. SoundCodes catalogues acoustic signatures of heritage structures across India @ Lamakaan, 7.30 pm.

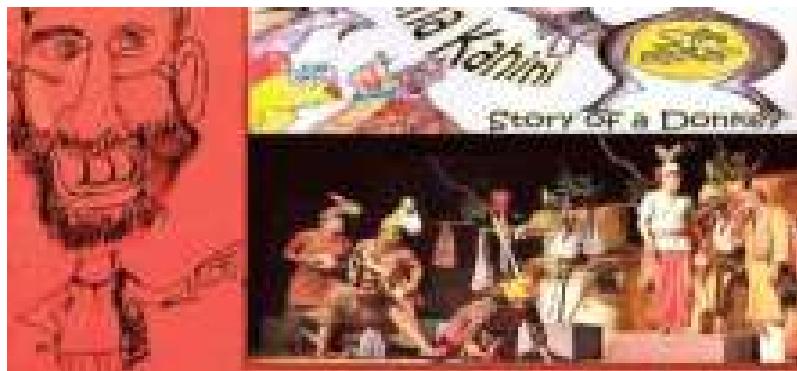
CMYK

A HY-HY

THE DIGEST

Comedy of errors

'Shudra Hyderabad', an amateur theatre group is hosting a play *Gadha Kahini* (Story of a Donkey) on February 24, at 5.30 pm at State Art Gallery, Road No.1 Kavuri Hills, Madhapur. The story is by Tarapada Roy and dramatised by Soumitra Basu. *Gadha Kahini* is a political satire that portrays through a story telling style on how some of the decision-making authorities are being driven by their whims and fancies and how it all turns out to be a comedy of errors.



A soulful Sunday brunch

Embark on a gastronomical sojourn as Food Exchange, the multi cuisine all-day dining at Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre, brings their innovative Sunday brunch where live-jazz music meets a delectable spread at the hotel. One can unwind over a selection of special beverages like reputed American whiskey, tall cocktails and smokey shots paired with extravagant American delicacies while you sway to some of the finest tunes of the melodious Jazz music performed by a live band. Apart from indoor seating, guests can also choose to enjoy their meal with their family in the pleasant outdoors overlooking the pool. Visit Food Exchange on February 24, between 12.00pm and 3.30 pm. Price: ₹2,500 + taxes (including beverages) For reservations ☎ +91 40 66824422



Cartier 'Travel with Style'

The country's automobile cognoscenti is gearing up for the sixth edition of Cartier's 'Travel With Style' Concours d'Elegance. After locales like Delhi and Hyderabad, the classic car showcase comes to Jaipur's Rambagh Palace, where automobiles from across the country will vie for recognition. Categories include pre- and post-World War II classics, Indian heritage creations, and even motorcycles. Simon Kidston (pictured) – who judges California's prestigious Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance – will serve as the chief judge for the event. By invitation only, to guests of Maharaja Padmanabh Singh of Jaipur.



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END OF SEASON
SALE

The bag collector's playground

Rachel Koffsky, Handbags and Accessories expert at Christie's, lays down the rules for us Birkin hopefuls



The Christie's Masterclass

At Mumbai's second annual Luxury Lifestyle Weekend (which ends tomorrow, and features brands like Nikhil Thampi, Glenlivet and Panerai), enthusiasts can attend the primer by Christie's on the luxury handbag as an investment option. Experts will focus on selection, getting the best price, the emergence of secondary markets, and trends to look out for. Tomorrow, at 4.30 pm. LLW is being held at JioGarden, BKC, Mumbai.



■ AATISH NATH

Late last year, auction house Christie's sold an Hermès Himalaya Birkin Bag for over \$135,000. As one Forbes contributor reminded readers, that is more than what it costs to scale Mount Everest. Rachel Koffsky, Head of Sales - Handbags and Accessories at Christie's in London says the legendary bag has seen renewed interest from collectors after the 2008 recession. "In the 90s and 2000s, the market was flooded by 'it' bags, dominated by models such as the Fendi Baguette (to be reintroduced in Spring), Dior saddle bag and the Chloe Paddington," she explains. "After the recession, smart shoppers decided that an Hermès Birkin or a Chanel flap bag was a wise investment – a classic model which stands the test of time." Today, the best-selling bags at Christie's auctions are made by Hermès, with Chanel, Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Bottega Veneta and Dior coming in at a close second.

Ready to buy

Does any one geography lead the way when it comes to handbag collecting? No, says Koffsky. "I travel to India, the Middle East, Russia and Europe to meet with my clients and appraise their pieces." At Christie, she organises two large handbag auctions each year (in London). "I source the pieces for these sales and find new homes for the gorgeous bags on the auction block." Clients can also depend on her advice on the best options for purchase, and at what price they can sell their own collectible items. "I help them cultivate their collections in the same way in which an Impressionist art specialist would curate an art col-

(From left) The Hermès Himalaya Birkin Bag, Rachel Koffsky, and handbags at Christie's

lection," she says.

Even though the average price of a handbag is approximately ₹22,000, Christie's auctions have seen the item auction for upwards of £100,000. "For it to be worth that much, it must be the pinnacle of luxury," concedes Koffsky. "It must represent the impeccable craftsmanship, the most beautiful design, exceptional materials, and ultimate rarity. It is a work of art, a status symbol and a functional object."

Working with smaller budgets

For those whose budgets might be tighter, there is good news. Not every collectible item has to come with such a hefty price tag. Today's millennials, after all, have their own aesthetic. "They love bum-bags, and extreme trend-brands like Gucci and Balenciaga." Which means there's a lot more room to play with shape, size and design elements like appliqués.

To that end, her advice for young collectors is, "save up for the one bag of your dreams that you want to give to the next generation. Often a big price tag can mean hand crafted. But not always – so do your research. Look at many venues to make sure you are getting the best price."

Personal stash

Koffsky credits her university education in art history and mathematics with preparing her for a career in the world of luxury leather goods. "My art history skills are extremely useful – I am looking at colour, craftsmanship, tools. The math skills are very important as well," she admits. "I look at shifting currencies, the overall market, seller's fees, estimates and sale results." She jokes that if she had known as a child that a handbag specialist could be a job, she would have chosen to be one.

In addition to her longstanding admiration for the Hermès Constance handbag, Koffsky herself is a big fan of Isabella Hearst's creations. "They are simple yet complex. Sculptural yet functional. They are new classics." Other beloved pieces include family heirlooms ("My mother and grandmother were handbag and shoe lovers") – a 1950s lucite clutch with a tassel, and an original Marc Cross mini backpack.

LUST LIST

Ditch the gowns

At your Oscar viewing party, skip the gowns and go for pants

With award season in full swing, and the Oscars taking place this weekend, it's the perfect time to make a statement. At this year's Golden Globes, stars like Julia Roberts and Diane Kruger impressed in pants – the former in Stella McCartney and the latter in Kenzo. The two-piece ensembles are a departure from flowy gowns, but are elegant nonetheless. Here are some options from Indian designers. Watch the Oscars live on Monday, at 6.30 pm on Star World. MGR's live streaming will start from 6 am on imbd.com/oscars.

Compiled by Susanna Myrtle Lazarus

Nishka Lulla

Poplin Blazer and Crepe Pant Another matching set, this time in rose pink with orange floral prints. This off-the-runway look has a taffeta poplin blazer, and comes with circular floral details on the sleeves and a V neck that allows you to skip the shirt. ₹13,000 for the blazer and ₹12,500 for the pants, on www.poplinpoplin.com.

Naeem Khan

Beaded Jumpsuit This bold jumpsuit also features one of the season's key trend mechanics – a plunging V. The racy outfit has all-over beaded detailing, a cinching at the waist and wide legs for comfort. ₹1,30,000 for the jumpsuit, on www.naeemkhan.com.

Nikhil Thampi

Off-shoulder Blazer Set Who said suits had to be boring? This teal green number comes with an off-shoulder blazer with metal detailing on the front, and pockets. The matching pants also feature burnished gold metal chips along the side. ₹12,000, on www.nikhilthampi.com.



Shriya Sen

Coral with Tulle Coat Go glam with this moochine coral in eggshell blue. The crepe-and-tulle creation has a coral-coordinated corset with crisscross lacing, sequined paves and a geometric slit; tulle coat with feather detailing. You know those parties are going to stay when you do it right. ₹1,75,000 on www.sareeha.com.

Gauri & Nainika

Open-shoulder Tie and Paperbag Waist Pant If the open-shoulder, further-defined, paperbag top with flared sleeves isn't our current obsession, pair it with bright red paperbag waist pants from the designer duo. With a low back and straight fit, these are comfortable enough to wear to the office party. ₹12,000 for the top and ₹12,000 for the pants, on www.gauriandnainika.com.



Once upon a fair

How India impressed in Frankfurt and why German silver and Turkish glass must be on your list

FLIGHT OF FANCY

GAYATRI RANGACHARI SHAH is a Mumbai-based journalist who writes on the good life



I've decided that I love fairs. Whether it's art fairs, home goods fairs, furniture fairs or book fairs – there's something wonderful about going from booth to booth to discover the latest trends. So there I was, in Frankfurt, a city most people just visit for its airport, to attend Ambiente, the "queen of all trade fairs". On display were the most innovative home goods, from 4,500 exhibitors, of whom 527 were from India. More than 90 countries participate. Davos may be the place to discuss global trade, but Frankfurt is where it actually takes place.

Nothing had prepared me for the massive indoor convention space, spread across 74 kilometres. It's a good thing I exercise relentlessly and am in somewhat OK shape.

This year, India was Ambiente's official partner country and the focus was on handmade crafts. With 1,50,000 visitors from 122 countries, the fair is a great way to showcase the best of Indian design. As luck would have it, on my first day there, in a crowd of thousands, I spotted my fancy friend, the Gifting Goddess. GG is India's go-to person for impeccably-designed flower arrangements, wedding trousseaus filled with the fanciest appliances (think Dolce & Gabbana x SMEG toasters), or the perfectly-packaged Diwali and baby shower gifts.

I'd spotted her from afar by her huge diamonds, which shone bright as she walked briskly past me. "GG, are you in Frankfurt?" I WhatsApped her. My phone buzzed two seconds later. "What are you doing here?"



The Meissen wall, and (right) designer Sandeep Sangaru at his Starry Night café

she asked, adding, "I've come back to the fair after five years, and I'm so impressed." "Really, why?" I asked. "I thought I'd find European and Chinese suppliers, but the Indians are just fantastic. The quality is so good, all my orders are going to Indians," she said. Sometimes one has to travel half-way around the world to see the beauty coming out of India!

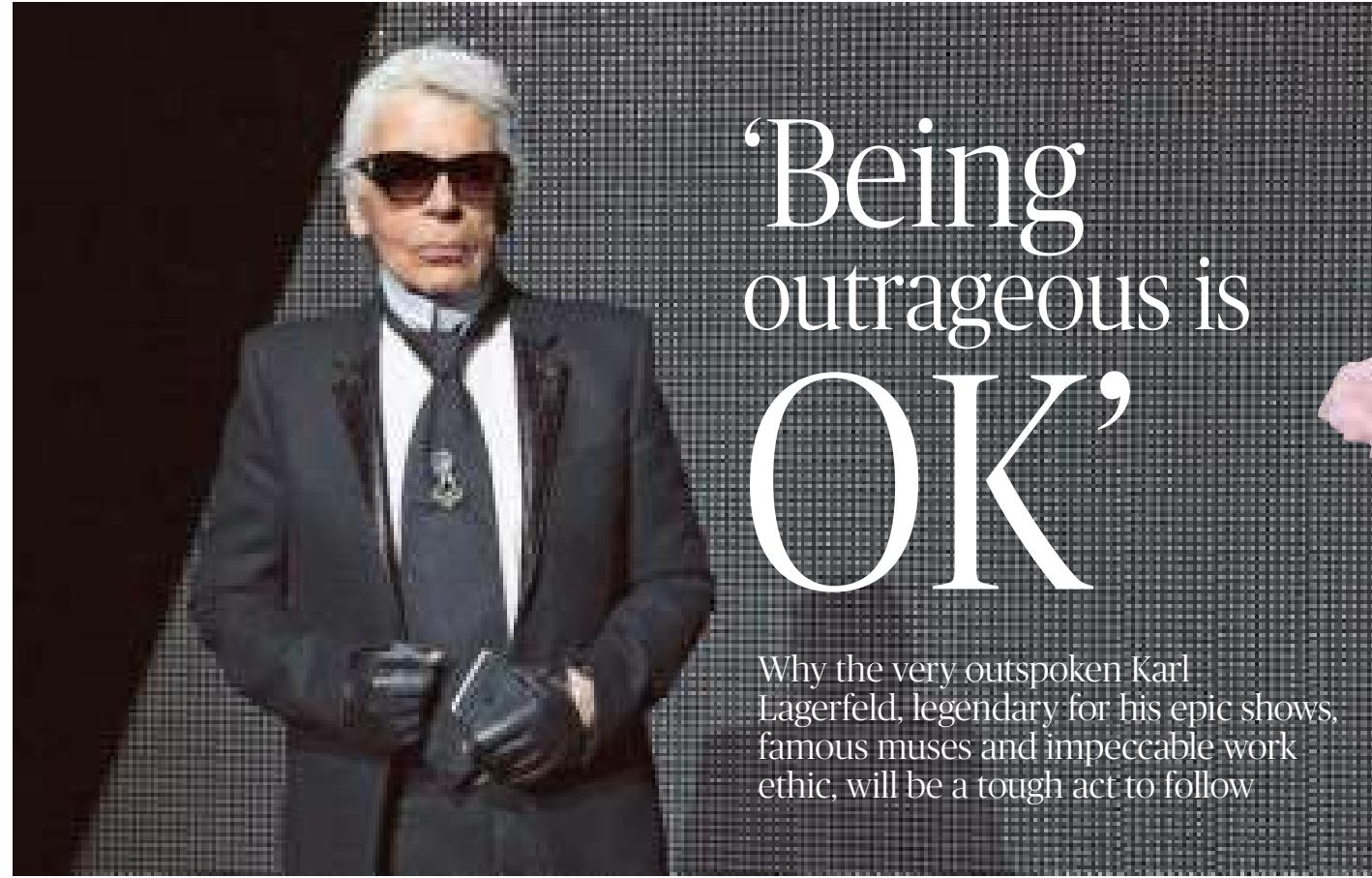
Stall after stall of goods from India were impressive – whether rugs made of recycled saris and discarded rubber (The Rug Republic), to metal goods and glassware, cushion covers and linen. Designs were contemporary and sophisticated. Sunil Sethi, who heads FDCI, Jaipur-based Ayush Kasliwal of Studio AKFD, and Sandeep Sangaru from Bengaluru presented an eclectic 'Make in India' campaign featuring award-winning craftsmen and a series of handmade artisanal wares, from shawls to mats to *thalis*. Sangaru designed a café called Starry Night, made entirely of bamboo lamps, tables and seating. I told him I wished it could be transported to Mumbai ASAP.

Beyond India, I was most impressed with Turkey. The glassware company Nude, which collaborates with designers like Ron Arad and Space Copenhagen, unveiled its work with 97-year-old style icon Iris Apfel. It will hit markets in a few months and includes glassware, vases and table objects. I made a note to myself to tell GG, whose clientele would probably love it. Another Turkish company, Serax, uses cement to make wonderful dishware.

And then there was Meissen, the German porcelain company. I'd tended to associate it with dowager aunties, but in its 21st century avatar it had produced a one-of-a-kind ceramic wall depicting flying birds, painted by 15 painters. Priced at ₹500,000, it was magnificent and attracted quite a crowd.

Later I spied a life-size wooden boat filled with gleaming silver in a stall. It belonged to the luxe German brand Robbe & Berking, whose owner's twin passions are silver and sailing. As I went to admire a large candelabra, a good looking German sales representative honed in on me. "Yours for ₹26,000," he said. When I told him I was from India, he nodded. "We have very good Indian clients." "Do they buy these expensive items?" I queried. "Yes, we sold two last week!" Now you see why I love fairs. Not only are they a place to find beauty, they are also a haven for such tidbits!

This fortnightly column tracks the indulgent pursuits of the one-percenters.



'Being outrageous is OK'

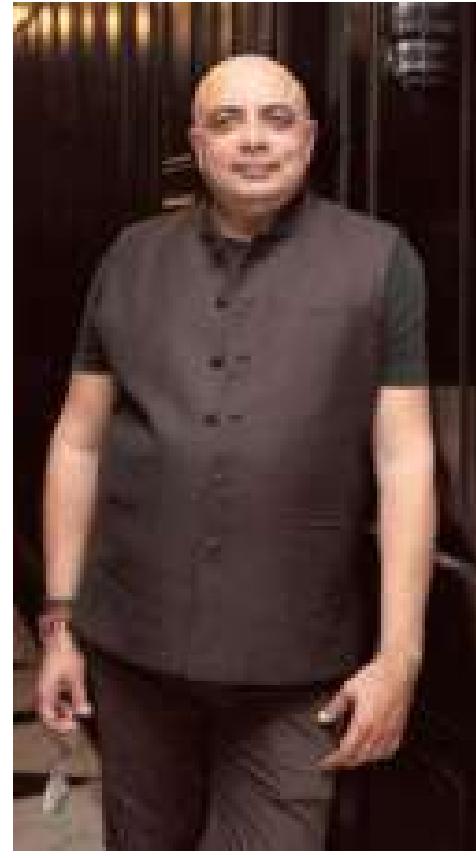
Why the very outspoken Karl Lagerfeld, legendary for his epic shows, famous muses and impeccable work ethic, will be a tough act to follow



Set theory

I've attended at least four to five of his shows, and his sets were spectacular. I can't say the supermarket (Fall 2014, pictured below) and airplane (Spring 2012) sets were my favourites, but I loved the SS 2011, which I was at, where he had a French garden, but done in black and white (Lagerfeld had quipped, "It's Versailles. It's 'dead French'").

For Spring 2019, he transformed the Grand Palais into Chanel By The Sea... to look at the models walking on sand, with waves lapping, was amazing. I even liked the one where he recreated his ateliers – with people working on clothes, as the models walked around. I suppose he showed the settings the clothes belonged to.



TARUN TAHILIANI

Karl Lagerfeld was an intellectual. He was also prolific. He designed for Balmain, Chloé, Fendi and Chanel, he had his own namesake line, he photographed magazine editorials (*V Magazine*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Vogue*) and shot his own campaigns. He went to work every day, and for me, that resonates.

I went to fashion school in the '90s, which was his heyday. It was the end of a decade of excess, and Lagerfeld was putting Chanel back on the couture map. It was a dying brand when he joined it 35 years back, and it is spectacular how he updated what Coco Chanel did, constantly evolving to keep up with the present – bringing in the mini skirt, making tweeds shorter, pairing them with tights. He weathered grunge, brought athleisure into Chanel; he was one of the few people who made sportswear sexy. I agree with (editor of

American Vogue) Anna Wintour when she said he embraced change. He took it to the next level, but always kept it classy.

I was once invited by (late magazine editor and stylist) Isabella Blow to a Chanel fitting in Paris, in '97-'98. It was July, so it was the couture show, but I was running late and I never made it. It is one of my deepest regrets.

Guts and glory

Lagerfeld worked with pre-established fashion houses, and had great resources. So he didn't have to spend his time marketing the clothes or organising production, which unfortunately some of us Indian designers are still doing. So it was a fantastic marriage and probably the first of its kind, where someone came to represent the

He collaborated with Carla Fendi for over 50 years, and I've loved a lot of the dresses he created. In 2015, he showcased his first 'Haute Fourrure' show for Fendi; I've never seen wool used like that.

(From left) Lily-Rose Depp and Lagerfeld at the Chanel SS 17 show, the designer with model Ines De La Fressange, and Tahiliani

Commanding presence

There is no other designer in his league who did as much, who did four lines (sometimes even eight) a year. I've seen documentaries where he said he woke up at 3 am to do fittings at the age of 80. He had an energy that was unbelievable. That is another inspiration, the amount he worked and educated himself.

He was also one of the few people who always said what he thought. He was not called Kaiser Karl for nothing. And I have to say that, however outrageous they might have seemed at the time, I agreed with him 99.9% of the time. His line about how "people buy dresses to be happy, not to hear about somebody who suffered over a piece of taffeta" was brilliant; it really made me laugh. He just said things as they were. He just didn't mince his words even when social media surveillance came in. Being a little outrageous, I think, is OK; it goes with being a creative genius.

I think he did his best work in the last 30 years. He had command at his fingertips. I'm drawing sustenance from that. As designers, we should take cues from his discipline, fearlessness, ability to embrace change, and uncompromising stand on good taste. I see a lot of people in fashion compromise, for the sake of shock value. I think a designer's job is to distil the essence and, at a time when people may be confused by the bombardment of information, to help them make refined choices.

Tarun Tahiliani is one of the country's leading designers. Isabella Blow once referred to him as the Karl Lagerfeld of India.

As told to Surya Praphulla Kumar

Splurge files

Objects that should be on your radar



TUMI

On the road

The American travel company's recently-released global campaign (available on YouTube) is a three-minute video starring father-daughter duo Lenny and Zoë Kravitz. The musician and the actor follow their heritage to the Bahamas. With emotional music, an heirloom necklace from grandma, and a slightly formal voiceover, the Kravitzes lug their Tumi luggage to go in search of the past. The campaign promotes the label's latest release, the remastered and relaunched Alpha 3 (using ballistic nylon, a WWII material meant to provide shrapnel-protection). New additions to the range of suitcases, duffels and briefs include rain flaps, integrated USB power ports and dual-coil security zippers. We pick the classic carry-on luggage, starting at ₹66,900. Details: tumi.com

PARMIGIANI FLEURIER

Time and again

The founder of this Switzerland-based watch company credits the art of watch restoration with giving his life a sense of meaning. The label, which reintroduced its famous Kalpa series at SIHH last year, is coming to India. In an exclusive partnership with Ethos Watch Boutiques (which has 47 retail stores across the country), these watches, which start at ₹2 lakh, will be made available over the next five years. And if you can't decide between a smart watch and a traditional one, why not get a hold of Sony's recently-released Wena strap, which can convert a regular watch into a smart one? Starting at approximately ₹32,000 on sony.co.uk/wena



TOM FORD

Making faces

American designer Tom Ford's recently-debuted Fall 2019 Ready-to-Wear collection was, in his own words, a reflection of the "negative [political] climate of the times". He opted for gentler hues, simpler cuts (but still reserved his love for faux-fur fedoras). And now, in an exclusive collaboration with Sephora, his eponymous beauty label comes to India. The collections, available at select Sephora stores and online (at sephora.innow.com), consists of the designer's renowned fragrances. Our pick? The Sole di Positano, inspired by the Italian coast, with notes of bergamot, shiso leaf and mandarin gleams. Approximately ₹43,000 for 250 ml.

MOD SÉLECTION

Bursting bubbles

If Kiki doesn't love you back, and you are looking to drown your sorrows in some expensive fizz, Drake has a plan for you. The rapper, along with wine and spirit producer Brent Hocking, has released two Champagnes under their Mod Sélection label. The reserve (approximately ₹21,000) and the rosé (approximately ₹28,000) come in fligreed bottles and feature notes of toasted nuts and pears (for the former) and cherry and cranberry (for the latter). Available for pre-order in the US at modselectionchampagne.com



THE GOD OF CRICKET LIES IN THE DETAILS

Presenting The Hindu Lounge

<https://lounge.thehindu.com>

This limited edition masterpiece is not just a stunning sketch of India's favourite cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar. Hidden in the fine lines are Sachin's 100 centuries along with the date, score and the opponent. A befitting tribute to the God of Cricket. And a must-have memorabilia for any Sachin Tendulkar fan.

To get your hands on this limited edition Sachin Tendulkar collectible,

Log on to <https://lounge.thehindu.com> today.



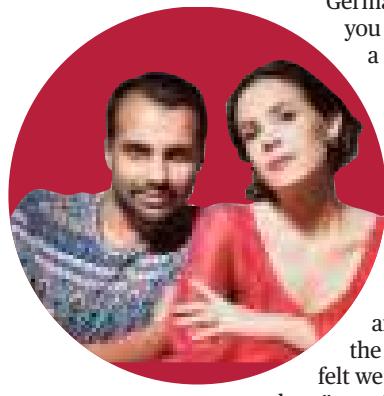
COLLECTOR'S CHOICE
LIMITED EDITION PRINTS

6 COVER STORY

HYDERABAD THE HINDU WEEKEND
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2019

SPACES

MICHAELA AND KARAN TALWAR

 HARKAT
Mumbai

German filmmaker Michaela – you would've spotted her in a cameo in *Gully Boy* – and her husband Karan consider themselves artists “who don't fit in institutions or in bars”. And their boutique arts studio, Harkat, is for others like them. “Most of pop culture is sparked off by artists working outside the establishment. So we felt we needed to create such a place,” says Michaela, 30. “We are to alternative spaces what *Vice* is to news.”

Since they opened in 2014, Harkat – housed in Bungalow #75 under a canopy of mango and walnut trees – has turned its locality in Versova into a “theatre gully”. “When we started out, there were no alternative spaces. Now five have opened, following their own variations of our model,” says Karan, 31. Audiences are increasing, so are opportunities and venues for artists. “Theatremakers and performers have started thinking in terms of alternative spaces when designing their shows,” says Michaela, recalling how filmmaker Suresh Eriyat said Harkat's audience for his film, *Tokri*, was the most receptive he'd encountered in India.

Given the current lack of inclusivity in most media, it is heartening to note that almost everything they curate or programme passes through a ‘politics filter’. Proposals problematic about gender and the like are rejected, and in-house curations actively contribute to the conversations. Up next, expect their second in-house play, *Jenny and Karl Marx*. Details: harkat.in



A performance at Harkat

KAVERY POOVANNA

 WANDERING ARTIST
Chennai

A lack of places that promote creativity led Poovanna, 40, to launch Wandering Artist two years ago. The intimate space in RA Puram, which has hosted artistes such as art director Thotta Tharani, sitarist Pandit Deobrat Mishra, and pianist Anil Srinivasan, is the go-to place for workshops and performances today. “We also provide a stage for up-and-coming artists, free of cost, to render intimate performances, gather experiences, and hit mainstream media,” says the visual and performing artist, adding that they regularly host training programmes on theatre, art and dance to mentor new talent.

But the journey has not been easy. Sustaining the arts is a challenge and looking for patrons is no mean feat. “Arts appreciation is important to encourage and preserve traditional art forms. At some level, we also feel that the notion that arts must be offered free of cost needs fine-tuning as every artist needs their bread and butter,” says

Poovanna, who launched Bhuhu, an immersive traditional Indian fine arts course, at the cultural space this month, with modules in murals, sculpture, puppetry and more. Details: wanderingartist.in



NABIL AND MOHSINA

 THE VILLAGE STUDIO
Goa

The alternative art space, which opened its doors in 2017, recently changed hands – with founder Laila Vaziralli handing the reins to Nabil and Mohsina, erstwhile professionals from Bengaluru. While a shift in Goa's music scene, from EDM and raves to live music and artistic communities, is what convinced the couple to make the move, they assure that Vaziralli (who is behind projects such as Kitsch Mandi and Junta) still curates all the events at the studio. This includes performances by poets and indie artists, painting exhibitions, and projects involving the local community that take forward the photographer-turned-artist's vision of a space that is not only for artists to showcase their work but also “where skills can be taught and learnt”.

Their annual music fest and workshops on themes like Sufism were the highlights in December. “Hosting artists such as Papon, Benny Dayal and bands like Thakara has been fun and social media has played a huge role in connecting with them,” says Nabil, adding that costs are always a concern. “[Much of it goes] from our pockets. We don't have sponsors or funders; we bring in a new gig every week to keep the studio engaging.”



ROHAN NARAYANA MURTY

 MURTY CLASSICAL
LIBRARY OF INDIA
Gurugram

A passion for literature may be surprising in a computer scientist, but we're glad he loves words. Murty, 36 (son of Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy), is supporting the documentation of pre-modern literary works – in languages such as Sanskrit, Bangla, Kannada, Tamil and more. The ongoing series of facing-page translations is published by Harvard University Press.

Art



HIMANSHU VERMA

 RED EARTH
Jaipur

He moved to Jaipur a year ago, to escape the bustle of Delhi, but that's the only shift Verma, 38, is making. He continues to be India's ‘sari man’ – exploring contemporary masculinity and its fluidity through the “open-ended garment” – even as his travelling show, The Saree Festival (started in 2014), explores the drape's various styles and design-led interventions.

For over a decade now, his multi-arts initiative, Red Earth, has also been creating conversations on Indian aesthetics. “A lot of my work is centered around seasons and festivals, to keep the connection with Indian aesthetics alive,” he says. The last edition of the Monsoon Festival had digital miniatures by graphic designers, alongside traditional oil canvases and contemporary works from artists like Anjana Mehra. His latest is the Cabinet of Curiosities, which he debuted in Jaipur last month and plans to bring to Mumbai and Chennai soon. “We created our version of the cabinet, with a mix of design, crafts from Jaipur, and works of contemporary artists like Olivia Fraser, Jyoti Bhatt and Akanksha Agarwal. The curation challenged how things [are perceived and] should be.” Details: redearthindia.com



(Left to right) Co-founders Nauriyal, Hanif Kureshi, Giulia Ambrogi, Thanih Thomas and Arjun Bahl; (top) walls in Mahim and Coimbatore ■ NAMAN SARAIYA, SURAJ KATRA, PRANAV GOHIL



POOJA SAXENA

 MATRA TYPE WALKS,
New Delhi

The typeface and graphic designer has been documenting street lettering on her Instagram and Twitter for several years. Her latest project is indiestreetlettering.com, a map-based photographic archive of street lettering from across the country. “Letters in public environments have always interested me. They make an essential part of our visual culture,” says Saxena, 31.

Although she feels that the walks she organises are not “needed”, they are interesting because they allow participants to see a place with a new perspective. “I liken them to a design appreciation course, condensed into a couple of hours and conducted in the wild,” she says, adding that similar walks are conducted by Tanya George in Mumbai and Zenab Bastawala in Bengaluru.

Being a one-woman operation limits the scope of expanding her work to different neighbourhoods and conducting them more often. But each of the walks she organised in 2018 – from the Paharganj Airbnb Experience to Nicholson Cemetery Type Walk – has been sold out. “I feel confident that non-designers enjoy seeing and discussing design, and sometimes it is us, designers, that couch it in so much jargon that it becomes unapproachable.” Details: matratype.com



and its crusaders



MUSIC

UDAY KAPUR AND MO JOSHI

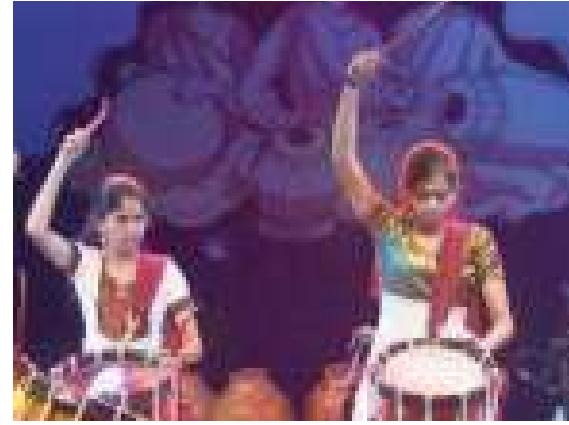
 AZADI RECORDS
New Delhi

Given today's socio-economic climate, Kapur, 26, feels that an independent record label promoting local artistes is the need of the hour. "We wanted to create an organisation that helps bring music (the forward-thinking, politically conscious kind) from marginalised sections, and introduce new stories to the music industry. Such as Prabh Deep's, and the affects of the anti-Sikh riots on his community," says Kapur, who was inspired to start Azadi Records after writing his thesis on Indian protest musicians such as Indian Ocean and Imphal Talkies and The Howlers.

Established in 2017, their

Established in 2017, their current roster includes names like Sez On The Beat, Seedhe Maut, Tienas, and Swadesi, among others. He says the impact of their releases (all well received) has stretched beyond the music industry. "People within Tilak Nagar have started conversing about substance abuse after Prabh's album dropped. We hope the Aarey [deforestation] movement will get a push with Swadesi's track. Overall, we hope to paint an accurate, nuanced picture of what's going on in the country," he shares.

shares. While money is always a challenge – “we’ve only put our own money in so far,” says co-founder Joshi – digital is key to getting their music out. “We’re still small footprint-wise, but we get relatively good engagement and are growing at a good pace. We’ve collaborated with different platforms (Saavn, SoundCloud) and plan to do more this year,” concludes Joshi. *Details: azadirecords.com*



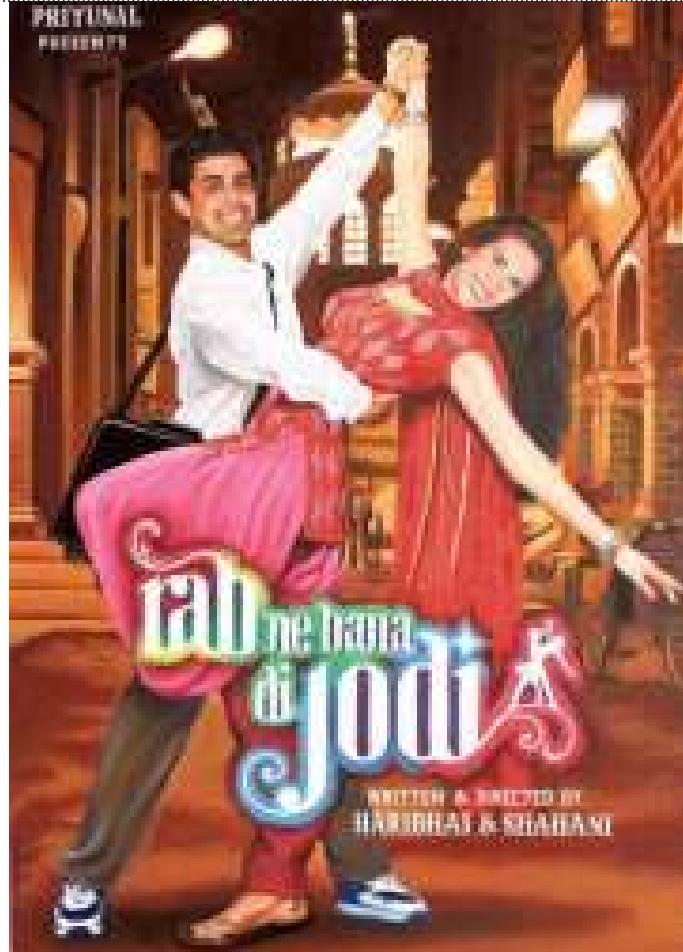
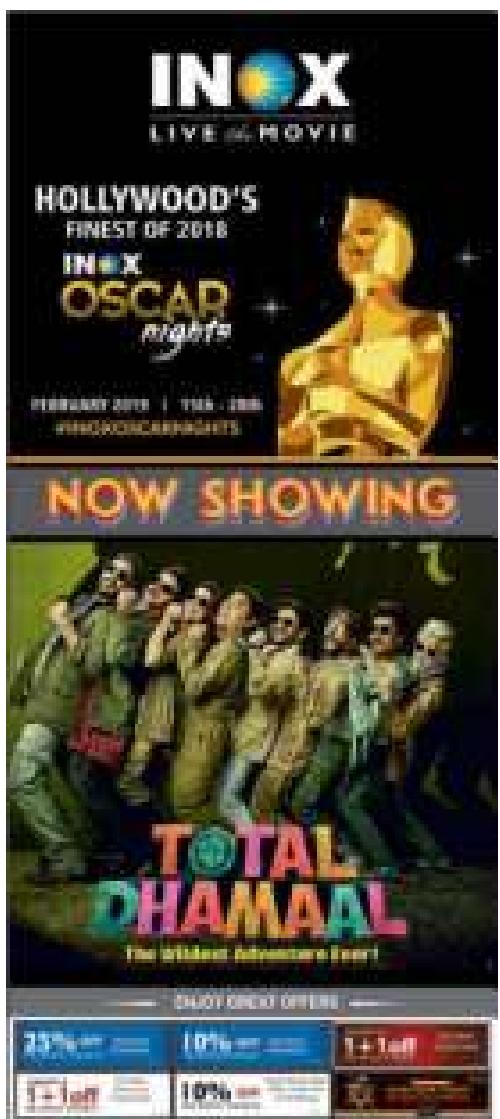
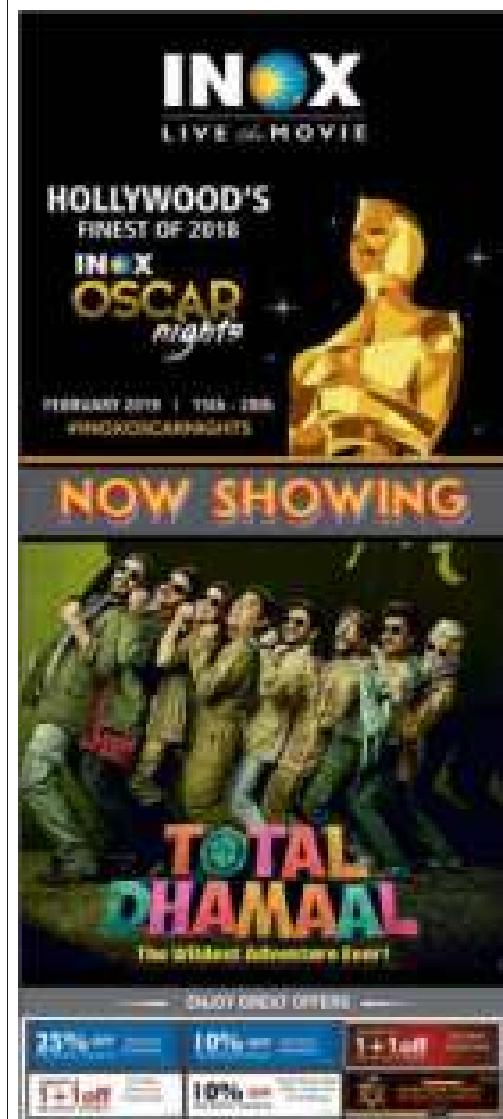
SONIA ACHARYA

WOMEN OF RHYTHM
Mumbai

As percussion is highly male dominated, Acharya, 29, wanted to motivate more women to enter the mainstream. The first edition of Women of Rhythm was held in Mumbai in 2016, and was dedicated to the first ladies of instruments like the *ghatam*, *mridangam*, *pakhawaj* and *tabla*. “At the time, I looked at it as a one-off concert, but we ended up building it. The initiative is geared towards breaking gender disparity, giving visibility, creating awareness and, most importantly, showcasing talent,” she says. “We’ve worked with some phenomenal artistes like *vidushis* Sukanya Ramgopal and Dandamudi Sumathi Ramamohan Rao, and younger artistes like Charu Hariharan, Neesha Mokal and Mitali Vinchurkar,” she adds.

For Acharya, one of the successes is that “almost all

For Acharya, one of the successes is that "almost all the percussionists featured in WOR have started to get regular, well-paid, quality work. I'm looking forward to the edition where we can get international artistes and have them collaborate with Indian artistes". Currently, WOR is undergoing structural changes to create more video content. This year, they are also planning to take the property to different cities, with collaborative, theme-based concerts.



HINESH JETHWAN

INDIAN HIPPY

Mumbai

When Jethwani's career hit a bump in 2008 – his IT business tanked during recession – a collection of newspaper clippings and a fascination for the dying art of hand-painted movie posters gave him new purpose. “It didn’t start off as a business plan; I had a lot of time on my hands and I wanted to do an experiment, to see what the artists were capable of and how people would react to it,” recalls the 38-year-old. An unusual plan for someone who does not enjoy Bollywood films!

Tracking them down was the difficult part (“I walked around Dadar

Tracking them down was the difficult part (“I walked around Dadar, Matunga and the Shivaji Park area, which had had a lot of art studios”). The ensuing conversations found form in Indian Hippy, a collective of 12 poster and banner artists. In the last decade, they’ve succeeded in popularising the art form, creating everything from customised posters to 20 kg canvases for hotels like Stillwell Hotel in Los Angeles. “Restaurants mostly want hand-painted art, like wall canvases, or memorabilia (his website, bollywoodmovieposters.com, is dedicated to the latter),” says Jethwani, adding, “We also use digital to our advantage, like at a recent wedding where the client ordered nine posters of the bride and groom (in movies like *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* and *Tanu Weds Manu*) and blew them up into 10x12 foot banners.”

However, he is aware there

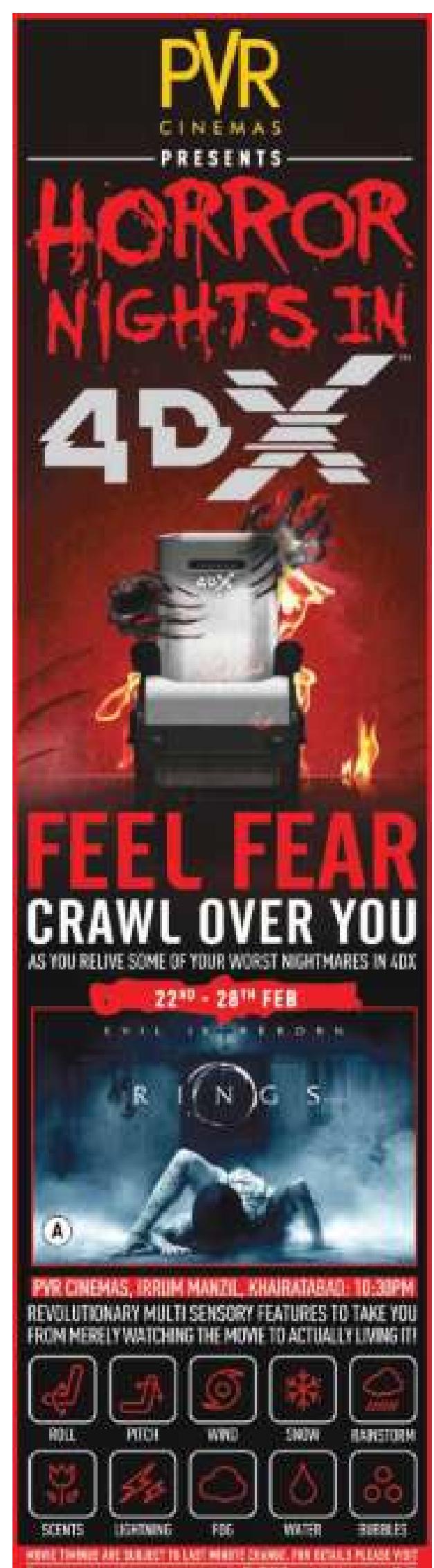
However, he is aware there is an expiry date to his venture. Of the original collective, only five artists remain and “age has caught up with most of them”. The attempt now is to ensure continuity. “We want to get the younger generation fascinated about this beautiful hand-painted art,” he concludes. *Details: hippy.in*



AISHWARYA TIPNI

**AISHWARYA TIPNIS
ARCHITECTS**
Delhi

In Delhi, she restored a haveli in Kashmere Gate; in Madhya Pradesh, it was the Mahidpur Fort; and in West Bengal, she is preserving Chandannagar's French heritage. Currently working on the over 130-year-old Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (with UNESCO), the 38-year-old conservation architect was conferred the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres last year.



8 CARTOONS

POOCH CAFE



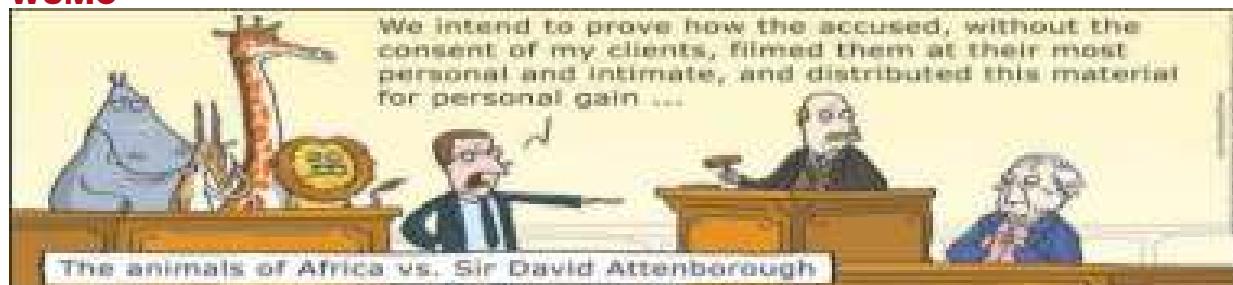
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



TIGER



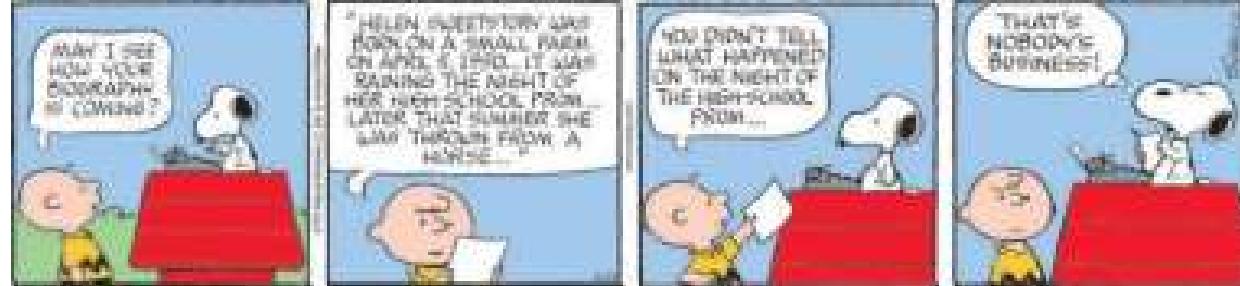
WUMO



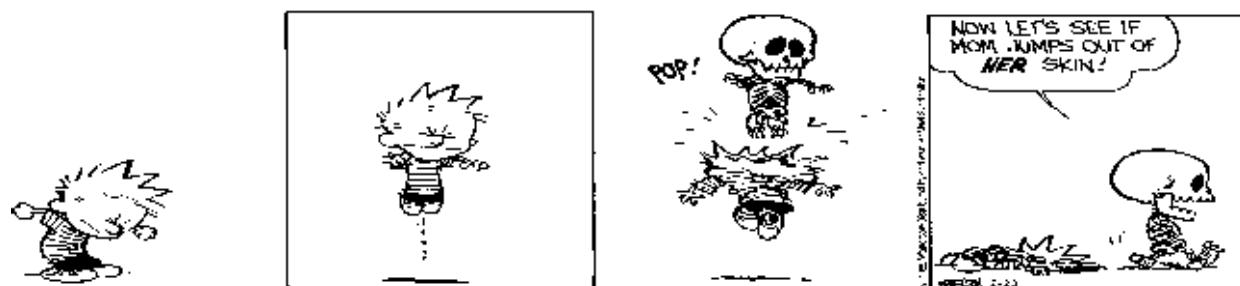
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



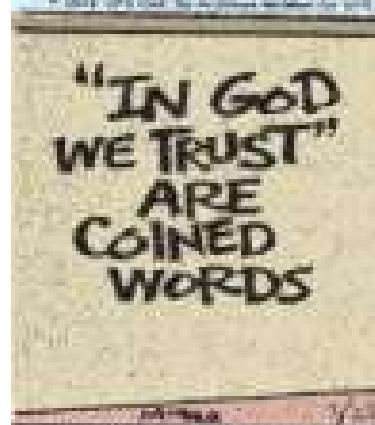
PEANUTS



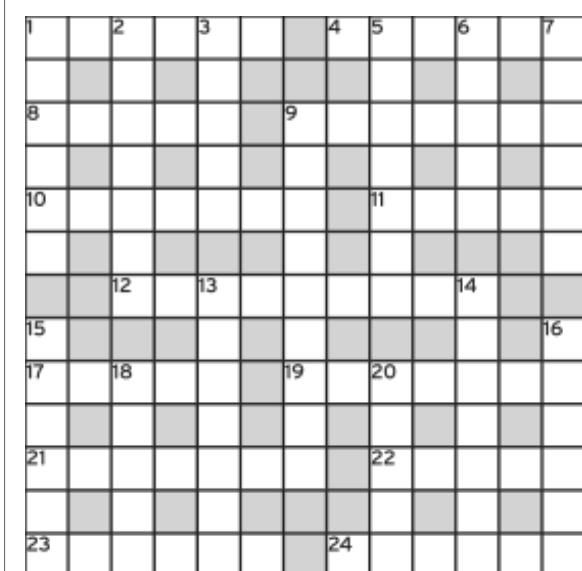
CALVIN AND HOBBES



GRAFFITI



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13001

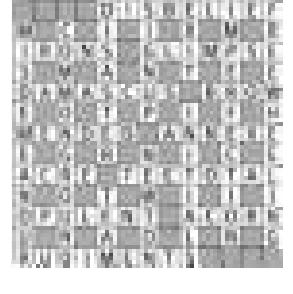


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- 5 Long-winded (7)
6 Card game for four (5)
7 Levels (6)
9 Stop (9)
13 Farewell (7)
14 Scintillate (7)
15 German Romantic songs for solo voice (6)
16 Interfere (6)
18 Mountain lakes (5)
20 Speedy (5)

Solution will appear in MetroPlus dated February 25, 2019.

Solution No. 13000



- Across**
1 Small streams (6)
4 Declaration (6)
8 Framework of metal bars (5)
9 Fill with fear (7)
10 Refrain (7)
11 External (5)
12 Remiss (9)
17 Opening passage (abbr) (5)
19 Lufthansa, for example (7)
Down
21 Long-lasting (7)
22 Prod (5)
23 Reddish brown (6)
24 Cling (6)
Across
1 Ask for permission to be released (3,3)
2 Foreign letter – I'm no roc (anag) (7)
3 Danni M's older sister (5)

we had to cross six waist-deep water crossings. None of the riders knew swimming which made it challenging.

Best season: Summer, but conditions are aggressive throughout.

3. The loneliest road: Dalton Highway, Alaska: Very few roads on the planet offer the degree of isolation this one does. Set in a bleak, remote setting, it is the world's loneliest road with just three towns on-route and no medical supplies, restaurants or gas stations. Take special care to ensure that your vehicle is in good shape as the road is unpaved in most parts. Getting across to the Arctic Ocean is a challenge as the area is cordoned off by private oil and gas companies.

Best season: Summer (June to August)

4. Dempster Highway, Canada (Frozen road): Commissioned in 2017, the highway is frequented by adventure travellers given its harsh terrain: desolate, unpaved, hostile in nature, and set amidst the freezing Arctic Circle. The roads here are made with natural materials so the mix of sand, stone and clay make for a deadly combination when it rains. We witnessed heavy rainfall that the region had not seen in the last 15 summers!

We kept skidding and a team member fell down a few times during the 100-mile ride. So choose your tyres wisely and remember to tank up.

Best time: Summer (Mid June to Mid August)



Riding for dear life

From the Arctic to Antarctic in 99 days. Deepak Kamath on the Dominar Polar Odyssey and surviving the world's top five dangerous roads

What started with a bike ride to the Khardung La pass at 20, snowballed into a series of adventures: a round-the-world trip on a Yezdi Roadking in the mid '90s and the 2017 Trans-Siberian Odyssey, among others. In late July last year, I, along with riders Avinash PS and Deepak Gupta embarked on a 51,000 km ride from Anchorage, Alaska. Ninety nine days later, we arrived at Ushuaia, Argentina, concluding the Dominar Polar Odyssey across 15 continents that was marred with brutal terrains - slush, blizzards, snow storms, rainfall. For someone who has managed to get the rubber side down across all seven continents, here's my pick of the top five deathly trails and what gives them the daunting tag.

1. Death Road, Bolivia: Topping the list is the 60 km long, single-lane mountainous road that got its notorious title after numerous deaths were recorded along it. Also known as the Yungas Road, in certain stretches it drops to up to 2,000 feet deep.

When we started, it was well past sunset and raining heavily. Although we missed out the scenic views, riding in the dark through waterfall curtains was thrilling. It is possibly the only road in the Western Hemisphere where we get to keep left and that is a big consolation as we are away from the cliff. Knowing the terrain before you venture out and speaking to locals about weather conditions are important.

The road is at an elevation as you pass the La Cumbre Pass at 15,260 feet and the oxygen flow can be challenging. It is a desolated area with unpaved stretches and prone to landslides, so watch out for debris

that can throw you off balance. Best season: Summer (November to March)

2. Road of Bones, Siberia: This is a 3,000 km, desolate highway and at Kyubeme, (1,200 km before Magadan), the road deviates towards the 400-km-long abandoned Old Summer Road.

When I attempted this in 2017 (Trans-Siberian Odyssey), I was able to lead only 156 kms to Tomtor due to extreme flooding ahead. This region is prone to extremely high water levels, washed out roads and the presence of grizzlies and wild dogs. Tank up well because you can easily run out of fuel on this highway. Wildlife encounters can turn dangerous, so drive slow. The sudden rise in water levels can be daunting: we faced neck-deep water and en-route Tomtor,

Deepak Kamath will be at The Big Biking Commune at Mamallapuram this weekend.

– As told to Nidhi Adlakha

5. The Pan-American section of the Atacama Desert (Silent ride): This was the most boring of the lot as it's a 2,000+ km long, straight and flat road that cuts through the desert. It is very easy to fall asleep while riding as it is pretty lonely and a quiet zone. I came across many cars and buses that went off the road, and burst into flames. I took frequent breaks, stayed well-hydrated and kept chewing gum. As Indians, we have the advantage of riding in high temperatures, but this was difficult given the dryness and gusty winds. I'd suggest getting an early morning start, a break during peak afternoon, and ending the ride by early evening.

Best season: October to March Deepak Kamath will be at The Big Biking Commune at Mamallapuram this weekend.

+ Waiter, there's danger in my soup

A new organisation for all of us feeling threatened in our air-conditioned homes



VAISHNA ROY is an Associate Editor with The Hindu



GETTYIMAGES/STOCK

the villagers knew this. The team explained that their lives and happiness were in deep danger because of this one fact and instead of fighting for schools maybe they should focus their energies more usefully. I am happy to report that we garnered a lot of new recruits for BUTT from that district.

MUTT has had a similar increase in membership. The men are holding a separate meeting next week to discuss how the Rise of Toxic Feminism has Undermined the Indian Family and created Strife and Tension Among Members. These are all men whose wives have refused to press their feet at night and have gone so far as to actually ask their husbands to make rice in the electric cooker. The chairman of MUTT has had a very hard life. His wife who, horror of horrors, can't make perfectly round chappatis, recently told him she might even buy a television brand of her own choice for the home. This unnerved him so much he contacted me and that's how we began MUTT.

A significant sub-group of MUTT is TRU. It stands for They Rejected Us – and consists of all the men who decided they were in love with a woman who decided she was definitely not in love with them. TRU men are terribly misunderstood people. And since not even the woman they love understands them, they usually kill or maim her. (Incidentally, we're looking for girlfriends for TRU men, so volunteers, please contact me.)

I am sorry but I have to rush off now. A lot of BUTT paperwork awaits completion. It's for our Mhow conference next month on Eliminating Hazardous Blue from the Colour Spectrum.

Where the writer tries to make sense of society with seven hundred words and a bit of snark.

I have started a new organisation called BUTT - Beings Under Total Threat. It's an umbrella organisation which shelters a lot of off-shoots and splinter cells. The off-shoots are, for example, HUT or Hindus Under Threat. Or MUTT, Men Under Terrible Threat. Or UCUT, harder to pronounce, but stands for Upper Castes Under Threat.

As founder-president of BUTT, I naturally consider myself largely under threat from all sorts of things. How could I keep my insecurities under control with nary a reservation in sight? That's when I heard of FATFIT (Facing Threats from Immigrant Types), a British-American outfit. It inspired me to set up BUTT, and after the Pulwama terror strike, I've found many, many takers for just such a place.

We held our first meeting last week and found ourselves nodding vigorously in agreement about all the dangers we face in everyday life. For instance, we discovered that we didn't have to be soldiers on combat duty on the border with lives always on the line to feel threatened. We ordinary types are just as much at risk right in the middle of our air-conditioned homes. An eminent Bengaluru businessman had just tweeted that even shops selling trinkets and souvenirs in tourist spots could easily be nefarious joints. It made

us firmer in our resolve. Can you imagine what dangers lurk in our pot-holed, traffic-jammed urban lives!

That's the reason some of us decided to do pre-emptive strikes on students and shopkeepers. It keeps our war-wits razor sharp, not to mention that we look good on TV. For those of us less actively inclined, there's social media. We can't always find real photographs to explain to people how frightened they should be, but that's a minor glitch. There's always Photoshop. Real soldiers sometimes don't understand how much we're doing to help them. The CRPF official Twitter handle, for instance, has issued a warning against circulating fake pictures of body parts of jaws. So unnecessary – those pictures could have helped BUTT create an alert and threatened citizenry.

Anyway, last week we also sent a small recruitment team to a district in Bihar where we had heard that several villagers were organising protest marches. Our team was aghast to find that the villagers were fighting for jobs and health centres and schools. What a waste of a good protest! So the BUTT team sat them down and explained the short-sightedness of worrying only about teachers and doctors.

Did they know that the Taj Mahal in Agra was originally a temple? Not one of

A wrinkle in time?

The Academy's only hope to reverse its *annus horribilis* is to ensure a terrific show

STEADYCAM

NAMAN RAMACHANDRAN
is a journalist and author of
*Rajinikanth: The Definitive
Biography*, and tweets @namans



Come Sunday evening in Los Angeles, the film world's great and the good will walk the red carpet at the Dolby Theatre ahead of the 91st Academy Awards, while the rest of us in different time zones will set alarms to watch the ceremony live. It has been a funny old year leading up to the awards. Ratings have been in freefall year after year, with 2018 being the lowest, and the Academy has been flailing about to set this right.

It all began well enough in June 2018, when the Academy inducted 928 culturally diverse members from around the world. However, alarm bells went off in August when it announced a new category – outstanding achievement in popular film. Debates raged in Hollywood and elsewhere as to what exactly constitutes a 'popular' film. Actor Rob Lowe tweeted: "The film business passed away today with the announcement of the 'popular' film Oscar. It had been in poor health for a number of years. It is survived by sequels, tent-poles, and vertical integration."

The venerable Academy, ever reactive, reversed its decision less than a month later. CEO Dawn Hudson said at the time, "There has been a wide range of reactions to the introduction of a new award, and we recognise the need for further discussion with our members. We have made changes to the Oscars over the years – including this year – and we will continue to evolve while also respecting the incredible legacy of the last 90 years."

Then there was the question of the host. The comedian and actor Kevin Hart was hired for the job. He found himself in the eye of a storm after allegations of homophobia and stepped away from the gig. Consequently, the Oscars this year will not have a host, only the second time in its storied history (the first was in 1989).

As if that wasn't enough, the Academy, in a bid to reduce the marathon running time of the five broadcast, took a misguided decision to award four categories – including cinematography and editing – during commercial breaks. After the inevitable industry outcry that fol-

lowed, it reversed its decision. Despite all of these avoidable incidents, I for one will be looking forward to the awards this year, simply because there is no clear favourite. And, the lack of a host may not be a bad thing, if Joanna Lumley's crash-and-burn turn at the BAFTAs is anything to go by.

Perhaps this is the year the Academy will do what it is famed for and put on a cracking good show, and put the *annus horribilis* behind it. Bette Midler will perform 'The Place Where Lost Things Go' from *Mary Poppins Returns*; Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper will belt out 'Shallow' from *A Star Is Born*; but to watch Queen performing live will surely be the highlight.

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- A Space Marketing Feature

ONE of the most happening addresses for the self-made man of today is Tailorman dressmakers. A premier made-to-measure clothier headquartered in New Delhi is this stitched-to-perfect-fit store tucked in the plush vicinity of Jubilee Hills too. For the millennial achiever not willing to compromise on tradition while catching up with a trendy look, the store has evolved into a must-go brand.

With premium British tailoring and manufacturing in state-of-the-art units for London's Savile Row, Hugo boss and Ralph Lauren, Tailorman extends the frontiers of made-to-measure menswear in India at accessible prices. As one of the biggest manufacturers in the world, they bring access to fabrics from the best International Mills, including Zegna, Loro Piana,



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that is a made-to-measure experience dedicated to the groom or for all those looking to get outfitted for a wedding. Our team of experts is ever ready to cater to the traditional nuances and symbolism associated with weddings as they understand cultures, rituals and preferences.

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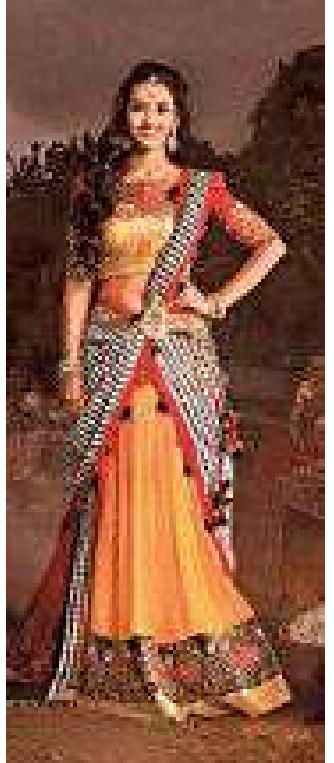
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DESTINATION OF EXQUISITE CRAFTSMANSHIP

Varsha's store is a one stop destination for all those women who wish a head-turner look for their blouses!



An Indian woman's closet is incomplete without a saree, that sensuous sequence of sheer elegance running majestically over and around her waist. Garnished with the refined tucks and the pulls all over, this splendid piece of drapery is sure to add to the most sought after dignity and empowerment to the poised woman. Complimenting this rectangular piece is a blouse, a shirt that gracefully crowns the attire.

THE WEAVE

A once insignificant garb, this blouse, has undergone a tremendous change over the years.

The lavish wedding spends have crept into women's chiffoniers too. With this, dawned the era of intricately designed and charmingly blended trendy motifs that filled a woman's blouse.

Meet Designer Varsha Mahendra of Jus Blouses who vouches for the beauty of this drape. With two stores, one in Banjara Hills on Road No.10 in the city and the second in Dallas in

the USA, Varsha's store is a one stop destination for all those women who wish a head-turner look for their blouses.

In the industry for more than two decades now, the brand specialises not only in ready to wear designer blouses but also has an expert team of craftsmen who create co-ordinated outfits for bride and groom for their Big Day, not to leave behind their families.

"Exquisite craftsmanship on lehengas, gowns and sarees too is our forte at Jus Blouses", shares Ms. Mahendra.

A STITCH APART

Varsha believes in sustaining livelihood to craftsmen and women by reviving the traditional embroideries and working on handwoven pure and natural organic cottons and silk fabrics. Working closely with weavers from across India she was invited by International trade centre ITC headquarters in Geneva to showcase her work in the first fashion show ever in United Nations in New York.

With her out of the box ideas to suit every event Varsha has splendidly carved a niche for herself in the meadows of designer blouses!



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**'CM trying to help BJP'**

The Delhi Congress says CM Arvind Kejriwal is indirectly trying to help the BJP in the coming 2019 polls [Page 3](#)

**AAP MP writes to Modi**

Sanjay Singh seeks stop to appointment of retired judges of higher judiciary in offices of profit [Page 3](#)

**Where is the fun?**

Replete with old school slapstick, tepid gags, but what's missing is a genuine dose of humour [Page 4](#)

**A star is born**

New actor, Ncuti Gatwa on his out, proud and fabulous character, Eric in Sex Education [Page 4](#)

IN BRIEF**Foreign national told to leave India gets HC relief**

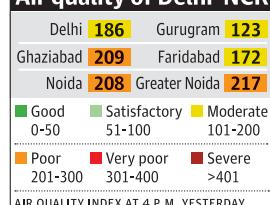
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday came to the rescue of a foreign national who had been directed by the Ministry of Home Affairs to leave India by Saturday. The HC directed the authorities not to take any coercive steps against the Pakistani woman till February 28. She had come to India in 2005 after marrying an Indian. She has two minor children. STAFF REPORTER

Civic body to expand parking in Karol Bagh

NEW DELHI

The North Delhi Municipal Corporation on Friday said tenders have been floated to develop parking facilities at Rajendra Nagar and Shastri Park in Karol Bagh to help ease movement of traffic in the area. Additional parking facilities will also be developed at Jhandewalan extension. STAFF REPORTER

**Army Captain found dead**

SAURABH TRIVEDI

An Army Captain died by suicide in Vasant Vihar's Army Unit on Friday afternoon, a police officer said.

They received a PCR call at 1.03 p.m. at Vasant Vihar police station regarding the incident in Central Base Post Office of Army Unit.

The incident came to fore when the deceased's friend had gone to check on him as he was not responding to calls.

"We have found a note left by the deceased. It appears that he was under stress owing to personal problems. The note will be sent to Forensic Science Laboratory to match his writing for confirmation," said an officer. The district crime team inspected the room and collected some samples as part of the investigations, including his mobile phone.

Family members of the deceased have been informed, the police said. "The body has been shifted to the Safdarjung hospital mortuary for preservation till autopsy is conducted. Further enquiry is being made in this matter," said a senior police officer.

suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.

Victim blaming to rapist shaming: a clarion call to shift the stigma

Hundreds of women rape survivors, among 5,000 people, marched to the Capital after covering 10,000 km in two months

JAGRITI CHANDRA

NEW DELHI

Shame the rapists. This is the clarion call given by hundreds of women rape survivors among 5,000 people, who marched to the Capital on Friday after covering 200 districts in 24 States and 10,000 km over a period of two months.

They seek to shift the stigma from the victims to the perpetrators. "Earlier when someone asked me about what happened to my daughter, my body would tremble

CPCB suggests compensation of up to ₹1 cr for violation of GRAP

NGT tells Chief Secretaries of all States to prepare status reports, action plans

SHINJINI GHOSH

NEW DELHI

In a report submitted by the Central Pollution Control Board to the National Green Tribunal, the former has recommended levying environmental compensation of up to ₹1 crore on various authorities including State governments for failure to implement the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in Delhi-NCR.

The report put up for consideration before a Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel states that for industrial activities, if the GRAP is not rolled out despite the air quality being in the "severe" and emergency category, a compensation of ₹1 crore will be imposed.

Under the "severe" category, a compensation of ₹50 lakh will be imposed while in case of GRAP violations under the "very poor" and "moderate to poor" categories, a compensation of ₹25 lakh and ₹10 lakh will be imposed respectively.

Similar environmental compensation for the various categories of air quality has been spelt out for construction sites with plot sizes more than 20,000 square metres.

A fine break-up

Environmental compensation proposed to be levied in Delhi-NCR

| Activity | State of air quality | Environmental compensation |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Industrial emissions | Severe+/Emergency | ₹1 crore |
| | Severe | ₹50 lakh |
| | Very poor | ₹25 lakh |
| | Moderate to Poor | ₹10 lakh |
| Construction sites (Offending plot more than 20,000 Sq.m.) | Severe+/Emergency | ₹1 crore |
| | Severe | ₹50 lakh |
| | Very Poor | ₹25 lakh |
| | Moderate to Poor | ₹10 lakh |
| Failure to sprinkle water on unpaved roads | | |
| Hot-spots | Very poor to Severe + | ₹25 lakh |
| Other than hot-spots | Very poor to Severe + | ₹10 lakh |
| Vapour Recovery Systems (VRS) at outlets of oil companies | | |
| Not installed | Target date | ₹1 crore |
| Non-functional | Very poor to Severe | ₹50 lakh |
| | Moderate to Poor | ₹25 lakh |

SOURCE: NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

On the other hand, for the dumping of solid waste and garbage dumping in industrial estates, a compensation of ₹25 lakh has been suggested for the "very poor to severe" category while ₹10 lakh will be levied for the "moderate to poor" categories.

The implementing agencies for each activity have

been identified and the environment compensation will be levied on these agencies [State government, civic bodies, etc]. These violations attract graded amounts of compensation depending on the state of ambient air quality..." said the CPCB report.

Further, the CPCB informed the green panel that

vernment launched the 'Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana' on December 5, 2018. "This scheme is applicable to senior citizens who have completed 60 years of age. The government will arrange and bear the cost of *tirth yatra* covering the specified destinations," the L-G said.

On September 18, 2018, the government also approved a proposal for mapping the city, using 'SafePin', focusing on women safety in public places, he added.

Talking about initiatives in the health sector, Mr. Baijal said all essential drugs are being provided free of cost to patients attending public health centres of the State-run hospitals.

"Free lab diagnostic and free radiological services to patients through empanelled radiological centres are available for patients if referred from the Delhi government Health centres... Free treatment through 52 kinds of surgeries by 48 empanelled hospitals on referral by the Delhi government hospitals are being provided to patients," he stated.

He said for the welfare of the senior citizens, the go-

vernment launched the 'Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana' on December 5, 2018. "This scheme is applicable to senior citizens who have completed 60 years of age. The government will arrange and bear the cost of *tirth yatra* covering the specified destinations," the L-G said.

On September 18, 2018, the government also approved a proposal for mapping the city, using 'SafePin', focusing on women safety in public places, he added.

"The implementing agencies for each activity have

a separate report on municipal solid waste and sewage is being prepared.

"The CPCB may also include the subject of loss to ecological services due to illegal mining, deforestation or any other damage to the environment, even though the same may not be directly on account of discharge of effluents or sewage," the Bench said.

In January 2019, the NGT had directed Chief Secretaries of all States and union territories to be present before the tribunal, on different dates, starting March 1.

Delhi CS to be present

Delhi Chief Secretary has to be present before the tribunal on March 11.

The NGT in its order dated February 19, directed the Chief Secretaries to look into the setting up of functioning of sewage treatment plants, effluent treatment plants and common effluent treatment plants before appearing before the panel.

This is in addition to the status of compliance of solid waste management rules, identification of polluted industrial clusters and amount collected from erring industries, that the officers have been asked to provide.

Fake news about online voting rights to NRIs doing rounds: EC

Poll panel asks Delhi Police to investigate matter

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India filed a complaint with the Delhi Police on Friday regarding a WhatsApp message about online voting by NRIs in Lok Sabha elections, which they clarified was fake.

The ECI has asked the police to register an FIR.

In the complaint, the ECI wrote that the fake news is being circulated on the mes-

saging app.

DCP (New Delhi) Madhur Verma said: "Legal action will be taken according to the content of the complaint or the case will be sent to Cyber Cell for further investigation."

'With ECI logo'

The complaint read: "This fake news contains the ECI logo. The publication of such fake news is causing severe

confusion thereby creating public nuisance and mischief."

The WhatsApp forward contains a website link with the text: "Those who hold Indian Passport, can now vote online for 2019 elections. Please register yourself... There is a link Enroll as NRI voter". The ECI stated that it has also asked WhatsApp and Twitter to remove the fake news.

1st phase of 'Connect Delhi' launched

Aims to link rural residents with State-run transport

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The first phase of route rationalisation under an initiative 'Connect Delhi', which seeks to effectively link residents of the rural belt with State-run transport infrastructure, was launched by the government's Transport Department on Friday.

This phase will seek to improve public transport and feeder bus services in Najafgarh with other phases for other areas also in the offing, the government said, adding: "The initiative, Connect Delhi, will rationalise the bus and feeder services

in the city with a vision that all residential areas and villages of Delhi are connected with a reliable public transport facility within 500 metres of walking distance at a frequency of 15 minutes."

A fleet of 70 buses

Under the first phase, a fleet of 70 buses would connect four activity centres with Najafgarh to Mori Gate Terminal (ISBT Kashmere Gate) via Utam Nagar and Inderlok, Nehru Place Terminal via Palam, Ambedkar Nagar Terminal via Kapashera, and Saket and Azadpur Terminal via Peeragarhi, the government said.

Minor reports molestation after seeing movie about 'bad touch'

HEMANI BHANDARI

After seeing a movie on 'good touch-bad touch' at her school in Shahdara's Vivek Vihar, a Class IV student realised that she was being molested.

The 9-year-old girl then reported the matter to her teacher on Thursday, the police said on Friday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) Meghna Yadav said the 38-year-old accused, a tenant to the victim's family, has been arrested.

A senior officer said all the students were shown the film recently after which the minor realised that she was being inappropriately touched.

"Her teacher informed her family following which the latter approached the police," the officer said.

A case under Section 354 of the Indian Penal Code and relevant sections of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act has been registered, they said.

Amendments to building by-laws for greater fire safety get govt nod

Measures will ensure no more deaths in fire mishaps: Jain

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has approved amendments to its building by-laws for enhancing fire safety in guest houses

Building guidelines

Highlights from amendments to the Delhi Building Bye-Laws 2016 for enhancing fire safety in guest houses

- No kitchen, cooking allowed on rooftops or basements in passages, corridors or staircases
- No temporary roofing over the roof or terrace using Fibre-reinforced plastic (FRP) or any inflammable material allowed
- Fire NOC for guest house will not be issued to buildings with more than four floors
- Fire doors with fire resistance rating of not less than one hour at the entrance of staircases at each floor level

Mr. Jain said at a briefing about the amendments on Friday.

Illegalities found

The FIR registered in regard to the fire at Karol Bagh's Hotel Arpit Palace on February 12 had noted that a temporary canopy made of inflammable material was erected at the rooftop for the kitchen, which was unauthorised. It was also found that the kitchen in the basement was operating illegally.

The approved amendments to the building by-laws state that no kitchen or cooking activity will be allowed on rooftops or basements. "Storage

age of inflammable material will not be allowed on the rooftops. No temporary roofing over the roof or terrace using fibre-reinforced plastic or any inflammable material will be allowed," the amendments state.

The amendments stated that inflammable materials of construction will not be used in passage, corridors or staircases like wood or foam paneling, carpet and other such material. Gas bank, if any, will be installed conforming to standards prescribed in the National Building Code (NBC), the amendments added.

"Her teacher informed her family following which the latter approached the police," the officer said.

A case under Section 354 of the Indian Penal Code and relevant sections of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act has been registered, they said.

ed from the second week of March. Only "efforts at the highest level" could "convince" the State of Haryana to release water to the

IN BRIEF



Cops brief students on women's safety

NEW DELHI
The Delhi Police on Friday organised an interaction programme with the students of Daulat Ram College under the banner — Safety First. Students were briefed on women safety initiatives of the Delhi Police. STAFF REPORTER

Plea on diesel vehicle registration dismissed

NEW DELHI
The National Green Tribunal has dismissed a plea seeking review of its previous order that refused nod for registration of new diesel vehicles of civic bodies for waste disposal. STAFF REPORTER

'Do not give judges post-retirement jobs'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI
Aam Aadmi Party Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh on Friday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking him to stop the appointment of retired judges of the higher judiciary in offices of profit.

Mr. Singh argued that judges should not be given post-retirement jobs since it "compromises their judicial

CM indirectly trying to help BJP in polls: Cong

Says fielding AAP candidates will divide anti-BJP votes

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Congress on Friday said that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is indirectly trying to help the BJP in the coming Lok Sabha elections by fielding its own candidates to divide the anti-BJP votes to help the BJP candidates win.

The party said that Mr. Kejriwal has been repeating his statement every day: that to defeat the BJP, the Congress needs to have an alliance with the Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi; but the Congress is not ready to listen to him or agree to his proposal.

The party said that in real-

ity, the CM had not approached it for an alliance.

Only 2 national parties' DPCC spokespersons Ramakant Goswami and Jitender Kumar Kochhar said, "The truth is that AAP has no standing in national politics, and the Lok Sabha elections are contested on the basis of centralised national politics.

In Delhi, there are only two national parties — the Congress and the BJP — and if there is a direct fight between the two in the Lok Sabha elections in Delhi, then the Congress stands to gain."

The spokespersons said that the Congress is confi-

dent of winning all seven seats in Delhi and that even assuming that AAP manages to win one or two seats in Delhi, it will have no impact on national politics. If the Congress wins all the seven Lok Sabha seats, it will have a major impact in national politics at the Centre.

"Mr. Kejriwal should understand the feelings, hopes, anxieties and dreams of the people of Delhi and play creative politics by withdrawing AAP candidates from all the seven Lok Sabha seats to ensure the victory of the Congress and the defeat of the BJP," the Congress leaders said.

Job portal employee raped at house party

HEMANI BHANDARI

NEW DELHI

A 25-year-old employee of a job portal was allegedly raped by a 24-year-old hotel management student whom she had met at a house party in Defence Colony in the early hours of Thursday, the police said on Friday. The accused has been arrested, they said.

A senior police officer privy to the case said that a PCR call was received at 2.54 a.m. regarding a rape attempt on a woman. When the police reached the spot, there were five persons, including the victim. The accused had left the spot, they said. The victim told investigators that she was invited by a friend — who was present at the spot at the time — for the party where they had dinner and drinks. There were a few more people at the party, including the accused, who is a resident of Greater Noida. The victim alleged that the accused forced himself on her.

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HPPWD NOTICE INVITING TENDER BHARWAIN DIVISION HPPWD BHARWAIN TEHSIL AMB DISTRICT UNA (H.P.).

Sealed tenders on item rates basis are hereby invited on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh by the Executive Engineer Bharwain Division, HPPWD, Bharwain Tehsil Amb District Una (HP) from the experienced contractors/ firms enlisted in appropriate class with Himachal Pradesh PWD for the following works. The tender shall be received in his office on or before 27.03.2019 up to 10.30 A.M and shall be opened on the same day at 11.00 A.M. in the presence of contractors/ firms or their authorized representatives, who wish to be present at the time of opening of tenders. The tender applications shall be entertained and tender form shall be sold up to two days before the date of opening of tender i.e 25.03.2018 up to 12.00 Noon. Draft Notice Inviting Tenders/ Drawing/ Specifications can be seen in the office of the Executive Engineer on any working day between 11.00 A.M. to 4.00P.M. Ambiguous / Telegraphic / Conditional tenders or tender by Fax shall not be entertained/ considered in any case. The earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificate / Time Deposit Account / FDR in any of the Post Office in H.P./ Nationalized Bank duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer must be accompanied with the application. Conditional tenders and the tenders received without earnest money will not rightly be rejected. The contractor shall accompany his enlistment/ renewal orders with his application for obtaining the tender documents. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject the tender without assigning any reasons. The work will be completed by the contractor within the stipulated period. The contractor will have to submit his registration under the H.P. General Sale Tax Act 1968 and also labour license under contract Act 1970 from the competent authority. The contractors/ firms are requested to insert the rate of each item in words as well as figures, failing which XEN reserves the right to accept/ reject any or overall tenders. The tender shall only be issued to those contractors/ firms, who are found eligible/ suitable and competent as per the above conditions. The offer shall remain valid up to 45 days after the opening of tender. If any of the date mentioned above happens to be Local / Gazzeted Holidays the same shall be process on next date.

| Sr. No | Name of work. | Estimated cost. | Ernest Money | Time Limit | Form No. | Cost of Form. |
|--------|--|-----------------|--------------|------------|----------|---------------|
| 1 | C/O Chintpurni Amlehar road via Dhalwari road km 0/0 to 12/0 (SH: C/O Retaining wall at RD 11/095 to 11/120, 11/129 to 11/140) | 264179/- | 5284/- | One month | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| 2 | A/R & M/O link road Bhaderkali Pirthipur via Dangoh road km 0/0 to 4/500 & Daulatpur Bhaderkali road km 0/0 to 3/0 (SH: Repair of pot holes between km 0/0 to 4/500 & 0/0 to 3/0 respectively) | 497300/- | 9950/- | One month | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| 3 | A/R & M/O link road Dada Siba Daulatpur road km 0/0 to 9/0 (SH: Repair of pot holes between km 3/0 to 7/0) | 467595/- | 9360/- | One month | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| 4 | A/R & I/M O Daulatpur Chintpurni road km 8/0 to 14/8/70 (SH: Repair of pot holes between km 8/0 to 11/0) | 487300/- | 9750/- | One month | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| 5 | C/O I/link road Sohari to Paloh km 0/0 to 1/300 (SH: Formation cutting between km 0/0 to 0/400) CM announcement | 345445/- | 6910/- | One month | PWD-8 | 350/- |
| 6 | A/R & M/O Repoh to Bhindia via Bharobar km 0/0 to 7/500 (SH: Improvement of blind curve between km 5/0 to 6/500) | 369533/- | 7390/- | One month | PWD-8 | 350/- |

HP / 4947/18-19

-Him Suchna Avam Jansampark-

DELHI TODAY

Talk: "Archaeology at the margins of empire in pre-modern south India: Case studies from Karnataka" by Dr. Uthra Suvarthan, Visiting Asst. Professor, Jyoti Dalal School of Liberal Arts, NMIMS, Mumbai. Chair: Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray at Conference Room - I, India International Centre (IIC), 6 p.m.

Music Talk: "Sham Kahani", an evening of storytelling by Maneesh Manoj, Shamir Abadan, Nikunj Wadhawan and Priyanka Bhaskara at Amaltas Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Maestros of Motion Media" a show of movie posters, lobby cards and film stills by Indian film makers: Satyajit Ray, Mrinal Sen and Raj Kapoor at Mati, F-209, Old MB Road, Lado Sarai, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Screening: "Double Barrel" a Malayalam comedy film screening with English subtitles at Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@delhi@thehindu.co.in)

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



POOCH CAFE



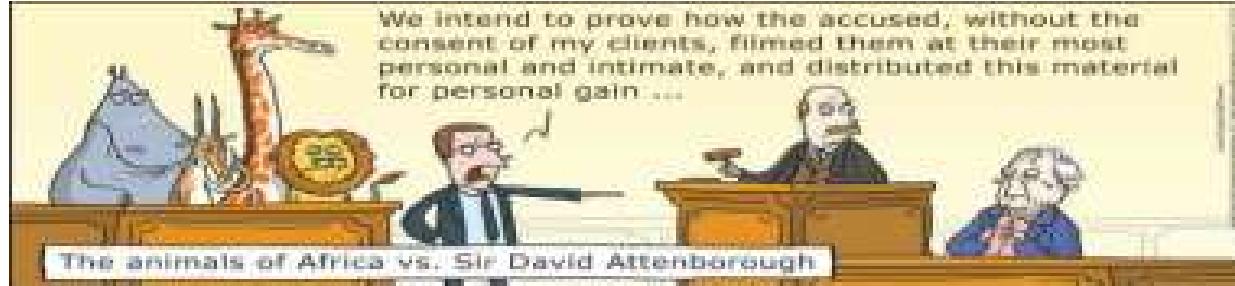
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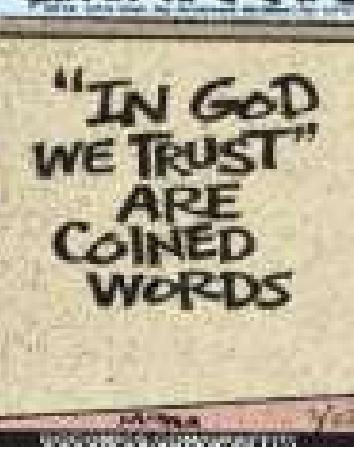
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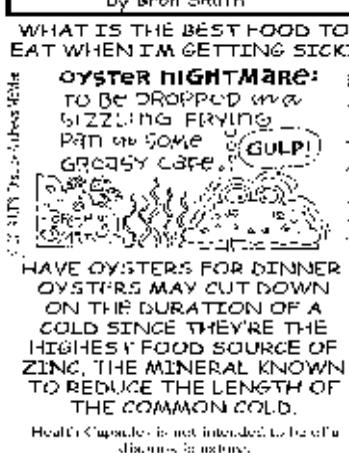
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



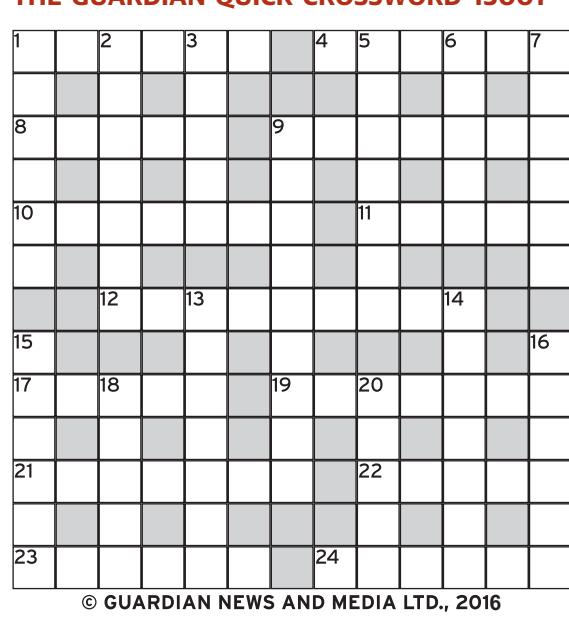
GRAFFITI



HEALTH CAPSULES



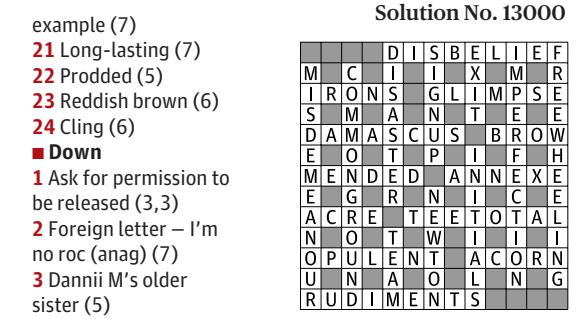
THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13001



- 5 Long-winded (7)
- 6 Card game for four (5)
- 7 Levels (6)
- 9 Stop (9)
- 13 Farewell (7)
- 14 Scintillate (7)
- 15 German Romantic songs for solo voice (6)
- 16 Interfere (6)
- 18 Mountain lakes (5)
- 20 Speedy (5)

Solution will appear in Delhi Metro dated February 25, 2019.

Solution No. 13000



- Across
- 1 Small streams (6)
- 21 Long-lasting (7)
- 22 Prodred (5)
- 23 Reddish brown (6)
- 24 Cling (6)
- Down
- 1 Ask for permission to be released (3,3)
- 2 Foreign letter — I'm no roc (anag.) (7)
- 17 Opening passage (abbr.) (5)
- 19 Lufthansa, for
- example (7)
- M C I I X M R
- I R O N S G L I M P S E
- S M A N T E E
- D A M A S C U S B R O W
- E O N I P I E H
- M E N D E D A N N E X E
- E G R N I C E
- A C R E T E E T O T A L
- N O T W I I
- O P U L E N T A C O R N
- U N A O L N G
- R U D I M E N T S

CM YK

4 SHOWCASE

A star is born

New actor on the block, Ncuti Gatwa on his out, proud and fabulous character, Eric in *Sex Education*

DEBORAH CORNELIOUS

Ncuti Gatwa has no qualms admitting he has a large posterior. As a 26-year-old African man, he's proud of his body. Gatwa, the breakout star of Netflix's *Sex Education*, talked about his openly gay black character on the hit series over an email interview with *The Hindu*. His character Eric's wardrobe choices are an extension of his personality, often expressing what his words cannot. "My favourite look has to be the prom outfit," he says about the African suit replete with a Nigerian head dress (Gele) and heels. "[It was] Eric embracing who he fully is, his sexuality, his religion, his culture." The suit was made from kente cloth (traditional Ghanaian cloth) and fitted and tailored for the actor in Ghana. "Having a suit made for me in Africa, for my African body was just perfect. For me, it was such a proud feeling, being able to stand there in a moment of power for my character in full African attire."

Growing pains

Gatwa could have easily fallen prey to being relegated as the token person-of-colour, playing sidekick to the straight white protagonist, Otis (Asa Butterfield). Instead, as Eric, the British actor – born to Rwandan parents – is utterly captivating. Whether he's compelling us to cringe at his embarrassing choice of a monochrome neon-orange ensemble; reeling from a cruel homophobic attack, while decked in red boots and a mini jeans skirt; or even as a new love, an interracial one at that, is blossoming with an unlikely character. "His two most admirable qualities [are] his strength and his resilience. He's constantly bouncing back with a smile on his

Queer spark: Ncuti Gatwa in *Sex Education* ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

face and an amazing outfit," says the actor who always thought he would end up doing something academic because of his strict African parents. "[Eric's] attitude was so inspiring to me that I wanted to capture his sense of optimism."

The Netflix show chronicles teenage growing-pains with a keen gaze on sexuality, but never makes this crux laborious. Otis, a sex therapist's son sets about establishing, at first reluctantly, a practice of his own at school, treating his peer's sexual predicaments. The show is equal parts funny, and poignant while tapping into nostalgia – heightened by an endearing 80s patina. While his best friend Otis is struggling with his own problems with sex, Eric is more open to exploring his desires. "His sexuality is

part of who he is but it doesn't define him, instead I wanted to focus on how he stands in the world around him," elaborates Gatwa about preparing for his role. "Eric is already openly gay when we meet him, he's grown up in a religious Ghanaian-Nigerian household, and he is aware of who he is. We see him trying to learn how to present that to the world, and eventually he realises that the best way is to be unashamed."

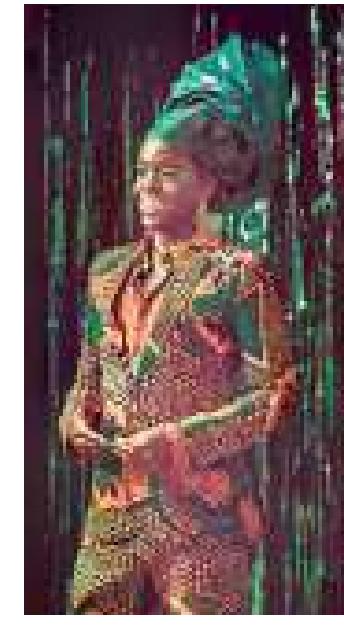
Lightly serious

Eric's proud display of his heritage and orientation is just one of many instances where *Sex Education* very nonchalantly makes a strong case for diversity and inclusivity. Interracial romances abound, but there are also lesbian mothers, dysfunctional family issues, a healthy

discourse on sex, and an emphasis on mental health. "It's incredibly important for the world to see a gay black character that's comfortable with themselves on screen," Gatwa says, adding that people often fail to realise that issues like racism, homophobia and prejudice still exists even though there's a concerted push against it.

"People don't want to see it happen because they feel that the power they once had is being taken away from them, whereas all representation means is that the world is reflected accurately instead of through a keyhole," he says. "I hope people can watch Eric and... feel empowered to live their best and true lives."

Season 1 of Sex Education is currently streaming on Netflix



FOOD SPOT

+ Ammi's sass in a bottle

The heat of the masala, the tart of the mango, and the bite of garlic – a surprise delivery worth writing home about



RAHUL VERMA

It all started with a post on Facebook. My friend Amita wrote about a harrowing experience she'd had with an online order of pickles. She was lured by some "mouth-watering pictures of plump veggies glistening with oil, sitting on golden parathas," but ended up feeling "foolish and short-changed". The pickles cost a bomb, but leaked oil when they arrived. The vegetables were still raw, and she was informed that she had to keep the jar out in the sun for several days. No, that was not nice.

Pleasant pickles

I, on the other hand, had a smooth experience with a recent pickle delivery. For one, I had not asked for them, so they came as a pleasant surprise.



More the merrier: Pickles with contrasting flavours ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Two, they were well-packed and leaked no oil. Three, though I could only try out a tiny bit from the two kinds of pickles that had arrived, they were rather good.

The pickles are from Ammi ke Achar, and are being marketed by a young man called Sahil Hassan, who runs a food-delivery system known as Sassy Begum. The

Hassan family prepares and sells hot and delicious Hyderabadi pickles prepared with garlic, mango, gongura, tamarind, and lime.

The spicy mango achar in avakai masala, and the garlic pickle are for ₹375 (for 300g).

The raw tamarind thokk chutney (with tamarind, green chillies, fenugreek seeds), nimmakaya (lime), and gongura pickles are for ₹300 (for 300g).

I liked the masala and the tartness of their mango pickle, and the raw, edgy bite of the garlic pickle. The pickle recipes, Sahil tells me, have been in the family for generations. Some of them can be found in *Saffron and Pearls*, a book written by his mother, Doreen Hassan.

In my house, people have

diverse views about pickles. My favourite is gobhi-gajar-shalgam – a sweet and sour pickle of cauliflower, carrots, and turnips. My friend Raj got me some of this recently, and I have been quietly licking my fingers. My wife likes the Bengali sweet pickle prepared with a berry called kul. Our home-manager loves anything that is hot and spicy, so she embraced a prawn pickle that another friend had brought for us last week. And she has been lapsing up Ammi ke Achar.

Banarsi chillies

In the last few months, I have ordered pickles online from Delight Foods, and another site called Place of Origin. You get everything here – from the stuffed red chillies of Banaras to sweet lemon pickle, topa kuler achar, and jackfruit pickle.

Products from the best pickle place in Delhi – Haranain Gokulchand in Khari Baoli – can also be bought online. From an Assamese food site, I ordered some pork pickle which was, however, not very exciting.

But if you want to make your own pickle, you could try this baingan ka achar (eggplant pickle) from Doreen Hassan's book: Wash, dry, and cube 750g of eggplants. Soak them in salted water for 3-4 hours. Take 1 litre of vinegar. Take 30g red chillies and grind them in some of the vinegar. Grind this to a fine paste, along with 30g green chillies, 2tsp turmeric powder, 1tsp black pepper, 1/2tsp fenugreek, 1tsp mustard seeds and 1/2tbsp cumin seed, using more of the vinegar as needed.

Heat 1/2 litre of refined groundnut oil; bring to a boil. Add the masala and fry until fragrant. Add 2 sprigs of curry leaves, 3tsp chopped ginger, and 2tsp of chopped garlic. Fry well. Add salt. Add the eggplants and 150g of sugar. Add the remaining vinegar. Cook on slow heat till the eggplants are done and the gravy has thickened. Cool and bottle.

Try it out. You will – pardon the pun – relish it.

For more information, call 9999122999 or log on to sassybegum.com.

THE WRITER IS A SEASONED FOOD CRITIC

Old-fashioned slapstick: There isn't much by way of plot in *Total Dhamaal*

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

FILM REVIEW

Total Dhamaal: Where's the fun?

Replete with old school slapstick, tepid gags, brazen stereotyping and digs at women, but what's missing in the film is a genuine dose of humour

NAMRATA JOSHI

There is one genuinely giggly moment in *Total Dhamaal*. It involves some cars, a train, a railway tunnel and lots of silliness. But such unfettered frivolity is barely there in the over two-hour long slog that is *Total Dhamaal*.

The blueprint is straight out of the first in the series – *Dhamaal* – which owes its existence to *It's a Mad Mad Mad World*. There's not much by way of plot. The one-line script features a bunch of loonies who end up in a zoo in search of hidden cash. The film starts by setting each one of them up for us, moves on to showing us their adventures and the characters they encounter in the chase for the lucre, with

the finale set in the zoo.

Many strange vehicles get deployed on the way – one that almost turns into a boat; a two-sided, remote-controlled car; a helicopter made with an autorickshaw engine; a parachute. Why there's even a Jackie "Bhidu" Shroff voice for the GPS system! Many cars crash; several rounds of bullets get fired. But much of the action in *Total Dhamaal* is just a series of tepid gags strung together.

The exchanges between characters are so deliberately about retorts and comebacks that it becomes a bore beyond a point. There is a consciously low-brow feel, old-fashioned slapstick of the "pants unexpectedly falling down" kind, brazen stereotyping –

from a nariyal-paani drinking, mundu-wearing "South Indian" to a meek Gujarati, a shrewish Marathi to a muffle-loving Bengali – and a dig too many at wives, domestic help, and assertive women who ostensibly do nothing but make men miserable.

The actors do seem to be having a lark, even as the film does injustice to their talent. The one noteworthy thing is how the animals (all fake, of course) in the zoo are more humane and sensible than the humans. Isn't this anyway, a truism?

Though there are many attempts to please the powers that be – Gujaratis dominating the world from Gandhi to now – the funniest bit is the unintended takedown of demonetisation. The

Total Dhamaal

DIRECTOR: Indra Kumar
CAST: Madhuri Dixit, Ajay Devgn, Anil Kapoor, Riteish Deshmukh, Arshad Warsi, Javed Jaffrey, Sanjay Mishra, Pitobash, Mahesh Manjrekar, Boman Irani

STORYLINE: A bunch of loonies end up in a zoo, in search of hidden cash

loot everyone is chasing is the *kala dhan* (black money) that has come riding on demonetisation: the commission received for the illegal conversion of old notes for new. A lame assertion is made that the leadership wanted to clean things up but "*hum nahin sudhrenge*". Easy excuse that!

PEOPLE

Dad jokes

Amit Tandon returns to Delhi, the city he grew up in, with a new stand-up act

Amit Tandon is bringing his new stand-up comedy show *Not Getting Wiser to Delhi*. The 90-minute solo show is largely about his challenges with parenting two kids. "When you have one child, you become a parent; when you have two, you become a referee," he says, of the foibles of the trade. Excerpts from an interview.

Tell us about your parenting experiences.

I have two kids; one is 14 and the other is 13. Parenting has evolved a lot over the last few years. It used to be about keeping a tab on your kid. Today it has become about micro-managing your kid. Our report cards used to be half-a-page long. Now we have six-page report cards. When we were growing up we were conscious of what we did in front of our parents. Now we are conscious of what we do in front of our kids.

What are the advantages of having kids with a small age gap?

We are happy. We could change diapers with closed eyes. We didn't need to turn on the lights. If there is a considerable age gap, parenting becomes tougher because you have to relearn the entire process. You have to develop patience all over again.

What would you say about the Delhi audience?

The Delhi audience has evolved. It is not as cosmopolitan as Mumbai, but you are tuned to different kinds of comedy. When you come in for a show you no longer have to start with slapstick jokes. I am from Delhi, so I am always confident about performing here. In fact, I stop mid-way through a joke and let the audience complete it. Delhi has a thinking audience now.

There are so many stand-up comedians these days...

There is much more variety now. We are not competing in the same space. We cater to different kinds of audiences. Looking at the size of the Indian population, there is enough work for everybody. My audience starts from tier-2 cities, from 30 years onwards. From the beginning, I have been conscious of the language I use, so people are okay bringing their parents along. This works very well for me.

Did the Netflix show bring you a different kind of audience?

In India, its reach is limited to niche corners. What it did was, it added to my international audience. I am getting a lot more shows. My US tour is still three months away, but in most of the cities, we are already sold out.

You don't comment on political issues...

Most of my time is spent with my kids, attending their parent-teacher meetings, taking care of the house and the like. So my stories are about what happens with us every day. However, I have commented on issues like demonetisation, because it affected me: my wife would frequently send me to the ATM nearby.

Do you sometimes fear that one day you will run out of jokes?

That is a constant fear: that you've exhausted your best material. You question whether you have the capacity left to bring new insight. I usually run my news jokes through comedian friends like Neeti Palta. My wife also gives me feedback.

What is more important: content or style?

It should be a combination of both, 50:50. If you have great content, but you do not deliver it properly, people don't remember. If you have too much style, but no content, you end up being a slapstick comedian.

Amit Tandon will perform at Siri Fort Auditorium, Saturday, 8 p.m.

ANUJ KUMAR

PREVIEW

Rock the talk



A bunch of 40 women from India and abroad, all part of a group called #TheSareeStory (TSS), are coming together to celebrate the drape, through a fashion show at Kunzum Café, Gurugram. These are women from different walks of life, ranging from their 20s to their 60s. "We have three main focus areas: weaves from across the country, the different styles of wearing saris (Bengali, Coorgi, for instance), and the fact that 68 of our saris have the GI (geographical indicator) tag (though only 40 will be modelled)," says Shakti Khanna, from Gurugram. Kamala Iyer, her co-administrator of the group, has flown down from Dubai for the show, to style it in traditional, corporate (look out for sari pants), and contemporary ways. TSS is now a 4,000-strong Facebook group that does sari meet-ups, has debates on weaves and handicraft, and aims at reviving the garment as everyday wear, to the extent that Shakti, a social worker, often runs in one.

February 24, 2019; 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., ₹250, open to women and to men who accompany them; Kunzum Travel Café, Sector 47, Gurugram; wetravel@kunzum.com; 8800200280, 9650702777