



Court denies urgent hearing of Hardik's plea to suspend conviction  
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## NEARBY



Open to alliance with AAP, says Rahul

NEW DELHI  
Congress president Rahul Gandhi said on Tuesday that the party had stitched alliances across the country and was open to one, when asked whether there would be a tie-up with AAP.

DELI METRO ▶ PAGE 1

BJP holds fresh survey on probable candidates

NEW DELHI  
Several BJP bigwigs are overseeing a "fresh survey" aimed at assessing and identifying candidates to be fielded from each of the seven Lok Sabha seats in the Capital, sources said on Tuesday.

DELI METRO ▶ PAGE 1

BJP reposes faith in sitting Aligarh MP

ALIGARH  
Despite opposition from within the ranks, the BJP has reposed its faith in sitting MP Satish Kumar Gautam who won the 2014 LS election from Aligarh. Sources say Mr. Gautam has earned the party's confidence by emerging as a poster boy of Hindutva during the Jinnah portrait controversy in AMU in 2018.

NORTH ▶ PAGE 2

OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 17  
DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

# Congress promises to create wealth, ensure welfare for all

Manifesto commits to providing ₹72,000 annual income to poorest families

SANDEEP PHUKAN  
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday released its manifesto for the 2019 Lok Sabha election and promised to "create wealth and guarantee welfare" to every Indian citizen by focussing on jobs, agriculture, health, education and welfare for women.

Apart from promising ₹72,000 annually to five crore poorest families under the Nyuntam Aay Yojana (NYAY) or minimum income guarantee scheme, the party promised to fill 22 lakh vacancies in Union and State governments, create an additional 10 lakh jobs in gram sabhas, and guarantee 150 days of rural employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

### Farm budget

It offered a separate budget for farmers, besides promising to make non-repayment or default on a farm loan a civil liability instead of a criminal offence, come out with a revamped Goods and Services Tax and give new start-ups the liberty to operate for the first three years without any permission.

The manifesto promised to pass the Women's Reservation Bill, reserving one-



**Agriculture sector:** Farmers will be put on the path from 'Karz maaifi' (loan waiver) to 'Karz mukti' (freedom from loans) through remunerative prices, lower input costs, and access to institutional credit. A separate "Kisan Budget" will be presented every year

**National security:** National Security Adviser and National Security Council will be accountable to Parliament, and their powers will be defined under law. Chief of Defence Staff will be made principal adviser to the government on matters relating to defence

**Review of laws:** The sedition law will be scrapped. Laws will be passed to prevent and punish hate crimes like lynching. Defamation will be made a civil offence. The Supreme Court will be made a court to interpret the Constitution and a Court of Appeal will be set up to deal with appeal cases from the High Courts

third of the Lok Sabha and State Assembly seats, in the "first session" of the new Lok Sabha.

The party talked of "eschewing muscular militarism" and starting the process of dialogue to win the hearts and minds of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

It promised to work with the international community and take steps to "isolate Pakistan and force it to give up its terror infrastructure."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

A COMEBACK ▶ PAGE 10

## Dangerous ideas: Jaitley

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The BJP said on Tuesday that the Congress's manifesto was full of "dangerous ideas" that could lead to the "Balkanisation" of India and the Opposition party "did not deserve a single vote".

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, addressing a press conference at the BJP's headquarters, said the manifesto's provisions for Jammu and Kashmir looked

like they had been drafted by the "Tukde tukde" gang, an euphemism for those who the BJP feels are out to break the integrity of the Indian state, namely Maoists and ultra-Leftists.

Addressing a rally in Tamil Nadu, BJP president Amit Shah questioned why the Congress wanted to "downgrade" the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in Jammu and Kashmir.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

# Poll panel steps in to allow launch of book on Rafale deal

Team that tried to stop event in Chennai taken off duty

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

A few hours after an election flying squad in Chennai served a letter banning the release of a book on the Rafale fighter aircraft scam, the publishing house managed to launch the book by obtaining the nod from the Election Commission of India.

Sources in the Commission later said the members of the flying squad that conducted the raid had been relieved from duty and issued a show cause notice.

A new team has been constituted as part of the flying squad, they added.

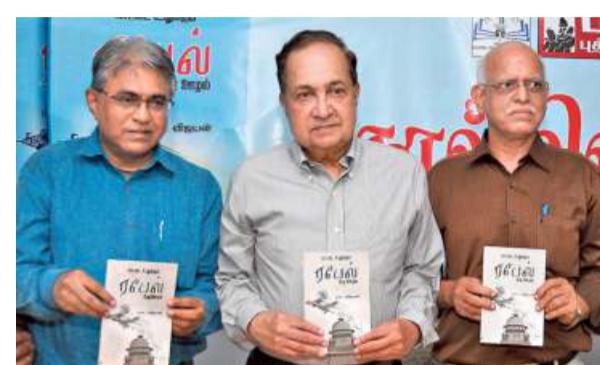
The book *Nattai Ulukkum Rafale Bera Oozhal* (The Rafale scam that is rocking the country), by social activist S. Vijayan was brought out by Tamil publishing house Bharathi Puthakalayam.

The price tag of the slender volume is ₹10.

In the evening, following the intervention of the Election Commission, the book was released by N. Ram, Chairman, The Hindu Publishing Group.

**Arbitrary, illegal: Ram**

Speaking at the event, Mr. Ram said what happened in the morning was totally arbitrary, illegal and anti-democratic. "The flying squad, the persons involved, first they called the people at the venue and had the meeting cancelled, frightened them. Secondly, they turned up and confiscated from the showroom 150 copies of the



N. Ram, Chairman, The Hindu Publishing Group, centre, releasing the book, *The Rafale scam that is rocking the country*, in Chennai on Tuesday. ■ S. RAGHUNATHAN

arajan a hand-written letter banning the book's release and sale. In spite of opposition from the publisher and other staff, police personnel and other officials seized all copies of the book.

book. Fortunately, they were not destroyed and they were returned later. They were under the impression that the rules applicable to elections, particularly the model code of conduct, give them the licence to act in a partisan way," he said.

"What is the Rafale deal all about? It has nothing to do with a communal issue. It has nothing to do with relation between communities. It has nothing to do with relations between castes or any section of the people or class war," said Mr. Ram. "Under what provisions of the rules can they take action and threaten the publishers and organisers saying they would file a case if the book was launched?" he asked.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

## Mayawati asks SC about Patel statue

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief, Mayawati, on Tuesday countered criticism in the Supreme Court against her statues and elephant sculptures across Uttar Pradesh.

She asked why questions

were raised neither in the media nor in the court on the 182-metre-high statue of Sardar Patel in Gujarat, U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's proposed 221 metre statue of Ram or the Chhatrapati Shivaji statue project in Maharashtra, costing ₹3,643.78 crore.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

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## + RBI circular to banks on loan defaulters quashed

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday struck down a Reserve Bank of India circular giving lender banks six months to resolve their stressed assets or move under the Insolvency Code against private entities who have defaulted on loans

worth over ₹2,000 crore.

The 84-page judgment, by a Bench of Justices Rohinton Nariman and Vineet Saran, spells relief across sectors, ranging from power to telecom to steel, infrastructure, sugar and fertilizer. All insolvency proceedings initiated against debtors under the cir-

cular have been declared *non est*. The RBI countered the petitioner-companies' claim that its February 12, 2018 circular was "manifestly arbitrary". On the contrary, it said, the circular was in the public interest and "in the interest of the national economy to see that ever-greening

of debts does not carry on indefinitely".

The RBI said, "These huge amounts that are due should come back into the economy for further productive use."

But the court found favour with the companies' arguments that a general direction by the RBI, applying the 180-

day limit to all sectors, without going into the special problems faced by each, would "treat unequal equally".

The companies said the circular violated Article 14 of the Constitution.

NO GOVT. APPROVAL ▶ PAGE 10

RULING MAY DELAY RESOLUTION OF STRESSED ASSETS ▶ PAGE 13

## Enzyme to curb bacteria cell growth discovered

Opens up fresh ways to target microbes

V. GEETANATH  
HYDERABAD

Scientists at the Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CCMB) have discovered an enzyme which helps in breaking cell walls of bacteria and hence, offers potential for a new drug delivery route to arrest the anti-bacterial resistance to the existing antibiotic drugs.

At a press conference here on Tuesday, CCMB director Rakesh Mishra and senior scientist Manjula Reddy explained that it is crucial to know how cells grow in bacteria to understand the anti-bacterial resistance to currently available antibiotics.

Scientists all over the world are trying to understand this phenomenon and the lab of Dr. Reddy has been working on how *E. coli* bacteria cells function, divide and grow to understand diseases like cholera, leprosy and tuberculosis for the past decade.

Dr. Reddy and her research scholar Ch. Pavan Kumar have been working on how the cell governs the synthetic machinery to build the cell wall in the first place, identified the principal players behind the process and disco-

vered the new mechanism or enzyme through which the cell regulates growth of its wall. Other bacteria, too, have the same enzyme working on cell division as the cell wall is fundamental for bacterial growth and division. Therefore, by blocking this "scissors enzyme" from functioning, new ways to target microbes could be found, leading to a new wave of antibiotic drugs.

In contrast, the classical antibiotic drugs target the last stage of cell synthesis to prevent cell growth like penicillin that hits the machinery that creates the cell wall – a mesh-like structure of cross-linked sugars and peptides. The findings have been published in the latest issue of *Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences, USA*.

CCMB director Rakesh Mishra, left, Manjula Reddy and research scholar Ch. Pavan Kumar in Hyderabad. ■ K.V.S. GIRI

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FRIDAY, APRIL 05		
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**Delhi Palam Today**  
37°C Pleasant hazy morning.  
Day temperature to jump significantly. Very light wind and mainly sunny sky likely.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
39°C Further rise in day temperature may lead to hot weather condition over the city. Pollution level to deteriorate.

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## IN BRIEF

**M.P. official nabbed for allegedly taking bribe**

The Lokayukta police on Tuesday nabbed a Madhya Pradesh Education department official for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of ₹50,000 from a retired teacher, police said. PTI

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# Caste, religion drive campaign in high-stakes Aligarh seat

BJP, Congress, SP-BSP-RLD locked in an intriguing triangular contest here

**ELECTION 2019**



**Now playing politics:** The iconic Tasveer Mahal theatre is now the BSP party office. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Despite opposition from within the ranks, the BJP has reposed its faith in sitting MP Satish Kumar Gautam who won the 2014 Lok Sabha election from Aligarh by a margin of over 2.8 lakh votes.

Sources say Mr. Gautam has earned the party's confidence by emerging as a poster boy of Hindutva in the communally sensitive city during the Jinnah portrait controversy in Aligarh Muslim University in 2018. "As AMU has no significant vote bank, he used it as a whipping boy by presenting the institution as a mini-Pakistan to the rest of the constituency," says Dr. Aftab Alam, professor of political science at AMU.

Being a Brahmin, Mr. Gautam fits the caste arithmetic as well, as both his main rivals are Jats – Congress' Bijendra Singh and Ajit Balyan of SP-BSP-RLD – and the Thakur vote seems to be getting divided.

There are suggestions that Rajasthan Governor and BJP veteran Kalyan Singh wanted the Aligarh ticket for Thakur Shivraj Singh, the father-in-law of his granddaughter, but the Central leadership didn't heed to his wish. As a result,

seen as a polarising figure in the Hindu community, making a last-minute switch to the Congress, Mr. Bijendra is hoping to open the deadlock for his party in western U.P.

"In the last five years, the BJP has poisoned society and there is a sense of fear. Having been in public life for 35 years, I am trusted by both Hindus and Muslims. Farmers are losing crops because of stray cattle menace and the payment of cane farmers has not been made yet," says the five-time MLA.

### Smart City drive

The election will decide how the BJP's development agenda will translate into votes. Since the city has come under the Smart Cities Mission, the administration has been running a dedicated drive to remove illegal encroach-

ments. "We are ready to bear the burden. It is good for the city," says Nitin Agarwal who runs a shop at Centre Point, the city's business hub.

About 2 km away, the Dodhpur area looks even more dilapidated. Abdul Azim, who runs a popular sweet shop, alleges that establishments run by Muslims were purposefully targeted to make a point. "In our shops the bulldozer was allowed to create damage beyond the official mark. We are already reeling under the effect of demonetisation, how can we afford to go to the court," asks Mr. Aziz.

### BSP's newcomer

The BSP has opted for a rank newcomer in Ajit Baliyan. By hiring the Tasveer Mahal theatre, once a major cultural symbol of the city, as the party office, he is attracting eyeballs. With Md. Furqan, the BSP mayor in tow, he is seeking Dalit-Muslim unity.

"The Jatav voter knows that we don't have the resources to field a Scheduled Caste candidate on a general seat. He goes by Behenji's [Mayawati's] choice. The BJP is trying to woo the Valmikis and the OBCs, but with the SP part of the pact [gathbandhan], we will sail through," says Lal Singh Rastogi, president of the BSP unit of the Koil Assembly segment. Aligarh votes in the second phase on April 18.

# Punjab Opposition targets Congress

Over a alleged embezzlement by cops

**VIKAS VASUDEVA**  
CHANDIGARH

Mr. Cheema said.

The Khanna police had last week said it had seized ₹9.66 crore in "black money" from six persons, including the priest, during checking of vehicles at a checkpoint on G.T. Road at Doraha. However, the next day the priest accused the police of showing only ₹9.66 crore, instead of the ₹16.65 crore seized, and claimed the cash was accounted for.

Meanwhile, SAD has urged the Chief Election Commissioner to order an independent probe into the allegations levelled by Anthony Madassery, a priest at a church in Jalandhar's Parappura village, the Aam Aadmi Party and the Shiromani Akali Dal have expressed concern over the allegations against the police and demanded an independent probe.

Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly Harpal Singh Cheema said given the fact that the allegation of embezzlement has been levelled against the police, the State government should immediately hand over the investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

### CBI probe sought

"How can we expect a fair probe by the police against its own personnel? The probe should be handed over to the CBI. With Lok Sabha election round the corner, we fear that this embezzled amount could be used to influence voters," said Mr. Cheema.

**NGT orders action against polluting distillery**

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

Following a plea alleging violation of environmental norms by a Karnal-based distillery, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Haryana government to take action against "erring officials".

Following a report submitted by a panel comprising representatives from the Central Pollution Control Board and the Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) that stated violations by the unit, a Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel rapped the HSPCB for inaction.

### 'Failed to act'

"We find that in spite of the report showing serious violation of law, the Haryana State Pollution Control Board has failed to initiate any action for prosecution and assessment and recovery of compensation for the damage caused. This may show either negligence, collusion or incompetence of the State PCB," the Bench observed.

Directing the HSPCB to take immediate steps, the green panel said, "The State PCB may now forthwith take steps in this regard to protect health of inhabitants and to uphold the rule of law, failing which action may be initiated against Chairman and Member Secretary of the State PCB."

## Speaker keeps the suspense

Eight-time MP leaves it to party to announce pick for Indore

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
INDORE

As suspense continued over the BJP's nominee from Indore constituency, Lok Sabha Speaker and local MP Sumitra Mahajan on Tuesday said she never sought poll ticket from the party in the last three decades.

Asked about the delay in announcing her candidature, the eight-time MP from Indore said BJP leaders might be having "something" on their mind.

The BJP has not fielded many of its veterans, including former presidents L.K. Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi, in the Lok Sabha elections.

### Winner since 1989

There is speculation that Ms. Mahajan, who turns 76 on April 12, may also not be renominated.

The second woman to be Lok Sabha Speaker, Ms. Ma-

hajan said the BJP has been fielding her from Indore on its own. "I did not seek ticket from the Indore seat in 1989 when I first contested the Lok Sabha elections. The party on its own made me its candidate. I have never demanded my nomination," she said.

The Speaker said only the party can say who will contest from Indore, a commercial hub and the largest city in Madhya Pradesh. "Possibly, BJP organisation leaders have something on their mind. I cannot say anything until the organisation speaks out," she said.

### Not talked on delay

The veteran parliamentarian said she has not talked to any BJP leader and sought to know the reason for delay in announcing the party nominee for Indore. "Such question is not asked in our party because the nominations are

decided by the organisation. The organisation would take an appropriate decision on Indore at an appropriate time," she said.

**Names in circulation**

Ms. Mahajan said there is nothing wrong in names of local leaders being discussed in party circles as probable nominees. "It is a good thing and natural. The party should have many alternatives as this proves its strength," she said.

Names of Indore Mayor and MLA Malini Gaud, another legislator Usha Thakur, BJP general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya, former MLA Bhanwar Singh Shekawat and Indore Development Authority's former chairman Shanker Lalwani are doing the rounds as possible candidates from the constituency.

Polling for the seat is scheduled on May 19.

## Saluting the brave



BSF Director General Rajni Kant Mishra pays tribute to martyred police Inspector T. Alex Lalminlun during a wreath-laying ceremony in Jammu on Tuesday. Lalminlun was killed in Pakistani firing along the Line of Control. ■ PTI

## BSP-LSP alliance names six candidates

Of the 10 LS seats in Haryana, the BSP will contest on eight and the LSP on two

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
CHANDIGARH

The BSP and its alliance partner Loktantra Suraksha Party (LSP), an outfit floated by rebel BJP MP Raj Kumar Saini, on Tuesday announced six candidates for the Lok Sabha polls in Haryana.

The candidates were finalised in consultation with Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati, the leaders of the two parties said.

Of the 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) will contest on eight and the LSP on two, they said.

The candidates whose names were announced at a press conference in Rohtak included farmers, businessmen, social workers and party workers.

LSP supremo Saini, BSP senior leader Meghraj and party State president Prakash Bharti said the names were announced after consulting Ms. Mayawati.

The LSP fielded Ramesh Rao Pilot from Bhiwani-Ma-

ward classes as a vote bank. Mr. Saini, the sitting MP from Kurukshetra, said that he was fighting for the rights of Dalits and the oppressed classes.

Mr. Meghraj announced that the names of the remaining candidates will be announced over the next few days. The alliance partners will jointly hold rallies all over Haryana and Ms. Mayawati too would be campaigning in the State, Mr. Bharti said, adding that the dates were yet to be finalised.

### Ties called off

The BSP had in February called off its nearly nine-month-old alliance with Haryana's main opposition the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) and forged ties with the Saini-led LSP.

The development had taken place days after the Om Prakash Chautala-led INLD suffered a humiliating defeat in the Jind bypolls, with party candidate Umed Singh Redhu forfeiting his security deposit.

The alliance leaders alleged that the parties who have been holding power in Haryana have over the years used Dalits and the back-

## BSP finalises 5 candidates in Rajasthan

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
JAIPUR

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has declared five Lok Sabha candidates for Rajasthan. The party will contest on all the 25 Lok Sabha seats in the State.

The party high command has declared five nominees and names of remaining candidates will be announced soon, BSP State president Sitaram Meghwal said on Tuesday.

The party has fielded Imran Khan from Alwar, Harish Kumar from Kota, Badri Prasad from Jhalawar-Baran, Keshlal from Udaipur and Colonel Durga Lal from Ajmer parliamentary constituencies.

Six BSP candidates had emerged winners in the State Assembly elections held last year.

## Man killed in M.P. clash; arms, ammo seized

'Cong., BJP supporters involved'

**ANUP DUTTA**  
Bhopal

One person was killed and nine were injured in a clash between supporters of two political parties in Hoshangabad district of Madhya Pradesh on Sunday.

The deceased has been identified as Dayaram (30), son of Bhallu Gurjar, of Nibhora village. He received serious injuries on his stomach in the clash.

The injured have been admitted to the government district hospital here.

Superintendent of Police, Hoshangabad, M.L. Char said guns, sticks and stones were used in the clash.

According to the police, there was festered rivalry between the two groups since the last panchayat elections and the latest provocation was the ongoing construction work of a drain in the village. The groups owe allegiance to the ruling Congress and the Opposition BJP, the police said.

In the last 20 days after the announcement of the elections, cash, illegal liquor and drugs worth over Rs. 14 crore have been seized.

## Cong. names six candidates in Punjab

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

The Congress on Tuesday announced six candidates for Punjab, besides one for the lone seat of Union Territory Chandigarh.

Sitting MP and president of the party's Punjab unit Sunil Jakhar has been nominated from Gurdaspur, while Santokh Singh Chaudhary will contest from Jalandhar. Two other sitting MPs – Ravneet Bittu and Gurjeet Aujla – have been named from Ludhiana and Amritsar respectively. Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's wife and former Union Minister Preneet Kaur will contest from Patiala while MLA Raj Kumar Chabbewal will be the party's candidate from Hoshiarpur.

Former Union Minister Pawan Kumar Bansal has been announced as party candidate from Chandigarh. Punjab has 13 Lok Sabha seats where polling will be held on May 19.

# Modi, Mamata to kick-start poll campaign in Bengal today

PM to address a rally in Siliguri; CM to hold her first public meeting in Dinhata

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KOLKATA  
The battle of Bengal is all set to heat up with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Trinamool Congress president Mamata Banerjee kick-starting their campaign on Wednesday in the State that sends the third largest number of Lok Sabha members to Parliament.



PM Narendra Modi in Jamui in Bihar on Tuesday. ■ PTI



CM Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata. ■ FILE PHOTO

While Mr. Modi will address a rally at Siliguri, Ms. Banerjee will hold her first public meeting in the State at Dinhata, both in North Bengal.

**War of words likely**  
Political circles are agog that a war of words is on the cards with Ms. Banerjee deciding to hold her public rally on the same day the Prime Minister will begin his campaign in the State.

Ms. Banerjee, who was earlier scheduled to begin

## A new MP for Kandhamal again

BJD has won here every time, but with different candidates

**ELECTION 2019**  
SIB KUMAR DAS  
BERHAMPUR  
As on the previous three occasions, the Kandhamal Lok Sabha seat in Odisha will have a new MP in 2019.

Voters of this parliamentary constituency and seven Assembly segments under it will exercise their franchise in the second phase on April 18.

The Kandhamal LS constituency was carved out in 2008 following the delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies. Since its first election in 2009, this seat has always been bagged by the Biju Janata Dal, but the winning candidates have changed.

In 2009, Rudra Madhab Ray won the seat for the BJD.

## AFSPA scaled back in Arunachal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI  
After 32 years, the controversial Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, which gives sweeping powers to security forces, was partially removed from three of the nine districts of Arunachal Pradesh but would remain in force in the areas bordering Myanmar, officials said here.

The Justice B.P. Jeevan Reddy committee had recommended scrapping of the Act from the State.

## Reconsider poll boycott: Mizoram CEO

Urge civil societies not to deprive people of their democratic rights

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
AIZAWL

Mizoram Chief Electoral Officer Ashish Kundra on Tuesday appealed to a conglomerate of civil societies and student bodies to reconsider its decision to boycott the April 11 Lok Sabha election in the State and observe indefinite bandh from April 8.

The NGO Coordination

Committee had on Monday said that it would boycott polls to the lone Mizoram parliamentary seat if special polling booths were established in the State for Bru refugees staying in neighbouring Tripura.

Mr. Kundra urged the civil societies not to deprive the people of their democratic rights and to ensure that people of Mizoram has representation in Parliament.

"At a meeting held before the Assembly election last year, it was decided that Bru voters living in the relief camps would exercise their franchise inside Mizoram, and it was arranged. Offi-

cials of the EC, the NGOCC and the State election department had attended the meeting," Mr. Kundra said.

He said that as far as he knew, there was no agreement that the Bru refugees will cast their votes in those polling stations of Mizoram where they were enrolled as voters.

The NGOCC had earlier threatened to launch agitation if temporary polling stations were set up for the Brus.

The organisation was of the opinion that those living outside Mizoram should not be allowed to vote in the State.

## Titli-hit Odisha panchayat sees hope in polls

Villagers want written promise of resolution of their long-standing problems

SIB KUMAR DAS  
GANGABADA

Not their promises made during the 2014 elections but devastation and deaths caused by the Titli cyclone in 2018 made politicians remember the Gangabada panchayat of Odisha's Ganjam district under Mohana Assembly segment of Berhampur Lok Sabha seat.

Landslides caused by heavy rain claimed 16 lives in Baraghara, and one each in Budapachuria and Bengasahi villages on October 11, 2018.

Houses and agricultural fields were razed to the ground. Prominent political leaders, including BJD president and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan of the BJP, had rushed to this region with promises. But almost six months later, the villagers are still struggling to pick up the pieces.

Around 1,200 voters of this remote tribal-dominated



Baraghara residents rebuilding their houses damaged by Cyclone Titli. ■ LINGARAJ PANDA

panchayat had boycotted the 2014 Lok Sabha and Assembly polls alleging that all political parties had failed to take notice of their long-standing problems such as connectivity, better healthcare and education facilities. But this time, following the persuasion of the local administration and some political leaders, they have decided to exercise their franchise.

"Except for enhancement of communication to some extent, none of our other demands have been fulfilled till now. Even now one has to go to the hilltop or roofs of their houses to get mobile connection."

Former sarpanch of Ganjam, Haribandhu Karjai said: "We have decided to

ask all political leaders visiting here to give a written promise to solve our long-standing problems."

He alleged that since 2014 elections till the Titli cyclone hit the villages, no political leader had visited them to discuss their problems.

"With delay in rehabilitation, the residents of Baraghara have started reconstructing their old houses using ₹10,000 compensation they had received for each destroyed house."

vility in this region," he added.

After the cyclone devastation, Mr. Patnaik had initiated relocation of 76 tribal families from Baraghara to downhill Dengasahi mouza. Even after having 'patta' (ownership document) of the land, where they are to be rehabilitated, the families have not been able to take possession and start house construction. "Inhabitants of adjoining Andhra Pradesh, who were using the land for shifting cultivation, are not allowing us to construct houses there. Ten days ago, we had to face violent opposition from them," said Laxmi Behera, a resident of Upper Sahi or higher region of Baraghara.

"With delay in rehabilitation, the residents of Baraghara have started reconstructing their old houses using ₹10,000 compensation they had received for each destroyed house."

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**CYK**

# Pawar to Modi: no need to worry about my family

NCP chief responds to Prime Minister's remarks in Wardha

**SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE**  
PUNE



Hitting out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks against him and his family Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday said Mr. Modi had trivialised the PM's post and the prestige that goes with it.

"I watched the Prime Minister's speech at Wardha. Instead of providing succour to drought-hit farmers, he was targeting my family... Mr. Modi ought not to worry about my family," said Mr. Pawar, addressing a rally in Kolhapur on Tuesday evening.

The NCP supremo further said that the Prime Minister's post was an institution in itself whose prestige must be preserved at all costs.

"Instead, Mr. Modi, with his undignified remarks, has shown that he utterly lacks the responsibility and pru-

dency that goes with the PM's position," he said, adding: "one would have thought that Mr. Modi's speech would have contained something more substantial as it was delivered at a place where Mahatma Gandhi had lived and worked".

In his rally at Wardha on Monday Mr. Modi had targeted Mr. Pawar and the NCP, remarking that a dynastic war was brewing within the

party in which Mr. Pawar was losing control over his party to his nephew, NCP leader Ajit Pawar.

Mr. Pawar praised Ajit and said he was an excellent administrator and efficient party worker.

"The NCP is not a party of any single individual or individuals. It is a party of the people," the NCP chief said said.

He also criticised Mr. Modi for always criticising the Nehru-Gandhi family.

"Wherever he goes, the PM targets the Gandhi family in all his speeches...it was Indira Gandhi who created history by decisively defeating Pakistan in the 1971 Indo-Pak war...Sonia Gandhi did not leave the country after Rajiv Gandhi's assassination. So,

why does Mr. Modi needlessly attack the Gandhi family in an undignified manner?"

Mr. Pawar said.

have Maha Aghadi in the end. "We have decided that there will be one set of ads for the entire coalition from now on. The campaign highlights the questions that people are facing in the State. The Prime Minister has his Mann Ki Baat, this is the people's Mann Ki Baat," NCP spokesperson Nawab Malik said.

"The current government, be it at the Centre or the State is taking no responsibility for not fulfilling the promises and assurances it made in 2014, and instead is questioning the former government," Mr. Malik said.

A highly experienced campaigner, Mr. Joshi has held a number of posts in

the party, serving as the MPCC Youth Congress president in the 1980s as well as helming the party in Pune from 1997-2005.

Yet, the question arises whether either candidate is capable of catering to the needs of a burgeoning, rapidly-changing Pune city dogged with water, transport and pollution problems.

With the Congress naming old-timer Mohan Joshi as its candidate from the Pune Lok Sabha seat, the party faces an uphill task to reclaim the constituency which was once a Congress bastion.

He has a number of things common with his main BJP rival Girish Bapat. Both are in their 60s, both are Brahmins with strong base in old Pune, both have been party loyalists for over three decades, and both enjoy the support of the city's trading community.

Mohan Joshi, Congress candidate from Pune, campaigning in the city on Tuesday. ■ MANDAR TANNU

are, in fact, relieved that the Congress has picked Mr. Joshi, and not a Maratha candidate like Arvind Shinde against Mr. Bapat.

"A younger candidate like Arvind Shinde, who is more dynamic and has its pulse on the problems facing Pune city, might have given Mr. Bapat and the BJP a run for their money. However, with the Congress fielding Mr. Joshi, it is akin to a walkover for us," said a close aide of Mr. Bapat, remarking that the BJP could "now breathe easy with their campaigning for Pune".

Mr. Joshi, however, is unfazed by his political detractors. "By giving me the honour to contest Pune, our party president Rahul Gandhi has sent out a strong and positive message to all Congress loyalists in Maharashtra that there is justice for those who have worked diligently for their party," he told *The Hindu*.

But since three-time MP and senior Congressman Suresh Kalmadi's political twilight, the Congress has been losing its toehold in Pune, morphing into a weak, fractured party, very different from the one under stalwarts like V.N. Gadgil.

A number of BJP insiders

With a tender touch



Ninety-nine, and counting: Villagers from Mochimad carefully release 99 olive ridley hatchlings into the sea at the beach in Sindhudurg district of Konkan region in the State on Tuesday. For the past 20 years Mochimad villagers have been conserving and releasing endangered olive ridley egg hatchlings with the help of Konkan forest officials. ■ RAJENDRA GAWANKAR



## Cong. fields Mohan Joshi from Pune

Has held several posts, including State Youth Congress chief

**SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE**  
PUNE

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A number of BJP insiders

## Number of booths touches a record 97,640

Nearly 65 lakh new voters in State

**SHARAD VYAS**  
MUMBAI

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has added over 2,000 polling booths in Maharashtra with an addition of nearly 65 lakh new voters for elections to the 48 Lok Sabha seats. The ECI had set up 64,508 booths in 2004, while increasing the numbers to 83,986 in 2009. During the 2014 polls the number of booths was increased to 91,329. The 2019 polls will have 97,640 polling booths with 274 added in Nashik, 237 in Pune, and another 227 in Thane among other minor additions except Sindhudurg, with an estimated 1,400 voters in a single booth.

The total number of polling booths is now a record 97,640, in addition to another 1,100 temporary polling stations, senior officials of the ECI said. "We have provided maximum number of polling booths in Mumbai suburbs and Thane, where urban areas are given greater share of the facilities with the increase in voters," said a senior EC official adding that the count of sensi-

tive booths too would jump.

The total polling stations have been steadily rising in Maharashtra with an addition of nearly 65 lakh new voters for elections to the 48 Lok Sabha seats. The ECI had set up 64,508 booths in 2004, while increasing the numbers to 83,986 in 2009. During the 2014 polls the number of booths was increased to 91,329. The 2019 polls will have 97,640 polling booths with 274 added in Nashik, 237 in Pune, and another 227 in Thane among other minor additions except Sindhudurg, with an estimated 1,400 voters in a single booth. "We extended our voter registration drive and the hard work has paid off. Before the start of the exercise, we had put in place 95,473 booths but have now added another 2,167," said an official.

## 'How are they not ashamed?'

Congress, NCP release new advertisements, target BJP

**STAFF REPORTER**



"Laaj Kashi Vatav Nahi?" (How are they not ashamed?), is the slogan of a new series of print, television and radio advertisements targeted at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-Shiv Sena government. The advertisements will be part of the Congress-Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) campaign in the State.

The advertisements attack the ruling BJP-Sena government on topics such as farmer suicides, crop failure, women's security as well as schemes such as the Ujjwala

Yojana for LPG subsidies. The hoardings will have the symbol of the party whose candidate is standing for elections, while TV ads will

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IN BRIEF



**BJP tries to placate Ananth Kumar's wife**

BENGALURU  
In an effort to pacify Tejaswini Ananth Kumar, who was sulking after being denied ticket for Bengaluru South constituency, the BJP on Tuesday appointed her as one of the vice-presidents of the Karnataka party unit. Ms. Tejaswini, wife of former Union Minister the late Ananth Kumar, was tipped to be the party's candidate for Bengaluru South that her husband represented six times before he died. But in a surprise move, the party gave it to Tejasvi Surya.

**Mohan Babu sentenced in cheque bounce case**

HYDERABAD  
A local court on Tuesday sentenced Telugu actor-producer M. Mohan Babu to one-year imprisonment in a 2010 cheque bounce case. It also directed him to pay a fine of ₹41.75 lakh in connection a case filed by director Y.V.S. Chowdary. The director, in his complaint, said he received ₹1.10 crore out of the ₹1.60 crore remuneration offered by the actor's company for directing the film *Saleem*. PTI

**Candidate files plaint against LDF convener**

PALAKKAD  
United Democratic Front candidate in the Alathur constituency Ramya Haridas on Tuesday complained to the Chief Election Officer and the Deputy Superintendent of Police at Alathur against Left Democratic Front (LDF) convener A. Vijayaraghavan for insulting her in a public speech at Ponnani on Monday. Mr. Vijayaraghavan had belittled Ms. Haridas as a girl whose condition would be uncertain after a visit she made to Indian Union Muslim League leaders Syed Hyderali Shihab Thangal and P.K. Kunhalikutty.

# Kerala police on their toes as Rahul heads to Wayanad

Anti-Maoist ops stepped up in constituency



G. ANAND  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM  
The Kerala police have strengthened their anti-Maoist operations in the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency which had shot into national prominence due to the candidacy of Congress president Rahul Gandhi.

They believe that Maoists, who have an incipient but potent presence in the mostly forested Parliament segment, might use Mr. Gandhi's candidature as a window of opportunity for their ongoing campaign to stir up pessimism against the country's electoral process.

Senior officials said the armed irregulars posed a threat to VIP security and they had recently appeared in tribal settlements in Wayanad to distribute pamphlets denouncing the elections.

Mr. Gandhi is scheduled to arrive in Wayanad on April 4 to file his nomination.

## 'Two Dalams active'

Investigators said two Naxalite Dalams, presumably Nadukani and Kabani, were active in Wayanad. They numbered around 20 and carried weapons ranging from assault rifles to country-made muzzle-loaders. The police said their inventory of arms could also include workshop-grade land-

Suresh Gopi to contest from Thrissur

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The BJP national leadership has named actor Suresh Gopi as the NDA candidate for the Thrissur Lok Sabha seat on Tuesday.

He substitutes Bharath Dharma Jana Sena president

mines and crude bombs. They have already recruited a tribal woman, Jisha, who has been declared a fugitive by the police. Jisha's "joining" of the Maoist ranks indicated that the extremists had progressed from mere propaganda to active recruitment to create a militia to counter the State, a senior officer said.

Since last November, Maoists have made at least 22 appearances in Wayanad district. The police have discerned a pattern in their

Thushar Vellappally who was shifted to Wayanad following the entry of Congress president Rahul Gandhi to contest from the seat.

Mr. Gopi, a Rajya Sabha member, is being fielded for his debut in the electoral politics from the State.

seemingly out-of-the-blue appearances, which occurred between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. and at locales abutting dense forests.

One such presence at a jungle resort in Vythiri had resulted in a shoot-out with the police in which a suspected Maoist was killed on April 7.

The police have formed quick reaction teams comprising elite Thunderbolt Commandos and trained anti-Naxalite forces in all police stations in Wayanad.

# SCS for States not possible under finance panel rules, says Jaitley

Debunks Congress manifesto promise to Andhra Pradesh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has said the special financial package given to Andhra Pradesh was in lieu of the Special Category Status (SCS) as the 14th Finance Commission had removed the granting of SCS to any State. He added that the package was "exactly equivalent" to the amount that would have devolved to the State even under SCS.

This reiteration of the go-

vernment's stand seems to rule out any rethink.

Mr. Jaitley was reacting to the provision in the Congress manifesto that promised SCS to Andhra Pradesh if elected to power.

He said Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's stand on SCS after having accepted the financial package, could also encourage other, weaker States, like Odisha, Jharkhand, West

Bengal and Bihar to demand the same. "How can the Centre be step-motherly towards them?" the Minister queried.

"We (Central government) had offered a special package to which Naidu had agreed; he had written a letter of thanks to me.... The amount given as the special package was exactly equivalent to what would have been given under SCS. He then took a U-turn," Mr. Jaitley said.

# Modi's ATM remark in bad taste: Naidu

Polavaram project is our lifeline and not a cash cow, says Andhra Pradesh CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHITTOOR/NELLORE

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday lashed out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for comparing the Polavaram project to an ATM.

Addressing a public meeting at Madanapalle, Mr. Naidu said: "Polavaram is our ATW (Any Time Water), while the ATMs of Mr. Modi have no cash in them."

Blaming Mr. Modi for the Godhra incident, Mr. Naidu said that there would be no security to the minorities if he was re-elected. Voting for



Chandrababu Naidu

du said: "If I lose power, I can go to my wife, son, daughter-in-law and a grandson. But where can you go?"

Referring to the Archaeological Survey of India's letter to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, he alleged that Mr. Modi had hatched a conspiracy to appropriate the temple of Lord Venkateswara, unmindful of the sentiments of the devotees.

**Warns KCR**  
Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao had approached the Supreme Court to take control of the Srisailam and the Nagarjuna Sagar projects, and if this happened the interests of Rayalseema would be endangered. If Mr. KCR kept hurting the self-respect of people of Andhra Pradesh, "we will claim back Bhadrachalam," he said.

Mr. Naidu alleged that the Telangana Chief Minister was intimidating film stars in Hyderabad and forcing them to campaign for Mr. Jagan. He said actors Mohan Babu, Jayasudha and Ali, who joined the YSRCP recently, were "migratory birds."

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## SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a boy namely **Uday Mohan, S/o Sh. Kamal Kishor R/o H. No.91, Police Line, Sonipat, Haryana**. The boy has been missing since 05.10.2018 from the area of P.S. Rajinder Nagar, Delhi.

In this regard **DD No. 17-A dated 08.10.2018** has been lodged at P.S. Rajinder Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing boy but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the missing boy is as under:  
**Name:** Uday Mohan, **Age:** 21 Years, **Height:** 5'8", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Medium, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Dark Red Colour T-Shirt, Blue Colour Jeans Pant and Firoji Colour Shoes in Feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing boy, kindly inform SHO/P.S. Rajinder Nagar, Delhi.

Email: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in), Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
Ph. : 011-23015229, 23015218  
Fax: 011-23011334

SHO P.S. Rajinder Nagar, Delhi, Ph. No. 011-28742712, 0875087040

## IN BRIEF



Preneet Kaur can use bulletproof vehicle: EC

CHANDIGARH

Former Union Minister Preneet Kaur has been given permission by the Election Commission for using a bullet-proof vehicle while campaigning for the Lok Sabha poll. Punjab's Chief Electoral Officer S. Karuna Raju said no other political leader or worker, except his/her personal medical attendant, is allowed to travel in the vehicle. PTI

## 35 taken ill after eating food at wedding

JAIPUR

Thirty-five people, including the bride, were taken ill after eating food served at a marriage ceremony here, a health official said on Tuesday. Guests complained of stomach ache, vomiting and loose motions soon after returning to Dausa from the wedding in Jaipur on Monday night. PTI

## Close shave for Rajdhani Express passengers

BHUBANESWAR

A train mishap was averted on Tuesday when bogies of the Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express uncoupled on the Kathjodi river bridge near Cuttack. No one was hurt when the bogies separated, an official of the East Coast Railway said. PTI

## 1 killed, 15 injured in road accident in Jharkhand

JAMSHEDPUR

A woman pilgrim was killed and 15 were injured when a bus carrying them overturned on NH-33 in Sarakela-Kharwan district, the police said on Tuesday. The incident happened on Monday night when a group of pilgrims, all from Junagarh in Gujarat, were heading to Varanasi after visiting Puri temple, the police said. PTI

# Akhilesh working under Mayawati's pressure: Nishad

We are awaiting a positive response from the BJP on seats, says Sanjay Nishad

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LUCKNOW

Days after breaking away from the SP-BSP-RLD alliance in Uttar Pradesh, the Nishad Party on Tuesday alleged that Akhilesh Yadav was working under Mayawati's "pressure" and expressed confidence that the BJP will give it adequate number of seats in the State to contest the Lok Sabha poll.



Akhilesh Yadav with Sanjay Nishad. ■ FILE PHOTO

Barely three days after joining the alliance, the Nishad Party on March 29 sprang a surprise by parting ways with the fledgling anti-BJP alliance and meeting Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

"We have spoken to the BJP leadership and are awaiting a positive response from

The Nishad Party was

its president, Amit Shah. There is no bargaining from our side. I trust them (BJP). Our main issue is of reservation and we want to contest the polls on our party symbol," Nishad Party president and founder Sanjay Nishad said.

On why he decided to part

ways with the alliance, he said, "I wanted the Gorakhpur and Maharajganj seats on which I was given assurance by the SP chief (Akhilesh Yadav)."

## 'Wanted own symbol'

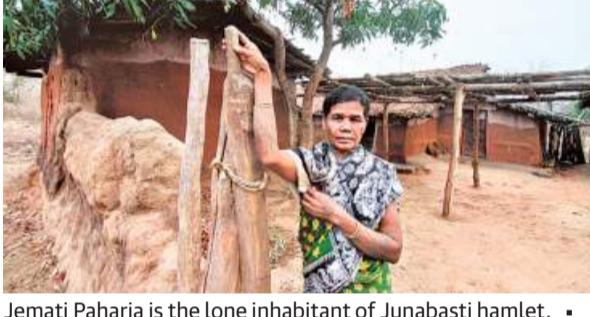
"But later, I was offered one seat and was asked to contest on the SP's symbol, for which I am not ready. I wanted to contest on my own party symbol. Akhilesh is working under pressure from (BSP supremo) Mayawati and betrayed me. So, I had to take the decision," he said

"In the BJP, Cabinet Minister Siddharth Nath Singh arranged my meeting. I am hopeful that I will be getting positive response from them (BJP)," Mr. Nishad said.

On why he decided to part

## Participation in elections barely gets priority here

Many villages in Odisha are nearly empty as people have migrated to other States in search of work



Jemati Paharia is the lone inhabitant of Junabasti hamlet. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

In many houses, only one or two members are left to guard the token assets," said Bhutaram Majhi, a septuagenarian whose three sons and their families have migrated to Andhra Pradesh to make bricks. They would return in

June and by then the election will be over.

In 2014 elections, some candidates had made special efforts to bring labourers back to the villages to vote for them. However, with only nine days left for the poll, no

such move is to be seen this time. Hundreds of villages in the interior pockets of Kalahandi, Nuapada, Balangir, Bargarh and Subarnapur, which constitute India's one of the poorest regions, wear a desolate look and elections carry no meaning for villagers whose primary objective is to get jobs outside the State. Participation in elections barely gets priority here, says Jemati, mother of three daughters.

## EC role required

As per the Odisha government's data, 1,05,363 persons had migrated in 2017. "The official statistics do not reflect the true picture. More than three lakh migrant workers alone from western Odisha re-

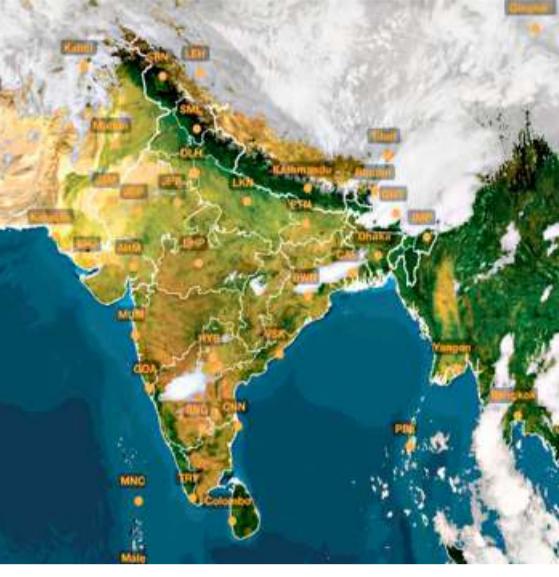
main outside the State when they should have been in their villages to cast their votes. The Election Commission has to think of making the process inclusive and participatory," said Umi Dainel, one of country's leading experts on migration issues.

This year, the size of labour migration has gone up due to prevalence of drought-like situation. "These labourers migrate in semi-bonded conditions due to lack of livelihood options," he said.

It is not easy to bring labourers back for casting votes even for one day, said Dayasagar Pradhan, who has spent 11 years near brick kilns outside Odisha to understand misery of migrant labourers.

## WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE &amp; AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

**Forecast for Wednesday:** Heat wave conditions likely in some isolated parts over west Rajasthan, central Maharashtra, Marathwada, Gujarat, south Haryana, Vidarbha and east Rajasthan

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.2	23.0	Kozhikode	—	35.3	27.0
Ahmedabad	—	42.0	21.6	Kurnool	—	42.1	28.4
Aizawl	—	29.9	—	Lucknow	—	35.7	18.3
Allahabad	—	39.4	17.1	Madurai	—	39.0	25.6
Bengaluru	—	34.6	23.6	Mangalore	—	35.1	28.0
Bhopal	—	39.1	20.4	Mumbai	—	32.0	21.0
Bhubaneswar	—	37.8	24.4	Myssore	—	36.0	21.6
Chandigarh	—	32.8	17.2	New Delhi	—	35.3	16.2
Chennai	—	33.8	27.0	Port Blair	—	32.2	23.8
Coimbatore	—	37.6	24.3	Puducherry	—	34.2	26.5
Dehradun	—	31.8	14.5	Pune	—	39.4	16.7
Gangtok	0.2	19.5	10.1	Raipur	—	39.5	23.9
Goa	—	32.5	24.2	Ranchi	—	34.9	19.0
Guwahati	0.8	27.8	20.0	Shillong	—	21.9	12.8
Hubballi	—	37.0	21.0	Shimla	—	21.8	11.2
Hyderabad	—	40.4	26.3	Srinagar	—	23.9	5.6
Imphal	11.3	25.9	13.8	Trivandrum	—	36.0	26.4
Jaipur	—	37.5	20.2	Tiruchi	—	39.3	26.2
Kochi	—	34.2	26.6	Vijayawada	—	36.9	25.0
Kohima	3.6	23.0	10.8	Visakhapatnam	—	32.6	26.8
Kolkata	—	34.4	25.6				

Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius

## Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	CODE
Ahmedabad	21	104	21	256	....	■
Bengaluru	.2	30	.52	.194	....	■
Chennai	12	22	.55	.137	....	■
Delhi	39	78	75	.270	.251	■
Hyderabad	.4	.65	.27	.93	.121	■
Kolkata	.5	.31	.36	.55	.61	■
Lucknow	16	237	.52	.241	....	■
Mumbai	—	—	.85	—	—	■
Pune	31	.15	.33	.61	.83	■
Visakhapatnam	16	.45	.37	.49	.94	■

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall AQI index (AQI score of 256 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Maitha, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 48.

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

**SO<sub>2</sub>:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

**NO<sub>x</sub>:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

**PM<sub>2.5</sub> & PM<sub>10</sub>:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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**WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
Advertised E-Tendering  
Tender Notice No. BPL/NIC/Tender/18-19/Alteration work/  
SQL-BGTA/12, Dtd. 28.03.2019

Tender No.: 12 (18-19). Description of work: Supply, Installation, testing & Commissioning of indoor and outdoor signalling equipments, power supply equipments, BPAC and associated works in connection with alteration in existing panel interlocking (Non route setting type) at SONTALAI & BAGARTAWA stations in connection with patch doubling work between SQL-BGTA stations of Jabalpur division of WCR. Approximate Cost of Tender: ₹ 1,38,89,436.78. Earnest Money: ₹ 2,19,500/- Cost of Tender Form: ₹ 5,000/- Completion Period: 9 (Nine) months including harvest & monsoon period. Date of Opening: 22.04.2019. The complete information of above E-Tender is available in website [IREPS](http://ireps.gov.in) and also placed on the notice board of the office of Dy.CSTE/C/BPL. Tenders other than in the form of e-bids shall not be accepted against above tenders.

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (Construction), West Central Railway, Bhopal.  
रेल यात्रा के दौरान विकल्प से 138 पर एवं सुखा हेतु 182 पर संपर्क करें।

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Following e-tender is invited by the Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah from tenderers having experience of similar nature of work and required financial capabilities including those registered with Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MES or any Public Sector Undertaking for the following work: Under DEN/4/HWH-E-Tender No. 276\_2018-19, dtd. 28.03.2019. Description of work: Erection of PSC slab of Br. No. 240 (DN line) using road crane under AEN/Rampurhat. Approx. Cost: Rs. 4,45,825.25. Earnest Money: Rs. 64,900/- Closing date & time of tender: 18.04.2019 at 14.00 hrs. The details of tender are available at website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. No manual offer will be accepted. (HWH-01/2019-20) PPS

Tender Notices are also available at Website [www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in) / [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

**PORT MANAGEMENT BOARD ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS**  
EOI NO. 6192/2019

## CORRIGENDUM

The Last date for submission of "Expression of Interest (EOI) for Establishment of Transhipment Port & Free Trade Warehousing Zone In Andaman & Nicobar Islands In PPP Mode" is extended from 16.04.2019 to 16.05.2019. Interested Developers may see the EOI document hosted on the website [www.andaman.gov.in](http://www.andaman.gov.in) under "Announcement" and submit their proposal on or before 1600 Hrs. to Chief Port Administrator, Port Management Board, Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands -744101.</p

## IN BRIEF



## P&amp;W engine glitches ground IndiGo plane

MUMBAI

A Pune-Nagpur flight of IndiGo, an Airbus A320 Neo, was grounded soon after takeoff of Tuesday due to "excessive engine vibrations". This is the sixth such incident in the past two weeks alone, an airline industry source said. The plane is powered by the already troubled Pratt & Whitney engine. PTI

## Money laundering case: Khaitan moves bail plea

NEW DELHI

Advocate Gautam Khaitan, one of the accused in the ₹3,600 crore AgustaWestland case, on Tuesday moved a fresh bail application in a court here in a money laundering case connected with alleged possession of approximately ₹5,000 crore of black money. The special court has asked the Enforcement Directorate to file a reply to Mr. Khaitan's plea by April 9.

## Massive fire breaks out at tiger reserve in Kota

KOTA

A massive fire broke out on Tuesday in an enclosure of the Mukundra Hill Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan's Kota district, officials said. Six fire tenders were rushed to douse the fire which spread around one-tenth of the 82 sq. km enclosure in the reserve, a protected area since 1955. PTI

## India urges Pakistan to repatriate fishermen

NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday urged Pakistan to provide consular access to fishermen and prisoners who require consular and medical support. The Ministry of External Affairs said India had assisted Pakistan in such cases but Islamabad had not reciprocated. "There are 385 Indian fishermen whose nationality has been conveyed to Pakistan and who have been languishing in Pakistan jails... It is requested that urgent and concrete steps be taken to repatriate them to India at the earliest, along with their boats," the MEA said in the note.

## EC pulls up Railways, AI over model code

## DEVESH K PANDEY

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Tuesday expressed displeasure over the "lackadaisical approach" of Air India and the Railways in enforcing the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), directing that reports be submitted within a week on action taken against the officers concerned.

The Commission had on March 26 sent a show-cause notice to the Civil Aviation Ministry for use of boarding passes bearing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photograph, finding it a prima facie MCC violation. In a letter to P.S. Kharola, the Civil Aviation Secretary, the EC on Tuesday said Air India had failed to respond within the two-day deadline.

The poll panel said its displeasure was conveyed to Air India Chairman and Manager.

## Ex-coach of women's cricket team arrested for IPL betting

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

VADODARA

Former coach of Indian women's cricket team Tushar Arothe was arrested for allegedly betting on an IPL match, police said on Tuesday.

He was arrested on Monday but was granted bail because he had been booked for a bailable offence, Vadodara Police Commissioner Anup Singh Gehlot said.

Mr. Arothe and 18 others were arrested by the city crime branch on Monday night for betting on the IPL match between Delhi Cap-

## Pakistan airspace closure hits Afghan, Kazakh, Russian airlines

## Round trip

Airlines from West and Central Asia to India now take a much longer route after Pakistan shut down its airspace for Indian flights after the Balakot strike

**Earlier** 4 hours & 30 minutes  
**Now** 8 hours

**Earlier** 6 hours & 25 minutes  
**Now** 8+ hours

**Earlier** 2 hours & 15 minutes  
**Now** 5+ hours

**Earlier** 2 hours & 30 minutes  
**Now** 3 hours & 40 minutes



SUHASINI HAIDAR  
JAGRITI CHANDRA  
NEW DELHI

Thousands of passengers travelling this summer are likely to face longer flights and pay higher airfares due to the closure of Pakistani airspace, in place for more than a month now after the Balakot airstrike. Among the worst affected are airlines from West and Central Asia as their proximity to India and Pakistan means that they have to now take a much longer route to comply with the ban.

Passenger demand between Kabul and Delhi is now a tenth of what it used to be before the ban as airfares

have more than doubled - increasing from ₹18,000 to ₹42,000 for a return journey, according to the Ariana Afghan Airlines' India head, Barun Birla.

The fall in demand is despite SpiceJet and Air India cancelling their flights to Kabul and is an indication that a vast majority of those who travel from Afghanistan to India for medical treatment may be forced to delay their travel plans.

"The airspace closure forced the flights between Delhi and Kabul to take a longer route. As a result the flying time increased to five hours (from 2 hours and 10 minutes) and the airfare

doubled. Considering the fact that a large number of Afghans travel to Delhi for treatment, this has caused the cost of travelling for them to go up," Mohammad Khairullah Azad, Charge d'affaires, Afghanistan Embassy told *The Hindu*.

"For every dollar earned, we are spending \$2. Costs have increased in all areas - fuel, crew rotation, passenger handling, catering and other costs," Kazakhstan carrier Air Astana's Regional General Manager for Gulf and Indian subcontinent Karlygash Omurbayeva said in an e-mail interview.

The airline now takes 8 hours from Delhi to Almaty

as well as Astana, instead of 3 hours and 50 minutes and 4 hours and 30 minutes, respectively. Air Astana has also seen passengers cancelling their bookings because of the long flying hours during peak tourist season, though it has decided to absorb the increase in costs instead of raising airfares. Air Astana had 11 flights per week to Delhi, which are now down to seven and may be slashed further.

A representative of Russian airline Aeroflot said the increase in flight duration by two hours has resulted in a mismatch with "a vast majority of connecting flights", hitting transit passengers.

## Starting May, ISRO to launch a string of 'defence' satellites

Launch of few earth observation satellites advanced

MADHUMATHI D.S.  
BENGALURU

Between now and early 2020, the space above India looks set to see an unprecedented rush of satellites meant solely or mainly for the country's military.

Starting May, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to send up at least eight earth observation (EO) satellites of varied hues and at the rate of almost one a month.

Communication satellite GSAT-32 is also in the offing next year to replace GSAT-6A, which was lost in a failed launch and was meant to mainly serve the ground forces. Until now, such defence-use satellites were spaced out over a few years; or were put up only once a year as in the case of the Cartosat-2 series high-resolution imaging satellites.

Looking at the last three launches, we could even say the train has already started. HysIS, launched in Novem-

## Sky monitors

A list of satellites which the ISRO is expected to launch in 2019-20

Satellite	Planned launch
RISAT-2B	May 2019
Cartosat-3	June 2019
RISAT-2BR1	July 2019
GISAT-1 (new series)	September 2019
RISAT-2BR2	October 2019
GISAT-2	November 2019
RISAT-1A	November 2019
GSAT-32	February 2020

ber; Microsat-R in January; and the EMISAT sent into orbit on April 1 are all for what is called "strategic use".

## DRDO payloads

While traditionally, payloads for ISRO's satellites come from the Space Applications Centre, the payloads of the Microsat-R and EMISAT were from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), said offi-

cials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Soon after EMISAT's launch, ISRO Chairman and Secretary, Department of Space, K.Sivan, announced that the next mission would be the radar imaging satellite RISAT-2B, followed by a high resolution mapping satellite Cartosat-3.

Both are understood to be useful militarily and seen as overdue assets.

## JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI

The amount of Indian space debris may have almost doubled in the aftermath of the Mission Shakti anti-satellite strike but this is still significantly less than the existing space debris generated by China, Russia and the U.S.

Data from SPACE-TRACK.org, a public access repository maintained by the U.S. defence wing that tracks space activity, notes only 80 pieces of "space debris" attributable to India in orbit.

This, however, doesn't include debris from MICROSAT-R, the DRDO satellite that was pulverised by India's anti-satellite missile.

## NASA's rebuttal

NASA on Monday criticised India for the test, describing it as a "terrible, terrible" thing that had endangered the International Space Station (ISS) and led to the creation of nearly 400 pieces of orbital debris.

Prior to the March 27 test, for India's 80 pieces, there were 4,091 pieces of debris left behind by the U.S., 4,025 by Russia and 3,524 by China

## Dead wood

To India's 80, there were 4,091 pieces of debris left behind by the U.S., 4,025 by Russia and 3,524 by China

Country	Debris (in orbit)	Debris (out of orbit)
China	3,524	1,353
Russia	4,025	15,207
U.K.	1	15
U.S.	4,091	6,325
India	80	343
Japan	55	300
France	334	733

Source: SPACE-TRACK.org

Orbital debris are tracked by a variety of ground-based radar and space stations. The speeds at which these objects - between 1mm to 10 cm across - hurtle through space travel makes them extremely dangerous, various studies have showed. For instance, a collision with a 10 cm object would entail a catastrophic fragmentation of a typical satellite, a 1 cm object will most likely disable a spacecraft and penetrate the ISS' protective shields, and a 1 mm object could destroy subsystems on a satellite, according to the ESA.

That said, the ISS is among the most fortified space objects. It has debris shields deployed around the crewed modules, each composed of two metal sheets, separated by about 10 cm. The outer bumper shield exploits the impact energy to shatter the debris, so that the inner wall can withstand the spray of smaller fragments.

## Early brain function affected in poor kids'

Study says children from lower income backgrounds had weaker brain activity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Children born into poverty show key differences in early brain function, according to new research from the University of East Anglia (UEA).

Researchers studied the brain function of children aged between four months and four years in rural India and found that children from lower income backgrounds, where mothers also had a low level of education, had weaker brain activity and were more likely to be distracted.

## Study in U.P.

The team carried out the study in Uttar Pradesh, the highly populated region in India.

Lead researcher John Spencer from UEA's School of Psychology said: "Each year, 250 million children in

low and middle income countries fail to reach their developmental potential. Therefore, there is a growing need to understand the global impact of poverty on early brain and behavioural development."

"We wanted to find out more about the functional brain development of children born into poorer backgrounds to see why many do not reach their full potential," he said.

He explained that previous work has shown that poverty and early adversities significantly impact brain

development, contributing to a vicious cycle of poverty. But few studies have looked at brain function early in development.

"We wanted to find out more about the functional brain development of children born into poorer backgrounds to see why many do not reach their full potential," he said.

The results of the study were compared with children from families in Mid-West America.

The research team found that the children in India from families with low maternal education and income showed weaker brain activity and poorer distractor suppression in the left frontal cortex area of the brain that is involved in working memory.

Factors like parental education, income, caste, children in the family were taken into account for the study. ■ A.M. FARUQI

## NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, CALICUT

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## WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

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Last date for submission of online application is 30.04.2019.

Sd/-, REGISTRAR

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02-04-2019

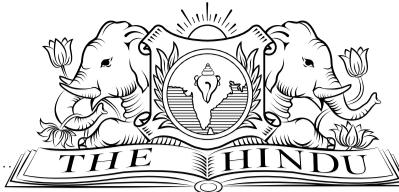
## WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Walk-in-Interview for engagement of Research Associates - 05 (five positions) & Senior Research Fellow - 02 (two positions) on purely contract basis (temporary) will be held at the Academy. The qualifications required and other details like date and time of interview for engagement is available on NAARM Website: <https://naarm.org.in> or after 03-04-2019.

Sd/- DIRECTOR

## Semi-conductor Laboratory

अंतरिक्ष विभाग, भारत सरकार / Department of Space, Government of India, लैन्टर्स्ट-72, सा.अ.सि.नार(मोहाली) -160071, वैश्वीनग के समीप(पंजाब) भारत



## Poll-time censorship

The gag order obtained by a Bengaluru Lok Sabha candidate defies freedom of speech

**T**he Bengaluru civil court's blanket order restraining 49 newspapers, television channels and other media outlets from publishing anything 'defamatory' about Tejasvi Surya, the BJP's candidate for the Bengaluru South Lok Sabha constituency, is contrary to the law and the Constitution. The temporary injunction violates the basic principle in free speech law that bars 'prior restraint' or pre-censorship of any publication, including the media. As recently as in 2017, a Supreme Court Bench made it clear that pre-broadcast or pre-publication regulation of content was not in the court's domain. In *R. Rajagopal* (1994), the court noted that there is no law that authorises prior restraint. The existence of a *prima facie* case is a precondition for an interim injunction, and a restraining order may be obtained only if some material deemed defamatory has been published, and when further publication ought to be prevented. Arraying print and electronic media outlets that had not previously disseminated anything defamatory about an individual fails this test, rendering any injunctions obtained against them illegal. Judge Dinesh Hegde's order takes note of two factors in granting Mr. Surya's request for an injunction: that some allegations against him surfaced after he filed his nomination papers, and 'some defamatory messages' against him 'are in transit' in the media. He cites a 1986 Karnataka High Court decision, but misses the point that the High Court's justification for an injunction concerned an individual who had made public utterances about the plaintiff, and it was not an omnibus order against a class of persons. In any case, there is enough case law from the Supreme Court to bar prior restraint orders.

The allegations that have aggrieved Mr. Surya seem to originate in an individual's opinion on him on Twitter. It is possible that this piece of information was or is likely to be used against him by his electoral rivals. However, this cannot be a reason for a public figure – and a candidate of a major political party, even a debutant, is definitely one – to claim a right to gag the entire media from writing about him. Even if the argument is that the order only prevents 'defamatory' content and not responsible reporting or criticism, that doesn't justify a judicial gag order, as it may be used to prevent the media from writing anything adverse to his campaign. It may also prevent defendants in a future proceeding from using 'publication of the truth in the public interest' as a defence. Requests for omnibus restraining orders against media outlets seem to find favour with some civil judges in Karnataka. This newspaper itself faces in Karnataka around a hundred petitions for injunction filed by individuals and entities, most of them unlikely to be mentioned in its columns ever. The Karnataka High Court or the Supreme Court must examine this trend and strike down such blanket gag orders.

## Turkish surprise

The ruling party's losses in local polls are a personal setback for President Erdogan

**T**urkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had led the campaign for Sunday's municipal elections from the front, so the reverses to his Justice and Development Party (AKP) have come as a personal jolt. The biggest blow to the Islamist party is the end of its long dominance of the capital Ankara and possibly Istanbul too. These polls were the first since Mr. Erdogan was re-elected in June 2018, after Turkey switched to a presidential form of government authorised in a 2017 referendum. The Republican People's Party (CHP), the principal Opposition, and pro-Kurdish parties have made huge inroads. They had managed to contain the AKP's margin of victory in the June presidential and parliamentary polls. Given how much he had raised the stakes, the question is whether he will reconsider recent policies that have done little to restore investor confidence in the economy following the lira's spectacular depreciation last year. Prices of food commodities in particular have remained high. But even as farmers and traders reeled under high fuel and fertilizer costs and unfavourable weather conditions, a government hamstrung by the ballooning deficit could do no more than turn its ire on them. It accused traders of hoarding stocks and spiking costs. In addition, local governments forced retailers to hold down prices. The move put a further squeeze on the sector and hurt the government's electoral fortunes. A beleaguered Mr. Erdogan unleashed the rhetoric of food "terrorism", but was unable to deflect attention from the need for a fiscal stimulus. Stiffer fiscal targets set by the Finance Minister, who is Mr. Erdogan's son-in-law, have foreclosed any conventional avenues to contain the price escalation.

The travails are symptomatic of the conditions afflicting Turkey. They go back to the run on the currencies of several emerging economies, leading to the depreciation of the lira by a third. Ankara's woes turned acute following the flow of hot money and large borrowings by businesses in external currencies. Mr. Erdogan is opposed to higher interest rates, and the government's response to halt the lira's slide and contain inflation was belated. Conversely, lending rates in Turkey now are among the world's highest, which makes lowering them quickly a risky proposition. The challenges are compounded by strained relations with its traditional allies, particularly the U.S. Washington has announced a halt to supplies related to the F-35 jets, in retaliation for Ankara's decision to buy a Russian missile defence system. The diplomatic stand-off over the detention of a U.S. pastor too was a factor behind the weakening of the lira last year. As the next elections are a few years away, expectations are that Mr. Erdogan will adopt a more pragmatic approach to address the economic challenges.

# The many and different faces of terror

It is premature to read the Islamic State's defeat as the start of a more peaceful phase



M.K. NARAYANAN

**T**errorism is a well-recognised form of asymmetric warfare, and has been around for centuries. Some terror strikes tend to resonate more than others, for reasons that are inexplicable. The Munich Olympics massacre in 1972, the 9/11 terror attack on the Twin Towers in New York in 2001, and the November 26, 2008 terror attack on multiple targets in Mumbai are, for instance, more deeply etched in the memories of people than many other terror events. It is important, however, not to take an episodic view of terrorism, since history is relevant to a proper understanding of the threat posed by terrorism.

### Since the 1980s

Radical Islamist extremism has been the dominant terror narrative, post the 1980s. This was possibly an off-shoot of the decade-long Afghan war (1979-1989), which let loose an avalanche of 'mercenaries' who had honed their skills during the Afghan Jihad, and employed violence indiscriminately. Over time, terrorist outfits seemed to gain greater transnational reach, and were no longer fettered to geographical locations. New organisations, such as al-Qaeda and its acolytes, as also the Islamic State (IS), gained pre-eminence among a growing multitude of terror groups. Regional variants such as Abu Sayyaf in the Philippines, the Pakistan-sponsored Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) in South Asia, and the Boko Haram in Africa were no less deadly.

More recently, especially in the West, a new narrative has been un-

folding. Sporting different labels, extreme right-wing elements are proving to be no less violent and dangerous than jihadi terrorist groups. They appear, at present, less organised than many outfits, and the violence they perpetrate seems more random. Their targets, which included, for instance, a Jewish synagogue (in the U.S.), political personalities such as President Emmanuel Macron of France and Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez of Spain, members of immigrant communities and minority groups (in Europe) are, nevertheless, carefully chosen. Many do appear to be lone wolves such as the Norwegian Anders Breivik (2011) and the Australian man responsible for the March 15, 2019 Christchurch massacre, in which 50 people were killed. Non-denominational terror, loosely described as right-wing terror, has in the process become as threatening as jihadi terror. Clearly, the topographical anatomy of terrorism does not change, even if motivations differ.

The evolution of terrorism in the 21st century, and the constantly shifting tactics of terror groups, does make terrorism look like an 'existential threat'. This would, however, be too far fetched. What does need to be recognised is that the terror threat is rapidly transcending from what we see happening, to what we can imagine might happen.

### New breed of terrorists

Take, for instance, the year 2016 in India. Pakistani terror outfits randomly carried out daring attacks on the Pathankot Air Force base, an Army brigade headquarters in Uri, and an Army base in Nagrota. In February this year, the JeM carried out its most audacious attack to date, targeting a Central Reserve Police Force convoy, in which 40 personnel were killed, the highest casualty figure for security forces personnel in Jammu



and Kashmir. The use of a suicide bomber, driving a vehicle containing a few hundred kilograms of explosives to strike a high-profile target, represents a new pinnacle in terrorist violence. It is representative of the newer breed of terrorists, as also the transmutation in the nature of terror.

Globally, spectacular jihadi attacks may be fewer, but attacks are on the increase. In January this year, Abu Sayyaf in the Philippines, with links to the IS, killed 20 people attending a church service in Sulu province. In the U.K., on New Year's Eve (2018-19), three people were stabbed at a Manchester train station by an IS supporter. In March this year, explosives were found at transport hubs in and around London, and also at the University of Glasgow, leading to a major terror scare in the U.K. Also in March, the Netherlands witnessed a terror attack in Utrecht, when a jihadi suspect indiscriminately shot at commuters in a city tram.

Meanwhile, terrorists are further honing their skills, and are able to strike at targets at will. Cross-pollination of concepts and ideas among terror groups, and in many cases even pooling of resources, has made this possible. A decade of violence in Iraq and Syria has produced a reservoir of battle-hardened fighters, who are bolstering the capabilities of disparate terror groups in different parts of the world. As in the 1980s, we are seeing a majority of those who took part in the violence in Syria and Iraq currently adding to the cadres

of existing terror groups in Asia, Europe and Africa.

It would, hence, be premature to celebrate the decline of terrorism, based on the so-called demise of the IS. The territory controlled by the IS Caliphate may have shrunk dramatically compared to 2014, but its obituary cannot be written just yet. The IS remains a fount of support and inspiration for several hundreds of fighters across Asia, Africa and Europe. Many IS networks are still operating clandestinely. Many of their dispersed supporters are ready to revive their activities once the pressure relaxes. There are unconfirmed reports already that the IS has directed several of its recruits to return to their country of origin and strengthen the nucleus of IS groups there. The estimate is that anything up to 20% of those who were part of the IS bandwagon in Syria and Iraq have returned to their homelands. As the IS declines in Syria and Iraq, other IS entities such as the Islamic State of Khorasan (which includes parts of India) will be the beneficiaries.

### Caliphate as an idea

The Caliphate is an idea which is still relevant. The Internet remains its main vehicle for radicalising Muslim youth. What is most likely is that the IS will make a shift to guerrilla warfare tactics. It is likely to strengthen its 'Emni' (intelligence and security branch) to carry out reconnaissance before launching attacks. The lone wolf syndrome will be pursued with renewed vigour. Already, there are some indications of this. In December 2018, a lone IS gunman killed five people in Strasbourg (France); in January 2019, a suicide bomber at a restaurant in Manbij (Syria) killed 19, including four Americans. More such attacks could occur.

Al-Qaeda, the other leading jihadi outfit, is separately engaged in enlarging its global network.

Violence by al-Qaeda affiliates might have been overshadowed by the IS more recently, but al-Qaeda affiliates in Africa, such as the Boko Haram, have not been far behind. Al-Qaeda affiliates in East and South Africa, the Sahel and Yemen are the largest and most feared terrorist groups in their regions. Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) is said to be exploiting alleged incidents of violence against Muslims in the subcontinent to strengthen itself.

Al-Qaeda affiliate LeT (based in Pakistan) represents the main terror threat to India, along with the JeM. The rest of Pakistan's network of terror reads like an alphabetic soup, viz. HUJI (Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami), the (Harkat-ul-Mujahideen) and HM (Hizbul Mujahideen). Pakistan is also reportedly training outfits to carry out underwater operations.

Developments in technology, information and doctrine will in all likelihood alter the character of 21st century terrorism. In the Pulwama attack, the suicide bomber is reported to have used a 'virtual SIM' to contact his JeM handlers in Pakistan. It is difficult at this point to determine which of the disruptive technologies will turn out to be the most dangerous.

### Guided by controllers

The concept of 'enabled terror' or 'remote control terror', viz. violence conceived and guided by controllers thousands of miles away, is no longer mere fiction. Internet-enabled terrorism, and resort to remote plotting, will grow as the 21st century advances. Counter-terrorism experts will need to lay stress on multi-domain operations and information technologies, and undertake 'terror gaming' to wrestle with an uncertain future that is already upon us.

M.K. Narayanan is a former National Security Adviser and a former Governor of West Bengal

## How to achieve 24x7 power for all

Three steps to help rural India overcome electricity poverty and reap immense socio-economic benefits



ABHISHEK JAIN

**A**lmost every willing household in India now has a legitimate electricity connection. The household electrification scheme, Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana, or Saubhagya, has been implemented at an unprecedented pace. More than 45,000 households were electrified every day over the last 18 months. Against such an achievement, it is important to ask these questions: what did it take for India to achieve this target? Why is electricity access not only about provision of connections? And, how can we ensure 24x7 power for all?

The efforts under Saubhagya have come upon decades of hard work preceding it. The enactment of the Electricity Act, in 2003, and the introduction of the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyalakshana Yojana, in 2005, expanded electrification infrastructure to most villages in the following decade. But the rollout of the Saubhagya scheme, in 2017, gave the required impetus to electrify each willing household in the country.

The travails are symptomatic of the conditions afflicting Turkey. They go back to the run on the currencies of several emerging economies, leading to the depreciation of the lira by a third. Ankara's woes turned acute following the flow of hot money and large borrowings by businesses in external currencies. Mr. Erdogan is opposed to higher interest rates, and the government's response to halt the lira's slide and contain inflation was belated. Conversely, lending rates in Turkey now are among the world's highest, which makes lowering them quickly a risky proposition. The challenges are compounded by strained relations with its traditional allies, particularly the U.S. Washington has announced a halt to supplies related to the F-35 jets, in retaliation for Ankara's decision to buy a Russian missile defence system. The diplomatic stand-off over the detention of a U.S. pastor too was a factor behind the weakening of the lira last year. As the next elections are a few years away, expectations are that Mr. Erdogan will adopt a more pragmatic approach to address the economic challenges.

However, over the last year, several engineers and managing directors in electricity distribution companies (discoms), their contractors, State- and Central-level bureaucrats, and possibly energy ministers have been working at fever pitch. Discom engineers have evolved in their attitude, as we saw during our on-ground research – from one of scepticism to that of determination. Their efforts to meet targets even included crossing streams in Bihar on foot with electricity poles, and reaching far-flung areas in Manipur, through Myanmar, to electrify remote habitations with solar home systems.

### Beyond connections

Despite such massive efforts, the battle against electricity poverty is far from won. The erection of electricity poles and an extension of wires do not necessarily mean uninterrupted power flow to households. By tracking more than 9,000 rural households, since 2015, across six major States (Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal), the Access to Clean Cooking Energy and Electricity Survey of States (ACCESS) report by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), has highlighted the gap between a connection and reliable power supply. While the median hours of supply in

creased from 12 hours in 2015 to 16 hours a day in 2018, it is still far from the goal of 24x7. Similarly, while instances of low voltage and voltage surges have reduced in the last three years, about a quarter of rural households still report low voltage issues for at least five days in a month.

### Vital steps forward

In order to achieve 24x7 power for all, we need to focus on three frontiers. First, India needs real-time monitoring of supply at the end-user level. We achieve what we measure. While the government is bringing all feeders in the country online, we currently have no provision to monitor supply as experienced by households. Only such granular monitoring can help track the evolving reality of electricity supply on the ground and guide discoms to act in areas with sub-optimal performance. Eventually, smart meters (that the government plans to roll out) should help enable such monitoring. Ho-

wever, in the interim, we could rely on interactive voice response systems (IVRS) and SMS-based reporting by end-users.

Second, discoms need to focus on improving the quality of supply as well as maintenance services. Adequate demand estimation and respective power procurement will go a long way in reducing load shedding. Moreover, about half the rural population across the six States reported at least two days of 24-hour-long unpredictable blackouts in a month. Such incidents are indicative of poor maintenance, as opposed to intentional load-shedding. Discoms need to identify novel cost-effective approaches to maintain infrastructure in these far-flung areas. Some States have already taken a lead in this. Odisha has outsourced infrastructure maintenance in some of its rural areas to franchisees, while Maharashtra has introduced village-level coordinators to address local-level challenges. Such context-based solutions should emerge in other States as well.

Finally, the improvement in supply should be complemented with a significant improvement in customer service, which includes billing, metering and collection. Around 27% of the electrified rural households in the six States were not paying anything for their electricity. Despite the subsidies, constant loss of revenue would make

it unviable for discoms to continue servicing these households in the long run. Low consumer density along with difficult accessibility mean that conventional approaches involving meter readers and payment collection centres will be unviable for many rural areas. We need radically innovative approaches such as the proposed prepaid smart meters and last-mile rural franchisees to improve customer service and revenue collection. Rural renewable energy enterprises could especially be interesting contenders for such franchisees, considering the social capital they already possess in parts of rural India.

Electricity is the driver for India's development. As we focus on granular monitoring, high-quality supply, better customer service and greater revenue realisation at the household level, we also need to prioritise electricity access for livelihoods and community services such as education and health care. Only such a comprehensive effort will ensure that rural India reaps the socio-economic benefits of electricity.

Abhishek Jain is Senior Programme Lead at the CEEW, a policy research think tank. ACCESS was conducted in association with the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, National University of Singapore and Initiative for Sustainable Energy Policy

## 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.

### More Benches

It is indeed a good suggestion to have Benches of the Supreme Court in other places of the country to ensure better access to justice (Editorial page, "Ensuring justice to people", April 2). To start with, it would be advisable to have at least one Bench of the Supreme Court in the south. Article 130 provides for it. In fact when this suggestion was put across to the then Chief Justice of India, who hailed from Tamil Nadu, was not encouraging. It only shows that powerful lobbies of lawyers and other interests will not allow a circuit bench of the Supreme Court because there is a lot of money in this profession in the capital, Delhi. If there is a way out of this, it has to be done by the Supreme Court itself. Unfortunately,

there are hurdles in the form of interests, making speaking in one voice difficult. It makes one wonder whether ours is really a socialist Constitution or a Constitution working on capitalist lines.

N.G.R. PRASAD,  
RAM SIDDHARTHA,  
Chennai

towards change. The Supreme Court has an ideal opportunity to brainstorm on this. In this connection, former judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, sitting judges and academic luminaries can be a part of the process.

SHEBA RIVY SIMON,  
Mettukara, Kozhencerry, Kerala

■ There are many underlying issues that need to be addressed if justice is to be made accessible in a better way; these issues are hefty fees charged by the lawyers to present a matter and the huge court fee, to name two. Unfortunately, lawyers are no exception when it comes to monetary issues. This is manifested in the manner in which some lawyers entrusted with state briefs handle matters. Self-realisation is the first step

watchman, whose reconnaissance at night keeps a vigil over a number of houses including those of the poor? What about the armed guards who protect the so-called VIPs? Are not these gun-wielding security personnel glorified chowkidars employed by the state and that too at the taxpayers' expense?

V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN,  
Thiruvananthapuram

Campaign slogan  
The acerbic and hostile tone and tenor of the article (OpEd page, "Chowkidars are those who protect the rich", April 2) have robbed it of even a pretence of moderation and balance. The trivialisation of the chowkidar metaphor, as a defender of the wealthy classes, seems too naive and simplistic. Should we ban chowkidars, maids and drivers merely because they serve the rich? What about the neighbourhood

and water bodies, often surreptitiously, which is a grave health hazard. The Rural Development Organisation, an NGO that has been working in the Nilgiris since 1980, has put up three faecal sludge treatment plants. The compost from here is blended with kitchen waste compost. About two tonnes of co-compost is produced every day. The process of co-composting and testing done here, which meets FAO and BIS standards, is the first of its kind in India. This is

tested at a laboratory in Chennai every month before being distributed to farmers at a subsidised price. Another project being done and successfully implemented in the Nilgiris is a grey water treatment plant. Here, household waste water is collected, recycled with appropriate rural technology, tested and reused in irrigation. It is of help during the dry seasons.

N.K. PERUMAL,  
Aruvankadu, The Nilgiris

MORE LETTERS ONLINE:  
[www.thehindu.com/opinion/letters/](http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/letters/)

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:  
A photograph carried in the graphic titled "Constituency Profile - Dharmpuri" (Election 2019 page, some editions, April 2, 2019) was not that of the DMK candidate Senthil Kumar.

A Sports page snippet (April 1, 2019) erroneously said that Bairstow and Warner became the second set of batsmen to score centuries in an IPL innings after Kohli (109)

# Is there genuine change in Algeria?

The Algerian protesters appear to have learnt the lessons of the Arab Spring



PINAK RANJAN CHAKRAVARTY



After weeks of public protests demanding that Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika step down, the 82-year-old leader who has ruled for 20 years has finally announced that he will leave office. The pressure on him to quit came not only from the protesters but also from the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN)'s coalition ally as well as the country's powerful military.

The protests that have convulsed the country have been peaceful by and large. The demonstrators are mostly young and are worried about unemployment. About 70% of the Algerian population is under the age of 30 years. It seems as though Algeria has reached the Rubicon; it is a matter of time before it crosses it.

An earlier statement from Mr. Bouteflika stated that while he would not seek a fifth term in office, he would carry out "deep reforms" in various fields. The same statement announced that the presidential election, slated for April 18, would be postponed. This has led to suspicion that Mr. Bouteflika intends to find ways to keep much of his ruling elite intact. The new Prime Minister and former Interior Minister, Nouredine Bedoui, has compounded the suspicion by supporting the postponement of polls.

**The civil war and after**  
Algeria's hydrocarbon-based economy prospered during the days of booming oil prices. The single party system that dominated Algeria gave way to political pluralism that led to the rise of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS). The cancellation of the 1991 election by the Algerian military to pre-empt transfer of power to the FIS precipitated a 10-year bloody civil war. Mr. Bouteflika had declined to take over as President in 1994 at the height of the civil war, but in 1999, he ran for President and was elected with a huge majority. Other candidates withdrew at the last moment alleging that the election was rigged.

Mr. Bouteflika successfully ended the civil war with his 2005 Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation. High oil price enabled Algeria to in-

vest in infrastructure and improve the economy. His opponents criticised him for usurping all powers and weakening state institutions. Despite the criticism, Mr. Bouteflika survived the Arab Spring which swept away authoritarian rulers in Tunisia and Libya.

## The way forward

Leading opposition figures are now working to find a road map for Algeria's political transition via a coalition called the National Coordination for Change. The current mood is coalescing around the idea of Mr. Bouteflika handing over power to a collective presidency on April 28, the last day of his presidency. Given the military's long history of interference in politics, the National Coordination for Change has also warned it not to interfere. However, the coalition seems to have no clearly identified leadership and may not be the vehicle for change that Algeria needs.

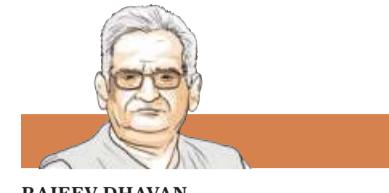
An FLN spokesperson has said that Algeria's problems can only be solved by elected representatives and not by unelected politicians and civil society activists. The army has indicated support for the protesters. The Army Chief declared that Mr. Bouteflika, who has been confined to a wheelchair since suffering a stroke, is unfit to rule. Algeria's judges have also supported the protesters and said that they will refuse to adjudicate cases against them because they have violated laws on public gatherings. The Algerian establishment appears divided and Mr. Bedoui has not found it easy to form a transition government.

With the President agreeing to step down before April 28, there is momentum building for a transition government comprising independent people who have never been in government before. So, there is no going back now. We saw this sort of upsurge in Tunisia in late 2010 and then across the Arab world. That uprising toppled several regimes. The Algerian protesters have learnt the lessons of that uprising. The Algerians do not want their protests to give any opening to Islamists and are yearning for genuine democracy. Algeria, an oil-gas rich country, appears poised to cross the Rubicon this time.

Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty served as Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. He is currently a Honorary Visiting Fellow at the Delhi-based Observer Research Foundation. Views expressed are personal

# The principle and procedure in Lokpal

It is disappointing that the appointment of the Lokpal was shrouded in secrecy



RAJEEV DHAVAN



PTI

The Search Committee Rules, 2014 stated that the Selection Committee would select one of the five names recommended for the post of Chairperson of the Lokpal and eight of 24 names recommended for the post of members of the Lokpal. The Selection Committee was to lay down the criteria for appointment and decide by majority in cases of difference of opinion. The public is entitled to know the list proposed by the Search Committee. It is entitled to know who all were considered and why. That the appointment of the Lokpal is shrouded in secrecy is an affront to the very concept of the Lokpal.

## Background of members

Justice Pinaki Ghose is not known for any path-breaking judgments, so it is curious why he was chosen over other retired judges, especially as he was already a member of the NHRC. No less than a sitting judge could have been offered this post. The other judicial members are Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty, who was Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court; Justice Abhilasha Kumari, who served on the Gujarat High Court and was a chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Gujarat; and Justice Ajay Kumar Tripathi, who was Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court. The first woman chief of the Sashstra Seema Bal, Archana Ramachandran, is a non-judicial member, as are former Chief Secretary of Maharashtra D.K. Jain, former Indian Revenue Service officer Mahender Singh, and former Indian Administrative Service officer of the Gujarat cadre, I.P. Gautam. The question is, should IAS and IPS officers be appointed, especially since they have to deal with fellow officers? The field was wide open from non-government sectors as well.

Mr. Hazare was right in being overjoyed that a Lokpal has been appointed at last. And Aruna Roy and others were right in insisting on a wider jurisdiction on maladministration and delivery of services. This Lokpal will always be known as a secretly appointed one. It is supposed to be an anti-corruption institution. Much will depend on how it is used and against whom. Will we find out who is the *chor* (chief) and who is the *chowkidar* (watchman)? Or will this be another playground for politics?

Rajeev Dhavan, a senior advocate of the Supreme Court, has just published a two-volume book on the Lokpal

## A charmed career

Mr. Bouteflika, like many authoritarian rulers in the Arab world, has had a charmed career. Though seen as a controversial politician in his country, many give him credit for ending the bloody civil war that killed around 200,000 Algerians in the 1990s. But like many authoritarian leaders in the Arab world, he has outlived his acceptance with the people of Algeria.

Born in the Moroccan town of Oujda, Mr. Bouteflika was originally from Tlemcen in Western Algeria. When he was 19, Mr. Bouteflika joined the National Liberation Army (ALN), the fighting arm of the FLN, which was then engaged in the independence war against colonial occupation by France. He rose rapidly through the hierarchy and be-

## SINGLE FILE

### The unkindest cut

Reducing funds for MGNREGS has caused disenchantment among two groups which are politically powerful

JAMES MANOR

To do well in this general election, the BJP must overcome several serious obstacles of its own making. It has failed to fulfil the stirring promise of massive job creation. Demonetisation severely affected many farmers, households and enterprises. Huge numbers of vulnerable people have been denied vital services and benefits because of Aadhaar malfunctions. Among its failures, a misjudgment that has attracted less attention is the reduction in funds for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). It has caused disenchantment among two different groups, both of which are politically powerful.

First, it has hit poor villagers who are in dire need of wages from the programme. For many, it is the difference between one meagre meal and two nutritious meals per day for their families. MGNREGS began to address the problem of malnutrition and stunting in India, which cause irreparable damage to the bodies and minds of children. Many MGNREGS workers have used their earnings to improve small plots of land or to buy livestock. This modestly but crucially enhanced their assets and autonomy.

In recent years, most of the labour on MGNREGS work sites has been done by women, who gain greater independence in their households from their earnings that reach their bank accounts. As *The Verdict*, a new book by Prannoy Roy and Dorab Soparwala, reveals, turnout at elections by rural women has been increasing. The MGNREGS has also provided benefits to Dalits and Adivasis.

When he was Rural Development Minister, Birendra Singh opposed the constriction of funding for the Scheme because demand for employment on work sites remained strong. It has been higher in 2018-19 than in the last eight years. The government brushed his views aside. Now it seems to acknowledge the problem, but too late after three years of fewer person-days worked. The Centre has also been slow in sanctioning funds for State governments, adding to the serious decline in work opportunities.

Resentment among a second group also carries grave risks for the BJP. The funding cuts have alienated elected members of India's gram panchayats, many of whom have real political clout at the grass-roots level. By law, at least half of MGNREGS funds must go to gram panchayats, and some State governments provide as much as 90%. Five years ago, local councillors in several States proudly told this writer that they controlled as much or more money than their MLAs. The programme's shrinking budget has eroded their power. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his party can ill afford a backlash from these people.

The writer is Emeritus Professor of Commonwealth Studies at the School of Advanced Studies, University of London

RAMESH SHARMA



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been denied vital services and benefits because of Aadhaar malfunctions. Among its failures, a misjudgment that has attracted less attention is the reduction in funds for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). It has caused disenchantment among two different groups, both of which are politically powerful.

To do well in this general election, the BJP must overcome several serious obstacles of its own making. It has failed to fulfil the stirring promise of massive job creation. Demonetisation severely affected many farmers, households and enterprises. Huge numbers of vulnerable people have been denied vital services and benefits because of Aadhaar malfunctions. Among its failures, a misjudgment that has attracted less attention is the reduction in funds for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). It has caused disenchantment among two different groups, both of which are politically powerful.

First, it has hit poor villagers who are in dire need of wages from the programme. For many, it is the difference between one meagre meal and two nutritious meals per day for their families. MGNREGS began to address the problem of malnutrition and stunting in India, which cause irreparable damage to the bodies and minds of children. Many MGNREGS workers have used their earnings to improve small plots of land or to buy livestock. This modestly but crucially enhanced their assets and autonomy.

In recent years, most of the labour on MGNREGS work sites has been done by women, who gain greater independence in their households from their earnings that reach their bank accounts. As *The Verdict*, a new book by Prannoy Roy and Dorab Soparwala, reveals, turnout at elections by rural women has been increasing. The MGNREGS has also provided benefits to Dalits and Adivasis.

When he was Rural Development Minister, Birendra Singh opposed the constriction of funding for the Scheme because demand for employment on work sites remained strong. It has been higher in 2018-19 than in the last eight years. The government brushed his views aside. Now it seems to acknowledge the problem, but too late after three years of fewer person-days worked. The Centre has also been slow in sanctioning funds for State governments, adding to the serious decline in work opportunities.

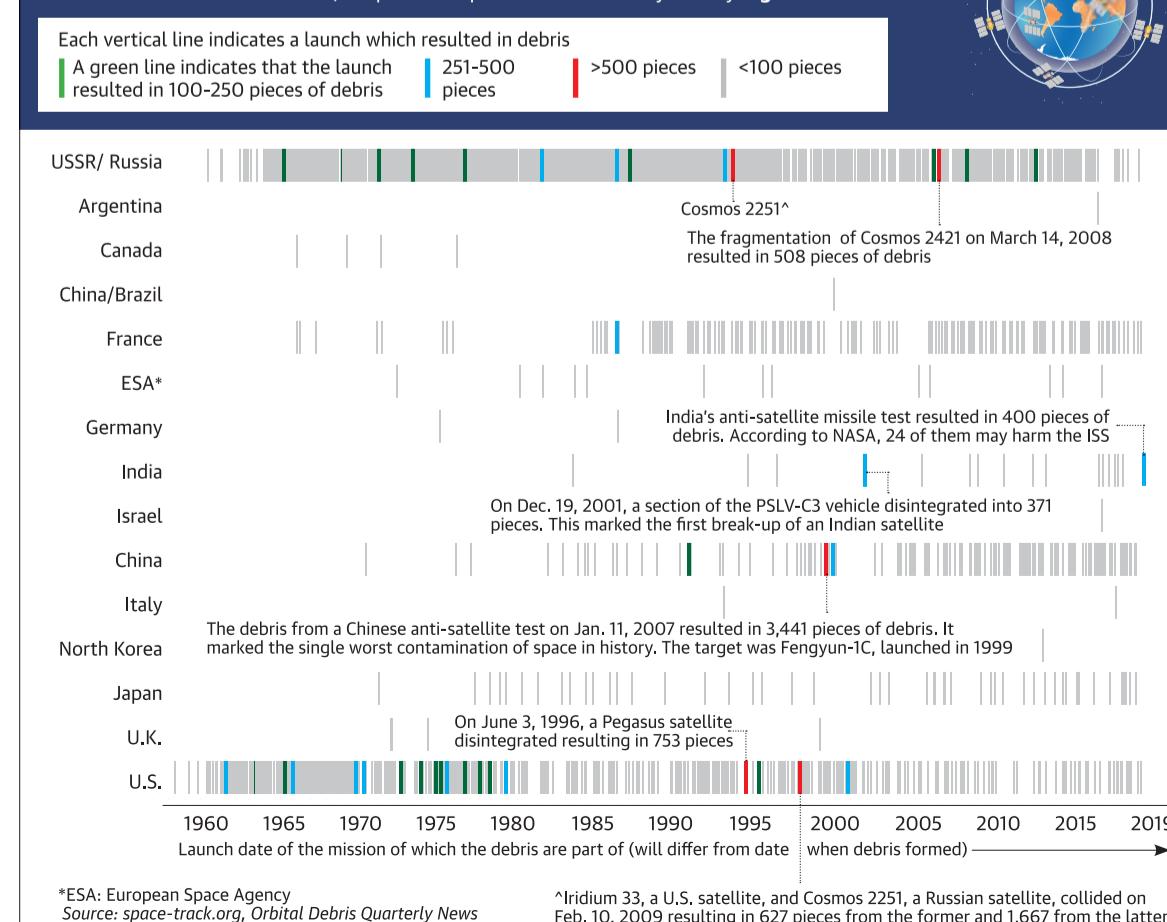
Resentment among a second group also carries grave risks for the BJP. The funding cuts have alienated elected members of India's gram panchayats, many of whom have real political clout at the grass-roots level. By law, at least half of MGNREGS funds must go to gram panchayats, and some State governments provide as much as 90%. Five years ago, local councillors in several States proudly told this writer that they controlled as much or more money than their MLAs. The programme's shrinking budget has eroded their power. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his party can ill afford a backlash from these people.



## DATA POINT

### Space junk

There have been 11 instances when 400 or more pieces of space debris have been created due to reasons including the shooting down of satellites. India's recent anti-satellite test was the 11th instance. The graph shows the launches which led to the creation of 29,527 pieces of space debris over the years. By Vignesh Radhakrishnan



\*ESA: European Space Agency  
Source: space-track.org, Orbital Debris Quarterly News

# The principle and procedure in Lokpal

It is disappointing that the appointment of the Lokpal was shrouded in secrecy



PINAKI GHOSE



PTI

The Search Committee Rules, 2014 stated that the Selection Committee would select one of the five names recommended for the post of Chairperson of the Lokpal and eight of 24 names recommended for the post of members of the Lokpal. The Selection Committee was to lay down the criteria for appointment and decide by majority in cases of difference of opinion. The public is entitled to know the list proposed by the Search Committee. It is entitled to know who all were considered and why. That the appointment of the Lokpal is shrouded in secrecy is an affront to the very concept of the Lokpal.

## Background of members

Justice Pinaki Ghose is not known for any path-breaking judgments, so it is curious why he was chosen over other retired judges, especially as he was already a member of the NHRC. No less than a sitting judge could have been offered this post. The other judicial members are Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty, who was Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court; Justice Abhilasha Kumari, who served on the Gujarat High Court and was a chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Gujarat; and Justice Ajay Kumar Tripathi, who was Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court. The first woman chief of the Sashstra Seema Bal, Archana Ramachandran, is a non-judicial member, as are former Chief Secretary of Maharashtra D.K. Jain, former Indian Revenue Service officer Mahender Singh, and former Indian Administrative Service officer of the Gujarat cadre, I.P. Gautam. The question is, should IAS and IPS officers be appointed, especially since they have to deal with fellow officers? The field was wide open from non-government sectors as well.

Mr. Hazare was right in being overjoyed that a Lokpal has been appointed at last. And Aruna Roy and others were right in insisting on a wider jurisdiction on maladministration and delivery of services. This Lokpal will always be known as a secretly appointed one. It is supposed to be an anti-corruption institution. Much will depend on how it is used and against whom. Will we find out who is the *chor* (chief) and who is the *chowkidar* (watchman)? Or will this be another playground for politics?

Rajeev Dhavan, a senior advocate of the Supreme Court, has just published a two-volume book on the Lokpal

## FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 3, 1969

### Land Bill: Kerala rejects Delhi suggestions

The Revenue Minister, Mrs. K.R. Gouri said here [Trivandrum] to-day [April 2] that the Union Government had suggested modifications to the Kerala Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, which in effect would defeat the very purpose of the legislation. Mrs. Gouri told Pressmen that the State Government would go ahead with the amendment bill now before the Select Committee, which had the approval of the Co-ordination Committee of the United Front. "We will pass the bill with such amendments as the Assembly may adopt. It is for the people to decide whether the enactment should be enforced or not." The Minister said the provisions of the amending legislation had received general approval during the earlier discussions with the Union Ministers. She feared the Union Law Ministry and the Law Minister were behind the suggestions and objections now put forward by the Union Government.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 3, 1919

### Passage to England

Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie & Company inform us [in Bombay] that owing to the very large number of passengers proceeding by the "Ormonde" on the 8th April as much heavy baggage as possible should be sent for shipment in advance. Heavy baggage will be received at No. 6 shed, Alexandre Dock, between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. on Saturday and Sunday the 5th and 6th instant. In this connection the earnest attention of the passengers is drawn to the arrangement whereby heavy baggage may be booked by passenger train in advance and consigned for the Station Superintendent, Victoria Terminus, or Colaba Station, Bombay, who will arrange for shipment at a charge of four annas per package to be paid at the time of despatch. Full information may be obtained from the station masters at local stations.

## POLL CALL

### Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail

A voter verifiable paper audit trail, or VVPAT, allows citizens to verify whether their votes have been recorded correctly. This is done via a machine, called the VVPAT machine, that is connected to the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM). A VVPAT machine consists of a printer unit and a status display unit. Soon after a voter casts her vote, the printer unit prints a slip of paper that verifies the voter's choice. The slip contains the party symbol and the name of the candidate for whom she cast her vote. The slip, which is visible through a glass box, is displayed to the voter for about seven seconds after which it is dropped into a compartment that collects ballot slips. Any error during voting is displayed on the status display unit. A few VVPATs are tallied to account for the accuracy of EVMs. Given glitches in VVPAT machines in recent Assembly elections, Opposition parties have called for a higher VVPAT recount.

## MORE ON THE WEB

Ahmedabad: the hub of election campaign colours

<https://bit.ly/2HQUPAM>

## FROM PAGE ONE

**Cong. offers to create wealth, ensure welfare**

The Congress proposed a new law to deal with hate crimes like 'mob-engineered lynchings.' It promised legislation to automatically disqualify lawmakers who switch parties and bar them from elections for two years.

The 54-page manifesto, titled 'We Will Deliver', was released by party president Rahul Gandhi, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi and former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram among others. "When we started this exercise about a year back, I gave two instructions to Mr. Chidambaram and Rajeev Gowda. I

said this is not going to be an exercise of preparing a manifesto in closed rooms. I know the Congress has a lot of expertise but the manifesto should reflect the wishes of the people of India," said Mr. Gandhi after the formal release. "And the second point I said that whatever is going to be in this manifesto has to be truthful. I don't want a single lie because we have been hearing a large number of lies spoken everyday by our Prime Minister," he added.

Mr. Gandhi challenged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to a debate on corruption, national security and foreign policy.

**Cong. manifesto is full of dangerous ideas: BJP**

"In the recent elections, as also in the case of JNU and urban Maoists, Congress and Congressmen have always flirted with the Maoists as fellow travellers," he said.

"Point No.30 at page 35, otherwise an innocuous entry which deals with the review of laws, rules and regulations: it repeals Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) which defines and then punishes an accused in sedition. Even for terrorists and hardcore criminals it underlines the principle 'bail is the rule, jail is the exception.' It seeks to dilute the provisions of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA)," said Mr. Jaitley.

"The Congress has always been soft on terror. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi intro-

duced TADA. Later the Congress revoked it. It revoked POTA. Now it wants to go further soft on terrorism and separatism. There is only a lip sympathy in the assault required on Maoist violence, which Dr. Manmohan Singh had described as the greatest threat to India," he added.

**Separate PM for J&K**

Speaking at an election rally in Thoothukudi, in support of party candidate Tamilisai Soundararajan, Mr. Shah asked the Congress to make its stance clear on the demand made by former J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for a separate Prime Minister in the State. "In one country, how can you have two Prime Ministers. Isn't Kashmir a part of India?"

**EC steps in to allow launch of book on Rafale deal**

"This is completely unacceptable in a democracy. At the same time, in all fairness, I want to command the Election Commission of India, its top leaders starting from the CEC and CEO for Tamil Nadu Satyabrata Sahoo. As soon as they heard about the issue, the CEO got directions from Delhi, and acted in time. We don't have to thank them, because it is their duty. But we commend them when they act right," he added.

Urging election officials not to allow such arbitrary, illegal and anti-democratic actions in the event of pressure from political elements, Mr. Ram said: "I would expect the Election Commission of India, learning from this experience, to take preventive action lest such things happen in other parts of the State or other parts of the country during this general election. This is my hope and I thank the media for taking up this issue seriously because you understood what is at stake, a small incident with huge implications."

"I will speculate that there was some pressure

from political elements. That was a mischief. The machinery failed," he said.

By 7 p.m., Mr. Ram launched the book and C.P. Krishnan, general secretary of the Bank Employees Federation of India, Tamil Nadu unit, received the first copy.

**CEO clarifies**

Chief Electoral Officer Sahoo told *The Hindu* that neither he nor the District Electoral Officer, the Commissioner of the Chennai Corporation, had ordered the seizure of the books.

"I have directed the DEO, Chennai, to look into the issue and give his report immediately," he said.

The copies of the book which were in the possession of the police, were also sent back to the publisher.

P.K. Rajan, editor of the publication, said, "The book is purely on the Rafale deal in Tamil so that people can understand it. This content of the book is what was published in *The Hindu*, and what is already in the public domain. It is ridiculous to seize the books on ground of violation of model code of conduct."

**'Why no query on public funding of Patel statue?'**

The affidavit provides a personal note in which Ms. Mayawati conveys the deep impression left in her mind by the poverty and deprivation of the backward communities and how she decided to "sacrifice her life" for their betterment.

The funds for the memorials, and parks in which her statues find a place were passed by the State legislatures, which are the final authority in such matters of funding. How could she question the legislature which represents the will of the people, Ms. Mayawati asked and told the court the case against her was politically motivated.

**CM**

**Wealth and welfare: Congress plots a comeback**

Its manifesto is a bid to restore the 2004 social contract by reversing the social and political agenda set in motion by Modi

**VARGHESE K. GEORGE**  
NEW DELHI

The manifesto of the Congress for the 2019 Lok Sabha election is an attempt to revive a social contract the party had achieved with its 2004 *aam aadmi* – common man – slogan and later lost to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindutva plank.

The march of the market had marginalised India's poor, triggering social and political instability ahead of 2004. The social coalition that was stitched together under the banner of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) with the support of the Left brought redistribution schemes that blunted the rough edges of the market economy. It was an Indian iteration of Third Way, theorised by British sociologist Anthony Giddens – follow market principles for growth but use state interventions to support the most vulnerable.

"Wealth and welfare," as Congress leader P. Chidambaram said on Tuesday. Free marketers say this is populism; socialists say this

**Promise to the people**

**NYAY:** Cash transfer of ₹72,000 a year; money to the poorest 5 crore households to the account of a woman of the family

**Taxation:** Implement Direct Taxes Code in the first year of government and bring in Goods and Services Tax 2.0

**Electoral reforms:** Scrap the opaque Electoral Bond Scheme and replace it with a National Election Fund

▪ Promise that 50% of Electronic Voting Machines will be matched against Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trials

is compromise. But this model managed to stabilise many democracies that were struggling with the domestic

**NEWS ANALYSIS**

stresses created by globalised capitalism. But this system has been prone to corruption and cronyism the world over as it was the case with the UPA.

Hindutva promised a pure

The manifesto touches on most sectors of India's political, social and economic landscape. Here are a few highlights:

**Laws, rules and regulations:**

▪ Set up a Judicial Complaints Commission to examine complaints of misconduct against judges

▪ Pass Social Accountability Law for compulsory social audit of

government welfare schemes

**Planning:** Scrap NITI Aayog and constitute a Planning Commission with re-defined responsibilities

**Rural development:** Launch MGNREGA 3.0 for guaranteed

employment from 100 to 150 days

▪ Connect all villages and habitations with a population of 250 with a road under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

▪ Pass the Right to Homestead

and incorruptible form of development under the unifying umbrella of religion, which displaced the Congress-led UPA in 2014. The Congress is trying to recover its lost plot. Compared with 2004, this time the challenge is more formidable for the Congress.

The appeal of the Hindutva's social agenda is so strong that it can mask the pitfalls of its economic agen-

category; the NYAY scheme is in the second.

The three issues headlining the manifesto – unemployment, women's security and farm distress – is an attempt to encourage the voters to reimagine their self-perception – from vertical categories of religious, ethnic and even political affiliations that dominate the political discourse now, to horizontal categories of

shared interests of well-being and security. Whether the party can mobilise the voters on these against Mr. Modi's Hindutva onslaught remains to be seen. The manifesto's title, "Congress will deliver", is counter to the BJP's *jumla*, or false promises. Congress president Rahul Gandhi's speech also underscored the point – that the party has promised only what it can deliver. That, voters willing.

**A 'contaminated' alliance, says PM**

Whose side are you on, he asks leaders who questioned India's surgical strike

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
PATNA/BHAWANIPATNA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called *magathbandhan* (grand alliance) leaders *mahamilavati* (contaminated), "who are asking for proof of our brave sons' attack on terrorists in their own turf."

He addressed two meetings in Bihar during the day.

"After the Pulwama terror attack, the brave sons of India displayed their valour... for the first time in Indian history, they entered the home of the terrorists to teach them a lesson... the whole world is discussing the attack, but these *mahamilavati* are asking for proof from Modi... these people should tell the country whether they have faith in the brave sons of India or Pakistan's *kupoot* (bad son)," the Prime Minister said at his first Lok Sabha poll campaign meeting at Jamui.

At Gaya, Mr. Modi said only two types of people had a problem with "this *chowkidar*": the *mahamilavati* and the terrorists and their sympathisers. "Are you people



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cut-out is seen at Bhawanipatna in Odisha. ■ BISWARANJANROUTH

happy with what the *chowkidar* has done for the country?" he asked the crowd. "Whatever remains to be done too will be completed by this *chowkidar*."

**Election slogan**

In Odisha's KBK region (Kala-handi-Balangir-Koraput), Mr. Modi said the Congress talked about poverty, for which the party itself was largely responsible, only

during elections. "For 70 years, people have been denied their rights. When election comes, Congress chants *garibi, garibi*," he told a public meeting at the district headquarters town of Kalahandi. It was his second meeting in the region in the last five days.

Quoting former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's statement that 'if one rupee is sent from Delhi, only 15

paise reaches the poor,' he said this was made in reference to Kalahandi.

"What has the Congress done after having admitted its failure? Should not the then Prime Minister have found a solution? These are the kind of people who identify the disease, but don't prescribe the remedy. Only Modi has the ability to treat the disease," the Prime Minister said.

default" – were missing from the 2018 central bank order.

"Any directions which are in respect of debtors generally, would be ultra vires Section 35AA," the SC concluded.

In their challenge, the power sector companies, which chiefly argued the case, pointed to the 37th Parliamentary Standing Committee Report of March 7 last year, titled the "Stressed/Nonperforming Assets in the Electricity Sector."

Justice Nariman, writing the judgment, said the RBI circular sourced its power from Section 35AA of the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act of 2017.

It had recorded that there were 34 stressed projects amounting to 40,130 MWs out of 85,550 MWs, which have a debt exposure of ₹1,74,468 crore.

This provision says the "central government may, by order, authorise the Reserve Bank to issue directions to any banking company or banking companies to initiate insolvency resolution process in respect of a default, under the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016".

However, two vital factors – authorisation of the government and the general nature of the circular which did not concern a "specific

**Former Navy chief protests Yogi's remarks**

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Former Navy chief Admiral L. Ramdas has written a protest letter to the Chief Election Commissioner over the 'Modiji ki sena' remark by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

"The armed forces are not a private force belonging to any individual or political party and, therefore, any suggestion to that effect is completely unacceptable," Admiral Ramdas said in the letter dated April 1.

Addressing a rally in Ghaziabad on Sunday, Mr. Adityanath referred to the Army as "Modiji ki sena," which drew sharp criticism from Opposition parties and the military fraternity.

**Retired HC judge to head T.N. Lokayukta**

Judicial and non-judicial members also appointed to the anti-corruption body

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
CHENNAI

The Governor has appointed retired High Court judge P. Devadass as the chairperson of the five-member Lokayukta that was notified on Monday.

The notification was issued following the recommendations made by a search committee.

**Four members**

Former district judges K. Jayabalan and R. Krishnamoorthy are the two judicial members and retired IAS officer M. Rajaram and advocate K. Arumugam are the two non-judicial members of the anti-corruption body, according to the notification issued by the Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department.

"The chairperson and the

Lokayukta.

**Search committee**  
Retired High Court judge K. Venkataraman was the chairperson of the panel. Former Advocate General R. Krishnamoorthy and retired IPS officer A. Pari were the other members on the search committee. In July last year, the Tamil Nadu government passed the legislation in the Assembly a day before the deadline set by the Supreme Court in this regard.

In November that year, the State government notified the Tamil Nadu Lokayukta Rules, 2018.

Complaints against a public functionary can be submitted to the Registrar or the designated officer in person or by post, but anonymous complaints would not be entertained by the panel.

When the State government invited Leader of the Opposition M.K. Stalin to participate in the meeting called over constituting the search committee in December last year, he boycotted it, contending that his objections expressed before the passing of the legislation were ignored and the Bill was passed in a hurried manner.

**Huge furore**

It may be recalled that Mr. Devadass' judgment in June 2015 during his tenure in the Madras High Court suggesting mediation between a rape convict and the survivor, resulted in a huge furore from across the country.

The judge had then recalled his judgment and eventually cancelled the bail granted to the rape convict.

**Nirav likely to appeal denial of bail**

No time limit for submission of plea in High Court against decision refusing bail

**VIDYA RAM**  
LONDON

Nirav Modi, the main accused in the Punjab National Bank fraud case, is expected to appeal against the decision last week of Chief Magistrate Emma Arbuthnot at Westminster Magistrates Court denying him bail. The

appeal – which is yet to be submitted – would have to be made at the High Court in London.

"Mr. Modi intends to appeal his bail decision but he has not yet submitted the appeal," said a spokesperson for the Crown Prosecution Service in a statement.

While there is no time limit for Modi to appeal, his legal team would have to give the Crown Prosecution Service, which is acting on behalf of India in the extradition proceedings, 48 hours notice of their intention to do so. A hearing would have to be listed within a further

48 hours of the appeal being filed.

Any appeal would take place in parallel to the extradition proceedings at Westminster Magistrates Court, where Modi is next set to appear by video link from prison on April 26 for a procedural hearing.



**APPEAL**  
Mast Surya, 6 years old has been diagnosed to have VSD problem and with his poor financial condition, he seeks your support to combat this contingency. Kindly contribute for his Hospitalisation cost Rs. 2,00,000/- for Open Heart Surgery (VSD Closure). That he intend to undergo at Public Health Centre, Chennai. Only the donations sent through C.H.D./N.E.F.T Transfer Syndicate, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60182010063310, IFSC No. SYNB0006018) favouring WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE are entitled for exemption under 80G

IT. Please give us your e-mail ID.  
All correspondence is done through WWS, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, Flat No.GF 1, Cordell Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycroft Garden Road, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401 / 28235324 E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

WWS

## INTERVIEW | ASADUDDIN OWAISI

# 'This is an open election; there is no wave as such'

AIMIM chief says the level of intolerance in the country is not good; for that to come down, we must, as a nation, mature law.

PRASHANTH CHINTALA  
SYED MOHAMMED

If there is one thing that rankles, it is being branded as the BJP's 'B-Team', says All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi, saying the party is contesting only three seats countrywide. Mr. Owaisi discussed his party's prospects and the need for an alternative to the BJP and the Congress. Excerpts:

**Are you looking at a pan-India expansion of your party?**

■ Naturally, every party wants to expand. This is why we are contesting in Aurangabad and Kishangunj.

**Only three seats?**

■ Despite contesting only three seats, I am being branded a "vote cutter", the 'B-Team' of the BJP. I would request them to make it 'A-Team' as 'B-Team' sounds a bit demeaning.

**So, what is your view on the government led by Narendra Modi?**

■ As far as performance of Mr. Modi is concerned, you see in 2014, he used to address public meetings in which he spoke about *achhe din*. He hardly utters it now. He never talks about demonetisation. At the time, the message was about black money, depositing ₹15 lakh, employment for youth. He would say 'my foreign policy is different'. It is not, it is the same. We are still dithering on China. There is no Pakistan policy. Our influence has been reduced in our own neighbourhood. There is a great danger now with the Americans leaving Af-

ghanistan, we don't know what will happen at our western borders. This is why PM is sticking to security, terrorism, Muslims, Pakistan.

**What are the issues in the current elections?**

■ I feel this is an open election. There is no wave as such. That is why, out of the 135 seats in south India, they will get a few seats, maybe here or there. I don't think the BJP can even retain the two seats in Andhra Pradesh, one in Telangana and one in Tamil Nadu.

**What do you think the people are looking for?**

■ One thing is for sure, that this government has not lived up to its promises. There was talk of a strong leadership, supreme leader. That is not there any more. Every State has its issues and even every constituency has different issues.

So Pulwama and Balakot will not make much of a difference?

■ Why not? I think the country requires a non-Congress, non-BJP government. This is not only to represent political diversity, but to give a new economic path. Most important points are: in these five years, institu-

the statement of the Foreign Secretary. But now, PM says Pakistan is counting corpses. Amit Shah says 250. The Agriculture Minister says 350. Ahluwalia says our intention was not to kill. So who should we believe?

**Is this election also bereft of the Ram Mandir issue?**

■ In the first phase, Mr. Modi would be lying low. Come second or third phase, *gabras-tan-shamshan* will begin.

**What are your views on mediation on the Ayodhya issue?**

■ We have no problem with mediation and will abide by it. My personal objection is about Mr. [Sri Sri] Ravishankar because he is close to subject matter and parties. But I hope that he lives up to the expectation of a mediator, wherein you are completely unbiased. You don't carry baggage, and listen to all parties.

You have been talking about KCR (Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao) as a person of PM calibre. Do you think the proposed federal front could be a reality post-polls?

■ Why not? I think the country requires a non-Congress, non-BJP government. This is not only to represent political diversity, but to give a new economic path. Most important points are: in these five years, institu-

tions of democracy have been weakened. The hatred that has been created against the minorities and Dalits. I have my doubts that even if the government changes, the level of hatred will not decrease. This is scary. The government of the day tried to weaken institutions of democracy.

**How would you de-institutionalise this 'hatred' you speak of?**

■ This level of intolerance is not good. For that to come down, we must, as a nation, mature. These are no more 'fringe elements'. The fringe are the main players now. They should be controlled. That can happen only when governance is done by rule of law and not favouritism. Democracy demands that you have rule of law, not rule by

**C One thing is for sure, that the Modi government has not lived up to its promises**

■ I feel 16 seats will be won by the TRS. One, Hyderabad,

would be won by my party (Telangana has 17 seats). Congress has lost perception and narrative battle. BJP, again, the same.

**What about your foray into AP with YSRC's Jaganmohan Reddy?**

■ If they have any self-respect left, the National Investigation Agency investigation officers' team should be suspended. The Home Minister should apologise, the government should apologise. Why don't you appeal when judge himself is saying crucial evidence was not shown? Whether it is Mecca Masjid, Ajmer blast, you don't appeal. This is complete favouritism. There is an Urdu saying, *baarah khoom maaf*. If you are close to *chowkidar*, everything is forgiven.

**What are the electoral prospects in Telangana?**

■ You give reservation to ensure discrimination and injustice comes to an end. Now in Indian Parliament the lowest representation is of Muslims – less than 6%. So, where do you start? Another concern is that in this Lok Sabha election, I don't see many from Muslim community winning. Parties are reluctant to make them candidates.

**Your opinion on women's reservation...**

■ You give reservation to ensure discrimination and injustice comes to an end. Now in Indian Parliament the lowest representation is of Muslims – less than 6%. So, where do you start? Another concern is that in this Lok Sabha election, I don't see many from Muslim community winning. Parties are reluctant to make them candidates.



## In Bihu land



The full ensemble: Women perform Bihu at an election rally at Borhula in Jorhat district of Assam on Tuesday. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

## [FACE-OFF: GAJUWAKA]

## Where Pawan Kalyan plays a second act

Actor is trying his luck here, apart from Bhimavaram, and is locked in an intense fight

SUMIT BHATTACHARJEE  
VISAKHAPATNAM

The Gajuwaka Assembly constituency, which was carved out of the Pendurthi constituency in 2009, has gained importance for more than one reason. It is not only the largest constituency in Andhra Pradesh with an electorate of 3.09 lakh but also one of the two constituencies from which actor-turned-politician Pawan Kalyan, founder of the Jana Sena Party, is contesting. The other is Bhimavaram in West Godavari district.

What makes the contest interesting is that Mr. Kalyan is pitched against two strong leaders – sitting TDP MLA Palla Srinivasa Rao and the YSRCP's Tippala Nagi Reddy.

As the April 11 election date draws closer, the race appears to be tightening.

While the YSR Congress Party and the TDP have got their campaigns well under way, the JSP is yet to get going. But, sources in the JSP said that Mr. Kalyan was likely to visit, and lead the campaign, at least thrice before campaigning comes to a close on April 9. "This may tilt the equations in our favour," said a senior JSP

## Battleground

The Gajuwaka Assembly constituency is the largest in Andhra Pradesh. It is one of the seats from where actor-turned politician Pawan Kalyan will contest

**Key issues**

- Resettlement package, jobs, and housing for displaced people
- Industrial pollution
- Landing centre and jetty for fishermen

**Electorate 3.09 lakh**

- Male 1.57 lakh
- Female 1.51 lakh
- Others 15

## Key candidates

- Pawan Kalyan (Jana Sena Party)
- Palla Srinivasa Rao (Telugu Desam Party)
- Tippala Nagi Reddy (YSR Congress Party)

are complicated issues and can be understood only by a local and Mr. Pawan Kalyan, who is an actor and an outsider, will never understand the complexities," he asserted.

For Mr. Reddy, also a local, the sympathy from having been a losing candidate – in 2009 and 2014 – could be a factor that may work in his favour.

## Kapu, youth

And while Mr. Kalyan forswears caste politics, the biggest advantage is the Kapu electorate in the constituency. In 2014, when the total electorate was about 2.6 lakh, the Kapu voters were about 58,000, or over 22% and the Yadavas comprised about 20%.

Now that the total electorate has gone up to 3.09 lakh, the Kapu and the Yadava base is estimated to have gone up by at least 10,000 each. While Mr. Kalyan is a Kapu, Mr. Rao is a Yadava, and the caste equation might tilt the balance. A strong fan base is another positive for Mr. Kalyan. Gajuwaka has the highest membership for the JSP, with the figure crossing 70,000. And most of them are believed to be from the Kapu community and the youth.

leader, speaking on condition of anonymity.

All three candidates are banking on distinct vote banks in an electorate that is highly fragmented by caste equations.

Mr. Rao, a civil engineer with expertise in seismic-resistant designs, is confident that his credentials as a son of the soil will give him the edge.

"My father Palla Simhachalam was the sarpanch in this

mandal for 25 years and was elected as an MLA in 1994 on the TDP ticket," Mr. Rao said. "I was born and brought up here and I know the issues of this constituency like the back of my hand," he added.

According to Mr. Rao, Gajuwaka as an industrial belt faces issues relating to pollution, rehabilitation and resettlement packages for the project displaced and housing. "These

issues are believed to be from the Kapu community and the youth.

## On the ground, industry

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# British PM calls for another Brexit extension

Theresa May to hold talks with Labour leader Corbyn after MPs fail to identify a route forward they could agree on

VIDYA RAM  
LONDON

British Prime Minister Theresa May will ask the European Union for a further, short extension to Article 50 to avoid the U.K. crashing out of the EU on April 12, and has said she wants to "sit down" with Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn in an effort to thrash out a solution and break the logjam.

This would potentially allow for a joint approach to the declaration on future relations – which forms part of the withdrawal deal but which would keep the legal treaty governing the U.K.'s relations intact, she has insisted.

If no solution could be agreed upon, a number of options on future relations would be put to MPs in a series of indicative votes, in a similar process to the one that had run on Monday and last Friday, in which MPs rejected all options put before them.

"The government stands ready to abide by the decision of the House," Ms. May said following an intense day of Cabinet meetings that lasted seven hours. It came after a second round of indicative

voting ended without a result on Monday. "We can and must find the compromises that will deliver what the British people voted for," she said. "It requires national unity to deliver the national interest."

During the meetings, Ms. May faced pressure from the divided voices in her Cabinet, ranging from those pushing for a no-deal exit if her deal isn't agreed to, while others were eager to take no-deal off the cards and either opt for a softer Brexit, or a confirmatory public referendum on the deal.

While the option of customs union membership was defeated by just three votes on Monday, huge divisions within and across parties became apparent over the course of the votes. With just 10 days to go before the U.K. is set to crash out of the EU without a deal if no road forward is agreed, there have been warnings from the EU that simply signalling what MPs are not in favour of is not good enough to stave off a disorderly no-deal Brexit.

While the EU Parliament's representative on Brexit, Guy Verhofstadt, warned that a hard Brexit seemed al-



**Tension rises:** British PM May gives a statement at 10 Downing Street after chairing a day-long meeting of the Cabinet. •AFP

most inevitable, the European Commission's Chief Negotiator on Brexit Michel Barnier said the option of no deal "looks very likely". "No deal was never my intended scenario but day after day, it becomes more likely," he said on Tuesday, following Monday's turbulent session of the House of Commons.

He urged MPs to get behind the government's withdrawal deal if they wanted the U.K. to leave the EU in an orderly manner. "This treaty is and will be the only one on the table." He said it would

still be possible for the U.K. to be granted a short extension if needed, if MPs approve the deal.

#### May 22 deadline

However, if Britain is to avoid participating in European Parliamentary elections, it must leave the EU before May 22, making it a very tight deadline. Any extension beyond this would require the U.K. to participate in the elections, which would present challenges both for the U.K. and the EU, who are fearful that the U.K.'s pre-

sence could be disruptive in a process that is set to be highly charged in any case, with right-wing and some Eurosceptic political forces making a play for seats.

Following the rejection of the withdrawal deal for a third time last Friday, Donald Tusk, the President of the European Commission, announced the holding of an emergency summit in Brussels on April 10, at which European leaders will make the final call on whether to grant a further extension to the U.K. (if one is sought) or allow the U.K. to crash out without a deal.

There had been hopes that a shorter list of options chosen from the eight that were put to MPs last week would help identify a route forward that MPs could rally around. Alongside the customs union option, which lost by 273 to 276, MPs voted on one that is referred to as the so-called Common Market 2.0 – similar to the arrangements in place for Norway and the EU – with the U.K. remaining in the European Free Trade Association and the European Economic Area. This lost by 261 to 282. They also voted on requir-

ing any deal to be subject to a confirmatory public vote (280 to 292) and a final one that would seek to avoid a no-deal Brexit by first requiring the government to seek an extension and if one were not granted, then revoke Article 50 (191 to 292). Following the votes, Nick Boles, the MP who put forward the Common Market 2.0 proposal, resigned from the Conservative Party on the floor of the House of Commons, blaming the failure to find a route forward on his party's failure to compromise.

The failure to find a route forward is likely to harden the government's position that its deal is the only one possible. Significantly, while both the Common Market 2.0 and the Customs Union proposals were put forward by Conservative MPs, their backing in the indicative voting process came from Labour, with the vast majority of Conservatives voting against it. Therefore, were the government to push through with one of these, it would mean relying on the votes of Opposition MPs rather than their own ranks, which is thought to be highly unlikely.

# 'Khashoggi children paid off by Riyadh'

They also got costly houses, says report

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

The children of murdered Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi have received multimillion-dollar homes and are being paid thousands of dollars per month by the kingdom's authorities, *The Washington Post* reported on Monday.



Jamal Khashoggi

million, the newspaper reported.

Salah, the eldest of the children, plans to continue living in the kingdom, while the others, who live in the United States, are expected to sell the homes, the paper said.

In addition to the properties, the children are receiving \$10,000 or more per month and may also receive larger payments that could amount to tens of millions of dollars each, according to the report.

Saudi Arabia's powerful Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Salman, has been accused of orchestrating Khashoggi's killing, but the kingdom has claimed that the prince was not involved.

# Trump mulls over naming an 'immigration czar'

Move is seen as an attempt to coordinate immigration policy across various federal agencies

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON

As he threatens to shut down the southern border, U.S. President Donald Trump is considering bringing on a "border" or "immigration czar" to coordinate immigration policy across various federal agencies, according to four people familiar with the discussions.

Mr. Trump is weighing at

least two potential candidates for the post – former Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach and former Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli – according to the people, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Kobach and Mr. Cuccinelli are far-right conservatives with strong views on immigration.

Mr. Cuccinelli was seen at

the White House on Monday. The plan comes as Mr. Trump is threatening anew to close the U.S.-Mexico border as soon as this week if Mexico does not completely halt illegal immigration into the U.S. And it serves as the latest sign that the President plans to continue to hammer his immigration rhetoric and policies as he moves past the special counsel's Russia in-

vestigation and works to rally his base heading into his 2020 re-election campaign. Aides hope the potential appointment, which they caution is still in the planning stages, would serve as the "face" of the administration on immigration issues and would placate both the President and his supporters, showing he is serious and taking action.

White House press aides, Mr. Kobach and Mr. Cuccinelli did not immediately respond on Monday to requests for comment.

A Department of Homeland Security official noted that White House czars have been appointed in the past when there has been an "urgent need" for sustained, inter-agency policy coordination.

# Ex-Xinjiang official held for graft

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BEIJING

A former chairman of the government of China's troubled northwest region of Xinjiang, an ethnic Uighur, has been arrested for graft, national prosecutors said on Tuesday.



Nur Bekri

Nur Bekri was the regional government's chairman for seven years until 2014 – a period that was marked by a spate of deadly violence in the region, including riots.

It is among the most high-profile cases in President Xi

Jinping's sweeping campaign against corruption in the Communist Party, which has ensnared 1.5 million officials.

Mr. Bekri had last month been expelled from the Communist Party for "serious violations".

The Central Commission for Disciplinary Inspection (CCDI) said Mr. Bekri had used his position to benefit himself and his family, buying luxury cars and doling out favours to others.

## IN BRIEF



Second woman speaks of unwanted touch by Biden

A second woman on Monday said Joe Biden had touched her inappropriately in 2009. The allegation by Amy Lappos, a former aide to Democratic Rep. Jim Himes, followed a similar one by former politician Lucy Flores.

Pak. HC panel to probe Hindu sisters' conversion

ISLAMABAD  
The Islamabad High Court on Tuesday formed an independent five-member commission to probe the alleged abduction, forced conversion and marriage of two teenage Hindu girls. PTI

3 Indian-origin consultants charged with H-1B fraud

WASHINGTON  
Three Indian-origin consultants in the U.S. have been charged with substantive visa fraud for submitting sham applications for the popular H-1B visas to gain a competitive advantage over competing firms. PTI

## FATF may blacklist Pak. due to lobbying by India'

Calculating annual loss, says Minister



Shah Mahmood Qureshi

sion from the 'grey list'.

During the visit, a delegation of the Asia-Pacific Group on money laundering, a regional affiliate of the FATF, expressed serious reservations over insufficient physical actions on ground against banned groups to block flow of funds and activities.

The short story contained indirect references to homosexuality among the clergy, who hold considerable sway in the Buddhist-majority nation. It was published on Mr. Sathkumara's Facebook page and in local Sinhalese language publications. He was taken before a local magistrate, who charged him with inciting "religious hatred" under the United Nation's international human rights treaty, to which Sri Lanka is a signatory.

During the visit, a delegation of the Asia-Pacific Group on money laundering, a regional affiliate of the FATF, expressed serious reservations over insufficient physical actions on ground against banned groups to block flow of funds and activities. The delegation reportedly raised questions over specific actions against each of the eight organisations proscribed under international requirements.

A group of experts from the FATF recently visited Pakistan to review whether Islamabad had made enough progress on global standards against financial crimes to warrant its exclusion from the 'grey list'.

It said activities of banned organisations and NGOs were still unchecked at the provincial, district and grass roots level, where they can still raise funds and hold meetings and rallies.

## Lankan writer held for story on 'gay' monks

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
COLOMBO

A Sri Lankan novelist has been arrested for writing about homosexuality in the Buddhist clergy and charged with violating international human rights law, officials said on Tuesday, outraging free speech advocates.

Shakthika Sathkumara, 33, was arrested in the town of Polgahawela on Monday and remanded in custody for nine days after some monks complained about his writing.

The short story contained indirect references to homosexuality among the clergy, who hold considerable sway in the Buddhist-majority nation. It was published on Mr. Sathkumara's Facebook page and in local Sinhalese language publications. He was taken before a local magistrate, who charged him with inciting "religious hatred" under the United Nations' international human rights treaty, to which Sri Lanka is a signatory.

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But AKP deputy chairman Ali Ihsan Yavuz later on Tuesday claimed that there was now a difference of 20,509 between Mr. Imamoglu and Mr. Yildirim during a press conference.

"The difference continues to fall," Mr. Yavuz said in Istanbul, adding that the election in the city was the "most flawed in our democratic history". "There are many errors, irregularities," he said.

But Istanbul was a very tight race and both Mr. Yildirim and the Opposition CHP candidate Ekrem Imamoglu claimed victory in the early

hours of Monday, when tallies showed them in a dead heat.

Electoral authorities on Monday announced Mr. Imamoglu was ahead by 28,000 votes with nearly all ballot boxes tallied, prompting AKP officials to challenge the result.

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## Erdogan's party appeals Istanbul, Ankara results



Recep Tayyip Erdogan

nal more ruling party challenges to the surprise Opposition victories.

"We have filed our objections with the electoral authorities in all 39 districts," AKP's Istanbul chief Bayram Senocak told reporters. "We have identified irregularities and falsifications."

He said the party had found an "excessive" difference between votes cast at

ballot stations for their candidate and the data sent to electoral authorities.

Hakan Han Ozcan, AKP's Ankara chairman, told reporters they were also filing an appeal in 25 districts of the capital. Anadolu state news agency said results showed CHP Opposition candidate Mansur Yavas with 50.93% of votes against 47.11% for the AKP.

Istanbul, the largest city in the country, was a key prize for Mr. Erdogan and he had fielded former premier and loyalist Binali Yildirim as candidate for Mayor.

But Istanbul was a very tight race and both Mr. Yildirim and the Opposition CHP candidate Ekrem Imamoglu claimed victory in the early

A selection from Religion / Faith columns published in *The Hindu* between 1964 & 2017

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## MARKET WATCH

	02-04-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	39,057	0.48
Asian Paints	1519.30	26.55
Axis Bank	767.40	1.80
Bajaj Auto	2853.10	-62.55
Bajaj Finserv	7279.60	120.80
Bajaj Finance	3055.20	53.75
Bharti Airtel	356.45	15.65
BPCL	380.50	-11.40
Britannia Ind	2994.20	-55.65
Cipla	522.65	-3.00
Coal India	236.40	0.00
Dr Reddy's Lab	2798.75	3.95
Eicher Motors	20583.50	535.10
GAIL (India)	362.60	7.90
Gasim Ind	845.65	-11.70
HCL Tech.	1102.60	-8.15
HDFC	1995.95	36.30
HDPC Bank	2294.85	-16.95
Hero MotoCorp	2569.95	11.45
Hindalco	216.95	1.05
Hind Unilever	1687.15	-2.85
Indiabulls HFL	839.45	-7.75
ICICI Bank	397.15	-1.10
IndusInd Bank	1774.55	31.50
Bharti Infratech	315.00	0.75
Infosys	759.40	4.30
Indian Oil Corp	158.15	-0.55
ITC	297.90	0.65
JSW Steel	287.10	-5.20
Kotak Bank	1339.45	0.05
L&T	1409.75	-2.45
M&M	668.60	7.70
Maruti Suzuki	6889.70	49.00
NTPC	135.15	0.05
ONGC	157.50	0.25
PowerGrid Corp	199.80	4.25
Reliance Ind	1389.70	-2.15
State Bank	329.00	6.25
Sun Pharma	469.70	-9.15
Tata Motors	202.95	15.60
Tata Steel	530.65	-4.50
TCS	2079.30	47.65
Tech Mahindra	792.45	6.95
Titan	1111.90	-8.45
UltraTech Cement	4026.00	-27.50
UPL	927.10	-7.20
Vedanta	187.90	-1.00
Wipro	261.65	0.00
YES Bank	280.30	-4.40
Zee Entertainment	417.70	-14.00

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	379.70	-3.35
Asian Paints	1519.30	26.55
Axle Bank	767.40	1.80
Bajaj Auto	2853.10	-62.55
Bajaj Finserv	7279.60	120.80
Bajaj Finance	3055.20	53.75
Bharti Airtel	356.45	15.65
BPCL	380.50	-11.40
Britannia Ind	2994.20	-55.65
Cipla	522.65	-3.00
Coal India	236.40	0.00
Dr Reddy's Lab	2798.75	3.95
Eicher Motors	20583.50	535.10
GAIL (India)	362.60	7.90
Gasim Ind	845.65	-11.70
HCL Tech.	1102.60	-8.15
HDPC	1995.95	36.30
HDPC Bank	2294.85	-16.95
Hero MotoCorp	2569.95	11.45
Hindalco	216.95	1.05
Hind Unilever	1687.15	-2.85
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Vedanta	187.90	-1.00
Wipro	261.65	0.00
YES Bank	280.30	-4.40
Zee Entertainment	417.70	-14.00

	EXCHAGE RATE	TT BUY	TT SELL
CURRENCY	US Dollar	68.55	68.87
Euro	76.77	77.13	
British Pound	89.24	89.66	
Japanese Yen (100)	61.55	61.84	
Chinese Yuan	10.20	10.25	
Swiss Franc	68.57	68.89	
Singapore Dollar	50.58	50.82	
Canadian Dollar	51.47	51.71	
Malaysian Ringgit	16.77	16.87	

Source: Indian Bank

	BULLION RATES	CHENNAI
April 02 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses		
Retail Silver (1g).....40.3.....(40.5)		
22 ct gold (1 g).....3014.....(3034)		

## Rupee recovers from day's low

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MUMBAI

The rupee on Tuesday recovered from the day's low to finally settle at 68.74 against the U.S. dollar with gains of 40 paise amid sustained foreign fund inflows and heavy buying in domestic equities.

Forex dealers said foreign fund inflows into the debt and equity markets helped the rupee recover.

Besides, the local currency gained strength after the Reserve Bank of India announced second dollar-rupee swap, they added.

At the Interbank foreign exchange (forex), the rupee opened lower at 69.32 a dollar but recovered the losses and touched the day's high of 68.70. It finally settled at 68.74 per dollar. Foreign institutional investors remained net buyers in the capital markets, putting in ₹543.36 crore on Tuesday.

"Voiding of the February 12 circular is credit negative for Indian banks," said Srikanth Vadlamani, vice president, Financial Institutions Group, Moody's Investors Service.

"The circular had significantly tightened stressed

## Dr. Reddy's sells product rights to Encore of U.S.

Also signs pact with Celgene

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

Pharma major Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, through wholly-owned U.S. subsidiary Promius Pharma LLC, is selling rights for a product and assigning marketing and distribution rights of two other products to Encore Dermatology.

It is in line with "our renewed strategy to enable us achieve self-sustainability and profitable growth for each of our businesses," G.V. Prasad, co-chairman and CEO of Dr. Reddy's, said in a statement.

Promius Pharma president Anil Namboodiripad said, "we are confident in Encore's ability to realise the full potential of the en-

## SC verdict could delay resolution of stressed assets

Prospects of recovering ₹3.8 lakh crore loans is uncertain; lenders can still refer cases to NCLT without citing February 12 circular, say bankers

## MANOJIT SAHA MUMBAI

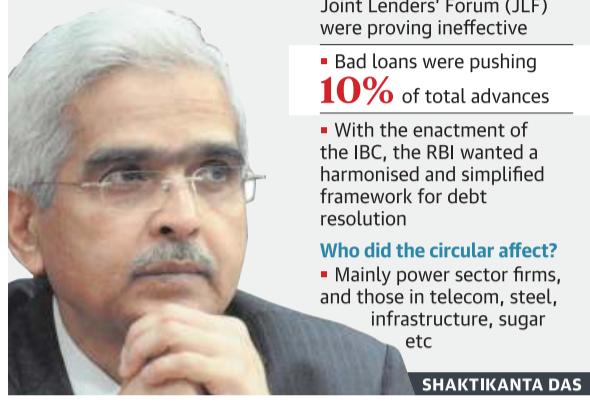
The prospect of recovering ₹3.8 lakh crore of stressed loans of over 70 large borrowers has become uncertain after the Supreme Court (SC) quashed the controversial February 12, 2018 circular of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on resolution of stressed assets.

The circular, which was opposed by banks as well as industry players, directed lenders to classify a loan account as stressed and start resolution process within one day of default. If banks start resolution of an asset, they have to set aside higher capital, known as provision in banking parlance. Banks were also asked to refer all loan accounts of over ₹2,000 crore for bankruptcy proceedings if resolution is not achieved in 180 days. Also, all the existing loan restructuring facilities like corporate debt restructuring were withdrawn and Insolvency

## Setback for RBI

What did the Feb. 12, 2018 circular from RBI say?

- Banks to classify large loans as stressed within a day of default
- Banks to frame a



SHAKTIKANTA DAS

and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) became the only option for resolution of stressed assets.

Bankers and other stake-

holders said resolution of stressed assets could now be delayed. "The current SC ruling, quashing the February

"This shows how proactive the judiciary has been. Whilst it's too early to say, but if banks voluntarily still invoke IBC, the practical impact will be minimal," Mr. Mangaldas said.

The Supreme Court's verdict, along with recent CCEA, MoP and MoC notifications implementing the recommendations of the high-level empowered committee, will provide much-needed respite and impetus to regulatory reform in the power sector," Amit Kapur, joint managing partner, J. Sagar Associates, which represented the petitioners said.

"The RBI circular had mandated banks to either immediately resolve all bad loans above ₹2,000 crore or file for insolvency resolution under the IBC.

"Over ₹40,000 crore of payments is due from the government owned discoms. If we get the money, issues of 13GW of power units will be resolved. Another 25-30 GW of issues can be resolved through discussion between the power producers and



lenders," Mr. Khurana added.

Cyril Shroff, managing partner, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, sees the SC judgment as a major development.

"Challenge likely" It is also believed that promoter Naresh Goyal, who was forced by the banks to resign, may challenge the decision.

Strategic investor Etihad Airways may also challenge the very circular on which the resolution plan was based has been made void, the plan will either be derailed or reworked, feel analysts. This, in turn, will further delay recapitalisation of the airline which is in dire need of cash infusion to stay afloat.

## Challenge likely

It is also believed that promoter Naresh Goyal, who was forced by the banks to resign, may challenge the decision.

Strategic investor Etihad

Airways may also challenge

the way the resolution plan is being drawn.

A Jet Airways official declined to comment. Etihad Airways could not be reached for comment.

Rajesh Narain Gupta, managing partner, SNG Partners, said, "If the banks have relied upon this circular which is now held to be void by the Supreme Court, then the borrower may get the right to unwind what has been done pursuant to the said circular, which may become a complex legal situation to

deal with."

Ashish Chhawchharia, partner, Restructuring Services, Grant Thornton Advisory Private Ltd., said, "I don't think there would be any impact on the approach the banks are taking for the resolution of Jet Airways matter."

Meanwhile, the airline on Tuesday grounded 15 more aircraft owing to non-payment of lease rentals to lessors.

Makarand Joshi, Partner, MMJC and Associates LLP - a corporate compliance firm said, "By virtue of this verdict, validity of action taken by banks under the circular (eg. allotment of shares at discount to bank) may be challenged. And if banks' action is challenged, the validity of transfer of title done by banks under the circular can also be challenged."

"It shall be in addition to the lump-sum option and shall be allowed based on the option exercised by the

## IN BRIEF



TVS Motor two-wheeler sales rise 12% in FY19

**CHENNAI** Two and three-wheeler manufacturer TVS Motor Company reported a 12% growth in its 2018-19 two-wheeler sales to 37.57 lakh units against 33.67 lakh units registered in the year-earlier period. Three-wheeler sales rose 59% from 99,000 units to 1.56 lakh units. During the fourth quarter, two-wheeler sales grew by 6,000 units to 8.66 lakh units, while three-wheeler sales rose 41% to 42,000 units, said the company in a statement.

## Paytm gets SEBI nod to offer stock broking

**NEW DELHI** Paytm Money said that it had received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India to offer stock broking services to its users. "With this approval, Paytm Money is moving towards its aim to be a full stack wealth management platform...We expect to go live within few months and eventually offer all exchange traded products to our users," Pravin Jadhav, Whole-time Director at Paytm Money, said.

## EU drags India to WTO over ICT products' levies

**NEW DELHI/BRUSSELS** The European Union (EU) on Tuesday said it has dragged India into WTO's dispute settlement mechanism over imposition of import duties on certain ICT products, including mobiles, alleging breach of global trade norms. The EU is challenging the introduction of import duties on a wide range of ICT products, for instance mobile phones and components, base stations and integrated circuits, it said. PTI

# Manufacturing PMI at 6-month low

Effect of strong demand, receipt of bulk orders hit by competition, polls: survey

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Manufacturing activity slowed to a six-month low of 52.6 in March due to lower levels of new orders and production, according to a private sector survey.

The Nikkei India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index came in at a lower reading in March from 54.3 in February. A reading over 50 implies expansion while one below that denotes a contraction in activity.

## Improving conditions

"Registering 52.6 in March, the Nikkei India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index continued to signal improving operating conditions in the sector," the report said. "However, falling from 54.3 in February to a six-month low, the latest fi-



Future bright: Firms are hoping that favourable policies after polls will support growth over the next 12 months. ■ REUTERS

gure highlighted a loss of growth momentum."

"Softer increases were registered for new orders, production, input buying and employment," the report added.

The report said that the increase in new orders was the slowest in six months, with firms reporting that the effect of strong underlying

demand, successful advertising, and the receipt of bulk orders was being curbed by competitive conditions and the upcoming elections.

That said, the report highlighted the fact that business sentiment strengthened to an eight-month low, while buying activity growth moderated amid sufficient input stocks at some companies," Ms. De Lima added.

pacity expansion plans and favourable public policies after the elections would support production growth over the course of the coming 12 months.

"Although global headwinds and a general slowdown in trade present some concerns for the future health of Indian manufacturers' order books, so far companies have been able to weather the storm and secure healthy inflows of new work from abroad," said Pollyanna De Lima, principal economist, IHS Markit and author of the report.

"A guarded attitude towards appointing new staff dragged job creation to an eight-month low, while buying activity growth moderated amid sufficient input stocks at some companies," Ms. De Lima added.

# Rajan Anandan quits Google

Joins Sequoia Capital to develop programme for start-ups

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Rajan Anandan, Google's southeast Asia and India vice-president, has quit the company after an eight-year stint, to join Sequoia Capital.

"We are thrilled to welcome Rajan Anandan to Sequoia Capital India as a Managing Director," Sequoia Capital managing director Shailendra J. Singh, said in a LinkedIn post.

He added that Mr. Anandan would join the leadership team at the firm, in addition to the six current managing directors, and focus on developing "Surge" in to the world's top scale-up programme for start-ups by acting as an investment advisor and mentor to the program's founders.

Surge is a program aimed at early-stage start-ups to en-



Rajan Anandan

tweet, said, "8 amazing years. 850 million Internet users across India and SEA. Many billions of revenue and fastest-growing region in the world. Incredible team that thinks big and executes superbly. Thank you @GoogleIndia #GoogleSEA. Loved every minute."

As head of Google India & southeast Asia, Mr. Anandan has played a key role in expanding the Internet ecosystem in the region, increasing adoption among consumers and businesses and accelerating innovation, while building a multi-billion dollar business that continues to grow very fast, Mr. Singh said.

Additionally, he is also a prolific angel investor who has backed a large number of start-ups in the early stages.

## In 2018, most large-cap funds underperformed benchmarks'

They performed better on a long-term basis, says report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

A majority of the large-cap equity and government bond funds underperformed their respective benchmarks in the last one year as per the latest S&P Indices Versus Active India Scorecard report.

Further, a quarter of the mid-cap and small-cap equity funds, too, underperformed their benchmarks in the last one-year period ending December 2018, as per the report.

"The latest S&P Indices Versus Active India Scorecard reveals that over the one-year period ending December 2018, 92% of large-cap equity funds, 25.6% of

mid- and small-cap equity funds and 81.6% of government bond funds underperformed their respective indices," S&P Dow Jones Indices said in a statement.

Interestingly, the scorecard improves significantly if a longer term performance of large-cap equity funds and equity-linked savings scheme (ELSS) are taken into consideration.

As per the report, over a five-year period, about 58% of the large-cap equity funds underperformed their respective benchmarks while for ELSS it was almost 41%.

In the one-year period ending December 2018, however, nearly 96% of the ELSS schemes underper-

formed the benchmark. Further, over a three-year period, 88% of ELSS funds underperformed their respective benchmarks.

## Govt. bond funds

On the other hand, government bond funds largely underperformed the benchmarks across various tenures.

Over a 10-year period, a little over 96% of such government bond funds underperformed the benchmark, while over a five-year time frame, it was 88%. The scorecard of such bond funds is better over a three-year period with about 71% of the funds underperforming the benchmark.

## Suzuki eyes annual milestone, Honda sees tough quarter ahead

Green shoots of demand pick-up not visible, says HMSI

N. ANAND  
CHENNAI

Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India Pvt. Ltd. (HMSI) anticipates a tough quarter ahead due to new price points following the introduction of combi-braking systems/anti-lock braking systems (CBS/ABS) and general elections.

However, its Japanese counterpart Suzuki Motorcycle India (SMIPL) is gearing up to meet a new milestone aided by a 'well-balanced' product mix of both motorcycles and scooters.

"The challenging and disruptive second half of 2018-19 has significantly wiped off the two-wheeler industry's growth during the first half [of the financial year]. But,

despite domestic challenges, we have been able to create new highs in exports," said Yadvinder Singh Guleria, senior vice-president – sales and marketing, HMSI.

"However, the green shoots of demand pick-up are not visible and we anticipate a tough quarter ahead, It has set a sales target of 10 lakh units for 2019-20.

especially on account of the new price points of CBS/ABS introduction and the upcoming general elections," he added.

Hit by industry slowdown since December 2018, HMSI ended the fiscal year FY19 with a 6.44% contraction in domestic sales at 55.20 lakh units against 59 lakh units.

HMSI, however, ended 2018-19 with an all-time high exports of 3.80 lakh units.

SMIPL reported a 30% growth in FY19 at 7.48 lakh units.

## Indonesia to raise imports from India

M. SOUNDARIYA PREETHA  
COIMBATORE

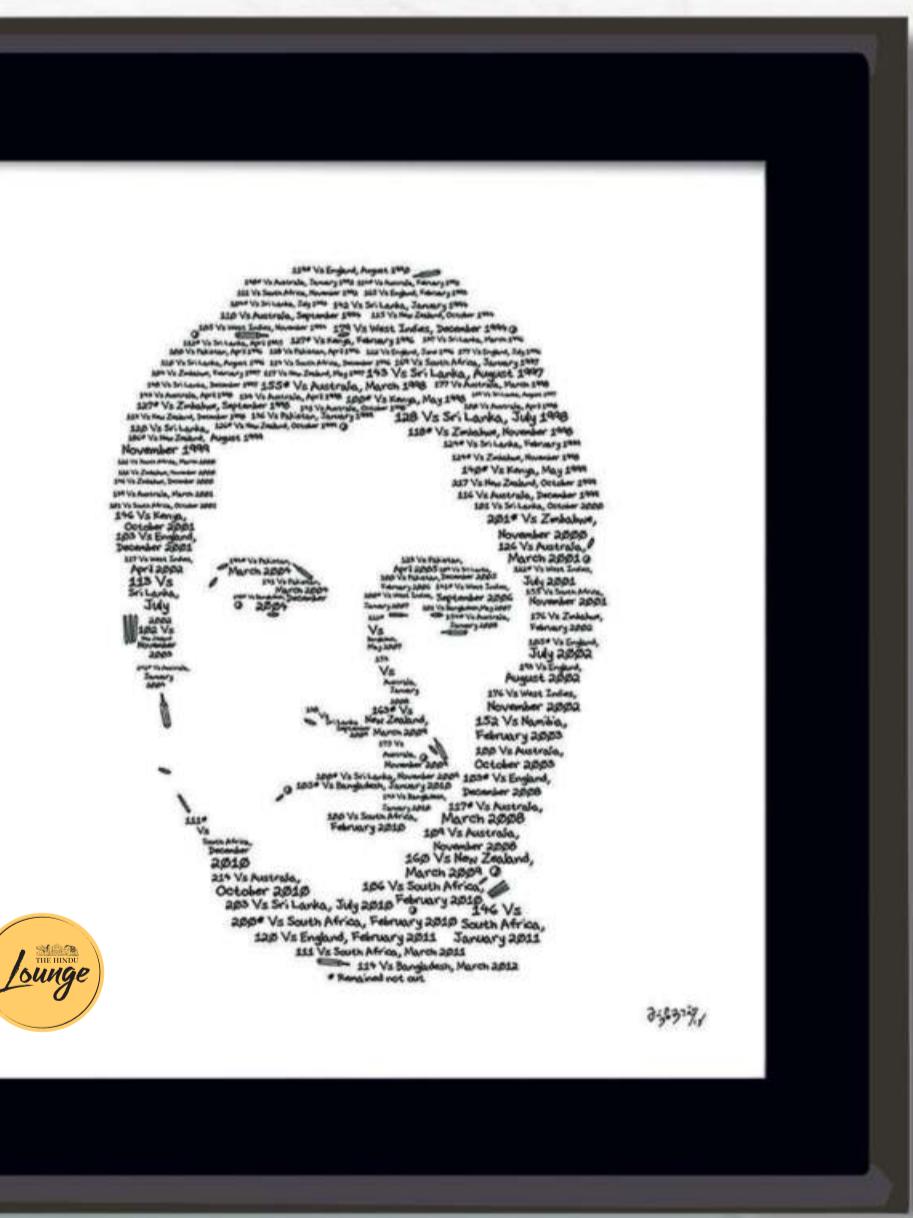
Indonesia is looking at increasing sugar, rice and bovine imports from India.

Consul General of Indonesia, Ade Sukendar, told *The Hindu* here on Tuesday that India exported about 50,000 tonnes of rice last year. It is looking at importing more non-basmati rice from India.

There was potential to import over one lakh tonnes a year, he added.

Negotiations are on between the two countries to increase imports.

Total exports from Indonesia to India last year were to the tune of \$13.72 billion and exports from India were to the tune of \$5.01 billion.



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# Royals get into the points mix, finally

Shreyas has Kohli's men in knots with wrong 'uns as RCB's agonising run continues



P.K. AJITH KUMAR  
JAIPUR

Shreyas Gopal got it right with a stunning series of wrong 'uns.

The Rajasthan Royals leg-spinner came up with a dream spell that helped his team post its first win after three straight defeats. For Royal Challengers Bangalore, which lost by seven wickets at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium here, the nightmare continues. Virat Kohli's men are the only ones without a win after four games.

#### Promising start

Tuesday evening had begun promisingly enough for Kohli though, despite losing the toss, in what was the 100th match he was captaining in the IPL. He came out to open along with Parthiv Patel and the PowerPlay produced 48, already the best opening-wicket partnership for RCB this season.

Ajinkya Rahane might have begun to doubt whether his decision to field was the right one after all, when he tossed the ball to Shreyas Gopal.

The leg-spinner obliged. And how!

His second ball was a googly to Kohli, and it produced a big shout for lbw. There was no need to shout after his next: another wrong 'un that went through a rather wide gate to clean up arguably the world's best batsman.

In his second over, Shreyas sent back another all-time great. It was yet another googly, which induced a low return catch from A.B. de Villiers off a leading edge.

The wrist spinner from Bengaluru was stunned by



**Beaten all ends up:** A Shreyas Gopal special sneaks through RCB skipper Virat Kohli to disturb the timber. • AFP

his own success. He put his hands over his mouth, not unlike a beauty pageant winner.

Pretty soon, Rahane and Jos Buttler proved that it wasn't quite enough. They put on 60 for the first wicket before Yuzvendra Chahal, whose role was going to be crucial for the visitors, had the Royals captain lbw.

The leg-spinner also had Buttler caught at long-off. But the Englishman's 59 off 43 balls had firmly put Rajashtan on the road to victory.

After losing Steve Smith (38) off the last ball of the penultimate over, the host needed five from the 20th. When one was required from two balls, Rahul Tripathi (34 not out) audaciously pulled Umesh Yadav over mid-wicket for six to signal the win.

Parthiv, meanwhile, was giving the impression that he was batting on another pitch. He timed his shots well, particularly square off the wicket, and raced to a well-earned fifty off 29 balls.

He added 53 with Marcus Stoinis for the fourth wicket, which ensured Royal Challengers would end up with a



Jos Buttler. • AFP

#### SCOREBOARD ROYALS VS ROYAL CHALLENGERS

##### ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Virat Kohli b Shreyas 23 (25b, 3x4), Parthiv Patel c Rahane b Archer 67 (41b, 9x4, 1x6), A.B. de Villiers c & b Shreyas 13 (9b, 2x4), Shrimon Hetmyer c Buttler b Shreyas 1 (9b), Marcus Stoinis (not out) 31 (28b, 2x4, 1x6), Moeen Ali (not out) 18 (9b, 2x4, 1x6); Extras (b-1, lb-2, nb-1, w-1); Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 158.

##### FALL OF WICKETS

1-49 (Kohli, 6.3 overs), 2-71 (de Villiers, 8.3), 3-73 (Hetmyer, 10.1), 4-126 (Parthiv, 17.2).

##### RR BOWLING

Gowtham 4-0-19-0, Kulkarni 3-0-26-0, Archer 4-0-47-1, Shreyas 4-1-12-3, Aaron 1-0-16-0, Binny 1-0-6-0, Stokes 3-0-29-0.

##### RAJASTHAN ROYALS

##### RCB under Shreyas' spell

**2** Number of times Shreyas has dismissed Kohli and de Villiers in the same IPL match, after Bengaluru 2018. Nehra is the only other bowler to do so

**3** Kohli becomes the third player to captain in 100 IPL matches after Dhoni (162) and Gambhir (129)

**4** Successive half-centuries by Buttler at Jaipur

**14/15**

Royals' winning ratio when chasing a total of 160 or less at Jaipur

#### Innings scan

RCB	Dots	RR
45	44	
18	17	
3	3	
48/0	55/0	
7.9	8.26	

#### Top of the charts

##### ORANGE CAP

David Warner (SRH)

Matches: 3 | Runs: 254  
HS: 100\* | S/R: 175.17

##### PURPLE CAP

Yuzvendra Chahal (RCB)

Matches: 4 | Wickets: 8  
BB: 4/38 | Econ: 6.56

\*after the RR-RCB match on April 2

#### Next assignment

RCB: April 5: vs KKR, Bengaluru, 8 p.m.

RR: April 7: vs KKR, Jaipur, 8 p.m.



**Riding high:** CSK, thanks to Raina, Dhoni and Harbhajan, is on a roll. • VIVEK BENDRE

# CSK has the edge over MI

AMOL KARHADKAR  
MUMBAI

"What did we do wrong?"

That's the title of the opening episode of a documentary on Chennai Super Kings' triumphant return to the IPL last year after serving a two-year suspension.

As the yellow army and the blue brigade trained on either side of the Wankhede Stadium here ahead of their Wednesday's clash, while CSK could well be thinking 'we cannot do anything wrong', the Mumbai Indians camp may well have started mulling over 'what more can we do wrong?'

The head-to-head record may well be in the home team's favour but with the manner in which the initial phase of the 12th edition has panned out, it's the visiting outfit that will enjoy the advantage. CSK has literally carried on from where it left last season.

Having registered a hat-trick of wins in its first three

Today's match	
MUMBAI INDIANS	Vs CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
MUMBAI, 8 P.M.	
HEAD-TO-HEAD	
Played: 24	
MI 13	CSK 11
Live on Star Sports 1, 2 & Select 1 (SD & HD), 8 p.m.	

games, CSK is the only unbeaten team so far this season.

Mumbai Indians, on the other hand, is on the verge of living up to its reputation of poor starter. Unlike the 2014 edition when it lost five on a trot at the beginning, Rohit Sharma and Co. have a win in three games.

Still, Mumbai Indians is far from having found out its best combination, especially with the top to set the tone.

CSK, on the other hand, has virtually ticked all the boxes in its first three games. The team will be keen on Ambati Rayudu, having tallied 34 runs in three outings while opening, coming good.

# It's been a good start: Fleming

G. VISWANATH  
MUMBAI

Stephen Fleming expressed happiness at the winning start made by CSK, especially its victory over Rajasthan Royals.

On the eve of the match against Mumbai Indians, he said: "It's been a good start, but I would not say dominating performances. It's been good hard-fought wins, especially the last game. I am very pleased with it."

"A lot of things were going against both teams, just looking at the pitch conditions and also the moisture. I thought we handled that pretty well."

"It was pleasing from the

coach's point of view. By no means we are anywhere near where we want to be, but we are winning some key moments, with some experienced players standing by, which is a good sign."

When asked about M.S. Dhoni being consistent for a



Fleming. • M. VEDHAN

long period of time, Fleming said: "He has been pretty much the same since 2008. I thought his last innings was one of the good ones."

"I have seen a lot from him, but his individual composure and skill at the end of the innings helped win the game (against Royals). It was the dominating factor between the two teams."

**The Dhoni influence**  
"His calm presence and his influence over the team has been consistent through the years."

"He has been constant right through the 12 years I have been involved as coach."

#### Points table

Team	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Chennai Super Kings	3	3	0	0	6	0.507
Kings XI Punjab	4	3	1	0	6	0.164
Sunrisers Hyderabad	3	2	1	0	4	2.111
Kolkata Knight Riders	3	2	1	0	4	0.555
Delhi Capitals	4	2	2	0	4	0.215
Rajasthan Royals	4	1	3	0	2	-0.333
Mumbai Indians	3	1	2	0	2	-0.750
Royal Challengers	4	0	4	0	0	-1.901

\*after the RR-RCB match on April 2

# 'You have got a hat-trick'

## Srikanth backs Pant for WC spot

Kapil names Dhoni as his favourite 'allrounder'

UTHRA GANESAN  
MOHALI

Sam Curran registered the first hat-trick of IPL 2019 but the 20-year-old admitted he was unaware of his feat till after the game. The 20-year-old, in his first IPL season, was one of the architects of KXIP's remarkable win against Delhi Capitals on Monday.

"I had no idea. When we had won the game, one of the players came up and said 'you have got a hat-trick.' My main focus was that last over, when Rabada came in. I knew his strengths and was always aiming for the stumps. The crowd was so loud, I have never played in front of such noise, so a hat-trick was nowhere near my mind," said Curran.

"We were very lucky that (Mohd) Shami changed the game when he got (Rishabh) Pant out."



**Swing factor:** Srikanth feels Pant's ability to win matches will come in handy at the World Cup. • VIVEK BENDRE

matters. Don't affix numbers to players. You can send anybody anywhere, they're all good enough.

"Don't get confused. Play like a team. don't try to say, 'That's his number'. The number depends on the situation of the match," he said.

Asked to name his favourite allrounder among active cricketers, Kapil chose M.S. Dhoni. "Are only bowling all-rounders, and fast bowling all-rounders considered all-rounders? I would consider wicketkeepers also."

"For me Dhoni comes up

very high," he said.

The 60-year-old added: "R. Ashwin in Test cricket is a fabulous allrounder. Ravindra Jadeja can bat but he doesn't know he can bat. You don't know your own strength sometimes. He has scored two triple hundreds in First Class cricket."

"If he puts his head to it he can become a very good allrounder. I would say Ben Stokes stands above everyone else as an allrounder."

"There are many who look like all-rounders only in T20 cricket but I rate Stokes very highly."

# It's time to set right umpires' 'wrongs'

BETWEEN WICKETS  
SURESH MENON

A n umpire missing a no-ball is not the biggest crime in a game of cricket. It happens occasionally, it happens to the best of them, and it happens at every level of the game.

The captains may or may not comment on such mistakes, but when it happens in a high-profile club game (yes, it was a club game regardless of what Virat Kohli thought) in the IPL, the incident tends to attract much attention.

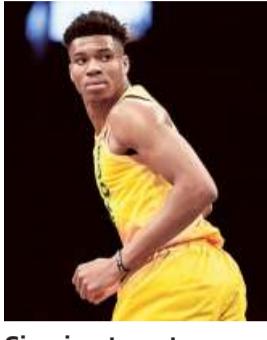
The Mumbai Indians versus Royal Challengers Bangalore match was handled by two of India's finest umpires – Sundaram Ravi, the only Elite Panel umpire from the country and C.K. Nandan, who was given BCCI's Umpire of the Year award a couple of years ago.

**Vocal criticism**  
RCB skipper Kohli thought the no-ball decision (or lack of it) was "ridiculous", his counterpart Rohit Sharma felt that a wide declared at the other end was unfair. Umpires are not allowed to defend themselves, but they don't have to; their mistakes are in the public domain. Criticism is instantaneous.

## TV PICKS

**NBA:** Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 8 a.m.  
**Super Cup:** Star Sports 3, 8.30 p.m.  
**IPL:** Star Sports 1, 2 & Select 1 (SD & HD), 8 p.m.  
**Serie A:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 10.30 p.m.  
**Premier League:** Star Sports 3 (SD) & SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD), 12.15 a.m. (Thursday)

## IN BRIEF



**Giannis returns to power Bucks' win**

**NEW YORK**  
Giannis Antetokounmpo returned from a right ankle sprain to score 28 points and grab 11 rebounds Monday, powering the Milwaukee Bucks to a 131-121 NBA victory at Brooklyn.

**The results:** Indiana 111 bt Detroit 102, Boston 110 bt Miami 105, Toronto 121 bt Orlando 109, New York 113 bt Chicago 105, Milwaukee 131 bt Brooklyn 121, Portland 132 bt Minnesota 122, Dallas 122 bt Philadelphia 102, Utah 111 bt Charlotte 102, Phoenix 122 bt Cleveland 113. AFP

**Sameer Verma crashes out of Malaysia Open**

**KUALA LUMPUR**  
India's Sameer Verma suffered a heart-breaking 22-20, 21-23, 21-12 loss against World No. 2 Chinese Shi Yuqi in the \$750,000 Malaysia Open on Tuesday.

**Other results:**

**Mixed doubles:** Pranaav Jerry Chopra & N. Sikkil Reddy bt Sam Magee & Chloe Magee (Ire) 22-20, 24-22.

**Women's doubles:** Baek Ha Na & Kim Hye Rin (Kor) bt Ashwini Ponappa & Sikki Reddy 22-20, 17-21, 22-20.

**Alert Club and Gush CC post wins**

**NEW DELHI**  
Alert Club and Gush CC won their respective matches in the 29th Om Nath Sood memorial cricket tournament at the Mohan Meakin ground in Mohan Nagar.

**The scores:** Alert 282 for nine in 40 overs (Ankur Malik 66, Vinayak Gupta 52, Anmol Sharma 52, Sakib Alam 39, Vedit Kumar four for 53, Rohit Khushwah four for 56) bt BDM Club 218 for nine in 35.4 overs (Vimoh Rana 80, Deepak Karwasa 31, Prashant Bhati three for 29, Aniket three for 36).

Delhi Colts 236 for eight in 40 overs (Deepak Kawatra 65, Chirag Sharma 40, Anurag Tyagi 32, Pranay Prasad three for 39) lost to Gush CC 240 for nine in 39.5 overs (Saurav Dagar 108, Naveen Pal 38, Deepak Dhillon three for 57).

**First-choice goalkeeper next season: Zidane**

**MADRID**  
Real Madrid could sell Thibaut Courtois or Keylor Navas this summer after head coach Zinedine Zidane said on Tuesday the club will have a clear first-choice goalkeeper next season. AFP

# Protagonists revisit fabulous 1983 World Cup journey

Credit for instilling belief in the players belongs only to Kapil Srikkanth

## HEROES' TALE

**SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA**  
BENGALURU

Even 36 years after India's first World Cup win, there is a sense of wonder about how an unfancied team overcame the mighty West Indies in the final.

K. Srikkanth is convinced that the credit for instilling any sort of belief in the players belongs only to one man – Kapil Dev. On Tuesday – incidentally the eighth anniversary of India's 2011 World Cup victory – Kapil, Srikkanth, Roger Binny and Syed Kirmani recounted their 1983 journey, in an engaging, mirthful discussion at a Britannia event here.

"In 1983, I couldn't speak Hindi and Kapil couldn't speak English. Today, my Hindi and Kapil's English have reached the same level," Srikkanth began. "In the dressing room, all we could hear was 'tussi, assi...'. Roger and I couldn't understand anything. Our translator used to be Kirmani. But Kapil made us very comfortable. In the team meeting the day before we played the West Indies in our first match (at Old Trafford), he said we could win. We thought he was mad. But that's the spirit Kapil Dev brought into the team."

### Long stop-over

Srikkanth and a few other players had already booked tickets to fly to New York after the tournament. The World Cup, he was convinced, was just a long stop-over on the way. "In 1975 and 1979, we got thrashed. In 1979 the only team we managed to beat was East Africa, which was just a bunch of Gujaratis playing together. I told my wife that this trip

would be like another honeymoon. We could watch the World Cup semifinals and then the final at Lord's and then go to America. Unfortunately, only one man spoilt those plans and his name is Kapil Dev Nikhanj."

Kapil interrupted: "But you did watch the final. It doesn't matter whether you did it from the stands or from the pitch."

"A couple of months before the World Cup, India had achieved its first ODI victory over West Indies in Berbice, Guyana. This had lit the spark, Kapil felt. "Once you get the taste of victory, you start believing it is possible."

### Self-effacing

The 60-year-old was modest about his own achievements as captain. "The captain cannot do anything on his own. You have to have a good team. We had six or seven

match-winners. When people saw Mohinder Amarnath, they wondered how he would get selected in the team.

"He was so casual with his approach but when it came to cricketing sense, he was great. As an opener, if you underestimated Mohinder's bowling, he would get the better of you. Madan Lal, Sandeep Patil or Kirti Azad – they did the job when we weren't expecting it."

Binny was asked what it was like to have Srikkanth for a roommate. "Every minute of your stay in the room is eventful," he said. "Your bed is being trampled upon, cigarette butts are being thrown into your bag."

"He's singing Hindi songs the whole time even though he doesn't understand a word of Hindi. It was good entertainment. It took the pressure off me."



**Down memory lane:** The stars of the 1983 World Cup – Syed Kirmani, Roger Binny, Kapil Dev and K. Srikkanth – exchange pleasantries at a promotional event in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

\*G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

## Sanctions likely on I-League clubs

Because they decided to skip the Super Cup

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The All India Football Federation is likely to impose sanctions on all the aggrieved I-League clubs for skipping the Super Cup.

Well-placed AIFF sources said a "strong case is being built up" against the seven I-League clubs – Mohun Bagan, East Bengal, Churchill Brothers, Aizawl FC, Minerva FC, Gokulam FC and Nervosa FC – for withdrawing from the Super Cup.

The AIFF has incurred financial losses due to the pull-outs of the clubs, which had cited unfair treatment by the apex body.

"A strong case is being



Kushal Das. ■ FILE PHOTO

built up and it will be put at the League and Disciplinary Committee meeting on April 13.

The federation will go by the regulations and guidelines," a reliable source said.

The clubs had pulled out barely three days before the start of the Super Cup qualifications.

In March, AIFF general secretary Kushal Das had informed the I-League clubs that the federation has accepted their demand of a meeting with president Praful Patel – between April 13 and 15 – to discuss their grievances but made it clear that the Super Cup qualifying round matches would not be rescheduled.

Das had said that the rescheduling of the qualifying round is against the tournament rules and would be unfair to those clubs which turned up.

## Prajwal-Adil duo moves into last eight

### SPORTS BUREAU

SHARM EL SHEIKH

S.D. Prajwal Dev and Adil Kalyanpur defeated Niklas Guttau and Lucas Hellfritsch of Germany 7-5, 6-0 in the pre-quarterfinals of the \$15,000 ITF Futures tennis tournament on Tuesday.

**The results:** \$15,000 ITF tournament, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Men: S.D. Prajwal Dev & Adil Kalyanpur bt Niklas Guttau & Lucas Hellfritsch (Ger) 7-5, 6-0.

**Women:** Ange Oby Kajuru (Upn) & Sai Samitha bt Mame Dercksen (RSA) & Janina Geiss (Ger) 6-0, 6-2.

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Ultimate Kho Kho League, featuring eight teams consisting of national and international players and played on a double round-robin league format, has been proposed to be staged in two cities in September-October this year according to the Kho Kho Federation of India.

Union Sports Minister Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore congratulated the organisers on their attempt to promote the indigenous game.

"Kho Kho is played in every school in rural areas. It is a game that does not require any equipment. You only

need speed and agility," said the Sports Minister.

Col. Rathore also assured all help from the government for the promotion of the game.

The president of the Kho Kho Federation of India, Sudanshu Mittal, said that every effort was being made so that, "Kho Kho, kho na jaye" (the game of kho kho is not lost).

Rajeev Mehta, the Indian Olympic Association secretary general and Kho Kho Federation chairman, said that the sport could be a demonstration game, when India attempts to host the Olympics in 2032.

Stating that the game was

played in 20 countries, the organisers stressed that the league would embrace technology in a big way and tweak the rules to make it attractive for television.

The game is in the process of getting into the Asian Games.

It was announced that the 21-day league would also serve as a foundation for state level competitions and district level leagues.

One of the leading sports broadcasters is expected to telecast the league that is tentatively scheduled to feature 60 matches.

The team owners and sponsors would be finalised in due course of time.

## Rizvi back in National shooting team

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

28 and the World Cup in Munich will be from May 25 to 30.

**The team:** Men: Air rifle: Divyansh Singh Panwar, Deepak Kumar, Ravi Kumar. Rifle 3-position: Parul Kumar, Sanjeev Rajput, Chain Singh. Air pistol: Shahzar Rizvi, Abhishek Verma, Arjun Singh Cheema. MQS: Saurbab Chaudhary. 25m rapid fire pistol: Anish Bhanwala, Arpit Goel, Adarsh Singh. Air rifle mixed team: Divyansh Singh Panwar, Anjum Moudgil; Deepak Kumar, Apurvi Chandela.

**Women:** Air rifle: Anjum Moudgil, Apurvi Chandela, Elavenil Valarivan. Rifle 3-position: Gaayathri Nithyanandam, Sunithi Chauhan, Kajal Saini. MQS: Anjum Moudgil. Air pistol: Manu Bhaker, Heena Sidhu, Yashaswini Deswal. 25m sports pistol: Manu Bhaker, Rahi Saranobat, Chinki Yadav. Air pistol mixed team: Manu Bhaker, Saurabh Chaudhary; Shahzar Rizvi, Heena Sidhu.

## Arsenal moves up to third

### PREMIER LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

LONDON

Unai Emery challenged revitalised Arsenal to write its own history after it climbed to third place in the Premier League with a 2-0 win against Newcastle.

Aaron Ramsey's first half strike was followed by Alexandre Lacazette's killer second in the closing stages at the Emirates Stadium, maintaining Arsenal's impressive progress under Emery.

### Improvement

Emery's side climbed two points above fourth placed Tottenham and fifth placed Manchester United to bolster its chance of qualifying for the Champions League via a top-four finish with seven games to go.

It is the first time Arsenal have been as high as third



**Happy times:** Aaron Ramsey is ecstatic after scoring the first goal. ■ REUTERS

place since April 2017, highlighting its improvement since former Paris Saint Ger-

main boss Emery replaced Arsene Wenger at the end of last season.

Ramsey's fifth goal of the season was only the Wales midfielder's second since he signed a lucrative pre-contract agreement to join Juventus at the end of the current campaign.

### Future looks bright

But, while Ramsey won't be part of Emery's long-term plans, the future still looks bright for Arsenal, who recorded a 10th consecutive home league victory for the first time since December 1997 to May 1998.

Arsenal finished with 63 points in Wenger's final season, but Emery has matched that tally with seven games to spare. Newcastle remain seven points above the relegation zone after a 12th defeat in their last 13 meetings with Arsenal.

**The result:** Arsenal 2 (Ramsey 30, Lacazette 83) bt Newcastle 0.

## Mixed luck for TVS Racing +

### SPORTS BUREAU

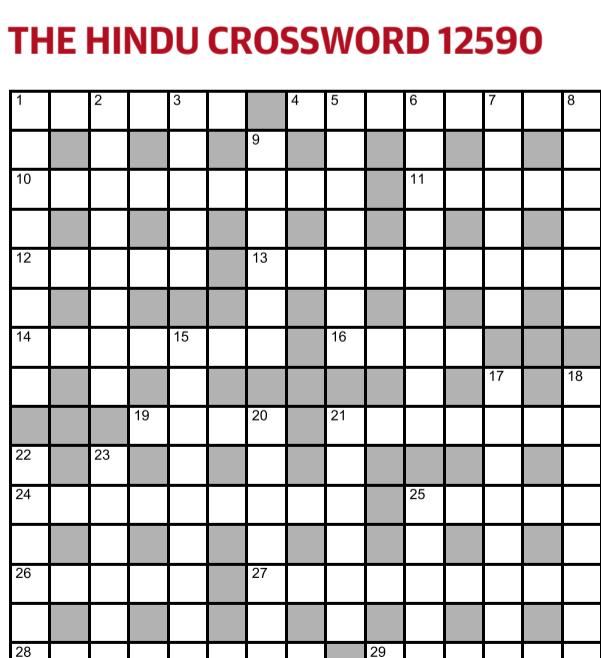
ERFOUD (MOROCCO)

TVS Racing ended stage one of the 10th edition of Afriquia Merzouga Rally in third and 31st positions. Michael Metge started at 15th position and completed the stage with an overall ranking of P3 while K.P. Aravind completed the stage at P31 in the provisional standings with Abdul Wahid Tanveer at P3 in the Enduro category.

TVS Racing team manager B. Selvaraj said, "It is always heart-warming to start a rally on a positive note as it sets the momentum of the rally. Michael, continuing his winning streak from Dakar 2019, started off with a smashing performance.

"Aravind had some issues in the stages but was able to finish on a good note."

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12590



### ACROSS

- 1 Longing to be in a German city... (6)
- 4 ...organised Fiat car at the border at last to catch a plane (8)
- 10 City's bishop meets union leader to have a drink and gather support (9)
- 11 Foolish to have a name and shorten to use in the end (5)
- 15 ... (2)
- 16 ... (2)
- 17 ... (2)
- 18 ... (2)
- 19 ... (2)
- 20 ... (2)
- 21 ... (2)
- 22 ... (2)
- 23 ... (2)
- 24 ... (2)
- 25 ... (2)
- 26 ... (2)
- 27 ... (2)
- 28 ... (2)
- 29 ... (2)

- 12 Nominates person from the east to be at west essentially (5)
- 13 Free coat and shirt given in German city (9)
- 14 Spouse having beer and fish (7)
- 16 Notices second hero leaving after getting tense from where film is shot (4)
- 19 Consumer is king at America (4)
- 21 Boy takes eggs; primary nutrient to grow (7)
- 24 At the end, director's name found in two companies, essentially shell; it's validated (9)
- 25 European is not even cozy, he is withdrawn, cold inside (5)
- 26 Taking time off to conduct ritual with tribe (5)
- 27 Assigns a place in lower house (9)
- 28 Went first and quietly withdrew... (8)
- 29 ...date with oriental lady turning dangerous (6)

- DOWN
- 1 European seen in a long undergarment (8)
- 2 Copper gets an award for stopping mongrel at a plant (8)</li

# OPPORTUNITIES

WEDNESDAY • APRIL 3, 2019

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

## Just snap out of it and start doing new things

There is nothing unusual about a mid-career crisis. Realising this will speed up the recovery process

LIFFY THOMAS

ship also affect engagement.

**S**harmila H.U. was on the rolls of a bank for 23 years. Millennials may see it as too much time spent in one place. But the truth is, Sharmila did not stay in "one place". She managed to work in 14 departments of the bank, regularly asking that she be shifted to a new section just to ensure she kept learning new things.

"Two-and-a-half years is the maximum time I would have spent in a role," says Sharmila, adding that she has worked in verticals like engineering, infrastructure, testing, quality and production support.

"When I see my potential not being utilised or the role getting redundant, I have a discussion with the line manager or senior leaders," says Sharmila, 45 years old now.

Unfortunately, most professionals are not as proactive as Sharmila in redeeming the situation when they hit a dead end in their career.

This situation usually arises mid-career. At every stage, employees will go through phases of happiness and unhappiness at work, but those who hit the mid-career mark, are likely to have more of the unhappiness phase. Some may see themselves trapped in their careers or feel a sense of boredom doing the same kind of work.

A 2019 employee engagement report by TinyPulse, an employee engagement platform, has found that employees lack loyalty largely because of poor engagement, which results from lack of professional growth and meaningful work.

Boredom and poor employee-manager relation-



ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH RAVIKUMAR

### A hurdle in the leader's path

**H**ave you heard of "leader's block"? It is a phase when leaders feel demotivated and disengaged.

Ritu G. Mehrish, an executive coach whose clients include Google, PayPal, J.P. Morgan, Knight Frank and Johnson & Johnson, has authored a book under the same name. Over several interviews, senior professionals told her why they felt this way, the circumstances that caused it and the antidote to the malady. The book also talks about how to identify

leader's block. In an email interview, Ritu says mid-career crisis is different from leader's block.

"Its causes or triggers are quite different and the way leaders deal with it is different too," she says.

But there are still a few commonalities.

"Triggers for a mid-career crisis and a leader's block can be similar. They include role fatigue and ineffective supervisors. There are common symptoms, which include feeling demotivated, disengaged and directionless," says Ritu. All the leaders

interviewed in the book remain anonymous. Ritu says organisations should play a huge role in helping leaders come out of leader's block.

"Remove the stigma attached to this phase. It can be done by creating a culture that encourages leaders to have open conversations about it. When leaders are transitioning to new roles the organisation has to be supportive. Besides, provide more external and internal support by having mentors and coaches for leaders," she says.

**C**"Most discussions of decision making assume that only senior executives make decisions or that only senior executives' decisions matter. This is a dangerous mistake."

PETER DRUCKER (1909-2005)  
management consultant

## Forum for women in tech fields chalks up new plans

A collective consisting of corporates, NGOs and institutions, WiT seeks to introduce girls to careers in STEM

LIFFY THOMAS

**C**onsisting of corporates, non-governmental organisations and educational institutions, the Women in Technology (WiT) forum is clearly diverse, and seems well-equipped to encourage and enable women to pursue careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) fields.

The forum, initiated by RBS, completed a year recently, and it has many new programmes on the drawing board, including career fairs for women seeking to return after a career break and speed-mentoring fairs.

WiT, launched in March 2018, tries to ensure greater participation of women in STEM fields through four strategies: one, intervention at the school and college level; two, offering scholarships to girls to take up higher studies; three, mentoring; and four, by bringing women back to the industry.

Early intervention, at the school level, is important.

According to Mastercard STEM Research 2018, 93% of the girls in the 12 to 14 years age group who were surveyed in India, said they were drawn to STEM-related careers. However, 38% of them believed they were 'less likely' to take up a career in science and technology because the industry was 'male-dominated'.

According to NASSCOM report, only 26% of the engineering roles in the Indian technology industry were



PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Skills Foundation.

City-based chapters

"When we started we said we would reach one lakh touch points, in terms of educating, mentoring or funding, in one year. Today, we have reached out to over two lakh women/girls," says Anuranjita.

Companies spearhead this initiative in the cities that they are present in. IBM leads the Bengaluru chapter; Mastercard the Pune chapter; and Amazon heads Tamil Nadu and Hyderabad chapters.

"Each of the chapters designs its own programmes and activities, but in alignment with the key objectives of the forum," says Anuranjita.

We are working towards ensuring that at least 20,000 women make a comeback to the industry in the next three years.

The forum wants more corporate houses to partner with them. "We want businesses from tier II cities join us in this effort," she says.

"We are working towards ensuring that at least 20,000 women make a comeback to the industry in the next three years. At the managerial and leadership level, we want to ensure that at least double the number of women now take up roles there," says Anuranjita.

### NEWS BYTES

#### Diversity summit

The Global Diversity Equity Inclusion Summit, organised by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Ask Insights, will be held on April 3 and 4 in New Delhi. According to a press release, CEOs and CXOs of various multi-national companies and thought-leaders in diversity and inclusion from seven countries will participate. For details, visit <https://theidesummit.com/>

\*\*\*

#### CSR conclave

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is hosting 'CSR Conclave 2019' on April 3 in Mumbai. Structured around the theme 'Identifying Partnerships for Collaborative Development', the conclave aims to create partnership opportunities among all CSR stakeholders through fund raising, expertise sharing and project scaling, says a press release.

\*\*\*

#### TEDx meet at Panaji

The third edition of TEDx Panaji will be held on April 28 in Goa. The annual event, which is independently organised by a group of volunteers, with licence from TED ([www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com)), this year is based on the theme "#Hacked" and puts the spotlight on people who have inspired those around them through creativity, originality, resourcefulness.

### FROM THE BOOKSHELF

#### Thou Shall Innovate

**Author:** Avi Jorisch

**Publisher:** Jaico

The book profiles Israeli innovations that are changing the lives of people around the world. According to a press release, the book also dwells on how these innovators found opportunities amidst failures and roadblocks.

The press release says that the book has something of value to offer to business leaders, startup owners and anyone who is interested in how innovations are conceived and carried out.

Avi Jorisch is an entrepreneur.

\*\*\*

#### Leader's Block

**Author:** Ritu G. Mehrish

**Publisher:** Penguin

Have you ever felt bored and uninterested at work? You feel that you are working hard and not seeing results?

Does your day end with frustration and disillusionment? You could be having "leader's block", a phase where leaders feel demotivated and unmotivated.

In the book, the author interviews senior professionals to find out what causes "leader's block" and how they can break out of it.

where it is one of the early entrants. The author also discusses the many insights he has gained from establishing [www.irctc.co.in](http://www.irctc.co.in).

The book also talks about strategies adopted by private players in the e-commerce industry. Amitabh Pandey is a full-time writer.

\*\*\*

**When it clicks**

**Author:**

Amitabh

Pandey

**Publisher:** MacMillan

The book presents the early years of India's e-commerce revolution.

The author analyses India's role in shaping the e-commerce market

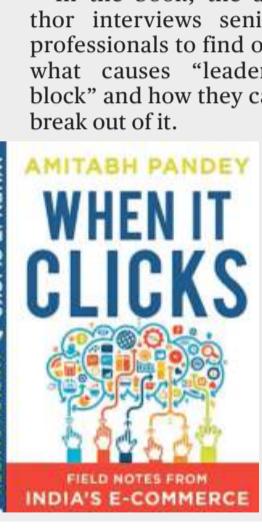
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\*\*\*

#### AMITABH PANDEY



WHEN IT CLICKS ■ AMITABH PANDEY

FIELD NOTES FROM INDIA'S E-COMMERCE

### Mind matters, say Indian employees

Most of the participants in a workplace wellness survey lay stress on mental well-being and flexible timings

**E**verybody gets stressed out from time to time, and challenges relating to work, health and finance are major stressors.

However, a survey conducted by Cigna TTK Health Insurance seems to suggest that Indians are more stress-prone than those from many other countries, which include the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Australia.

The Cigna 360 Well-Being Survey is based on five indices of well-being: namely, health, family, social connections, financial stability and work.

Close to 87% of the women who participated in the survey said that workplace wellness programmes should be gender-specific; 63% of the women said that their senior management were not adequately sup-

porting these programmes.

Giving greater priority to mental well-being and offering flexible work arrangements are among suggestions offered to improve wellness initiatives.

In India, 71% of those surveyed said that noticing a colleague being stressed made Indians more conscious about having to manage their own stress levels and this also made them more supportive of each other.

support helped them cope with the stress.

A huge majority (96%) of the respondents said that when their colleagues were under stress, the situation impacted productivity.

One of the findings of the survey was that noticing a colleague being stressed made Indians more conscious about having to manage their own stress levels and this also made them more supportive of each other.

Photo used for representational purpose

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### GENERAL

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Thoothukudi 03.04.2019

General Manager (HRD)

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Last date of submission of online applications: 17th April 2019

**CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE**  
Bagayam, Vellore - 632002

INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST OF HEAD,  
Centre for Stem Cell Research  
(A Unit of inStem, Bengaluru), CMC Campus, Bagayam, Vellore

Applications are invited for the post of Head, Centre for Stem Cell Research, (CSCR), [[www.cscr.in](http://www.cscr.in)], a unit of the Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine (inStem) [[www.instem.res.in](http://www.instem.res.in)], Bengaluru, an autonomous Institute under the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India [[www.dbiitdb.res.in](http://www.dbiitdb.res.in)] located on the campus of the Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore. [[www.cmcv.vellore.edu](http://www.cmcv.vellore.edu)]. The post on contract for up to 5 years and carries the pay scale of a Professor at CMC, Vellore, with other allowances and perks allowed for such positions in the institution. Applicants would typically be expected to have held senior leadership positions managing research in medical / scientific organizations and have 14 years of experience after MD or PhD in relevant research. Applications are available at [www.instem.res.in](http://www.instem.res.in) / [www.cscr.in](http://www.cscr.in) (Downloadable) and should be sent by post to The Principal, Christian Medical College, Bagayam, Vellore - 632002 email to: [princi@cmcv.vellore.ac.in](mailto:princi@cmcv.vellore.ac.in), so as to reach within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.

**Government of India**  
Public Enterprises Selection Board  
invites applications for the post of  
**Chairman & Managing Director**  
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Last date of receipt of  
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For details log in to website  
<http://www.pesb.gov.in>

## IN BRIEF



Gun that Van Gogh killed himself with goes on sale

PARIS

The revolver with which Vincent Van Gogh is believed to have shot himself is to go under the hammer, a Paris auction house said on Tuesday. Billed by Auction Art as "the most famous weapon in the history of art", the 7mm Lefacheux revolver is expected to go for up to €60,000 (₹46 lakh) when it is sold on June 19. AFP



Mick Jagger to undergo heart surgery

WASHINGTON

Rolling Stones frontman Mick Jagger will undergo surgery to replace a heart valve, with the band postponing the North American leg of a tour as a result. News website *Drudge Report* said the procedure would take place on Friday in New York. AFP



Lady Gaga, Ariana put on 'offensive' playlist

SINGAPORE

Pop icons Lady Gaga and Ariana Grande are on an "offensive lyrics" list presented to members of parliament in Singapore as part of a statement by the city-state's Home Minister on hate speech. The list included Lady's *Gaga's Judas* and Ariana Grande's *God is a woman* and *Heresy by Nine Inch Nails* and *Take me to the Church* by Hozier. REUTERS

## Little children, big ambitions: China trials football kindergarten

Xi Jinping wants the country to host the World Cup

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
SHANGHAI

Chinese President Xi Jinping has vowed to make his country a footballing force and is prepared to go to great lengths to do it, sending thousands of toddlers to "football-focussed" kindergartens.

China, which has a population of 1.4 billion but has continually underachieved in football, will start testing the kindergartens this year, state media said.

Citing the Ministry of Education, Xinhua news agency said that "each provincial-level region" will have 50 to 200 football-centric kindergartens.

"The pilot programme

## What termites can teach us about cooling

High-resolution scanning of mounds showed pores that regulate ventilation and humidity

JOANNA KLEIN

In Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, a building called Eastgate Centre holds nearly 3,500 square feet of office space and shops. It uses 90% less energy than a similar-sized building next door.

What's Eastgate Centre's secret? Termites.

In the 1990s, Mick Pearce, the building's architect, took his inspiration from mounds built by fungus-farming termites he saw on a nature show. The insects created their own air conditioning

systems that circulated hot and cool air between the mound and the outside.

## Design tips

As architects and builders seek new and improved ways to cool buildings without using more energy in a warming world, a study of another type of termite mound suggests that Mr. Pearce won't be the last human to take design tips from these cockroach cousins.

"We think humans are the best designers, but this is not

A soldier of *Trinervitermes geminatus*, or snouted harvester termite.

really true," said Kamaljit Singh, an engineer at Imperial College London and an author of the study published in the journal *Science Advances*. "We can

learn from small animals." Mr. Singh and his colleagues used high-resolution scanning technology and computer and physical simulations to examine the microscopic structure of the external walls of African termite nests.

In slabs that look solid to the naked eye, the team found a network of tiny, interconnected pores. Through principles of basic physics, these pores regulate ventilation, humidity and possibly temperature, within

the mound and nest. These natural structures may offer inspiration for engineers and builders, emphasising how comfort can be achieved through structure alone.

Scott Turner, a physiologist who was not involved in the study, said Mr. Singh's research revealed how these pores help manage gas flow and drainage. "If you look at the physics of gas exchange in the lung, it's very much the same way as the termite mound is organised," Mr. Turner said. NY TIMES

## Wayanad have it with butter?



daCunha/AB/649

## Adding egg or milk can reduce stunting in young children: study

Bengaluru researchers say that animal product protein is better digested

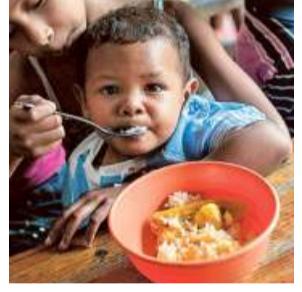
R. PRASAD  
CHENNAI

About 38% of children in India below the age of five years are stunted. Research suggests that the reason for this is that young children consume mainly cereal-based food, which lacks quality protein that can be well digested and is limited in the content of certain essential amino acids such as lysine.

Researchers at St. John's Medical College, Bengaluru measured the digestibility and quality of commonly used complementary foods in young children. They found that mung bean, which is a legume and is considered to be a high-quality protein source, is not as well digested and absorbed as other high-quality food proteins such as egg.

If these foods are added to the diet of children aged less than two years, the risk of protein inadequacy reduces to 7% for egg, 8% for milk and 11% for legumes (dal).

"Stunting happens early



before children turn three. While consuming quality protein that contains adequate amounts of digestible essential amino acids does help in reducing the risk of stunting, it cannot completely prevent it. Several other factors including genetics, poverty and sanitation play a role," says Anura V. Kurpad from the institute's Department of Physiology and senior author of a paper published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*.

## Ideal diet

"Young children's diet between the age of 1-3 years should contain a minimum of 100 grams of cereal (rice or wheat) and 45 grams of legume per day. Unfortunately, this is not followed in a consistent way anywhere in India," he says. "The equivalent will be the addition of an egg or 200 ml of milk or milk products to the diet every day, which makes

it expensive for many people."

The researchers measured the essential amino acid digestion of four foods – finger millet, mung dal and egg – commonly consumed complementary food by children below two. While the digestibility of essential amino acids was least for mung dal (65%), it was highest for egg (87%).

It was 78.5% and 68% for rice and finger millet, respectively.

"We choose these four food items as they are the most common complementary food given to babies after six months of exclusive breast feeding. Ragi (finger millet) is the main complementary food after six months, and legume (mung dal) and rice are given when the baby is aged nine-twelve months," says Nirupama Shrivastava from St. John's Medical College and first author of the paper.

## Election boosts demand for armoured vehicles

Imported ballistic glass and steel plates being used

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
JALANDHAR

The mechanics retrofitting cars with blast-resistant doors and bulletproof windshields in a Punjab garage are very busy – elections are almost here, with the first phase scheduled for April 11.

Orders for specialised armoured cars have been piling up at Sunchit Sodhi's factory in Jalandhar, where his crew have already retrofitted four SUVs for political bigwigs.

It's a pattern that repeats itself every election season, said Mr. Sodhi, whose father started supplying armoured cars for politicians and other VIP clients in the 1980s, when an armed insurgency was raging in Punjab. "This one is the mother of all elections," he said, as sparks flew from welding equipment on the factory floor. "Like all big events, there are bigger risks involved and leaders want to ensure they are safe."



Adding layers: Mechanics working to bulletproof a vehicle at a workshop on the outskirts of Jalandhar, Punjab. ■ AFP

It was not just candidates who are keen to bullet and blast-proof their cars but party bookkeepers and backroom heavyweights too, he added.

At least seven rival companies in Punjab, Haryana and also Maharashtra have also experienced a spike in election-related orders for armour-plated vehicles.

The outlay is considerable for reinforcing a private veh-

## Policeman makes arrest in sauna

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
COPENHAGEN

There's no escape from the long arm of the law in Sweden. Not even sitting naked in a sauna.

Police spokeswoman Carolina Skagerlind said an off-duty police officer found himself sitting in the same sauna in Rinkeby, a Stockholm suburb, as a fugitive who had dodged a jail sentence for aggravated assault.

Ms. Skagerlind said after recognising each other, "the naked police officer calmly told the man that he should consider himself arrested." She said the officer called colleagues to pick up the fugitive, adding, "The arrest was undramatic and the wanted man didn't try to flee."

## Sporting spirit



Instagram moment: Chennai Super Kings players Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Suresh Raina and Harbhajan Singh posing with groundsmen of Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai before a practice session on Tuesday. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

## Vikram Patel wins global health award

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Vikram Patel, a psychiatrist and professor of global health at Harvard Medical School, has won the prestigious John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award.

Mr. Patel has led research generating knowledge on the burden and determinants of mental health problems in low and middle-income countries and pioneered approaches that use community resources for the prevention and treatment of mental health problems in India with global impact, a press release said.

Laureates receive a \$100,000 cash honorarium and will be formally presented with their awards on October 24, 2019 at the annual Canada Gairdner Awards Gala in Toronto.

## Romeo and Juliet get their first date

Endangered Sehuencas water frogs have been living in the same aquarium for a month now



Romeo, left, and Juliet. ■ AFP/ALCIDE D'ORBIGNY MUSEUM

sweet to Juliet, following her around the aquarium and sacrificing his worm meals for her," said Teresa Camacho Badani, chief of herpetology at the Museo de Historia Natural Alcide D'Orbigny in Bolivia, which is working on the project with the GWC.

"After he's been alone for so long, it's wonderful to see him with a mate finally."

Romeo had been found in the same cloud forest a decade ago and it was feared

that he was the last survivor of his species.

With a lifespan of 15 years, time was running out to find Romeo a mate to ensure the survival of the species, although the frog himself never gave up hope, continuing to call out for a mate during his decade in captivity.

But it's not quite happily ever after, at least not yet.

Romeo hasn't fully figured out amplexus – the mating position for frogs where the

male holds the female until he can fertilize her eggs as she lays them.

Some species of frog need to go into amplexus for weeks or even months, but it isn't known how long it lasts for the Sehuencas.

So far Romeo has gotten into the correct position a handful of times – the longest for about 15 minutes on the first day the two were put together.

## Set to impress

Since meeting Juliet, Romeo has also exhibited a behaviour water frog experts had not encountered for this species: a performance in which he rapidly twirls the toes of his back feet, likely intended to impress the female.

Apart from Juliet, four other Sehuencas water frogs were brought in from the wild during the same expedition: two males and two ad-

ditional females. They were the first Sehuencas frogs that researchers had seen in the wild in a decade. The others have just begun showing signs of being ready to breed, and remain together in a single aquarium.

According to the GWC, Bolivia has the 10th highest level of amphibian diversity in the world, but 22% of those species now face the threat of extinction.

The Sehuencas frog, which is completely aquatic, was once found in abundance at the bottom of small streams and rivers or in ponds deep inside mountain forests.

A combination of climate change, habitat destruction, contamination, chytridiomycosis and the introduction of invasive trout provoked the abrupt demise of many aquatic frog species in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru.

## Berlin's polar bear cub named after a sports club

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BERLIN

Berlin's latest zoo celebrity, a fluffy polar bear cub, has been named "Hertha" after the capital's football club, it was announced Tuesday.

"Berlin has a new darling and we have adopted her," the Bundesliga club Hertha Berlin said on its Twitter account.

Hertha was born on December 1 in the city's Tierpark zoo and is the heir to late lamented superstar Knut, who drew huge crowds to a rival zoo, Berlin's Zoological Garden, until he died suddenly in 2011.

According to the zoo's website, it costs at least €1,000 a year to individually sponsor a "large" animal,

deo of its grizzly bear mascot "Herthinho" travelling from its Olympic Stadium ground in west Berlin to Tierpark in the east to meet the latest arrival.

According to the zoo's website, it costs at least €1,000 a year to individually sponsor a "large" animal, with an average adult polar bear weighing between 385 and 410 kg.

Hertha was greeted by a phalanx of cameras last month when she stepped out in public, frolicking with her mother Tonja in Tierpark's polar bear enclosure at a media preview.

The club also posted a vi-



Hertha at play. ■ AFP

AN-ND-NDE