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Year of Exam	Cut-off Marks for General Category	Data from UPSC website	Marks delivered from our 9 Wonder Booklets
2018	99 (Expected)	154	154
2017	105.34	154	152
2016	116	168	168
2015	107.34	162 (GS) + 140 (CSAT)	162 (GS) + 140 (CSAT)
2014	205 (Incl. CSAT Marks)	162 (GS) + 140 (CSAT)	162 (GS) + 140 (CSAT)
2013	248 (Incl. CSAT Marks)	168 (GS) + 148 (CSAT)	168 (GS) + 148 (CSAT)

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NEARBY



Odisha Minister quits over remarks in Pipili case

BHUBANESWAR
Odisha Agriculture and Panchayati Raj Minister Pradeep Maharathy resigned from his post on Sunday. The BJD leader was in the eye of a storm for his remarks over the recent acquittal of accused persons in the seven-year-old Pipili gang-rape and murder case.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 10

Floor test in M.P. Assembly today

BHOPAL
Ahead of the crucial floor test on Monday, the Congress in Madhya Pradesh has issued a whip to the party MLAs in an attempt to keep its flock together. The party has already expressed concern over horse-trading and taken the names of two Ministers of the previous BJP government in this connection.

NORTH ▶ PAGE 2

Pollution levels dip after rain in city

NEW DELHI
Air quality in the city saw an improvement on Sunday, with light rain in the early hours of the day bringing down pollution levels. According to the Central Pollution Control Board, the air quality index for Delhi at 4 p.m. was 336, putting it in the 'very poor' category.

DELHI METRO ▶ PAGE 1

EDGE ▶ 4 PAGES

DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

Rana extradition unlikely before 2023, indicates U.S.

NIA team told that he will have to complete his 14-year jail term

VIJAYA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Indian agencies will have to wait a little longer before Tahawwur Rana, a key accused in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack case is extradited here from the U.S.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) team that was in the U.S. a few days ago to seek the extradition of Rana, a close associate of David Coleman Headley, has been given an indication that Rana has to first complete his jail sentence.

Arrested in 2009

Rana, who was arrested in 2009, is serving a 14-year prison term in the U.S. for providing material support to terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), which planned and executed the attacks.

Though he was sentenced to 14 years in jail in 2013 by a U.S. district court, his term would also include the period he has already served in prison and would come to an end in 2023.

"An NIA team went to the U.S. in relation to the extradition request of Rana. It's a quasi-judicial process so no one can predict when he would be extradited. He is now serving a sentence there and we have been assured that the extradition could take place closer to the

Wait gets longer

A profile of Tahawwur Hussain Rana, key accused in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks



Tahawwur Rana was arrested in the U.S. in 2009

- In 2013, he was sentenced by a U.S. court to 14 years in jail. His sentence will come to an end in 2023
- A Chicago-based businessman and a school friend of David Coleman Headley, Rana helped him open an immigration firm in Mumbai, which was a cover to conduct reconnaissance of targets that were attacked on November 26, 2008
- He was convicted for providing material support to Pakistan-based LeT, the terrorist group behind the 2008 Mumbai attacks
- In its extradition request, India said he is also wanted for his role in plotting attacks on the National Defence College and Chabad Houses

date when he completes his jail sentence in the U.S., a senior government official told *The Hindu*.

Lok Sabha informed

Minister of State Gen. V.K. Singh (retired) told the Lok Sabha last week that the Government of India had engaged with U.S. authorities, under terms of the India-U.S. Extradition Treaty of 1997, for custody of U.S.-based individuals for their role in the November 26, 2008, terrorist attacks in Mumbai.

"These consultations have been held by means of meetings/visits and teleconferences. Most recently, a team from the NIA visited the U.S.

on December 13-15, 2018, for discussion with the U.S. authorities," the Minister said.

Unlike Headley, Rana did not enter into a plea bargain with the U.S. authorities.

Double jeopardy

The 'double jeopardy' clause in U.S. law prohibits punishment for the same crime twice, so India renewed its bid to seek Rana's custody on the ground that he was actively involved in planning an attack on the National Defence College in Delhi and Chabad Houses (Jewish religious centres) in several cities.

Rana, a Chicago-based bu-



sinessman, helped Headley open an immigration firm in Mumbai, which was a cover to conduct reconnaissance on targets that were attacked on November 26, 2008.

Rana was a school friend of Headley from Pakistan. According to the FBI, after the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, Headley visited India again in March 2009 to conduct additional surveillance, including of the NDC in Delhi and of Chabad Houses.

Forgery case

The NIA also has registered a forgery case against Rana for opening the immigration centre based on fake documents.

Boulders fall in Meghalaya mine, kill two

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

A second disaster has struck Meghalaya's illegal coal mines in less than a month, claiming the lives of two miners. Three more, locals said, are trapped in another rat-hole mine nearby.

The police in Jaintia Hills on Sunday confirmed that Elad Bareh and Monoj Basumatary were killed when boulders fell on them from a side-cutting mine at Mooknor in Jalyiah village. The incident happened on Friday.

Unlike a rat-hole mine that branches from the bottom of a vertical pit, a side-cutting mine involves digging narrow tunnels on the slopes of a hill until miners strike the coal seams.

The police conducted a search after Phillip Bareh filed an FIR at the Khliehriat station that his nephew Elad, 26, was missing since Friday. His body was found in front of a side-cutting coal quarry. Another body, identified as that of Monoj of Deinchynrum village, was found in the quarry, East Jaintia Hills district Superintendent of Police Sylvester Nongtanger said.

An inquest was conducted, and the bodies were sent to a government hospital in Khliehriat for autopsy.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Nirmala lied on HAL orders: Rahul
Read full media report, says Minister

In her eagerness to defend the PM's Rafale lie, the RM lied to Parliament. Tomorrow, RM must place before Parliament documents showing 1 Lakh crore of Govt orders to HAL. Or resign

Please read the complete report to which you @RahulGandhi are referring. However, as the LS record shows, Sitharaman did not claim the orders were signed, saying they were in the works'

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN, Defence Minister

ronautics Limited (HAL) with government orders worth ₹1,00,000 crore.

Mr. Gandhi alleged that the Defence Minister, in her reply to the Lok Sabha, had "lied" about the ₹1,00,000 crore worth of contracts. He cited a media report, quoting senior HAL officials, which claimed "not a single rupee of the said ₹1,00,000 crore has come to HAL, since not a single order, as claimed, has been signed till now."

"When you tell one lie, you need to keep spinning out more lies, to cover up the first one. In her eagerness to defend the PM's Rafale lie, the RM lied to Parliament. Tomorrow, RM must place before Parliament documents showing 1 Lakh crore of Govt orders to HAL. Or resign," Mr. Gandhi wrote.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Centre trying to nix SP-BSP ties: Akhilesh

SP chief says the CBI is being used to foist illegal mining cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

A day after the Central Bureau of Investigation said the role of Mining Ministers in Uttar Pradesh during the tenure of Akhilesh Yadav would be investigated in connection with alleged illegal mining, the Samajwadi Party (SP) chief on Sunday said the "BJP has shown its true colours".

Mr. Yadav suggested the raids by the CBI after reopening "old cases" were an attempt by the BJP-led Centre to stall the SP-BSP alliance. The two parties, along with the RLD, are close to announcing an alliance for the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

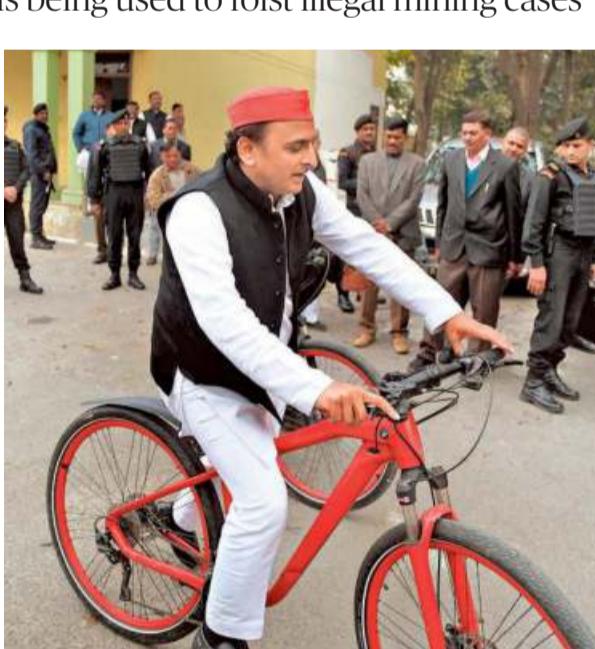
"The Samajwadi Party is trying to win as many Lok Sabha seats as it can. Possibly the CBI or the government that runs the CBI is trying to stall that. We can form an alliance and go to the people. And those who want to stop [us], what do they have? They have the CBI," Mr. Yadav told presspersons here.

Mr. Yadav, who served as U.P. Chief Minister from 2012 to 2017 and held the additional portfolio of mining in 2012 and 2013, said he was ready to be questioned by the investigation agency.

"If they question us, we will have to answer. We will give them an answer. But the people of the country are ready to give an answer to the BJP," Mr. Yadav said.

The Chief Minister's Office has expressed helplessness. "There is no provision for issuing the prize without the ticket being produced," M.V. Jayaraman, private secretary to the Chief Minister, said.

"I handed over the ticket at the Lotteries Department office at Vikas Bhawan in



In the saddle: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav arriving to meet presspersons in Lucknow on Sunday. ■ RAJEEV BHATT

He warned the BJP that it would also have to face the brunt of the "culture" it was leaving behind.

The CBI on Saturday said the role of the Mining Ministers in Uttar Pradesh between 2012 and 2016, which includes Mr. Yadav, may be investigated in connection with a fresh case of alleged illegal mining of minor minerals registered on the direction of the Allahabad High Court.

The CBI registered an FIR against 2008-batch IAS official and then Hamirpur District Magistrate B. Chandrakanta and 10 other individuals, besides unknown officials and persons. Among those named in the FIR are SP MLC Ramesh Kumar Mishra and Sanjay Dixit, who fought the 2017 election on BSP ticket.

14 places searched

Searches were carried out on Saturday on 14 premises of the accused persons in Delhi, Hamirpur, Lucknow, Kanpur and Jalaun.

The FIR alleged that public servants allowed illegal mining of minor minerals between 2012 and 2016 by the fraudulent granting of fresh or renewed leases. Officials also allegedly permitted mining by the existing lease-holders during the "obstructed period" when the National Green Tribunal had barred the activity. The leases were also allegedly issued in violation of a May 2012 order of the State government for tendering.

Aadhaar and driving licence may be linked

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA PHAGWARA

Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has said the government will soon make it mandatory for linking Aadhaar with driving licences.

Delivering his presidential address at the ongoing 106th Indian Science Congress at Lovely Professional University here, the Minister for Law, Electronics and Information Technology said: "We are soon going to bring a law which will make it mandatory to link Aadhaar with driving licence."

"At present, what happens is that the guilty person who causes an accident flees the scene and gets a duplicate licence. This helps him go scot-free. However, with the Aadhaar linkage you can change your name but you cannot change your biometrics, neither iris nor fingerprints. So the moment you go in for a duplicate licence, the system will say this person already has a driving licence and should not be given a new one," said Mr. Prasad, explaining the need for the linkage.

Eulogising about the Centre's 'Digital India' programme, the Minister claimed that it had bridged the urban-rural divide.

Through a power presentation, Mr. Prasad said:

"This is digital profile of India -- 123 crore Aadhaar cards, 121 crore mobile phones, 44.6 crore smart phones, 56 crore Internet users, there has been 51% growth in e-commerce. There is 130 crore population in India."

Snow world



Lifeline frozen: Trucks were stranded at Qazigund, 70 km south of Jammu and Kashmir capital Srinagar, on Sunday. The gateway to the Kashmir Valley recorded a low of minus 0.6 degrees Celsius. Kokernag registered a low of minus 2.2 degrees Celsius. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

For want of a ticket, a crore was lost

Winner of Kerala's Karunya Lottery has waged a lonely battle to claim prize money</p

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	20	09
Safdarjung	20	09
Palam	19	11

Delhi Palam Today
18°C Decrease in night temperature is likely. A very cold and foggy morning is ahead. Day will be pleasant.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
19°C Dry weather will persist. Dense fog will occur. Day will be pleasant with partly cloudy sky.

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DELHI ☀ Timings

MONDAY, JAN. 07
RISE 07:15 SET 17:40
RISE 08:04 SET 18:50
TUESDAY, JAN. 08
RISE 07:15 SET 17:41
RISE 08:47 SET 19:43
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 09
RISE 07:15 SET 17:42
RISE 09:26 SET 20:35

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NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that Special General Body meeting of The Best Cooperative Group Housing Society Ltd. will be held on 16th February 2019 at THE BEST CO-OPERATIVE GROUP HOUSING SOCIETY LIMITED, 201, Best Plaza, H-8, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034 at 10.00 AM to transact the following business:-
1. To hold the election of Board of Directors of the society
2. Any other matter with permission of the chair.

For the Best Cooperative Group Housing Society Ltd.
Place: New Delhi
Suresh Gupta (Chairman)
Date: 07.01.2019

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the Original Shares certificate bearing number L17 dated 07.05.1981, Book No. A & Serial No. 084 in the name of Late Smt. Kamlesh Kumar W/o Sh. Subhash Chander bearing membership no. 161 against Flat No. G-28 The Arya Nagar CGHS Ltd., 91, I.P. Ext. Delhi-110032 has been lost by the legal heir Smt. Neha Sethi D/o Late Kamlesh Kumar. Claims and objections if any, against issue of fresh shares in lieu of lost Share Certificate may be filed within 15 days the Society at the above address | contact no. 011-22727070 & 011-43205099

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Floor test in M.P. Assembly today, Cong. issues whip

The party has expressed concern over alleged horse-trading bid by the BJP

ANUP DUTTA
BHOPAL

Ahead of the crucial floor test on Monday, the Congress in Madhya Pradesh has issued a whip to the party MLAs in an attempt to keep its flock together.

The party has already expressed concern over horse-trading and taken the names of two Ministers of the previous BJP government in this connection.

The first session of the new Assembly begins on Monday.

'Numbers with Cong.'

The process of issuing a whip to all the party MLAs for the floor test has already been done, Congress in-charge C.P. Shekhar said. They have been instructed to be present in the Assembly



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath. ■

commencing on Monday and vote in favour of the confidence motion, he said, adding that "the numbers are with the Congress and the party will win".

On Sunday, Congress MLAs started arriving at the official bungalow of Chief Minister Kamal Nath. Mr. Nath is likely to address the MLAs in the presence of senior

party leaders Digvijaya Singh, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Kantilal Bhuriya, Vivek Tankha and Suresh Pachouri.

Two days ago, Mr. Digvijaya Singh had expressed concern about horse-trading, alleging that two former BJP Ministers -- Narottam Mishra and Bhupinder Singh -- were working to destabilise the Congress government.

"I served as Chief Minister for 13 years therefore would like some other person to shoulder the responsibility of Leader of the Opposition," Mr. Chouhan had told reporters on Friday.

The Congress has won 114 seats in the recently held Assembly elections, but was two short of the simple majority mark of 116 in the 230-member Assembly. The party took the support of two BSP MLAs, the sole SP MLA and four Independents to form the government. The BJP bagged 109 seats.

name of the Leader of the Opposition on Monday.

Shivraj not in race

Former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has already clarified that he is not in the race.

"I served as Chief Minister for 13 years therefore would like some other person to shoulder the responsibility of Leader of the Opposition," Mr. Chouhan had told reporters on Friday.

The Congress has won 114 seats in the recently held Assembly elections, but was two short of the simple majority mark of 116 in the 230-member Assembly. The party took the support of two BSP MLAs, the sole SP MLA and four Independents to form the government. The BJP bagged 109 seats.

Rajasthan govt. panel for all loan waiver

For farmers who committed suicide

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAIPUR

An inter-department panel formed to look into the modalities of farm loan waiver in Rajasthan has decided to recommend Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot to waive all loans of farmers who have committed suicide.

The decision was taken at the first meeting of the committee chaired by Urban Development Minister Shanti Dharwala on Saturday.

"The committee will recommend to the Chief Minister that agriculture loans of farmers who have committed suicide should be waived totally be it from any bank and any amount," Industries Minister Parsadi Lal Meena, a member of the committee, said.

He said the decision will be taken at the level of the Chief Minister.

Mr. Meena said there



Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. ■

were more than 70 farmers who have committed suicide in the State.

Short term loans

After forming the government, Mr. Gehlot had announced to waive all short-term agriculture loan from cooperative banks and agriculture loans of up to ₹2 lakh from nationalised and other banks for defaulting farmers on December 19.

Make Chouhan BJP chief, says Gautam

Party veteran for radical changes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MEERUT

Veteran BJP leader and one of the party's founding members Sanghprisha Gautam on Sunday suggested radical changes within the organisation and the government if the saffron party wishes to retain power at the Centre after the Lok Sabha polls.

The 88-year-old leader advocated making former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan the party chief, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari the Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Rajnath Singh the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

'Difficult to win'
"If it is not done, it will difficult for Narendra Modi to come back as Prime Minister," the former Union Minister said over phone.

Changes in the organisation and the government were necessary to save the party and enthuse the work-

ers, he said.

His statements come in the backdrop of the BJP facing electoral losses in three Hindi heartland States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, besides failing to perform well in Telangana and Mizoram in the recently held elections.

He counted some reasons for the party's and the government's "poor performance".

"Talking about amending the Constitution, replacing the Planning Commission with the Niti Aayog, interfering with the working of the Supreme Court, the RBI, the CBI and decisions taken in the economic sector had adverse impact," Mr. Gautam said.

"Also, indulging in horse-trading for forming governments in Goa and Manipur, imposing President's Rule in Uttarakhand and forming the government in Karnataka for one day were irrational decisions," according to the leader.

Grand entry



Kumbh ceremony: Kinnar Akhada chief Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Laxmi Narayan Tripathi takes part in the 'Devavrat Yatra' during the 'Peshwai' ceremony (royal entry) for the Kumbh Mela in Allahabad on Sunday. ■PTI

Lone Akali MLA in Haryana joins Ajay Chautala's party

Balkaur Singh is MLA from Kalanwali in Sirsa district

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CHANDIGARH

In a setback to the Shiromani Akali Dal, its lone legislator in Haryana, Balkaur Singh, joined the recently floated Janmabhumi Janata Party (JJP) on Sunday, its patron

Ajay Singh Chautala said.

Balkaur Singh, the 50-year-old MLA from Kalanwali (SC) seat in Sirsa district, was presented with a JJP flag by Mr. Chautala while being welcomed to the outfit's fold.

On the occasion, Mr. Singh said he was always impressed with the ideals and principles of Ajay Chautala's grandfather and former Deputy Prime Minister late Devi Lal.

He said under the leader-

ship of Ajay Chautala, the JJP, which was following the path shown by Devi Lal, has the vision to take the State forward.

Asserting that Mr. Singh had joined the outfit "unconditionally", Mr. Chautala said: "Balkaur ji is an epitome of simplicity and honesty."

'More would join JJP'

He claimed that there was growing public support in JJP's favour and more prominent people would be joining the outfit in the coming days.

Notably, the JJP came into existence a month ago following a split in the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), after a bitter power struggle

Dead crows trigger bird flu scare in Bihar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUZAFFARPUR

About 12 crows were found dead in an orchard in Muzaffarpur district on Sunday morning, triggering fear of suspected bird flu.

District Animal Husbandry Officer Manoj Kumar said prima facie it did not appear to be a case of bird flu.

The crows were found dead in a mango orchard at Chandanpur village under Sakra block.

An Animal Husbandry Department team reached the mango orchard after the villagers informed the district administration about the death of the crows.

An officer of the team examined the dead birds and said that prima facie, no symptoms of bird flu have been found in the dead crows.

Detailed analysis

Samples of the dead crows would be sent to a laboratory for an in-depth analysis, he said.

Eight crows were found dead in the College of Arts and Crafts in Patna following which it was closed till January 5.

Around 400 chickens were found dead at a poultry farm in a village in Bikram block of Patna district in the past 48 hours.

Patna zoo has been closed since December 25 following the death of six peafowls due to H5N1 virus.

Rain in Punjab and Haryana

Prolonged period of dry spell ends in the two States

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CHANDIGARH

Many places in Punjab and Haryana received rain on Sunday, ending a prolonged period of dry spell in the two States.

The Meteorological Department here said places like Amritsar, Ludhiana, Patiala, Pathankot, Adampur, Halwara (10.8) and Faridkot (7.5) also recorded above normal temperatures.

Chandigarh, the common

weather conditions, the minimum temperatures rose above normal limits.

Chandigarh, the common capital of the two States, recorded a low of 10.7 degrees Celsius, up five notches

against normal.

Ludhiana records 10.1

In Punjab, Ludhiana recorded a low of 10.1 degrees, up five notches above normal, while Patiala's low settled at 9.8 degrees, three more than normal.

Amritsar registered a low of 6.4 degrees, up three

points. Pathankot (10.1 degrees), Adampur (9.6), Halwara (10.8) and Faridkot (7.5) also recorded above normal temperatures.

Karnal in Haryana recorded a low of 10.4 degrees, up three notches, Narn

Row over Bengal BJP chief's 'Mamata for PM' remark

Was wishing her well on her birthday, statement taken out of context: Dilip Ghosh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh has triggered a controversy with his remark that Trinamool Congress chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had the "best chance of becoming the first ever Bengali Prime Minister of the country".

Mr. Ghosh, in damage control mode, said his statement had been taken out of context. "I was wishing her well on her birthday when someone asked how about her becoming the Prime Minister," he told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

On Saturday evening while speaking to a group of



Dilip Ghosh • FILE PHOTO

her...we want her to be fit so that she can work well. She needs to remain fit because if there is any Bengali who has the chance to become the PM from this State, she is the one," Mr. Ghosh had said on Saturday.

The State BJP president also reminded journalists how former State Chief Minister and veteran Marxist leader Jyoti Basu was close to becoming the first "Bengali Prime Minister" and Pranab Mukherjee had become the first President from the State.

Asked why can't a BJP leader become the first PM from West Bengal, Mr. Ghosh said: "We can surely have one after her. But she has the

first chance. Her name is at the No. 1 spot in the list."

U-turn

The very next day on Sunday, Mr. Ghosh said for Ms. Banerjee to become the Prime Minister was an "impossibility, considering that her party will not win a single seat outside West Bengal".

While Mr. Ghosh did not deny making the statements on Saturday, he said he was extending political courtesy by wishing the Chief Minister on her birthday. "When I was hospitalised, she [Ms. Banerjee] was among the first to call me and wish me for my recovery," Mr. Ghosh said.

journalists, Mr. Ghosh went a little too far while extending his wishes to the Chief Minister.

"I pray for her health and success in life because the fate of our State depends on

one after her. But she has the

Bypoll to elect Hakim held peacefully

The civic body Act requires Mayor to get elected as councillor within 6 months

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

Bypoll to ward number 82 of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, from where West Bengal Minister and City Mayor Firhad Hakim is seeking election as a Trinamool Congress councillor, passed off peacefully on Sunday.

Mr. Hakim, the State's Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Minister, had been elected as the Mayor of the KMC on December 3 by a majority of KMC councillors, although he himself was not a councillor then.

According to the Kolkata Municipal Corporation Act, which was amended in the winter session of the Assembly, a mayor would have to get elected by voters as a councillor within six months of being appointed to the post.

Main contest
BJP's Jibon Sen, Congress candidate Animesh Bhattacharya and Sisir Dutta from



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee with KMC Mayor Firhad Hakim. • FILE PHOTO

the CPI were the three other candidates but the main contest was between the TMC and the BJP.

An estimated 64% voters of the 33,567-strong elector-

ate cast their votes at the polling stations during voting hours from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., a senior officer of the State Election Commission said.

Polling continued in one booth till 4 p.m. to allow voters, who were still standing in queues, to exercise their franchise.

The BJP candidate alleged no polling agent of the party or other opposition parties could be deployed in the booths during voting, but the charge was denied by Mr. Hakim, who said the opposition had no organisational base in the area.

Why the bypoll?
Bypoll to ward no. 82 was necessitated after the resignation of TMC councillor Pranab Biswas on health grounds. Election to the mayoral post became imperative following the resignation of Sovan Chatterjee from the post in November last year.

Mr. Chatterjee, who was also the Housing and Fire Services Minister, had resigned from the State Cabinet on November 20 and from the post of KMC Mayor on November 22.

Maoists kill guard, torch five vehicles

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

Maoists resorted to arson at the camp site of a road construction firm and shot dead the watchman in Odisha's Kandhamal district on Saturday night.

The Maoist attacked at 2 a.m. at Patiamba under the Phulbari Sadar police station limits. The construction firm was involved in laying Sudrukumpa-Medikhol road under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. The watchman was identified as Rabindra Mallik.

According to police sources, the Maoists torched five vehicles parked at the camp site. The vehicles included three tractors, one roadroller and a mini-truck. The Maoists dragged away the watchman to the nearby forest and shot him dead.

Through handwritten bills left at the spot, the Kandhamal-Kalahandi-Boudh-Nayagarh division of the outlawed CPI(Maoist) organisation claimed the responsibility. Writing on the posters hinted that the Maoists had killed the watchman suspecting him to be a police informer.

In May 2018, five Maoists, including a woman cadre, were killed during an exchange of fire with the police. The Maoists had suspected that the construction firm owner and workers may have tipped-off the police about their presence in the area that led to the encounter.

The Maoists continue to oppose construction of roads under the PMGSY to inaccessible areas.

Following this incident, anti-Maoist operation by security forces was intensified in the area.

Senior CPI leader, ex-MLA passes away

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BERHAMPUR (ODISHA)

Senior CPI leader and former Odisha MLA Parasuram Panda passed away at his residence in Ganjam district after a prolonged illness, family sources said on Sunday. He was 86.

Mr. Panda is survived by his wife, two sons and three daughters, they said. The senior leader had been ailing for quite some time.

Mr. Panda had represented Chhatrapur constituency in Ganjam district in the State Assembly from 1990 to 1995. He was also the sarpanch of Chikalakhandi panchayat for three times. Leaders of different political parties have condoled his demise.

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Seat-sharing talks between BJP, Sena make no progress

Sena's demand for clarity on LS, Assembly seats, inclusion of Rane are sore points

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

As Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Amit Shah speaks aggressively against ally Shiv Sena at a rally in Latur, sources in the party said the Sena's adamant attitude has brought the seat-sharing talks between the parties to a standstill.

Besides, inclusion of Rajya Sabha MP and long-time Sena opponent Narayan Rane in the party's manifesto committee on Sunday is set to irk the Sena leadership, making the alliance for the Lok Sabha (LS) and Assembly elections difficult.

According to a Union minister from Maharashtra



who is privy to the discussions, the Sena has been demanding that seat-sharing be made clear for the Lok Sabha and the Assembly polls. "This is not possible. Any decision on the Assembly will be taken at the appropriate time," the minister said.

A State BJP leader said inclusion of Mr. Rane in the

manifesto committee makes it clear that the party's senior leadership has made up its decision and does not bother about the Sena's opinion.

The minister said seat-sharing talks have been on hold for over two weeks, though there have been meetings between the parties in the past two months. The Sena reiterates that any statement on the alliance will come only from party chief Uddhav Thackeray.

The BJP, after its climb-down in Bihar to ensure Nitish Kumar remains in the alliance in terms of LS seats, is accommodated in the remaining eight seats, according to Opposition leaders.

Sena wants a commitment from the BJP for 144 of the 288 Assembly seats along with the LS seat arrangement.

BJP leaders too are facing pressure from party workers to retaliate to the constant criticism of the Sena, but have decided to refrain from it and wait for the right time.

On the other hand, the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party held a meeting on Sunday to discuss the seat-sharing. Both the parties have finalised on 40 of the 48 seats in Maharashtra. Smaller parties will be accommodated in the remaining eight seats, according to Opposition leaders.

Raj cancels Delhi plans, engages with Pawar in 2-hour discussion

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Putting an end to the rumours of his visit to Delhi to invite Congress president Rahul Gandhi for his son Amit's wedding, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray has cancelled his trip.

According to an MNS leader, who was privy to the discussions, the visit was in the planning, but dates could not be matched, and Mr. Thackeray is left with no time to travel to Delhi as the wedding is scheduled for January 27.

As per the initial plan, Mr. Thackeray was to visit Delhi on Tuesday. "He was to meet all senior leaders from the Opposition, including Mr. Gandhi, to extend the invita-

tion," the leader said. Both leaders, though have never met in person before, have been in touch through telephonic conversations. MNS sources claim Mr. Gandhi had begun talking to the MNS chief when his son Amit was rumoured to be diagnosed with cancer.

Earlier on Sunday, Mr. Thackeray met Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar at his residence to give the wedding invitation. However, the two-hour-long meeting between the two leaders raised eyebrows in the political circles.

While the NCP and the Congress have sealed the alliance on 40 of the 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra, the MNS is eyeing three seats for the 2019 general elec-

tions. According to party insiders, Mumbai North-East which is presently held by the Bharatiya Janata Party's Kirit Somaiya; Kalyan by the Shiv Sena's Shrikant Shinde, and Nashik held by Hemant Godse of the Sena, are on Mr. Thackeray's target.

NCP spokesperson Nawab Malik rejected the talks of political discussion on Sunday. The Congress and the NCP had already discussed the possibility of bringing the MNS into the alliance. But the proposal was rejected following opposition from Mumbai Congress president Sanjay Nirupam who feared that joining hands with the MNS would make north Indians look away from the Congress in Mumbai and in north Indian states.

Bhide be issued prohibitive orders and kept out of Jalna district.

The city police reached the spot and resorted to lathi charge to disperse the protesters. At least 20 protesters were taken into custody. The authorities later cancelled Mr. Bhide's event.

Mr. Bhide, who heads the Sangli-based outfit Shiv Pratishthan Hindustan, was scheduled to hold a conclave for his outfit members at Arya Samaj Mandir in Jalna.

But even before the programme, Ambedkarite youths and Sambhaji Brigade members stormed the venue on motorcycles, raising slogans against the octogenarian Hindutva leader. They demanded that Mr.

No strings attached



Manja menace: Youth Congress workers burn reels of nylon manja at Sevasadan Square in Nagpur on Sunday, protesting its use in kite flying, ahead of Makar Sankranti. ■ S. SUDARSHAN

Dalit outfits oppose Bhide's event in Jalna

Dalit outfits oppose Bhide's event in Jalna

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Tension prevailed in Jalna district as members of Dalit outfits and the pro-Maratha Sambhaji Brigade opposed a scheduled programme of Hindutva leader Sambhaji Bhide, who is the prime accused in the Bhima-Koregaon clashes last year.

Mr. Bhide, who heads the Sangli-based outfit Shiv Pratishthan Hindustan, was scheduled to hold a conclave for his outfit members at Arya Samaj Mandir in Jalna.

But even before the programme, Ambedkarite youths and Sambhaji Brigade members stormed the venue on motorcycles, raising slogans against the octogenarian Hindutva leader. They demanded that Mr.

Bhide be issued prohibitive orders and kept out of Jalna district.

The city police reached the spot and resorted to lathi charge to disperse the protesters. At least 20 protesters were taken into custody. The authorities later cancelled Mr. Bhide's event.

News about Mr. Bhide's conclave had been doing the rounds on social media for the past one week, leading a number of groups to oppose the programme on grounds that it would heighten social tension.

Mr. Bhide, a fervent admirer of the Maratha warrior King Shivaji, has a formidable following in the western Maharashtra sugar belt districts of Sangli, Satara and Kolhapur.

After poor show in ranking, State extends deadline for startup week

24 winners will get govt. work orders of up to ₹15 lakh each

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

The State government has extended the date of applications for the second edition of the Maharashtra Startup Week from January 5 to January 12. This comes weeks after the government came under criticism for Maharashtra's placement in the bottom half of the Centre's State Startup Ranking Report, 2018.

The Maharashtra State Innovation Society (MSIS) organises the Maharashtra Startup Week to provide entrepreneurs a platform to showcase their innovative ideas. Startups from sectors such as education, skilling, healthcare,

clean energy, environment, water and waste water management, smart infrastructure and mobility, governance, financial inclusion, and cyber security will be invited to submit their applications to the MSIS. The week will be held from January 29 to February 1. The first edition of the week was held in July last year.

The State had come under scanner after the Centre's report released by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP). Of the 38 indicators studied in the report, Maharashtra failed to submit information about 17 and the State stood in the range of 25-50 percentile, taking it to the bottom.

The Centre has assigned Gujarat to mentor Maharashtra.

In a bid to make the second edition of the startup week a success, the government is leaving no stone unturned. "The announcement of the week was made in the first week of December and the deadline was January 5. It has now been extended to January 12 to ensure more participation," an official from the skill development department said.

Under the startup week, 100 finalists will pitch their ideas to the panel of industry experts, investors, and government officials. Of them, 24 winning startups will receive government work orders of up to ₹15 lakh each.

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3. Scrutiny of nomination papers
12.02.2019 to 17.02.2019 upto 04:00 PM
4. Display of list of candidates after scrutiny
17.02.2019 at 05:00 PM
5. Date & Time of withdrawal of nomination papers
18.02.2019 to 23.02.2019 upto 04:00 PM
6. Displaying of Final list of candidates & allotment of symbols
23.02.2019 at 05:00 PM

7. Election for the Four office bearers i.e. President, Vice-President, General Secretary & Treasurer, Eleven Members of Governing Body and two teaching & one non-teaching staff representatives
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IN BRIEF

**Polavaram project set to create Guinness record**

POLAVARAM

The Polavaram multi-purpose irrigation project is all set to enter the Guinness Book of World Records in terms of using the highest volume of concrete in a given day. The project contractor Navayuga Engineering Company will attempt to fill 28,000 to 30,000 cubic metres of concrete in the spillway channel within 24 hours starting at 8 a.m. on Sunday. About 15,000 cubic metres of concrete was filled into the channel around 7 p.m.

40 girl students take ill after dinner in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD

About 40 girls of the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya here were hospitalised due to suspected food poisoning on Saturday. They complained of vomiting and diarrhoea after eating dinner and were taken to various hospitals. All of them were out of danger, said Divisional Revenue Officer Hanumanth Reddy on Sunday.

Pockets of disquiet remain in Kerala

Police continue mass arrests of persons suspected to be responsible for violence

G. ANAND
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala police on Sunday continued its mass arrest of persons suspected to be responsible for the spree of violence that engulfed the State for nearly four days after two young women worshipped at the Sabarimala temple early on Wednesday.

Officers said the State was mostly peaceful on Sunday, but certain pockets of disquiet remained. In Thalassery, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Communist Party of India (CPI-M) workers targeted each other's homes in violation of a peace agreement brokered by the District Collector.

Over 5,000 held

The police have so far arrested 5,397 persons, an overwhelming number of them BJP and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh workers. The police produced 731 persons in court and remanded them in judicial custody. The charges against them included the attack on police officers, destruction of public property, illegal use of ex-

plosives, arson and wilful rioting.

The rest, arrested on lesser charges of unlawful assembly and violation of curfew, were let off on bail from station houses. So far, the police have registered 1,771 cases in connection with Sabarimala-related violence.

Senior officers said they were pursuing a "broken windows" policing strategy. It entailed the identification and detention of persons involved in even very minor offences to interdict the re-occurrence of major crimes such as the organised rioting that was witnessed after the Sabarimala issue erupted again last week.

The BJP has slammed the police strategy, stating that it unfairly targeted those politically opposed to the CPI(M). The government had used the police to burden Ayyappa devotees with criminal cases, which would make it harder for them to procure passports and get security clearance for jobs.

A senior officer said the police had acted only on the basis of evidence.

**Darshan as usual:** A pilgrim prepares a child to ascend the 18 holy steps at the Sabarimala temple on Sunday.

Tourism industry suffers

S. ANIL RADHAKRISHNAN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Travel advisories by the U.S., United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia to its citizens visiting Kerala in the wake of hartals and street violence over the Sabarimala issue is a jolt to tourism industry that was bouncing back after August deluge.

The stake-holders of the industry and those at the helm of affairs in Kerala Tourism are in a shock as the three countries are among the top 15 in foreign tourist

arrivals over the years and source markets. The travel advisories have come at a time when the Kerala Tourism has claimed that it had been able to bring down the dip in foreign tourist arrivals of 18.46% in August and 18.16% in September to 7% and 2% in October and November respectively.

Tourism Minister Kadakkampally Surendran has said the advisories to take reasonable precautions and to avoid large crowds were a humiliation for the State.

Centre seeks report from State govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre has asked the Kerala government for a report on the violence that followed the entry of two young women into the Sabarimala temple last week.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has sought a report on the attacks that took place in various parts of the State.

A strike called by the Sabarimala Karma Samithi, an umbrella organisation of right-wing groups, to protest against the entry of the two women affected normal life in the State.

Crude bombs were hurled, and the houses of CPI (M) and BJP leaders were attacked. Governor P. Sathasivam has also briefed Home Minister Rajnath Singh on the law and order situation.



Gauri Lankesh

ice narrate how Rane alias 'Kaka', who died following a cardiac arrest in April 2018, put together the group to kill 'durjans' (those who were anti-Hindu despite being Hindu) by the teachings of *Kshatra Dharma Sadhana*, an SS book.

The charge sheet includes several statements by two of the accused and a witness who is a former member of the group, which explained how *Kshatra Dharma Sadhana* was the main inspiration for the murders of 'durjans'. SIT sleuths also recovered a copy of the book from the house of one of the accused, Sujith Kumar alias Praveen.

Statements given by two key accused before the police and not admissible in court as evidence.

I-T raids on film industry yield ₹109 cr.



The assets seized in Bengaluru on Sunday. ■ PTI

₹2.85 crore in cash and 25.3 kg gold jewellery seized

STAFF REPORTER

The four-day search and seizure operations on personalites connected to the Kannada film industry have led to unaccounted income of ₹109 crore, the I-T Department said in a statement on Sunday.

However, it said: "The searches yielded incriminat-

officials seized ₹11 crore worth undisclosed assets, including ₹2.85 crore in cash and 25.3 kg gold jewellery.

The raids covered film production companies, film producers, film financiers, and actors, the statement said. The raids focussed on three big budget films - *KGF*, *The Villain*, and *Nata Sarvabhouma*. Premises of producers of these films - Vijay Kiragandur, C.R. Manohar, and Rockline Venkatesh - were searched as were those of stars who acted in them - Yash, Sudeep, Shivarajku-

mar and Puneeth Rajkumar - and a key distributor, Jayanna.

The searches that began on Thursday morning concluded on Sunday morning.

"The searches have been successful in unearthing evidence of suppression of income from film production, distribution and exhibition, as well as evidence of unaccounted cash expenditure in film production," the statement said. Evidence of unaccounted theatre collections in cash and evasion of taxes has been found.

Youth from Telangana shot at in U.S.

An injured Sai Krishna, hailing from Mahabubabad, was found on the roadside

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MAHABUBABAD DT/HYDERABAD

An IT professional from Mahabubabad in Telangana, Poosa Sai Krishna, was shot at by unidentified miscreants in Detroit, Michigan.

His cousin Sivanand Poosa said Mr. Sai Krishna was on ventilator support in a hospital and was doing well.

He was apparently shot at by miscreants when he was returning from work in Detroit Downtown on January 3, but the incident came to

light only after two days.

The assailants fired three rounds, severely injuring him, and fled with his wallet and car. A passer-by, who found him on the roadside with bullet injuries in freezing conditions, alerted the authorities.

Mr. Sai Krishna's father, Poosa Yellaiah, is a teacher and his mother, Shailaja, is a homemaker.

Mr. Sai Krishna completed his B. Tech from a private college in Hyderabad in 2014

and went to the United States. He completed post-graduation in Electrical Engineering from Lawrence Tech University, Southfield, Michigan, and recently started working for an automotive company in Detroit Downtown.

Funds raised

Meanwhile, Mr. Sai Krishna's friends and people from the Indian community launched an online campaign on GoFundMe.com for raising funds for his medical and rehabilitation support.

So far, the campaign has received \$124,738 out of the \$250,000 sought and the campaign is trending.

The campaign has sought money for the numerous surgeries and complicated procedures he has to undergo.

Moreover, he does not have health insurance and has a lot of student debt. He is likely to take more than six months for rehabilitation.

Spreading menace



Water hyacinth has covered the Chilavannur lake at Kochi, posing a threat to the waterbody and preventing fishing activities. Up to 16 Chinese fishing nets were used here almost two decades ago but now there are only four. ■ THULASI KAKKAT

A.P. officials run out of shelters for children

More than 12,000 have been rescued during the last five years

The rescued kids

Statement showing the missing, runaway and other children in Krishna district

Year	Produced before CWC Boys	Girls	Referred to Institutions	Restored to parents
2014	998	709	1,278	429
2015	1,597	698	1,222	1,073
2016	2,459	858	1,496	1,821
2017	1,848	938	1,240	1,546
2018*	1,211	626	129	678
	*Up to October			

said. The rescued children are from different States, including Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Karnataka and a few from neighbouring countries too.

Among the rescued children are those who have run away from home, been kidnapped, victims of child marriages, or em-

ployed as labourers.

Of the 8,113 boys and 3,829 girls rescued from 2014 to 2018 (up to October-end) 5,365 were referred to CCIs and 5,547 were restored to their families.

Operation Muskaan

Nearly 300 children rescued under 'Operation Muskan' were also reunited with their parents, he added.

BJP vitiating secular fabric: Naidu

'Intimidation of political parties not toeing the Centre's line is the order of the day'

STAFF REPORTER

VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday accused the Central government of going against cooperative federalism. To prove his point, Mr. Naidu cited the instances of the National Investigating Agency (NIA) taking over the investigation into the attack on YSRCP president Y.S. Jagannath Reddy and the restrictions on his coming visit to Davos.

The Centre-State relations took a nosedive, he said while addressing the Janmabhoomi-Maa Vooru meeting organised at Punadipadu village in Penamaluru constituency near Davos.

"We are taking the help of the officials, CWCs of other States and representatives of various NGOs in Andhra Pradesh, and the neighbouring States in restoring the rescued children to their parents," he added.

Political pull: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu engaged in a tug of war at Punadipadu on Sunday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT


Shah were vitiating the secular fabric and political system. The BJP spoiled the peaceful atmosphere in Kerala by taking advantage of the Sabarimala row for its political gains. And, in the name of triple talaq, the BJP was suppressing the Muslims and damaging the family system.

The day the SP and the

BSP indicated their intent to join hands to counter the ruling BJP in the Lok Sabha elections, the CBI raided the premises of their leaders for alleged illegal mining in Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Naidu said.

Mr. Modi was envious of Andhra Pradesh as he feared that it would surpass Gujarat in development, Mr. Naidu said.

NIA issue

The Centre was also trying to usurp the rights of the State by issuing guidelines to the NIA in the case relating to the alleged attack on Mr. Jagannath Reddy, he alleged. "Interfering in law and order, a State subject, is against the federal spirit," Mr. Naidu observed.

"Is it to intimidate SP leader Akhilesh Yadav and scuttle the SP and BSP plans?" he sought to know.

IN BRIEF



Tejaswi to host Grand Alliance meet

The opposition Grand Alliance in Bihar is likely to hold its first formal deliberation on the upcoming Lok Sabha polls during a meeting on Monday at the residence of RJD leader Tejaswi Yadav here. The meeting is likely to be attended by all constituents of the 'Mahagathbandhan'. PTI

IIT faculty member held for rape attempt

A faculty member of IIT-Guwahati was arrested on Sunday for his alleged attempt to rape an insurance agent, police said. She lodged a complaint on Friday against the faculty member in the mathematics department. PTI

3 detained at Jaipur airport with gold

Three persons, including a woman, were detained at the Jaipur airport on Sunday for allegedly smuggling in 3 kg of gold. "The accused arrived at Jaipur from Thailand in a Thai Airways flight in the early hours of the morning, hiding 3 kg of gold in their rectum," an official said. PTI

Three poachers held in Dudhwa reserve

LAKHIMPUR KHIRI
Three poachers were caught red-handed laying traps for herbivorous animals in the forests of Mailani range in the buffer zone of Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, officials said. PTI

Two crushed to death by truck in U.P.

MUZAFFARNAGAR
Two people were killed on Sunday when their motorcycle was hit by a truck at Khatoli town here, the police said. Anil Kumar (28) and Shiv Kumar (27), sugar mill workers, were crushed by the truck when they were returning home from work. PTI

INTERVIEW | PARKASH SINGH BADAL

'We atoned for all our mistakes'

No Sikh who believes in tenets of his religion can comment on the decisions taken by the Takht Sahib

VIKAS VASUDEVA

CHANDIGARH

The Akali Dal senior leadership, including you, your son Sukhbir and daughter-in-law Harsimrat Kaur Badal, recently sought atonement for "mistakes that might have been committed during your (SAD-BJP) rule" at the Akal Takht. What were these mistakes?

■ In Sikh religion, which guides the philosophy of the SAD, the relationship between the Guru and the Sikh is a direct one. When we atoned for our "mistakes", we atoned for all the mistakes which the 'Sangat' (the people) may have deemed us guilty of. In our religion, the 'Sangat' enjoys the status of the Guru. In fact, even super-

ior. Excerpts:

The Shiromani Akali Dal has seen a revolt by a few senior leaders, who allege that the party has been "hijacked" by the "Badal family" and its ideology compromised. How do you react?

■ I have always held them [Taksali leaders] in high esteem and still do. As for their complaints, I really don't know what they mean by the "Badal family" because they still publicly declare that they want me to head the party, and I am the head of the Badal family. As for Mr. Sukhbir, they elected him as the party president, he was not appointed by me. In fact, his name was proposed by Jathedar Ranjit Singh Brahampura, the leader of the breakaway faction. So what can I say?

Do you regret the handling of issues such as the pardon granted to Sirsa-based Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim in a blasphemy case and the Kotkapura-Behbal Kalan police firing incidents of 2015, which followed the Bargari sacrifice?

■ That issue was handled by the honourable Jathedar Sahib of Sri Akal Takht Sahib.

No Sikh who believes in the tenets of his religion can comment on the decisions taken by the Takht Sahib.



Do you think the revolt in the party could have been averted had Mr. Sukhbir resigned?

■ At the first meeting of the party after the defeat in the 2017 Assembly elections, Mr. Sukhbir had not only offered his resignation but also insisted that it should be accepted and someone else should lead the party. I did not intervene at all. These same leaders had rejected his resignation offer then. Nothing has changed since then. They know how a president is appointed or changed and they are free to follow that course.

How do you assess the current Congress government's work in Punjab

so far?

■ You can ask the people. Have they fulfilled any of the promises they made? Have they even discharged the basic duty of a government? This government is not only a failure, in fact this government simply does not exist. People don't know where to go to get their grievances redressed. The Chief Minister is unavailable even to his own partymen. So what should I say? You make your own independent assessment and tell me if I am wrong. I will correct myself.

What's your reaction to Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's stand on the Kartarpur Sahib corridor regarding security concerns while dealing with Pakistan?

■ He [Capt. Amarinder Singh] must not do anything that sabotages this achievement. Unfortunately, his stand is 'neither here nor there'. And this is dictated by his intra-party insecurities. He should take the lead as he is the Chief Minister. At the moment, it does not appear that he is honest about implementing the corridor. The Government of India has taken the initiative and that has forced Pakistan to respond. Captain Sahib should ignore immature people in his party and his Cabinet

who credit Pakistan for this achievement. He should implement the corridor as India's achievement. Unfortunately, he looks so confused. I hope he clears his thoughts on the issue.

You are in alliance with the BJP, but the Akali Dal has said that it would contest the Parliamentary/State Assembly elections in Haryana independently. Is it ethical to have a pre-poll alliance with the BJP, a ministerial berth in the Union Government and then fighting against the same party in other States/States?

■ In Punjab, our alliance is not a political one. It is a guarantee for social and communal harmony. In other States and at the Centre, we follow a common minimum programme. The alliance in Punjab was a historical necessity considering the challenges to Hindu-Sikh unity and harmony. I think we served and are serving a great cause.

What is your advice to the BJP, after the results of the Assembly elections held in five States recently?

■ Ups and downs happen in life. I am sure there are much wiser people in the BJP than me to find out what needs to be improved.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Monday: Heavy rain likely at isolated places over Andaman Islands; squally winds with speed reaching 40-60 kmph very likely over southeast and east-central Bay of Bengal; dense fog likely over Haryana, Delhi, north Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	27.0	9.5	Kozhikode	33.4	21.4
Ahmedabad	27.4	13.2	Kurnool	31.6	16.7
Aizawl	25.6	12.9	Lucknow	21.0	11.2
Allahabad	25.7	11.0	Madurai	31.2	19.6
Bengaluru	28.6	13.6	Mangaluru	32.9	17.9
Bhopal	26.5	10.5	Mumbai	30.6	14.4
Bhubaneswar	28.0	10.2	Mysuru	29.4	13.5
Chandigarh	19.2	10.7	New Delhi	18.9	4.3
Chennai	29.6	20.7	Patna	25.7	8.5
Coimbatore	29.5	17.8	Poona Blair	28.7	23.0
Dehradun	16.9	8.8	Puducherry	30.2	17.0
Gangtok	14.7	4.6	Pune	30.9	10.3
Goa	33.2	18.5	Rajpur	28.6	13.2
Guwahati	25.1	9.5	Ranchi	26.0	8.3
Hubbballi	29.0	14.0	Shillong	17.9	5.6
Hyderabad	28.8	15.0	Shimla	3.7	1.7
Imphal	23.2	3.6	Srinagar	6.3	-1.2
Jaipur	20.3	11.0	Trivandrum	32.4	20.4
Kochi	29.6	20.2	Tiruchi	30.0	19.8
Kohima	16.7	3.0	Vijayawada	28.5	19.5
Kolkata	26.7	12.8	Visakhapatnam	27.0	19.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	68	.95	.27	.222
Bengaluru9	.55	.106	.104
Chennai	31	.15	.60	.337
Delhi	25	.60	.355	.316
Hyderabad	3	101	.37	.168	.145
Kolkata	20	118	.12	.325	.242
Lucknow	16	.78	.54	.425
Mumbai	31	.74	.114	.178	.195
Pune	15	.15	.7	.201	.138
Vishakhapatnam	16	.88	.46	.293

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Patna, Bihar recorded an overall AQI score of 400 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Amritsar, Punjab recorded a healthy AQI score of 39

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

■ SO₂: 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.

■ NO₂: 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_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Another PDP leader quits, denting party's poll prospects

PEERZADA ASHIQ

SRINAGAR

Javed Mustafa Mir, former Minister in the Mehbooba Mufti's Cabinet, quit Peoples Democratic Party on Sunday and was mulling the option of joining the Congress.

The three-time MLA from central Kashmir's Chadoora said he has put forth his resignation before Ms. Mufti. He

refused to divulge the reasons for exiting the party, saying the resignation was his "personal decision".

"It is my personal decision," said Mr. Mir, who served as Revenue Minister in the PDP-BJP government but was later dropped by Ms. Mufti from her Council of Ministers in 2016.

Sources said Mr. Mir was

mulling the option of joining the Congress.

He became the fourth former PDP Minister to quit the party since the PDP-BJP government fell apart in June last year.

Earlier, former Finance Minister Haseeb Drabu, former Law Minister Basharat Bukhari and former Information Technology Minister Imran Ansari had resigned from the party after expressing dissatisfaction with the leadership.

Meanwhile, another PDP leader Abbas Wani, who represented the party from Tangmarg constituency, joined Sajad Lone's People's Conference. Three MLAs from the PDP have joined Mr. Lone's party so far. Two PDP

MLCs also resigned from the party.

At least 10 prominent faces have left the party, denting the PDP's prospects in the coming Assembly polls.

Meanwhile, the PDP on Sunday asked National Conference president Farooq Abdullah to clear his position on the Ram Mandir and Article 35-A.

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LEGAL NOTICE

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O.S.No. 5300 OF 2018

BETWEEN:
ITW Consulting Private Limited,
16/1, 1st Floor, AVS Compound, 80
Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala,
Bangalore - 560034. Represented
by its Legal Executive, Ms. Saumya
Prakash

PLAINTIFF

AND

DIMAS Advertising &
Communications Pvt Ltd ..
DEFENDANT

Notice / Summons to Defendant
under Order V Rule XX of Code of
Civil Procedure.

To,

Defendant- DMAS Advertising &
Communications Pvt Ltd, V-11,
Green Park Extension/New Delhi -
110 016. Represented by its Director,
Alok

IN BRIEF



Vinod Tawde ordered my arrest, says student

MUMBAI An undergraduate student in Amravati has alleged that Maharashtra Education Minister Vinod Tawde ordered his arrest when he was recording a conversation between him and a fellow student, a charge denied by the Minister. PTI

Three held for murder of engineering student

TIRUCHI Three youth were arrested on Sunday for killing a 20-year-old engineering student, Mumthazer. The accused became upset after Mumthazer befriended the same girl he was in touch with, police said.

26 held for malpractice during test in U.P.

LUCKNOW As many as 26 people were arrested across U.P. in connection with the assistant teachers' recruitment exam held on Sunday, the police said. The police arrested four in Moradabad, three in Kanpur, two each in Allahabad and Azamgarh. PTI

Air India Express flight returns after take off

MUMBAI A Mumbai-Dubai Air India Express flight returned to the Mumbai airport on Sunday after being airborne for an hour after a snag. Airport sources cited a "hydraulic failure" as the reason.

CRPF jawan shoots self after firing at colleagues

SRINAGAR Following an argument, a CRPF jawan shot himself dead after firing at two of his colleagues inside a camp here on Sunday. The slain jawan has been identified as Mukesh Bhawuk, a police official said. His colleagues are safe.

Tribals of West Bengal battling food scarcity: study

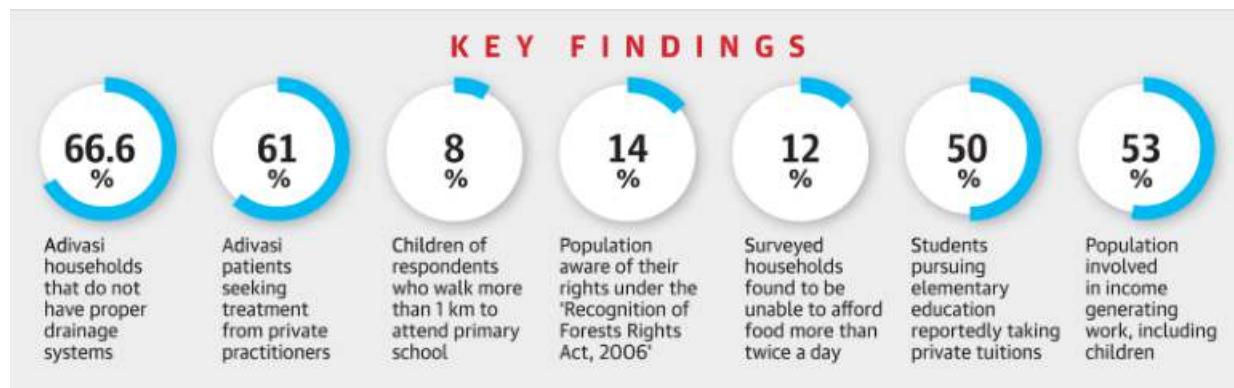
Communities are 'far behind' in terms of human development, says survey of 1,000 households by Professor Amartya Sen's institute

SUVIJIT BAGCHI
KOLKATA

Two months after the West Bengal government denied any food scarcity as a possible cause of death of seven persons from a tribal community, a survey report has identified "food scarcity in varying degrees" in about 31% of tribal households in West Bengal.

The study titled 'An Inquiry into the world of the Adivasis of West Bengal', conducted by Professor Amartya Sen's Pratichi Institute and Asiatic Society, will be released in Kolkata on Monday.

The survey was conducted in 1,000 tribal households to ascertain living conditions, health and education.



West Bengal is home to over five million tribals, with 6% of the India's tribal population of 100 million. But in many areas, tribals of the State are "far behind" in terms of human development. One area, which has

been a matter of contention in recent months after the death of seven tribals in a span of 15 days in November, is scarcity of food. The preliminary survey report claimed that "nearly one third [31%] of the surveyed

households" reportedly faced "food scarcity in varying degrees" in the past year.

"...while some households faced acute hunger only in some months (August-October), in many cases, people had half-meals only twice

a day. Also, in some cases, adult members [of households] reportedly ate only once a day," the report noted. Most of the families surveyed could hardly afford animal protein or pulses.

In addition "poverty-born

deaths" and only four were due to old age.

The work participation rate [WPR] is higher among the Adivasis in Bengal "forcing the children of school-going age to discontinue their studies in order to fend [for] themselves and support the families," the report noted. According to the Census of 2011, while WPR is 39% and 49% in Bengal and India, respectively, "the corresponding figures for Adivasis were 49% and 47%", indicating the participation of more children.

"Both the children and elderly were also involved in earning, and that the rate of transition in education was low..." the report said.

Kirti Chakra awardee beaten up in road rage

Army officer did not make way for bikers on the footpath

RENNI ABRAHAM
MUMBAI

Lieutenant Colonel Anup Joseph Manjali, 36, a Kirti Chakra awardee, was allegedly assaulted by five youngsters in an incident of road rage in Malad in the early hours of Sunday.

He is being treated for a dislocated shoulder and injuries under his eye, and to the forehead and head, at a suburban hospital.

Lt. Col. Manjali, now attached to the 12 Bihar unit (Regiment), was awarded the second highest peace time gallantry award in 2013.

Three people have been arrested for the attack, which occurred a little after



Lt. Col. Anup Joseph Manjali

midnight on Saturday.

Senior police inspector Vijay Bane of the Bangur Nagar police station told *The Hindu*, "Three accused were arrested and produced in court on Sunday. The Army

officer was standing on the footpath when the youth rode their motorcycles on it and demanded that he move out of their way. This resulted in a skirmish."

Was waiting on footpath
Lt. Col. Joseph told *The Hindu* that the incident took place when he was waiting on the footpath for his mother, who was to be dropped off by a relative after a family function.

Lt. Col. Manjali was awarded the Kirti Chakra for eliminating three terrorists in Kupwara in Jammu and Kashmir in 2012. He was attached to the Rashtriya Rifles segment at the time.

Delhi-bound aircraft lands in Varanasi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A fuel alert forced a SpiceJet plane from Hong Kong to Delhi to make an emergency landing at Varanasi on Sunday morning.

"A Boeing 737 plane of SpiceJet issued a pan-pan call for permission for a priority landing at Varanasi after an engine shutdown," a government source said. The plane took off from Hong Kong at 7.40 a.m., and was to have landed at New Delhi at 10.50 am.

A pan-pan call is issued when there is a minor emergency that requires assistance, but is not life threatening.

The airline did not disclose the number of passengers on the aircraft.

Railways propose new security plan at stations

Passengers to be told to arrive 20 minutes early for checks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Railways is planning to seal stations just like airports, and passengers would be advised to arrive 15-20 minutes before scheduled departure of trains to complete security checks.

The security plan – with high-end technology – has already been put in motion at Allahabad, for the Kumbh Mela which begins this month, and at the Hubballi railway station in Karnataka with a blueprint for 202 more stations ready for implementation, Railway Protection Force Director-General Arun Kumar told PTI.

"The plan is to seal the railway stations. It is primarily about identifying openings and to determine how many can be closed."

"There are areas which will be closed through permanent boundary walls, others will be manned by RPF personnel, and others will have collapsible gates." At each entry point there will be random security checks. However, unlike at airports, passengers need not come hours in advance, just 15-20 minutes ahead of their departure time," he said.



A sea of passengers at Chennai Central station. ■ R. RAVINDRAN

Meal scheme:CPI(M) slams pact with NGO

Meals don't meet nutritional needs'



The Akshaya Foundation offered to run the midday meal scheme in Puducherry.

scrap the agreement, Mr. Rajangam said the Education Department should continue with the existing mode where food was prepared at its central kitchen and served in schools.

IndiGo plans daily flights to Istanbul

Non-stop service will begin by March

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Low-cost carrier IndiGo aims to launch daily non-stop flights to Turkey's capital city of Istanbul by March, according to an airline source.

Istanbul will be the first international destination to be served by the brand new narrow-bodied A321 Neos being inducted by the airline, providing it the capability to fly for six hours non-stop.

"We aim to start direct flights to Istanbul during the (ongoing) winter session," said an IndiGo official.

The winter schedule starts from the last Sunday of October and continues till

the last Saturday of March.

IndiGo recently announced a codeshare agreement with the Turkish Airlines, allowing a passenger to book a connecting flight with the partner airline on one ticket for sectors between India, Istanbul and beyond.

The airline also has plans to provide onward connectivity to destinations in Europe, including the U.K. It is reliably learnt that IndiGo is exploring the option of flying to Birmingham or Gatwick. The airline recently added international destinations such as Colombo, Male, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur to its network.

Delhi BJP attempts world record with 5,000 kg dish

Rice & lentils for khichdi collected from 3 lakh Dalit families



What's cooking: Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari trying his hands at cooking the dish in New Delhi on Sunday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

With an eye on the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, the Delhi BJP attempted to reach out to Dalits on Sunday by preparing 5,000 kg of khichdi with rice and lentils collected from about three lakh Scheduled Caste households, the party said.

Workers of the Delhi BJP SC Morcha gathered at Ramila Maidan here for the world record attempt, a Delhi BJP statement said. For the past three months, its workers had gone from door-to-door to the Dalit families to collect a fistful of rice and lentils from each, the party said.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Ashok Goel said the chef who holds the record for the largest quantity of khichdi cooked in one vessel at 3,000 kg, Vishnu Manohar, had been roped in for the record attempt. The dish in-

cluded 200 kg of ghee, 400 kg of rice and 500 kg of lentils. The Delhi BJP has sent details of the event for registration to the Guinness World Records.

Amit Shah stays away
While BJP national president and Rajya Sabha member Amit Shah gave the event a miss, other BJP leaders including Delhi BJP president

Orange alert sounded for Pabuk

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Centre has sounded an "orange" alert for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, officials said on Sunday.

Cyclonic storm Pabuk is approaching the archipelago and currently hovering over the Andaman sea and the neighbourhood, they added.

An "orange" alert means an increased likelihood of bad or extreme weather, which may disrupt road and air travel and threaten life and property.

Manoj Tiwari and Union Minister Thawar Chand Gehlot were present.

According to party sources, the event "Bheem Mahasangam Vijay Sankalp 2019" was to enable Prime Minister Narendra Modi to win and to "create a positive atmosphere, connecting all the sections of society with the program of samartha khichdi".

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From	To	

1 Bid. ID. No. PC-EST -E-76/2018-19 07.01.2019 at 16.00 Hrs. to 21.01.2019 up to 17.00 Hrs.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal. www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-procurement portal www.tenderodisha.gov.in as well as IDCO website www.idco.in.

Sd/-

Chief General Manager (P&C) I/C
IDCO, Bhubaneswar

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
10-3-311/A, CASTLE HILLS, MASAB TOWERS, HYDERABAD-500028
Tel: 040-23536740, 23538713 to 23538721 Ext. 230, Fax: 23538781, CN: L130094/P1956G01001674
Email: jmsra@nmdc.co.in, kmsra@nmdc.co.in, gkondra@nmdc.co.in

Open Tender Notice (E-Procurement Mode Only)
E-tenders are invited for following item from reputed manufacturers directly or through their accredited agents in India.

Sl. No.	Description	Display and sale of Tender Documents	Last Date & Time for submission of Tender through online
---------	-------------	--------------------------------------	--

Open Tender Notice, Ref: HQMM/0223-18/C&IT/18-19/Hardware/915 Dt.05.01.2019

1. Supply and Installation of Upgradation of HPE 4200 & 3 PAR 8200 SAN Storage and Supply and installation of HPE Blade Servers for NMDC Ltd., Masab Tank, Hyderabad - 500028 07-01-2019 (2.30 pm IST)

Open Tender Notice, Ref: HQMM/0223-18/C&IT/18-19/Software/916 Dt.05.01.2019

2. Supply, Install and Configure the Microsoft Windows Server 2016 Data Centre Edition License and Microsoft Windows System Centre 2016 Data Centre Edition License and Red Hat Enterprise Linux for NMDC Ltd., Masab Tank, Hyderabad - 500 028 07-01-2019 (2.30 pm IST)

Prospective bidders may visit our websites: www.nmdc.co.in; CPP Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in>; <https://insticcommerce.com> and may download the tender documents. Any corrigendum to the above tender notice will be uploaded on our website only.

Executive Director (Materials)

NLC India Limited
(Formerly Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited)
Navratis - Government of India Enterprise
Regd. Office : First Floor, No. 8, May Satyamurthy Road, Ettimadai, Coimbatore - 641 031.
FSD, Egmore Complex Food Corporation of India, Chetpet, Chennai - 600 031.
Corp. Office : Block-I, Neyveli-801 Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu.
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Bring in the experts

Jayalalithaa's death does not deserve to be clouded by murky conspiracy theories

The philosopher Karl Popper argued that conspiracy theories are often premised on the notion that events are manipulated by sinister groups, shaped by a distrust of the notion of randomness and a yearning to explain phenomena in terms of an underlying or intentional order. From the birth of history, the death of famous people has provided a breeding ground for conspiracy theories. Clearly, the unfortunate and untimely passing away of Jayalalithaa has become a playing ground for such 'theorists'. Astonishingly, more than a year after she died, two Tamil Nadu Ministers have called for a probe into her death by a special investigation team. Meanwhile, the Commission of Inquiry headed by Justice (retired) A. Arumugham, constituted in September 2017 to probe her illness and death, is well into a third extension of its tenure. If it sometimes appears as if the Commission is shooting blindfolded in a dark room with blanks, that is because it is unclear if its principal focus is the issue of the "circumstances and situation leading to her hospitalisation", "subsequent treatment" and "unfortunate demise" or a larger conspiracy into her death. Both issues could be related, in theory. But if the main task is to determine whether the former Chief Minister received adequate medical attention before she was admitted in hospital and during her 75-day stay there, then this can only be settled by independent medical experts.

The corporate hospital she was treated in has filed a petition before the Commission seeking the constitution of a medical board comprising experts in a range of specialities to examine the case records and the interventions made by its doctors. This is an eminently sensible suggestion, given the complex and debilitating matrix of conditions that Jayalalithaa suffered from. Only a complete understanding of her overall medical condition can result in a fair conclusion about the treatment she got. The importance of doing this is all the greater, given reports of critical errors in the recording of depositions of doctors before the Commission. One of them has gone as far as to say his application to correct errors has failed. The conspiracy angle has been given a new and perplexing lease of life with the Commission's counsel accusing the hospital and the State's Health Secretary of "conspiracy" and "collusion" in providing "inappropriate treatment". It would be improper to suggest that the Arumugham panel is conducting the probe in anything but a fair manner, but it is essential that it also gives the impression that it is doing just that. After all, there is no getting away from the fact that the setting up of an inquiry commission had a clear political motive – it was a condition that needed to be satisfied to unite the warring AIADMK factions. Chasing elusive conspiracies will not enhance the Commission's image; taking the help of competent experts will.

Removing fear

The private member's Bill aimed at protecting literary freedom from threats is welcome

Literary freedom is taken for granted in democracies, but forces that threaten or undermine it are always at work. Each age has to fight the battle afresh. In recent times, several attempts to get books withdrawn, pulped or sanitised of offending content have achieved full or partial success in India. Wendy Doniger's *The Hindus: An Alternative History* was withdrawn from circulation, and A.K. Ramanujan's essay 'Three Hundred Ramayanas' was dropped from a Delhi University syllabus. Tamil writer Perumal Murugan's *Madhorubagan* was withdrawn by the author under mob pressure but resurrected by a Madras High Court verdict. Public order, national unity and social or religious harmony are the principles commonly invoked against the practice of literary freedom. Threats to free expression, especially artistic freedom, in our times mainly come from those claiming to espouse the interests of a particular religion or social group. It is in this context that Shashi Tharoor, Congress MP and writer, has introduced a private member's Bill in the Lok Sabha seeking to protect freedom of literature. Its objective – that "authors must be guaranteed the freedom to express their work without fear of punitive action by the State or by sections of society" – commands itself to any society that upholds liberal values. It seeks the omission of three IPC sections, including 295A, in effect a non-denominational blasphemy law, as it targets deliberate or malicious acts to outrage religious feelings.

Section 295A is a grossly misused section, often invoked in trivial ways to hound individuals, harass writers and curtail free expression. It deserves to be scrapped. Sections that relate to the sale of obscene books and uttering words that hurt religious feelings are also sought to be omitted. However, it is unclear why Section 153A, which punishes those who promote enmity between groups on grounds of religion, race or language, and Section 153B, which criminalises words and imputations prejudicial to national integration, do not draw Mr. Tharoor's attention. In the process of proscribing a book, he proposes a tweak in the form of a 15-day prohibition. Thereafter, the onus should be on the State government to approach the High Court to seek a permanent ban. It favours the scrapping of the provision in the Customs Act to ban the import of books, but makes a public order exception. It wants to limit the bar on obscenity in the Information Technology Act to child pornography. Private Bills rarely become law, but they are useful in highlighting gaps in the body of law. Seen in this light, Mr. Tharoor's initiative is most welcome as a step towards removing or diluting penal provisions that inhibit literary freedom.

The CBI and the rules of political combat

Elite consensus may often degenerate into a ganging up of the powerful, but its absence results in chaos



D. SHYAM BABU

The year 2018 witnessed the emergence of two inter-related threats to India's federal polity. But the political class remains oblivious to the potential of these threats, if not tackled in time, to inflict system-wide damage.

The first threat is that the national investigative and regulatory agencies, such as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), are increasingly seen to be unmoved of the well-established bureaucratic professionalism and neutrality. The State-level agencies may be far worse, but that is a different matter. The political impact of this sentiment, whether it is true or false, is the refusal of some State governments to permit the CBI to conduct its operations in their States.

Strong signals

Giving credence to the doubts about the CBI's integrity, the families of Govind Pansare and Gauri Lankesh, who were killed in 2015 and in 2017, respectively, have determined to oppose a combined CBI investigation into their killings as well as that of Narendra Dabholkar and M.M. Kalburgi.

Gone are the days when people would demand a CBI probe into any crime or scam involving influential persons. One may dismiss the State governments' blocking the CBI probes within their jurisdictions as politically motivated, but one cannot ignore civil societies

's lack of confidence in the agency's competence and neutrality.

The second threat to our political system is the increasing tendency, especially among the two national parties, to not only implicate each other's leaders in litigation but relish the spectre of the other having to spend time in courts or in jail. Our political space is turning into the moral universe of *Buck Grangerford* in Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* wherein one is only certain of the other being one's mortal enemy but one's not sure of what's the feud about, or who started it or when. This moral relativism is corrosive and dangerous.

Though the kind of institutional collapse for which the CBI has become the poster-boy, and the political adversity turning into personal enmity are not new but they, like a disease, have entered a critical phase.

Centre-State implications

In November, the governments of Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal withdrew 'general consent' to the CBI to register fresh cases under its purview. One implication of the decision is that the CBI will have to obtain the State's consent case by case; this will give a State government the opportunity to both ensure that the CBI is not acting at the behest of the ruling party at the Centre, or insert its own politics into investigations. The agency may technically go ahead with cases already registered in these States, but that logic holds only on paper.

Without a State government's active cooperation, the CBI or any Central agency cannot carry out its operations in that State. This is a truly tragic moment for the CBI, which has had its roots as an anti-corruption wing of the



British Indian government known as the Delhi Special Police Establishment, a lacklustre name till 1963, when it became the CBI. That from such humble origins it rose to national eminence was a tribute to its competence and professionalism.

As mentioned, in the past some States occasionally blocked the CBI probe in specific cases but what is new, as exemplified by the decisions of Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal governments, is that hereafter a State's refusal to allow the CBI probe in its territory is likely to be based not so much on the merits of a case but on political equations between that State and the ruling party at the Centre.

It is not the CBI alone that will be caught in the cross hairs of Centre-State feuds in future. Other agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate, the National Investigation Agency (NIA), etc. may find it hard to smoothly carry out their operations in States that are not politically aligned with the ruling party at the Centre.

There was a time in the 1980s when a special income tax team sought to conduct search and seizure operations against persons close to the ruling party in Jammu and Kashmir without informing the local police for obvious reasons.

sons, the team faced unpleasant backlash.

Under the Constitution, the State governments have exclusive jurisdiction in matters related to law and order. The Centre can claim its jurisdiction over its departments located in States, such as railway property, and on matters like terrorism, sedition, counterfeit currency, etc. Even in these cases the Central agencies cannot discharge their duties without active cooperation from the State government concerned.

Consider this, for example: unlike the CBI act (the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act) which mandates States' consent, the NIA Act does not place such a restraint on the NIA. However, the NIA would be no more effective than the CBI when a State refuses to cooperate, whether that refusal is *de jure* or *de facto*.

Dialogue required

Our federal system, insofar as it is concerned with the national investigative and regulatory agencies, worked well due to two reasons. One, as long as a single party remained in power at the Centre and in most States, the issue of political interference did not arise.

Two, these agencies' reputation for professionalism and impartiality also ensured their success.

It is clear now that no single party will be so dominant at the national as well as State levels into the foreseeable future, and regrettably these agencies are not in pink of their health. But herein lies an opportunity.

The absence of a single-party dominant polity means that India will witness a revolving-door politics where the ruling party and the Opposition will exchange places fairly regularly. And their propensity

to lock up each other will abate.

The present context also highlights the urgent need to define and delineate 'federal crimes' as recommended by the Malimath Committee in 2003. The exercise should not be about compiling a list of crimes and prefacing each crime with the 'federal' adjective. Instead, the task should be to bring in States as partners in solving a national problem: how best to calibrate different tiers of government and bring about political consensus so as to ensure India's constitutional scheme delivers on its promise.

A first step in this direction has to be the willingness of political parties, especially the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress, to recognise the danger they pose to each other as well as to the entire polity. And then arrive at a *modus vivendi* which must contain the need for the elected executive to refrain from 'monitoring' investigations; a provision for more effective judicial oversight at all stages of criminal investigations; and the resolve to ensure bureaucratic neutrality.

Restoring credibility

The task of restoring the credibility of investigative agencies cannot be rocket science. Moreover, it is now in the self-interest of all political parties. As the nation approaches the national elections in a few months, the time is ripe for ideas to strengthen our federalism. Ideas for reforms will spring up and fructify only if elite consensus creates a conducive environment.

D. Shyam Babu is Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal

India's options and the Pashtun factor

In fashioning its Afghan policy, India has to take into account a resurgent Taliban



MOHAMMED AYOOB

It's rightly being pointed out that India has to be prepared for the potential consequences of the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan. While New Delhi is weighing its options it must take into account that for all its antipathy toward the Afghan Taliban, the latter does represent, in a distorted form, a facet of Pashtun nationalism. What has given added potency to the Taliban's appeal is this: its ability to couch in religious terminology traditional Pashtun aspirations for dominance in Afghanistan as well as the aversion of Pashtun tribes to foreign interference in their land.

Invasion shifts power

It is the combination of ultra-orthodox Islam, a product of Saudi involvement in the so-called Afghan "jihad", with Pashtunwali, the traditional Pashtun social code, and opposition to foreign presence that provides strength to the Taliban. Most Pashtuns, who comprise over 40% of the population of Afghanistan, believe that they are the rightful rulers of the country. They base this on the history of the past 300 years when Pashtun dynasties ruled Afghanistan.

Tan almost throughout. While the Persian-speaking Tajiks, who form around a quarter of the population, are more urban and educated than the Pashtun tribes and staffed a substantial portion of the Afghan bureaucracy, the ruling dynasties were invariably Pashtun.

This situation changed with the American invasion in 2001 aided by the largely Tajik Northern Alliance that shifted the locus of power out of Pashtun hands. The emergence of the Pashtun Taliban from Kandahar in 1994 was in reaction partly to the fear of Tajik domination and partly to the mayhem and anarchy caused by the "mujahideen" factions fighting each other for control of the country. With Pakistan's military help the predominantly Pashtun Taliban imposed a degree of order and ruled approximately three-quarters of Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001.

Pashtun resentment against foreign intervention, which drove their opposition to the Soviet invasion and now fuels antipathy towards American military presence, also has a long history going back to their resistance to British intrusion during the 19th century. It was augmented by British success in dividing the Pashtun lands in eastern and southeastern Afghanistan and drawing the Durand Line that attached a large portion to British India, now Pakistan. This drastically reduced Pashtun demographic superiority in Afghanistan. Opposition to the Durand Line was the principal reason why Afghanistan voted against Pakistan's admission to the UN in 1947.

Traditionally, Pashtun nationalism in Afghanistan was based on ethnicity and tribal loyalties and not connected to religion, which explains their hostility toward predominantly Muslim Pakistan during the first three decades of its existence. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979 fundamentally changed the nature of Pashtun nationalism. It led to American and Saudi support for the Afghan insurgency, with Pakistan acting as the conduit for American arms and Saudi financial support to the tribes fighting the Soviets and their proxy government in Kabul. It also led to the import of Saudi-Wahhabi ideology through madrasas set up with Saudi funding on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. These madrasas produced the first generation of the Taliban.

Pakistan and the Pashtuns

Simultaneously, the Soviet invasion altered the nature of Pakistan's relationship with Pashtun nationalism, turning it from hostility to support. This process culminated with the installation of the Taliban regime in Kabul in 1996 with Pakistan's military aid. It provided Pakistan with strategic depth in the event of a future conflict with India. Equally important, Pakistan's support to this religiously inspired manifestation of Pashtun nationalism largely solved the problem of Pashtun irredentism in Pakistan.

FILE PHOTO/AP

nationalism largely solved the problem of Pashtun irredentism in Pakistan.

Although polls show that the majority of Afghans do not support the Taliban, the divided and infirm nature of the nominally ruling dispensation and its corruption and inefficiency have helped the Taliban gain renewed support among parts of the Pashtun population. Added to this is the vicarious satisfaction that many Pashtuns feel at the Taliban's defiance of the Kabul government, making it a viable force in Afghanistan.

The resurgent Taliban is driven not so much by Islam as the quest for Pashtun dignity and revenge. While it is not in a position to rule over the entire country, and certainly not the urban areas, it does control large swathes of the rural areas in the predominantly Pashtun provinces of eastern and southeastern Afghanistan. In other words, it is in a position to make the country ungovernable and indefinitely continue the civil war especially because of its control of the drug trade that finances its ac-

tivities. The withdrawal of American forces will provide it greater opportunity to expand its area of operation.

Indian policy

It is important that New Delhi takes this factor into account while fashioning its policy toward Afghanistan in anticipation of American withdrawal. India's refusal to publicly criticise, let alone denounce, the Soviet invasion of 1979, while understandable in that particular geopolitical context and a consequence of India's gratitude for Soviet support during the Bangladesh war, ended up doing India great harm in the eyes of its traditional friends in Afghanistan, the Pashtuns. It also provided Pakistan greater scope to curry favour with Afghanistan's largest and traditionally dominant ethnic group.

It will take a great deal of creative thinking and imaginative re-fashioning of New Delhi's policy towards Afghanistan for India to recover lost ground *vis-à-vis* the Pashtuns. Depending on the U.S., itself on the verge of cutting its losses in Afghanistan, or on other powers such as Russia and Iran to protect Indian interests in that country will be foolhardy and counter-productive.

Mohammed Ayoob is University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of International Relations, Michigan State University and Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Center for Global Policy, Washington DC

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.

Rafale, in Parliament

The debate in Parliament on the Rafale fighter aircraft deal was with fireworks but did not clarify any doubt. Union Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman may have had the upper hand and come up with punchlines – such as that if the Bofors issue brought down the Congress party, Rafale, on the other hand, will help Prime Minister Narendra Modi come to power again – but there is no logic here. How can a deal with many questions over it help the government? Rhetoric apart, the government has not answered a key issue – of the selection of a private and novice Indian company as offset partner. The Narendra Modi government has to prove that it did not favour anyone unduly. The government cannot hide

behind the excuse that the choice of selecting the partner is that of the seller's.

Dr. D.V.G. SANKARAO, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh

■ Ms. Sitharaman's long-winded speech has not cleared the air. Her invocation of 'national security' and 'hostile environment' was fine as a prelude to her defence of the dubious deal. But their connection to the alleged corruption in the Rafale deal was left unexplained. She left a raft of questions unanswered – on the number of aircraft, the cost, the choice of the private Indian firm and the lack of a sovereign guarantee. Her contention that defence procurement was at its weakest under the UPA regime was quite relevant to the issue at hand.

Only a few will believe that the Indian private company was made the Indian offset partner by Dassault Aviation without being prodded to do so by the Indian government. Only a few will accept that debt and inexperience could help such a firm qualify.

Referring to the AgustaWestland deal, Ms. Sitharaman held that the HAL would give only helicopters and "not anything else", oblivious to the fact that the same logic applies to the deal in question too. Instead of fielding his Ministers to defend the shady deal, the Prime Minister must be upfront about all that he knows and clear the air.

G. DAVID MILTON, Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

neither AgustaWestland nor Rafale which is going to bring the BJP or the Congress back to power. It is the non-performance of the NDA at the Centre which is going to play a vital role in the general election. Voters are not fools. Ms. Sitharaman must remember the long list of significant promises the BJP made when it swept to power in 2014. Her statement in Parliament could haunt the BJP in the forthcoming general election.

MOHAN ARIMBOOR, Thrissur, Kerala

■ Ms. Sitharaman appears to have a sense of humour. She knows fully well that it is

government will make public the names of all major bank defaulters and initiate strict recovery proceedings, including legal action where applicable.

A. MOHAN, Chennai

Blood safety

The case of a pregnant woman in Tamil Nadu testing positive for HIV as a result of a blood transfusion raises many questions on the efficacy of the medical care being offered in the State (Tamil Nadu, "Tainted blood", January 6). In India, there is much reliance placed on laboratory assistants especially in pathology laboratories operated by private firms. Readings too differ drastically from one clinic to the other even if tests are taken within a span of a few days. There is rampant commercialisation

observed, with many such laboratories offering heavily discounted package deals for a series of health/blood tests. How far tests conducted at such throwaway prices are reliable, no one knows. The Medical Council of India should frame proper guidelines so that there is no margin for error.

V. SUBRAMANIAN, Chennai

No to plastics

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Lessons for Kashmir from the Kuriles

India and Pakistan can learn from Japan and Russia on seeking innovative solutions to disputes



KRISHNAN SRINIVASAN

The Second World War left behind many problems inherited from history, not least in Asia in respect of multiple disputed territories. One of them concerns four islands in the Kurile chain that are claimed by Japan but occupied by Russia as successor state of the Soviet Union. Despite the passage of over 70 years, this dispute has defied solution and prevented the conclusion of a Russo-Japanese peace treaty to draw a final curtain over the detritus of the war.

Claims and counterclaims

The Kuriles are an archipelago of some 56 islands spanning about 1,800 km from Japan's Hokkaido to Russia's Kamchatka. All of them are under Russian jurisdiction but Japan claims the two large southernmost islands, Etorofu and Kunashiri, and two others, Shikotan and Habomai, as its 'northern territories'. These islands were occupied by the Soviet Union in August 1945, after which the entire Japanese population, numbering less than 20,000, was evicted. The islands are now populated by the various ethnic groups of the former Soviet Union, but only eight of them are actually inhabited.

The prime value of the islands, however, is strategic. The Russians have deployed missile systems, plan a submarine project there, and intend to preclude any American military use of the islands.

Public opinion in both countries is totally averse to any concession. Russian memory recalls the Japan-Russia war (1904-05) and the Japanese intervention with the U.S. and Europe during the early years of the Russian Revolution. Moscow's legal claim is based on the post-war settlements of Yalta and San Francisco, whereas the Japanese claim is founded on the Russia-Japan treaties of 1855 and 1875. Leaders in both Russia and Japan are aware that their domestic political positions would be severely at risk from right-wing and conservative circles were they to suggest even the slightest compromise.



"Although Russia has for long been Japan's hypothetical enemy, Japanese PM Shinzo Abe's wish to engage with Moscow stems from the rapid rise of China." Russian President Vladimir Putin (left) with Mr. Abe in Moscow in 2013. • AFP

mits and Foreign Ministers' meetings have become commonplace.

Moscow is concerned about Tokyo amending Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, which disallows Japan from maintaining a military force or using force to settle international disputes, and views with anxiety the fact that Japan is among the world's biggest spenders on defence and has a very powerful military. Japan plays host to American bases and missile systems, and plans to spend \$240 billion up to 2024 on cruise missiles, missile interceptors, fighter jets and aircraft carriers. Responsible for this military build-up are trepidations about threats from China and North Korea. South Korea for its part has similar apprehensions and, apart from being the world's 11th major economy, has now become the 12th strongest military power. Moscow cannot be unaware that Japan and South Korea seem to be inching towards a future of relative independence from the U.S. in wartime operations, especially in the context of the projected American decline in world status, and the political uncertainties among Washington's political circles.

Although Russia has for long been a hypothetical enemy of Japan's, Mr. Abe's wish to engage with Russia stems from the rapid rise of China, which spends three times more on defence than Japan, and the perceived threat from North Korea, which recently fired two ballistic missiles over Japan as a taunt to the U.S.

Russia is now seen in Japan as the lesser enemy, and improving relations with Moscow might drive a wedge in the growing quasi-alliance between Russia and China, a breakup desired by the U.S.-led Western alliance. Tokyo notes that the Russian far east is endowed with plentiful natural resources which are in need of investments, but is hampered by a small population, whereas China has 100 million citizens along that shared land border. Japan has no territorial or demographic ambitions in Russia other than the Kuriles, and has the capacity to transform the vast contiguous areas of Russia.

Towards greater collaboration

Therefore, it is hardly surprising that both Japan and Russia see merit in pursuing greater collaboration, although the U.S. has made no secret its displeasure at Japan's accommodating attitude towards Russia. At Vladivostok last September, Mr. Abe declared that Japan-Russia relations held "unlimited potential" and that the absence of a peace treaty was "an abnormal state of affairs". Mr. Putin agreed, noting that the Russian and Japanese militaries had cooperated for the first time, and urged the immediate conclusion of a peace treaty without preconditions. Japan demurred on the grounds that the Kurile islands dispute had to be settled first before the issue was foreclosed. Nonetheless, Mr. Abe stated that "Japan-Russia relations are advancing at a degree never seen before."

The interactions between Japan and Russia probably hold scant interest for the Indian public. Nevertheless, although no two international problems are analogous, there are important lessons to be drawn from the manner in which traditionally hostile neighbours can identify common interests and explore unorthodox avenues along which to proceed in search of innovative solutions to apparently insoluble disputes. This requires strong leadership and a bold imagination. Neither India nor Pakistan lacks either attribute. Kashmir is essentially a territorial dispute of almost equal vintage as the Kuriles. But if both sides keep waiting for the most propitious time to make the first move, it will never come about.

Krishnan Srinivasan is a former Foreign Secretary

FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

The Sabarimala coverage

A response to the newspaper's critics



A.S. PANNEERSELVAN

When faith comes in conflict with the Constitution, journalism becomes complicated. Ever since the Supreme Court ruling on the entry of women of all ages into Sabarimala, questions of patriarchy, equality, constitutionality and tradition have been raised. In an emotionally charged environment, people tend to read reports wearing ideological blinkers. I received complaints from both the critics of the Supreme Court ruling and supporters of the rights of women about *The Hindu*'s coverage of the ruling and the developments thereafter.

Various objections

The critics felt that some of the reports were one-sided. For instance, one reader felt that the report titled "Sabarimala 'purification rites' violate SC verdict" (Jan. 3) contradicted another report, "Supreme Court refuses to grant early hearing on 'contempt' plea against Sabarimala temple chief priest" (Jan. 3), and said the newspaper is deliberately misleading its readers. The first report explained what the majority of the five-judge Constitution Bench observed on the concept of purity and pollution. It did not contain the reporter's personal comments; it only cited the written observations of the judges. The second was a report filed from the court. It stated that a five-judge Bench is listed to hear 49 review petitions and a range of applications regarding the September 28 verdict of the Constitution Bench in open court on January 22. I don't understand how stating facts is misleading.

Another reader took strong objection to the editorial "Breaking barriers", which appeared after two women entered the temple, and termed it "Hindu phobic". He felt that an impartial editorial would address the issue of gender discrimination across all religions in the country. He may not be aware of the governing values of this newspaper. In 2015, in a column titled "Living values" (Jan. 26), I had documented the consistent stand of this newspaper in its opposition to all forms of obscurantism and how it has spared no group, irrespective of religion, when the actions of that group threatened the peace-



VIDEO GRAB

ful coexistence of religions and people. There was also an angry note from Kavita Krishnan, Secretary of the All India Progressive Women's Association and Polit Bureau member of CPI(ML), regarding a local report in the Kerala editions headlined "A first for Sabarimala Ayyappa temple", which explained the so-called cleansing ritual after the entry of the two women. Her contention was that the report smacked of Brahmanical patriarchy. I am at a loss to understand this outrage. Isn't it important to report the level of obscurantism that is prevalent here? Is it right to pull out one short report of 200 words, which is a part of a large package of stories, and arrive at such a conclusion? The package also contained the following stories: "Tantri should have quit if verdict unacceptable: CM"; "Sangh Parivar scaring women, says CPI(M)"; "Traders put loss of business at ₹1,200 crore"; "CM promises protection to women devotees"; and "Operation was kept under wraps to ensure safe passage".

Reporting disturbing realities

The Hindu's reportage on Sabarimala has been exhaustive. No issue has been overlooked. In fact, on the day of the judgment, the newspaper's report headlined "Sabarimala women entry ban an 'essential practice', says dissenting judge Indu Malhotra" gave the lone dissenting judge due space. A later report (October 9, 2018) documented how the Sabarimala review pleas take Justice Malhotra's line. The newspaper also carried a dissenting view from a former judge, Maranday Katju, who feared that the judgment might open a Pandora's box.

This column, like this newspaper, does not discriminate against one form of hatred over another. In fact, it equated the killings of Narendra Dabholkar, M.M. Kalburgi and Govind Pansare in India with the assassinations of Governor Salman Taseer and Minorities Minister Shahbaz Bhatti in Pakistan and the killings of secular bloggers Nazimuddin Samad, Niloy Chakrabarti, Avijit Roy, Washiqur Rahman and Ananta Bijoy Das in Bangladesh, and fearlessly declared that these deaths are grim reminders of majoritarian ruthlessness in the Indian subcontinent.

If journalism has to remain an effective interlocutor of public, it has to report everything, including some very unpleasant and disturbing realities.

readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

SINGLE FILE

India's Atlantic challenge

Trump's 'America First' policy and the Brexit deal could pose more challenges this year

MARTAND JHA

 While 2019 is a year of hope and perhaps provides an opportunity for a reset in some areas of policy for India, a lingering concern is that the choppy waters of the Atlantic Ocean may throw up many economic challenges that might rock India's boat of stable economic growth. This is because, first, U.S. President Donald Trump's 'America First' policy could lead to more tariff and subsidy hiccups, culminating in protracted trade battles, in the context of protectionism. And second, if the U.K. has a 'hard Brexit', India may be looking at unexpected complications regarding trade adjustment, and a U.K.-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) may be out of the question.

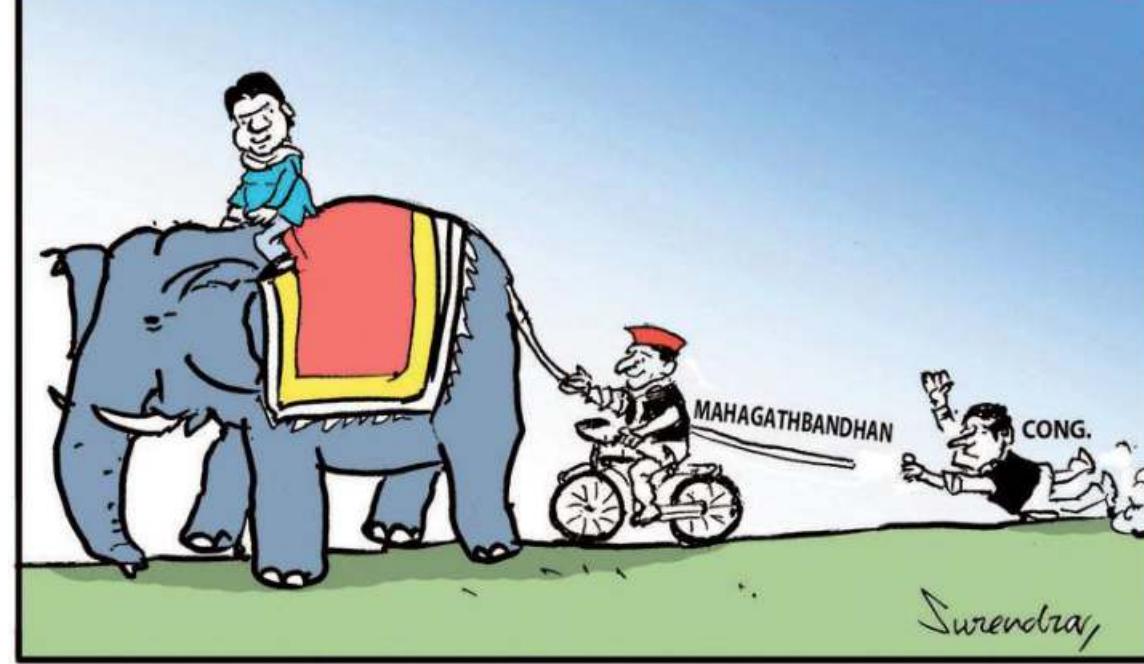
Considering the U.S. first, the Trump administration is attempting to replace the rules-based trade order with a bilateral trade agreements and sanctions network, a system that has distinct disadvantages for India. The trade experience of 2018 provides a sense of what could happen in 2019 vis-à-vis India-U.S. trade relations. Last year, when Mr. Trump gave the green light to start a trade war by escalating tariffs between U.S. and its three main trade partners - the EU, China and NAFTA - a relatively small yet strategically significant tariff spat broke out between Washington and New Delhi.

Both countries engaged in a tit-for-tat tariff policy, giving momentum to global trends towards trade protectionism. When India was denied an exemption by the U.S. from increased tariffs on steel and aluminium imports, it reciprocated by hiking import duties on 29 American export products, including pulses and iron and steel products. This show of strength against Washington's deep-pocketed lobbies was, however, at odds with India's original stand on this issue, which was pro-globalisation. Indeed, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech at Davos in January 2018 gave considerable time to the reasons why trade protectionism was a worrisome phenomenon.

A broader disadvantage for India of a spiralling trade war with the U.S. is that it could easily spin out of control and create rifts in other areas such as security and diplomacy. If that happens, it may be of considerable benefit to China, which India – and ironically the U.S. too – wants to contain.

With the U.K., India's trade in 2019 depends on the twists and turns of Brexit politics, both in London and in Brussels, with the March 29 deadline for the same looming ever closer. However, for India to secure its trade interests, it needs to renegotiate with both the EU and the U.K. for goods and services. Also, the discussion on FTA with the EU must be resumed and a similar conversation must be launched with the U.K. If these negotiations are managed carefully, Brexit may even emerge as an opportunity for India to recalibrate the legal terms of its trade with the U.K. and the EU, at the multilateral level, and through free trade agreements.

The writer is a Junior Research Fellow at School of International Studies, JNU

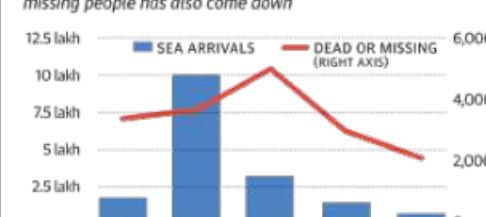


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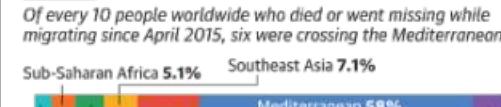
A sea change

Since the European refugee crisis began, the number of asylum seekers from Asia and Africa crossing the Mediterranean Sea was lowest in 2018. The dip was mainly due to a let-up in the Syrian civil war as the influence of the Islamic State waned. Also, the refugees were forced to change their routes due to anti-immigration stances in some destination countries. By Vignesh Radhakrishnan

GRAPH 1
Following the 2015 peak, the number of refugees crossing the Mediterranean has consistently reduced. The number of dead or missing people has also come down



GRAPH 2
Of every 10 people worldwide who died or went missing while migrating since April 2015, six were crossing the Mediterranean



GRAPH 3
Refugees increasingly prefer to enter Europe through Spain rather than Italy or Greece

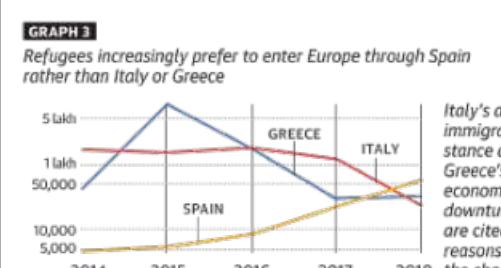


Diagram 1

Diagrams 1 and 2 show the flow of refugees across Mediterranean routes in 2015 and 2018, respectively. The more the width of each band, the higher the number of refugees

In 2015, during the peak of the Syrian civil war, refugees from the country flooded the Eastern route

Due to stricter measures adopted by Libya and Turkey, the main embarkation points for the Central and Eastern routes, to prevent smuggling through boats, the flow has shifted to the Western route. Also, Morocco, the main embarkation point for the Western route, has taken a softer stance towards illegal migrant outflow

Diagram 2
WEST ASIAN OTHER ASIAN AFRICAN

2015
Syria
Afghanistan
Iraq
Eritrea
Pakistan
Iran
Nigeria
Somalia
Morocco
Sudan

2018
Morocco
Syria
Afghanistan
Iraq
Guinea
Tunisia
Algeria
Mali
Côte d'Ivoire

Source: UNHCR, FRONTEX

FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 7, 1969

Lord Denning's call

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls (U.K.), called upon the lawyers of the Madras Bar to uphold the dignity, independence and integrity of their profession. He said they should present their cases courageously and honestly and not suggest anything that was untrue. Lord Denning told a packed gathering of Judges of the Madras High Court and advocates how both England and India had a common heritage because in their systems of law they depended on the proper practice and procedure. They called it common law; they could not talk of individual and personal freedom without this common law. It was their duty to uphold freedom to every man. How could they do it except by rule of law? he asked. He explained how they were protected by rule of law and said in India they had shown that rule of law or rule of courts was superior even to the legislature. But they had not done it in England. He hoped that they in England would follow it.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 7, 1919.

Opium Smuggling in China.

The 'Times' [of London] learns from Shanghai that Indian opium to the value of 16,000 dollars has been seized on board the Chinese customs revenue cruiser, on which Sir Francis Aglen, Inspector-General of Maritime Customs, was returning to Shanghai from a visit of inspection to Southern ports. The Chinese crew clearly imagined that any ship in which the Inspector-General was travelling would be safe from troublesome investigation. The value of the opium indicates that the crew were merely agents of a bigger organisation. Indeed the extent to which opium smuggling is now practised is scandalous. In nearly every ship from South China and Vladivostok some opium is found, occasionally running to enormous figures. Opium is extensively cultivated in Korea while recently established factories in Formosa are doing big business in exporting morphine to China, principally through the Japanese Post Office which the Customs are unable to touch.

CONCEPTUAL

Life-cycle hypothesis

ECONOMICS

This suggests that individuals even out their consumption in the best possible manner over their life cycles. The hypothesis is that people who are young usually have several years of productive employment ahead of them, so they tend to borrow money to fund their education and consumption needs, while people who are older tend to be more conservative about their borrowing and spending habits as they have fewer years of productive employment ahead of them. The life-cycle hypothesis was proposed by Italian economist Franco Modigliani and his student Richard Brumberg in 1957.

MORE ON THE WEB

Yet another primer on New Year's resolutions

bit.ly/AshwiniNYResolutions

FROM PAGE ONE

Nirmala lied on HAL orders, says Rahul

The Defence Minister tweeted that the news report quoted by Mr. Gandhi did not say Ms. Sitharaman had claimed that the orders were signed.

"Please read the complete report to which you (@RahulGandhi) are referring: 'However, as the LS record shows, Sitharaman did not claim the orders were signed, saying they were in the works,'" Ms. Sitharaman said, tagging the operative part of the news report.

"Dear Shri @RahulGandhi, looks like you really need to start from ABCs. Someone like you who is hell bent on misleading the public will quote an article even before reading it," Ms. Sitharaman's office tweeted.

Rough transcript
The official handle of the Defence Minister also tweeted a rough transcript of what she said in Parliament. "It's a shame that the president of @INCIndia is mis-

Two killed as boulders fall in another mine



Navy divers near the coal mine at Ksan in East Jaintia Hills district of Meghalaya, where 15 miners are trapped. ■PTI

"Efforts are on to find the owner of the quarry," Mr. Nongtong said.

The police also said they were inquiring about three miners reportedly trapped in the Sookoi area of the district after the illegal rat-hole mine they were working in collapsed. Locals said the incident happened nine days ago.

Crackdown begins

On Saturday, the district administration began a crackdown on illegal mining operations. The Khliehriat police caught and detained a few miners and registered cases against the mine owners, many of whom were absconding.

In one of the raids, the

police caught a crane operator named Abdul Hussain and three miners - Binod Basumatary, Bikram Sonal and Arjun Rai - while they were extracting coal. A case was registered against the mine owner, Willingness Latam of Moopala village. Four more labourers were detained from another quarry near Lelad Junction area of the district. A case was registered against the owner of the mine, Brojy Dkhar.

Meanwhile, the agencies engaged to rescue the 15 miners trapped in a water-filled mine in the Ksan area have installed more pumps to drain out the water. The going has been slow because of constant seepage of underground water.

MPs' panel proposes legal status for SSC

Says its work comparable to UPSC's

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH

NEW DELHI

A Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) has recommended that the Centre accord statutory status to the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), one of the largest recruitment agencies in the country.

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and all State Public Service Commissions either have constitutional or legal status. The SSC is the only such organisation that performs similar functions on a much larger scale, but does not enjoy statutory status.

Rising workload

The SSC was created to ease the burden of the UPSC by taking over the recruitment for posts below the Group 'A' level. There has been a phenomenal increase in the workload of the SSC, from 9.94 lakh candidates in 2008-09 to over 2 crore in 2016-17.

While the workload and responsibilities of the SSC have increased exponentially over the years, it has remained an "attached body" under the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), and has to depend entirely on the government for all its needs, with no autonomy.

Cong. options limited, may go it alone in U.P.

With SP and BSP most likely to exclude it from alliance, party to discuss issue with chiefs of State units on Wednesday

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

The Congress Core Group, a panel of top party leaders, will meet the State unit chiefs on Wednesday to discuss key issues for the Lok Sabha election in 2019, including the prospect of going it alone in Uttar Pradesh.

While the Congress has been accusing the Modi government of denying an opportunity to HAL of becoming an offset contract partner of Dassault Aviation that makes the Rafale fighter jets, Ms. Sitharaman charged the Congress with shedding 'crocodile tears' since UPA neglected HAL's development during its regime. "The Defence Minister will have to make that statement on the floor of Parliament. The fact is that she has been challenged by the HAL themselves and you have a situation where it is unable to pay salaries," Congress leader Manish Tewari told reporters.

Rough transcript
The official handle of the Defence Minister also tweeted a rough transcript of what she said in Parliament. "It's a shame that the president of @INCIndia is mis-

Hindu that "all anti-BJP forces should join hands." "Even today, we are saying that political parties who want the BJP government at the Centre to be defeated should come together. That is the mood of the people," Mr. Babbar said.

He said the people's mood was "reflected" in the results of the Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan Assembly election.

Asked if the Congress could fight alone, as it did in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, Mr. Babbar said: "All I can say is that even now we want everyone together. I can't say what happens tomorrow."

Gains from loan waiver
Other leaders in the party, who did not wish to be named, said the party was


All I can say is that even now we want all political parties to come together. I can't say what happens tomorrow
RAJ BABBAR, U.P. Congress chief

working on a Plan B targeting specific groups and castes. They said that by fulfilling the promise of a farm loan waiver in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, the party had consolidated its position among farmers. The party could look at "farmers as a constituency that will rise above traditional caste divisions".

Another constituency that the Congress will target is the Brahmins. The party believes that the community is

angry with the Yogi Adityanath government and could look at the Congress as an option. In fact, prior to the tie-up with the SP for the Assembly election in 2017, the Congress had declared former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit as its chief ministerial face to woo the Brahmin vote bank. While the 2011 Census puts the Brahmins at 8% of the State population, unofficial estimates put the number close to 12% in 2018. In fact, Congress leaders refer

strength in the State, and point out how its candidate lost the security deposit in the 2018 byelection to the Phulpur Lok Sabha seat, once held by Jawaharlal Nehru.

Also, if one adds up the BSP's support base of Jatav Dalits (9%), the SP's Yadav base (9%), Muslim population (19.3%) and Rashtriya Lok Dal's Jat strength (2.7%), the SP-BSP-RLD alliance covers nearly 40% of the population.

"They are looking at arithmetic but what is required is chemistry. It's a very delicate issue and we do not want a division of anti-BJP votes. That can catapult them in U.P. and that would be a historic blunder. But, at the same time, we cannot afford to be a non-player in U.P.," a Lucknow-based leader said.

Odisha Minister quits over remarks in Pipili rape case

He had hailed acquittal of accused, triggering protests

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Agriculture and Panchayati Raj Minister Pradeep Maharathy resigned from his post on Sunday. The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader was in the eye of a storm for his remarks over the recent acquittal of accused persons in the seven-year-old Pipili gang-rape and murder case.

The women's wings of the Opposition Congress and BJP had staged several demonstrations in Bhubaneswar demanding that Mr. Maharathy be ousted from the Cabinet for his remarks hailing the trial court's ruling in December.

Although the Crime Branch of the Odisha police had subsequently announced that it would move the High Court challenging the trial court order, the women's wings of the parties had pressed their demand for Mr. Maharathy's sacking.

The Minister's resignation came a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged the State government to reinvestigate the seven-year-old gang rape case.

"The State government has not been able to give justice to the daughter who had faced violence seven to eight years ago in Puri. The angst



On the way out: Odisha Minister Pradeep Maharathy after submitting his resignation in Bhubaneswar on Sunday.

among daughters and mothers is justified," Mr. Modi had

said, while addressing a public meeting at Baripada on Saturday.

Interestingly, Mr. Maharathy, who represents the Pipili constituency in the Assembly, had stepped down as Minister amid a controversy over the same case in January 2012 also.

The victim, a minor belonging to Pipili area of Puri district, had died in hospital several weeks after she was sexually assaulted.

Responding to media queries, Mr. Maharathy said he decided to resign on his own in order to avoid embarrassment for his party over the

issue.
Chief Minister and BJD president Naveen Patnaik accepted Mr. Maharathy's resignation and forwarded the same to the Governor.

Mr. Patnaik allocated the portfolios that Mr. Maharathy was holding to other Ministers. Finance Minister Sashi Bhushan Behera got the additional charge of Agriculture & Farmers' Development, while SC & ST Development Minister Ramesh Chandra Majhi got the additional charge of Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water.

Odisha Minister quits over remarks in rape case Bhubaneswar

Odisha Agriculture and Panchayati Raj Minister Pradeep Maharathy resigned from his post on Sunday. The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) leader was in the eye of a storm for his remarks over the recent acquittal of accused persons in the seven-year-old Pipili gang-rape and murder case. The women's wings of the Opposition Congress and BJP had staged several protests demanding that Mr. Maharathy be ousted from the Cabinet.

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Rajnath to head manifesto panel

BJP forms 17 groups for LS election

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Senior BJP leader and Union Minister Rajnath Singh will head the party's "sankalp patra" (manifesto) committee and his Cabinet colleague Arun Jaitley its publicity wing for the Lok Sabha election as its president Amit Shah on Sunday announced formation of 17 groups in preparation for the election.

Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Thawarchand Gehlot, Ravi Shankar Prasad, Piyush Goyal, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, K.J. Alphons and Kiren Rijiju, and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan are the other members of the 20-person committee tasked with preparing the party manifesto, a statement said. Mr. Jaitley too is in this committee.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari will head a 17-member committee to reach out to social and volunteer organisations while his Cabinet colleague Sushma Swaraj will preside over a group that will produce literature for the polls.

Mr. Prasad will head the party's media group while Union Minister Prakash Javadekar will lead the wing which will organise meetings of intellectuals.



The election is expected to be held in April-May.

A committee will deal with "pravas" (tour) of party leaders, another with social media while a third group, whose 13 members include party general secretary Saroj Pandey, will reach out to beneficiaries of various government schemes, the statement said.

Social media committee
BJP vice-president Shyam Jaju and its information technology wing in-charge Amit Malviya are in the 13-member social media committee.

The publicity wing members include Union Ministers Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore and Mahesh Sharma, party general secretary Anil Jain and Rajya Sabha member and businessman Rajeev Chandrasekhar besides Mr. Goyal.

Sukhpal Khaira resigns from AAP

Senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia says party will be strengthened with his exit

VIKAS VASUDEV
CHANDIGARH

Senior Punjab Aam Aadmi Party leader and MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira on Sunday resigned from the party's primary membership, saying that the party has "deviated from its ideology and principles".

The party's central leadership was quick to respond to Mr. Khaira's resignation, saying that he was revolting against the party as he was removed from the post of Leader of the Opposition in Punjab and the position was given to a Dalit leader.

Mr. Khaira in his resignation letter to Mr. Kejriwal said: "I am constrained to forward my resignation from the primary membership of the AAP, as the party has totally deviated from the ideology and principles on which it was formed post Anna Hazare movement."

'Kejriwal's attitude'
Mr. Khaira added "...unfortunately after joining the party I realised that the hierarchy in the AAP was no

different from the traditional centralised political parties. The turn of events in the run-up of the 2017 Punjab elections further confirmed my belief that there was no inner party democracy. Your [Kejriwal] duplicity on the vital issue of Punjab river waters also puts you on the same pedestal as the other leaders. You have blatantly gone back on the most important promise of 'Swaraaj' by centralising all powers in yourself. You have also thrown to the wind the constitution of the party merely to remain covenanted and continue your grip on the party. Your hobnobbing and flirting with the Congress is yet another example of sheer political opportunism..."

"I am saddened to state that your [Kejriwal] dictatorial attitude has shattered the dreams of Indians and the Punjabis..." he added.

'Resign as MLA'
Senior AAP leader and Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said on Twitter: "Mr. Sukhpal Khaira's resignation was expected. Party will be strengthened with his exit. He should now resign from MLA also, which he won on the party ticket. Mr. Khaira started revolting against party since the post of LoP in Punjab was given to a Dalit leader."

BJP puts Shiv Sena on notice

Don't bother about alliance, be prepared to contest in all seats, Shah tells cadre

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Shiv Sena president Amit Shah on Sunday told BJP workers that the party was not bothered about alliance talks with the Shiv Sena and that it was ready to contest all 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra alone.

"Nobody can beat the BJP, which has 11 crore workers ... We shall fight and win all seats in Maharashtra," Mr. Shah is reported to have said at a closed-door, booth-level meeting of party workers in Latur city.

At present, the Shiv Sena has a sanctioned staff strength of 481 officers but is functioning with 75% of its sanctioned strength.

The DoPT further stated that the Shiv Sena would be conducting the Common Eligibility Test at three levels - Matriculation, Higher Secondary and Graduation - and would attract around 5 crore candidates, making it the largest examination in the world. The Shiv Sena has submitted three proposals to the government for provision of additional manpower. The committee has said that it is imperative for the government to accede to the Shiv Sena proposals, taking into consideration the serious mismatch between tasks and resources.



I urge all party workers to get on the ground and start preparations
AMIT SHAH
BJP president

as to leave them stunned," Mr. Shah said.

At the same time, he said that in the event an alliance was forged with a friendly party, the BJP would contest with its ally and win.

"The BJP would put up candidates even in seats contested by friendly parties. So, I urge all party workers to get on the ground and commence preparations in earnest ... it is not the job of a party worker to worry about alliances. These matters are

Panda said he had had "conversations with major national parties but was yet to make up his mind".

"I am now in the final stages of deciding what I want to do. And a big part of my decision will be based on the ground reality and the politics of Odisha because I am elected by the people of Odisha," he said.

Speaking to *The Hindu* before the formal launch of his book *Lutyens' Maverick*, Mr. Panda

part of a new party that is formed. All these options are open... I am still evaluating who is really serious about bringing change in Odisha," Mr. Panda said.

He said that over the years, Mr. Patnaik, whose party secured 20 of the 21 Lok Sabha seats in 2014, had successfully managed to leverage the importance of his support to the national parties such as the BJP and the Congress at the Centre.

"I am willing to consider all options: it could be joining a national party or being

IN BRIEF



Pawar writes to Modi on cane growers' plight

NEW DELHI
Sugar cane growers in the country are committing suicide, NCP supremo and former Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar has pointed out in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying immediate steps must be taken to prevent any "mass-scale revolt" by farmers. He also suggested relief measures. PTI

PM Modi's Odisha visit advanced to January 15

BHUBANESWAR
Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed visit to Balangir in Odisha has been advanced by a day to January 15, a senior BJP leader said on Sunday. The Prime Minister, who was scheduled to visit Balangir on January 16, will now be there on January 15, leader of the BJP Legislature Party K. V. Singhdeo said. During his visit, the PM will address "Swabhiman Samavesh" of the party. The PM will also attend an official programme there, Mr. Singhdeo said. PTI

Declare new Indian notes legal: Nepal writes to RBI

KATHMANDU
Nepal has asked the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to declare newly circulated Indian currency notes of denominations higher than ₹100 legal tender in the country. The Nepal Rastra Bank, the country's central monetary authority, wrote a letter on Friday to the RBI, asking it to make ₹200, ₹500 and ₹2,000 legal tender in Nepal, *The Himalayan Times* reported on Sunday. PTI

Bihar CM, colleagues declare assets

PATNA
Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar owns movable and immovable assets worth ₹56.18 lakh, while his son Nishant is almost five times richer. The details were shared by the Chief Minister and his Cabinet colleagues on January 3. Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi declared movable assets worth ₹1.04 crore. Urban Development and Housing Minister Suresh Kumar Sharma, a BJP MLA, is the richest Minister. Mr. Sharma and his wife possess assets worth ₹9.74 crore. PTI

'Internal peace process yet to take off in Afghanistan'

Kabul's National Security Adviser Hamdullah Mohib points to factionalism within the Taliban as a factor slowing down dialogue

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Taliban is divided and the factionalism is evident in the way the outfit has held talks with various outside players in the dialogue process, a senior representative of the Afghanistan government has said.

National Security Adviser of Afghanistan Hamdullah Mohib said during a visit here that Kabul was firming up its military power while remaining committed to an "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned" peace process. He said there could be no deadline for the peace process as the "intra-Afghan" peace dialogue is yet to take shape.

"So far, the teams that the Taliban sent for talks in Abu Dhabi, Moscow, or in Qatar have revealed that there are many factions in the group. They sent different people for different dialogues. The Taliban should appoint a single negotiating team first," said Mr. Mohib, interacting with a group of journalists here on Saturday.

Ongoing conflict

He acknowledged that the government of President Ashraf Ghani had "contacts" in the Taliban and that it had held "proximity talks" when the group's representatives came to Abu Dhabi. The NSA, however, made it clear



Helping hand: Mr. Mohib said any effort that helped build an "intra-Afghan" dialogue process was welcome. • AFP

that the government of Afghanistan was yet to begin formal dialogue with the Taliban as a violent military conflict with the group carried on in several parts of the

country. Mr. Mohib said the need of the moment was to create a stage that would support an "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned" peace process that he described as "in-

tra-Afghan" dialogue but could not specify how such a scenario would emerge with military battles raging between the two sides.

Different parts of Afghanistan have witnessed heavy fighting between government forces and the Taliban in the past few months even as the regional process of dialogue has continued with the initiative of the U.S., Russia, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. More recently, Iran and Turkey have also extended a helping hand in building terms of a dialogue between the two warring sides.

India, however, does not have formal contact with the Taliban as it maintains

friendly bilateral ties with the government in Kabul which has emerged as a strategic partner.

Mr. Mohib said any effort that helped build an "intra-Afghan" dialogue process was welcome when asked about the role that India could play in facilitating peace between the two sides.

Airborne deterrent

He said the government in Kabul was strengthening its military power and an essential part of this was the creation of a credible Air Force which would allow it to maintain military domination across the country after the expected U.S. withdrawal.

According to the NSA, who held talks with his Indian counterpart Ajit Doval on January 5, Afghanistan intends to acquire 315 military aircraft that will support its military operations as well as medical emergency requirements.

Mr. Mohib reiterated Kabul's continued support for India's fight against cross-border terrorism, and said his country would not allow any foreign group, including the Lashkar-e-Taiba, to create bases in the areas that bordered Pakistan.

"We do not make distinction between terrorist groups," he said in response to India's concerns.

Panel to go into quota for Assamese

Centre issues notification under Clause 6 of Assam Accord amid protests over Citizenship Bill

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre has set up a high-level committee headed by former IAS officer M.P. Bezbarua to assess the appropriate level of reservation of seats in the Assam Assembly and local bodies for the Assamese people, besides providing employment opportunities.

Last week, the Union Cabinet took a decision in this effect under the Assam Accord of 1985.

The committee and its terms of reference were notified a day before the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2016, is expected to table its report in Parliament, paving the way for India to grant citizenship to six persecuted minorities – Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Parsis, Christians and Buddhists – from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who came to the country prior to the year 2014.

There has been a strong resistance to the Bill in BJP-ruled Assam as it would pave the way for giving citizenship, mostly to illegal Hindu migrants from Bangladesh in Assam, who came after March 1971, in violation of the Assam Accord.

In a notification, the Home Ministry said the committee would examine the ef-

Taking stock

A high-level committee will look into the effectiveness of actions taken since 1985 to implement Clause 6 of the Assam Accord

What is the accord

The Assam Accord of 1985 set March 24, 1971, as the cut-off date for migrants entering the State



Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the Centre was working hard to clear the Bill.

fectiveness of actions taken since 1985 to implement Clause 6 of the Assam Accord.

Appropriate level

"The committee will assess the appropriate level of reservation of seats in the Assam Legislative Assembly and local bodies for the Assamese people. The committee will recommend the appropriate level of reservations in employment under the government of Assam for the Assamese people," the notification said.

The notification said the panel will also hold discus-

What is Clause 6

It says that constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people

What is the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2016

The Bill seeks to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955, which has raised hackles in Assam

Why is it facing resistance
Many say the Bill paves the way for giving citizenship to illegal Hindu migrants from Bangladesh, who came after March 1971

sions with various stakeholders, including social organisations, legal and constitutional experts, eminent persons from the field of art, culture and literature, conservationists, economists, linguists and sociologists.

It will suggest measures to be taken to protect Assamese and other indigenous languages of Assam.

More measures

The committee can also suggest any other measures, as may be necessary, to protect, preserve and promote cultural, social, linguistic

JPC to submit report on Citizenship Bill today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A Joint Parliamentary Committee will submit its report on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill on Monday, in all probability recommending its introduction.

The Bill seeks to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955, to grant Indian nationality to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan after six years

of residence in India instead of 12, even if they do not possess any proper document.

The Congress, Trinamool Congress, CPI(M) and a few other parties are steadfastly opposing the Bill, claiming citizenship cannot be given on basis of religion. After the report is submitted in Lok Sabha, it is to be seen if the Bill could get through during the winter session of Parliament, which ends on Tuesday, sources said.

mote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people".

Besides Mr. Bezbarua, the members of the panel are former IAS officer Subhash Das, former presidents of Assam Sahitya Sabha Nagen Saikia and Rongpong Teng, former Editor of *The Sentinel* Dhiren Bezbarua, educationalist Mukunda Rajabangshi, Advocate General of Assam Ramesh Borpatra-gohain, and one representative of the All Assam Students' Union.

The Joint Secretary in the Home Ministry will be member secretary.

'Aadhaar helped save ₹90,000 cr.'

Jaitley says many schemes UID-linked

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The ₹90,000-crore savings from the implementation of Aadhaar is enough to fund three schemes the size of Ayushman Bharat, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley wrote in a blog post on Sunday.



Duplicate, non-existent and fake beneficiaries have been eliminated

ARUN JAITLEY
Finance Minister

card holders stand linked. 10.33 crore MGNREGA card holders get wage payment through DBT in their bank accounts. So do the 1.93 crore beneficiaries and other beneficiaries of the national social assistance programme above the age of 18.

"Many state-supported schemes, including some by the DBT mechanism, have been linked with the unique identity as of December 15, 2018. The number of subsidy transactions are about 425 crore. The total subsidies transferred through Aadhaar now equal ₹1,69,868 crore, he said.

Mr. Jaitley said 63.52 crore bank accounts had been linked with the unique identity as of December 15, 2018. The number of subsidy transactions are about 425 crore. The total subsidies transferred through Aadhaar now equal ₹1,69,868 crore, he said.

"22.80 crore of PAHAL and Ujjwala beneficiaries are given cooking gas subsidies through DBT in their Aadhaar-linked bank accounts. 58.24 crore ration

Defence manufacturing rules eased

Licensing process made simpler for private industry to build a range of equipment



Different bracket: Items are listed in 3 categories – defence aircraft, warships of all kinds, and allied items of defence equipment. • AFP

face and sub-surface, have been included in the listing. "With the list of defence items requiring industrial licences being pruned down by removing the requirement of licensing for 'parts and components of the equipment', this would accrue benefits towards Tier-I/Tier-II

vendors giving a boost to the small and medium enterprises (SMEs)," industry body Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) said in a statement.

This notification, which supersedes DIPP's earlier press note of June 2014 on this issue,

vendors giving a boost to the small and medium enterprises (SMEs)," industry body Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) said in a statement.

The ASSOCHAM statement said the creation of a strong supply chain is critical.

The ASSOCHAM statement said the creation of a strong supply chain is critical.

CAT backlog mounts as posts vacant

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), which adjudicates recruitment and service-related cases, is functioning at half its sanctioned strength, as 31 of the 66 sanctioned posts of members are lying vacant.

This, a parliamentary standing committee said, is leading to mounting backlog of cases. "The committee is constrained to observe that even after 30 years of its establishment, CAT lacks human as well as physical infrastructure. Because of this, 14 of the 17 Benches are not fully functional," the committee said in its report tabled in Parliament on Thursday.

The tribunal responded that as on December 31, 2017, it had a backlog of 47,270 cases. Since its inception in 1985 to December, 2017 a total of 7,63,519 cases had been instituted, of which 7,16,249 cases have been disposed of. The disposal percentage comes to 93.8%, which it said was a success.

The committee headed by BJP lawmaker Bhupender Yadav, however, suggested strict timelines to fill the vacancies. It suggested that the appointment process of tribunal members should start well in advance and the government should examine the reasons for members leaving service prematurely and take remedial measures.

The committee recommended that the Department of Personnel and Training said efforts were on to fill the vacant CBI posts by fine-tuning the recruitment rules. The committee recommended that the CBI and the government should expedite approvals for setting up the ICEI-CBI centre.

rank, law officers and technical officers is about 16%, 28% and 56% respectively. At the top level, out of four posts of Special Director or Additional Director, three are lying vacant.

More rewarding

To overcome the perennial problem of vacancies in the CBI, the committee recommended that the government simplify recruitment rules to overcome procedural bottlenecks. The government should also consider making terms of depu-

tation to the CBI more rewarding in order to retain capable officers and to attract best officers from the State police forces, Central paramilitary forces, Intelligence Bureau, etc.," the committee recommended.

The Department of Personnel and Training said efforts were on to fill the vacant CBI posts by fine-tuning the recruitment rules. The committee recommended that the CBI and the government should expedite approvals for setting up the ICEI-CBI centre.

Understaffed CBI a concern: panel

Government should simplify recruitment rules to overcome procedural bottlenecks'



The vacancies in various posts range between 16% and 56%.

thus ill-prepared," the committee said in a report tabled in Parliament last Thursday.

The committee said the level of vacant positions in executive

Sl.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost inclusive of GST (Rs.)
1.	O S M C L / 2 0 1 8 - 1 9 / E Q P - D E N T A L (C a t . I) / 1 8 O S M C L / 2 0 1 8 - 1 9 / E Q P - D E N T A L (C a t . I I) / 1 9	SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF DENTAL EQUIPMENTS	5,600/-
Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	25.01.2019, 3 PM
1.	Date & time of release of bid	07.01.2019, 3 PM	
2.	Date & time of Pre-bid meeting	15.01.2019, 11 AM Venue : Conference Hall, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time End Date & Time 25.01.2019, 3 PM 11.02.2019, 5 PM	
4.	Date & time of online Technical Bid Opening	16.02.2019, 11 AM	
5.	Date of demonstration of Equipment (If required by the Tender Inviting Authority for some equipments)	To be informed to those bidders whose bids are found to be technically responsive based on documents furnished in technical bid.	
6.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the technically qualified bidders (including demonstration)	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, EMDs, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: www.osmcl.nic.in and <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

CAD-1221
1012/11/0049/1819

Managing Director,
OSMC Ltd., Odisha

ELSEWHERE



Taiwan's ruling party elects new chief

Taiwan's ruling party elected a new chairman on Sunday, choosing Cho Jung-tai, a moderate, to replace the post vacated by President Tsai Ing-wen. A landslide win in 2016 by Ms. Tsai's Democratic Progressive Party rattled Beijing because she refuses to acknowledge that the self-ruled island is part of "one China". **REUTERS**

30 killed in Afghan gold mine collapse

KUNDUZ
At least 30 people were killed when a gold mine collapsed in northeastern Afghanistan on Sunday, officials said. Another seven were injured in the incident in Kohistan district of Badakhshan province, district Governor Mohammad Rustam Raghay said. Villagers had dug a 60-metre deep shaft in a river bed to search for gold. They were inside when the walls fell in. It was not clear why the shaft collapsed. **AFP**

U.S. will withdraw from Syria only after security of Kurds is ensured'

NSA Bolton lays out conditions to be met before drawdown

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE JERUSALEM

President Donald Trump's National Security Adviser said on Sunday that conditions such as guarantees on the safety of Kurdish allies must be met before American troops are withdrawn from Syria, NBC News said.

John Bolton told journalists travelling with him on a trip to Israel that the United States wanted a guarantee from Turkey that Kurds in Syria would be protected, the U.S. news outlet said.

Pulling out 'slowly'
Mr. Trump's announcement on December 19 that the U.S. would immediately withdraw its troops from Syria

May warns of 'uncharted territory'

We could end up with no Brexit at all, says PM to lawmakers sceptical of her withdrawal deal

REUTERS LONDON

Prime Minister Theresa May said on Sunday that Britain would be in uncharted territory if her Brexit deal is rejected by Parliament later this month, despite little sign that she has won over sceptical lawmakers.

Britain is due to leave the EU on March 29 but Ms. May's inability so far to get her deal for a managed exit through Parliament has alarmed business leaders and investors, who fear the country is heading for a damaging no-deal Brexit.

Vote in January

Ms. May said the vote in Parliament would be around January 15, as expected, contrary to reports that she could delay it. She has already delayed the vote once, in December, when it became clear that she would lose unless extra reassurances from the EU were agreed.

Describing what would happen if she is defeated, Ms. May told the BBC: "We're going to be in uncharted territory. I don't think anybody can say exactly what will happen in terms of the reac-

Not a done deal: Prime Minister Theresa May appearing on BBC's 'The Andrew Marr Show' in London on Sunday. **REUTERS**

tion we'll see in Parliament."

Ms. May's party itself is divided over its support for her deal, with many fearing that an insurance policy designed to avoid the re-emergence of a hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland could leave Britain subject to EU rules indefinitely.

One of those leading that opposition, lawmaker Jacob Rees-Mogg, said in a newspaper article that it was "wishes thinking" that time away from Parliament over the Christmas holiday could persuade him to change his mind and back the deal.

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With the parliamentary

debate on her deal due to begin on January 9, Ms. May said there was still work to do to get assurances over the backstop from the EU. She also promised that Parliament would have a greater say in the rest of the Brexit process and warned that rejecting her deal could prevent Britain's exit. "Don't let the search for the perfect become the enemy of the good, because the danger there is actually we end up with no Brexit at all," Ms. May said.

She did not answer whether she would, if defeated, make a second attempt to get the deal passed by Parliament. Ms. May also did not

directly respond, when asked, if she was leading the country toward a no-deal Brexit, but repeated her objections to holding a fresh public vote on the deal.

No to second referendum

She said a second referendum would be divisive and disrespectful to those who voted to leave in the initial vote, and also highlighted the lack of time available to hold a new referendum. "Practically, actually you couldn't get a referendum in time before the 29th of March - you'd be talking about extending Article 50," she said, referring to the two-year exit notice Britain sent to the EU in March 2017.

Also, the Northern Irish party that props up Ms. May's government on Sunday asked her to stand firm in demanding that the EU changes its "poison" backstop provision.

In the face of the EU's unwillingness so far to move, it is the duty of the U.K. Government to stand firm" against the EU's "bad deal"

Democratic Unionist Party deputy leader Nigel Dodds said in a statement.

More Britons now want to remain in EU

REUTERS LONDON

More Britons want to remain a member of the European Union (EU) than leave, according to a survey published on Sunday. The survey by YouGov showed that if a referendum were held immediately, 46% would vote to remain, 39% would vote to leave, and the rest either did not know, would not vote, or refused to answer the question.

When the undecided and those who refused to answer were removed from the sample, the split was 54-46 in favour of remaining. The 2016 referendum voted 52 to 48 in favour of leaving.

The poll of more than 25,000 voters was commissioned by the 'People's Vote' campaign, which is spearheading an increasingly vocal push for a second referendum.

'Talks under way on next meet with Kim'

U.S. is negotiating on location: Trump

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump said on Sunday that negotiations are under way on the location of his next summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, while remaining evasive on its timing.

"We are negotiating a location," he told reporters before boarding a helicopter for the presidential retreat at Camp David, Maryland, where he said he would be discussing a trade deal with China. "It will be announced probably in the not too distant future," he said of a summit with Mr. Kim. "They do want to meet and we want to meet and we'll see what happens."

Support for wall

He also stood firm on his demand for billions of dollars to fund a border wall with Mexico, claiming "tremendous" support inside his camp on the contentious issue which has forced a government shutdown now entering its third week.

"We have to build the wall," he said. "It's about safety, it's about security for

The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island in New York have remained open. **AFP**

our country. "I may declare a national emergency, dependent on what's going to happen over the next few days," he said.

He also confirmed through a tweet that the U.S. military has killed one of the architects of the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole that left 17 American servicemen dead.

"Our GREAT MILITARY has delivered justice for the heroes lost and wounded in the cowardly attack on the USS Cole," Mr. Trump tweeted. "We have just killed the leader of that attack, Jamal al-Badawi."

Taliban seeks change of talks venue

REUTERS PESHAWAR

The Taliban will not attend planned peace talks with the U.S. in Saudi Arabia this month, and wants to shift the venue to Qatar, its officials said on Sunday, seeking to fend off Riyadh's push to include the Afghan government in talks.

The upcoming negotiations are scheduled between the leaders of the Taliban and U.S. special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad to discuss the withdrawal of foreign forces and a possible ceasefire in 2019.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed that the group had decided to cancel the meeting in Saudi Arabia.

Protesters storm French Ministry's office

50,000 'yellow vest' agitators take to the streets across country, vandalise property

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE PARIS

"Yellow vest" protesters returned in force to the streets of France this weekend, clashing with police in several cities and smashing their way into a government Ministry in Paris with the help of a forklift truck.

The Interior Ministry put the number of protesters who took to the streets on Saturday at 50,000, compared with 32,000 on December 29 when the movement appeared to be weakening after holding a series of weekly Saturday protests since mid-November.

Break-in

Government spokesman Benjamin Griveaux, who was evacuated from his Ministry

Discontent grips country: A barricade that was set on fire by 'yellow vest' protesters in Paris on Saturday. **AFP**

in central Paris when a handful of protesters in high-visibility vests smashed down the large wooden door to the Ministry compound, denounced the break-in as an "unaccep-

table attack on the Republic".

They briefly entered the courtyard where they smashed up two cars, broke some windows and then escaped, he added, saying that

police were trying to identify them from security footage.

President Emmanuel Macron did not specifically refer to the incident, but tweeted his condemnation of the "extreme violence" against "the Republic, its guardians, its representatives and its symbols".

Demonstrators took to the streets of several other cities across France, with up to 2,000 people in Rouen, northwest of Paris, where some set up burning barricades. One protester was injured and at least two others were arrested, police said.

Some 4,600 protesters hit the streets of the southwestern city of Bordeaux, with some hurling stones at police who answered with tear gas and water cannon.

Saudi women to be texted on divorce

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE RIYADH

Saudi courts will notify women by text message when they get divorced, in a new regulation that took effect on Sunday, officials said.

The measure, approved by the Justice Ministry, appears aimed at curbing seemingly rampant cases of men secretly ending marriages without informing their wives. "Women... will be notified of any changes to their marital status via text message," the Justice Ministry said.

"Women in the kingdom will be able to view documents related to the termination of their marriage contracts through the Ministry's website."

Woman in vegetative state gives birth

ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOENIX

A woman said to have been in a vegetative state for at least a decade at a private health-care facility in Phoenix reportedly gave birth recently, triggering a police investigation and reviews by state agencies a situation that the State Governor's office called "deeply troubling".

Azfamily.com, a news website for television stations KPHO and KTVK, first reported late on Thursday that, according to sources not identified, a woman gave birth on December 29 at the Hacienda HealthCare facility, where the staff was unaware that she was preg-

nant. Two other Phoenix television stations later aired similar reports.

According to some reports, the woman was a victim of a near-drowning more than 10 years ago. Her identity hasn't been reported. Sources quoted in the reports said the woman was heard to be moaning and that the baby's head was starting to emerge when a nurse came in.

"None of the staff were aware that she was pregnant until she was pretty much giving birth," azfamily.com quoted a source familiar with the situation as saying. That person said the baby was said to be alive and healthy.

Rahaf Mohammed M. Alqunun said that she was stopped by Saudi and Kuwaiti officials when she arrived in Suvarnabhumi airport and her travel document was forcibly taken from her. "They took my passport," she said, adding that her male guardian had reported her for travelling "without his permission". Ms. Rahaf said she was trying to flee her family, who subjected her to physical and psychological abuse. "My family is strict and locked me in a room for six months just for cutting my hair," she said, adding that she is certain she will be imprisoned if she is sent back. "I'm sure 100% they will kill me as soon as I

get out of the Saudi jail," she said. Ms. Rahaf was stopped from entering Thailand when she flew in from Kuwait on Sunday, Thailand's immigration chief Surachate Hakparn said. "She had no further documents such as return ticket or money," he said.

But Ms. Rahaf disputed his account, saying that she was in transit to seek asylum in Australia, where she claimed to have a visa, and was accosted by Saudi and Kuwaiti Embassy representatives when she deplaned in Suvarnabhumi airport.

Immigration head Surachate said Ms. Rahaf would be sent back to Saudi Arabia by Monday morning.

Rahaf Mohammed M. Alqunun. **TWITTER**

OFFICE OF THE KAKATIYA URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, WARANGAL		
Tender Notice No.D/2203/2018		
"e" Proc. Tender Notification (2nd Call)		
Tender is invited for the following works:-		
Sl. No.	Name of the works	Supply and laying of EPDM rubberized flooring including its foundation for walking track for a length of 1100 mtrs and play area Bhadrakali fore shore bund with a two years of defects liability period under HRIDAY at, Warangal, Telangana (Est. Cost Rs.182.00 Lakhs)
1	E.M.D	1% of Est. Cost at the time of Tender
2	Bid document download start & Time	7-1-2019 @ 12:00 Noon
3	Pre bid meeting date and venue	10-1-2019 @ 11:00 AM
4	Last date for Queries	11-1-2019 @ 3:00 PM
5	Response to Queries	12-1-2019 @ 5:00 PM
6	Bid document download end Date & Time	16-1-2019 @ 3:00 PM
7	Bid document submission end Date & Time	16-1-2019 @ 4:00 PM
8	Price bid opening Date & Time	Will be intimated in due course
Sl/- VICE-CHAIRMAN, KUDA, WARANGAL		

Expression of Interest (EoI) for Potential Investments in the Gujarat's port sector

Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) is the 1st Indian Maritime Board set up in 1982 under the Gujarat Maritime Board Act, 1981 to develop, administrate and regulate the state ports (non-major ports). Gujarat's ports including Major port of Kandla handle about 40% of nation's maritime cargo. The share of the non-major ports regulated and operated by GMB is more than 30% in the total national throughput. In order to further promote investments in port and maritime sector, GMB invites EoI from the interested stakeholders in the following projects:

Projects	Potential Locations
Development of Greenfield Ports	Mithi, Vansi-Borsi and Modhva
Development of Private Jetty	Bedi
Setting up facilities for Container-on-Barge Services	Multiple locations
Free Trade and Warehousing Zone (Logistics Park)	Jamnagar and Magdalla (Surat)
Development of LPG Terminals	Multiple locations
Industrial Port City	Mundra & Pipavav
Mechanization & Upgradation of port facilities	Navlakhi, Okha, Porbandar, Magdalla & Bhavnagar
Development facilities for Shipbuilding and Repairs	Dahod, Bhavnagar, Navlakhi and Mandvi
Marine Tourism including Cruise Tourism	Multiple

IN BRIEF



Andhra Bank to add business correspondents

NEW DELHI
Andhra Bank will deploy more than 1,600 business correspondents to provide services such as account opening, door-step banking and NPA recovery under its financial inclusion project. They will be deployed mainly in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The bank had been implementing the project since 2010 via the business correspondent model with micro ATMs/kiosks banking technology. PTI

House panel asks PSBs to step up hiring

NEW DELHI
Public sector banks (PSBs) ought to step up hiring at junior and middle levels to ensure there is no vacuum following the retirement of large number of employees in the near future, the Standing Committee on Finance said in a report to Parliament. Across PSBs, 95% of GM level staff, 75% of deputy GM level staff, and 58% of additional GM level employees will retire in 2019-20. PTI

Centre to collect KYC details of firms, CAs

NEW DELHI
In an effort to weed out unscrupulous elements, the Corporate Affairs Ministry plans to collect known your customer (KYC) details of companies, chartered accountants, cost accountants and company secretaries. A senior Ministry official said the move would help in having a "sanitised list" of companies and professionals. Last year, the Ministry carried out the KYC initiative for directors. PTI

GST can boost direct, indirect tax collections, say experts

'Govt. is also trying to improve revenues via sources such as PSU dividends'

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI

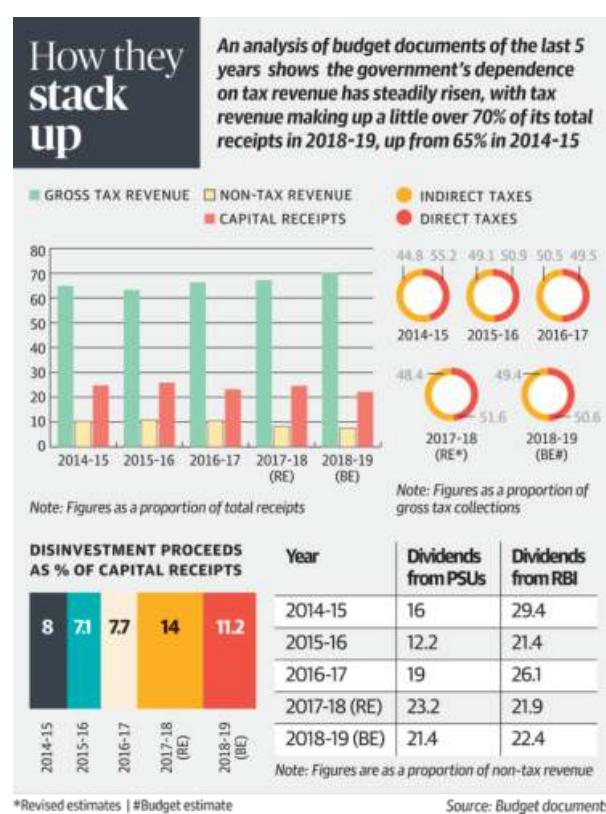
The fact that the government is increasingly dependent on tax revenue, especially indirect taxes, to meet its fiscal requirements is not a cause for worry, according to tax analysts, who say that the real benefits of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) have not yet taken effect. Once they do, government revenue from both direct and indirect taxes will grow significantly.

An analysis by *The Hindu* of the budget documents of the last five years has shown that the government's dependence on tax revenue has steadily increased, with tax revenue making up a little more than 70% of its total receipts in 2018-19, up from 65% in 2014-15. Correspondingly, the share of revenue from non-tax sources (such as dividends from PSUs and the RBI) and capital receipts (such as disinvestment proceeds) has been declining.

The view among tax analysts is that the government cannot take the risk of increasing tax rates, whether direct or indirect, for fear of a backlash from the public. So, the only option it has to boost tax revenues is to increase the tax base and stop evasion, both of which the government has been trying to do.

"Several steps such as analysing the business-wise monthly GST payments and ascertaining trends in State-wise movement of goods using the e-waybill data would have already been initiated to evaluate options for enhancing the GST taxpayer database and revenues," Mr. Mani, partner, Deloitte India, said.

How they stack up



An analysis of budget documents of the last 5 years shows the government's dependence on tax revenue has steadily risen, with tax revenue making up a little over 70% of its total receipts in 2018-19, up from 65% in 2014-15.

Note: Figures as a proportion of total receipts
Source: Budget documents

Note: Figures as a proportion of gross tax collections
Source: Budget documents

Note: Figures as a proportion of non-tax revenue
Source: Budget documents

worry for the government should be the fact that an increasing proportion of its indirect tax collections are coming from a single source – oil.

Non-tax revenue

Despite this optimistic outlook of future growth in tax revenue, the government has also been trying to improve its collections from other sources such as dividends from public sector companies and the Reserve Bank of India, and also through disinvestments.

The analysis of budget data shows that PSU dividends as a proportion of non-tax revenue have been growing over the years, from 16% in 2014-15 to 21.4% in 2018-19. The government has reportedly been pressurising the state-run oil companies to transfer larger dividends to the Centre every year.

It is also reportedly asking the state-run oil companies to buy back shares, and is also pushing more PSUs to list on the stock exchanges.

However, this is an untenable source of revenue for the government because they are based on finite resources.

Notably, dividends from the RBI, as a proportion of non-tax revenue, have been falling.

"Non-tax revenues, if you look at the majority, they have come from auctioning spectrum licences and royalties from oil, etc, and also disinvestment," Mr. Banerjee said.

"All of these have a limit. Suppose you decide to sell everything, but after that, what? You cannot expand your budget based on this," he said.

However, he said that the

sumption and hence, indirect tax collections, other analysts say.

"The indirect tax rate is fixed, so if there is price inflation, then the government receives a tax on that as well because product prices go up and so the tax component also goes up," Ranen Banerjee, partner, PwC India, said. "The second aspect is that when the GDP grows, consumption also grows, and so you get more indirect taxes from that."

Efficiency gains

"The efficiency gains of GST haven't yet kicked in and once they do, this will give revenue buoyancy in the next 3-5 years," Mr. Banerjee added.

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"All of these have a limit. Suppose you decide to sell everything, but after that, what? You cannot expand your budget based on this," he said.

However, he said that the

14 oil, gas blocks to be auctioned

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

After months of delay, the Centre on Monday will launch the second auction of 14 blocks for prospecting of oil and gas in an attempt to raise domestic output to cut imports.

Officials said the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) bid round-II, with 14 blocks measuring 29,333 square kilometre in aggregate area on offer, will be launched by Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday.

India, had in July 2017, allowed companies to carve out blocks of their choice with a view to bring about 2.8 million sq km of unexplored area in the country under exploration.

and White Label ATMs, which are owned and operated by non-bank entities.

"As digital transactions have not become anywhere near universal, the committee would urge RBI to pursue the lingering problem of dysfunctionality as well as shortage of ATMs vigorously with banks, while ensuring the economic viability of ATMs for all stakeholders, so that a forced cash crunch is not imposed on the public," the report said.

The panel headed by senior Congress leader M. Veerappa Moily also noted that RBI's remonetisation drive has not augmented/reduced the cash supply to ATMs in rural/semi-urban areas, forcing the shutdown of many ATMs.

Panel asks RBI to fix problem of dry ATMs

Avoid situations of forced cash crunch'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A Parliamentary panel has asked the Reserve Bank to address the problem of perpetually dysfunctional ATMs so as to avoid any situation of forced cash crunch. The Standing Committee on Finance has also asked banks to install adequate number of ATMs. The panel tabled its report in Parliament last week.

As per RBI data, there were 2,21,492 Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) in the country at the end of September 2018.

These include 1,43,844 ATMs of public sector banks, 59,645 ATMs of private banks and 18,003 of foreign banks, payments banks, small finance banks

Hydro projects of 5,950 MW stalled

Policy for revival on the cards

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Electricity Authority estimates, the annual loss of energy generation from these stalled hydro projects is about 18,761 million units.

The official said the government is working on a hydro policy that would provide for longer loan repayment period, lower interest rate and other incentives which would help bring down the tariff of these projects.

The Power Ministry has informed about formulating a hydro policy to Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy. The policy will also shore up the hydro power sector, which is facing stiff competition from other clean sources and also from thermal power.

Ericsson attempting media trial'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Reliance Communications accused Ericsson, which is an operational unsecured creditor of the company, of attempting trial by the media and sensationalising the issue of dues recovery, saying it might put the interest of even secured lenders at risk.

The Anil Ambani-led firm, however, said it remained committed to clearing dues of Ericsson from spectrum realisation. Ericsson India on Friday moved the Supreme Court seeking initiation of contempt proceedings for the second time against Mr. Ambani for allegedly not complying with its order to clear dues of ₹550 crore.

INTERVIEW | MRUTYUNJAY MAHAPATRA

Expect resolution of some big ticket NCLT accounts'

We will reduce net NPAs to below 6%: Syndicate Bank MD

MANOJIT SAHA

Mrutyunjay Mahapatra, MD & CEO, Syndicate Bank, says his priority is to repair the balance sheet and not be aggressive on growth. Edited excerpts from an interview:

While Syndicate Bank is not under the prompt corrective action (PCA) of the RBI, its NPAs are high. The bank has also posted losses in the first and second quarters of the current financial year. What are your immediate priorities?

The immediate issues that I would like to address are twofold. I would like to repair the bank as I build it. Repairing in the form of taking out the NPAs and trying recovery and resolution together. Only recovery may not be a solution as cash flow is not there [for some companies].

There, I can collaborate with them and bring a resolution regime which has both the elements – one, scaling down of operation and enhancing the security. Also, giving them a bandwidth of bringing in a foreign investor, selling non-core assets. So, resolution is an integral approach to recovery. Instead of a distress sale, my approach is a blended approach where I do both recovery and resolution together.

What kind of improvement do you see in business growth, which had been tepid till September?

During the first six months of the financial year, before I joined the bank, the adjustments were happening in the

risk-weighted assets books. Because, if you start growing, you will require capital. As NPAs were eating away a large amount of capital, growth capital was not there.

So, repairing the balance sheet took precedence. But now we have some growth capital which was freed up by some NPA resolution.

We are now focusing on capital-light areas such as housing loans

So, we are focusing on capital-light areas like housing loans. I want to go for a little lower margin but will freeze that margin. Globally, the gap of probability of default between a AAA-rated entity [highest investment grade] and BBB-rated [lowest investment grade] is 3.5%. But in India the gap is 6.5%.

So far, for the full financial year, I will be happy if I grow at 5.5% each in advances and deposits. I am not interested in growing the balance sheet aggressively. Even if my net interest margin comes down from two and a half per cent to 2.25%, I am okay with that as long as credit costs remain below 2%.

What kind of

growth do you see in current and savings account deposits (CASA), which are low-cost deposits?

The share of CASA deposits in total domestic deposits were 33.46%. Our aim is to take it to 38% by the end of September 2019.

When do you think the bank will return to profit?

I think there is a touch-and-go chance for the January-March quarter but April-June looks quite favourable.

So, there will be pressure of provisioning for NPAs in the third and fourth quarter of the current financial year?

Provisioning pressure will be there. Corporate NPAs are bottoming out and the last quarter [January-March] will see some big ticket resolution from the first list of RBI that was referred to NCLT. But some ageing provision will happen. Also, there are cases like IL&FS. Some additional provisions from agriculture sector will be there as debt waivers are getting announced.

Where do you see gross and net NPA figures by March?

We will bring down gross NPA ratio to below 12% [from 12.98%] and net NPA below 6% [from 6.83%].

Will you be raising capital in the current financial year?

By the end of January or beginning of February, we will do an employee share purchase scheme. We will get ₹500 to ₹600 crore. Every ₹500 crore gives me an uptick of 0.3% in capital adequacy ratio. I am also talking to bankers to find out what will be a good option [to raise capital]... whether a tier-I capital issue or tier-II, depending on market conditions.

Govt. banks rationalising foreign units

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Public sector banks are in the process of closing or rationalising about 69 overseas operations in the next few months as part of their capital conservation exercise.

Planned rationalisation of operations and examination of a total of 216 overseas operations of the public sector banks (PSBs) was undertaken last year, sources said.

Following the review, 35 overseas operations were closed while 69 are under process or being considered for rationalisation.

Unviable foreign operations are being shut while multiple branches in same cities or nearby places are being rationalised with a view to achieve efficiency, sources said.

‘LS polls may boost rural demand’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

HDFC managing director Keki Mistry said the upcoming Lok Sabha elections would give a big boost to the rural economy.

Mr. Mistry said a host of reforms initiated in the past decade would lead to positive outcomes over the next few years for the economy.

“Historical trends have shown that the elections spur rural economies and help local entrepreneurs. The upcoming polls are expected to help rural demand,” Mr. Mistry told PTI.

The thrust on housing by the government, the demand for housing finance and the benefits of reforms would be positive for the real estate sector, particularly affordable housing segment, he added.

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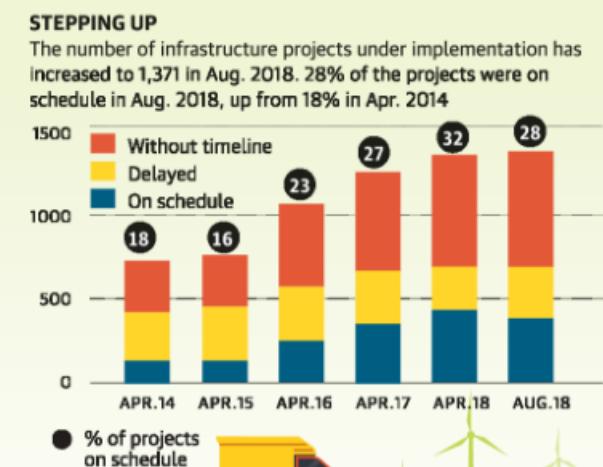
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e-mail us at reach.youngworld@thehindu.co.in

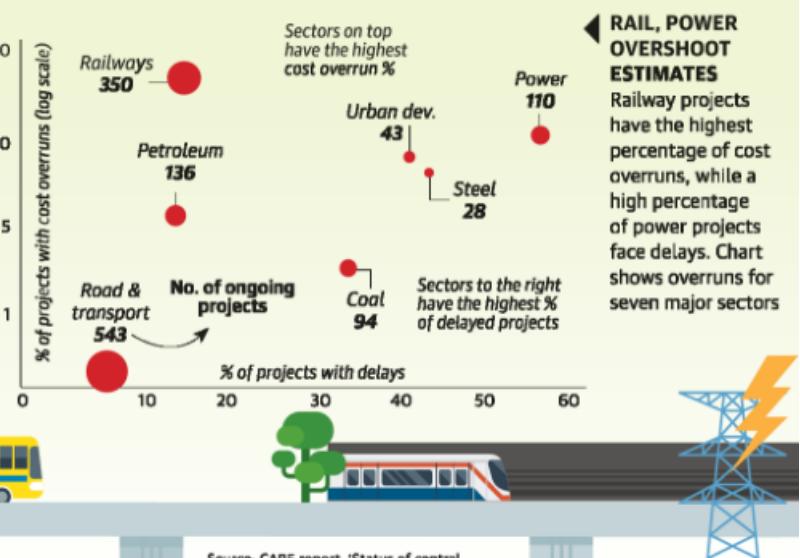
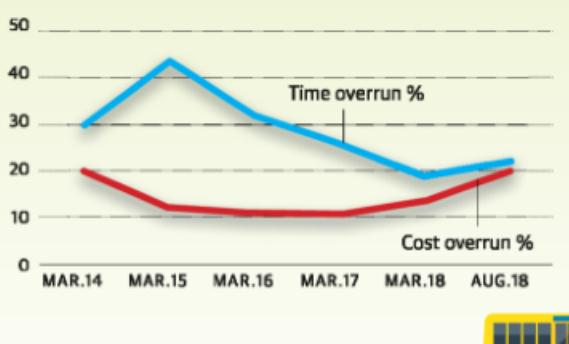
Spanner in the works

The number of major infrastructure projects (worth ₹150 crore or more) in various stages of implementation has nearly doubled in FY 2018 compared to FY 2015. However, time and cost overruns are a concern. Varun B. Krishnan takes a look at the status of these projects



OVERRUNS MAR PROGRESS

The percentage of projects with time and cost overruns has increased in August 2018. Data show that one of every five projects has a time or/and cost overrun.



Source: CARE report, 'Status of central infrastructure projects', data as of Aug. 2018

Banks get a breather on bad loans

RBI's latest financial stability report indicates that Indian banks' bad loan crisis could be peaking out

AARATI KRISHNAN

In the last five years, investors and depositors in India have become accustomed to banks springing unpleasant surprises on them every time they thought the worst was over on the bad loan crisis.

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) half-yearly Financial Stability Reports, which take stock of the strength and stability of Indian banks, had turned into chronicles of gloom tracing the steady worsening of the crisis.

But the RBI's latest report for December 2018 breaks away from the trend to offer glimmers of hope to these stakeholders. Here are the takeaways from this report.

Dip in proportion

For the first time since the bad loan saga began to play out six years ago, Indian banks have reported a decline in the proportion of loans gone bad for the half-year ended September 2018.

Their aggregate Gross Non-Performing Asset (GNPA) ratio dipped from 11.5% in March 2018 to 10.8% in September 2018. The GNPA ratio captures the proportion of loans in a bank's books on which borrowers haven't repaid dues for more

than 90 days. The trend started tamely enough, with banks reporting a GNPA ratio of 3.4% in March 2013. But more skeletons began tumbling out of the closet after RBI initiated an asset quality review of individual banks to ferret out their problematic accounts in March 2015. The GNPA ratio more than doubled over the next three years to peak at 11.5% by March 2018.

Even now, the fact that well over a tenth of all loans given out by Indian banks have gone bad is not cause for cheer. But, for banks and their stakeholders, the recent flattening out of the GNPA ratio is to be welcomed because they can finally have a fix on the size of the problem that they're dealing with, instead of chasing a moving target.

The bulk of bad loans remains concentrated with public sector banks (GNPA ratio of 14.8%), while private sector banks are much better off (3.8%). Of the 55 banks, 23 had ratios below 5% as of September 2018, 10 featured GNPs in the 5-10% bracket and 21 banks sat on over-the-top GNPs of 10% to 30%.

Better accounting

If the peaking of GNPs is good news, even better news is the proportion of restructured advances lurking in bank books falling to 0.5% by September 2018. This shows that most of the doubtful loans in bank books are now accounted for.

One of the most disturbing aspects of the ongoing bad loan saga was that GNPs officially recognised by the banks were only the tip of the iceberg. In 2013, for every bad loan that banks had recognised as NPA, there was another dicey one hidden from public view because of a cosy arrangement with the borrower to restructure the loan.

In March 2015, while banks reported a GNPA ratio of 4.6%, their restructured advances were far larger at 6.5%. Today, the GNPA ratio is at 10.8%, but restructured

loans are down to 0.5%.

Again, it is RBI's asset quality reviews and its February 2018 circular asking banks to wind up all their restructuring schemes that have hastened this recognition.

The total proportion of 'stressed' loans on bank books (NPAs plus restructured loans) peaked at 12.3% in September 2016 and has steadily declined to 11.3% now.

Pending provisions

The spring cleaning of banks' books seems to be almost over when it comes to recognising NPAs. But the pain for investors and depositors will be at an end only when the banks have provided for (set aside their profits)

all their irrecoverable loans.

On this score, we are just over the halfway mark. The provision coverage ratio for all banks stood at 52.4% at the end of September 2018.

This suggests that the dent to bank profitability from bad loan provisions will continue over the next many quarters. But public sector banks with a provision coverage of 51.4% have much more pain ahead of them, than private sector banks (56.2%) or foreign banks (87.1%).

Rising provisions were the reason why even as their overall bad loan position improved, five banks saw their capital positions dip below RBI-mandated levels of 9% in the half year ended September 2018, compared to just one bank in March.

The average capital adequacy ratio for all banks was at a comfortable 13.4% as of September 2018.

RBI's stress testing shows that 9 of these banks could fall short of the critical 9% mark by March 2019, even with best-case assumptions on GDP growth, deficits, lending rates and inflation.

Therefore, demands from the distressed public sector banks for capital infusions from the government may continue to tax the fisc and taxpayers in the coming quarters.

Priya Kapadia, head of the Marico Innovation Foundation, explains that this is the first sector-specific project of "Innovate2Cultivate" and

management. But these are for specific crops. "The project gives them an exposure to a new crop, potential customers and business," she says. Kshitij Thakur, co-founder of Mumbai-based Occipital Tech, was part of the team of entrepreneurs who came to Pollachi.

His company builds grading and sorting solutions for fruits and vegetables. "Grading and sorting is mostly done manually now and is not standardised. We use computer vision. Cameras are placed on the conveyor belts and the software sorts the produce based on shape, colour, and size, according to the requirements of the customer. We are targeting food processing companies and exporters," he says.

has the Centre for Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship as its knowledge partner.



Where the twain meet: Some teams have started submitting proposals after visiting coconut farms. ■ BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

GREENSHOOTS

The foundation invited start-ups to take part by listing out some of the broad challenges faced by the coconut growers and received nearly 100 applications.

Of these, 37 were short-listed as cohort members and all of them are working in the agriculture sector.

Working on alternatives

The start-ups have developed or are working on technologies and solutions such as organic micro nutrients and alternatives to pest management and soil

Can open market operations ease tight liquidity conditions?

A cumulative cut in CRR and SLR by 1% will free up almost ₹1.2 lakh cr. for banks

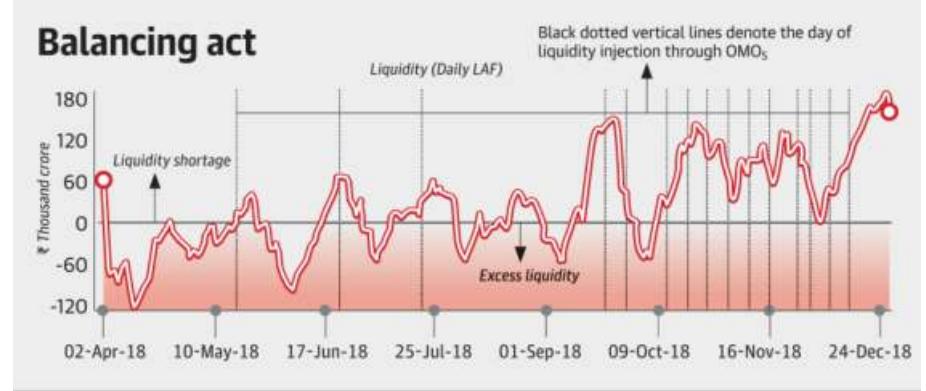
ABHISHEK ANAND

The latest monetary policy statement highlighted the issue of liquidity crunch being faced by the banking system. The statement noted that the tight liquidity conditions had led to overnight call money rate breaching the policy corridor on several occasions. Consequently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to scale up its open market operations (OMO) in December and January. It further added that liquidity conditions will continue to be monitored and depending on the assessment, RBI will consider similar quantum of OMO purchases until the end of March 2019.

The accompanying chart measures the tight monetary conditions in terms of quantities by plotting the RBI's provision of funds in the form of overnight and term repos under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) in response to banks' demand for liquidity. As can be seen, in the current fiscal, liquidity remained in a comfortable position and mostly in excess, in the first two quarters. On an average, there was an excess of nearly ₹1,000 crore between April 2018 and mid-September 2018.

Liquidity shortfall

However, there was a huge shortage of liquidity between September 15 and 26 averaging ₹1.18 lakh crore. The RBI, consequently, announced OMOs of ₹30,000 crore. This move did ease liquidity temporarily but it (the shortage) again shot up October 15 onwards. Since, then, liquidity deficit had av-



eraged nearly ₹90,000 crore. In fact, as on December 26, liquidity deficit was in excess of ₹1.8 lakh crore.

Remember, the RBI had changed its liquidity management objective in June 2016. Prior to this period, the RBI used to maintain ex ante liquidity deficit in the system at around 1% of net time and demand liabilities (NDTL) of banks. However, since June 2016, the stated objective of the RBI is to keep the ex ante liquidity closer to neutral position. Interestingly, at present, the deficit in the system is in excess of 1% of the NDTL.

The tight liquidity has shown up in prices as well. The weighted average call rate (WACR) traded above the policy repo rate only four times out of 124 trading days since the start of the current fiscal to second week of September. On average, the WACR was 13 basis points (bps) below the repo rate. However, since mid-September the WACR has traded above the policy repo rate 20 times out of 74 trading days and the spread between WACR and policy repo

rate narrowed to just 8 bps.

What explains the surge in the liquidity deficit since mid-September of this fiscal? There are three key factors which have led to this situation.

First, the growth in bank credit take-off has improved in last few months, however growth in bank deposits remain tepid. Second, growth in currency in circulation has also accelerated during this period. Third, and the most significant, the RBI had to draw down its foreign exchange reserves in excess of \$32 billion, since the start of the current financial year, to smoothen exchange rate volatility. Consequently, liquidity in excess of ₹2 lakh crore has been sucked out of the system.

The RBI has responded to solve this issue by infusing liquidity through OMOs. The frequency of OMOs have increased considerably since September. The RBI has conducted 19 OMOs so far in this fiscal, of which, only six happened prior to September. In terms of value, in 2018-19, the RBI has injected liquidity worth ₹1.62 lakh crore of which ₹1.35 lakh crore has

happened since September. However, the OMOs so far have failed to provide requisite liquidity in the system.

So, what should be done next to solve this issue? To answer this question, we need to understand what methods were deployed in the past when a similar situation had arisen. Remember that the banking system was facing severe liquidity crunch in the last two quarters of 2015-16. The RBI, just as now, had responded by infusing liquidity through OMOs. In addition, the statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) and the policy repo rate were also cut by 25 bps each. In the current scenario as well, the RBI needs to resort to other methods of durable liquidity infusion given the ineffectiveness of OMO operations in solving the issue so far. A cumulative reduction in CRR and SLR by 1% would free up almost ₹1.2 lakh crore for the banks which will significantly improve liquidity issue that these banks are facing at the moment.

(The writer is from the Indian Economic Service. Views are personal.)

retail liability... branch banking, was a very big change."

The DCB stint prepared him for what was to come. He had to quit DCB as Mumbai turned out unsuitable health-wise for his three-year-old daughter. It was a time when microfinance was gaining attention.

A curious Mr. Vasudevan knocked on IFMR's doors in Chennai to help gain entry into microfinance. "A lady at IFMR (as I was talking to her and giving her my background), said 'Why don't you start a company? Why join one?'

The suggestion stumped him. After a lot of travel, numerous meetings and field visits, he was set. "MFI is completely different and not like other kinds of retail lending. I thought I had to try something here."

The respect shown to lady clients and the interest from private equity players had combined to pitchfork MFIs into the limelight. "But fairness and transparency were missing," he says. A flat rate of interest was the norm.

Many an MFI chose not to communicate to clients that they could end up paying more interest if the interest calculated was not on a reducing-balance basis.

Creating an MFI with fairness and transparency, at the same time focussed on technology and process con-

ditioned him to scale down his salary, as he believes a CEO's pay cannot exceed that of the lowest grade of staff by a certain ratio. He has also wound down his stake in his holding firm such that there is no promoter for the firm, to prevent a single entity from having absolute control.

The bank too has had its share of challenges. Demonetisation was a litmus test soon after the bank came into existence. Borrowers were unable to service loans for a while. By the time Equitas got over that bump, it had to face RBI's refusal to waive key licensing norms warrenting promoters to list SFBs. Though the holding company is technically the promoter of the bank, the holding company is publicly held.

The bank too has its share of challenges. Demonetisation was a litmus test soon after the bank came into existence. Borrowers were unable to service loans for a while. By the time Equitas got over that bump, it had to face RBI's refusal to waive key licensing norms warrenting promoters to list SFBs. Though the holding company is technically the promoter of the bank, the holding company is publicly held.

Once the bank too is listed, shareholders of the holding company may take a short-term knock on valuations as the bank, from which much of the value is derived, would compete for investor interest.

But it is natural for Mr. Vasudevan to take this in his stride. Compliance with rules will take priority over everything else, he says. Also in sight is a universal banking licence. "After five years, we apply for a universal banking licence. Logically, we will."

Also in sight is a universal banking licence. "After five years, we apply for a universal banking licence. Logically, we will."

The industry
norm was to charge flat rates of interest, which cloaked costs for the borrower.
We changed that

The industry
norm was to charge flat rates of interest, which cloaked costs for the borrower.
We changed that

Fairness – bedrock of our business'

An entrepreneur by accident, P.N. Vasudevan chooses roads less travelled

**K.T. JAGANNATHAN
K. BHARAT KUMAR**

A product of middle-class upbringing, he doesn't come across as overtly ambitious. Seeming at peace with himself, he sounds every bit happy going with the flow. And, why not? After all, this son of a Sanskrit lecturer is now a niche banker. It has never been a structured course, though, for him. His path has not always been strewn with roses

Weather notwithstanding, India set for date with history

Kuldeep gets his first five-for in Tests; Australia follows on at home for the first time in 31 years

OZ CHALLENGE

S. DINAKAR
SYDNEY

On a heavily truncated day of cloud cover and rain, India moved closer to its first ever Test series triumph in Australia.

On the final day of the fourth Test at the SCG here on Monday – irrespective of whether the visitors force a win or the game ends in a draw – India will register a momentous conquest after 71 years of touring Australia.

Made to follow on for the first time at home since 1988 – the hosts were dismissed for 300 after play commenced following a 190-minute delay – Australia was six without loss in its second innings when bad light ended play.

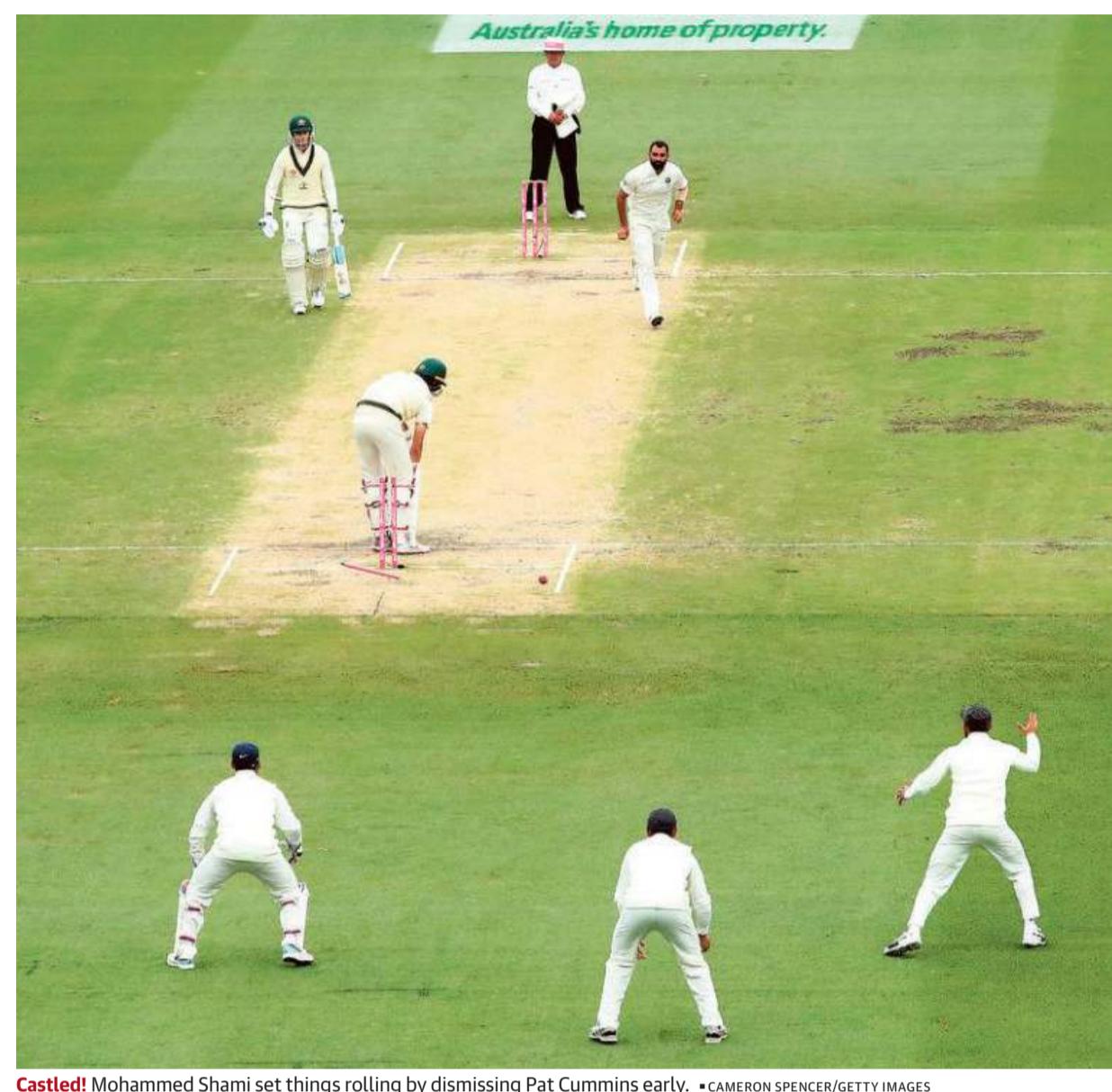
Bag of tricks

Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav, once again a bagful of tricks, collected his first five-for in a Test innings. He is a delightful bowler with a quick-arm action and tantalising flight.

The pace bowlers found some assistance on day four. The pitch being covered for a long period meant there would be some moisture on the surface when play got under way.

This combined with the dark sky made conditions helpful for the seamers. Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah were on target.

Although right-armers, both are different. The shorter Shami releases from a lower trajectory, and essentially gets the ball to skid off



Casted! Mohammed Shami set things rolling by dismissing Pat Cummins early. ■ CAMERON SPENCER/GETTY IMAGES

the surface at a sharp pace off a terrific seam position.

get disconcerting bounce from just short of a good length with his arm speed and wrist position.

The lanky Bumrah sends down his thunderbolts from a high-arm action. When not unleashing those toe-crushers, he hits the deck and can

get-a-length ball that hurried off the pitch, kept a tad low and rattled the timber.

Then, it was Bumrah's turn. The manner in which Peter Handscomb sets himself up leaves him vulnerable

against pacemen. His bat is held high in the air and the back-swing is not always straight.

Bumrah kept the ball around off, Handscomb played away from his body

and his stumps were in a mess.

A fine player of spin, Handscomb (37) swept and whipped Kuldeep for boundaries but needs to tighten up against pacemen.

Kuldeep bowled beautifully, mixing his Chinaman with his wrong'un and the flipper. A wicket is always in the air when he operates.

Nathan Lyon swept over a fuller ball, was trapped in front. Kuldeep now had four scalps.

Vihari hurts shoulder

He would have had his fifth moments later but Hanuma Vihari grassed a skier at mid-wicket to reprise Josh Hazlewood. The Aussie's eyes lit up when the ball was flighted, but it dipped to force the miscue.

Vihari hurt his shoulder and his fitness will be assessed.

The left-handed combination of Mitchell Starc and Hazlewood offered some resistance. Starc punched Bumrah through mid-off and then cover-drove Kuldeep.

These are times when Starc appears to have more confidence in his batting than bowling.

Hazlewood whacked Ravindra Jadeja over mid-wicket. The stubborn last-wicket pair brought up the 300 for Australia.

Kuldeep, though, ended the 42-run association, spinning the ball into Hazlewood and winning a marginal leg-before decision.

There was a well-earned pat on his shoulder from an appreciative Kohli and Kuldeep led the team back into

SCOREBOARD AUSTRALIA VS INDIA, FOURTH TEST, DAY 4

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS

622 for seven dec.

AUSTRALIA – 1ST INNINGS

Marcus Harris b Jadeja 79

(120b, 8x4), Usman Khawaja c

Pujara b Kuldeep 27 (7b, 3x4),

Marnus Labuschagne c Rahane

b Shami 38 (95b, 7x4), Shaun

Marsh c Rahane b Jadeja 8 (13b,

2x4), Travis Head c & b Kuldeep

20 (56b, 2x4), Peter Handscomb

b Bumrah 37 (11b, 5x4), Tim

Paine b Kuldeep 5 (14b,

1x4), Pat Cummins b Shami 25

(44b, 6x4), Mitchell Starc (not out) 29 (55b, 3x4), Nathan Lyon

lbw b Kuldeep 0 (5b), J. Hazlewood lbw b Kuldeep 21 (45b,

2x4); Extras (b-4, lb-2, w-5): 11.

Total (in 104.5 overs): 300.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-72 (Khawaja, 21.6), 2-128

(Harris, 42.6) 3-144 (Marsh, 48.1), 4-152 (Labuschagne, 51.4), 5-192 (Head, 66.2), 6-198 (Paine, 68.6), 7-236 (Cummins, 84.3), 8-257 (Handscomb, 89.4), 9-258 (Lyon, 90.5).

INDIA BOWLING

Shami 19-2-58-2, Bumrah 21-5-62-1, Jadeja 32-11-73-2, Kuldeep 31.5-6-99-5, Vihari 1-0-2-0.

AUSTRALIA – 2ND INNINGS

Usman Khawaja (batting) 4 (12b, 1x4), Marcus Harris (batting) 2 (12b). Total (for no loss in four overs): 300.

INDIA BOWLING

Shami 2-1-4-0, Bumrah 2-1-2-0.

Stat attack

1 India is the first team

in the last 30 years to

enforce a follow-on on

Australia in Australia

2 Kuldeep Yadav's

figures of five for

99 are the second-best

after Englishman Johnny

Wardle's five for 79 (SCG,

1955) among visiting

left-arm wrist-spinners in

Australia

* The last time Australia was asked to follow-on at home was in 1988, while overseas it was in 2005 at Trent Bridge. On both occasions, the opponent was England

4 Of the five times India has enforced the follow-on under Virat Kohli, it has won four by an innings margin. Bangladesh was saved by the rain at Fatullah

the pavilion. The moment will stay with the youngster for long.

Tested

Soon the Aussie openers were back. And they were tested by Bumrah and Shami.

Bumrah got one to climb and hit Marcus Harris on the knuckles. It was a painful blow and the ball nearly ended up in gully's hands.

And, Shami steamed in to bowl with speed and control. He zoned in on Usman Khawaja's off-stump, taking the ball away from the southpaw.

The final day, if the weather improves, should be engrossing. But then, the pitch will not break since there was hardly any heat or sunshine on Sunday.

In any case, India will keep its date with history on Monday.

Will go all out for a victory, says Arun

Handscomb says host batsmen ready to fight hard to force a draw



Getting his due: India captain Virat Kohli lets Kuldeep Yadav lead the team off the field. ■ AFP

said. "We drew upon all those experiences."

On Kuldeep Yadav's performance in the Test, Arun said, "Kuldeep is a very skil-

ful bowler. He, probably, is the No. 1 bowler in the one-day format."

Asked about India playing under lights with a pink ball,

Arun said, "I think sometime in future we will definitely be playing pink-ball cricket. We didn't play now because we had not played with the pink ball before."

Handscomb said Australia would strive to draw the Test on day five. "Huge for us to push for a draw. We've obviously got a really, really good chance to shift some momentum back into our camp."

On Jasprit Bumrah's bowling in the series, he said, "Bumrah can crank it up to 150 kmph. His accuracy has been very impressive. Hasn't missed his mark by too much. And, he has been able to swing it both ways."

Shami can run in all day, his seam position is good and he's skiddy. Ishant gets bounce and seam movement and Bhuvneshwar swings the ball. Everyone is different."

About his own time with the Australian team, Clark said, "I played with some great pacemen. McGrath had off-stump line, movement and bounce. Brett Lee was quick, hustled the batsmen. Shane Warne was sensational," he said.

and can get the ball to rise off a length. He's also quick.

"Shami can run in all day, his seam position is good and he's skiddy. Ishant gets bounce and seam movement and Bhuvneshwar swings the ball. Everyone is different."

"When I was playing, India had some fine pacemen such as Zaheer Khan, but now India has a battery of fast bowlers. There is so much depth."

Clark also said the Indian pace pack had variety. "Bumrah has a quick-arm action, releases the ball high

Jasprit Bumrah's bowling in the series, he said, "Bumrah can crank it up to 150 kmph. His accuracy has been very impressive. Hasn't missed his mark by too much. And, he has been able to swing it both ways."

Chhetri put up a fantastic display to bag two goals and steer India to an astounding 4-1 win against Thailand at the Al Nahyan Stadium. The win took India to the top of Group A.

Chhetri's brace not only made him India's top-scorer at the Asian Cup but also the second-highest active goal-scoring in the world, behind Cristiano Ronaldo.

Chhetri played Kuruniyan on goal and he struck a meek shot that managed to clip Theerathon Bunmathan's hand. The referee pointed to spot and Chhetri slotted home.

The lead didn't last too long as Thailand bounced back within seven minutes.

A Bunmathan pinpoint delivery found skipper Teerasil Dangda, who lapped up the chance and headed it past

India three-goal advantage that remained till the end.

India gets off to a stupendous start

Sunil Chhetri gets a brace as Constantine's men swamp Thailand 4-1

AFC ASIAN CUP

SHYAM VASUDEVAN
ABU DHABI

Sunday's AFC Asian Cup clash between India and Thailand had all the ingredients for a scrumptious game of football.

The seasoned Sunil Chhetri put up a fantastic display to bag two goals and steer India to an astounding 4-1 win against Thailand at the Al Nahyan Stadium. The win took India to the top of Group A.

Chhetri's brace not only made him India's top-scorer at the Asian Cup but also the second-highest active goal-scoring in the world, behind Cristiano Ronaldo.

The goal gave the Indians a new-found sense of confidence and the next goal came in the 68th minute when the omnipresent Chhetri played in Udanta on goal. Unable to dodge his way past the defence, he cut back for Anirudh Thapa.

Thapa, the youngest Indian on the pitch, chipped the ball with finesse past the Thai custodian.

Within two minutes of his introduction, Jeje Lalpekhlua received the ball on the edge of the box and found the left top-corner with a lovely instep shot to give a India three-goal advantage that remained till the end.

The results:

Group A: India 4 (Sunil Chhetri 27, 46; Anirudh Thapa 68, Jeje Lalpekhlua 80) bt Thailand 1 (Teerasil Dangda 33).

Group B: Jordan 1 (Anas Bani Yaseen 26) bt Australia 0.



Marksman: Sunil Chhetri and Anirudh Thapa, who shared three goals between them, celebrate a strike. ■ AP

Stat Attack

3 India's third win in 11

games in the AFC Asian

Cup (7 losses and a draw)

4 most goals scored by India

in a game in the Asian

Cup. India is playing in its

fourth AFC Asian Cup

42 The difference be-

tween Thailand's (113)

and India's (155) rankings

according to the World Elo

Ratings. India is ranked 97

and Thailand 118 in the FIFA World Rankings

55 years since India won its last game in the Asian Cup (3-1 against Hong Kong, 1964)

68 goals in 107 games for

A contest between two bottom benchers

Tamil Nadu and Delhi will, at best, be playing for pride in the final league game of the season



In a huddle: The Tamil Nadu team, out of reckoning for the knockouts, will hope to end its campaign with a win.

• B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

The final league game of the KK season, two heavyweight teams with a rich history, and to be telecast live on TV. It would have been the perfect setting to see which team comes out on top over four days and consolidate their position going into the knockouts or even fight for a

place in the final eight.

Unfortunately, a top billing that Tamil Nadu versus Delhi would usually have deserved has been reduced to a match in which both teams will at best play for pride.

Placed 12th and 13th on the combined table of Groups A & B in the Ranji Trophy, Delhi and Tamil Nadu are separated by only one

point – with 13 and 12 respectively.

Both teams come into the game on the back of defeats, TN against Himachal, and Delhi against Bengal though the home team had a break during the last round and should be relatively fresh.

Four fresh faces

It is the second year in suc-

cession TN has failed to make the knockouts and the team will have four fresh faces available for selection in Pradosh Ranjan Paul, S. Mohan Prasath, S. Lokeshwar and S. Radhakrishnan. Out of the four, Pradosh and left-arm spinner, Mohan Prasath appear to have the best chance of making it to the playing eleven.

Ranji Trophy schedule - Round Nine (Jan 7 to 10)

GROUP A: Baroda vs Karnataka (Vidarbha), Mumbai vs Chhattisgarh (Mumbai), Railways vs Maharashtra (Delhi), Saurashtra vs Vidarbha (Rajkot). Not playing: Gujarat

GROUP B: Madhya Pradesh vs Andhra (Indore), Tamil Nadu vs Delhi (Chennai), Himachal Pradesh vs Kerala (Nadaun), Bengal vs Punjab (Kolkata). Not playing: Hyderabad

GROUP C: Haryana vs Services (Rohtak), Jammu & Kashmir vs Jharkhand (Jammu), Odisha vs Goa (Cuttack), Tripura vs Rajasthan (Agartala), Uttar Pradesh vs Assam (Kanpur)

PLATE: Arunachal Pradesh vs Sikkim (Goalpara), Bihar vs Manipur (Patna), Puducherry vs Nagaland (Dimapur), Uttarakhand vs Mizoram (Dehradun). Not playing: Meghalaya

R.C.T.C. PLATE (DIV. I, 1,400m), 4-y-o & over, rated 26 to 46 (Cat. II): **ALEXANDER THEGREAT** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Crimson Fire (G. Naresh) 2, Classy Guy (Nakhat Singh) 3 and Royal Green (Gaurav Singh) 4. NK, 2 and 1/2, Im, 12.04s. ₹12 (w, 6, 7 and 9 (p), SHP: 18, FP: 40, Q: 27, Tla: 148. Favourite: Dancing Away. Owner: Mr. Munawar Hussain. Trainer: Sk. Kassam.

Ace Ace Ace aces Taramati Cup

(Akshay Kumar) 1, Platinum Claasz (Afroz Khan) 2, Halo's Princess (R.S. Jodha) 3 and Ice Crystal (Nakhat Singh) 4. 4-1/4, 1 and 3/4, Im, 41.95s. ₹10 (w, 6, 9 and 12 (p), SHP: 25, FP: 40, Q: 27, Tla: 148. Favourite: Dancing Away. Owner: Mr. Munawar Hussain. Trainer: Sk. Kassam.

5 1 EME CENTRE ROLLING TROPHY (I,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated 42 to 62 (Cat. II): LAZER BEAM (Gopal Singh) 1, Nayadeep (Ashish Asbar) 2, Classy Guy (Nakhat Singh) 3 and Royal Green (Gaurav Singh) 4. NK, 2 and 1/2, Im, 12.04s. ₹12 (w, 6, 7 and 9 (p), SHP: 18, FP: 33, Q: 18, Tla: 301. Favourite: Lazer Beam. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

6 TARAMATI CUP (I,400m), 4-y-o & over, rated 42 to 62 (Cat. II): ACE ACE ACE (Akshay Kumar) 1, Yanga (B.R. Kumar) 2, Hailstorm (Suraj Narredu) 3 and King Maker (Surya Prakash) 4. 1-1/4, 1-1/2 and 2-1/2, Im, 25.54s. ₹15 (w, 6, 8 and 6 (p), SHP: 23, FP: 105, Q: 49, Tla: 174. Favourite: Hailstorm. Owner: Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao. Trainer: Sequeria.

7 COMMON LAND PLATE (DIV. I, 1,600m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 30 (Cat. III): EVON VON BRANDO (Akshay Kumar) 1, Running Fire (R. Ajay Kumar) 2, Vaishali (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Willow Glen (Jitendra Singh) 4. 2, nk and hd. Im, 27.29s. ₹13 (w, 6, 12 and 6 (p), SHP: 47, FP: 125, Q: 70, Tla: 252. Favourite: Vaishali. Owner: Mr. Ahmed Alam Khan. Trainer: Deshmukh.

4 HUSSAIN SAGAR CUP (DIV. II, 1,600m), 5-y-o & over, rated 26 to 46 (Cat. III): DANCING AWAY

Jackpot: ₹761 (373 tks.), runner-up: 124 (979 tks.), Treble (i): 41w (781 tks.), (ii): 123 (450 tks.).

TN skipper B. Indrajith pointed out that it was the batting that had let the team down this season especially in the last two games where the team was on the back foot after failing to put up decent totals in the first innings.

"This is the right time to bring in youngsters because earlier it was difficult as we had a chance to qualify. This game we don't have anything to play for except pride," Indrajith added.

Speaking about the season, Delhi's Dhruv Shorey said, "There were one or two bad days in batting and one or two bad days in bowling. We are a little inexperienced and it is a team in transition. So you do make a few mis-

takes and those mistakes cost us."

The wicket is expected to be similar to the one TN played against Kerala – which the home team won – with assistance for the spinners.

The teams (from):

Tamil Nadu: B. Indrajith (Capt.), Abhinav Mukund, Pradosh Ranjan Paul, B. Aparajith, S. Lokeshwar, N. Jagadeesan, Vijay Shankar, J. Kousik, M. Shahrukh Khan, S. Mohan Prasath, R. Sai Kishore, M. Mohammed, K. Vignesh, T. Natarajan and S. Radhakrishnan

Delhi: Nitish Rana (Capt.), Anuj Rawat, Navdeep Saini, Kunal Chadela, Shivam Sharma, Vikash Mishra, Dhruv Shorey, Shivank Vashisth, Hiten Dalal, Lalit Yadav, Kultwan Khejroliya, Himmat Singh, Jonty Sidhu, Subodh Bhatti and Akash Sudan.

HYDERABAD: Sequeira-trained

cracy (9) Nakhat Singh 51.5 and 14. Ashwa Raftar (11) Kunal Bunde 50.

1. DANCE OH DANCE, 2. THAT'S MY CLASS, 3. LEADING LEGEND

8 COMMON LAND PLATE (DIV. II, 1,600m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 30 (Cat. III), 4-55: 1. VALLEE IKON (7) Akshay Kumar 60.5, 2. Silver Dollar (5) A.A. Vikrant 60, 3. Nazariya (1) Tanwar 59.5, 4. Dhooll Ki Phool (3) Kuldeep Singh 57.5, 5. Maahismathi (6) B.R. Kumar 57, 6. Royal Style (8) Uday Kiran 57.7, Angles Bay (4) R.S. Jodha 56, 8. Sindhu (9) Afroz Khan 55.5 and 9. Nicola Tesla (2) Jitendra Singh 54.5.

1. NIMBLE MIND, 2. BLUEBELL

7 T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (I,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated 74 & above (Cat. I), 4-20: 1. Rahuli Pe (8) R. Ajay Kumar 63.5, 2. Breezeofthesouth (4) Koushil 57.5, 3. Chase Your Dreams (2) Tograllu 57, 4. Precious (5) Kuldeep Singh 57, 5. Dance Oh Dance (3) Tanwar 55.5, 6. Starlight (7) G. Naresh 55, 7. That's My Class (10) Akshay Kumar 55, 8. Western Wind (13) Sai Kumar 55, 9. Dream Girl (14) N. Rawal 54, 10. Leading Legend (12) Kiran Naidu 54, 11. Paprika (6) Afroz Khan 53.5, 12. Found Money (1) Gaurav Singh 52, 13. Merito-

cracy (9) Nakhat Singh 51.5 and 14. Ashwa Raftar (11) Kunal Bunde 50.

1. DANCE OH DANCE, 2. THAT'S MY CLASS, 3. LEADING LEGEND

8 COMMON LAND PLATE (DIV. II, 1,600m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 30 (Cat. III), 4-55: 1. VALLEE IKON (7) Akshay Kumar 60.5, 2. Silver Dollar (5) A.A. Vikrant 60, 3. Nazariya (1) Tanwar 59.5, 4. Dhooll Ki Phool (3) Kuldeep Singh 57.5, 5. Maahismathi (6) B.R. Kumar 57, 6. Royal Style (8) Uday Kiran 57.7, Angles Bay (4) R.S. Jodha 56, 8. Sindhu (9) Afroz Khan 55.5 and 9. Nicola Tesla (2) Jitendra Singh 54.5.

1. SILVER DOLLAR, 2. NAZARIYA, 3. VALLEE IKON

Day's best: **PROCLAMATION**

Double: **TETRA RAMA – YOURS FOREVER**

Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8; Tr (i): 1, 2 & 3; (ii): 4, 5 & 6; (iii): 6, 7 & 8; Tla: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8.

9 RAHIMTOOLATROPHY (I,400m), Cl. IV, rated 20 to 46: KINGSMAN (Trevor) 1, Aurora Australis (Merchant) 2, Aerobus (S. Amit) 3 and Gentillesse (Niranjan) 4, 3, NK and 2, Im, 25.20s. ₹19 (w, 11, 19 and 22 (p), SHP: 46, FP: 113, Q: 67, Tana: 303 and 161. Favourite: Kingsman. Owners: Mr. Jaydev M. Mody rep. J.M. Livestock Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Ram H. Shroff & Mr. Raj H. Shroff rep. Stride Livestock Pvt. Ltd. & Mr. D. Mehta & Mr. D. Mehta rep. Darashaw Bloodstock Pvt. Ltd. Trainer: Deepesh Narredu.

Jackpot: (i) 70%: ₹620 (418 tks.) and 30%: 117 (953 tks.); (ii): 70%: 516 (1,125 tks.) and 30%: 113 (2,194 tks.); Treble: (i) 802 (10 tks.), (ii) 213 (81 tks.), (iii) 323 (100). Super Jackpot: 70%: 896 (96 tks.) and 30%: ₹176 (209 tks.).

It's Nimble Mind vs Bluebell in Golconda Oaks

HYDERABAD: Nimble Mind and Bluebell may fight out the finish of the Golconda Oaks (2,400m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Monday (Jan. 7). There will be no false starts.

1 TRADE FARE PLATE (DIV. I, 1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms), 12-55 p.m.: 1. Be-dazzled (1) Kuldeep Singh 55, 2. Gazebo (4) Nakhat Singh 55, 3.

Monte Rei (2) Kiran Rai 55, 4. Terra Rama (3) Akshay Kumar 55, 5. Surf Choice (6) A.A. Vikrant 55, 6. Alliston (8) Sai Kumar 53.5, 7. Magnetosphere (7) Ashhad Asbar 53.5 and 8. Royal Ruby (5) Koushik 53.5.

1. TETRA RAMA, 2. MONTE REI, 3. BEDAZZLED

2 TRADE FARE PLATE (DIV. II, 1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms), 12-55: 1. Explosive (7) Sai Kumar 55, 2. Hollywood Star (8) Kuldeep Singh 55, 3. Ice

Monte Rei (2) Kiran Rai 55, 4. Man Apart (3) Gaurav Singh 56.5, 5. Wood Bridge (2) A.A. Vikrant 55, 6. Seafaria (4) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 6. Golden Image (5) Sai Kumar 52.5, 7. Proud Warrior (8) Santosh Raj 52.5, 8. Holy Healer (9) R.S. Jodha 52.5 and 9. Yogi (1) G. Naresh 50.

1. KAMYAR, 2. PALSY WALSY, 3. MAN APART

3 PEDDAPALLI PLATE (DIV. I, 1,100m), 4-y-o & over, rated 26 to 46 (Cat. III), 2-00: 1. Kamya (1) Tograllu 60, 2. Palsy Walsy (6) Akshay Kumar 58, 3. Man Apart (3) Gaurav Singh 56.5, 4. Wood Bridge (2) A.A. Vikrant 55, 5. Seafaria (4) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 6. Golden Image (5) Sai Kumar 52.5, 7. Proud Warrior (8) Santosh Raj 52.5, 8. Holy Healer (9) R.S. Jodha 52.5 and 9. Lady On Turf (4) N. Rawal 50.5.

4 BONZER CUP (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated 42 to 62 (Cat. II),

1. PROCLAMATION, 2. LA MER, 3. SHILOH

5 PEDDAPALLI PLATE (DIV. II, 1,100m), 4-y-o & over, rated 26 to 46 (Cat. III), 3-10: 1. Shakespeare (8) Afroz Khan 60, 2. One On One (2) Koushil 57.5, 3. Chase Your Dreams (2) Tograllu 57, 4. Precious (5) Kuldeep Singh 57, 5. Dance Oh Dance (3) Tanwar 55.5, 6. Starlight (7) G. Naresh 55, 7. That's My Class (10) Akshay Kumar 55, 8. Western Wind (13) Sai Kumar 55, 9. Dream Girl (14) N. Rawal 54, 10. Leading Legend (12) Kiran Naidu 54, 11. Paprika (6) Afroz Khan 53.5, 12. Found Money (1) Gaurav Singh 52, 13. Merito-

1. NIMBLE MIND, 2. BLUEBELL

7 T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (I,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 30 (Cat. III), 4-55: 1. Vallee Ikon (7) Akshay Kumar 60.5, 2. Silver Dollar (5) A.A. Vikrant 60, 3. Nazariya (1) Tanwar 59.5, 4. Dhooll Ki Phool (3) Kuldeep Singh 57.5, 5. Maahismathi (6) B.R. Kumar 57, 6. Royal Style (8) Uday Kiran 57.7, Angles Bay (4) R.S. Jodha 56, 8. Sindhu (9) Afroz Khan 55.5 and 9. Nicola Tesla (2) Jitendra Singh 54.5.

1. SILVER DOLLAR, 2. NAZARIYA, 3. VALLEE IKON

Day's best: **PROCLAMATION**

Double: **TETRA RAMA – YOURS FOREVER**

Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8; Tr (i): 1, 2 & 3; (ii): 4, 5 & 6; (iii): 6, 7 & 8; Tla: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 & 8.

MUMBAI: Ruffina, piloted by David Allan, claimed the F.H. Tapia Memorial Million, the feature race, in a thrilling finish from New England here on Sunday (Jan. 6). The winner is owned by Mr. Cyrus S. Poornawalla, Mr. Adar C. Poornawalla & Mrs. Natasha A. Poornawalla rep. Villwo Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd, M/s. Saleem Fazalbhoy, Dinshaw P. Shroff & Munchi P. Shroff. Dallas Todywalla trains the winner. P. Shroff saddled four winners, while P. Trevor rode three winners on the day.

1 RAPIDASH PLATE (2,000m), Cl. V, rated 4 to 30: KENNEDY (L. Roche) 1, Retained Asset (Sandesh) 2, Fanfare (C.S. Jodha) 3 and His Master's Vice (S. Amit) 4, 5, 4-1/4 and 1-1/2, 2m, 5.34s. ₹14 (w, 13) and 15 (p). SHP: 31, FP: 22, Q: 17, Tana: 99 and 75. Favourite: Kennedy. Owner: Mr. K.H. Vachha. Trainer: P. Shroff.

2 HOMI MODY TROPHY (2,000m), Cl. I, rated 80 and upward: LORD OF THE SEA (Parmar) 1, Supreme General (Bhawani) 2, Gloriosus (C.S. Jodha) 4, 7-3/4, 1 and 2-3/4, 2m, 1.64s. ₹

TV PICKS

Australia vs India: Fourth Test, Sony Six & Ten 3 (SD & HD), 5 a.m.**NBA:** Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 6 a.m.**Ranji Trophy:** Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.**AFC Asian Cup:** Star Sports 3, 4.30 p.m.**PBL:** Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Agut wins Qatar Open title

DOHA Spaniard Roberto Bautista Agut earned his first 2019 title and the ninth of his career, defeating Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 in the Qatar Open final. Agut needed nearly two hours on Saturday to clinch his third win over the former top-10 player. IANS



Goerges retains Auckland crown

AUCKLAND Julia Goerges drew on her experience to retain the WTA Auckland Classic title on Sunday, coming from a set down to end the stunning run of Canadian teen sensation Bianca Andreescu. The 30-year-old German won 2-6, 7-5, 6-1 with the final point coming when an Andreescu forehand went into the net. Goerges broke serve thrice in the decider to claim her 15th WTA title. AFP

Anahat wins British u-11 title

BIRMINGHAM Delhi's Anahat Singh won the U-11 girls' title in the prestigious British Junior Open squash championship here on Sunday. Seeded 3/4, Anahat defeated top seed Whitney Wilson of Malaysia 13-11, 11-9, 7-11, 11-9 to clinch the title. She had earlier accounted for second seed Sohayla Hazem Farouk of Egypt 11-8, 9-11, 11-7, 11-9 in the semifinals.

Mahak to replace Rutuja in Fed Cup team
NEW DELHI Two-time National women's tennis champion, 17-year-old Mahak Jain has been drafted into the Indian team for the Fed Cup Asia-Oceania group-1 competition to be staged in Kazakhstan in February. She comes in place of Rutuja Bhosale, who pulled out with a shoulder injury. Y. Pranjala also withdrew due to an injury, paving the way for Riya Bhatia to fill the gap.

Alaves rallies to sink Valencia

VITORIA-GASTIEZ (SPAIN) Deportivo Alaves came from behind to beat visiting Valencia 2-1 in a La Liga tie held at the Mestalla Stadium here. Alaves provisionally moved into the fourth spot in the standings with 31 points, while Valencia remained 11th with 22. **The results:** Sunday: Eibar 0 drew with Villarreal 0. **Saturday:** Alaves 2 (Borja 21, Pina 45+2) bt Valencia 1 (Parejo 14); Huesca 2 (Ferreiro Quiroga 73, Rivera 79) bt Real Betis 1 (Sanabria 55-pen). IANS



Bayern hands Ribery heavy fine for Tweetstorm

BERLIN Bayern Munich will impose "a heavy fine" on Franck Ribery for his obscenity-laced outburst on Twitter and Instagram, the club's sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic said on Sunday. The French striker put a string of angry posts on Saturday aimed at those who had criticised him for eating a gold-coated steak. On Thursday, Ribery posted a video showing him in a steak house owned by celebrity Turkish restaurateur Salt Bae. That video had drawn ferocious criticism. AFP

TN strolls past Gujarat

Coach Sunny's decision to test bench strength pays off

NATL. BASKETBALL

RAYAN ROZARIO
BHAVNAGAR (GUJARAT)

Defending champion Tamil Nadu did not sweat much on its way to an 85-44 win over host Gujarat in a men's Group A clash of the 69th senior National basketball championship at the Sidsar Sports complex courts here on Sunday.

Coach C.V. Sunny, who decided not to experiment with his defensive patterns, tested his bench strength from the first quarter and the players did not disappoint.

The host scored the first point of the match – off a free throw – but it was Tamil Nadu all the way after that. It finished the first quarter 23-6. The crowd cheered every point Gujarat scored but watched in stunned silence as Sivabalan, Justin Gnanaraj and Hariram found the target from difficult angles.

Gujarat performed a shade better in the second quarter and even managed to double its tally, but that did not bother Tamil Nadu which went full throttle in the final two quarters to race to a 85-44 victory.

In another clash, hot favourite Punjab came from behind to overcome a fighting Rajasthan 101-80.

The results:
Men: Group A: Tamil Nadu 85 (G. Sivabalan 15, R. Hariram 13, Justin Gnanaraj 11, Muin Bek 10) bt Gujarat 44 (Vinay Kaush-



Driving home: Justin Gnanaraj leaps to score.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ik 14, Vivek Goti 14).

Punjab 101 (Amritpal 31, Arshpreet 17, Gaurav Patwal 12, Jagdeep 10) bt Rajasthan 80 (Sharad Dadhich 25, Abbas Ali 20, Kamran Khan 19).

Group C: Telangana 75 bt Mizoram 57; Delhi 78 bt Goa 44.**Group D:** Andhra Pradesh 59 bt HP 47; Chhattisgarh 60 bt Nagaland 34.**Group E:** Haryana 82 bt Maharashtra 80; West Bengal 64 bt Bihar 48; J&K 62 bt Puducherry 41.**Group F:** UP 60 bt MP 42; Odisha 97 bt Tripura 32 (L. Singh 10); Assam 75 bt Jharkhand 46.**Women: Group A:** Indian Railways 109 (Sruthi Aravind 24, Madhukumari 19, Sitamani Tu-

du 12, Renjini Peter 11, Ramya 11, Gulbashaali 11) bt West Bengal 63 (Anjanina Daisy Ekka 26, Nivyaraj 19).

Karnataka 77 (K.B. Harshita 20, Ujjaini Desirazu 12, T. Lopamudra 12) bt Delhi 65 (Bharati Singh 27, Pavleen Kaur 14).

Group B: Chhattisgarh 83 (Poonam Chaturvedi 41, Akansha Singh 15, Seema Singh 13) bt Uttar Pradesh 63 (Preeti Kumari 26, Minnu George 13, Pushpa Nishad 11); Telangana 60 bt Maharashtra 59.**Group C:** Gujarat 52 bt Uttarakhand 17; **Group E:** Madhya Pradesh 75 bt Himachal Pradesh 65.

Madhukumari Devi (All India Police, 54kg), Sonia Lather (RSPB, 57kg).

Meenakumari Devi (All India Police, 54kg), Sonia Lather (RSPB, 57kg).

Neeraj (Haryana, 60kg), Simranjit Kaur (Pun, 64kg).

Lovlina Borgohain (Assm, 69kg), Neetu (RSPB, 75kg).

Pooja Rani (Haryana, 81kg), Seema Poonia (RSPB, +81kg).

Manju Rani (Punjab, 48kg), Pinki Rani Jangra (Haryana, 51kg).

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The gold medal winners:

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IN BRIEF

Critics choose *The Rider* as best picture of 2018

NEW YORK

The National Society of Film Critics on Saturday chose Chloe Zhao's low-budget debut feature *The Rider* as best picture of 2018. Director Alfonso Cuarón's black-and-white *Roma* period piece set in modern Mexico won the most awards as best picture runner-up, best foreign-language film and for best cinematography. Mr. Cuarón also got the award for best director. AP



A 'superfood' that lowers blood pressure

LONDON

Suffering from hypertension? Take heart, Italian researchers have identified Spirulina, a "superfood" made from algae, that could help reduce blood pressure. The superfood, described as the "most complete food source in the world", contains a specific protein SP6, which was found to relax arteries in animals, media reports said. The study was detailed in the journal *Hypertension*. IANS



'Excess social media use linked to stress in girls'

LONDON

Teenage girls who spend more time on social media have a higher risk of depression than boys, says a study published in the journal *EClinicalMedicine*. The findings also showed that 12% of light social media users and 38% of heavy social media users (five or more hours a day) showed signs of having more severe (clinically relevant) depression. IANS

ISS crew could grow beans in 2021

Food grown in space could be crucial to sustain the astronauts in future deep space missions

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
LONDON

After cultivating lettuce in space three years ago, crew members aboard the International Space Station could be growing beans in 2021, new research suggests.

The beans could be planted in high-tech planters developed at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU).

The planters can regulate all the water, nutrients, gas and air the plants need.

NTNU said it was collaborating with Italian and French researchers in their quest to cultivate plant-based food for long space journeys.

The food grown in space could be crucial to sustain the crew in future deep space missions.

The longest stays at the International Space Station have been six months, while



Space food: The beans could be planted in high-tech planters that can regulate the plant's various needs. ■ H. VIBHU

people travelling to Mars will need to be prepared to stay in space for at least a year.

The European Space Agency plans to build a lunar base in 2030 as a stopover on the way to Mars. NASA plans to fly directly to the planet with a target landing date of 2030.

In the study, published in the journal *Life*, the researchers performed three experiments – the first two

experiments determined the effect of restricted rooting and nutrient solution volumes, and based on this a third experiment was performed to assess plant responses to various nitrate nutrient solution concentrations.

"We found that plants can, in a way, 'smell' the amount of nutrients available to them. When the nitrogen concentration is very

low, the plant will absorb more water and thus more nitrogen until it reaches an optimal level," said Silje Wolff, a plant physiologist at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Space (CIRIS), which is part of NTNU Social Research.

"The plant has a mechanism that turns on when the nitrogen level is adequate. Then it adjusts both nitrogen and water absorption down," Ms. Wolff added.

The researchers said that everything that can be tested on Earth has now been carried out.

Effect of gravity

The next step is to grow beans in space to observe the effect of no gravity on plants' ability to transport water and absorb nutrients. Simulating the absence of gravity cannot be done on Earth.

The beans would be

placed in a centrifuge to sprout and grow in the space station. The centrifuge would be rotated to create different amounts of gravity.

"The art of getting something to grow in space can be transferred to our planet," Ms. Wolff said.

"This is how we create a setup that produces both the microgravity conditions in the space station and the 1-g (gravity) force that exists on Earth."

That will allow her to compare how the different gravitational levels affect the plants in space.

"The dream of every astronaut is to be able to eat fresh food – like strawberries, cherry tomatoes or anything that's really flavorful. Someday that will certainly be possible. We envision a greenhouse with several varieties of vegetables," Ms. Wolff said.

Bambi in Kashmir



Foraging for greens: A critically endangered Kashmir stag, known locally as hangul, searching for food at the Dachigam National Park near Srinagar after snowfall on Sunday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

Danish shows take TV world by storm

After the success of *Borgen*, the latest show *Ride Upon the Storm* is being distributed in 80 countries

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

COPENHAGEN

With original boundary-breaking content, thrilling plots and charismatic actors, Danish television series have captivated audiences worldwide in recent years.

The latest show to hit the small screen is *Ride Upon the Storm*, which is being distributed in almost 80 countries with a debut late January in Britain.

The new drama was created by Adam Price, the BAFTA winner behind the acclaimed drama *Borgen*, which followed the political and personal tribulations of a Danish woman Prime Minister.

Danish shows, with both

A still from *Ride Upon the Storm*. ■ YOUTUBE

exotism and gritty realism, have quickly soared in popularity beyond their initial local Scandinavian viewership, said Pia Jensen, an Aarhus University communications associate professor specializing in television series.

Long known for the Nordic noir crime genre, the big international breakthrough for Danish shows came with *The Killing*, a hard-hitting series following a Copenhagen female cop's investigations.

Then came crime thriller

The Bridge in 2011.

The Nordic noir genre has proven so popular that its aesthetic and themes are now being replicated beyond Scandinavia's borders, with shows such as *Shetland* and *Broadchurch* made in Britain, Ms. Jensen said.

Faith and family

But now Danish TV series have moved beyond Nordic noir.

Ride Upon the Storm is a character-led drama about faith and a family of Danish priests, dominated by Johannes Krogh, a tempestuous God-like father battling numerous demons.

Actor Lars Mikkelsen,

known from *The Killing* and his role as the Russian president in Netflix's *House of Cards*, plays Johannes, a role for which he won an International Emmy in November.

Mr. Mikkelsen "has set new standards for the portrayal of a main character in a TV series", the show's creator Adam Price said.

Johannes is the 10th generation of priests, it's a huge burden that haunts him and he lets it haunt his sons too".

His eldest son Christian is lost and at odds with the family and society, while younger son August is married and following in his father's priesthood footsteps before becoming a chaplain for troops in Afghanistan.

Juvenile users of Chinese gay app contract HIV

Blued halts new user registration for a week

REUTERS

BEIJING

Chinese gay dating app Blued is halting new user registration for a week, it said on Sunday, following media reports that underage users caught HIV after going on dates set up via the world's largest networking app for the LGBT community.

China has a vibrant lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender scene (LGBT) scene, though activists say conservative attitudes among some groups in society have prompted occasional

government clampdowns.

On Saturday, citing academic research, financial magazine *Caixin* said juveniles were heavily involved in the gay dating app, where some teenagers had even hosted livestreaming.

It added that many gay teenagers had unprotected sex through the app and contracted HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Content audit

In response, Blued vowed to

launch a "comprehensive content audit and regulation," and crack down on ju-

venile users posing as adults and on texts, pictures and groups that involve minors.

"Blued always forbids juveniles from logging on and using the app," it said in a statement.

The company added that it had enabled artificial intelligence to weed out pornographic content since last year, and vowed to further support AIDS prevention work.

Blued, which was launched in 2010 and now boasts 40 million registered users, is backed by State-run media Beijing News.

Food bloggers are bringing Africa's rich cuisines to the world

A filmmaker and a chef collaborate to make dishes, such as South Africa's fried dough amagwinya and Kenya's kachumbari, available for anyone to try and relish

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NGAPAROU

In the quiet hours before lunch, two women worked side by side in an airy kitchen. One, a chef, cleaned fresh red snapper fillets with a sharp knife. The other, a filmmaker, pointed her camera into a large pot of simmering vegetables.

"What would you say this is, low heat or medium?" Tu-leka Prah asked, setting the camera aside.

"Low heat," said 38-year-old Touly Sarr, who runs the kitchen of a popular cafe in Dakar. She turned to her daughter, who was watching her cook. "This one, if you put it on high, it would all get dry. That's one of the secrets."

Senegal was Ms. Prah's fifth destination since her

project began in 2012. She hopes to show the care and skill that goes into African dishes, such as South Africa's fried dough amagwinya and Kenya's kachumbari, an onion and tomato salad.

"The idea, at its most basic, is to present the food how people who love it would love it," Ms. Prah said. "It's like a database or a digital vault where people can open the drawer, see recipes, see some ingredients."

Born in England to a Ghanaian father and a South African mother, she lived in six African countries during her childhood, including Namibia, Kenya and what is now South Sudan. After finding no reliable recipes online for Ghanaian dishes and the beloved food look appetizing she

started My African Food Map.

Cuisines of a continent

She celebrates the cuisines of a continent often marred by negative stereotypes.

"Africa is often associated with poverty, with hunger, with failures of food in a pol-

itical and nutritional sense," said James C. McCann, chair of the history department at Boston University and a specialist in African environmental history and cuisine. "It's an area of the world that has not been covered by the food craze."

Other culinary historians,

tigate the foods of a single country.

"The internet was the democratization of African food writing," said Osseo-Asare, who said she has blogged about African food since the 1980s. "When the internet came, you didn't have publishers as gatekeepers that could stop you from getting your work out."

Unique among prominent bloggers, Ms. Prah takes an almost pan-African approach.

"I always feel like I am from the whole continent," she said. "I can find myself in different aspects of different countries I visit."

"The best outcome is when people say, 'That is our food, that is our dish,'" she said, remembering her work in Kenya. "I was extremely

happy when the first comments I got on YouTube were, 'Oh, this reminds me of home.'"

To find authentic recipes and skilled chefs, Ms. Prah asks everyone she meets in a country – hosts, cab drivers, shopkeepers and strangers – about their favourite foods. She met Ms. Sarr this way, through friends of friends.

"I learned from my grandma. I used to follow her everywhere," said Ms. Sarr, who wears her stiff white chef's uniform every time she cooks, even at home, because it makes her feel more professional. "And our grandmas, they think that taking time with the food gives it more flavor. So I take time, too."

She said she became a

chef after money ran out to pursue her dream of being a doctor.

By smell, sound and taste

She dropped garlic into sizzling oil, then stepped back as Ms. Prah moved close to the pot to film. The two women orbited each other, artists collaborating over the pot bubbling on the stove.

Ms. Sarr said she cooks by smell, by sound and by taste, but Ms. Prah wrote her steps down in order, recording a recipe for others without the guidance of grandmothers and mothers at their side.

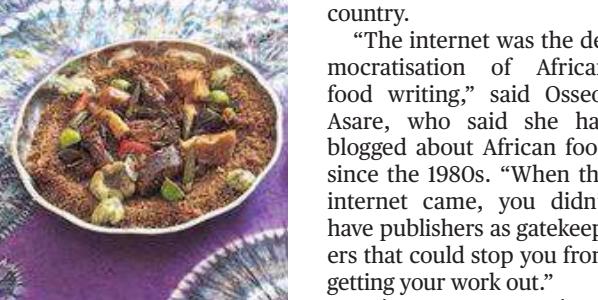
After two hours, the platter was ready.

Ms. Prah snapped a picture, and then another, before putting her camera aside to try the dish.

"It's really good," she said.



On the cooking map: Tuleka Prah films chef Touly Sarr, as she prepares thiebou dieune, right, a traditional Senegalese dish of spiced rice, inside a kitchen in Ngaparou, Senegal. ■ AP





■ SRIKSHI ASTHANA

At the beginning of every year, we look for ways to better ourselves. Sometimes, a little change is all we need. There are several ways to go about renewing ourselves; a small shift of perspective can add a lot of meaning to our life in new and unexpected ways.

Let's take a look at a few of them...

The lost art of reading

Reading opens up the mind to new dimensions; it teaches us patience and imparts knowledge. We must include brief reading sessions in our daily routine. The beauty of reading is such that we may start out with one topic but end up discovering a whole new concept. For example, when we were kids, our English classes required us to use the dictionary. While looking up a particular word, we ended up learning many new words in the process. Choosing a book over Google may be the change you need in life.

Be kind

Small acts of kindness go a long way in impacting the lives of people. The spirit of giving isn't limited to financial efforts; we can also "give" time, effort, and energy which are equally important resources. We come across so many inspiring stories of how ordinary people have made an extraordinary difference in the lives of others. Having an intention of service and taking small but significant steps will set us apart from those who choose only to complain.

Love thyself

Embrace self-love; make yourself a priority. When we don't love ourselves, we end up expecting those around us to fulfil our emotional needs. We must learn to fulfil our own emotional needs, and self-love is a big step towards that goal. One of the exercises that can help in this is looking into the mirror every day and saying three

MY INTERSHIP

From circuits to codes

Not only did Nithyashree switch from electronics to software at Siemens, she also underwent a personality walkover

It was through an email from the college placement cell, that I got to know about the Siemens Student Programme, which was a 14-month internship offered to second-year students. With just a day left for the company's visit, I did a background check on the company, and applied. After an extensive selection process including an online test and various interviews, I made it to Siemens along with 11 others.

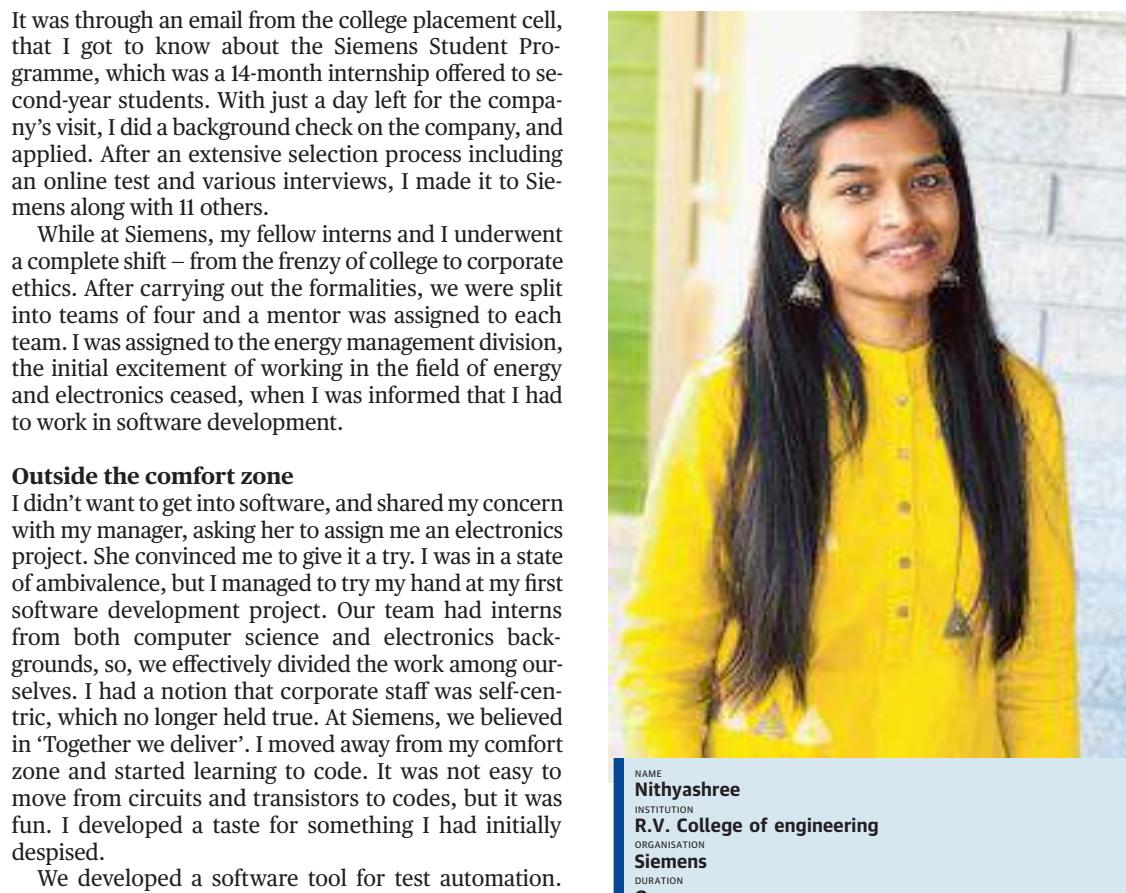
While at Siemens, my fellow interns and I underwent a complete shift – from the frenzy of college to corporate ethics. After carrying out the formalities, we were split into teams of four and a mentor was assigned to each team. I was assigned to the energy management division, the initial excitement of working in the field of energy and electronics ceased, when I was informed that I had to work in software development.

Outside the comfort zone

I didn't want to get into software, and shared my concern with my manager, asking her to assign me an electronics project. She convinced me to give it a try. I was in a state of ambivalence, but I managed to try my hand at my first software development project. Our team had interns from both computer science and electronics backgrounds, so, we effectively divided the work among ourselves. I had a notion that corporate staff was self-centric, which no longer held true. At Siemens, we believed in 'Together we deliver'. I moved away from my comfort zone and started learning to code. It was not easy to move from circuits and transistors to codes, but it was fun. I developed a taste for something I had initially despised.

We developed a software tool for test automation. Although we were pretty confident about our software, the testing team disagreed. The application crashed while it was being tested, leaving us in a state of flux. This taught me that the job doesn't end with the desired output; it is important to develop products which meet the high scalability of the industry. The tool was received well by the concerned stakeholders, after we had fixed the glitches. I was given many challenging tasks there, but I learned, worked on them, and delivered them successfully. I developed an ability to learn quickly and perform better each day. I learnt to multitask and manage my time effectively. I interacted with many people and widened my horizon.

This was a year-long internship. After my second-year



NAME
Nithyashree
INSTITUTION
R.V. College of engineering
ORGANISATION
Siemens
DURATION
One year

summer break, I returned to college and continued working on some office assignments. I found it a little difficult to adjust to the college environment after spending the summer at an established organisation. However, I had transformed – I was a new person then, and my friends and teachers complimented me on the transformation I had undergone.

Nithyashree S, from RV College of Engineering, interned at Siemens for a year.

Courtesy: Internshala, an internship and training platform



Make the most of the year by creating opportunities to better yourself

OLD YOU

NEW YOU

New year,
new you

things that we like about ourselves. This will help us find happiness within ourselves. Our thoughts and behaviour must be focused towards our betterment. This is one of the hardest things to achieve in life, but everything else falls into place when we are truly happy with ourselves; then we function with a positive frame of mind which results in better decision-making.

Family time

Individuals who share a strong bond with their families are generally more secure and happy. Keeping aside the frustrations of day-to-day life and sharing a meal with the family at least twice a week improves our overall well-being. Those who are living far away from

their families can find new ways of staying connected. Some families even play online team games together – it is certainly unconventional, but a fun activity to engage in.

Nature bound

Spending some time with nature is great for self-reflection. Nature is the biggest healer. It is a well-researched and a proven fact that the colour green not only has a soothing effect on the brain, but, also stimulates creativity. For those of us who don't prefer the outdoors, setting up and maintaining an indoor garden is a good alternative. Plan small picnics with friends or family to the nearby park, beach, or hillock (depending upon where you live) if you like company over

Choosing a book over Google may be the change you need in life.

solitude.

Explore

Expand your spectrum of experiences by exploring new horizons beyond your comfort zone. Today's generation is progressively becoming more open to travelling; it is one of the best ways of self-exploration. To quote the *New York Times* best-selling author Gayle Foreman, "Travelling's not something you're good at. It's something you do. Like breathing." It can be a truly liberating experience, if understood in terms of learning – you learn to utilise your resources judi-

ciously, communicate in a new environment, and meet people from different walks of life.

Personality development

It is our responsibility to improve ourselves. Individuals are viewed and understood in terms of their personalities, so, it is an important component of the self. Body language, dressing sense, conversational skills, and knowledge are some of the basic components of personality and they can constantly be upgraded. Having a great personality automatically boosts one's confidence. If you notice, some of the people we consider great are those who constantly reinvent themselves.

Learn a new skill

It is fun to learn a new skill at any age. Students often complain about not having enough time, but the truth is, one has to make time for what is important to them. Choose any new skill that makes you feel engaged and happy – artistic, intellectual, or physical – and commit a small amount of time towards developing it. It is necessary to pick one that inspires us. The desire to take actions towards learning depends on your motivation levels, which will be high only when you do something you deeply care about.

The author is an integrative life coach who practices counselling psychology, clinical hypnotherapy, neuro linguistic programming and is a social activist

SCHOLARSHIP

■ Top Class Education Scheme for SC Students 2018

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, is inviting applications from students belonging to SC category and are pursuing full-time degree courses from recognised institutes.

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants whose annual family income is not more than ₹ 6 lacs, will be considered.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Candidate will be awarded with full tuition fee and non-refundable charges of ₹ 2L p.a. for studying in private sector institutions, ₹ 3.72L p.a. for the private sector flying clubs, for commercial pilot training, ₹ 2,220 p.m. for lodging, ₹ 3,000 p.a. for stationery expenses and ₹ 45,000 for computer and accessories.

APPLICATION: Online

DEADLINE: January 15
<http://www.b4s.in/EDGE/TCE1>

■ Raman Research Fellowship

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, has proposed this fellowship for researchers to carry out research in the fields of emerging and high priority technology at renowned foreign institutions, R&D Centres of Excellence to enhance their capability and skills.

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants must be a regular scientist of CSIR and must be having a research experience of minimum five years there. The candidate must be presently working in high priority areas and must not be of more than 45 years.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Selected candidates will get a fellowship amount of \$ 2,500 per month along supplementary grant of \$ 1,000 for participation in conferences and visiting institutions of excellence in country of placement is also provided to the fellows.

APPLICATION: Online only

DEADLINE: January 18
<http://www.b4s.in/EDGE/RRF8>

■ College Board India Scholars Programme

College Board is providing scholarship to meritorious, underprivileged Indian students, to study in any one of the 10 partner universities. Class XII students must appear for the SAT exam in March. Exam fee is discounted for all students.

ELIGIBILITY: Class XII students who are studying in India and have family income less than ₹ 6 lakh can appear for the test.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Exam fee of SAT exam (worth ₹ 7,000) is exempted for all class XII students with family income less than ₹ 6 lakh. Students who score well and have family income less than ₹ 4 lakh are eligible to get full tuition scholarship to study in any partner university.

APPLICATION: Online only

DEADLINE: February 08
<http://www.b4s.in/EDGE/CBI1>

Courtesy: www.buddy4study.com

Feedback

The Hindu EDGE invites Indian students in foreign universities to share their experiences about the campus, course, quality of education, city life and adapting to changes abroad. The article should be not more than 500 words. Send three different pictures of yourself on campus (each should be minimum 2MB size, JPEG/JPEG format), and a short video (horizontally shot, if you're using your mobile device) featuring a walking, talking three-minute campus tour (pick your favourite spots!) to goalpost@thehindu.co.in. When recording the video, use your headset's microphone so we can get the best quality recording of your tour commentary!

ADMISSIONS OPEN

2019-21

- Post Graduate Diploma in Management***
- PGDM - Banking, Insurance and Financial Services***
- PGDM - International Business***
- PGDM - Marketing Management**
- PGDM - Human Resource Management*
- Executive PGDM*

*** Approved by AICTE, recognized as MBA equivalent by AIU, NBA Accredited

** Approved by AICTE, recognized as MBA equivalent by AIU

* Approved by AICTE

[†] AICTE approved program for Foreign Nationals, PIO, OCI, Gulf residents



Business
Education
Accreditation

Member of

EFMD

Business
Education
Accreditation

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Business
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EFMD

Member of



Promise of completion: Looking forward to finishing a project.



LIVE LIGHTLY

NIVEDITA DAS NARAYAN

Last summer, we visited the Sagrada Família in Barcelona, the mammoth unfinished Roman Catholic Church designed by the extraordinary Antoni Gaudí (1852–1926). The awe-evoking cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage site, did live up to its imposing promise, as I stood there absorbing its brilliance. I have been to cathedrals around the

world, and this one seemed to evoke a different sense of awe – a somewhat paradoxical spectacle of centuries-old history, in a palpable state of flux.

In a flux

The flux is unique as the structure stands unfinished and open to interpretation, as modern day architects put shape to Gaudí's centuries-old vision. An audacious vision combining Gothic and Art Nouveau forms, the cathedral has braved the Spanish civil war, intermittent slowdown in construction for lack of donations and con-

roversies surrounding neglect of Gaudí's design vision. As I absorbed the impact of this Basilica, jostled in a sea of gawking tourists, I wondered if the core of its attraction was perhaps in these very contradictions and incompleteness.

On a much minuscule, personal front, a prominent wall in my formal liv-

ing area stands vacant and unadorned in a home that prides itself on its vision of perfection. The wall even has an obscure wire peeping out of an electrical point for which I have an appropriate lampshade kept aside, yet loathe to engage the electrician to fix it. The wall, of course, is the subject of many-a-jibe from my family unable to fathom why I maintain status quo on a visible eyesore!

The answer isn't easy but I am going to attempt it here. Factually, that wall is the most visible and defining wall in that space. What I put up on that wall will

guide the mood and importantly, reflect my aesthetics as a homeowner. I feel I need to put up a worthwhile piece of art. More insidiously, the secret promise of an undone yet important task exists – the promise that I have something beautiful left to do, yet unbound by its completion! If you've tasted the piquancy of a desired dish in anticipation, much before you eat it, you can draw a parallel here!

Early this month, the editor's note of a much-loved weekend read initiated me to the Japanese word, the meaning of which has been integral to my adult life for long. The word *Tsundoku* – the act of acquiring reading material but letting them pile up without reading – consummately describes this bittersweet personal narrative since the time I could afford books and not devour them straight away. While the article presented a limited view of *Tsundoku* as a consequence of our increasingly usurped time, my frame of reference for the stacks of unfinished business on my shelf is a great deal about the amorous promise of much, yet to read! The affair goes deep – placing a bookmark in a

half-read book, highlighting the parts I want to re-read and putting it away till the bookmark, a word or a line beckons me back, is the icing on this unfinished cake.

So, why am I bringing you these stories today? – Because, this is about appreciating the in-between, unfinished parts of life. I have learnt not to begrudge the unfinished. I have learnt to pause and pull back from the urgency of finishing and fixing things. How I react to a pause, how I manage the urge to complete, how I slow down at the peak of doing, gives me perspective and a distinctly desirable pace of being.

I read that Picasso had a definite view on finishing his artworks, "Woe to you the day it is said that you are finished! To finish a work? To finish a picture? What nonsense! To finish it means to be through with it, to kill it, to rid it of its soul – to give it its final blow".

This might be an extreme view but really, why rush to finish?

The author is a freelance writer, blogger, and life coach. nivedita@lifealign coaching.com

Bombastic words



KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

S. UPENDRAN

How is the word 'satiate' pronounced? (K. Jagan, Srirangam)

The first syllable is pronounced like the word 'say', and the third like 'ate'. The 't' in the second syllable sounds like the 'sh' in 'sheep', 'should' and 'sheet'. The word is pronounced 'SAY-shi-ate' with the stress on the first syllable. It comes from the Latin 'satius' meaning 'enough'. Nowadays, the word is mostly used to suggest 'too much of something'. One generally talks about satiating one's hunger, thirst, and so on. For example, when you satiate your hunger, you satisfy your needs to the full; at times, perhaps overeating.

The hero walked into a bar to satiate his thirst.

My friend Aruna just loves gossip. Nothing can satiate her need for it.

What is the meaning of 'on the quiet'? (R. Anirudh, Bangalore)

The expression is mostly used in informal contexts. Native speakers of English sometimes reduce the word 'quiet' to 'q.t.' When you do something 'on the quiet/q.t.', you do it secretly, without anyone knowing or noticing what it is you are doing. When you tell someone to keep a matter on the quiet, what you are suggesting is that you would like it to be kept confidential; it is not to be discussed with others.

Despite the doctor's warning, Atul has been smoking one or two cigarettes every day on the quiet/q.t.

The good news is you have been promoted. Keep it on the quiet for the time being.

What is the difference between 'eloquent' and 'grandiloquent'? (G. Mala, Chennai)

The two words have the Latin 'loqui', meaning 'to speak', in common. Both refer to the way an individual uses language to communicate – it could be either written or spoken. The word 'grandiloquent' is mostly used to show disapproval; it literally means to speak/write in a grand manner. When someone speaks grandiloquently, he/she makes use of big words to impress those listening to him/her. The bombastic words are used to hide the fact that there is little substance in what he/she is saying. Think of the type of language that some of our politicians use; it sounds wonderful, but there is no real content. One gets a little irritated after listening to this type of talk; it gets on one's nerves. The word 'eloquent', on the other hand, has a positive connotation. When you say that someone speaks 'eloquently', what you are suggesting is that he/she speaks persuasively; he/she is able to use language skilfully to get his message across – the aim here is to communicate effectively with others, and not merely to impress them.

The Minister is well known for his grandiloquent speeches.

Ganesh's eloquent response to the question surprised many in the audience.

What is the meaning of 'smith' in 'blacksmith', 'goldsmith', and so on? (V. Shanthi, Kanchipuram)

In the old days, anyone who worked with metals was referred to as a 'smith'. A blacksmith was therefore, someone who tried to beat 'black metal' (iron) into shape using a hammer and other tools. A 'goldsmith' was someone who shaped gold. With the passage of time, the word 'smith' began to be used to refer to any skilled craftsman – not necessarily someone who worked with metal. For example, a 'wordsmith' is someone who uses words skilfully.

Light travels faster than sound. That's why certain people appear bright until you hear them speak. Albert Einstein

Happily imperfect!

When everything is perfect, there is nowhere else to go. So, just enjoy the journey of self-improvement



THINK

ARUNA SANKARANARAYANAN

On many counts, we all fail to measure up. While you are an above-average student, you are never among the star performers. Or, you excel at academics but are not an all-rounder like some of your more popular peers. Everything may be going well for you professionally, but you sure would like to shed those extra pounds that put you squarely in the overweight category. You have a great family life, but at social gatherings, you are always at a loss for words. Why can't you speak as glibly as your brother?

We may feel inadequate either because someone belittles us, or, more often than not, when we put ourselves down. On The Quick & Dirty Tips website, psychologist Ellen Hendriksen provides some tips to help us feel more comfortable and composed when we hear these critical voices.

First, she asks us to

recognise that everyone has their insecurities. Perhaps, the friend who is critical of how much weight you have gained is insecure about the fact that she is earning much less than most of her peers. In fact, those who tend to put people down are often contending with their own inner demons.

Not yet

Second, Hendriksen asks you to embrace a growth mindset popularised by psychologist Carol Dweck wherein you believe that skills, knowledge, talents, and traits are amenable to change.

So, if you aren't satisfied for having reached a particular goal, you can tell yourself that you are "not yet" there. In fact, Hendriksen says that a school in Chicago gives students who haven't passed a course the grade of "Not yet." This way, you don't have to beat yourself if you haven't shed those extra pounds or made partner in your law firm yet.

Next, Hendriksen's asks us to broaden our vision for a successful life by defining it on our own terms. Instead of succumbing solely to societal standards. She exhorts us to chalk out our own criteria for a meaningful life. Even though society tends to value money, fame, power, and relationship status, remember that each of these rings will be hollow if your internal needs are not fulfilled.

tal standards. She exhorts us to chalk out our own criteria for a meaningful life. Even though society tends to value money, fame, power, and relationship status, remember that each of these rings will be hollow if your internal needs are not fulfilled.

So, instead of simply benchmarking yourself by conventional standards, ask yourself if you spend time doing things you love. Are you learning something new everyday? Are you extending yourself in unexpected ways? Do you feel your relationships with people are energising? Are you able to utilise your signature strengths in ways that matter to you?

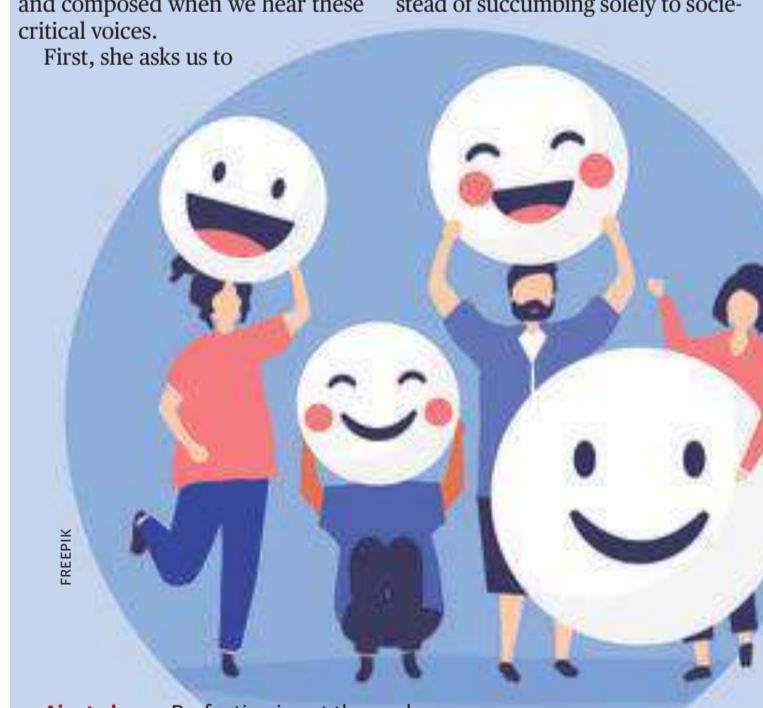
Just as we redefine success on our own terms, we also need to be watchful of depending on external sources of feedback to feel good about ourselves. Contingent self-esteem refers to a tendency to alter our perceptions of ourselves based on what others think of us. Hendriksen says that it is the "most fragile form of self-esteem" as it waxes and wanes according to ephemeral criteria.

Further, with people projecting their best selves all the time on social media, there is perpetual pressure on us to be our best. And, that includes looking good, feeling good, doing good, and winning accolades all at once. But, no one can possibly be their best self incessantly. So, forget about showcasing your best self all the time, and as Hendriksen sagely says, "just be your self."

Finally, Hendriksen urges us to give up the idea of wanting to be perfect. Apart from the fact that nobody is really perfect, perfection itself may not be a goal worth striving for. In fact, when everything is perfect, "there's nowhere else to go."

And, clichéd as it may be, don't we all want to keep journeying through life?

The author is Director, PRAYATNA. arunasankara@gmail.com



Aim to learn: Perfection is not the goal.

ADMISSIONS

Design courses

INSTITUTION: Indian Institute of Art and Design, New Delhi

COURSE: Undergraduate programmes in fashion design, fashion business management, communication design, and interior architecture and design.

Postgraduate programmes in fashion design and fashion business management. Both offered in collaboration with Kingston School of Art, London.

DURATION: Four years

DEADLINE: April 17

iiad.edu.in

Master's, bachelor's degree, diploma and certificate programmes

INSTITUTION: Indira Gandhi

National Open University
DURATION: 1-3 years
COMMENCES: January 2019
DEADLINE: January 15

ignou.ac.in

MBA

INSTITUTION: Jaipuri Institute of Management, Ghaziabad

DURATION: Two years (full-time)

ELIGIBILITY: Three-year bac-

helior's degree with 50% or equivalent CGPA, in

any discipline. Students appearing for the final degree exam may also apply.
DEADLINE: Jan 21
jaipuria.edu.in/jim

Doctorate and Management programmes

INSTITUTION: Wesleyan University, Philippines

DURATION: Two years

COMMENCES: January 2019

ivoryeducation.com

KNOWLEDGE

Q1

Francis Ford Coppola (pictured) is the legendary director of films such as the Godfather trilogy and "Apocalypse Now". His nephew, at 15 years old, tried to convince him to give him a screen test, but failed. To avoid the allegations of nepotism that would come with the Coppola name, his nephew changed his last name to a famous African-American Marvel comic character.



Who is the nephew, who became famous as an actor with exaggerated facial expressions, can be considered a 'National Treasure', and turns 55 today?

Q2

Julius Wagner-Jauregg (pictured) was a Viennese neurologist who won the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1927 for his work in pyrotherapy. In those days, when penicillin was yet to be discovered, syphilis was considered a terminal disease. Julius used pyrotherapy, meaning 'raising the body's temperature to treat', through a second disease known to cause high fevers, to cure syphilis. The second disease was treatable with quinine, quite easily available those days. Since this method resulted in the death of 15% of all patients, penicillin was preferred later, when it was discovered by Fleming.



Which disease did he use to treat syphilis?

Q3

This section of most ancient armies, gets its name from the Latin word meaning 'inexperienced or young'. This section consisted of a large number of soldiers being grouped together to form a battalion, and a cavalryman/commander to lead each battalion.



What is the good word, used to describe foot soldiers?

Q4

California vehicle laws state that all brand-new cars have a maximum of six months to get a registered license plate. One Palo Alto resident didn't want to have a license plate on his car for fear of being tracked, and so, made an arrangement with a leasing company. He would lease a silver Mercedes SL55 AMG for less than six months at a time, and would trade it in for another car of the same model when time was up.



Who was this eccentric billionaire and genius who passed away due to cancer in 2011?

Q5

In 1891, James Naismith, a Canadian physical education teacher was trying to keep his students active indoors, on a rainy day. He wanted a vigorous game to keep his students fit, particularly during winter. So, he wrote the basic rules to a game, and nailed an empty box to the wall of the gymnasium. The object of the game was to throw a football into the basket, retrieve it and repeat. Eventually, the basket's base was cut off for more efficient gameplay. Which sport thus originated?

Q6

Suricates are small carnivores belonging to the mongoose family. Primarily found in the Kalahari Desert and some other parts of Africa, these animals live in 'gangs' or 'mobs' of about 20. Due to their position in the food chain, they have evolved to be immune to many types of venom, including the sand scorpions present in the desert. They are most commonly seen in documentaries popping out of their hiding holes. They have been represented in popular culture - Timon from the "Lion King"; Pi visits an island full of them in "Life of Pi".



What are these animals more commonly known as, deriving their name from the Afrikaans words for 'lake feline'?

COURTESY: WALNUT KNOWLEDGE SOLUTION

ANSWERS

VIDEO CAFE

RAAGHAVI SRINIVASAN

Get rid of exam stress

Being stressed during exams is on every student's plate, but it is not the worst thing that can happen. To a large extent, anxiety, lack of preparation, low confidence levels increase stress. Learning to sail through exam stress is of the utmost importance, to maximise performance. This video explains how to study before an exam, in order to be stress-free and calm. Stress can lead to many health problems that might affect the overall body and mind condition.

IN CONVERSATION

■ MADHUMITHA SRINIVASAN

The libraries at Yale University, Connecticut, the U.S., have seamlessly evolved over the years to continue to stay at the heart of the university's research and academic endeavours. The Yale University Library comprises 15 million print and electronic volumes in more than a dozen different libraries and locations, including Sterling Memorial Library, the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, and the Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Library. The library also encompasses an innovative Preservation and Conservation Department that develops and applies leading-edge technology to maintain the library's diverse collections, which range from ancient papyri to early printed books, rare film and recorded music collections, and a growing body of born-digital works and resources.

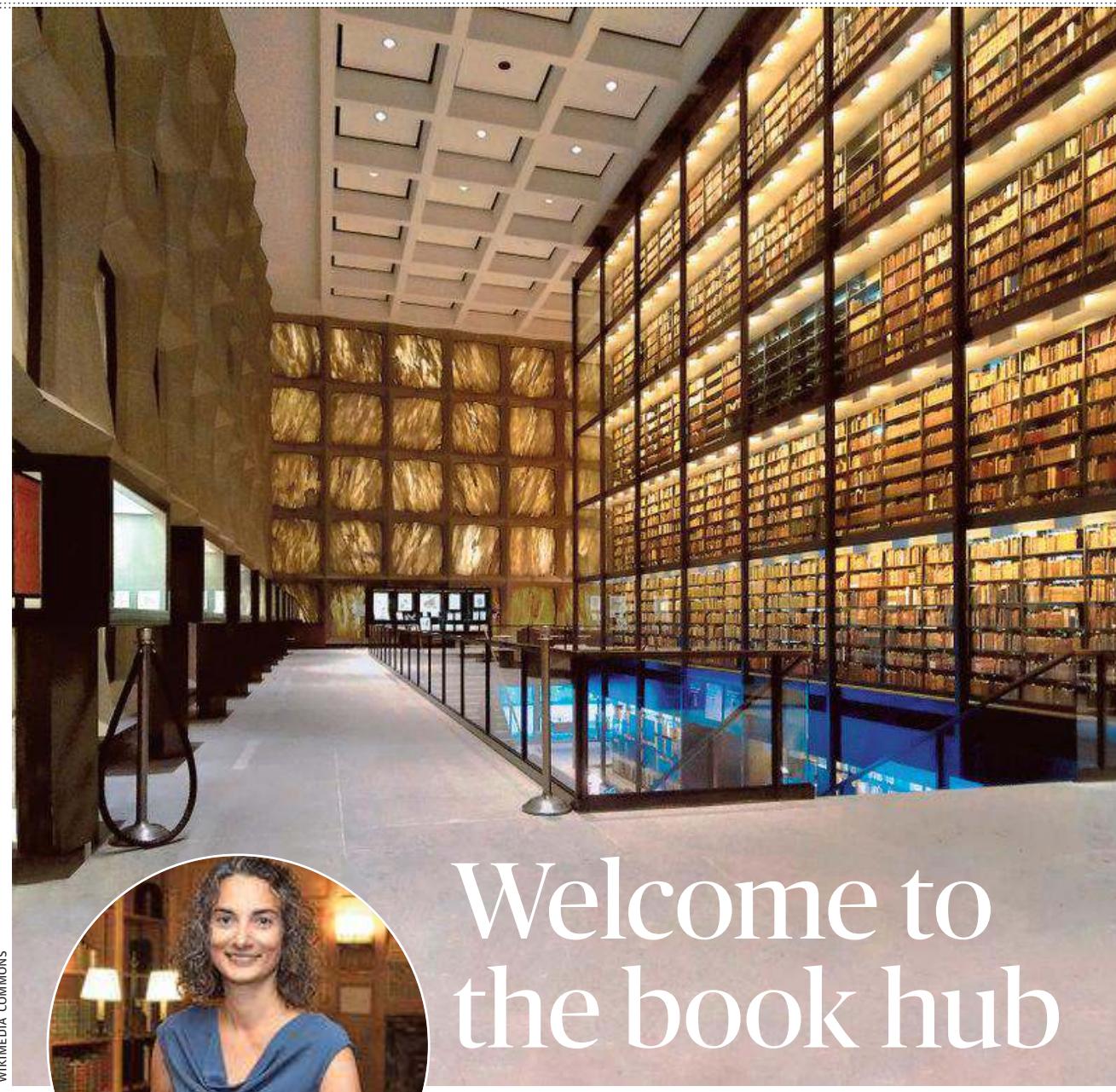
Susan Gibbons, the Stephen F. Gates '68 University Librarian and Deputy Provost for Collections and Scholarly Communication at Yale University, shares with *EDGE* her take on the evolving roles of a library and why it is in the benefit of the students and faculty to make the most of its resources.

How have the role of libraries and librarians evolved over the years?

Some people look at libraries and see them as musty repositories for physical books. Others think that the Internet has replaced the research library. Nothing could be further from the truth. Libraries are more essential and foundational to universities, and society as a whole, than ever before.

University librarians, today, serve as guides and partners to faculty, students, and researchers navigating an increasingly complex information environment. Librarians are at the forefront of preserving, creating, and disseminating knowledge in all its forms, from using the latest science to investigate ancient texts to developing new ways of preserving born-digital materials for future generations. Our librarians play a critical role in supporting Yale faculty research that is shaping and influencing policy choices in virtually every arena.

Our medical librarians are increasingly credited as co-authors on evidence-based clinical treatment protocols because of their role in the complex searches on which the protocols are based. Our librarians are playing a growing role in research data support, helping



Welcome to the book hub

The libraries at Yale University, have seamlessly evolved over the years to continue to stay at the heart of its research and academic endeavours

ing faculty, students, and researchers collect, manage, interpret, and store enormous data sets.

How can students make the most of a library?

The vast resources of a university library, such as ours, can be quite intimidating. Consequently, we have developed a personal librarian programme wherein each new undergraduate student is assigned a specific librarian. That librarian serves as the student's initial guide for how to best take advantage of the library's collections, services, and expertise. That programme has been successful.

In an era of "fake news" and the manipulation of information for political and economic advantage, librarians and libraries can provide students with the tools and training to separate accurate information from inaccurate. Over time, we hope our students will see the library as a powerful constella-

tion of place, people, collections, services, and expertise supporting every aspect of their educational experience.

What are the changes you have witnessed after digitisation of resources?

The digitisation of resources expands access to knowledge in previously unimaginable ways and begins to level the playing field globally, in terms of access to information. The digitisation of collections allows students and faculty to analyse them with the aid of computer algorithms. For example, to recognise patterns of text used across tens of thousands of books in ways that were not possible when just reading with the human eye. At the same time, digitisation creates new challenges in the form of emerging copyright issues, discovery systems, and digital preservation.

What are some contemporary challenges facing the library?

The proliferation of information creates a need for enormous investment in discovery systems, in technical expertise and infrastructure, in the preservation of physical and digital resources.

Yale, as an institution, is becoming increasingly global. Our faculty and students increasingly seek the same kind of library support they find on campus as they work across borders and around the world. This creates new challenges from securing the technology and resources to support a global enterprise to negotiating database contracts that transcend national borders.

What efforts can an academic library take to attract more students to make use of its resources?

We are constantly experimenting with new forms of outreach. Our personal librarian programme has been effective. Partnering with faculty is also important. Many faculty now

bring librarians into their classes, to co-teach or provide instruction in specific resources. Our librarians and archivists help faculty take full advantage of opportunities to teach with Yale's extraordinary physical collections that are held not only in the libraries but also in the university's museums.

The way forward

Libraries must continue to innovate in all the areas I have mentioned and, at the same time, to educate our various constituencies about the evolution of the library and its changing role in education and society. Our work requires a significant investment of resources. To mobilise those resources, we need to make sure that our constituencies understand what we do and our impact on the university's mission as well as society at large. Collaborations and cooperation between research libraries are also essential.

POSTCARD FROM.... LEEDS

High-ranking options

Learning at one of the top U.K. universities, gave Narendra Nath, an opportunity to develop his research skills



I completed my master's in advanced mechanical engineering from the University



Narendra Nath
COURSE: Master of science in engineering in advanced mechanical engineering
UNIVERSITY: University of Leeds, the U.K.

of Leeds, the U.K. in 2017. The reason for choosing this university was easy, as Times Higher Education ranked it second in mechanical engineering among all the universities in the U.K. for 2016-17, and the *Sunday Times* had ranked it as university of the year for 2017-18. It is one of the oldest universities in the U.K. and well-known for its research.

The university has tremendous resources for us to explore our area of study and enhance our knowledge. My learning experience was excellent – lecturer believed in problem-solving and skill development rather than bookish knowledge. They were helpful and responded round the clock for any query. The online portal was the best learning source which contained all lecture recordings, and material was uploaded within 24 hours. We could also submit our assignments online and everything was communicated through university emails. Assignments were designed in such a way that they could lead us to the path of researching in our area of interest. The university had a fantastic mechanism to ensure individual learning and unique working done by us. Plagiarism is taken seriously and this encouraged us to submit original work.

Varied amenities

The library is well established with various collections along with access to most online journals, reports and standards. Every department organised various support courses for students such as online resources searching, paraphrasing, English improvement, writing skills improvement, critical thinking, time management, and so on. The student union helped us in almost all aspects. They

helped to arrange pick-up on our arrival, find accommodation of our choice and budget, find part-time jobs, financial issues, arrange job fairs, manage sports activities in the university and so on.

The university is just a mile away from the city centre, and bus/taxi facilities are available round the clock. The city centre has the Trinity Mall along with many places to hang around. Right behind the university is the fabulous Hyde park, where one can relax, and the famous Huddersfield cricket stadium is within five miles of the university.

The university has various accommodation options – catered and self-catered – located close by. However, private accommodations are cheaper. They also have NHS medical centre close to it, and anyone can visit without prior appointment. There is also a fitness centre within the university, with a swimming pool, sauna, gym, squash and many more options to stay fit.

Narendra Nath completed his master's of science in engineering from the University of Leeds, in 2017.

Advanced CA course

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), has taken proactive steps to initiate an advanced CA course that will cover subjects such as risk management, international taxation, financial and capital markets. In these elective subjects, 40% will be MCQ-based questions and they are open-book exams.

Based on feedback from students,

new reforms have been implemented. Digital evaluation has been introduced which tracks the time an examiner takes to evaluate a paper. Also, if for a question, step-wise marks are not awarded, the question will be considered "not evaluated" and will be corrected during verification.

In addition, the fees for the classes have been reduced by 50%.

VALUE ADD

The new 'cool' in employability

At a time when graduate jobs are hard to come by, soft skills training in schools and colleges could help

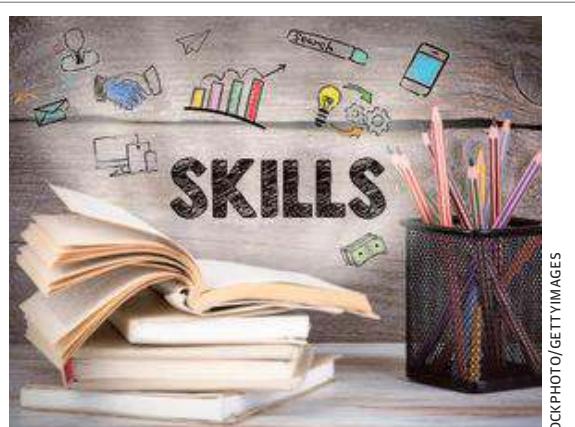
■ DEEKSHA TERI

While the percentage of students in high school and universities rising, the national employment rate in India has, surprisingly, fallen to 4% in June 2018. The reason for this is that while Indian students possess bookish knowledge and are trained to work in industries, they still lack the necessary soft skills. They manage to do quite well in the technical rounds, but lose out in the creative rounds due to lack of creativity.

"We should understand that universities prepare students to be industry-ready. If we do not align the programme with current industry requirements, then, we are not providing them with the required skillset. Hence, it is important to keep students updated through employability enhancement programmes wherever possible," says Ritu Gupta, associate professor, human resource management, TAPMI.

The right candidate

A major problem that recruiters face while employing students is that candidates are ready for industry work but are not 'employable'. Being employable is about having the right attitude, professional ethics and communication



IN FOCUS

Circle of positivity

Confident teachers can guide students to try hard and not lose their own confidence

■ MAMTA SAIKIA

As we rejoice at the dawn of a new year, there are huge sections of students gearing up to write their board exams. It is a time when the role of teachers becomes even more important. Their attitude can help turn around students' nervousness into positive excitement, at the prospect of completing a major milestone. The role of teachers becomes further complex and crucial when it comes to preparing children from underprivileged backgrounds in rural areas.

For over a decade now, I have been working with schools in rural India, catering to underprivileged children. Any such school, which has a high population of students coming from poor disadvantaged backgrounds, deals with a multitude of issues, low learning attainment levels being just one of them. Most students in these schools are dealing with really difficult life situations; many of them reach schools tired because they finish morning household chores before starting for school, or have to walk long distances since they cannot afford transport; or are hungry and emotionally disturbed because of



From the margins: They are important too.

Teachers literally have to navigate studies, understand the gaps, family issues, belief systems and other pressures that a child may be facing.

know that their teacher is invested in them and cares for them. So, teachers should continuously cheer on their students and become their mentors and cheerleaders. Schools have to create a circle of positivity in which teachers, parents and students work together towards a common goal to help students remain calm, confident and do well as per their potential in the board exams.

Making a difference

Board exams are not only an important period for students but also for teachers. To achieve success, teachers too require constant guidance, support and motivation from their principal and the management to successfully navigate through the complex requirements of various students. Principals must stay connected with teachers to keep their motivation levels high. They must organise timely academic support or training, if needed by teachers. Every input makes a difference to a teacher's performance and ultimately the child's. There is no better reward for teachers than to know that their efforts could change the course of life for a disadvantaged student. And, it is for school leaders to ensure that the teachers achieve that.

The writer is COO, Bharti Foundation.

skills. Employers are on the lookout for employable professionals, as technical aspects can be taught and grasped easier than soft skills.

Employers are on the lookout for employable professionals, as technical aspects can be taught and grasped easier than soft skills.

graduates are employable – but at a cost."

The national employment rate has been the lowest over the past decade. According to Gupta, "If you do not prepare your students well to face the job market, then you will face the campus recruitment downfall."

Solution

What is the solution to the continuous downfall in employment? Teaching soft skills in schools and colleges. We all remember how we had compulsory lessons in algebra and Shakespeare. While those are important, it would not be a bad idea to make teaching and learning of soft skills a compulsion in schools and colleges.

"When such courses are provided, neither the college nor students take them seriously. The way to create a robust curriculum encompassing soft skills is to conduct a pre-assessment of students at the beginning of their course and recommend the soft skill courses that they ought to complete before they become eligible for certification. Some colleges treat these as bridge courses. It is merely the lack of will and regulatory backing that prevents this from happening," says Srinivasan.

Employers are on the lookout for employable professionals, as technical aspects can be taught and grasped easier than soft skills.

family health issues – the list, of course, is longer than this. When a student enters the school, he/she brings the weight of their situation along with them. The first job of teachers in such a scenario is to give a sense of sanctuary where students feel comforted.

Teaching and learning can happen only after that. Schools would not achieve desired attainment levels unless they have ensured a safe and comforting space for their students and teachers who are deeply engaged with their well-being.

On a normal day, such schools have a variety of issues affecting students and therefore the teaching-learning process. So, the responsibility of teachers, when students start getting ready for summative exams, especially the boards, increases manifold. Teachers literally have to navigate studies, understand the gaps, family issues, belief systems and other pressures that a child may be facing. All this would be true for actually any school as successful teachers always look at their students holistically.

Seamless approach
The leaders of the schools, which are situated in rural

COURSE PREP

■ HEMA RAMAN

IIT, which was hitherto synonymous with the JEE (Joint Entrance Examination), is increasingly getting popular with yet another of its entrance, HSEE (Humanities and Social Sciences Entrance Examination). Conducted by the IIT, this entrance exam is a gateway to study Humanities in IIT Madras. This five-year integrated programme, after class XII, is one of the niche programmes in the field of Humanities in India, which has stood the test of time. There has been a steady increase in the number of students seeking to explore the uncharted boundaries of this course to give themselves a strong base in social sciences and use it as a testing ground to discover their area of specialisation.

Launched in 2006, this five-year integrated MA integrated programme soon after the class XII exam, is a boon to students who are keen to study humanities but are unsure of where their interests lie and the field they would like to specialise in, in the future.

The Department of Humanities in IIT Madras fulfils the dream of such aspirants by offering them a multidisciplinary programme that exposes them to a wide range of subjects such as English, foreign languages, international relations, economics, culture studies, drama and theatre, logic, and statistics among other subjects. This five-year course also serves as a platform for those students aspiring to appear for civil services exam.

With career opportunities available for postgraduates of this programme in consultancy firms, research institutions, world organisations, NGOs, banking sector, academia, centres for policy making and journalism, this programme seems to be attracting a good number of students.

Development studies
Students who specialise in this stream can look for opportunities in:

Policy institutes or think tanks recruit postgraduates from this background to carry out research and advocacy in fields such as Social policy, Economics, environment and so on.

International development organisations look for candidates for policy-making positions which involve functions such as preparing, co-ordinating, advising on develop-

Gateway to study HUMANITIES

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

ment programmes.

Private sector organisations with an active corporate social responsibility departments and NGOs require people from this academic background to serve as coordinators and project managers for implementation of their projects.

Government agencies require field and development officers for coordination and implementation of social welfare schemes.

Global consultancy firms hire candidates possessing strong economics and re-

search skills as business analysts.

English studies

Journalism: Candidates who have a flair for writing and who are endowed with creativity can look at a career in journalism, a field which provides myriad options such as content marketer, copyeditors, social media specialists, to mention a few.

Corporate communication:

Major corporate houses need a corporate communication specialist who is responsible for communicating com-

pany specific information to employees, stakeholders and the press.

Corporate trainers: A Corporate trainer is an educator who works in a business environment and imparts knowledge or skill to employees. Large companies frequently hold in-house training sessions for its employees. Such companies hire full-time trainers to meet their training requirements.

Academia: There is always a dearth for good English language teachers in universities and related teaching institutes, which offer ample opportunities for people who have passion for teaching and possess a strong academic background.

Eligibility

Students who will be appearing in class XII exam in March 2019 and students who had appeared for the first time in class XII examination in 2018 are eligible to apply.

Entrance exam structure

HSEE is an online examination with MCQs designed to test the general aptitude of candidates. The exam also includes a written component comprising of a 500-word essay on a topic of general or contemporary interest.

The General Aptitude Test

comprises of following sections:

English: Questions based on vocabulary, comprehension passage, grammar, idioms and phrases and literary devices are asked to test students' standard of English which is vital to the main course of study in this programme.

Analytical and mathematical ability: Any research oriented programme expects students to have reasonable logical, basic arithmetic and statistical skills. To test these skills, questions in this section revolve around puzzles, analogy, series completion, time and work, ratio and proportion, data interpretation and so on.

General knowledge:

This section, apart from testing the general awareness of candidates, also focuses on students' knowledge on subjects such as economics, history, contemporary world affairs, ecology and environment.

Timeline

Deadline: January 23, 2019
Date of exam: April 21, 2019
Log in to www.hsee.iitm.ac.in for more details

The writer is the Director, Sriram Law Academy.

VOCATION

Create your path

Don't wait to complete college. Start a career right away

■ NARENDRA SHYAMSUKHA

Current generations are unique in questioning the manner in which mundane systems work and routine habits inculcated. Some question the education system and why there are 12 grades in school. Why should someone who is eligible to vote, not be able to find a meaningful work opportunity after finishing school? Although, the answer cannot be concluded without a comprehensive discussion on the current capitalist modes of production, there are plenty of ways that unemployed youth can still find roles for themselves in the current economy straight after completing class XII.

Almost every business organisation needs two compulsory departments – accounting and IT. Given the ubiquity of these functions, young candidates can directly earn expertise in these two fields through specific certifications.

Accounting

Accounting is more than just numbers and calculations. It involves analysing and summarising financial records in combination with auditing and monotonous bookkeeping. It allows shareholders, investors, managers and tax authorities to gain insights into where the company is headed financially and provides the backbone for decision-making inputs in every other business function.



you into the practised role of the staff accountant.

Sales and marketing

This is all about exhibiting a product and service in such a manner that they capture the attention of prospective buyers and create strategies to sell to the greatest number of buyers. To successfully sell a product in the market, it is vital that the sales and marketing department maximises its resources without wastage and knows how to close the deal.

Starting a business

Being your own boss is a full-time job that requires discipline, pragmatism, careful consideration and weighing of risks. Nevertheless, there is no job more rewarding and gratifying than working for oneself. One doesn't necessarily need to be older to be better at entrepreneurship. But one definitely needs to be different.

As a young innovator, you rely on instinct and what fits into your pattern of values, to make decisions. For this reason, young business owners are advised to build on current working knowledge. An open territory and new market will only work for you if you have the required skill sets to match demand.

The author is the Founder Chairman, ICA Edu Skills

INNOVATE

Building classrooms of the future

The ultimate goal of education is to let students discover their talents, find their voice, and form perspectives

■ KULDEEP SUROLIA

Who would have thought that someday, a simple four-walled classroom with a few wooden benches and a blackboard will produce the finest talent in the world? According to Ivan Welton Fitzwater, who said, "The future of the world is in my classroom today," classrooms have this supernatural power to make a fool wise, and a bleak present into an illuminating future. The edifice of a classroom depends on the cornerstones of knowledge, love, understanding, respect, commitment, creativity, and innovation. Teachers and students are the builders of the classroom who, together, transcend its four walls in the pursuit of learning and knowledge. In the journey of pure learning, the teacher acts as the magic carpet that takes students on a venture to both the outside and inside world, spurring their curiosity and nurturing creativity.

To improve the learning experience, schools and teachers are already taking proactive approaches to education and switching from traditional ways of teaching to innovative methods. The introduction of smart boards, AV, 3D-enabled projectors, and control devices in the traditional classrooms allow teachers and pupils to collaborate in a creative world. As students are able to better understand and retain the



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

lessons through visuals, such digital classrooms have shown a massive impact on them and provided teachers with great flexibility.

However, to innovate a classroom does not mean using the latest technology alone. Education is not simply about teaching students what one has learnt, but inspiring in them the passion and creativity towards learning the truth. Where student engagement is the key to classroom innovation, empowering students through skill and personal development is the true essence. While engaging students with the course curricula and improving their cognitive level to that of adult remains the major concern of the teachers, they should focus on imparting relevant knowledge and right skills which will motivate them to pursue their passion, and create their own future.

The ultimate goal of education is to familiarise the children with the outside world and to let them discover their talents, find their voice, and form their perspectives that are not influenced by others. Obviously, this cannot be achieved indoors with old-school pedagogy. So, schools are turning up to create outdoor classrooms in order to provide a stimulating learning and growing environment for students, bringing together, indoor and outdoor spaces.

Experiential learning

With educational field trips, outdoor physical activities and leap-and-feel the experience in the lap of nature, their learning outcomes are

maximised and cognitive development advanced. Especially in subjects like history, the visits to museums help children interact and gain more vital knowledge from what is being taught to them there.

Creating a culture of innovation, teachers should design lesson plans in a particular art form that interests the students. Instead of providing them with complete information and knowledge, turn them into mysteries, pose challenges, and encourage them to solve it by themselves. Let students come up with their own ideas, promote brainstorming and peer-teaching; this will help them find a promising idea and collaboratively work on it.

Next, by implementing the role-playing technique of learning in the classroom, a teacher can bring entertainment to otherwise boring lectures. In role-playing, students are given different roles to perform enacting the drama of literature or a scene in scientific discovery into the classroom. This helps students gain deeper insights into the character and situations.

The innovation in education and classroom is all about making learning easy and intuitive for students. Schools, teachers, government and curricula must be flexible to assure promising results to students. It is not only about teaching them, asking questions and giving them answers, it is more about asking questions and motivating them to find the answers on their own.

The writer is a n academician and author.

VOICES

Opening doors to English language teaching

State-run schools in West Bengal will introduce English medium teaching from the next academic session. Students discuss.

■ NEHA RUPEJA



SHREYA CHADHA, GRADUATE 2018, B.TECH CSE, NORTH CAP UNIVERSITY, GURUGRAM



GURUDEV SINGH, II, B.A., THE HINDU COLLEGE, DELHI UNIVERSITY



KOUSTUBH KULKARNI, IV, ECE, NIE ENGINEERING COLLEGE, MYSORE



GAUTRI KARULKAR, I, PGD, VESIM BUSINESS SCHOOL, THANE

To survive in this millennial world, a basic knowledge of English is necessary.

With increasing globalisation and our country rapidly moving towards progress, one must know how to communicate effectively.

Introducing English at an early stage can prove beneficial for students and may open many opportunities for them. This move by the West Bengal government will help bridge the gap between state-run schools and private schools and usher in new opportunities.

IN BRIEF

Principal's symposium

Recently, MindChampion Learning Systems Limited (MLSL) organised a Principal's Symposium in four cities to highlight the importance of 21st century learning skills in school curriculum. Renowned educationists, Archana Thakar, Jyoti Kathju and Sita Umamaheswaran conducted interactive talk sessions and hands-on exercise with principals to highlight the importance of modern techniques in education. NIIT Nguru team elaborated on their holistic range of School Learning Solutions which aims to make the vital process of teaching and learning simpler.

**MoU signed**

Recently, the Indian Navy signed an MoU with Amrita Vishwa Vidyaapeetham the field of aerospace, anti-submarine warfare, cyber security and medical research. This will encompass collaborative research and development in M. Tech and Ph.D. programmes for naval officers. The MoU was exchanged between Vice Admiral Anil Kumar Chawla and Parameswaran, Director, Corporate and Industry Relations, Amrita Vishwa Vidyaapeetham.



Compiled by: Raaghavi Srinivasan

DELHI METRO



Why the most backward?

Ashok Kumar visits villages in Nuh to find out factors affecting healthcare, overall development **Page 2**



Colour of emotion

Chef, author and director Vikas Khanna tells about the incidents that led him to pen 'The Last Colour' **Page 4**



From page to stage

The Ninth edition of The Hindu Lit for Life will balance hard talk with fun and much more **Page 5**



Heart in the right place

Musician Joshua Pollock reveals what he has gained by practising heartfulness meditation **Page 6**

IN BRIEF



Hans unveils English edition of selected works

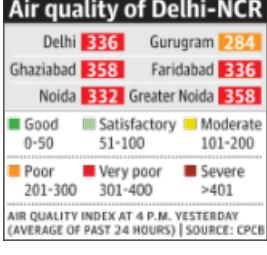
NEW DELHI
Hindi literary magazine *Hans* launched the first edition of English translations of selected works from its earlier editions at the World Book Fair on Sunday.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Phones worth over ₹1 cr recovered from gang

NOIDA
The Noida unit of the Special Task Force on Sunday arrested four alleged members of a gang accused of robbing a truck loaded with 6,000 mobile phones, the police said. They have recovered 1,305 stolen mobile phones worth ₹1.31 crore from their possession.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3



Ex-MLA's bag stolen from railway station

**STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI**

A former MLA's luggage was allegedly stolen from X-ray scanner installed at the VIP entry gate of New Delhi railway station, the police said on Sunday.

The incident was reported on January 5 at 3.40 p.m. when Satyaveer Munna, from Uttar Pradesh, was about to board a train to Prayagraj.

In his complaint, he stated that he entered the railway station from Ajmeri Gate side – VIP entry – and kept his trolley for checking in the X-ray scanner at the entry gate.

When he reached to pick his baggage, the victim could not find it. The bag had around ₹15,000 in cash, clothes and documents. He immediately reported the matter at the New Delhi Railway police station.

An FIR has been registered under Indian Penal Code Section 379 (punishment for theft), the police said. The case is under investigation, they said, adding that footage from CCTV cameras are being scanned.

Police server reads 'busy' while filing e-FIR: Delhiites

Facebook page of Delhi Police filled with negative comments and has low ratings

SAURABH TRivedi

NEW DELHI

A man who lost his phone at Bangla Sahib Gurudwara on New Year is running from pillar to post to get an e-FIR registered as the "police server is busy".

Sudhir Kumar, from Gurugram, said: "After I failed to register an e-FIR due to the server being down, I went to the Parliament Street police station. There, too, the server was not working. They have given me an offline copy of the FIR."

A senior officer said, on an average, each district police registers five e-FIRs and an SMS alert is sent to all officers concerned regarding the FIR.

After I failed to register an e-FIR due to the server being down, I went to Parliament Street police station. There too the server was not working. They have given me an offline copy of the FIR

SUDHIR KUMAR
Victim



ging in might help resolve the issue. We are getting our systems checked," the source added.

Another victim, Priyanka, said she had lost her ID card and was unable to register a report online. Following this, she went to Dwarka North police station to file a complaint when the officers refused to register a lost report.

The Facebook page of Delhi Police has a rating of 2.6 out of 5 by 497 people while Bengaluru city police have 4.3 out of 5 by 6,412 people.

The user comments on the Delhi Police facebook page highlight their bad experience with the officers. In a recent comment on the Facebook page, one Gaurav Kumar wrote: "Not helpful at all. Not recommended. Extremely poor service [sic]."

The Hindu tried to make several attempts to contact the police for the same, but got no response.

Recently, the L-G Anil Baijal and Delhi Police Chief Amulya Patnaik had inaugurated public facilitation kiosk at AIIMS metro station and at IGI Airport for people to get access to online services of police, including e-FIR.

One Naresh Dagar said: "My friend lost a mobile

registration. Another complainant, Nitin Luthra, who was unable to register a missing phone compliant said he had raised the issue on social media.

"I was trying to file an FIR for my brother's lost mobile phone at Hari Nagar on December 28, but every time it showed 'server busy please try again'. In the police station, I was told to first file an e-FIR," Mr. Luthra.

One Naresh Dagar said: "My friend lost a mobile

phone and we tried to file an e-FIR but the server was not working. After this, we went to Sector 3 Rohini police station, but they refused to lodge an offline compliant. If anyone misuses the mobile, then who will be responsible?"

Technical glitches'
A police source said the problem might be due to technical glitches or slow internet speed. "Changing the device through which users are log-



Brolly buddies: Two boys walk on a rainy Sunday morning in New Delhi. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

Rain brings respite as pollution level dips

Slight improvement in air quality felt after morning showers; clear skies today: Met

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Air quality in the city saw an improvement on Sunday, with light rain in the early hours of the day bringing down pollution levels.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the air quality index

(AQI) for Delhi at 4 p.m. was 336, putting it in the 'very poor' category. On January 5, the CPCB had recorded an AQI of 407, which is in the 'severe' category.

Meteorological Department data showed that 4.3 mm of rainfall was recorded at the Safdarjung observato-

ry, which is considered the official recording for Delhi, from 8.30 a.m. on January 5 to the same time on Sunday. While the sky was partly cloudy on Sunday, the Met Department forecast mainly clear skies for Monday followed by moderate to dense fog in the morning.

Mercury is expected to dip on Monday, with the maximum temperature likely to go down from the 19.6 degrees Celsius recorded on Sunday to 18 degrees. The minimum was also expected to decrease from 8.6 degrees Celsius on Sunday to 7 degrees on Monday.

Soon, ration trucks to have GPS to prevent pilferage

Action plan also includes regular inspections, deploying 200 Civil Defence volunteers

DAVINI NATH
NEW DELHI

Trucks transporting food items for the public distribution system in the Capital will be fitted with GPS within two months as part of the anti-pilferage action plan put in place by the Delhi government's Food and Civil Supplies Department recently.

In a January 2 order, the department said it is trying to prevent food items from being stolen despite "acute shortage" of staff and had come up with an action plan to improve the targeted PDS.

"When the truck leaves from the FCI godown and drops the SFAs at the Fair Price Shop there are chances that SFAs be diverted to some flour mill [sic]," the order stated.

The department had proposed installation of GPS in the trucks in the "recent past", but had decided against it when the EPOS or

electronic point of sale system was introduced last year as the "whole supply chain was automated".

However, the Aam Aadmi Party government decided to stop the EPOS system due to some complaints in April 2018.

"There was some hope that EPOS will be restored as it was only a temporary suspension. However, now the department has taken up with DIMTS [Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transit System] for GPS enabled trucks and also directed transporters to immediately install GPS system and this process is likely to be completed in two months. [sic]," the order

stated.

The action plan also includes regular inspections by the department's officials as well as the option of deploying 200 Civil Defence volunteers to assist in the monitoring till the department is able to hire more staff. In addition, the order stated, three crack teams would be set up to respond to complaints of pilferage by fair price shops.

The order also said: "The Department will set up a branch having dedicated police force under the Essential Commodity Act, 1955 on the lines of Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Crime Investigation Department. [sic]."

Food Articles) at the Fair Price Shop, there are chances that SFAs be diverted to some flour mill [sic]," the order stated.

The department had proposed installation of GPS in the trucks in the "recent past", but had decided against it when the EPOS or

police said.

The traffic on the flyover from Sarai Kale Khan to INA remained blocked for 30 minutes due to the accident.

Found near drain

The police received a PCR call at 8.16 pm regarding the accident following which a team reached the spot. They found the woman lying near a drain under Barapullah flyover.

She was rescued and taken to a hospital where she was declared brought dead, the police said.

"We found a sedan and a motorcycle at the accident spot," said an officer.

An eyewitness allegedly told the police that the car was in overspeeding when it

hit the motorcycle from behind. The accused driver got off his car and fled, they said.

During investigation, the car was found to be registered in the name of one 65-year-old Dr. Madhur, a resident of Nizamuddin. No arrest has been made yet, the police said.

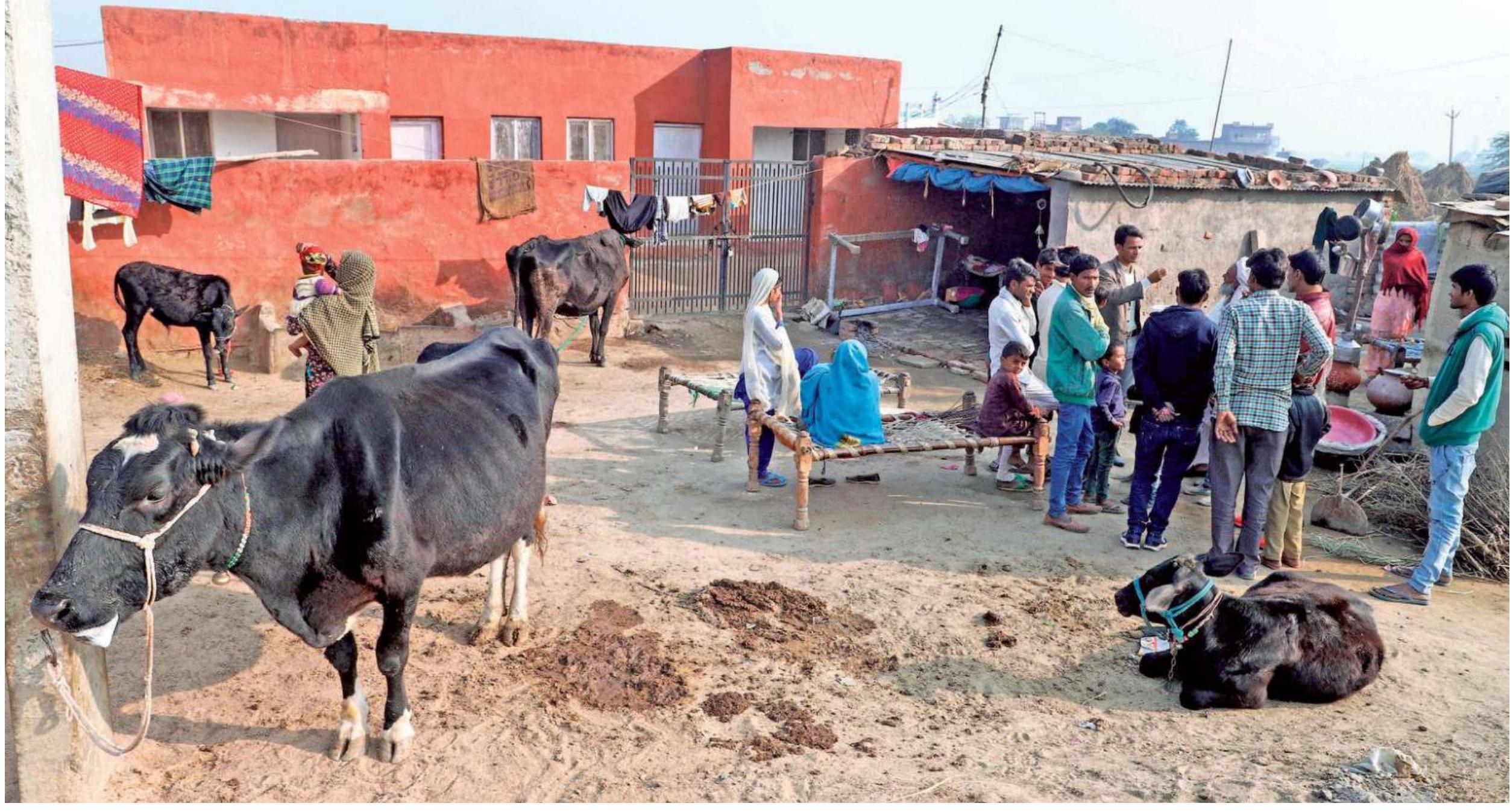
"We have registered an FIR under IPC Sections 279 (rash driving), 304 A (causing death due to negligence) at Hazrat Nizamuddin police station against the offending driver. The case is under investigation, the police added.

"We are scanning the footage of CCTV cameras installed at the flyover to ascertain the sequence of events.

Can't elope



Perfect pair: Two nilgai antelopes fight at the zoo in New Delhi. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA



Sorry state of affairs: Healthcare sub-centre in Laharwari village, Nuh district. ■ MANOJ KUMAR

What ails Nuh?

Located less than 100 km from the national capital, Nuh remains Haryana's only district to figure in the Niti Aayog's list of the 111 most-backward districts of the country. **Ashok Kumar** visits its villages to find out the factors affecting its healthcare and overall development

The condition of the sub-centre in Laharwari village, around 70 km from Delhi, is a good indication of the state of healthcare in Haryana's Nuh district.

Sitting near the entrance of the building, two buffaloes leisurely chew their cud in the winter afternoon. Next to them, a clothes line with garments drying on it stretches across the gate of the sub-centre. To the right of the gate are two jhuggis where the family of Mohammad Younis, a day-wager, live.

The 55-year-old is staying outside the sub-centre with his family, including eight children, after he was recently told to vacate the building, which had been illegally occupied by him for decades.

Mr. Younis said that he lived in the single-storey building for 33 years before the authorities asked him to vacate it three months ago. The building remained unused for over two decades before a nurse started visiting it five years ago, he said, adding that despite this they continued to stay inside.

"A nurse named Sonia visits the sub-centre once or twice a week. A couple of months ago, she asked us to vacate the building, so we settled outside it," said Mr. Younis.

Dominated by Meo Muslims, Nuh is Haryana's only district to figure in the Niti Aayog's list of 111 most-backward districts of India. Poor performance on health and nutrition front is one of the reasons for the backwardness of the district, which ranks 30 on the list.

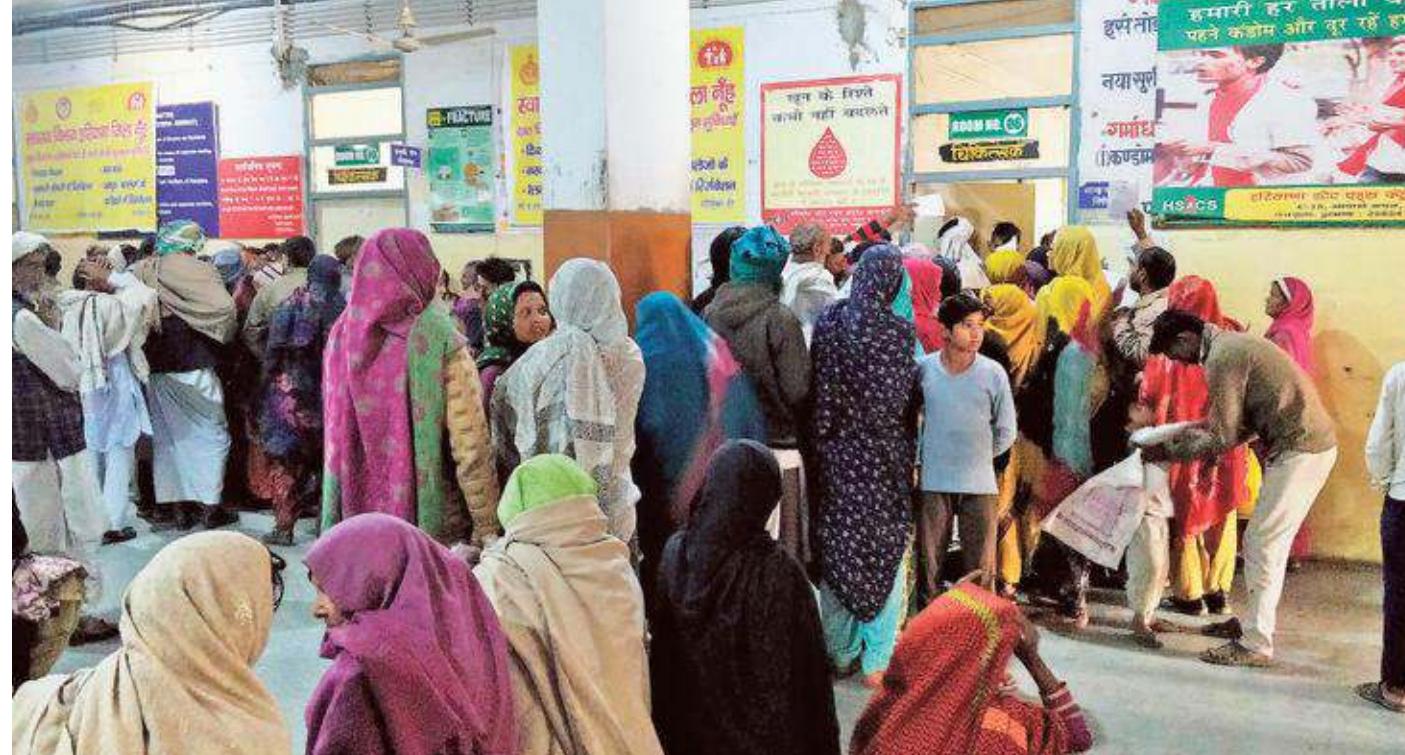
Major challenges

Family planning, child immunisation, nutritional status of women and children, and maternal and child health have been cited as major challenges in the area.

According to the National Family Health Survey-4, conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Planning Welfare in 2015-16, only 15.5% people in Nuh practise family planning with just 2.6% using condoms.

Despite being aware of methods of contraception – through TV shows – 30-year-old Harish, who has four children, said he did not use any. Maksood, a truck driver, said his grandfather had 25 children, his father had 18 and he had only six. He offered this as evidence that there was no need to adopt means of family planning.

Laharwari Sarpanch's father Shafi Mohammad, a Haryana police sub-inspector, however, said there was growing awareness about family planning and the people were now keeping smaller families due to rising inflation and



A scene at the OPD of Al-Afia Civil Hospital in Nuh's Mandikheda. Patients complained that they have to usually wait for 2-3 hours to avail treatment. ■ ASHOK KUMAR

lack of job opportunities.

"Earlier, it was common for a family to have 7-10 children, but now it has come down to 4-5. And in some cases even 3-4," he said, adding that more children were getting immunised and maternal care facilities had improved. He, however, said that several challenges still remained.

Lack of facilities

"The nearest Primary Health Centre (PHC) is in Punhana, around 6 km away. But there are only small facilities; there is no senior doctor and only a couple of nurses. They mostly refer serious cases to Nalhar, around 40 km, or Mandikheda civil hospital, around 25 km away. Those who can afford it prefer private hospitals in Hodal, or Alwar district in Rajasthan. The private hospitals charge thousands of rupees, so not many can afford it," said Ramzan, a confectioner.

Shahzad (22), a painter, recalled how he had to rush his wife to Punhana around midnight three months ago when she went into labour. The staff there asked him to take her to Nuh. He then returned home and the baby was delivered with the help of an untrained *dai* (midwife).

Despite being aware of methods of contraception – through TV shows – 30-year-old Harish, who has four children, said he did not use any. Maksood, a truck driver, said his grandfather had 25 children, his father had 18 and he had only six. He offered this as evidence that there was no need to adopt means of family planning.

Laharwari Sarpanch's father Shafi Mohammad, a Haryana police sub-inspector, however, said there was growing awareness about family planning and the people were now keeping smaller families due to rising inflation and

local youth have procured MBBS degree and opened their hospitals in the area," he said.

Dependent on quacks

In the absence of credible public and private healthcare infrastructure, locals have become heavily dependent on quacks, with at least 3-4 present in each village.

"They are of immense help in case of an emergency, especially at night. With the nearest PHCs at Nagina and Badkali being 6-7 km away, everyone rushes to the quacks in case of an emergency," said Mohammad Arif (30), Sarpanch of Ganduri village.

He said that locals urgently need a healthcare sub-centre with round-the-clock doctor.

Hasan, a quack in Ganduri, said he took admission in a two-year Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) course in West Bengal. He, however, admitted that he never attended classes. "I don't even have the certificate," he said.

The 36-year-old came to Nuh soon after completing his senior secondary school and settled in the village after learning the art of medicine" from his elder brother, also a quack.

"I mostly treat patients suffering from fever, mild illness and piles. I attend to 8-10 patients daily. Two more quacks are operating in this village. Almost every village here has quacks," said Mr. Hasan.

Staff crunch

Ganduri resident Nafis, who works as a lab technician in a priv-

ate hospital in Bhiwadi, said that laboratory facilities and staff were not available at government hospitals, forcing the patients to get most of the tests done outside at exorbitant rates.

"Some tests are conducted and patients are told to visit again a few days later for the rest of the tests. Sometimes, they conduct a few tests and fabricate results for other tests. In my wife's case, I found that they had given an estimate of cholesterol level without measuring it. I later got the test done at Bhiwadi, and the cholesterol level was found to be normal," said Mr. Nafis.

With the delivery charges ranging from ₹6,000-7,000 in private hospitals, majority of the population here is dependent on government hospitals which lack proper infrastructure and staff.

Krishan Kumar, a physician at Al-Afia Civil Hospital in Mandikheda, said that lack of support staff and residential and other facilities for the doctors and their families were major challenges. Posted at the hospital over 10 years ago, Dr. Kumar said there were residential quarters for only eight doctors at the civil hospital. The rest of the 30 doctors were forced to reside in houses meant for Class IV staff.

"Also, there are no good schools for our kids here. Even drinking water is not available. This is the reason why doctors are not interested in being posted in Nuh," he said. He claimed that he was not politically well-connected and therefore could not get a transfer outside the district.

Dr. Kumar said that the situation has improved a 'great deal' over the past five years, but there is still a long way to go. A woman gynaecologist has finally been hired on contract a month ago but there is no radiologist at the hospital, he said.

Poor nutrition

Shafiq R. Khan, founder of NGO Empower People, said the state of nutrition in Nuh was a major challenge and that widespread extreme poverty and lack of awareness about nutritious food were the two major factors contributing to the problem.

"Government surveys have revealed that a majority of pregnant women in Nuh are anaemic. Our own survey found that 40% women do not use sanitary napkins with many of them claiming that they do not feel the need for it. This shows the state of affairs," said Mr. Khan.

He said the government could play a proactive role by creating awareness about the importance of nutritious food and improving the quality of mid-day meals served in schools. He added that water scarcity was also contributing to the poor nutrition with each household forced to spend ₹700-1,000 per month on water.

Mr. Khan said that the district administration must take healthcare to the doorsteps of the residents by conducting its own health survey, providing enough iron and protein tablets, and holding special medical camps in villages.

He said the issues of poor nutrition and family planning were

Empty seats

Medical and support staff position of Nuh district as on November 11, 2018

Name of Post	Sanctioned	Filled	Vacant
Medical Officer	104	71	33
Staff Nurse	96	80	16
Multi-purpose Health Worker (F)	94	75	19
Multi-purpose Health Worker (M)	94	42	52
Lab Technician	34	1	33
Pharmacist	33	22	11
Dental Surgeon	23	16	7
Multi-purpose Health Supervisor (F)	22	22	0
Multi-purpose Health Supervisor (M)	21	8	13
Dental Mechanic	10	2	8
Radiographer	9	2	7
Deputy Civil Surgeon	8	1	7
Senior Medical Officer	6	5	1
Ophthalmology Assistant	6	0	6
Family Welfare Extension Educator	3	0	3
Public Health Nurse	3	0	3
Deputy Medical Superintendent	2	2	0
Operation Theatre Nurse	2	0	2
Operation Theatre Nurse	2	0	2
Civil Surgeon	1	0	1
Senior Dental Surgeon	1	0	1
Food Inspector	1	1	0
Physiotherapist	1	0	1
T.B. Health Visitor	1	0	1
Malaria Inspector	1	0	1

The number of sanctioned posts are far less than mandated by the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS), but still a large number of them are lying vacant... As per the IPHS, there should be one sub-centre for every 5,000 persons... there are only 94 such centres in Nuh against the need for 300. Similarly, there are only 170 Auxiliary Nurse Midwives in the district against the 600 required, as per the standards. There are only 18 PHCs, against the need for 50; and only three Community Health Centres, when 12 are needed

LOKVEER SINGH, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Nuh

SOURCE: OFFICE OF CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, Nuh

connected with large families failing to spend enough on nutritious food. The government was not focussing on propagating family planning methods in the region, leading to large families, which in turn adversely affected their financial status, he said.

Child marriage was also prevalent in the region and nearly half the women in the area were married before the legal marriageable age leading to early pregnancies and health issues, added Mr. Khan.

Mr. Singh said though Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) mandated the need for one sub-centre for every 5,000 people, there were only 94 such centres in Nuh, against the need for 300. Similarly there were only 170 Auxiliary Nurse Midwives in the district, against 600 required as per the standards. There are only 18 PHCs, against the need for 50; and only three Community Health Centres, when 12 are needed.

He also pointed out that there were several vacant posts of doctors, medical officers, staff nurse, multipurpose health workers, radiologists and lab technicians.

The number of sanctioned posts is far less than the IPHS and still a large number of them are lying vacant. The situation was bad till a few months ago. Now the government has filled some of the vacancies after the district appeared on the Niti Aayog list. It has led to improvement in health services. Earlier, the immunisation rate was 13%, now it has come up to 47%, said Dr. Singh.

IN BRIEF



AAP launches 'auto' campaign in south Delhi

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Sunday launched its outreach programme for autorickshaw drivers in south Delhi, reviving the campaign it had used for the 2015 Delhi Assembly elections. Members of autorickshaw drivers' unions pledged their support to the party for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls in the presence of the AAP's south Delhi in-charge Raghav Chadha, a statement said.

STAFF REPORTER

Man killed, another injured in road accident
GURUGRAM
A man was killed and another sustained injuries when a speeding car hit their motorcycle from behind at an underpass on Golf Course Road here on Saturday. The deceased has been identified as Harish, a resident of Delhi. Harish and Mohammad Kabul were headed towards Chakkarpur village around 5.30 a.m. when the car hit them. Harish, who was riding the motorcycle, sustained head injuries and lost consciousness. Kabul was also injured. The driver fled leaving the vehicle behind. The passers-by took the duo to a private hospital where Harish was declared brought dead. SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Woman found dead at home

Police register case of dowry death against husband and mother-in-law

STAFF REPORTER

NOIDA

A 25-year-old woman was found dead in her apartment at Sector 78 in Noida, the police said on Sunday.

The police have registered a case of dowry death against her husband and his mother.

The woman, who belonged to Chandigarh, was living with her husband since their marriage in August 2018. The two were working at an IT firm as software engineers.

The incident occurred on January 4 at around 1 a.m. The woman had allegedly locked herself in the bedroom following an argument with her husband. The police received the information only at 3 a.m. when a call was made from a hospital.

Marital discord

"The husband informed that the deceased had an argument over preparing dinner after which she had locked herself in the bedroom. He said that they had regular arguments. He said his mother-in-law called him late in the night after her daughter did not answer her calls," said Station House Officer (Sector 49) Girija Shankar Tripathi.

Mr. Tripathi further said that when the woman did not open the door, her husband used a duplicate key to

open the door after which he found her dead.

"The woman was rushed to the district hospital in Noida where she was declared brought dead," Mr. Tripathi added.

Meanwhile, on Sunday, the kin of the deceased filed a complaint against the husband and his mother for allegedly harassing the deceased over dowry, "The mother of Nitin had recently come to live with them in Noida when she harassed my daughter over dowry due to which she was not in the right state of mind. We suspect foul play in the death," Anupam, mother of the deceased wrote in her complaint.

According to the police, Teeja (32), from Mahoba district, lived with her husband Bindu and three kids in a small room in Sector Delta-2 in Surajpur of Greater Noida. The couple worked as construction workers at nearby sites in Greater Noida.

The incident occurred at 5.30 p.m. when Bindu allegedly poured kerosene oil on Teeja and set her on fire and allegedly fled the spot. One of their neighbours, who heard the woman screaming, reached out to rescue her and the children.

"We received information at 6 p.m. by the victim's neighbour Raju Sharma. Sharma had already rushed

Man sets wife on fire

Rescued by neighbour; husband flees

STAFF REPORTER

GREATER NOIDA

A 32-year-old woman survived critical burns after she was set ablaze by her husband on January 5 over domestic discord. The woman was rushed to the district hospital in Noida and later shifted to Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi where she was reported out of danger. The police have not registered a case as there was no complaint lodged.

According to the police, Teeja (32), from Mahoba district, lived with her husband Bindu and three kids in a small room in Sector Delta-2 in Surajpur of Greater Noida. The couple worked as construction workers at nearby sites in Greater Noida.

The incident occurred at 5.30 p.m. when Bindu allegedly poured kerosene oil on Teeja and set her on fire and allegedly fled the spot. One of their neighbours, who heard the woman screaming, reached out to rescue her and the children.

"We received information at 6 p.m. by the victim's neighbour Raju Sharma. Sharma had already rushed

He [the neighbour] saved the woman by calling an ambulance on time. The woman was shifted to Safdarjung Hospital where she is out of danger

MUNISH CHAUHAN

Station House Officer, Surajpur

the woman to Sharda Hospital from where she was immediately sent to the district hospital in Noida," said Surajpur Station House Officer Munish Chauhan.

Mr. Chauhan further added that the neighbour informed that the couple was having an argument over something for quite a long time after suddenly he heard the woman screaming for help. "He saved the woman by calling an ambulance on time. However, the woman was unstable till late at night when the doctors at district hospital shifted her to Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi where she was reported out of danger on Sunday morning," said Mr. Chauhan.

Gang involved in stealing truckload of phones held

1,300 cell phones worth ₹ 1.31 crore, 2 SUVs seized

STAFF REPORTER

GREATER NOIDA

The Noida unit of the Special Task Force on Sunday arrested four members of a gang accused of robbing a truck loaded with 6,000 mobile phones in Greater Noida on July 15, 2018. Over 1,300 mobile phones worth ₹ 1.31 crore and two SUVs were recovered from their possession.

The accused were identified as Abhishek Giri, Ajee Kumar, Yashveer and Subhash Singh, all natives of Aligarh District in Uttar Pradesh. They were part of the gang involved in robberies on highways in Delhi-NCR and Uttar Pradesh, said the Special Task Force.

The arrest

The STF had arrested 14 members of the highway robbery gang in the last four

months and all of them are languishing in the jail, said the officials.

According to the STF, around 3.45 a.m. on Sunday, they received a tip-off about the movement of the gang in Kasna. The accused, who were traveling in two SUVs, were caught after a chase near Alpha 2 in Greater Noida.

Rajkumar Mishra, DSP, STF, said that the thieves were nabbed after police found a common link between two robbers' gang, who helped each other in selling the booties.

Booties recovered

"We had earlier busted a gang, who had robbed loaded trucks belonging to e-tailer Amazon. A middleman, arrested in connection with the case, provided some information about the accused

which helped us in nabbing them," Mr. Mishra said.

He further added that the four accused had rented an apartment in Aligarh where they were hiding with the booties.

"The accused were selling off phones in small numbers in Gurugram. We got a tip-off on Sunday morning that they were on their way to sell the stolen phones to which we reacted promptly. The accused were nabbed and around 1,300 mobile phones worth ₹ 1.31 crore were seized from them," Mr. Mishra said.

The accused were booked under sections 411 (dishonestly receiving stolen property), 414 (assisting in concealment of stolen property) of the Indian Penal Code. They were sent to jail after being produced in the court, said Mr. Mishra.

Choose AAP, Kejriwal appeals to voters

'Don't split the vote between AAP, Cong'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday appealed to voters to choose the AAP and not to split the vote between his party and the Congress in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Dharambir Singh, in-charge of the booth management department of the Delhi BJP, has also asked Mr. Shah for disbanding the State unit's highest decision making body - Core Group, accusing its member of seeking limelight and indulging in nepotism.

The 45-year-old Korean national and his two accomplices (also from South Korea), who were waiting outside the airport to collect the smuggled gold, have been arrested.

gress at all, if you vote for Congress it will strengthen Narendra Modi. Don't let your vote get split and give all seven MPs to the AAP," he said.

Alliance talks

Mr. Kejriwal's comments come in the wake of talks between the AAP and the Congress for a potential alliance in the Lok Sabha elections. While the AAP has not officially ruled out the possibility, it has announced its intention to contest all seats in Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Goa and Chandigarh.

Meanwhile, the project inaugurated on Sunday would prevent the discharge of sewage into the Yamuna, with the laying of 66.87 km of sewer lines, from the Kakrola group of colonies, a statement said.

Delhi BJP leaders indulging in nepotism'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

A Delhi BJP leader has written to party president Amit Shah alleging "selfish and complacent" attitude of leaders in the local unit and requested for correctional steps in view of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Dharambir Singh, in-charge of the booth management department of the Delhi BJP, has also asked Mr. Shah for disbanding the State unit's highest decision making body - Core Group, accusing its member of seeking limelight and indulging in nepotism.

The 45-year-old Korean national and his two accomplices (also from South Korea), who were waiting outside the airport to collect the smuggled gold, have been arrested.

Speaking at the inauguration of sewer-laying projects in Kakrola, Mr. Kejriwal listed out the works done by his government in Delhi since coming to power in 2015. He added that if the AAP, as opposed to the BJP, had won the seven Lok Sabha seats of Delhi, they would have stopped the sealing drive and the hike of metro fares.

"Remember on the voting day that you have to vote for development of Delhi. And yes, don't vote for Con-

Burglars strike at coaching centre

Steal valuables from playschool located on ground floor

STAFF REPORTER

NOIDA

Burglars decamped with valuables from a complex that houses a playschool and a coaching institute in Noida's Sector 62.

According to the police, the incident occurred on January 3 night and came to light the next morning when a teacher of the coaching centre opened the institute and found computers missing. Soon after this, Ramanuj Mishra, owner of the Ca-

reer Launcher Institute, alerted the police.

Well-trained'

In his complaint, Mr. Mishra said nine laptops, a projector and an inverter battery were stolen from his institute while music systems, a projector, two gas cylinders and three desktops were taken away from the play school, located on the ground floor of the complex. "The thieves were well-trained as they even took

away the DVR of the CCTV camera installed at the ground floor," said Mr. Mishra.

Pankaj Rai, Station House Officer, Sector 58, said that Mr. Mishra had filed a complaint against a former security guard, whom they had fired a month ago. "We have registered an FIR and questioned the former guard. We are scanning the CCTV footage from the nearby areas to zero in on the suspects," said Mr. Rai.

Three arrested at airport for smuggling

Four gold bars worth ₹1.26 cr seized

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Three foreigners were arrested at Delhi airport for allegedly trying to smuggle gold worth ₹1.26 crore into the country, an official statement issued said on Sunday.

A Korean man was intercepted by the Customs officials after his arrival from Seoul on Friday. A thorough personal and baggage search of the passenger led

to the recovery of four gold bars, collectively weighing 4 kg, the Customs Department said in the statement.

The value of the gold bars is assessed to be ₹1.26 crore, it said.

The 45-year-old Korean national and his two accomplices (also from South Korea), who were waiting outside the airport to collect the smuggled gold, have been arrested.

IGNOU launches healthcare courses

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Four new skill-based health programmes have been introduced by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in association with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the institution said in a statement on Sunday.

The programmes have been introduced to create trained healthcare personnel for improving healthcare delivery across the country. "The programmes will be implemented through a nation-wide support services framework. A supervision and monitoring network at State and district-level is be-

ing created...to develop and launch these programmes," said Professor T.K. Jena of SOHS, IGNOU.

The programmes launched include 'Certificate in General Duty Assistance (CGDA)' to develop a pool of trained workforce who can aid the nurses and doctors; Certificate in Geriatric Care Assistance (CGCA), to help the elderly; Certificate in Phlebotomy Assistance (CPHA) for assistance in diagnostics; and Certificate in Home Health Assistance (CHHA) to provide personal care at home such as meal preparation, and help with hygiene and exercise.

Responding to allegations of "financial corruption" raised by the JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) as "false and malicious".

Respecting to allegations of "financial corruption" raised by the JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) as "false and malicious".

In the statement issued by JNU Registrar, the university further dismissed allegations that a visually challenged student was failed by the administration due to lack of proper infrastructure in the university.

Deplorable state

"JNU has always taken a compassionate view and has adopted lenient policies by following government rules and guidelines. It is deplorable that some student leaders are politicising academic performances and evaluation system of the university," read the statement.

Hans unveils English edition of selected works

Maiden issue carries 13 stories published over five years between 1986 and 1990



Author Mridula Garg with senior journalist and writer Mark Tully during her book launch at the World Book Fair at Pragati Maidan on Sunday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Translations can produce either a dead duck or a dark horse. We hope this to be the latter and see success

will be published annually in the series will carry stories from the next five-year period. "Translations can produce either a dead duck or a dark horse. We hope this to be the latter and see success," said one of the translators.

The contents

This first English issue of the magazine carries 13 stories

written by authors such as Mannu Bhandari, Mridula Garg, Uday Prakash and others, curated from the monthly editions published over five years between 1986 and 1990. Ms. Yadav said that subsequent issues, which

Dwarka Expressway homebuyers to go on indefinite hunger strike

Seek completion of facility, shifting of Kherki Daula toll plaza

lives so that the government understands the pain of the homebuyers on the Dwarka Expressway stretch."

DXP Welfare Association, a group of homebuyers, who have stake in residential areas on the stretch said that they had raised their voices in a peaceful manner many a times but no concrete results were seen.

False promises'

The association's general secretary Pradip Rahi said, "It is really sad that homebuyers, who had spent their lifetime earnings to buy dream homes across the Dwarka Expressway, now needed to sit on hunger strike. The residents had lost faith in the system after numerous false commit-

ments on Saturday. He returned home in the evening and found the main door of the apartment opened.

When he entered the apartment, he found his son lying on the floor in a pool of blood. He soon called the police. A PCR rushed to the spot and the victim was taken to AIIMS where doctors declared him brought dead. The body was shifted to the mortuary, added the police.

"The victim came to Delhi in December last for his father's treatment. His father is undergoing treatment for cancer in the city," said a police officer. The father of the deceased told police that he had gone to visit a doctor along with his tran-

"The victim came to Delhi in December last for his father's treatment. His father is undergoing treatment for cancer in the city," said a police officer. The father of the deceased told police that he had gone to visit a doctor along with his tran-

"A case of murder has been registered. No valuables were missing from the flat. It seems that the murderer was known to the victim as the entry into the flat was friendly," added the police officer.

The five-member team of officials from Fatehpur Beri police station has also taken along with them Raju Singh's driver Hari Singh.</

The colour of EMOTION

Chef, author and director Vikas Khanna narrates the incidents that led him to pen 'The Last Colour'



PRABALIKA M BORAH

Vikas Khanna is a bundle of nerves. As his directorial debut *The Last Colour* is set for a world premier today, Vikas is busy with interviews and promotions. Based on his book with the same title, the idea of the film *The Last Colour* took shape and was scripted at the editing table of his book in UK. "My translator, Neha, should be credited for being such an excellent transcriber of my emotions to my editor. I really needed an expert to bring the emotions on the table. While I explained in Hindi and Punjabi, my translator did an excellent job of making my editors think that a movie can be made," says Vikas.

Vikas was clear that he needed to bring out the book first; the film would follow later. Vikas even waited till the books adorned the shelves. "The book is the template for the movie. People still buy that book. Such are the emotions in the pages. While the plot is simple, the feelings are raw," he shares.

Narrating the incident that led him to think of *The Last Colour*, Vikas says, "I was at the Bankey Bihari temple in Vrindavan on a holiday. My guide came to me and said 'Please use the back door. You might not be able to handle the sight.' Though puzzled and wondering why, I did what he said. As I walked

out, I could see the widows of Vrindavan watching others play Holi on the road below. I was heartbroken at that sight. This was before the SC ruling supporting widows playing Holi came about. Then, after that SC ruling, I went back and witnessed when they played Holi for the first time. That joy on their faces transformed me. I realised I have to put it all in a book. The rest just followed."

When the chef-turned-author decided to add another feather – film-

G Neenaji is someone who can do any role with ease. She can express a 100 thoughts without uttering a word. She wasn't just my leading lady but also my guide. As a seasoned actor, she knew what exactly would work. That worked like magic. Neenaji and Chhoti (played by Aqsa Siddique) became a team. Neenaji broke the ice and started explaining filmmaking – how the camera works, which way to look and how to deliver dialogues," adds Vikas.

Finally when the day came, Vikas had goosebumps when for the opening shot, Neena Gupta read out "Main choti si thi, dadaji ghat mein leke aye. Din mein hi andhera ho gaya (I was a kid when my grandfather brought me here. The day suddenly turned dark.)" These lines remind me of my day at the

Bankey Bihari ghat where a 90-year-old-woman joined her hands in a namaste upon seeing my pain and said "Bacchpan mein bohot khela kartein (I played with colours a lot during my childhood). It was a sort of reassurance from her on seeing my sorrow for her," says Vikas.

Some of the characters in the movie are real and based on a few people he had befriended over the years on his visits to Vrindavan. "We tweaked the characters slightly. My actors and my co-director Anuj Tyagi have made this dream come true for me," says Vikas.



Well deserved: Vijayan Bala presenting the book to spin wizard E.A.S. Prasanna

Know your icons

Vijayan Bala's latest book brings forth the opinion of some of the greatest sportspersons that India has produced

VIJAY LOKAPALLY

Vijayan Bala's book of interviews, featuring some of the greatest stalwarts from Indian sport, can be a very useful compendium for students of the subject.

There are hardly any publications readily available to bring forth the opinion of these great sportspersons and Bala, a teacher by profession and a commentator of experience, does a commendable job of presenting them in a simple form.

"By and large they are fine," says Bala on the communication skills of the sportsmen. The book - "Indian Sports: Conversations and Reflections" - published by Zorba Books, includes 77 interviews.

"The older lot were modest. Nearly all of them communicate well, either in English or Hindi. These interviews were done by me on holidays or after working hours or during broadcasting assignments," informs Bala.

Readers would enjoy the interviews of Leslie Claudio, S. Mewalal, S. Manna, Mohammad Shahid, B. S. Chandrasekhar, G. R. Viswanath, Eknath Solkar, Gurubachan Singh Randhawa. They were not

known to share their views frequently and Bala brings out some rare comments from them.

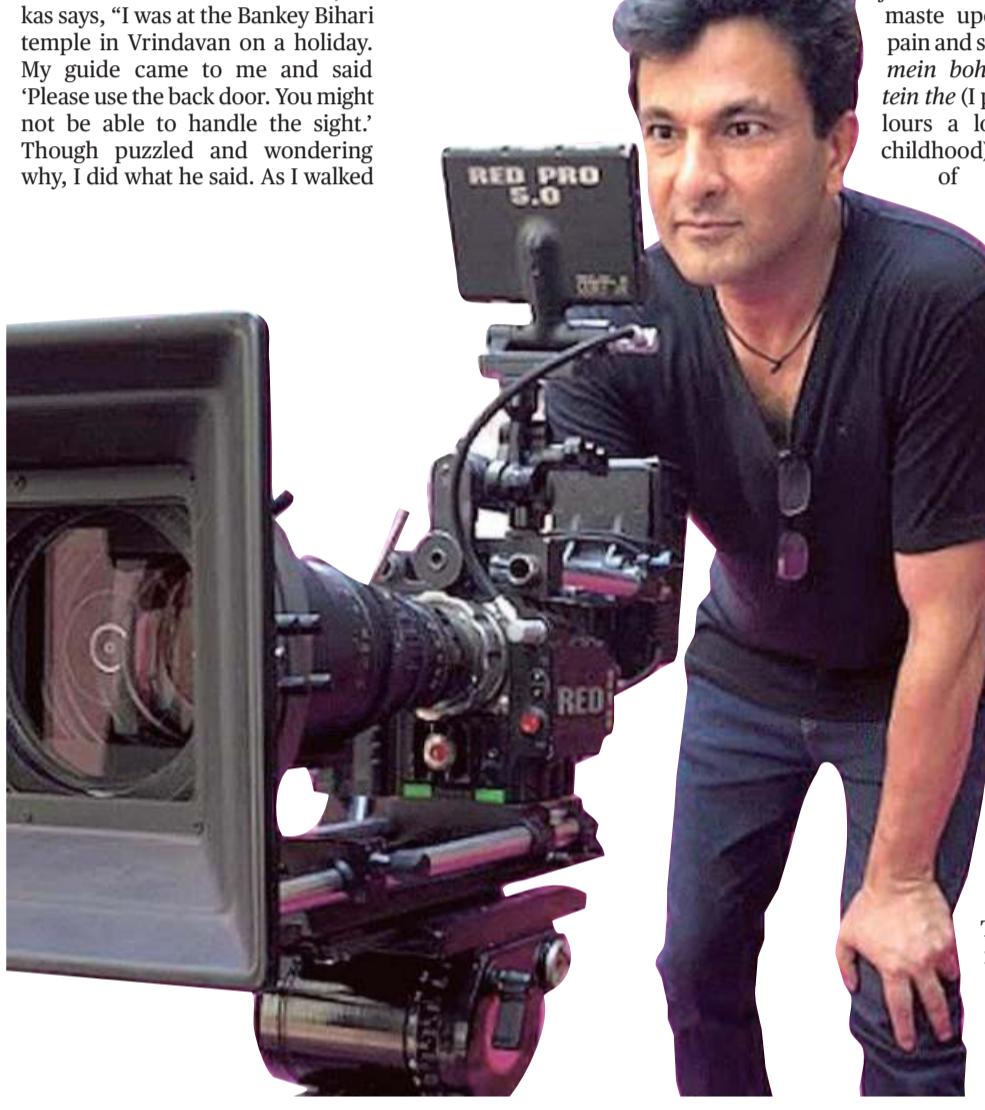
Viswanath shares his views on some of his brilliant knocks and even speaks glowingly on some of his colleagues. "I enjoyed doing the 77 interviews selected. The four that stand out are the interviews of (Mansur Ali Khan) Patada, (M.L.) Jaisimha, Balbir Singh (Sr) and P. K. Banerjee. I also like the (Srinivas) Venkatraghavan interview which was my first," says Bala.

The Jaisimha interview highlights his regal performance in the Test at Brisbane when he was asked to join the team in an emergency. "I borrowed pads and a bat from PR Man Singh (veteran official) and an old cricket bag and a pair of old shoes from a friend. I arrived in Australia two days before the Test," remembers Jaisimha, who made 74 and 101 in the match to justify his recall to the team.

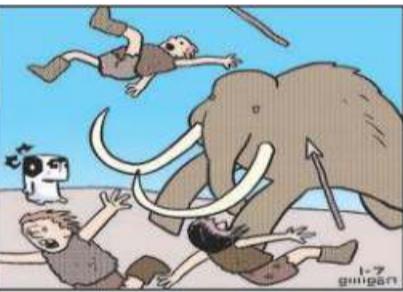
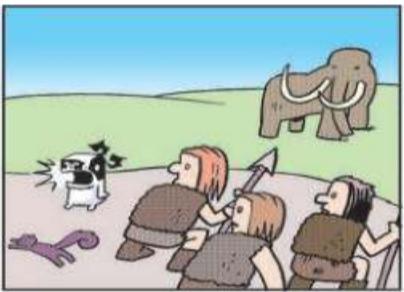
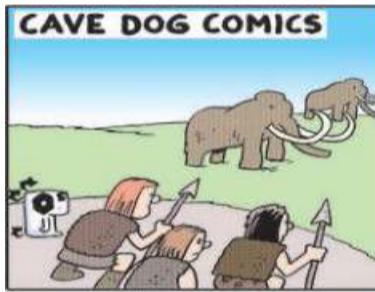
Style of interview

Bala does not restrict himself to old sportsmen. He brings out some interesting points in his conversations with Sakshi Malik, Rishabh Pant, Dipa Karmarkar, Parimaran Negi, Manika Batra and Aditi Ashok.

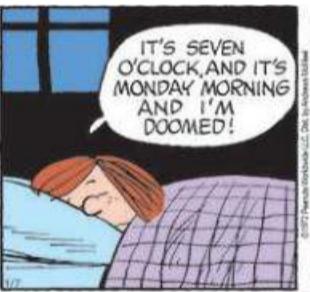
"I do thorough research about the person and his or her achievements. I am ready with all possible questions and I try to make the person so comfortable that he or she willingly shares his or her experiences," Bala concludes.



POOCH CAFE



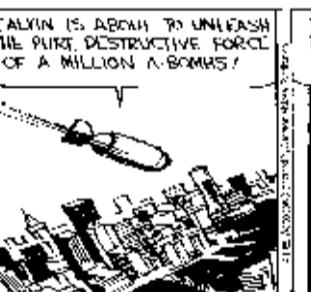
PEANUTS



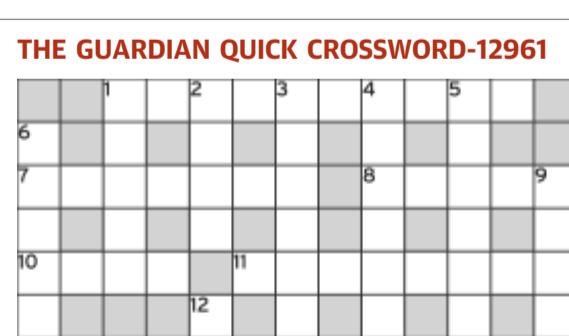
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBES



TIGER



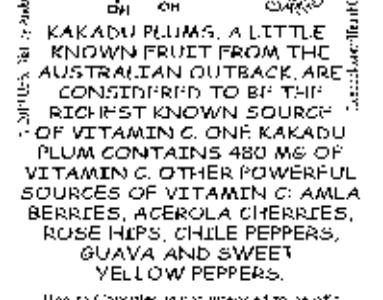
service (6)
4 Hotel guest staying for a prolonged period (8)
5 Montevideo's country (7)
6 Inflammation making it difficult to speak (10)
9 Neutral area between two rival powers (6,4)
12 Little ones (8)
14 Against the current (7)
16 Seat for passengers on the back of an elephant (6)
19 Citified (5)
20 European capital, known until 1924 as Christiania (4)

WUMO



Solution will appear in Delhi Metro dated January 8, 2019.
Solution No. 12960

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



15 Biological catalyst (6)
1 Exuberant (10)
7 Accuse of a wrong (4)
8 Firework (disappointing, if damp) (5)
10 Hairy Himalayan humanoid (4)
11 Move on water by standing on a board with a sail (8)
13 South American cowboy (6)

15 BLANC MANGE
E Q E Y A B
FLOUNDER FUEL
O E E S F L
WOOF PHOENIX
U S I Z
INSUPERABLE
N A E L
WARWICK CURB
W O E C S R
PAIR MARATHON
Y T A O E W
RHINOCEROS



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RADHIKA SANTHANAM

Intimacy. It is not a word you'd use to describe literature festivals anymore, given how big and chaotic they often are, with people sprinting between sessions, often unable to complete one before they move on to the next. But *The Hindu* Lit for Life (LFL), with its tight yet well-curated programming, has managed to strike the balance, giving everyone a chance to experience a good mix of speakers, while getting their books signed and even pausing for a good cuppa. Rachna Singh Davidar, programme director, says, "I believe that because we are a mid-sized festival, we are able to control quality to a much greater degree, and give our audience range and variety."

The ninth edition of LFL (January 12-14) is also broadening its horizon with new additions, like the prize for best non-fiction. "Earlier, topics of academic interest tended to circulate in a niche audience, but today non-fiction writing has become more accessible.

There is growing awareness that non-fiction writing need not always be academic," says Nirmala Lakshman, Festival Director and Director, *The Hindu* Group of Publications. "Given the excellent writing in non-fiction and all the excitement around it, we decided to introduce this category."

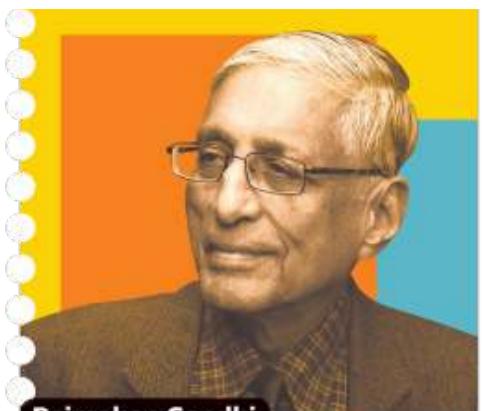
A case for reading

The world over, literary festivals are casting a wider net, bringing academics, scientists, actors, sportspersons and thinkers on one platform.

Organisers argue that this is necessary because books are not just an escape from the problems of the world, they help us make sense of them. As Daniel Handler, best known for his children's series *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, puts it, "My technique changes with every project, and surely the way the world is moving, it must have an effect on that – the way the torture scenes in *The Grim Grotto* would not likely have occurred to me were it not being revealed right then that



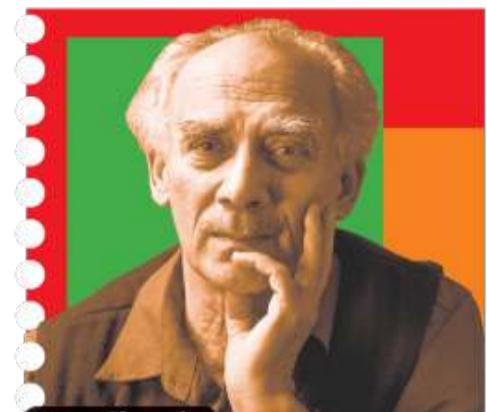
Audrey Truschke



Rajmohan Gandhi



Meghna Gulzar



Arun Shourie



Manu S Pillai



Jairam Ramesh

From page to stage LFL 2019

With names such as Arun Shourie, John Keay and Daniel Handler, the ninth edition of *The Hindu* Lit for Life will balance the hard talk with fun, insight and much more

the US was engaging in torture. I try not to close off the world, if only because it's impossible. I believe literature makes its own case for reading."

The Hindu LFL has a whole gamut of sessions: on the future of democracy, the #MeToo movement, the art and politics of dissent, mental illness, poetry, and ecology, to name a few.

Speakers include Arun Shourie, the economist-journalist, British historian and journalist John Keay; Meghna Gulzar, whose latest film, *Raazi*, was one of the best-liked films of 2018; Audrey Truschke, whose work on Aurangzeb has thrown her in the eye of a storm; and VVS Laxman, whose career will always be remembered for his ability to score tough runs.

Star power

Literary festivals are also coming under attack, for becoming more glitzy. This time, for instance, LFL features Bollywood's Manisha Koirala and Shweta Bachchan Nanda. Does this focus on celebrities diminish the spotlight on writers? "We invite people from Bollywood and sports celebrities because ma-

ny of them are going beyond their craft and writing about other issues," says Lakshman.

"If you make a lit fest too narrow, there won't be adequate interest. If celebrities can draw in a younger crowd, they will also benefit from being exposed to more serious writers and subjects."

So what are the challenges in curating a fest that ties together the serious and light-hearted, and balances the local with the national and international?

"The challenges are the same as always: you don't always get every writer on your wish list, but he/she will probably be here later – as has happened with Daniel Handler, who was unable to make it six years earlier but is there this time," concludes Davidar.

Expect over 165 speakers, in 88 sessions spread across four venues, at Sir Mutha Venkatasubba Rao Concert Hall

Indian rock band Swarathma will perform at the steps of the venue, on the evening of January 13

The Young World Goodbooks Award will be presented in four categories this year: Best Picture Book; Illustration, Best Picture Book: Story, Best Fiction, and Best Non-fiction

Writers Amitabha Bagchi, Anjum Hasan, Anuradha Roy, Arunava Sinha, N Kalyan Raman, Neelum Saran Gour, Perumal Murugan and Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay will compete for The Hindu Prize 2018 Fiction, with a reward of ₹5 lakh



Sharanya Manivannan



Joeanna Rebello



Shabnam Minwalla



Neha Singh



Bhakti Mathur

What's in that Tree, Amuchi?
When: January 12 @ 11.40 am - 12.30 pm
"My book, *The Amuchi Puchi*, has a palette: delight, fear, sorrow, healing. We will talk about how Amuchi tells Anjali and Aditya ghost stories, and they entertain each other. As it was originally published by Lantana Publishing in the UK, who team illustrators and writers from varied cultures to tell stories about children from around the world, we will also be talking about diversity and the co-creation process with Argentinian illustrator, Nerina Canzi.

Treasure-hunt at the Train Station
When: January 12 @ 12.40 pm - 1.30 pm
"We'll be travelling (ticketless) to several stations around the world, including St Pancras in London, Grand Central Terminal in New York City and Atocha in Madrid. Each station has a fascinating history, architecture, and stories. St Pancras, for example, has a six-foot beehive on its roof!

Spectabulous Stories
When: January 13 @ 10 am - 11 am
"I'll be introducing participants to Nimmi, the protagonist of a new series of middle-school books that I'm writing for Speaking Tiger. The books are light-hearted but discuss issues that trouble children – friends, peer pressure, dealing with difficult teachers. Other than storytelling, we will do some creative activities together, like making up new words, drawing and writing."

I Need to Pee, You Need to Pee, We All Need to Pee!
When: January 13 @ 11.10 am - 12 pm
"This session will be a safe space to talk about natural bodily functions that are usually taboo. I feel kids want to talk about stuff that has so far been codified or hushed; they find it liberating in a most organic way."

Small wonder

Anyone who has been around children will be familiar with their innate curiosity. The Children's Fest will offer a space for young readers to interact with authors, talk openly on topics like mental health, hygiene and emotions, as well as use their imagination uninhibitedly. Here is what children and parents can expect.

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"My book, <i

Unforgettable



Manisha Koirala tells the world how cancer helped her survive and thrive, in her new book



SUNALINI MATHEW

"I had kept notes during my cancer treatment, but I wasn't sure what my outcome was going to be," says Manisha Koirala, in a gentle voice, over a phone conversation from Kathmandu. "A part of me wasn't sure if I would make it into a book. If it was going to be morbid, I wouldn't want to tell it." But she has told it, not depressingly, but honestly, in *Healed: How Cancer Gave Me a New Life*.

In the book, she speaks of the life she led, beyond the glamour of *Saudagar*, *Bombay, 1942: A Love Story*, *Dil Se*. An alcohol ad-

diction, IVF, failed romantic relationships, even the fear of abandonment. "For a decade, I had abused my body," she says candidly. And in another place: "My state of mind was toxic, my approach to life complacent and my attitude ungrateful." The realisation of all this came later though.

'Life was so fragile'

Back in 2012, she didn't know whether she would live or die. Diagnosed with late-stage ovarian cancer, Manisha went to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in the US, where she would

Manisha Koirala
• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

spend the next painful year. It began with the trauma of uncertainty, an 11-hour surgery, and extended into 18 sessions of chemotherapy over a six-month period. "...the cancer had spread like a bowl of Rice Krispies all over the organs," she says in the book.

Amidst the feeling of "hopelessness, helplessness, powerlessness," in mind, body, and spirit, she talks of how family grouped around her, forming her strongest support system. She names all the people who stood by her, detailing the little things they did – things as small as putting a shawl over her shoulders. As she recovers, the positivity and hope shine through the dark moments. The book is roughly divided into three: the illness and fight for survival, her years in Bollywood, and insights into her own past behaviour and a rough guide to living differently in the future.

I would create my own sunshine'

Manisha says she's in a good space today, content to spend time by herself, often enjoying solo travel. Before cancer, "I was not able to do that. I constantly needed company, distractions. Of course, we need people: family, a few friends, sometimes unknown people strengthen me." As for the party-friends back in Mumbai, "80% of them fell away," she says. She doesn't seem to harbour any ill-will though: "Today, my relations and friendships are more rooted and solid. Maturity and a life-changing experience lets a lot of fluff fall off."

Through the book, there are allusions to Nature: the mountains in Nepal, walking in the park in New York, watching a butterfly. "I feel I get a lot of energy from Nature when I'm by myself; I am recharged. During the shooting of *Dear Maya* in Shimla, I hired a guide, and we would go for treks in the jungle. This year I went to Austria – to Vivamayr, a health retreat. I'd love sitting by the lake, reading a book. I love watching the sunrise and sunset, and the sky, the birds." She says even the

Positive approach:
Joshua Pollock
• SPECIAL
ARRANGEMENT



When the heart is in the right place

Musician Joshua Pollock reveals what he has gained by practising heartfulness meditation

tried it, I had no expectations, but after a few experiences, it became clear that my search was over. When we find the right path, the soul always gives us a clear signal: an experience of deep peace. This peace is not the end goal, but rather, a sign that, 'yes, you are on the right track'.

Lesh D Patel, or 'Daaji', as he is known. I never planned to write a book. One day, Daaji called me on the phone and said, "I would like you to write a book about meditation!" As a youngster, I often read books about spirituality, but no matter how beautiful the book, I was still frustrated by the lack of a 'recipe' for attaining the wondrous states described. That's what I set out to accomplish with *The Heartfulness Way*.

What does heartfulness draw from?

• Heartfulness, also known as 'Sahaj Marg' (natural path), is based on the Raja Yoga tradition described by Rishi Patanjali in his *Yoga Sutras*. However, heartfulness is a streamlined version, ideally suited to this modern era with its complexities.

Joshua Pollock will be in conversation with Sumana Roy at The Hindu Lit for Life at Sir Mutha Venkatasubba Rao Concert Hall, Chennai on January 14.

EMOTIONAL NUTRITION

Rachna Chhachhi, a certified cancer nutrition coach and nutritional therapist in Mumbai, helped Manisha write the book, in the initial stages. She speaks about why our internal environments are as important as the external.

- Cancer today is going to be as common as high cholesterol and the focus is not only on how to prevent it but also on how to get through it alive and decrease chances of recurrence while increasing our quality of life and longevity.
- People with a higher emotional nutrition quotient and emotional strength are able to not only overcome even the deadliest of cancers but also snatch back their quality of life, just like Manisha Koirala did. She is an amazing inspirational example of bravery and determination.

■ Being emotionally strong means nurturing ourselves via emotional nutrition. A lot of people neglect not just their diet but also themselves.

Within the scope of diet, foods that emotionally balance us are good fats present in nuts, seeds, organic egg yolks, extra virgin olive oil, flaxseed oil, fish oil (proven by clinical studies of Queen Mary University of London; University of Guelph). However, this is just 40% of our balance.

■ We need to emotionally nourish ourselves by putting ourselves first, spending time with ourselves, liking our own company.

A daily practice of moderate exercise, cooling *pranayamas* and meditation cleanses our mind and thoughts so that the gratitude we feel deep inside ourselves can be expressed better. We are so caught up in our hurried lives that we forget to enjoy the unhurried aspects of being kind to people around us and appreciating them.

■ The three components of emotional nutrition are: foods (as given above), self-nurturing, and moderate exercise with yoga and meditation.

These have clinically shown repair of telomeres, which are at the ends of our DNA. Shorter telomere lengths increase cancer risk. In cancer patients who did meditation for just 12 weeks and reduced their stress levels, an increase in telomere length was seen.

most crowded cities have parks and spaces that take us to Nature, but we're so busy, we don't notice them. She began to, only after cancer.

She's more spontaneous now, and doesn't put her body under unnecessary stress. "If I am exhausted, I will pamper myself, take an extra nap, eat well, take a spa treatment." She loves food, so she'll indulge once in a while, though her system can't take anything very spicy or oily. "I eat fish and eggs twice or thrice a week, but my body and mind have rejected alcohol."

'A new chapter in my life'
Healed has both the raw truth of a journal, the sort you write when you know no one's reading; and the wisdom of experience, the kind you put out when you know people are listening, and that they will hear your voice. "We are here to learn from one another's mistakes," she says.

She says she needs to use that voice for bigger things, but she's not sure what just yet. "I have dabbled with the idea of a foundation, but I'm a little scared of how much I can run it. I am not too sure of my management skills. Some donation, charity, is what I can do at present. I know that's not enough at all. Someone like me can be useful in a big way. I will eventually end up doing something like that. But not in the immediate future."

This year, she's training to trek to the Mt Everest base camp. "We should value what we have and not take it for granted. I am that person today." Also, she'd like to travel the world to learn about various modalities on health and wellness. But, she doesn't plan long-term. "I have a vague idea, keeping in mind the things I like to do. I am open to life. When you have such a close encounter with death, you know better."

Manisha Koirala will be in conversation with Dr Sheela Nambiar at The Hindu Lit for Life at Sir Mutha Venkatasubba Rao Concert Hall, Chennai on January 12.

COULD IT BE THAT...



Permissive is the new parenting



SUNALINI MATHEW

It is ironic that just about 10 years ago, we were talking about helicopter parenting. The same parents that took their children from school to soccer practice to dance class, micromanaging their every move, today allow, nay facilitate, drinking. I'm not talking about your child hitting 18 and sitting down with the family to have 'that first drink'. I'm talking about parents organising parties for children, complete with booze and bartenders, at home. The reason: so we know what our children are doing, so kids don't have to lie about being 'edgy' or high-risk any more.

In reality, it's not the kids living on the edge. It's us, parents. We're encouraging our children to go bungee-jumping sans the harness, and stand there at the edge watching breathlessly, thinking, 'OMG! I hope there's an ocean below, because I spent that time and money driving him to open-water swimming classes in his early years'.

Children will be children – attempting to break rules, push boundaries. As parents, we're supposed to draw the boundaries. Let's be honest: Most of us aren't able to. We were brought up with strict parents, we

didn't have choices because of the times we lived in, and the majority of us weren't 'the cool crowd'. We live through our children, no longer in terms of forcing them into doctor-engineer moulds, but letting them flow into groups and lifestyles that were not accessible to us.

"We're confused between liberated parenting and permissive parenting," said a friend from Chennai I called to ask about this, to confirm this wasn't just 'a Delhi thing'. At what point did we turn from super-controlling to super-compliant?

Over the last 20 years or so, there's been a how-to hanging over the head of parenting. It has become a 'practice' to be 'perfected', with 'certified' parenting coaches, magazines that talk of communication being a cornerstone, videos that tell us we must place books in our bathrooms to 'inculcate' the love of reading, psychologists who 'encourage' us to go outdoors and play with our children. None of these are bad, but the pressure parents have felt to get it right has been so high, we forgot that it was all supposed to be fun.

After about 15 years of this, we got so tired, we completely gave up trying to perfect parenting. Like over-enthusiastic football coaches who have seen the game go on for more than two hours, we collapsed onto the boundary line, blurring it for the players.

Perhaps our children will make better, more sensible parents – if they haven't all taken to the bottle by then.

SHAILAJA TRIPATHI

Joshua Pollock is a western classical violinist, in search of a meditation technique for many years. When he discovered the heartfulness meditation technique, he felt he had come home. The musician, who has worked with AR Rahman on films like *Ghajini*, *Delhi-6*, *Raavan* and *Blue*, feels his meditation practice blends with his music perfectly.

Edited excerpts from an email interview:

How do you define heartfulness; what is the technique involved?

• Heartfulness is an integrated approach consisting of three core practices: meditation on the heart, clearing away our emotional burdens, and prayer. These three practices are supported by 'pranahuti', or yogic transmission, which is the essence of the heartfulness approach and the key to its transformative potential.

Could you tell us about your experience with heartfulness?

• Evolutionary! On one hand, it has given me enormous contentment, helping me make peace with myself and the world around me. On the other hand, it has made me restless to improve myself so as to match and express the inner perfection that I have felt by coming into contact with the Source in meditation.

How did you choose this technique over other practices?

• I tried several techniques before encountering heartfulness. When I first