



IT'S A COMPLETE COURSE. IT'S MORE THAN SUFFICIENT. YOU DON'T NEED TO STUDY ANYTHING ELSE

## EITHER CLEAR PRELIMS OR GET 100% FEE BACK

- We guarantee you Min 70 Qs in GS Prelims 2019 from our 10 RED BOOKS for GS Pre Else your 100% Fee will be back.
- What if 70 Qs don't come? In case 70 Qs don't come, you can reclaim your money. We will upload details of Qs from UPSC GS Paper on our website that will come from Red Books along with Page nos. & Screen Shots on 3rd June.



### 10 RED BOOKS cover

- All Old & New NCERTs and 70+ Major Books
- News100 - 100% coverage of Current Affairs (Jan 2018-April 2019) covering 14 Sources - PIB, Hindu, ET, HT, TOI, Mint, Manorama, IE, UNO sites etc.
- Synopsis of India Year Book 2019 & Eco Survey 2019

Includes 20 UPSC Level Tests

### Also Try CSAT Prelims

- 5 Booklets from BASICS to ADVANCED
- Line-to-line explanation for every concept
- From Concepts to Questions - everything at one place

₹4,410

### GS Pre TEST Series

- 20 UPSC Level Tests (15 Topic-wise test + 5 Subject-wise)
- All India rank after each test among 5000+ students
- Qs exactly on UPSC Lines

₹5,775

### VALUE FOR MONEY (2019 PRELIMS BATCH)

GS Pre	PT Crash Course	PT Success Pack
10 Red Books + 20 UPSC Level Tests	10 RED Books + 32 UPSC Level Test	GS Pre (RED Books and 20 UPSC Level Tests) + CSAT
₹10,500	₹14,700	₹13,230

Includes GST

Year of Exam	Cut-off Marks for General Category	Data from UPSC website	Marks delivered from our 10 Red Booklets
2018	99 (Expected)	154	
2017	105.34	154	
2016	116	152	
2015	107.34	168	
2014	205 (incl. CSAT Marks)	162 (GS) + 140 (CSAT)	
2013	248 (incl. CSAT Marks)	168 (GS) + 148 (CSAT)	

crackIAS.com  
crackIAS.com  
921-7070707  
crackiasquery@gmail.com

### NEARBY



#### Kolkata turns fulcrum of anti-BJP unity

KOLKATA  
Soon after landing here, Janata Dal(S) leader H.D. Deve Gowda and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav commended Trinamool Congress chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for her effort to bring the anti-BJP parties together on one platform for a mega rally in the city's Brigade Parade Ground on Saturday.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 8

#### Valley sees three grenade explosions

SRINAGAR  
Suspected militants triggered three grenade explosions in Srinagar, Shopian and Pulwama districts on Friday afternoon. There were no reports of any casualty, an official said. Unknown militants lobbed a grenade near the busy Ghanta Ghar in Srinagar's Lal Chowk, which houses CRPF's bunkers in its vicinity.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 8

#### Number of voters up by 7% from 2014 in Capital

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi Chief Electoral Officer on Friday published the electoral rolls after revision, which stated that Delhi has 1,36,95,291 electors – up 7% from the 2014 Lok Sabha elections when it stood at 1,27,06,366.

DELHI METRO ▶ PAGE 1

#### Ground Zero

Grave secrets from a troubled past  
The discovery of a mass grave in Mannar town in Sri Lanka's Northern Province has raised fresh questions about the island nation's history of violence.

OP-ED PAGE

FOR IAS PRELIMS 2019!  
crackIAS Introducing! PT CRASH COURSE  
covers All NCERTs (6'-12') + 70 Books & Jan. 2018 - April 2019 Current Affairs + 17 TESTS  
#15-Days 100% Fee Return Policy  
crackIAS.com 9217070707 crackiasquery@gmail.com

DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

## Men In Blue rock

India completed a memorable tour of Australia, winning the ODI series 2-1. Leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal and old warhorse M.S. Dhoni were the chief architects of the decider in Melbourne on Friday.



We are the champions: The Indian team with the trophy after winning the Gillette one-day series against Australia 2-1. ■ AP

It has been a team performance in all three series and everyone has contributed which is a very good sign for the world cup. If everyone is contributing in different stages then only you can win a big tournament  
— VIRAT KOHLI, India captain

REPORTS ON PAGE 13

India is the first team to win a bilateral series in all formats in Australia:

TEST: 2-1 in four-match series in 2018-19  
ODI: 2-1 in three-match series in 2019  
T20I: 3-0 in three-match series in 2016

■ Yuzvendra Chahal is the first spinner to return a six-wicket haul in ODIs down under. His six for 42 is the joint best for any bowler in Australia, along with Ajit Agarkar's (Melbourne, 2004)

■ Mahendra Singh Dhoni bagged the 'man-of-the-series' award for a seventh time in ODIs, the previous one coming way back in 2011 against England

■ The India wicketkeeper finished with a spectacular series average of 193 (51, 55\* and 87\*)

## Five killed as avalanche buries 2 vehicles in Leh

5 people are trapped under snow; rescue operations under way

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR

Five persons were killed and five others remained trapped under snow after an avalanche hit Khardung La Top, located at a height of 18,380 ft, in Leh district of Ladakh on Friday.

Two vehicles, carrying 10 civilians, were buried under an avalanche of approximately 20 ft depth and 800 m length, which hit the Khardung La Top-South Pulju stretch on the world's highest motorable road in the morning.

The trapped persons



Rescue team members near the site of the avalanche on Friday. ■ PTI

were Army porters.

"Five bodies have been recovered," said an official of the Border Roads Organisa-

sation (BRO). The bodies were identified as those of Nurboo Tsering, Thinles Spalzang, Tsewang Tashi, Tsewang and Lobzang Chombel.

The Army said the mangled pieces of a vehicle were found on the slopes below the road. "The rescue operation is in progress," said an Army spokesperson.

The Army said the run-out zone, where the snow and debris get accumulated after the avalanche, is 1,100 m down the steep hill side.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

there going to be any talks of an alliance with the AAP in Delhi," she told *The Hindu*.

The BJP, on its part, argued that this "failed association" between the two parties was indicative of the fate of "all anti-Modi alliances across the country".

**'Other leaders' advice'**  
Mr. Rai said the AAP-Congress alliance was a suggestion made by "like-minded leaders".

made by Punjab CM Amarinder Singh and Delhi Congress president Sheila Dikshit, the AAP has decided to contest the Lok Sabha polls in Delhi, Punjab and Haryana on its own," Mr. Rai said.

The AAP, he added, will announce its candidates "soon" and will start its campaign from a rally in Barnala in Punjab on January 20, in the presence of its national

## Country wronged in Rafale deal, says Cong.

Modi govt. ensured windfall for Dassault: Chidambaram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties on Friday reiterated their demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to probe the Rafale deal and accused the Narendra Modi government of "compromising on national security" by reducing the number of Rafale fighter jets ordered from 126 to 36.

Addressing a press conference on *The Hindu* investigation, former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram said the government had "wronged" the country and ensured a windfall for Dassault Aviation, which makes the Rafale fighters.

**'No explanation'**  
Mr. Chidambaram said that since even the renegotiated deal was signed by the Modi government on April 10, 2015, none from the government could explain why it scaled down the order. "The answer to the question is now available through the splendid investigative report published by *The Hindu* today. We congratulate the newspaper on the report that has been published in public interest," he said.

"The Air Force had asked for 13 India Specific Enhancements (ISE). The negotiated price was €1,300 million that would have to be paid under both the UPA-negotiated deal and the NDA-negotiated deal."

"The cost of the India Specific Enhancements (ISE) was on a fixed basis in the 2007 bid which was negotiated down in the 2016 deal. However, to compare the cost for the Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) contract which never materialised with

### Uproar after exposé

In the light of revelations in *The Hindu*, why did the government buy only 36 Rafale aircraft instead of 126?...the deal deserves to be examined by a Joint Parliamentary Committee  
P. CHIDAMBARAM, Congress leader

A screenshot of *The Hindu's* report  
The deal for 36 Rafale jets with France was done in a great hurry by Modi for the benefit of his crony businessman, at the cost of national security and the Indian exchequer...no spin will help  
SITARAM YECHURI, CPI(M) general secretary

## Defence Ministry says all questions already answered

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) on Friday claimed that *The Hindu's* detailed story over the steep price escalation in the deal for 36 Rafale fighter jets did not adduce any new arguments and that all issues had been answered in detail by the government at various forums and by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament.

"The cost of the India Specific Enhancements (ISE) was on a fixed basis in the 2007 bid which was negotiated down in the 2016 deal. However, to compare the cost for the Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) contract which never materialised with

cost of the 36 aircraft procured in 2016 is fallacious. The author while indicating the price of ISE as €1.4bn in 2007 has failed to include the in-built escalation factor that would have worked between 2007 and 2015," the MoD said in a statement.

In an exhaustive story in *The Hindu*, N. Ram, Chairman of *The Hindu* Publishing Group, detailed how there was a huge price escalation and bypassing of procedures and official objections and how the non-recurring cost of the ISE was spread over just 36 aircraft compared to 126 jets earlier.

NO ADVERSE FINDING BY SC, SAYS MINISTRY ▶ PAGE 8  
CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

51 women entered Sabarimala, Kerala tells SC

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Kerala government informed the Supreme Court on Friday that 51 "female devotees" of menstrual age dodged protesters to enter the Sabarimala shrine, besides Bindu and Kanakadurga, during this pilgrimage season.

A two-page note submitted by the Director-General of Police (DGP) to a three-judge Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, said a total of 7,564 women aged between 10-50 had registered online for darshan.

The DGP said that digitally scanned records show 51 women in the 10-50 category "visited the shrine and had darshan without any issue."

He said the count does not include "many others who have come as normal pilgrims and not availed themselves of the online facility."

The DGP, citing the digital queue management system for advance booking for darshan run by the police, said 16 lakh devotees had registered online this year.

Of these, 8.2 lakh visited the shrine.

Reacting to media reports that many in the State's list of 51 were over the age of 50 and some were even men, senior Kerala counsel G. Prakash said, "The State government cannot manipulate data filled online by the pilgrims."

DETAILS ▶ DELHI METRO PAGE 1

## HC stays JNU decision on attendance

### STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Noting that action against unauthorised absence be taken as per rules governing the service of the teaching staff, the Delhi High Court on Friday stayed decisions of JNU's academic and executive councils to make attendance mandatory for the faculty.

DETAILS ▶ DELHI METRO PAGE 1

OP-ED PAGE

FOR IAS PRELIMS 2019!

crackIAS Introducing! PT CRASH COURSE

covers All NCERTs (6'-12') + 70 Books & Jan. 2018 - April 2019 Current Affairs + 17 TESTS

#15-Days 100% Fee Return Policy

crackIAS.com 9217070707 crackiasquery@gmail.com

Once again a palace fit for the Nizams

Painstaking conservation has restored the grandeur of Hyderabad's Chowmahalla Palace

### SERISH NANISSET

## Suspended Congress MLA quits party in Odisha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Bhubaneswar  
Suspended Congress MLA Jogen Singh on Friday resigned from the party and also announced his decision to

step down from the membership of the Odisha Assembly. Mr. Singh was suspended by the Congress on Thursday on charge of anti-party activities and tarnishing the party's image in public. The Sundergarh MLA's resignation came barely two days after Jharsuguda MLA Naba Kishore Das tendered his resignation from the party.

The resignation of the two MLAs has come as a major setback for the Opposition Congress.

Questioning the ground on which he was suspended,

Mr. Singh, a two-time MLA, sent his resignation letter to Congress president Rahul Gandhi.

Mr. Gandhi is scheduled to visit Odisha on January 25.

## Mizoram govt. taken to court over liquor losses

Extension of dry days has hit our business, say vendors

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

Liquor dealers in Mizoram have taken the Zoramthanga government to court for losses caused by extension of dry days initially meant for the Christmas season.

In keeping with its election promise, the Mizo National Front government had banned the sale of liquor from December 21, 2018, to January 14, 2019. The ban was later extended till March 10.

On Thursday, the Mizoram Liquor Vendors' Association and each owner of the State's three bonded warehouses filed separate lawsuits in the Aizawl Bench of the Gauhati High Court seeking to know their losses would be recovered and whether the government has any prohibition policy in place.

The court has set January 22 as the date of hearing and has asked the State government to produce the proceedings of the Cabinet meetings leading to the imposition of dry days.

After the first Cabinet meeting on December 18, 2018, the government closed down nine State-run

liquor outlets and declared dry days from December 21, 2018, to January 14, 2019, in view of Christmas and New Year celebrations. Republic Day and the local Chapchar Kut festival were the reasons cited for extending the dry day to March 10 after the second Cabinet meeting on January 10.

### Mounting expenses

"The government has kept us in a limbo by not saying clearly whether we have to wind up. Extension of dry days has hit our business hard. We are maintaining our outlets, paying employees and taking care of other mounting expenses," said Francis Sailo, an Aizawl-based liquor vendor.

The liquor dealers said the State government should have come out with an exit policy with a time-frame to phase out the business.

They said the uncertainty has led to piling up of liquor stock since the dealers have to honour their permits for purchase till March this year.

Under pressure from the influential church, total prohibition was first imposed

via the Mizoram Liquor Total Prohibition Act in 1997 when Lal Thanhawla was the Chief Minister. The move, however, did not help his Congress party win the Assembly election the following year.

The Congress replaced total prohibition by controlled prohibition 18 years later through the Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition and Control) Act of 2014. A few wine shops were accordingly opened in 2015 and the State government recorded around ₹70 crore in annual revenue through the sale of alcohol.

### Push from church

An unhappy church commissioned a study on the effects of alcohol on individuals and the Mizo society. A team of academics concluded in 2018 that the social cost of liquor was higher than the revenue earned.

Liquor dealers said the liquor stock unsold since the imposition of the Zoramthanga government's dry day order was worth more than ₹40 crore.

"The government should either buy this stock or compensate us," a dealer said.

## FIR against Assam Minister for 'communal' remark

Youth Congress for action against Sarma

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

The Youth Congress unit of western Assam's Barpeta district on Friday filed an FIR against Finance and Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for "unconstitutional, false, communal and illegal" statements about Muslims in the State.

Signed by 21 members of the district Youth Congress, including its president Anwarul Islam Khan, the FIR said Dr. Sarma had in a television talk show on January 16 alluded to "heavy presence of Bangladeshi Muslims in the Baghbar Assembly constituency."

"How can a dignified Minister say 90,000 Bangladeshi Muslims are staying in Baghbar when 95% of the people there have been included in the National Register of Citizens?" Mr. Khan asked.

It also contested Dr. Sarma's allegation that aggressive behaviour of local Muslims led to the shifting of the Moinbari Satra, a Vaishnava



Himanta Biswa Sarma

vite monastery, from the area to Sorbhog.

"The monastery was shifted in October 2005 due to erosion by the Brahmaputra. The Muslims had opposed the shifting but later helped in the shifting process, and this was acknowledged in a book by the son of an abbot of the monastery," Mr. Khan said.

The FIR was lodged at the Manda police outpost in the district with a plea for action against the Minister.

## Meghalaya modifies order, allows coal transportation

'Coal trucks from Bhutan can enter Bangladesh'

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

The Meghalaya government on Friday issued a modified order allowing transportation of coal that "originated outside the State".

A misinterpretation of the Supreme Court's January 15 order by customs officials had resulted in 28 coal trucks from Bhutan being prevented from delivering the consignment in Bangladesh. The apex court had banned the transportation of extracted coal from Meghalaya's illegal rat-hole mines till February 19.

Bhutan exports coal to Bangladesh via India as per the South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement.

The trucks had travelled about 265 km from Darrang on the Assam-Bhutan border to the integrated check-post at Dawki on the Meghalaya-Bangladesh border.

Ms. Khonglah said 12 more are expected to arrive on Saturday.

originated outside Meghalaya and being transported through the State of Meghalaya" would be permitted and regulated for transportation in "partial modification" of an earlier order, T. Dkhar, Commissioner and Secretary of the State's Department of Mining and Geology, said.

"We have been told that the coal trucks from Bhutan would be allowed to move into Bangladesh Saturday morning for delivery of the consignments. This (disallowing movement of the trucks) should not have happened since the Supreme Court order does not apply to third country exports," said Dolly Khonglah, secretary of the Meghalaya International Exporters' Chamber of Commerce.

On Friday, five more coal trucks from Bhutan reached Dawki.

The coal which has

**DELHI POLICE**  
**SHANTI SEWA NYAYA**

## YOU CAN BE... OUR EYES & EARS

### AS WE FIGHT CRIME & TERRORISM

**JOIN THE DELHI POLICE "EYES & EARS" SCHEME  
CALL 1090 TO REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS**

**YOUR IDENTITY WILL BE KEPT SECRET**

E-mail to CP, Delhi at: cp.amulyapatnaik@delhipolice.gov.in  
Write to: CP, Delhi at P.O. Box. No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 100

TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090

DP/906/19

# 500g Chicken @ Rs.1

CERTIFIED  
NO ANTIBIOTIC  
RESIDUE
\*\*Offer limited to first 500g. \*Available in most pincodes.

Apply Coupon: FREE19  
and get 500g\* Chicken at ₹1 with purchases  
worth or above ₹549!

For bulk orders contact b2b@freshtohome.com  
Order online at: [www.freshtohome.com](http://www.freshtohome.com)  
Download on the App Store Get it on Google Play 1800 313 3302

## Want practice tests for JEE(Main) & NEET?

**empower**  
MOCK TEST SERIES

BY



THE HINDU GROUP

Register for  
two scheduled  
online all India mock  
tests to benchmark  
yourself now

Mock test vetted by  
an advisory panel by Ex-IITians



Prof. Rajesh  
Sadagopan



Dr. Balaji  
Sampath



Dr. D.P.  
Sankaran



All India Online Mock Test Series for JEE(Main) & NEET

To register, log on to  
<https://empower.thehindu.com>

Knowledge &  
Platform Partner

## IN BRIEF



## Punjab CM announces grant for Malwa region

CHANDIGARH  
Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Friday announced a development grant of ₹208.40 crore for funding infrastructure works in the Malwa region. The Chief Minister asked the MLAs to prioritise the development works within their constituencies. PTI

## Train runs over 25 cows in U.P.'s Hamirpur

BANGLA  
A train ran over 25 cows near Ragaon railway station in Hamirpur district on Friday, officials said. "The cows were found dead on the tracks," SP, rural, Hamirpur Hemraj Meena said. Police have been deployed in the area after some persons alleged the cows were deliberately kept on the track. PTI

## Independent extends support to Surjewala

NEW DELHI  
Independent legislator Jai Parkash on Friday extended his support to Congress nominee Randeep Surjewala for the Jind Assembly by-election in Haryana. He made the announcement after meeting senior Congress leader Ahmed Patel at his residence here. PTI

## Super strength



A sadhu hangs by his hair at the Kumbh Mela in Allahabad on Friday. ■ PTI

## Ex-BJP MP resigns from party

Heaps praise on Congress president Rahul Gandhi

AMARNATH TEWARY  
PATNA

Former BJP MP Uday Singh, who represented the Purnia Lok Sabha constituency in Bihar twice, resigned from the party on Friday, alleging that it has surrendered before Janata Dal (United) leader and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Throwing enough hints that he may contest the upcoming Lok Sabha polls as a Mahagathbandhan candidate, Mr. Singh heaped

praise on Congress president Rahul Gandhi.

In his five-page resignation letter to party president Amit Shah, Mr. Singh said that "committed BJP workers were appalled over the way the party agreed overnight to share power with Nitish Kumar in Bihar while forgetting all their bitter experiences with him in the past".

"The party which had won just two seats in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls was gi-

ven 17 seats for the upcoming elections... it has surprised just not me but most BJP leaders of the State," he added.

Mr. Singh, whose elder brother N.K. Singh is Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission, had lost his seat in 2014 to Janata Dal (United) candidate Santosh Kushwaha by a margin of over one lakh votes. His mother Madhuri Singh too had represented the Purnia Lok Sabha seat twice.

## Rajasthan's State bird may be extinct soon

Only 50 Great Indian Bustards left in the wild, no action on plan to save them



Going, going... The Great Indian Bustard ■

MOHAMMED IQBAL  
JAIPUR  
Almost two years after the Rajasthan government proposed setting up of captive breeding centres for the Great Indian Bustards to boost their wild population, the wildlife activists here have called for enforcement of recovery plan for the country's most critically endangered bird. The GIB's last remnant wild population of about 50 in Jaisalmer district accounts for 95% of its total world population.

No progress has been made on the proposal for establishing a captive breeding centre at Sorsan in Kota district and a hatchery in Jaisalmer's Mokhalal village for conservation of the State bird of Rajasthan. The previous BJP regime had taken up the work in 2017 after the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change sanctioned ₹33.85 crore to facilitate the two centres and authorised the

methodically. Tourism & Wildlife Society of India honorary secretary Harsh Vardhan, who was among those who met Mr. Bishnoi, said the decisions after the launch of the Project Bustard in 2013 had not been followed up for five years. "The forest officers have concentrated solely on tiger, which has done well. The tiger population is settling outside the Ranthambore reserve... Two females recently gave litters in scrub areas dominated by human settlements," he said.

Other members of the group were Sariska Foundation secretary Dinesh Durrauni and former Chief Wildlife Warden R.N. Mehrotra. The group pointed out that the WII had not nominated any scientist to work exclusively on GIB in the State despite the related issues discussed at a meeting held here in April 2017 to decide for setting up the conservation breeding centres.

## U.P. govt. nod for reservation

10% poor quota in general category

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LUCKNOW

CM Yogi Adityanath. ■

The Uttar Pradesh government on Friday approved 10% reservation for economically backward among upper castes in jobs and educational institutions.

The nod was given at a meeting here of the State Cabinet presided over by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, senior Cabinet Minister and U.P. government spokesperson Shrikant Sharma told mediapersons.

**Third State to do so** Uttar Pradesh became the third State after Gujarat and Jharkhand to approve the legislation which has to be ratified by at least half the State Assemblies in the country.

The Constitution (124 Amendment) Bill, 2019, providing for 10% reservation in jobs and educational institutions to the economically weaker sections in the general category was passed by Parliament in its recently concluded winter session.

President Ram Nath Kovind has since given his assent to the Bill. "The Cabinet meeting presided over by Chief Mi-

nister Yogi Adityanath approved the notification granting 10% reservation to the poor among the upper castes which has come into effect on January 14," Mr. Sharma said.

"The U.P. government will implement the quota for the upper castes fully without touching the reservation for other sections of society," he said.

Meanwhile, a meeting between Deputy Chief Minister Dinesh Sharma, who holds the Higher Education portfolio, and State and private universities, approved a proposal for implementing the 10% reservation for upper caste poor in higher education institutions after the Cabinet approval.

## Rajasthan govt. to push women's quota

For 33% seats for women in Assembly; may be replicated in Cong.-ruled States

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said on Friday that the State Cabinet has in principle decided to pass a resolution seeking 33% reservation for women in legislative Assembly.

"In principle, it was decided yesterday to pass a resolution in legislative Assembly for 33% reservation for women. Congress president wants that resolution is passed in five Congress-ruled States," Mr. Gehlot told reporters outside the Assembly.

**Resolution timing** However, he did not say whether the resolution will be passed in this Assembly session.

Mr. Gehlot said former Congress president Sonia

Gandhi had been fighting for reservation for women in Parliament and legislative Assemblies. After a long struggle, the Bill was passed in Lok Sabha but it was pending in Rajya Sabha.

## Cong. committed

Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot said the Bill granting reservation to women was introduced in Parliament and Congress has been committed to the matter.

He said it is the party's intention to pass a resolution in State Assemblies where Congress has formed government.

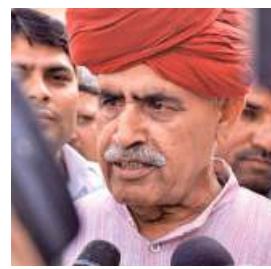
Though the matter is pending at the Centre, it was discussed on Thursday in the Cabinet to form a consensus on it as it was one of the promises in the Congress election manifesto, he added.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JAIPUR

Gujjar leader Kirori Singh Bainsla urged the Rajasthan government on Friday to resolve the issue of reservation for the community in government jobs and educational institutes within 20 days failing which he threatened to stage protest.

"State government should clarify its stand on the reservation issue in 20 days failing which I will stage protest," Mr. Bainsla, who has spearheaded Gujjar agitations in the State, told reporters.

He said he will hold a 'panchayat' in Khandar, Nainwa, Ajmer and Dausa on January 27, February 1, 5 and 13, respectively.



Gujjar leader Kirori Singh Bainsla. ■

Mr. Bainsla also sought support from government employees belonging to the most backward classes.

Gujjars in Rajasthan already have 1 per cent reservation in the 'most backward' category but are demanding 5-per cent quota under the legal limit of 50 per cent reservation.

Panel to probe Cong. factions' clash in H.P.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SHIMLA

A day after supporters of former Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh and former Himachal Congress chief Sukhinder Singh Sukhu clashed here, the party on Friday constituted a two-member committee to probe the incident.

Talking to media persons at the Congress Bhawan here, Himachal Pradesh Congress Committee president Kuldeep Singh Rathore said the panel would submit its report within 15 days.

"An impartial, high-power panel comprising advocates Nareshwar Singh Chandel and Rupinder Singh Thakur has been constituted to look into the clash," he said.

## M.P. Ministers want CM to withdraw cases against them

Request made after Cabinet decision to withdraw 'politically motivated' cases against party workers

ANUP DUTTA  
BHOPAL

The decision of the newly elected Congress government in Madhya Pradesh to withdraw "politically motivated" cases lodged against them to the notice of Chief Minister Kamal Nath after the Cabinet decision on Thursday to de-

velop a mechanism to withdraw "politically motivated" cases against party workers, farmers and activists.

According to sources, two State Ministers – Minister for Sports and Youth Welfare

and Higher Education Jitu Patwari and Minister Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Pradumn Singh Tomar – brought the cases lodged against them to the notice of Chief Minister Kamal Nath after the Cabinet decision on Thursday to de-

velop a mechanism to withdraw "politically motivated" cases against party workers, farmers and activists.

Mr. Nath assured the two Ministers that the cases against them will be considered when they come for trial in special courts in the

near future, the sources added.

The M.P. government has decided to set up district and State-level committees to examine cases against party workers, activists and farmers lodged in the last 15 years.

**UPSC**  
CSE 2019 Prelims  
Revision Module  
**HISTORY**  
Guidance: BHUSHAN DESHMUKH  
Sunday, 20 Jan.  
VENUE 80, Adjacent to Kotak Mahindra Bank, Old Rajendra Nagar, Delhi  
UNIQUE 80100 78886  
academy www.theuniqueacademy.com

**HOME LOAN 8.80%**  
p. a. onwards  
Benefit under PMAY-CLSS with Maximum subsidy of  
₹ 2.67 lakh and Maximum interest  
benefit up to 6.5% p.a. also available for eligible customer.

LICFL  
LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD  
Building homes. Nurturing relationships.  
Give a missed call on  
**8422832132**

For detailed information log on [www.lichousing.com](http://www.lichousing.com)

**GATE '20/21**  
ECE | EEE | CSE | ME | Civil Engineering  
Write **GATEQUEST**  
The Scholarship Test  
on 20<sup>th</sup> January (Sunday) @ 1 pm  
Get upto 100% Scholarship\*

For more details & registration call:  
Ph: 011-41656512/13/14, 9599914396  
**T.I.M.E.** T.I.M.E. Institute of Management Education Pvt. Ltd.  
www.time4education.com/gate  
Email: [timgate@time-education.com](mailto:timgate@time-education.com)

Venues:  
T.I.M.E. GATE Kalu Sarai,  
T.I.M.E. Connaught Place,  
T.I.M.E. Pitampura, T.I.M.E.  
Noida, T.I.M.E. Gurgaon

**UPSC INTERVIEW**  
BOARD OF:-  
Secretaries, IAS & IFS Officers, Ex-SSB  
President & LBSNAA, DU & JNU  
Faculties.  
Beacon IAS: 9958846134 ([beaconedu.in](http://beaconedu.in))

Applications are invited for appointment of one Chief Operating Officer (COO) in Agartala Smart City Limited, Agartala, Tripura - 799001 on purely contractual basis.

For detailed recruitment notification please visit,  
**Website:** [agartalacity.tripura.gov.in](http://agartalacity.tripura.gov.in) & [tripura.gov.in](http://tripura.gov.in)

**Career Launcher IAS**  
The Focus is on  
**YOU**  
UPSC Mock Interviews & DAF-based Discussions  
Register for ₹500 only!  
Interviews with Civil Servants  
Discussions on DAF  
Personalized Feedback  
Recordings of Mock Interviews  
Program Starting Tomorrow. Enroll Now!  
4237-5128, 9999-136-114  
[www.careerlauncher.com/upsc/](http://www.careerlauncher.com/upsc/)  
INNOVATIVE MINDS

**SWEATER & JACKETS SALE**  
WINTER COLLECTION  
ARROW raymond PARK AVENUE LOUIS PHILIPPE  
Hi-Fashion winter Collection 2018  
Best Brands Sweaters, Jackets & sweat shirts  
upto 60% Off  
By Economy Sales: 45086168  
PUNCHKUAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.)  
• WAZIPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)  
• JANAKPUR B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543  
• NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP  
• LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

## CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE:  
www.thehinduads.com  
011-43579738 • 43579797

## EDUCATIONAL

## BHARTI CONCEPT

(A COMPLETE STUDY CENTRE)

## MATHS

by S.S. Bharti

SSC-T, T, CHSL, CPO (S), UPSC, PCS Etc.

22 Jan. (1:30 pm to 3 pm)

G.S. (Fee 5000/-)

BEST FACULTY IN INDIA

(22 Jan. 4:30 pm to 6 pm)

HEAD OFF: Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, 1st Floor,

Batra Cinema Complex, Delhi-9

9133335283, 9250291082

English Vocabulary (Fee 3000/-)

by Ravi Bajaj Sir (22 Jan. 11 am to 12 pm)

English Grammar (Fee 5000/-)

by J.S. Yadav Sir (22 Jan. 12 pm to 1:30 pm)

Reasoning (Fee 3000/-)

by J.S. Dhanakar Sir (22 Jan. 3 pm to 4:30 pm)

Top 5 Highest Scores : 4 In Top 5 Ranks in Anthro

MANY OF OUR STUDENTS GOT 300+ MARKS

NEW BATCH-19TH JAN; 2PM&amp;5:30PM

COMPLETE COVERAGE OF SYLLABUS PAER-I &amp; II

IN-DEPTH CLASSROOM TEACHING

INTERLINKAGES WITH CURRENT CASE STUDIES

WRITING PRACTICE TESTS AFTER EVERY UNIT

DURATION TWO &amp; HALF MONTHS + 40 DAYS REVISION CLASSES AFTER PRELIMS

BEST FOR THOSE CHANGING OPTIONAL

FOR DETAILS VISIT OUR WEBSITE : [WWW.I2JAIN.COM](http://WWW.I2JAIN.COM)

RANKS 03, 06, 07, 12, 59, 64, 93

MARKS 338, 338, 338, 338, 338, 338

Awards 3rd, 3rd, 3rd, 3rd, 3rd, 3rd

Sachin Srivastava, Rohit Srivastava

M.L. Kumawat, IPS Retd.

(Former Director General BSF, Former Chairman, Rajasthan Public Service Commission)

Prakash Chandra, IRS Retd.

(Former Chairman CBOT)

Sharpen Your Interview Skills With Personalized Feedback

Panel Headed By

Amb. Surendra Kumar, IFS Retd.

(Formerly Dean Foreign Service Institute, Secy. Ministry of External Affairs)

Other Esteemed Members of the Panel

V.K. Agnihotri, IAS Retd.

(Former Secretary General, Rajya Sabha)

M.L. Kumawat, IPS Retd.

(Former Director General BSF, Former Chairman, Rajasthan Public Service Commission)

Prakash Chandra, IRS Retd.

(Former Chairman CBOT)

Sessions commence from 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019

Admission by prior registration only. Limited number of slots.

Sri Chaitanya IAS Academy

22-B, Rajender Nagar Right Side, Main Bazar Marg,

Pusa Road, Near Metro Pillar-112, New Delhi-60.

Ph: 011 45609516/17, 9910023640, 9910023530

## EDUCATIONAL

## ANTHROPOLOGY FREE WORKSHOP

23rd JAN @ 11 AM FEE Rs. 15000/-only.

Fee never decide quality. Collect right review from our students. All our students got 300+ marks. More than 850 students selected in a decade of our institution.

53/4, 2nd Floor Opposite Andhra Bank Near Popular Juice Old Rajendra Nagar, Delhi-60  
Tel: 011-42152392, 9971088345, 9971089324  
[www.srinivasiasacademy.com](http://www.srinivasiasacademy.com)

## FREE MOCK INTERVIEWS

First of a kind 5 - Stage programme.

Starting from 25<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2019.

- ◆ Stage - 1: Interactive Session with R.C.Sinha
- ◆ Stage - 2: DAF Briefing
- ◆ Stage - 3: Mock Interview followed by feedback
- ◆ Stage - 4: One-to-one interview with R.C.Sinha
- ◆ Stage - 5: More Mocks on Demand

1) Nirmal N Andrews, IAS (Retd.)
2) Malay Neerav St. Stephens College
3) Dr.Dalbir Bharti IPS. (Retd.)
4) M.G. Gopal IAS (Retd., Former C.S.)
5) S.K. Mathur IFS (Retd.)
6) Charu Malhotra Associate Professor
7) R.C. Sinha (Renowned Civil Services Mentor/ Trainer)
8) Y.Satyaranayana (Ex.IFOS, Add.com, (Retd.)

## ANALOG IAS

Buildng No.5, PUSA Road, Karolbagh, New Delhi.

Ph: 011-49785868, 8800283132

Mail: [ias.analog.delhi@gmail.com](mailto:ias.analog.delhi@gmail.com) | [www.analogeducation.in](http://www.analogeducation.in)

Our Branches: HYDERABAD, BENGALURU, VIZAG, GUNTUR.

## रीड IAS

Reinventing Education

तैयारी कैसे करें?

## IAS साक्षात्कार

समसामयिक प्रशासनिक एवं राजनीतिक मुद्दों पर दो दिवसीय निःशुल्क कक्षा कार्यक्रम...

by Abhay Kumar

23 24 JANUARY 6:00PM

B/18 पथ्य तल, अग्रवाल स्टॉट्स के सामने, डॉ. मुखर्जी नगर, दिल्ली-9

011-45109939 / 9870309939 / 9990188537

## NORTHERN RAILWAY

## TENDER NOTICE

Principal Chief Engineer, Northern Railway, Head quarters office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001, Publication in newspaper of E-Tender Notices for procurement of Small Track Machines, spare thereof and Spare parts for Track machines has been stopped by the office of Principal Chief Engineer, Northern Railway, Head quarters office. Firm's desires to participate in tenders for procurement of Small Track Machines, spares thereof and Spare parts for Track machines Northern Railway are requested to visit the website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) regularly after registering themselves on this portal and submit their e-bids on this portal only. Notice No. 219-S/I/TMC/20/2018-19 Dated : 16.01.2019. 109/2019

## SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## CORRIGENDUM:1

Name of Work: Construction of Permanent Campus for Indian Institute of Technology Palakkad Phase 1A. SH: Construction of Road connecting the Entrance gate, three sides of Academic zone, a part of Residential and Hostel zone including Drain and Cross Drainage.

## NIT No.04 /CPM/PPZ/2018-19

The following modifications are hereby made to the NIT document of the said work.

Last date of submission of bid	As per Original	As Modified
21.01.2019 upto 3 pm.	25.01.2019 upto 3 pm.	
Date of opening of bid	21.01.2019 3.30 pm onwards.	25.01.2019 3.30 pm onwards.

All other terms and conditions of original NIT remains unchanged.

## Government of Haryana

## Department Of Technical Education, Haryana

(Scholarship for Scheduled Caste and Backward Class Student of Haryana in Govt. Technical Institution)

Applications are invited for the session 2018-19 from the scheduled caste and backward class students of Haryana pursuing AICTE approved courses i.e. Polytechnic Diploma, D Pharmacy, B Pharmacy, MCA through regular mode only in technical institution approved by Technical Education Department , Haryana ] under following schemes :

Sr. No.	Name of the Scheme	Eligibility	Fee(S) Covered for reimbursement
1	Schedule Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) Scheme (Haryana Govt. Scheme)	All scheduled caste Students having annual Parental Income between Rs. 2.50 Lac to 3.50 Lac from all sources and admitted through Centralized Counseling	Tuition Fee Only (Actual Tuition Fee or Rs. 2000/- for Diploma & Rs. 4000/- for Degree Courses whichever is lower)
	Tuition fee Waiver		

1) DETAIL OF SCHEME: Available under the link "SC Scholarship " on department website : [www.techeduhr.gov.in](http://www.techeduhr.gov.in)

## PROCEDURE OF SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION BY THE STUDENTS:

Sr. No.	Name of the Scheme	Procedure of filling of application
1	Schedule Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) Scheme (Haryana Govt. Scheme)	Application form can be downloaded from the department website <a href="http://www.techeduhr.gov.in">www.techeduhr.gov.in</a> can also be obtained free of cost from the concerned institute & the filled application form along with required document should be submitted by applicant to his/her institution.

3) LAST DATE FOR TECHNICAL INSTITUTION UNDER TECHNICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO FORWARD APPLICATIONS: All the Heads of the technical institution are requested to submit the consolidated lists along with the complete application forms and supported documents on or before 18 Feb. 2019 to the Processing Centre of the concerned district (designated by the department) as per instructions already conveyed and available on the Department Website and processing centre will further send all eligible/approved cases along with desired documents on or before 25/2/2019 to disbursing centre i.e. Guru Brahmaanand Government Polytechnic, Noida.

Note: Claims received after 25th Feb. 2019 to Disbursing Centre will not be entertained.

Director General  
Technical Education Haryana

PRDH-74895

TERMS &amp; CONDITIONS:-

- The tender forms will not be issued to those contractors whose performance is not found satisfactory.
- Earnest money should be accompanied with application. Application without earnest money will not be entertained.
- The photo copy of Pan Number should be attached with the application otherwise tender form will not be issued.
- The photo copy of GST Number should be attached with the application otherwise tender form will not be issued.
- The tender forms will not be issued to those contractors who have two or more work in hand.

HP/4144/18-19

HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

## EDUCATIONAL

## ORIENT IAS

Online Mode Also Available

## GS POLITY (PRE-CUM MAINS)

STARTS FROM 22<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY 2:00 PM OPEN

9643772112

[www.orientias.com](http://www.orientias.com)

17, Pusa Road, Near Karol Bagh Metro.

Dear IAS Aspirants!

Ensure Your Success In PT 2019!!

20+ NCERTS Basics of GS PT Pointers

Fees: 9990/- (Inclusive of Taxes) ADMISSION STARTS

Batch Starting from: 19<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2:00 pm

011-25811762, 011-47561070

Apsara Arcade (Basement) Adjacent to Karol Bagh Metro Station, Gate No-7

EDUCATIONAL

## ASPIRE IAS

The Name Associated with Excellence

IAS / IFoS 2019

## CRACKU- NCERT BATCH

20+ NCERTS Basics of GS PT Pointers

Fees: 9990/- (Inclusive of Taxes) ADMISSION STARTS

Batch Starting from: 19<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2:00 pm

011-25811762,

## IN BRIEF



Give 50% reservation for Backward Classes: Stalin

CHENNAI  
DMK president M.K. Stalin on Friday said the BJP-led central government's decision to provide 10% reservation in jobs and educational institutions for the economically weaker sections among the forward castes was a clear case of "blood is thicker than water." He demanded that the reservation for Backward Classes be enhanced to 50%.

## NGT asks NHAI to furnish performance guarantee

NEW DELHI  
The NGT has directed the National Highways Authority of India to furnish a performance guarantee of ₹2 crore for the delay in the construction of the Chilla-Motichur corridor in Uttarakhand. A petition had alleged that tigers in the Rajaji National Park were at threat due to the traffic.

## ED summons 4 persons in U.P. mining case

NEW DELHI  
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned four persons, including an IAS officer B. Chandrakala, and a Samajwadi Party leader, in the alleged illegal mining in Uttar Pradesh's Hamirpur district between 2012 and 2016. The CBI had said the role of all mining Ministers during the check period, which includes Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, would also be probed. But their names have not been mentioned in the FIR.

## Man killed in rhino attack in Assam

GUWAHATI  
A man, Dhunda Bhumij, was killed in an attack by a one-horned rhino near a tea estate on the southern fringe of Kaziranga National Park on Friday. Locals later blocked the highway near the park seeking measures to check the rhinos from straying out.

# IndiGo A320neo engines failed 69 times, says DGCA

42 snags pertained to oil chips that play a role in early warning, says data

ADITYA ANAND  
MUMBAI

There have been 69 instances of engine failure of Airbus A320neo aircraft operated by IndiGo in 2018, according to the data available from the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation.

The data, contained in a January 8 note issued by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, show there have been 12 instances of failure of the Integrated Standby Instrument System since the aircraft with the Pratt & Whitney PW1100G engines were inducted in 2016. The instrument system is meant to be a backup in case of a failure in the cockpit instrument system. It is designed to operate as reliably and independently as possible from the main instrument system.

## Major glitches

The break-up of 69 instances of aircraft engine failures in the Airbus 320 Neo in 2018



Ministry officials said 42 of the engine failures pertained to oil chips that play a role in early warning. This was followed by 21 instances of distress in the combustion chamber, three cases of problem with the Fan Drive Gear

System and one each of oil leak from the bearings and the engine stall, and high engine vibration.

In India, IndiGo and Go Air operate the Airbus A320neo with the Pratt & Whitney-PW1100G engines, including a weekly inspection of the third stage LPT blade.

and Vistara have Airbus 320neo aircraft with CFM Leap 1A engines. The DGCA on Thursday barred IndiGo and Go Air from operating A320neo planes to Port Blair, because the nearest landing place in an emergency is more than one hour away.

On January 8, the Ministry reviewed the performance of A320neos with the identified version of Pratt & Whitney engines and decided to issue directives, besides the existing measures for the combustion chambers and Number 3 bearing issues, for identifying and correcting impending failures of dry face seal.

The two carriers were asked to carry out inspections of the Pratt & Whitney-PW1100G engines, including a weekly inspection of the third stage LPT blade.

# Gaganyaan top priority: ISRO

India is no less than China in its space programme: Sivan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The priorities for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) this year are working on the human space flight programme Gaganyaan and launching a major student outreach apart from the scheduled missions, said its Chairman Dr. K. Sivan on Friday, while stating that India is no less than China in its space programme.

"A separate Human Space Flight Centre has been formed in ISRO. The Gaganyaan project will come under it and that's how we will target the first unmanned mission in December 2020," Dr. Sivan said.

Responding to questions on the Chinese space programme, he said China had gone slightly ahead following its human space programme but, "Once Gaganyaan is launched, we will



Spreading out: ISRO Chairman K. Sivan, right, addressing the media in New Delhi on Friday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

be equal to them in all respects."

## Young scientist scheme

Stating that this year ISRO is planning to spread its wings in new areas, Dr. Sivan announced a Young Scientist Programme (YSP) and termed it their most important project to reach out to students.

Under the YSP, three students, 8th standard pass, would be selected from each of the 29 States and seven

Union Territories and will spend one month at ISRO during which they will be given lectures, get access to research and development and will be given experience to build a satellite.

"If the satellite is good, we will launch it. This programme is similar to U.S. space agency NASA's student outreach," Dr. Sivan stated.

This year ISRO has planned 32 missions, including 14 launch vehicles, 17 space craft and one demo.

## 4 Cong. MLAs skip meet in Karnataka

Party moves lawmakers to a resort on the outskirts of Bengaluru

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU



Fingers crossed: MPs and MLAs at the Congress Legislature Party meeting in Bengaluru on Friday. ■ K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

In an indication that the ongoing political drama in Karnataka is far from over, the Congress on Friday, soon after the legislature party meeting that saw four of its MLAs being absent, moved its flock to a resort on the outskirts of Bengaluru fearing "poaching" by the BJP.

With most MLAs of the BJP already away in a luxury hotel in Gurugram and their Congress counterparts now moving to a resort, a significant number of lawmakers of Karnataka are huddled in different locations. The Congress legislators and Ministers are expected to stay put in the resort till the BJP MLAs return to the State.

CLP leader and former CM Siddaramaiah said the JD

(S)-Congress coalition government was "safe" but the party was not taking any chances since the BJP was "ready to offer cash up to ₹100 crore and a Ministerial berth" to legislators if they switched sides.

Of the 81 Congress members, four – B. Nagendra, Umesh Jadhav, Mahesh Kamatavalli, and Ramesh Jarkiholi – did not turn up, ignoring the party whip.

CLP leader and former CM Siddaramaiah said the JD

## Rural housing achieves only 66% target

States are delaying allotment of land for landless beneficiaries, says Centre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

With two and a half months to go for the end of this financial year, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) scheme to provide housing for the rural poor has achieved only 66% of its target to complete one crore houses.

The Ministry of Rural Development still hopes to advance further towards the goal by the deadline of March-end, given that about 15 lakh homes have reached the late stages of construction with roofs ready to be added. Another 11 lakh homes have reached the lintel level, and may be completed in the next few months even if they do not meet the March 31 deadline.

## The laggards

States with the least % of beneficiaries provided land under PMAY-G

State	Number of landless identified	Beneficiaries provided land	% of beneficiaries provided land
Maharashtra	1,39,322	890	0.6
Assam	48,283	574	1
Bihar	5,348	55	1
Odisha	34,901	507	1
Punjab	385	5	1
Haryana	10,328	173	2
Himachal Pradesh	50	2	4
Tamil Nadu	77,485	10,328	13

Status as of July 2018 | Source: Ministry of Rural Development

The scheme has been successful in reducing the average time of construction from 314 days to 114 days, according to an official statement.

However, there has been

Ministry pointed out that only 12% of the 4.72 lakh identified landless beneficiaries had been provided land for house construction.

According to data provided in the letter, some of the most laggard States as of July 2018 were Maharashtra, which had provided land for only 890 of 1.39 lakh landless beneficiaries and Assam, which had provided land for 574 of 48,283 landless beneficiaries. In Bihar, only 55 out of 5,348 beneficiaries had been allotted land. West Bengal had not allotted land for even a single one of its 34,884 landless beneficiaries. "There are about 2.4 lakh left [to be sanctioned] in Bihar and about 30,000 each in A.P. and T.N.," said a senior official of the Ministry.

## Bride injured in 'celebratory firing', returns after first aid

Bullet grazed her leg and she began bleeding profusely

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI



A 19-year-old bride walking towards the stage for her 'jaimala' ceremony was injured in east Delhi's Shakarpur during alleged celebratory firing late on Thursday. She was rushed to a hospital, and returned later to be married in a quiet ceremony.

The incident was reported to have taken place at a community hall in the Shakarpur area. The bride, Pooja Sen, was walking towards the stage for the ceremony when a bullet grazed her leg and she began bleeding profusely. She was rushed to a hospital and the police was informed about the incident.

"Fortunately, the bullet brushed past her right leg

were also looking into other possible angles.

## Guest identified

"We have identified the guest, who fired the shot, from the bridegroom's side. The suspect has been identified as Rinku, a florist living with his family in east Delhi's Shastri Nagar," said Pankaj Singh, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP)-East.

"The bride told the police that she did not know Rinku. We have registered a case of voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means under Section 326 of the Indian Penal Code and the Arms Act. Rinku fled the wedding venue after the crime. The police said that it was a case of "celebratory firing", though they

## SC Collegium clears 3 HC judges

Series of decisions made on appointments to High Courts

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi has given a slew of decisions concerning appointments to various High Courts.

The series of recommendations on January 16 came even as the Collegium deferred decision on some of the names while rejecting a few sent back for re-consideration by the government.

The Collegium deferred a decision on the elevation of advocates Krishnendu Datta and Saurabh Kirpal as judges of the Delhi High Court for the present.

The names would be taken up after two or three weeks.

It remitted to the Delhi High Court Chief Justice the proposal for elevation of advocates Priya Kumar and Sanjoy Ghose after considering "all relevant factors and material on record".

The four names were

among nine advocates recommended by the Delhi High Court Collegium on October 13, 2017 for elevation as judges of that High Court.

The Collegium remitted the names of seven lawyers – Sukan Gupta, Sanjay Vashisth, Jasdeep Singh Gill, Mansur Ali, Sunil Kumar Singh Panwar, Deepinder Singh Nalwa and Harsh Bunger – considered for appointment as judges to the Jammu and Kashmir High Court. The Collegium had approved advocates Wasim Sadiq Nargal and Nazir Ahmad Beig for appointment on April 6, 2018. But the government referred the names back for re-consideration.

In the Bombay High Court, the Collegium has recommended the appointment of judicial officer P.V. Ganeshwala as judge of the Bombay High Court while remitting the name of S.B. Agrawal, another judicial officer, back to the Bombay High Court Chief Justice.

The Collegium recommended the appointment of advocate Sandipan Ganguly and Manojit Mondal, a judicial officer, for appointment as judges of the Calcutta High Court.

## Recalls recommendation

The Collegium bowed to the wishes of the government and recalled its recommendation of advocate Amit Negi for appointment as judge of the Allahabad High Court.

The Collegium had earlier cleared his name, but the government had asked the CJI to re-consider the recommendation in the light of fresh inputs and "observations made by the Department of Justice in the file".

## Recalls recommendation

The Collegium bowed to the wishes of the government and recalled its recommendation of advocate Amit Negi for appointment as judge of the Allahabad High Court.

The Collegium recommended the appointment of advocate Sandipan Ganguly and Manojit Mondal, a judicial officer, for appointment as judges of the Calcutta High Court.

## Church closed after clashes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THRISSUR

The St. Mary's Church at Mannamangalam in Thrissur was closed on Friday following a clash between the Jacobite and Orthodox factions on Thursday night.

Around 20 people, including Orthodox Bishop Yuhanon Mar Meletios, were injured when members of the factions threw stones at

each other.

Abraham Parakkal of the Jacobite faction, who suffered grievous injuries, was admitted to the Jubilee Mission Hospital.

The Orthodox faction, which has been waiting outside the church gate, and the Jacobite faction, camping inside the church, attacked each other, causing damage to the church in the process.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SRINAGAR  
HAZRATBAL KASHMIR - 190006 (J&K)

Advertisement No.: 03 (F) of 2019  
Dated: 17.01.2019

On behalf of the Board of Governor of the Institute, applications in the prescribed format are invited from eligible Indian Nationals for the post of Registrar, NIT Srinagar (J&K) (The appointment is tenure based for a maximum period of 5 Years)  
Details about the Post, Qualification, Experience, Pay etc and Application format is available on the Institute website [www.nitsri.ac.in](http://www.nitsri.ac.in)  
Application forms along with a non-refundable demand draft of Rs. 1,000/- (in case of candidates belonging general category & Rs. 500/- in case of SC/ST/OBC Categories) drawn in favour of Director NIT, Srinagar should reach the office of the undersigned by or before 18.02.2019. Application received after the last date due to postal delay or any other reasons will not be considered  
Sd/-  
No: NIT/R/19/35, Dated: 17-01-2019  
Registrar (I/C)

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES  
PATNA - 801507  
(An Autonomous body under MoHFW, Govt. of India)

Advt.No. : Admin./Deputation/2019/07  
VACANCY NOTICE

Applications are invited in prescribed proforma from eligible officers / officials of Central / State / U.T. Government / Universities / Statutory / Autonomous Bodies / Public Sector Undertaking / Research and Development Organizations / Police Departments of the Central / State / U.T. / Armed Forces including Para Military Forces for filling up the various Group 'A' & 'B' posts on Deputation Basis at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna. The details are given below :

**Group : 'A'** - Finance and Chief Accounts Officer (Senior Accounts Officer) (1), Accounts Officer (1), Chief Nursing Officer (1), Nursing Superintendent (3), Assistant Nursing Superintendent (85), Senior Analyst (



## Nudged into action

After long delays, a Supreme Court push is needed to establish the Lokpal

It should have never come to this on the Lokpal. That it requires a Supreme Court order to nudge the government to make any progress towards establishing the anti-graft institution is a poor commentary on its functioning. The court has asked the eight-member Search Committee under the Lokpal Act to recommend a panel of names before the end of February. This shortlist has to be sent to the Selection Committee, headed by the Prime Minister. It has taken five years since the Lokpal Act, 2013, received the President's assent on January 1, 2014, for a Search Committee to even begin its work. It was formed only on September 27, 2018, after Common Cause, an NGO, filed a contempt petition against the government over the delay in constituting the authority despite a Supreme Court verdict in April 2017. It is true that setting up the Search Committee requires some groundwork, as its composition should be drawn from diverse fields such as anti-corruption policy, public administration, law, banking and insurance; also, half its membership should consist of women, backward class, minority and SC/ST candidates. However, it is the government's duty to expedite this process and not cite it as a reason for delay. Even after it was formed, the Search Committee has been handicapped because of lack of office space, manpower, infrastructure and a secretariat. The court has now asked the government to provide the required infrastructure. In the past too, the court has admonished the Centre for the delay in creating the institution. In its April 2017 verdict, the court brushed aside the reason that the government was awaiting the passage of an amendment based on a parliamentary committee report and said there was no legal bar on the Selection Committee moving ahead with its work even if there was a vacancy in it.

There is a good deal of politics behind the delay. The Selection Committee, which includes the Lok Sabha Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition, the Chief Justice of India and an eminent jurist, has met in the past without Mallikarjun Kharge, who heads the Congress in the Lok Sabha. He has been skipping meetings, as he is aggrieved that the government has not made him a full member, and has roped him in as a 'special invitee'. The government sticks to its view that he has not been recognised as the Leader of the Opposition by the Speaker. This minor issue has been resolved in respect of appointments to other posts such as CBI Director and Central Vigilance Commissioner by a simple amendment to treat the leader of the largest Opposition party as the Leader of the Opposition for this purpose. This amendment has not been brought about despite a parliamentary committee report endorsing the idea in December 2015. Nothing except the lack of political will to establish the Lokpal can explain years of delay.

## Shape of the slowdown

China's capacity to manage its economic transition has implications the world over

The Chinese growth juggernaut is slowing down. The world's second-largest economy has reported that its exports for December fell by 4.4%, the sharpest fall in two years amidst rising trade tensions with the United States and fears of a global economic slowdown. China's trade surplus with the U.S. has increased to \$323 billion, its highest level since 2016 and up 17% from a year ago. This is likely to put added pressure on Chinese exports to the U.S. Besides, China's factory activity contracted to a two-year low by the end of December while car sales in 2018 dropped for the first time since 1990, pointing to faltering demand from Chinese consumers. There are increasing fears that the Chinese government may further drop its growth target to 6% this year, from 6.5% last year. Given its implications for global growth, markets across the world have naturally been worried about the fate of the Chinese economy. Its stock market, in particular, was the worst-performing among major economies last year. Apple, Jaguar Land Rover and other companies have warned of weak earnings due to a slowdown in their sales in China. Responding to fears of a serious slowdown in the economy, the People's Bank of China on Wednesday injected cash worth \$83 billion into the economy through open market operations in order to boost bank lending and overall economic growth. It is believed that the Chinese government may be prepping for a stimulus worth trillions of yuan to step up spending in the economy.

China has been struggling to transition from its earlier growth model led by cheap exports and huge capital investments into a more domestic consumption-led economy. In particular, the government and the central bank have in recent years tried to wean the economy off cheap debt that fuelled its impressive growth run. The Chinese central bank fully opened the credit taps of the economy in the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis that threatened to derail growth. But even as it tries to steer the economy towards more consumption-led growth, the state has been wary of allowing economic sectors like real estate that were earlier boosted by the availability of cheap credit to go bust. A true restructuring of its export- and state-led economic model will not be possible until China allows the liquidation of uneconomical projects that were begun only because of the availability of ample amounts of cheap credit. This will be the first step towards building a more market-driven economy. But it is not clear whether China is willing to bite the bullet and stop feeding its economy with cheap credit. It may be tempted to go further and look at socialising the losses coming from defaults on business loans. None of this will be good for the long-term health of the Chinese or the global economy.

# Some call it democracy

To call for the overthrow of a stale and fearful social system is not sedition. It is democracy



NEERA CHANDHOKE

**S**edition and conspiracy charges have been filed against three former students of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), and seven others. If these charges are established, 10 young Indians could be sentenced to life-term imprisonment. A great deal has been said and written about the need to banish a 19th century law, introduced by Lord Macaulay, from the statute books. It may be time to ask another question: what kind of a government wages war on its own students? History tells us that short-sighted governments do precisely this.

### The spirit of 1968

In May 1968, students in universities across France rose in revolt against hide-bound, patriarchal and class-governed structures, from the family, the capitalist market, to the government ruled by the conservative President Charles de Gaulle. In early 1968, students at the campus of the University of Paris at Nanterre, located on the outskirts of the capital city, had launched a protest. They campaigned against the involvement of Western governments in the Vietnam War, against sexual unfreedom, and for the realisation of liberty that the French had, less than 200 years ago, fought for. In May, students at the Sorbonne expressed solidarity with their fellow students, and revolted.

Young women and men took to the streets, and as a result were beaten up by the police. Hundreds of them were arrested. This led to

the closing down of the prestigious university. Ironically, police brutality incited even more students to join the movement. The police assaulted young people with tear gas and swinging batons. But students were determined to re-enact the spectacular 1789 revolution that had been left unfinished in some respects. They constructed hundreds of barricades in the Latin Quarter of Paris. The slogan that inspired them to defy the police was: politics is the art of the impossible.

On May 13, workers from the Renault factory joined the protests and struck work. Factories were closed, trains ground to a halt, and the French government came to a standstill. De Gaulle had not taken student demonstrations seriously; he had to pay for this serious lapse of judgment. He dissolved Parliament and mobilised hundreds of supporters to counter the protest. His party came back to power after the elections, but in the following April he resigned after his government lost a referendum. He had thought the results would demonstrate his acceptability to the people of France. The French did not forgive him for going to war against his own students.

Fifty years later, May 1968 is remembered as the month and the year when university students launched a political, cultural and sexual revolution. And the world recollects the words of the English poet William Wordsworth, who in *The Prelude* wrote of the 1789 French Revolution: "Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive, But to be young was very heaven! O times... When Reason seemed the most to assert her rights." Wordsworth was perceptive. The vision, the energy and the language invented by rebellious young people inject a breath of fresh air into our jaded



and bankrupt political discourses. If the young do not struggle for emancipation, who will?

### Three years ago

Students assembled on the grounds of JNU more than three years ago spoke of liberation from a caste-ridden and inequitable society. They reiterated the need to abolish capital punishment, which many fine legal minds have also condemned. They pointed out that the government should address escalating tensions in the Kashmir Valley. Some elements, reportedly outsiders, shouted anti-India slogans. This is hardly sedition. Will our great country and ancient civilisation collapse because of some idiotic slogans? We ought to have confidence in the capacity of India to endure youthful indiscretions, the country has survived infinitely more serious attacks on its territorial integrity. It is ridiculous to charge students with sedition when all that they were asking for was the breaking of shackles.

There was no violence, no call to use force or grind the capital city of Delhi to a halt, no suggestion that the gathering lay siege to official institutions, or ask for the resignation of the government. The conversation was in perfect conformity with the spirit of public

universities. The public university is not a teaching shop. Within the metaphorical walls of the university we find classrooms and libraries. We also find open spaces where students assemble and discuss political predicaments, cafes and *dhabas* where they interact with co-students who come from different regions of the country, and statues of leaders that form a rallying point for protests. The Vivekananda statue outside the main library in the North Campus in Delhi University has been a fulcrum of student politics since my student days.

Through these activities, students become familiar with the notion of citizenship. They connect with others, they learn that they have the constitutional right to challenge the power of elected representatives. It is in the university that they absorb the virtue of solidarity. It is here that they learn that in a democracy they have the right to make their own histories, even if they make these histories badly.

University students have the right to acquaint the public and the government with depressing tales of how lives are led in an inequitable society. In a representative democracy we are supposed to communicate opinions and demands through elected representatives. But representatives, we have found, are too busy manipulating public opinion to get power. Fairly early in the biography of representative democracy, citizens realised that they would have to put forth their needs, their interests, and their aspirations into the public domain through networks of associations. The intent is not to contest elections or take over the state – the idea is to raise issues, and provoke debates on what the good society is, and how it can be

brought into existence.

This is precisely what young people were doing some years ago, and more of them should be discussing problems that have been left unresolved by unresponsive governments all this while. People in power should recognise the importance of political debate in civil society, they should learn to heed demands catapulted into the public domain by student associations. If some hotheads shout objectionable slogans, ignore them as long as these do not lead to harm. This is how mature democracies behave.

### The political impulse

The age when young people were infatuated with the politics of the impossible, 1968, ended, but it threw up several movements that changed the world. They re-cast gender relations, emphasised civil liberties, empowered alternative sexualities, and familiarised us with the tyrannies of power. That was fifty years ago. Once again, the young need to experience the "blissful dawn" and call for the overthrow of caste discrimination, inequality, patriarchy and other remnants of an oppressive order in India. This will complete the objectives of our freedom struggle, for political equality is inadequate without social and economic equality.

To call for the overthrow of a stale and fearful social system is not sedition. We call it democracy. We fight for democracy not, in Wordsworth's words, "in Utopia, subterranean fields, Or some secret island... But in the very world, which is the world/ Of all of us, the place where in the end/ We find our happiness, or not at all."

Neera Chandhoke is a former Professor of Political Science at Delhi University

# The danger of reciprocity

It is vital the Supreme Court collegium remains firmly independent



FAIZAN MUSTAFA

**I**ndependence, impartiality and fearlessness of judges are not private rights of judges but citizen's rights. Ultimately judicial legitimacy/power rests on people's confidence in courts. We have yet another controversy surrounding the Supreme Court, with the collegium revisiting decisions made at an earlier meeting and recommending the elevation of two junior judges to the Supreme Court. No one has any doubts about the competence or integrity of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Dinesh Maheshwari, but the manner in which it was carried out puts the spotlight once again on the controversial collegium system of judicial appointments.

This seriously undermines the independence of judges and raises unnecessary doubts about the credibility of the highest court as the government is not only the biggest litigator but also the greatest threat to the abuse of power. Judicial review as a concept is supposed to control the government and keep it in check.

How has this panned out in the past? Let's look back at the Justice K.M. Joseph case. He had struck

down the Modi government's imposition of President's rule in Uttarakhand and saw the government returning the recommendation for his elevation to the Supreme Court to the collegium last April – his appointment was cleared in August. This time the government not only did not return the recommendation to the collegium for reconsideration, but approved the appointments instantly.

### Learnings from the past

Take the case of Justice A.N. Ray, who was appointed Chief Justice of India (CJI) in 1973 superseding three senior judges, or Justice M.H. Beg, who was appointed CJI superseding Justice H.R. Khanna in 1977. Both Justice Ray and Justice Beg were excellent judges, but favoured the government. They were considered not forward-looking judges but judges who looked forward to the office of the CJI.

In the bank nationalisation case (1970), while as many as 10 judges went against the government, Justice Ray approved the government's action. Similarly, Justice Beg, in the Indira Gandhi election case, held that while democracy is the basic structure, free and fair election is not.

The National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) was struck down by the Supreme Court because it would have compromised the independence of the CJI and given a role to the government in the appointment of judges.

Unlike in the U.S. where judges are appointed by the President and are known to be leaning towards the Democrats or Republicans, Indian judges are not supposed to have any political affiliation. But is it possible to completely insulate judges from governmental influence? The answer is no – as George Orwell pointed out in 1984, the government is everywhere, and judges as fellow human beings do get influenced by it. The judiciary asserts its position only when the government is weak. This collegium system was asserted when we had weak Central governments in the 1990s.

### Power and influence

'Power' and 'influence' are fundamental concepts in society. 'Influence' is sometimes considered to be an aspect of 'power'. Indira Gandhi was influential because she was powerful. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is, similarly, not only powerful but hugely influential. According to the American sociologist, Alvin Ward Gouldner, the universal norm in human so-

cieties is that individuals are obliged to reciprocate favours received. Gouldner articulated the "norm of reciprocity" in the following manner: "people should help those who have helped them" and "people should not injure those who have helped them".

In his NJAC judgment (2015), Justice J.S. Khehar discussed the issue of reciprocity at length in striking down the commission. He referred to Laura E. Little's work on American judges who felt obliged to the President for nominating them and Senators who helped them in the confirmation process. Justice Khehar therefore preferred exclusion of the political executive from the appointment of judges as a feeling of gratitude towards the government impacts the independence of the judiciary. It was for this very reason that even B.R. Ambedkar wanted to insulate the judiciary from political pressures.

In his autobiography, *Roses in December*, the former Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, M.C. Chagla, who also served as a Minister in Indira Gandhi's Cabinet, boldly stated the adverse impact of supersession when he said, "the effect of these supersessions was most deleterious on the judges of the Supreme Court who were in the line of succession to the Chief Justiceship. Each eyed the other with suspicion and tried to outdo him in proclaiming his loyalty to the Government either in their

judgments or even on public platforms." A similar depiction of the apex court was made by Justice H.R. Khanna, who himself was superseded, in his book, *Neither Roses Nor Thorns*, when he recalled, "one of the new trends was the change in the approach of the court with a view to give tilt in favour of upholding the orders of the government. Under the cover of high sounding words like social justice the court passed orders, the effect of which was to unsettle settled principles and dilute or undo the dicta laid down in the earlier cases."

The Hindu right's opposition to the Constitution is an open secret. The prospect of a 15-judge bench overturning *Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala* (1973), which outlined the basic structure doctrine of the Constitution, does not look too remote in the near future if the government continues to exert pressure on the collegium and if the collegium, due to reciprocity, does not effectively assert its power and independence. Most governments prefer pliable judges but many of our judges remain wedded to their oath and decide cases without fear or favour. True reciprocity affects humans but since our judges are addressed as 'Lords', let them not have any feeling of gratitude towards anyone.

Faizan Mustafa is Vice-Chancellor, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad. The views expressed are personal

es. Unlike in the U.S. where judges are appointed by the President and are known to be leaning towards the Democrats or Republicans, Indian judges are not supposed to have any political affiliation. But is it possible to completely insulate judges from governmental influence? The answer is no – as George Orwell pointed out in 1984, the government is everywhere, and judges as fellow human beings do get influenced by it. The judiciary asserts its position only when the government is weak. This collegium system was asserted when we had weak Central governments in the 1990s.

### Power and influence

'Power' and 'influence' are fundamental concepts in society. 'Influence' is sometimes considered to be an aspect of 'power'. Indira Gandhi was influential because she was powerful. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is, similarly, not only powerful but hugely influential. According to the American sociologist, Alvin Ward Gouldner, the universal norm in human so-

which delayed the acquisition.

HARI ARAYAMMAKUL, Kozhikode, Kerala

■ There is not one new fact under the sensational banner headline. That India-specific modifications came at an extra cost has been repeatedly highlighted by the Defence Minister in Parliament and in television interviews.

*The Hindu* has brought down the stature of a noble newspaper of a 140-year-old vintage by becoming the vehicle of the Congress president's prejudices and undeserved ambitions. I am stopping my subscription to the version of a daily now masquerading itself as the

legatee of a glorious past.

R.S.V. SUBRAMANIAN, Puducherry

### At the Meghalaya mine

After nearly a month a body has been located in a rat hole mine where 15 miners have been trapped since December 13 ("Navy robot locates body in Meghalaya mine", January 18). One can only say that this shows the frivolous attitude towards the safety and well-being of people. Why couldn't the government have attempted a coordinated rescue much earlier despite having ample resources?

RANAJAY YADAV, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh

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

**CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:**  
A story headlined "Cdr. Tomy eager to get back to sea" (Jan. 18, 2019, some editions) erroneously called Commodore Abhilash Tomy. Actually he is a Commander.

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

**Rafale cost inflation**  
The exclusive report by N. Ram on the Rafale fighter aircraft deal has nailed several lies (Page 1, 'Exclusive', "Modi's decision to buy 36 Rafales shot the price of each jet up by 41%", January 18). The report establishes that the devil is in the detail. The government has to accept the fact that the configuration and capabilities of the jets negotiated by the United Progressive Alliance government and those renegotiated and procured by the National Democratic Alliance government were practically the same. Whether the accoutrements – couched in flowery terms such as "design and development of India-specific enhancements" – were needed to make the aircraft battle-ready is still open to contestation.

Dassault Aviation would not have been allowed to make a windfall out of the deal without some quid pro quo. There is nothing called a free lunch in the business world. Further, the report has made it amply clear that the confidentiality clause applied to technical details. Instead of clinging onto the Supreme Court's inexplicable clean chit, the Modi government should agree to have a JPC probe. Transparency and accountability are vitally important for a democracy.

G. DAVID MILTON, Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

■ After the detailed report, it has become necessary to order a thorough probe by a parliamentary committee into the deal. In any case, it is taxpayers' money which is being spent to procure these aircraft. A long-term solution lies in appointing an ombudsman such as a Lokayukta before whom even the Prime Minister should be made answerable.

MOHD ABDUL SATTAR, Hyderabad

■ The report only validates the argument of the Opposition that there is something fishy about the whole deal. It is a fit case to be referred to a JPC.

C.A.C. MURUGAPPAN, Kothamangalam, Tamil Nadu

■ Interspersed with facts and figures, the exclusive is sure to embarrass the present political dispensation. It will become effective ammunition for the Congress party and the rest of the Opposition. It is very apt that the

# Grave secrets from a troubled past

The recent discovery of a mass grave in Mannar town in Sri Lanka's Northern Province has raised fresh questions about the island nation's history of violence. It has also re-opened old wounds and triggered traumatic memories among the survivors of the deadly conflict that ended barely 10 years ago. **Meera Srinivasan** reports

**F**rom 10 feet away, it looked like a grin, the row of teeth stretching from ear to ear. Freshly dug out from many layers of soil, the mud-covered skeleton lay on its spine, awaiting a number.

"That would be 283," says W.R.A.S. Rajapaksa. He is standing on an elevation inside the site, located at a busy junction in Mannar, an island town in Sri Lanka's Tamil-majority Northern Province. In his blue smock, the Consultant Judicial Medical Officer at Mannar District General Hospital looks like a surgeon, except that this operation is taking place under the sun, inside a messy soil pit. So he is also wearing a cap and rubber boots.

On a Monday morning earlier this month, at least four skeletons were clearly visible at the site, while parts of another were protruding from the soil. Where they lay – some piled one on top of the other and a couple to the side – it was at least two metres below ground level, says Rajapaksa, the chief investigator of the latest mass grave to be found in Sri Lanka.

As of Friday (January 18), 300 skeletons, including those of 23 children below the age of 12, have been identified. Members of his team that comprised fellow judicial medical officers, forensic archaeologists and analysts had resumed excavating the skeletons after a break for Christmas and the New Year. Wetting their brushes in a cup of water, they gently pried aside the soil deposits over the bones, making them visible, little by little, to the world they had left behind.

## 'Scene of crime'

"We consider this a scene of crime until proven otherwise," says Rajapaksa on what happens to be the 125th day of the excavation, being undertaken following a directive from the Mannar magistrate court. The bodies had been found "dumped", instead of being "laid to rest" beside each other, as would be the case in a cemetery.

In March 2018, construction workers stumbled upon human remains while preparing to build a new outlet for the state-run cooperative Sathosa (in place of its old building that had been demolished). Little did they know that they would be uncovering one of Sri Lanka's largest mass graves almost a decade after the civil war ended in 2009.

Says Rajapaksa, "Of the 283 skeletons identified here so far, we have excavated 277 and stored them at the court premises."

Samples will be sent to a laboratory in the U.S., in Miami, Florida, possibly next week, for carbon dating analysis. The process, which is often used in archaeology and forensic study, would ascertain the amount of Carbon-14 in bone and teeth samples. This could help establish the approximate period in which the person lived, before it possibly leads investigators to the likely year of their death or to those behind it.

At 9.45 in the morning, the shops in the area are open and teeming with customers. With the post office, market and the bus terminus all in the same vicinity, a number of vehicles criss-cross the grand bazaar area, or *periyakadalai sandi* as the locals call it. Motorists on their way to work slow down and turn their heads 90 degrees to catch a glimpse of the grave site that has drawn media attention to their otherwise neglected town.

Pedestrians stop and watch for a few seconds. Perhaps deterred by the uniformed policemen and Special Task Force personnel stationed under a neem tree adjoining the site, some move a safe distance away before pulling out their smart phones for a picture of the ongoing exhumation.

Mannar district, along Sri Lanka's north-western coast, is part mainland and part small island, connected by a causeway. The mass grave has surfaced at the district's main town on Mannar island, a thin patch of land jutting into the Palk Strait like a little fin. On the western tip of this little island is Talaimannar, the closest point to Dhanushkodi in India, in Tamil Nadu's Rameswaram district. Some 30 km apart and with a narrow stretch of the Indian Ocean running between them, Talaimannar and Rameswaram were once connected by a popular ferry service that, since the 1980s, has been defunct. In the nearly three decades of Sri Lanka's civil war, waged by the state armed forces against the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), both towns bore witness to mass displacement, rough boat rides, and prolonged separation but also a precious solidarity among the common people.

## Business as usual

Says Meiramodeen Salman, a vegetable vendor who has a small shop right opposite the mass grave site. "It has not been a great season. I have had to slash prices to make sure I sell enough. On a good day, I make about LKR 3,500 a day [about ₹1,360], and it is barely enough to feed my family."



**Uncovered bit by bit:** Pedestrians and motorists often stop to catch a glimpse of the grave site that has drawn media attention. • MEERA SRINIVASAN



The lull in business had little to do with the excavation nearby. Months of erratic weather – a severe drought followed by flash floods – had affected both the harvest and prices, adds Salman. He has been running the stall here for 12 years, he says, from the time he returned from Kalpitiya in Puttalam, some 240 km south, where many Muslims like him had fled after the LTTE ordered their expulsion from the north in October 1990.

He says, "Had the cooperative store come up across the road as planned, they would have sold vegetables like onions for at least five rupees lesser. That would have hit me harder."

Even at the other shops adjoining the site, managers spoke only of practical hindrances. The trucks bringing their supplies from Colombo now stop at the main road, since the excavation site is cordoned off, along with the lane to these shops. The load is physically carried to the stores by workers, unlike earlier, when the trucks could drive into the lane. For the row of shops here, the implications of having a mass grave unearthed in their midst seemed, at best, logistical.

## Cycle of distress

However, for some residents a little further away from the site, the excavation and the sighting of skeletal remains has meant another cycle of distress. Especially if they happen to be like the thousands of mothers looking for a loved one who forcibly disappeared during those tumultuous war years.

A war that spanned 30 years, a savage state unleashing mass violence, armed militant groups offering resistance – at times with their own brand of brutality – have meant a massive human cost. The casualties were more than a lakh, as in some estimates. With the unresolved mysteries of the deaths and disappearances of Tamil rebels, activists, journalists, and scores of civilians haunting them for years, the survivors in the

north struggle to recover from the everyday imprint of trauma. Even if they choose to look ahead rather than behind, healing is not easy as they strive to make ends meet in a battered economy with no promising jobs and few sympathetic political leaders who chose action over rhetoric.

Amarasingam Ranjini's son, who was in the LTTE, went missing in the summer of 1999. He was born when she was still in her teens following her early marriage. "They [army] took him for questioning, and he has not come back in these 20 years," she says. While her other son and daughter now live in India, Ranjini, 60, stays in her hometown all alone.

She still hopes to see her son one day. "I do believe he is alive somewhere and I will continue looking for him. But when I saw this mass grave site and heard about the hundreds of bodies being unearthed, I wondered if one of them could be my son. The thought did cross my mind," she says, breaking down, torn between denial and resignation.

It was this "double-edged" fear that the Sri Lankan-born writer Michael Ondražík described in his novel *Anil's Ghost*. "There was always the fear, double-edged, that it was their son in the pit, or that it was not their son – which meant there would be further searching," he wrote, of a fictional grave site

**If you haven't seen your child's body, how do you begin to believe that he is dead?"**

JENA JAYAKANTHI,  
Activist, Mannar

**Getting to the bottom of it**  
Apart from the troubling reality of unresolved cases of enforced disappearance



"We haven't finished excavating yet. We will continue until we get to what we call a bone-free margin, to rule out any more bones," says W.R.A.S. Rajapaksa (in the blue smock), Consultant Judicial Medical Officer at the Mannar District General Hospital. • MEERA SRINIVASAN

with submerged bones.

Mothers of those who disappeared in the run-up to the final phase of the war in 2009 – many after being reportedly taken by state agencies for "questioning" – are far from accepting that their child could be dead. Those looking for relatives who went missing in the 1990s allow for that option, but have no way to reconcile with it in the absence of evidence, says Jena Jayakanthi, a Mannar-based activist working with the families of the disappeared. "If you haven't seen your child's body, how do you begin to believe that he is dead?" she asks.

The Sri Lankan Army has repeatedly denied having played a role, but has done little else to explain what happened to those its personnel picked up for "questioning", or the others who were seen surrendering to its officers.

Manoharan Vetrimalar, who is looking for her disappeared son and son-in-law, raises her grandchildren in Mannar while her daughter works in Saudi Arabia as a house help to support the family. She says, "The *grama sevaka* (village officer) told me to obtain a death certificate for my missing relatives, so that I can receive some financial assistance for their loss. My daughter said nothing doing, we have not seen the body and we cannot accept that." But the families, she adds, are fatigued after years of petitioning different state commissions and repeating their stories. "And then when a mass grave like this is found, it is very disturbing."

## Getting to the bottom of it

Apart from the troubling reality of unresolved cases of enforced disappearance

es coexisting with unexpectedly found human remains in the heart of town, the mass grave has also set off considerable speculation within and outside Mannar. Stories travel, supplemented by recollections of senior citizens – some of whom remember a bank building at the site before the now-demolished cooperative store was built – and acquiring new details and narratives.

Home to nearly 1 lakh people, mostly Tamils (Catholics, Hindus) and Tamil-speaking Muslims, Mannar is the most religiously diverse district in the north.

During the war, the LTTE was in control of mainland Mannar, part of the Vanni region sandwiched between the Sinhala-majority south of Sri Lanka and the northern Jaffna peninsula. On the other hand, Mannar island itself was, for the most part, under the jurisdiction of the Sri Lankan Army and Navy, recalls Ranjini, quickly pulling out her 1999 "Army IC" or the identity card distributed by the Army, that was used to keep track of those moving between Mannar island and the mainland.

Says Vetrimalar, "Our district has seen a lot. I have very vivid images of shells piercing through walls, people falling dead, and of the many who were badly injured. Now, 10 years after the war ended, we are desperately looking for our missing relatives but no answers have been forthcoming. Shouldn't we know what really happened to them?"

The Sri Lankan government set up the Office on Missing Persons (OMP) in 2016 to investigate the scores of cases of missing persons, reported from both the former war zones in the north-east, and during the state's ferocious crackdown on radical Sinhala youth in the south in the late 1980s. Amnesty International estimates a total of at least 60,000 disappearances in the country.

The exact number of missing persons from Mannar is not clear. The OMP has so far not put out lists or numbers, perhaps because its own task includes comparing and verifying figures mentioned in previous lists compiled by other commissions.

Says OMP chairman Saliya Pieris, "The OMP has been acting as an observer in this case since June 2, 2018 as it is a mass grave site that may relate to cases of disappearances and missing persons that fall under our mandate." The office stepped in last year to financially support the excavation efforts and will also help transport the samples to a testing laboratory in Florida.

Some among the families of the disappeared are sceptical of the OMP's ability to provide them the answers they have been chasing for years. Most of them have already testified before multiple government-appointed panels earlier, to no avail.

Says Jayakanthi, "This is a state institution. How can a party accused of committing a crime probe it fairly and deliver justice to the victims?"

It was in March 2018, just around the time of the United Nations Human

Rights Council (UNHRC) session in Geneva, that Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena appointed the commissioners to the OMP. The OMP has held at least seven public sittings in different districts in the war-affected north, east and the south, where disappearances have been reported.

Says parliamentarian Charles Nirmalanathan at his party office a few hundred metres from the site, "So far the OMP has at least been transparent about what they can and can't do. We need a thorough and complete investigation into this mass grave. People want a resolution."

Reacting to the discovery of mass graves in Mannar, the international non-governmental organisation Human Rights Watch says, "Sri Lankan authorities should ensure that the Office of Missing Persons is able to operate properly, and should set up an impartial transitional justice process that was pledged at the Human Rights Council."

The last time mass graves were alleged in Mannar was in late 2013, near the famed Thiruketheeswaram Shiva temple, and later in 2016, in a well not far from this temple. The investigation into the 2013 'sighting' by the residents of the area is yet to be completed, with some officials reportedly declaring the grave to be a part of a cemetery. For locals, though, questions linger. In the 2016 case, investigators told the magistrate court that there were no human remains.

The inquiry into the Matale mass grave found in 2012 in the island's Central Province has also stalled, despite the left-wing Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna's (JVP) demands for a full investigation of the site where, some believe, its activists and sympathisers could have been interred during the state repression of the JVP in 1971 and again in 1987-89. Yet another mass grave in Kaluwankikudu was found in the eastern Batticaloa district in 2014, but the excavation did not see much progress.

In the recently-discovered site in Mannar, the team is working largely on a voluntary basis. Says Rajapaksa, who has led teams at two other mass graves in the past, "There are no standard operating procedures in place in Sri Lanka to deal with mass graves."

He says, "We haven't finished excavating yet. We will continue until we get to what we call a bone-free margin, to rule out any more bones," suggesting that the number of skeletons could increase further. Giving no room for speculation on who the dead may be and when they were killed, he adds, "We cannot resort to any pre-judgment without evidence. These are bodies that have been heaped up. And no one knows who did this. No one, except those who did it. We have to find out." His observation echoes those of many mothers who desire to unearth the truth buried with the bodies. Until then, they will remain bare bones, carefully wrapped and safely stored, bearing only a number.

FROM PAGE ONE

## Country wronged in Rafale deal, says Cong.

"Under the UPA-negotiated deal, it would have been spread over 126 aircraft. Under the NDA-negotiated deal it will be spread over 36 aircraft," Mr. Chidambaram said.

"It seems to me that Dassault is laughing all the way to the bank. The government has wronged the country in two ways. Firstly, it has compromised national security by denying to the Air Force 90 fighter aircraft that they desperately need. Secondly, it has purchased two squadrons that will cost about €25 million more per aircraft and at 2016 exchange rate, €25 million is equal to ₹186 crore. India will pay ₹186 crore more per aircraft," he said.

**Done in great hurry'** CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said Mr. Modi had been blocking a JPC because of the facts that were emerging now. "No doubt that the deal for 36 Rafale fighter jets from France was done in a great hurry by Modi for the benefit of his crony businessman, at the cost of India's national security and at a heavy cost to the Indian exchequer. It is crystal clear now, and no amount of spin will help," tweeted Mr. Yechury, tagging the news report.

"These are real issues. We must ask who is responsible for this mess. The Prime Minister did everything. Neither the External Affairs nor Defence Minister was involved. So far he [PM] has not spoken directly on it. He was not even present in the Lok Sabha when the issue was debated," CPI national secretary D. Raja told *The Hindu*.

## Five killed as avalanche buries 2 vehicles in Leh



Rescue workers searching for avalanche victims at the Khardungla area near Leh on Friday. ■ PTI

"The [rescue] operation may take some time in such a situation," said the spokesperson. A joint rescue operation by the police, the Army and the State Disaster Response Force is under way in the area. The Army has pressed helicopters to move Avalanche Panthers Teams, which are trained in mountain rescue, from the Siachen Base Camp and North Pullu to the spot.

## 51 women entered Sabarimala, says DGP

"These 51 women devotees were among the 7,564 women aged between 10-50 years who booked their darshan in advance using the Kerala Police's digital queue management system," the counsel said.

"They have to upload their personal details supported by documents at the time of online booking. The government has no say in it. When they come to the Nilakkal camp in the course of their journey, the police check their online details and provide them entry slips. These people are then escorted to a special queue for speedy darshan. At the beginning of the queue, the slips are digitally scanned. Once they enter the queue, they cannot leave without the darshan," Mr. Prakash explained.

The court refused to tag their petition with 49 other review petitions pending before a five-judge Bench. The court rejected the plea by Bindu and Kanakadurga for 24x7 police security, said it had already been

Governor Satya Pal Malik announced an ex gratia of ₹5 lakh for the next of the kin of those killed.

The incident comes at a time when J&K is staring at a major wet spell. The Deputy Commissioners of the Kashmir Division, including Leh and Kargil, on Thursday were asked to advise people not to venture to avalanche-prone areas between January 20 and 23.

## Kolkata turns fulcrum of anti-BJP unity

On the eve of her rally, Mamata changes tack, says it's no longer a platform against the Congress

SUVJIT BAGCHI  
KOLKATA

Soon after landing here, Jana Dal(S) leader H.D. Deve Gowda and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav commended Trinamool Congress chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for her effort to bring the anti-BJP parties together on one platform for a mega rally in the city's Brigade Parade Ground on Saturday.

At least two dozen top national leaders are expected to participate in the Trinamool-hosted rally.

"We have understood that Mamataji has taken all the responsibility of bringing regional parties together and I thank her," Mr. Gowda said.

Mr. Yadav said the "call for change which has started from West Bengal will echo across the country". "The country wants a change; it wants a new government and a new Prime Minister. [The] message will go from Bengal and from *Didi* and it will be a message for change," he said.

Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar and former Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Gegong Apang, who quit the BJP a few days ago, arrived in Kol-



**More support:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee greeting DMK president M.K. Stalin as SP chief Akhilesh Yadav looks on at a city hotel in Kolkata on Friday. ■ PTI

kata by evening. Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam leader M.K. Stalin, Karnataka Chief Minister and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy, Andhra Pradesh CM and TDP leader N. Chandrababu Naidu, socialist leader Sharad Yadav, former BJP Minister Arun Shourie and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha leader Hemant Soren too are in the city. Congress leaders are expected early on Saturday.

The city is covered with Trinamool's flags and billboards featuring Ms. Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee, MP. The city is full of hoardings featuring leaders representing the entire anti-BJP spectrum.

"There will be so many leaders that it would be difficult to allot more than 10 minutes to each of them," said a close aide of Ms. Banerjee.

Trinamool activists have arrived from all over West Bengal and are housed in various stadiums; food is distributed at various points in the city.

Exactly 10 months ago, on March 19, 2018, Ms. Banerjee

met Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao to nurture the idea of an "anti-Congress, anti-BJP" federal front.

### Rahul's support

Ten months later, on the eve of her "United India Rally", Congress president Rahul Gandhi wrote to the Trinamool chief extending "support to Mamata Di on this show of unity and hope that we send a powerful message of a united India together" and dispatched one of the

party's top leaders to attend the rally. Congress Leader in the Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge will reach here on Saturday, Ms. Banerjee said.

Ms. Banerjee has indicated that she is not too keen on pushing the idea of an anti-Congress platform any more. Asked about the future of the federal front, she said on Thursday: "I'm not giving it [Saturday's rally] any name. The regional parties will be the deciding factor." At the same time she has also said that the "BJP will get less than 125 seats" indicating her growing preference for the Congress. Mr. Rao, who was the first big leader to back Ms. Banerjee's plan to oppose both the BJP and Congress, is not attending the Brigade rally.

Asked what changed in the past few months for Ms. Banerjee to soften her stand, a senior Congress leader in Bengal said, "One factor is the Congress victory in three key States." Another leader said the Congress had managed to establish "productive cooperation" with all anti-BJP forces other than Trinamool and the Aam Aadmi Party. "Ms. Banerjee perhaps realised that she may get marginalised," he said.

Farmers will get help soon, says BJP leader

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

BJP's Kisan Morcha chief Veerendra Singh Mast on Friday indicated that some big decisions for the farm sector, specifically to boost the income of farmers, were on the anvil. This came a day after Finance Minister Arun Jaitley hinted that the Budget exercise may see an announcement or two of the kind.

Mr. Mast was briefing journalists about the national executive meet of the farmers' cell of the party to be held on February 23 and 24 at Gorakhpur with Prime Minister Narendra Modi expected to address the concluding session.

"The Narendra Modi government has already taken many historic decisions for farmers' welfare and, in the near future, some more decisions will be taken to boost farmers' income," he said.

Mr. Mast declined to share any details. He maintained that loan waivers of the kind announced by the Congress-led governments were not a permanent solution to the problems facing the farmers.

## Cong. warns against Centre's budget sops

It's clearly to win votes: Chidambaram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

government had "never followed any precedent".

"It is for the people to judge. This is clearly intended to win votes, let us wait and see. Don't think that people are fools. People know that for four-and-a-half years, you do nothing and then you suddenly wake up and make these policies for announcements," he said.

According to Mr. Chidambaram, the economy is in a "perilous state and every indicator is worrisome". He said the government was facing a shortfall in its revenue targets as direct tax collections and the GST were falling short of estimated targets.

"Nothing the government will do in the next 60 days will alter the status of the economy ...So, we have to pray, hope and trust in the next government," he said.

It is best to avoid the pitfalls of a corporate battle, says Defence Ministry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Defence Ministry, which on Friday disputed *The Hindu* report on the steep price escalation in the deal for 36 Rafale fighter jets, said that "hidden deep in the article itself" was the statement that the price was 14.2% higher compared to the escalated price. "Probably this figure does not attract as much attention as a 41.4% higher price."

The Ministry statement said that "the author has rightly pointed out" that the cost of the basic aircraft in the 2016 deal was better than the offer of 2007 after considering escalation but however, said, "Surprisingly, in the headline of the article, the author has compared the un-escalated price of 2007 with the price of 2016 without considering the escalation factors inherent in the price bid."

Observing that even the UPA government had "rightly" rejected the European consortium EADS offer of a 20% discount in 2012 after opening of bids as violative of procedure, the statement said that consideration of this offer by the government would have again made it subject "to the charge of violating basic procedure".

"It is best to avoid the pitfalls of a corporate battle which has been going on since 2012 which has adversely affected the capabilities of the Indian Air Force. The controversy should be put to rest in the interest of national security," the statement said.

In September 2016, India and France signed a €7.87 billion Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) for 36 Rafale multi-role fighter jets in fly-away condition following the surprise announcement by Prime Minister Narendra

files related to the Rafale deal. It is best to await the report of an authoritative agency like the CAG," the statement said.

According to it, a negotiation, especially between two countries, is a comprehensive deal and "selectively picking certain aspects while ignoring others, creates doubts by vested interests on a matter of vital national security".

**Public knows: Smriti**  
Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani, while answering a question at a press meet in New Delhi, said: "The Supreme Court has issued unequivocally its statement, the Defence Minister has eloquently spoken on it in Parliament and the CAG has access to all files. For those who use this for their own political ends, *yeh public hai sab janti hai* [this is the public, it knows everything]."

Referring to the Supreme Court verdict over the issue, the statement said the court had not found "anything adverse in the deal" and had refused to order an investigation.

"The Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) has been given access to all the

The Comptroller and Auditor-General has access to all files on the Rafale deal, says Defence Ministry.

Modi in April 2015 citing "critical operational necessity" of the IAF.

Referring to the Supreme Court verdict over the issue, the statement said the court had not found "anything adverse in the deal" and had refused to order an investigation.

"The Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) has been given access to all the

## 3 grenade blasts rock Valley

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR

Suspected militants triggered three grenade explosions in Srinagar, Shopian and Pulwama districts on Friday afternoon. There were no reports of any casualty, an official said.

Unknown militants lobbed a grenade near the busy Ghanta Ghar in Srinagar's Lal Chowk, which houses CRPF's bunkers in its vicinity. In another incident, a grenade exploded outside the camp of the State police's Special Operation Group camp in Shopian's Bagren.

The JeM claimed responsibility for both the Srinagar

and Shopian blasts. In the third attack, militants fired a grenade towards the Kakpora police station in Pulwama. It exploded outside the police station and no damage was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was reported. The police have issued an advisory to officers to "maintain vigil round-the-clock and set up new check-points" ahead of Republic Day.

age was

## IN BRIEF



## India inks agreement for Uzbek uranium

GANDHINAGAR  
To meet India's long-term energy requirements, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on Friday inked a pact for import of uranium from the Central Asian country. The agreement was signed at an event on the sidelines of Vibrant Gujarat Summit where Mr. Mirziyoyev is one of the chief guests, in addition to a deal for \$200 million credit for housing projects in Uzbekistan.

## Women to be inducted in military police

NEW DELHI  
Induction of women in the military police will be done in a graded manner, and they will eventually make up 20% of its total strength, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced on Friday. The decision to induct women to enhance their representation in the armed forces was announced by Army chief General Bipin Rawat last year. Their role would range from probing rape and molestation cases to assisting the Army wherever required. PTI

## Mughalsarai tehsil named after Deendayal

LUCKNOW  
The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on Friday approved the proposal of renaming the Mughalsarai tehsil after Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, co-founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh. Last August, the Mughalsarai railway station was renamed Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay junction. Many places in Uttar Pradesh have got new names under the government of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. On October 16, Allahabad was renamed Prayagraj. The Centre and the State have drawn flak for the renaming. ANI



Dialogue on: Rajnath Singh meeting Chief Ministers of Meghalaya and Mizoram Conrad Sangma and Zoramthanga. PTI

## Northeast to see publicity blitz

Centre says it's not the only region that hosts minorities from the neighbourhood

VIJAYA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

Worried over the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Bill in the northeastern States, the Centre has decided to push a "region-specific" narrative to gain support.

A senior official said the government was planning publicity material to push the stand that the Bill would help many non-Muslims from Pakistan and Afghanistan who had fled their countries fearing persecution and were now settled in western parts of the country.

Submissions by the Home Ministry before the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Bill said 31,313 persons from minority communities (Hindus: 25,447, Sikhs: 5,807, Christians: 55, Buddhists and Parsis: two each) who have been given long-term visas on the basis of their plea of religious persecution in their respective countries want Indian citizenship. These persons will be the immediate beneficiaries of the Bill.

The Bill seeks to grant Indian citizenship to Hindus, Christians, Parsis, Budd-

## Meghalaya, Mizoram CMs register protest

## They oppose Citizenship Bill

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

The allies of the BJP in Meghalaya, led by Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, called on Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday to convey their opposition to the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill.

Meghalaya and the other north-eastern States are opposing the Bill that seeks to legitimise the stay of non-Muslims from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who came to India till December 31, 2014, because of religious persecution.

hists, Jains and Sikhs who entered India till December 2014. It reduces the mandatory requirement of a 12-year stay in India to seven years to be eligible for citizenship if they do not possess any documents.

In the northeast, the go-

Mr. Sangma, accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong, told Mr. Singh that all the six coalition partners in the State felt that the Bill would affect Meghalaya's social fabric and cause a serious law and order problem in the region.

"Everybody in Meghalaya is opposed to the Bill. I urge your good office to reconsider the decision..." BJP leader and Health Minister Alexander L. Hekl told Mr. Singh. Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga too voiced concern over the Bill.

vernment will try to highlight the atrocities faced by Hindus in Bangladesh and the "change in demography" along the border.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh told the Lok Sabha that "the beneficiaries of the Citizenship Amendment Bill

can reside in any State of the country, and the burden of those persecuted migrants will be shared by the whole country."

There has been a strong resistance to the Bill in BJP-ruled Assam and other north-eastern States as it would pave the way for granting citizenship, mostly to illegal Hindu migrants from Bangladesh in Assam, who came in after March 1971, in violation of the agreement of the Assam Accord, 1985.

## Not automatic

The official said there was a misconception that all those excluded from the NRC would immediately get citizenship once the legislation is passed by the Rajya Sabha.

The official said people would be made aware of the declining Hindu population in Bangladesh over the decades, which had come down 8.4% in 2011 census from 14% in 1974.

However, on July 19, 2018, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj told the Rajya Sabha that population of the Hindus in Bangladesh had increased by more than 2% in 2017 from the 2011 figures.

Despite such safeguards, the NDPP said the Centre should exempt Nagaland from the purview of Citizenship Bill when it is moved for approval in the Rajya Sabha.

The Opposition Naga People's Front condemned the NDPP "clarification".

## Nagaland can reject Bill, says BJP ally

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

The Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP), a coalition partner of the BJP in Nagaland, said the State had the constitutional provision to reject the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

Nagaland, along with other northeastern States, has witnessed several protests following the passage of the Bill in the Lok Sabha. The NDPP-BJP government, headed by Neiphiu Rio, has been under pressure from tribal groups to oppose the Bill.

## Article 371(A)

Referring to Article 371(A) of the Constitution, the NDPP in a statement on Thursday said, "The said article begins with the words 'notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, no Act of Parliament in respect of...', which itself means that despite what is in the Constitution, no Act of Parliament shall apply to the State of Nagaland unless the Legislative Assembly of Nagaland by a resolution so decides."

Nagaland is also protected by the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation of 1873, whereby an Inner Line Permit is issued to outsiders for safeguarding the citizenship, rights and privileges of the Nagas, the statement said.

Despite such safeguards, the NDPP said the Centre should exempt Nagaland from the purview of Citizenship Bill when it is moved for approval in the Rajya Sabha.

"The effect of this systemic discrimination was not just economic. It was social and psychological as well. Even if one person from the 'lower' caste became rich, he was not permitted to en-

## DMK moves HC against 10% quota

Says it violates the Constitution

MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S.  
CHENNAI

DMK organising secretary R.S. Bharathi has filed a writ petition in the Madras High Court, challenging the legal validity of the recent amendment made to the Constitution granting 10% reservation in jobs and higher education admission for the economically weaker sections in the open competition category.

Senior counsel P. Wilson, representing the petitioner, mentioned the matter before a Division Bench of Justices S. Manikumar and Subramoniam Prasad on Friday and the judges agreed to hear the case as and when the High Court Registry lists it before them for admission.

In his affidavit, Mr. Bharathi argued that caste-based discrimination had been plaguing Indian society for about three millenniums. He said the division on the basis of Jati or Varna was due to the contents of the Vedas, particularly the Rig Veda, which differentiates human beings on the basis of their profession.

Contrary to the intent behind providing reservation for the socially backward communities, the Centre had now enacted the Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act, 2019 enabling the State to make reservation based on the economic criterion alone which was unconstitutional and amounts to altering the basic structure of the Constitution.

"It is not an exaggeration to say that the Bill was foisted on the Lok Sabha," Mr. Bharathi said and claimed it was rushed through without even providing copies of it to the members of the House in advance.



C It is not an exaggeration to say the Bill was foisted on the Lok Sabha

R.S. BHARATHI  
DMK organising secretary

ter the social circles of the 'upper' castes... Thus, a parallel nation of untouchables was created," his affidavit read.

Post-Independence, the Constitution abolished untouchability and reservation was provided for the oppressed and backward classes in education and public employment "to heal the wounds of centuries of discrimination and to uplift the social status of people belonging to these classes."

Contrary to the intent behind providing reservation for the socially backward communities, the Centre had now enacted the Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act, 2019 enabling the State to make reservation based on the economic criterion alone which was unconstitutional and amounts to altering the basic structure of the Constitution.

"It is not an exaggeration to say that the Bill was foisted on the Lok Sabha," Mr. Bharathi said and claimed it was rushed through without even providing copies of it to the members of the House in advance.

## Major reshuffle in Ambassador team

New envoys for Israel, Mexico, South Africa, Argentina, New Zealand, Vietnam



Manpreet Vohra

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI  
In a major reshuffle, the External Affairs Ministry has decided on sending new Ambassadors to Israel, Mexico, South Africa, Argentina, New Zealand and Vietnam. There will also be two significant changes in the neighbourhood, coinciding with new governments being elected in Bhutan and the Maldives, Ministry sources said.

High Commissioner to South Africa Ruchira Kamboj is expected to be posted to Thimphu after completing the visit of South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, who will be the chief guest for the Republic Day parade.

Ms. Kamboj would exchange places with Jaideep

dor, Aishath Mohamed Didi, a former Education Minister, arrived in Delhi to present her credentials.

In other decisions, a key official in the Prime Minister's Office, Sanjeev Singla, who has been Prime Minister Narendra Modi's private secretary for the past few years, is being sent to Israel in place of Ambassador Parvan Kapoor.

## Mexican assignment

Former Ambassador to Afghanistan Manpreet Vohra is being sent to Mexico, and will replace Ambassador Muktesh Pardeshi, who, according to reports, will move to New Zealand.

Pranay Verma, who has been a diplomat handling South East Asia at the Minis-

try's headquarters at present, will move to Vietnam. Sudhakar Dalela, Joint Secretary (North), who handled Nepal and Bhutan, will head to Chicago as Consul-General, sources said.

According to officials, more than 20 ambassadorial and key consulate positions are expected to come up for change between January and June, though some of the postings are yet to be announced and the timing of the moves will depend on documents or "agreements" being cleared by host countries.

Among the senior appointments in the past few months were of Ambassadors to Washington and London, where Harsh Shringla and Ruchi Ghanshyam took charge respectively.

## Flight to link Ayodhya, Janakpur

JAGRITI CHANDRA  
NEW DELHI

Non-stop flight services between the religious towns of Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh and Janakpur in Nepal may be in the offing. Indian civil aviation authorities are keen on developing an air route linking the two cities.

Discussions between the two countries on the sidelines of the Global Aviation Summit that concluded earlier this week also involved routes between the Buddhist towns of Lumbini and Gaya as well as Nepalgunj and New Delhi for pilgrims headed to Kailash Mansarovar.

According to Hindu mythology, Sita was the daughter of King Janak who ruled over Janakpur.

According to a source from the Indian side, India has given an in-principle approval for a route connecting Nepalgunj and New Delhi.

passage of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor through the region.

India rejected such continued attempts by Pakistan to bring material change in these occupied territories and to camouflage grave human rights violations, exploitation and sufferings of the people living there

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY

Pakistan in recent months had taken a series of steps to ensure full constitutional and legal guarantees to the region which previously was not given these safeguards explicitly.

## Islamabad's move

Pakistan in recent months had taken a series of steps to ensure full constitutional and legal guarantees to the region which was strategically important for the country especially in view of the

ODISHA INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)  
IDCO Towers, Janpath, Bhubaneswar - 751022  
Dated :- 17.01.2019  
QUOTATION CALL NOTICE

Sealed Quotations are invited from the original Manufacturer/Registered Supplier/Authorized Dealers for "Supplying, Installing, fixing & Commissioning of Modular Kitchen of Odisha Bhawan at Chennai". The last date of submission of the quotation is 06.02.2019 by 5:00 P.M. and the quotation will be opened on the next day at 11:00 A.M.

For the detail Quotation Call Notice, Terms & Condition, Specification and B.Q.O. Please visit our web site [www.idco.in](http://www.idco.in) (Tender & Quotation)

Sd/-  
Chief General Manager (Civil) I/C  
IDCO, Bhubaneswar

**TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED**  
KAGITHAPURAM (PO), KARUR - 639 136. PH: 04324-277001 to 277010  
Fax: 04324-277 265, E-mail: [tech\\_services@tnpl.co.in](mailto:tech_services@tnpl.co.in)

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

RFQ No Description of Work Date of submission of tender

181913 Housekeeping in Pulp Mill, SRP, Energy, Works 04/02/2019

006133 Office areas etc., 04/02/2019

181913 Clearing of accumulated sludge in Balancing Reservoir-II (South) 04/02/2019

006193 Miscellaneous Electrical works in TNPL Unit-1 04/02/2019

006136 Providing Security Personnel at TNPL Offsites 06/02/2019

181933 Providing Security Personnel at TNPL Cement Plant 06/02/2019

181913 Broke handling, Hood cleaning and other works 06/02/2019

006177 In PM # 3 06/02/2019

Detailed terms & conditions are available in the Tender documents which can be downloaded from Websites: [www.tnpl.com](http://www.tnpl.com) / [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in)

DIPR/247/Tender/2019

TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

PROCUREMENT NOTICE  
GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH  
HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ROADS PROJECT (HPSRP)  
Request for Bids (RFB)  
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (ICB)

Reference No. : PW/SRP/RIDC/HP/SI/ICB-4 Dated:- November 26, 2018

Contract Title : Procurement of Selection of a System Integrator (SI) for Design, Supply, Install, Integration, Commissioning, Testing and Maintenance of an Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) for HPPWD and HPRIDC.

CORRIGENDUM-2

The last date for submission/opening of bids mentioned in corrigendum-1 to the Procurement Notice issued vide reference No. PW/SRP/RIDC/HP/SI/ICB-4 dated November 26, 2018 which was published on January 06, 2019 in the newspapers "The Hindu" and "The Times of India", is hereby extended from January 21, 2019 at 1500 Hours/1530 Hours (IST) to February 15, 2019 at 1500 Hours/1530 Hours (IST) on administrative ground.

All other details of the published Procurement Notice & Corrigendum-1 shall remain the same.

Sd/-  
Chief Engineer-cum-Project Director,  
State Roads Project, HPRIDC,  
Niranjan Bhawan, Nigam Vihar,  
Shimla-171002, Himachal Pradesh,  
e-mail: [pdsp-hp@nic.in](mailto:pdsp-hp@nic.in)  
Fax: 0177-262663, 2627602

HP/0717/2018-2019

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice  
Tender No : 12/2018-19/SE/PHC/ALP  
KWA - JICA Assisted water supply project to Cherthala Municipality and adjoining villages- Operation and Maintenance of Intake well and pumping station at Kalambakk

# Trump-Pelosi feud heats up again

President denied the House Speaker a military plane to visit American troops in Afghanistan

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON

She imperiled his State of the Union address. He denied her a plane to visit troops abroad.

The shutdown battle between President Donald Trump and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is playing out as a surreal game of constitutional brinkmanship, with both flexing political powers from opposite ends of Pennsylvania Avenue as the negotiations to end the month-long partial government shutdown remain stalled.

In a dramatic fashion, Mr. Trump issued a letter to Pelosi on Thursday, just before she and other lawmakers were set to depart on the previously undisclosed trip to Afghanistan and Brussels. Mr. Trump belittled the trip as a "public relations event" – even though he had just made a similar warzone stop – and said it would be best if Ms. Pelosi remained in Washington to negotiate to reopen the government.

"Obviously, if you would like to make your journey by



**Play for dominance:** Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi at a press briefing in Washington on Thursday. ■ REUTERS

flying commercial, that would certainly be your prerogative," wrote Mr. Trump, who had been smarting since Ms. Pelosi, the day before, called on him to postpone his January 29 State of the Union address due to the shutdown.

Ms. Pelosi planned to fly commercially to Afghanistan, but she "delayed the trip on Friday after the administration leaked the plans". Ms. Pelosi's aide said she decided to delay the trip due to "grave" security threats that

arose from the Trump administration's disclosure.

#### Tit-for-tat moves

Denying military aircraft to a senior lawmaker – let alone the Speaker, who is second in line to the White House, travelling to a combat region – is very rare. Lawmakers were caught off guard. A bus to ferry the legislators to their departure idled outside the Capitol on Thursday afternoon.

The political tit-for-tat between Mr. Trump and Ms. Pelosi's aides said she decided to delay the trip due to "grave" security threats that

losi laid bare how the government-wide crisis has devolved into an intensely pointed clash between two leaders determined to prevail. It took place as hundreds of thousands of federal workers go without pay and Washington's routine protocols – a President's speech to Congress, a lawmaker's official trip – became collateral damage.

Ms. Pelosi's spokesman Drew Hammill said the Speaker planned to travel to Afghanistan and Brussels to thank service members and obtain briefings on national security and intelligence "from those on the front lines". He noted Mr. Trump had travelled to Iraq during the shutdown, which began on December 22, and said a Republican-led congressional trip also had taken place.

Mr. Trump's move was the latest example of his extraordinary willingness to tether U.S. government resources to his political needs.

Some Republicans expressed frustration. Sen. Lindsey Graham tweeted,

"One sophomoric response does not deserve another." He called Ms. Pelosi's State of the Union move "very irresponsible and blatantly political", but said Mr. Trump's reaction was "also inappropriate".

While there were few signs of progress on Thursday, Vice-President Mike Pence and senior adviser Jared Kushner dashed to the Capitol for a meeting with Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. And the State Department instructed all U.S. diplomats in Washington and elsewhere to return to work next week with pay, saying it had found money for their salaries at least temporarily.

For security reasons, Ms. Pelosi would normally make such a trip on a military aircraft. According to a defense official, Ms. Pelosi did request Defense Department support for overseas travel and it was initially approved.

The official said the President does have the authority to cancel the use of military aircraft.

Govt. holds talks with MPs, seeks a way-out of Brexit logjam

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

British Prime Minister Theresa May scrambled to put together a new Brexit strategy after MPs rejected her EU divorce deal, and insisted she could not rule out a potentially damaging "no-deal" split.

The world's fifth-largest economy is in political turmoil and grasping for solutions that could smooth its planned departure from the bloc after 46 years just 10 weeks from now.

Governments across Europe are triggering plans designed to avoid logjams at ports and airports when trade barriers go up should London fail to find a Plan B.

The government held individual talks with MPs from rival parties after narrowly surviving a confidence vote brought on by the crushing defeat over her old deal with Brussels on Tuesday.

But Jeremy Corbyn, the

leader of the main opposition Labour Party, called the talks a "stunt" and refused to meet Ms. May until she ruled out the possibility of Britain crashing out without any future arrangements in place.

Meanwhile, leading Brexit campaigner Nigel Farage urged Leave campaigners to prepare for the event of a second referendum as Britain's deadlock continues.

"I don't want it any more than you do but I am saying to you we have to face reality," he told a Leave Means Leave rally in London on Thursday night. "Don't think the other side aren't organised. Don't think the other side aren't prepared. Don't think they haven't raised the money. Don't think they haven't got the teams in place. They have."

Theresa May

Images: AP, PA, EPA, Getty, AP

Russian fighter jets collide, crews eject

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
MOSCOW

Two Russian Su-34 fighter jets collided on Friday over the Sea of Japan during a training flight, with both crews managing to eject, the Defence Ministry said.

During a scheduled training, the bombers touched mid-air and fell into the sea near the Strait of Tartary that separates the Sakhalin island from Russia's mainland, according to the country's Investigative Committee.

The committee said it had opened a criminal investigation into the case.

## U.S., N. Korean diplomats meet in Sweden

Kim's right-hand man meets Trump to decide on second U.S.-North Korea summit

REUTERS  
STOCKHOLM

High-ranking diplomats from the United States and North Korea are currently holding talks in Sweden aiming to end the stand-off between the two countries, a diplomatic source said on Friday.

"After the meeting in Singapore, things have ground to a halt. The purpose of this meeting is to inject some energy and to take steps forward in the relations between the U.S. and North Korea," the source said.

The source said the delegations included Choe Son



Kim Yong Chol  
Hui, North Korea's Vice Foreign Minister, and Stephen Biegun, the U.S. Special Representative for North Korea.

rea. The meeting, which will continue over the weekend, has been planned in secret for months.

Sweden's Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom, Cabinet Secretary Annika Soder and Sweden's envoy to Korea Kent Harstedt are also sitting in on the talks, the source said.

U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un met in Singapore in June last year for talks aimed at ending a nuclear standoff on the Korean peninsula.

Earlier this month, Mr. Trump defended the stutter-

ing progress on North Korea by saying that Pyongyang had stopped missile and bomb testing and if it had not been for his administration "you'd be having a nice, big, fat war in Asia."

Meanwhile, Kim Yong Chol, a right-hand man to Mr. Kim, met Mr. Trump at the White House after holding talks with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday in a diplomatic flurry aimed at laying the groundwork for a second U.S.-North Korea summit. It marked a rare sign of progress in reaching a denuclearisation deal to end the standoff.

In the meeting, which will continue over the weekend, has been planned in secret for months.

## U.S. peace envoy meets Imran Khan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ISLAMABAD

U.S. peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad met with Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan and other officials on Friday as part of efforts aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the war in Afghanistan, officials said.

In a statement, the Pakistani government said Mr. Khalilzad briefed Mr. Khan "on his recent visits to the region to muster support for the Afghan reconciliation process."

Earlier, Mr. Khalilzad met with Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qu-

reshi. Mr. Qureshi is said to have assured Mr. Khalilzad of Pakistan's support for a peace process, which has suffered a setback because of the Taliban's refusal to directly talk to the Afghan government in Kabul.

The U.S. hopes that Pakistan can help in ending the conflict by convincing the Taliban to meet with the U.S. and Afghan officials. Islamabad says it will do whatever possible for peace amid speculation that efforts were under way to arrange a meeting between Mr. Khalilzad and the Taliban in Pakistan.

## Radical preacher behind Bali bombings to be freed from prison

Indonesian President orders cleric's release on medical grounds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JAKARTA

A radical cleric thought to be the spiritual leader of the Bali bombers will be released from prison on medical grounds, Indonesia's President said on Friday.

Abu Bakar Bashir, 80, is believed to have been a key figure in terror network Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), which was blamed for the 2002 bombings on the holiday island which killed more than 200 people, mostly foreign tourists.

It was Indonesia's deadliest militant attack and prompted Jakarta to beef up anti-terror cooperation with the U.S. and Australia, which has previously opposed clemency for Bashir.

Indonesian leader Joko Widodo said on Friday that he had agreed to order the ailing preacher's release from a prison on the outskirts of the capital.



Abu Bakar Bashir  
The first reason is humanitarian," Mr. Widodo told reporters.

"He is old... and his health condition was also part of the consideration." In 2011, the firebrand preacher – once synonymous with militant Islam in Indonesia – was sentenced to 15 years in jail for helping fund a

paramilitary group training in the conservative Islamic province of Aceh.

Bashir, the co-founder of an infamous Islamic boarding school known for producing militants, was jailed after authorities in the world's biggest Muslim majority country broke up the camp.

Several militants convicted over their involvement in the Bali bombings have been executed while two others, including Malaysian Noordin Mohammed Top, were killed in police raids in 2009 and 2010.

Bashir was also previously jailed over the Bali bombings but that conviction was quashed on appeal.

Al-Qaeda-linked JI was founded by a handful of exiled Indonesian militants in Malaysia in the 1980s, and grew to include cells across Southeast Asia.

## 21 dead in car bomb attack in Colombia

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BOGOTA

Colombia's government declared three days of mourning after at least 21 people died in a car bomb at a Bogota police cadet training academy, and 68 were wounded – the worst such incident in the city in 16 years.

Defence Minister Guillermo Botero described the bombing as a long-planned "terrorist" attack committed by the ELN.

Mr. Botero said he had "full evidence" that the bomber – earlier identified as Jose Aldeamar Rojas Rodriguez, 56 – had been a member of the ELN for more than 25 years.

"Unfortunately, the preliminary toll is 21 people dead, including the person responsible for the incident, and 68 wounded," Colombian police said, adding that 58 injured had been discharged from hospital.

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMC) In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751 001 Tel.: (0674) 2380608, Website: www.osmcl.nic.in, Email: proc.osmcl@nic.in Date : 17.01.2019

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER FOR SUPPLY & INSTALLATION ENT & OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY EQUIPMENTS

Online Bids through e-Tender portal (<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>) are invited from eligible bidders for supply, installation & commissioning of Equipments as per the particulars mentioned below:

SL.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost inclusive of GST (Rs.)
1.	OSMCL/2018-19/EQP-ENT/21	Supply & Installation of ENT Equipments	5,600/-

SL.No.	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Date & time of release of bid	18.01.2019, 3 PM
2.	Date & time of Pre-bid meeting	02.02.2019, 11 AM
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time End Date & Time
4.	Date & time of online Technical Bid Opening	08.02.2019, 3 PM 22.02.2019, 5 PM
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 qualified bidders

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](http://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.

Managing Director, OSMC Ltd., Odisha

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMC) In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751 001 Tel.: (0674) 2380608, Website: www.osmcl.nic.in, Email: proc.osmcl@nic.in Date : 18.01.2019

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF HEMOGLOBINOMETER

Online Bids through e-Tender portal (<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>) are invited from eligible bidders for supply, installation & commissioning of Equipments as per the particulars mentioned below:

SL.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost inclusive of GST (Rs.)
1.	OSMCL/2018-19/EQP-Haemoglobinometer/23	Supply of Haemoglobinometer	5,600/-

SL.No.	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Date & time of release of bid	19.01.2019, 3 PM
2.	Date & time of Pre-bid meeting	29.01.2019, 11 AM
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Venue : Conference Hall, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar
4.	Date & time of online Technical Bid Opening	Start Date & Time End Date & Time
5.	Date of demonstration of Equipment (If required by the Tender Inviting Authority for some equipments)	07.02.2019, 3 PM 23.02.2019, 5 PM
6.	Date of opening of Price Bid	27.02.2019, 11 AM

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: <a href="http://www.osmcl.n

## MARKET WATCH

	18-01-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	36,387	-0.03
US Dollar	71.19	-0.23
Gold	33,220	-0.24
Brent oil	62.89	3.42

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	399.30	4.80
Axian Paints	1400.45	10.85
Axis Bank	664.60	-12.05
Bajaj Auto	2720.75	-8.95
Bajaj Finserv	6249.90	-109.10
Bajaj Finance	2542.90	7.00
Bharti Airtel	311.15	-20.90
BPLC	354.20	-1.00
Cipla	509.40	-0.20
Coal India	230.00	-2.05
Dr Reddys Lab	2596.80	-23.25
Eicher Motors	20122.75	-247.20
GAIL (India)	322.15	-10.25
Grasim Ind	824.95	-3.15
HCL Tech	966.30	11.60
HDFC	2006.85	2.30
HDFC Bank	2130.25	-2.05
Hero MotoCorp	2898.75	-4.85
Hindalco	208.80	2.80
HPLC	239.50	-4.70
Hind Unilever	1744.10	-7.40
Indiabulls HFL	817.35	0.60
ICICI Bank	372.00	-1.00
IndusInd Bank	1516.90	-6.10
Bharti Infratel	278.05	-2.40
Infosys	730.95	-2.40
Indian Oil Corp	137.85	0.20
ITC	291.45	-2.50
JSW Steel	285.60	-3.40
Kotak Bank	1240.20	20.25
L&T	1317.90	-28.15
M&M	734.95	0.30
Maurti Suzuki	7357.95	21.70
NTPC	144.30	-0.60
ONGC	146.75	1.75
PowerGrid Corp	193.60	-0.30
Reliance Ind	1184.35	49.90
State Bank	294.95	-2.45
Sun Pharma	390.75	-35.80
Tata Motors	183.30	-1.60
Tata Steel	470.65	-2.50
TCS	1900.65	6.35
Tech Mahindra	709.15	3.60
Titan	960.95	-0.60
UltraTech Cement	3819.95	-26.50
UPL	766.05	-3.00
Vedanta	198.70	1.25
Wipro	346.15	10.75
YES Bank	198.60	-2.90
Zee Entertainment	440.30	-0.60

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	70.98	71.30
Euro	80.94	81.30
British Pound	91.83	92.25
Japanese Yen (100)	64.85	65.14
Chinese Yuan	10.47	10.52
Swiss Franc	71.42	71.74
Singapore Dollar	52.34	52.58
Canadian Dollar	53.53	53.77
Malaysian Ringgit	17.25	17.34

Source: Indian Bank

## BULLION RATES CHENNAI

January 18 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses		
Retail Silver (1g)	42.5	(42.9)
22 ct gold (1g)	3093	(3111)

## Fresh allegations singe Sun Pharma

Shares sink to 6-year low after second whistleblower levels charge of corporate governance violation

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.'s shares on Friday plunged to a nearly six-year low to ₹375.40, down 12.12%, following fresh allegations of corporate governance norms violation.

Shares of the pharma major declined 8.52% to close at 390.75 on the BSE on Friday.

A magazine had reported about a second whistleblower filing a complaint with SEBI against Sun Pharma's promoters, seeking to probe certain transactions.

## ₹5,800-cr. transactions

The report claimed that Aditya Medisales Ltd., a key distributor of Sun Pharma products, had conducted transactions worth ₹5,800 crore with Suraksha Realty, a company owned by Sun Pharma executive director Sudhir Valia, between 2014 and 2017. Mr. Valia is also the



**Bitter pill:** Sun Pharma has asked SEBI to examine the matter in its entirety, besides the role of some media houses. ■ AFP

brother-in-law of Sun Pharma promoter and managing director Dilip Shangvi.

The contents of the reported complaint could not be verified as the document is not in public domain and SEBI officials declined to comment. As speculation mounted and shares plunged, Sun Pharma, in a

letter to SEBI chairman Ajay Tyagi, informed that it had learnt about the complaint from media reports.

"The said whistleblower documents and other confidential emails are being offered for inspection to institutional investors by one media house as per the report, which again, we are not



**SUN PHARMA** ₹390.75

other stakeholders. It is evident from the fact that shareholders' value has been drastically eroded within a short span of time due to unsubstantiated complaint/allegation against the company and mala fide campaign launched by certain media houses," the letter added.

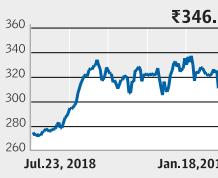
Sun Pharma has requested SEBI to examine the matter in its entirety and the role of some media houses and other stakeholders.

A first whistleblower had filed a complaint alleging wrong doing by the company and its promoters, with SEBI in November last year. The company had denied the allegation.

"We have received a whistleblower complaint against Sun Pharma.

"At this point, all I would like to say is that we are examining the allegations of the whistleblower," Mr. Tyagi had said in December.

## Firm footing



**Metrics**

Q3 FY19	Q3FY18	Growth(%)	
Gross revenue (₹cr)	15,059.5	13,669	10.17
Net profit (₹cr)	2,510.4	1,931.3	30
EPS (basic in ₹)	5.57	4.02	
Interim dividend (In ₹)	1	1	

The traction in the US and the Asia Pacific and other emerging markets remains healthy and the growth in the quarter is across the industry segments. India is likely to remain volatile

— ABIDALI NEEMUCHWALA, CEO, WIPRO

## BFSI buoys Wipro's profit, net rises 30%

Firm announces 1:3 bonus issue

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

Wipro's third-quarter net profit rose 30% to ₹2,510.4 crore year-on-year as its revenue from banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) increased by 24.7%.

India's third largest software exporter's revenue rose 10.17% to ₹15,059.50 crore during the quarter compared to the same period a year earlier, according to a company statement.

Revenue from BFSI sector rose to ₹4,597.90 crore compared to ₹3,684.90 crore a year earlier.

"We do not see any immediate impact of the macro headwind that some of the large economies have cautioned. But we continue to remain watchful."

The traction in the US and the Asia Pacific and other emerging markets remains healthy and the growth in the quarter is across the industry segments. India is likely to remain volatile," he said.

Jatin Dalal, chief financial officer, said: "Relentless focus on the quality of revenues and operational improvements have led to the expansion of IT services operating margins to 19.8%."

Digital revenue increased by 6.4% quarter-on-quarter and currently accounts for 33.2% of total revenue. The company added one account to its \$100 million-plus revenue clients' list and another seven to its \$20 million bucket.

## Inflation volatility is a challenge, says RBI Governor

Policy action is required on corporate governance in banks, cyber risk a major challenge: Das

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Amid a growing demand for a reduction in interest rate in the upcoming monetary policy review scheduled for February 7, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das said wide divergences and volatility in inflation pose challenges for its assessment.

The case for a rate cut has been cited by economists and industry lobbies on the back of a sharp fall in retail inflation in recent months with the latest data showing December CPI inflation at 2.2%. "Although headline inflation has moderated significantly in recent years, its major components – inflation



Shaktikanta Das

comes. Mr. Das also spoke about challenges that Indian firms may face due to developments around Brexit.

On the banking sector, the Governor reiterated the central bank's financial stability report assessment that gross NPA ratio of the banks could further come down to 10.3% in March 2019 compared with 10.8% in September 2018.

"It will remain critical to ensure that further slippages are contained," he said.

He also said banks had improved their profitability ratios and capital positions and also the provision coverage ratio which increased to 52.4% in end-September 2018 from 48.3% in end-

March 2018.

The Governor, however, pointed out that the area where policy action is required is corporate governance in banks with a focus on transparency and accountability. He also described cyber risk as a major challenge.

Without mentioning the IL&FS crisis, the Governor said the debt default of a systemically important NBFC had highlighted the vulnerability and need for strengthening regulatory vigil on the sector and on asset liability management (ALM) framework in particular. He said the RBI intends to strengthen the ALM framework for NBFCs.

## VISAKHAPATNAM METROPOLITAN REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Invites Expression of Interest (EoI), for Development of "Multi-Level Car Parking cum Commercial/Retail Centre" on PPP Framework Visakhapatnam metropolitan regional development authority (VMRDA) invites expression of interest (EoI) from real estate developers, urban infrastructure developers, hotel operators, retail players & car parking operators for the development of "multi-level car parking cum commercial/retail centre" at siripuram junction, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on public private partnership (PPP) framework. Spread in an area of 1.35 or 1.72 Acres with existing 80 FT Road (North & South). proposed project shall comprise of minimum development obligations of underground and overground multi level car parking facility with 700 ECS (500 car parking & 800 bike parking).

Further details on the project is given in the EoI document uploaded on <http://www.vuda.gov.in/>

Due date for submission of the EoI: 20th feb 2019 16:00 Hours (IST)

For details please contact :

Sri.G.Madhushudhan Rao, Executive Engineer, Ph. No.: 917702333568, Sri. Chetan Yarlagadda, Senior Manager, APULAMIL, Ph. No.: +918530555843.

Email Id: [cevudavsp@yahoo.com](mailto:cevudavsp@yahoo.com), [sevudavsp@gmail.com](mailto:sevudavsp@gmail.com)

METROPOLITAN COMMISSIONER, VMRDA

## U.P. RAJKIYA NIRMAN NIGAM LIMITED Notice Inviting e-Tender

General Manager (Delhi Zone) invites for and on behalf of Delhi Police, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India online percentage composite bids in two bid system for the following work:

NIT No.: RNN/Basai/M-DP/NP/TC-3/2018-19/1062 Dated 15.01.2019 (3rd Call), Name of work: Construction of Special Police Unit for Women & Children and Special Police Unit for North East Region including Electrical at Nanakpura, New Delhi, Estimated Cost: 2161.29 Lakh (Civil Works : Rs. 174.52 Lakh, Electrical Works: Rs. 415.97 Lakh), Earnest Money: Rs. 31.61 Lakh, Period of Completion: 12 (Twelve) months, Last time and date of submission of bid: Upto 3:00 PM on 30th January 2019.

The bid forms and other details can be obtained/downloaded from the website: <https://e-tender.up.nic.in>. The press notice is also available on <http://www.uprnn.co.in>.

## IN BRIEF



## Toyota unveils new Camry hybrid vehicle

MUMBAI Toyota Kirloskar Motor Ltd. (TKM) introduced the next generation Camry hybrid electric vehicle, a self-charging electric luxury sedan, at an introductory price of ₹36.95 lakh ex-showroom all-India. Masakazu Yoshimura, MD, TKM, said, "Globally, we have been the pioneers in hybrid technology and this has been an important focus for us in a market like India which is moving towards greener, sustainable future."

## GoAir to start direct flights to Muscat

MUMBAI GoAir has announced plans to start direct flights on Kannur-Muscat-Kannur route effective February 28, 2019. Muscat will be GoAir's third international route after Phuket and Male. The airline will operate three direct services per week. Jeh Wadia, managing director, GoAir said, "Muscat is a key market for us. We are hopeful that this service would also prove equally popular with our flyers."

## Tata Motors bags BS6 stamp for CNG engine

MUMBAI Tata Motors has received BS6 Type Approval certificate for its 3.8L NA SGI CNG engine from ARAI (Automotive Research Association of India), the company said. With this it has become the first OEM in India to achieve BS6 certification for a 'naturally aspirated' CNG engine for commercial vehicles, it added. This certification includes meeting the tailpipe mass emissions as well as compliance with on-board diagnostics norms.

# 'Let Indians have control of their data'

RIL chairman Mukesh Ambani flags concerns about increasing data colonisation by global corporates

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GANDHINAGAR

Flagging concerns about increasing data colonisation by global corporations, Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani on Friday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take steps against the way some global corporations were 'colonising data' of Indian users in the rapidly growing digital economy in the country.

He also insisted that Indian data must be owned by Indians.

Addressing the Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors Summit, Mr. Ambani said "data is a new oil and new wealth" and therefore must be "controlled and owned by Indian people and not by corporates, especially global corporations."

Citing Mahatma Gandhi's movement against political



Digital revolt: A new movement against data colonisation is what India needs now, Mukesh Ambani said. ■ AP

colonisation during the struggle for Independence, Mr. Ambani said India now needed a new movement against data colonisation, especially against global corporations colonising data of Indian users.

"Gandhiji led India's

movement back to India – in other words, Indian wealth back to every Indian."

Calling the Prime Minister a 'man of action', Mr. Ambani urged him to make the movement against data colonisation one of the principal goals of the Digital India mission.

## Growing demand

This is the second time in a month, Mr. Ambani has thrown his weight behind a growing demand from the authorities and a section of local corporates seeking companies to store data of Indian consumers locally.

Last month, Mr. Ambani, chairman of the country's largest conglomerate with interests in energy to telecom, had said data of an individual or business belonged to them and not to corporates who could use it to monetise

from them.

It may be noted that the Indian government wants companies doing business in India to store all customer data locally, a demand some global corporations are not inclined to comply with.

Besides the Centre, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in April 2018, ordered companies to store the "the entire data relating to payment systems operated by them... in a system only in India" so as to ensure "unfettered supervisory access" for "better monitoring." Global Internet giants like Google had complained about the six-month deadline.

The Union Government has been considering a draft data security law that requires data centres for all companies to be physically located within India to store data of Indian consumers.

## Hero Cycles to invest ₹200 cr. in Punjab unit

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GANDHINAGAR

Hero Cycles Ltd. is planning to set up a manufacturing unit in Industrial Cycle Valley in Punjab with an overall capacity of 10 million bikes a year.

As an anchor investor of the project, Hero Cycles would invest over ₹200 crore. An additional ₹200 crore would come from the suppliers. The project is expected to create employment for up to 1,000 people in the 380-acre International Cycle Valley in Ludhiana district, said a statement.

The firm would manufacture hi-tech cycles, e-bikes, e-vehicles and light engineering goods at the new plant.

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

The first day of Vibrant Gujarat Summit saw major investment announcements by top industrial groups, including Reliance, Adani, Birla, Torrent and Russian major Rosneft group's Nayara Energy.

Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani announced doubling of the group's current investment of about ₹3 lakh crore in Gujarat over the next 10 years, saying the State would continue to remain the hub of the group's overall investments in the country.

"With investments of over ₹3 lakh crore, the company has so far created and catalysed over one million livelihood opportunities in Gujarat," Mr. Ambani said. Reliance operates the

world's largest grassroots refinery in Jamnagar and has petrochemical units in Vadodara, Dahej and Hazira.

Another major announcement came from Gujarat-based billionaire Gautam Adani who committed investments to the tune of ₹55,000 crore in the next five years.

According to Mr. Adani, his investments would

create employment opportunities for 50,000 people in the State.

## Solar hybrid park

The investments would include ₹30,000 for solar hybrid park at Khavda (Kutch), 1 GW Data Center Park in Mundra, one MTPA copper smelting and refining project, a cement and clinker manufacturing unit in Lakhpat, an integrated lithium ion battery manufacturing complex and expansion of the existing photovoltaic manufacturing capabilities.

Another Gujarat based group Torrent had committed ₹10,000 crore investments in areas such as renewable energy, power and city gas distribution network in the State. "So far, Torrent Group's investment in the

State stands at ₹30,000 crore," group chairman Sudhir Mehta said.

Aditya Birla Group chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla committed to invest ₹5,000 crore in the State over a period of next three years in the areas of chemicals, textiles, mining and minerals and green energy.

The Tata Group announced expansion plans for its existing soda ash plant to reach one million tonnes per annum capacity in Gujarat but chairman N. Chandrasekaran did not divulge the quantum of investments.

D. Casimiro, global head of Downstream, Rosneft, announced investing \$850 million (approximately ₹6,000 crore) for the phase-1 expansion of Nayara Energy's Vadinar refinery.

## GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI

## TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

5/9, UNDER HILL ROAD, DELHI - 110054

## Notice Inviting e-Tender

Tender ID No. 2019\_TD\_165962\_1

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL(RFP) FOR SELECTION OF AGENCY TO OPERATIONALIZE IP CCTV AND AUTOMATIC VEHICLE TRACKING SYSTEM IN DTC AND CLUSTER SCHEME BUSES ON INFRASTRUCTURE AS A SERVICE MODEL

Transport Department, Government of NCT of Delhi invites Request for Proposal(RFP) for selection of agency to operationalize IP CCTV and Automatic Vehicle Tracking System in about 5,000 DTC and Cluster scheme buses on infrastructure as a service model through e-procurement portal of Government of NCT of Delhi (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>) from suitable business entities.

The Bid document can be downloaded from the eprocurement portal of GNCTD and website of Transport Department from 18th January, 2019. The Bid security of amount of Rs. 2,00,00,000/-, as per details given in RFP, in the form of original bank guarantee shall be submitted to Deputy Commissioner(Cluster), Transport Department, GNCTD, Room No. 127, New Block, 5/9, Under Hill Road, Delhi-110054, so as to reach on or before 1500 hours on 09th February, 2019 (" Proposal Due Date for submission of e-tender").

Pre-Bid meeting will be held on 22nd January, 2019 at 1500hours, in the Conference Room of Transport Department, Government of NCT of Delhi, 2nd Floor, 5/9, under Hill Road, Delhi-110054. Queries should reach to Transport Department by 21st January, 2019

**Deputy Commissioner(Cluster)**  
Transport Department  
Government of NCT of Delhi  
E-mail: [dcotp.delhi@gov.in](mailto:dcotp.delhi@gov.in)

DIP/Shabdharth/2782/18-19

## Vigyan Prasar

(Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India)

A-50, Institutional Area, Sector-62, NOIDA-201309 (U.P.)

## Notice Inviting Proposal

Vigyan Prasar, an autonomous organization of the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, invites proposals from eminent film makers for production of 52 episode programme related to MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge) in Magazine format under the Commissioned Category, a programme of Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India.

Name of the work	Estimate Cost in Lakh Rs.	Tender Fee in Rs. (Non-refundable)	EMD in Rs.	Last date of submission
Science Serial on "MANAK & other related Elements" VP/SOT/998/ Science Serial-MANAK/2018	520	1,000	1,00,000	8 February 2019

Details and Tender Form can be downloaded from "Tenders/Proposals" section of website: <http://www.vigyanprasar.gov.in> and [eprocure.gov.in](http://eprocure.gov.in)

Registrar

## Office of the Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Works Circle, Dehradun

Dated. 17.01.2019

E-Tender Notice No. 08/SE/2018-19

E-Tender Notice The Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Works Circle, Dehradun on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand, invites the item rate bids, in two bids system through electronic tendering, for following work from the eligible contractors registered in authorized/ valid category for the estimated cost of tender in any department of central government/any state government/UT of India. But successful bidder must registered with Irrigation Department, Uttarakhand under the category mention in column-7 before signing the contract.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Earnest Money (In Lac Rs.)	Cost of Tender (In Rs.)	Validity of Tender	Period of Completion	Registration Grade
1	Reconstruction of Badwa Canal in block Vikasnagar district Dehradun in NABARD	1.60	4000.00 + 18% GST	120 days	4 months	"C" or above category in Irrigation Department

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 21-01-2019

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 04-02-2019 upto 05:00PM

For further details please log on to [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in)

DIPR/UK/6644

(Manoj Kumar Singh)  
Superintending Engineer

DIP/J-4705-P

data back to India – in other words, Indian wealth back to every Indian."

Calling the Prime Minister a 'man of action', Mr. Ambani urged him to make the movement against data colonisation one of the principal goals of the Digital India mission.

## Growing demand

This is the second time in a month, Mr. Ambani has thrown his weight behind a growing demand from the authorities and a section of local corporates seeking companies to store data of Indian consumers locally.

Last month, Mr. Ambani, chairman of the country's largest conglomerate with interests in energy to telecom,

from them.

It may be noted that the Indian government wants companies doing business in India to store all customer data locally, a demand some global corporations are not inclined to comply with.

Besides the Centre, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in April 2018, ordered companies to store the "the entire data relating to payment systems operated by them... in a system only in India" so as to ensure "unfettered supervisory access" for "better monitoring." Global Internet giants like Google had complained about the six-month deadline.

The Union Government has been considering a draft data security law that requires data centres for all companies to be physically located within India to store data of Indian consumers.



Time for business: Our focus is on less government and more governance, said Narendra Modi. ■ VIJAY SONEJI

## We are removing all barriers, says Modi

India among top 10 FDI destinations

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GANDHINAGAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday asserted that his government achieved the highest growth rate and lowest inflation\* since 1991 when India began economic liberalisation.

"At 7.3%, the average GDP growth over the entire term of our government, it has been the highest for any government since 1991," Mr. Modi said, adding, "At the same time, the average rate of inflation at 4.6% is the lowest for any Indian government since 1991."

"We are among the largest ecosystems in the world for start-ups. Doing business with us is a great opportunity. This is also because we are among the top 10 FDI destinations in the world," he said, noting that India had received FDI worth \$260 billion, which was 45% of the FDI received in the last 18 years.

In his 20-minute speech, Mr. Modi talked about how his government had ushered in reforms and initiated measures that had helped the economy grow stronger and made India a major destination for investments and business.

Over the last four years, the focus of the government had been to reduce government and enhance governance, he added.

1st & GroundFloor, I.T.  
Bhawan, Mehli, Shimla -171 013  
Tel. No. 0177-2623269  
2623513, 2626320, 2623513 2623043,  
FAX: 0177-2626320  
Website: [www.hpsedc.in](http://www.hpsedc.in)

Date: 17-01-2019

## E-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for Rate Contract of fax Machines, EPABX, PA Equipment, CCTV based Surveillance System (APNR, PTZ & 5MP CCTV Camera) and Aadhaar Enabled Biometrics Device (AEBS/ PDS) machines during the year 2019-2020 for various Government organizations in the State. Pre-Bid meeting will be held on 28/01/2019 (2:30PM) at HPSEDC. Last date for online e-bid submission is 20/02/2019 (upto 2:30 PM) and shall be opened on the same day at 3:00PM. Detailed Tender Document containing Technical Specifications and Terms & Conditions are available on HPSEDC website [www.hpsedc.in](http://www.hpsedc.in) and [https://htenders.gov.in](http://htenders.gov.in).

General Manager (Technical)

## OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, FOREST DIVISION PAONTA SAHIB DISTT, SIRMOUR-(H.P)

## SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

Sealed item wise tenders for the following works are hereby invited from the Registered Contractors from HPPWD/CPWD/IPH Deptt, so as to reach the



# Mahak claims u-21 tennis title in style

Dev Javia fights back to win the boys' u-17 final

## KHELO INDIA

KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Mahak Jain reiterated her claim as one of India's best tennis player by winning the women's under-21 title in the Khelo India Youth Games at the Balewadi Sports Complex here on Friday.

Sporting the composure of a monk, the 17-year-old Mahak bounced back from being down 0-3 and 15-40 in the first set to beat former Asian junior champion Mihi-ka Yadav 6-4, 6-1 in the final.

### Serving well

Troubled only by noisy children in the stands, Mahak served accurately and stroked with conviction to make the contest one-sided.

"I didn't start so well, but got my rhythm and played better. The children were disturbing, as they were talking all the time," said Mahak, who repeatedly requested the umpire to calm them down.

The umpire Leena Na-geshkar took the mike at one stage to make the request in



**Family time:** Mahak Jain with father Vijay and mother Rashmi after her triumph.

■ KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Marathi, which worked like magic, as the stands fell silent.

"It feels great to win this tournament. I look forward to other tournaments," said Mahak, who may get a wild card entry in the \$25,000 ITF women's tournament in

Jodhpur, scheduled a week later, before the Fed Cup in Kazakhstan, early in February.

In the men's under-21 doubles final, Armaan Bhatia and Dhruv Sunish played an energetic and entertaining game to tame Ishaque Eqbal

and Nitin Kumar Sinha 10-6 in the super tie-break.

The gold medal won for Maharashtra, could serve as the right tonic for Dhruv before his singles final against Manish Sureshkumar on Saturday.

In the men's under-17 fi-

nal, Dev Javia saved a bunch of set points after being down 3-5 to beat Aryaan Bhatia 7-5, 6-3. Interestingly, while he was serving to strike parity at 4-5 in the set, Dev's racquet flew off his hands along with the serve, but the serve was right and Armaan returned wide on game point.

**The results:** Men: Under-21: Third place: Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Paramveer Singh Bajwa 6-2, 6-0.

**Doubles:** Final: Armaan Bhatia & Dhruv Sunish bt Ishaque Eqbal & Nitin Kumar Sinha 2-6, 6-3, [10-6].

**Under-17:** Final: Dev Javia bt Aryaan Bhatia 7-5, 6-3.

**Doubles:** Third place: Ajay Malik & Nitin Singh bt Aman Dahya & Udit Gogoi 6-3, 3-6, [10-7].

**Women:** Under-21: Final: Mahak Jain bt Mihika Yadav 6-4, 6-1.

**Doubles:** Third place: Kaavya Balasubramanian & Sai Avanthika bt Sai Dedeepya & Aditi Are 6-0, 3-6, [10-7].

**Under-17:** Third place: Gargi Pawar bt Lakshmi Reddy 6-3, 6-3.

**Doubles:** Final: Preerna Vichare & Gargi Pawar bt Sai Bhoyar & Hrudaya Shah 6-1, 6-1.

# Punjab and TN in three finals

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PUNE

Punjab and Tamil Nadu made three of the four finals each in basketball in the Khelo India Youth Games at the Balewadi Sports Complex on Friday.

Punjab men's under-21 and women's under-17 will clash with Tamil Nadu in the final. In the other two events, Tamil Nadu under-21 women will play Karnataka while Punjab's under-17 men, who edged past Kerala 84-81 after leading 40-30 at half time, will be challenged by Rajasthan.

In women's hockey, Ha-

ryana beat Odisha 2-0 to set up a title clash with Jharkhand which beat Punjab 3-0, in the under-21 event.

**The results:**

**Basketball (semi-finals):**

**Men:**

**Under-21:** Punjab 72 (Karanwara Gurbaz Sandhu 18, Vinay Kumar 12) bt Kerala 48 (B. Akhil 10). Tamil Nadu 78 (Hariram 21, Arvind Kumar 17, Sheldon Roshan 16) bt Maharashtra 57 (Sameer Qureshi 20).

**Under-17:** Punjab 84 (Arvinder Singh 25, Rajan 16, Navkarmen Singh 16, Mannatpreet 15, Eknor Johal 10) bt Kerala 81 (Aaron Blessen 31, Pranav Prince 18, Jerome George 14); Rajasthan 67 (Rajveer Bhati 16, Jitendra Sharma 12) bt Haryana

56 (Vikrant 16, Ashok 12, Sail 12).

**Women:** **Under-21:** Tamil Nadu 79 (Pushpa Senthilkumar 26, Ishwarya 17, Dharshini 14) bt Uttar Pradesh 52 (AL Ankrita Singh 17, Pooja Yadav 15). Karnataka 79 (M Bhandara 31, B Harshita 16, K Lopamudra 12) bt Kerala 65 (KC Lithara 22, R Sreekala 20).

**Under-17:** Punjab 80 (Harsimran Dhami 35, Kanishka Dhir 17, Sapna 10) bt Maharashtra 73 (Siya Deodhar 24, Suzanne Pin 10, Shruti Bhosale 10, Abha Lad 10). Tamil Nadu 70 (Sathya 14, Nikita 14, Shree Varshini 14, Steffie Agnes 14) bt Kerala 64 (Ann Mary Zachariah 25, Akshaya Philip 26).

Pune fighter Devika Ghorapade defeated Haryana's Rinu in the girls U-17 46kg category, winning 3-2.

Manipur's Tingmila Doun-gel will take on Ekta (Punjab) in the 48kg final after the latter scored an unanimous points verdict over Sangeeta (Haryana).

Pranjali and Devika will fight Arundhati Choudhary (Rajasthan) and Haryana's Tamanna respectively in the title fight.

# Kattimani a step away from triumph

## BOXING

### SPORTS BUREAU

PUNE

World Youth bronze medalist Bhavesh Kattimani (Maharashtra) and Asian Championship bronze medal winner Ankit Narwal (Haryana) secured final berths in their respective weight classes at KIYG boxing competition.

The former, from the Army Sports Institute here,

overcame a challenge from Manipur's Kongkham Naoto-i Singh in the boys' U-21 52kg class. In the 60kg bout, the latter knocked out Rahul Mamgai (UP) 4-1.

Kattimani and Narwal will face off against Anwar (Karnataka) and Hariyansh Tiwari (Maharashtra) for the gold.

In the girls' U-17 70kg category, Hissar girl Pranjal Yadau stunned 2018 Nations Cup champion and state-mate Raj Sahiba 3-2.

Pune fighter Devika Ghorapade defeated Haryana's Rinu in the girls U-17 46kg category, winning 3-2.

Manipur's Tingmila Doun-gel will take on Ekta (Punjab) in the 48kg final after the latter scored an unanimous points verdict over Sangeeta (Haryana).

Pranjali and Devika will fight Arundhati Choudhary (Rajasthan) and Haryana's Tamanna respectively in the title fight.

# Colado's goal gives East Bengal full points

## I-LEAGUE

Y.B. SARANGI

KOLKATA

Jamie Santos Colado's early second half goal helped East Bengal to get back to winning ways with a 1-0 verdict against Indian Arrows in an I-League match at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan here on Friday.

EB, which had lost its previous match to Chennai City FC, lost its defender Manoj Mohammad in injury time due to two yellow cards, re-

sulting in a red, but managed to beat Arrows twice in 10 days.

With three points from the victory, EB aggregated 22.

Arrows, fielding six under-17 World Cuppers in the starting XI, gave a good fight in the opening half.

Anwar Ali led the Arrows' defence with promptness, while goalkeeper Prabhusukan Singh Gill protected the goal with alertness.

Arrows primarily depended on the dead ball in their

search for a goal. Rahul K.P. did some hard work upfront without any success.

EB was slow early on and did not have any real scoring chance in the first half-an-hour.

A 35th minute throw-in resulted in the best chance when Frenchman Cassim Aidara's shot from outside the box hit the upright.

Colado's wrong passing inside the area did not help EB minutes before the half-time.

The result: East Bengal 1 (Colado 48) bt Indian Arrows 0.

in the second half and got the much-awaited lead in the 48th minute.

Jobby Justin went past Boris Singh to provide a low ball to Colado and the Spaniard tapped in from a goal-mouth melee.

The home team got several chances but lacked the cutting edge to inflate the lead. Dovale sent in a cross but neither Johnny Acosta nor Aidara could score in the 54th minute.

The result: East Bengal 1 (Colado 48) bt Indian Arrows 0.

EB showed some urgency

from Cote d'Ivoire hampered it wide. It was a golden chance that went down the drain.

Even as Aizawl was cursing its luck, Chennai City reprieved in a fitting fashion through Sandro. The midfielder from Spain cashed in on a well-directed feed from Pravito Raju to put the team on top.

Aizawl responded nine

minutes later with Albert connecting a Jaryan pass into the net much to the joy of the team. It was obviously pleased with its first half effort.

The second session saw Chennai City in an attacking mood. The team has always fared well during this period in most of its matches. Manzi and Nestor Jesus, the Spanish duo, who played a quiet

first half, got into the thick of things. They kept harassing the Aizawl defence and it paid off in the 60th minute.

Manzi, the league's top scorer, came up with a stunning shot from a 40-yard range for which the Aizawl custodian had no answer.

Sandro put the team further ahead converting a direct free kick in the 69th minute.

Chennai City made the night even more memorable with Manzi scoring another. This time around, it was Nestor's magical pass that saw the striker finding the back of the net. Just when it looked all over, Aizawl scored surprisingly twice in the space of two minutes.

But before any further clamage came the final whistle.

The results: Chennai City FC 4 (Sandro Rodriguez 29 & 69, Pedro Manzi 60 & 80) bt Aizawl 3 (Albert 38, Vanlalruatela 91, Lakkhawpuimawia 93).

minutes later with Albert connecting a Jaryan pass into the net much to the joy of the team. It was obviously pleased with its first half effort.

The second session saw Chennai City in an attacking mood. The team has always fared well during this period in most of its matches. Manzi and Nestor Jesus, the Spanish duo, who played a quiet

first half, got into the thick of things. They kept harassing the Aizawl defence and it paid off in the 60th minute.

Manzi, the league's top scorer, came up with a stunning shot from a 40-yard range for which the Aizawl custodian had no answer.

Sandro put the team further ahead converting a direct free kick in the 69th minute.

Chennai City made the night even more memorable with Manzi scoring another. This time around, it was Nestor's magical pass that saw the striker finding the back of the net. Just when it looked all over, Aizawl scored surprisingly twice in the space of two minutes.

But before any further clamage came the final whistle.

The results: Chennai City FC 4 (Sandro Rodriguez 29 & 69, Pedro Manzi 60 & 80) bt Aizawl 3 (Albert 38, Vanlalruatela 91, Lakkhawpuimawia 93).

# Diamond Rays well prepped for an encore

BENGALURU: Diamond Rays, who is in fine nick, may score an encore in the R.W.I.T.C Trophy (1,200m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Saturday (Jan. 19). False rails (width about 7.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

**1 DHARWAR PLATE** (1,200m), rated 15 to 35, 2-5 pm: 1. Analease (5) Suraj 60, 2. Aceros (1) Akshay K 58, 3. Camila (9) Nazerul 58, 4. Nostradamus (2) Chetan K 58, 5. Touch Your Destiny (10) Trevor 57, 6. King Of Shadows (3) N. Rajesh 57, 7. Flaming Glow (8) Vivek 55, 8. Mayurana (12) Irwan 55, 9. Scholasticus (4) David Alain 55, 10. Secret superstar (11) R. Pradeep 55, 11. Astron (7) Rathod 55 and 12. Odyssey (6) Sai Kiran 55.

1. ACEROS, 2. TOUCH YOUR DESIRE, 3. COLOUR OF GOLD

**2 HARANGI PLATE** (1,600m), rated 30 to 50, 5-50yo & over, 3-15: 1. Deepalika (5) R. Pradeep 60, 2. Masada (3) Arshad 59.5, 3. Casey (6) Neeraj 58.5, 4. Fresh Start (4) I. Chisty 58.5, 5. Wild Angels (7) Praveen Shinde 57.5, 6. Starry Wind (8) Sandesh 57, 7. Secret Dimension (2) Rajesh K 54 and 8. Midnight Sky (1) Adarsh 53.5.

1. STARRY WIND, 2. DEEPLAKIKA, 3. MASADA

**3 PARFAIT AMOUR PLATE** (1,400m), rated 15 to 35, 5-50yo & over, 2-45: 1. Summer Dawn (1) Rathod 50, 2. Birchwood (7) Md. Akram 59, 3. Colour Of Gold (10) M. Naveen 59, 4. Granada (5)

Rayan 57, 5. She's Stylish (11) S. Shareef 56.5, 6. Smile Of Peace (9) R. Manjunath 56, 7. Youresome (2) B. Harish 56, 8. Tea Wid (12) Sai Kiran 55, 9. Freestyle (6) Irwan 55.3, 10. Desert Gilt (3) Vinod Shinde 51.5, 11. Kingofhearts (8) Trevor 51.5 and 12. Ink Black (4) Arshad 50.5.

**1. KINGOFHEARTS, 2. FREESTYLE, 3. COLOUR OF GOLD**

**4 R.W.I.T.C TROPHY** (1,200m), rated 75 & above, 4-15: 1. Bold Command (3) Ashok K 62, 2. Into The Spotlight (4) David Allan 58, 3. Run Runner (5) I. Chisty 54.5, 4. Masada (3) Arshad 59.5, 5. Case (6) Akshay K 54, 6. Starry Wind (8) S. Shareef 57.5, 7. Sandesh 57.5, 8. Trevor 51.

**1. DR. C. VITTAL MEMORIAL TROPHY** (1,200m), rated

# Kerala's amazing run to the Ranji semifinals

A potent pace duo, an all-rounder from Indore and an imaginative coach help make history



Changing times: A State that used to be the whipping boys of South Zone for much of its Ranji history, is now one of the semifinalists. • PTI

## Gaikwad's century gives BPXI victory

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Opener Rituraj Gaikwad hit a brilliant century but Board President's XI made heavy weather of a comfortable chase and scraped to a four-wicket win, in the last over, against England Lions in the one-day warm up match

here on Friday.  
**The scores:**

England Lions 255 for six in 50 overs (Alex Davies 100, Sam Hain 31, Sam Billings 31, Mayank Markande three for 41) lost to Board President's XI 256 for six in 49.2 overs (Rituraj Gaikwad 110, Ricky Bhui 93 n.o., Ishan Kishan 36, Zak Chappell three for 53).

who took the court with an 8-4 head-to-head record against Okuhara, fought back from 9-15 and 14-18 down in the two games to extend her dominance over the second-seeded Japanese with a 21-18, 23-21 win in a 48-minute quarterfinals at the Axia Arena.

**The results (Quarterfinals):**  
**Women:** Saina Nehwal bt Nozomi Okuhara (Jpn) 21-18, 23-21. **Men:** Son Wan Ho (Kor) bt K. Srikanth 21-23, 21-16, 21-17.

Seventh seeded Saina,

Saina advances

MALAYSIA MASTERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KUALA LUMPUR

Saina Nehwal scripted a hard-fought straight-game win over former World champion Nozomi Okuhara of Japan to enter the women's singles semifinals but a fighting K. Srikanth crashed out of the \$350,000 Malaysia Masters here on Friday.

Seventh seeded Saina,

## Pel and Baszak leading names in ITF juniors

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

Stijn Pel of the Netherlands will be leading the challenge in the boys' singles section of the ITF junior tennis, the main draw matches of which comes up at the red clay courts of DKS Complex here from Monday.

The grade-2 event will see a good number of junior players from among the top-100 ranking entering the field. Pel will be leading the boys' seeding with his current ranking of 69.

The boys' field would have been better but for the

82nd ranked Sacchitt Sharrma of India, who withdrew from the tournament ahead of the qualifiers, which start on Saturday.

The only Indian likely to be getting a seeding will be Javia Dev in the boys' singles with his ranking of 136. The seedings will be finalised after the qualifiers on Sunday but the presence of an Indian name apart from Dev is unlikely be there in final list.

The girls' section will be seeing Weronika Baszak of Poland leading the pack with her current ranking of 86.

**MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED**  
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)  
Corporate Office, 2nd Floor, MESCOM Bhavana, Kavoor Cross Road,  
Bejai, Mangaluru - 575004, Ph: 0824-2885795 E-mail : sepmescom@rediffmail.com  
CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No. MESCOM/SEE(P)/EEC(P)/AE(E/P)/2018-19 / 19841 Date: 10.01.2019  
**TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement Portal Only)**  
MESCOM invites tender for Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of the following material:

Tender No.	Name of the Material proposed for Procurement	Quantity
MESCOM/2018-19/IND574	12.5 MVA, 33/11 KV Power Transformer with OLTC, Numerical Type RTCC & Accessories.	5 Nos

The interested eligible bidders may log on to : [www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in](http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) or on after 19.01.2019.  
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.) (Proc), MESCOM, Mangaluru  
For Power Related Complaint & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

**The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.**  
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)  
SANKARAMBALAM, CHAVARA-691 583, KOLLAM, KERALA, INDIA.  
Phone : 0476-2686722 to 2686733 (12 Lines), 265 1000, Fax: 91-476-2680101, 2686721  
E-mail : kmml@md3.vsn1.net.in, URL [www.kmml.com](http://www.kmml.com)

Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or [www.kmml.com](http://www.kmml.com)

No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2019_KMML_260218_1	For Fabrication and supply of Liquified Natural Gas (LNG)
2	2019_KMML_260420_1	For the supply of Tube & Valve Outlet and Tube & Valve Inlet
3	2018_KMML_256093_1	For Fabrication and supply of Tickle Condenser (M.Chiller) E 1309/1310
4	2019_KMML_261508_1	For supply of 6/700 MT of Liquid Oxygen

HOU (TP)  
For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd.  
Our Products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge

P.K. AJITH KUMAR  
KOZHIKODE

Two of the most fascinating stories of this Ranji Trophy season unfolded at Kerala's picturesque Wayanad Cricket Stadium (Krishnagiri) over the last couple of days. In golden sunlight on Wednesday evening, Sanju Samson came out to bat – at the fall of the ninth Kerala wicket. That stunned the fielding side – Gujarat – and the small number of spectators.

For, Kerala's most accomplished batsman's ring finger on his right hand had been broken by left-arm seamer Arzam Nagwaswalla on the opening day, forcing him to retire hurt on 17. He batted with one hand, survived nine balls and helped Jalaj Saxena add eight more runs. In a low-scoring match on a two-paced green top, even one run could have proved crucial.

If Sachin Baby's men needed one more compelling reason to go all out for an unprecedented quarterfinal

victory, Samson provided that. Such courage, such sacrifice ought not go in vain. It did not.

### The biggest story

Kerala, which had set a target of 195, bowled Gujarat out for 81 to author the biggest story of the 85th edition of India's premier domestic tournament. A State that has no great cricket tradition to boast of and that used to be the whipping boys of South Zone for much of its Ranji history dating back to 1957-58, is now one of the semifinalists.

The win at Krishnagiri was fashioned by Kerala's pacers. In Sandeep Warrier and Basil Thampi, the team could claim to have the best new-ball attack in the competition.

The 72 wickets they have taken, between them, support that claim (they took eight each against Gujarat). And Kerala played all its four home matches on the turning track at Thumpa, Thiru-

vananthapuram, where Saxena's off-spin came in handy (he has 28 wickets).

The Indore-born all-rounder is also Kerala's leading run-getter, with 537 runs. Baby, opener P. Rahul and Vishnu Vinod are the other main scorers.

But two of the most vital innings in Kerala's campaign were played by Vinoop Manoharan and Sijomon Joseph, both of whom fancy themselves more as spinners. Coach Dav Whatmore asked them to bat at the top of the order in crunch situations, and they delivered.

With several master-strokes like that, the veteran Australian coach has transformed this young team – which doesn't include a single player who has played a Test or an ODI – into a group of men who believe they can beat anyone, anywhere.

Three former champions – Delhi, Bengal and Gujarat – have already been felled by them. They are hungry for more.

## Karnataka in last four

Karnataka scripted a six-wicket win over Rajasthan inside four days and advanced to the semifinals of the Ranji Trophy at Bengaluru on Friday.

### The scores:

**At Bengaluru:** Rajasthan 224 & 222 lost to Karnataka 263 & 185 for four in 47.5 overs (Karnan Nair 61 n.o., Manish Pandey 87 n.o.).

**At Nagpur:** Uttarakhand 355 & 152 for five in 57.1 overs (Karanveer Kaushal 76) vs Vidarb-



Sarwate 102).  
**At Lucknow:** Uttar Pradesh 385 & 194 in 72.1 overs (Mohammed Saif 48, Dharmendra Singh Jadeja four for 53) vs Maharashtra 208 & 195 for two in 67 overs (Harvik Desai 83 batting, Snell Patel 72).

## Aravind finishes 37th in Dakar Rally

SPORTS BUREAU  
LIMA

India's K.P. Aravind finished a creditable 37th as the 2019 Dakar Rally concluded in Peru on Friday.

The 33-year-old from Karnataka thus became the second Indian to complete the gruelling off-road event, after C.S. Santosh. Aravind, who represents the Sherco TVS Rally Factory Team, had competed in the Dakar twice before but had crashed out on both occasions.

"The feeling of finishing Dakar is yet to sink in fully as I have been dreaming and waiting for this moment for three years now," he said after the end of the tenth and final stage in Lima.

"With multiple injuries in the run up, I always knew I had to push myself beyond the comfort zone to finish the rally."

"The route this year was extremely challenging but I was ready to fight it out and finish one stage at a time. Dreams do come true if you truly believe in them."

Aravind was the only Indian left in the race with Santosh having crashed out earlier.

It was a good outing for the Sherco TVS team, with riders Adrien and Michael



Metge finishing 22nd and 25th respectively. Meanwhile, Spaniard Oriol Mené, representing the Hero Motorsports team, finished ninth.

Australia's Toby Price, riding for the Red Bull KTM Factory Team, won the bike race to notch up his second Dakar title while Qatar's Nasser Al-Attiyah (Toyota) secured his third crown in the car category.

## Radhika happy to guide youngsters

Says coaches are important for kids when they are starting

SPORTS BUREAU  
SINGAPORE

It was a day of mixed fortunes for Ankita Raina who made the singles semifinals, but had to give a walkover in doubles, in the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Singapore on Friday.

Ankita led 7-5, 2-0 against the second seed and doubles partner Sabina Sharipova of Uzbekistan, when the latter retired owing to an injury.

**The results:**  
**Doubles (quarterfinals):** Quirena Lemoine & Arantxa Rus (Ned) w/o. Sabina Sharipova (Uzb) & Ankita Raina.

On her way to assist a

bunch of players representing India in an under-14 event in France, Radhika said that she was open to the idea of coaching the national team at higher levels, including the Fed Cup team, at some stage in her career.

"We enjoyed playing the game more than anything. Now, even 10-year-olds don't seem to enjoy the game. That is scary. They are mostly mechanical, and there is not much thought in their strokes. Players are not understanding the basics," said Radhika.

She insists that good coaches are important when kids start the game, so that strong fundamentals become part of their routine.

"With better monitoring and better environment, not to forget super discipline and dedication, we can hope our girls reach the next level," she said.

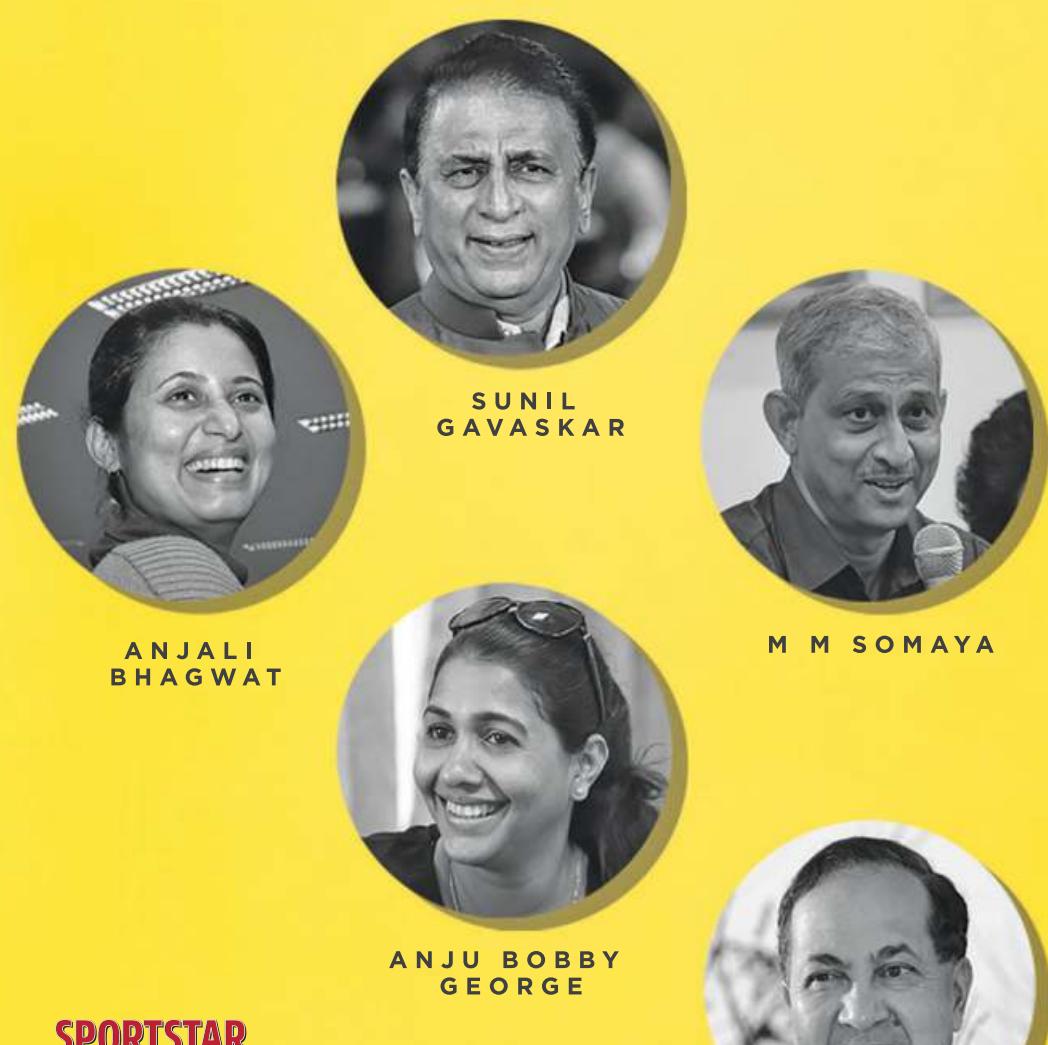
Radhika feels that there is a lot of talent and that it needs direction.

"Learn to enjoy the game and competition from a young age to stay in the game for life. You play the game because you love it, not for others," added Radhika, as she underlined the key philosophy for happiness and success in the sport.



## THE SPORTSTAR ACES AWARDS JURY

MAKING US PROUD ON THE FIELD AND OFF IT TOO



**SPORTSTAR**  
**ACES**  
CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN SPORTS

[sportstar.thehindu.com/aces-awards/](http://sportstar.thehindu.com/aces-awards/)

Industry Partner

CII  
Confederation of Indian Industry

Television Partner

CNN NEWS 18

An Initiative by

THEME  
The Hindu Group Events, Meets & Experiences



THE HINDU GROUP



ILLUSTRATION: KANNAN SUNDAR

# Celebrating the misfit in the Big Four universe

Andy Murray may not have been the best male player of his era, but he has a strong case for being considered the most significant

PREETHI RAMAMOORTHY

**H**istory has witnessed the fall of several empires. For some, the collapse is quick. For others, it is slow but sure. There is no single moment of ultimate doom. The pieces fall one by one. The winds keep shifting and stronger forces threaten to take over.

The Big Four in tennis is an empire. Seldom has a quartet dominated the sport in such emphatic fashion: from 2005 to 2016, men's tennis contested 48 Grand Slam tournaments; 46 had at least one of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray in the final, and 30 had two of them; 42 had a Big Four winner.

Over the last few years, the Big

Four empire has been through its own epoch of uncertainty.

There was a spreading realisation that what was once an indestructible colossus is now something else. There were supposed chinks in its armour.

It received its most defining blow yet at the Australian Open this year, when a tearful and injury-plagued Murray announced he was going to retire.

Seldom has any tennis player had to carry the weight of expectation in a way that Murray has. And seldom has anyone's path to triumph been subjected to quite so much failure, scrutiny and criticism.

At the 2010 Australian Open, Murray, in only his second appearance in a Grand Slam final, lost to

Federer in straight sets. It was possibly the first time any crowd saw him lose his stiff upper lip, well before the 2012 Wimbledon final.

Fighting back tears, Murray quipped with a sardonic smile, "I can cry like Roger, it's just a shame I can't play like him."

#### Persona non grata

Murray has always been considered a misfit, a persona non grata in the Big Four universe. He does not have the grace of Federer, the grinding endurance of Nadal or the physics-defying techniques of Djokovic. Perhaps his body of work – two Wimbledon triumphs, a U.S. Open victory, two Olympic gold medals, a Davis Cup win, 45 career titles and the World No. 1 ranking – would have been cele-

bated more in a different era.

But this is precisely why there's plenty to admire about his pursuit of success, being 'a human in the land of Gods'.

Murray winning means Murray working. He switches angles and spins several times within a rally, he runs down every dying drop shot. He grinds out points, he grimaces. He charges at rallies, he chunbers away in agony.

His game is relentlessly physical as much as it is tactical. Writer Mark Hodgkinson notes in his book *Andy Murray, Wimbledon Champion* that when Murray appeared at his first Wimbledon in 2005, he was the skinniest, gawkiest kid on the tennis block.

During his peak, he was one of the fastest and fittest on tour with a body like a machine.'

But his style, coupled with a complete surrender to a strict fitness regimen, meant he was putting his body through unreasonable demands. His right hip had been bothering him for years and he underwent back surgery in 2013.

*Time* magazine once described his tennis as 'a concerto of arrhythmic disarray'. Proof of that came during his clash against Roberto Bautista Agut this year in what could possibly have been his last match ever.

There were moments of drama and frustration, moments of utter brilliance and defiance: a reminder of all the things that have made

his game so memorable.

When asked about Murray, former player and current coach Raemon Sluiter told *Eurosport* that he had "nothing against Federer, Nadal and Djokovic, but Murray to me is the purest of them all. With him, what you see is what you get. The other three are very well aware of their surroundings. Murray is himself in every moment."

#### Enduring legacy

Following the news of his impending retirement, Wimbledon announced that it would instate a statue of him on the hallowed lawns of the All England Club. It was there that he accomplished the one thing that was expected, even demanded, of him: a Brit.

But Murray's enduring legacy will not be one of a figurine next to Fred Perry's, but more about what he has achieved outside the court. Billie Jean King, in her congratulatory tweet, implored him to "remember that your greatest impact on the world may be yet to come".

Murray has long been an outspoken proponent of the women's game. This side of him stretches right from the casual – praising Agnieszka Radwanska's style, wanting to play against Serena Williams – to the more pressing – how women should be paid equal across all tournaments and how the men should be working not just for the men's game, but the

men's and women's games. He was World No. 1 only in 2016, but he was tennis patriarchy's No. 1 internal critic well before that.

He was the only top men's player who hired a woman, Amelie Mauresmo, to be his coach, in 2014. The move was met with rolled eyes and scoffing criticisms. Every failure of his was laid at Mauresmo's feet, every success ignored.

Murray, who had been coached by his mum Judy as a kid, said he found it shocking.

In his blog he wrote, "Have I become a feminist? Well, if being a feminist is about fighting so that a woman is treated like a man, then yes, I suppose I have."

Two years ago, during what can be seen now as his last run, he corrected a journalist who said Sam Querrey was the first American since 2009 to reach a Grand Slam semifinal. "Male player," he interjected. The rest of the press conference room erupted in chuckles, but Murray barely cracked a smile.

*Tennis* magazine wrote of him: "He may not be the best player of this generation, but is the most important one."

As Murray is being garlanded for his many achievements in the upcoming weeks, it would be appropriate to remember him as a man who has constantly battled to find his own way despite the crushing weight around him and, in the process, reshaped the game forever, on- and off-court.

## WORD PLAY

### Pits

#### ON THE BOX

#### STACKING UP



**ICC Test Rankings**

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	India	43	5,007	116
2	South Africa	39	4,280	110
3	England	49	5,310	108
4	New Zealand	30	3,213	107
5	Australia	41	4,143	101
6	Sri Lanka	45	4,103	91
7	Pakistan	32	2,803	88
8	West Indies	35	2,463	70
9	Bangladesh	25	1,727	69
10	Zimbabwe	11	138	13

**ODI Rankings**

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	England	55	6,918	126
2	India	60	7,201	120
3	New Zealand	46	5,188	113
4	South Africa	45	4,985	111
5	Pakistan	43	4,370	102
6	Australia	42	4,220	100
7	Bangladesh	39	3,608	93
8	Sri Lanka	57	4,426	78
9	West Indies	40	2,899	72
10	Afghanistan	36	2,394	67

**T20I Rankings**

#	TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1	Pakistan	36	4,979	138
2	India	42	5,298	126
3	England	22	2,586	118
4	Australia	28	3,266	117
5	South Africa	22	2,502	114
6	New Zealand	26	2,940	113
7	West Indies	27	2,725	101
8	Afghanistan	27	2,490	92
9	Sri Lanka	30	2,580	86
10	Bangladesh	30	2,321	77

#### English Premier League Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Liverpool	22	18	3	1	50	10	40	57
2	Manchester City	22	17	2	3	59	17	42	53
3	Tottenham Hotspur	22	16	0	6	46	22	24	48
4	Chelsea	22	14	5	3	40	17	23	47
5	Arsenal	22	12	5	5	46	32	14	41
6	Manchester United	22	12	5	5	44	32	12	41
7	Watford	22	9	5	8	32	32	0	32
8	Leicester City	22	9	4	9	26	25	1	31
9	West Ham United	22	9	4	9	30	32	-2	31
10	Everton	22	8	6	8	33	31	2	30
11	Wolverhampton Wanderers	22	8	5	9	23	28	-5	29
12	Bournemouth	22	8	3	11	31	42	-11	27
13	Brighton and Hove Albion	22	7	5	10	24	30	-6	26
14	Crystal Palace	22	6	4	12	20	28	-8	22
15	Burnley	22	6	3	13	23	43	-20	21
16	Southampton	22	4	7	11	23	39	-16	19
17	Cardiff City	22	5	4	13	19	41	-22	19
18	Fulham United	22	3	6	12	16	30	-19	14
19	Nfulham United	22	2	5	15	13	37	-24	11

#### Spanish La Liga Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Barcelona	19	13	4	2	53	20	33	43
2	Atletico Madrid	19	10	8	1	27	13	14	38
3	Villarreal	19	9	6	4	31	20	11	33
4	Real Madrid	19	10	3	6	28	24	4	33
5	Alaves	19	9	5	5	22	19	3	32
6	Getafe	19	7	7	5	21	16	5	28
7	Real Betis	19	7	5	7	22	23	-1	26
8	Real Sociedad	19	7	4	8	23	22	1	25
9	Girona	19	5	9	5	21	23	-2	24
10	Espanyol	19	7	3	9	21	27	-6	24
11	Valencia	19	4	11	4	17	17	0	23
12	Levante	19	6	5	8	30	35	-5	23
13	Leganes	19	5	7	7	17	21	-4	22
14	Real Valladolid	19	5	7	7	17	21	-2	22
15	Athletic Bilbao	19	4	10	5	20	25	-5	22
16	Eibar	19	5</td						

■ NATHAN STIRK/GETTY IMAGES



ROYAL LONDON

**I** haven't seen many batsmen time the ball as well as Gill does since Sourav Ganguly. Another thing is the head position; it is just perfect

RAJDEEP KALSI | PUNJAB CRICKET MANAGER

# Shubman Gill: India's latest batting prodigy

The Player of the Tournament at last year's Under-19 World Cup, Gill has continued to turn heads — first in the IPL, then in the Ranji Trophy. Picked for the ODIs and T20Is in New Zealand, the 19-year-old is ready to step up

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

**T**he numbers are staggering enough. Age: 19. First Class matches: 9, runs: 1,089, average: 77.78, strike rate: 77.28, hundreds: 3, fifties: 7, highest: 268.

But numbers often don't tell the whole story.

They don't tell you what a delight it is to watch Shubman Gill make those runs. Or how good his technique is, or how unflappable his temperament is.

Just watch him bat in the nets, you will realise the Punjab opener is special. Like Amol Muzumdar did, one morning three years ago at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru.

"I was working with the Under-19 boys then," says the former Mumbai run-machine. "I saw him bat in the nets for five minutes... I knew I was watching someone special."

#### Precocious

Rajdeep Kalsi, Punjab's cricket manager, had watched Gill much earlier, in 2013. "I was in charge of the Himachal Pradesh under-16 team, so Shubman was playing for the rival side, and I still remember how he belied his age with his batting," says the veteran coach. "He was even more aggressive then, and has matured as a batsman very fast."

Kalsi is glad that Gill now is part of his team. On the eve of Punjab's Ranji Trophy match against Kerala at Mohali last month, he had made an interesting statement. "I am afraid we won't have his services for long," he had said.

His words have come true, sooner than he anticipated. Gill has replaced K.L. Rahul in India's ODI and T20I squads for the New Zealand tour.

Gill's graduation to the senior team may have been

hastened by the fallout from a talk show featuring Rahul and Hardik Pandya, but it was always going to be a question of when, not if. The teenager himself had been waiting for that call from the national selectors.

"I am ready for international cricket," he told *The Hindu* after another lovely knock from him had steered Punjab to a 10-wicket win over Kerala at the PCA Stadium. "I can take big challenges now."

**C**I saw him bat in the nets for five minutes... I knew I was watching someone special

AMOL MUZUMDAR | FORMER MUMBAI CAPTAIN

Much of his batting is built on that self-confidence. No stage is intimidating for him.

And you do not get many bigger stages than the IPL, especially when you are just 18. Last year, he made his debut at the world's most glamorous cricket league count.

"Playing in the IPL was my dream, but I saw it only as a part of my journey," Gill says. "I wasn't overawed by the atmosphere of the IPL; my only worry was that I had never played much T20 in my life, not even in the Syed Mushtaq Ali tournament."

Yet, playing for Kolkata Knight Riders, he made 203 runs from 13 matches at an average of 33.83 and a strike rate of 146.04. The unbeaten 57 off 36 balls against Chennai Super Kings was further proof of his temperament and shot-making abilities.

It was his heroics at the Under-19 World Cup in New Zealand that caught the eye of IPL talent scouts. He scored 372 runs at an average of 124 to star in India's triumph. He was named the Player of the Tournament.

"That was a turning point in my career," he says. "Everyone got to know who

Shubman Gill was."

This season he has been letting the world know how good he is. After scoring 268 off 328 balls against Tamil Nadu at Mohali, he made a scintillating 148 off 154 balls that almost pulled off an unlikely victory in Hyderabad.

Muzumdar was at both those matches as a commentator. "The knock against Hyderabad is one of the finest I have seen in First Class cricket in recent times," he says. "I feel Gill's batting is mostly about temperament and technique."

And timing, you might add. He seems to have more time to play the ball than most batsmen of his age.

"I haven't seen many batsmen time the ball as well as Gill does since Sourav Ganguly," says Kalsi. "The ball just leaves his bat all the way to the boundary. Another thing I have noticed about his batting is the head position; it is just perfect."

#### A head start

Gill's pursuit of perfection began very early. "I was just three or four years old when my father (Lakhwinder Singh) started training me," he says. "In my village of Chak Khara Wala, in Fazilka district, he would make me practise against fast bowlers, and that has helped me evolve as a batsman."

That he was a prodigy was pretty evident, even to his contemporaries. "We all felt he was a level ahead of us," says Jaish Jain, a Punjab under-19 batsman. "I am not at all surprised by the success he has had. He is an inspiration for us."

As for Gill, he is motivated by the ease with which his World Cup captain Prithvi Shaw has transitioned to the Test level. "I felt if he could, I too could," he says.

Could Shaw and Gill open together for India one day? That is an intriguing thought.

■ JAN KRUGER/GETTY IMAGES



## United threat looms over London derby

The Red Devils' recent surge will play on the minds of Arsenal and Chelsea when they face off at the Emirates on Saturday

**C**helsea and Arsenal clash in the Premier League this weekend, with the managers of both clubs looking nervously over their shoulders at a charging Manchester United.

Arsenal has lost three of its past six Premier League matches to fall six points behind Chelsea in the race for a top-four finish.

Unai Emery's men are now level on points with sixth-placed Manchester United, which has won all five league matches under the temporary leadership of Ole Gunnar Solskjær.

Emery had led his side on a 22-game unbeaten run between August and December as Arsenal mounted a strong challenge for a return to the Champions League.

But the feel-good factor has vanished at the Emirates and United now trails fifth-placed Arsenal only on goal difference.

Mesut Ozil, the club's biggest earner, is being frozen out and there are reports that head of recruitment Sven Mislintat could be on his way out of the club.

Former Arsenal midfielder Emmanuel Petit said Emery needs to completely rebuild the squad and fears the mood could quickly change against the manager, describing the game as a "must-win".

"This team is not good enough to fight for the title," he told *The Daily Mirror*. "This team is strong enough to fight for third or fourth place and that's it. They've been like that for years and years. You don't have to be a magician to understand that."

"I was thinking, 'OK, you sacked Arsene Wenger for good reasons'. But then I was expecting a revolution at the club. But it's not happened."

Chelsea hopes to have Gonzalo Higuaín signed up in time to feature at the Emirates, but will the Argentine solve the Blues' striking woes?

Former Arsenal favourite Olivier Giroud and Atletico Madrid-bound Alvaro Morata have scored a paltry six Premier League goals between them this season, with Eden Hazard leading the way on 10.

Higuaín, 31, has struggled at AC Milan this season, on loan from Juventus, with just eight goals in all competitions – prompting doubts over whether he is the man to make the difference.

But Higuaín enjoyed his most prolific season under Sarri at Napoli in 2015-16, and the manager will hope the veteran striker's arrival will not only guarantee goals, but also improve Hazard's mood by allowing the Belgian wizard to return to his favoured berth wide on the left. AFP

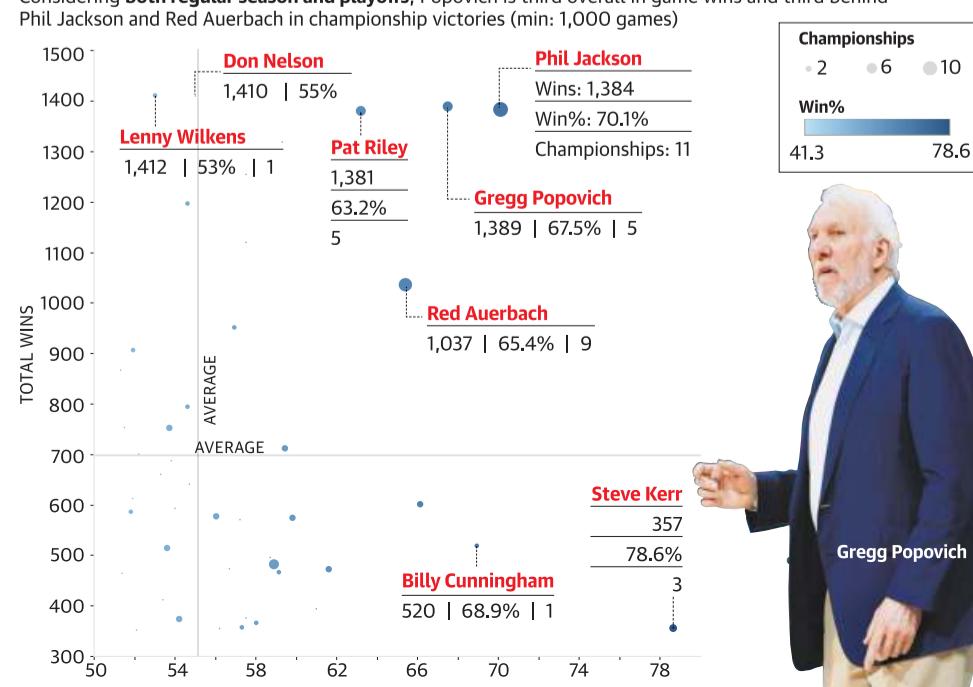
## GAME THEORY

### Master of success

Gregg Popovich of the San Antonio Spurs won his 1,222nd NBA game as coach last week – only Don Nelson and Lenny Wilkens have more regular season wins in a coaching capacity

	Coach	From	To	Years active	Games coached	Won	Lost	Win%	Mostly coached
1	Don Nelson	1977	2010	31	2,398	1,335	1,063	55.7%	Milwaukee Bucks & Golden State Warriors
2	Lenny Wilkens	1970	2005	32	2,487	1,332	1,155	53.6%	Seattle Supersonics & Cleveland Cavaliers
3	Gregg Popovich	1997	2019	23	1,782	1,222	560	68.6%	San Antonio Spurs
4	Jerry Sloan	1980	2011	26	2,024	1,221	803	60.3%	Utah Jazz
5	Pat Riley	1982	2008	24	1,904	1,210	694	63.6%	Los Angeles Lakers & Miami Heat

Considering both regular season and playoffs, Popovich is third overall in game wins and third behind Phil Jackson and Red Auerbach in championship victories (min: 1,000 games)



## PICTURE THIS



### Winter in Aspen

In the world of extreme sports, every year kicks off with the Winter X Games. Participants come from all around the globe to compete in snowboarding, skiing and snowmobiling.

An event of this nature usually

travels the planet, with many countries wanting to play host.

However, the Winter X Games has always stayed in America — California (where it began in 1997), Colorado, Vermont, and back now to Colorado (Aspen).

First televised in 2002, the event

has grown slowly and is now not just a sporting competition but a festival which includes music from some of the biggest names in the industry. The likes of Lil Wayne and The Chainsmokers take to the stage this time.

The USA has, for a while, been the dominant force in the sport, with twice as many medals as its closest

competitor: Canada.

Olympians Chloe Kim, Julia Marino and Gus Kenworthy are expected to put on quite the show when the Games returns to Buttermilk Mountain, which has some of the easiest skiing slopes in Aspen, for the 18th consecutive time, next week.

## IN BRIEF

**Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Mary Oliver is dead**

NEW YORK

Mary Oliver, a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet whose work, with its plain language and minute attention to the natural world, drew a wide following while dividing critics, died on Thursday at her home in Florida State in the U.S. She was 83. She had been treated for lymphoma, which was first diagnosed in 2015. *NY TIMES*

**Rihanna to launch her own luxury fashion label**

PARIS

Pop idol Rihanna is preparing to launch her own luxury brand with the world's biggest fashion conglomerate. The Barbados-born superstar, who already has her own highly successful Fenty sportswear label, is in talks with the French giant LVMH, according to *Women's Wear Daily*. *AFP*

**Beyoncé drops lawsuit over 'Feyonce' items**

LOS ANGELES

A lawsuit brought by Beyoncé over the sale of "Feyonce" items to engaged couples has been dismissed at the singer's request. The pop superstar had complained in a 2016 lawsuit that the shirts, hoodies and other items sold to engaged couples by a Texas company infringed on her trademark rights. *REUTERS*

# Age is no bar for live streaming

Elderly people in China vie to make a name for themselves on social media

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BEIJING

In public squares across China, it is not unusual to see retirees practising dance, tai chi, or even singing.

Wang Jinxiang is no different – except that she live streams her performances to an audience of thousands online.

The 62-year-old is among a legion of senior citizens trying to make a name for themselves in China's massive social media scene, a world usually populated by the young.

Undeterred by the frosty winter, Ms. Wang put on a show in a square by the Bird's Nest stadium in Beijing. "Which song do you want to listen next?" she asked her 23,000 followers as she delivered an hour-long special.

**Love at first sight**

She began this hobby after her nephew's teacher showed her the online singing platform Quan Min Karaoke two years ago. Immediately she fell in love.

"When I first started live streaming, I was faced with a

**Cheerful influencer:** Wang Jinxiang performing as she streams live over the Internet from her home in Beijing. *AFP*

lot of issues that were very troublesome. I was not that good at handling the technical things on the smartphone," she said.

Ms. Wang feels she has found an outlet to express herself and now spends two hours every other day of the week singing and performing live fashion shows.

Fans send her virtual gifts that can later be redeemed as cash of varying amounts – China has a wealth of payment apps and social media platforms that allow people to exchange money.

She explained: "Quan Min Karaoke allows the elderly to exercise at home, sing better and show themselves on it."

"I'm constantly thinking of new things to do everyday, what new tricks I can do for tomorrow to attract and entertain everyone," Ms. Wang added.

As well as the usual beauty reviewers and aspiring comedians, live streaming can bring about unlikely stars.

Last year, a corn farmer from a remote cliff-top village became an online sensation by showcasing his daily activities and in 2017 an elderly couple, one of whom

had Alzheimer's disease, won millions of online fans simply by answering questions from the public.

**Leaving a legacy**

In a rapidly ageing nation – by 2050, one in three people in China, or 487 million people, will be over the age of 60, according to the official Xinhua news agency – the Internet has become a sort of fountain of youth for those who want their talents immortalised.

Streaming may be an enjoyable pastime for many, but the Internet can still be a dark place, warned Wang Kelan, who live streams her song and dance performances from the small city of Yuncheng in Shanxi province.

The 72-year-old has endured cyber-bullying from online followers who ridicule her shows.

"Society is actually unfair to the elderly nowadays," said Wang Kelan. "They said it was shameful to do live streaming at such an old age," she confessed, though she insisted that her love for the Internet outshines the toxic comments.

# India ranks third in research papers on artificial intelligence

New analysis tracks publications in peer-reviewed journals

JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

in the AI-space in India and they were tended to collaborate with each other. The Indian Institutes of Technology and the Indian Institutes of Information Technology were among the key centres for AI research.

The report authors interviewed 25 AI researchers across the country, who said that as of now "...there was adequate support and funding from the government and industry for AI research."

Healthcare, financial services, monsoon forecasting, retail and education were the key fields likely to benefit from AI and the field was "unlikely to lead" to a destruction of jobs – a key global concern regarding the field.

India's national think-tank, the NITI Aayog, last June released a discussion paper on the transformative potential of AI in India that said the country could add \$1 trillion to its economy through integrating AI into its economy.

# DD to start its own OTT platform

Plans to offer iconic shows from its huge library of content

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

Doordarshan, India's public service broadcaster, is working towards plans to launch its own OTT (over-the-top) platform to stream content to viewers over the Internet.

"OTT is an important platform. Doordarshan is also planning to have its own digital platform where it can put out its content which can be available worldwide. CEOs of Prasar Bharati and

Doordarshan are working on a project to evolve an online platform for the viewers," said Supriya Sahu, Director-General, Doordarshan.

"We have a huge library of content. Some of our content is iconic. People of India associate themselves with our shows as they have grown up watching such shows," Ms. Sahu said.

Her comment comes amidst reports that Doordarshan is in talks with other

OTT platforms to take its content to a larger audience.

Launched in 1959, Doordarshan is known for creating iconic shows like *Hum Log*, *Buniyaad*, *Fauji*, *Bharat Ek Khoj*, *Byomkesh Bakshi*, *Chitrahaar*, *Shaktimaan*, *Dekh Bhai Dekh* and *Malgudi Days*. Recently, streaming platforms such as Netflix, Hotstar, Voot and SonyLIV have signed an agreement to follow a new industry code of conduct.

# Saturn's rings are younger than thought

They developed in roughly the final 2% of the planet's current age, say scientists

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON

collected by Cassini indicated they formed between 100 million and 10 million years ago in roughly the final 2% of Saturn's current age.

The findings challenge the notion favoured by some astronomers that the rings developed soon after Saturn formed about 4.5 billion years ago along with the other planets, including the earth.

Scientists said that a calculation of the mass of the rings based on gravitational measurements of the planet

Voyager spacecraft. Lower mass indicates a younger age, the researchers said in a study published in *Science*.

Scientists suspect the rings formed perhaps when a large icy comet or moon ventured too close to Saturn and was shattered by gravitational forces or moons collided in orbit. Scientists hope that they can, in the future, get samples of ring material to find the precise date of origin.

# + Japan satellite off to deliver artificial meteors

Payload contains tiny chemical balls

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
TOKYO

A rocket carrying a satellite on a mission to deliver the world's first artificial meteor shower blasted into space on Friday, Japanese scientists said.

A start-up based in Tokyo developed the micro-satellite for the celestial show over Hiroshima early next year as the initial experiment for what it calls a "shooting stars on demand" service.

The satellite is to release tiny balls that glow brightly as they hurtle through the atmosphere, simulating a meteor shower.

It hitched a ride on the small-size Epsilon-4 rocket that was launched from the Uchinoura space centre by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) on Friday morning. The rocket carried a total of seven ultra-small satellites that will demonstrate various "innovative" technologies, JAXA spokesman Nobuyoshi Fujimoto said.

By early afternoon, JAXA confirmed all seven satellites had successfully been launched into orbit. "I was too moved for words," Lena Okajima, president of the company behind the artificial meteor showers, told the *Jiji Press* agency. \

"I feel like now the hard work is ahead."

The company ALE Co. Ltd plans to deliver its first out-of-this-world show over Hiroshima in the spring of 2020. The satellite carries 400 tiny balls whose chemical formula is a closely-guarded secret. That should be enough for 20-30 events, as one shower will involve up to 20 stars, according to the company.

ALE's satellite, released 500 km above the earth, will gradually descend to 400 km over the coming year during orbit.

ALE says it is targeting "the whole world" with its



I was too moved for words. I feel like now the hard work is ahead

LENA OKAJIMA  
ALE Co. Ltd president

products and plans to build a stockpile of shooting stars in space that can be delivered across the world.

When its two satellites are in orbit, they can be used separately or in tandem, and will be programmed to eject the balls at the right location, speed and direction to put on a show for viewers on the ground.

**Multi-coloured flotilla**  
Tinkering with the ingredients in the balls should mean that it is possible to change the colours they glow, offering the possibility of a multi-coloured flotilla of shooting stars.

Each star is expected to shine for several seconds before being completely burned up – well before they fall low enough to pose any danger to anything on the earth.

They would glow brightly enough to be seen even over the light-polluted metropolis of Tokyo, ALE says.

If all goes well, and the skies are clear, the 2020 event could be visible to millions of people, it says.

The company has not disclosed the price for an artificial meteor shower.

# Since 1405, the night watchman keeps vigil over Lausanne

The 'guardian' has to climb 153 stone steps to the top of a bell tower in a Swiss cathedral to shout out the time

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LAUSANNE

Every evening, the night watchman clammers to the top of the Lausanne cathedral bell tower and gets to work: he shouts out the time each hour, keeping a six-century-old tradition alive.

The night watchman, one of the last in Europe, no longer alerts this Swiss city to fires, but he does help residents to keep track of the time. "This is the watchman! The bell has tolled 10. The



bell has tolled 10." On a cold night in December, Marco Carrara, who takes on the

job on the permanent watchman's days off, repeats the message hourly, only chang-

ing the number of chimes that have rung.

Cupping his hands around his mouth, he allows his voice to carry across the rooftops, just as his predecessors have done every evening since 1405.

**Living clock**

All year round, from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m., the night watchman, wearing a big black hat and carrying a lantern, steps out to the bell tower railing to serve as a liv-

ing clock. The night watchman used to play a far more vital role. Back when fire

constituted a permanent threat to medieval cities built in wood, he was an essential part of a network of watchmen, most of whom patrolled the streets. The cathedral watchman was tasked with sounding the alarm at the first whiff of smoke.

Across Europe, there were "thousands, if not tens of thousands" of such guardians protecting urban spaces from fire, said Renato Haesler, who holds the permanent watchman position in Lausanne.

But as technology advanced, the once ubiquitous position became largely obsolete. Today, Lausanne is one of just seven European towns or cities to have maintained the tradition of a year-round watchman, alongside Annaberg, Celle and Norrdringen in Germany, Ripon in Britain, Krakow in Poland and Ystad in Sweden.

**SHISHIR SARAS, 2019**

Ministry of Rural Development  
Government of India

Dendayal Antyodaya Yojana  
National Rural Livelihoods Mission

150 YEARS OF CELEBRATING THE MAHATMA

**Experience Rural India's Unique Handicrafts**

**Major Attraction**

- Exhibition and sale of handcrafted articles by 260 artisans from across the country
- Traditional handcrafted jewellery
- Aari and Sozni work
- Handmade flowers and coir products

**Dilli Haat**  
INA, New Delhi  
16-31 January, 2019  
11:00 AM to 09:00 PM

**ALL ARE CORDIALLY INVITED**

#SHISHIRSARAS2019

DAVY 35101/13/020/1819

# DELHIMETRO



## Lokayukta notice

Delhi BJP legislators will file details of their assets and liabilities to comply with Lokayukta notice [Page 2](#)



## Khyala murders

Son succumbs to injuries two days after neighbour stabs three of a family in Delhi's Khyala [Page 3](#)



## Cheaters Inc.

Rakesh aka Rocky (Emraan Hashmi) makes an enterprise out of an exam scam [Page 4](#)



## Of lavash and labbe

Exploring the modest side of Khan Market leads to some meaty experiences [Page 5](#)

### IN BRIEF



#### Ministry told to amend policy on charcoal usage

NEW DELHI  
The NGT has warned the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change of punitive action against officials if a policy pertaining to the same is not amended by February 28.

[CITY ▶ PAGE 3](#)

#### Sheila divides Delhi Cong responsibilities

NEW DELHI  
Delhi Congress chief Sheila Dikshit has divided party responsibilities among her three working presidents for an organisational approach in the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections. Working president Haroon Yusuf will take care of party activities in EDMC and four Legislative Assemblies, said a senior Delhi Congress leader. [PTI](#)

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	397	Gurugram	347
Ghaziabad	412	Faridabad	379
Noida	405	Greater Noida	416
Good	■	Satisfactory	■
0-50	■	51-100	■
Poor	■	Very poor	■
201-300	■	Severe	■
301-400	■	>401	■
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS)   SOURCE: CPCB			

## After revision, number of voters up by 7% from 2014 LS elections

Aim was to get fresh enrolment, invite objections against any wrong inclusion, says Delhi CEO

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) on Friday published the electoral roll after revision, which stated that Delhi has 1,36,95,291 electors that is up 7% from the number of electors in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections when their number stood at 1,27,06,366.

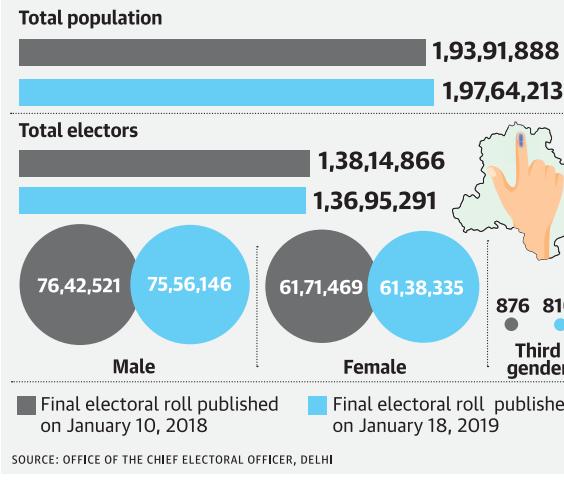
#### Electors may increase

"Total electors during last general elections-2014 were 1,27,06,366 whereas electors as per final roll published on January 18, 2019 are 1,36,95,291 which is an increase of 9,88,925 [7.78%]. The electors are likely to increase further during continuous updation before the general election-2019," the statement said.

The objective of the Special Summary Revision-2019, the CEO Delhi office said in a statement, was to get fresh enrolment (that is enrolling those who have attained the age of 18+) on the qualifying date of January 1, 2019, and

#### Roll call

Total population



giving "opportunities for correction in electors particulars and also to invite objections against any wrong inclusion in the Electoral Roll."

According to the statement, the exercise was based on a house to house verification during the period from June 1, 2018, to June 30, 2018, by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) for identi-

fication and removal of the dead/permanently shifted electors and inclusion of left out un-enrolled or prospective electors.

The CEO said a total number of 1,41,514 electors had been added and the names of 61,999 electors had been deleted from the electoral roll.

"Accordingly, 79,515 net

electors have increased in the electoral roll during the Special Summary Revision-2019," the statement said.

Total electors in the final electoral roll, as on January 18, 2019, stood at 1,36,95,291 which was 1,19,575 (or 0.87%) less than the total electors of 1,38,14,866 in the last final electoral roll published on January 10, 2018, the statement read.

"Names of 9,326 expired electors have been deleted from the electoral roll since the last final publication of the electoral roll held on January 10, 2018. The gender ratio of the electors registered in the final electoral roll has increased to 812 as compared to the gender ratio of 808 in the final roll last published...There has been a substantive increase in the gender ratio of voters of age-group 18-19," the statement said.

The gender ratio had increased from 632 from last year to 706 in the present year, the statement added.

## Top court gives govt 10 days to decide on draft parking rules

Street parking fee to increase exponentially with duration

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Delhi government to take a decision on the draft parking rules, which stress on the need to decongest Capital's roads, within 10 days.

A Bench of Justice Arun Mishra and Justice Deepak Gupta gave the direction after the Delhi government submitted that the "Delhi Maintenance and Management of Parking Rules" were formulated and its draft was notified on January 24 last year.

In an affidavit filed before the top court, the city government said: "After considering the suggestions/objection received, the draft notification was further revised and proposal for obtaining approval of the competent authority for the issuance of notification of these Rules has been submitted to the Minister of Transport, Government of Delhi."

As per the draft rules, an Apex Monitoring Committee, headed by the Delhi Chief Secretary, will determine the Base Parking Fee (BPF).

The draft notification was further revised and proposal for obtaining approval of the competent authority for the issuance of notification of these Rules has been submitted to the Minister of Transport, Government of Delhi.

The draft rules says that surface parking will not be allowed within 500 metres of a multi-level parking lot for more than an hour.

It further said that the 500-metre radius of the multi-level parking facility will be designated a 'no-parking' zone for all streets.

To discourage street parking, the draft rules says that on-street parking fee will increase exponentially with duration to discourage long duration on-street parking.

The draft rules also says that parking will be allowed in demarcated areas on public streets and open surfaces in residential areas against parking charges to be decided by civic agencies.

It further said that in case of residential building, where stilt parking has been built as per bye-laws and yet such residents park their vehicles on public streets, the parking charges shall be twice the normal charges fixed for other residents.

#### Junk vehicles

Any junk vehicles of age more than 15 years for petrol and CNG vehicles and 10 years for diesel vehicles found parked on public streets will be impounded and released only on submission of proof of parking and undertaking that the vehicle would not be plied on roads in Delhi.

The apex court's direction came while hearing a bunch of pleas relating to air pollution in Delhi-National Capital Region.

## High Court stays JNU decision on mandatory attendance for faculty

University can act against teachers on unauthorised leave'



JNU told the court that students have complained against such long-term absence of teaching staff. [FILE PHOTO](#)

against the teaching staff who go on unauthorised leave, according to the rules prevalent before the AC decision of July 13, 2018 making marking of attendance mandatory.

Professor Kidwai's lawyers argued that the two councils did not follow proper procedure when taking their decision which also included bringing in a biometric system of marking attendance. The counsel said that asking for biomantics amounted to breach of privacy of an individual.

Central government standing counsel Monika Aurora, appearing for JNU, told the court that if marking of attendance was not mandatory then it would be difficult to ensure presence of the teaching faculty as many of them go on vacation for months together.

JNU told the court that students have complained against such long-term absence of teaching staff.

Professor Kidwai in her plea, apart from seeking quashing of the decisions of the two councils, has also sought setting aside of various circular issued by JNU making marking of attendance mandatory for sanction of leave or disbursal of salary.

## Passport: FIR against Ansal for misleading govt

Probe launched to identify guilty cops

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police Crime Branch has registered a case against Sushil Ansal, a convict in the 1997 Uphaar cinema fire incident, for misleading the government and misrepresenting on oath while applying for passport, the police said on Friday.

Also, a probe has been launched to find the police officers who helped forge the document and getting the passport renewed, they said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Rajesh Deo said a first information report has been registered in the matter under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) at Crime Branch police station.

**Forged documents**  
"We will investigate how Ansal managed to get the passport and which police officers helped him get the passport renewed on forged documents," said Mr. Deo.

The case was registered on Tuesday under Sections 420 (cheating), 171 (wearing

garb or carrying token used by public servant with fraudulent intent), 181 (false statement on oath or affirmation to public servant), 192 (fabricating false evidence) and 197 (issuing or signing false certificate) of the IPC, and Section 12 of the Passport Act (knowingly allows another person to use a passport or travel document issued to him).

On December 24, 2018, Justice Najmi Waziri had ordered lodging of an FIR against police officers who in 2013 given a favourable verification report to Ansal despite his non-disclosure regarding his conviction in the Uphaar case, which led to the issuance of the travel document to him.

The High Court had rejected the argument made on behalf of Ansal that a citizen was not compelled under the Passports Act to give the information sought from him while applying for a travel document under the tatkal scheme.

A fire at Uphaar cinema during the screening of the film *Border* on June 13, 1997, had killed 59 people.



Out of the blue: A man points at IAF planes during R-Day rehearsals on Friday. [AP](#)

## Fog delays over 400 flights in Capital

Fly-past rehearsals too affected flight landings and take-offs

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

More than 450 flights were affected after dense fog enveloped Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport on Friday morning bringing down visibility to zero for at least three hours.

No take-offs could take place between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. while only those flights that are equipped to carry out landings in low visibility

could arrive at the airport.

To add to the chaos, a no-fly zone over Delhi between 10.45 a.m. and 12.10 a.m. for fly-past rehearsals for Republic Day meant that even though fog cleared, flights had to wait until afternoon for take-offs and landings.

As many as 354 domestic flights and 83 international flights were delayed, some by as much as seven to 12 hours.

Nearly 18 flights were cancelled and five diverted. The huge backlog and consequential delays meant almost all flights throughout the day and until late evening was impacted.

The IGI airport is equipped with CAT-III technology which allows assisted landing even when visibility is below 50m.

The minimum for take-offs is 125 metres.

## Dismissed BSF jawan's son 'accidentally' shoots self, dies

Cops suspect victim was trying to take selfie with revolver



Rohit Yadav.  
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

neighbours to check on him. When knocks on the door did not elicit any response, the neighbours peeped through the window and spotted Rohit lying in a pool of blood.

Rewari police spokesperson Deen Dayal said they received a call regarding the incident around 4.30 p.m. "Rohit's father has in a complaint maintained that the revolver went off accidentally. We are conducting an inquest under Section 174 of the Criminal Procedure Code," said Mr. Dayal.

Rohit had come to stay at Rewari's Shanti Vihar three years ago from his village Ratnala. He had procured an arms licence in hope of getting a job as security guard.

When Rohit did not respond to repeated calls from his mother, she asked the

police to check on him. An idea struck the young man, who decided to fraudulently withdraw cash from his account with the help of his friend - whose job was to

switch off the machine. However, their luck ran out earlier this month when their act was caught on a closed-circuit television (CCTV) camera.

Altaf is currently cooling his heels in jail, while the police are conducting raids to nab his accomplice.

It was recorded as bogus transaction.

Faridabad Police spokes-

person Sube Singh said the duo would open an account in a bank and then withdraw cash from ATM booths using this modus operandi. They withdrew sums of ₹10,000 and struck ATM booths in remote areas of Faridabad, Palwal and Nuh.

Starting from 2016, the duo allegedly committed around a dozen fraud transactions causing a loss of nearly ₹1 lakh to different banks, the police said.

On Tuesday, staff members of an ATM cash management company who had gone to replenish a booth spotted the two young men switching off the machine while making a transaction.

Altaf, who stayed with his brother-in-law in Faridabad, belongs to Khera village

## IN BRIEF



Over 4,000 students enrolled for coaching

NEW DELHI

After the launch of the Jai Bhim Mukhyamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana last year, the Delhi government on Friday said that 4,092 students had enrolled for coaching facilities to various courses, of the proposed target of 5,000 students in a year. Minister SC/ST Rajendra Pal Gautam chaired a meeting on Friday to discuss the progress of the scheme, which provides free pre-coaching scheme for SC/ST students. STAFF REPORTER

## Two JMI students get scholarships from govt

NEW DELHI

Two students of an acting course at Jamia Millia Islamia have been awarded scholarships by the Delhi government. Shivani Pandey and Firoz Abbasi, students of PG Diploma in Acting, A.J.K. Mass Communication Research Centre, were given scholarships for advanced training in theatre by Sahitya Kala Parishad. STAFF REPORTER

# BJP MLAs will obey Lokayukta notice, file asset details: Gupta

Accuses Aam Aadmi Party of resisting similar disclosure by its legislators

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP legislators will file details of their assets and liabilities as required in a notice issued by the Delhi Lokayukta, Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta said on Friday, even as he attacked the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for "resisting similar disclosure by its legislators".

Though a complaint on not filing assets and liabilities was made "only against AAP MLAs", the Lokayukta issued notices to all legislators, including those belonging to the BJP, which reflected its "impartiality", said the BJP leader, adding that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal should have set an example by filing the details himself.

"The BJP MLAs unanimously decided in a meeting in Vidhan Sabha that all four of them will comply



Vijender Gupta during a press conference at the Delhi BJP office on Friday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

with the notice of Lokayukta to file details of assets and liabilities," Mr. Gupta said during a press conference.

## Complaint filed

In a notice, the office of the Lokayukta had asked the ruling AAP legislators, in-

cluding Mr. Kejriwal, to give their replies on a complaint alleging that they are not furnishing details of their assets and liabilities before the competent authority.

The issue was raised by advocate and RTI activist Vivek Garg, who on January 9 had filed a complaint with

the office of Lokayukta alleging that details of assets and liabilities were not being filed by the AAP MLAs for three consecutive financial years.

"The AAP, which came to power four years ago on the plank of honesty and transparency in public life, is now surprisingly opposing the notice issued by the Lokayukta," Mr. Gupta said.

## At loggerheads

Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel said earlier that there was no law under which it was compulsory for the MLAs to furnish these details. Mr. Gupta, however, said the notice by the Lokayukta was a step in the direction of transparency in public life.

"When Parliamentarians can submit details of their assets and liabilities, there is no reason why Delhi MLAs cannot do so," Mr. Gupta said.



A man rides his bicycle on a smoggy Friday morning in New Delhi. ■ PRADEEP KUMAR

## Difficult to live in 'gas chamber' Delhi, say apex court judges

'Pollution affects right to life; norms not being implemented'

## LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Supreme Court Justice Arun Mishra on Friday expressed personal anguish over the toxic air of Delhi and said

that he would not wish to settle in the city after retirement.

"It is better not to be in Delhi. It is difficult to live in Delhi... In the morning and evening, there is so much pollution and traffic congestion," Justice Mishra, who is from Madhya Pradesh, said

in court while hearing a long-pending PIL on air pollution in the city.

His companion judge on the Bench, Justice Deepak Gupta, chimed in saying "Delhi is like a gas chamber".

Both judges pointed out that air pollution affects right to life. Justice Mishra also cited the problem of congestion and said that he was stuck in traffic on Friday and could have missed the swearing-in of two judges at the apex court.

"What are the things which are required to be done in actuality? What remains to be done as per the comprehensive action plan?

What is required to keep in check environmental pollution in Delhi? What more can be done?" it said, adding: "implementation is definitely lacking".

The court asked the Delhi Police what action it had taken to remove unclaimed vehicles – that are no longer required in legal cases – from police stations. It also asked the Delhi government why they have not appointed district "nazir" (record keeper of record-room).

The court posted the matter for further hearing on February 1.

## Properties in south Delhi to be valued, taxed higher

Recommendations of Municipal Valuation Committee approved in part by south civic body

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Recommendations of the third Municipal Valuation Committee, which are expected to increase certain property tax rates, were approved in part by the standing committee of the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on Friday.

The recommendations will effect property categories of industrial plots, vacant land, telecom towers, entertainment or recreational properties such as clubs, educational institutions, guest houses and banquet halls.

The value of a property is based on six factors, including unit area value or the rate per square metre, the total covered area, age, occupancy, 'use factor' and structure. Annual property tax is charged on a percentage of this value.

The recommendations of the MVC will alter the value of properties and have

## IN BRIEF



## Minister conducts raids at FCI godown

NEW DELHI Minister of Food and Civil Supplies Imran Hussain conducted a surprise inspection after he received information about "illegal diversion of ration" to a flour mill from FCI godown at Gheva in Mundka on Thursday night. During the raid, 15 quintals of foodgrains were seized. STAFF REPORTER

## 7 women among 60 arrested for gambling

New Delhi: As many as 60 people, including seven women, were arrested in connection with a gambling racket in south Delhi, police said on Friday. The arrests were made after police raided a premises at Sainik Farm area in Noida. PTI

## Over 400 DDA flats booked on first day

NEW DELHI On the first day of launching the housing scheme, the Delhi Development Authority on Friday saw over 400 flats being booked out of the approximately 950 flats which were provided. STAFF REPORTER

## Seminar on solid waste management held

NEW DELHI The DJB on Friday organised a public awareness seminar on mechanised and eco-friendly ways of sewage disposal and solid waste management in the Capital. "Disposal of waste water into water bodies and dumping of seepage is polluting groundwater and surface water," the DJB said. STAFF REPORTER

## Two arrested for supplying drugs

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI Two persons, including a foreign national, were arrested for allegedly supplying drugs in the Capital and other states. Police claimed to have recovered 6 kg drugs worth ₹24 crore.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Sanjeev Yadav said the accused have been identified as Pannalal alias Vinod, a resident of Dehradun, and Ema (24), who had come to India from Nigeria on a tourist visa in 2017. Police said the accused were arrested on a tip-off from a district park in Paschim Vihar, where Vinod was supposed to meet Ema to deliver the consignment on Thursday.

During interrogation, Pannalal told police that he has been in the trade for the last 15 years. "He used to get drugs from suppliers in Mandsaur and further supply the contraband to Nigerian nationals in Delhi. He had also supplied drugs to his contacts in Uttaranchal, UP and Punjab," Mr. Yadav said adding that Ema was doing the same for the last two years and is illegal staying in India.

## DELHI TODAY

JANUARY 19  
Music: Solo tabla recital by Hitendra Shrivastava, accompanied by Vinay Mishra on harmonium. Followed by Sitar recital by Gopal Shah and Ustad Rafiquddin Sabri on tabla at India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Roaring Sea... Still Mind", a solo show of sculptures, paintings, zen calligraphy at IHC, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Welcome 2019" – a group show of paintings at Roop Chand Institute of Fine Art (RCIFA), Central Market, Ashok Vihar, Phase-1, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

JANUARY 20  
Talk: Swami Durgeshananda on "Vivekachudamani" at Ramana Kendra, Lodhi Road, 5 p.m.

Music: Anahat Music Festival – Hindustani vocal recital by Akhil Kumar Das, followed by a thumri recital by Samina De and a light music performance by students of Pt. Shrikant Bakre Sangeet Vidya Mandir at India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Exhibition: Divinity with Eternity – solo painting exhibition by Alka Sengar at IHC, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. (Mail your listings for this column at cityeditordelhi@thehindu.co.in)

# Khyala murders: son succumbs to injuries after parents' death

Kin, neighbours protest demanding relief for surviving minor children

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A young man who was stabbed multiple times by his neighbour in west Delhi succumbed to his injuries on Friday morning, days after he and his parents were attacked by their neighbour in Khyala on Wednesday evening, the police said.

While Anita\* died on Wednesday, her husband Ram Pal\* passed away on Thursday. The police received information regarding the death of their son Amit\* around 4 a.m. on Friday.

Accused Mohammad Saleem\*, who was arrested on Thursday morning, has also been accused by his daughter of molesting her a few years ago.

Anita and Ram are survived by two minor children and their elder daughter Priya\*, who got married last April. The family of the victims is now worried about the future of the minors,



Family and neighbours of the Khyala murder victims protest in New Delhi on Friday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

aged 8 and 11 years.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Monika Bhardwaj said the police will write to the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DLSA) regarding compensation.

"We will write to the DLSA regarding compensation to be given under the victim compensation scheme," she said.

The family members and neighbours staged a protest

near a mosque in Khyala on Friday demanding relief for the children. The protest started around 12 p.m. and continued till late evening.

"Priya is married and the two other children are too small to take care of themselves. We want the Chief Minister or his representative to meet us to make sure the children are taken care of and have a roof over their head. None of this is their

**C** The elder daughter is married and the two other children are too small to take care of themselves. We want the CM or his representative to make sure the kids are taken care of...

ELDER BROTHER OF VICTIM RAM PAL

fault," said Ram's 54-year-old brother, who works as a driver.

A neighbour, 62-year-old Ramvir Singh, said the protest will continue till action is taken. "We will not perform Amit's last rites till we are assured of relief for the children," Ramvir said.

Ms. Bhardwaj said her team was talking to protesters and trying to pacify them.

Amit's post-mortem will be conducted on Saturday, the police said. The couple's last rites were performed on Thursday.

(\*Names changed)

## Five persons rob gym instructor, give him ₹20 to go home

Incident happened in early hours of Friday in Dwarka Mor

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 24-year-old gym instructor was allegedly robbed after he took a lift from five persons, including a woman, in Dwarka in the early hours of Friday. The woman later gave the victim ₹20 to go home, the police said.

The victim, identified as Kakrola resident Ashish Kumar, told the police that he took a lift to go to NSIT Sector 3 from Dwarka Mor around 12.15 a.m.

**C** ... Instead of dropping me at NSIT, they took me near DDU college. They too my phone and wallet before pushing me out of the car

ASHISH KUMAR  
Victim

"There were four men and a woman in the car. Instead of dropping me at NSIT, they took me near DDU college. They took my

phone and wallet before pushing me out of the car," the victim said in his complaint.

When questioned by the police, Kumar told them that the accused snatched his bag and the woman gave him ₹20 to go back home.

"From his statement, it appears that the woman is a member of the gang," said a senior officer.

The police said they are trying to locate the vehicle and identify the accused.

## Man fleeing attackers hit by bike, dies

Doctors said the victim died of head injuries, say police

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A man was killed after he was allegedly hit by a motorcycle while fleeing a group of men who had attacked him following a fight between two groups in Anand Vihar, the police said on Friday.

The deceased has been identified as Manish, they said.

The incident happened when the victim got into a fight with a few people in the locality. As the situation spun out of control, Manish

started running towards the main road. Eyewitnesses said he was hit by a motorcycle, a senior officer said.

He was taken to a nearby hospital, where he died. The doctors said he died of head injuries, the police said.

A case has been registered and five persons have been arrested in connection with the incident, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) Meghna Yadav.

The case was registered under Sections 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to

murder), 323 (causing hurt), 341 (wrongful restraint) and 34 (common intention) of the IPC, added Ms. Yadav.

The DCP said both parties were drunk at the time of incident.

## Quarrel over auto

Investigation has revealed that the two groups were not on good terms. Both of them alleged that the quarrel began over an autorickshaw.

However, the police said that the claim is yet to be verified.

## Modus operandi

Disclosing the modus operandi, the accused told the

**C** The controversy cropping up is that as per SDMC the alleged encroachment cannot be identified unless there is a proper map by which demarcation can be made on the ground

NIRNIMESH KUMAR  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has convicted a man for attempting to kill a labourer by tying him with a wooden plank and assaulting him with broken whisky and beer bottles in east Delhi's Shahdara in 2014.

## The incident

According to the prosecution, the accused had attacked the victim late in the night when he was asleep on the footpath. The incident took place a few days after they quarrelled over alleged snatching of money from a rickshaw-puller by the victim. It was also admitted by the accused in his defence statement in the court. The injured and his brother had apprehended the accused and produced him before the police. However, the victim failed to identify the weapon of offence during the trial which the court ignored, saying that it was not fatal to the

case. The court also dismissed

another argument by the defence counsel that opinion on the nature of the injuries was not taken.

**C** Key evidence

The prosecution proved the case on the basis of eyewitnesses' evidence by the complainant, his brother and another person and the medical report of the injuries.

"The complainant/injured had given a consistent statement on material aspects, which is duly corroborated by two other eyewitnesses and the evidence of witnesses of investigation and medical examination. The injuries were caused on the vital part of the complainant. In view of the above discussion, the prosecution has proved its case beyond shadow of reasonable doubt. Accordingly, accused is held guilty and convicted for the offences punishable under Section 307 (attempt to murder) IPC," Additional Sessions Judge S.K. Malhotra said in his judgment.

## Four members of gang held for involvement in 70 theft cases

Laptops, mobile phones, catapults and scooty recovered

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The police claimed to have busted a gang of thieves with the arrest of four of its members in west Delhi, the police said on Friday.

The accused are allegedly involved in nearly 70 cases of thefts over the past two months committed using catapults to steal valuables after breaking car windows. The four men have been identified as Bhure (23), Umesh (23), Rahul (22), and Shripal (24).

Catapults, marbles, eight laptops, two mobile phones and one scooter have been recovered from their possession. They were active in Raja Garden, Kirti Nagar, Vikaspuri, Mangolpuri, Anand Vihar and other areas of Delhi.

"The accused would target cars parked on the roadside or service lanes near offices and shopping malls. We received several calls regarding thefts in Punjabi Bagh. A police team was formed and the accused were arrested

**C** MONIKA BHARDWAJ  
Deputy Commissioner of Police (West)

police that one of them would roam around cars to identify vehicles with valuables like laptops, mobile phones or bags. After spotting a target, other members of the gang would receive a

signal. One of them would then bring his motorcycle near the target car and accelerate to mask the noise of the window breaking.

In the meantime, others would hit the window using a catapult. All this while, two other members would be on the lookout for trouble and cover the targeted car.

"The accused belong to a village in Badaun in Uttar Pradesh and had come to Delhi to earn a livelihood. They started by selling eatables at traffic signals. They came in contact with Shripal, who is a resident of Madanpur Khadar in Delhi, and formed a gang," said Ms. Bhardwaj.

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A day after a 26-year-old security guard was found hanging in a school near Swaroop Nagar in outer Delhi, a video in which he is seen speaking about the reason for taking the step surfaced on Friday.

The police also found a six-page handwritten note, purportedly written by him, in which he has alleged that his family members were being threatened and assaulted by relatives of a teenager, who was sent to a correction home, for allegedly raping his niece last October.

In the notes, the guard has also accused a neighbour and her family of assaulting him and his relatives, and even filing a false case against them. He also claimed that the local police failed to act on his threat complaints. The police said an inquiry has been ordered and action will be taken against the police officers concerned.

**C** Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, OII-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.

## Man stabbed for resisting robbery

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A man was stabbed in the stomach for allegedly resisting a robbery in south Delhi's Munirka on Thursday night, the police said. Seimilun Haokip, a resident of Manipur, lives with his wife in Munirka.

"The victim is currently unemployed. His wife works at a general store near Munirka. The incident happened when Haokip was walking towards the general store to take his wife back home," said DCP (South-West) Devender Arya.

Instead of taking the main road, he took a shortcut through a slum, said the DCP. "He alleged that he was waylaid by two-three men, who asked him to part with his mobile phone. They stabbed him when he resisted and fled," said Mr. Arya. Haokip called the police at 9.15 p.m. A team arrived at the spot and found a knife near the crime spot. Haokip was rushed to a hospital, where his condition is said to be serious. The DCP said some suspects have been identified and a case has been registered at Vasant Vihar police station.

## Delhi CEO complains against fake news, case filed

'Material circulating on social media'

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has registered a case after "fake news" related to the Lok Sabha poll schedule started circulating on various social media platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, etc.

**C** LETTER BY OFFICE OF DELHI CEO

circulation on various social media platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, etc.," the letter reads.

Multiple officers who visited the spot pegged the loss at nearly ₹5 crore but official confirmation on actual value of the loot is still awaited.

The theft came to light on Friday morning when the owner opened the store, and found gold, silver and diamond jewellery missing. The thieves even took away cash from the shop. Anuj Garg, the owner of Agarwal Jewellers, reported the incident to the police.

The police are scanning the footage from CCTV cameras installed nearby as the ones in the shop were out of order. A case has been registered and an investigation is on.

## Burglars strike at jewel shop

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A group of thieves allegedly broke into a jewellery store by making a hole in the shop's concrete roof in north Rohini and decamped with gold and diamond ornaments, the police said on Friday.

The incident happened on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday, they said.

Multiple officers who visited the spot pegged the loss at nearly ₹5 crore but official confirmation on actual value of the loot is still awaited.

The theft came to light on Friday morning when the owner opened the

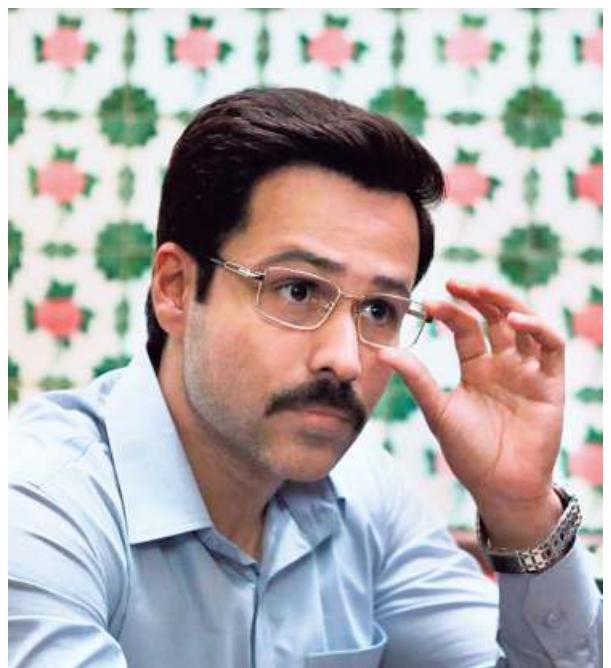
## FILM REVIEWS

# Cheaters Inc.

What could have been a compelling examination of the many ills plaguing India's education system gets derailed even before the film's interval

## NAMRATA JOSHI

A few years ago the infamous picture of "Bihari cheating"—people climbing up the examination hall building to pass on notes to examinees—had left many incredulous. Aisa bhi hota hai (Does this also happen)! Whether the viral picture was fake or not, the problem is definitely real. I remember growing up in Uttar Pradesh hearing tales of proxy thesis writers and PhD providers. The central conceit of Soumik Sen's new film then rings true—using bright and needy students to fill in for rich and not so bright ones to help them clear entrance exams



**Blah affair:** The film prefers to stay on the surface

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

for much in demand courses. Rakesh aka Rocky (Emraan Hashmi) makes an enterprise out of the examination scam. The rat race, the learning by rote culture, proliferation of coaching centres, significance of marksheets, reliance on juaad, finding short cuts to success and buying everything—from degrees to jobs—is peculiarly Indian and

could have lent itself well to an engaging, empathetic as well as sharply critical film.

Sen begins well. The lived-in small town ambience and its relatable people, a nice set of little known actors work well. Sen's keen use of split screens, however, typifies a larger problem, metaphorically—the film itself getting divided between the promising and the utterly disappointing. Things come crumbling down when the action shifts to Mumbai and the exaggerated murkiness of the MBA scams, drugs, guns and more. The moral position of the film as well as the central protagonist feels unconvincing in its carefully cultivated ambiguity. Emraan Hashmi's Rocky is neither a hero nor a villain but a player. Fine! But blaming the system for an individual's duplicitous ways and then finding a convenient awakening of conscience don't hold sway. Complex problems need complex cinema. Why Cheat India prefers to stay on the surface than dig deeper.

## Why Cheat India

**DIRECTOR:** Soumik Sen

**CAST:** Emraan Hashmi, Shreya Dhanwanthary, Snigdha Deep Chatterjee

**STORYLINE:** A con man twists the system to start a flourishing exam racket of assuring high marks, seats and certificates and admissions to much desired courses

# Confusion confounded

The messy multiple narrative film gets strangled by its various strands

## NAMRATA JOSHI

Disparate dwellers of Mumbai, at various critical junctures of their lives, thrown together by circumstances and becoming determinants in each other's lives and destinies. This kind of multiple stories device has been used time and again in cinema to great effect. *Bombairiya*, however, is a call to give it a long, if not permanent, rest in Bollywood. Its use in the



**Same old:** Radhika Apte in 'Bombairiya' ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

film feels entirely needless; to appear smart and slick but actually doing nothing more than unleashing uncalled-for chaos in the name of cool cinema.

A film star, his politician wife, publicist girlfriend, one crazy fan, a nice boy and his middle class family, cops and crooks, sharp-shooters and encounter specialists, some RDX let loose in Mumbai and a witness protection programme up for debate on TV. There are the Mumbai streets and slums, the Bandra Worli Sealink, a VVIP jail cell, a FM station, a Brahmkumari ash-

ram. As to what all these people, settings and things add up to—it's all utter confusion. To begin with you do some math and try to map stuff out in your head even though there is no evident system to the script. You also laugh along with some senior citizen characters—the publicist's father and grandmother and the kooky parents of the boy she stumbles into in her so-called adventure. There is a good ensemble at the director's disposal but how long can the actors keep things afloat with their presence and performance? Af-

ter a while, when nothing seems to hold, you give up on the senseless drivel and just let the images roll on without attempting to engage with anything on screen.

After starting off by complicating things with the various strands, towards the end the filmmaker unties them all, giving a long explanation of what transpired and how over the one and a half hour of screen time. Then why couldn't it have been told straight and simple? Also, by then it's already too late, the strands having strangled the film.

# Stained and strained

The lead actor's brilliant performance in *Glass* cannot redeem M. Night Shyamalan's flawed film

## DEBORAH CORNELIOUS

Superheroes are synonymous with costumes and special-effected powers taking over the big screen in larger-than-life sequences. But weaving a complex and nuanced tale far exceeds the compulsion to make just another blockbuster for master storyteller M. Night Shyamalan. That much was evident with *Unbreakable* (2000) and *Split* (2016). As parts of the *Eastrail 177 Trilogy*, both standalone films crafted immersive universes

## Glass

**DIRECTOR:** M. Night Shyamalan  
**CAST:** James McAvoy, Bruce Willis, Anya Taylor-Joy, Sarah Paulson, Samuel L. Jackson, Spencer Treat Clark

**STORYLINE:** Kevin, David and Elijah, admitted in a mental institution, think they're super humans when doctors are trying to prove otherwise.

for each of the characters. In the culminating instalment of the franchise, Shyamalan

brings the party to a mental institution inviting heroes and villains from the predecessors.

Yet again, the director attempts to pull the same delicious complicated web of intrigue and suspense. But only those intimately aware of the trilogy will spot it, though appreciating it might be a stretch. As if the uninitiated don't matter, *Glass* charges forward hammer and tongs with nary an explanation. Unfortunately, *Glass* is a slow simmer in-

stead of the raging blaze as the director wanted. Shyamalan's deft direction, the actors' performances, music and pretty much everything are on track yet sadly it's the flawed and wild narrative that derail *Glass*.

Despite bringing three

brilliant characters in the same frame, Shyamalan's screenplay is heavily skewed towards one. James McAvoy's turn as Kevin Wendell Crumb in *Split*—a man with 23 different personalities due to a dissociative identity disorder—was a performance

of a lifetime. In *Glass*, McAvoy continues to transfix the audience with his instantaneous switches. It's the same man with the same face, but McAvoy embodies every personality with marked distinctions and exquisite finesse. His agony oscillating bet-

ween personalities is squirm-inducing. Inhabiting Kevin is the amusing nine-year-old Hedwig, formidable high-priestess Patricia, paedophile Dennis and the big bad one they call 'The Beast'. Together they're 'The Horde' and McAvoy plays each role spectacularly. That's about as good as *Glass* gets.

Bruce Willis who essays David Dunn (a man with super strength) is relegated to stepchild status. Not only does McAvoy overshadow Willis, but the veteran actor is evidently neglected. The eponymous Mr. Glass aka Elijah Price (Samuel L. Jackson) acts his seasoned heart out—with twitches and eye flicks galore—as a heavily sedated mastermind in a wheelchair. But in *Glass*, his

## POOCH CAFE



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



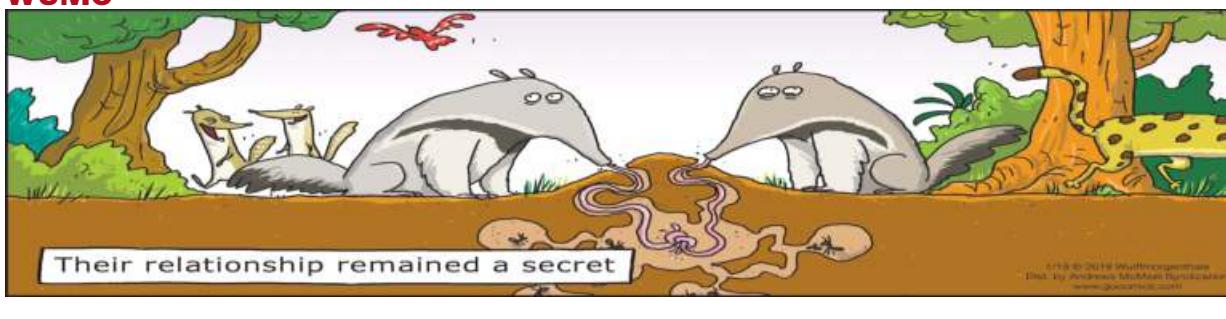
## PEANUTS



## TIGER



## WUMO



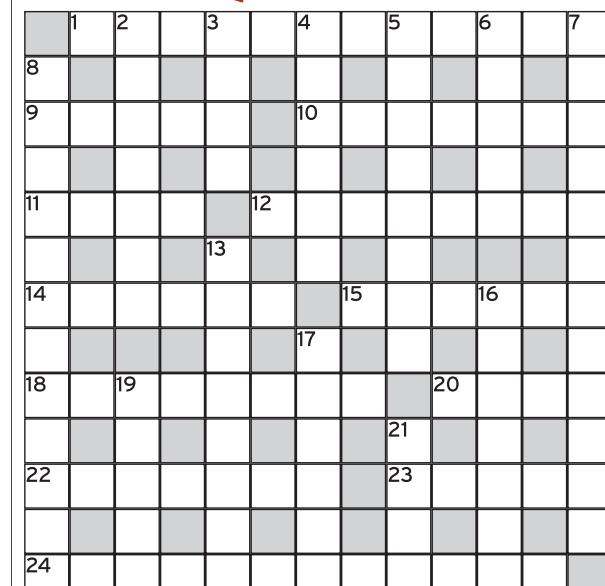
## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



## CALVIN AND HOBBES



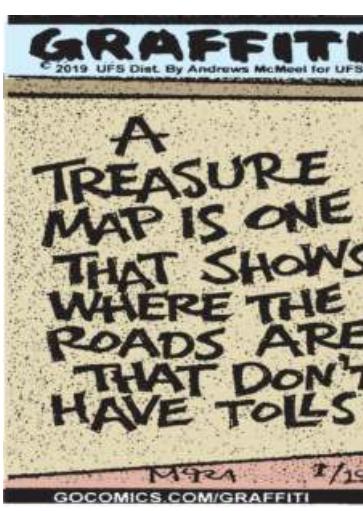
## THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-12971



- 5 Unsophisticated – posh menu (anag) (8)
- 6 Carried (5)
- 7 In an unceasingly intense way (12)
- 8 Depart hastily (4,1,7)
- 13 Pronto (2,1,5)
- 16 Author of Wind in the Willows (7)
- 17 Source (6)
- 19 Largest Greek island (5)
- 21 Sediment deposited by a river (4)

Solution will appear in Delhi Metro dated January 21, 2019.

Solution No. 12970



- Across**
- 1 Drink alone in a pub? (4,2,3,3)
  - 9 Distinguish oneself (5)
  - 10 Naval officer (7)
  - 11 Haircut (4)
  - 12 Iconic theoretical physicist, d. 1955 (8)
  - 14 Plump (6)
  - 15 To do with mushrooms, say (6)
  - 18 Reticent (8)
  - 20 Cereal crop (4)
  - 22 Close of day (7)
  - 23 With everything counted (2,3)
  - 24 Immediately (5,3,4)
- Down**
- 2 Proof of payment made (7)
  - 3 Tow (4)
  - 4 Unruffled (6)

D	M	E	A	N	R	G	A	P	P
E	A	N	R	O	R	G	R	O	S
C	O	N	D	O	N	E	O	N	G
A	T	D	A	E	M	E	T	S	S
D	E	A	R	I	W	R	O	N	T
E	N	A	R	I	N	T	S	O	S
G	R	E	E	N	K	E	P	E	P
S	E	E	N	E	N	W	W	W	W
T	R	A	D	E	I	N	T	H	I
R	L	G	I	R	N	O	O	O	O
E	M	I	L	Y	N	E	E	F	F
A	S	P	G	A	E	L	L	L	L
M	U	T	A	E	S	T	O	R	M

## IN BRIEF



## Capturing Zen spirit

Eminent artist Satish Gupta returns with a solo exhibition tilted "Roaring Sea" at Visual Art Gallery of India Habitat Centre, beginning this Sunday.

Much like his previous work, this exhibition, showcasing 13 sculptures, 10 collages, 15 large paintings and about 125 drawings and calligraphic works, touches upon the artist's deep engagement with mysticism and Zen spirit.

The artworks are inspired by the artist's travels to foreign destinations like Mauritius, Normandy and Switzerland. A bold interpretation of his thoughts, the works are inspired by the elements of nature such as fire, water, metal, wood and earth.

Speaking about his work, Satish Gupta says: "Creating these artworks has been an enriching and almost a spiritual experience! While doing my artworks I am deeply in touch with my inner self and with the divine. It is tremendously liberating."

Shedding light on his sculptures, the artist adds: "Earlier my sculptures were solid and rooted like my Buddha sculpture, I now feel that even though they weigh a substantial amount there is a feeling of lightness like in the cosmic wave sculpture."

## The couple behind the crazy ride

As *Bombairiya* makes it to theatres, Director Pia Sukanya and writer-producer Michael E. Ward tell us how their personal experiences of living in Mumbai shaped the narrative

MURTAZA ALI KHAN

A tale of vulnerable characters caught in crazy circumstances, *Bombairiya* had its world première at the ongoing Diorama International Film Festival at Siri Fort Auditorium recently. The comic thriller stars Radhika Apte, Siddhant Kapoor, Akshay Oberoi, Adil Hussain, and Ravi Kishan. Débutante director Pia Sukanya and writer-producer Michael E. Ward were present on the occasion. They revealed the story behind the making of the film while also recollecting the dramatic turn of events that brought the two of them together, both personally and professionally.

Pia and Michael have been living in Mumbai for over a decade but they first met in England where Pia was acting in a TV series that Michael was running. The duo moved to India in the aftermath of the 2005 London bombings. "Interestingly, Michael, a tea planter's son, was born in Assam and I was born in England we are married and we work together and so it's like a mom-and-pop shop," guffawed Pia while reflecting on their creative collaboration. Pia



Slice of life: Writer-producer Michael E. Ward with director Pia Sukanya; (below) a scene from the film • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

studied at Delhi's Sardar Patel Vidyalaya from the age two to eight before moving to New York with her parents. She subsequently went to Cambridge to study social anthropology. During her years in New York, she trained as a singer which

paved her way to perform in musicals during which she got to share the stage with the likes of the Oscar-winning English actor Eddie Redmayne.

*Bombairiya* draws a lot from the couple's own experiences of living in Mumbai. "It is very much our personalities represented on the screen. Someone, who recently watched one of our trailers, told us that it is adorable yet riveting. Apart from being a very resourceful producer, Michael is also a wonderful writer. And he is not really an outsider looking at India because he really feels like an Indian and even speaks Hindi and writes it as well. *Bombairiya* is really an expression of who we are as a couple," explained Pia.

The story of *Bombairiya* is inspired by an actual event that happened to Aarti Bagdi, the couple's filmmaker friend. "When Aarti came to meet us many years ago, she told me about how her phone had got stolen on the streets. The interesting thing is that the thief didn't switch it off which left a room for negotiation. So there started one relationship between two strangers, between the girl and the thief. There was another relationship between her and the guy who was helping her to call the thief up through his cellphone. I didn't stop laughing while she kept narrating the entire chain of events that unfolded on that day. At the end of it, I turned to Michael and told him that we really

have a film in our hands," recollects Pia.

"While it started with that small idea it developed into something much bigger that reflects strongly on the city we live in, our adopted home, Mumbai. It is a very relatable film that's really funny as well. The central character, essayed by Radhika Apte, is someone who is the last person interested in helping someone else. She is very self-obsessed and doesn't like people. So her journey may also be seen as one of redemption," explained Michael. "It is never really fully written until the script meets the director, meets the actor, and meets the location. Everything is a roller coaster. You have to be prepared to adjust according-

ingly from what you first thought of. For example, while writing the character of a fading movie star we never really thought that anyone would be interested in essaying it then suddenly Ravi Kishan showed his interest as he thought that the pain felt by the character was very much real and not farcical. It may look like a farce to someone watching the story but it was real to him and that's why Ravi Kishan wanted to play the part in the first place," revealed Michael who would next be serving as a creative producer on an upcoming international TV series.

Inspired by black comedies like *Seven Psychopaths* and *In Bruges*, *Bombairiya* is a reminder that we are not alone trapped in the madness that seems to surround us. "It is a tale of hope. Let's put it that way. Everyone gets a taste of this madness. We are in this foolish confusion together. My car broke down around Juhu some years ago and there I was pushing it on my own with traffic coming from four directions and nobody came to help me at all. Suddenly a young man came from nowhere and gathered some help to push my car

• The central character, essayed by Radhika Apte, is someone who is the last person interested in helping someone else. She is very self-obsessed and doesn't like people. So her journey may also be seen as one of redemption

MICHAEL E. WARD

out of the traffic. In India, even when you are on the road you will find people with human values and that's less common in the rest of the world in comparison to India," explained Michael.

Getting actors like Radhika Apte and Adil Hussain on board was never a challenge for Pia and Michael and they attribute it to the script which they perfected after several rewrites. "It was never really a difficult task to get Radhika, Adil and others on board because the script was that good. While Radhika read the full script, we only shared specific parts with Adil who plays a politician kept in a VVIP cell in the film and so he is really blind to what is happening in the outside world. The one thing that particularly appealed to him was that we were going to shoot using sync sound which in itself was a big deal because we were shooting on real locations in Mumbai. Many sound designers and sound recordists told us that it was going to be impossible but we managed to pull it off," rejoiced Pia.

Content with what they have achieved with *Bombairiya* in creative terms, both Pia and Michael aren't intimidated by what awaits their film at the box office. "Those are the dangers we had been aware of since we started the adventure. It's going to have a global audience quite soon after the experiment at the box-office. We believe that there is still a hunger for cinema in this country. So it's a risk worth taking. Those who are backing the project are brave people. They are keen to know what we would like to do next," summed up Michael.

## FOOD SPOT

## + Of lavash and labbe

Exploring the modest side of Khan Market leads to some meaty experiences

RAHUL VERMA

Allow me to get philosophical for a moment. I have come to the conclusion that some days are just meant to be. In our mad, rush-hour existence, we are often disappointed when a mission doesn't lead to the goal in mind. After a pleasant half hour loitering around in Prithviraj Market and meeting old friends, I say, "So what? What's a goal, after all?"

## Searching for kababs

Let me start at the beginning. I wanted to eat some kababs, and I wanted to try out a small kabab corner that I had noticed in Khan Market a few weeks ago. I went there and discovered that the barbecue was still to lit. So I started walking towards Prithviraj Market, where my car was parked. I like this part of Khan Market because it is not glitzy like its mega-rich cousin on the other side of the road. This side is still middle class and has two of the best meat shops in New Delhi. I first went past my old favourite - The Meat Shop - run by a very enthusiastic and polite young man. I was happy to meet him after years, and happier still to find that my old butcher and fish

slicer were still there. I doffed my cap to them, and then went in search of another old favourite, Mirajuddin.

But before that, I stopped by at a new Gopala outlet. The Khan Market branch of the popular sweet shop, which now sells a whole lot of other products (such as namkeen and breads), had opened last month. I had heard from a friend that they were selling various kinds of cheese, but the only cheese they had was the pizza variety. I love their rasgulla, but bought some of the kaland instead (₹560 a kilo; nice, mildly sweet, but could have been just a bit more moist), some lavash (₹50 a packet), crusty garlic butter slices (₹40), jeera ajwain biscuits



Sweet and spicy: A view of wide array of sweets; (left) crispy kachoris • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

(₹120), walnut bran biscuits (₹210) and coconut biscuits (₹108). The coconut biscuits were superb, the jeera ajwain biscuits weren't bad either and I am told the walnut bran cookies were rather good, too. The bread is for friends who are coming over for dinner, so more about that later.

What's also interesting is that Gopala is selling kachoris these days. It had muttar kachori (₹10 a piece) and pyaaz kachori (₹20). They were not bad, I was told, and had a very hot filling of peas and

onions. But, of course, they cannot be compared with the hot kachoris that come out of kachais in many sweet shops in various parts of Delhi.

## King's special dish

From Gopala, I went to Mirajuddin's meat shop, just to tease him a bit. Do you have labbe, I asked him. Now labbe is a small piece near the liver which you very rarely find in meat shops.

Mirajuddin looked stunned. No, he didn't have labbe, but he

did have a story to tell. A badshah once wanted to feed his guests labbe. So a hundred goats were slaughtered for just one dish of labbe, he said.

That's some story, I said. And that was some trip down memory lane. And so what if the journey didn't lead to the desired kababs? I met some old friends, ate some good biscuits, and heard a nice story.

THE WRITER IS A SEASONED FOOD CRITIC

## SHORT TAKES

## The ancestral veena

Actor Tejaswini Kolhapure recently concluded a concept shoot with photographer Munna Singh. The concept focused on paintings and celebrated womanhood in Marathi Kashtha drapes. Tejaswini modelled for the shoot with her ancestral veena that's over 150 years old. Says Tejaswini, "It was nostalgic to shoot with our ancestral veena. It belonged to my grandfather pandit Krishna Rao Kolhapure, and he was gifted this veena by his guru Murad Khan Sahab."



learn the basics of rudra veena."

The actress adds: "He even insisted that I take care of the veena and today I feel indebted to him for the same."

## A crossover film

Actors R Madhavan, Anushka Shetty, Anjali, Shalini Pandey and Subbaraju are coming together for a horror-thriller film, which will be directed by Hemant Madhukar.



The yet-untitled project will be jointly produced by People Media Factory and Kona Film Corporation.

According to reports, a couple of Hollywood actors are also being considered

for the film. Gopi Sundar's music will be another highlight of this project.

## 5 EVENTS WORTH-YOUR-WHILE



## THEATRE

## It's just a game

Mass Production in association with Akshara Theatre presents "It's Just A Game", an English Play this evening, directed by Vikalp Mudgal. Adapted from Vijay Tendulkar's "Silence: The Court is In Session" the play explores a scenario when the noble act of 'to know' takes the sadistic colour of trespass.

VENUE: Akshara Theatre, Baba Kharak Singh Marg

TIME: 7:30 p.m.



## EXHIBITION

## Mixed media

Nature Morte presents "The Body Politic", the fourth solo show of works by Pushpamala N. The works on display include photographs, videos and sculptures. It highlights the artist's chosen practice of photo performance, in which previously existing images are painstakingly re-created for the camera.

VENUE: Nature Morte, A-1, Neeti Bagh

TIME: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.



## CUISINE

## Special menu

Townhall Gurgaon's has come up with specially crafted Sunday brunch for this winter. Some of the dishes on offer are, morning glory donbury, baked quinoa, Indian opakapaka with udon noodles, chicken shawarma and tiramisu, fruit tarts and oreo tarts. This special menu also will have signature sushi rolls, dimsums and salads.

VENUE: Townhall, Two Horizon Centre, Gurugram

TIME: 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.



## MUSIC

## Morning raga

SPICMACAY presents Hindustani classical vocal recital by Ustad Raja Miyan, as part of IHC Morning Ragas series, this Sunday morning. Ustad Raja Miyan will regale the discerning lovers of Indian classical music by singing some of the rarely heard melodies carrying the authentic stamp of the Agra Gharana Gayaki.

VENUE: Amphitheatre, India Habitat Centre

TIME: 10:30 a.m.



## THEATRE

## Jannat Se Jaun Elia

Upstage Productions presents "Jannat Se Jaun Elia", a Urdu Play this Sunday evening. Directed by Kokab Farid, it is a dramatic rendition based on Anwar Maqsood's comic satire of same name. The play takes you on a tour of *Koocha-e-sher-o-sukhan*, considered to be the part of heaven, where all the great poets reside.

VENUE: Peary Lal Bhawan, BSZ Marg

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

Budweiser's Neo Nostalgia collection, that drops today, puts art on streetwear

AMRITA BOSE

While the origins of streetwear can be traced back to 70s Los Angeles surf culture, Supreme's collaboration with luxury label Louis Vuitton made sure that it was not only here to stay, but also coveted. Case in point: reports state that in the first 48 hours of LV's Tokyo pop-up, artistic director Virgil Abloh's debut SS19 collection has already outsold the iconic 2017 collection by 30%.

Out to get some similar street cred is Budweiser, with BudXStreet, its first ever streetwear drop in India. The American lager label has collaborated with five leading influencers and creators for a collection of unisex apparel and accessories.

The objective: to showcase street art culture in India with a nod to vintage nostalgia, while keeping it local, charming and relevant. With the theme of Neo Nostalgia, the five collaborators include multi-brand sneaker store VegNon Veg (VNV); designer labels Huemn and NorBlack NorWhite (NBNW); co-founder and artistic director of St+Art India Foundation (a not-for-profit that works on art projects in public spaces) Hanif Kureshi; and Boxout.FM, an online community radio station.

Kartikeya Sharma, vice president marketing – South Asia, of parent company AB InBev, says, "Streetwear, through its distinct designs and eccentricities, reflects unique identities, personalities and subcultures, encouraging people to play by their own beat. With this launch, we aim to connect with the growing street culture community of India."

The collaborators talk to *Weekend* about their inspiration and picks for the collection.

*The BudXStreet collection launches today at One Style Mile, New Delhi. Starting at ₹2,500, at budfactory.in and superkicks.in and offline at the VegNonVeg stores in Delhi and Mumbai.*

# THE STREET STYLE SQUAD

Hanif Kureshi

As part of Handpainted Type, a passion project dedicated to preserving their typographic practices, Kureshi commissions sign painters across India to paint their favourite alphabets on a cloth banner. "We photograph it, digitise it and segregate it with layers and make a working font out of it, named after the painter who designed it," he says. His black unisex hoodie features the letter 'B' in a font by Old Delhi painter Kafeel. It pops thanks to a white base and the use of a printing process that gives a velvet-like texture, explains Kureshi. Choose from four different patches in English and Hindi and the iconic Budweiser bowtie logo to make it more playful.



NorBlack NorWhite

Mriga Kapadia and Amrit Kumar of NorBlack NorWhite (known for their love of mixing Indian textiles with androgynous shapes) believe that culture can create, inspire and provide colour to everyone's lives, and so they decided to stay rooted in what they know best – a focus on pattern and colour. Their raglan crew neck full sleeve tee has a speckled print against a vermillion red background with Bud's classic typography across the front. They have also designed a tracksuit. Kapadia explains, "It has tie-n-dye digital print in the black, blue, red and grey, with pops of pink. Yin Yang symbols can be found down the arms and pant legs."



VNV

The silhouette for this collab is based on a hoodie from VNV's first ever streetwear drop and uses an all over box print, including on the kangaroo pockets and a 'VegNonVeg' applique on the back. "Our collaboration uses deconstruction and dualism as core principles – taking elements from the Budweiser identity like vintage logos, slogans and the iconic red carton, and meshing them with VegNonVeg's most recognisable aspects – the red and green, and our dot logo," explains co-founder Abhinav Singh, adding, "We wanted to have fun with it and also merge together two distinct worlds. It's all about that balance of contrast and synergy showcasing a collab that's very here and now."

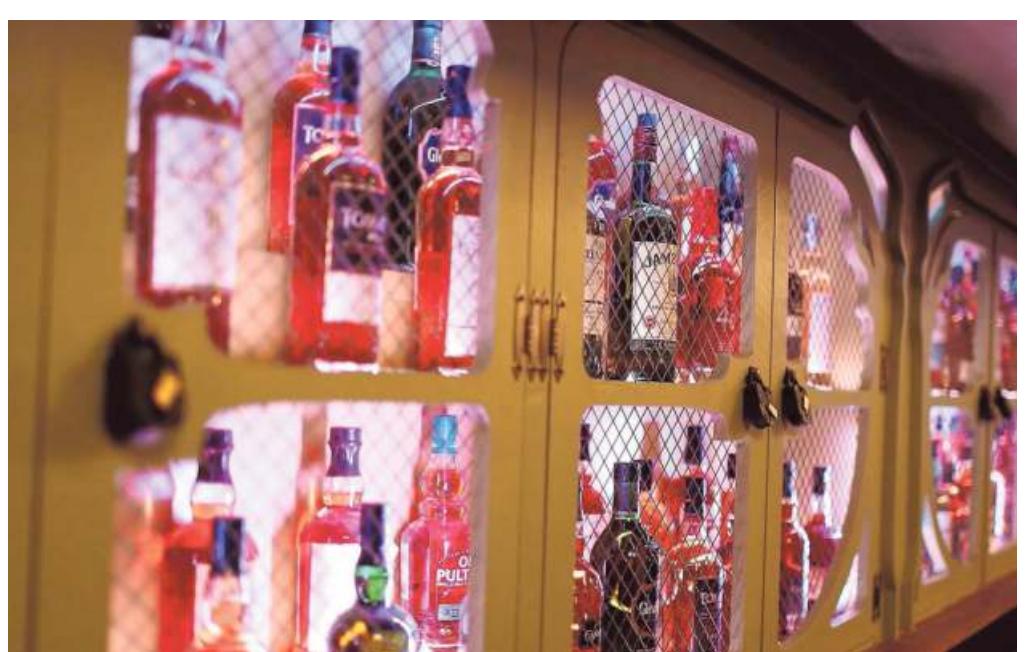
Huemn

Oversized, edgy, street and androgynous is what this designer label is known for. Shyama Shetty and Pranav Misra even launched a non-binary section on their e-commerce platform last year. Their piece is a play on Budweiser's classic 'Wazzup' ads from the late 90s. "We felt that 'Change. That's what's up' is a brilliant catchphrase, and we wanted to re-interpret that. The idea of being the harbinger of change is very exciting to us," explains Shetty. Their T-shirt follows a work-wear silhouette with exaggerated dropped down shoulders for an on-trend oversize look.



Boxout.FM

Founded by DJ MoCity aka Mohammad Abood Uraibi and electronica musician and producer Sahej Bakshi of Dualist Enquiry, this online community radio station believes music is a true and authentic form of self-expression that helps break down boundaries. And so, their concept for this collaboration is focused on bringing people together. "We went through a bunch of versions, and finding that acceptable middle ground was the true challenge," says Bakshi. The T-shirt created features the message 'No Clique Just Play' on the front and down both sleeves with a larger than life Bud bottle crown on the back. Another creation is a fanny pack, perfect for the alternative urban artist, according to DJ MoCity. It comes with four zippered sections and is made of black cordura (a Korean fabric) on the outside, with a smooth inner lining that has contrast stitching in signature Boxout.FM purple. Only 125 pieces of this bag have been crafted, and each piece will be hand numbered by DJ Mo on a hemp tag sewn on the front.



(From far left)  
Bourbon  
lockers at  
Bayou &  
Bottle,  
bottle  
lockers at  
The Flatiron  
Room and  
(below left)  
at the Aman  
Tokyo



Tardie, boasts lockers that come with personalised metal bottle necklaces, with engraved names and messages.

At Bayou & Bottle in the Four Seasons, Houston, the most discerning bourbon connoisseurs store their bottles in personalised lockers. R Bar in Long Beach, California, a space that is somewhere between an upscale lounge and a local dive, has VIP lockers (at approximately ₹42,000 a year) that also gets patrons 20% off on their standard pricing for premium liquors.

## Personal touch

Across the waters, in Melbourne, you can indulge in your own bottle whenever you visit Impala, a cocktail bar in the Prahran area. Owned by Asian street food barons, Nicholas Coulter and Simon Blacher, and local entrepreneurs, Dave and Michael Parker, the bottles are stored in a gleaming gold whisky cabinet that doubles as a feature wall.

I may have listed a few bottle lockers from around the world, but don't get me wrong, the trend is not rampant; rather, it is very exclusive, with high-end lineage clubs and bars often offering them on invitation. For the well-heeled, who are used to personalising everything, it enhances their experience with their favourite liquor or in a frequented locale.

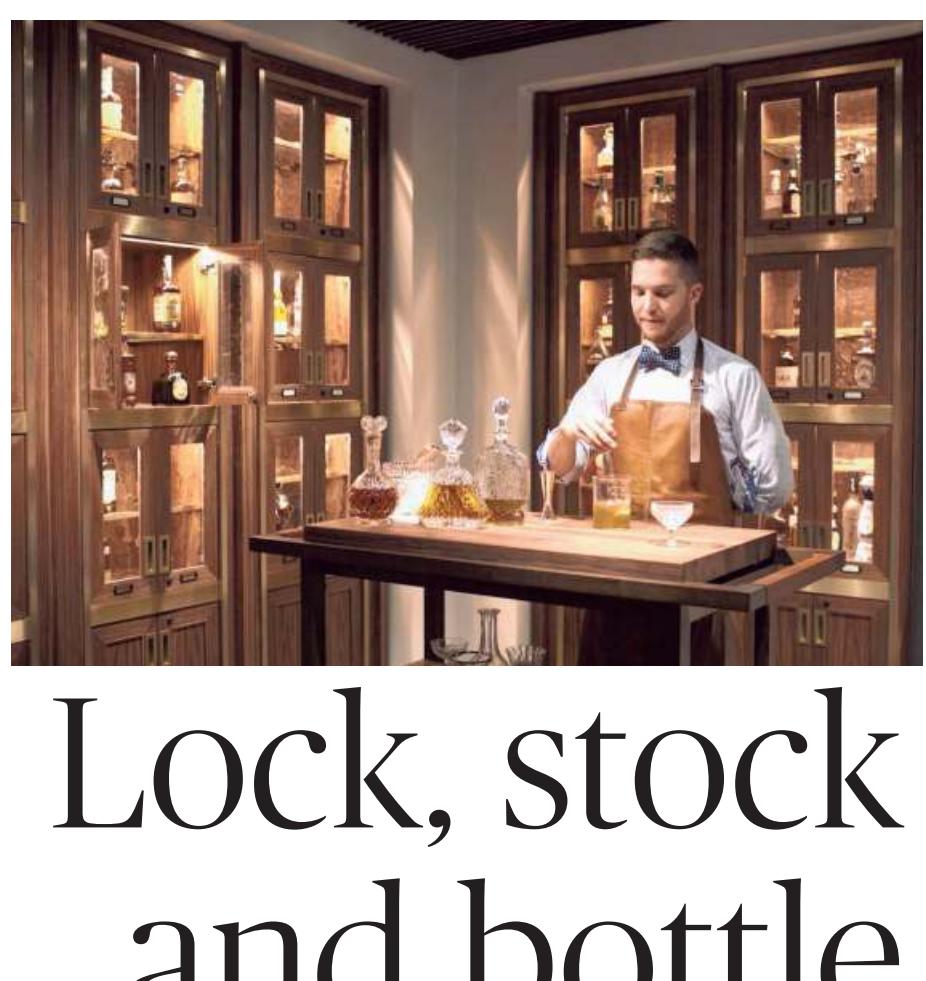
## The bar edit

SINDHURI NANDHAKUMAR

The bottle locker culture in India is yet to take hold, largely due to legal constraints that alcohol-serving establishments face. However, many high-end bars across the country have their own methods to ensure that the discerning have access to premium spirits. As whiskey ambassador Sandeep Arora reveals, this could be through keeping premium options off the menu, or pricing them high to ensure the stocks last.

"In India, lots of very good whiskies were introduced in the last 15 years," he says. "But some were so exclusive that they are not on the market any more. Bars which have invested in the consumer's palate have very gently carried these bottles forward. It is possible that some of them, like the Ladybird 1973, the Talisker 18-year single malt and the Glenfiddich 40-year whisky, are hiding in some of the country's premium bars."

No whisky connoisseur wants to sip on a drink today with the uncertainty that it might not be available a month from now. While we wait for bottle lockers to come here, Arora has some recommendations to bolster your private collection. On your next trip abroad, look for the McCallen 25-year-old, the Port Allen 35-year-old, the Pappy Van Winkle 23-year-old, or the Sullivan's Cove single malt ("the best in the world"). Options available in India include the Balvenie 30-year-old and the Royal Salute 62 Gun Salute.



With its whisky stewards and personalised plaques, how locker memberships are becoming a matter of pride

MITRAJIT BHATTACHARYA

I was in Tokyo recently. While I didn't catch the Cherry Blossom – the sakura was in full bloom only in Hokkaido – I did come across a trend that I am rather intrigued by. Bottle lockers.

At Aman, one of Tokyo's hippest downtown hotels, I notice that an entire wall in their cigar lounge is taken up by stylish glass-fronted lockers. It might be contrarian to say that the simple backlit display is artistic, but it is. A little digging into the origins of the concept led me to Edward J. Bandier's book, *The Hidden History of Essex Law School*. I read that 40 odd lockers in the faculty library had once been converted into ones to store something stronger,

with keys for the faculty members. Friday afternoons found the dean and the teachers pouring themselves a dram, before returning the bottle to its keep in readiness for next week. Was this the genesis of bottle lockers, I wonder.

Meanwhile, back at Aman, the Tokyo *haut monde* – comprising bankers, lawyers and the like – are in queue for a locker for their coveted bottle, as there are just 48 (approximately ₹63,000) to house vintage single malts, cognacs and rare bourbons.

## Whisky and exclusivity

The bottle locker trend has been around for a few years. Customers are enticed by the idea of exclusivity, with lockers sometimes sporting plaques with their names, and

