

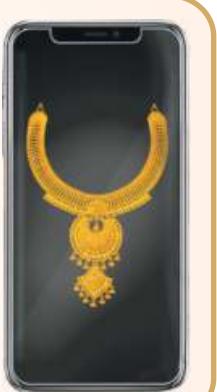
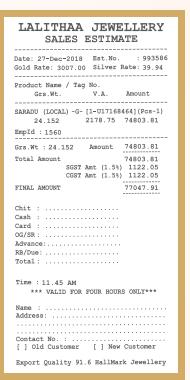
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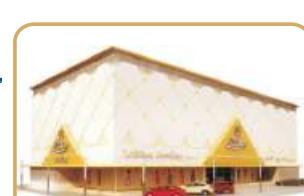
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Lalithaa Jewellery V.A. 8% Market V.A. 15%	Lalithaa Jewellery V.A. 8% Market V.A. 13%	Lalithaa Jewellery V.A. 8% Market V.A. 14%	Lalithaa Jewellery V.A. 10% Market V.A. 14%	KOLKATA 8% & 9% V.A.	Hollow Rope 4% V.A.
Lalithaa Jewellery V.A. 8% Market V.A. 15%	Lalithaa Jewellery V.A. 8% Market V.A. 13%	Lalithaa Jewellery V.A. 8% Market V.A. 14%	Lalithaa Jewellery V.A. 10% Market V.A. 14%	Indrani 6% V.A.	Parinda 6% V.A.
Lalithaa Jewellery V.A. 8% Market V.A. 15%	Lalithaa Jewellery V.A. 8% Market V.A. 13%	Lalithaa Jewellery V.A. 8% Market V.A. 14%	Lalithaa Jewellery V.A. 10% Market V.A. 14%	Hollow Flat Rope 6% V.A.	

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Off course



River routes: Villagers getting off a boat in an island near the banks of the Brahmaputra in Assam's Morigaon district on Thursday. Owing to heavy silting, the river has changed course in many areas, and boats are the only mode of transport to distant villages. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

Tweaking plans to overcome obstacles

HYDERABAD
The L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad (L&TMRH) is now building a second 'reversal', this time on Corridor Two from Jubilee Bus Station (JBS) to Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS), Imlibun. With the metro rail construction coming to a halt at MGBS, without proceeding towards old city up to Falaknuma, the HMR authorities have been forced to build the 'reversal' (580 metres of viaduct), which goes beyond the MGBS inter-change station.

HYDERABAD ▶ PAGE 2

Forest Dept. steps up raids on offenders

HYDERABAD
The Forest department has resolved to intensify its checks on smuggling of teak wood and other illegal activities in association with the Police department.

TELANGANA ▶ PAGE 4

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ICICI loan scam: CBI books Kochhars, Videocon head

Around ₹3,250 cr. sanctioned as loans, violating RBI norms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has booked Chanda Kochhar, the then managing director and chief executive officer of ICICI Bank, her husband Deepak Kochhar, Videocon Group head Venugopal Dhoot and others for sanction of credit facilities in violation of rules, which caused a loss of ₹1,730 crore to the bank.

The FIR, registered under the Prevention of Corruption Act, was based on a Preliminary Inquiry (PI) initiated by the CBI in December 2017, which traces the sanctioning of the loans amounting to ₹3,250 crore to various companies of the Videocon Group from June 2009 to October 2011.

"In August 2009, a term loan of ₹300 crore was sanctioned to Videocon International Electronic Ltd. in contravention of the rules and policy by the sanctioning committee. Ms. Kochhar was part of this committee," a CBI officer said.

According to CBI officers, six high-value loans were sanctioned to various companies under the Videocon Group from June 2009 to October 2011.

"First, the CJI recuses and pushes the case to January 24, the very day the committee meeting is scheduled. Now, Your Lordship also recuses... It seems like an effort to frustrate our cause," DUSHYANT DAVE, advocate for petitioners NGO Common Cause and Anjali Bhardwaj.

"If it had been an administrative order, I would have refused and the case would have been listed before another Bench. It was a judicial order and I could have recused only when it came up today in court," Justice Sikri said.

"Justice Sikri explained that the order passed by the

Chief Justice was not on the administrative side, but a judicial order pronounced in court. He added that he had no opportunity to recuse from the case till it came up for hearing.

"If it had been an administrative order, I would have refused and the case would have been listed before another Bench. It was a judicial order and I could have recused only when it came up today in court," Justice Sikri said.

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New missile tested successfully

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

India's first indigenously developed Next Generation Anti-Radiation Missile (NGRAM), an air-to-surface one, which can be fired from Sukhoi fighter jets, was successfully tested at the missile testing range in Balasore a few days ago, according to defence sources.

All parameters met
The missile can be launched from different altitudes and all the parameters were met during the testing, they said.

The missile with J. Umakant as the project director was developed by Abdul Kalam Missile Complex here comprising DLRL, which plays the lead role, Research Centre Imarat, Advanced Systems Laboratory (ASL) and others.

The missile system is being developed by the BEL and an unidentified private industry partner, they added.

Satiate your fish cravings here

NFDB to organise national fish festival from February 1 to 3

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

The National Fisheries Development Board has decided to organise a national fish festival in the city to popularise consumption of fish, which is rich in protein, and create awareness on its health benefits.

To be organised at People's Plaza from February 1 to 3, the festival would feature around 15 stalls offering a variety of fish-related cuisines. Visitors can also learn the practices that should be adopted while cooking fish and the ways to make it tastier and healthier.

Low fish consumption
Announcing the details of the festival here on Thursday, NFDB Chief Executive I. Rani Kumudini said the festival was being organised to encourage fish consumption, which was currently low.

The average annual consumption of fish and fish products in the country was

Tweaking plans to overcome obstacles

L&TMRH begins work on another rail 'reversal' at MGBS

V. GEETANATH

HYDERABAD

The L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad (L&TMRH) is now building a second 'reversal', this time on Corridor Two from Jubilee Bus Station (JBS) to Mahatama Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS), Imlibun.

With the metro rail construction coming to a halt at MGBS, without proceeding towards old city up to Falaknuma, the HMR authorities have been forced to build the 'reversal' (580 metres of viaduct), which goes beyond the MGBS inter-change station.

This is to enable metro trains to take a reverse and return to the MGBS station on the next track since the terminal station at Falaknuma is not being built. The first such 'reversal' viaduct is at an advanced stage of construction at Hi-Tec City for a similar purpose on Corridor Three as the terminal station at Raidurg is not yet ready.

In the meantime, the HMR authorities are planning to start operations between



Work in progress on the second 'reversal' at Mahatama Gandhi Bus Station in the city on Thursday. ■ K.V.S. GIRI

Ameerpet and Hi-Tec City next month, and they would by run trains on separate tracks as the 'reversal' is not yet ready. However, the situation is not the same on Corridor Two as there are no

such major obstacles for building the reversal with 22 piers (pillars), while the stretch from JBS to MGBS (9 km) is expected to be completed in the next three months for commercial ser-

vices by summer. The interesting aspect of the work at MGBS is connecting Corridor One (Miyapur to L.B. Nagar which is fully operational from September last year) and Corridor Two through a

fresh-elevated viaduct of 224 metres and eight more piers. "We have been forced to go for this construction as the proposed third metro maintenance depot at Falaknuma on a 17-acre site is not happening. By connecting the two corridors, we can bring the metro trains to Miyapur for maintenance," explained HMR Managing Director N.V.S. Reddy.

An 'extra' one-kilometre long viaduct was built between Gandhi Hospital and Bhoiguda junction through Padmarao Nagar road towards Chilakalaguda without any stations to connect Corridor Two and Corridor Three so that metro trains could be taken to the depot at Uppal.

"We had to come out with several out-of-the-box solutions to commission the project, which includes stop-gap reversals and connecting corridors to ensure that trains on Corridor Two have access to maintenance depots at Uppal and Miyapur," added Mr. Reddy.

Co-working space provider raises funds

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

Co-working space provider iKeva has raised an undisclosed amount from Meenakshi Group to fund its expansion programme of setting up 15 new centres. Through them, it plans to add 3,000 new seats at different locations over the next 12 months. The funds are also planned to be used to strengthen its back-end processes and technology.

Co-founder and general manager Monika Misra said the funds infusion would help speed up business expansion this year and foray into new fast-growing cities. Our revenues recorded an increase by 40% last fiscal and the target is to double that. iKeva opened its first facility at Banjara Hills in 2013. There are plans to open two new centres in the city in the next three months, a release from the company said.

MUSIC DANCE DRAMA

SHARADA CULTURAL TRUST SECUNDERABAD -

Proudly presents & invites for their 29th Annual Cultural Festival and 172nd Aradhana of Sathguru Sri Thyagaraja Swamy from 27.01.2019 to 03.02.2019 at 6:30 p.m. daily at Keyes High School for Girls, Secunderabad. Jan 27th Princes Rama Varma & party (Vocal), Jan 28th Sri. Aswath Narayanan & party (Vocal), Jan 30th Smt. Pantula Rama & Party (Vocal), Jan 31st Sri. Sandeep Narayan & Party (Vocal), Feb 1st Sri. Ranjan & Smt. Gayatri & party (Vocal Duet), Feb 2nd Sri. Kumaresh & Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh & party (Strings Attached - Violin Veena Duet), Feb 3rd at 7 a.m. Uncharithi by Sri. Valadi Karthi Bhagavathar & Party, at 9:30 a.m. Sathguru Sri Thyagaraja Swamy Pancharatna Krithi Goshti Ganam Jointly organised by Kalasagaram & Sharada cultural trust, at 12 noon Samadarshan and Poor Feeding. All are invited. For further details contact 9885144412 / 9246154482 / 9849802891.

VIGNANA SAMITHI (Regd.):
172nd Sri Thyagaraja Aradhonastavam (42nd Annual Musicfest) - 2019 :
25.01.2019(Friday) 7.50 a.m. "KalasaShapana" and Pooja; 9.00 a.m. Nadaswaram; 9.30 a.m. Recitation to Vedic Scholars; 10.30 a.m. Hon-ouring the eminent musicians &conferment of "Sangeetha Vid-na Visarada" Title to Sri Tade-palli Lokanatha Sarma; 11.30a.m. "Pancharatha Kritis" - Group Singing; 12.30 a.m. "Prasada Viniyogam"; 6.00 p.m. Kum. Vishnubhotla Sivani (Vi-jayawada) - Violin Solo; 7.15p.m. Smt. Malladi Vasavi (Ban-galore) - Vocal; 26.01.2019 (Sat-urday) 9.30 a.m. Kum. U.Himangi - Vocal; 10.30 a.m. Kum. T. S. Gayathri - Vocal; 11.30 a.m. Sri Suri Satya Prashanth (Mumbat) - Vocal; 6.00p.m. An audio visual presentation and Quiz by "San-geethacharya" Dr. Vyasarajubalasubramanyam; 7.30 p.m. Smt. Lahari Kolachela - Vocal; 27.01.2019 (Sunday) 9.30 a.m. Kum. Vasa Pavani - Vocal; 10.30a.m. Vindhya Sri Kaza & DivyaSri Kaza "Kaza Sisters" - VocalDuet; 11.30 a.m. Kum. MudruRavali (Hyderabad) - Vocal; 6.00p.m. Kum. Sruti Saarani (Vi-sakhapatnam) - Vocal; 7.15 p.m. Sri Ramakrishnan Murthy (Chennai) - Vocal; 28.01.2019(Monday) 6.00 p.m. Kum.Dharmala Haripriya (Hyderabad) - Vocal; 7.15 p.m. Sri VishnuDev Namboodiri (Kochi) - Vocal; 29.01.2019 (Tuesday) 6.00 p.m. Sri Saras - Flute; 7.15p.m. Smt. Sarada Subramanyam(Visakhapatnam) - Vocal; 30.01.2019 (Wednesday) 6.00p.m. Sri A. Raja Pradhit - Vocal; 7.15 p.m. Smt. Amirtha Murali(Chennai) - Vocal; 31.01.2019(Thursday) 6.00 p.m. Prize Dis-tribution to the Winners of Mu-sic Competition; 6.30 p.m. "Vainika Chakravarthy" Sri D.Srinivas - Veena. Miniconcertwill be conducted between 2.00p.m. and 5.00 p.m. on all the 7days. Daily Pooja & Abhishekamwill be performed and prasadamDistribution on 31-01-2019-Venue: Anandhagar Community Hall, Anandnagar, Kairatabad.All are Welcome. Fordetails: S. Venkateswarlu, President : 9866668824, V.V. Sugunan, Sec-rectary : 9966784333.

35% drop in Haj applications

Scraping of subsidy is cited as one of the reasons for the trend

SYED MOHAMMED

HYDERABAD

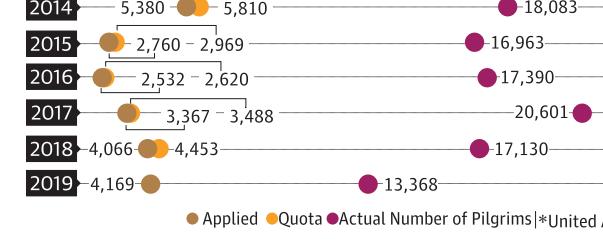
The Telangana State Haj Committee has seen a steady drop in Haj applicants over a period of three years. Data points to the fact that there has been a reduction in the number of Haj applicants by over 35%.

Figures supplied by the TSHC show that while there was a rise in the number of applicants in 2016 as compared to the previous year, there has been a decrease by 7,233 applications over the years. A dip in the number of applications in several parts of the country has also been seen.

Officials, who did not wish to be quoted, said there could be a several reasons for the trend. This would also include the gradual annual increase in Haj fare and the scrapping of subsidy by the Centre as directed by the Supreme Court. "The Haj fare has slowly but surely been increasing over the years. Each year, the rupee

Downward trend

There has been a steady drop in the number of Haj applications over the years. The dip is attributed to the removal of Haj subsidy and the high cost of travel and other expenses



and Saudi riyal exchange rate too has been increasing. Travel and other expenses have seen a jump as well. For many pilgrims, especially those who come from humble backgrounds, each rupee matters," said a senior TSHC official. Buttressing his point, he added, "Last year, the Haj package for Azizia category was ₹2.32 lakh. The package for Green category was ₹2.55 lakh. These packages were approximately ₹20,000 higher than those seen in 2017. This is the general trend. While the announcement to make the

first payment instalment has been made, we cannot say what the final package for 2019 will be." Apart from the Haj package payment, there are incidental expenditures in Saudi Arabia. This too will have an effect on the decision-making of potential pilgrims.

Some observers opined that the Umrah (smaller pilgrimage) has seen an uptick in recent times. While there was no data readily available to prove this point, they conjectured that travellers were making the Umrah pilgrimage first.

Have home-cooked food to your heart's content

FoodBuddy delivers meals of your choice, all cooked in home kitchens

STAFF REPORTER

HYDERABAD

The aroma and taste of home-cooked food, for many, is irreplaceable and imitable. This is the idea that drives city startup FoodBuddy. A few taps on your smart phone and you are a few minutes away from that *ghar ka khaana*.

Founded by Anup Gopinath, an IIM-A product, Rachna Rao from IIM-B, and Akil Sethuraman, FoodBuddy has reached the city now. "While the

company was founded in 2015, it was in 2017 that we ran pilots," Mr. Gopinath says. Thus far, the platform has clocked 20,000 meals cooked in home kitchens and has reached 1,500 homes in the city.

The company claims that its network comprises gathered societies from where buyers can either pick up or get meals dropped at their respective locations. One can find food from one's own region, which includes a mughlai, Rajasthani, Gujarati and Andhra cuisine, and anything in between. It's easy for sellers or home chefs to register on the platform. All they have to do is submit relevant documents such as ID proof and address proof. The company then runs its

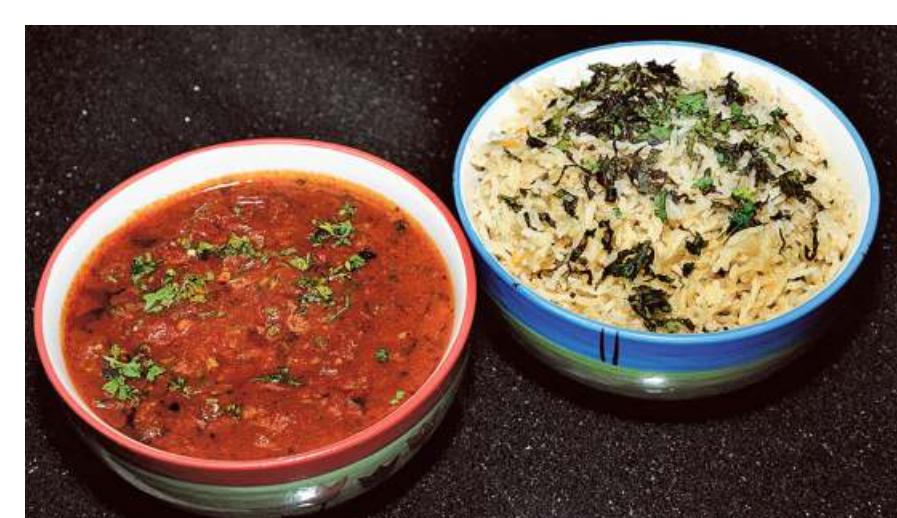
internal checks for authenticity. Once that is done, the home chef is good to go.

Buyers, on the other hand, can choose their preferred dish and cuisine. But since the platform is for home kitchens and not restaurants, how does the company ensure standards in terms of quality and hygiene? The consumer gets to decide it as the platform is largely feedback-based.

According to Mr. Gopinath,

home chefs and kitchens do not require permissions from civic authorities as those with less than ₹12 lakh income can get a Food Safety and Standards Authority of India registration.

The company has thus far raised ₹6 crore and its operations are live in Bengaluru and Hyderabad.



On FoodBuddy, consumers can choose their own choice of cuisine. ■ BY ARRANGEMENT

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HYDERABAD Timings

FRIDAY, JAN. 25
RISE 06:49 SET 18:07
RISE 22:32 SET 10:13
SATURDAY, JAN. 26
RISE 06:49 SET 18:08
RISE 23:29 SET 10:57
SUNDAY, JAN. 27
RISE 06:49 SET 18:08
RISE 00:00 SET 11:39

Hyderabad Weather max min
Sangareddy 30 18
Warangal 29 17
Hyderabad City 30 18

Hyderabad City Today
31°C There are chances of drizzle with a comfortable day. The sky will remain mainly cloudy over the city.

Hyderabad City Tomorrow
30°C Light drizzle expected in some pockets. A cloudy sky is expected to persist over the city.

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IN BRIEF

EFLU professor booked for rape of student

HYDERABAD
A final-year MA English student at the English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU) alleged that she was raped by an assistant professor of the same institution on several occasions. Based on a complaint lodged by the 25-year-old victim, the Osmania University police registered a case against assistant professor Ranjith Thankappan. Inspector S Rajasekhar Reddy said that Ranjith told the victim that he got divorced and since June last year, the woman was staying at his residence in Seethaphalmandi. On January 12, the accused, threw her out of the house.

THE HINDU
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Tiff over soiled note led to tension

Shop owner assaulted in old city

STAFF REPORTER HYDERABAD

Hussaini Alam police on Thursday said that tiff between two groups near Palki Garden function hall resulted in mild tension in the area on Wednesday night.

A group of people, who came to attend a marriage party in the area attacked a pan shop owner for refusing to take a soiled note. In his complaint, Syed Khadar Pasha told police that on Wednesday night around 9.50 p.m. his younger son Moosa Pasha informed him that some people were assaulting him and his elder brother Mustafa Pasha.

Soon, he rushed to the spot along with his wife and saw the accused C Deva assaulting their sons. When Khadar Pasha tried to rescue the duo, the accused also attacked him with an iron rod and he suffered an injury on the forehead.



Two held for cricket betting, ₹ 1.5 lakh seized from them

STAFF REPORTER HYDERABAD

Two persons indulging in betting on the ongoing 'Big Bash League' matches, were apprehended by the Hyderabad pol-

ice here on Thursday.

On a tip-off, the sleuths of Commissioner's Task Force central zone team raided an apartment at Abids and apprehended Sikandar N Charania of

Abids (41) and Shivraj Singh (24) of Mangalhat while accepting online cricket betting through cell phones from known and unknown punters for the league, central zone in-

spector S Srinivasa Rao said. They seized four cell phones, ₹ 1.45 lakh in cash and other material from their possession.

Sikandar was previously in-

volved in two cases in Abid road police station. The apprehended accused, along with the seized property, were handed over to the Abid road police for further action.

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For information on the eligibility criteria, selection process, financial support and how to apply, please visit [www.iimb.ac.in/NSRPredoc](#). Applications due by March 11, 2019 (5:00p.m.). For queries: predoc@iimb.ac.in

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IN BRIEF



Collector receives award from Maneka Gandhi

KARIMNAGAR
Collector Sarfaraz Ahmad received the Union Government's 'Beti Bacho - Beti Pada' award in the category of 'Effective Community Engagement' from Union Minister for Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi at a function in New Delhi on Thursday. Karimnagar was the only district from Telangana to secure the national award in 'Beti Bacho - Beti Pada' campaign. District Welfare Officer Sharada and DCPO Parveen were also present.

Vedic chants reverberate at Yerravalli

HYDERABAD
The fourth day of Sahasra Chandi Yagam taken up by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao at Yerravalli for the overall prosperity of the country commenced with different rituals on Thursday. The day started with Mr. Rao and his wife performing rituals at Rajashyamala Mother Goddess Mandap. He also took part in prayers at Mahadu Mandap amidst Vedic chanting by Ritviks. Chants of Panchakshari Japam reverberated across the Yagashala. He also offered prayers at the Chandimata Yagashala. Ritviks recited 'Chandi Saptasati Parayana' 400 times.

ROs suspended for misplacing ballot papers

SURYAPET
Collector D. Amoy Kumar on Thursday signed orders suspending two stage II Returning Officers "for dereliction of duty" in the first phase of Gram Panchayat polls held on January 21. Both Khaja Kahl Khan, a school assistant (Hindi) at Zilla Parishad High School, Durajpal in Chivverla mandal, and Buchi Reddy of ZPHS, Garidepally, misplaced polled ballot papers, which were later found in the dust bin and on the premises later.

'Hold LS polls with ballot papers'

Congress party and its allies tell the Election Commission

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD
Congress and its allies in the State have demanded that the Election Commission (EC) conduct the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections with ballot papers instead of EVMs following apprehensions being expressed over their tampering.

The parties have also requested the EC to institute an inquiry against Chief Electoral Officer of Telangana, Rajat Kumar, for the large-scale irregularities in the electoral rolls for the Assembly elections. At a dharna organised by the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) election coordination committee here on Thursday, they pointed out that Mr. Rajat Kumar had himself admitted after the polling about lapses resulting in missing names and apologised for it.

Chairman of the coordination committee Marri Shashidhar Reddy, TPCC president N. Utam Kumar Reddy, Congress Legislative Party Leader M. Bhatti Vikramarka, former Minister D.K. Aruna, Telangana Jana Samithi (TJS) president M. Kodandaram, State secretary of Communist Party of India (CPI) Chada Venkat Reddy, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders L. Ramana and R. Chandrasekhar Reddy and several others participated in the protest.

'Or count all VVPAT slips'
Mr. Shashidhar Reddy said the Congress had been pointing out about the irregularities in the electoral rolls even before the commencement of process for the Assembly elections but there was neither any response nor action from the EC.

He alleged that Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) had terrorised voters to vote in its favour and there was need to reinstate confidence of voters in the election process either by re-introduction of ballot paper system or by counting all voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT).

Forest Department steps up raids on habitual offenders

Chief Minister's directive to punish offenders gives a boost to move

Suspected tiger skin seized

M. RAJEEV
HYDERABAD
The Forest department has resolved to intensify its checks on smuggling of teak wood and other illegal activities in association with the Police department.

The department has shared a list of over 460 persons, identified as habitual offenders, indulging in smuggling of valuable forest produce including teak. Senior officials said the number of these habitual offenders could be much higher and the department is on the look out for identifying them.

Accordingly, it has intensified the general raids in different parts of the State with its own personnel while the assistance of the police is being sought wherever required.

Joint operations conducted by the two departments have led to arrests of not only the offenders but also three Forest department officials who were acting hand-in-glove with them.

Coordinated effort
"There could be one or two more arrests of the department officials involved in these activities in the coming days," a senior Forest department official told *The Hindu*.

Furthering the initiative, the department has decided to intensify their searches for apprehending those indulging in these activities.

"The operations forthwith are likely to be on the lines of cordon and search opera-

tions of the police department for effectively checking these activities," the official said.

The development comes in the light of instructions issued by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao to officials concerned not to spare any one, including those with political affiliations, if

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
ADILABAD
Mancherial district forest officials on Thursday seized an animal skin suspected to be that of a tiger from Mandamarri town and took one person into custody. The skin is being sent to forensic laboratory, Hyderabad, to ascertain whether it belongs to a tiger or some other animal.

The forest officials acted upon a tip off given by an NGO from Chandrapur in Maharashtra following which they launched a joint operation successfully. Officials said even if the skin turns out to be fake, a case will be booked against the accused as selling fake skin too is a crime.

The person taken into custody is Ailaveni Lingaiah, reported to be a resident of Mandamarri town. He was still being interrogated by officials when reports last came in.

Meanwhile, it is being sus-

pected that the skin belongs to the male tiger which was

caught in camera trap in the forest of Gangapur in Kaval Tiger Reserve in December last year. However, the identity would be revealed only after the Forest Department completes its preliminary inquiry.

According to sources, the tiger was killed in Bheemaram forest area in Chenmuru. It was electrocuted after coming into contact with live

wire snare set up by alleged poachers, two of whom are absconding.

It may be recalled that Adilabad forest officials had seized a tiger skin in Ichoda in the first week of this month. The big cat was poached in Pembi forest range of Kaval Tiger Reserve sometime between Dasar and Deepawali festivals last year.

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THE HINDU HYDERABAD
FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2019

GHMC seizes 10 more pubs

Establishments were not adhering to fire safety norms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

GHMC officials conducted raids and seized various bars, pubs and restaurants on Thursday, for not adher-

ing to the prescribed fire safety norms.

The Enforcement, Vigilance and Disaster Management wing of the GHMC has seized 10 establishments and together with the eight already seized, the fresh raids take the total number to 18.

The seized outlets include Surabhi Restaurant, Kothapet, Chemistry Family Bar, Kothapet, Manoranjith Res-

taurant & Bar, Nagole Road, Silver Leaf Restaurant & Bar, L.B.Nagar, Sri Tirumala Restaurant & Bar, Mansurabad, Hi-King Restaurant & Bar, Vanasthalipuram, Abhiramanyu Restaurant & Bar, Vanasthalipuram, N7 Restaurant & Bar, Karmanghat, Vertigo High Life Pub and Hyderabad 12 Grill pub at Banjara Hills.

Director of the EVDM Vis-

wajit Kampati said most common shortfalls included lack of fire escape stairs, and absence of fire alarms and fire extinguishing equipment. Only 20 to 30 outlets are found to be adhering to the norms in all respects.

More worrisome is the estimate of over 150 bars, pubs and restaurants which are functioning without any licence.

CT scan technician held on charge of molesting girl

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

A technician with a private diagnostic centre, who allegedly touched the private parts of a 20-year-old woman, was arrested by Humayun Nagar police here on Thursday.

The police said that Veerababu (25), who works at Vijaya Diagnostic Centre's Vijayanagar Colony branch touched a woman inappropriately, when she went for

a CT scan around 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

"Around 10 p.m. the victim came to the police station and informed us that Babu misbehaved with her while conducting the test. Based on the complaint, we registered a case and took the accused into custody," police said. Babu was booked under Section 354 (criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) of IPC.

10-year RI for minor's rape

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

The driver of a GHMC garbage vehicle G Suresh (26) was sentenced to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment by a local court in Secunderabad for raping a minor girl in 2015 under Karkhana police station limits.

The First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge Court also imposed ₹ 4,000 fine on him.

Kidnapped and raped
A 17-year-old girl from Motinagar, who was reportedly kidnapped and raped by a driver, was rescued by the Sanathnagar police on Thursday.

Police arrested T Durga Prasad (26) following a complaint from parents of the girl.

Tender Notice

TSSPDCI intends to float tenders for procurement of (I)Laser video wall screen with 4 cubes along with back of existing old video wall screen,

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CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&MM)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA-DEPARTMENT OF SPACE CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC -SHAR, SRIRAKKOTA-524124, NELLORE (Dt.), A.P.		Date: 24.01.2019
No: SHAR: CMG CIVIL: MAINT: E-PublicTender-33/18-19		BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE
On behalf of President of India, online item rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following works from eligible contractors/agencies having experience in works of similar nature and magnitude.		
Title of the work: Periodical re-surfacing of BT road from Buckingham canal bridge to kudiri village along SHAR – Sullurpetta road, SDSC SHAR.		
Tender No: TIC-18-123; Est. Cost Put to tender : Rs. 322 Lakhs; Period of completion : 03 months ; Earnest Money Deposit : Rs.6,44,000/-		
Period during which tender documents can be requested : 25.01.2019, 10:00 hrs to 08.02.2019, 14:30 hrs.		
Last date & time for uploading of tenders: 11.02.2019 & 14:30 hrs.		
Interested tenderers may please refer detailed tender notice available in our office or our website www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO further details and purchase of tender documents. Contact Phone:08623-226083/6085		
Sd/- GROUP DIRECTOR, CMG/ SDSC SHAR		

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH REVENUE (DM) DEPARTMENT ANDHRA PRADESH DISASTER RECOVERY PROJECT WORLD BANK CREDIT NO: 5694-IN INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (NCB) - Goods						Dated 23.01.2019
IFB No.	Activity No. in STEP	Activity Name	Estimate Amount in Rs. Lakhs	Bid Security in Rs. Lakhs	Period of Supply in months	
04/APSMDA	93410	Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Operation of Multi-Touch Video Wall Solution and Digital Signage System for Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority	292.00	2.92	03	Sd/- Project Director, APDRP

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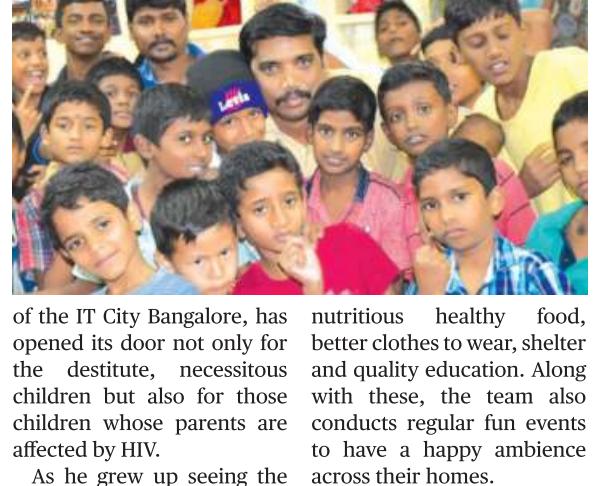


Brand connect initiative

Hope for the underprivileged

Guru Prasad, the Founder of Adarane Trust, has been changing lives of the underprivileged children for more than a decade now. Adarane Charitable Trust, located in the serene location

children through education, and supporting, counseling around 120 HIV affected families, where great deals of resources are constantly required in their endeavour. Here, the children receive



nutritious healthy food, better clothes to wear, shelter and quality education. Along with these, the team also conducts regular fun events to have a happy ambience across their homes.

As he grew up seeing the plight of illiteracy in his village, he started taking free classes for 5 students. This gradually crossed 300 within a short period.

Guru Prasad then received huge support from all of those parents and nearby surroundings, which made him realize his potentiality and started contributing more.

Guru Prasad and his team's prime focus areas include running home for destitute Children, empowering girl

Under My Watch is an initiative by The Hindu that celebrates conscious and responsible citizens who make India better, one small act at a time. Tell us your story and get a chance to be featured in The Hindu

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6 TELANGANA/ANDHRA

Second phase of gram panchayat polls today

TELANGANA BUREAU

As part of the second phase of gram panchayat elections, polling and counting for 140 sarpanches and 901 ward members in Yellaredy revenue division in Kamareddy would be held on Friday. Out of the total 192 gram panchayats and 1,622 wards 52 sarpanches and 721 ward members were elected unopposed.

According to Collector N. Satyanarayana, over 1.39

lakh voters were expected to cast vote in the current round in the district.

In Sanagareddy district, while there are 190 villages for the second phase, elections to 52 were unanimous and hence polling will be held for 138 panchayats.

As many as 366 gram panchayats in old united Adilabad district will go to polls. Already, election in 123 panchayats was unanimous.

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9th NATIONAL VOTERS' DAY 2019



Shri Sunil Arora
Chief Election Commissioner of India

Message

I take this opportunity to congratulate all the Citizens of the country on the 9th National Voters' Day, all those who are eligible to be Voters and also those who shall be becoming eligible in coming years by turning 18 years. Universal Adult Franchise is one of the most valuable Right given by the founding Fathers of the Constitution to every eligible Indian Citizen and we at Election Commission of India strive to bring that to you.

While the country prepares for the election to the 17th Lok Sabha, which is perhaps world's largest democratic exercise, we at Commission are ready and fully equipped to facilitate the more than 87 crore electors in exercising their invaluable franchise at the 10 lakh Polling Stations that have been set up across the country.

The millennials will be voting for the first time in a national election and I exhort them to set an example and be our Ambassadors by motivating their family members and peers to participate in the upcoming elections and every subsequent election.

Greater participation leads to a stronger democracy, and we at Commission are committed to leave no eligible voter behind, which is also the theme for this National Voters' Day - No Voter to Be Left Behind'.

This day is important for us, as the Election Commission of India was set up on 25th January, 1950. We dedicated this day to the voters of India in 2011. On this day, while reiterating our abiding faith in democracy, we renew our resolve to uphold the rich democratic traditions of our country and the sanctity of free, fair and peaceful elections.

Our endeavor is to make elections more and more inclusive, voter friendly, transparent and festive. And in this pursuit, we have brought in place several initiatives for efficient and effective connect with voters and for strengthening the elector confidence. The election office is just a call away and our Voter helpline No 1950 will be able to provide you all information and assistance. SMS services are also provided on the same number alongwith online voter facilitation and grievance redressal through phone, as well as on-line.

As Chief Election Commissioner of India, I call upon all the voters of the country to exercise their right to franchise in the upcoming elections in a free, fearless and ethical manner and strengthen our democracy. This is an opportunity that comes once in 5 years when you get to choose your representative to august house of Lok Sabha, so if you are not already registered to vote, please get registered today.

I once again extend my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to every citizen of the country on the National Voters' Day, 2019.

Jai Hind!

Celebrating the Right to Vote

The Election Commission of India has been celebrating 25th January, its Foundation day as the National Voters' Day, every year, since 25th January 2011. The 9th National Voters' Day is being celebrated today with the Theme of 'No Voter to be Left Behind'. The Commissioner's objective is to increase enrolment of voters by using the occasion so as to make universal adult franchise a complete reality and to enhance the quality of the Indian democracy.

Functions are organized in all Polling Stations locations in Telangana. The newly registered voters in each polling station are felicitated with a badge with logo and the slogan "Proud to be a voter - Ready to Vote" along with new PVC Colour EPIC Card.

NVD Celebrations across Telangana

Telangana, the rapidly progressing state under a stable and proactive Government, has been a role model for the country where elections 2018, were conducted peacefully and were totally incident free. The credit goes to the Election Commission machinery which worked untiringly to make elections a smooth and seamless process, with an increased voter turnout of 73.4% as compared to the previous voter percentage of 69.5%. This is a huge improvement and success, through the efforts of the Election Commission.

National Voters' Day, is therefore a time to rejoice. NVD is being celebrated in all the districts of Telangana with verve and enthusiasm in a variety of activities. Competitions are being conducted in High Schools Senior Level (above High Schools) in Elocution, Quiz, Essay Writing, Mock Parliament, and for Women, Rangoli Competitions are being organized in all the Polling Stations and Prizes and Certificates will be distributed to the winners.

On National Voters' Day, NVD Pledge is administered in all educational institutions/ Government Offices in Telangana. Pledge is also administered to all the citizens present in the NVD functions at Polling Station, Assembly Constituency, District and State Level.



NVD Pledge

"We, the citizens of India, having abiding faith in democracy, hereby pledge to uphold the democratic traditions of our country and the dignity of free, fair and peaceful elections, and to vote in every election fearlessly and without being influenced by considerations of religion, race, caste, community, language or any inducement"



Dr. Rajat Kumar, IAS
Chief Electoral Officer, Telangana

Message

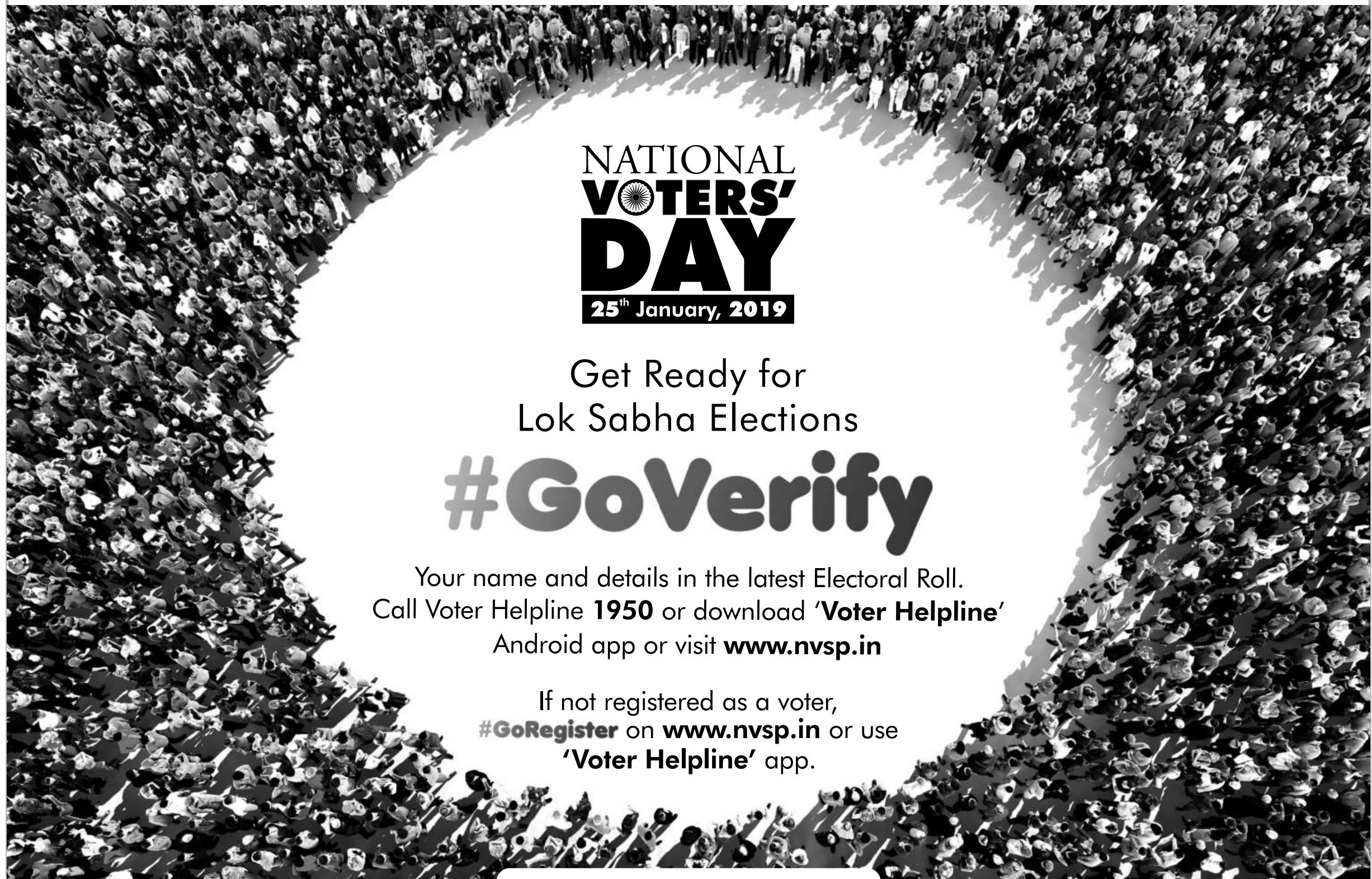
You all are aware that the Election Commission of India has been celebrating 25th January, its Foundation Day, as the National Voters' Day every year since 2011. The Commission's objective is to increase enrolment of voters by using the occasion to make universal adult franchise a complete reality and to enhance the quality of Indian Democracy. Today we are celebrating the 9th National Voters' Day with the theme of "No Voter to be Left Behind".

On this occasion I inform that the first General Elections to the Telangana State Assembly were conducted in fair and peaceful manner in December 2018. I thank all the electors of Telangana who participated in the poll process and exercised their franchise. The poll percentage was 73.40% which is the highest ever recorded in the state. There were no incidents of violence and there were no repolls. Our efforts to encourage persons with disabilities paid rich dividends and over 70% differently abled voters cast their votes.

The General Elections to the House of People is due shortly. To exercise your franchise, the first and foremost requirement is that your name should be in the electoral roll. Without your name being registered in the roll you will not be allowed to exercise your franchise. The revision activities of electoral roll with reference to 1-1-2019 is in progress and the last date for submission of claims is 4th February, 2019. The final roll will be published on 26-02-2019. All citizens who attained 18 years of age on or before 31st December 2018 are eligible for enrollment.

I appeal to all the citizens who are eligible to enroll their names and participate in forthcoming General Election to the Lok Sabha by voting fearlessly and without being influenced by considerations of religion, race, caste, community, language or any inducement.

I reiterate that we shall strive continuously to fulfill the motto of the Election Commission that "No voter to be left behind".



**NATIONAL
VOTERS'
DAY**
25th January, 2019

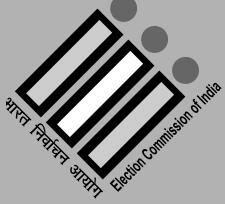
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IN BRIEF



₹3 lakh for kin of dead Kerala farm workers

PATHANAMTHITTA
The Kerala government will provide financial relief of ₹3 lakh each to the bereaved families of the two farm workers, Sanalkumar and Mathai Easo, who died due to excessive exposure to pesticides in the Upper Kuttanad village of Peringara, near Thiruvalla, a few days ago, Agriculture Minister V.S. Sunilkumar has said. The Minister was talking to reporters after visiting the families of the two farm workers on Thursday.

Four injured in clashes at Kannur temple

KANNUR
At least four people, including a temple 'kumaram' (oracle) and his son, and two Congress workers sustained injuries in clashes on the temple premises at Vattappara, near Kaitheri, on the outskirts of Koothuparamba here on Thursday evening. The Congress alleged that CPI(M) workers were behind the attack. The police said the clashes were apparently motivated by non-political reasons, though the attackers have been identified as local CPI(M) workers.

Six injured as lorry rams TSRTC bus

KHAMMAM
Six passengers of a hired bus of TSRTC were injured when a lorry rammed it at Konijerla on Khammam-Thallada main road on Thursday. Sources said a five-axle lorry crashed into the Khammam-bound bus from rear side after the lorry driver lost control of the vehicle on Thursday morning. Six passengers of the bus and the cleaners of both the vehicles suffered injuries in the accident.

Going it alone in tune with the wishes of the people, says Naidu

Party will continue to work with Congress at the national level, says TDP chief

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu gave clarity on the party's relationship with the Congress on Thursday and said both parties had decided to contest the general election separately in the State in tune with the wishes of the people. At the same time, the Telugu Desam Party would continue to work with the Congress at the national level.

During a teleconference on election mission 2019 with party leaders, Mr. Naidu said an electoral alliance between the Congress and the TDP in the State was not necessary for going together



Chandrababu Naidu

at the national level. He cited the example of the Congress participating in the Trinamool Congress rally in Kolkata even though they had no alliance in Bengal.

He said the non-BJP parties had come onto a single platform to take on the BJP-

led NDA. From Karnataka to Kolkata, they showed their unity.

They would contest the elections in their respective States as per their choice and people's wishes, he said.

Dictatorial rule'

Mr. Naidu said their Common Minimum Programme was to put an end to the dictatorial rule of the NDA. The agenda of the 23 non-BJP parties was to save democracy, the Constitution, the institutions and the systems and ensure the safety of the SCs, the STs and Muslims.

On the political scene here, he said those who were thinking of the development of the State were supporting

the TDP while others were supporting the YSR Congress Party and the BJP, which were working for their vested interests.

Referring to the coming together of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi and the YSRCP, Mr. Naidu said TRS president and Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao wanted a "weak leader to be in power in the State."

He feared that his incompetence and failures would come to light if there was a strong leader.

Hence, he was supporting YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, who compromised with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to come out clean in corruption cases.

Cong. workers bat for new candidates

'Replace incumbent MPs in 4 places'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Claiming that there was strong anti-incumbency against at least four MPs representing Kolar, Chickballapur, Chitradurga, and Tumakuru, a section of constituency-level Congress workers and leaders demanded new candidates in these constituencies in the Lok Sabha election.

B.N. Chandrappa (SC) represents Chitradurga and S.P. Muddhehanum Gowda represents Tumakuru.

Sources in the Congress said leaders had requested party workers of Chickballapur to be ready to accept the decisions of the high command in case the incumbent party candidate is replaced by a JD(S) candidate.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Moily said all nine incumbent MPs would contest the 2019 election and ruled out giving the seats to the alliance partner JD(S).

Meanwhile, sources said the JD(S), which had a base in the southern part of the State, had been bargaining hard to get maximum seats from the Congress in the region.

NIA arrests Kerala man deported from Saudi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday arrested a 33-year-old Kerala resident for his alleged role in the 2006 Kozhikode twin blasts.

The accused, identified as Mohammed Ashar, was arrested on arrival at the Delhi airport after he was deported from Saudi Arabia.

"The cases pertain to the twin IED blasts that occurred at the KSRTC and the Mofussil bus stands in Kozhikode city on March 3, 2006, causing injuries to two persons, besides damage to property. The NIA had taken over the investigation on December 18, 2009 and had filed a chargesheet against eight accused persons, including Ashar," the NIA said in a statement.

Two convicted

Trial against four accused persons was completed in August 2011 and two accused – T. Naseer and Saqas – were sentenced to life imprisonment.

Probe had revealed that Ashar and the other absconding accused, P.P. Yusuf, were party to the criminal conspiracy hatched by prime accused T. Naseer and others to carry out IED blasts in Kozhikode city, in protest over the denial of bail to the Muslim accused involved in the Marad communal riots of 2003 at Kozhikode district.

"Ashar and Yusuf had assisted T. Naseer in preparing the IEDs and had planted the explosive devices at the bus stands in Kozhikode city. Ashar had gone to Saudi Arabia in 2007 itself to evade arrest," the NIA said.

Karnataka MLA may not lose his eyesight

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The difference of opinion between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is willing to construct five elevated sections, of which four will be in Bandipur and one in Wayanad. Now, the five-member panel appointed by the Supreme Court will have to intervene to secure a joint statement of the two Ministries before the apex court, T.M. Rasheed, convener, Nilgiri-Wayanad National Railway Action Committee, which has filed an appeal in the Supreme Court in this regard, told *The Hindu* on Thursday.

He said the nine-year-old ban on traffic through Bandipur between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. is getting more complicated with an increase in vehicles plying via the highway connecting Kozhikode to Mysuru during daytime.

His family sought a second opinion from the hospital on Thursday.

The Congress MLA from Vijayanagar sustained a black eye and blunt injuries following a brawl at a resort on Sunday.

Hospital CMD K. Bhujang Shetty said the floor of the bone surrounding his right eye ball was fractured because of which he had double vision at certain angles.

"There has also been some external bleeding which will take 10-15 days to heal," he said, adding that it had not caused any harm to his eyesight.

Following the examination, he was sent back to Apollo Hospitals, Seshadripuram, where he was originally admitted.

Barter system back again in Telangana

Tribal youth purchase 'copra' for sugar

K.M. DAYASHANKAR
KARIMNAGAR

A group of tribal youths staying at Budige Jangala colony on the outskirts of the town collect 'copra' (dried coconut kernels) in exchange for an equal quantity of sugar. Every morning, the streets of the town reverberate with the shouts of these barter traders.

As part of their business, they roam around the town and adjoining villages. Surprisingly, they are doing good business as people have accepted the age-old practice of the barter system. All the 40 or so tribal youths who took up this system of trade were earning ₹400 to ₹500 a day, after meeting their petrol expenses.

They hit upon the idea of barter trade exclusively for dried coconut kernels as there was good market for the commodity. "We collect 'copra' and give to customers an equal quantity of sugar in exchange. Later, we take the 'copra' to the oil mill in the Gunj locality in the town, where it is processed into coconut oil and coconut powder. The traders pay us ₹60 to ₹90 a kg of dried coconut kernel, depending on quality," says

A tribal youth making a barter in Karimnagar town.
■ K.M. DAYASHANKAR

Shyam, who has been into this trade for the past two months.

"If we collect sugar in advance from the trader, then the rate would come down to ₹40 to ₹50 a kg of copra," he says. He says that, with the barter trade, he is earning with ease, working only for half day.

Cyclone effect
A. Mallamma, who sold her 2 kg of 'copra' in Rampur locality, said she was happy to secure an equal quantity of sugar as the 'copra' had remained unused for several months at her home.

A trader said coconut oil prices had gone up, following the cyclone in Tamil Nadu and Kerala where the coconut trees were uprooted.

Clinical trials not mandatory for Ayurvedic drugs in Kerala

It was the last State to have such a practice

A.S. JAYANTH
KOZHIKODE

Clinical trials are no longer mandatory to secure a licence for patented and proprietary Ayurvedic medicines in Kerala, the last State to have such a practice.

The State government recently withdrew its own order issued on September 6, 2013, which had made it compulsory for manufacturers to go through the long-drawn process of trials and studies before introducing new products in the market.

According to the new order issued on January 16, pilot studies as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, will be enough for getting licences.

The quality and efficiency of patented and proprietary drugs will also have to be examined by an expert committee chaired by the Deputy Drugs Controller (Ayurveda), who is also the State Licensing Authority (SLA).

Later, the SLA can issue licences as per the provisions under Section 158 (B) (B) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

The Drugs and Cosmetics Act was amended by the Centre in 2010, making clinical trials compulsory for pa-

IN BRIEF



Naval base commissioned in North Andamans

NEW DELHI
Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba on Thursday commissioned the Naval Air Station Shishpur in the North Andamans into a full-fledged base as the INS Kohassa. The base is in close proximity to Coco Islands (of Myanmar) and the wide expanse of the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone.

Bodies retrieved from avalanche-hit Kupwara

Srinagar
The police on Thursday traced the bodies of two hunters missing after avalanches hit Kupwara's Lolab forest area. The hunters went missing on Tuesday.

CBI arrests West Bengal producer in chit fund scam
KOLKATA
The CBI on Thursday arrested director of Sri Venkatesh Films Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. Srikantha Mohata in connection with a chit fund scam. Officials said Mr. Mohata had been arrested in connection with the Rose Valley Ponzi scam. Mr. Mohata is considered close to the West Bengal CM.

Taking a stand



Anger over Bill: Thousands of youngsters took to the streets of Aizawl, capital of Mizoram, on Wednesday against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019. Many in the State fear that the Bill will grant citizenship to the "illegal Chakmas". ■ SENA RENTHLEI

Pulse polio programme postponed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has postponed its Polio National Immunisation Day programme scheduled for February 3 without releasing a new date amid allegations of shortage of vaccines and funds.

Pulse Polio initiative was started with an objective of achieving 100% coverage and aimed to immunise children under the age of five. In a letter dated January 18, written to all States and UTs - barring Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala, where the stocks are said to be sufficient - the Ministry noted: "Due to unavoidable circumstances, it has been decided to postpone the programme, the rescheduled date for the said activity will be communicated in due course."

ISRO tastes first success of 2019

Launches military satellite Microsat-R on PSLV C-44 with just 2 strap-on motors

T.K. ROHIT
SRIRAKOTIA

Under a starry night and a waning gibbous moon, ISRO's PSLV C-44 broke the silence over a brimming Pulicat lake as it lifted off from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR, to successfully place into orbit a military satellite, Microsat-R.

The mission with the modified PSLV with just two strap-on motors, dubbed the PSLV-DL (dual strap-ons), marked another first for ISRO as it provided an alternative to its normal six strap-on motors. This will enable it to carry slightly higher payloads than its Core-Alone version.

Towards the end of the first stage, the rocket's plumes were white with its tail end burning bright red even as a large flock of birds passed on the horizon. A second later, as the rocket soared further into the night sky, the second stage ignition burned a bright orange propelling the rocket ahead.

In low orbit
Microsat-R, placed into orbit 13 and a half minutes after lift-off, is a defence application satellite. It is the first



Blazing a trail: PSLV C-44 lifting off from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, in Andhra Pradesh late on Thursday. ■ B. JOTHIRAMALINGAM

time an Indian satellite was being placed by ISRO in a low orbit at an altitude of 274 km. ISRO also used this launch as an opportunity to demonstrate the usability of the fourth stage of the rocket after the satellites are ejected into orbit.

Till Thursday night, the fourth stage used to just become yet another piece of space debris. However, ISRO has found a way to make use of this stage with a student satellite, Kalamsat, made by Space Kidz India, weighing

just 1.26kg, attached to it.

"The first mission of 2019 is a grand success," ISRO Chairman K. Sivan said from Mission Control. "Another innovation is the making of the fourth stage, as an experimental platform to do technology demonstrations and carry out science experiments by students," he said.

For experiments
This would enable any agency that wants to conduct experiments in space to use the fourth stage till it disinte-

grates naturally. The fourth stage of the rocket may be orbiting in space for six months to a year. ISRO is aiming to use this time-frame to enable agencies to run short time experiments. Mr. Sivan asked students in India to develop such satellites and ISRO would take care of the launch.

He also said ISRO was developing a Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), smaller than the PSLV. The first SSLV launch will take place this year, he said.

Body extracted from Meghalaya coal mine

Taken out of flooded shaft from a depth of about 170 feet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Rescue personnel on Thursday extracted body from the flooded coal mine in Meghalaya's East Jaintia Hills district, where 15 miners were trapped 43 days ago.

District officials said the Navy's underwater remotely operated vehicle (ROV), a robot with an electronic eye and mechanical arms, fished out the decomposed body from a depth of about 170 ft in the 355 ft-deep shaft of the mine.

for the operation said.

Khliehriat is the East Jaintia Hills district headquarters, about 40 km from the mine at Khloong Ryngkhan or Ksan.



Deep hunt: Rescuers carrying out the unidentified body from the mine in the Ksan area of East Jaintia Hills on Thursday. ■ PTI

Navy as well as Planys Technologies, a Chennai-based firm, have since December 30 located 26 lateral rat-holes branching out from the main shaft of the mine. A rat-hole along a coal seam is so named because it is about 2 ft in height and a miner has to crawl inside to cut coal.

"We located five major tunnels, three with dead-ends. In the other two, there were several smaller tunnels branching out left and right. For a better idea, imagine the veins of a leaf or the lines of a palm," a member of a search and rescue agency said, declining to be quoted.

The ROVs engaged by the

18 Indian institutions to study nitrogen pollution

They are part of a group of 50 that has secured £20 million funding from the United Kingdom

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Eighteen research institutions in India are among a group of 50 institutions - called the South Asian Nitrogen Hub (SANH) - in the United Kingdom and South Asia that have secured £20 million (about ₹200 crore) from the U.K. government to assess and study the quantum and impact of "nitrogen pollution" in South Asia.

While nitrogen is the dominant gas in the atmosphere, it is inert and doesn't react. However, when it is released as part of compounds from agriculture, sewage and biological waste, nitrogen is considered "reactive",

and may pollute and even exert a potent greenhouse gas (heat trapping) effect.

"So far, we have focussed on carbon dioxide and its impact on global warming. Nitrous oxide (N₂O) is 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide but isn't as prevalent in the atmosphere. However, this is poised to grow," said N. Raghuram, chairman, International Nitrogen Initiative (INI), and Professor of Biotechnology at Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi. "In the future, reactive nitrogen pollution will be a matter of significant global discussion and, unlike carbon, India and South Asia

cannot wake up at the last minute, realising that it has no updated, scientific assessment of its inventory."

To study its cycle

Last year, Dr. Raghuram led a consortium of researchers who assessed trends in nitrogen emissions in India, where NO_x emissions grew at 52% from 1991 to 2001 and 69% from 2001 to 2011. The SANH will study the impact of the different forms of pollution to form a "coherent picture" of the nitrogen cycle. In particular, it will look at nitrogen in agriculture in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Maldives.

Scare in the air

Nitrogen, when released as part of compounds from agriculture, sewage and biological waste, is considered 'reactive' and may be polluting and causing greenhouse gas (heat trapping) effect



Some causes of nitrogen pollution

- Emission from chemical fertilisers
- Burning of fossil fuels
- Emission from livestock manure

Key threats due to nitrogen pollution

- Biodiversity loss
- Pollution of rivers and seas
- Ozone depletion
- Health, economy and livelihoods

India's nitrogen emissions grew at 52% from 1991 to 2001 and 69% from 2001 to 2011

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e-TENDER NOTICE NO. 46/2018-19

For and on behalf of ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD., C.G.M. (OPTCL) invites tenders from reputed manufacturers in India in two part bidding system for Supply and Erection & Commissioning and AMC of RTU. The interested bidders would be required to enrol themselves on the tender portal www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL. Complete set of bidding documents are available at www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL from 25.01.2019 (10.00 AM) to 21.02.2019 (12.30 PM). Interested manufacturers may visit OPTCL's official website <http://www.optcl.co.in> and www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL for detail specification.

N.B: All subsequent addendums/corrigendum to the tender shall be hosted in the www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL only.

CR-Advt.No.- 77/18-19 Chief General Manager (CPC)

Please connect us: optcl.odisha optcl_odisha energyodisha

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT (PERSONNEL DIVISION) EMPLOYMENT NOTICE No.O4/2019, Dt.10-01-2019	
1. Name of the post	Dy.Chief Vigilance Officer(By Deputation)
2. No. of Posts	1(One)
3. Classification	Class - I
4. Scale of pay	Rs.24900 - 50500

For further details:www.vizagport.com
Last date for receipt of the applications is on 28-02-2019
-SECRETARY

SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN STATE PROJECT OFFICE, K.B.C. Boys High School Campus, Opp. Raithu Bazar, Patamanta, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.	
OPEN TENDER NOTICE	

SSA, Andhra Pradesh is inviting tenders for supply of school shoes for students, of 1-9 classes, approximately 30 lakhs in number. For details please visit www.ssa.ap.gov.in. Tender form can be downloaded from website. Eligible bidders shall submit the tenders in the prescribed format before 5:00 PM on 07-02-2019.

SD State Project Director,
Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Andhra Pradesh.

OPEN TENDER NOTICE

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd. KMML (An Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)	
Spreading Spreading	
SANKARAMANGALAM, CHAVARA-691583, KOLLAM, KERALA, INDIA - 691583	
Phone : 0476-2686722 to 2686733 (12 Lines), 265 1000, Fax: 91-476-2680101, 2686721	
E-mail : kmm@md3.vsnl.net.in , www.kmml.com	

Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal <https://tenders.kerala.gov.in> or www.kmml.com

No. Tender ID Items

1 2019_KMML_261933_1 For Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of three cells Cooling Tower with 700 m³/hr capacity each at PT Unit; KMML

2 2019_KMML_262192_1 For Excavating Iron Oxide Slurry Pond I (third portion) to be capped with HDPE sheets / suitable materials in KMML

3 2018_KMML_262199_1 Excavating the Iron Oxide from third pond and shifting to First Pond in KMML

Chavara
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For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd.

Our Products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge

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For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd.

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HOU (TP)



Familial face

Priyanka Gandhi can be a star campaigner, but the Congress still needs to flesh out its vision

In appointing his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as a general secretary of the party, Congress president Rahul Gandhi probably calculated that the benefits outweighed the risks. While the BJP lost no time in decrying the move as another instance of dynastic politics, the high-stakes manoeuvre could lift the profile of the Congress as a serious contender in the general election. In Uttar Pradesh, where it has been left high and dry in the seat-sharing deal between the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party, it sorely needs a dramatic turnaround in political fortunes. While her formal induction into politics may have been prompted by a number of factors, including the ill-health of her mother, former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, the charge of eastern Uttar Pradesh was surely meant as a signal to the SP and the BSP. Although her only previous formal role in politics was as the party's campaign manager in Amethi and Rae Bareli, constituencies of her brother and mother, Ms. Vadra is high on charisma quotient, that intangible but nonetheless real quality that saw crowds gather in the party's pocket boroughs. The Nehru-Gandhi lineage aside, Ms. Vadra commands a stage presence, helped no doubt by a resemblance to her grandmother Indira Gandhi. Whether she will take her mother's place in Rae Bareli is not clear as yet, but this is a suggestion that there could be a long-term role.

In many ways, the nomination is an admission of the party's over-reliance on the family, but to the credit of Mr. Gandhi, he has been engaging in wider consultations within the party on important decisions. The Congress is still a centralised party, and Mr. Gandhi is routinely authorised to take the final call on all matters big and small; but, equally, he has also shown the ability to step back in a spirit of accommodation in dealings with allied parties. That he did not declare himself as a prime ministerial candidate of the Opposition was born of tactical necessity; even so, he has shown a fair amount of maturity in dealing with a wide array of allies. During the Manmohan Singh years, the Congress was able to counter, to an extent at least, the perception that it revolved around the dynasty. And the BJP may not find much political purchase in linking Ms. Vadra's appointment to dynastic politics; there will be no surprise, however, if it starts harping on her husband's allegedly murky land dealings, which had cropped up during the 2014 election campaign. What should engage the Congress is not what the BJP may say about Ms. Vadra, but what she can say and do for it. The party needs much more than a star campaigner; it needs leaders that can revitalise the organisation by presenting it as an alternative to the BJP. For that, it will have to come up with a truly inclusive, egalitarian vision that privileges all-round development above all else.

Season's worst

A concerted public health push is required to tackle periodic outbreaks of influenza

Seasonal influenza poses a significant public health challenge for India every year. The spurt in infections during the first two weeks of 2019 cries out for an effective plan to contain it. Rajasthan, which had a big case load last year, is the worst-affected State in the current season, with 768 cases and 31 deaths as of January 13. There have been peaks in the country over the past six years, with the number of cases recorded by the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme soaring to 42,592 and the death toll touching 2,990 in 2015. With better understanding of the nature of active viruses and the availability of a quadrivalent vaccine, State governments have no excuse for failing to sharply reduce the spread. Last year, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare deputed teams to assist Rajasthan in containing the outbreak. It is pertinent to ask what preventive measures were put in place based on the experience. Large-scale vaccination covering high-risk groups such as health workers, people with lung, kidney, liver and heart disease, diabetics and the elderly could reduce the impact of the viruses in States such as Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana and the National Capital Region, all of which had a large number of cases three years ago. A universal preventive programme should be considered at least for the future.

Last year, the Union Health Ministry put out an advisory on the right vaccine to protect against a known set of viruses, such as Influenza A H1N1, H3N2 and Influenza B. Yet, most public health programmes are not prepared for a mass adoption of the vaccine. Non-availability of sufficient doses of quadrivalent vaccine as well as profiteering on the demand have not been addressed. If a vaccine has proven efficacy in reducing the burden of seasonal influenza, it must be made part of the public health system. An umbrella scheme such as Ayushman Bharat can easily provide it to everyone using public and private institutions. Campaigns to educate the public through mass media ahead of the season, especially on respiratory etiquette and risk reduction, can help cut transmission. At the same time, upgrading existing vaccines requires a consistent effort to track viral mutations that take place periodically, and communicate the information to researchers through open access databases. There are 41 Virus Research Diagnostic Laboratories in India and they can study the nature of infections to provide genetic insights to peer scientists. This can help develop vaccines and remedies. When it comes to treatment, the availability of anti-viral drugs such as Oseltamivir in the public health system should be ensured. Seasonal influenza will, according to the WHO, continue to resurface. India must prepare for it with a comprehensive programme that covers all the States.

A tragedy that was long in the making

Illegal rat-hole mining in Meghalaya persists despite ruinous effects on the environment



PATRICIA MUKHIM

The efforts to reach the 15 miners trapped in an illegal coal mine in the East Jaintia hills of Meghalaya since December 13 continue, but they began belatedly and have faced many problems.

Doomed from the beginning

First, the Meghalaya government has no idea what happens inside these rat-hole mines, which are barely 2 ft wide, since mining is a private activity. Despite the National Green Tribunal ban of April 2014, mining continues in the State. Second, it was unfortunate that the district administration assumed the miners to be dead on the very day of the tragedy. This assumption was evident in the letter written to the National Disaster Response Force. It was only after a Delhi-based lawyer, Aditya N. Prasad, represented by senior Supreme Court advocate Anand Grover and his team of human rights lawyers presented their suggestions to the court that the Meghalaya government got different actors to the accident site. Mr. Prasad has never visited Meghalaya. When asked why he is the petitioner on behalf of the miners, he simply said: "They are fellow Indians and my brethren." That someone based in Delhi should have the empathy lacking in the people and the government shows that humanity is a dying virtue.

Mr. Prasad has done everything

possible to put things together to assist the rescue mission. But despite his initiative, things were delayed. The distance of the mine, for one, was a major hindrance. Then there are other issues that need to be highlighted. The trapped miners were being racially profiled in the minds of the people and the state. Of the 15 miners, only three were locals from the nearby village of Lumthari. The rest were Muslims from Garo Hills, Meghalaya, and Bodoland, Assam. Their socio-economic profile also worked against them. They were the poorest of the poor who took a huge risk to enter a mine and dig for coal without any safety gear.

When a mine is flooded, the immediate response, apart from pumping out the water, is to stop further flow of water into it. This requires a hydrologist to scientifically map out the area from where water entered the mine. Sudhir Kumar, a hydrologist from the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, arrived only two weeks after the disaster. So did the divers from the Indian Navy and the 100 HP water pumps from Kirloskar Brothers. The remotely operated underwater vehicle (ROV) from Planys in Chennai came three weeks later. So did the geologists from Hyderabad. All these delays happened because there was no one person or agency to coordinate the rescue mission. This shows the kind of disaster preparedness we have in our country. One shudders to think what the response would be if there was a massive earthquake in the Northeast, which is listed as Zone 5 on the seismic scale.

There are many questions that arise with respect to rat-hole min-



ing of coal. One, why does the state allow this archaic mining system, which has complete disregard for human life and safety? And two, why is Meghalaya exempted from national mining laws? Rat-hole mining, which started with gusto in the 1980s, has poisoned three rivers in the Jaintia hills: the Myntdu, Lunar and Lukha. Scientists from the North-Eastern Hill University have found that these rivers have very high acidic levels. Reports from other agencies suggest that pH of the water and sulphate and iron concentrations indicate significant deterioration of the rivers. Acid mine drainage from abandoned mines was a major cause for water pollution in the areas investigated, the reports added.

The coal mine owners have been hiring the best legal brains to argue for them in the highest court of the land. They say that rat-hole mining should continue because no other form of mining is viable (which means that their profit margins would reduce if other forms of mining were to take place). They argue that the NGT ban should be lifted. They claim

that coal mining provides livelihoods for many, but at what cost?

The fault-lines

The tribes of Meghalaya are divided on the issue of rat-hole mining. The fault-lines are clear. Those who care for the environment and for a future for their children and grandchildren have been clamouring for an end to the practice of rat-hole mining and reckless limestone mining. On the other hand, the mining elite have mobilised forces to demonise environmental activists. A community of just over a million is now fragmented. To add to these woes, cement companies also release their effluents into the rivers. So we now have a deadly cocktail of pollutants being released into the environment. The scale of the problem is clear in this one fact: there are 3,923 coal mines in one district with a geographical area of 2,126 sq. km.

The other troubling factor is that coal mine owners are insisting that since Meghalaya is a State under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, national mining laws should be exempted here. The Sixth Schedule was enacted to

protect the community rights of tribals from any form of exploitation of their land and resources. How can it now be used as an instrument to protect an activity that is a private enterprise, that is inhuman, and that violates Article 21 of the Constitution? Why is the Sixth Schedule unable to protect the forests and rivers that are common property resources? Acid mine drainage has rendered even agricultural land non-productive. Mine owners do not care about environmental degradation.

Abandoning responsibility

The cement giant, Lafarge, mines limestone from Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills district and transports it to Chhatak in Bangladesh via conveyor belts. The Supreme Court placed a heavy penalty on Lafarge and asked it to strictly implement environmental laws apart from generating livelihoods for people residing within 50 km of the mining areas. In the case of coal mine owners, there are no such strictures. They have left thousands of abandoned mines as human graves. The State does not insist that they reclaim and afforest those mines. In 40 years of mining and profiteering, the mine owners have till date not constructed a single hospital or even a school. There is complete disregard for corporate social responsibility because the mines are privately owned by the tribals. How long can the Central government and the highest court of the land allow this to carry on in one part of the country when strict laws are applied elsewhere?

Patricia Mukhim is Editor, The Shillong Times

The ground beneath our feet has moved to the right

Hate has become mainstream. This can only change when democracy is no longer equated with majoritarianism



NISSIM MANNATHUKKAREN

At a public rally on January 22, BJP president Amit Shah claimed that the Opposition's mahagathbandhan rally in Kolkata did not have slogans of "Vande Mataram" or "Bharat Mata ki Jai." The implication was that the Opposition is anti-national. But the only hitch was that Mr. Shah's claim was fake. The bugle for the general election has been sounded.

Mainstreaming hate

Since the Congress's victory in December in three Assembly elections, there has been a flurry of communally laced fake news from the Sangh Parivar on social media. One claim was that Muslims in Rajasthan carried Pakistani flags as they celebrated the Congress's win. Another was that Congress president Rahul Gandhi praised Islam as the source of Mahatma Gandhi's non-violence. And yet another was that Mr. Gandhi prayed for a Muslim kingdom in India at a dargah. All these claims were exposed by *Alt News*.

While there is gradual mainstreaming of hatred, elections especially push the envelope regarding what can be uttered in the

public sphere. But this normalisation of hate is not just verbal. According to Hate Crime Watch, a multi-organisation effort steered by FactCheck.in, last year saw the highest number of religiously motivated hate crimes in a decade, and in 75% of those incidents, the victims were minorities.

The Congress's recent victories cannot be read as a triumph of secularism over communalism, or of economic issues like rural distress and urban middle class angst about development. This is because the ground beneath our feet has almost irrevocably shifted to accommodate the extreme right-wing agenda of virulent masculinity, anti-minority and anti-Dalit hate. For instance, the state response to the brutal killing of a policeman by a mob in Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh was to make villages take a pledge against cow slaughter! Further, the National Security Act was invoked against the alleged cow slaughterers, but not the killers. Even the language we use has changed. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a December election campaign speech, said: "The Congress has come up with a 'fatwa' that I should not begin my rallies with 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'." It says a lot that the Prime Minister's pitting of a much-denounced term from Islamic jurisprudence against 'Bharat Mata' does not shock us. If there are images of an angry Hanuman everywhere, it is because there is a miasma of hate;



Hanuman cannot any more be a gentle devotee of Lord Ram. And if U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath uses religiously inflammatory words like "Congress can keep Ali, Bajrangbali is enough for us" with impunity in campaign speeches, it is because his hate speeches have become commonplace.

Muslims bear the brunt of this new normal (witness the BJP's dangerous anti-Muslim rhetoric on the Citizenship Amendment Bill), for hate further marginalises the already politically marginalised. This is also facilitated by Muslim leaders themselves. For example, All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul Muslimeen leader Akbaruddin Owaisi responded to Mr. Adityanath's venomous speeches with the same religious rabble-rousing, chanting Naara-e-Takbeers in political gatherings completely populated by men.

In this thrall of a hate-filled false binary of a monolithic Hindu versus a monolithic Muslim, the building of solidarities on the basis

of caste, class and gender oppressions is postponed. The real beneficiaries are not the most oppressed Hindus and Muslims, but only the demagogues, the "fishers for eels" that Aristophanes recognised 2,500 years ago. When many distressed farmers and a section of the urban unemployed vote for the Congress or secular parties, it is not that they do not share the same ideological universe as the right-wing. The so-called victories of secularism will still be on a ground ploughed by the cancer of hate and mountain of fake news. It is no surprise then that the Congress too puts out fake news, albeit of a non-communal kind.

India is not unique in this respect. Hateful messages on social media propelled the far-right candidate Jair Bolsonaro to victory in Brazil, they were used by the Myanmar military against the Rohingya, and they led to violence against immigrants in the U.K. and the refugees in Germany. Transformational democratic solidarities can scarcely emerge out of a toxic public sphere and social media. In India, the vastly disproportionate culpability of Hindutva conjoined with state power is clear. According to a BBC study, calls for nation-building are trumping truth and there is an "overlap of fake news sources on Twitter and support networks for the ruling party".

Social media portal ShareChat, used in 14 Indian languages, said very presciently about increasing

hate speech on its platform: "When you have politicians going on TV and saying these things every night, [we] can't start limiting people's freedom of speech... We can't take a call on what is hateful or not." Social media can rejuvenate democracy by giving a voice to the voiceless, but that space for debate has been hijacked by IT cells of political parties and the masses following them.

Eliminating hate

It is difficult to roll back something that acquires normalcy. "Uninstalling" hate from social media platforms and the larger public sphere cannot be achieved through mere electoral victories, or stronger laws, even if they are important. While electoral alliances, like that of the Bahujan Samaj Party and Samajwadi Party, can dent Hindutva-fuelled hate, they cannot eliminate it. This can happen only through a multi-faceted cultural and political struggle to realise that democracy is not majoritarianism; rather, its core tenets are equality, liberty and fraternity, all of which incontestably stand against hate and demagoguery. And that there can be no democracy if there is no sanctity of speech, and no intention to speak the truth.

Nissim Mannathukkaren is Chair, International Development Studies Department, Dalhousie University, Canada and tweets @nmannathukkaren

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Priyanka in politics

The Congress is hoping that Priyanka Gandhi's resemblance to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the goodwill that the Gandhi family enjoys in parts of Uttar Pradesh will translate into votes ("Rahul appoints Priyanka as Congress general secretary", Jan. 24). Ms. Vadra's campaign can be expected to make some impact on the women vote bank. However, her appointment has given yet another opportunity to the BJP to allege that the Congress promotes dynastic politics. She also carries with her the baggage of Robert Vadra, who is facing corruption charges. The U.P. polls will determine not only the party's prospects this general election but also

Ms. Vadra's career to an extent

S.V. VENKATKRISHNAN, Bengaluru

It is unfortunate that the Congress used its dynastic card to change the course of the political game in U.P. That it does not mind splitting the anti-BJP vote in order to salvage its prestige speaks about its delusions about being the nation's natural choice for forming government. But the arrival of Priyanka Gandhi will neither change the SP-BSP's stand nor will it enthuse the voters who have no emotional connect with a politician who appears before them once in five years.

V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN, Thiruvananthapuram

Priyanka Gandhi provides an additional blow to the BJP, which already seems to be rather jittery. That so many BJP leaders, including the Prime Minister, have commented on her entry proves this.

THARCUS S. FERNANDO, Chennai

Priyanka Gandhi's appointment is a shot in the arm for the Congress, but it might diminish the aura reserved for Rahul Gandhi in the party. The party can benefit from this, however, if dual power centres are successfully avoided.

AYASSERI RAVEENDRANATH, Aranmula

This is a clear example of nepotism. Priyanka Gandhi may have taken decisions for the party in the past, but that surely does not

mean she deserves to be general secretary? As usual the Congress has failed to recognise party leaders who have worked hard and who have experience. One can only hope that Robert Vadra too isn't given some important role.

SIRAT SAPRA, Fazilka

Let EVMs stay

The article, "An electoral intervention that has clicked" (Jan. 24), was heartening to read given the vehement pleas for a return to the paper ballot system. The Election Commission has been sincerely trying to improve the EVMs to avoid glitches and malfunctions. Political parties know the problems with the paper ballot system; that they continue to blame EVMs for their

defeats and want to return to paper ballot indicates that they intend to play mischief to gain electoral victory.

V.S. GANESHAN, Bangalore

Poor state of hospitals

It is admirable that the bus driver stopped the vehicle after suffering a heart attack. It is also admirable that the doctor in the bus gave him first-aid and the passengers and conductor tried to get him help ("Telangana driver suffers

heart attack but stops bus safely", Jan. 24). What is shocking is that there were no duty doctors at the hospital! What kind of a hospital is this that doesn't have doctors? What are people expected to do in emergencies? The government must ensure that government hospitals have infrastructure and staff who are as good as those in private hospitals.

B.J.S. CHRISTOPHER, Hyderabad

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

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS: The weight of Microsat-R is 740 kg and not 1,300 kg as reported in the text or 100 kg as mentioned in the graphic of the report, "ISRO to launch military satellite tonight" (January 24, 2019).

It is the policy of The Hindu to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition (place of publication), date and page. The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by telephone +91-44-2848297/28576300 (11 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday); fax +91-44-28552063; e-mail readerseditor@thehindu.co.in. Mail Readers' Editor, The Hindu, Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860 Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002, India. All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone number. No personal visits. The Terms of Reference for the Readers' Editor are on www.thehindu.com

YES, NO, IT'S COMPLICATED

Are we undermining our scientific temper?

YES

JAYANT MURTHY
is a senior professor at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics

Science funding is inadequate and science management is problematic

There was much angst early this month about the disgraceful remarks that have been over the last few years at the Indian Science Congress (ISC) meetings, to the point where even the organisers felt the need to take a stand. This is unfortunate because the ISC has traditionally been a forum for scientists from all parts of the country to present their work. It is a forum where research that is grounded in rationality has always been given a hearing, even if it did not make it to peer-reviewed journals. The vast majority of Indian educational institutes actively discourage

learning, not to mention research, and the ISC is the only venue where scientists meet their peers and get affirmation of their work. It is truly a shame that a handful have brought disrepute to the entire Indian science community, particularly to those at less favoured institutes who, if nothing else, spread scientific temper through their own actions to the broader community.

Nehru and scientific temper

The broader question to be answered here is whether the nation is undermining its scientific temper. The British understood that

scientific temper would result in a questioning of their rule and preferred to keep their subjects subservient. It was only after Independence that the need for scientific temper was considered to be important. It was even felt that scientific temper should be protected as a fundamental duty. For Jawaharlal Nehru, scientific temper did not mean that everyone had to study science; rather, it was a way of thinking, a way to break the hold of superstitions by applying rationality and thought. Educational structures in independent India were to spearhead the transition of the nation from a people stilled by the medieval darkness of the



British to a people united in the pursuit of knowledge and a search that would bring prosperity in its wake.

Superstitions hold

Unfortunately, the vision of the giants of our freedom struggle foundered in a morass of mediocrity. Even those educated in the best institutes in the country never lost their superstitions. They studied modern science, used modern devices, achieved material prosperity and yet held the most regressive views. 'God-men' catering to the educated middle class have used the power of the media and social media to spread their superstitions and broadcast messages that

should have been laughed at by those at the kindergarten level.

It is now not only acceptable but fashionable for public figures to utter scientific nonsense. For instance, the Vice Chancellor of Andhra University, who represents the academics of not just his university but the country, feels no shame in talking about test tube babies in India's ancient history at the ISC. This man holds important roles in the science hierarchy and yet no one in authority finds the necessity to comment on this, let alone punish him. Even the science academies are silent. One may easily conclude that scientific temper is not important to the government and, perhaps even more tellingly, to scientists.

It is hard to know how to reverse this deterioration in scientific temper. While the Chinese are on the far side of the moon, Indians are busy treating cancer with cow urine and looking to the past for modern fighter jets.

Changing facts

Funding for science is inadequate, the management of science is problematic, and the university system has failed. Teaching has become a political game in schools, with facts changing according to the government of the day. A few brave organisations, such as the Breakthrough Science Society (of which I am a part), are trying to break the chains of superstition, but they are lonely voices in the wilderness.

NO

A. JAYAKUMAR
is the secretary general of Vijnana Bharati

All of India's Prime Ministers have been strong protagonists of science and technology

From Jawaharlal Nehru to Narendra Modi, India's Prime Ministers have been strong protagonists of science and technology and have believed that the well-being of the common man is vested in scientific temper.

Protagonists of science

Nehru said: "Lots of people may not know, why such an emphasis is being put on science... this may not show immediate results, but will finally result in the upliftment of the country." India's second Prime Minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri, coined

the slogan "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan (hail the soldier, hail the farmer)" after the war with Pakistan in 1965 to enthuse farmers and soldiers for the great task ahead, thus underlining the two core pillars of the nation.

When India successfully tested the nuclear bombs at Pokhran, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee declared India a full-fledged nuclear state. In his address, he enunciated his priorities for the nation by adding "Jai Vigyan (hail science)" to "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan". In this manner, the Indian govern-

ment brought science to the centre of national discourse. Keeping up the legacy, Mr. Modi has also given extraordinary support to science and technology by further adding "Jai Anusandhan (hail research)" to the slogan.

India is among the top 10 countries for scientific research, according to data released by Elsevier, a publisher of scientific articles and journals. There have been many indigenous programmes in scientific research. In space missions, India is counted among the top six in the world.

India cannot undermine the



dreams of 1.3 billion people, which can only be realised through science. Both *Apara Vidya*, or knowledge of the intellect, and *Para Vidya*, or higher knowledge, are inseparably embedded in the Indian psyche.

Science is for humanity

Science has always been universal and neutral. Pseudo-intellectuals and people with unscientific beliefs masquerade as scientists to undermine Indian science. My opinion is that we should never burden our *puranas* and religious stories with India's scientific achievements.

Both have their own destinies and realms to fulfil. Aryabhata invented his astronomical theorems without the help of any modern instruments 1,500 years ago, which scientists were able to unravel with advanced equipment only in recent times.

India's greatest slogan, *Vasudhaiva Kudumbakam* (the world is one family), which is engraved in the central hall of Parliament, calls for acceptance and respectful coexistence. Keeping up with our traditions, the Indian scientific community should declare that science is for humanity, and should avoid looking at science through the prism of religion and beliefs.

At the 106th Indian Science Congress, instead of focusing on the research findings of the three Nobel laureates, Avram Hershko, F. Duncan M. Haldane, and Thomas Christian Südhof, the media focussed on unimportant issues. The space for reporting their promising and positive thoughts was consumed by reports on the Kauravas and their "connection with stem cells" and the "missile technology of Lord Vishnu".

India will definitely march ahead with scientific vigour, indomitable courage and technology in the years to come. The legacy of science and scientific temper can never be undermined in India.

IT'S COMPLICATED

SUNDAR SARUKKAI
teaches philosophy at the National Institute of Advanced Studies

Public rationality has to be ethical and humanitarian

The answer is complicated because the terms in the question are themselves ambiguous.

Three ambiguous terms

The first ambiguous term is 'scientific temper'. While much has been made of it, there is no clear definition of what scientific temper is. It may broadly refer to a scientific disposition (a way of knowing something), but that is a problem since ways of knowing in different sciences are quite different. For instance, the methods in physics, chemistry, biology, the medical sciences and

engineering sciences are quite different. The scientific attitude in the 'social sciences' also has different characteristics from the scientific attitude in the physical and mathematical sciences. So which of these types of scientific temper are being undermined today?

The second ambiguous term is 'we'. Who is this 'we'? If it includes all the citizens of the country, then we could ask: why should all citizens possess scientific temper? And who are the people who actually possess scientific temper? It could be scientists but surely it does not

include all scientists in all their interactions with their family, colleagues and society?

The third ambiguous term is the word 'undermining'. What exactly is being undermined? If all the citizens had some notion of scientific temper, then we can understand whether it is getting undermined today for various reasons. But we do not even know who has scientific temper, nor do we know how it manifests in their interactions. So what is really getting undermined? And if people do possess scientific temper, is it so easy to undermine it? One could argue that if one possesses scientific temper,

then it is not so easy to undermine it because its nature is such that it will not be easily swayed.

Human truths cannot be reduced to matters of evidence and arguments alone. For example, even if all tests show a child to be lacking in some cognitive skills, it would not be correct to call the child an 'idiot'. Human and cultural truths need mediation of ethical values such as compassion and respect. The lack of these in scientific temper is what undermines it firstly.

What is public rationality?
On the other hand, it is important to have something similar to sci-

tific temper in our public discourse. It is important to realise that public rationality – the ways by which we can discuss and dispute public matters in a public manner – needs some codes of conduct. For example, using anger to influence a position, or holding on to a view independent of what others say, or what the evidence points to are some examples of what we should not do. To be dispassionate about arguments that might be critical of one's position or privilege is necessary. Being dispassionate, taking into account insights and information from different sources, and following an argument to its end even though its conclusions may not be pleasing to one are all characteris-

tics of public rationality. If some scientists mistakenly want to call it scientific temper, thereby negating other influences on this attitude, then they are using this term in an ideological manner.

The reason I resist the reduction of these characteristics to scientific temper is that a scientific attitude has an intrinsic problem with ethical and humanitarian values. Public rationality is one that has to be ethical and humanitarian since it is about decisions and relationship with other humans. We need this larger public rationality, which draws on some ideas of scientific attitude as well as those derived from the practices of philosophy, literature, social studies and the arts.

SINGLE FILE

Checks and balances

Granting more power to the States and limiting those of the Centre could threaten the unity of India

UDAY BALAKRISHNAN



As Gujarat Chief Minister, Narendra Modi often complained that the Central government was sitting too heavily on the States. Recently, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee alleged that "India's federal structure is being bulldozed by the unilateral, arbitrary action of the Centre."

Ms. Banerjee has often espoused the idea that the powers of the Central government should be limited to a few areas like external affairs and defence. Muhammad Ali Jinnah too had wanted it that way. It was something which the Congress along with communal electorates, had quite rightly rejected, paving the way for Partition in 1947.

Promoting the federal idea now, merely to counter Mr. Modi, will be disastrous. Any more power to the States would mean making Central authority weaker. It is in India holding itself together that its constituent parts have the most to gain – a big common market with the free movement of labour, for instance. Realising this, even large regional parties like the DMK and the RJD, while not ready to cede power on home ground, have shown a strong preference for a Congress-led coalition to replace the Modi-led NDA.

Constitutionally, India is a Union, not a federation, of States with a Central government empowered to intervene in State affairs in several ways and even split them. There is an unstated bias in the Constitution for national-level parties to run the Central government. Non-Congress, non-BJP parties have held power at the Centre for less than five of the 71 years since Independence. The first of these in 1977 lasted a mere two years and 126 days; the others did not last even a year. It is obvious that the country could see off threats and achieve significant all-round progress only under firm Central control with parties having a pan-India appeal in power, by themselves, or as the strongest constituents of coalitions at the Centre. The most dismal periods were when squabbling coalitions ran the Central government.

Although India is not a federation, the country's Constitution has, in the Rajya Sabha, ensured a strong forum for the States. It is a tribute to this institution that the NDA, despite having an overwhelming majority in the Lok Sabha, has not been allowed to have its way all the time. Added to this, the Constitution also created a powerful Supreme Court that checks the Central government from arbitrary exercise of its authority. This is about as far as India can go and yet expect to stay together.

As Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru most feared the "fissiparous tendencies" that could break India. It was to safeguard against such a possibility that he ensured the Constitution stopped well short of casting India as a federation. Time has shown how right he was.

The writer has taught public policy and contemporary history at IISc Bengaluru



DATA POINT

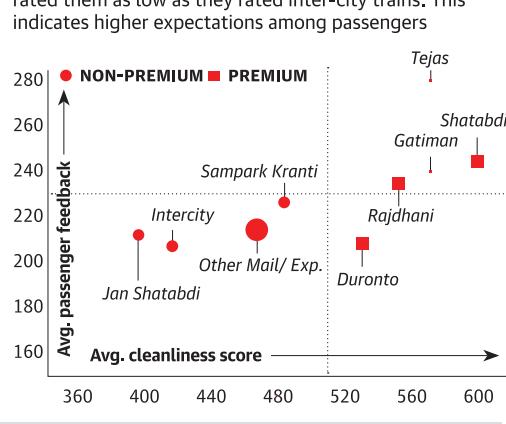
A ticket to cleanliness

Methodology | The IRCTC survey ranks 209 trains. Feedback was received from 15,360 passengers

Each train is scored on a total of 1,000. Equal weightage of 33% is given to process evaluation, direct observation and passenger feedback. The first two form the cleanliness score



Premium trains outperform | Despite Duronto trains being above average on the cleanliness score, passengers rated them as low as they rated inter-city trains. This indicates higher expectations among passengers



Expectations factor | For trains operating in certain zones, the cleanliness score was higher, but their overall rating was pulled down by bad customer feedback (eg. Northern Rly.). This indicates higher expectations of cleanliness from passengers. In some zones, cleanliness was low, but their overall rating improved because of customers rating the trains well (eg. West Central Rly.)

Zone* (No. of trains, average score#)	Cleaner, better feedback	Cleaner, poorer feedback	Less clean, better feedback	Less clean, poorer feedback
SR (13,772)	55.6%	16.7%	11.1%	16.7%
NWR (5,761)	40	20	0	40
ER (14,758)	50	14.3	28.6	7.1
WR (23,754)	43.5	13	26.1	17.4
ECoR (12,754)	41.7	0	25	33.3
SWR (11,751)	27.3	9.1	45.5	18.2
NR (44,735)	38.6	38.6	11.4	11.4
CR (13,722)	38.5	15.4	30.8	15.4
SECR (5,721)	20	0	40	40
NFR (11,709)	27.3	27.3	0	45.5
ECR (9,696)	11.1	0	33.3	55.6
SER (14,694)	35.7	7.1	21.4	35.7
NER (7,688)	0	28.6	14.3	57.1
SCR (12,673)	25	33.3	16.7	25
WCR (8,673)	12.5	0	50	37.5
NCR (3,658)	33.3	0	0	66.7

*W-Western, E-Eastern, N-Northern, C-Central, S-Southern, ECoR-East Coast Railway; full list available at: <https://bit.ly/2REW76s>
Avg. of premium, non-premium trains

FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 25, 1969

Controversy over Kerala land bill resolved

The controversy between the Centre and Kerala over the Kerala Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill and the Kerala Stay of Eviction Proceedings (Amendment) Bill has been resolved. This

IN BRIEF



Killing militants is no solution: J&K Governor

Srinagar Jammu & Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik on Thursday said killing militants is no solution and wouldn't end the real problem. "I think militancy is not in guns but in brains. We're trying to remove the militancy that is hitting the brains," he said. Referring to the operations over three days, which left nine militants dead, he said, "Trust me, every single killing in Kashmir, even that of militants, pains me."

ED conducts searches in Gomti project case

New Delhi The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday conducted searches across three States in connection with the money laundering probe into alleged irregularities in the ₹1,500-crore Gomti river front development project in Lucknow. The project was initiated by the previous Samajwadi Party government. The searches were carried out in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan.

10% quota in Central govt. posts from February

New Delhi Beginning next month, all Central government posts will be filled after factoring in the recently approved 10% reservation for economically weaker sections, says an order. The Ministry of Personnel said instructions on the EWS quota would be issued separately. Instructions regarding reservation in admission to educational institutions would be issued by the HRD Ministry, it said.

RJD leader shot dead in Bihar's Samastipur

Patna A Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader on Thursday was shot dead in the Samastipur district of Bihar, following which party president Lalit Prasad Yadav and Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly Tejashwi Yadav took on the Nitish Kumar government over deteriorating law and order. Raghuvir Rai, 50, was shot by unidentified assailants riding a motorbike.

Protest against Modi govt. from Jan. 30

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi In a season of pre-poll agitations, civil society organisations representing a diverse range of constituencies – farmers, veterans and war widows, students and unemployed youth, Dalits and adivasis, women, hate crime victims, chit fund scam victims – have united to launch an umbrella movement against the Modi government and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Beginning on January 30 protesters under the banner of India Unites plan to sit on a nine-day dharna at the Jantar Mantar on the Parliament Street.

"We invite political parties to come and listen to the people's real issues, and campaign on the basis of these issues, not on *masjid-mandir* politics," said Hannan Mollah, secretary of the CPI(M)-affiliated All India Kisan Sabha.

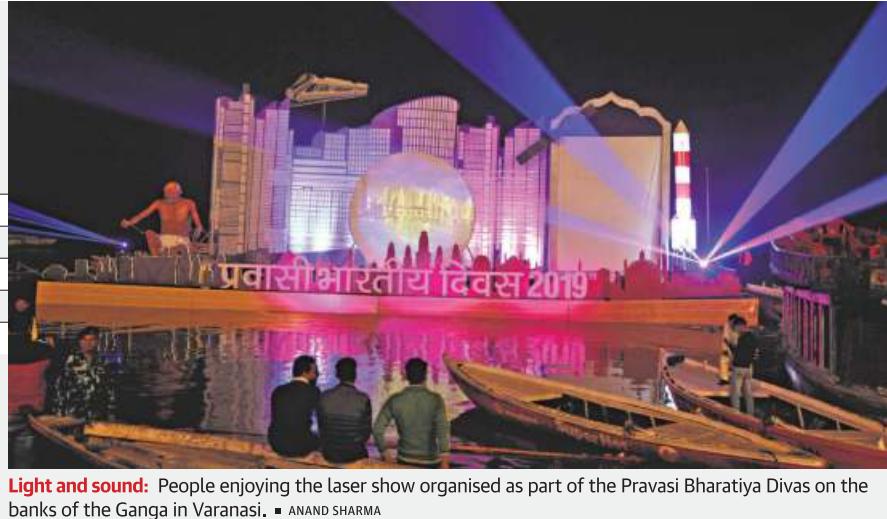
Guest count

The number of NRI and PIO delegates in the last 5 editions of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

Years	Venue	Delegates
2019	Varanasi	5,000
2017	Bengaluru	8,000
2015	Gandhinagar	5,000
2014	Delhi	1,500
2013*	Kochi	2,000

* (The Kochi figure includes speakers, exhibitors, State government officials and the media)

(Approximate figures provided by the MEA)



Light and sound: People enjoying the laser show organised as part of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on the banks of the Ganga in Varanasi. ■ ANAND SHARMA

Pravasi meet attendance dips

Govt. changed the dates for the 2019 edition to coincide with the Kumbh Mela

SUHASINI HAIDAR

NEW DELHI

The government has termed the three-day Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), that ended on Wednesday "the large and grandest of the PBDS held so far."

However, numbers given by officials for 2019 appear to be below the figures issued by the government for the last PBD gathering in 2017.

"We received registrations

from about 90 countries this year, which is a very big number, of which about 3,000 will travel to the Kumbh and to Delhi for the Republic Day parade," said Minister of State for External Affairs Gen. (Retd.) V.K. Singh on Wednesday.

"This has been an unusual year when we shifted the date of the PBD [from January 7-9] because we received a lot of demands from abroad that since the Kumbh was being held this year, delegates wanted to come later," he explained.

Speaking to journalists on Tuesday, Dnyaneshwar Mulay, Secretary CPV & OIA, had added that of the 7,228 registrations, the number of delegates who had attended the convention was "close to 5,000" and was "breaking all records of the past."

However, according to the official figures given by the MEA at the 14th convention in 2017, when the PBD was held in Bengaluru, the previous conference had attracted as many as "8,000 delegates".

"The 14th 'Pravasi Bharatiya Divas' was inaugurated in the presence of the Prime Minister of India as well as the chief guest, the Prime Minister of Portugal. The event was held in the presence of 8,000 delegates, making it the largest 'Pravasi Bharatiya Divas' ever," MEA spokesperson Vikas Swarup had said at a press conference on January 8, 2017.

According to the MEA website (<https://www.mea.gov.in/pravasi-bharatiya-divas.htm>) the PBD in Gandhinagar in 2015 had also seen the "enthusiastic participation of nearly

5000 delegates from different heterogeneous and diverse overseas Indian community spread across the globe and India."

'Local' delegates

While MEA declined a request for an official response to the story, Ministry officials told *The Hindu* that the numbers of those who attended the PBD included many who had not registered as well, which could explain the discrepancy in numbers. They also said previous meetings had included the figures of "local" or Indian delegates. Despite specific requests from *The Hindu*, the MEA had not furnished a break-up of the figures until Thursday. It is also unclear why Indians based in India would be included at a conference meant for the diaspora.

Report on AQIS's growing influence alarmist: official

Terror trail

al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) is being backed by the Pakistan establishment to carry out attacks in India, according to a U.S. think tank

VIJAYA SINGH

NEW DELHI

A top intelligence official on Thursday dismissed as 'alarmist' a U.S.-based think tank's report that contends that the Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) was exploiting the growing incidents of violence against Muslims in India and attacks in the name of "cow vigilantism" to recruit cadres.

Asserting that the study by The Soufan Center, a New York-based think tank, was misleading, the official who spoke on the condition of anonymity said: "researchers appear to have extrapolated isolated instances, imaginatively."

The report titled 'AQIS – The Nucleus of Jihad in South Asia' asserts that the rise in inter-religious clashes in India due to a changing political discourse had resulted in further divisions between Hindus and Muslims. Increasing incidents of violent attacks on Muslims in India, who are accused of eating beef, was being exploited by groups like AQIS to "incite Indian Muslims to join what is being called a fight for their honour," according to the study's authors.

"India is a pluralist country with 180 million Muslims," the intelligence official

said. "Indian Islam is based on rich Sufistic traditions of pluralism, inclusivism and composite nationalism. The wave of Al Qaeda in the 1990s and 2000s did not impact the Indian Muslim. The wave of Islamic State had minimal impact, with only about 108 individuals succumbing to its lure. In the past few decades, global Islamist uprisings and terrorism have not impacted the Indian Muslim, as they were based on jihadism, born out of exclusionism," the official added, dismissing the report's premise on the increasing vulnerability of the Indian Muslim to recruitment by the AQIS.

The think tank said the situation in Kashmir had also taken an "unprecedented turn." "For the first time since the onset of conflict in Kashmir, the region is responding to the appeal of groups like al-Qaeda."

Rehman, who was arrested from Orissa in 2015, travelled to Pakistan in 2014 as a LeT recruit. "ISI facilitated his entry into Karachi via Dubai, but once inside Pakistan, Rehman met with several high-ranking AQIS leaders, including its chief, Asim Umar. Through his LeT contacts, Rehman later joined AQIS. The indictment documents of Abdul Rahman reveal that numerous LeT leaders visited AQIS headquarters in South Waziristan including Sajid Majid, ISI operative who masterminded the 26/11 Mumbai attacks," it said.

The think tank said the situation in Kashmir had also taken an "unprecedented turn." "For the first time since the onset of conflict in Kashmir, the region is responding to the appeal of groups like al-Qaeda."

The Soufan Center also said in its report that there was strong evidence of ties between the AQIS and the LeT. According to the report, AQIS operative Abdul

denel, off the blacklist was made after Mr. Ramaphosa made a personal intervention on the issue during his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Johannesburg +

last July.

"Yes, there had been a problem with Denel and we are happy that this issue was settled last year, Mr. Tirumurti said.

India, South Africa to revise 22-year-old Strategic Partnership



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa is R-Day chief guest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India and South Africa will update their Strategic Partnership by agreeing on a comprehensive "roadmap" on the way ahead, as well as relaxing visa restrictions, when South African Presi-

dent Cyril Ramaphosa meets with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, officials said here.

Mr. Ramaphosa will be in India as the chief guest at the Republic Day parade on January 26, and will be accompanied by nine Ministers and a 50-member business delegation.

The Strategic Partnership between India and South Africa, called the Red Fort Declaration, was signed in

March 1997 by the then South African President Nelson Mandela and former PM H.D. Deve Gowda.

Officials said all aspects of the partnership would be reviewed and updated with a three-year plan of action on security cooperation, trade and investment, tourism, harnessing the 'blue economy', maritime cooperation, agriculture, science and technology projects.

"We have MoUs in practi-

cally every area with South Africa. We want each of these areas to be taken up in a time-bound manner," said T.S. Tirumurti Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs, briefing journalists ahead of the visit.

"This is going to be one important agreement, which will have all the areas on a roadmap with specific action plans," he added, describing the "catch-all" document

that will be signed on Thursday. The two sides are also expected to explore new defence deals in the backdrop of the lifting of a 13-year old ban on South African defence firm Denel that was barred from doing business in India since 2005.

Denel was finally removed from the blacklist in September 2018 after the Central Bureau of Investigation filed a closure report and the Supreme Court subsequently

dismissed corruption charges against the company.

The decision to take Denel off the blacklist was made after Mr. Ramaphosa made a personal intervention on the issue during his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Johannesburg +

last July.

"Yes, there had been a problem with Denel and we are happy that this issue was settled last year, Mr. Tirumurti said.

Congress's campaign attracts voters in rural Ramgarh

Poll is seen as test of ruling party's popularity in Rajasthan

MOHAMMED IQBAL

RAMGARH

Rajasthan's ruling Congress party is pulling out all the stops in its campaign to win over voters in Alwar district's Ramgarh, a constituency where the election was countermanded following the death of a candidate.

With the January 28 election in this rural heartland seen as a litmus test for the popularity of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's month-old government, the Congress is focusing on its promises of accelerating development.

Polling for the Ramgarh seat was postponed after Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) candidate Laxman Singh died of cardiac arrest on November 29. Because of this, the December 7 Assembly election was held for 199 of the 200 constituencies in the State, in which the Con-

gress won 99 seats and formed the government with the support of its ally the Rashtriya Lok Dal.

With an eye on the dominant Meo Muslim community in the region, the Congress has fielded Safia Khan, former Zila Pramukh and wife of former MLA Zubair Khan, as its candidate. The voters in the constituency, including the members of Meo Panchayat and Mewat Yuva Sangathan, affirm that Ms. Khan's work during her tenure as Zila Pramukh between 2009 and 2014 would "give her dividends" in the Assembly polls.

Meo Panchayat vice-president Harun Khan said Ms. Khan would be required to pay attention to some of the important local issues, such as construction of the four-lane Naugawan road, supply of power for agriculture during the daytime and the

opening of a degree college in Ramgarh. "Voters will support the Congress candidate to get full advantage of development potential in the party's regime," he said.

The BSP's new candidate Jagat Singh, who is son of former External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh, has sought to make the contest in Ramgarh triangular, but without much success.

The BJP's denial of ticket to its sitting Ramgarh MLA Gyanendra Ahuja has also not gone down well with the party's supporters. BJP's official candidate Sukhwant Singh is trying his best to connect to the people.

According to the schedule released by the Election Commission, the 2.35 lakh voters in Ramgarh will exercise their franchise on January 28 and the result will be announced on January 30.

The arrest was made after an tip-off that a JeM terrorist, the mastermind behind a series of grenade attacks in Srinagar recently, was planning similar strikes in heavy footfall areas in Delhi, an official said.

Dilawar was arrested with incriminating material in his possession. A team rushed to Jammu and Kashmir and recovered two IED/grenades. Dilawar worked with Jaish-e-Mohammed for about a year.

JEM man held for 'planning' terror strikes

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi police on Thursday claimed to have arrested a member of the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) on charges of planning terror strikes in the national capital during Republic Day celebrations.

Abdul Latif Ganai alias Umar alias Dilawar was arrested on January 20 from the Rajghat area in Central Delhi, the police said.

The arrest was made after a tip-off that a JeM terrorist, the mastermind behind a series of grenade attacks in Srinagar recently, was planning similar strikes in heavy footfall areas in Delhi, an official said.

Dilawar was arrested with incriminating material in his possession. A team rushed to Jammu and Kashmir and recovered two IED/grenades. Dilawar worked with Jaish-e-Mohammed for about a year.

he was hit multiple times including his head. He also injured another terrorist before succumbing to his grievous injuries," the Army stated.

To fight the onslaught of Pakistan-supported terrorist outfits, he operated with Rashtriya Rifles units in Kashmir, the Army statement said, and added, "Throughout his active life he always willingly faced grave potential threats and was a source of inspiration for others."

Apart from his wife he is survived by two sons Athar, 20, and Shaid, 18.

Ashok Chakra for Lance Naik Nazir Ahmad Wani



He is the first from Kashmir to receive this award

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Lance Naik Nazir Ahmad Wani has been posthumously awarded 'Ashok Chakra', India's highest peace time gallantry award for his role in a counter-insurgency operation in Kashmir last year. He is Kashmir's first Ashok Chakra awardee and was also awarded Sena Medal for gallantry twice in 2007 and 2018 for his acts of valour.

The award will be presented by President Ram

Nath Kovind to Lance Naik Wani's wife Mahajabeen at the Republic Day parade on Saturday.

On November 25

In his labyrinth

Under Hugo Chávez, Venezuela achieved high economic growth that helped it fuel a 'pink tide' in other Latin American countries. However, under Nicolás Maduro, its economy has shrunk, partly due to a rapid fall in oil prices, causing poverty and political instability

March 5, 2013: Hugo Chávez, President since 1998, dies of cancer

April 14, 2013: Nicolás Maduro, Chávez's handpicked successor, narrowly wins presidential election, with 50.8% of the votes

Nov. 2014: Government announces cuts in public spending as oil prices reach a four-year low



Dec. 6, 2015: Opposition Democratic Unity coalition wins the majority of seats in elections to the National Assembly, for the first time since Chavez took office

million voters participate in a referendum organised by the Opposition. More than 98% of voters reject Maduro's changes

May 1, 2017: Maduro announces that he has signed an order to change the Constitution and reshape the legislature

The govt. invalidates the results and calls for another vote on July 30

July 30: Election held to replace the National Assembly with a new

Constituent Assembly. Maduro claims victory

August 20: A new currency is issued to jumpstart the economy

September 8: An NYT report details secret meetings between U.S. officials and Venezuelan military officers planning a coup against Maduro

Jan. 5, 2019: The National Assembly declares Maduro's presidency illegitimate and promises to form a "government of transition" prior to fresh election

Jan. 23: National Assembly holds a rally. Juan Guaidó declares himself "acting President"

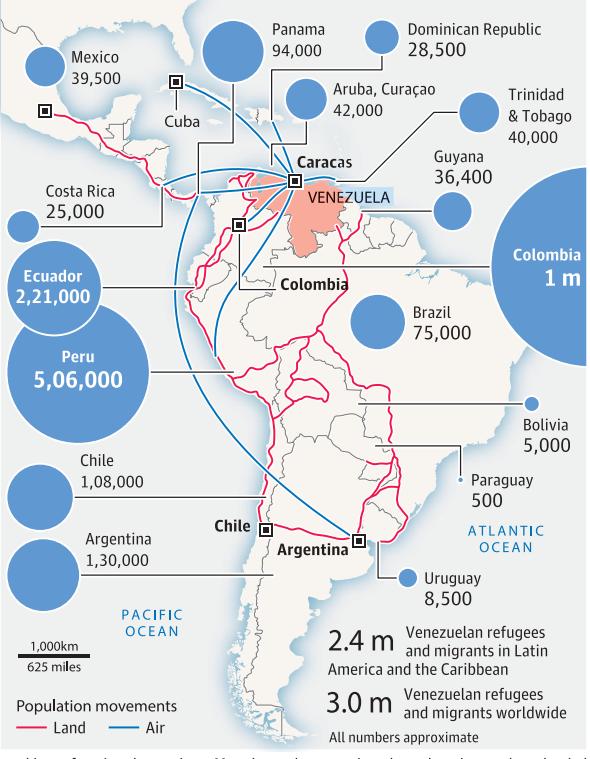
1.3 million%
Annual inflation in November 2018, likely to hit 10 million % this year

GDP has declined by 45% in the last five years

- Countries who recognised Guaidó as President: U.S., Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Peru and several other countries in the region
- Countries that still support Maduro or call for another election: Cuba, Bolivia, Mexico and Turkey

Average crude oil price (\$)
2014: 93.17
2015: 48.72
2016: 43.58
2017: 50.84
2018: 64.90

87% of the country's population lived in poverty in 2017
The price of crude oil, the lifeblood of Venezuela's export-dependent economy, has seen a drastic fall since 2015, resulting in a reduction in the country's export revenues, needed to finance key imports



The country has seen mass distress migration since 2015, with at least 2.4 million people seeking refuge in other nations. Map shows the countries where the migrants have landed

Source: Reuters, Graphic News

Maduro rallies support of military

Cuts diplomatic ties with U.S., orders envoys to leave in 72 hours; Russia, China back government

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

CARACAS
Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro prepared to rally his military supporters on Thursday as the U.S. and key allies backed a challenge from his leading rival who declared himself "acting President".

The announcement by Juan Guaidó, 35, head of Venezuela's Opposition-led legislature, came amid a fresh wave of deadly street clashes on Wednesday. He declared himself acting leader of the oil-rich nation, which has lurched into economic chaos and violence under Mr. Maduro, 56.

The Socialist government responded by warning that the top military leadership would come out "in support of the constitutional President", Defence Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez said. He added the military would

show "backing for the sovereignty" of Venezuela.

Rallying behind Guaidó

That was a warning shot to Mr. Maduro's foreign critics as they rallied behind Mr. Guaidó. U.S. President Donald Trump declared Mr. Maduro "illegitimate" and called the National Assembly "the only legitimate branch of government".

A furious Mr. Maduro broke off diplomatic ties with the "imperialist" U.S. government, giving its diplomats 72 hours to leave. The U.S. State Department said it did not recognise Mr. Maduro as President any more so his order meant nothing. France added its support for Mr. Guaidó, also branding Mr. Maduro "illegitimate" and calling for "the restoration of democracy" in Venezuela.

Mr. Maduro's key ally Rus-



Supporters of Nicolás Maduro at a rally in Caracas on Wednesday. ■ REUTERS

nancial backer China also weighed in. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said China opposes "interference" in Venezuelan affairs and called for a "political resolution".

Days of unrest

Mr. Guaidó's pronouncement capped days of unrest that have seen 13 people killed, the Venezuelan Observatory of Social Conflict said. They were the first mass street protests in Venezuela since a peak of violence in April and July, 2017, when 125 people died in clashes.

Riot police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at Opposition protesters in one Caracas suburb, while television pictures also showed armoured vehicles in the capital. Thousands of Mr. Maduro's supporters, many wearing red, converged outside the presidential palace,

Miraflores, to oppose what they said was a U.S.-backed Opposition coup attempt. Elsewhere in Caracas, tens of thousands of Opposition supporters rallied, dressed in white and waving Venezuelan flags. "Guaidó, friend, the people are with you," they chanted.

Mr. Maduro hit back in a speech from a balcony at the presidential palace, lashing out at Mr. Trump. He condemned what he called the U.S. leader's "extremist policy" as "a very serious folly". "Trying to impose a government by extra-constitutional means, we cannot accept that."

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres appealed for dialogue to avoid the political crisis spiralling out of control. "What we hope is that dialogue can be possible, and that we avoid an escalation..." he said in Davos.

In less than a month, Juan Guaidó has gone from a virtual unknown in Venezuelan politics to the country's most-watched figure, assuming the presidency of the Opposition-controlled Congress and briefly being detained by the police.

On Wednesday, the 35-year-old from the South American country's hard-scrabble Caribbean coast thrust himself onto the international stage with the boldest challenge to socialist President Nicolás Maduro's rule in years: he declared himself interim President.

His rapid ascent triggered debates that he could fill a leadership vacuum in Venezuela's divided Opposition, which has failed in several attempts to oust Mr. Maduro and his predecessor Hugo Chávez. Mr. Guaidó needs the backing of the armed forces to achieve his goal of forcing new elections. "To-



Opposition supporters in Bolívar, eastern Venezuela, earlier this week. ■ AFP

day in Venezuela, we are living under a dictatorship, and we need to put on enough pressure to take control," he said in an interview.

Proposing amnesty

He has proposed an amnesty for members of the military, but said members of the Maduro government who committed human rights violations should be punished.

Mr. Guaidó took the helm

of the National Assembly on January 5 with a call for the armed forces to recognise Mr. Guaidó as a "usurper" after his controversial May 2018 re-election vote.

The eldest of six children from a working-class family in the coastal State of Vargas, Mr. Guaidó survived a devastating 1999 mudslide. He received a Master's in Public Administration from George Washington University in the U.S. Representing Vargas for Popular Will, Mr. Guaidó assumed the Parliament's leadership as part of a power-sharing agreement between Venezuela's main Opposition parties. He has said little about what policies he would pursue as President, but Popular Will describe themselves as centre-left social democrats.

Mr. Guaidó was detained by intelligence agents last week, but was swiftly released. Government officials said the officers responsible would be punished.

Trump delays State of the Union address

President to speak once shutdown ends

REUTERS

WASHINGTON
President Donald Trump said in a late night tweet on Wednesday that he would delay a State of the Union address until the government shutdown was over, responding to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's move to obstruct his plans.

"This is her prerogative – I will do the Address when the Shutdown is over..."

Democrats' offer

Other leaders in the House said they were drafting a funding offer they will likely make to Mr. Trump in a letter. Representative James Clyburn, the No. 3 House Democrat, said Democrats could fulfil Mr. Trump's request for \$5.7 billion for border security with technological tools such as drones, X-rays and sensors.

Representative Steny Hoyer, the No. 2 House Democrat, said Democrats also would discuss "substantial sums of additional money" for border security as part of a possible deal. He did not say if it would amount to the \$5.7 billion sought by Mr. Trump.

Citing threats, Cohen postpones House testimony

Trump's former lawyer says his family faces threats from President and his attorney Rudy Giuliani



In the dock: A courtroom sketch shows Michael Cohen attending his sentencing hearing in December. ■ REUTERS

time! Watch father-in-law!" Mr. Trump had tweeted on January 18.

CNN reported in August last year that New York prosecutors had threatened Mr. Cohen with charges that would have implicated his wife – a reason, the report said, for his cooperation with authorities.

Congressional Democrats, however, are not giving up just yet. The option of compelling Mr. Cohen to testify after he goes to prison remained open, according to Chairman of the Oversight Committee, Democratic Representative Elijah J. Cummings, who told reporters he believed Mr. Cohen was acting in good faith.

"We certainly understand the completely legitimate concerns for the safety and security of Mr. Cohen and his family members in light of the attacks last week by

President Trump and again this past weekend by his attorney, Rudy Giuliani," a joint statement issued by Mr. Cummings and the Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Adam Schiff, said.

"Efforts to intimidate witnesses, scare their family members, or prevent them from testifying before Congress are textbook mob tactics that we condemn in the strongest terms," the statement said.

However, Mr. Cummings said the House would get Mr. Cohen to testify. "I can guarantee: Whatever we have to do to get him here, we're going to do it," he told reporters on Wednesday.

Mr. Cohen is scheduled to start a three-year prison sentence on March 6 as a result of the financial crimes to which he had pleaded guilty. He responded with a tweet.

Talks with the U.S. have entered 4th day: Taliban

Withdrawal of troops being discussed

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

KABUL
Negotiations between the Taliban and U.S. officials in Qatar entered a fourth straight day on Thursday, according to the insurgents.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid confirmed that "discussions are still ongoing". "We will talk in detail later when we reach agreement," he added.

Washington has been stepping up efforts for a peace deal that could pave the way for the Taliban's participation in the next government. "Both sides are discussing the various aspects of the U.S. troops' withdrawal," said a senior Taliban commander based in Pakistan. The Pakistan Foreign Ministry also confirmed that talks were ongoing between the two sides. However, there was no im-



A march for peace in Kandahar last week. ■ AFP

Congo leader falls ill during inauguration

REUTERS

KINSHASA
Opposition leader Felix Tshisekedi was sworn in on Thursday as Democratic Republic of Congo's President, succeeding Joseph Kabila in the country's first transfer of power through an election in 59 years of independence.

Mr. Tshisekedi was taken ill during his inaugural address but returned to the stage moments after a brief pause, saying he was exhausted by the election. Mr. Tshisekedi's victory in the December 30 election was marred by accusations that he struck a backroom deal with the outgoing President to deny victory to another candidate. In a sign of lingering doubts about the vote's credibility, Kenya's Uhuru Kenyatta was the only foreign head of state present.

Sri Lankan farmers battle powerful worm

The fall armyworm, first detected in October, has affected 50% of the maize crop

MEERA SRINIVASAN

COLOMBO

After coping with successive droughts in the past few years, Sri Lanka's maize farmers are now battling a tiny but powerful enemy – the fall armyworm.

According to the Agriculture Department, the fall armyworm – from the moth species and known by the scientific name *Spodoptera frugiperda* – is said to have come from India, carried by strong winds across the Palk Strait. First detected in October, it has spread to many districts, threatening tens of thousands of farmers.

Affected by drought

The fall armyworm has affected nearly 50% of the crop. Farmers who harvested their crop in time escaped severe damage, but those who suffered the drought and hence delayed their harvesting have been

hit more," W.R.W. Weerakoon, Director-General of Agriculture told *The Hindu*. Dominating headlines in Sri Lankan media, the fall armyworm has acquired the local name *sena* (army) worm, as it comes in big groups and attacks crops, particularly maize. Maize is among the top seasonal crops produced in Sri Lanka,

harvested in the island's two seasons of cultivation – the 'Maha' and 'Yala', linked to the two monsoons. Government data shows that in 2017, nearly two lakh metric tonnes of maize were cultivated across some 50,000 hectares. An insect that is known to be native to tropical and subtropical regions of the Amer-

icas, according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the species is said to have travelled east to other tropical regions. In recent months, fall armyworm infestations were reported in different parts of India, including Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Gujarat.

The crop attack in Sri Lanka has assumed national significance, dominating Parliament debates this week. While Leader of the Opposition Mahinda Rajapaksa slammed the government for inadequate measures to tackle the problem, Agriculture Minister P. Harrison said that the issue was being given high priority, with a special task force under President Maithripala Sirisena looking into swift responses. Officials said a sum of LKR 250 million had been set aside to compensate affected farmers.

No religious repression in Xinjiang: Pak. envoy

BEIJING
Senior Pakistani diplomat Mumtaz Zahra Baloch on Thursday put up a staunch defence of the controversial education camps in China's volatile Xinjiang province, where thousands of Uighur Muslims have been reportedly detained, saying there is no forced labour or cultural and religious repression in the region. ■ PTI

MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	36,195	-0.24
US Dollar	71.07	0.36
Gold	33,210	0.00
Brent oil	60.98	-0.73

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	380.95	-4.25
Asian Paints	1401.85	5.30
Axisc Bank	663.65	2.05
Bajaj Auto	2651.65	-22.45
Bajaj Finance	6407.30	-85.85
Bharti Airtel	301.65	-2.05
BPCL	353.95	-3.20
Cipla	500.70	-8.60
Coal India	223.85	-1.70
Dr Reddys Lab	2668.45	21.70
Eicher Motors	20115.60	26.45
GAIL (India)	333.60	-0.60
Grafix Ind	785.80	3.65
HCL Tech	946.45	2.00
HDFC	1971.10	12.85
HDFC Bank	2102.25	-3.15
Hero MotoCorp	2790.20	-5.75
Hindalco	205.05	-0.40
HPCL	243.10	1.25
Hind Unilever	1759.50	-7.70
Indiabulls HFL	773.50	-5.20
ICICI Bank	364.80	-2.60
IndusInd Bank	1490.30	-4.70
Bharti Infralet	263.00	-14.00
Infosys	732.00	0.35
Indian Oil Corp	136.80	0.70
ITC	278.90	1.60
JSW Steel	283.65	2.75
Kotak Bank	1267.75	-8.75
L&T	1295.35	-6.10
M&M	697.30	1.45
Maurti Suzuki	7040.60	-4.80
NTPC	140.05	-0.70
ONGC	141.70	-1.60
PowerGrid Corp	186.75	0.45
Reliance Ind	1247.45	21.15
State Bank	288.05	1.40
Sun Pharma	423.00	-8.00
Tata Motors	175.40	-4.85
Tata Steel	460.75	-3.85
TCS	1901.55	25.95
Tech Mahindra	727.75	7.05
Titan	969.65	7.50
UltraTech Cement	3790.70	-59.95
UPL	747.35	-15.50
Vedanta	193.50	0.70
Wipro	351.75	0.20
YES Bank	215.40	18.15
Zee Entertainment	433.85	1.00

EXCHANGE RATES	
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 24	
CURRENCY	TT BUY TT SELL
US Dollar	70.87 71.19
Euro	80.42 80.78
British Pound	92.26 92.71
Japanese Yen (100)	64.57 64.86
Chinese Yuan	10.43 10.48
Swiss Franc	71.20 71.53
Singapore Dollar	52.08 52.32
Canadian Dollar	53.06 53.30
Malaysian Ringgit	17.09 17.21

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI	
January 24 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses	
Retail Silver (1g)	42.1.....(42.5)
22 ct gold (1g)	3089.....(3097)

Staff fret as banks ask them to buy shares

Employees also told to open demat accounts, offered personal loans to purchase stock

MANOJ SAHA

Several public sector banks that are coming up with Employee Share Purchase Schemes (ESPS) are asking their staff to buy a particular amount of shares to ensure that the process sails through smoothly.

Over half a dozen public sector banks have started the process of employee share purchase schemes, while some others have completed it. Some of the banks that have announced or completed the process are Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, Union Bank of India, Syndicate Bank, Vijaya Bank, Bank of India, UCO Bank, Andhra Bank among others.

Informal communication
Employees of some of these banks whom *The Hindu* spoke to said there had been



ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

a mandate to buy the shares. They, however, added that there was no formal communication in this regard.

According to an employee of a mid-sized public sector bank (PSB), those above a certain rank had been asked to buy 10,000 shares. Similarly, a large PSB had asked its clerical staff to buy about 1,000 shares, while higher rank employees had been

asked to buy 10,000 shares.

Last year, when another large PSB came up with such a scheme, its general managers were asked to buy 7,000 shares each. To ensure they participate in the scheme, all these banks have asked their employees to open demat accounts.

"We have been instructed to open demat accounts.

While the management has not speci-

We have been opposing sale of banks' shares to private hands

C.H. VENKATACHALAM, general secretary, AIBEA

tor banks to offer stock options to their employees, which was mainly aimed at retaining experienced hands and better incentives, apart from raising capital.

Trade unions have opposed the sale of shares to the employees.

"Recently some of the public sector nationalised banks have come out with the decision to augment their capital through sale of shares to employees. As part of our decision to oppose all methods of privatising the capital of nationalised banks, we have been opposing sale of banks' shares to private hands, both corporate and individual," said C.H. Venkatachalam, general secretary, All India Bank Employees' Association.

"In the same breath as a trade union, we are opposed of sale of bank capital to employees," he added.

RBI okays Ravneet Gill as Yes Bank MD & CEO

Told to join before March 1

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Ravneet Gill as the MD & CEO of private sector lender Yes Bank. Mr. Gill must join the bank before March 1, the central bank has said.

Mr. Gill is currently the India chief of foreign lender Deutsche Bank.

The present MD & CEO of Yes Bank Rana Kapoor's term ends on January 31. Typically, executives of Deutsche Bank have to serve three months' notice period or gardening leave if joining competitor banks. However, such requirements can be waived. Yes Bank has called a board meeting on January 29 to finalise the interim transition.

Mr. Gill, 56, joined Deutsche Bank in 1991 and



Ravneet Gill became its India CEO in July 2012.

The board of Yes Bank has also appointed Maheswar Sahu and Anil Jaggia as independent directors for a period of five years.

The board of the bank has also named Ashish Agarwal, senior group president and chief risk officer, as executive director. The appointment is subject to RBI's approval.

which the bank has taken a 15% standard asset provisioning in the current quarter," he added.

"Having done this, the bank believes the aggregate provisioning made on both the operating as well as the subsidiary companies exposure in this particular group are adequate and within the expected realisation," Mr. Monga said.

As a result of the IL&FS exposure, gross NPA ratio increased to 2.1% as of end December, as compared with 1.6% in end September. "We are reiterating that the impact on account of NCLT proceedings on the bank's asset quality continues to be minimal," Mr. Monga said.

Commerce Ministry not to extend Feb. 1 deadline for e-tailers

Flipkart, Amazon sought more time to understand details

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

time until June 1 this year, Flipkart asked for six months.

On December 26, 2018, the government tightened norms for e-commerce firms and barred online retailers like Flipkart and Amazon from selling products of the companies in which they have stakes.

The government also prohibited e-commerce companies from entering into an agreement for exclusive sale of products.

As per the revised guidelines, a vendor cannot procure more than 25% of products from group companies

of the same marketplace where they intend to sell them.

Internal discussions

"The ministry has received representations from Amazon and Flipkart for more time. Internal discussions are on. But the ministry is not in favour of extending the deadline," sources in the know of the matter said.

Domestic traders body Confederation of All Indian Traders (CAIT) had also urged the commerce ministry not to extend the deadline for implementation of the changes.

"With regard to the infrastructure conglomerate, we have downgraded the position on account of our exposure to roads and the energy vertical which totals to ₹1,913 crore on which the bank has

IL&FS casts shadow on Yes Bank Q3 net

Lender reports 7% profit decline as it made ₹478.3 cr. provision for troubled firm

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Private sector lender Yes Bank reported 7% year-on-year decline in its net profit to ₹1,001.8 crore for the October-December quarter, as it had to set aside funds for its exposure to troubled infrastructure conglomerate IL&FS.

Out of total NPA provision of ₹507.5 crore, provisioning for IL&FS alone was ₹478.3 crore. In addition, the bank had made a provision of ₹92.5 crore, which is 15% on the exposure to IL&FS which is still 'standard'.

Total gross slippages during the quarter was ₹2,297 crore, of which ₹1,913 crore was on account of IL&FS.

Flat show



provided 25% in the current quarter," Rajat Monga, senior group president, financial markets, Yes Bank, said.

About ₹617 crore of exposure to the group continues to be standard, against

No reference received to ease rules for Jet: SEBI

Etihad sought relaxation, say reports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Markets watchdog SEBI said on Thursday it had not received any reference on relaxation in rules regarding Jet Airways.

The regulator's statement comes amid reports that relaxations have been sought by Gulf carrier Etihad for infusing additional funds into crisis-hit Jet Airways, which is listed on the exchanges.

Statement issued
In a brief statement, SEBI referred to reports about certain relaxations of regulations with respect to Jet Airways. However, the regulator did not elaborate.

"It is hereby clarified that SEBI has neither received any reference in this regard from any quarter, nor has it expressed any views in the

SEBI to auction 17 MPS Group properties in Feb.

Sets ₹64.50 crore reserve price

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Markets regulator SEBI said on Thursday it had lined up as many as 17 properties of the West Bengal-based MPS Group of companies for an online auction next month at a total reserve price of about ₹65 crore.

This sale is in addition to over 30 properties of the group auctioned in June 2017 and February 2018 and is part of SEBI's efforts to recover money.

IN BRIEF



Tata Motors to bid adieu to Nano from April 2020

HYDERABAD

Tata Motors has no plans to invest and upgrade Nano to meet BS-VI standards, Mayank Pareek, president, passenger vehicle business unit, said, indicating that its production and sales would be stopped from April 2020. "Nano is produced at Sanand plant.. BS-VI is going to happen from April 1 2020, so all products may not meet [BS-VI norms] and we may not invest in upgrading all... and Nano is one of them." PTI

Dr. Reddy's launches generic sedative

HYDERABAD

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has launched Propofol Injectable Emulsion, a therapeutic equivalent generic version of Diprivan (propofol) Injectable Emulsion, in the U.S. Propofol injectable emulsion is an intravenous general anaesthetic and sedation drug, a company release said. The drug major objects to the use of any of its products to facilitate or otherwise aid lethal injections, the release added.

Hatsun Agro Q3 net profit rises 23.63%

CHENNAI

Dairy products maker Hatsun Agro Products has posted a 23.63% rise in its standalone net profit for the third quarter ended December 2018 at ₹14.52 crore against ₹14.98 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year, on increased sales volume. The manufacturers of Arokya milk brand reported a total income of ₹1,156.07 crore against ₹1,014.13 crore. The board declared an interim dividend of ₹2 per share.

ICRA move takes AMFI by surprise

Ratings agency has put six MF schemes under watch for their exposure to IL&FS

K.T. JAGANNATHAN
CHENNAI

The decision of ratings agency ICRA to place six mutual fund schemes under watch, with negative implications, due to their exposure to the IL&FS group has taken the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) by surprise.

According to N.S. Venkatesh, chief executive, AMFI, the exposure of these funds to the IL&FS group must be understood in the context of the nature of these investments. "These are SPV [special purpose vehicle]-linked investments which are ring-fenced," he said. The fund flow into these SPVs was operated through escrow accounts. Hence, the money invested by these funds were secure, he added.

The NCLT's intervention in the IL&FS case under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy



Knee-jerk reaction: NCLT intervention in the IL&FS case had perhaps pushed ICRA to the decision, AMFI said. ■ REUTERS

Code had perhaps pushed the ratings agency to take such a decision, he said.

He reckoned that this was a standard reaction by ICRA. These reactionary positions could have negative implications for raising debt money for infrastructure projects, "This will also bring debt-oriented mutual funds on a par with tax saving bank fixed deposits, where deduc-

tion is available under Section 80C," AMFI said in its proposal.

Debt capital

Post the development financial institution era, the responsibility of providing debt capital in India has largely rested with the banking sector. This has seen some avoidable negative fallouts.

Post IL&FS imbroglio, the need for a vibrant bond market has assumed urgency. "Though several committees [such as the R.H. Patil Committee (2005) and Raghuram Rajan Committee (2009)] had studied various aspects of the issue and made recommendations, the progress has not been as desired," the AMFI said. Mr. Venkatesh said AMFI had sought a level-playing field for MFs vis-a-vis investment in retirement solutions.

Mercedes unveils V-Class luxury MPV at ₹68.4 lakh

It is powered by a 2143 cc diesel engine

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Mercedes-Benz has created a new segment in India by introducing the V-Class, a luxury multi-purpose vehicle (MPV).

The V-Class expression starts with a price tag of ₹68.4 lakh and the V-Class exclusive ₹81.9 lakh, both ex-showroom India.

The vehicle is available in two body styles: the long wheelbase with a wheelbase of 3,200 mm and length of 5,140 mm and the extra-long wheelbase with wheelbase of 3,430 mm and length of 5,370 mm.

Martin Schwenk, MD & CEO, Mercedes-Benz India,



said: "The launch of the V-Class in India underscores our pioneering spirit as we introduce the luxury multi-purpose vehicle segment for our discerning customers."

The V-Class is powered by a 2143 cc diesel engine and available in six- and seven-seat configuration.

PNB Housing Q3 net profit rises by 32%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

PNB Housing Finance on Thursday reported a 32% rise in consolidated net profit at ₹303 crore in the third quarter ended December 2018.

The firm posted ₹229.5 crore in profit in the corresponding quarter a year ago, PNB Housing Finance said in a statement.

Total income rose to ₹2,078.46 crore from ₹1,416.21 crore in the same period a year ago.

Net interest margin increased to 3.06% as against 3.02%.

Gross non-performing assets rose to 0.47% of the assets as against 0.42%.

UltraTech Q3 net falls 13.7% to ₹393.67 crore

Profit drops despite 19% net sales rise

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

UltraTech Cement reported 13.7% decline in its December quarter net profits to ₹393.67 crore, due to higher input costs and higher interest cost due to acquisition of Binani Cements.

The dip in profits were reported in spite of a 19% increase in net sales to ₹9,389.62 crore from ₹7,900.38 crore over the previous year.

The company's domestic sales volume jumped 15% during the quarter. "Higher fuel and energy costs, coupled with rupee depreciation resulted in costs increasing by 11% over Q3FY18. Additionally, in-

Michelin boss Senard to head Renault

REUTERS
PARIS

Renault appointed Michelin boss Jean-Dominique Senard as its new chairman on Thursday, after Carlos Ghosn was forced to resign in the wake of a financial scandal that has rocked the French carmaker and its alliance with Japan's Nissan.

Mr. Senard will become chairman immediately, the company said, with deputy CEO Thierry Bollore taking over Mr. Ghosn's other Renault role as full CEO. The appointments may begin to ease a Renault-Nissan leadership crisis that erupted after Mr. Ghosn's arrest in November in Japan and swift dismissal as Nissan chairman. Mr. Senard faces the task of soothing relations with Nissan and resuming talks on a new alliance structure.



Going places: Indian start-ups will be able to pitch their ventures to rich investors of the Gulf. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Dubai start-up summit opens doors for Indian entrepreneurs

India-leg winners can participate

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

For the first time, Indian entrepreneurs will be able to pitch their ventures to the rich investors of the Gulf region, among others, with the Dubai AIM Startups opening its doors for Indian start-ups to participate.

While UAE has been hosting the annual investment meeting for few years now, this will be the first time that Indian start-ups will get an opportunity to participate in the international summit, to be held in Dubai in April.

Incidentally, Dubai AIM Startups is one of the biggest start-up investment event in the region organised by the UAE's Ministry of Economy.

Road shows

The road shows for Indian start-ups would be held January 23 onwards across 15 cities, wherein start-ups can pitch their ventures.

The finals would be held in Mumbai with the winners getting a chance to participate in AIM Startup 2019.

The India leg of the summit will be organised by Grex, an Indian start-up listing platform, which has connected with various ecosystem partners like IIT campuses, incubators, accelerators and various state government projects like Kerala Start-up Mission, for the event.

Meanwhile, some domestic venture capital funds have also joined the initiative and are looking at possible investment opportunities through the competition for start-ups.

"Disruptive ideas have turned thousands of Indians to be passionate innovators," said Dawood Al Shezawi, chairman, Organising Committee, AIM Startup 2019. "This is evident from the impressive number of start-ups formed in India in 2018. We have to match their passion with a platform that will encourage and support their ideas to become a reality. This is exactly what AIM Startup has been committed to since its inception," he added.

भारत सरकार Government of India
परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग Department of Atomic Energy
भारी पानी संयंक, मण्डूग्रु Heavy Water Plant, Manuguru
ई-निविदा सूचना आमंत्रण Notice Inviting e-Tenders

महाप्रबंधक, भारी पानी संयंक, मण्डूग्रु आरत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए अनलाइन भर्त बोलियों द्वारा/तीव्र बोली प्रणाली पर आमंत्रित करते हैं। The General Manager, Heavy Water Plant, Manuguru invites on behalf of President of India online item rate bids on two/three bid system for following work(s).

नियास सं. NIT.NO. HWPM/MU/2018/BG/232/50001, कार्य का नाम Name of work:

Surveillance, Maintenance and extension of ash slurry lines at HWP(M). प्राक्कलित लागत Estimated cost ₹. Rs 15,15,000/- बयाना राशि Earnest Money: ₹. Rs. 30,300/- पूरी करने की अवधि Period of completion: कार्य प्रारंभ करने की तारीख से 12 माह months from the date of start of work. निविदा कागजात की उपलब्धता की तारीख dates of availability of tender documents for view & download is from 31.01.2019 (16:30 Hrs) to 11.02.2019 (16:30 Hrs), बोली लगाने का अंतिम समय और तारीख Last time and date of submission of bid: Up to 17:00 hrs on 12.02.2019. Last Date for submission of DD towards EMD at DGM (U) office : 16.02.2019 (up to 14:00 Hrs) Date and time of opening technical bid : 16.02.2019 (14:30 hrs)

बोली प्रपत्र और अन्य विवरण वेबसाईट से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website www.tenderwizard.com/DAE

HWPM/CEN/1(15)/2018/3099, Dt:22/01/2019 महाप्रबंधक GENERAL MANAGER

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 11th January, 2019

S.O. 283(E) - In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section(1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane paved shoulder/four laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH365B in the stretch of land from Km. 40,41 to Km. 84,037 of Thirumalagiri-Suryapet section of NH365B (Erst while SH-16) on EPC mode under NH(O) in the district of SURYAPET in the state of TELANGANA, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, Revenue Divisional officer, Suryapet in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling NH365B in the stretch of land from Km. 40,41 to Km. 84,037 for toll plaza (missing bits) of Thirumalagiri-Suryapet Section of NH365B (Erst while SH-16) (ill spell) in the district of SURYAPET in the state of TELANGANA.

State: TELANGANA		District: SURYAPET		
S.No.	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Local Unit)
1	213	Private	Dry	-1,00,000,000(Square Meter)
2	209	Government	Dry	0,05,31,140
3	213	Private	Dry	1,97,21,500,000(Square Meter)
4	214	Private	Dry	3,99,62,150,000(Square Meter)
5	215	Private	Dry	8,00,54,00,000(Square Meter)
6	216	Government	Dry	708,19,00,000(Square Meter)
		Total		14,411,2550 1,4411

[F. No. RW/NH-1201/07/2017-TS/P-7/3A3]
RAJESH GUPTA, Dy. Secy.

SHARANABASAVESHWARA SHRINE
KALABURAGI

The Sharanabasaveshwara shrine in Kalaburagi, Karnataka, which marks the samadhi of the 18th century A.D. saint Sri Sharana Basaveshwar, is an epitome of the pro-poor way of life called dasoba and a symbol of communal amity, for which service is the guiding force. A volume with a collection of articles and pictures that profile the institution and its work that the world needs to be aware of.

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A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

CM
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M HY-HYE

Smriti's century guides India to a comfortable win in opener

Jemimah dazzles with a fine, unbeaten 81; spinners Ekta and Poonam leave Kiwis clueless

INDIA IN NZ

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NAPIER

The in-form Smriti Mandhana and teen sensation Jemimah Rodrigues hammered New Zealand's clueless bowling attack to steer India to an emphatic nine-wicket triumph in the opening One-Day International of a three-match series here on Thursday.

The 22-year-old Smriti (105) and 18-year-old Jemimah (81 not out) put together a batting master class after the bowlers did the job for India by bundling out New Zealand for a below-par 192.

Competing in their first series after the furore that followed the team's T20 World Cup exit in the semifinals last year, the Indians produced a thoroughly clinical performance to eke out the comfortable victory in 33 overs.

While Smriti, fresh from winning the ICC women's Cricketer-of-the-Year award, slammed her fourth ODI hundred, Rodrigues notched up her maiden international half-century.

"I think it's great to start the series with a win and wonderful to see openers get an over 100-run partnership. I think a lot of girls do look up to Smriti. She had a great 2018 and she is continuing and it gives a lot of confidence to the dressing room," India captain Mithali Raj said at the post-match presentation.

"But easy catches should have been taken. We are definitely not overconfident," she added, referring to the shortcomings she noticed.

Highest opening stand
Smriti and Jemimah stitched together the highest-ever opening-wicket stand against New Zealand – a 190-run partnership that stood for 32.2 overs. Jemimah was making just her fifth appearance in national colours.

Smriti's 104-ball knock included nine fours and three sixes, while Jemimah managed nine hits to the fence.

"The wicket was great to bat on. We played according to the merit of the ball and it was a great innings," she said. An overcast sky meant the two teams did not face



Cool customer: Smriti Mandhana, fresh from winning the ICC Cricketer-of-the-Year award, slammed her fourth ODI hundred.

• KERRY MARSHALL/GETTY IMAGES

the sun-strike that halted play for nearly half an hour in the men's game on

Wednesday.
Earlier, put in, New Zealand let slip a good start and

crumbled in the face of India's relentless spin combination of Poonam Yadav and

Ekta Bisht. Ekta and Poonam snared three wickets each to put the visiting side on top.

SCOREBOARD NEW ZEALAND VS INDIA, FIRST ODI

New Zealand: Suzie Bates c Jhulan b Deepthi 36 (54b, 2x4), Sophie Devine run out 28 (38b, 1x4, 1x6), Lauren Down st Tania b Poonam 0 (2b), Amy Satterthwaite c Jemimah b Poonam 31 (45b, 3x4), Amelia Kerr c Hemalatha b Poonam 28 (65b, 1x4), Maddy Green b Ekta 10 (15b, 1x4), Bernadine Bezuindenhou st Tania b Deepthi 9 (13b, 1x4), Leigh Kasperek c Tania b Ekta 6 (9b), Hannah Rowe c Shikha b Ekta 25 (36b, 3x4), Holly Huddleston c Harmanpreet b Shikha 10 (16b, 1x4), Lea Tahuhu (not out) 4 (4b); Extras (lb-1, w-4): 5. Total (in 48.4 overs): 192.

Fall of wicket: 1-190 (Smriti, 32.2).
New Zealand bowling: Tahuhu 5-0-34-0, Rowe 5-0-29-0, Huddleston 3-0-22-0, Kasperek 7-0-37-0, Kerr 6-0-33-1, Devine 3-0-14-0, Satterthwaite 4-0-22-0.

Toss: India.

India won by nine wickets with 17 overs remaining.

Poonam, in fact, ripped through the White Ferns' middle-order, claiming the scalps of skipper Amy Satterthwaite (31), Lauren Down (0) and Amelia Kerr (28) in her quota of 10 overs.

Bright start
This was after Suzie Bates (38) and Sophie Devine (28)

had given New Zealand a solid start. But Devine's run out by Deepthi Sharma triggered a collapse and New Zealand folded up in 48.4 overs. Bates' 38 off 54 balls, including a couple of fours, was the best for the side.

The next match will be played at Mount Maunganui on January 29.

Roach sends England tumbling



Kemar Roach. • AP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRIDGETOWN

Kemar Roach spearheaded a devastating West Indies fast bowling effort to rout England for 77 and give it a huge 212-run first innings lead at tea on the second day of the first Test at Kensington Oval in Barbados on Thursday.

Replying to the home side's first-innings total of 289, highlighted by Shimron Hetmyer's 81 and James Anderson's 27th five-wicket innings haul, the visitors were blown away in 30.2 overs of untrained aggression from all four members of a pace attack.

Roach's haul of five for 17 from 11 overs recaptured his best form of earlier years before his career was threatened by a serious shoulder injury.

Captain Jason Holder and Alzarri Joseph snared two wickets apiece while Shannon Gabriel had to be satisfied with the lone wicket of Sam Curran.

SCOREBOARD

West Indies – 1st innings: C. Brathwaite c Root b Stokes 40, J. Campbell lbw b Moeen 44, S. Hope c Foakes b Anderson 57, D. Bravo lbw b Stokes 2, R. Chase c Root b Anderson 54, S. Hetmyer c Foakes b Stokes 81, S. Dowrich c Buttler b Anderson 0, J. Holder & B. Anderson 5, K. Roach c Root b Stokes 0, A. Joseph c Buttler b Anderson 0, S. Gabriel (not out) 0; Extras (lb-5, nb-1): 6; Total (in 101.3 overs): 289.

Fall of wickets: 1-53, 2-126, 3-128, 4-174, 5-240, 6-250, 7-261, 8-264, 9-289.

England bowling: Anderson 30-13-46-5, Curran 12-3-54-0, Stokes 25.3-2-59-4, Moeen 12-1-59-1, Rashid 17-1-56-0, Root 5-0-10-0.

England – 1st innings: R. Burns b Roach 2, K. Jennings c Hope b Holder 17, J. Bairstow b Roach 12, J. Root lbw b Holder 4, B. Stokes lbw b Roach 0, J. Buttler c Dowrich b Roach 4, M. Ali c Joseph b Roach 0, B. Foakes c Dowrich b Joseph 2, S. Curran c Hope b Gabriel 14, A. Rashid c Holder b Joseph 12, J. Anderson (not out) 0; Extras (b-4, lb-6): 10; Total (in 30.2 overs): 77.

Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-35, 3-44, 4-44, 5-48, 6-48, 7-49, 8-61, 9-73.

West Indies bowling: Roach 11-7-17-5, Gabriel 7-2-15-1, Holder 8-3-15-2, Joseph 4-2-20-2.

Hardik, Rahul suspensions revoked

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

The Committee of Administrators (CoA) on Thursday decided to revoke the suspension imposed on Hardik Pandya and K.L. Rahul for having made unsavoury comments on a TV show recently.

In a statement, the CoA stated, "The CoA had, by emails dated January 11, and in exercise of Rule 41(6) of the Constitution of BCCI, suspended Mr. Hardik Pandya and Mr. K.L. Rahul in view of the allegations of misconduct against them, pending adjudication of the allegations under Rule 46 of the approved BCCI Constitution.

"Since the adjudication of all allegations of misconduct against any cricketer registered with, inter alia, the BCCI is required to be undertaken by the BCCI Ombudsman, whose appointment is pending directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the CoA is of the view that the interim suspension orders dated January 11 should be presently lifted with immediate effect."

According to the CoA, "The above matter and decision has been taken with the concurrence of the Learned Amicus Curiae, Mr. P.S. Narasimha. In view of the above, the suspension order is lifted pending appointment and adjudication of



Hardik Pandya. • FILE PHOTO



K.L. Rahul. • FILE PHOTO

the allegations by the BCCI Ombudsman."

The two cricketers had come under severe criticism from all quarters for speaking about women in derogatory terms.

Hardik and Rahul were part of the team in Australia where the episode went on air and were subsequently dropped and flown back to India.

Hardik and Rahul were given an opportunity to make their case after they had tendered apologies to the CoA.

They had, observed some Board officials, committed a breach of contract by attending the show without prior permission from the authorities.

The decision by the CoA makes Hardik and Rahul available for selection for the ongoing tour in New Zealand. It is learnt Hardik may join the team for the last six matches of the tour since he reportedly needs match practice after returning from an injury.

CHENNAI: After their suspensions were revoked, the senior selection committee has decided to include Hardik Pandya in the squad for the series against New Zealand. K.L. Rahul will join the India-A squad for the last three one-day games against England Lions.

Hardik to join team in NZ

The twins who hate being separated

Kuldeep and Chahal complement each other on the field

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NAPIER

Like pacers, spinners too hunt in pairs and that's why Kuldeep Yadav feels the "pangs of separation" when spin twin Yuzvendra Chahal is not operating from the other end.

Both the wrist-spinners have so far played 36 ODIs each and will be key to India's chances in the World Cup in England starting on May 30.

Back in tandem

In recent times, India once again tried the wrist-spinner-finger-spinner experiment, but Ravindra Jadeja's failure to trouble the batsmen has again brought the focus back on the chinaman-classical leg-spin duo.

Missing you!

"When you don't play, I miss a lot of aspects," Kuldeep was seen telling Chahal during an interview conducted for the fun segment of bcci.tv.

"We understand each other's bowling and also the track. It's not always that we



Two to tango: Kuldeep and Chahal have shown that they will be key to India's World Cup chances. • FILE PHOTO: VIVEK BENDRE

are bowling in tandem. There are times when you bowl earlier and I come in later, but we talk a lot about how the pitch is behaving and how the batsman is playing," Kuldeep, who picked up four wickets in India's comprehensive win in the first ODI against New Zealand, said.

The performance was even more satisfying considering that the track at the McLean Park was flat and didn't offer too much assistance for bowlers.

"It was a batting wicket with not much turn on offer. The ball was skidding a bit, and it was hitting the bat well. So we had to bowl good areas along with using variations," he said.

Australia in charge

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRISBANE

Jhye Richardson and Pat Cummins put a dominant Australia firmly in charge after the first day of the day-night Test against Sri Lanka here on Thursday.

Richardson took three wickets and Cummins four as the home side dismissed Sri Lanka for just 144.

SCOREBOARD

Sri Lanka – 1st innings: D. Karunaratne c Paine b Lyon 24, L. Thirimanne c Labuschagne b Cummins 12, D. Chandimal c Burns b Richardson 5, K. Mendis b Richardson 14, R. Silva c Paine b Cummins 9, D. de Silva c Paine b Richardson 5, N. Dickwella c Patterson b Cummins 64, D. Perera c Labuschagne b Starc 1, S. Lakmal c Labuschagne b Starc 7, D. Chaminda c Patterson b Cummins 0, L. Kumara (not out) 0; Extras (nb-2, w-1): 3. Total (in 56.4 overs): 144.

Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-31, 3-54, 4-58, 5-66, 6-91, 7-102, 8-106, 9-144.

Australia bowling: Starc 12-2-41-2, Richardson 14-5-26-3, Cummins 14.4-3-39-4, Lyon 16-3-38-1.

Australia: M. Harris (batting) 40, J. Burns c Mendis b Lakmal 15, U. Khawaja b Perera 11, N. Lyon (batting) 0; Extras (lb-3, w-1, nb-2): 6. Total (for two wickets in 25 overs): 72.

Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-72.

Sri Lanka bowling: Lakmal 9-3-27-5, Kumara 6-0-24-0, Chaminda 7-1-14-0, Perera 3-2-4-1.

Toss: Sri Lanka.

Osaka sets up final date with Kvitova

Nadal gives rising Greek star Tsitsipas a tennis lesson by drubbing him in three sets



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MELBOURNE



Grit and determination: Naomi Osaka lost her way in the middle before overcoming Karolina Pliskova in three sets to reach her maiden Australian Open final. • AFP

edged past her in the third. Osaka is bidding to become the first woman since Serena Williams in 2015 to win the US and Australian Opens back to back.

She will also become the new World No. 1, replacing Romania's Simona Halep, if she beats Kvitova in the final. Kvitova will claim the top ranking if she lifts the trophy.

Two-time Wimbledon champion Kvitova stormed past debutant Danielle Collins 7-6(2), 6-0 in the semifinal after the closure of the roof gave the Czech a boost.

Rafael Nadal handed rising star Stefanos Tsitsipas a tennis lesson as he drubbed him 6-2, 6-4, 6-0 in men's semifinal.

Stat attack



Kvitova

1 The winner

of the women's final

between Osaka and Kvitova on Saturday will

take over as the new No. 1,

replacing Halep. The loser will

become World No. 2

—

5 It will be

Karnataka in a spot of bother

Saurashtra has much to be pleased with as Unadkat, Makwana make an impact

RANJI SEMIFINALS

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
BENGALURU

Saurashtra had much to be pleased with on the opening day of this Ranji Trophy semifinal fixture at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. Jaydev Unadkat (four for 50) and Kamlesh Makwana (three for 73) made an impact at either end of Thursday's action as Karnataka was reduced to 264 for nine after winning the toss.

The home side endured difficult first and last hours, losing wickets in clusters. In between, Manish Pandey (62), Shreyas Gopal (87) and the unbeaten Sharath Srinivas (74 n.o.) mounted a fine recovery, stitching two useful partnerships together.

Their efforts helped Karnataka, 30 for four at one stage, rally to 232 for five. But Shreyas Gopal was bowled trying to pull Makwana in the final session while K. Gowtham, R. Vinay Kumar and A. Mithun were all dismissed playing avoidable shots against spin as the visitor walked back the happier of the two sides.

No cakewalk

Earlier, Karnataka elected to bat first, with a view to avoiding a fourth-innings chase on this pitch. But the first innings would prove no cakewalk either. R. Samarth, who was preferred over D. Nischal, lasted all of three balls



Resistance ends: Shreyas Gopal (87), who helped Karnataka stage a recovery, was castled while trying to pull Makwana. ■ SUDHAKARA JAIN

until Unadkat nailed him leg-before with a fine in-ducker. The Saurashtra captain accounted for K.V. Siddharth next, trapping him in front with a full delivery. Replays suggested, though, that the ball may have been sliding down leg.

Unadkat gave Mayank Agarwal a tough time, the batsman playing and missing on several occasions. The left-armer was eventually rewarded for that effort as Agarwal edged one that was angled across him. With Unadkat and Chetan Sakariya, who removed Karun Nair in

his second spell, moving the ball and bowling well in the channels, Karnataka found life difficult.

Counter-attack

Manish Pandey, though, counter-attacked. He got off the mark with a six, launching Prerak Mankad's gentle medium-pace over long-on. The same bowler was driven over the extra-cover boundary, and Dharmendrasinh Jadeja was deposited over long-off.

Pandey raced to his fifty off 48 balls and with Shreyas looking good at the other

end, Karnataka went into lunch 128 for four. Third ball after the break, though, Pandey was bowled by Unadkat. The previous delivery had been short and had held its line; this one was full and taunted in. It brought an end to a partnership of 106 runs (146b, 13x4).

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TV PICKS

ISL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7:15 p.m.
Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9:15 a.m.

Asian Cup: Star Sports 2 & 3 (SD & HD), 6:15 p.m. & 9:15 p.m.

BWF World Tour: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 11:30 a.m.

FIH Pro League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 3:30 p.m.

NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.

Australian Open: Sony Ten 2 & Six (SD & HD), 9:30 a.m. & 2 p.m.

West Indies vs England: 1st Test, third day, Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 7:30 p.m.

Australia vs Sri Lanka: 1st Test, second day, Sony Ten 3 (SD & HD), 8:30 a.m.

South Africa vs Pakistan: 3rd ODI, Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 4:30 p.m.

PWL: Sony Ten 3 & Six (SD & HD), 6:45 p.m.

IN BRIEF



PCB expresses regret over Sarfraz's remarks

LAHORE The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has expressed regret over the alleged racist remarks made by skipper Sarfraz Ahmed against South African pacer Andile Phehlukwayo during the second ODI in Durban. Sarfraz was caught on the stump microphone making an alleged racist remark towards Phehlukwayo. Sarfraz also took to social media to apologise for his actions. PTI

WORLD TWENTY20 SR

Johan Botha retires from all forms of cricket

HOBART Former South Africa all-rounder Johan Botha has announced his immediate retirement from all forms of cricket. Botha's Australian Twenty20 league team, Hobart Hurricanes, announced the news late on Wednesday. It said Botha cited "wear and tear on his body and sheer physical fatigue". Botha played five Tests, 78 ODIs and 40 T20 Internationals from 2005 to 2012. AP



Neymar suffers fresh metatarsal injury

PARIS Paris Saint-Germain talisman Neymar has suffered a fresh injury to his right metatarsal, the club said on Thursday, marring the holder's advance to the last 16 of the French Cup with a 2-0 win over Strasbourg. A fractured metatarsal curtailed the Brazilian's last season, and the recurrence comes three weeks ahead of the first leg of PSG's crunch Champions League clash against Manchester United. AFP



High-flying Harden makes history

LOS ANGELES James Harden took his high-scoring act to Madison Square Garden on Wednesday where he dazzled his way to a career-high 61 points as Houston Rockets edged New York Knicks 114-110.

The results: Utah Jazz 114 bt Denver Nuggets 108; Philadelphia 76ers 122 bt San Antonio Spurs 120; Boston Celtics 125 bt Cleveland Cavaliers 103; Brooklyn Nets 114 bt Orlando 110 Magic; Miami Heat 99 lost to LA Clippers 111; New York Knicks 110 lost to Houston Rockets 114; Chicago Bulls 101 lost to Atlanta Hawks 121; Memphis Grizzlies 107 lost to Charlotte Hornets 118; New Orleans Pelicans 94 lost to Detroit Pistons 98; Indiana Pacers 110 bt Toronto Raptors 106. AFP

REGIONAL ROUND-UP



Champions: The Chittoor team, winner of the ACA inter-district (under-23) one-day cricket championship. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Jharkhand beats Hyderabad

HYDERABAD: Jharkhand defeated Hyderabad by 34 runs in the BCCI women's T20 tournament (under-23) at Jaipur on Thursday.

In another match, Andhra notched up a six-wicket win over Tamil Nadu.

The scores:

Tamil Nadu 107 for two in 20 overs (S. Anusha 41 n.o.) lost to Andhra 108 for four in 18.4 overs (N. Anusha 56 n.o.). Jharkhand 128 for five in 20 overs (Rashmi 42, Indrani Roy 38) bt Hyderabad 94 for eight in 20 overs (Durga Murmu three for 13).

Andhra, Kerala qualify

ONGOLE: Andhra and Kerala qualified for the knock-out phase of the Cooch Behar Trophy (under-19) cricket tournament from Elite Group C despite their four-

day game ending in a draw at the C.S.R. Sarma College ground.

The highlight of the final day was Vathsal Govind's knock of 116 (268b, 14x4).

The scores:

Kerala 339 in 99 overs & 313 in 110.5 overs (Vathsal Govind 116, T. Nikhil 65, Mohit Subbu 41 n.o., B. Santosh Kumar four for 63, Sai Karthik Rao three for 81) drew with Andhra 335 in 109.5 overs & 100 for two in 21 overs (T. Vamsi Krishna 33, M. Varsha 44).

Chittoor wins trophy

Chittoor scored a 116-run win over Nellore in the final round to emerge champion of the ACA inter-district (under-23) one-day cricket championship. Amanapur finished runner-up.

The scores:

Chittoor 226 in 42.0 overs (Gnaneshwar 78, Shamiullah 54, Kalyan 37, Mohan Rao four for 34, Akhil Srinivas three for 43) bt Nellore 110 in 30 overs (Varshith Reddy three for 16). Kurnool 202 for seven in 50 overs (Shambavi 78, Sanjay Naidu 45) lost to Kadapa 203 for eight in 47.2 overs (Noor Basha 36, Abhishek Reddy 35, Jaffar Ali Khan 33).

Easy for E.C.O.R.S.A.

VISHAKHAPATNAM: E.C.O.R.S.A. scored a 71-run win over City Cricket Club in the 22nd *The Hindu Trophy* cricket tournament, organised by Vishakhapatnam DCA on Thursday.

The scores:

E.C.O.R.S.A. 279 for nine in 40 overs (M.S. Deepak 91, G. Shankar Rao 51, D. Ravi Kumar 37, N. Lova Raju 32 n.o.) bt City CC 208 in 36.2 overs (Akshaya 83, P. Madhusudhan Rao three for 52). Gajuwaka Greens w/o Symond Blues.

Vingada wants his boys to play the game of their lives

ISL

STAN RAYAN KOCHI

A lot has happened at Kerala Blasters during the winter break. The team's two big names, C.K. Vineeth and Halicharan Narzary, have been offered on loan to Chennaiyin FC and at one stage, there was even talk that Sandesh Jhingan would be traded away.

But Vingada made it clear that though he has been with the team for just about three days, he was sure the boys were capable of playing much better than their current eighth spot in the table. And with just six games to go, he wants his boys to give their very best and win back

the fans who have kept away from the last two home games. "I've told them, 'tomorrow is the game of our lives', he said. "It's not just enough to play well, we have to be real fighters to show everybody we are playing much above our capacity."

Vingada said he would not have let go of Vineeth and Narzary had he come earlier.

"The decision to loan Vineeth and Narzary was made before I arrived. Vineeth is an important player because he can smell the goals."

Women representation needs to rise'

Suma, Manisha and Aparna spoke at Dipa's book launch



Suma Shirur. ■ PTI



Manisha. ■ FILE PHOTO



Aparna. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

Popat and Suma Shirur (noted names in tennis, badminton and shooting respectively).

Replies to questions by the moderator, each one presented their view and stated that increase in women representation in sports federation will help in making the woman's voice heard.

Asian Games tennis medalist Manisha Malhotra said (Asian Games tennis medalist and IOC award-winner for Women and Sport): "Even in a sport like tennis which is very urban, if you go on the international circuit, you will see countless examples of young girls kind of having an affair with their coaches."

It was followed by a bronze in the same event at the 2018 Artistic Gymnastics World Cup in Germany.

Returning to competitive sport after a procedure on her ACL (Anterior Cruciate Ligament) in Mumbai under Dr. Anant Joshi was difficult.

What was tougher was handling social perceptions about women in sport for Dipa, who countered scepticism from a male gymnast and coach by steeling herself to perform on the biggest stage.

The Olympic debutante, later awarded the Khel Ratna by the Sports Ministry, took part in a discussion on the difficulties faced by women sports persons on the sidelines of the book launch.

Others on the panel were Manisha Malhotra, Aparna

Popat and Suma Shirur, there is no guaranteed returns at the end also.

"If your career (as a sportsperson) is so short-lived, something like this (#MeToo) can also hamper your career and all your goodwill thereafter. It is dicey because you are very dependent on your core team and it would be risky for sportspeople to speak out."

Suma Shirur (Olympian shooter and High Performance coach for national junior rifle shooters): "I definitely feel there should be more women representation on the federations."

"It shows everywhere – for example, even in t-shirts and tracksuits, we were always given men's sizes."

"Times have changed, there are other issues (affecting women in sport) and with more awareness coming in, more women and being involved."

"As a woman, it is important to make our voices heard. We have always done that our voices were so vociferous that the federation had to listen. Women should not be afraid to have a voice. Once you do so there will be lots of support."

Indian Democrat expected to score in the feature event

BENGALURU: Indian Democrat, who has been well prepared, is expected to score in the Ravi Agarwal Memorial Bangalore Winter Million (1,200m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Friday (Jan. 25).

False rails (width about 3.5m) from 1,600m to the winning post will be in position.

ULLAL BEACH PLATE (1,400m), rated 00 to 20-1-45 p.m.: 1. Fierce Fighter (I) Akshay 60, 2. Able Master (II) Adarsh 59.5, 3. Gin Daisy (7) Dheebi 59, 4. Phoenix Reached (10) T.S. Jodha 58.5, 5. Turf Prospector (2) Trevor 58, 6. Securing Smiles (3) K. Nazil 57, 7. Golden Opinion (6) Ashok K 56, 8. Aafrikaan (9) Arshad 55, 9. Track Striker (4) Darshan 54, 10. Winx (5) A. Ramu 54, 11. Rocket Punch (8) Nazerul 53 and 12. Clasic Speed (12) Chetan K 52.5.

1. AAFRIKAAN, 2. TURF PROSPECTOR, 3. SECURING SMILE

4 KUMARAJAH M.A.M.

5 MUTHIAH TROPHY (1,600m), rated 30 to 30-3-15: 1. King Of The Wind (2) I. Chisty 59, 2. Salvador Dali (3) Trevor 59.5, 3. Habanero (2) Trevon 59.5, 4. Prince (1) P. Mani 59.5, 5. Pradeep (1) Arshad 59, 6. Naveen 59.5, 7. Prince (1) P. Mani 59.5, 8. Agnar (10) S. Shareef 54.5, 9. Captain (9) Prabhakaran 54 and 12. Vasuki (11) Adarsh 53.

1. LOOK OUT, 2. DEPTH CHARGE, 3. LOVE FOR LIFE

5 RAJCHUR PLATE (Div. D, 1,600m), rated 15 to 15-5-15: 1. Aleef (4) Rayan 60, 2. Lee And Grant (9) Vinod Shinde 59.5, 3. Prince Charms (3) Janardhan 59, 4. Sadaqat (5) Trevor 59, 5. Extremelydangerous (6) Arshad 58.5, 6. Memorite (8) Akshay K 58.5, 7. Three Wishes (2) Imran 58, 8. Ido What I Do (10) Dheebi 57.5, 9. Ocean Park (7) A. Ramu 57.5, 10. Shaktiman (1) Zervan 57.5 and 11. Smile Of Joy (11) T.S. Jodha 57.5.

1. AGNAR, 2. HABANERO, 3. STREAK AHEAD

5 RAICHUR PLATE (Div. D, 1,600m), rated 15 to 15-5-15: 1. King Tactics (5) P. Mani 60, 2. Santiago (10) P.S. Chouhan 59.5, 3. Radiant Treasure (8) Suraj 59, 4. James Bond (11) Rayan 58.5, 5. Fiorenzo (3) Trevor 55.5, 6. Desert Rose (6) I. Chisty 55.5, 7. King Of The Wind (7) I. Chisty 59, 8. Shemyscript (2) Sandesh 59, 9. Reference (1) Anjar Alam 58, 10. Tamoura (9) Adarsh 56, 11. Tyro Alba (10) Akshay K 53, 8. Kashkha (6) Trevor 52.5, 9. Ciel Etoile (5) Neeraj 51.5 and 10. Lightning Attack (4) Dheebi 50.5.

1. KING OF THE WIND, 2. SALVADOR DALI, 3. KASHKHA

5 RAVI AGGARWAL MEMORIAL BANGALORE WINTER MILLION (1,200m), 3-y-o (Terms) – 3-45: 1. Star Cavalry (I) A. Imran 57, 2. Anjeze (3) Trevor 55.5, 3. Desert Rose (6) I. Chisty 55.5, 4. King Of The Wind (7) I. Chisty 59, 5. Marco Polo (1) David Allan 53, 6. Kirkwood (5) Neeraj 51.5, 7. Indian Democrat (4) David Allan 55.5 and 11. Marco Polo (2) Srinath 55.

1. INDIAN DEMOCRAT, 2. ANJEZE

6 BANGALORE RACE COURSE TROPHY (1,600m), 4-y-o & over (Terms) – 4-15: 1. Booker Jones (6) Srinath 60, 2. Iris (4) Anjar Alam 57.5, 3. Naazaan (3) Trevor 57.5.

1. MEMORITE, 2. SADAQAT, 3. SHAKTIMAN

3 PREMIUM SPIRIT PLATE (Div. II, 4,200m), rated 15 to 35, 5-y-o & over – 2-45: 1. Indian Brahma

1. Im 10.23s. ₹14 (w), 12 and 16 (p). SHP: 26, FP: 64, Q: 27, Tanala: 129 and 55. Favourite: Bateleur. Owners: Mr. & Mrs. K.N. Dhunjibhoy and Mr. Z.K. Dhunjibhoy rep. Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd. & Mr. Vilash Gaikwad trains the winner.

3 MARCHETTA PLATE (1,600m), Cl. II, rated 60 to 86: TEXAS GOLD (Nazil) 1. Excellent (Neeraj)

2. Arabia (L. Roche) 3 and Spitfire

(Zervan) 4, 1, 1-1/4, 2, Im 37.90s.

₹36 (w), 23 and 16 (p). SHP: 28,



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DELHI Timings		
FRIDAY, JAN. 25		
RISE 07:13	SET 17:55	
RISE 22:36	SET 10:22	
SATURDAY, JAN. 26		
RISE 07:12	SET 17:55	
RISE 23:38	SET 11:01	
SUNDAY, JAN. 27		
RISE 07:12	SET 17:56	
RISE 00:00	SET 11:38	

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	22	10
Safdarjung	22	10
Palam	22	10

Delhi Palam Today
20°C A cold morning with shallow fog likely. Day will be pleasant. Pollution level to remain poor to very poor.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
19°C Dense fog to cover Delhi-NCR. A cold morning and cool day expected. Rise in pollution level likely.

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Curfew in Odisha town after communal tension

Face-off between two groups over holding event at a ground

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

Bose and freedom fighter Veer Surendra Sai led to the tension on Wednesday. Stray incidents of violence were reported on Thursday and the police had to resort to a lathicharge to disperse the troublemakers.

Precautionary measure'
The situation is under control. As a precautionary measure, curfew has been imposed," said Kendrapara SP Niti Shekhar, IGP (Central) Soumendra Priyadarshi also visited Kendrapara to take stock of the situation.

"The RSS members had not taken any permission. When they marched towards the ground, some of our members picketed in front of the ground," said Mir Obeda, a former councillor.

During the day, Internet services were suspended

A face-off between members of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and a minority community over use of a ground for celebration of the birth anniversaries of Netaji Subhas Chandra

During the day, Internet services were suspended

Tree branches fall at Jaipur lit fest, 4 hurt

'Near-death experience', tweets author

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Four persons, including photojournalist Surendra Jain Paras, were injured when some branches of an old Peepal tree fell on them on the first day of the Jaipur Literature Festival on Thursday.

The incident happened in a restricted area where delegates were having lunch. Novelist Hari Kunzru called it "a near-death experience" on his Twitter handle and added that "it's a miracle no one was killed". Those injured were

rushed to a private hospital which has partnered with the JLF organisers. Mr. Paras received 14 stitches in the middle of his head.

A statement by JLF organisers said the injured were discharged from hospital after treatment and the event continued undisturbed. The relatives of the injured persons alleged negligence in the arrangements at the event. The organisers later agreed to bear the treatment cost of those injured.

The festival, billed as the world's largest literary event, will continue till Monday.

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Farmers' woes: Punjab CM blames Centre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Thursday said that farmer suicides would continue if the Centre did not become sympathetic towards them.

The Chief Minister, who launched the third phase of farm debt waiver scheme at Anandpur Sahib, said: "the States cannot do everything on their own without the central government's help."

Captain Amarinder said that the loan waiver scheme was only a temporary solution to the problems of distressed farmers. He added that his government would soon come out with a loan waiver scheme for landless labourers.

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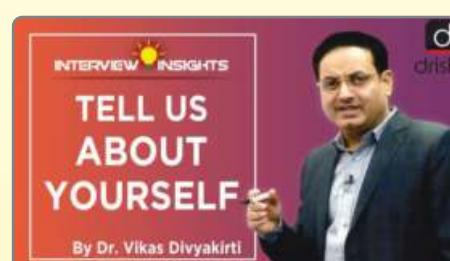


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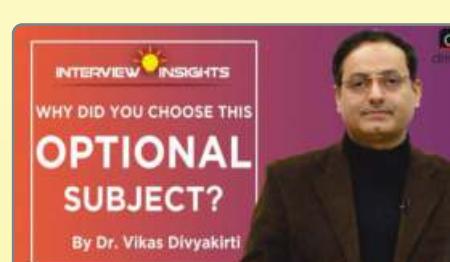


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Familial face

Priyanka Gandhi can be a star campaigner, but the Congress still needs to flesh out its vision

In appointing his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as a general secretary of the party, Congress president Rahul Gandhi probably calculated that the benefits outweighed the risks. While the BJP lost no time in decrying the move as another instance of dynastic politics, the high-stakes manoeuvre could lift the profile of the Congress as a serious contender in the general election. In Uttar Pradesh, where it has been left high and dry in the seat-sharing deal between the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party, it sorely needs a dramatic turnaround in political fortunes. While her formal induction into politics may have been prompted by a number of factors, including the ill-health of her mother, former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, the charge of eastern Uttar Pradesh was surely meant as a signal to the SP and the BSP. Although her only previous formal role in politics was as the party's campaign manager in Amethi and Rae Bareli, constituencies of her brother and mother, Ms. Vadra is high on charisma quotient, that intangible but nonetheless real quality that saw crowds gather in the party's pocket boroughs. The Nehru-Gandhi lineage aside, Ms. Vadra commands a stage presence, helped no doubt by a resemblance to her grandmother Indira Gandhi. Whether she will take her mother's place in Rae Bareli is not clear as yet, but this is a suggestion that there could be a long-term role.

In many ways, the nomination is an admission of the party's over-reliance on the family, but to the credit of Mr. Gandhi, he has been engaging in wider consultations within the party on important decisions. The Congress is still a centralised party, and Mr. Gandhi is routinely authorised to take the final call on all matters big and small; but, equally, he has also shown the ability to step back in a spirit of accommodation in dealings with allied parties. That he did not declare himself as a prime ministerial candidate of the Opposition was born of tactical necessity; even so, he has shown a fair amount of maturity in dealing with a wide array of allies. During the Manmohan Singh years, the Congress was able to counter, to an extent at least, the perception that it revolved around the dynasty. And the BJP may not find much political purchase in linking Ms. Vadra's appointment to dynastic politics; there will be no surprise, however, if it starts harping on her husband's allegedly murky land dealings, which had cropped up during the 2014 election campaign. What should engage the Congress is not what the BJP may say about Ms. Vadra, but what she can say and do for it. The party needs much more than a star campaigner; it needs leaders that can revitalise the organisation by presenting it as an alternative to the BJP. For that, it will have to come up with a truly inclusive, egalitarian vision that privileges all-round development above all else.

Season's worst

A concerted public health push is required to tackle periodic outbreaks of influenza

Seasonal influenza poses a significant public health challenge for India every year. The spurt in infections during the first two weeks of 2019 cries out for an effective plan to contain it. Rajasthan, which had a big case load last year, is the worst-affected State in the current season, with 768 cases and 31 deaths as of January 13. There have been peaks in the country over the past six years, with the number of cases recorded by the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme soaring to 42,592 and the death toll touching 2,990 in 2015. With better understanding of the nature of active viruses and the availability of a quadrivalent vaccine, State governments have no excuse for failing to sharply reduce the spread. Last year, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare deputed teams to assist Rajasthan in containing the outbreak. It is pertinent to ask what preventive measures were put in place based on the experience. Large-scale vaccination covering high-risk groups such as health workers, people with lung, kidney, liver and heart disease, diabetics and the elderly could reduce the impact of the viruses in States such as Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana and the National Capital Region, all of which had a large number of cases three years ago. A universal preventive programme should be considered at least for the future.

Last year, the Union Health Ministry put out an advisory on the right vaccine to protect against a known set of viruses, such as Influenza A H1N1, H3N2 and Influenza B. Yet, most public health programmes are not prepared for a mass adoption of the vaccine. Non-availability of sufficient doses of quadrivalent vaccine as well as profiteering on the demand have not been addressed. If a vaccine has proven efficacy in reducing the burden of seasonal influenza, it must be made part of the public health system. An umbrella scheme such as Ayushman Bharat can easily provide it to everyone using public and private institutions. Campaigns to educate the public through mass media ahead of the season, especially on respiratory etiquette and risk reduction, can help cut transmission. At the same time, upgrading existing vaccines requires a consistent effort to track viral mutations that take place periodically, and communicate the information to researchers through open access databases. There are 41 Virus Research Diagnostic Laboratories in India and they can study the nature of infections to provide genetic insights to peer scientists. This can help develop vaccines and remedies. When it comes to treatment, the availability of anti-viral drugs such as Oseltamivir in the public health system should be ensured. Seasonal influenza will, according to the WHO, continue to resurface. India must prepare for it with a comprehensive programme that covers all the States.

A tragedy that was long in the making

Illegal rat-hole mining in Meghalaya persists despite ruinous effects on the environment



PATRICIA MUKHIM

The efforts to reach the 15 miners trapped in an illegal coal mine in the East Jaintia hills of Meghalaya since December 13 continue, but they began belatedly and have faced many problems.

Doomed from the beginning
First, the Meghalaya government has no idea what happens inside these rat-hole mines, which are barely 2 ft wide, since mining is a private activity. Despite the National Green Tribunal ban of April 2014, mining continues in the State. Second, it was unfortunate that the district administration assumed the miners to be dead on the very day of the tragedy. This assumption was evident in the letter written to the National Disaster Response Force. It was only after a Delhi-based lawyer, Aditya N. Prasad, represented by senior Supreme Court advocate Anand Grover and his team of human rights lawyers presented their suggestions to the court that the Meghalaya government got different actors to the accident site. Mr. Prasad has never visited Meghalaya. When asked why he is the petitioner on behalf of the miners, he simply said: "They are fellow Indians and my brethren." That someone based in Delhi should have the empathy lacking in the people and the government shows that humanity is a dying virtue.

Mr. Prasad has done everything

possible to put things together to assist the rescue mission. But despite his initiative, things were delayed. The distance of the mine, for one, was a major hindrance. Then there are other issues that need to be highlighted. The trapped miners were being racially profiled in the minds of the people and the state. Of the 15 miners, only three were locals from the nearby village of Lumthari. The rest were Muslims from Garo Hills, Meghalaya, and Bodoland, Assam. Their socio-economic profile also worked against them. They were the poorest of the poor who took a huge risk to enter a mine and dig for coal without any safety gear.

When a mine is flooded, the immediate response, apart from pumping out the water, is to stop further flow of water into it. This requires a hydrologist to scientifically map out the area from where water entered the mine. Sudhir Kumar, a hydrologist from the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, arrived only two weeks after the disaster. So did the divers from the Indian Navy and the 100 HP water pumps from Kirloskar Brothers. The remotely operated underwater vehicle (ROV) from Planys in Chennai came three weeks later. So did the geologists from Hyderabad. All these delays happened because there was no one person or agency to coordinate the rescue mission. This shows the kind of disaster preparedness we have in our country. One shudders to think what the response would be if there was a massive earthquake in the Northeast, which is listed as Zone 5 on the seismic scale.

There are many questions that arise with respect to rat-hole min-



ing of coal. One, why does the state allow this archaic mining system, which has complete disregard for human life and safety? And two, why is Meghalaya exempted from national mining laws? Rat-hole mining, which started with gusto in the 1980s, has poisoned three rivers in the Jaintia hills: the Myntdu, Lunar and Lukha. Scientists from the North-Eastern Hill University have found that these rivers have very high acidic levels. Reports from other agencies suggest that pH of the water and sulphate and iron concentrations indicate significant deterioration of the rivers. Acid mine drainage from abandoned mines was a major cause for water pollution in the areas investigated, the reports added.

The coal mine owners have been hiring the best legal brains to argue for them in the highest court of the land. They say that rat-hole mining should continue because no other form of mining is viable (which means that their profit margins would reduce if other forms of mining were to take place). They argue that the NGT ban should be lifted. They claim

that coal mining provides livelihoods for many, but at what cost?

The fault-lines

The tribes of Meghalaya are divided on the issue of rat-hole mining. The fault-lines are clear. Those who care for the environment and for a future for their children and grandchildren have been clamouring for an end to the practice of rat-hole mining and reckless limestone mining. On the other hand, the mining elite have mobilised forces to demonise environmental activists. A community of just over a million is now fragmented. To add to these woes, cement companies also release their effluents into the rivers. So we now have a deadly cocktail of pollutants being released into the environment. The scale of the problem is clear in this one fact: there are 3,923 coal mines in one district with a geographical area of 2,126 sq. km.

The other troubling factor is that coal mine owners are insisting that since Meghalaya is a State under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, national mining laws should be exempted here. The Sixth Schedule was enacted to

protect the community rights of tribals from any form of exploitation of their land and resources. How can it now be used as an instrument to protect an activity that is a private enterprise, that is inhuman, and that violates Article 21 of the Constitution? Why is the Sixth Schedule unable to protect the forests and rivers that are common property resources? Acid mine drainage has rendered even agricultural land non-productive. Mine owners do not care about environmental degradation.

Abandoning responsibility

The cement giant, Lafarge, mines limestone from Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills district and transports it to Chhatak in Bangladesh via conveyor belts. The Supreme Court placed a heavy penalty on Lafarge and asked it to strictly implement environmental laws apart from generating livelihoods for people residing within 50 km of the mining areas. In the case of coal mine owners, there are no such strictures. They have left thousands of abandoned mines as human graves. The State does not insist that they reclaim and afforest those mines. In 40 years of mining and profiteering, the mine owners have till date not constructed a single hospital or even a school. There is complete disregard for corporate social responsibility because the mines are privately owned by the tribals. How long can the Central government and the highest court of the land allow this to carry on in one part of the country when strict laws are applied elsewhere?

Patricia Mukhim is Editor, The Shillong Times

The ground beneath our feet has moved to the right

Hate has become mainstream. This can only change when democracy is no longer equated with majoritarianism



NISSIM MANNATHUKKAREN

At a public rally on January 22, BJP president Amit Shah claimed that the Opposition's mahagathbandhan rally in Kolkata did not have slogans of "Vande Mataram" or "Bharat Mata ki Jai." The implication was that the Opposition is anti-national. But the only hitch was that Mr. Shah's claim was fake. The bugle for the general election has been sounded.

Mainstreaming hate

Since the Congress's victory in December in three Assembly elections, there has been a flurry of communally laced fake news from the Sangh Parivar on social media. One claim was that Muslims in Rajasthan carried Pakistani flags as they celebrated the Congress's win. Another was that Congress president Rahul Gandhi praised Islam as the source of Mahatma Gandhi's non-violence. And yet another was that Mr. Gandhi prayed for a Muslim kingdom in India at a dargah. All these claims were exposed by *Alt News*.

While there is gradual mainstreaming of hatred, elections especially push the envelope regarding what can be uttered in the

public sphere. But this normalisation of hate is not just verbal. According to Hate Crime Watch, a multi-organisation effort steered by FactCheck.in, last year saw the highest number of religiously motivated hate crimes in a decade, and in 75% of those incidents, the victims were minorities.

The Congress's recent victories cannot be read as a triumph of secularism over communalism, or of economic issues like rural distress and urban middle class angst about development. This is because the ground beneath our feet has almost irrevocably shifted to accommodate the extreme right-wing agenda of virulent masculinity, anti-minority and anti-Dalit hate. For instance, the state response to the brutal killing of a policeman by a mob in Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh was to make villages take a pledge against cow slaughter! Further, the National Security Act was invoked against the alleged cow slaughterers, but not the killers. Even the language we use has changed. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a December election campaign speech, said: "The Congress has come up with a 'fatwa' that I should not begin my rallies with 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'." It says a lot that the Prime Minister's pitting of a much-denounced term from Islamic jurisprudence against 'Bharat Mata' does not shock us. If there are images of an angry Hanuman everywhere, it is because there is a miasma of hate;



Hanuman cannot any more be a gentle devotee of Lord Ram. And if U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath uses religiously inflammatory words like "Congress can keep Ali, Bajrangbali is enough for us" with impunity in campaign speeches, it is because his hate speeches have become commonplace.

Muslims bear the brunt of this new normal (witness the BJP's dangerous anti-Muslim rhetoric on the Citizenship Amendment Bill), for hate further marginalises the already politically marginalised. This is also facilitated by Muslim leaders themselves. For example, All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul Muslimeen leader Akbaruddin Owaisi responded to Mr. Adityanath's venomous speeches with the same religious rabble-rousing, chanting Naara-e-Takbeers in political gatherings completely populated by men.

In this thrall of a hate-filled false binary of a monolithic Hindu versus a monolithic Muslim, the building of solidarities on the basis

of caste, class and gender oppressions is postponed. The real beneficiaries are not the most oppressed Hindus and Muslims, but only the demagogues, the "fishers for eels" that Aristophanes recognised 2,500 years ago. When many distressed farmers and a section of the urban unemployed vote for the Congress or secular parties, it is not that they do not share the same ideological universe as the right-wing. The so-called victories of secularism will still be on a ground ploughed by the cancer of hate and mountain of fake news. It is no surprise then that the Congress too puts out fake news, albeit of a non-communal kind.

India is not unique in this respect. Hateful messages on social media propelled the far-right candidate Jair Bolsonaro to victory in Brazil, they were used by the Myanmar military against the Rohingya, and they led to violence against immigrants in the U.K. and the refugees in Germany. Transformational democratic solidarities can scarcely emerge out of a toxic public sphere and social media. In India, the vastly disproportionate culpability of Hindutva conjoined with state power is clear. According to a BBC study, calls for nation-building are trumping truth and there is an "overlap of fake news sources on Twitter and support networks for the ruling party".

Social media portal ShareChat, used in 14 Indian languages, said very presciently about increasing

hate speech on its platform: "When you have politicians going on TV and saying these things every night, [we] can't start limiting people's freedom of speech... We can't take a call on what is hateful or not." Social media can rejuvenate democracy by giving a voice to the voiceless, but that space for debate has been hijacked by IT cells of political parties and the masses following them.

Eliminating hate

It is difficult to roll back something that acquires normalcy. "Uninstalling" hate from social media platforms and the larger public sphere cannot be achieved through mere electoral victories, or stronger laws, even if they are important. While electoral alliances, like that of the Bahujan Samaj Party and Samajwadi Party, can dent Hindutva-fuelled hate, they cannot eliminate it. This can happen only through a multi-faceted cultural and political struggle to realise that democracy is not majoritarianism; rather, its core tenets are equality, liberty and fraternity, all of which incontestably stand against hate and demagoguery. And that there can be no democracy if there is no sanctity of speech, and no intention to speak the truth.

Nissim Mannathukkaren is Chair, International Development Studies Department, Dalhousie University, Canada and tweets @nmannathukkaren

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Priyanka in politics

The Congress is hoping that Priyanka Gandhi's resemblance to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the goodwill that the Gandhi family enjoys in parts of Uttar Pradesh will translate into votes ("Rahul appoints Priyanka as Congress general secretary", Jan. 24). Ms. Vadra's campaign can be expected to make some impact on the women vote bank. However, her appointment has given yet another opportunity to the BJP to allege that the Congress promotes dynastic politics. She also carries with her the baggage of Robert Vadra, who is facing corruption charges. The U.P. polls will determine not only the party's prospects this general election but also

Ms. Vadra's career to an extent

S.V. VENKATKRISHNAN, Bengaluru

It is unfortunate that the Congress used its dynastic card to change the course of the political game in U.P. That it does not mind splitting the anti-BJP vote in order to salvage its prestige speaks about its delusions about being the nation's natural choice for forming government. But the arrival of Priyanka Gandhi will neither change the SP-BSP's stand nor will it enthuse the voters who have no emotional connect with a politician who appears before them once in five years.

V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN, Thiruvananthapuram

Priyanka Gandhi provides an additional blow to the BJP, which already seems to be rather jittery. That so many BJP leaders, including the Prime Minister, have commented on her entry proves this.

THARCUS S. FERNANDO, Chennai

Priyanka Gandhi's appointment is a shot in the arm for the Congress, but it might diminish the aura reserved for Rahul Gandhi in the party. The party can benefit from this, however, if dual power centres are successfully avoided.

AYASSERI RAVEENDRANATH, Aranmula

Priyanka Gandhi deserves to be general secretary? As usual the Congress has failed to recognise party leaders who have worked hard and who have experience. One can only hope that Robert Vadra too isn't given some important role.

SIRAT SAPRA, Faizlaka

Let EVMs stay

The article, "An electoral intervention that has clicked" (Jan. 24), was heartening to read given the vehement pleas for a return to the paper ballot system. The Election Commission has been sincerely trying to improve the EVMs to avoid glitches and malfunctions. Political parties know the problems with the paper ballot system; that they continue to blame EVMs for their

defeats and want to return to paper ballot indicates that they intend to play mischief to gain electoral victory.

V.S. GANESHAN, Benaguru

Poor state of hospitals

B.J.S. CHRISTOPHER, Hyderabad

heart attack but stops bus safely", Jan. 24). What is shocking is that there were no duty doctors at the hospital! What kind of a hospital is this that doesn't have doctors? What are people expected to do in emergencies? The government must ensure that government hospitals have infrastructure and staff who are as good as those in private hospitals.

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

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS: The weight of Microsat-R is 740 kg and not 1,300 kg as reported in the text or 100 kg as mentioned in the graphic of the report, "ISRO to launch military satellite tonight" (January 24, 2019).

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MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	36,195	-0.24
US Dollar	71.07	0.36
Gold	33,210	0.00
Brent oil	60.98	-0.73

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	380.95	-4.25
Asian Paints	1401.85	5.30
Axius Bank	663.65	2.05
Bajaj Auto	2651.65	-22.45
Bajaj Finance	6407.30	-85.85
Bharti Airtel	301.65	-2.05
BPCL	353.95	-3.20
Cipla	500.70	-8.60
Coal India	223.85	-1.70
Dr Reddys Lab	2668.45	21.70
Eicher Motors	20115.60	26.45
GAIL (India)	333.60	-0.60
Grasim Ind	785.80	3.65
HCL Tech.	946.45	2.00
HDFC	1971.10	12.85
HDFC Bank	2102.25	-3.15
Hero MotoCorp	2790.20	-5.75
Hindalco	205.05	-0.40
HPCL	243.10	1.25
Hind Unilever	1759.50	-7.70
Indiabulls HFL	773.50	-5.20
ICICI Bank	364.80	-2.60
IndusInd Bank	1490.30	-4.70
Bharti Infralet	263.00	-14.00
Infosys	732.00	0.35
Indian Oil Corp	136.80	0.70
ITC	278.90	1.60
JSW Steel	283.65	2.75
Kotak Bank	1267.75	-8.75
L&T	1295.35	-6.10
M&M	697.30	1.45
Maurit Suzuki	7040.60	-4.80
NTPC	140.05	-0.70
ONGC	141.70	-1.60
PowerGrid Corp	186.75	0.45
Reliance Ind	1247.45	21.15
State Bank	288.05	1.40
Sun Pharma	423.00	-8.00
Tata Motors	175.40	-4.85
Tata Steel	460.75	-3.85
TCS	1901.55	25.95
Tech Mahindra	727.75	7.05
Titan	969.65	7.50
UltraTech Cement	3790.70	-59.95
UPL	747.35	-15.50
Vedanta	193.50	0.70
Wipro	351.75	0.20
YES Bank	215.40	18.15
Zee Entertainment	433.85	1.00

EXCHANGE RATES	
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 24	
CURRENCY	TT BUY TT SELL
US Dollar	70.87 71.19
Euro	80.42 80.78
British Pound	92.26 92.71
Japanese Yen (100)	64.57 64.86
Chinese Yuan	10.43 10.48
Swiss Franc	71.20 71.53
Singapore Dollar	52.08 52.32
Canadian Dollar	53.06 53.30
Malaysian Ringgit	17.09 17.21

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI	
January 24 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses	
Retail Silver (1g)	42.1.....(42.5)
22 ct gold (1g)	3089.....(3097)

Staff fret as banks ask them to buy shares

Employees also told to open demat accounts, offered personal loans to purchase stock

MANOJ SAHA

MUMBAI

Several public sector banks that are coming up with Employee Share Purchase Schemes (ESPS) are asking their staff to buy a particular amount of shares to ensure that the process sails through smoothly.

Over half a dozen public sector banks have started the process of employee share purchase schemes, while some others have completed it. Some of the banks that have announced or completed the process are Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, Union Bank of India, Syndicate Bank, Vijaya Bank, Bank of India, UCO Bank, Andhra Bank among others.

Informal communication
Employees of some of these banks whom *The Hindu* spoke to said there had been



ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

a mandate to buy the shares. They, however, added that there was no formal communication in this regard.

According to an employee of a mid-sized public sector bank (PSB), those above a certain rank had been asked to buy 10,000 shares. Similarly, a large PSB had asked its clerical staff to buy about 1,000 shares, while higher rank employees had been

asked to buy 10,000 shares.

Last year, when another large PSB came up with such a scheme, its general managers were asked to buy 7,000 shares each. To ensure they participate in the scheme, all these banks have asked their employees to open demat accounts.

"We have been instructed to open demat accounts. While the management has not speci-

We have been opposing sale of banks' shares to private hands

C.H. VENKATACHALAM, general secretary, All India

tor banks to offer stock options to their employees, which was mainly aimed at retaining experienced hands and better incentives, apart from raising capital.

Trade unions have opposed the sale of shares to the employees.

"Recently some of the public sector nationalised banks have come out with the decision to augment their capital through sale of shares to employees. As part of our decision to oppose all methods of privatising the capital of nationalised banks, we have been opposing sale of shares to private hands, both corporate and individual," said C.H. Venkatachalam, general secretary, All India

Bankers' Federation.

In March 2017, the government had allowed public sec-

tor banks to offer stock options to their employees, which was mainly aimed at retaining experienced hands and better incentives, apart from raising capital.

Trade unions have opposed the sale of shares to the employees.

"In the same breath as a trade union, we are opposed of sale of bank capital to employees," he added.

RBI okays Ravneet Gill as Yes Bank MD & CEO

Told to join before March 1

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Ravneet Gill as the MD & CEO of private sector lender Yes Bank. Mr. Gill must join the bank before March 1, the central bank has said.

Mr. Gill is currently the India chief of foreign lender Deutsche Bank.

The present MD & CEO of Yes Bank Rana Kapoor's term ends on January 31.

Typically, executives of Deutsche Bank have to serve three months' notice period or gardening leave if joining competitor banks. However, such requirements can be waived. Yes Bank has called a board meeting on January 29 to finalise the interim transition.

Mr. Gill, 56, joined Deutsche Bank in 1991 and



Ravneet Gill

became its India CEO in July 2012.

The board of Yes Bank has also appointed Maheswar Sahu and Anil Jaggia as independent directors for a period of five years.

The board of the bank has also named Ashish Agarwal, senior group president and chief risk officer, as executive director. The appointment is subject to RBI's approval.

Commerce Ministry not to extend Feb. 1 deadline for e-tailers

Flipkart, Amazon sought more time to understand details

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Commerce and Industry ministry is not in favour of extending the deadline of February 1 for implementing the revised guidelines for e-commerce companies having foreign direct investment, sources said.

Both Amazon and Walmart-owned Flipkart had sought extension of the February 1 deadline for complying with the revised norms, stating that they needed more time to understand the details of the framework.

While Amazon asked for

time until June 1 this year, Flipkart asked for six months.

On December 26, 2018, the government tightened norms for e-commerce firms and barred online retailers like Flipkart and Amazon from selling products of the companies in which they have stakes.

The government also prohibited e-commerce companies from entering into an agreement for exclusive sale of products.

As per the revised guidelines, a vendor cannot procure more than 25% of products from group companies

of the same marketplace where they intend to sell them.

Internal discussions
The ministry has received representations from Amazon and Flipkart for more time. Internal discussions are on. But the ministry is not in favour of extending the deadline," sources in the know of the matter said.

Domestic traders body Confederation of All Indian Traders (CAIT) had also urged the commerce ministry not to extend the deadline for implementation of the changes.

Total gross slippages during the quarter was ₹2,297 crore, of which ₹1,913 crore was on account of IL&FS.

IL&FS casts shadow on Yes Bank Q3 net

Lender reports 7% profit decline as it made ₹478.3 cr. provision for troubled firm

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Private sector lender Yes Bank reported 7% year-on-year decline in its net profit to ₹1,001.8 crore for the October-December quarter, as it had to set aside funds for its exposure to troubled infrastructure conglomerate IL&FS.

Out of total NPA provision of ₹507.5 crore, provisioning for IL&FS alone was ₹478.3 crore. In addition, the bank had made a provision of ₹92.5 crore, which is 15% on the exposure to IL&FS which is still 'standard'.

"With regard to the infrastructure conglomerate, we have downgraded the position on account of our exposure to roads and the energy vertical which totals to ₹1,913 crore on which the bank has



provided 25% in the current quarter," Rajat Monga, senior group president, financial markets, Yes Bank, said.

About ₹617 crore of exposure to the group continues to be standard, against

which the bank has taken a 15% standard asset provisioning in the current quarter," he added.

"Having done this, the bank believes the aggregate provisioning made on both the operating as well as the subsidiary companies exposure in this particular group are adequate and within the expected realisation," Mr. Monga said.

As a result of the IL&FS exposure, gross NPA ratio increased to 2.1% as of end December, as compared with 1.6% in end September. "We are reiterating that the impact on account of NCLT proceedings on the bank's asset quality continues to be minimal," Mr. Monga said.

+ Ronojoy Dutta named new Indigo CEO

Former SEBI chief Damodaran inducted into the board as chairman

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

InterGlobe Aviation Limited, which owns and operates low cost airline IndiGo, has named global aviation professional Ronojoy Dutta as its new CEO. The position was lying vacant since the resignation of the former CEO Aditya Ghosh in April 2018. IndiGo co-founder Rahul Bhatia was holding charge as interim CEO during the period.

Mr. Dutta had joined IndiGo in December 2018 as principal consultant and was entrusted with the task to draw the airline's five-year growth plan. In the Q3 results conference call with analysts on Wednesday, Mr. Bhatia had stated that the new CEO would be appointed "fairly soon."

IN BRIEF



Tata Motors to bid adieu to Nano from April 2020

HYDERABAD
Tata Motors has no plans to invest and upgrade Nano to meet BS-VI standards, Mayank Pareek, president, passenger vehicle business unit, said, indicating that its production and sales would be stopped from April 2020. "Nano is produced at Sanand plant.. BS-VI is going to happen from April 1 2020, so all products may not meet [BS-VI norms] and we may not invest in upgrading all... and Nano is one of them." PTI

Dr. Reddy's launches generic sedative

HYDERABAD
Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has launched Propofol Injectable Emulsion, a therapeutic equivalent generic version of Diprivan (propofol) Injectable Emulsion, in the U.S. Propofol injectable emulsion is an intravenous general anesthetic and sedation drug, a company release said. The drug major objects to the use of any of its products to facilitate or otherwise aid lethal injections, the release added.

Hatsun Agro Q3 net profit rises 23.63%

CHENNAI
Dairy products maker Hatsun Agro Products has posted a 23.63% rise in its standalone net profit for the third quarter ended December 2018 at ₹18.52 crore against ₹14.98 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year, on increased sales volume. The manufacturers of Arokya milk brand reported a total income of ₹1,156.07 crore against ₹1,014.13 crore. The board declared an interim dividend of ₹2 per share.

ICRA move takes AMFI by surprise

Ratings agency has put six MF schemes under watch for their exposure to IL&FS

K.T. JAGANNATHAN
CHENNAI

The decision of ratings agency ICRA to place six mutual fund schemes under watch, with negative implications, due to their exposure to the IL&FS group has taken the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) by surprise.

According to N.S. Venkatesh, chief executive, AMFI, the exposure of these funds to the IL&FS group must be understood in the context of the nature of these investments. "These are SPV [special purpose vehicle]-linked investments which are ring-fenced," he said. The fund flow into these SPVs was operated through escrow accounts. Hence, the money invested by these funds were secure, he added.

The NCLT's intervention in the IL&FS case under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy



Knee-jerk reaction: NCLT intervention in the IL&FS case had perhaps pushed ICRA to the decision, AMFI said. ■ REUTERS

Code had perhaps pushed the ratings agency to take such a decision, he said.

He reckoned that this was a standard reaction by ICRA. These reactionary positions could have negative implications for raising debt money for infrastructure projects, he felt.

Mr. Venkatesh said AMFI had made a case for debt-

linked savings scheme on the lines of equity-linked savings scheme. Such debt-linked savings schemes would help small investors participate in bond markets at low costs and at a lower risk, as compared with equity markets. "This will also bring debt-oriented mutual funds on a par with tax saving bank fixed deposits, where deduc-

tion is available under Section 80C," AMFI said in its proposal.

Debt capital

Post the development financial institution era, the responsibility of providing debt capital in India has largely rested with the banking sector. This has seen some avoidable negative fallouts.

Post IL&FS imbroglio, the need for a vibrant bond market has assumed urgency. "Though several committees [such as the R.H. Patil Committee (2005) and Raghuram Rajan Committee (2009)] had studied various aspects of the issue and made recommendations, the progress has not been as desired," the AMFI said. Mr. Venkatesh said AMFI had sought a level-playing field for MFs vis-a-vis investment in retirement solutions.

Michelin boss Senard to head Renault

REUTERS
PARIS

Renault appointed Michelin boss Jean-Dominique Senard as its new chairman on Thursday, after Carlos Ghosn was forced to resign in the wake of a financial scandal that has rocked the French carmaker and its alliance with Japan's Nissan.

Mr. Senard will become chairman immediately, the company said, with deputy CEO Thierry Bollore taking over Mr. Ghosn's other Renault role as full CEO. The appointments may begin to ease a Renault-Nissan leadership crisis that erupted after Mr. Ghosn's arrest in November in Japan and swift dismissal as Nissan chairman. Mr. Senard faces the task of soothing relations with Nissan and resuming talks on a new alliance structure.



Going places: Indian start-ups will be able to pitch their ventures to rich investors of the Gulf. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Dubai start-up summit opens doors for Indian entrepreneurs

India-leg winners can participate

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

For the first time, Indian entrepreneurs will be able to pitch their ventures to the rich investors of the Gulf region, among others, with the Dubai AIM Startups opening its doors for Indian start-ups to participate.

While UAE has been hosting the annual investment meeting for few years now, this will be the first time that Indian start-ups will get an opportunity to participate in the international summit, to be held in Dubai in April.

Incidentally, Dubai AIM Startups is one of the biggest start-up investment event in the region organised by the UAE's Ministry of Economy.

Road shows

The road shows for Indian start-ups would be held January 23 onwards across 15 cities, wherein start-ups can pitch their ventures.

The finals would be held in Mumbai with the winners getting a chance to participate in AIM Startup 2019.

The India leg of the summit will be organised by Grex, an Indian start-up listing platform, which has connected with various ecosystem partners like IIT campuses, incubators, accelerators and various state government projects like Kerala Start-up Mission, for the event.

Meanwhile, some domestic venture capital funds have also joined the initiative and are looking at possible investment opportunities through the competition for start-ups.

"Disruptive ideas have turned thousands of Indians to be passionate innovators," said Dawood Al Shezawi, chairman, Organising Committee, AIM Startup 2019. "This is evident from the impressive number of start-ups formed in India in 2018. We have to match their passion with a platform that will encourage and support their ideas to become a reality. This is exactly what AIM Startup has been committed to since its inception," he added.

Mercedes unveils V-Class luxury MPV at ₹68.4 lakh

It is powered by a 2143 cc diesel engine

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI



Mercedes-Benz has created a new segment in India by introducing the V-Class, a luxury multi-purpose vehicle (MPV).

The V-Class expression starts with a price tag of ₹68.4 lakh and the V-Class exclusive ₹81.9 lakh, both ex-showroom India.

The vehicle is available in two body styles: the long wheelbase with a wheelbase of 3,200 mm and length of 5,140 mm and the extra-long wheelbase with wheelbase of 3,430 mm and length of 5,370 mm.

Martin Schwenk, MD & CEO, Mercedes-Benz India,

said: "The launch of the V-Class in India underscores our pioneering spirit as we introduce the luxury multi-purpose vehicle segment for our discerning customers."

The V-Class is powered by a 2143 cc diesel engine and available in six- and seven-seat configuration.

PNB Housing Q3 net profit rises by 32%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

PNB Housing Finance on Thursday reported a 32% rise in consolidated net profit at ₹303 crore in the third quarter ended December 2018.

The firm posted ₹229.5 crore in profit in the corresponding quarter a year ago, PNB Housing Finance said in a statement.

Total income rose to ₹2,078.46 crore from ₹1,416.21 crore in the same period a year ago.

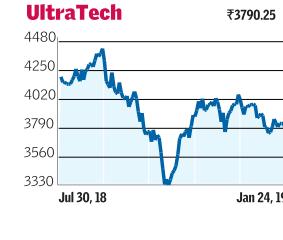
Net interest margin increased to 3.06% as against 3.02%.

Gross non-performing assets rose to 0.47% of the assets as against 0.42%.

UltraTech Q3 net falls 13.7% to ₹393.67 crore

Profit drops despite 19% net sales rise

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI



Interest costs are higher due to the loans raised for the acquisition of UNCL," UltraTech said in a statement.

The company completed its acquisition of Binani Cement Limited (BCL) on November 20, 2018.

Profit before interest, depreciation and tax increased by 3.6% to ₹1,548 crore, compared with ₹1,494 crore in the year ago period.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

A Noble Soul Departs to Abode of Chandramouleshwara



S. HARIHARAN

Partner, PKF Sridhar & Santhanam LLP

1954 to 23rd Jan 2019

Bereaved by Family members,

Staff and Partners of PKF Sridhar & Santhanam LLP

Phone: 044-28157358 - 044-28112985-88

DEATH

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (Power Wing)

Notice Inviting E-Tender

N.I.T No: 533P&D(TS)C-040
Name of Office : Chief Engineer / Transmission System P&D (TS) Directorate (PW), BBMB
SLDC Complex, Industrial Area Phase-I, Chandigarh-160002
Name of Work: Major Repair work of Residential Colony at 220KV S/Stn. Rohtak Road
BBMB, Delhi
The due dates against above NIT are as per the following schedule

Last date & time of receipt of request for issue of Tender documents 08.02.2019 upto 1700 Hrs.

Last date/time of download of tender document 18.02.2019 upto 1100 Hrs.

Last date/time of receipt of Bids online 18.02.2019 upto 1100 Hrs.

Date/Time of Opening of Bids online 18.02.2019 from 1500 Hrs onwards

For detailed NIT including Pre-qualifying conditions and Earnest Money deposit, Please visit BBMB website www.bbmb.gov.in or www.bbmbproc.apcprocure.com

996-PR-TS-4 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

"CORRIGENDUM NOTICE"

The tender notice called by this office vide letter no 199/52 Yatayat-7/2019 Dt 11.1.2019 for the Repair work by BM/SDBC of Josimath - Auli Motor Road from Km. 2.225 to 13.400 damaged due to OFC laying under deposit work contractor category written "A" and above may be read as "C" and above. Other conditions remain same.

DIPR/UK/6686

HOMAGE



25.6.1924

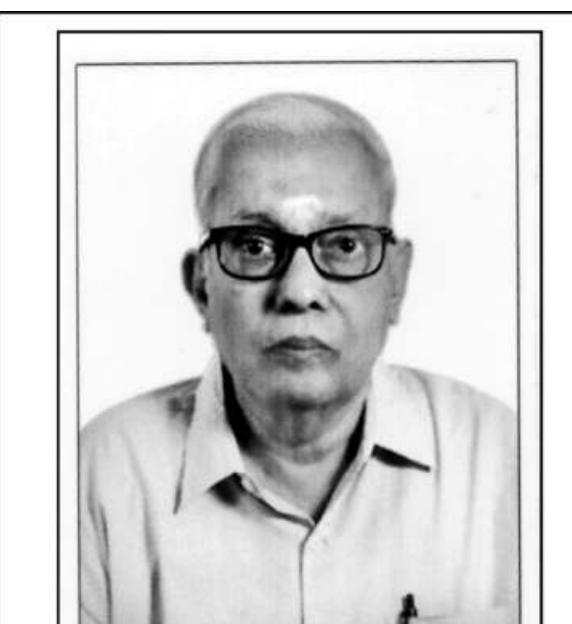
23.1.2019

Dr. SITARAM RAO VALLURI

(Our Former Director)

Deeply mourned by
Management & Employees of

TVS SRICHAKRA LIMITED



MR.K.S.SWAMINATHAN(CHAMA)

(1932-2019)

**Rtd CAO / CN / SRLY / CHENNAI
Founder Patron Rtd Rly Officers Assoc.**

Vice President(Rtd) Guindy Eng Alumni

Vice President Madhyama Samajam

H/O Hyma Swaminathan.

PASSED AWAY PEACEFULLY ON

THE MORNING OF JAN 24TH

Leaving Behind

Meera(Daughter),Murli(Son),

Nagesh(Son-in-Law),

Bhuvana (Daughter-in-law),

Grand Daughters,

Aparna,Samantha,Sansitha &

Host of Relatives& Friends to Mourn

Cremation On 26th Morning

PH : 044-24744624

8056242473

Office of the Superintending Engineer,
Tubewell Circle
Dehradun

E-Tender/RFP Notice No. 04/SE/2018-19
Dated. 21.01.2019

E-Tender/RFP Notice

The Superintending Engineer, Tubewell Circle, Irrigation Department, Uttarakhand, Dehradun on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invites BOOT Model, Tariff Based Tender/RFP (Request For Proposal), in two bids system through electronic tendering, for following work from those successful reputed Solar PV Power Developers who has experience of installation of atleast one Solar PV Power Project of 20 MW in last 5 years and experience of operation/maintenance of Solar PV Project in last 5 years.

SI No.	Name of work	Earnest Money (In Lac Rs)	Cost of Tender (In Rs)	Validity of Tender	Period of Completion
1	Installation of 40.84 MW Solar PV Project (Boot Model, Tariff Based for 25 Years) at Haripura Jalasay (27.34 MW) and Tumarinya Jalasay (13.50 MW) in district Udham Singh Nagar (India).	322.63	5000 + 18% GST	120 days	12 months

Date of release of Tender/RFP: 25-01-2019.

Last Date/Time for receipt of Tender/RFP: 15-02-2019 upto 05:00 PM

For further details please log



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

KALIA

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KALIA IS INCLUSIVE

Covers more than **50 Lakh** farmer families including Sharecroppers and Landless families

KALIA IS TRANSPARENT

Direct Benefit Transfer to bank accounts

KALIA IS COMMITMENT

For long term action over three years, for each **Rabi & Kharif cropping seasons**



KALIA



Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation

At a historic farmers rally in Puri Hon'ble Chief Minister **Shri Naveen Patnaik** will initiate Direct Benefit Transfer in **Phase I** to more than **12 Lakh** farmers

25th January, 2019 | Malatipatpur | Puri



**New tenders for State buses**

Fresh tenders will equip State-run buses with automatic vehicle tracking systems and CCTV cameras **Page 2**

**Illegal industries**

NGT constitutes a committee to look into the matter of over 50,000 illegal industries in the Capital **Page 2**

**4 in cop net for robbery**

Police nab four persons for allegedly robbing a gym instructor on the pretext of giving him a lift **Page 3**

**'Suffocation death'**

Police find two domestic helps dead inside employer's residence in Civil Lines **Page 3**

IN BRIEF**Anand Vihar accident: 'SUV was speeding'**

NEW DELHI
The police on Thursday said the SUV involved in the accident in Anand Vihar on Wednesday that claimed three lives was speeding. They are, however, waiting to record the statement of the driver — Akshay Jain — to determine the cause of the accident. The police added that Akshay is undergoing treatment at AIIMS.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Chopper case accused allowed to travel abroad

NEW DELHI
A Delhi court on Thursday allowed former Air Chief S.P. Tyagi, accused in the AgustaWestland VVIP chopper case, to visit his family abroad in March and April. Special Judge Arvind Kumar allowed Tyagi to travel to the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, France, Germany, the US and Canada. **PTI**

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	311	Gurugram	286
Ghaziabad	289	Faridabad	296
Noida	292	Greater Noida	286
Good 0-50	■	Satisfactory 51-100	■ Moderate 101-200
Poor 201-300	■	Very poor 301-400	■ Severe >401
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) [SOURCE: CPCB]			

Police issue advisory ahead of R-Day

NEW DELHI
Elaborate traffic arrangements and restrictions have been put in place in the Capital for the Republic Day Parade between Vijay Chowk and the Red Fort grounds, the police said Thursday. Cross traffic on Rajpath from 11 p.m. on Thursday at Rafi Marg, Janpath and Man Singh Road will not be allowed till the Parade is over. **PTI**

Gurugram building collapse kills 7

Rescue work on; Khattar announces compensation of ₹3 lakh each to next of kin

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

A four-storey building under construction at Ullawas village in Sector 61 here collapsed early on Thursday, trapping more than half-a-dozen persons under the debris.

Seven bodies were recovered during the day in a joint operation by various agencies, including the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). One person was feared trapped, said the police.

Five of the seven deceased have been identified as Altaf, Kuldeep, Vishal, Anand Kumar and Mohit. The identities of two victims are yet to be ascertained.

The rescue operation is expected to continue till late into the night. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced a compensation of ₹3 lakh each to the next of kin.

"An inquiry by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate has been instituted to examine the causes and suggest future remedies," said Deputy Commissioner Vinay Pratap Singh, adding that a criminal case will be filed against building owner Daya Ram and the contractor.

Stating that all the deceased were tenants in the building, locals said people were already living there despite the ongoing construction since the owner charged lower rent.

Mohit's father Joginder Chauhan works as a security guard and was on duty when the building collapsed. He



(Top) Locals gather to see the rescue work (below) at the building collapse site in Gurugram's Ullawas village on Thursday. ■ MANOJ KUMAR

said Mohit and he had come to Gurugram six months ago in search of work.

Locals claimed a third floor was added to the building, which was coming up on a 100 sq yard plot, on Wednesday night. They said it had led to minor cracks on the lower floors and that the building collapsed like a pack of cards in the early hours of Thursday while the tenants were asleep.

Manoj Kumar (25), who stays in the neighbourhood, said he woke to a deafening sound around 5 a.m. He rushed out of his home as soon as he heard what sounded like a "bomb explosion", only to discover that Daya's building had collapsed. "I called up the police and the Fire Department," he said.

Assistant Divisional Fire Officer I.S. Kashyap told *The*

Hindu that nearly 500 personnel from different agencies, including three NDRF teams and one team of the State Disaster Response Force, were involved in the rescue operation. Two NDRF teams were called from Ghaziabad and one from Dwarka.

An NDRF dog squad from R.K. Puram in New Delhi was also part of the operations. Besides these, the Haryana Fire and Emergency Services, Civil Defence and Municipal Corporation of Gurugram were involved in the rescue work, Mr. Kashyap said.

Rescue teams tried to cut through cement slabs and look for casualties by lowering cameras. Two backhoe loaders, a hydraulic lift and four tractor-trolleys had been pressed into service.

Mr. Kashyap said the lane leading to the site was nar-

row, which made the rescue operation difficult. The police had a tough time controlling a large number of onlookers gathered near the spot.

Ullawas village resident Harpal Singh said the building owner survived the tragedy as he had gone to milk buffaloes in the morning. Harpal said, "Daya had stepped out of the building with the buffaloes minutes before the collapse."

The locals claimed the ground and first floors were constructed using mud, as a result, the building failed to bear the weight of the extra floors.

Construction was on for the past six months and the tenants, mostly security guards, cab drivers or vegetable vendors, had come to stay three months ago.

SEE ALSO ▶ PAGE 2

Diagnosed with stage 3 cancer, Nafisa Ali takes on a new role

Actor-politician turns crusader for early detection of cancer



Nafisa Ali is scheduled to undergo a major surgery in February, followed by more rounds of chemotherapy.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Speaking about peritoneal cancer, Pramod Kumar Julka, senior director, Oncology Daycare Centre, Max Cancer Care Centre, said: "Peritoneal cancer is diagnosed by clinical examination, ultrasound, CT scan and/or laparoscopy. Symptoms are vague, gaseous and feeling of fullness. People mistake it for acidity."

Justice Sikri, who headed the two-judge Bench which reserved the order, said the judgment will be delivered "very soon". Justice Ashok Bhushan was the other member of the Bench.

On November 1, the apex court had reserved its verdict on the plea against notifications related to control over services, setting up of Commission of Inquiry and powers of the Anti-Corruption Branch here. During an earlier hearing of the pleas, the Centre had told the court that the Lieutenant-Governor has the power to regulate services in Delhi.

Ms. Ali is under his care.

Delhi-Centre row: AAP govt requests SC to pass verdict

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The city government on Thursday requested the Supreme Court for early pronouncement of judgment on pleas related to the ongoing tussle between Delhi and the Centre. The pleas concern notifications on control over services, setting up of Commission of Inquiry and power of the Anti-Corruption Branch.

A Bench of Justices A.K. Sikri, S. Abdul Nazeer and M.R. Shah was told by senior advocate Indira Jaiswal that several administrative issues were arising in the governance of Delhi, therefore the judgment reserved on November 1 last should be delivered at the earliest.

Justice Sikri, who headed the two-judge Bench which reserved the order, said the judgment will be delivered "very soon". Justice Ashok Bhushan was the other member of the Bench.

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Ms. Ali is under his care.

Will handshake lead to an alliance?



Delhi durbar: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal shaking hands with his predecessor Sheila Dikshit at Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal's residence on Thursday evening during the annual 'At Home' function. ■ AMIT BARUAH

Govt postpones O.P. Chautala's furlough till after Jind bypoll

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The three-week furlough granted to former Haryana Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala, who is lodged in Tihar jail, has been postponed by Delhi Home Minister Satyendar Jain, stated government documents.

Chautala was supposed to

It is understood that this furlough has been sought with a view to upcoming by-election in Jind

■ SATYENDRAJAN

Delhi Home Minister

go on furlough on Tuesday but Mr. Jain on January 19 postponed it to after the by-

election in Haryana's Jind, which is scheduled on January 28.

On Monday, the jail authorities were informed that Chautala's furlough would commence from January 29.

"It is understood that this furlough has been sought with a view to upcoming by-election in Jind," Mr. Jain

wrote in his order.

He added that it should be postponed till after the election.

On Monday, the AAP Party had announced its support for the Janayak Janata Party, which is a breakaway

of Chautala's Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), for the Jind by-election.

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Veteran actor and politician

Nafisa Ali has taken on an entirely new role for the past few months.

The 61-year-old was diagnosed with stage 3 peritoneal cancer (a cancer that develops in a thin layer of tissue that lines the abdomen) and has already undergone three rounds of chemotherapy.

Ms. Ali is scheduled to undergo a major surgery in February, followed by additional rounds of chemotherapy.

She has now turned into a crusader for early diagnosis and detection of cancer, especially among women.

"The reason why I made my story public was to ensure that every woman is aware and educated about her right to early diagnosis and treatment," Ms. Ali said.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, she said: "Today, we have early cancer detection markers that are cheap and time-saving. These should

The reason why I made my story public was to ensure that every woman is aware and educated about her right to early diagnosis and treatment

NAFISA ALI
Actor-turned-politician

CMYK

BND-NDE

IN BRIEF



Gadkari to lay foundation of elevated road on R-Day

NEW DELHI Union Minister Nitin Gadkari will lay the foundation for a six-lane elevated road at the Khajuri Chowk on Republic Day, Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari said here on Thursday. "A programme will be held near Khajuri Chowk under the Chairmanship of North East Delhi MP Manoj Tiwari... Not only the Republic Day will be celebrated, but the foundation stone of the elevated road connecting Akshardham to Saharanpur Road, UP Border, will also be laid by the Union Minister Nitin Gadkari," the party said in a statement. STAFF REPORTER

Four litter picker machines inaugurated

NEW DELHI Four litter picker machines have been inaugurated by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation Mayor, the civic body said on Thursday. The machines were procured as a pilot project at a cost of ₹48.68 lakh under the Swachh Bharat mission. The litter pickers will be used in four zones of the Corporation apart from Narela and Civil zones. More such machines would be procured depending on the results, the Mayor said. STAFF REPORTER

High-rises dot urbanised villages

There is little clarity on whether any law applies to the buildings in 'Lal Dora'

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

As one walks down the narrow lanes of Ullawas village in Sector 61 here, both sides of the path are dotted by multi-storey buildings. Some of the buildings also seem to stand dangerously high on small plots.

"Several buildings in the village are three to four floors high and some even higher. There is a high demand of rooms on rent. So the villagers have constructed high-rises and offer them on rent, thus, earning a handsome income," said Raju, a villager.

Daya Ram, the owner of the four-storey building that collapsed on Thursday claiming seven lives, had two more similar buildings which he had given on rent.

Since the area falls under the 'Lal Dora' (village abadi area), the locals claim that there are no building laws applicable and no need to get clearance for the building plans as well.

However, there seemed little clarity on whether any law applied to the buildings in the 'Lal Dora' and which agency was responsible for its implementation.

'No survey conducted'
North Gurugram Sub-Divisional Magistrate Sanjiv Bansal told *The Hindu*, "It was generally said that no build-



A high-rise in Ullawas village. ■ ASHOK KUMAR

ing laws applied in the Lal Dora, but there was need to go deeper into the matter." Mr. Bansal also said that a responsibility would soon be fixed. He conceded that as per his knowledge, never was any survey conducted in Gurugram to identify dangerous buildings in the villages.

Deputy Commissioner (Enforcement) Ved Prakash Singh said: "Building is in Lal Dora of gram panchayat Ullawas.

Gram panchayat exercises control inside Lal Dora. The enquiry by SDM will point at reasons and responsibility for the incident."

Officials of the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram said that the village was outside its jurisdiction.

District Town Planner (Enforcement) Ved Prakash Singh said: "Building is in Lal Dora of gram panchayat Ullawas.

most of them were constructed to earn rent due to influx of migrant labourers in the city.

"No building laws apply to these structures in Lal Dora. Only the owner, the contractor and the architect could be held responsible for any mishap. Sometimes, it becomes difficult to initiate action against the illegal construction even outside the Lal Dora near villages as the owners move court and manage to procure stay order on various grounds such as extended Lal Dora."

He recalled how a series of shops on both sides of the road leading to Ullawas village were illegal and outside Lal Dora, but the owners had managed to procure stay order from the Punjab and Haryana High Court against demolition.

Village Sarpanch Anil Kumar said that he had no knowledge about any law applying to the buildings in Lal Dora.

RTI activist Ramesh Yadav, however, contended that Haryana Uniform Building Code-2016 was applicable to buildings even in the Lal Dora area, but the implementation was poor. He said that District Development and Panchayat Officer and the district administration were also responsible for its implementation like the gram panchayat.

Fresh tenders floated for tracking system, CCTVs in State-run buses

Previous tender failed due to lack of suitable no. of bidders

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Transport Department has floated fresh tenders aimed at equipping State-run buses with automatic vehicle tracking systems (AVTS) and CCTV cameras for the safety of the passengers, government officials said.

Aimed at making vehicles, which are operated by the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and the Delhi Integrated Multi Modal Transit System (DIMTS) safer, especially for women passengers, the previous tender in this regard, floated last year, had failed due to the unavailability of a suitable number of bidders, officials also said.

The [Transport] Department has reduced the minimum turnover of bidders from ₹500 crore to ₹200 crore for the last three financial years, for a better res-



The government of India has directed that all public transport vehicles in India be equipped with AVTS and emergency buttons by March. ■ FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

ponce this time," said a government official.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has directed that all public transport vehicles in the country be equipped with AVTS and emergency buttons by March this year.

"It was in line with this directive that the fresh tender floated was issued last week seeking to equip all 5,500 public transport buses, which include around 3,900 run by the DTC and over 1,600 cluster buses operated by DIMTS with AVTS, CCTVs and panic buttons in buses in July 2017, but the initiative is getting delayed due to unavailability of suitable firms, the official further said.

Public buses are also supposed to be fitted with three internet protocol cameras each.

Government sources said that the department might relax some more parameters, including overall experience, in the upcoming tender to allow more firms to participate. The government had approved the installation of CCTVs, AVTS and panic buttons in buses in July 2017, but the initiative is getting delayed due to unavailability of suitable firms, the official further said.

Public buses are also supposed to be fitted with three internet protocol cameras each.

**DIRECTORATE GENERAL
CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE,
BLOCK NO. 1, CGO COMPLEX,
LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI-03**

NO. C.XVII-4/2019-DA-2-ADM-II

Dated, the 21
January, 2019

The Central Reserve Police Force is celebrating its 80th CRPF Anniversary Parade on 19th March, 2019 at GC CRPF, Gurugram (Haryana).

In order to update the records and enable us to send invitation, all retired CRPF officers of the rank of Commandant and above based in Delhi / NCR are requested to intimate their present address, telephone numbers through letter/fax/email or over telephone by 15/02/2019 to :-

Mailing address

DIGP (Adm) Dte.
Genl., CRPF, Block
No. 1, CGO Complex,
Lodhi Road,
New Delhi-110003

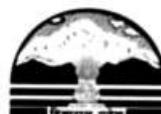
e-mail address

digadm@crpf.gov.in.
011-24364437

Telephone and telefax

Sd/- 21/01/2019
DIG (Adm) Dte.

DAVP/1911/11/0682/1819



**INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)
GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)
FOR
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING**

1. The Government of Himachal Pradesh has decided to execute the work on "Output and performance based road contract for the maintenance of roads of Himachal Pradesh under the contracts for the construction of works as detailed below. Bidding is open to all eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD/ CPWD and neighbouring states PWD (i.e. Punjab/Haryana/U.T. Chandigarh). However, the successful bidders must get himself registered in HPPWD in appropriate class before signing the contract.

Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 4 of the Instructions to Bidders and Section III Evaluation and Qualification Criteria to qualify for the award of the contract.

2. The Superintending Engineer, 8th Circle HP.PWD Hamirpur on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites on line bids in electronic tendering system, in 2 cover system for the under mentioned works from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD/CPWD and neighbouring states PWD (mentioned above) for the construction of works detailed below:-

Bidding Details

**Output and Performance based Road Maintenance Contract
(OPBMC)**

Sr. No.	Road Section	District	Length (Kms)	ECV - In Rs	Bid Security Rs	Period	Cost of Bid document in shape of D.D
1	Bhota to Jahu Road	0.00 to 24.00	24.00	10.41.04.309/-	20.82.08/-	5 years	Rs.10.000/-in favour of EE Barsar payable at Barsar

3. Bid documents available on line and bid should be submitted online on website <https://hpbtenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register on the website which is free of cost. For submission of bid the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA).

Key Dates: (I)

1. Date of Online Publication 30.01.2019 at 5.00 P.M.

2. Document Download Start and End Date 30.01.2019 at 5.00 P.M. & 20.02.2019 at 5.00 P.M.

3. Pre bid meeting 04.02.2019 at 11.00 A.M.

4. Online Bid Submission Start and End Date 06.02.2019 at 11.00 A.M. & 20.02.2019 at 5.00 P.M.

5. Physical Submission of Original documents including Bid 21.02.2019 at 11.00 A.M.

6. Date of opening of Technical Bid. 21.02.2019 at 11.30 A.M.

7. Place of opening of bids: O/O Superintending Engineer 8th Circle, HPPWD, Hamirpur Ph.01972-223965 E mail address hp-ham@nic.in

4. Submission of original Documents: The bidders are required to submit -

(a) Original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and

(b) Original bid security in approved form and

(c) Original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document to the superintending Engineer, 8th circle, HPPWD Hamirpur, dated 21.02.2019 at 11.00 AM, either by registered post or by hand.

(d) Those bidders who will participate in the tendering process and will fail to submit the original documents as required in the tender notice at Sr. No. 4, (a), (b) & (c) i.e. cost of bid document and bid security in this office on or before 21.02.2019 upto 11.00 A.M., their case for cancellation of the enlistment with the department and debarring them for future participation in the tender of the department will be recommended to the competent authority and their bid security will not be released as per E-in-C, HPPWD shimsa letter No. HPW-CTR-32-20/Genl/Inst.2014-2072-2171 dated 29.05.2014.

5. Bidders are strongly encouraged to download and study the bidding documents prior to the pre-bid meeting (refer Item 9 below) in order for bidders to have good understanding of the scope of work under this contract for discussion and clarification at the pre-bid meeting.

6. Bids shall be valid for 120 days after the dead line date specified for submission.

7. Bids must be accompanied by bid security of the amount specified for the work in the table in any one of the forms as specified in the Bidding document. It should be pledged in favour of Executive Engineer HP. PWD, Division Barsar payable at Barsar. Bid security shall have to be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of the Bid.

8. Joint ventures will be permitted.

9. Bidders are invited to attend a pre-bid meeting and workshop on 4th Feb, 2019 at 11:00 A.M. at the office of chief engineer, hamirpur Zone, HP. PWD Hamirpur to clarify issues and to answer the questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in Clause 7.4 of 'Instructions to Bidders of the bidding document.'

10. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be liable for any inaccuracy not received by the bidder. It is the bidder's responsibility to verify the website for the latest information about the tender.

Him Suchna Avam Jan Sampark

Superintending Engineer.
8th Circle H.P. PWD-Hamirpur
(For & on behalf of the Governor of Himachal pradesh

Ro. No. 4237/2018-2019

Delhi Metro starts boring 700-m tunnel

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The work on the Najafgarh-Dhansa Stand section of the Delhi Metro using a tunnel boring machine (TBM) started on Thursday, officials said. It is part of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation's (DMRC) Phase-III construction.

"The TBM will bore a 700-metre tunnel between Najafgarh and Dhansa Stand on the up line and the same machine will be subsequently used for tunnelling on the down line between the same stations. The entire tunnelling work on both the lines will be completed by September," said a DMRC official. The 1.2-km stretch is part of an approximately 4.2-km-long corridor between Dwarka and Najafgarh.

DDA conducts e-auction

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The DDA on Thursday said that the urban body is conducting e-auctions for disposal of institutional, industrial, commercial, residential and built-up plots or units. The first phase of the e-auction, which started on January 21, has seen properties worth around ₹900 crore sold in three days. Nine industrial plots, six commercial, 128 residential and 28 kiosks have been sold in the e-auction.

South corporation budget proposes hike in old-age pension

Standing Committee chief presents budget on Thursday

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Chairperson of the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) Standing Committee, Shikha Rai, announced a hike in old-age pensions and other measures while presenting budget proposals at a House meeting on Thursday.

Hike in pension to ₹2000 from the current ₹1000 will come at an increased cost of ₹11 crore to the Corporation.

Apart from this, Ms. Rai said that up to 20 water treatment plants will be made functional.

The chairperson proposed introducing at least one 'smart school' in each ward as well as providing printers, computers, water purifiers and coolers to all schools.

She proposed increasing the provision for moral education from ₹10 lakh to ₹25 lakh.

Tax hike proposals rejected

Plan of action

Proposed hike in old age pension: from ₹1,000 to ₹2,000

Proposed smart schools: at least 1 in each ward

Increased provision for moral education:

from ₹10 lakh to ₹25 lakh

Tax hike proposals rejected

The chairperson also announced plans to set up a 'robotic dinosaur museum' and a 5-D theatre system at Tatore Garden.

To control the stray dog menace in the SDMC jurisdiction, she said, five new additional stray dog sterilisation centres will be set up and that up to 90,000 dogs will be sterilised this year.

The chairperson proposed introducing at least

IN BRIEF



OPCC president, son summoned for raud

NEW DELHI
Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Niranjan Patnaik and his son Navjyoti Patnaik have been summoned by the Economic Offences Wing of the Delhi Police for interrogation on Friday, in a ₹65 crore fraud case registered by a Delhi businessman. STAFF REPORTER

Man held with 8 live bullets at airport

NEW DELHI
A Bengaluru-bound passenger has been apprehended at the Delhi airport for allegedly carrying eight live bullets in his baggage, an official said Thursday. A CISF officer at IGIA detected the bullet-like objects while scanning the baggage of P.K. Sharma on Wednesday. PTI

Five sustain burns in cylinder blast

NEW DELHI
Five persons sustained burns in a cylinder blast at a jhuggi in north-west Delhi's Model Town area on Thursday morning. Additional DCP (North-West) A.K. Lall said the call was made around 7:15 a.m. and the blast took place due to a leak in the cooking cylinder. STAFF REPORTER

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Series on modern day challenges of children & adolescents: "School refusal: Why children / adolescents do not want to go to school" by Dr. Deepali Rao, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Adolescents & Young Adult Mental Health, VIMHANS, at India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Dance: "Vande Padmanabham" - stories of Lord Vishnu performed in Bharatanatyam by Elina Abakarova Nischal at IHC, 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Welcome 2019" - a group show of paintings at Roop Chand Institute of Fine Art (RCIFA), Ashok Vihar, Phase-I, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Kya Baat Hai - 4", a multimedia exhibition showcasing rare miniature artworks, lithographs, photos, film stills and sculptures related to empowered women at Art Konsult, Hauz Khas Village, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. (Mail your listings for this column at cityeditordelhi@thehindu.co.in)

House helps found dead, suffocation suspected

They had kept a tandoor in the room for warmth on Wednesday night, say police

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

Two domestic helps working for a hotel owner were found dead in their quarters at their employer's residence in north Delhi's Civil Lines on Thursday morning. The police suspect the duo died of suffocation after inhaling toxic fumes emanating from a tandoor (clay oven) in the room, which they had kept for warmth on Wednesday night.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Nupur Prasad said the deceased have been identified as Ranjit (45) and his brother-in-law Chandan (25), both residents of Uttarakhand's Bageshwar. The two worked as cooks, said their acquaintances from the village, who had gathered outside the bungalow after learning about their deaths.

Relative's version
Umesh, a distant relative, said he learnt about the incident from family back home and rushed to the bungalow. He was informed that Ranjit and Chandan



A police vehicle entering the bungalow in north Delhi's Civil Lines where the two men were found dead on Thursday. ■ HEMANI BHANDARI

had used the clay oven to cook on Wednesday night.

"They went inside their room later and ate there. It appears that they took the tandoor inside the room for warmth. We were told that they also shut the window and locked the door from inside," Umesh said.

A distant relative, who had seen the bodies inside the quarters, said Chandan's body was lying on the

bed, while Ranjit was on the floor and the clay oven was next to them. "It seems like they died in their sleep. I had spoken to Ranjit on Wednesday afternoon," he said.

Cops broke open door
Ms. Prasad said the police control room received a call by their employers, who own and run a hotel in north Delhi, around 9 a.m.

after the two did not open the door and fail to respond. "Fire officials and the police broke open the door. They found them dead. The window was found shut and the door was locked from inside. Forensics Science Laboratory officials were also called to inspect the spot," the DCP said.

The police said they suspect the duo died of asphyxiation after inhaling carbon

monoxide. The bodies were taken for post-mortem to Sabzi Mandi mortuary in the afternoon.

Though glasses or alcohol bottles were not found inside their room, but the police are awaiting the post-mortem report to determine whether the victims were drunk on Wednesday night.

Never complained

Meanwhile, Umesh said Ranjit had been working for the hotel owners for over four years and never complained about them. Unfortunately, he said, Chandan had joined work about 10 days ago after returning from the village.

"Ranjit got him the job here a few days ago. He worked at an eatery earlier," he said.

Both the deceased are survived by their wives and children, who reside in the village.

The DCP added that inquest proceedings under Section 174 of the Criminal Procedure Code have been initiated.



The accident spot in Anand Vihar ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'SUV's speed might have led to accident'

Forensic teams to inspect vehicles

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

SUV occupant
Sehgal's father told us that he received a call from him just before the incident but could not answer it as he was at a cremation. When he returned home, he found that his son had tried contacting him on WhatsApp too

RELATIVE
sure as to where Sehgal was going to at the time of mishap. We got a call from the hospital at around 8:30 p.m. and we rushed there. The officials informed us that Sehgal is no more. The entire family is shattered," said Gaurav.

"Sehgal's father told us that he received a call from him just before the incident. But he missed the call as he was attending a cremation. When he returned home, he found that Sehgal tried contacting him on WhatsApp too," said a relative. He added that the entire family is in a state of shock as to how this happened. Sehgal's last rites would be performed once his siblings are back.

Shamshad, is survived by his wife and two daughters aged 13 and 8 and was the only bread winner of the family.

4 arrested for robbing gym instructor

Victim was offered lift by quartet, including a woman, and robbed at knifepoint

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Four persons, including a 25-year-old woman, have been arrested for allegedly robbing a 24-year-old gym instructor on the pretext of giving him a lift in Dwarka, the police said on Thursday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Anto Alphonse said the accused have been identified as Suny (21), Sandeep Kumar (32), Neeraj (20) and their woman accomplice. All three men are involved in criminal cases, the police said.

In the early hours of January 19, the victim, identified as Kakrola resident Ashish Kumar, told the police that he took a lift to go to NSIT



The accused with the police following their arrest. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

aggregators. "The owner of the said taxi was interrogated and he told that he had sold the taxi to a resident of Nihal Vihar. The team examined that person and on sustained interrogation, he disclosed that the taxi was being driven by his stepson Neeraj on the day of crime," Mr. Alphonse said.

The four accused were subsequently arrested on Wednesday. During interrogation, the accused allegedly told police that they roamed around late night with the woman in search of targets. "They used to offer lift and the presence of the female member helped them in gaining trust of the commuters," the DCP said.

However, the woman gave him ₹20 to go home before throwing him off the car, he allegedly told police.

During investigation, the car with Haryana number plate was identified and police sought details from Transport Department and cab

PEOPLES. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

College principal sent on leave

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Following allegations pertaining to administrative irregularities against the acting principal of Satyavati College Evening, Governing Body members said he has been sent on leave with immediate effect.

"Allegations regarding roster, appointment and administrative irregularities against the acting principal was brought to the notice of the GB and a letter was sent to him but he has not replied to it. The GB has constituted a fact finding committee to look into the matter," said the officials.



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



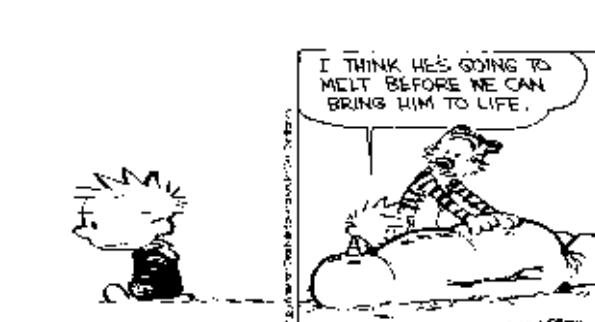
POOCH CAFE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBES



TIGER



WUMO

From the artist, Vigneshwaran. © 2019 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

www.kingfeatures.com

It's not easy being a flasher these days

Come on, you guys! Look up!

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Change starts with you.

I AM KING OF THE WORLD NOW. DO AS I SAY.

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NORTHERN RAILWAY	
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE	
The Chief Rolling Stock Engineer/Coaching, Northern Railway, Baroda House for and on behalf of President of India invites e-tender on "Two Packet System" for following work from experienced and capable tenders.	
1. Name of work	Upgradation of trains under Project Utkrisht
2. Work Place	Over N.Rly., N.E. Rly & W.C. Rly
3. Period of work	8 months
4. Approximate cost of work	[Rs. 85,35,50,775/- (Including the provision of GST)]
5. Earnest money (to be deposited online)	Rs. 20,52,100/- (Earnest money shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only available at IREPS portal. Earnest Money in the form of Bank Guarantee or bond is not acceptable.)
6. Cost of the e-tender form (non-refundable)	Rs. 11,800/- (Including GST @18%) e-tender form cost of shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only available at IREPS portal. This cost in the form of Bank Guarantee or bond is not acceptable.)
7. Availability of tender documents	On website www.ireps.gov.in
8. Date and time of availability of tender documents	From 24.01.19 to 20.02.19, upto 15.00 Hrs. (On working days only)
9. Date and time of tender closing	20.02.19 at 15.00 Hrs.
10. Date and time of tender opening (Technical Bid)	20.02.19 at 15.30 Hrs.
11. Date and time of tender opening (Financial Bid)	After technical evaluation.
12. Place for opening of tender	N.Rly. HQs Office, Baroda House, New Delhi

Note: Cost of e-tender documents and EMD shall have to be deposited separately through net banking, failing which the offer shall be liable to summarily rejected.
No. 802-M/6/Project Utkrisht/MC-1/I/2018-19, Date : 24.01.2019 205/19
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, LDM&T DIVISION JAMMU	
Tender e-NIT No: LDMT/J/TENDER/ Air-Conditioner/2019/01 Dated:23.01.2019	
Executive Engineer, LDM&T Division Jammu for & on behalf of Governor of Jammu & Kashmir State invites e-bids from Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) / Registered / authorized dealer of the EM, for the execution of below mentioned Job.	
S.No.	1
Name of Work:-	Supply, installation and Commissioning of 2.2 Ton, Cooling type, Split Air Conditioner heavy-duty / commercial / industrial with Copper Piping of reputed brand alongwith automatic voltage stabilizers (copper wound) 90-290 V , 6KVA with auto cut off. Total = 14 Units.
Quantity:-	1
Estimated cost (Rs. in lacs):-	9.80
Earnest money	in the shape of CDR pledged to Executive Engineer, LDM&T Division Jammu: Rs. 20,000/-
Period of Completion:-	15 Days
Status of Funds:-	Available
the tender document is available on website http://jkttenders.gov.in interested bidders may view the e-Bid document, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:-	
Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The Standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jkttenders.gov.in
A Cost of e-Bid Document	Rs. 500/-
B Sale of e-Bid Document (Start)	24th January 2019
C Sale of e-Bid Document (End)	13th February 2019 (12:00 Noon)

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
LDM&T Division,
Jammu

DIP/J-4892-P

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
E-TENDER NOTICE	
Sr. DEE/EMU/GZB for and on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:- (1) N.I.T. No.: 232-Elect-EMU-WC-16-18-19. (2) Name of the work: Provision of LED tube lights in place of FL tube lights in EMU/EMU Coaches over a period of 03 months. (3) Tender cost: Rs. 2,360/- (online payment mode available on IREPS website). (4) Approximate cost: Rs. 13,14,000/- (5) Earnest Money: Rs. 26,300/- (online payment mode available on IREPS website). (6) Completion period: 03 Months. (7) Validity of offer: 45 days. (8) Date & Time from tender advertised on IREPS website: 22.01.2019 (11:46 hrs.). (9) Date & Time from tender submission start and end: 07.02.2019 (00:00 Hrs.) to 21.02.2019 (15:00 Hrs.). (10) Tender closing Date & Time: 21.02.2019 (15:00 Hrs.). (11) Date & Time of tender Opening (immediately when tender submission ends): 21.02.2019 (15:00 Hrs.). (12) Publication cost allocation: 06041132. Note 1: All participant Tenderers will submit their requisite documents along with their tender offer. "No post tender correspondence for submission of additional document shall be entertained after opening of the Technical & Commercial offer. Even sub-moto post tender letters of the tenders shall be treated as null & void". Note 2: Duplicate documents should not be enclosed/up loaded. Tender Notice is available on website of www.ireps.gov.in . No.: 232-Elect-EMU-WC-16-18-19 Dated: 22.01.2019 196/2019 Serving Customers with a Smile	

Brand connect initiative Hope for the underprivileged

Guru Prasad, the Founder of Adarane Trust, has been changing lives of the underprivileged children for more than a decade now. Adarane Charitable Trust, located in the serene location

children through education, and supporting, counseling around 120 HIV affected families, where great deals of resources are constantly required in their endeavour. Here, the children receive



of the IT City Bangalore, has nutritious healthy food, better clothes to wear, shelter and quality education. Along with these, the team also conducts regular fun events to have a happy ambience across their homes.

As he grew up seeing the plight of illiteracy in his village, he started taking free classes for 5 students. This gradually crossed 300 within a short period.

Guru Prasad then received huge support from all of those parents and nearby surroundings, which made him realize his potentiality and started contributing more.

With a strong belief and mission, Guru Prasad and entire 'Adarane' team go forward as they complete more than a decade of services to the mankind.

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हिमाचल प्रदेश के 49वें पूर्ण राज्यत्व दिवस
के पावन अवसर पर प्रदेशवासियों को हार्दिक बधाई

प्यारे प्रदेशवासियों,

हमने बीते एक वर्ष में

हिमाचल प्रदेश को विकास और खुशहाली का पर्याय बनाने के लिए ईमानदार प्रयास किए

70 वर्ष से अधिक आयु के सभी वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को बिना किसी आय सीमा के मिलने लगी बढ़ी हुई पेंशन

जन समस्याओं के तत्काल समाधान के लिए जन मंच के माध्यम से सरकार पहुँची घर-द्वारा

गृहिणी सुविधा व उज्ज्वला योजना से मुफ्त में घर-घर पहुँची गैस सुविधा

आयुष्मान भारत और हिम केयर से सबके स्वास्थ्य का रखा ख्याल

मुख्यमंत्री स्वावलम्बन योजना से युवाओं को मिले राज्यांतर-स्वराज्यांतर के अवसर

नशे के विरुद्ध छेड़ा अभियान, विधान सभा में किया बिल पास

गुणात्मक शिक्षा को दिया बढ़ावा

नई मंजिलें - नई राहें योजना से पर्यटन को मिला बल

हिमाचल नम्बर के छोटे वाहनों को प्रवेश शुल्क में छूट से मिली बड़ी राहत

सुरक्षित भय मुक्त वातावरण में जीवन जीना हुआ आसान

किसान-बागवान हुए खुशहाल

मूलभूत सुविधाओं का हुआ विस्तार

हमारा मूल मंत्र सबका साथ सबका विकास

मजिलें अभी और भी हैं - आओ मिलकर साथ चलें

आपका अपना

जय राम ठाकुर

मूलना एवं जन सम्पर्क विभाग, हिमाचल प्रदेश द्वारा जारी

Kind Attention
Rail Passengers

In view of Republic Day Parade passing over Tilak Bridge on 26.01.2019 (Saturday) from 10.30 hrs. to 12.00 hrs. (1 Hrs. 30 Min.) the movement of trains during the Parade will remain suspended. As a result the following trains will be regulated/diverted/ cancelled & partially cancelled as under:

REGULATION OF TRAINS TILL CLEARANCE OF PARADE ON 26.01.2019

Train No./Name	Station and Duration of Regulation
11078 Jammu Tawi - Pune Jn. Jhelum Exp.	Will be regulated at New Delhi if running late more than 10 Min.
12626 New Delhi - Trivandrum Kerala Exp.	Will be regulated at New Delhi till clearance of parade
12627 Bangalore - New Delhi Karnataka Exp.	Will be regulated at H. Nizamuddin till clearance of parade
12925 Bandra T. - Amritsar/Kalka Paschim Exp.	Will be regulated at Okhla till clearance of parade
12033 Kanpur - New Delhi Shatabdi Exp.	Will be regulated at Sahibabad for 15 min
12056 Dehradun - New Delhi Jan Shatabdi Exp.	Will be regulated at Meerut City for 20 min.
20801 Patna - New Delhi Magadh Exp.	Will be regulated at Ghaziabad for 15 min.
14258 New Delhi - Varanasi Kashi Vishwanath Exp.	Will be started from New Delhi after clearance of Parade
12204 Amritsar - Saharsa Garib Rath Exp.	Will be regulated at New Delhi till clearance of parade
12217 Kochuveli - Chandigarh K. Sampark Kranti	Will be regulated between Palwal and H. Nizamuddin
19565 Okha - Dehradun Uttaranchal Exp.	Will be regulated at New Delhi till clearance of parade

DIVERSION OF TRAINS ON 26.01.2019

Train No./Name	Diverted Route
64012 Shakurbasti - New Delhi - Palwal EMU	Will be diverted to run via Patal Nagar - Delhi Safdarjung - H. Nizamuddin to Palwal
12313 Sealdah - New Delhi Rajdhani Express	Will be diverted via Delhi Jn. if running late
22823 Bhubaneshwar - New Delhi Rajdhani Express	Will be diverted via Delhi Jn.
12877 Ranchi - New Delhi Garib Rath	Will be diverted via Delhi Jn.
64901 Kosi Kalan - Ghaziabad EMU	Will be diverted via Hazrat Nizamuddin to Sahibabad

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS ON 26.01.2019

64423/64430 Ghaziabad - New Delhi - Ghaziabad EMU will remain cancelled on 26.01.2019

PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF TRAINS ON 26.01.2019

64434 Delhi Jn. - New Delhi - Ghaziabad EMU will be short terminated at Delhi Jn. and will originate Ex. Delhi Jn. and run via Delhi Shahdara - Sahibabad.

Note:- For any kind of information passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

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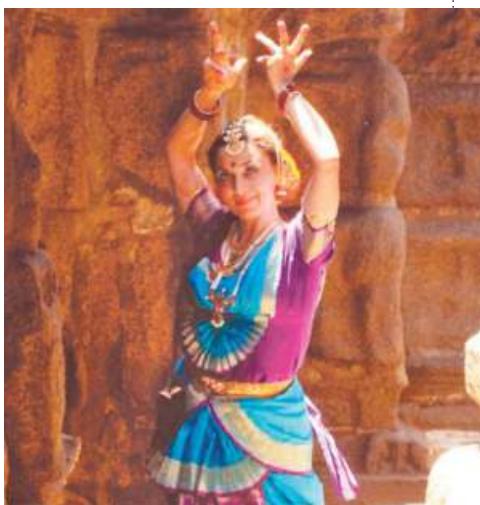
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TIME OUT



Elina Abakarova Nischal

INDIA HABITAT CENTRE**JANUARY 25****CONVENTION CENTRE FOYER**

Anubhav@85, a solo painting exhibition depicting the richness of Indian culture and its universality by Ram Kapur.

INDIA HABITAT CENTRE**JANUARY 25****atrium**

Exhibition "Both Sides of the Veil: Living and Loving in Queer India" presented by The Pulitzer Center from Washington D.C. This is group exhibition of photos, videos and audios by Aarti Singh and Jake Naughton.

INDIA HABITAT CENTRE**JANUARY 25****STEIN AUDITORIUM**

'Vande Padmanabham - stories of Lord Vishnu', Bharatanatyam by Elina Abakarova Nischal. This is in collaboration with the Embassy of Ukraine.

INDIA HABITAT CENTRE**JANUARY 25****MANDI HOUSE METRO STATION**

Aana Jaana exhibition presents different perspectives of Delhi's urban mobility generated by young women living in Delhi's urban peripheries - resettlement colonies, urban villages

INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE**JANUARY 25****ART GALLERY**

Whimsical Glazes, an exhibition of contemporary ceramics with Chinese and Japanese glazes and lustres by Nandita Jain Mahajan.



Arunangshu Chaudhury will present a tabla recital

INDIA HABITAT CENTRE**JANUARY 25****STEIN AUDITORIUM**

NT Live Broadcast of Antony & Cleopatra. Directed by Simon Godwin. Ralph Fiennes and Sophie Okonedo, the play shows in the fringes of a war-torn empire, the Egyptian Queen Cleopatra and Mark Antony have fallen fiercely in love.

INDIA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE**JANUARY 25****C.D. DESHMUKH AUDITORIUM**

Prabhati: A Morning of Indian Classical Music. Tabla solo recital by Arunangshu Chaudhury from Delhi, disciple of Acharya Shankar Ghosh. Accompanist will be Sujay Chakrabarty on harmonium

The story of light

In the latest adaptation of Dharamvir Bharti's "Andha Yug", director Rama Yadav raises some pertinent questions about the Mahabharat war



Ugly consequences A scene from the play ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

DIWAN SINGH BAJELI

Dharamvir Bharti's "Andha Yug", a verse play, was first directed by Satyadev Dubey for Theatre Unit Mumbai in 1960. E. Alkazi directed it for the National School of Drama Repertory in 1964, staged on the lawn of Kotla Ferozeshah which catapulted the play to national eminence as one of the greatest contemporary Indian play in epic style. Subsequently, it was revived by the NSD Repertory. Satyadev Dubey revived it which was presented at Nehru Shatabdi Natya Samaroh in 1989. Over the years, "Andha Yug" has been widely shown in different parts of the country. In 2011, Bhanu Bharti directed it for the Sahitya Kala Parishad, Delhi which was presented in the open air against the backdrop of the ruins of Kotla Ferozeshah. So far, the productions by Alkazi, Satyadev Dubey and Bhanu Bharti are considered most definitive.

Innovative piece

Its recent production by Shoonya, under the direction of Rama Yadav, at the Shri Ram Centre is an innovative theatrical piece, illustrating the fact that "Andha Yug" could be adapted to diverse presentational styles. In pursuance of evolving an experimental theatre, Rama is using bare stage with minimal property and a large cast which is used as stage décor as well as visuals to convey the thematic content of the play to minimise the use of dialogue as the main expressive

means. She achieved remarkable success in the use of mass scenes in her previous production of Bhisham Sahni's "Hanush". But in Bhanu Bharti's "Katha Kahi Ek Jale Ped Neh", she was not able to impart vitality and intensity to the production and transform the mass scene into visual imagery. Her "Andha Yug" bears the stamp of her distinctive presentational style. The play under review captures the spectacle of devastation, fatally wounded and defeated soldiers and dense gloom prevailing in the defeated camp of the Kauravas. The Pandavas have emerged victorious after the 18-day war.

It raises the question whether the Mahabharata war was fought to establish Dharma? Are the Pandavas really victorious?

Have they truly followed Dharma while launching fiercest battle against their adversary with the blessing of Krishna who was by their side without any arms? On the other hand, his whole army fought with the Kauravas.

The pall of dense dark descends on both the camps. The play severely warns humanity that it should never resort to nuclear war which

Rama's mass scenes
aptly capture grimness of the battle with cries of pain by wounded soldiers, limping back home, some dying on the way

will result in holocaust - destroying both the victor and the vanquished. "This is the story of light through the medium of the blind."

Most of the characters have been vested with contemporary allusion, especially the characters of Ashwatthama and Yuyutsu. Burning with rage, Ashwatthama is metamorphosed into a brute to avenge the death of his father Dronacharya by blatant disregard for rule of the war resorted by Yudhishtir considered to be the epitome of truth. This act of betrayal is accomplished at the behest of Krishna. Ashwatthama challenges Krishna, destroys Pandavas camp, killing all the sons of Daraupadi. Not satisfied, he uses Brahmashtra to destroy the womb of Uttara who is bearing in her the son of Abhimanyu.

Gandhari's curse
Vyasa calls him Naradham and Krishna curses him to live for eternity with his grotesque body perpetually oozing pus and blood, writhing in pain. Another significant character is Yuyutsu who believed in Krishna, deserted his own clan of the Kauravas fought against his own brothers.

After the war, he finds himself disowned by both the camps; his own people terrified with him; they consider him as satan and messenger of death and his mother Gandhari despised him. Disillusioned and his faith in Krishna being shattered, he commits suicide as a resolution of his dilemma.

As a result of Gandhari's curse, Krishna is to die like an ordinary mortal to be killed by an ordinary hunter and his entire clan to kill one another seized by frenzy.

Towards the end, characters wander in a world suffering from agnosticism. Rama's mass scenes aptly capture grimness of the battle scene with cries of pain by wounded soldiers, limping back home, some dying on the way. The battle field is full of human bodies. Her attempt to create forest scene with chirping birds seems to be simplistic.

At times the mass scenes could not be vested with mounting tension resulting in the wavering of the attention of audience. However, it acquired momentum after Ashwatthama indulges in destruction like a mad dog with his body consumed with revenge. Rama has cast eight performers to portray different stages of the growth of the character of Ashwatthama. This kind of experiment hardly gives performers room to build the character and internalise its emotional turmoil and psychological complexity. This device gives us only fragmented images of one of the greatest characters in the contemporary Indian theatre.

Amit as Yuyutsu reveals the dilemma of his character admirably. Sharmila as Gandhari seems to be aptly cast performer. Her Gandhari slowly and slowly unveils the anguish, sorrow and bitterness, delivering the lines with conviction.

Feel the myriad hues of melody

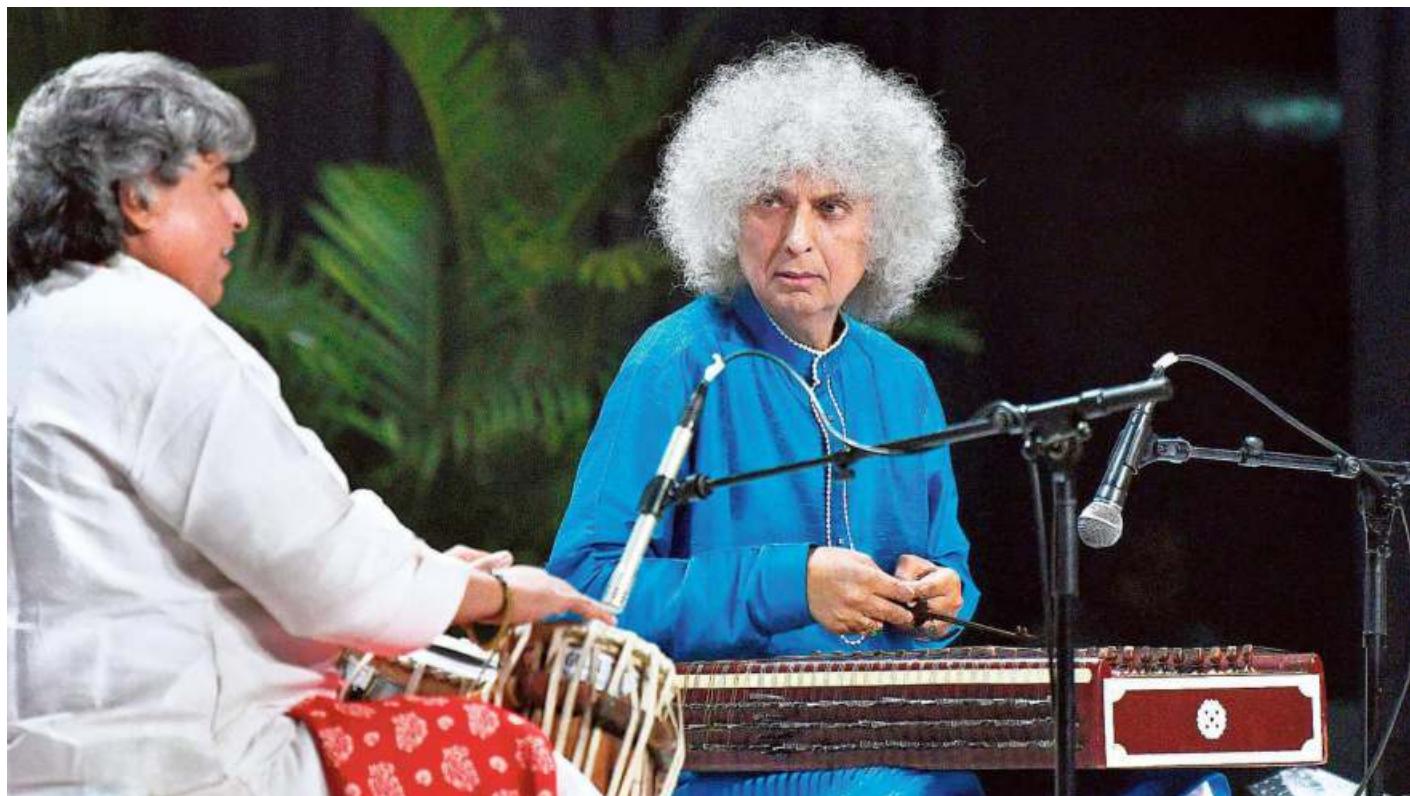
The 18th edition of Swami Haridas Tansen Sangeet Nritya Samaroh was marked by the elegant stoicism of Dr. Ashwini Bhide Deshpande and the soothing santoor recital of Pt Shiv Kumar Sharma

MANJARI SINHA

The Swami Haridas Tansen Sangeet Nritya Mahotsav has been and still continues to be a labour of love for the Padma Bhushan Awardee Uma Sharma, who wants to bring Indian music and culture close to the hearts of present generation youth, who she believes, are totally unaware of its beauty and values. The four-day festival was brought to Delhi by the passionate Kathak danseuse from Vrindavan, where it was originally held at Nidhivan, the birth place of Swami Haridas. She renamed it as Swami Haridas-Tansen Sangeet Nritya Mahotsav inviting the traditionally trained reputed artistes. One of the most popular classical music festivals of Capital, it pulls the largest crowds on all four days, leaving the jam-packed Shankarlal Hall of the Modern School overflowing with true music lovers prepared to enjoy its daily late nights.

The 18th edition of Swami Haridas-Tansen Sangeet Nritya Mahotsav, presented jointly by Uma Sharma's Bharatiya Sangeet Sadan, the Shri Ram Centre and HCL in association with Modern School, opened as usual with the Kathak performance by the ever exuberant Uma Sharma and her disciples. The festival that concluded with the sonorous sarod recital by Ud Amjad Ali Khan featured maestros of Hindustani classical music like Begum Parveen Sultana, Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma, Pt. Chhannulal Mishra, Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Ud. Ashish Khan, Ud. Shujaat Khan, Gundecha Brothers Pt. Bikram Ghosh and Amaan and Ayaan Ali Bangash.

One of the most outstanding performances of this year's festival was the melodious Mali-Gauda by Dr. Ash-



Sublime touch Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma in performance; Dr Ashwini Bhide Deshpande ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

wini Bhide Deshpande. The elegant stoicism of a perfect transmission and a tightly trained focus on pitch are the inbuilt quality of this radiant representative of the Jaipur Gayaki, known for attempting the most challenging and rare Jod ragas, her gharana is known for.

This time she specially chose raga Mali-Gauda, a crucial combination of the difficult evening ragas Puria and Gauri, because of the festival's association with revered names like Swami Haridas and Tansen.

The most striking feature of her seamless rendering was the totally invisible 'jod' (joining of the two ragas), this 'jod-raga' was comprised of. There was not even too much of restless taiyari to rob listeners of its grandeur while sailing through both the com-

ponent ragas, but just enough to enrich the whole design.

Uncanny lilt

The other incredible aspect of her unique rendition was the unusual use of addha theka for the traditional bada khayal set to vilambit or slow Teen-tala. It added an uncanny lilt to the Bada Khayal which is conventionally sung literally in slow Teen-tala. Even the chhota khayal was a traditional composition but both the compositions were delivered with her signature stamp, complete with all the ingredients of her gharana-specific gayaki. Vinay Mishra accompanied her on harmonium in a slow understated fashion adding an occasional echo that enriched the raga. Vinod Lele on tabla had a taut and capable control. The

praiseworthy vocal support by three of her brilliant disciples, Shivani, Shweta and Ashu Prem, did their guru proud.

Bickram Ghosh, the ace tabla player and composer, offered a concise version of his much acclaimed "Drums of India". The intricacies and excitement of Indian drum traditions were immaculately showcased in his percussion ensemble with V. Suresh on ghatam, Gopal Barman on shri-khol and B. Rajesh on morsing. Burman is known for his competence in kirtan and shri khol, but the simple clay pot spoke multiple language in the hands of V. Suresh and the tiny little morsing, played with mouth, resounded in myriad hues when the foursome played a scintillating Matta Tala of nine-beat cycle.

The crisp padhant or reciting of the mnemonic by Bickram, dividing the nine beats in two equal halves of four and half beats in the Sawari ang, could be called Matta Tala ki Sawari, galloping to 'sam' with ample aplomb. Even the added attraction of the tuneful 'aas' (reverberation) of the percussion instruments, left the audience enthralled.

Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma's santoor was as mesmerising as ever. Offering the audience New Year greetings, he urged them to just 'feel' the music without bothering to understand it.

"Aap Sangeet ko bas mehsoos karen, samajhane ki koshish na karen to jeevan mein saumyata aur sukh aayega."

There is no other means that is so good for your mental, emotional and physical health. He played a detailed alap-jod and jhala in raga Charukeshi followed by the slow composition set to Jhaptala of 10-beat cycle. The gradual alaap-barhat of the raga soothed the senses. His expertise to play with rhythm and the gift of touching the hearts with total tunefulness, are his signature qualities that make him an exceptional artiste. The drut gat in Teen-tala reaching the climax of a tuneful jhala even in fastest speed, made his performance complete with thundering applause. Accepting it humbly, he said, "Music is a kind of thing which doesn't happen with effort but with the blessings of the Almighty."

Impromptu performance

The vocal recital by Pt. Chhannulal Mishra opened with his favourite Sanskrit shloka, "Naham vasami Vai-kunthe, Yoginam hridaye na cha...", in the typical 'Pravachan' style that continued throughout his captivating performance. The dual-treat for the audience came in the concluding dadra, 'Rangi sari gulabi chunariya Re....', when Uma joined him with an impromptu Kathak bhava.



Anwar's Trail

Seafarers of yore

The Kunjali Maraikkayars have been immortalised at a temple in Thoothukkudi district

KOMBAI S ANWAR



"You know, there is a Perumal temple in southern Tamil Nadu, which has a painted image of a ship, and the legendary Kunjali is worshipped," informed a friend of mine, aware of my

interest in the maritime heritage of the Tamils. The Maraikkayars were seafarers from the Tamil country, and among them, the Kunjalies of the 16th century were renowned for their heroic naval battles with the Portuguese. Though many volumes have been written and films made on them, the Kunjalies being immortalised at a temple was news to me.

So on a balmy afternoon, I landed at Madhavan Kurichi, a small village adjacent to Manapad, off the Coromandel Coast, in Thoothukkudi district. At the village square, my enquiries about the Perumal temple elicited no response. As I was losing hope, a garrulous woman who had just arrived on the scene, led me to her family temple. When she pushed open the gate, there it was, a painted image of a ship of yore with masts and sails, right on top of a mantapam. Inside, amidst an array of fearsome-looking folk deities was a lone painted image of a bearded Kunjali Maraikkayar, attired in a white checked lungi, a green shirt, and a white Turkish Fez cap.

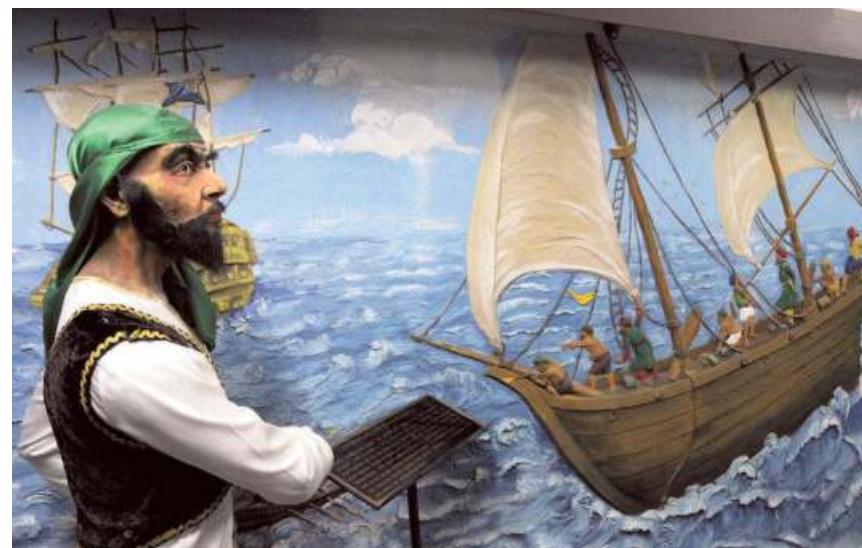
It was a little over five hundred years ago that Vasco da Gama found a sea route to India, landing at Calicut. The Portuguese, with their superior fire power and navigational expertise, went about monopolising the lucrative maritime spice trade on the Indian Ocean. They mandated that any ship traversing the ocean should have a Cartaz, a pass issued by them. Even if one paid and got the Cartaz, Indian ships were prohibited from carrying profitable goods. Soon, Indian ships sailing in Indian waters without a Cartaz were confiscated by the Portuguese.

Battles fought

The audacity of the Portuguese was resisted by the Zamorin (Samuthri), the ruler of Calicut. To counter them, the Zamorin fielded his naval admirals, the Kunjali Maraikkayars. The Kunjalies, who were originally from Cochin, stood by the Zamorin and fought the Portuguese on the Kerala and Coromandel coasts. Calicut, Ponnani, Kollam, Kochi, Kayalpattinam, Thoothukkudi, Kizhakkrai and Vedalai were some of the places where battles were fought, both on land and at sea.

The Kunjalies knew that their ships were no match for the big Portuguese vessels (Caravels) which were fixed with heavy guns. However, while Caravels needed room for manoeuvre and required a high wind velocity for faster navigation, the smaller craft called 'War Parades' used by the Kunjalies could be rowed through lagoons and narrow water channels, and did not easily present themselves as easy targets to the Portuguese guns.

Historian and former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calicut, K.K.N. Kurup, in his book, *India's Naval Traditions - The role of Kunjali Marakkars* writes: "... sev-



Perumal temple with the image of Kunjali Maraikkayar. An artwork depicting the battle and his restored ancestral house in Kottakkal ■ PHOTOS: KOMBAI S ANWAR, K. RAGESH AND K.K. MUSTAFA

eral of these crafts deployed at strategic points such as at entrances to rivers and (had) others hidden away near narrow channels... 'War Parades' then converged upon the Portuguese ships, set fire to their sails and rendered them ineffective."

Madhavan Kurichi is one of those places, where the channel gets narrower as the river opens into the sea at nearby Manapad, a Portuguese stronghold in the 16th century. Though the Kunjalies fought with valour and won some of the battles, in the end, the superior fire power of the Portuguese and disunity among the Indian states led to their downfall. One wonders if it was near Madhavan Kurichi that one of the Kunjalies or his deputies met a tragic

and violent end, fit enough to be accorded the status of a folk deity.

As the Maraikkayar got deified, the stories associated with him also grew. Listening to the locals, one could hear the narration differ from person to person, sometimes even at variance with the Villuppaattu (a ballad performed with bow and string instrument) performed during the annual temple festival, which we attended later. Despite this, the similarities with the actual history and casual reference to forgotten aspects of our maritime traditions were indeed fascinating.

"Our Maraikkayar had 999 ships and he desired that his thousandth ship should be built without any nails... So he went into

the forest with his men, in search of a tree, big enough to make his ship," booms the voice of Serma Sundari Damodaran as she narrates the tragedy of the Kunjalies in her Villuppaattu, sitting along with her co-performers in a small stage like enclosure, opposite to the painted image of Kunjali Maraikkayar.

Tragic end

Every year, during the Tamil month of Purattasi, Serma Sundari and her troupe narrate the story of the Kunjalies, the ill-omen that began with their cutting of the big tree where one of the Gods resided, their tragic end in the sea battle, and how the Maraikkayar ended up as one among the Gods at the temple.

The similarities that we find in the narration at Madhavan Kurichi with that of the actual historic account of Kunjali Maraikkayars are too many to ignore. Everyone at Madhavan Kurichi acknowledges that the tragedy did in fact take place some 400 to 500 years ago, thereby placing it in the 16th century. The account speaks of the Kunjalies as two brothers – Kunnali and Kutti Ali Maraikkayar – names that tally with the different Kunjalies of the Zamorin.

The legend at Madhvan Kurichi begins with the Kunjalies' desire to build their thousandth ship without nails. Interestingly, before the advent of the Europeans, Indian ships were built without nails, a technique that has been almost forgotten. The Villuppaattu also refers to the battle-hardened troops aboard the Kunjali's ship, who join the sea battle during their trip from the Kerala coast that ends in defeat.

But Serma Sundari's narrative places the Kunjalies as rulers of nearby Kizhakkrai, and the battle as one between an angry God and the Kunjalies. Considering the fact that the incident happened some 400 years ago, and the present inhabitants, the Servais, moved into the village a little later, there are bound to be gaps in the narration.

"Did the original inhabitants, perhaps as allies of the Kunjalies, feel compelled to vacate the village after the tragedy?" "It is quite possible," concedes A.T. Karuppasamy, Samiyadi at the Perumal temple.

Is this Kunjali from the same clan as the legendary naval admirals who fought against Portuguese colonialism, whom the Indian Navy has honoured by commissioning the INS Kunjali in 1954? There are simply too many similarities to ignore. Is the desire to build the thousandth ship without nails, a metaphor, a longing to resurrect the good old days of maritime trade when Indians benefited from it?

Whichever way one looks at it, the tragedy of the Kunjali Maraikkayars was also the tragedy of Tamil maritime trade. With the death of the Kunjalies, a maritime trade that brought riches to the Tamil country would fall into a steady decline, and ultimately, into oblivion. It is heartening that hundreds of years later, Madhavan Kurichi, a small village in southern Tamil Nadu, still commemorates these seafarers of yore.

In Search of Music

Great minds... have thought alike

There are striking similarities in the verses of Appayya Dikshitar, Papanasam Sivan and Gopalakrishna Bharati

V. SRIRAM

*On your locks Ganga and the Moon
On your arms and legs the cold serpents
On your left, snow mountain's compassionate daughter,
On your entire form sandal paste How are you able to bear so much of cold*

*O Lord of the Golden Hall?
In case it becomes impossible,
Come reside in my heart,
Which is forever burning hot owing to my multiple desires*

Thus runs a verse of Appayya Dikshitar's. The Sanskrit original, which will be familiar to most fans of Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, begins with 'Maulau Ganga' and he fashioned it into a delectable ragamalika.

Appayya Dikshitar was a great Advaitin of the 16th century, one of those personalities that come up at appropriate moments in Hindu philosophy, to strengthen it when it is subject to conflicting forces. In this he had many similarities with Vedanta Desika, the eminent Visishtadvaita scholar, who lived between the 13th and 14th centuries. Both composed in Sanskrit, both upheld their respective schools of philosophy and both quelled several rivals in debates and disputations. Their language requires detailed study; they are not like Sankara, Kalidasa or Valmiki in making it easy for the lay reader to understand. Interestingly, their birthplaces are not far from each other – around 80 km or so. Dikshitar was born in Adayapalam (spelt in maps as Adaiyapulam) near Arni while Desika's birthplace is Thoopul near Kanchipuram.

Verses inscribed

Adayapalam has a small temple to Siva as Kalakanteswara. This was consecrated by Appayya Dikshitar himself. Originally a single sanctum temple, it was expanded in modern times to include a sanctum for the Goddess and a prayer hall. The latter has many of the verses of Appayya Dikshitar inscribed on granite slabs all along the walls. The shrine to Siva is in the late Vijayanagar style and simple in design. A stone deepastambha faces the sanctum. On one of its faces is a Sivalinga and on the other a Garuda. A small effigy of Appayya Dikshitar is to the right of the sanctum, balanced by one to Sankara on the left. The pontiffs of the Kanchi Kamakoti Pitam have done much to renovate this temple. At their instruction, the prayer hall has a large stone image of Appayya Dikshitar that is regularly worshipped. The temple is today not much visited. In a delicious twist, a Vaishnavite priest is now in charge. But that Appayya Dikshitar was above such petty thoughts will be made clear by what follows in this story.

Appayya Dikshitar was greatly at-

tached to the Nataraja shrine in Chidambaram. As is well known, the temple here, known simply as Kovil to all Saivites, shares space with Thiruchitrakootam, the shrine to Vishnu as Govindaraja. It is said that by standing at a certain strategic spot it is possible to see Govindaraja with the left eye and Nataraja with your right. Truly the temple stands as a symbol of oneness of God and this was perhaps what moved Appayya Dikshitar to compose his Hari Hara Abheda Stuti.

A set of eight verses (not including the phalsruti), it is structured as a series of couplets in each line of which two attributes of Siva and Vishnu are described. Most significantly, it begins with the words 'Ma Ramanam Uma Ramanam' and that takes us at once to the lovely kriti by Papanasam Sivan in Hindolam. Beginning with the same words, it deals right through with the same theme of how Siva and Vishnu are one despite various physical attributes. Some of the other lines in the kriti are also clearly inspired by the stuti (mara janakan kumara janakan/smara tanayam guha tanayam is one). Sivan sings of Siva as residing on a mountain while Vishnu reclines on the ocean. Dikshitar states that Siva is on Mount Meru while Vishnu resides in his father-in-law's home (the ocean)!

That gentle humour is evident in yet another song on the same theme and composed at Chidambaram. This is 'Thillai Ambalathanai Govindarajanai' of Gopalakrishna Bharati, now sung in Sahana. Made famous in recent times by Sanjay Subrahmanyam, the song is structured in the same two-line, multiple verse format of the stuti. It has six charanams, each extolling two attributes of Nataraja and Govindaraja. In a masterly survey, Bharati covers the iconography of the deities (dancing to the instruments here and cosy in slumber there), the offering of garlands, the chanting of respective hymns and the food varieties that are distributed after presenting to the deities.

Were Bharati and Sivan inspired by Appayya Dikshitar? We do not know. The similarities in ideas as striking but then, great minds can independently arrive at the same conclusion.

The author is a historian and has several books to his credit



(Top) The statue of Appaya Dikshitar.
(Below) The Kalakanteswara temple at Adayapalam.
■ PHOTOS: SRIRAM V.

Perspective

Rama, in the eyes of Tyagaraja

The composer praises his favourite deity's characteristics

P.K. DORAISWAMY

Tyagaraja's devotion to Rama was total, but he also describes Rama's individual characteristics such as physical beauty, personal charm, his soft, befriending speech, diplomatic shrewdness and ruling ability. He even goes to the extent of portraying Rama as the supreme God who assigns duties to the Trinity and cites the third and the sixth chapters of Valmiki Ramayana as his authority... Here are a few examples.

Physical beauty:

'Entha muddo, entha sogasso, evarivalla varnimpala thagune' (Who can describe the superb beauty and sweet charm of Rama?) 'Entha muddo,' Bindumalini.

"Lavanya Rama... srivannitha chitha kumuda seethakara" (Charming Rama, who is like the moon which lights up the kumudam flower-like face of Sita): 'Lavanya Rama,' Purnashadjam.

"Inthanuchu varnimpala tharama, Brahmendradulakaina... ni sogasu... challani chupula kannulu, mari jabili kalala gerina aananamu" (Even Brahma, Devendra and others cannot describe your beauty, your benign looks and charming face that surpasses the moon in its splendour): 'Inthanuchu,' Gundakriya.

"Sogasu chuda tarama, niganigamanachu kapola yugamucha merayu momu," chirunavvu mungurulu mari kannulate (Is it possible to see such beauty as your face shining with glossy cheeks, your smiles, your forelocks and the brilliance of your eyes): 'sogasu chuda tarama,' Kanndagowla

Speech:

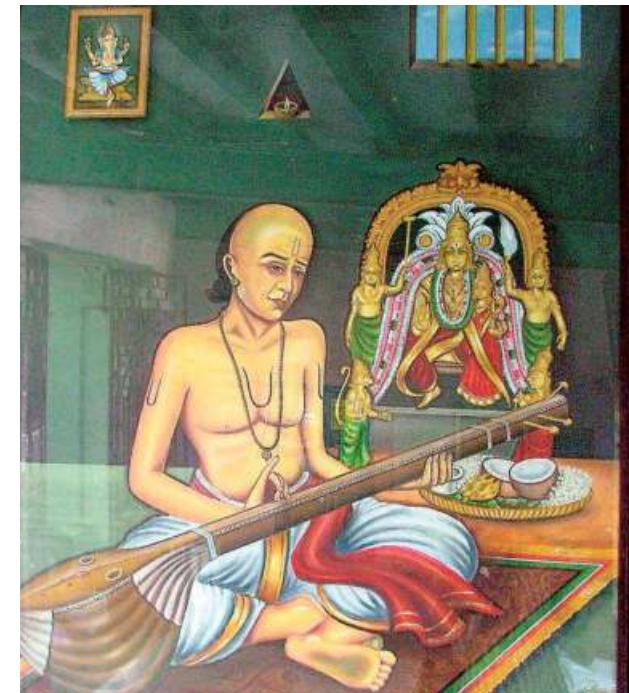
"Mellani matalu... sahajamaina ni guna minthanuchu varnimpala tharama" (Who can describe your soft words which are your natural guna): 'Inthanuchu,' Gundakriya.

"Paluku kanta chakkeranu gerune" (Speech which is sweeter than sugar candy): 'Paluku kanta chakkera,' Navarasakkanda.

"Sudha madhurya bhashana" (one whose speech is as sweet as nectar): 'Sudha madhurya bhashana,' Sinduramakriya

Statesmanship:

"Karubaru seyuvaru gallare? Oorivaru desa janulu varamunulu upponguchunu bhaavakulayye" (Has there



been anybody who has ruled Ayodhya like you, protecting the subjects, exercising authority and securing the prosperity and happiness of townsmen and rishis alike?): 'Karubaru seyuvaru,' Mukhari

Personality:

"Lekana soundaryamulo sithammaku, soumitriki ganunu jadalu, sundara mukhamuna sukhamu bharathuni-ki, suggnana rupamuna sukhamu ripugunuki, charana yugamunandu sukhamanjaneyunuki" (Why would so many surround you and derive happiness unless there was something special about your personality? Sita derived pleasure from your beauty, Lakshmana from your eye signals, Bharata from your charming face, Shatrugna from your knowledge and Anjaneya from your holy feet): 'Lekana,' Asaveri

Tactical skill:

"Sarasa saama dhana bheeda danda chatthura, saati deiava mevare! Hithamu mataalenthoo baga balkithivi, sathamuga nayodhya nithunantivi. Natha sahadaruni raju jesu raka hasthamu jesithivi" (There is no God equal to you in exercising the four skills of saama, dhana, bheeda and danda. You displayed saama by advising Ravana to surrender and displayed dha-
nam by offering Ayodhya to him. You displayed bhedam by enlisting Vibhishna on your side and making him king of Lanka. Finally, you displayed dandam by killing Ravana): 'Sarasa saama dana bheeda danda chaathura,' Madhyamavati

Ramayana is the story of a 'Poorna Purusha' told by Narada to Valmiki.

But the killing of Vali, subjecting Sita to the fire ordeal and banishing her unilaterally, based merely on gossip are aspects often debated. Tyagaraja, however, does not touch upon them.

When the sax met swaras

Kadri Gopalnath on the challenge of introducing saxophone to the Carnatic realm and his many crossover projects

V.V. RAMANI

It was at one of my concerts in the early days of my career that I began to play with full enthusiasm and the (over)confidence typical of youth. I was lost in my own world, oblivious of the audience response. Halfway through the concert, my guru T.V. Gopalakrishnan, who was accompanying me on the mridangam, leaned closer and whispered, "Are you aware that the audience is not responding to your music? I was startled, but also realised the truth in his observation. Soon a request for playing Mohanam raga came from a rasika. I put my heart and soul into its every nuance. The thunderous applause at the end was like an adrenaline boost. That experience not only taught me to be humble, but also made me realise the importance of connecting to people," says saxophone vidwan Kadri Gopalnath, who was honoured with the title Sangeeta Choodamani by Sri Krishna Gana Sabha in August 2018.

Gopalnath's long journey began, when as an eight-year-old, during a visit to Mysore, he was fascinated by the sounds emanating from a shiny musical instrument played by a musician in the 'Mysore Band.' The band was patronised by Mummadil Krishnaraja Wodeyar, the Maharaja of Mysore and a composer of merit himself. Kadri went up to the musician and discovered that the instrument was called saxophone. So mesmerised he was that Kadri decided to learn to play the instrument. Today his name has become synon-

mous with saxophone:

At age five, he was initiated into playing the nagswaram by his father Thaniyappaya, a nagswaram vidwan in Panemangalore in Karnataka. He grew up in a musical environment nurtured by his loving mother Gangamma.

Chasing his dream

Kadri made up his mind to get a saxophone for himself at what was a princely sum of Rs. 800 in those days, and he had to plead and fight with his father, who was reluctant to part with so much money to buy an instrument about which he was clueless. Finally, Kadri had his way and the instrument was ordered from G.S.Vasan & Co. in Hyderabad. With passion, Gopalnath began to explore the instrument's potential and tweaked it to play the gamakams that are intrinsic to Carnatic music. He overcame all chal-

lenges to adapt it to Carnatic kuchcheri.

"I stopped playing the nagswaram because I wanted to focus on saxophone. However, my learning continued under the tutelage of gurus such as Gopalakrishna Iyer in Mangalore and Balakrishna Pillai in Kumbakonam, who taught me the grammar and aesthetics of Carnatic music."

Gopalnath was 15, when the priest from the temple near his house, who had listened to him playing the instrument while passing by everyday, invited him to play for a Sathyanarayana puja at the Kadri temple. This, virtually an arangetram concert, was well received and he began to get offers to perform at nearby places. Vidwan T.V.Gopalakrishnan heard his concert and invited him to come to Chennai. The city opened new avenues and Kadri pursued his musi-

cal journey with a new vigour under the guidance of TVG, who also made him perform at the Chembai Musical Centre.

Meanwhile, Kadri went for an audition at AIR. Speaking about this experience, he says, "I was nervous as I was playing an instrument not on AIR list. I was made to play in one room while the selection committee was in an adjacent room. I was asked to play raga Bhairavi. I did so, presenting the kriti 'Upacharamu' with niravals



All through my long musical journey, my only desire has been to let the saxophone get its share of fame

and swaras. When I came out, I was pleasantly surprised to see one of the panel members, Mysore Doreswami Iyengar, waiting there to tell me and when he uttered the words *Besha Vasicheppa*. Naturally, I was elated. I was selected for the 'B High' category, which meant I would be called to perform outside Karnataka too."

Radio, those days, played a major role in the success and popularity of a musician. Kadri's concert at Narada Gana Sabha, Chennai, impressed its secretary R. Krishnaswamy so much that till date, he performs the inaugural concert every December season. Well-known critic Subbudu had this to say about his music: "Yanai madhiri ullavaadhiyathai poonai madhiri pazhakirukar." And then there was no looking back.

At one of his concerts, popular film director K. Balachandar and composer A.R.Rahman were in the audience. Kadri was surprised

when he was called to the recording studio by Balachandar, who told him, "I want you to play for my film which is based on a saxophone player". The film *Duet*, starring Prabhu in the title role, took his music to the masses. "It is the most special and memorable experience. Rahman asked me to explore raga Kalyana Vasantham in varied speeds and octaves. When he finished mixing it with S.P. Balasubramaniam's voice and the song was released, the response was mindboggling. Its success could be compared to the timeless 'Singaravelane'." Heeding Subbudu's advice - *neen cimavukku poyidhathe, un sevai Carnatic musicukku romba thevai* - Kadri steered clear of cinema.

He recalls with pride the opportunity that came his way to perform at the inaugural concert of the BBC Promenade festival at Royal Albert Hall. Kadri has performed jugalbandis with many Hindustani and Carnatic musicians and fusion concerts. He is the recipient of many awards such as Padma Shri, Sangeet Natak Akademi, Kalaimamani and the Chowdiah Memorial Award. He was conferred honorary doctorates by Bangalore and Mangalore Universities.



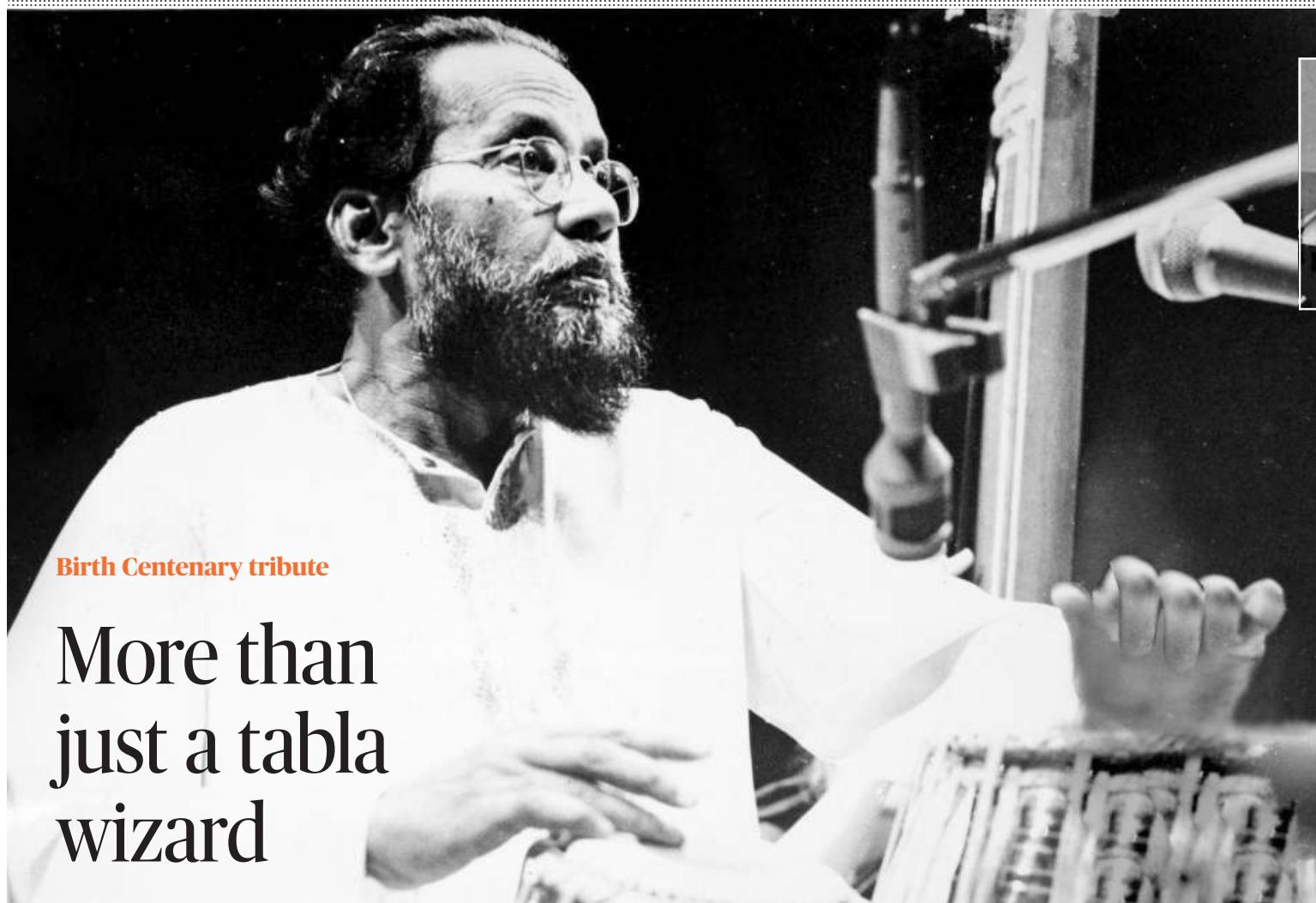
A style of his own

Though he may not have taken to the nagaswaram like his father, the musical ambience at home sowed the seeds of art and aesthetics in Kadri Gopalnath. He has always believed in going by the diktats of his heart with the guidance of his gurus. Creativity, according to the saxophone exponent, is about individual expression and identity. Besides performing kucheris, he explored the world of fusion to showcase his musical ideas on a global platform. His son, Manikanth Kadri, like his father, has chosen to tread his own musical path. He is a well-known film music composer, who has worked in Kannada, Telugu, Tulu, Tamil and Malayalam fields



Rewarding moments (Clockwise from left) A young Kadri; musicologist S.A.K. Durga conferring the Purandara Samman; receiving the Sangeet Natak Akademi award from the late President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam; receiving the Sangeeth Samrat Award instituted by Sangeetha Parishad and with M. Balamuralikrishna at an award function ■ THE HINDU ARCHIVES





Birth Centenary tribute

More than just a tabla wizard

Pt. Nikhil Ghosh was a vocalist, percussionist, educator, author and researcher. The maestro's musician-son Nayan Ghosh recalls his father's pioneering efforts

CHITRA SWAMINATHAN

The camera zooms in on the marble plaque that reads, 'Sangeet Mahabharati, foundation stone laid by Ustad Ahmed Jan Thirakwa, on October 20, 1969.' It then takes you inside a room that has photographs of Swami Vivekananda and Rabindranath Tagore. From behind a row of vertically-arranged sitars you see Pt. Nikhil Ghosh instructing a student. These visuals are from an episode of the Great Masters series, made by Mumbai Doordarshan on the tabla legend and the landmark institution of music and research he set up in the metropolis. Sangeet Mahab-

arat, originally known as Arun Sangeetalaya, was established in 1956. Twelve years later, it moved to the present premises.

Last week (January 17 to 20), Sangeet Mahabharati busted with artistes, music-lovers and Nikhilbabu's admirers, who had gathered for 'Shat Pranam', an event organised by his musician-son Nayan Ghosh to pay tribute to the maestro on his birth centenary. The performance arena was as surreal as Pt. Nikhil Ghosh's music – the stage was erected under a huge banyan tree, there was an amphitheatre-like seating with the cool evening breeze wafting across.

"The response from artistes and art-lovers has been overwhelming. It is at such moments, more than ever, that I realise how my father lives in so many hearts. Because, apart from being an accomplished musician, he was a fine human being," says Nayan Ghosh, who heads the institution.

The centenary celebration be-

gan on December 11 with the imitable Ustad Zakir Hussain's *Taalanjali* at the Nehru Centre in Mumbai, followed by Kathak ace Pt. Birju Maharaj's performance.

Born in Barisal in East Bengal (now Bangladesh), Pt. Nikhil's musical journey took him from his calm riverside village to the busy, narrow streets of Bombay. Like his sitarist-father Akshay Kumar Ghosh and dhrupad-grandfather Hara Kumar Ghosh he took to music, but his brother, the celebrated flautist Pannalal Ghosh, had a huge influence on him and played a major role in his musical choices.

Versatile master

"My father was not only a brilliant tabla player, but an amazing vocalist too. He was a master of both melody and rhythm. A traditionalist with a progressive outlook, his expansive repertoire drew from the stylistic features of Ajrada, Farukhabad, Lucknow and Punjab gharanas," says the son, who has inherited his fath-

er's versatility. Known more as a sitar and tabla exponent, Nayan Ghosh is an equally skilled vocalist, who also plays the surbahar and pakhawaj. Nayan's son Ishan is also a tabla artiste.

Pt. Nikhil kept enriching his music owing to his close association with stalwarts such as Ustad Fayyaz Khan, Pt. Omkarnath Thakur, Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan and Ustad Abdul Wahid Khan. He trained under Ustad Amir Hussain Khan, Guru Gyan Prakash Ghosh and Ustad Ahmed Jan Thirakwa.

"These legends had a deep impact on his mind and music. He was a keen observer and learner. Also, whichever part of the world he was, he never skipped his daily *riyaaz*," recalls Nayan.

But, the one thing he found difficult was to choose between being a singer and a tabla artiste. Finally, in 1945, Pt. Nikhil decided in favour of the latter with the help of his guru Ustad Thirakwa. "And then, he was unstoppable, making his mark both as an accompanist and soloist. He believed the onus is on the artiste to make every performance a musical experience. He would say percussion should not be viewed as just a mathematical exercise. And that it is not only about speed and technique. According to him, percussion can be poetic too. He insisted that irrespective of whether a musician is an instrumentalist or a vocalist, he/she should bring out the distinct personality of each composition."

A much-in-demand tabla artiste, Pt. Nikhil was also invited to perform at international festivals. He composed music for films.

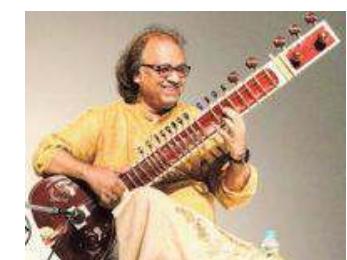


In 1974, he formed the group Traya with his sons Nayan and Druba (a sarangi player), and performed and conducted lec-dems at universities across the globe.

"During his extensive travels, he developed a close rapport with iconic musicians such as Yehudi Menuhin, Benjamin Britten, Larry Adler, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington and Dave Brubeck," says Nayan.

Wide perspective

"My father would make us (sister Tulika is a trained vocalist) listen to Beethoven, Bach and American Country music. He hated building boundaries around art. He would say open-mindedness is the way forward in life. Someone who believed in wholesome development of personality, he didn't let us give up academics because we were into music. He even encouraged us to pursue sports. He was an athlete, while my uncle (Pannalal Ghosh) was a



boxing champion and an archer."

At the peak of his career, Pt. Nikhil decided to devote much of his time to teaching. He was eager to share with young enthusiasts the treasure he had assimilated. He developed a teaching method and improved upon the notation system established by Pt. V.D. Paluskar and Pt. V.N. Bhatkhande by using Roman letters and symbols. His efforts resulted in the book *Fundamentals of Raga and Tala with a New System of Notation* in 1968. He followed it up with a *Manuscript Book* for easy notation.

"He didn't stop at that. In 1961, he undertook the Herculean task of documenting and compiling an Encyclopaedia on music that would have minute details about forms of music, ragas, talas, biographies, technical terms, history, instruments, gharanas and more. Around 250 scholars were involved in this assignment. Sadly, he passed away in 1995 before completing it. But we ensured the work did not stop. His dream project was released in 2011, 50 years after he began, as *The Oxford Encyclopaedia of the Music of India*. Pt. Nikhil Ghosh has left his name in the pages of India's musical history," says Nayan.

(From top)
Pt. Nikhil Ghosh, Pt. Pannalal Ghosh, Nayan Ghosh, Pt. Nikhil performing with Ustad Vilayat Khan and Ustad Bismillah Khan ■ PHOTOS: NAYAN GHOSH



A true devotee

Despite his brilliance as a vocalist, composer and writer, Pandit Arun Bhaduri remained uncelebrated

MEENA BANERJEE

The response to 'Remembering the SurSadhak' was overwhelming at the packed to capacity Sisir Manch (Nandan Complex) of Kolkata. 'Sur Sadhak' organised this event to pay tribute to Pandit Arun Bhaduri (7 October 1943 - 17 December 2018). Numerous dignitaries from the worlds of music and literature came to offer their homage to this committed guru who remained unacceptably uncelebrated despite his brilliance as a vocalist, composer and writer. And the core of all their emotional tributes underlined one single aspect: 'Arun Bhaduri was simplicity personified.'

It did prove that simplicity is a heart warming virtue even in this era of sheer shrewdness; but it takes a stoic persona like the late maestro who faced an uneven music all his life and yet refused to compromise with his values and convictions.

Despite being blessed with a rich voice, and warm, winsome personality with an incisive sense of music and literature, having won laurels as a thinking vocalist, brilliant lyricist-composer, author of numerous features, short stories and even a novel ("Astaraagini"), this incorrigible philanthropist and self-styled homoeopath sincerely believed that he had 'nothing grand to offer', simply because he hailed from a non-musical family settled in Lalitakuri, a small, remote village of Murshidabad's Behrampore, and started learning serious classical music at the 'old age of twenty'!

"And that is why he would go out of his way to help and teach students like me who came from rural areas," admitted an emotionally charged Tushar Dutta, a renowned vocalist from the stable of ITC Sangeet Research Academy, the alma mater of Pandit Arun Bhaduri as well. "Guruji literally adopted me as his ward when I refused to go to another SRA-guru though I was categorically told that a 'Bhaduri-disciple will not get the scholarship! Much later, Guruji advised me to opt out and accept the offer when I was made to face the same dilemma again. These games could not dent his reputation as the most sought after guru. It is a widely accepted fact that almost thirty percent of well-known performing musicians of Kolkata today were initially groomed by Pandit Arun Bhaduri!"

There is not even an iota of exaggeration in this candid statement. In this respect he followed the footsteps of his dadaguru Pandit A Kanan - another self-made, great musician who later remained with SRA as a Guru. But Bhaduri's deeply entrenched modesty did not allow him to believe that he was anywhere near his mentor's glorious stature though, without a second thought, stalwarts like Pandit Buddhadev Dasgupta would recommend his name to every aspirant.

"The dogged devotion towards music and related discipline was his greatest virtue," admitted Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty. "Both of us had joined SRA as scholars and we shared a verandah of one of the huts within the premises. Arun-da would never miss his riyaz and was extremely punctual. That inspired me to do the same. As a composer he was as good as our Guruji Jnan Prakash Ghosh. I have sung several of his immortal composition under his direction which became extremely popular in the Bangla Gaan category. His raga-bandishes are also matchless with their raga-indicating phrases and significant blank spaces - needed for elaborations."

Chakrabarty's analytical assessment reminded me of an exhaustive (unpublished) interview in which Arunda evaluated his own musical thought-process very impassively. A short excerpt will not be out of place:

"My guru Md Abu Daud was a disciple of Kanan Saheb, who had picked up Ustad Abdul Karim Khan's gayaki by listening to his records and earned fame even before he became a gandabandhu disciple of Ustad Amir Khan. I, therefore, imbibed Kirana's essence which was further nurtured by Ustad Sagiruddin Khan and Guru Jnan Prakash Ghosh. Later, as an SRA scholar, I was put under Ustad Ishtiaq Hussain Khan of Rampur Gharana; but soon realised that this did not suit my musical temperament. Instead, I was greatly influenced by Ustad Amir Khan and Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan's singing."

All these influences shaped up my style consisting of a few Rampur gharana-compositions, slow badhat a la Amir Khansaheb with my own devotional feelings, certain effects of slow medium behlawa of Bade Ghulam Ali Khansaheb; sargam taans and fast taans following the styles of Amir Khansaheb. I moulded all these according to my personality and this won approval from someone like Pandit Nikhil Banerjee!"

And why only the sitar legend, the natural beauty of his soulful raga elaboration and flowing taans captivated all. According to Pandit Samar Saha, once Arunda's Delhi concert had to be extended on heavy demand; but gradually he was relegated in the background because he did not learn the craft of selling his music - a subject he worshipped with disarming honesty. "He knew nothing beyond music," said Shamik Bhaduri, his son, "and this was exploited by all; even I made him sing without any honorarium in my college fest. SurSadhak is his nom de plume and as a true sadhak (devotee) he never approached anyone for any favour whatsoever. But his life exemplifies that goodness prevails. The State Government recognised his contribution and bestowed on him the Banga Bibhushan Samman in 2014."

He is sure to live in the music of his innumerable disciples, in his melodic compositions and in his literary works.



The abiding charm of Krishna's shehnai

For Pt. Krishna Ram Chaudhary, music was his prayer

MANJARI SINHA

Pt. Krishna Ram Chaudhary, the melodious 'sur' of shehnai, breathed his last in Lucknow on 16th January. His last rights were performed at the Manikarnika Ghat in Kashi, a city where he lived merged in his sadhana all his life.

Pt. Krishna Ram was among those rare musicians who recognise and believe that true swara is the bedrock of good music. He went further and developed a finely cultivated timbre to show that he cared for the shruti which is the life-line of Indian ragas. The incisive tunefulness of his shehnai had instantly captured my attention during 'Sur Benaras', the centenary celebration of Ustad Bismillah Khan, organised by the Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) in 2016.

His melodious aalap in Bi-hag and the bewitching bandish, "Lat uljhi suljha ja re balam...." followed by the lilting Dadra "Dagar bich kaise chalo mag roke Kanhaiya Be-peer..." still lingers in my memory and many of those present that evening at Nagri Pracharini Mandal auditorium, Varanasi. The piercing 'sur' of his shehnai and the unassuming demeanour of this self-effacing musician made me catch up with him backstage.

Early start

He was born and brought up in a musical family of Benaras. His father Buddha Lal Chaudhary was the disciple of Bade Ramdas ji. He was a well known shehnai exponent of Benaras. He not only played but also made shehnai. Krishna Ram was hardly five-year-old when he made a very small instrument for him, even smaller than the sundari, and started teaching him how to play it. He also taught him how to play the flute.

During the interaction, Pt. Krishna Ram remembered how his father used to make the reed for shehnai, especially for his own instrument. We would travel to a small village in Bihar named Dumraon where this shehnai leaf grew in abundance in and around the water ponds.

He would cut the soft leaves, measure them to suit his requirement, chisel them on steel needles, then dry them in the sun and would work on them until the 'pat-



Genial master Pt. Krishna Ram Chaudhary ■ THE HINDU

tur' sounded in perfect tunefulness.

He even taught shehnai and this art to his younger brother Ram Lal. Krishna Ram learnt for some times from his uncle too, but Ram Lal was so good at playing shehnai that he joined the Prithvi Theatre as music director and left for Mumbai.

Speaking about the system of his musical training, he said, "My father and guru first taught me vocal music starting with Bhairav in the morning and Yaman in the evening. He would give me 'sargam', 'palas', etc in both these ragas and made me practice it to perfection. Then he would ask me to play the same exercises on my instrument. I would practice on my own in the morning from 6 a.m. to 12 noon and then he would teach me in the evenings."

He was attracted to the shehnai of Ud. Bismillah Khan from childhood. He was eleven when his father noticed his fascination towards Khan Saheb. "He was so perceptive that he especially taught me a Bandish (composition) of Khan Saheb in raga Todi, from his latest LP, released by the HMV company," reminisced Pt. Krishna Ram during the interview.

He lived in Kabir-Chaura, which is known to be the mohalla of musicians till date. His grandfather was the disciple of Pt. Shiv-Sahay. He was a 'Ramatayani' who used to sing the Ramayana in classical ragas.

His passing away is a great loss to the world of shehnai. Let us hope and pray that his disciples carry the tradition forward as a true ode to their departed guru.

He also taught him singing for some time. He was nearly 12 or 13 when his uncle made a name for himself after playing for the film 'Nagin', that became the talk of the town. "I practised not only his tunes but also the tunes of Ud. Bismillah Khan played for the films. People would invite me to play on occasion of Puja, weddings and other ceremonies," said Pt. Krishna Ram.

This was the time when he developed maturity and started seeing new paths in the practised tunes. Then Pt. Mahadev Prasad Mishra took him under his tutelage and his mind and imagination took wings. "I was 16-year-old when I topped the All India Radio (AIR) competition in shehnai and received the gold medal by the then president of India Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. This achievement gave me a special grade to play from AIR stations all over India." Gradually, he was promoted to A grade and went on to become a 'Top' grade artiste of AIR and Doordarshan.

Bestowed with the SNA award and Padma Shri, Pt. Krishna Ram always maintained that music was his pooja. "Whatever has come to me, is due to God's grace and the blessings of my gurus and the elders."

His passing away is a great loss to the world of shehnai. Let us hope and pray that his disciples carry the tradition forward as a true ode to their departed guru.



Visually appealing Work of Satish Gujral that will be showcased at the India Art Fair

Making an impression

The upcoming India Art Fair will see extraordinary works of seasoned and versatile artists like Satish Gujral and Jitish Kallat

Veteran painter, sculptor and muralist Satish Gujral creates his artistic impressions only after understanding their nuances and the history behind them. This gives his works depth and sets them apart from the works of his contemporaries. Now his solo show will be one of the main highlights at the India Art Fair, NSIC Exhibition Ground, Okhla, from 31st January to 3rd February.

The show will bring together artworks from the personal collection of Satish Gujral inspired by mythology and glimpse of post Partition series of 1950. He created artworks with modern techniques that were inspired by Indian culture and tradition and Indian architecture. Brass, burnt wood and canvas, have all been the raw materials for his creative genius.

The exhibition will then move to the Chawla Art Gallery, Square One Mall, Saket till 31st March.

The first section of Nature Morte's booth at the Fair will be dedicated to a new body of work by artist Jitish Kallat. Well-known for works in all mediums, Kallat will display a group of works from his latest series entitled "Palindrome Anagram" paintings. Five large mixed media works on linen explore the intersections of scientific and diagrammatic imageries, deftly combined into puzzle-like combinations that speak of history, geometry, and natural forces. Along with this will be a suite of smaller works, entitled "Emergence," comprising water colours and acrylic on gesso panels. These works seem to have come into being without human intervention, alluding to weather patterns and fossilised remains.

'White Residue'

Meanwhile, work of three important contemporary artists, Ravinder Reddy, Ravikumar Kashi and Shanthamani Muddaiah will also be showcased at the Fair. The showcase includes Ravinder Reddy's series of heads titled "Muthyalu" in fibreglass and copper gilded, Ravikumar Kashi's "White Residue" series of white on white relief drawings, which is a result of his exploration in tactility of handmade paper.

Presented by Gallery Sumukha, the work will include Shanthamani Muddaiah's "Fire Script", inspired by the city dwellings that rise vertically and it invariably go's that much deeper into the earth for natural resources, to fuel one's activities, will also be put on display. The material (carbon) wood charcoal is a signifier and the act of fire scripts the material with its act of burning. This year, one of Shanthamani's finest works, 'Wave' has been selected for the 'Project' booth at India Art Fair.

Kathak on canvas

A recent event organised by the Rasaja Foundation saw the much-needed conversation between the visual and performing arts

SHRINKHLA SAHAI

It seemed like the setting for a regular Kathak performance. A closer look revealed that the circular open-air stage was fanned by four canvases. The usual interaction between the dancer and the audience was accompanied by an underlying dialogue between the dance and the canvas.

Celebrating the birth centenary of artist and art historian, Jaya Appasamy, Rasaja Foundation organised 'Imprint'- a confluence of visual art and dance at Bikaner House, Delhi. Acclaimed for her innovative dance costumes, Sandhya Raman conceptualised the concert as a collaborative ground for the visual and performing arts that would culminate in an art exhibition in February. The dance recital by Gauri Diwakar was accompanied by a performance of live art-making by four visual artists (Aditi Aggarwal, Anubhav Som, Tanya Dobhal, Surbhi Raina) as they captured the dance on easel.

As the Secretary of Rasaja Foundation, Raman felt this would be a befitting tribute to its founder, "With this concert we wanted to establish an artistic exchange, a visual statement of the dance. The challenge for these young artists is to explore new ways of capturing dance, visually interpret and express aspects of the performance."

On stage

Gauri Diwakar chose a simple music composition revolving around a straightforward theme. The sringarbhakti piece dedicated to Krishna formed the musical edifice for the evening. The uthaan, paran and aamad sections rhythmically revolved around the dhaivat note. Diwakar alternated between moments of strength and subtlety. The choreography had splashes of sur-



Delicate dance steps Gauri Diwakar ■ COURTESY: AMITABHA BHATTACHARYA

prising silences and well-balanced pauses that could have been further enhanced through expressive gazes.

The dancer explored Teentaal with the tukda, seguing into 23 chakkars and concluding with brief tihaais. The gat nikkas depicted 'ghunghat ke prakaar'. The different gaits were executed with slow, eloquent grace. Instead of resorting to the usual rhythmic acrobatics in the jugalbandi section, Diwakar chose to enthral with the most gentle footwork, lowering the volume of the ghungroo so that the audience sat up to watch the gentle movements in rapt attention.

Over the years, Gauri Diwakar has established her distinctive dance style - a sophisticated demeanour finely balanced with simplicity in technique. Neat, precise footwork is rounded off with nuanced flourish. One hopes to see

the dancer present a wider repertoire that would showcase versatility in abhinaya as well.

The concert concluded with an energetic performance by Diwakar's young students.

On canvas

Different aspects of the dance caught each visual artist's imagination, lending itself to a wide range of artistic expressions. While some focused on the dancer's portraiture, another artist attempted to capture the moving form. Space and time colluded as impressions in one composition, while another sought to interpret the movement patterns through different colour registers.

One of the visual artists, Aditi Aggarwal, is a visiting faculty at the College of Art, New Delhi, and is pursuing a doctorate from the University of Delhi. She chose to focus on the rhythm of the dance and capture the extensive footwork through abstract linear strokes with acrylic on canvas. "The idea was to create variation within sameness," explained the artist, "the placement of the strokes was important to create images of the nuances in rhythm." Working with the strong rhythmic framework of classical dance for the first time, the artist experimented with the intensity and shape of linear strokes. Alternating dotted lines with thick strokes, she worked in black and white, with occasional splashes of orange and red derived from the dancer's costume.

Strokes of dance

For the visual artists the works are the first draft. These are works-in-progress that would be the take-off point for them to dwell on the finer nuances of pictorial representation of dance, music, movement, rhythm and form. The art works can be seen as the afterlife of a performance, and would soon find a new dimension as part of an upcoming exhibition.

The event sought to rekindle a much-needed conversation between the visual and performing arts. The journey from stage to gallery and concert to canvas opens up possibilities of experiencing art as infinite reflections.



A life in art

Trained in fine arts at Santiniketan, Jaya Appasamy was mentored by stalwarts like Nandalal Bose and Binode Behari Mukherjee. Her artistry was matched by talent for incisive critical writing on art, further sharpened by education abroad. On her return to India, she joined the academia, teaching at the Department of Fine Arts, Delhi University, and later at her alma mater- Santiniketan. Alongside, she also emerged as an art critic with a prolific oeuvre on contemporary artists, folk traditions and art history.

It is striking that Appasamy was also an avid collector of Company style art. The Company paintings of the 18th-19th centuries by British painters documented life and culture in India. Several of these works revolve around the 'dancing girl' who was an intriguing character for the British within the cultural fabric of India. Mostly seen as the native exotic, the 'nautch girl' was socially situated at the margins of respectable society, yet assumed to be artistically proficient.

Western dance-ballet

During the same era, elsewhere in the world, dance was similarly inspiring art. For instance, French painter Edgar Degas is remembered and revered for his paintings of Western classical dance-ballet. While his works brought to light the dance world as a professional arena based on skill, practice and talent, Company paintings attempted to document the dancing girls in India, with their costume, jewellery and glamour.

A contemporary collaboration between the visual and performing arts is more challenging and open to interpretation. While the visual form can freeze the transient and ephemeral performance before it is lost in time, the moving body as a muse also promises to impart energy and vivacity to the static art work.

Hindi Belt

A new flight

In a bid to reach out to non-Hindi speaking readers, "Hans" has come out with an annual English edition that will feature translated versions of celebrated stories, published over the years in the popular Hindi literary magazine

KULDEEP KUMAR

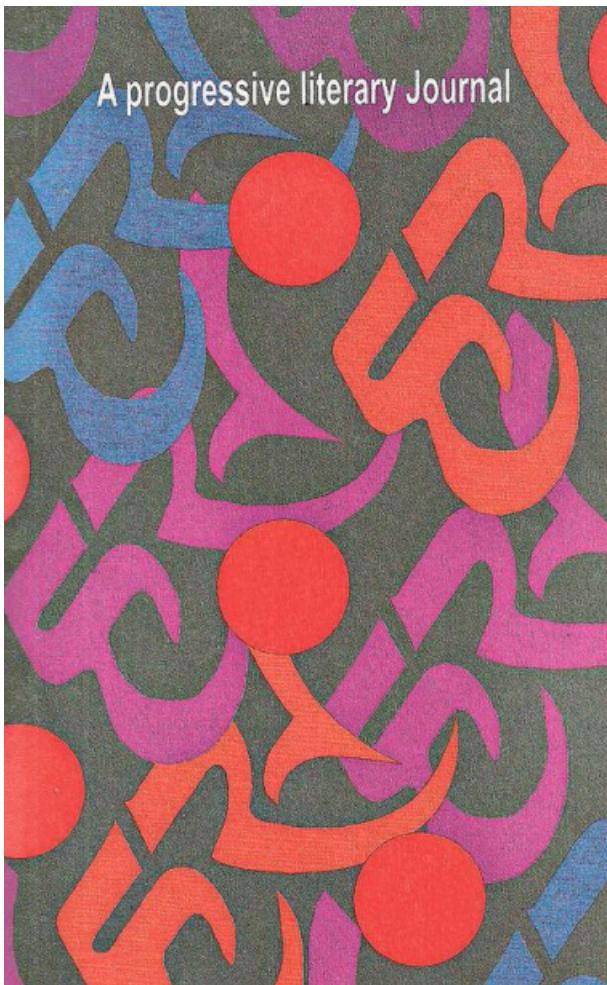
At a time when eyebrows are being raised at the Bharatiya Jnanpith's decision to bestow its prestigious award on Amitava Ghosh, an Indian novelist whose impressive oeuvre is in English, on the ground that English is not an "Indian" language, it is heartening to note that a progressive literary journal like Hans has decided to embrace English so as to reach a wider audience and connect with non-Hindi speaking readers. As its publisher Rachana Yadav explains the decision, Hans was in search for a language "that connects people of different linguistic backgrounds. Connects people of different age groups. And connects people trans-continentially."

Premchand's journal

"Fortunately", she makes so bold as to assert, "There is one such language which does this to a large extent. Unfortunately, it is not Hindi." Premchand, perhaps the best-known Hindi writer the world over, had launched Hans in 1930 in the face of tremendous financial problems. He died in 1936 and the journal survived for 20 years before closing down in 1956. In 1985, Rajendra Yadav, a member of the famed triumvirate of Mohan Rakesh-Kamleshwar-Rajendra Yadav of the Nai Kahani (New Story) movement, decided to revive the journal and began consultations with like-minded friends and Hindi writers.



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Next year, he launched it and devoted himself almost completely to this adventurous venture while neglecting his own creative writing. A man of strong secular, liberal and democratic views, Rajendra Yadav soon emerged as the most effective public intellectual in Hindi and turned Hans into a democratic platform of public discussion of contemporary social, cultural, literary and political issues and offered space to contending views. Often, most of the letters to the editor as well as articles that he chose to publish differed with his and the journal's views that he so fearlessly expressed in his bold and provocative editorials. Over the years, Hans published many short stories that later acquired near-iconic status such as Uday Prakash's "Tirichh".

Until his death in 2013, Rajendra Yadav continued to play the role of a conscience keeper and edited the journal with distinction. Earlier this month, editor Sanjay Sahay and publisher Rachana Yadav, who happens to be an exponent of Kathak besides being the only child of

celebrated fiction writer Manju Bhandari and the late Rajendra Yadav, launched the first edition of Hans in English. The masthead describes it as a "translated collection of celebrated stories published in Hans (1986-1990)" and the editor's note informs us that it will be an annual event henceforth. Well-known writer Namita Gokhale has written the foreword for the maiden issue. As Sahay informs us in the editor's note, "this idea was in the works for a while and was initially generated during a wild brainstorming session in 2012 between Rajendra Yadav and myself. He and I had a reflective conversation regarding the expansion of Hindi readership and its evolution.

Rajendra ji who had created and promoted a whole new generation of Hindi writers was well aware of the challenges facing Hindi literature readership. I had brought up the idea of publishing an annual special issue of the best stories from Hans translated in English so that the contemporary writing in Hindi receives a wider

exposure. Rajendra Yadav liked this idea."

Yadav's demise the next year threw a spanner in the works and the idea could turn into reality only now. Although Namita Gokhale has written an otherwise readable foreword, she has associated the Nai Kahani movement with Rajendra Yadav's Hans while the fact remains that the movement had lost its steam by the mid-1960s and new writers like Mahendra Bhalla, Gyanranjan, Doodhnath Singh, Vijaymohan Singh, Kashinath Singh, Vijay Chauhan and Ravindra Kalia had emerged on the scene with a different sensibility and with a fresh idiom and diction. Therefore, it's rather anachronistic to assign the 13 short stories collected in this first annual issue to the Nai Kahani movement. As Rachana Yadav informs us, all the 13 stories were the favourites of Rajendra Yadav. The issue opens with a wonderful story of Mannu Bhandari titled "Hero, Villain, Comedian" that was published in the August, 1986 issue of Hans. It has been ably translated by Ranjana Srivastava. Other stories in this collection include "Tirichh" by Uday Prakash (translated by Ira Pande), Tirbeni's "Toddy-grove" by Sanjeev (translated by Ashok Kumar), "Meera Danced" by Mridula Garg (translated by the writer herself) and "Femme Fatale of Shivmurti" (translated by Ghanshyam Sharma).

Semblance of balance

While the Hans in English is a tastefully produced and ably edited issue, one cannot help pointing out a few things that leave something to be desired. One feels that it would have been better if the original titles of the stories had also been given. Also, instead of giving the postal address and other contact details of the writers and the translators, it would have been better if short introductions had been offered to the non-Hindi speaking readers who may not be familiar with their names as well as their backgrounds. One hopes that this initiative will also go a long way to introduce a semblance of balance into the love-hate relationship between Hindi enthusiasts and the English language.

BOOKWORM 11

Telling Voices Bonding with laughter

Neuroscientist Sophie Scott explains in a scientific way why laughter is a common phenomenon in all mammals and is not restricted to humans alone

SUDHAMAI REGUNATHAN

There is more to laughter than understanding it as just an expression of joy. In fact, neuroscientist Sophie Scott says laughter, "... is really an ancient evolutionary system that mammals have evolved to make and maintain social bonds, and clearly to regulate emotions, to make ourselves feel better. It's not something specific to humans - it's a really ancient behaviour which really helps us regulate how we feel and makes us feel better."

She adds: "Everybody underestimates how often they laugh..." And that laughing is most often a means of building social ties. Scott's research shows, "Laughter as a sound is much more like an animal call than it is like speech...to understand laughter, you have to look at the ribcage..." The ribcage is used while breathing and talking. In talking, you use very fine movements of the ribcage to squeeze the air out. When laughing, Scott says, "those same muscles start to contract very regularly, and you get this very marked sort of zig-zagging, and that's just squeezing the air out of you. It literally is that basic a way of making a sound...You find laughter throughout mammals...humans, primates, rats - you find it associated with things like tickling. That's the same for humans. You find it associated with play, and all mammals play. And wherever you find it, it's associated with interactions."

**Laughing in company**

Scott says that Robert Provine had done a lot of work on the why of laughter and according to him, "You are 30 times more likely to laugh if you are with somebody else than if you're on your own... And when we laugh with people, we're hardly ever actually laughing at jokes. You are laughing to show people that you understand them, that you agree with them, Laughter has an enormously behaviourally contagious effect. You can catch laughter from somebody else, and you are more likely to catch laughter off somebody else if you know them. So it's still modulated by this social context. You have to think about the social meaning of laughter because that's where its origins lie." Scott makes you hear two kinds of laughter; one that is real uncontrolled laughter and the other which is polite and posed. She found that through much of young adulthood we are not so good at differentiating between the two. The skill hones with age.

However, the aged are also less susceptible to contagious laughter! Scott also studied the brains hearing both the kinds of laughter, "...the brain areas that respond more to the real laughs, seems to be associated with greater auditory processing of these novel sounds...the brain here is just listening to the laughter...In contrast, when you hear somebody laughing in a posed way, you are mentalizing, thinking about what somebody else is thinking, trying to understand it in context, even if, as far as you are concerned, at that point in time, it has not necessarily anything to do with you, you still want to know why those people are laughing."

Festival favourite

In search of Chamkila

Kabir Singh Chowdhary's *Mehsampur* traces the journey of the 'Elvis of Punjab' who was shot dead on stage

MURTAZA ALI KHAN

A refreshing blend of documentary and fiction, Kabir Singh Chowdhary's *Mehsampur* recently won the Golden Sparrow for Best Editing at the 2019 Diorama International Film Festival in New Delhi. The meta-film follows Devrath, a filmmaker from Mumbai, who travels to Punjab to make a film on Amar Singh Chamkila – a controversial Punjabi singer, composer, and songwriter who was killed, along with his wife and singing partner Amarjot, by an unidentified gang of rifle-men back in a village called Mehsampur in Punjab in 1988.

The attack wasn't without a series of death threats that Chamkila used to get for singing double meaning songs about alcoholism, drug abuse, hyper-masculinity, extra-marital affairs which were considered obscene by a section of society. But his popularity amidst his fans and supporters was undisputed. While the murder mystery remains unsolved even after three decades, Chamkila's music and lyrics continue to live on, if anything they have only grown in popularity and stature. *Mehsampur* is a testament to the continuing fasci-

nation for the controversial figure of Chamkila who is often referred to as the 'Elvis of Punjab'.

"Chamkila was always there on my mind. I remember reading about him during my school days back in Punjab. I was fascinated that some artist was actually shot dead on stage. He felt like our own version of Nirvana or the 27 Club that exists of all the rockstars that have died at 27. Also I used to wonder why they called him the Elvis of Punjab. During our research we met all the real people associated with Chamkila's life and they are all there in our film," explains Kabir. While the tragic story of Chamkila's cold-blooded killing was always embedded in Kabir's mind the form came much later. "I wondered what if some filmmaker from Mumbai with limited time wants to make the film, how he would use



New lease of life A scene from *Mehsampur*; (below) Kabir Singh Chowdhary

the camera. . Camera is often projected in the market as a weapon. It's like a gun almost. Even the clothes that a cameraman wears are battle fatigued like cargo pants and cargo shirts. You aim, point and shoot. So that's how the whole form came to me," reveals Kabir who has also served as an assistant director on Tarun Mansukhani's *Dostana* and art director on Ayan Mukherjee's *Wake Up Sid* and Dilip Mehta's *Cooking with Stella*.

A major part of the film's research dealt with collecting information from the old associates and acquaintances of Chamkila.

"Our method of research was very kind. It was more

about hanging out with them and spending hours and hours with them like figuring out their dreams and what their reality is now because at the time he was murdered Chamkila was at the height of his fame and working with him they were at the top of their game but now they have been forced to live in poverty. The film builds on those stories of Chamkila that not everyone would know like he used to drink moonshine and smoke beedis, his household and the spaces that he used to inhabit, or the stuff he ate just before he was killed. So it's focusing on Chamkila but with a different perspective," asserts Kabir.

Kabir doesn't agree with

Chamkila's detractors who describe his songs as obscene. "What I love about Chamkila and couldn't use a lot of that is his music because the music rights are with Saregama and are very expensive. If I wanted his music in the film that would be like three times the budget of my entire film. I feel in a way they cracked performance. Amarjot and Chamkila liked just coming on stage and communicating with each other. So I don't think he sang dirty songs because every time Chamkila said something crass or vulgar there was always Amarjot to put him in line. Every time they came on stage, they communicated about their house-

hold problems or what is happening in the environment, and people loved it more than the other musicians of the time who were singing folk music which was not really the lyrics of what was happening in Punjab in the '80s. All those other artists came as stars and projected themselves as stars when they made the entry but with Chamkila and Amarjot it was a household dialogue. It was almost as if a Brechtian performance was happening there which I love about them," explains Kabir.

According to Kabir, *Mehsampur* is not just about Chamkila but it is also about filmmaking and his own struggles as an independent filmmaker.

Struggle of filmmaker

"When I used to go to Mehsampur and hang out there, they used to think that I was with some big production because so many people were planning a film on Chamkila. So it used to upset me when they asked me if I were with the other crew. You see after having spent two weeks in Punjab, I had finally reached the right place and had discovered not only the guy who was in Mehsampur at the time of the shooting but also the person whose wedding Chamkila was singing at. So the film is also a reaction of what I was feeling as a filmmaker at the time," asserts Kabir.

Understanding absence

Adoor Gopalakrishnan talks about Mrinal Sen and his films

ATIF KHAN

"Mrinal da lived a complete life. He was like a teacher to me even though he never taught me at Film and Television Institute of India. He always treated me as a younger brother and it was a close relationship even outside of the cinema," said auteur Adoor Gopalakrishnan who was recently in Delhi for "The Absence Trilogy: A Tribute to Mrinal Sen" where Mrinal Sen's films were screened at the India Habitat Centre.

The retrospective showcased three of Sen's masterpieces: "Ek Din Pratidin", "Kharij" and "Ek Din Achanak". Considered amongst his best works, these are sensitive portrayals of the mid-



Maestro's masterpiece A scene from "Kharij"; (right) Adoor Gopalakrishnan with Mrinal Sen ■ FILE PHOTO

dle-class psyche. Each in its own way deals centrally with the idea of absence.

"Ek Din Achanak" depicts a family trying to find the male head of the family, a retired professor, who went missing after a series of events frustrates him. It con-

trives long dialogue sequences, hard-hitting social realities, assumptions combined with captivating acting, particularly by young Shabana Azmi who emerged as the only bread earner of the otherwise shattered family. In "Ek Din Pratidin", social

conventions and moral values come to the fore when a daughter, the sole earner of the family, fails to return home. The feeling of compassion and anguish return again and again as Sen tries to understand the fluid mindset of the middle-class.

"Kharij" explores guilt and suspicion when a child servant dies in a mysterious circumstance where the employer tries to pacify and manipulate the situation.

Issues raised in his films are still potent enough to generate conversations after film screenings. "The generation after him is indebted to him because he has given Indian cinema a completely new ground. His work has paved way for future filmmakers to explore society and its va-

lues," asserted Adoor.

"He never stopped making films and kept on working even when most of his contemporaries retired. Throughout his career, he never thought of money or fame. He did not even have a flat of his own. Later in life, his son gifted him a flat," added Adoor.

Somebody who spread joyous vibes around him,



Adoor said Sen was not worried about anything. "He was completely immersed in his ideas and his films."

Sen will also be remembered for his political films which propelled audience to question the system. His Calcutta trilogy saw the city through an astute political lens.

"He was a man of high integrity because he believed in humanism. He did not become a member of any party which showed that he kept his freedom to himself. I call Mrinal Sen, Satyajit Ray and Ritwik Ghatak, a troika, a Russian vehicle propelled by three horses, which is an apt comparison for three filmmakers who took India cinema to a great height," summed up Adoor.