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THE HINDU on Sunday

FEBRUARY 16, 2020

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

DELHI
CITY EDITION
32 pages • ₹15.00

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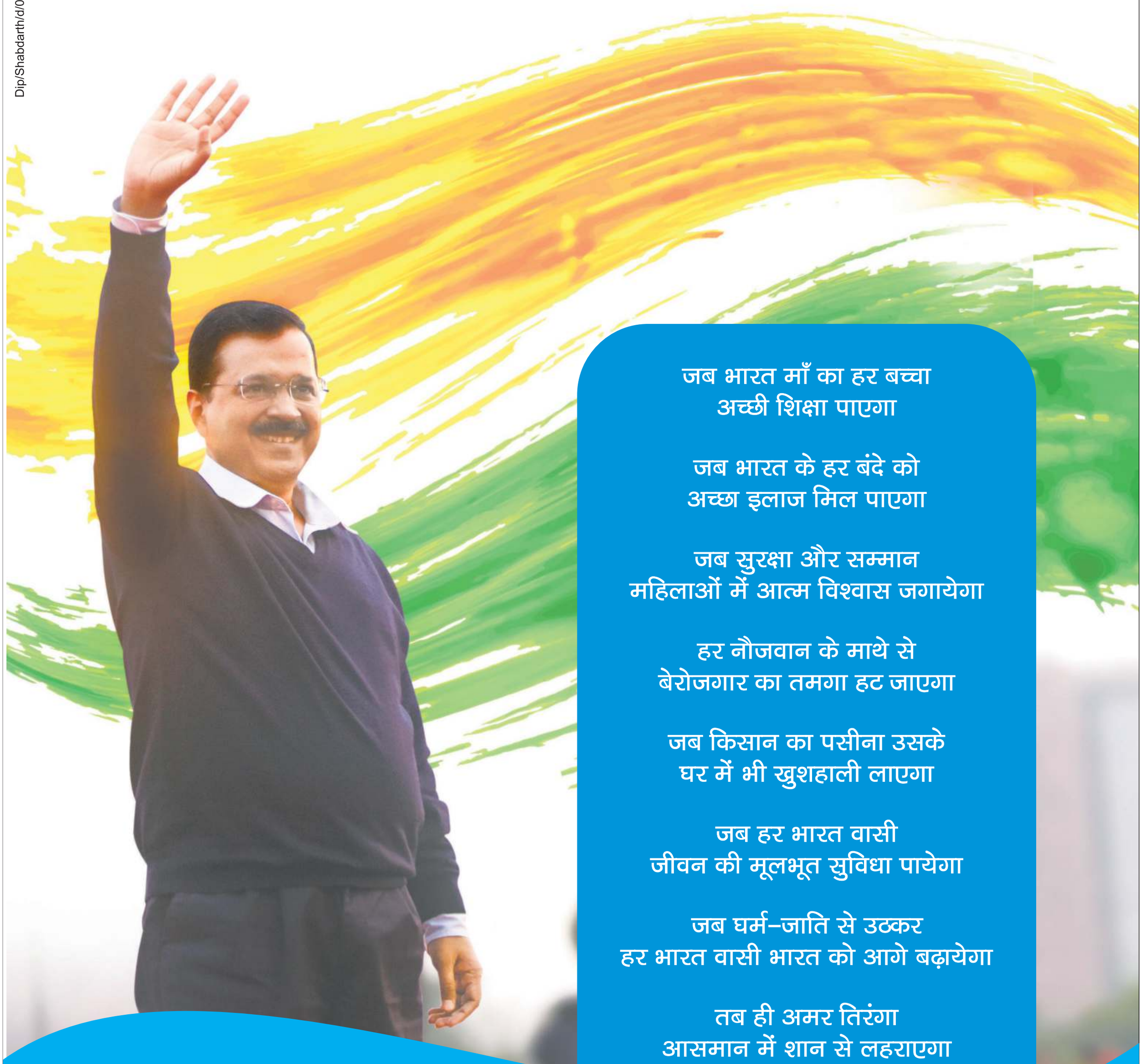
THANK YOU DELHI!

You are cordially invited for the oath taking ceremony of Chief Minister Shri. Arvind Kejriwal

on Sunday, 16 February, 10 a.m. at Ramleela Maidan



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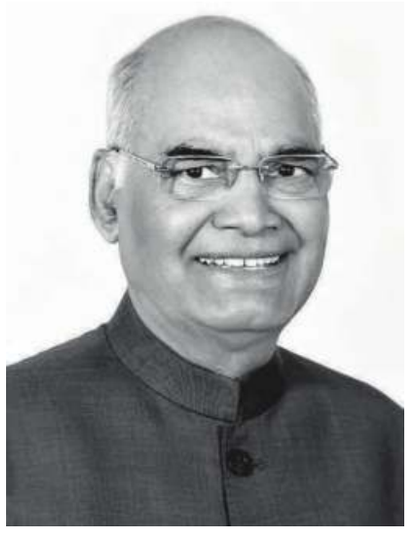
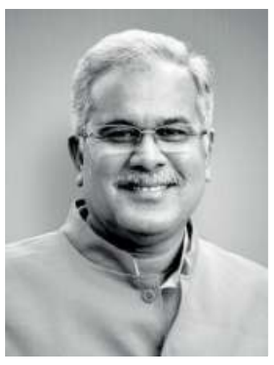


Shri Ram Nath Kovind
Hon'ble President of India

Hon'ble Ranil Wickremesinghe
Former Prime Minister of Sri Lanka



Hon'ble Bhupesh Baghel
Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh

M K Narayanan
Former National Security Adviser

Manish Tewari
MP & Congress Party Leader

Rajeev Chandrasekhar
Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha

Anil Kumble
Former Indian Cricketer, Coach & Commentator

Ashwini Nachappa
Former Indian Tracking Champion

Nirupama Rao
Former Foreign Secretary

Ajit Ranade
Economist

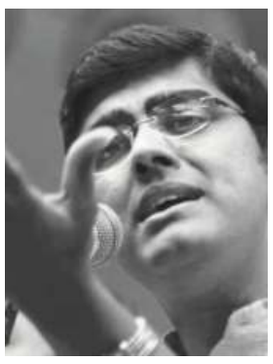
Max Rodenbeck
South Asia Bureau Chief, The Economist

Taapsee Pannu
Actor

Manisha Koirala
Actor

Papa CJ
Author & Stand-up Comedian

Anil Srinivasan
Pianist & Educator



Sikkil Gurucharan
Musician

Mithila Palkar
Actor

Srinath Raghavan
Professor of International Relations & History, Ashoka University

Jaimini Bhagwati
Former Ambassador, World Bank Treasury Specialist & Author

Tejasvi Surya
Member of Parliament

and many more...

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Ramlila Maidan decked up for Kejriwal swearing-in ceremony
page 3

Nadda summons Giriraj Singh over controversial remarks on Deoband
page 10

Sri Lanka objects to U.S. blacklisting Army chief Shavendra Silva
page 12

Indian speedsters Mohd. Shami and Jasprit Bumrah rattle New Zealand XI
page 17

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NEARBY

Four children killed as school van catches fire

CHANDIGARH

Four children died while eight were rescued from a mini-van of a private school which caught fire at Longowal in Punjab's Sangrur on Saturday.

NORTH ▸ PAGE 5

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Masood Azhar & family missing, Pak. tells financial watchdog FATF

JeM chief was listed as a designated terrorist by UNSC1267 Committee

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Pakistan has informed the global terror financing watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) that Masood Azhar, founder of terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), and his family are "missing".

Azhar was listed as a designated terrorist by the United Nations Security Council 1267 Committee on May 1, 2019.

Pakistan has claimed that there were only 16 UN designated terrorists in Pakistan, of whom "seven are dead".

Of the nine who are alive, seven had applied to the UN for exemption from financial and travel restrictions. They are Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief Hafiz Saeed, LeT financiers and members Haji Muhammad Ashraf, Zafar Iqbal, Hafiz Abdul Salam Bhuttavi, Yahya Mohammad Mujahid and Arif Qasmani, and al-Qaeda financier Abdul Rehman. The restrictions involve freezing of bank accounts.

Pakistan has said 5,500 bank accounts of individuals and members of groups listed by the UN committees were frozen but added that "these individuals were allowed to work for wages," unless arrested in criminal cases. Pakistan has claimed that it had achieved 222 convictions of terrorist financiers but most were imprisoned for only a few days, a source said.

Under review

The FATF is now reviewing Pakistan's case to see if it fulfils the global standards criteria to combat terror-financing. The FATF is chaired by China.

When Pakistan's response to action initiated against UN designated terrorists was sought at a meeting last October, it "continued to state that Masood Azhar and his family were missing", the source said.

Further, Islamabad could not explain why terror-financing investigations were not launched against Azhar, 26/11 Mumbai attack mastermind Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi or the Haqqani leadership, the source added.

The JeM had claimed responsibility for the Pulwama terror attack on February 14 last year when 40 CRPF personnel were killed in a car bombing. Following this, a training camp run by the outfit at Balakot in Pakistan was hit by the Indian Air Force on February 26.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Bloody campaign

Pakistan has said JeM chief Masood Azhar and his family are missing. A look at his reign of terror:

1979-1989: Azhar was chosen as the head of Harkat ul-Ansar's department of motivation

Early 1990s: Azhar became the general secretary of Harkat ul-Ansar and visited many international locations to raise funds

- Was part of Harkat ul-Mujahideen or Harkat ul-Ansar, when arrested in India in 1994
- In 1994, Omar Shaikh kidnapped four Europeans from Delhi to release Azhar. He was arrested
- In July 1995, HuM aka HuA kidnapped 5 Europeans in Kashmir and killed them by Dec. 1995 to seek the release Azhar and Shaikh

- JeM was formed in 1999 after the release of Azhar on Dec. 31, 1999, after IC-814 was hijacked on Dec. 24, 1999

Jan. 1, 2016: Orchestrated the Pathankot attack

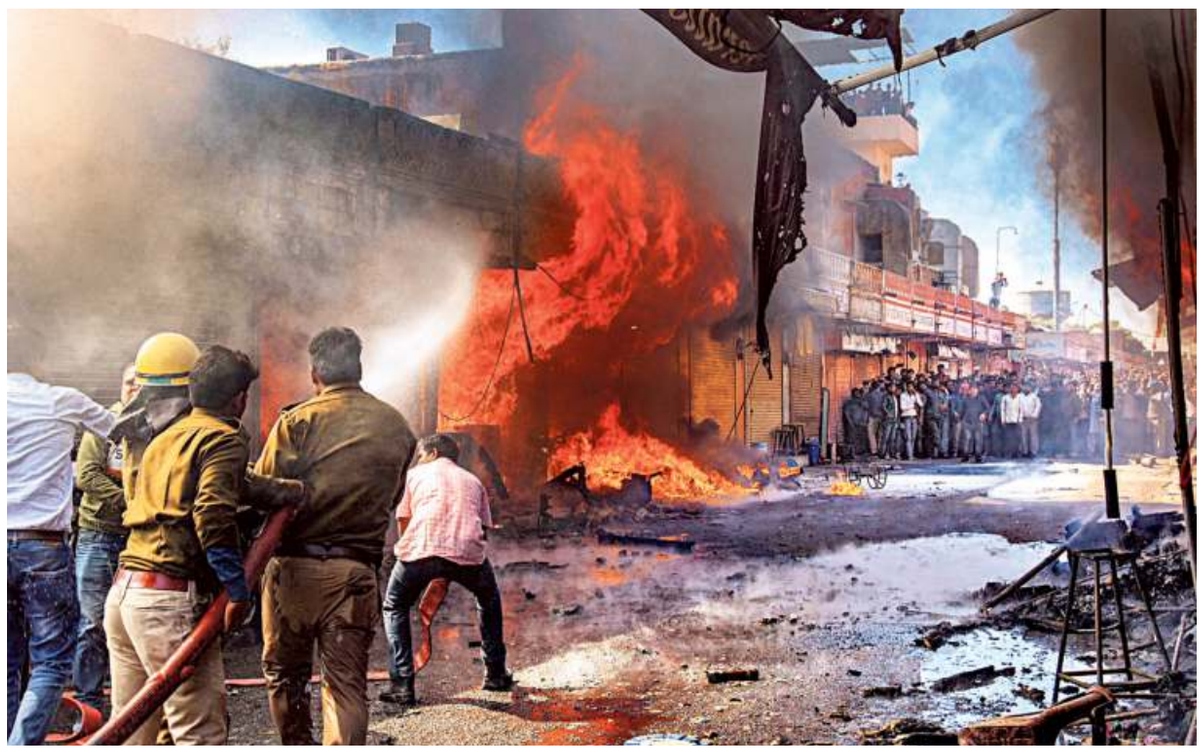
August 17, 2016: Militants killed two soldiers and a policeman in Baramulla

On September 18, 2016: 18 soldiers were killed in Uri

On Feb. 14, 2019: JeM carried out a suicide attack in Pulwama and killed 40 CRPF personnel

- May 1, 2019: Designated as a global terrorist by a UN committee

Inferno in market



Reduced to cinders: A blaze broke out at a firecracker shop in the busy Indira Market in Jaipur on Saturday and spread to seven other shops, destroying goods worth lakhs of rupees, an official said. The fire was put out after four hours. ▪PTI

India ticks off Turkish President for his remarks on Kashmir

New Delhi urged Recep Tayyip Erdogan not to interfere in internal affairs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India on Saturday urged Turkey to not interfere in its internal affairs and reminded Ankara of the threat of terrorism emanating from Pakistan.

"India rejects all references to Jammu and Kashmir, which is an integral and inalienable part of India," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said.

Proper understanding

"We call upon the Turkish leadership to not interfere in India's internal affairs and develop a proper understanding of the facts, including the grave threat posed by terrorism emanating from Pakistan to India and the region," he said.

The official's remarks came a day after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan compared the Kashmir situation with the Gallipoli campaign of Second World War and extended support to Pakistan. He termed India's recent actions in Kashmir "unilateral".

> Our Kashmiri brothers and sisters have suffered from inconveniences for decades and these sufferings have become graver due to unilateral steps taken in recent times
>
> — RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN, TURKEY'S PRESIDENT IN PAKISTAN'S PARLIAMENT ON FRIDAY

> We call upon the Turkish leadership to not interfere in India's internal affairs and develop a proper understanding of the facts, including the grave threat posed by terrorism emanating from Pakistan...
>
> — RAVEESH KUMAR, SPOKESPERSON, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, ON SATURDAY

Addressing a joint session of Pakistan's Parliament, "Today, the issue of Kashmir is as close to us as it is to you [Pakistanis]... Such a solution (on the basis of justice and fairness) will serve the interests of all parties concerned. Turkey will continue to stand by justice, peace and dialogue in the resolution of the Kashmir issue.

Apart from Pakistan, Turkey and Malaysia have been vocal critics of India's decision to end the special status of Kashmir last year. Last September, Mr. Erdogan raised the Kashmir issue during his address to the UNGA.

(*With inputs from PTI*)

ABROAD, GOOGLE MAPS SHOWS J&K AS DISPUTED ▸ PAGE 10

Vodafone says it will pay AGR dues, but its survival is at stake

Cash-strapped telco hopes for reprieve from the top court

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Beleaguered telecom firm Vodafone Idea on Saturday said it proposed to clear its Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) dues in the next few days. But it warned that its ability to continue as a going concern would depend on a favourable outcome of its modification plea in the Supreme Court.

Show cause

The statement comes a day after the court asked the managing directors of telecom firms, including Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel, to show cause why contempt proceedings should not be initiated against them for failing to pay even a "single penny" to the government despite an October 2019 judgment.

Vodafone is looking for a favourable outcome to its plea in the Supreme Court.

Following the court order, after U.P. (West) and Rajasthan, the Department of Telecomunication's (DoT) field offices in Gujarat, U.P. (East), West Bengal and other zones have directed telcos to pay outstanding dues "immediately", failing which action would be initiated based on the licence agreement.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10
CONGRESS'S CHARGE ▸ PAGE 11

Shah Faesal booked under Public Safety Act

J&K People's Movement chief was detained last year after he criticised the Centre

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

J&K People's Movement chief Shah Faesal was booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA) on Saturday, becoming the eighth prominent mainstream politician to face the stringent law.

Mr. Faesal, who had quit the IAS to join politics, was detained at the Delhi airport in the second week of last August following his interviews to several media channels, expressing strong views against the Centre's move to revoke J&K's special status.

Last tweet

"Kashmir will need a long, sustained, non-violent political mass movement for restoration of the political rights. Abolition of Article 370 has finished the mainstream. Constitutionalists are gone. So you can either be a stooge or a separatist now. No shades of grey," was his last tweet before he was detained.

Shah Faesal

Mr. Faesal was shifted to a detention centre in Srinagar on August 14.

Since then, he has been in preventive custody under Section 107 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

At present, he is detained inside the MLA hostel in Srinagar.

Sources said Mr. Faesal's wife withdrew a *habeas corpus* petition before the Supreme Court to avoid the administration's step to book him under the PSA, which can detain a person without trial for up to three months. The detention can be extended up to two years.

Mr. Faesal's family was assured that he would not face the stringent law if he withdrew his petition, a close friend said.

Mr. Faesal came first in the IAS examination in 2009 and emerged as a poster boy for Kashmir students to prepare for such competitive examinations.

He launched his party last year after quitting the government job.

Other mainstream leaders booked under the PSA are Farooq Abdulla, Omar Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti, Ali Mohammad Sagar, Sartaj Madani, Hilal Lone and Naeem Akhtar.

J&K panchayat bypolls notified

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAMMU

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Electoral Officer Shailendra Kumar on Saturday issued the first notification for the eight-phase by-election for the panchayat polls to elect 12,650 sarpanches and panches, an official spokesman said here.

According to the notification, the last date for filing of nominations is February 22 followed by scrutiny of nominations on February 24 and withdrawal of candidature on February 26. The spokesman said polling would be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on March 5 and counting would be held the same day.

Karnataka kambala jockey's searing bolt with buffaloes

Sports buffs compare Srinivas Gowda's feat to Usain Bolt's record

ANIL KUMAR SASTRY
MANGALURU

A feverish sprint with a pair of buffaloes in tow has catapulted Srinivas Gowda from tiny Ashwathpura in coastal Karnataka to national fame.

On February 1, Mr. Gowda, competing in a *kambala* event – a traditional race in which the jockey runs along with the buffaloes he is shepherding – covered 142.5 m in 13.62 seconds at the Aikala-Bava *kambala* near Moodbidri. Converting this into 100m sprint, sports buffs said the *kambala* runner had clocked 9.55 seconds, just a wee bit ahead of Jamaican Usain Bolt's world record of 9.58 seconds!

Viral on Twitter

The news spread as fast as Mr. Gowda's pulse-pounding run, and it soon went viral on Twitter.

Mahindra Group chairman Anand Mahindra suggested that Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju could provide training facilities for the runner.

Responding to Mr. Mahindra and the Sports Minister's congratulatory tweets, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) said a suitable course would be devised for Mr. Gowda.

A native of Ashwathapura near Moodbidri, the 28-year-old has been a *kambala* jockey for more than a decade and trained at the Kambala Academy in Moodbidri in 2011. Founder and convener of the Academy K. Gunapala Kadamba told *The Hindu* that though his run was electrifying, Mr. Gowda's feat cannot be compared to an Olympic record as these are diverse events held in varied conditions. While Olympic sprints are judged over seconds, *kambala* is yet to evolve such a practice.

Mr. Gowda is the jockey for three pairs of buffaloes that run in different categories. Creating the 'record' is a significant achievement as he would have run at least 22 times with three pairs of buffaloes through the course of the entire event, exhibiting sustained endurance.

A construction worker off season, Mr. Gowda said he starts training the buffaloes four weeks before the *kambala* season. Sources said jockeys like Mr. Gowda are paid ₹1 lakh-₹2 lakh by owners for a season to train the buffaloes, besides sharing cash prizes they win in *kambalas*.

For now, before SAI steps in with its offer of formal training, Mr. Gowda's name is up there in the bright lights with the iconic Bolt, at least in the online space.

Buffalo soldier: Srinivas Gowda taking part in the Aikala-Bava kambala near Moodbidri in coastal Karnataka.

AI aircraft damaged as pilot forces early takeoff

Jeep, man enter Pune airport runway

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The fuselage of an Air India aircraft was damaged on Saturday when its pilot lifted the plane to avoid hitting a person and a jeep that had suddenly come on the Pune airport runway during takeoff, an official said. However, the A321 aircraft landed at the Delhi airport safely.

"During takeoff roll, while at 120 knots speed, the crew saw a jeep and a person on the runway and to avoid conflict, they did early rotation...," an official of Directorate-General of Civil Aviation said. Another DGCA official said, "The aircraft has been withdrawn from service for investigation. Air India has been advised to coordinate with the Pune Air Traffic Control to find out any marking on the runway."

An Air India spokesperson said, "The A321 aircraft that was scheduled to operate AI 825 to Srinagar was observed to have certain marks towards the tail area. The cockpit voice recorder and solid state flight data recorder readouts would be carried out and the findings shared appropriately."

Timings
DELHI

SUNDAY, FEB. 16		
RISE	07:00	SET 18:12
RISE	00:50	SET 11:58
MONDAY, FEB. 17		
RISE	06:59	SET 18:13
RISE	01:53	SET 12:43
TUESDAY, FEB. 18		
RISE	06:58	SET 18:13
RISE	02:53	SET 13:31

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	26	11
Safdarjang	26	11
Palam	25	09

Delhi Palam Today
26°C A cool morning lies ahead. Light winds are likely to blow over the region. The sky will remain sunny.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
27°C Shallow fog will prevail in the morning. A warm day lies ahead. A clear sky is likely to prevail. Rise in day temperatures is likely.

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THE HINDU
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Air Quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	167	Gurugram	143
Ghaziabad	162	Faridabad	161
Noida	153	Greater Noida	170

Good 0-50 | Satisfactory 51-100 | Moderate 101-200
Poor 201-300 | Very Poor 301-400 | Severe >400

Air Quality Index at 4 p.m. yesterday (Average of past 24 hours) | Source: CPCB

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Gandhian Kalpana Palkhiwala will be in conversation about the project Bapu Geetika, an audio compilation of 108 songs/poems on Mahatma Gandhi at Lecture Room - II, Basement Annexe, India International, Centre (IIC), 10:30 a.m.

Talk: Swami Durgeshananda will present a discourse on the topic of Vivekachudamani at Ramana Kendra, Lodhi Road, 5 p.m.

Music: "Rooh-e-Ghazal", an evening of ghazals performed by Ustad Amjad Ali Khan of Kiran Gharana and Dr. Shyamala Mani. Accompanying artistes: Monis Khan (tabla), Kavi Das (keyboard), Danish Khan (violin) at Amaltas Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Sculpt for Delhi - III", a group exhibition of sculptures and paintings by Delhi Art Society at Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Sculpt For Delhi - III", a group show of sculptures and paintings by Delhi Art Society at Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditordelhi@thehindu.co.in)

Group protesting near T.N. House detained

It condemns Chennai police action against anti-CAA protesters

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A group of people, including students of Jamia Millia Islamia, held a demonstration near Tamil Nadu House on Saturday protesting against the alleged lathicharge by the Chennai police on anti-CAA demonstrators.

The police said all of the protesters were released by 6 p.m. The small group of protesters, which also included a couple of young women, tried to march from Bihar Bhawan towards Tamil Nadu House, and raised anti-BJP and anti-RSS slogans in Tamil.

The protesters were detained halfway as they tried to march towards Tamil Nadu House in Chanakyapuri, the police said. Later, a few more people, including women, were also detained.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Deepak Yadav said 27 protesters were detained and taken to a nearby police station.

Out of them, seven protesters were women, he said, adding all of them were released later.

The call for the protest was organised by the Jamia Coordination Committee.

An anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protest turned violent in Chennai on Friday when a clash broke out between protesters and the police.

Four police personnel – a woman joint commissioner, two women constables and a sub-inspector – were injured in a stone throwing incident at the rally, the police said, even as reports emerged that some protesters were also hurt.

The protesters accused the police of resorting to lathicharge.

Police personnel on guard outside Tamil Nadu House in the Capital on Saturday. ▪ BIBEK CHETTRI

Some Shaheen Bagh protesters ready to meet Amit Shah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A section of Shaheen Bagh protesters on Saturday said they were ready to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah to raise their concerns over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act but added that the onus was on the government to call them for talks.

The protesters, mainly women, have been protesting against the CAA, the National Register of Citizens and the National Population Register for the past two months. They said the protest was "leaderless" and it was up to the Home Minister to decide who all he wanted to call for talks.

"We are ready to meet him [Shah]. But he should make it clear how many people he wants to meet," Syed Ahmed Taseer, an organiser. Mehrunnisa, a protester, said they would march to the Minister's residence on Sunday.

Fire breaks out in basement of luxury hotel; case registered

Blaze broke out due to short circuit, say police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A fire broke out in the basement of *The Park* hotel here on Saturday morning following which 12 people, including 11 foreign nationals, were taken to a hospital, said officials. Nine of them were released after first aid, they said.

The incident happened at 9 a.m., said Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Deepak Yadav. However, the fire department said they were informed about the incident by the police at 12.25 p.m. after which five fire tenders were rushed to the spot.

The blaze was brought under control by the hotel staff with the help of fire extinguishers before the fire tenders reached the spot, a senior official said. But the smoke had engulfed the building, he said, adding that none of the people staying at the hotel suffered any serious injuries.

A probe has been initiated, The Park hotel management said. ▪ FILE PHOTO

The police said they were not informed about the incident by the hotel management. "The police were informed about the incident by the hospital [Ganga Ram Hospital] at 11.45 a.m. from Rajinder Nagar police station," Mr. Yadav said.

The Park said they are "deeply concerned about the incident that took place at the basement of the hotel this morning" and that "safety has always been our top priority". Norwegian nationals – Abdi Bhasir and Joshim Kvan – were admitted to the hospital after they suffered breathing difficulties along with 30-year-old Kundan Rai, who suffered minor injuries.

The police said the fire started from the hotel basement due to a short circuit when a generator was being tested. A case under Section 285 (negligent conduct with respect to fire or combustible matter) and 337 (causing hurt by act of endangering life or personal safety of others) of the IPC has been registered.

A statement by *The Park* hotel read: "There was a short circuit that lead to a minor fire, however, the situation was quickly normalised by our in-house crisis management team. Some of our guests were exposed to smoke and were sent for a thorough check up to the hospital...An investigation has been initiated to get to the bottom of the incident to ensure we can take measures to avoid a similar situation in future."

Jamia teachers' body to hold two-day meet

It is part of JMI's centenary celebrations

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A two-day international conference will be organised by the Jamia Teachers' Association (JTA) as part of the Jamia Millia Islamia centenary celebrations between February 16 and 18.

The JTA said the multidisciplinary conference will have over 100 technical sessions with collaborative efforts from all departments and centres. The conference will include themes ranging from biotechnology, media and mass communication, tourism management, philosophy and architecture.

A special session on the "Founding Fathers of JMI" and Mahatma Gandhi and his legacy will also be held, the JTA said.

"Jamia owes its origin to the clarion call given by Mahatma Gandhi during the Khilafat Movement. To relive and remember this historic bond, a special session on "Mahatma Gandhi and Jamia" will be conducted on February 17. Professor [Lord] Bhiku Parekh, Padma Bhushan awardee and former Jamia V-C Najeeb Jung will be present for the session," the JTA said.

Another special session on "Citizenship and the Indian Constitution: Rights and Duties" will be conducted on February 18.

"This will be to deliberate upon the idea of citizenship in India in its historical, social and political context. Experts will share their views on citizenship rights and obligations as enshrined in the Indian constitution and explore debates surrounding the issues," the teachers' body said.

From a bygone era

Eye-catching: Participants during the 21 Gun Salute International Vintage Car Rally at India Gate on Saturday. More than 140 vintage cars and 35 heritage bikes are participating in the ninth edition of the event aimed at promoting motoring heritage in India. ▪ SANDEEP SAXENA

COVID-19 outbreak in China takes toll on retailers at Lajpat Rai market

With the price of products increasing following supply chain disruptions in China, buyers in the Capital are just window shopping

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

Usually brimming with shoppers, particularly on a weekend, the popular electronics wholesale market in Chandni Chowk – Lajpat Rai market – wore a forlorn look on Saturday. The retailers here have begun to feel the pinch as demand has nosedived due to increasing prices of products such as mobile phones, speakers, and televisions, following supply chain disruptions in China as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Shahid Ansari, one of the retailers at the Lajpat Rai market, said prices across all the products have gone up, which has directly affected the demand.

"The impact on business is now very much visible. We open shops at 10 a.m., and it is usually only by 2-3 p.m. that we are able to make our first sale," said Mr. Ansari, who sells a range of electronic items, mainly from China, including speakers, hair straighteners, electric kettle, fans and tripods.

For accessories such as mobile phone covers and tempered glass, the price hike is in the range of ₹25-50, while for speakers it goes up to about ₹50-₹500 depending on the size, and for Chinese TVs, it is ₹1,000 onwards. Another shopkeeper in the area, Eshaan Siddiqui, said almost all phone accessories come from China and with the price increase, buyers are just window shopping.

With anticipated shortage of products, the dealers have increased prices, forcing retailers to pass on the cost to the buyers.

Sellers at Lajpat Rai electronic market on Saturday. India is heavily dependent on China to meet its requirements for electronic goods. India imported over $20 billion worth of items from China in 2018-19. ▪ SANDEEP SAXENA

"We buy products from distributors but they are releasing very limited stocks thinking about possible shortage in the future so that is impacting the prices," Mr. Siddiqui added.

India is heavily dependent on China to meet its requirements for electronic goods. India's electronics industry imported over $20 billion worth of items from China in 2018-19.

Harish Bhasin who deals in wholesale LED TVs said price for a ₹5,000 TV has gone up by ₹1,000. "So now customers are delaying purchase. Until a couple of weeks ago, we used to sell four-five TV units in a day... we are not even selling one unit a day now," he said.

Wait and watch mode

While the situation is not as bad for bigger retailers and brands yet, they are in a wait and watch mode. Harpreet Kohli, owner of Kay Dee Electronics, Noida, said while there has been no official communication, all major mobile phone and television brands have indicated that there is uncertainty with regard to supply chain. "If the situation does not improve soon, we have been told that supply for products such as LEDs could be impacted by as much as 50%. With the summer season approaching, AC supply and sales could be hit too," Mr. Kohli said.

However, given that India largely has a good manufacturing eco-system refrigerators and washing machines, should not feel any negative impact of the situation, he added.

Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association president Kamal Nandi said as of today he doesn't see much impact of supply chain disruption till March. "If manufacturing activity does not get streamlined by end of this month, then we will see production constraints as a lot of components and even some finished goods come from China, said Mr. Nandi who is also executive vice-president & Business Head, Godrej Appliances. The supply for ACs could be badly hit as most compressors are imported from China, along with microwave ovens which many manufacturers import as finished good from China, he said.

> **We open our shop at 10 a.m., and it is only by 2-3 p.m. that we are able to make our first sale**
>
> SHAHID ANSARI
> A retailer

An industry representative who did not want to named said that LED TVs sales are generally low in January-March quarter mainly as it follows a buying (festive) season. This has further been aggravated. "So a lesser demand might mitigate some impact or pressure on any supply chain."

Smartphones segment, however, is likely to see lower sales and increase in prices due to heavy reliance on components from China. For a smartphone enthusiast, this may even mean a delay in new device launches by various companies.

"Xiaomi has already increased the price of Note 8 Pro device by about ₹500. Usually, prices of old smartphone models drop as newer models arrive. But this is not happening now because there is a shortage of supply. There has been no formal communication, but almost all companies have indicated that due to a shutdown in China, supply chain constraints may continue. We are also seeing an increase in prices of accessories such as headphones, speakers, phone covers etc.," said Arvinder Khurana, president of All India Mobile Retailers Association.

He added that earlier there was a smooth supply of iPhone 11, but now the allocation (by distributors) is being rationed.

Exploring channels

A Xiaomi spokesperson said, "The extended shutdown in China is likely to have an impact on our supply chain and, there is a risk of impact on overall quantum of component supplies. While we are working to explore alternative supply channels for components and raw materials, the immediate impact is that the short supply might cause some negative pressure on prices of these components."

However, another Chinese smartphone maker Vivo has said that it may not immediately hike prices of its handsets in India.

Additionally, market research agency Counterpoint estimates a 10%-12% decline in smartphone sales in January-March 2020 in India due to COVID-19 outbreak.

"This is likely to have an impact on Q2 also. Assuming situation will start getting better in March, we expect impact on new launches to be pushed by at least 4-5 weeks and the ones which are being launched will have limited stock," Tarun Pathak, associate director at Counterpoint Research said.

"If the virus is contained in March it will still take two months for commercial activities to normalise in China," Mr. Pathak added.

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by S. Ramanujam at HT Media Ltd. Plot No. 8, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. 201306, on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
Regd. DL(ND)-11/6110/2006-07-08 • RNI No. UPENG/1986/49939 • ISSN 0971 - 751X • Vol. 10 • No. 7

Hectic preparations for AAP's big day

Hundreds of workers help set up the stage for AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal to take oath as Chief Minister for the third time

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Around 5 p.m. on Saturday, eight daily-wage workers carried a board, supported on a wooden frame about 20-feet-long and eight-feet-high, above their heads at a noisy Ramlila Maidan.

As they erected the board along one of the entry gates leading to the ground, it revealed a message: "Thank you, Delhi", written in Hindi, next to a photo of a beaming Arvind Kejriwal.

The Aam Aadmi Party national convener will take oath as the Chief Minister of Delhi for the third time at the ground, and hundreds of workers were charged to spruce up the place for the event. "We have been working since Friday... we worked through the night also," said Deepak Kumar, 64, from Uttar Pradesh, who was fixing another board.

Mr. Kumar said he had slept for only four hours since Friday. "I get ₹700 for a day's work and extra ₹700 for the night shift... I also get food," he added.

The white stage from where Mr. Kejriwal and his Cabinet will take oath on Sunday afternoon is being decorated with orange, white and yellow flowers. Facing the stage, thousands of metal chairs with green and red seats were being arranged for the event.

The chairs were divided into nine blocks for the public, which were separated by metal walls, and in one such block more than 100 AAP volunteers had assembled to take instructions for Sunday's duty.

"If you do not come, then the programme will not succeed. It is your duty to make it a success," an AAP worker addressed the crowd. "You have to be here at 6 a.m. and we will take your attendance and give ID cards," he added.

Around 3,000 AAP workers will assist the police in crowd management for the event that is expected to attract a crowd of around 1 lakh people.

Apart from the nine blocks for the public, there will be one area – right in front of the main stage – for the newly elected MLAs and their families. Behind it will be another area for officials of the Delhi government.

"We always work with the police in all our events to make it a success. We want Sunday's event to be a grand success," said Adil Ahmad Khan, 34, an AAP leader overseeing arrangements.

Around 6 p.m., orange, yellow, and white garlands started appearing on the white walls and roof of the main stage; dozens of policemen and white gypsies continued to criss-cross the ground and labourers hurriedly carried on with their work – they had a lot of work to do before the big day.

Dinner meeting

Meanwhile, Mr. Kejriwal on Saturday called a dinner meeting of his Ministers-designate to discuss the roadmap for the development of the Capital, especially the initiatives that need to be prioritised in the coming three months.

"Hosted my Delhi Cabinet designate colleagues for dinner at my residence. Congratulated them on their victory in the election and wished them success for their terms as Ministers in the Delhi govt [sic.]," he said in a tweet.

According to party functionaries, Mr. Kejriwal also discussed the roadmap for making Delhi a global city.

Workers set up chairs and CCTVs at central Delhi's Ramlila Maidan. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Drones, 3,000 personnel to keep vigil in Capital

'All routes to venue under surveillance'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A multi-layered security arrangement will be in place in the city on Sunday for Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's swearing-in ceremony. Around 2,000-3,000 Delhi Police personnel and paramilitary force, including CRPF, will be deployed to keep vigil.

The ceremony is scheduled to take place at 10 a.m. at Ramlila Maidan, and traffic regulations will be in place in the area from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., said the police.

All routes leading to the venue will be under CCTV surveillance.

Doorframe metal detectors and baggage scanners will also be installed in and around the ground.

Drones may also be used, said the police.

The government has allowed only one reporter and one camera person from every media organisation to attend the event.

On Sunday, cars will have to be parked at the Civic Centre and behind it.

Buses will be parked on Mata Sundri Road, Power House Road, Velodrome Road, Rajghat parking, Shanti Van parking and service roads in Rajghat and Samta Sthal as per requirements, read an advisory issued by the police.

No commercial vehicles will be allowed from Rajghat chowk and Delhi Gate chowk towards Guru Nanak Dev chowk via JLN Marg, Chatta Rail towards Delhi Gate chowk via Netaji Subhash Marg, , Ram Charan Aggarwal chowk towards Delhi Gate chowk via Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, DDU Minto Road towards Kamla Market chowk via Vivekanand Marg and Barakhamba Tolstoy towards Ranjit Singh flyover, the advisory added.

Gupta attacks Kejriwal over circular to teachers

BJP leader writes to L-G Anil Baijal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

BJP Rohini MLA Vijender Gupta on Saturday demanded the retraction of a "dictatorial" order by the Department of Education to teachers of government schools and employees of the department to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Cabinet.

Mr. Gupta, who will be attending the event on Sunday, said he had "hoped" that upon re-election, Mr. Kejriwal would focus on good governance and strengthening democratic values "but had been proved wrong".

"I was shocked after seeing a the DoE's dictatorial circular... forcing officials and teachers to attend the swearing-in-ceremony of Kejriwal and his Cabinet colleges," Mr. Gupta said in a letter to Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal.

"Even before forming the government, Mr. Kejriwal has started misusing the officials and employees working in departments like the Directorate of Education to serve his political interests," the senior BJP leader alleged.

The stage at Ramlila Maidan where Arvind Kejriwal will take oath as Delhi Chief Minister on Sunday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Eclectic mix of attendees for swearing-in event

The crowd will include students, doctors; leaders from other States not invited

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Fifty persons, including safai karmacharis, students, teachers, doctors, and bus marshals – called *Delhi ke Nirmata* – will share the stage as special guests with Arvind Kejriwal during his swearing-in ceremony at Ramlila Maidan on Sunday.

Principals, traders, labourers, engineers, autorickshaw drivers, metro pilots, farmers, and anganwadi workers have also been invited.

"My three children are more thrilled than me to see their mother on the stage with the Chief Minister," Geeta Devi, 37, a bus marshal, told *The Hindu*.

> **The Chief Minister has decided that people from all walks of life and those who have run Delhi in the last five years and who will run the city in the next five years should be invited as special guests**
>
> MANISH SISODIA
> Senior AAP leader

Ms. Devi had caught a pickpocket while he was stealing a mobile phone and was recognised for her "good work".

At a press conference on Saturday, senior party leader Manish Sisodia said, "After the historic win in the Delhi Assembly election, Arvind Kejriwal will take the oath as Chief Minister tomorrow. It is a great victory of the people of Delhi, who made the Kejriwal model of governance and development triumphant. It is the victory of those who dream to make Delhi a world class city and work tirelessly for it. Therefore, the Chief Minister has decided that the people from all walks of life and those who have run Delhi in the last five years and who will run the city in the next five years should be invited as special guests."

The student beneficiaries of Jai Bhim Yojana, who are expected to contribute to the development of Delhi, have also been invited.

"The students of government schools who won chemistry and math Olympiads in Moscow will also be invited. Doctors of Mohalla clinics will represent the medical fraternity, bike ambulance drivers, the 'farishteys' of Delhi, who saved many accident victims, are invited too," Mr. Sisodia said.

The family members of martyrs who received ₹1 crore as 'samman rashi' will also be invited.

Tharoor fined ₹5,000 for not appearing before court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Saturday imposed a fine of ₹5,000 on Congress leader Shashi Tharoor for not appearing before it during a hearing on a criminal defamation complaint filed against him for his alleged "scorpion" remark against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Vishal Pahuja imposed the fine on the Lok Sabha MP from Thiruvananthapuram noting that he had failed to appear before him despite earlier direction.

The court was hearing the complaint filed by Delhi BJP leader Rajeev Babbar, who claimed that his religious sentiments were hurt. "I am a devotee of Lord Shiva... However, the accused [Tharoor] completely disregarded the sentiments of crores of Shiva devotees," the complaint said.

"The accused deliberately did this malicious act, intending to outrage religious feeling of Lord Shiva devotees by insulting their religious believes," it said.

The complaint, filed through advocate Neeraj, termed the statement an "intolerable abuse" and "absolute vilification" of the faith of millions of people. The complaint was filed under Sections 499 and 500 of the IPC relating to defamation. Mr. Tharoor had claimed that an unnamed RSS leader had compared PM Modi to "a scorpion sitting on a Shivling".

Rohit's wife killed him in frustration, says mother

Local court records her statement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Rohit Shekhar Tiwari, the son of former Uttarakhand Chief Minister N.D. Tiwari, was murdered by his wife Apoorva Shukla "in frustration when she did not succeed in her plans", his mother told a Delhi court on Saturday.

The submission was made by Rohit's mother Ujjwala Tiwari before Additional Sessions Judge Sandeep Yadav during recording of her statement as a prosecution witness in the murder case.

Ujjwala said that Apoorva, arrested in connection with Rohit's murder, had married him as he was the son of the late veteran politician and she believed she would get a ticket to contest elections in Indore after marrying him.

Tense ties

Ujjwala, who was represented by advocate Tariq Nasir, further alleged that relations were tense between Rohit and his wife immediately after their marriage and that she fought with him over trivial issues.

Rohit Shekhar Tiwari

She claimed that Apoorva allegedly pressured Rohit to not keep his mother with them at their house and get a separate bungalow for her in Delhi so that she could get her father treated here. "When she did not succeed in her plans, she [Apoorva] murdered him [Rohit] in frustration," Ujjwala alleged.

She claimed that after Rohit's death, Apoorva tried to stop the post-mortem proceedings. "Apoorva said what was the necessity of post-mortem. If post-mortem was conducted, how will we bathe the body with holy water," Ujjwala said.

The court has put up the matter for further hearing on February 26.

ATM stolen in Tughlakabad Extension

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

An ATM in south-east Delhi's Tughlakabad Extension was stolen by some unidentified people, following which a case has been registered, the police said on Saturday.

The police received a call about the theft on Saturday morning following which senior officers visited the scene of the crime.

According to the police, some unidentified people came in a four-wheeler and fled with the automated teller machine (ATM).

A case has been lodged and teams are working to identify and arrest the suspects, a senior officer said.

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• JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
• NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
• LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

When 'obsession' turned a police officer into a criminal

In the Patparganj murder case, accused met SI on matrimonial site, families agreed to match, but something went wrong; expert blames case on patriarchal mindset

ASHOK KUMAR
SAURABH TRIVEDI
ROHTAK

As a computer engineer, 28-year-old Priti Ahlawat from Rohtak had ample opportunities for a lucrative job. But her love for the uniform drew her towards joining the Delhi Police as a Sub-Inspector.

Coming from a family with a long tradition of serving in the Central Armed Police Forces, her fascination for the uniform was not misplaced either. However, little did anyone knew that her path will be crossed with an "obsessive" colleague who would take her life.

The murder and suicide

On February 7, Priti was shot twice in the head point-blank by her colleague, an SI, outside Rohini East metro station. She had come across the accused through a matrimonial site barely a year before the incident. A few hours after the incident, the accused from Sonipat was found dead inside his car on February 8 early morning.

The man had shot himself with his service revolver.

"Though batchmates, having joined the Delhi Police in March 2018, the two never met during the training period. It was in April last year that the man approached Priti after seeing her profile on the site and expressed his interest in a match. She spoke with her parents about his proposal, and though both belonged to the Jat community, there still was a little hurdle regarding gotras," said Priti uncle Kalyan Ahlawat, a Gururgam-based advocate, who quit Air Force after a brief stint more than a decade ago.

Due to the things in common between the duo – the same workplace, came from families with good social standings and engineering backgrounds – , Priti's family agreed to the proposal and was even ready to overlook the "social hurdle". The families gave their consent for the two to meet and know each other. Meanwhile, Priti's family met the accused's father in September last and decided to take it forward.

'A control freak'

However, Priti began to face issues with the accused's behaviour and told her parents that he was "too possessive" and a "control-freak".

"Involved in the investigation of grim crime cases such as rape, Priti, who posted at Patparganj police station, would often get late at work and usually some male officers would accompany her to her rented accommodation in Rohini. But the accused seemed to have an issue with this and would often tell her that they both would quit their jobs after marriage. But Priti was happy with her job and told us that he had ego issues," said Mr. Ahlawat.

> **With the women stepping out of their houses to work, they want to exercise their newfound economic freedom and live life on their own terms, but the men still want to control them and hold them back**
>
> JITENDER PRASAD
> Former MDU Sociology professor

Gradually, Priti began to avoid him, who according to his colleagues would often remain absent from his work at Bhajanpur police station to visit her at Patparganj. Meanwhile, the woman's parents told the police officer's family in November that they were not interested in the match.

However, the officer called up Priti's elder brother Anand, a software engineer in New Zealand, on a few occasions to apologise for his behaviour and asking him to clear the misunderstandings.

But Priti had made up her mind and blocked him from all social media sites. As per the investigation officer in the case, the two spoke over the phone on January 3 for the last time.

When he continued to stalk her, Priti's family met his father, ex-SI in Haryana Police, on January 15 at his residence in Shastri Nagar regarding the matter. They told his father to tell his son not to harass Priti. Mr. Ahlawat said it was their last contact with his family before the tragedy.

A national Taekwondo player and an ace dancer, Priti, M. Tech in Computer Science from Rohtak's Baba Mastnath University, had appeared at Service Selection Board for Armed Forces and also selected as Sub-Inspector in Central Reserve Police Force before she joined the Delhi Police.

"Both her father and grandfather had served in the BSF. She too had fascination for the stars on the uniform. Though happy with her present job, she would sometimes talk about taking Union Public Service Commission exam as well, but not interested in a corporate job," says Mr. Ahlawat. Her school friends described as her "ambitious" and "friendly".

The accused, a mechanical engineer, had quit five government jobs to settle for Sub-Inspector in Delhi Police. But he was expecting an appointment letter from the Income Tax Department as Tax Assistant in the next few months and mulling to leave his present job. His batchmates remembered him as a "loner" who would not socialise much. He had stress-related issues as well during the training and had to be counselled thrice.

Former MDU Sociology professor Jitender Prasad blamed the incident and similar such cases on the upbringing of the children in North Indian society, especially Haryana, with a patriarchal mindset where the woman is not allowed to have a free will and the man's ego was too fragile to take no from her.

"With the women stepping out of their houses to work, they want to exercise their newfound economic freedom and live life on their own terms, but the men still want to control them and hold them back. It often leads to friction and hurts the male's ego leading to crimes," said Mr. Prasad.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. -7.30 p.m.

'Provide police assistance to remove encroachment'

NGT tells Gautam Buddh Nagar DM

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Following a plea seeking removal of encroachment from a parcel of land in Noida, the National Green Tribunal has directed the District Magistrate of Gautam Buddh Nagar to provide police assistance for the same.

A Bench headed by NGT judicial member Justice Raghuvendra S. Rathore observed: "This is rather surprising that in a matter of removal of encroachment, the District Magistrate does not take steps at the relevant time."

The observations came after the green panel was informed that the District Magistrate had expressed inability to provide such assistance when approached by the Noida Authority.

"In view of the above, we direct the District Magistrate, Gautam Buddh Nagar to provide adequate police assistance or any other help required by the Noida Authority for removal of encroachments completely. In case need arises, the DM may approach the higher authorities and get adequate force immediately and ensure that encroachments are removed," the Bench, also comprising of NGT expert member Justice Satyawan Singh Garbyal, said.

While stating that it will be the District Magistrate's duty to coordinate with the Noida Authority, the green panel added that in case of non-compliance of orders, the officer will be summoned.

Under control

People gather in Delhi's Bangali Basti where a fire broke out on Saturday evening. No one was injured, said a Delhi Fire Service official. The fire department said they received a call at 7 p.m. following which 12 fire tenders were rushed to the spot. • PTI

Housing organisation told to pay over ₹6L compensation

'Complainant paid 90% of the cost of flat'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A District Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum here has directed the Central Government Employees Welfare Housing Organisation to compensate a complainant by paying over ₹6 lakh for canceling the allotment to a flat despite the latter having paid 90% of the total cost.

'No unit available'

The panel said: "The cancellation was not warranted after receipt of amount of 90% of the total cost of the flat. Since the counsel for the opposite party has categorically argued that the said scheme had already been closed and no unit or flat is available, therefore we hold the OP to be deficient in service and adopting unfair trade practice."

The organisation had however contended that while it had received ₹5.74 lakh for the flat, the allotment was canceled for "non-payment of outstanding amount."

However, dismissing contentions put forth by the opposite party, the Bench directed compensation of ₹5.74 lakh to be paid to the complainant at an interest of 10% from January 2006 till the date of realisation.

The consumer panel added that an amount of ₹15,000 was to be paid to the complainant as cost towards litigation and "mental tension."

Restrictions ahead of board exams in Noida

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA

Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), which bars assembly of more than four people, has been imposed in Gautam Buddh Nagar for one month beginning Saturday, said officials.

The decision has been taken in view maintaining law and order during school examinations of U.P., CBSE and ICSE Board, Holi festival, protests and demonstrations by farmers and other organisations, the police said.

"The decision has been taken to check anti-social elements. It is difficult to identify such elements beforehand, and hence they cannot be given a chance for individual hearing," said Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Law and Order, Ashutosh Dwivedi.

The Section 144 restriction would not apply to students taking examinations, people part of a funeral procession, or a wedding group, or religious gathering, the order stated. Restrictions have also been put on the use of loudspeakers. "Shop owners should not rent out loudspeakers to any person unless they show permission documents. Loudspeakers will not be used before 6 a.m. and after 10 p.m.," the order stated.

The police have also warned citizens against gathering or encouraging an assembly near examination centres, particularly within 200 yards, and told them that loudspeakers won't be allowed near examination centres during the period.

Two held with biscuits worth ₹15 lakh in Noida

Third accused on the run, say police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA

Two men fleeing with a truck laden with biscuits worth around ₹15 lakh were nabbed after a gunfight with the police in Greater Noida early on Saturday, said officials.

Acting on a tip-off

"On Friday, information was received at Badalpur police station about three men robbing a truck laden with biscuits worth ₹14-₹15 lakh. The whole area was checked and the vehicle intercepted. When the truck was asked to stop, its occupants opened fire," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Noida Central) Harish Chander.

"In retaliatory firing by the police, one of the accused was injured. Of the three occupants of the truck, two were arrested while the other managed to escape. Operation is under way to nab him," Mr. Chander said, adding that full recovery has been made in the case.

The arrested have been identified as Kartar from Aligarhand Lokesh from Ghaziabad, the police said.

Kartar, who suffered a bullet injury, has been hospitalised while Lokesh was taken into custody.

"Further proceedings are under way," an officer said.

'India is ageing much faster than previously thought'

Dr. Chatterjee of AIIMS explains in his book how people look at the growth of older adults which impacts society

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

"India is ageing much faster than previously thought and is expected to have nearly 20% population of the world's 60 years and above by 2050 with the largest number of older adults in the world," said Prasun Chatterjee, Department of Geriatrics, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

Speaking about his new book – Health and Well Being in Late Life – Dr. Chatterjee said: "Through my book, I have tried to help people look at this tremendous growth of older adults which impacts nearly all sectors of the society from finance to social protection and family structures to intergenerational ties, in addition to humongous cost of complex health-related problems.."

AIIMS doctor said a pragmatic solution to make senior citizens be more active is yet to be discussed in India. • FILE PHOTO

He cautioned that the existing health system for the elderly is not commensurate with the felt-needs, especially to actively screen and manage various age-related complex health problems like fall, frailty, dementia and multi morbidity. "There is no mechanism to prevent and deal with 21st centuries menacing health problems like dementia and loneliness," he said.

Currently six medical institutes – AIIMS, New Delhi; Madras Medical College, Chennai; Christian Medical College, Vellore; Amrita Institute of Medical Science, Kochi; Mahatma Gandhi Medical College, Pune and Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi provide postgraduate training in geriatric medicine.

Active ageing

Despite this, unlike many other developed nations, preparation for active ageing is not a priority in India, said Dr. Chatterjee. He noted that ageing population could be a demographic dividend but due to non-preparation the dependency ratio would increase exponentially. Furthermore, a pragmatic solution to make our senior citizens be active in late life is yet to be discussed in our country.

As per World Population Ageing Report by UN, older adults aged 65 and above would be expected to be more than the children aged 5 years or less the by end of 2019. In India, geriatric health care is changing with national programme for the Health Care of Elderly (NPHCE) being in process of implementation across the country.

"The objective is to provide easy access to promotional, preventive, curative and rehabilitative services to the elderly through community based primary healthcare approach, capacity building of the medical and paramedical professionals as well as the care-takers within the family. The book lets the reader understand how old age-related problems exist and can be positively tackled through clinical and non-clinical means," the doctor concluded.

Delhi Legal Services Authority tracks 21 destitute children in north Delhi

Legal body organises health check-up camp for judicial officers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Legal Services Authority (DLSA) tracked and identified around 21 destitute and homeless children in north Delhi's Madhuban Chowk and nearby areas in a week-long rehabilitation campaign organised by the Rohini District Court.

Five drug addicts

According to a statement issued by the Rohini District Court, in the campaign held between January 31 to February 7, nine of the children were provisionally admitted in government schools, five identified as drug addicts were sent to a rehabilitation centre and five children whose parents could not be contacted are under process of being rehabilitated.

In another initiative, the legal services authorities of Rohini District Court organised a health check-up camp in association with Shree Aggarsain International hospital for the judicial officers and staff on February 13, the statement read.

Inaugurated by District and Sessions Judges R.P. Pandey and Swarana Kanta Sharma, the camp focused on health advice by doctors as well as provided facilities like ECG, blood sugar, and blood pressure check-up, physiotherapy, bone mineral density check-up, it said.

Besides, new technology for checking spine alignment and body balancing to find out postural problems were also provided at the camp, the statement said.

District Judge (Commercial court) Vinod Kumar, Judge Paramjeet Singh, DLSA Secretaries Sandeep Gupta and Sunil Gupta were also a present at the occasion.

Old-age home

The DLSA also organised an old-age home visit programme for students of V S P K international school on February 13 to make them understand the condition of elderly people residing there, the statement said.

Teen daughter kills mother

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GHAZIABAD

A 15-year-old girl along with her partner allegedly strangled her Head Constable mother to death in Brij Vihar Colony, the police said on Saturday.

The incident took place on Friday night and a complaint was lodged by the victim's husband, SP (City) Maneesh Mishra said. The woman – Shashi Mala (44) – was posted in Delhi. The crime was committed as Shashi opposed to her daughter, a Class 10 student's relationship. When the victim's husband came home, he found Shashi in unconscious state after she was rushed to GTB Hospital where she was declared brought dead. The girl and her partner have been detained, the SP added.

Engineer held for 'obscene behaviour' towards woman

In such cases, use emergency button: DMRC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A 28-year-old civil engineer was arrested on Saturday for his alleged "obscene behaviour" towards a woman inside a metro train this week, the police said.

The accused, Abhilash Kumar from Gurugram, works at a private company, they saud. As FIR was earlier filed in the case after the woman narrated the incident on Twitter on late Wednesday night.

Taking to Twitter, DMRC said: "Suspect in the Sultanpur case has been traced by the DMRC Security Cell & AFC. He was tracked using the phone number used for an online payment for his card. DMRP has taken him into custody. The case could be solved because of the prompt assistance & action by the Police [sic]."

In another tweet, it requested the public to use the passenger emergency alarm button in such cases. "We request the public to use the passenger emergency alarm button if they notice any suspicious behaviour and inform the train operator immediately. Please also give the coach number that you are travelling in so that the person can be apprehended at the earliest," the DMRC tweeted.

The Delhi Commission For Women had on Friday issued notices to the Delhi Police and the DMRC regarding the incident.

Jeweller robbed of ₹2 lakh worth gold at gunpoint

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Two men allegedly robbed a bag containing gold worth around ₹2 lakh and ₹40,000 cash from a jeweller at gunpoint in Aya Nagar, the police said on Saturday.

A call regarding the incident was received at 10.50 p.m. on Friday, they added.

The 36-year-old victim, Daudayal, said two unidentified men threatened him at gunpoint when he was closing his shop.

One of them snatched his bag and sped off in a motorcycle, the police said.

A case has been registered and an investigation is under way, the police said.

Minor in 'guilty' list for destroying property during anti-CAA protest

Lawyer Mannan Baliyan, representing some of the guilty, says he would approach HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

Among the 53 persons held guilty by an Additional District Magistrate-led panel for destroying public property during the December 20 protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act is a minor. His mother Salma (name changed) said her son is 14 and had not stepped out of home after his name appeared in the list 20 days after the protest. "He has stopped going to school out of fear. On December 20, he went out to pray at the Himayati Masjid and when the protests broke out, he rushed home. I feel somebody has given his name for money," alleged Salma, whose husband works as a barber.

"He earns at the most ₹200 a day and we have seven children, including four girls. How does the government expect us to pay the penalty," she asked. "My sons are learning haircutting. There is no point in going to school now," she added.

'Not provoking'

Shamshad, 62, whose two young sons, in their early 20s, figure in the list, said Shahnawaz was in his ancestral village on December 20. "Salman was helping police to defuse the situation. There are at least 400 witnesses who would say he was not provoking or throwing stones. Still, both my sons have been named," said Shamshad, adding both work as labourers and earn not more than ₹200 a day.

Akram Akhtar, social activist and lawyer, said the U.P. government sent the notices on the basis of Allahabad High Court's decision in the Shujauddin vs. State of U.P. (2010), wherein it issued guidelines for recovery of damages for destruction of public property during agitations.

"However, they failed to take into account that the decision of Justice Sudhir Agarwal clearly mentions that such agitations are usually led by political leaders and parties. The protest of December 20 was not led by any political leader or party. In case of individuals, the High Court said the person should be identifiable which, those named by the ADM, are refuting."

Damage recovery

Mannan Baliyan, a lawyer representing 17 of those held guilty, said he would approach the High Court as in the Destruction of Public and Private Properties vs. State of A.P. and others (2009), the Supreme Court had made it incumbent on the High Courts, not State governments, to recover the damages. "The High Court has granted stay in a similar case in Kanpur," he said.

College student alleges gang rape

Meerut university students block road, demand action

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

Hundreds of students of Chaudhary Charan Singh University in Meerut blocked the road in front of the office of Inspector General of Police (Meerut Range) on Saturday after an alleged case of abduction and gang rape of a student of the university came to light.

Police have filed an FIR against the four accused under Sections 365, 376D, 323 and 342, but later IG Praveen Kumar said preliminary medical examination didn't prove rape.

According to the FIR lodged on the basis of a complaint filed by the victim's father, the 20-year-old student used to travel to Meerut every day to attend classes.

"On February 13, she left for Meerut in the morning but when she didn't return, we approached the police," said the father in the FIR. The police traced her phone number and the woman was recovered from Siyana in Buladanshahr on Thursday evening. She had severe injury marks on her body.

> **Preliminary probe has revealed that it is not a case of abduction and rape... the woman went with her classmate on her own on a motorcycle**
>
> PRAVEEN KUMAR
> Inspector General of Police (Meerut Range)

"She told us that the accused and his three friends abducted her and took her to Siyana where they raped her. When she protested, they hit her," said the father in the FIR.

Mr. Kumar said the police got the woman admitted to a hospital in Meerut.

"Preliminary investigation has revealed that it is not a case of abduction and rape. Both are adults. The woman went with her classmate, on her own on a motorcycle. During the ride to Siyana, the bike slipped," said Mr. Kumar. This, he said, explains the injuries.

One of the accused has been arrested and is being interrogated.

Meanwhile, the students demanded that the woman be treated under the direct care of the Chief Medical Officer, Meerut, the other accused be arrested soon and the National Security Act be slapped on them and action taken against guilty police officials.

Notorious gangster arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

Notorious gangster Raj Kumar alias Raju Basaudi, wanted in over two dozen murder cases, was arrested from the IGI airport in Delhi after he was extradited from Thailand, police said on Saturday.

Kumar, a resident of Basaudi village in Sonipat district, was wanted by police in Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab, Chandigarh and Delhi, they said. The Haryana Police had announced a reward of ₹2.5 lakh for information leading to his arrest. The STF of the Haryana police located him in Bangkok with the help of police there. Kumar was brought to India on Saturday and handed over to the STF by Interpol officials, an official said.

4 children killed as school van catches fire

The van was a condemned one and without relevant documents: police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Four children were on Saturday burnt alive while eight others were rescued after the mini-van of a private school caught fire in Longowal town of Punjab's Sangrur.

Twelve children were inside the van when the incident occurred on the Longowal-Sidsamachar road. The children were returning from school, said a senior official.

Police personnel in Sangrur on Saturday stand next to the vehicle in which four children were burnt alive. • PTI

Eight rescued

"Today, early afternoon, a van of Simran School, Longowal, caught fire while carrying 12 children from school. While eight were rescued and are safe, four children could not be saved, who died on the spot," Sangrur's Deputy Commissioner Ghanshyam Thori told *The Hindu*.

"The van being used was reportedly a condemned one and without relevant documentation. An FIR is being lodged. Action will also be taken against transport officials, if any one is found to be involved," he said.

Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has ordered a magisterial enquiry into the incident.

Taking to Twitter, Capt. Amarinder said, "Very sad to learn of the news from Sangrur where we lost 4 children because their school van caught fire. Injured have been rushed to the hospital. DC and SSP Sangrur are on the spot and I have ordered a magisterial enquiry. Guilty will be strictly punished."

State Education Minister Vijay Inder Singla, who is also the Sangrur MLA, said the private 'Simran Public School' had purchased the "very old van" on Friday. He also announced an ex gratia of ₹5 lakh to each of the victims' families.

AAP MLA and Leader of the Opposition in State Assembly Harpal Singh Cheema demanded strict against the school and civil administration.

"My condolences to the families of deceased children. I highly condemn the usage of LPG powered school van that has caused this havoc. Strict action needed against school and civil administration," he tweeted.

Sangrur MP and AAP leader Bhagwant Mann demanded registration of murder case against school officials and owner of the van. He said the victims included a three-year-old girl who went to school for the first time.

(With PTI inputs)

PWD to stabilise sinking Ridge in Shimla

Reinforced concrete structure to be constructed in phase I of project

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHIMLA

The State Public Works Department has chalked out a plan to stabilise sinking portions of the historic Ridge in Shimla in two phases, an official said.

The Ridge has been sinking for several months on three sides – outside Gaiety Theatre, near Lakkar Bazar and DAV School.

Shimla PWD Superintending Engineer Suresh Kapoor said the sinking portions of the Ridge will be stabilised under the Shimla Smart City project.

In phase I, the sinking portion outside Gaiety Theatre will be stabilised by constructing an RCC (reinforced cement concrete) structure at an estimated cost of ₹8 crore, Mr. Kapoor said.

Cracks appeared at the Ridge in Shimla on Saturday. • PTI

"We are waiting for a technical report from IIT-Roorkee to know whether the construction of an RCC structure outside Gaiety Theatre is feasible or not," he added. The estimated cost of constructing RCC structures under phase II will be known only after preparing designs and drawings for it, he added.

Earlier in 1980s, a similar problem was faced in the area where Padam Dev Complex is situated now. An RCC structure was constructed in 1988-89 during the tenure of first Shimla Mayor Adarsh Kumar Sood to tackle the problem.

"We created an RCC structure to stabilise the sinking portion after getting a technical report from IIT-Roorkee. A multi-storey PD commercial complex was built beneath the RCC structure for the optimum utilisation of the space. On the top, we installed a statue of late PM Indira Gandhi in 1990," Mr. Sood said.

IIT-Roorkee roped in

IIT-Roorkee was engaged a few months ago to carry out a study to know the reasons behind the sinking Ridge and probable steps to stabilise it. It is likely to submit its report to the State government soon.

"We have already prepared the designs and drawings for phase I," Mr. Kapoor said.

He added the work on phase I will start within a month of getting necessary approvals.

U.P. woman gang-raped by two policemen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GORAKHPUR (U.P.)

Two unidentified policemen allegedly raped a 20-year-old woman in a hotel room near a railway station here. The incident took place on Thursday after which the woman informed her family members. The FIR in the matter was registered on Friday, police said.

A case under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including gang rape, has been registered against two unidentified policemen at the Gorakhnath police station, they said.

Members of various political parties, including Congress, Samajwadi Party, BSP and Purvanchal Sena, staged a sit-in demonstration at the office of the District Magistrate demanding suspension of all staff members of the Gorakhnath police station as well as a magisterial probe into the matter.

"The woman is undergoing treatment. She has made serious allegation of rape against two policemen. During the investigation, we found that the hotel has CCTV cameras and we have also taken the statement of the guard," Gorakhpur SSP Sunil Kumar Gupta said.

"Prima facie, the woman went to the hotel room willingly with some men. However, a probe is under way and culprits won't be spared," he said.

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मुख्य मंत्री राहत कोष

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(जय राम ठाकुर)

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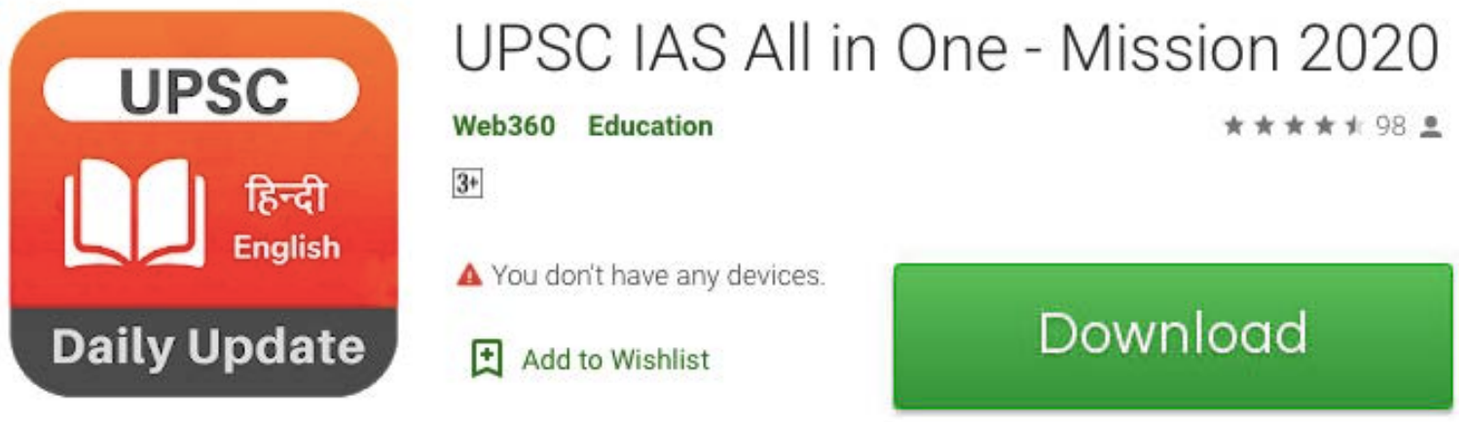

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TAMIL

THULUVA VELLALA Mudaliar Girl Uthiratathy / 33 (06.10.1987) M.Sc. Ph.D (Physics) Researcher, Wheatish Complexion, Seeks Alliance from Never married before bridegroom 33 to 36 yrs Employed as Researcher, Scientific Officer / Asst. professor/ Engineer SW in Mudaliar/Soliya Vellala Pillai / Agamudiar. Contact after Evening 6.30pm. Ct: 9940840760

Isai Vellala Pillai, Poorattadhi 24 Fair MCA,MNC chennai seek Profesionally Qualified &Settled Groom.9443837685

Hindu SC-AD (PR) Mar 82/167 Goodlooking, Unmarried BE MNC Chennai (Out of Country on Deputation) seeks Suitable Employed Unmarried Groom BE /B.Tech, ME / M.Tech, MBA, SWE MBBS, Working in Chennai / Bangalore / Hyd /India / Abroad Caste No Bar. Contact:044 - 24729173/94458 24915

Required Hindu Post Graduate Bride Groom for 39year old Divorcee Lady Doctor with 10year old Daughter, Tall, Fair Complexion, Settled in Chennai Email: gurupara14@gmail.com

SOZHIYA VELLALAR, 25yrs, 165cm, B.E (ECE), Tall Fair Looking girl, Lives in Trichy. Family is Financially well, Looking for a compatible, Well educated and employed groom, from the same community. Ct No : 93842 23791, 98420 31460.

HINDU 22/167 B.Com,Wheatish seeks Suitable Groom Caste NoBar.Ct:90944 61173 / sundarykumar69@gmail.com

DKV HINDU Pallan Girl 27/158 MD pediatric seeking MD / MS groom from same caste. Ct.:9446069421 8075228968

AGE 36, M Sc, Lecturer Govt Medical college, Vanniyar, same caste Govt job groom 9788360505

MUDALIAR DIVORCE 27 B.Tech 165cm GoodLook Working Seeks Suitable Groom Caste No Bar 8778514465/ 7200866346

NAIDU BHARANI 28/165, MDS–Dentist, Sr.Lecturer, 9L pa,V.fair,Seeks PG Doctor/Other Prof. (CNB).9176176515

DKV SC, Pallan, 33/165, M.D.Doctor Divorcee seeks professionally qualified Groom. Ct: 9943469215/ 9943730849

HINDU SC AD 30/154 fair Makam IT MNC Chennai Rs.8 LPA BE (SWE), seeks goodlooking groom.9865764770

Elite Matrimony
Exclusive matchmaking service for the elite
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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN, 28, 178 cms, Consultant, Masters in Design. Lives in Delhi. Father is a Consulting Geotechnical Engineer. Looking for an affable and well educated match from any community. Contact: 6366448345

VELLALAR/CASTE NO BAR, 25, 173 cms, Project Assistant, MS. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for an amiable and well educated match from any community. Contact: 6366448344

NAIDU, 28, 170 cms, Project Manager, MS. Lives in USA. Father is a Senior Management Professional. Looking for a compatible and well educated match from the same community in USA. Contact: 6366448346

NAIDU/CASTE NO BAR, 30, 178 cms, Businessman, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible and well educated match from any community. Contact: 6366448346

MUDALIYAR, 32, 185 cms, Divorced, Assistant Manager, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Senior Management Professional. Looking for a suitable well educated match from any community. Contact: 6366448345

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN, 26, 165 cms, Senior Management Professional, B.E, MBA from a Premier Institute. Lives in Tamilnadu. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a well educated match from the same community. Contact: 6366448343

SENGUNTHAR, 28, 163 cms, Doctor, MD. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Senior Management Professional. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for an affable Doctor match from Mudhaliyar/Pillai community. Contact: 6366448344

REDDY, 32, 163 cms, Doctor, MDS. Lives in Chittoor. Father is a Businessman. Looking for a suitable well educated match from the same community. Contact: 6366448343

SINDHI/CASTE NO BAR, 29, 175 cms, Entrepreneur, Bachelors in Psychology. Lives in Coimbatore. Father is a Businessman. Family is affluent. Looking for a compatible and well educated match from any community. Contact: 6366448345

VANNAR, 23, 155 cms, Software Professional. B.E. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Senior Management Professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match from the same community. Contact: 6366448343

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www.elitematrimony.com

COSMOPOLITAN

Groom Wanted
Seeking alliance from Professionally Qualified and Well-settled affluent Boys, preferably Post-Graduate Doctors, Entrepreneurs for a good looking Hindu Pillai Doctor Girl, 24 yrs, 162 cms, hailing from a highly respected family from Trivandrum running Healthcare Network, Trading, Hospitality and Educational Institutions.
Caste no bar.
Respond with bio-data and photograph.
elitegroom2020@gmail.com

DIVORCEE

Tamil Muslim very very fair / BE/ 30/ 175cm married at very young age and got divorced within short period seeks well educated employed broad minded groom below 35 years. Email I'd: emessrubbers@yahoo.com Contact: 9486277087

REDDIAR VEG. FC TN 38/160 M.Sc Officer Pvt. Bangalore 10L PA Divorcee issueless seeks FC/BC Empl. Groom 9042582350

DOCTOR

SC, AD, 28 years,163cm, Doctor, MBBS, MS(OG) Fair, Girl, Father Doctor, own Hospital, seeks MD, MS,DM,Mch Doctor Groom below 32 years. Ct number: 9788855756

HINDU MARUTHUVAR (OBC) Lady Doctor Paediatrician, 29, 160, Kartika, invites alliance from professionals. Contact No. 9447455319

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

Parents Invites alliance for Daughter 29/165cm, Fair, IPS Officer seeks IAS, IPS,IRS,Gr.1 Officer,PG Doctor below 32y.Religion/CasteNoBar.8838348204 Mail: aarshurohito2319@gmail.com

I.R.A.S HINDU SC/AD 31/165 Pooram Simam, S.Rly,Chennai seeks suitable Groom. Caste No Bar. Ct: 9444656046

MALAYALAM

34 YEAR Kerala Christian girl, No Age/Caste bar. Family got financial liability/expecting help 9744046149

NAIR Girl 45 Pooyam Asst Professor USA Citizen Chicago caste nobar, seeks US, Canada boys.09895824803

NAIR GIRL 26 / 154 Revathy BE Chennai settled Employed seeks Alliance from Decent Family. 9500012855

MARATHI

MADHWA DESISTHA 25/172 ME Wkg in MNC Chennai Seeks Well settled Marathi Speaking Groom Ct: 8148897572

TAMIL

GOUNDER GIRL, 31/155, BTech MBA, Fair, Rich, Empolyed, Only Child. Professional Parents Unconsummated Divorcee Seeks educated employed, unmarried Groom with minimum salary 12Lakhs PA from educated chennai settled Cultured Similar Castes(BC) family. Ct: 9843602444 / 7338943646

WANTED US Based Grooms Not More 38yrs for a God Fearing Christian Girl 34yrs Settled In California. Ct: 9444084990

RC Fernando Tuticorin Good Looking Govt. Dr. MD. 30/160 Divorcee. Ct: 94431 30288

TAMIL MUSLIM 22/172 Fair Girl seek Well Settled Professional Groom in TN 7448445380, 7395844005 No Demand

PROTESTANT BRIDE B.Tech MNC 31/169 DKV seeks suitable good family God fearing groom 9840466309/9790757615

Born again(tvm)33/169 BE,MBA working Pvt Chen seeks Educated Employed Groom. 9840733408 / 9791569896

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair, Good Looking, 03–04–1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil , working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private) , Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514

CHENNAI GIRL CSI/AD 38/165 fair slim,MBA,DGM,MNC,USA,Atlanta,24L pa seek Unmarried CSI/AD BE/MBA Groom USA Wellsettled. 9677249058

TAMIL CHRISTIAN 24/158 Fair Studying MS in Canada, seeks suitable professionally qualified groom 25–30yrs, good family with Christian values from Abroad/India. (Caste No Bar) Ct:9600056955/ kurkavalan@gmail.com

TAMIL MUSLIM, BE(ECE), 24, 155 cm, employed in leading IT Co.,Chennai looking for suitable match, contact whatsapp:9810979064; email:alliancenua@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN CSI, BC, 25/158 slim fair, B.E., M.B.A., Software Engineer working in TCS seeks groom. Contact: 8903649618. Email: sherivijay88@gmail.com

TAMIL

HINDU NADAR Girl M.B.B.S., D.M Assistant Professor Employed in Delhi. Both Parents Doctors. Seeks Professionally Qualified Well Settled Groom with Good Family Background below 35 years from same Community. Ct:63811 05601

TAMIL VANNIYAR Magam Fair 30/ 167, MBBS, DO, DNB, Seeks Doctor Groom. Contact: 9443959755

TIRUNELVELI SAIVA Pillai Girl, Corporate Lawyer,29/152 Looking for a Professional with PG Qualification & Vegetarian Groom.9711900920

TAMIL Viswakarma Cbe Mdl class B.Com CMA Inter 27yr 5'4 Ragu Kedu Chevai Dhanusu Pooradam. Well jobbed PGs, Age 28-31 of same class, similar Dosam. CT: 9943515525

✔ **HINDU TAMIL** , 27 yrs, 165 cm, M Tech, working in a Private firm Chennai from a well settled family, Born with HIV, untransmittable, healthy and fully eligible for marriage as any other girl , aspiring for a decent life . Seeking Broad–minded , Vegetarian, Teetotaller, qualified bachelor boy from respectable family. CT muthusubraz@gmail.com

NAIDU 41 BAMS 5.5 widow 3yrs daughter seeks well qualified CNB Profile Geetham 9884858014

THULUVA VELLALA Mudaliyar, 24/163, Visagam, Virchigam BE, Working in SW MNC, Ct: 9940667893

HINDU NADAR 32, MSC 162cm Fair& Good Looking,Bank, Simmam, Magam, Seeking Suitable Bridegroom. 8190900067

INTERCASTE (SC,NAIDU): 30/162, MBBS, Govt.Hosp, Doctor, 60000 PM, Seeks Groom Doctor / Eng – 8939012419

GIRL AGE 25,Bcom,MBA,Mudaliyar,Baharani,Mesham. Seeks same caste with good family. Ct: 9444426451.

MUDALIAR EDUCATED parents seek groom for their daughter Uthiratadhi 30/155 BE & journalism job@Chennai. CT: 9841281331, thanga1960@gmail.com

HINDU, SC 41/155 Fair B.Sc SWE Divorcee, No issues, Seeks Suitable IT Profl Groom, Subsect No bar. Ct: 9445941821 / 044 22632821

TAMIL

THEVAR AGAMUDAIYAR, 28yrs /165cms, B.E – CSE, Anusham,Viruchigam Seeks below 32 Groom. whatsapp:9489378378

HINDU PILLAI 28/165 Moolam 2 patham,MBA Seeks suitable allaince from Well Qualified and Placed Groom(Any Mudaliyar).9444054873.

HINDU NADAR BE MS 28yrs Sadhayam working in MNC Chennai. Seeks boys Qualified Public Sector MNC working in Chennai. 9962421108, 9382858712

ARCOT Mudaliar 32 PG, Divorcee, no issue,seeks broadmind groom,subcaste ok.BHP to: manick.d25@gmail.com

HINDU VANNIAR 35/160 thiruvathirai MBBS DGO Govt Wheetish seeks Prof. groom 7812876681, 8754390535

MUDALIYAR GIRL, 25 yrs / BDS Doctor, divorced. Seeks Well Settled & Educated Unmarried Groom, Contact : 9442287394, 9600644953

✔ **AGAMUDAIYAR (DEVAR)** ,26, aswini, 5.4ft , wheatish , B.TECH,MBA , po in sbi seeks groom with B.E/MBA/ M.E degree , working in public sector / MNC / bank ct:9444490587

VANNIAR AVITTAM 25/160 MS, Working in USA, Seeks Equally Qualified groom below 29yrs. Caste No Bar. Contact: 9442344779

MALAYSIAN TAMIL Nadar parents seek alliance for daughter 27 years old. Currently well employed as Software Project Manager in Honda Motors. Well established Parents looking for well–educated and mannered boy around 30years. Caste no bar. Boy should be willing to settle in Malaysia, and later in Australia. Please contact father: nagendran@teg.edu.sg

Hindu Tamil Sengunthar / Mudaliar 160/28/62,MBBS.OG. Suitable doctors from OC/BC may contact 6381379897

ALLIANCE INVITED for suitable North Arcot (Vellore Dt) based and settled in Chennai-Mudaliar Community in Sengunthar Mudaliar Girl- 26.4yrs, 165cm, Fair,Beautiful, Cultured,Qualified in MBBS &Working in Assistant Surgeon Govt Hospital in Thiruvannamalai Dt. Relative field of experience, similar or more position is to be expected. Clear Horoscope (Bride Rasi-Mithunam,Lagnam-Mithunam,Nakshathiram-Punarpoosam & No Dosam) Tamil Nadu based & work within Tamil Nadu is to be preferred. Any type of food is acceptable. Contact 9994817945 / 9994817957 Mail:npremkumaraliasnp@gmail.com

Gramani Tiruvathirai 32/150, B.Com MBA Pvt,Chen seeks Educated Employed Groom,Caste No Bar.9445287838

VANNIYA KULA kshathriyar, 28, 163cms, Entrepreneur, BVA, M Des (IIT BOMBAY), lives in Chennai, Financially well settled, looking for a suitable, well educated match from the same community. Contact 7338698432.

V 'FAIR B'ful Girl 36Yr Divorcee (No Issue)Looking caste NoBar Settled Edu Groom M 9843178738, 9025088992

Hindu Muthaliar 29 BSc 160 Divorcee Income Monthly 65000 Fair any Caste working Boy. Contact: 73586 16660

33 /158CM Divorcee Veg Hindu Hastam MBA Self Emp No Issues Seeks Well Emp Groom CNB Ct:8939449193

HINDU SOZHIYA Vellalar 35 / 160cm MBBS, Divorcee (No Child). Seeks MBBS, BDS, PG. Suitable groom. (No Child) good family. Contact : 9500766577

Kulalar/Punarpoosam 27 / goodlooking, Health Professional PG from Prestigious Inst. 9087544053-Chennai.

MUDALIAR, OCT 1981,154cm,Wheatish, Star Aswini, B.Tech, MBA, Seeks suitable qualified, preferably postgraduate or professionally qualified and well settled employed groom, age not more than 42 years, Vegetarian Hindu , Businessman also accepted. Ct: 09444931866, / 044– 22268166 Email: ksai56@gmail.com

MUDALIYAR 30YRS/5.2 Fair MSC IT, Thiruvathirai, Mithunam, Magaram Caste NoBar Seeks IT groom. 9344087122

SC AD 24 Tall, fair, Chennai based decent family, BE, Software Engineer, 40K pm. Doctor Parents seeking suitable Groom for their elder Daughter. Ct: 9840180594

SOZHIA VELLALAR 23 yrs / 160 cm MBBS., Ayilyam Fair seeks Doctor groom from Sozhia Vellalar/ Mudaliar / Pillai. Ct: 9884216778.

DKV 28/164/56 fair BTech (NIT) MBA (IIT), MNC Chennai seeks bright groom from educated family. 9940507235

KALARI PANIKAR Reshima Lawyer LLM Ernakulam 30/5.3 Slim Invite Alliance Suitable Groom Contact:9895949897

PILLAI, FAIR, 5.4", 30 yrs, MBBS, Avittam, Prep.PG, Father Doctor, Mother Business, Madurai. Seeks Equal Prof. Groom. WhatsApp: 09791452520

SCAD 32 BE Sr.SWE TCS Rs.90,000/ pm seeks SameCaste Groom Working in Chennai /Bangalore. Ct:9952147216

BEAUTIFUL CHETTIYAR Girl, 36/165 cm, B.E. Manager, Infosys, Chennai, 18 Lpa, Father Professor. Caste No Bar. Mob: 9789820298

PILLAI MD–OG Final Yr, 28/165 seeks MS/MD Doctor professionally qualified well settled groom. 9943110020.

MUDALIAR, 24/173, Fair, B.E, System Analyst, MNC, 70000PM, Well to do, Sks profl, 044–28151088/ 28152246

ADIDRAVIDAR, 25/160, Fair, M.Tech, Phd, WIPRO, Chennai, 45000PM, Settled Family, 044–28151088/28152246

44/162 MUDALIAR/PILLAI CNB, M.com, MBA, Kettai, Viruchagam, Seeks UG/ PG Unmarried Below 47, Clean habits. Ct: 9500113136 anbumatri@gmail.com

CASTENOBAR 31/160/FAIR Divorced D/o Very Affluent Business Man Seeks BusinessMan from Chennai 9841282222

HINDU– NADAR, Unmarried, Age–28, MBBS, Needs MBBS Groom only. Ct: MOTHI 8939603191 / 99621 99621

✔ **BRAHMIN SIVACHARIYAR** (Kothram Kasipam) G.Abinaya, 28,.M.Sc,(Ph.d) Employed seeks suitable groom. Ct:9442345644

TAMIL

IYER, KASHYABA, Avittam, 30 / 167 Fair, Studying MD (General Medicine) Seeks well settled boy in India Below 35. Contact : 94431 59204. Email : rsmani2145@gmail.com

IYER,VADAMA,SADAYAM, 24, Upper Middle Class,studied and works in U.K.with interests in Music,Books,Travel.Less ritualistic and believes in high ethical values seeks Iyer Groom, Tall, 27–29 yrs from similar background and interests. writergd2020@gmail.com

BRAHMIN POORAM Bhardwaja 157/27 professionaly qualified post graduate girl working in Chennai seeks well educated match working in Chennai from a well settled family, preferably within 30yrs of age. Ct:9840780550

MUDALIAR FAMILY
with High Social Status
26, 165cm, Fair,
Lawyer, Chennai seeks
Professionally Qualified
Groom with Good Family
Background.
Contact:
044- 24954004/ 9445302299

BRIDEGROOM WANTED

ARCHITECT Bride 27/ 165 Father Tamil Yadava reputed flat promoter in Chennai, Mother Telugu Padmasali, seeks alliance from professionally qualified well settled groom any backward community.
Contact: 98410 19010
email: dpsarathy2019@gmail.com

Brahmin Iyer Vadama
23yrs, Uthradam
Post Graduate, 165cm
Very Fair, Affluent,
Chennai Based
Seeking Groom
25-28yrs, Teetotaller,
Post Graduate,
Similar Background
kavgs96@gmail.com

BRAHMIN BOY
A respectable high status Brahmin South Indian Business family with networth over 150 crores seeks alliance for their smart good looking family oriented daughter 25/165 cms Masters from a premium university.
We are looking for a tall handsome well educated brahmin boy hailing from well established cultured industrialist, CEO, Doctor, Business family
megawedding2019@gmail.com

BRIDE GROOM WANTED
Age 27, Fair, Tamil Iyer, M.com, ACS, ACMA, Uppper Middle Class, Hyderabad, looking for well Educated Boy from Good Family Background
92465 45038/ 98480 56375

BRIDEGROOM WANTED
HINDU RAJAKULA AGAMUDAIYAR family, 23/ 5.7', Fair, doing M.S (Final Year) at Princeton University, USA seeks equally qualified Groom for their daughter from same Community, willing to settle in USA.
vm95family@gmail.com

TAMIL

Invite Tamil Iyengar Chennai based professional groom for bride June 91 170 cms CA 9 + LPA Whatsapp 9952961061

HINDU SC 31/168 BE/MS/MBA USA Settled Working H1B Visa seeks US Working Groom CNB. Ct:94444 71466

VANIYAR CHETTIAR Girl 25yrs / CA Final 2nd Group pending RAHU / KETHU Dosham cont:9393135534.

DOCTOR 32/165 Doing MD-Anasthesialogy fair seek Dr/Engr RC Christian Groom pref FC/BC/MBC. 9940529886

HINDU SC PR Kongu 35 MBBS DCH Govt Doctor, working in Govt Hospital seeks suitable Groom. 94436-80973.

SCAD 35/165 M.Sc-Medical Sociology M.P.H (US) Diplomat in World Bank USA seeks suitable Groom age below 40,Caste/Religion No Bar.9884439700 Mail: mannais1957.ms@gmail.com

TELUGU

NAIDU 41/157 divorcee No issues MNC Bangalore seeks tamil/telugu professional groom ct:9443344936

BALIJA NAIDU 23 Pooram CA Final Chennai seeks Professionals/Business High Profiles only. Geetham9884858014

NAIDU 44 YRS,Issueless,Divorce,St.Govt,Officer,Chennai Seeks well Settled groom–87788 73501

KAMMA NAIDU 25/168 B.E (CSE) SWE, MNC Affluent seeks Professional. Send BHP to 9003051208.

GAVARA NAIDU Mirugasiridam 1993 born Architect M.Arch working well settled Chennai tamil speaking seeks suitable Naidu groom ct: 9841097110

JOGI KRITHIGAI Rishibam Veg 36/156 M.Com(B.Ed) seeks Educated Employed Veg Groom. Caste No Bar. 8682080448

NAIDU 44 yrs / 160 cm /Sr Manager S.W/ fair/ USA/ Divorcee No issue/ Decent employed groom in USA, Bangalore, Chennai Ct: 9444955180

Balija Naidu 23/165 Maham Simmam MCom seeks Educated Well Settled India/Abroad,SameCaste.9150727977

PADMASHALI BRIDE 29/122 MBA seeks suitable Groom preferably from Weaving Community. Ct: 9449267237

NAIDU, 25/165, Beautiful, B.Tech, System Analyst, MNC, 70000PM, Well to do, 044–28151088/28152246

KAMMA 22/167CM/BE S/W Engineer Bengaluru 9.5Ls/PA 8CRS. Seeks Kamma Groom.B'glor 9341444444 CH 9380879808

REDDY 25/170CM/BE,MS Web Developer US $84K PA 25CRS Seeks India /Abroad.B'LORE–8880088856 Ch 9385599055

REDDY 25/170CM/BE,MS Web Developer US $84K PA 25CRS Seeks India /Abroad.B'LORE–8880088856 Ch 9385599055

BALIJA 25/160CM/BTECH,MTECH IT Engineer Banglore Rs.30K/PM. Nellore–9848197222/ Chennai–9385599066

INTERCASTE 25/160CM/BE Engineer, Chennai 40k. Seeks Caste No Bar Profiles.TRICHY–9840023345 CH 9380475999

BRIDEGROOM WANTED
BALIJA NAIDU 24yrs / 158cm
B. E, M.Tech., Good looking Bride Seeks Well Qualified Groom of Same caste with Decent family.
Ct: 94432 31290
gauthamkv1992@gmail.com

NAIDU Beautiful Girl 25/164 BE Employed Father Govt Officer, Chennai seeks Govt Officers/Dr/Engr/Business. CNB.Ct: 9789857344 / 044-26402177

Devanga, 22, 180 cm, pursuing M.S., Germany, Parents Doctors, Coimbatore. Wanted well educated Telugu groom, working in Germany/ Europe. 9894744855

URDU

MBBS 22/170 Slim VeryFair Religious, Parents seek Doctors chn.9025136723 Email: amdinmyname@yahoo.com

SMU 22 yrs Girl BE Beautiful, Religious. Well settled family in Chennai. Ct: 9789905999/ 8122366786

SUNNI MUSLIM 28/160 MBA, Seeks suitable Groom. Whatsapp @ Ct: 9384756599.

BRIDES WANTED

BUSINESS

KSHATRIYA HINDI 34/172 BCA SW business 2L pm Handsome Well settled in Pondicherry, Father Doctor, Affluent family, Seeks well educated bride from well settled family. Caste No Bar. Ph./ WhatsApp: 9629012248

COSMOPOLITAN

WANTED BRIDE preferably from Defence /Mariners families for divorced/ handsome Marine CAPTAIN employed in reputed Marine Company, 32 NRI, caste no bar, Contact 9884214717.

60 PLUS Youthful & Energetic Widower business seeks Widow divorcee single woman above 45 for companionship.Caste Religion No bar. 8248119594

32 Yrs Senior SWE MNC B'lore 16L p.a, Balija Kannada only son reasonable Assets seeks Employed bride B'lore.CNB. 9894619686, 7259730954

TAMIL 57, divorce fair clean habits govt.officer well settled. Looking for honesty bride. Caste religion & language nobar. Apply with photos. Ct: himalaya497@gmail.com

DIVORCEE

CSI NADAR, Age: 50, Divorcee Government Job Seeks: CSI Nadar/ Widow/ Divorcee Bride Contact : 9677755590

NAIR DOCTOR(M.D.S) 43Years employed in Leading Hospital, Chennai. Seeks Suitable Bride. Ct: 97909 73240

DIVORCEE

WELL SETTLED widower 64 years without children seeks widows/ divorcee between 50 to 63 years . 9025719848.

DOCTOR

Tamil Muslim Doctor 28/180 MRCP (Neurology) Dublin. Seeks Tamil speaking Muslim Doctor girl willing to settle in Europe. Ct: 9443838393, Email: banurafee5@gmail.com

DOCTOR, CHRISTIAN, Widower, 52, Healthy, Fit.Seeks: Companion Widow/ Divorcee. Cast No Bar. 6380498494

DOCTOR OR non-Doctor educated Bride for Rich Nanchil nattu Vellalar Orthopedic surgeon at Nagercoil 31 years, divorcee with no issues Vellalar, Nair, Mudaliar, Brahmin similar caste can contact 9443131366/42.

ENGINEER

HANDSOME ENGINEER 183cm 26yr Punjabi Settled Chennai works Multinational Language Caste No Bar 9884026068

THE HINDU
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2 men stabbed to death in Cuttack

CORRESPONDENT
CUTTACK

Two men were stabbed to death by a group of unidentified persons in broad daylight near Nuagaon panchayat office in the Banki sub-division, about 40 km from here, on Saturday afternoon.

The victims have been identified as Bhagaban Swain, 40, the husband of Nuagaon sarpanch Mamata Mohapatra, and his associate, Aditya Ranasingh, 38, a part-time local journalist, said Cuttack (rural) SP R.B. Panigrahi.

Mr. Panigrahi, who visited the spot, said the identities of the perpetrators have been established and prima facie, the incident appears to be a fallout of some previous rivalry. Police teams have been formed to apprehend the culprits, the officer said.

Sources said Swain and Ranasingh were returning to Khajuripada village from the panchayat office around 2 p.m. on a motorcycle when a group of sword-wielding men chased them and repeatedly stabbed them.

Bengal Finance Minister misleading House: Oppn.

CPI(M), Congress MLAs tear copies of budget book in protest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

The Opposition CPI(M) and Congress on Saturday accused West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra of "deliberately misleading" the Assembly with his answers during the debate on the budget.

Mr. Mitra told the Assembly on Saturday that there has been no reduction in budgetary allocations for different departments and ₹11.6689 crore has been sanctioned for agriculture alone.

CPI(M) MLA Sujan Chakraborty said the Finance Minister's reply on Saturday did not tally with his budget speech, which spoke of decline in spending in different departments, including agriculture.

Amit Mitra

As Speaker Biman Banerjee showed a book claiming it contained the figures quoted by Mr. Mitra, Mr. Chakraborty and Congress leader Sukhbilas Barma shouted in protest and tore copies of the budget book before leaving the House.

Mr. Mitra in his speech said the government has done away with the division in planned and non-planned expenditure.

Countering him, Mr. Chakraborty later told newsmen that the proposal to do away with the distinction between planned and non-planned expenditure was not referred to by Mr. Mitra in his budget speech. The Finance Minister by speaking about it now was misleading the house, he said.

TMC legislator apologises for objectionable remark

Nargis commented on CPI(M)'s Jahanara

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

A Trinamool Congress legislator on Saturday made an objectionable comment on an MLA of Communist Party of India (Marxist), drawing widespread criticism from members of the West Bengal Assembly cutting across party lines.

The remark by TMC MLA Nargis Begum, directed towards CPI(M) legislator Jahanara Khan, was expunged from the records of the House. The Trinamool legislator later apologised to Ms. Khan for her comment.

The remark was made during the discussion on the speech of Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar in the first half of the Assembly session. Deputy Speaker Sukumar Hansda was in the chair when Ms. Begum made the comment. Speaker Biman Banerjee said he was informed about the remark by Ministers and directed that it be expunged from the House records.

Later speaking to journalists, Ms. Khan broke down and asked how Ms. Begum can make such comments. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Partha Chatterjee expressed regret over Ms. Begum's comment and said that the MLA has herself apologised.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and TMC MLA Tapas Roy said that MLAs should be careful with their choice of words in the Assembly.

Two landmines explode in Maoist-hit Malkangiri

No injuries reported in the incident

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

Two landmines planted by Maoists exploded on the Bidarpatna-Hantalguda road in Swabhiman Anchal of Odisha's Malkangiri district on Saturday. No injuries have been reported.

The landmine blast coincided with the visit of K. Vijay Kumar, senior Security Advisor to the Ministry of Home Affairs on Left-Wing Extremism, to Malkangiri to take note of the continuing anti-Maoist operations in the area.

Mr. Kumar reached Badapada camp of the Border Security Force in Swabhiman Anchal to discuss the future strategy against Maoists with senior police officers. Superintendents of Police of Malkangiri and Visakhapatnam and Deputy Inspector General of police, southwest range of Odisha, were present at Badapada for the review meeting.

The Maoists had reportedly planted the landmines to target the security forces. According to police sources, between 4.30 p.m. and 5 p.m., two blasts occurred when a private vehicle crossed the spot on the road where the Improvised Explosive Devices had been planted. No one was injured in the incident.

Initial investigation has hinted that the two land mines contained around five kilograms and two kilograms of explosives.

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER, GANGA JAL PROJECT UNIT, U.P. JAL NIGAM, PRATAP VIHAR, GHAZIABAD

Letter No. 307/निविदा/20
Dated : 13.02.2020
E-Tender Notice

U.P. Jal Nigam, E-tenders are invited on two bid system for **"Construction of RCC Nala at 120 MLD WTP Campus, Pratap Vihar under 50 Cusec Ganga Jal Water Supply Project, Ghaziabad"** from the independent contractors/contracting firms having requisite work experience and financial capability. Tender document shall be available at e-procurement website ***http://etender.up.nic.in*** latest by 25.02.2020 at 18:00 hrs. Interested contractors may view & download tender document and upload their tender, duly filled, online latest by 05.03.2020 upto 15:00 hrs. Technical/Pre-Qualification part of which shall be opened on 05.03.2020 at 15:30 hrs onwards.

कार्यालय : असैनिक शल्य चिकित्सक सह
मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी, राँची
सदर अस्पताल
पुरूलिया रोड, राँची– 834001

शुद्धि पत्र

पत्रांक.....राँची, दिनांक.....

दिनांक– 14.02.2020 को प्रकाशित पत्र संख्या – 371, दिनांक– 12.02.2020 (PR 225322 (Health Medical & Family welfare) 2019-20 के माध्यम से सदर अस्पताल, राँची हेतु विभिन्न पदों के लिए आमंत्रित Expression of Interest की अधिकतम उम्र सीमा 67 वर्ष निर्धारित है।

असैनिक शल्य चिकित्सक सह मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी, राँची — उपायुक्त राँची

PR 225490 Health Med Edu and Family Welfare (19-20)_D

Office of The Director General of Police
Uttarakhand
12, Subhash Road, Dehradun
RE-Tender Notice

S.N.:- 01, **Name of Equipment:-** Laser Speed Gun, **E-Tender No.:-** DG-**III**-362/2019, **Date of issue of E-tender:-** 13-02-2020, **Last date for submit of bids:-** 24-02-2020, **Date of opening of bids:-** 25-02-2020

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal http://uktenders.gov.in

IG, P&M
Purchase Committee,
Police H.Q., Uttarakhand
Dehradun

DIPR UK 11024

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Mech. Dept., Kota Divn.
TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DME(Co), Kota, acting for & on behalf of The President of India, invites E-Tender against Tender No. SRDME-WCR-KOTA-22-19-20, due on 16.03.2020 at 15.00 Hrs. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received will be ignored. **Tender No.:** SRDME-WCR-KOTA-22-19-20, Date 12.02.2020. **Name of work: Kota - General Furnishing, Carpentry, Plumbing and Passenger amenity attention work round the clock in BG Railway coaches at Coaching Depot Kota during primary maintenance for a period of one year. Approx. cost of the work:** ₹ 77,01,679.53. **Earnest Money**: ₹ 1,54,000/-. **Last Date & Time of submission of tender:** 15.00 Hrs. on 16.03.2020. The tender can be viewed at website **www.ireps.gov.in**. The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate on E-Tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in E-Tendering.

रेल यात्रा के दौरान शिकायत हेतु 138 पर एवं सुरक्षा हेतु 182 पर संपर्क करें।

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office Order

The online tender for 03 No. PMGSY works which were sent to publication vide this office tender notice No. PW-SE-VIII/WA-2/Tender-PMGSY/2019-15166-15206 dated 29.01.2020 and published in various news papers vide RO No. 4395/2019-20 (Classified) dated 30.01.2020 and 04 No. PMGSY works which were sent to publication vide this office letter No. 14616-655 dated 21.01.2020 and published in various news papers vide RO NO. 4203/2019-20 (Classified) dated 21.01.2020 and further corrigendum of this office No. PW-SE-VIII/WA-2/Tender-PGMSY/2019-20-15413-453 dated 05.02.2020 and corrigendum published in various news papers vide RO No.4587/2019-20 (Classified) dated 07.02.2020 are hereby cancelled due to administrative ground till further order.

Superintending Engineer,
8th Circle, HPPWD.,
Hamirpur.
HP/4796/19-20

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

In memory of your loved ones
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
011-43579797
from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. &
For Placing Advertisements Online log on to
www.thehinduads.com

DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

DEATH

Obituary

Smt. MANGALAM SARMA
Dec. 1929 - Feb. 2020
W/o. Late Sri C.V. Harihara Sarma
(Retd. Sanskrit Pandit,
P.S. High School, Chennai)
Passed away Peacefully on
15th February 2020
in Mumbai
Sri Ram Jai Ram Jai Ram

R BALASUBRAMANIAN
29 MAR 1938 – 4 FEB 2020
Dear Balu
The fond memories of our deep friendship of 50 years will always linger in our thoughts.
We sadly miss you, but you are forever in our hearts.
Your dear friends
KRR, JS - , VV – NN - Guru

MATRIMONIAL

BRIDES WANTED

ENGLISH

PQM SOUGHT for a 43 yrs old, divorced, issue–less, overseas (Australia) post–graduate edu and settled IT Project Mgr hailing from a Hindu Balija Naidu background. Pls respond with BHP to sb_mat@outlook.com or call +91 99001 94241.

2ND MARRIAGE, Mudaliyar, Tamil, 36/ 168 cm, M.E., Ph.D, Professor, 90K/ M, @Hyd, Tiruvathirai,mithunam, unmarried/ Divorced issueless, Educated/ well settled bride.Cnt: 8870147711

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

CENTRAL GOVT, BTech, MBA, 30 / 173cm/Slim, Caste No Bar, NIFT/NID Alumni Preferred, Whats app: 8248029726

KANNADA

MADHVA ASVINI 26y/180 MNC Chen seeks Educated Employed Kannada/ Desastha,22-25yr Bride. 97103 50303

Seeking traditional Brahmin bride for Kannada Kota Brahmin (MSc/ 40yrs/ 152cm/ Cochin/ financial consultant) Issueless remarriages will consider. Mob No:- 8547958807.

FOR FOSTER son 5'11" BE SW engineer Bangalore Madhwa Brahmin Haristha gothra No Horoscope Broad minded from Madhwa Brahmin Pl email lakshmanraos951@gmail.com

MALAYALAM

KERALA BASED Anglo Indian boy settled in Chennai 175 / 29 / Fair / MCA Sr. System Engineer in MNC seeks alliance. Mob. 94440 20480 rockypinheiro@gmail.com

PARENTS (GOVT.RETIREES) of Kerala Nair boy, 27/179cm, B.Tech, PG (IIM-Kolkata), working as Consultant (Data Science) in a US Co. in India, seeks alliance from parents of professionally qualified/employed good looking Nair girls. Conact: 9447216912, anaswara503@gmail.com

NAIR 33YEARS Star Pooyum, B.Com, MBA, Senior Executive in MNC. Seeks bride in Chennai settled. 9043616628

MENON 44/180 Issue less divorcee, B.Tech, MBA, Fellowship, rich, well employed in a top MNC, Kochi, liability also will be considered. 8138810213.

BRIDE WANTED
Age :25 years, Fair
Occupation:
Business (Logistics)
Qualification: MBA
(Global Business) London
Father: 30years Business.
Upper Middle Class.
Looking for Fair Graduate
Malayali Girl (Pillai & Nair)
98400 64490

MALAYALAM

KERALA CATHOLIC boy, Assistant Professor, IIT - Hyderabad, (34 / 173 / 74), handsome, parents professors, seeks alliance based / relocatable to Hyderabad. Preferably Keralite. Religion / caste no bar. Contact number: 9495974828

PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

HINDU PILLAIMAR 31 Divorcee, Own Company & House in Chennai seeks Bride Education No Bar. Ct.– 9841030857

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 29/168cm, B.com–Loyola college ,Chartered Accountant, Kanyakymari. Seeking Graduate girl. 9487112959. caevansrijo@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN BORN again/B.E/42 years/ U.S Citizen/divorced/ one son living with mother, well settled seeks bride in India or abroad, willing to settle in U.S. Ct: 8056266803

RC NADAR USA MS H1B Visa Age 28 5'11" KK Dist boy seeking girl in USA from same community 9003181992

TAMIL MUSLIM 28/185 BE MBA Corp. Manager Chennai Seeks fair pious Bride,Prof.Degree 9444063553, 7338811050

CHRISTIAN–CSI, UNMARRIED Age–34, BA,Own Business,Monthly Income 1Lakh, Caste No bar, Ct:Leema 8939603191.

HINDU PATTINAVAR ChithiraiThulam 35/168 Divorcee BE, MBA, Engineer MNC Car Co. seeks suitable Bride with good Habits & Raghu or Kethu in 7th or 8th house.7418699730/8610869832

PILLAI, FAIR, 175cm, 30yrs, Affluent, BE, MBA @ Canada Since 2016, Parents NRI. Seeks Good looking Educated well Brought Up Bride.CNB. Whatsapp 0096597643031 / 9444944370

US CITIZEN, Gentleman of age 45 seeks a protestant Christian bride. Please contact by mail at: jdavid1947@yahoo.com Full detail upon contact

MUTHU SC 31,150cm Light Black Sal.17000 Rental House anyCast Accept. No any Property Unmarried 7397248004

VISWAKARMA 27/155 Maham Ph.D Scientist well settled in Newyork, seeks bride studying / working in USA or Indian Doctor willing to settle in USA. Caste nobar. CT: 7200771188.

Hindu Nadar Tiruvonam Magaram 37 180 MBA seeks Educated Bride.77087 18622 / mrggroupglobal@gmail.com

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYAR , 27Years / 6 feet, B.E Mech, Dip in Mgmt & Prod in Newzeland, Working in Newzeland, Parents well–Settled in Chennai. Seeks Qualified, Working Bride Of same Caste. Send BHP:jothi8b@gmail.com CT:8072282663 / 9841429215

VADAMAL IYER Boy, 32, Manager in Reputed firm (Chennai) with Clean Habits. Rohini, Rishabham, Athreyam Seeks Suitable Girl. Cont 7845743894

TAMIL

AD PR 28/175 Fair B.Tech, NIT-Trichy (IIM-Bglr) PGDM, 22 LPA, seeks IIT IIM MBBS bride. CNB Ct: 9487671645

F-Less previleged, M-MBC 35/170, Uthiradam Dermatologist, Divorcee, looks for MBBS bride 93853 35107

Vanniyar 34/180 Uthiram Rahu,kethu B.Tech (IT) Project Manager, L&T Info tech seeks MBBS, B.Tech,BE suitable Bride.Cont: 9444142724 / 7200042724

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA 32/180 B.E, M.S (UK) Design Engineer working at Chennai. Parents retired employees. Seeking employed bride from the same community. 9442910057, 9486291986.

27/183CM, BORN again, Upper Middle Class, Software Engineer in TCS, Clean Habits. Seeking a Fair, Slim, Good Looking Girl from Decent Family, Ht:160cm, BC only. Ph: 9444894641

CHETTIAR 32/157CM ,Com Science Sal:4L P.A. Seeks Bride from Same/ Allied Castes. Call /Whatsapp 8428205880

DKV SC, Pallan, 30/170, Govt. Doctor (Ortho), Fair seeks Doctor Bride. Ct: 99434 69215 / 99437 30849

TV MUDALIAR 33/176 Punarpoosam–3 B.E Mech Tech Lead Malaysia 1. 50Lpm seeks Degree Goodlooking 9791064714

HINDU SC.PR ,30/164,M.Tech(IT),85,000/MNC(IT)Chennai.Seeks well Educated/Professional Bride.Parents are Government Retired Doctors9597077110

YADAVA 24 BCA Mirugasirisham Midunam Naga dosham Indane dealer 40000pm fair,well settled, Kanchipuram seeks same caste grad bride 9443903240

FA – CHRIST(NADAR)–BC, M–Hin(Chettiar)–BC, 33/5'11",BTech Fair,10L P/A,Teetotaler own house,Seeks Glook Hindu Girl BC/FC (CNB) Ct 9176003263

HINDU NADAR B.E. 170 cm/Age 28/Resigned From WIPRO Rs.60,000 P/M K.A.Raman Nadar whats app : 9380791999

WANTED UPTO 40yrs for Ayur Dr.Age 45/Chennai,2nd Marriage,Fair with Companionship.7397442825, 9840091716

TRICHY, HINDU, Tamil, 38 (unmarried), M.A., 35K PM. No Horoscope. Malayali brides (who speak tamil) may also approach. WhatsApp: 7639400686, Call: 9994905777 / webismine@gmail.com

1990 BORN Boy/ MBA having leading Industries, Institution, Branded TMT Rod, Seeks Bride from Educated & Affluent family. Contact: 9361746405

AGAMUDAYA MUDALIYAR Age 35,BCA,Pvt Compnay,Seeks Bride (Any Mudaliyar) CT–9841663666/ 99621 99621

PILLAI Uthiram BE 43/172 Legally Divorced NoIssues Emplyd Hosur,15Lpa seeks suitable QIfd Bride. 8754087753

SAIVAPILLAI, 52/167 B.Com, Pvt Ltd, 40,000pm. seeks bride any saivam, Govt Job Only, Ct:82201 07636

THULUVA VELALA Mudaliar Ayilyam 39 BE(Mech) MBA,MNC Chennai Six Digit Sal seeks Educated Goodlooking bride,Samecommunity,goodfamilyback ground. 9444023802 / 8056196033 (w)

ARCOT Mudaliar BBA,LLB, 30 thiruvathirai pvt Bank Manager,seeks suitable bride bhp to: tjeeva55@gmail.com

TAMIL

Hindu, Tamil Yadava 36 yrs MCA Officer in a private company at Chennai. Native Thanjavur wants suitable bride from the same community. Ct: 9842094712 / jjbalan41@hotmail.com

HINDU 34/175CM Singaporean Based in London (NRI). Lecturer with BSc & MEd Seeks Brides (Doctors only). Ct: +65 90184186 / 9444342747

37 YRS old Software engineer Hindu Nadar, teetotaller, (Fond of pets and cooking) based in Chennai, by preference wants to have employed bride from any caste. Contact 9840857763, 0046708446315 WhatsApp. E–mail pushkal123123@gmail.com

Caste NoBar 1978/170 only son,Midunam,Mirugaserisham-3,CivilContractor seeks bride.9087865951/ 9941815365

NADAR B.COM, 55, Genuine,1st Marriage,Chennai, Age 42– 46 Suitable Bride, Divorce also welcome 8144005354

CASTE NO Bar ,Hindu Vellalar,Divorcee.48, 161/ 5'4", Govt Job 85k PM, Seeks suitable Bride. CT:9092828592

MUDHALIAR/ 26YRS, MS (Ortho), Jipmer, Doctor, Caste No Bar, Elite family. Seeks Bride Doctors/ Eng/ Businessman/ IAS– 9442562544, 9843098282

SAIVA MUDALIYAR born Aug 84 M.Sc.B.A, B.L Legal Co.& Bank Well Settled Seeking Gud Looking Educated Family Veg Only 9080374843 / 9841298539

PILLAI / REDDIAR Doctor Parents seeks alliance, only Son, Chevvai dosham, 29/175 Fair, BE.MS (US), MNC Chennai/7L pa. Subsects acceptable. Ct 9500137775 dsreenivasan@gmail.com

BALIJA/GAVARA NAIDU 33,B.Tech,TCS – Salary Rs.90k. Kadagam/ Poosam/ Lucknam in Ragu 9840131375 / 9003039702

ALLIANCE INVITED for our divorced son , aged 32 years, B.E Graduate, Hindu, working as District Revenue Officer (DRO) in the State Govt earning Rs 12 lakh p.a , now residing in Chennai . Seeking for a good looking bride from any community . Caste no bar . No demands. Divorcees with issues & Widows not preferred . Contact: 9677700183.

MUDALIAR 28/170 B. Arch. MNC Dubai Thiruvadhirai Non Manglik Clean habits. 9741113370/ ravivs57@gmail.com.

HINDU PILLAI Saivam 44/174 Unmarried, MNC Bangalore, seeks never married suitable bride. Ct: 9916109265

HINDU AD(SC) 29, BE, MBA Central Govt Officer RS.80,000 PM,Seeks suitable Bride Tiruchy.CT: 9443158169

INTER CASTE 34 arudhra MBA v.fair seeks educated girl CNB simple marriage solicited 9790895631.

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 34/165 cm, B.E., M.B.A., Marketing Executive at Madurai seeks fair, good looking Bride from same community. Ct : 9790077430

PILLAI 34/170 BE Mech Singapore Anusham Sevvai Dosham seeks suitable Bride. CT: 09442794092.

Hindu Nadar MBBS MS 27/178 V Fair OwnHospital,Dr Girl RichFamily.98841 88849/ nanjil.v.selvam@gmail. com

TAMIL

MUDALIAR, ONLY Son, 35 years MBA, divorcee, tall, fair, seeks alliance from Hindu family. No father. Sister got married. Owned 2000 sqft flat at T.Nagar – Annual income Rs.7 lakhs. bharath180784@gmail.com

Mudaliar Unmarried 1972 Anusham Viruchigam, BBM,MLM,Sr.Officer,PSU Chennai Rs.60,000/-pm seeks Educated Suitable Alliance,Issueless Widow acceptable.subsectNoBar.9443307660 Email: gana1972madras@gmail.com

45, ANUSHAM, DCE, Business (Fancy Stores)Villupuram,40000/pm,seeks bride. Contact 9790011471

MUDALIAR,POORATATHI–MEENAM,31/175, FAIR,SMART LOOK,BE–SWE, 12Lac P/A.Seeks good looking edu bride, sub cast nobar,No Bk–9840424114, 9791035115

CHETTIAR (CNB): 28/180, B.E, MS (UK), Business, Coimbatore, only Son, Elite Family, Seeks Bride Eng/ Degree/ Doctor 9894657750, 7358510790

MBA.IIM. AFFLUENT Boy. 5'11"/29. Any Caste ok. Wanted Fair. Good looking Girl. Call 9840970170.

MUDALIAR, 28/176, B.E, MBA, Team Leader, MNC, 125000PM, Well Settled, Any degree, 044–28151088/ 28152246

ADIDRAVIDAR, 29/163, B.E (EEE), SWE, MNC, 90000PM, Rich Family, Seeks any degree, 044–28151088/ 28152246

HINDU NADAR Boy, BE, MBA, MS (USA) DOB : 3–6–1992, Rich, Mithunam, Thiruvathirai Star, Now Working USA Ford, Own Company in Chennai. Ct : 9940008274 / +9488232973

HINDU–SC, UNMARRIED, Age–30, B.E, IT Company, Monthly Income 85,000, Ct: MOTHI 8939603191 / 99621 99621

IYER 36 Sankruthi Kettai BE LLB Sr.Manager Chennai 13L/PA Own House All Veg OK. Ct:6369157055/ 7397341979

IYER VADAMA 41/160 Mirugasirisham Fair BA Good Character, only son, Pvt Chennai. 9791453205 / 9962106256

ATHREYAM,THIRUVONAM 42/174CM M.A, Central.Govt, Own house, 70K, Needs Brahmin Vegetarian. Unmarried/Divorcee, Iskcon/Ramakrishna Mutt Devotees Orphanages, Sowrashtra, Lingaites, Viswakarma Can apply under 37yrs.Willing Settle Chennai. 8925119502

KOWSIKA ASTHAM 47/178 BE,Own Business, Own Flat, Income Per/Month 2.5Lacs. Ct: 9150001197 8056721104

KOWSIKA PUNARPUSAM 4th padam 31/ 178 Advocate BE,MBA ,LLB Need only Brahmin Doctors. 9444010533 9344653732

TAMIL Brahmin 30/175 well settled family Own House at Coimbatore, wanted any Brahmin girl. For details CT: 90426 38158. Brokers Excuse.

IYER Athreya Aswini 36/165 B.Sc,CA Practising in Namakkal,Self Employed seeks Educated Bride any Brahmin preffered.Ct:7373724025/ 9944110022

IYER,VADAMA,KOUSIGA,MAGAM, 27, 5'11, BE, MBA (Premier B–School) Manager in a Corporate Company at Mumbai, Salary Rs.13 Lacs p.a. Teetotaler, Own house in Chennai, seeks a professionally qualified girl from a respectable family. Ct: 98400 80200 / 95000 56479

TAMIL

Vadakalai Kowsigam Avittam 31/172 B.Com MNC Chennai seeks Educated EmployBrideBrahmin pref.9841824991

LOOKING FOR Brahmin girl for Chennai based Iyer boy 39/ 6'1". Pls contact: 9445171999

VADAKALAI VADOOLAM Swathi August 1973/180 M.Com, MBA, Software USA H1B. Seeks Unmarried Brahmin Girl willing to relocate to USA. Contact: 044 – 24714448, 09444628868

IYER VADAMA, Haritham,Magam 31/ 162 BE CineActor seeks suitable bride Tamil Iyer preffered.Cont: 9443480164 Email: kamakotikrish@gmail.com

IYER BRIDE wanted for unmarried Iyer 54 own business Pious Teetotaller traditional family. Ct:09447496006

IYER BOY 31/156 Brahacharanam, Magam. Bharadwaja Gothram, B.E. Employed in IT Company Salary Rs. 35000/Pm, Seeks Suitable Iyer Bride Subsect NoBar Ct: 9840056647 / 9940208432

AGE: 32 Deaf and Dumb Pvt Company. 15K Own House Any Bramin Any Poor Girls Accepted : 9080032341

BRAHMIN ABOVE35 for boy 42, 6' tall, goodlooking, employed Chennai annual income Rs 5.5 lakhs, owns flat,contact parents 9841072502

ATHREYA IYER Divorcee54 Central Govt Supervisor Blore requires any Bramhin below50grad employed/unemp pl call 9489780366 swamin410@gmail.com

IYER VADULAM Uthiram Nov 77 BSc (MCA) MNC Bangalore 18 LPA .Seek unmarried Iyer Girl Ct 9841071359

IYER, well to do family, 37/178 cms, Uthram(4), MBA, Area Manager, MNC, Hyderabad, seeks girl willing to settle in Hyderabad, Early marriage, caste no bar Phone: 8106885021

BRAHMIN IYER Tamil boy 26/183 cms BE(CSE) & MBA working in US Based IT MNC, Chennai. call 9790970695

MARATHI SPEAKING Brahmin Boy, aged 37,Thanjavur Ancestral Origin, Bharatwaja Gothram,Visagam,Clean Habits,B.Sc(Com.Sc), MBA, Employed in a leading MNC as Tech Lead at Chennai, seeks strictly Vegetarian South Indian Brahmin girl,+2 Educated Willing to settle in Chennai. Mother-Tongue No Bar. Horoscope matching & Girl's merits only Consideration. Boy's Family Permanently Settled at Chennai,Ready to bear the Expenses of Simple Marriage. Send BHP to Contact - 7358695624 whatsapp Email: gramanathan1952@gmail.com

IYER VADAMAL HARITHA Tiruvonam/Nov 78/MCA/Proj Mgr @TCS Chennai/ 28L P.A/Fair Well stld TeeTotaller Seeks Never Married Brahmin Girl Age diff min 3yrs Ph:9600096079/ 9444385411

KAUNDINYA GOTHRAM, CANCER SURVIVOR, 32yrs Completely recovered, Working in IT Chennai, 30k p/m, Pure Veg, Persons preferred Cancer survivor, fully recovered. Ct: 9444424821

VADAMAL KOUSIKA Gothram 52yrs widower, railway employee, Rs.60000 p/m with own House & Car with a daughter, seeks suitable partner for remarriage. Spinsters, Widow, Divorcee without issues preferred. Ct: 9789017349 / 9840467386

TAMIL

LOOKING FOR ELITE BRIDE

GROOM FAMILY
Hindu, Chettiar, Chennai based, Owning Financially Sound Large Industries.

GROOM
Handsome, BE, MBA, 27 years, Revati Star, Clean habits, Smart & popularly known Sportsman.

SEEKS BRIDE
Beautiful, Hindu, Forward Community, Smart girl from a Cultured Orthodox Family.

Please WhatsApp Girl's Horoscope, profile & family background to +91 73056 56881

IYER VADAMAL 28/175 Bharathwajam Bharani Bcom ACS MBL ICWA Inter Employed MNC Chennai 10L Sutha Jadagam. Seeks suitable Bride Ct: 9444126063

BRIDE WANTED
THEVAR MUKKULATHOR
Age 30 / 168 Cm / MBA / Fair, clean habits, fitness body
Rich/affluent, Business family in Chennai. Seeks suitable Graduate bride from same community & good Family Background.
Ph-9444075777

BRIDE WANTED
V.PRAVEEN KUMAR, 34, MBC
(Technician, Southern Railway)
Salary : 5 Lakhs per Annum
Rasi : Leo | Star : Uthiram
Caste No Bar
Contact : Mrs. Uma (Mother)
98417 58599

BRIDE WANTED
FATHER - Brahmin
MOTHER - Agamudaiyar
seeks suitable
Agamudaiyar/Mudaliyar/Pillai
Engineering Bride
for their only son
M.Tech/29/6feet/fair
Lead Engineer in MNC
Bangalore
9442087581

IYER VADAMA Srivatsam Barani Dec 73, B.Com,HDFC 60Kpm, Own Flat seeks Brahmin Bride Educated even with Slight Physical Disability.Subsect NoBar.Ct: 9841218047 / 9444922221 Email: narayanan528@gmail.com

Naidu 39/160, Pooram, BE, MNC Seeks Bride Contact: 7871433297

Wanted Alliance for a Palakkad Brahmin Iyer Groom 35 Wheatish,176 cms, Senior Manager in MNC at Mumbai. +91 9004673210/022- 24162492

TAMIL YADAVA 33/164 Makam,Fair BE,MS govt employed seeks suitable good looking Bride from same caste 7745839486/apkannan@gmail.com

TELUGU

NAIDU : 27/170, MBA (Finance), Sr.Manager, Bangalore, 2000000 PA, Father Industrialist, Elite Family. Seeks Bride – 9442212565, 7305810258

✔ **NAIDU GROOM 33/170, Star – Hastham (Raghu Keathu Dosha) Software Consultant, Netherlands. Looking for an educated Bride from decent Family. Contact: 9444403745**

BALIJA NAIDU 39/170 Unmarried / Educated / Self Employed well settled in Puducherry. Seeks any Naidu bride. Contact: 9677737684

KAMMA NAIDU 31/175/MBA/Southern Rly well Settled in Chennai Seeks Graduate Girl Ct:9789859922, 9444363481

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IN BRIEF

Illicit wealth case against former Kerala Minister

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government on Friday ordered the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau to investigate former Health Minister V.S. Sivakumar (in picture) on the charge of "illicitly enriching himself" during his period in office between 2011-16. Governor Arif Mohammed Khan had earlier given his consent to prosecute Mr. Sivakumar.

'Facilitate HC shift from Amaravati to Kurnool'

VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Saturday urged Union Law and Justice Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad to take steps for shifting the High Court from Amaravati to Kurnool as resolved by the State government.

Three Kashmiri students held for 'pro-Pakistan' slogans

Police in Hubballi invoke sedition charge after video featuring them goes viral

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HUBBALLI

Three Kashmiri students studying at an engineering college in Hubballi have been arrested on charges of sedition and attempt to disrupt communal harmony, after a video in which they allegedly raised "pro-Pakistan" slogans went viral, leading to protests from Hindutva outfits.

Police Commissioner R. Dileep told journalists that the three students are Basit Ashiq Sofi and Talib Majeed, first year students of civil engineering, and Aamir Mohiuddin Wani, final year student of civil engineering.

"We have registered cases under Section 124A (sedition) and Section 153A (promoting enmity) and B (acts prejudicial to national integration) of IPC and further investigation is on," he said.

The Kashmiri students who were arrested on charges of sedition in Hubballi. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Police Commissioner said that as the investigation was under way he would not be able to give further details about the background of the students and he would not make "sweeping remarks" against Kashmiri students.

"We have framed charges based on prima facie evidence and a complaint by the college principal. Further action would be taken after thorough investigation," he said.

Principal of KLE Institute of Technology, Prof. Basavaraj Anami told the media that after the video became public and was brought to his notice, the police were alerted and they took the three students into custody for questioning.

In the video, the three students are seen listening to a song and repeating the refrain, which appears to be "Pakistan Zindabad."

After the video went viral, a few students of the college reportedly questioned the Kashmiri students and were allegedly manhandled. But police intervention prevented any further commotion, sources said.

District-in-charge Minister Jagadish Shettar and Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi said the government would not tolerate any "anti-national activity."

Women held in Bidar case released

STAFF REPORTER
BIDAR

Nazbunnisa and Fareeda Begum, who were arrested on January 30 on sedition charges, were released from Bidar district prison on Saturday evening after they fulfilled bail conditions and other formalities.

The school management people whisked the two women away to avoid their interaction with media representatives and activists.

Ms. Nazbunnisa has been accused of sedition as her 11-year old daughter had, in a play staged during the annual day celebration on January 21, delivered a dialogue which allegedly insulted the Prime Minister.

Ms. Fareeda Begum, headmistress of Shaheen School, was arrested for allowing the performance of the controversial play.

T.N. achieves drop in maternal mortality

MMR dips to 57 from 63 in 2015-17

SERENA JOSEPHINE M.
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has dipped to 57 per one lakh live births in 2019 according to the State Health Management Information System (HMIS) data.

This reduction figured in the budget presentation of Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam on Friday. He said MMR has reduced from 90 per one lakh live births in 2010-2012 to 63 in 2015-2017 and further to 57 in 2019 as per data maintained by the State government.

As per HMIS data, the State's MMR stood at 60 per one lakh live births in 2018. The latest Sample Registration System (SRS) data on MMR for the period 2015-2017 placed TN's MMR at 63 per one lakh live births, officials said.

"HMIS reflects real-time data that we provide to the Government of India. This decline to 57 per one lakh live births is a good sign and is proof that maternal care has improved in the State. A single intervention alone has not brought about this decline. But a number of efforts starting with the health of adolescent girls to ante natal and post natal care of mothers including high risk women has led to this further reduction. We provide nutritional kits for pregnant women, and have ambulances/dedicated vehicle facility to pick up high risk mothers and bring them to the CEmONC (Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care) centres," said K. Senthil Raj, mission director, National Health Mission-Tamil Nadu.

The drop is the outcome of multiple factors, K. Kolandaswamy, Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, noted. Well-functioning CEmONC centres, direct appointment of specialists, improvement in infrastructure, protocol-based management and full strength of village health nurses and ICDS staff are among the many factors, he said.

"We have achieved reduction in higher order births, while every pregnancy is being monitored through the Pregnancy and Infant Cohort Monitoring and Evaluation system. We have birth waiting rooms in remote areas to enable pregnant women to get admitted at least 10 days before delivery," he pointed out.

Consistent monitoring

Monitoring of high risk mothers has been one of the focus areas of the authorities.

"We are ensuring timely admission of high risk pregnant women. This includes women who are anaemic, those with cardiac ailments, pregnancy-induced hypertension, bad obstetric history, previous caesarean section and elderly primi. We are identifying such women at the time of ante natal registration," Dr. Senthil Raj said.

Obstetricians and gynaecologists were appointed as mentors in districts, he said.

"Every month, the block medical officer and primary health centre's medical officer meet the OG and discuss the high risk cases. In fact, village health nurses keep in touch with the OG in CEmONC centres via WhatsApp," he added.

Experts said the Tamil Nadu Pregnancy and Heart Disease Registry started a few months ago, would help in recording heart diseases among pregnant women.

Groom dies of cardiac arrest after dancing

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NIZAMABAD

The happiness of a wedding celebration in the family of Chanduru Sailu and Gangamani at Nayi Brahmana street in Bodhan at Nizamabad did not last long with their son Ganesh dying of cardiac arrest within a few hours of his marriage on Friday night.

Ganesh, 25, who joined his friends and relatives in dancing during the 'baraat' (wedding procession) collapsed all of a sudden. He was rushed to a hospital where he was declared brought dead.

It is believed that the high decibel sound of the music played during 'baraat' might have triggered the cardiac problem. A pall of gloom descended on the street with the inconsolable cries of the bride Swapna and Ganesh's mother.

Chanduru Ganesh

Kerala EC to approach SC against High Court directive

HC had ordered it to use LS voters' list for local body polls

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Election Commission has decided to approach the Supreme Court against a High Court Division Bench order directing it to use the voters' list for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections for conducting local body polls in the State.

The Commission will file its appeal before the Supreme Court next week, State Election Commissioner V. Bhaskaran said.

On Thursday, the Division Bench had quashed an earlier Single Bench decision upholding the EC's plan to utilise the electoral rolls used for the local body elections in 2015 as the basis for updating the voters' list.

The Division Bench verdict came on appeals filed by Congress leader N. Venugopal and Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) leader Soopy Narikkatteri. On its part, the State Election Commission had taken the stand that it would be impractical to use the voters' list prepared by the Election Commission of India for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections for the local body elections.

Meanwhile, Minister for Local Self-Government A.C. Moideen backed the State Election Commission's decision to move the Supreme Court. On its part, the State government will provide all assistance to the Commission to avoid delay in holding the local body elections, Mr. Moideen told reporters here. "The Commission has made it clear that the stand taken by it is the correct one for casting a flawless list for the elections. In such a context, the Commission has every right to appeal," Mr. Moideen said.

Man held for beating up three-year-old

STAFF REPORTER
ALAPPUZHA

A 3-year-old boy was admitted to the Government Medical College Hospital here with serious injuries after being assaulted by his mother's partner.

The Ambalappuzha police arrested Vaishak, 31, of Ambalappuzha and the boy's mother in connection with the case on Saturday.

"The boy's mother and Vaishak have been living together for the past three months. The child has sustained injuries, including on his private parts, after being tortured by the accused for several weeks," said a police official.

Karnataka CM's 77th birthday planned as a 'non-partisan' bash

Four former Chief Ministers to be on stage to mark the day

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

B.S. Yediyurappa, the only BJP Chief Minister the party has chosen for public office beyond the 75-year age limit, is all set to celebrate his 77th birthday on February 27 as a grand public event.

A felicitation volume is being planned to be released on the day.

Rare occasion

Though many senior party leaders, including Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, will take part, it is planned as a "non-partisan" event, said sources. Opposition leaders and former Karnataka Chief Ministers Siddaramaiah from the Congress and H.D. Kumaraswamy from the Janata Dal (Secular) are expected to participate.

"Four former Chief Ministers – S.M. Krishna, Siddaramaiah, D.V. Sadananda Gowda and Kumaraswamy – will felicitate the Chief Minister. It is a rare non-partisan occasion to appreciate the long public life of Mr. Yediyurappa, also reflecting the democratic traditions of the State," said Mahadeva Prakash, media adviser to the Chief Minister. He is also the chief editor of the felicitation volume. The volume includes 78 articles about Mr. Yediyurappa from all walks of life – politicians cutting across party lines, bureaucrats, writers, spiritual leaders, and even scientists, he added.

B.S. Yediyurappa

"The high command has often not dealt with him with the respect he deserves, being the senior-most Chief Minister and a mass leader of the party in the country today. The delay in flood relief and Cabinet expansion, and forcing on him three deputies, have created bad optics. He now seeks to remould himself in the role of a senior statesman, whom even the high command cannot ignore," a strategist close to the Chief Minister said.

Tough times

Not so hot: Farmers drying red chilli on a field at Kollapur in Hyderabad. Sluggish demand in the overseas markets has pulled down its price from ₹22,000 per quintal to ₹10,000 per quintal. ▪ NAGARA GOPAL

Jagan's kin meets with accident, safe

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

The vehicle of evangelist Anil Kumar, who is the brother-in-law of Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, met with an accident at Garikapadu checkpost, near Jaggaiahpeta, in Krishna district on Saturday. However, he escaped unhurt.

His security personnel and driver suffered minor injuries. They were rushed to a private hospital in Vijayawada, where they were treated as outpatients.

According to Krishna SP M. Ravindranath Babu, the vehicle in which Mr. Anil Kumar was travelling skid off the road and fell into a gorge. On receiving information, Government Whip Samineni Udaya Bhanu went to the spot and shifted Mr. Anil Kumar and his security personnel and driver to a hospital.

Fragmented forests leave jumbos jittery

A colony built in a Kerala village to rehabilitate tribals blocks migratory path of pachyderms

GIJI K. RAMAN
IDUKKI

Within a decade, 30 lives were lost and swathes of standing crops were destroyed in attacks by crop-raiding elephants in Munnar, where the largest number of man-animal conflicts were reported in Kerala's Idukki district. Fragmentation of forestland is the prime reason cited for the elephants straying into farms.

A herd of 28 wild elephants are stranded at Anayirangal dam area for years, surrounded by cardamom plantations and buildings, which block their traditional migratory path to their water source. Due to the steepness of the terrain to Mathikettan shola, the wild elephants often encroach into farmlands.

Hidden anger: Elephants, stranded by poorly planned projects in forests, undergo much stress. ▪ FILE PHOTO

The largest human casualty in wild elephant attack was reported in Chinnakanal after the creation of the No. 301 Colony for rehabilitating tribespeople. In five years, 11 persons were killed there. It was reported that the colony was created blocking the migratory path of wild elephants.

Of the 110 families resettled, only 34 families live there now. The rest have abandoned the site fearing wildlife attacks.

When the proposal for creating the No. 301 Colony was made, the Forest Department had given a report to the government that the area was on the migratory path of the wild elephants. However, it was overlooked, creating a space for continued man-animal conflict there.

Conflict zones

The human habitations that constantly come under elephant attack in Idukki are Chinnakanal, Santhanpara, Rajakkad, Marayur, Mankulam and Anayirangal dam in Munnar, in addition to Neryamangalam and Kothamangalam. Martin Lowel, assistant forest conservator, Munnar Forest Division told *The Hindu* that fragmentation of forest areas resulted in elephants getting stranded and turning violent, due to stress. It was with the aim of relocating them that the first elephant sanctuary in the State was proposed in the Chinnakanal-Anayirangal area.

Lack of fodder or water may not be the only reason for wild animals coming out of the forest areas. When a migratory route is broken, the stranded wild elephants stay there and if they find a farmland, destroy it for no reason. A herd of seven wild elephants recently strayed into the tea plantation of Kanan Devan Hills Plantation (KDHP) Ltd. and caused damage over a week.

Begari community members seek insurance, pension

"Will stop burying the dead if our problems are not solved"

STAFF REPORTER
KURNOOL

The members of the Begari community on Saturday demanded that the government provide accident insurance, pensions and identity cards. "We will stop burying the dead if our problems are not solved," they said.

The community members, categorised as Scheduled Castes, primarily work as gravediggers and security guards at the cemeteries. The Begari association, under the aegis of the Kula Vivaksha Vyatireka Porata Samithi (KVPS), staged a protest outside the collectorate here.

The protesters demanded identity cards for everyone who engages in the occupation. They also asked for ₹5,000 as pension for everyone who had crossed 45 years as well as accident insurance.

KVPS members staging a protest at the Collectorate in Kurnool on Saturday. ▪ U. SUBRAMANYAM

Apart from that, as work had come down significantly, they asked that the government provide two acres to cultivate. "The government must also give houses constructed on three cents," they demanded.

IN BRIEF

Ambala bus stand renamed after Sushma

AMBALA

The Ambala city bus stand was renamed after late External Affairs Minister and BJP veteran Sushma Swaraj on Saturday. She was born in Ambala Cantonment and was elected as MLA twice from there. State Transport Minister Mool Chand Sharma said the bus stand had been constructed at a cost of ₹18 crore. PTI

Wuhan evacuees likely to be released soon

NEW DELHI

A total of 406 people, who were housed at a quarantine facility of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police after being brought back from China due to the COVID-19 outbreak there, may be released next week if their final samples turn out to be negative, said a senior Home Ministry official on Saturday. The reports are expected to be received by Monday. PTI

Rebels attack former MPP chief's house

IMPHAL

Oinam Jogindro, former president of the Manipur People's Party (MPP) and his family members escaped unhurt on Saturday as suspected rebels lobbed a hand grenade at his house at Wangoi in Imphal West district, said police sources. Bomb experts took the explosive away for a controlled blast in a field.

Woman slips while trying to board train, saved

BHUBANESWAR

An RPF constable, Subrat Kumar Maharana, saved the life of a passenger Nibedita Sahoo, who slipped while trying to board the Puri-Sambalpur Intercity Express at the Bhubaneswar railway station on Saturday, officials said. Ms. Sahoo slipped into the gap between the train and the platform after losing her balance. The incident was caught on CCTV cameras. PTI

Elephantine conflict swells in the east

Bengal, Odisha and Assam account for about half the fatalities in man-elephant conflict, data show

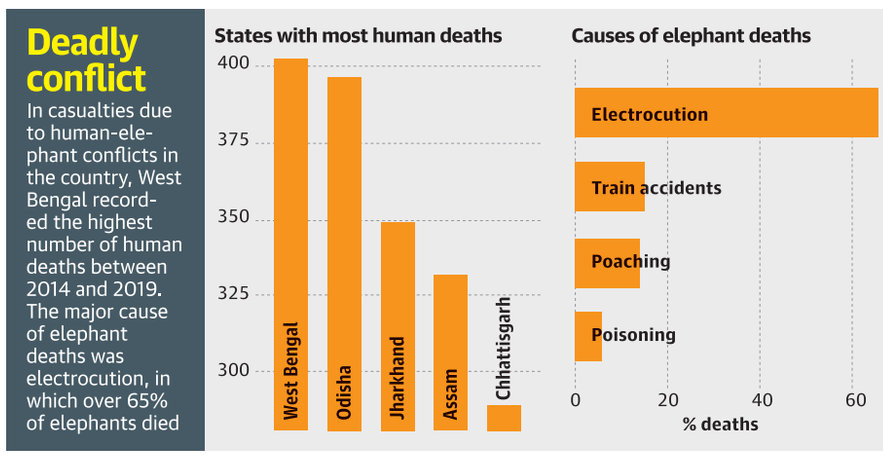
SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

Three States in the eastern and northeastern parts of the country – West Bengal, Odisha and Assam – account for about half of both human and elephant deaths in the overall human-elephant conflict in the country, according to the latest data provided by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Over the past five years, from 2014-15 to 2018-19, 2,361 human deaths were recorded in elephant attacks across the country, of which 1,132 (48%) fatalities were from these three States, as per the data tabled in the Rajya Sabha. West Bengal had the highest number of human casualties: 403, followed by Odisha with 397, Jharkhand with 349, and Assam with 332 deaths.

When it comes to unnatural deaths of elephants (mainly due to poaching, train accidents, electrocution and poisoning), the country recorded 510 deaths in the same period (2014-15 to 2018-19). Of these, 259 (53%) occurred in these three States alone. The figures were tabled in the Rajya Sabha on February 10, in response to a question by Rashtriya Janata Dal MP Majoj Kumar Jha.

Interestingly, these three States are home to just about 31% of the total population of all elephants in India. The last synchronised elephant survey in the country in 2017 had given a figure of 27,312 elephants, of which Assam had recorded 5,719 elephants, Odisha 1,976 and West Bengal 642.



Elephants electrocuted

Raman Sukumar, an elephant expert and ecologist from the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, said that these States had been a "neglected region in terms of building up the knowledge base on elephant ecology".

Among the reasons for unnatural deaths of elephants, electrocution is at the top of the list, accounting for 68% of elephant deaths in the country. Assam accounted for 66 electrocution deaths, followed by Odisha with 57 deaths and Bengal with 39 fatalities.

The second most common cause for unnatural deaths of elephants is train accidents. Between 2014-15 to 2018-19, 77 deaths were due to train accidents.

The data assumes significance when India is moving to include Asian Elephants in the list of species that merit heightened conservation at the 13th Conference of Parties on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals scheduled to be held at Gandhinagar later this month.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

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

Forecast for Sunday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning very likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh. Isolated to scattered rainfall activity likely over parts of northeast India during next five days.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	28.0	15.0
Ahmedabad	–	31.0	14.0
Aizawl	–	18.0	9.0
Allahabad	–	28.0	10.0
Bengaluru	–	32.0	18.0
Bhopal	–	28.0	12.0
Bhubaneswar	–	35.0	17.0
Chandigarh	–	24.0	13.0
Chennai	–	34.0	21.0
Coimbatore	–	35.0	21.0
Dehradun	–	27.0	9.0
Gangtok	–	12.0	7.0
Goa	–	34.0	22.0
Guwahati	–	26.0	12.0
Hubballi	–	33.0	21.0
Hyderabad	–	33.0	17.0
Imphal	–	23.0	8.0
Jaipur	–	27.0	12.0
Kochi	–	33.0	25.0
Kohima	–	16.0	7.0
Kolkata	–	30.0	17.0
Kozhikode	–	35.0	25.0
Kurnool	–	35.0	19.0
Lucknow	–	25.0	10.0
Madurai	–	36.0	22.0
Mangaluru	–	34.0	24.0
Mumbai	–	33.0	21.0
Mysuru	–	32.0	20.0
New Delhi	–	26.0	11.0
Patna	–	26.0	13.0
Port Blair	–	30.0	21.0
Puducherry	–	32.0	21.0
Pune	–	32.0	15.0
Raipur	–	31.0	17.0
Ranchi	–	28.0	13.0
Shillong	–	15.0	6.0
Shimla	–	21.0	8.0
Srinagar	–	13.0	2.0
Thiruvananthapuram	–	33.0	25.0
Tiruchi	–	35.0	21.0
Vijayawada	–	35.0	19.0
Visakhapatnam	–	31.0	22.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	52	.74	31	..130	.118	....
Bengaluru	..9	.81	23	..171	.....–	....
Chennai	..–	.31	37	..146	.....–	....
Delhi	34	.69	32	..246	.212	....
Hyderabad	33	.83	32	..204	.....–	....
Kolkata	50	128	16	..223	.246	....
Lucknow	..7	.39	.–	..255	.....–	....
Mumbai	14	.70	49	..142	.176	....
Pune	84	.40	82	..120	.101	....
Visakhapatnam	10	.68	51	..148	.135	....

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Siliguri, West Bengal recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 342 indicating a severe level of pollution. In contrast, Maihar, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 57.

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

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

4-year-old raped by school bus driver

She was on her way back home

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Haryana police have registered a case of an alleged rape of a four-year-old girl by the driver in the school bus while she was on her way back from the school in Himachal Pradesh's Baddi town.

The police said she studied at a private school in Baddi and lived with her maternal aunt at Madawala village in Panchkula's Pinjore block.

A case under Section 6 (aggravated sexual assault) of the POCSO (Protection of Child from Sexual Offences) Act and other sections of the Indian Penal Code has been registered at Panchkula's women police station.

"The incident happened in the school bus when the child was returning from the school as per the complaint. On Friday, after returning from her school, the victim narrated to her aunt that the driver had sexually assaulted her on the bus," said Panchkula ACP Noopur Bishnoi.

"So far the accused has not been arrested but our teams are searching for him since Friday night," she said.

The victim has been admitted at the Panchkula civil hospital for treatment and examination.

FCI agrees to procure paddy from Puducherry

The move will benefit about 25,000 farmers

RAJESH B. NAIR
PUDUCHERRY

In a major relief to around 25,000 farmers, the Food Corporation of India has agreed to procure paddy from Puducherry and Karaikal regions shortly.

In a communication to the Chairman and Managing Director of FCI and Secretary, Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Puducherry, Jai Prakash, Under Secretary to Government of India, conveyed the decision on February 11.

Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan in response to a letter written by Chief Minister V. Narayanasamy on January 15 had given his consent to procure 30,000 metric tonnes of paddy from Karaikal and Puducherry in 2019-20.

Farmers in Puducherry produce around 99,000 tonnes of paddy per year.

Power Minister R. Kamalakannan, who also holds the Agriculture portfolio, said on Saturday that around 20,000 farmers in Puducherry and another 4,600 farmers in Karaikal would benefit from the move.

On an average per year, farmers produce around 99,000 metric tonnes of paddy in the Union Territory. The corporation last procured paddy from the U.T. 10 years ago. Since then, the government-run marketing society made attempts to intervene in the market but could not make much strides in stabilising the price.

ISRO to launch 10 EO satellites in 2020-21

36 missions planned for next fiscal

MADHUMATHI D.S.
BENGALURU

The country will send up an unusually large number of 10 earth observation (EO) satellites during 2020-21, according to the latest annual report of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for 2019-20. The plan includes new categories, such as the first Geo Imaging Satellite, GISAT-1.

In comparison, only three communication satellites and two navigation satellites are planned for the coming financial year starting April. The plan mentions 36 missions, which include both satellites and their launchers.

ISRO was recently given a budget of nearly ₹13,480 crore for the next fiscal.

The upcoming launches include RISATs, Oceansat-3 and Resourcesat-3/3S.

The upcoming EO satellites include radar imaging satellites RISAT-2BR2, RISAT- 1A and 2A, Oceansat-3 and Resourcesat-3/3S.

In the ongoing fiscal, 17 missions are planned, six of which are due to be completed by March 31.

Doctors warn against use of weight-loss drug

Lorcaserin linked to risk of cancer: FDA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Indian doctors have cautioned against the use of lorcaserin (brand name Belviq or Belviq XR), a weight-loss drug that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently said is linked to a "possible increased risk of cancer."

"Lorcaserin has been withdrawn from the U.S. market after caution by the FDA because of cancer risk. We have been using this drug to help reduce weight but were not impressed by results. We are now informing all our patients," said endocrinologist Anoop Misra.

The FDA requested the drug manufacturer to voluntarily withdraw lorcaserin, after a post-marketing trial with more than 12,000 subjects revealed an increased occurrence of cancer. The agency also said that healthcare professionals should stop prescribing the drug to patients.

"Contact patients currently taking lorcaserin, inform them of the increased occurrence of cancer seen in the clinical trial, and ask them to stop taking the medicine," it advised.

The decision is based on the agency's review of the five-year trial which was designed to evaluate cardiac health risk with the drug and ended in 2018. There was one additional cancer observed for every 470 patients treated for a year.

Radio aids revival of dying tribal language

The Asur tribe has been using mobile radio to transmit news programmes, songs

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR:

Tucked away in the hills of Jharkhand's Latehar district, Asur, a particularly vulnerable tribal group, may not have access to good road or means of transportation to the outside world, but that has not deterred them from saving their language. Using mobile radio, the Asur community has been spreading the popularity of the language within their geographical limits.

As the voice *Dahan-Dahan Turrarr .. Dang T inatang Turrarr.. Noa Hake Asur Akhada Radio Enegabu Degeabu Siringabu Urrarr* (Come, sing, dance and talk. This is Asur Centre Radio) is played out through loud speakers, the bustle at the weekly market at Kotia seizes briefly, as people turn their attention to songs and news transmitted in their native language.

Taking initiative: Members of the Asur tribe operating a mobile radio in Jharkhand. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The Asur language figures in the list of UNESCO Interactive Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger. We are trying our best to save our language from vanishing," said Sushma Asur, who has been at the forefront of the initiative.

The first transmission of a half-an-hour programme was organised near Netarhat on January 19. Since then, the pre-recorded radio programmes have been aired on 16 different occasions, said Ranchi-based A. K. Pankaj, editor of *Johar Disum Khabar*.

As per the 2011 census, the tribe has a population of around 23,000 in Latehar and Gumla districts. "Only 7,000 to 8,000 Asur tribals are left in the community who are well conversant in the language," said Vandana Tete, a Ranchi-based poet and tribal rights activist.

Of the 32 different tribes recorded in the State, only four to five tribes, including Santhali, Ho and Kuruk, have recorded language scripts.

"The initiative has got a huge response from people. Now, villagers are requesting us to organise events at their places and they are also interested in preparing radio programmes," said Ms. Tete.

ANDHRA PRADESH CENTRAL POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED
Corporate Office, Beside Government Polytechnic, ITI Road, Vijayawada - 520008
NOTIFICATION Dated: 16.02.2020
Applications are invited from eligible Candidates for filling up of the following posts (On contract basis) of **APCPDCL**, a Corporation wholly owned by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.
1) Company Secretary
2) Law Officer
3) Chartered Accountant
The details of eligibility criteria, other detailed Instructions and prescribed format may be viewed at APSPDCL website: www.apspdcl.in
Last Date for Submission of Application: 03-03-2020.
Place:Vijayawada, Date:16.02.2020 CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR

STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED
19-A, RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHY ROAD, EGMORE, CHENNAI - 600 008.
CIN U74999TN1971SGC005967
Tender Notice NIT.No. 42/CW/DO/T.No.60/2019-20 Dt.14.02.2020
For and on behalf of State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited, sealed tenders are invited under **"Two Cover System"** for the following work from Civil Class-I State Level Civil Contractors registered in State/Central or Quasi Government Organisations having experience in similar nature of works. Tenders will be received upto 3.00 PM on **18.03.2020** and the same will be opened on the same day at 3.30 PM.

Name of Work	Approx. value of work	EMD
Creation of Infrastructure facilities viz. Formation of Roads with RCC side drains providing street lights system and water supply distribution system at SIPCOT Industrial Complex, Ranipet, Phase III - Extended DTA.	Rs.1970.00 lakhs	Rs.9,95,000/- in the form of Demand Draft drawn in favour of SIPCOT Ltd., payable at Chennai.

The tender Schedule can be Downloaded at free of cost from the website www.tenders.tn.gov.in and www.sipcot.in
DIPR/ 906 /TENDER/2020 **MANAGING DIRECTOR, SIPCOT, CHENNAI-8**

SANJAY GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS
(Government of Karnataka Autonomous Institute)
Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 560 011 Ph: 080-26564516, 26562500 Grams: SITO Fax: 26565222 E-mail: sitodirector@gmail.com
No:SGITO/e-Tender/Haematology Analyser/128/2019-20 Date: 14.02.2020
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(e- Procurement)
Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma & Orthopaedics, Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 11 invites tender from the eligible tenderers through the e-procurement portal of GOK for **(1) Haematology Analyser 5 Part Cell Counter - 1 No.**
(1) The Tenderers can download the documents from: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **17.02.2020** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through e-portal is **05.03.2020** upto **4:00** PM.
(2) The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept / reject or cancel tender without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd/-
Chief Administrative Officer
Tender Inviting Authority
DIPR/ 2514 /2019-20

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CENTRE FOR RESEARCH
ADMISSION TO Ph.D. PROGRAMME - JULY 2020
Applications are invited for admission to Ph.D. Programme for July 2020 session. The details such as eligibility, fee and other information are available at **https://cfr.annauniv.edu** from 17.02.2020 to 07.03.2020.
Candidates have to apply online through the above link. Last date for online submission of filled-in applications is 09.03.2020 till 5.30 p.m. For further details please refer the above website.
DIPR/250/Display/2020 **REGISTRAR**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF FINANCE
INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE TAX RECOVERY OFFICER 6,
Room No.426-E, 4th Floor, Wanaparthy Block, 121, M.G. Road, Aayakar Bhavan - Chennai-34 TEL: 044-28338545 / Mob:94459-53797
Email : chennai.tro6@incometax.gov.in
PUBLIC AUCTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY SITUATED AT CHENNAI
Notice is hereby given that the office of the undersigned has proposed to conduct an public auction as per the provisions laid down in the 2nd Schedule of the Income tax Act, 1961 and sale of immovable property, which belongs to **Shri. Anand Muruga Utharkar, No.69, VGP Layout, 3rd Part, 2nd Main Road, Pallavakkam, Chennai- 41** being income tax defaulter for the purpose of recovery of income tax arrears.
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY
Vacant land situated at Plot No.23,Second Street, Balamurugan Nagar, in the layout Plan 5582/75,approved by the Commissioner under D.T.P.No.221/75 situated in Balamurugan Nagar, Velachery, Chennai, comprised in Survey No.257 of Velachery Village, Mambalam Guindy Taluk, District of Chennai South measuring an extent of 2400 Sq.ft. and being bounded on North by: 20 feet Road-Balamurugan Nagar 2nd Street, South by : Plot No.2, East by : Plot No.22,West by : Plot No.24.
Reserve price In Rupees : Rs.85,21,600/- plus poundage fee & costs
E.M.D in Rupees : Rs.1,00,000/-
DATE AND TIME OF AUCTION
12.03.2020 @ 11.30 AM
VENUE OF AUCTION
Income Tax Auditorium (Vaigai Hall) in the Income Tax Main Building Campus, Aayakar Bhavan, 121, M.G. Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600034.
CONDITIONS:
1. The intending bidders are requested to deposit **Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Only)** as Earnest Money Deposit for the above property by means of Demand Draft in favour of 'Tax Recovery Officer-6, Income tax Dept., Chennai' drawn on any schedule bank payable at Chennai before the beginning of actual auction proceedings, which is refundable to the parties except successful. The successful bidder shall pay immediately after such declaration, deposit of 25 % on the amount of his purchase money to the officer conducting sale, and in default of such deposit the property shall forthwith be put up again and resold. The full amount of purchase money payable should be paid by the purchaser to the undersigned on or before 15th day from the date of sale of property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day being a Sunday or other holiday, then on first office day after the fifteenth day. In default of payment within the period mentioned above, the property shall be resold after issue of fresh proclamation of sale.
2. The Property will be auctioned on **"as is where is and what is there is basis".**
3. The details of the property and the copy of the Encumbrance Certificate can be perused at the office of the undersigned on any working day prior to auction, after fixing an appointment with the undersigned during office hours.
4. Detailed terms and conditions of the auction sale may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.
5. The aforesaid property will not be sold below the Reserve Price of **Rs.85,21,600/-.**
(V. SATHYA)
Tax Recovery Officer-6
O/o. Pr.Commissioner of Income Tax-6
Chennai.
Date: 06.02.2020
Place : Chennai

FROM PAGE ONE

Azhar, family missing, Pakistan tells FATF

On March 5, Pakistan's Ministry of Interior claimed that 44 members of banned organisations, including Azhar's son Hamad and his brother, Abdul Raoof, were taken into "preventive detention."

Pakistan has stated that it has arrested 38 district commanders of various terror outfits but none of them were designated by the U.N. body. Saeed was sentenced to five-and-a-half years on terror finance charges by a Lahore court on February 12, the first time he has been formally convicted of an offence. The case was registered in July 2019.

At the last FATF meeting held in January in Beijing, Pakistan is understood to have cleared about 14 of the 27 specific counter-terror goals set by the FATF to escape being placed on the "blacklist." The final Plenary Group meeting is set to begin in Paris from Sunday. The adverse listing by the FATF implies that it would be difficult for Pakistan to get aid from the IMF, the World Bank, ADB and the European Union.

Pakistan has also claimed that it has received information from the Twitter headquarters, based on which it established that the Baloch Liberation Army had planned the attack on the Chinese consulate in Karachi on November 23, 2018.

"Pakistan stated that the Twitter profile which claimed responsibility for the attack belonged to a person identified as Raees Baloch based in Afghanistan. It also said he received around 1 million Pakistani rupees from one Dinesh Kumar in the UAE and the attack was coordinated by one 'RB'," the source said.

On Grey List

Pakistan was placed on the Grey List by the FATF in June 2018 and given a plan of action to complete it by October 2019, or face the risk of being placed on the Black List with Iran and North Korea. Earlier, Pakistan was placed on the Grey List in February 2012, and later removed in February 2015 after it passed a National Action Plan (NAP) to deal with terrorism following the Peshawar school massacre in December 2014. It was placed under severe restrictions in 2008-2012.

The FATF is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

Vodafone says it will pay AGR dues to DoT

Responding to the Supreme Court order, Bharti Airtel on Friday evening committed to deposit ₹10,000 crore as part of its AGR dues by February 20, promising that remaining dues will be cleared "well before" March 17 –the next date for court hearing on the issue.

Industry body Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), however, asserted that the government has "vast powers and options" to address the sector's issues, even in light of the Supreme Court order on payment of statutory dues.

Director General of COAI Rajan S. Mathews said while the Association sees plenty of opportunity for mobile operators to flourish, enabling policies and regulations will be key to this. Citing COAI's position that the industry has to move quickly to a ₹300 ARPU (Average Revenue Per User) level to maintain its financial health, Mr. Mathews said the Supreme Court order only makes this imperative "more urgent".

In a filing to the stock exchanges, Vodafone-Idea said that after Friday's hearing, the company had "received letters from the Department of Telecommunications directing immediate payment."

Stating that the company was currently assessing the amount that it will be able to pay to DoT towards the dues calculated based on AGR, it said, "the company proposes to pay the amount so assessed in the next few days".

Survival at stake

"As disclosed in the Company's financial statements for quarter ending December 31, 2019, the Company's ability to continue as a going concern is essentially dependent on a positive outcome of the application for modification of the Supplementary Order," it added.

The dues of Vodafone Idea, which has been the worst hit by the October 24 Supreme Court order on definition of AGR in favour of the government, are estimated to be over ₹53,000 crore, including ₹24,729 crore for spectrum usage charge and ₹28,309 crore in licence fee.

Vodafone Idea earlier this week reported a net loss of ₹6,439 crore for the October-December 2019 quarter. This was preceded by a ₹50,922 crore loss in the September quarter – highest ever by any Indian corporate, due to provisions made for statutory dues following the Supreme Court's order.

Given the financial position of Vodafone Idea, analysts have raised concerns over India becoming a two private player market with Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio.

(with PTI inputs)

Maharashtra to miss NPR deadline

Thackeray govt. says discussions are pending on the roll-out of the process

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government on Saturday clarified that it would not roll out the National Population Register (NPR) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) until a consensus was arrived at among the citizens of the State.

As thousands of people gathered at the Azad Maidan to protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), NRC and NPR, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government clarified that further discussions were pending on the decision to roll out the process from May 1 – the deadline set by the Centre for the States to implement the twin processes.

Up in arms: Thousands of people protesting against the CAA, the NPR and the NRC at Azad Maidan in Mumbai on Saturday. ▪ EMMANUAL YOGINI

Officials' meet

The clarification came amid reports that State government officials, including several District Collectors and Municipal Commissioners, had participated in a seminar on the modalities of rolling out the NPR. The meeting with the Director, Census, Rashmi Zagde and Principal Secretary, General Administration Department, Valsa Nair was held at the Sahyadri Guest House.

Reacting to the reports, Maharashtra Minister Jitendra Awhad said Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray had informed him that more discussions were likely on the issue before a final call on implementation is taken.

"Had a discussion with Chief Minister of Maharashtra Mr Uddhav Thackeray and it was decided that a discussion would be held for the benefit of the citizens by discussing all matters related to NPR and NRC. However, nothing [of] such sort of survey will happen in Maharashtra. The Chief Minister has already ensured that there will be no discrimination on the basis of religions, caste and creed in progressive Maharashtra," he said.

The coalition partners have said the State will not roll out the NPR unless a consensus is arrived at.

However, the State has not clarified its legal position on whether it wants to challenge the Centre's gazette notification. Earlier this month, Home Minister Anil Deshmukh had informed a delegation of Muslims that his party, the NCP, was taking legal advice on preventing the NPR roll-out.

Abroad, Google Maps shows J&K as 'disputed'

In India, it shows Delhi in full control

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON

Google Maps has redrawn the world's borders by making them look different depending on the location of the viewer. The popular search engine now shows Kashmir's outlines as a dotted line signalling "disputed" when it is seen from outside India, a leading American daily has reported.

According to the *Washington Post*, "[From India] the borders on Google's online maps display Kashmir as fully under Indian control. Elsewhere, users see the region's snaking outlines as a dotted line, acknowledging the dispute."

From Pakistan, Kashmir appears disputed, while from India, it appears as a part of India, the *Post* report said, adding that "Google Maps changes disputed borders based on what country you search from".

A Google Map image of Kashmir from India.

Responding to the *Post* report, a company spokesperson said: This does not endorse or affirm the position taken by any side. Products localised to the local domain, such as maps.google.co.in, depicts that country's position as per the mandate of the local laws."

Deoband remark: Nadda summons Giriraj Singh

He called the area a terrorist hub

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

BJP president J.P. Nadda on Saturday reportedly summoned Union Minister Giriraj Singh over his recent controversial remarks on Deoband and his description of the place as a cradle of terrorism.

The summons comes a couple of days after Union Home Minister Amit Shah on a television campaign admitted that polarising statements by party leaders during the Delhi Assembly polls had hurt its prospects and aided the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) win Delhi for the third successive time.

At a gathering in Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh three days ago, Mr. Singh said: "I had once said the Deoband [site of the second oldest Islamic seminary after Al-Azhar in Cairo] is the Gangotri of terrorism. All the major terrorists from across the world have been born here."

J. P. Nadda

Mr. Singh insisted that he stood by his statement and no word was out whether he took Mr. Nadda's concerns on board.

Ambedkar statue 'purified' after Minister garlands it

RJD, CPI workers conduct ritual after Giriraj Singh's visit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

Workers of Opposition parties poured water from the Ganga on a statue of B.R. Ambedkar in Begusarai district of Bihar on Saturday in what they called a "purification" act after Union Minister Giriraj Singh garlanded it during a BJP programme.

The BJP MP from Begusarai does politics of hate and by garlanding the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, he defiled the statue and so we purified it today with holy water, said workers of the Rashtriya Janata Dal, the Communist Party of India and the Bahujan Kranti Manch. They chanted "Jai Bhim" while pouring water on the statue at the Ambedkar Park on the Ballia block office premises and posted videos of the "purification" on social media.

Giriraj Singh

Local BJP leaders and workers have condemned the "purification" ritual.

"Such acts remind us of pre-Partition time and will not be tolerated... Ambedkar has been an ideal for all sections of society and no one has got monopoly over him," Begusarai BJP chief Raj Kishore Singh told presspersons.

Mr. Giriraj Singh had undertaken the Bharatvanshi Jagriti Yatra from Sahebpur Kalam to Ballia as part of the BJP's efforts to create awareness of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. At Ballia, Mr. Singh garlanded the statue.

The Minister has often courted controversy with his hardline Hindutva statements.

Kamal Nath dares Scindia to hold protest

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath has dared senior party leader Jyotiraditya Scindia to carry out his threat of taking to the streets over unfulfilled promises in the party manifesto, saying "let him do".

Mr. Scindia told presspersons that "If the Congress makes a promise, it meets it. Otherwise, we will have to take to the streets."

On speculation that Mr. Scindia is being considered for the Upper House, Mr. Nath said the Madhya Pradesh party coordination committee meeting on Saturday would not discuss the Rajya Sabha election or the Cabinet expansion.

Kerala, M.P. BJP units get new chiefs

This is in contrast to Maharashtra and Sikkim, where party heads were retained

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

BJP president J.P. Nadda made a slew of organisational appointments on Saturday, with Madhya Pradesh and Kerala getting new party chiefs.

After pushing for continuity with Chandrakant Dada Patil retained in Maharashtra and Dal Bahadur Chauhan in Sikkim a couple of days ago, the appointments in Madhya Pradesh and Kerala mark a change, a delicate balancing act between Mr. Shah's regime and the new one.

At the helm: Chandrakant Dada Patil of Maharashtra and K. Surendran of Kerala.

Two changes

A communique from the BJP's national headquarters said Khajuraho MP Vishnu Dutt Sharma had been appointed president of the Madhya Pradesh State unit and K. Surendran of the Kerala unit. Both Mr. Sharma and Mr. Surendran had been general secretaries in their State units.

Mr. Surendran was the BJP's candidate in the Pathanamthitta Lok Sabha constituency in 2019. While he managed to increase the party vote share, he came third behind Anto Antony of the Congress and Veena George of the LDF.

Vacant post

The post had been vacant for the past few months ever since former chief P.S. Sreedharan Pillai had been appointed Governor of Mizoram.

In Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Sharma is widely regarded as the choice of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and has spent most part of his career in the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad and the RSS including a stint as organisation *mantri* for Jharkhand.

New addition

He came over to the BJP in 2013. His appointment has been a surprise as there was a strong buzz around the continuation of Rakesh Singh, considered close to Mr. Shah.

Mr. Chauhan's re-appointment is a nod to the fact that it under his tenure the BJP has become a force there with 10 Sikkim Democratic Front MLAs defecting to the party and winning two Assembly bypolls.

Varanasi rickshaw-puller receives letter from PM

He had sent a wedding invitation

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
VARANASI

A rickshaw-puller in Varanasi was overjoyed to receive a letter from Narendra Modi after he had sent the Prime Minister an invitation to his daughter's wedding.

Mr. Modi's letter reached Mangal Kevat, who lives in Domri village that has been adopted by the Prime Minister, on Thursday. It congratulated the family on the joyous occasion. "Some of my friends asked me to send an invitation to Modiji so I sent one to Delhi and one to his Varanasi office. I never expected a response but now that we have got his letter, we are overjoyed. I have shown the letter to all guests at my daughter's wedding," Mr. Kevat said. In the letter, Mr. Modi sent his blessings and best wishes to the bride and her family.

> **I had sent an invitation to Delhi as well as his Varanasi office. I never expected a response but now we have got his letter**
>
> MANGAL KEVAT

Mr. Kevat is an active participant in the Swachh Bharat campaign.

The PM, during the BJP's membership campaign, had enrolled him as a member.

CPI condemns attack on Kanhaiya's convoy

CPI leader writes to Nitish Kumar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

CPI general secretary D. Raja has condemned the repeated attacks on Kanhaiya Kumar during his protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in Bihar. In a letter to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, he has demanded the immediate arrests of assailants.

On Friday, the convoy of Mr. Kanhaiya Kumar, a member of the CPI national executive and a former JNUSU president, was stoned by unknown persons in Arrah district.

The CPI said this was the eighth attack on the Jan-Gan-Man Yatra, which Mr. Kanhaiya Kumar started at Bapudham on January 30. "There is a huge response to this campaign. Some forces and miscreants are targeting Com. Kanhaiya Kumar and attacking his convoy... somehow our comrade has escaped," Mr. Raja has said.

D. Raja

A day after differences, Pawar, CM share stage

Farmers are the binding force of the Maha Vikas Aghadi govt., says Thackeray

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JALGAON

Nationalist Congress Party president Sharad Pawar shared the stage with Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray a day after criticising him for allowing the transfer of the Elgaar Parishad case probe to National Investigation Agency.

To give awards

Mr. Pawar and Mr. Thackeray came together on Saturday for a function in Jalgaon to distribute agricultural awards named after Appasaheb Pawar, the NCP chief's elder brother.

On Friday, Mr. Pawar had told reporters in Kolhapur that it was not right on part of the Centre to hand over the Elgaar Parishad case probe to the NIA from Pune police.

All is well: CM Uddhav Thackeray with NCP chief Sharad Pawar. ▪ FILE PHOTO

In a swipe at the State government, of which the NCP is a part, Mr. Pawar had said, "It was not right for the Centre to hand over the investigation into the case to the NIA. But it was even more wrong for the State government to support the transfer of the case."

At Saturday's function, however, all appeared well between the two politicians with Mr. Pawar asking that the CM be felicitated first while Mr. Thackeray asked that the former Union agriculture minister be honoured before him.

Honoured together

The organisers honoured them together.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Thackeray said the farmer is the binding force of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government.

"Farmers have brought us together. Our not sitting together does not mean there is any problem in the Maha Vikas Aghadi," Mr. Thackeray assured the gathering. "Farmers need not worry now. This is their government. I am aware that farmers want water, electricity and good price for their produce. Loan waiver is the first aid to take them out of their problems permanently," the CM added.

Mr. Pawar said, "India has a standing in the field of agriculture. We have attained sufficiency in agriculture despite constraints like growing population."

He said farmers need to look for new technologies, adopt and apply them in the field, adding that "water remains an important issue and the state and Centre need to work together".

The agriculture award, set up by Jain Irrigation, was given to Dattatraya Chavan, a farmer from Nandapur in Jalna district.

1,120 unstarred questions asked in RS session

181 members took part in proceedings

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Trinamool Congress floor leader Derek O'Brien leads the list of Rajya Sabha members in asking questions during the first half of the Budget session, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat has said in a statement.

1,120 questions

A total of 118 members, 52% of the effective strength of the House, raised 1,120 unstarred questions, which are not discussed during Question Hour.

Thirty-five members accounted for 50% of the unstarred questions.

Of them, Mr. O'Brien posed 18 questions, followed by Vemireddy Prabhakar Reddy with 17 and Parimal Nathwani with 16.

Starred questions are asked during Zero Hour. Ministers give an oral reply, and other members can ask supplementary questions.

80% participation

According to the statistics from the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, 181 members, accounting for 80% of the effective strength, participated in the proceedings during Zero Hour, special mentions, Question Hour and debates on the Motion of Thanks to the President for his address to the joint session of Parliament, the Budget, private members' Bills and unstarred questions.

IN BRIEF

Take board exams in a stress-free manner: PM

NEW DELHI

Appear for the CBSE board examinations in a "happy and stress-free manner", Prime Minister Narendra Modi told students on Saturday. He said months of hard work and preparations would "surely lead to great things". "As the CBSE Class X and XII exams commence today, best wishes to all young Exam Warriors, their parents and teachers. I urge my young friends to appear for the exams in a happy and stress-free manner," the Prime Minister tweeted. PTI

Prasad summoned in case filed by Tharoor

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A court here on Saturday summoned Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad to appear in a defamation case filed by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor. The chief judicial magistrate took cognisance of the complaint and asked the Minister to appear on May 2, Mr. Tharoor's lawyer said. Mr. Tharoor, had in December 2018, filed a defamation case against Mr. Prasad for allegedly making derogatory remarks in connection with his wife's death. PTI

'Tejashwi's hi-tech bus owned by a poor person'

PATNA

A hi-tech, luxury Volvo bus that Lalu Prasad's younger son Tejashwi Yadav has acquired apparently for his upcoming State-wide tour is registered in the name of a person holding a below-poverty-line card, a Minister of Bihar's JD(U)-led NDA government alleged on Saturday. State Information and Public Relations Minister Neeraj Kumar took potshot at former Bihar Chief Minister's political heir, saying Tejashwi Yadav is aptly following in his father's footstep. PTI

Protest against CAA spreads in Tamil Nadu

State government faces flak for police action

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The protest against the Citizen (Amendment) Act in Old Washermanpet that began on Friday and escalated into violence late at night, had its echoes on Saturday, with people from various parts of the State demonstrating against "police high-handedness".

People staging a protest in Coimbatore on Saturday. ▪ S. SIVA SARAVANAN

Stopped by police

On Saturday morning, cadre of Tamil Nadu Thowheed Jamaath gathered under the flyover near Mint and took out a procession towards the Washermanpet Police station. They were stopped before reaching the place.

Agitations were also organised in Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchi Tenkasi, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Villupuram, Vellore, Salem, and Ramanathapuram districts. In Tiruchi, members of various Muslim outfits carried out a joint demonstration at Palakkarai in the heart of the city.

To prevent traffic congestion, they gathered along Sub Jail Road and raised slogans against the Centre.

They blamed the State government for supporting the CAA in Parliament.

Several shops and business establishments run by Muslims in the city remained closed.

In Thoothukudi, members of the Thowheed Jamaath staged a protest in front of South Police Station on Saturday.

In Ramanathapuram district, the members assembled in front of the Pallivasal and demanded a judicial inquiry into the lathi-charge. A large posse of police personnel were deployed as a precautionary measure.

In Tiruppur, hundreds of members from TNTJ staged a protest outside the District Collectorate.

Raise slogans

Nearly 600 protesters, including 300 women, gathered on Palladam Road. Carrying national flags and placards, women and men raised slogans condemning the police action.

The protesters dispersed by themselves around 1.30 p.m, police said.

Following this, nearly 200 members from various Muslim outfits staged a demonstration on Arivoli Street on Saturday afternoon, police added.

Members of Muslim outfits staged protests at four places in Erode district.

Gehlot's support gives strength to anti-CAA stir

'Atmosphere of anarchy, fear prevails'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The support extended by Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, who put in a surprise appearance on Friday at the ongoing protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) here, has given strength to the agitation. The indefinite protest, organised on the lines of Delhi's Shaheen Bagh, has also been replicated in several towns of the State.

Ashok Gehlot addressing anti-CAA protesters in Jaipur. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Assembly passed a resolution against the CAA last month, but the ruling Congress leaders have been conspicuous by their absence at the protest site – Shaheed Smarak – since February 1. The protesters, who received support from civil society groups, had been expecting a clear assurance from the Congress.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Gehlot said an atmosphere of "anarchy and fear" was prevailing across the country amid apprehensions about the National Population Register and the proposed National Register of Citizens . "There is no justification for spending ₹76,000 crore and creating long queues of people for preparing the NRC. This has utterly failed in Assam."

CAA and NRC: Akal Takht chief backs Muslims

'Sense of fear among minorities'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Giani Harpreet Singh, chief priest of the highest Sikh temporal seat Akal Takht, has extended support to Muslim groups which have been protesting against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Delhi Minority Commission chief Zafarul Islam Khan, who met the Akal Takht chief with a delegation of Muslim groups hailing from Bengaluru, Punjab and Delhi earlier this week in Amritsar, told *The Hindu* on Saturday that the Akal Takht chief had assured his support, saying Sikhs had always stood by the oppressed and would continue to do so.

Giani Harpreet Singh had said there was a sense of fear and insecurity among the minorities and the Sikh community was with them in maintaining communal harmony.

Mr. Khan said the delegation members had informed him about the dangers of the CAA and the NPR, which would not only be detrimental to the Muslims but also for other communities. "Giani Harpreet Singh conveyed to us that the Sikhs have always stood with the victims and will continue to support all those who are facing any injustice," he said.

'Unaware of police brutalities on children'

NCPCR chief seeks info on illegal detentions during anti-CAA stir from activists and organisations

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) Chairman Priyank Kanoongo has said he has no information of illegal detention of children in jails or abuse by policemen either in Uttar Pradesh or anywhere in the country.

The NCPCR has been criticised by activists for allegedly turning a blind eye to police brutalities following the crackdown on protesters holding demonstrations against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019, in U.P. and Delhi.

The Supreme Court on Monday ordered the Centre, the NCPCR and its arms in New Delhi and U.P. to submit a report on detention of children in jails, calling such actions as a violation of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

"I appeal to activists and organisations to provide me information about any illegal detentions, abuse, torture or exploitation in the context of anti-CAA protests. Give me the details of the victims and I will ensure justice is delivered," Mr. Kanoongo told *The Hindu*.

Seeks reply

Mr. Kanoongo said he had written to the Superintendents of Police of Muzaffarnagar and Bijnore seeking their response to media reports of children being detained for several days, beaten up in police custody, denied water and access to toilet, adding that he received their response calling the reports "false" and "rejecting" that children were either taken into custody or beaten up while quelling protests held in various parts of U.P. *The Hindu* has seen these letters.

> If children anywhere in the country espouse violence, I will ask for them to be counselled.... I am concerned only about the actions of children, not those of adults
>
> PRIYANK KANOONGO
> CHAIRMAN, NCPCR

Asked if the NCPCR accepted these responses, or whether it would conduct an independent inquiry, Mr. Kanoongo replied, "We accept the reports submitted to us as of now".

The NCPCR Chairman said he would await a report from the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights on the Bidar police questioning school-children in a sedition case following the performance of a play against the CAA.

On his controversial letter last month asking the District Magistrate of South-East Delhi to "identify" and "counsel" children seen in some viral videos opposing the CAA and National Register of Citizens, Mr. Kanoongo said he did not regret his comments. "If children anywhere in the country espouse violence, I will ask for them to be counselled," he said.

Asked how he proposed to protect children from Ministers and MPs inciting violence against a particular community, Mr. Kanoongo said: "I am concerned only about the actions of children, not those of adults".

Art of the matter

Indelible mark: A woman signing on anti-CAA graffiti at a protest in Kolkata on Saturday. ▪ PTI

India will settle Kashmir issue on its own: Jaishankar

He tells U.S. senator that democracy will solve it

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUNICH

In a firm repartee, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Saturday told a senior U.S. senator that India would "settle" the Kashmir issue on its own.

Referring to the Kashmir issue during a panel discussion at the Munich Security Conference, Senator Lindsey Graham said the best way to sell democracy would be to settle the Kashmir issue in a democratic way.

"In India, you are moving forward, you got your problems like we do at home, but you've chosen the democratic path. When it comes to Kashmir, I don't know how it ends, but let's make sure that two democracies will end it differently. If you can prove that concept here, then I think that's probably the best way to sell democracy," the Republican leader said.

To this, Mr. Jaishankar promptly responded, "Do not worry, Senator. One democracy will settle it and you know which one."

During the discussion Mr. Jaishankar also said that the UN was far less credible than it had been in history and "something" should be done about it.

"The United Nations is far less credible than it has been in history, which is not entirely surprising because when you think about it, there are not too many things which are 75 years old and still as good as they were. Clearly there is something that needs to be done there," he said.

S. Jaishankar

Meets Pelosi

Earlier, meeting U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on the sidelines of the conference, he said her "consistent support" to India-U.S. ties had always been a great source of strength.

On Friday, he met the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Kelly Knight Craft.

Assam group seeks Bodo council's help

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

An umbrella organisation of Bengali people in Assam, alluding to the Bodo Peace Accord signed on January 27, has sought the return of a man abducted by suspected extremists in September 2019.

Pradip Shill, 28, who ran a motorcycle garage at Serfanguri Bazar in western Assam's Kokrajhar district, has been missing since September 27 last.

Eyewitnesses said a man forced him at gunpoint to accompany him apparently for repairing a vehicle far from the market. For almost a week since he was last seen, members of his family received calls from a Bodo dialect-speaking person using a specific number. They had demanded ₹60 lakh for his release. The Shills live in Tamarhat, a small town about 20 km from Serfanguri in the adjoining Dhubri district.

'Govt. favoured telcos by deferring due recovery'

What is the *quid pro quo*, asks Cong.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Congress on Saturday accused the BJP-led Central government of 'favouring' private telecom companies by deferring the recovery of their dues to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), despite the Supreme Court orders.

At a press conference, Congress leader Randeep Surjewala said, "What is the *quid pro quo* for the Modi government to defer the recovery of the dues? By delaying the payment of the Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) dues they owe to the government, the government has unduly benefited them."

Mr. Surjewala alleged that the Centre had approved deferring the recovery of ₹42,000 crore of "Spectrum auction instalments" of the companies for 2020-21 and 2021-22.

"The government has also issued an order not to take any coercive action," he alleged.

Randeep Surjewala

Mr. Surjewala alleged that the Centre was allowing the firms that had increased the pre-paid tariff rates to fleece the customers. The court on Friday directed the top executives of the telcos to explain why contempt proceedings should not be initiated against them for the non-compliance of its October 2019 order to pay the AGR of ₹1.47 lakh crore to the Department of Telecommunications.

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C)
IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, JANPATH, BHUBANESWAR - 751022

Tender Call Notice No.IDCO/H.O./P&C/EST/E-1479/01/2019/3443 Date : 13/02/2020

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. Name of the Work : Supply, installation and commissioning of high density storage system (optimizer) (including steel doors for both sides of bay with locking arrangements, rails for smooth movement of bay) for maximum utilization of space to sotre files and records at the basement floor of IDCO Tower, Janpath, Bhubaneswar including cost of all materials & labour, conveyance, loading & unloading, all taxes and duties as per the requirement and direction of the Engineer-in-Charge.
2. Estimated Cost : Rs.99.42 Lakh
3. Period of Completion : 03 (Three) Calendar Months.
4. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar.	Bid Id. No. PC/EST/ E-59 / 2019-20	24.02.2020 at 17.00 Hrs.	16.03.2020 up to 17.00 Hrs.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in and Corrigendum if any will not be published in news papers and can only be seen in the e-procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in and www.idco.in.

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (P&C), I/C

CAD-976: OIPR-14003/11/0068/1920

e-mail ID - supenger_rbjyp@yahoo.co.in; Phone No.-06854-231528; Fax No-06854-231528

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, JEYPORE (R&B) CIRCLE, JEYPORE.
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No. S.E.J.C (R&B)-09/2019-20
No. 630, Date. 13.02.2020

1. Name of the Work : Building Work
2. Total No. of Works : 01 (One) No.
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.786.78 Lakhs
4. Period of completion : 11 (Eleven) Months
5. Bid Cost : Rs.10,000/-
6. Class of Contractor : "Special" & "Super" Class
7. Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal. : from 10.00 hours of 19.02.2020 to 17.00 hours of 04.03.2020.
8. Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the Portal. : 17.00 hours of 04.03.2020.
9. Opening date of Bid : 11.00 hours of 06.03.2020
10. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Superintending Engineer, Jeypore (R&B) Circle, Jeypore.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in.
Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Superintending Engineer, Jeypore (R&B) Circle, Jeypore.

B-718 OIPR-34108/11/0011/1920

MoFPI सत्यमेव जयते IIFPT

Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology
(Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India)
Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu ■ Phone: +91-4362-228155 ■ Fax: +91-4362-227971
Email: director@iifpt.edu.in ■ Website: www.iifpt.edu.in

No. DTD/EoI-ToT/2020 Date: 16.02.2020

Invitation for Expression of Interest (EoI) for Exclusive Licensing Agreement to Manufacture and Supply of Equipment/Gadgets/ Technologies Developed by MoFPI - IIFPT

MoFPI-Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology invites sealed Expression of Interest (EoI) from Companies/Manufacturers/Agencies for exclusive license to manufacture and supply of the Equipment/Gadgets/Technologies/developed by MoFPI-IIFPT.

- **Equipment/Gadgets:** Mobile Processing Unit, Integrated Onion Processing Unit, Puffing Machine for rice & millets, Moringa leaves separator.
- **Technologies:** Non-dairy millet ice cream, Non-dairy coconut ice cream, Millet idly/dosa dry mix, Choco rice flakes, Neera sugar crystals, RF dried moringa leaf powder, Small onion & garlic powder & flakes, Virgin coconut oil, Traditional rice vermicelli.

The details of EoI and application format may be downloaded from the institute's website **www.iifpt.edu.in**. The EoI along with a **DD for Rs.1000/-** (towards application fee – non-refundable) drawn in favour of **The Director, IIFPT** payable at Thanjavur submitted should be sealed properly and marked "EoI for Transfer of Technology for Equipment/Gadgets/Technologies developed by MoFPI-IIFPT" so as to reach the following address on or before **16/03/2020 till 17.00 hrs**.

The Director
Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology
Pudukkottai Road, Thanjavur – 613005, Tamil Nadu

Date of technical meeting at IIFPT, Thanjavur : 09/03/2020 (11.00 hrs)
Date of submission of sealed EoIs : 16/03/2020 (17.00 hrs)
Date of opening of EoIs : 17/03/2020 (11.00 hrs)

Director

Xi urges more policing as virus toll rises

Government wants to tighten control on online media as it cracks down on those 'spreading rumours'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
REUTERS
BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping has called for tightened control over online discussion and increased policing to ensure "positive energy" and social stability, state media said on Saturday, as the country struggles to contain the deadly new coronavirus, named SARS-CoV-2.

Mr. Xi's remarks were made public as the authorities have faced rare bouts of public anger over the handling of the COVID-19 epidemic that has killed about 1,523 people and infected some 66,492 across the country. Outside mainland China there have been about 500 cases in some two dozen countries and territories, with four deaths – in Japan, Chinese-ruled Hong Kong, the Philippines and France.

Censors had allowed some online criticism of local officials in central Hubei – the epicentre and origin of the crisis – but calls for freedom of speech and political reform were scrubbed after the death of a whistleblowing doctor from the virus.

The government must "strengthen the management and control of online media," and "crack down on those who seize the opportunity to create rumours" on the internet, Mr. Xi said in the February 3 speech published by state media.

Simultaneously, "it is necessary to increase use of police force and strengthen the visible use of police," Mr. Xi said, calling for a crackdown on behaviour that "disrupts social order" including hoarding medical supplies.

Lunch time: As a precaution against infection, workers are separated by partitions, while they have their lunch on the roof of a factory in Suining, Sichuan province, China. • AP

Discipline by law

Mr. Xi urged party members to "dare to criticise" those who had failed to carry out the Communist Party central committee's instructions, and warned "those who fail to perform their duties shall be punished according to discipline and law."

On Thursday, the political chiefs of Hubei and its capital, Wuhan, were sacked and replaced by Mr. Xi loyalists with security backgrounds. The province's top two health officials have also been fired.

"Let positive energy fill the cyberspace from start to end," Mr. Xi said in the speech, given earlier this month at a meeting of the Politburo Standing Committee, China's ruling council.

Mr. Xi kept a low profile in the early weeks of the crisis but has stepped up his public rhetoric in recent days on what he has called a "people's war" against the disease.

Those returning to Beijing from the holiday have been ordered to undergo a 14-day self-quarantine to prevent the spread of virus. Many factories are yet to re-open, disrupting global supply chains for everyone from smartphone makers to car manufacturers.

While there has been some hope expressed this week that the disease may be peaking in China, numbers keep rising and a trend has been hard to discern, especially after a reclassification that widened the definition of cases.

The biggest cluster outside China has been on a cruise ship, the Diamond Princess, quarantined off Japan's Yokohama. Out of about 3,700 passengers and crew on board, 285 people have tested positive and been sent to hospital.

The U.S. said on Saturday it plans to send an aircraft to pick up American passengers and take them back home where they face two weeks of isolation "out of an abundance of caution".

'Free wine'

Passengers on another cruise ship, which finally docked in Cambodia after being rejected by five other countries, were taking their saga in good heart.

"Everyone says 'poor you'. But there was no poor you. We had free internet and free wine. We had three-course meals. There was so much choice," said Zahra Jennings, a retired staff nurse from Britain who had been on the MS Westerdam with more than 2,300 passengers and crew.

U.S. President Donald Trump thanked "beautiful" Cambodia for taking the castaway cruise ship in a rare message to a nation that has often been at odds with Washington.

U.S. curbs

The United States has imposed some of the toughest curbs on travellers from China, going beyond World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations and offending Beijing.

In Hong Kong, hundreds marched on Saturday to demand full closure of the border with mainland China and to oppose plans to turn some buildings into quarantine hubs.

The disease has killed around 2% of those infected. Cases have spread faster than other respiratory viruses this century.

France reports first fatality in Europe

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

An 80-year-old Chinese tourist has died from the COVID-19 in France, the first death confirmed outside of Asia, French Health Minister Agnes Buzyn said on Saturday.

Ms. Buzyn said she had been told about the death of the patient – in hospital in Paris since late January – late on Friday, adding that his condition "had deteriorated rapidly" after several days in a critical condition.

Six people with the virus remain in hospital in France, Mr. Buzyn said, adding that none were seriously ill. One of them was the dead Chinese tourist's 50-year-old daughter and the rest were British nationals who were infected by a compatriot at a French ski resort.

Three deaths from the virus have so far been recorded outside mainland China -- in the Philippines, Hong Kong and Japan.

600 cases in Europe

Away from China, almost 600 cases have been confirmed – roughly 35 of which have been reported in the European Union.

Meanwhile, eight of the nine people diagnosed with the new coronavirus in U.K. have left hospital having now tested negatively twice for the virus, NHS England has said. "I want to stress that any individuals who are discharged from hospital are now well and do not pose any public health risk," said Health Secretary Matt Hancock.

Sri Lanka 'strongly objects' to U.S. blacklisting its Army chief

'There are no proven allegations against Gen. Shavendra'

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka has taken "strong objection" to the U.S. blacklisting its Army chief over allegations of "gross human rights violations" that the State Department on Friday called "serious and credible".

In addition to a statement from the U.S. State Department, Secretary of State Michael Pompeo said in a tweet: "I am designating Shavendra Silva making him ineligible for entry into the U.S. due to his involvement in extrajudicial killings during #SriLanka's Civil War. The U.S. will not waver in its pursuit of accountability for those who commit war crimes and violate #humanrights."

Responding swiftly to the development, the Sri Lanka's Ministry of Foreign Relations said: "The Government of Sri Lanka takes strong objection to the imposition of travel restrictions on Lt. Gen. Silva and his immediate family members by the Government of the United States, based on independently unverified information."

"The Government reiterates that Lt. Gen. Shavendra Silva was appointed as the Commander of the Army by the then Head of State, taking into account his seniority and that there were no substantiated or proven allegations of human rights violations against him. His elevation as the Acting Chief of Defence Staff by the current Head of State President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, was on account of his being the senior most serving military officer," the Ministry said in a statement issued late on Friday.

Lt. Gen. Shavendra Silva

Observing that the "timing" of the imposition – six months after Lt. Gen. Silva's appointment as Army Commander – was concerning, Colombo urged the U.S. to "verify the authenticity of the sources of information and to review its decision".

Mr Silva was appointed to the post by former President Maithripala Sirisena last year. The move, that the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights termed "deeply troubling, set off concern among Tamils and civil society groups demanding war-time accountability. Mr. Silva, who commanded the 58 Division of the Sri Lankan army during the final stages of the war, is linked to the infamous "white flag" incident when surrendering LTTE cadre were reportedly executed, after being assured safety.

Joining the government in defending the controversial Army commander, Leader of Opposition Sajith Premadasa on Saturday termed the travel ban on a "heroic field commander" regrettable and unfortunate. "All of us stand by him and his family at this hour of need. As a country we shall always stand with the war heroes that brought about an end to 30 years of terrorism," he said in a tweet.

The Tamil National Alliance said it hoped that the ban "opened the eyes" of the governments that have been avoiding accountability.

Pak. court frees Pashtun activist

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PESHAWAR

A Pakistani court on Saturday ordered the release of a Pashtun rights leader critical of the military, his lawyer said, weeks after he was arrested on sedition charges.

Manzoor Pashteen, chief of the Pashtun Protection Movement (PTM), was arrested last month on charges of sedition, hate speech, incitement against the state, and criminal conspiracy.

His lawyer Saeed Akhtar told AFP that he had already been bailed on three of five complaints against him.

"Today the court has granted him bail in the remaining two, against surety bonds of one hundred thousand rupees ($650) each," Akhtar said.

Mr. Pashteen, a former veterinary student, and the PTM have rattled Pakistan's military since 2018 with calls to end alleged abuses by security forces targeting ethnic Pashtuns in the restive tribal areas along the border with Afghanistan.

Once plagued by militancy and unrest, the region is where Washington believes Pakistan provides safe haven to militant groups.

One dead, four injured in shooting in Berlin

'It doesn't appear to be terror-related'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BERLIN

One person has been killed and 4 others were injured in a shooting early on Saturday outside a Berlin event venue, German authorities said on Saturday.

A spokeswoman for Berlin prosecutors said one or more people opened fire outside the Tempodrom, located near Potsdamer Platz in the centre of the city, before fleeing the scene.

A 42-year-old man was killed, spokeswoman Mona Lorenz said. Four others were injured. Ms. Lorenz couldn't confirm whether the injuries resulted from gunfire.

What motivated the shooting is unclear but it doesn't appear to be terrorism-related, she said.

Emergency vehicles in front of the shootout site in Berlin on Saturday. • AP

The incident took place on a square in front of the Tempodrom as a Turkish comedy night was being staged inside. Berlin has one of the highest number of killings per person among European capitals.

'Global role of U.S. not declining'

He calls claims of U.S. retreat from NATO 'over-exaggerated'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MUNICH

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Saturday traded barbs with European leaders over diminishing Western influence, rejecting as "grossly over-exaggerated" their claims that Washington had retreated from the global stage.

Speaking at the Munich Security Conference, Pompeo sought to assuage European anxiety over the transatlantic bond under an unpredictable President Donald Trump, saying: "The West is winning and we're winning together."

But he was immediately contradicted by French President Emmanuel Macron, who warned of "a weakening of the West".

Mike Pompeo

The annual gathering of world leaders, generals and diplomats to discuss security challenges has been dominated by fears over the West's diminishing role in the face of a more assertive China and Russia.

In his opening speech a day earlier, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier suggested that the U.S. rejected "even the idea of an international community" and was acting "at the expense of neighbours and partners".

"Those statements don't reflect reality," Mr. Pompeo retorted. "I'm happy to report that the death of the transatlantic alliance is grossly over-exaggerated," he added, paraphrasing a famous Mark Twain quote.

He said Washington was playing a key role in keeping Europe safe by reinforcing NATO's eastern flank on the border with Russia, as well as leading a multinational effort to defeat the Islamic State jihadist group.

"Is this an America that 'rejects the international community'?" he asked.

Indian-origin couple held for fleecing Canadians

They ran an overseas telephone scam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
TORONTO

An Indian-origin couple has been arrested for allegedly running an overseas telephone scam, in which crooks posing as tax officials duped people of around ₹90.68 crore, a media report said on Saturday.

Brampton-based Gurinderpreet Dhaliwal, 37, and his wife Inderpreet Dhaliwal, 36, were arrested here on Saturday and charged with fraud and money-laundering, while an arrest warrant has been issued against their alleged partner Shantanu Manik, 26, who is believed to be in India, City News website, a Canada-based news portal, reported.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) said that the fraudsters were targeting Canadians since 2014 by calling and identifying themselves as representatives from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) or RCMP, the report said.

"The scammers then tell the person on the phone that they owe back taxes, and threaten them if they don't pay the money back," the paper reported.

The RCMP said that between 2014 and 2019, Canadians lost over 16.8 million (₹90.8 crore) Canadian dollars to the scam and it has resulted in people being very suspicious when the CRA contacts them through legitimate ways.

ELSEWHERE

On priest celibacy, Pope sides with traditionalists

VATICAN CITY

In quashing the idea of married priests in the Amazon, Pope Francis has appeased traditionalists while disappointing progressives, who had hoped for a turning point in the Catholic church. The Pope argued for more missionary priests in the Amazon and for women to take on larger roles, falling short of synod's idea to ordain women as deacons in the region. AFP

Iran to vote in election many see as 'lost cause'

TEHRAN

Iranians will vote next week in a crucial parliamentary election that is widely expected to herald the return of Conservatives and heap pressure on beleaguered President Hassan Rouhani. Earlier, the Guardian Council had disqualified more than half of the 14,444 candidates, including dozens of mostly moderate incumbents. AFP

Guaido looking to reboot Maduro challenge

CARACAS

Fresh off a three-week international tour, Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido is hoping to ramp up pressure against President Nicolas Maduro but must first overcome his supporters' increasing listlessness. having flouted a travel ban to shore up support abroad, Mr. Guaido must now find a way to reinvigorate his base. AFP

40 killed in attacks in restive central Mali

BAMAKO

Forty people, including nine soldiers, have been killed in a spate of attacks in central Mali, authorities said on Friday, with most of the deaths caused by inter-ethnic violence. Thirty-one people were killed in an overnight attack in Ogossagou. Eight soldiers were killed in an ambush in the Gao region on Friday. AFP

SUDOKU

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No.SS4626 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	5	6	7	2	4	1	9	8
7	9	4	8	1	5	6	3	2
1	2	8	6	9	3	7	4	5
9	4	3	2	8	6	5	7	1
5	6	2	4	7	1	9	8	3
8	1	7	5	3	9	4	2	6
6	8	5	3	4	7	2	1	9
4	3	9	1	5	2	8	6	7
2	7	1	9	6	8	3	5	4

Johnson moves boldly to consolidate power

To a degree unmatched by any leader since Blair, the govt. is now almost entirely subordinate to PM

MARK LANDLER
STEPHEN CASTLE
LONDON

When Prime Minister Boris Johnson of Britain convened his new Cabinet on Friday, it looked less like a conclave of powerful government officials than a well-mannered classroom on the day the headmaster came to visit.

"How many hospitals are we going to build?" Mr. Johnson asked.

"Forty," they replied in unison.

"How many more police officers are we recruiting?"

"Twenty-thousand," they chanted.

Such a display of lockstep discipline is a striking change in a country that became used to clamorous politics under Mr. Johnson's predecessors, David Cameron and Theresa May.

In the two months since Mr. Johnson won a landslide election victory, he moved rapidly to take control of the levers of power. And to a degree unmatched by any British leader since Tony Blair, the government is now almost entirely subordinate to him. But what Mr. Johnson intends to do with all this power is still not totally clear – though the decisions he has made over the last few weeks suggest he would prefer to govern as a more centrist, less radical figure, than the politician who waged a populist campaign on the promise that he would "get Brexit done".

Power play: British PM Boris Johnson, centre, gesturing during his first Cabinet meeting in London on Friday. • AP

In amassing his power, Mr. Johnson has displayed what is to some a surprising degree of ruthlessness.

Even Mr. Blair did not dare move against his finance chief as Mr. Johnson did this week, when he triggered the departure of Sajid Javid, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mr. Javid, an ally of Mr. Johnson's, resigned rather than have many of his powers stripped and handed over to Mr. Johnson's aides in No. 10 Downing St.

The Chancellor is considered Britain's second-most powerful official after the Prime Minister; several have emerged as rivals to the leader. In appointing Rishi Sunak, a 39-year-old former investment banker, Mr. Johnson is out to make sure that the Treasury will not curb his free-spending agenda.

Decisive victory

"He won a decisive victory, and he is using the freedom that comes from such a majority to put in the people he wants," said Andrew Gimson, who wrote a biography of Mr. Johnson.

Last week, in his first major decision, Mr. Johnson approved a gargantuan high-speed rail project that is designed to link London with the country's economically challenged north. Some of his own aides and members of the Conservative Party fiercely opposed the project, known as High Speed 2, because of the $130 billion-plus price tag.

But for Mr. Johnson, ambitious public-works projects symbolise his pledge to pour resources into Britain's Midlands and north, where many lifelong Labour Party voters defected to the Conservatives in the election.

Mr. Johnson is also still busy appealing to his pro-Brexit base with populist tactics like attacking the BBC. He has threatened BBC with legal changes that could dry up its sources of funding.

The Prime Minister's clash with Mr. Javid was a victory for his influential adviser, Dominic Cummings, who has made a crusade of overhauling the government and centralising power in the PM's office. NY TIMES

CBIC clarifies on late GST payments

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Interest payable on delayed payment of GST will henceforth be calculated on net tax liability and the law is being amended to give effect to it, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said on Saturday.

Amid concerns over its recent directive to field formations to begin recovery of about ₹46,000 crore of unpaid interest on delayed GST payment, the CBIC, in a series of tweets, clarified that the Centre and several State governments had prospectively amended the GST Acts to collect interest on net tax liability. GST laws now permit interest calculation on delayed GST payment on the basis of gross tax liability. This position has been upheld in the Telangana HC's decision dated April 18, 2019.

Credit growth gaining momentum: Das

Budget proposals won't stoke inflation as government is maintaining fiscal prudence, says RBI chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Amid concerns over the economic slowdown, RBI chief Shaktikanta Das on Saturday said credit growth momentum is picking up and ruled out any possible spike in inflation due to Budget proposals as the government is maintaining 'fiscal prudence'.

After the first meeting of the RBI Board post the 2020-21 Budget presentation, Mr. Das also expressed hope that transmission of rate cuts would improve further.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das in New Delhi on Saturday. ▪ KAMAL NARANG

Budget discussed

The meeting, which was also addressed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, discussed various Budget proposals. "The direct inflationary impact of any Budget is the fiscal deficit number, when borrowing goes up; but the government has adhered to the principle of fiscal prudence. [Taking into account] the 'escape clause' under the FRBM Act, the deficit number in the current year as well as the next year are very much within the parameters set as per FRBM committee recommendations," Mr. Das said.

Facing revenue shortage, the government raised the fiscal deficit target to 3.8% of the GDP for 2019-20 in the Budget, from the 3.3% pegged earlier. The government has utilised 'escape clause' under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, which allows the Centre to breach its fiscal deficit target by 0.5 percentage points in times of severe stress in the economy.

Speaking on the inflationary impact of the Budget proposals, Mr. Das said, "The good part of the government borrowing is also budgeted to come from small savings. Therefore, I don't see much of an inflationary impact."

Lower oil prices helpful

"Declining crude prices definitely have positive impact on inflation... The main reason for the spike in inflation is because of food inflation, mostly milk, fish, and various protein related items. Core inflation has slightly edged up because of revision of telecom tariffs," he added.

Retail inflation based on consumer price index (CPI) soared to a near six-year high of 7.59% in January, surpassing the Reserve Bank of India's comfort range primarily on account of rising vegetable and food prices.

Similarly, wholesale prices-based inflation accelerated to a 10-month high of 3.10% in January, mainly due to costlier food articles, particularly onion and potato.

On moderating credit growth, Mr. Das said there are signs of uptick and the momentum is gathering pace.

"Credit flow is slowly and steadily reviving... we do hope and we do expect the credit flow to improve in the coming months," he added.

Credit flow from all sources – banks, domestic market and external commercial borrowing – has improved to ₹7.5 lakh crore, he said, adding nearly ₹6 lakh crore flow has happened between October and January to the commercial sector.

"Within that, if you look at bank credit to the commercial sector, it was actually a negative growth at the end of September by about ₹1.3 lakh crore or so. Now it is plus ₹2.7 lakh crore, the latest number we have at the end of January," he said.

Board for aligning RBI's fiscal year with govt.'s FY

Move on Jalan panel's recommendation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The board of the Reserve Bank of India has recommended that the financial year of the central bank align with the government's fiscal year from the current financial year. The RBI's financial year starts from July and ends in June.

"The Board recommended aligning the financial year of RBI, currently July-June, with the government's fiscal year (April-March) from the year 2020-21 and approved forwarding a proposal to the government for its consideration," the RBI said after its board meeting on Saturday in New Delhi.

For this financial year, 2020-21, it will start on July 1, 2020, and be for nine months up to March 31, 2021. Thereafter, all financial years will start on April 1 every year, aligned with that of the government. The decision to align RBI's financial year with the government's fiscal year was recommended by the Bimal Jalan committee that was primarily set up to review the economic capital framework of RBI.

Since Saturday's board meeting was the first one after the Union Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addressed the RBI board, as per the custom.

"The Finance Minister indicated increased complementarity in policy between the RBI and the government to address growth concerns. Complimenting the Finance Minister on the Budget, the Board members made various suggestions for the consideration of the government," the statement said.

The board reviewed the current economic situation and various areas of operations of the RBI, it added.

Liquidation remains high in NCLT cases

Out of 1,351 closed cases, only 190 cases were resolved; average haircut was 57%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

More than half of the cases admitted to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) are been liquidated as recovery through resolution continues to elude creditors, latest data released by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) showed.

A total of 3,312 cases were admitted in the insolvency courts till the end of the third quarter of the financial year, of which 561 were during the Oct-Dec period. This was the second highest number of cases admitted in a quarter after the July-September period of the current financial year when 565 cases were admitted.

Out of a total of 1,351 closed cases, 780 or 58% were closed through liquidation and only 190 cases or 14% were resolved with an average haircut of 57% on admitted claims.

Riches To Rags

Barring a few, almost all resolutions in the third quarter of FY20 had a haircut of over 60%. A look at the status of cases admitted under corporate insolvency resolution

Quarter	No. of corporates undergoing resolution at the beginning of the quarter	Admitted	A	B	C	D	No. of corporates undergoing resolution at the end of the quarter
Q2 FY20	1,243	565	23	18	32	153	1,582
Q3 FY20	1,582	561	14	4	30	134	1,961
Cumulative total		**3,312**	**246**	**135**	**190**	**780**	**1,961**

A: Appeal/ review | **B:** Withdrawal under section 12A | **C:** Approval of Resolution Plan | **D:** Commencement of Liquidation

Source: IBBI, Kotak Institutional Equities

For the third quarter, haircuts for cases resolved were high, around 88%.

"Barring a few cases, almost all resolutions in 3QFY20 had a haircut of over 60%," Kotak Securities said in a note to its clients.

"A high number of liquidated cases and duration of resolution remain primary concerns," the note said.

The number of cases admitted in the NCLT has been increasing, with 561 cases admitted during the October-December period. Out of the total number of cases admitted, 50% were filed by financial creditors.

"This reflects the increasing pivotal role played by this body in resolution of stressed assets despite the introduction of a new circular from RBI in June 2019 which removed the clause that made it mandatory for cases to be admitted to IBC," Kotak Securities said.

Of the 182 cases which were closed in the third quarter, 30 cases were resolved while 134 cases faced liquidation.

The note also pointed out that the average duration of resolution was over 350 days for all resolved cases till December, while more than 30% of cases have crossed 270 days.

Banks will pay a price if a telco files for bankruptcy, says SBI

'Onus of ensuring compliance with SC order lies with DoT'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar on Saturday said banks will 'have to pay the price' in case any telecom firm files for bankruptcy, a day after the Supreme Court made it clear that telecom companies will have to pay the ₹1.47 lakh crore in past dues.

The chief of the country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) said it is in the 'wait-and-watch mode' and the onus of ensuring telecom companies' compliance with the Supreme Court order lies with the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under the government. "If there is a negative impact on any enterprise, it impacts a larger ecosystem, whether it is banks, whether it is employees, whether they are vendors, consumers, so everybody gets impacted. So, that impact, when it comes, we will have to pay the price," Mr. Kumar said, when asked about the impact on banks if telcos move towards bankruptcy.

Rajnish Kumar

He added that the closure of any corporate impacts the country's economy and, therefore, the endeavour is to prevent the shutting down of any enterprise.

Asked if any telco account is currently classified as non-performing asset (NPA), he said there were two accounts – Aircel and RCom – that went into bankruptcy. Besides, he said SBI will not pass on the burden of the hike in premium of deposit insurance to its customers.

Move fully to BS-VI, vehicle makers told

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

An automobile dealers' body on Saturday asked vehicle manufacturers to shift wholesale despatches to BS-VI compliant vehicles only, with the Supreme Court refusing its request to extend deadline for sale and registration of BS-IV vehicles beyond April 1.

The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) said considering the long downturn that has lasted well over a year now and the current dynamic demand situation, selling 100% of the BS-IV vehicles currently in stock with its members by March 31 was a tough task.

'Higher offtake in plans with additional coverage'

Focus is on plans with riders: Kotak

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance is seeing higher offtake of plans with riders (additional coverage) in the last one-and-a-half months.

Subhasis Ghosh, senior executive vice-president and head of Marketing and Group Insurance, Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance, told *The Hindu* here recently that the life insurance industry launched the 'Sabse Pehle Life Insurance' campaign in December. The position that Kotak has taken is to focus on plans with riders. While customers have the option to choose just the base plan, there are products with riders such as critical illness and accidental disability. Between April and December last year, 60% of the customers had taken plans with value adds. In the last one-and-a-half months, this had increased to 75%. The company has 243 branches across the country and Tamil Nadu is its third biggest market.

Online sales

Mr. Ghosh said its online sales is expected to grow two to three times next year and group insurance has seen consistent growth of 30 % year-on-year.

The company has a full-fledged team that is working on the "mass market" segment, where Kotak has tied up with direct money transfer companies. This is mainly for workers who do direct money transfer, he said.

JLR unveils new Land Rover Discovery Sport

R-Dynamic diesel priced at ₹61 lakh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Jaguar Land Rover India has launched the new model of its luxury SUV Land Rover Discovery Sport which is available in the S & R-Dynamic SE derivatives.

The new Discovery Sport is offered with BS-VI compliant 183 kW Ingenium Turbocharged Petrol powertrain and 132 kW Ingenium Turbocharged Diesel powertrain options.

The company has announced the delivery of the diesel-powered Land Rover Discovery Sport, which is priced at ₹ 57.06 lakh for the S derivative and ₹60.89 lakh for the R-Dynamic SE trim.

Start of deliveries of the petrol-powered Discovery Sport will be subsequent to the start of diesel versions and will be announced separately. Rohit Suri, president and MD, Jaguar Land Rover India, said several financing options were available for this model and one could buy a Discovery Sport at an EMI below ₹60,000 depending on the initial payment one can make.

Rohit Suri

'By 2024, half of new 3-wheelers sold will be EVs'

Cab aggregators to drive e-car sales; traction may be low for four-wheelers: Crisil

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

As much as 43-48% of new three-wheelers (excluding e-rickshaws), and 12-17% of new two-wheelers sold in India will be electric vehicles (EVs) by 2024, Crisil Research said in a study. But the traction may be low for four-wheelers, with only 5% of new sales likely to be EVs.

Looking at demand, supply and policy growth drivers for EVs such as battery costs, government subsidy and charging infrastructure, the study said that faster adoption of two-and three-wheelers would be a function of cost.

Typically, electric scooters are cheaper to run compared with ICE scooters. And e-autos are cheaper to both own and run compared with their ICE counterparts.

"Supply will also be a critical factor for adoption. The top five electric two-wheeler manufacturers are expected to increase their capacity for electric variants from 0.4 million units in fiscal 2020 to over 3 million units by fiscal 2024. And in three-wheelers, even incumbent original equipment manufacturers are launching e-autos at a rapid pace. But low-speed, four-seater e-rickshaws are fast emerging as an alternative to e-autos because of being 30% cheaper," said Hetal Gandhi, director, Crisil Research.

But, sales of personal e-cars will remain low due to high acquisition and ownership costs, in the absence of demand incentives. Cab aggregators, however, would opt for EVs as these will provide better operational economies and subsidies.

A cab aggregator e-car that runs 50,000 km a year, for instance, can save about ₹1.65 lakh a year compared with ₹35,000 for a personal e-car that runs 10,000 km a year. The study added that in commercial vehicles, subsidies to State transport undertakings will drive sales of electric buses for intra-city operations. But poor public charging infrastructure will impact adoption.

Crisil Research expects the landed cost of the lithium ion battery, a key driver of EV adoption, to fall in line with an expected drop in global prices by fiscal 2024.

HIMACHAL PRADESH HORTICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKETING AND PROCESSING CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government Undertaking)
Nigam Vihar, Shimla-2, Ph-0177-2623835,36,32,23
Fax: 0177-2623834- E-mail hpmcshimla@live.com

e-Tender Notice for Purchase of Totapuri Mango Pulp.

Online offers are invited for Purchase of Totapuri Mango Pulp at HPMC Fruit Processing Plant Parwanoo from the interested parties may be a Firm/Company or Authorised Distributor. The last date of online receipt of e-tender is 26th February, 2020 up to 1.00 PM. The online bid will be opened on the same day in presence of the parties or their representatives at 3.00 PM. The bid document details are available online on the website https://hptenders.gov.in. The bid document is also available on our website https://hpmc.in for publicity purpose. The bidder would be required to register on the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids the bidder is required to have digital signature certificate (DSC) from one of the certifying authority. HPMC reserves the right to accept or reject bid without assigning any reasons

Managing Director
On behalf of AGM FPP Parwanoo

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprise) Office of The Executive Engineer, VJNL, Upper Bhadra Project Division No.9 Sira. Phone: 08135-276101
E-Mail: ubpee09@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಇಂ/ವಿಜನಿನಿ/ಭಮೇಂಯೋ/ವಿ–9/ಶಿರಾ/Sira/Tank filling/ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ–1/2019–20 ದಿನಾಂಕ:15.02.2020

CORRIGENDUM-1

On behalf of the Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited Bengaluru, the undersigned had invited the tender on Turnkey Basis in two cover system through e-procurement portal of Govt. of Karnataka from eligible Contractors for **the work of filling up of tanks in Sira taluk, Tumkur District under the Jurisdiction of Division, No.09, Sira office under Upper Bhadra Project.** Vide Notification No.:ಕಾಇಂ/ವಿಜನಿನಿ/ಭಮೇಂಯೋ/ವಿ–9/ಶಿರಾ/Sira /Tank filling/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ/08/2019-20 Dated : **23.01.2020.** Due to Technical reasons this tender is postponed until further notice. New calendar of events will be published in News papers in due course.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, VJNL,UBP, Division no.9, Sira

Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
39, "Shanthigruha", Bharath Scouts & Guides Building, Opp.The Chief Post Master General Office, Palace Road, Bengaluru-560 001. Tel:080-22207851
No: KRED/08/Mavinahunda-O&M/727-Vol.4/2020/Call-2 Date: 15.02.2020

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement)

Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL) has invited tender through e-Procurement for Operation & Maintenance of 0.50 MW wind power project at Mavinahunda wind farm, Raybagh Taluk, Belagavi District **for a period of 36 months** under Two Cover System from the manufacturers of wind turbine generators/expertise firms in performing O&M works of WTG's of such capacities.

Amount put to tender: **Rs.29.00 lakh.**

Bid documents available on e-portal from **17.02.2020 to 02.03.2020.**

Last date for submission of bids: **02.03.2020 up to 4.00 PM.**

Technical bids will be opened on: **05.03.2020 at 11.00 AM**.

Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): **Rs.58,000/-.**

Full details of the tender may be obtained by logging on to **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For any other information bidders may contact helpdesk No: 080-23010900/23010901.

Sd/- Assistant General Manager, Wind Section

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project South, South Zone Office Complex, 9th Main, 9th Cross, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Begaluru - 560011
No.: EEP(S)/E-Procu/26/2019-20 **Date : 15.02.2020**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Project South, BBMP, invites tenders on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru from elegible tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Amount Put to tender (Rs. in Lakh)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Construction of Kanakanayaka Mandir in **Ward No. 153. (2nd Call) As per (KW-4).**	193.78	2,90,700/-

Calender of events : (1) Tender Document may be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka. **(2)** Pre bid meeting will be held at the Office of the Executive Engineer (South) on **25.02.2020** at **3:00 p.m.** **(3)** Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **4:00 p.m.** on **16.03.2020** and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. **(4)** Technical bid opening date : **18.03.2020** at **4:30 p.m.** **(5)** Financial bid opening date : **21.03.2020** at **4:00 p.m.** or after Technical bid approval. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project South, BBMP

"Pay Development Charges, Help to Develop Bengaluru"

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
SIGNAL & TELECOMMUNICATION / MADURAI DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE No. U-SG-12-2019-20 Dated 13.02.2020

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Southern Railway, Madurai Division for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tender for the following work as per detailed tender notice given in our e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderer(s) intending to apply need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **"www.ireps.gov.in"** and only online tenders will be accepted. **The cost of tender form & EMD can be made only on online gateway payment through multiple banks' net banking, debit card & credit card.** The date of closing is mentioned against each work at **15.00 hrs.** All relevant credentials & supporting documents are to be scanned and uploaded along with the offer.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Date of closing
1.	Provision of 10 line display board in Madurai (Main & Western entry), Dindigul and Tirunelveli and 5 line display boards in Madurai Division (Virudhunagar, Sengottai, Tenkasi, Karaikudi, Rameswaram, Palani, Kovilpatti, Ramanathapuram and Tuticorin)	05.03.2020
2.	Provision of E1 convertor to improve redundancy of Networking arrangement to BPAC working in Tiruchchirappalli - Rameswaram section, Replacement of defective EMC box and derivation joint Virudhunagar - Tenkasi and Manamadurai - Rameswaram section, Painting of signal assets in Punalur - Quilon section.	05.03.2020
3.	Hiring of TATA SUMO / TAVERA (Non-AC) for the official use of Senior Section Engineer/Signal/Palani for a period of Two years.	25.02.2020
4.	Hiring of TATA SUMO / TAVERA (Non-AC) for the official use of ADSTE/TEN for a period of Two years.	25.02.2020
5.	Hiring of TATA SUMO / TAVERA (Non-AC) for the official use of DSTE/SW/MDU and ADSTE/MDU for a period of Two years.	25.02.2020

Divisional Railway Manager (S&T), Madurai

What are the concerns on FB's encryption plans?

Why do activists fear that the move will reduce child safety online?

RAMYA KANNAN

The story so far: After Facebook announced end-to-end encryption for Facebook Messenger and Instagram, a coalition of child protection organisations and experts from all over the world, anchored by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, U.K., sent an open letter to CEO Mark Zuckerberg, expressing "significant concerns" about the company's proposals. They were worried that this decision would reduce child safety online, because such a move will not allow the due process of monitoring for content that is not safe for children, including online grooming or uploading of child pornographic content. The petition said: "We urge you to recognise and accept that an increased risk of child abuse being facilitated on or by Facebook is not a reasonable trade-off to make."

What is end-to-end encryption? Why is there opposition to it?

It is a system of locking messages wherein only those who are communicating can view them. Encryption kicks in the minute the message is sent, and only unravels for the intended recipient. No third party can decrypt the message, including platform administrators and law enforcement agencies. It can only be shared through screenshots. The advantage with this kind of encryption is that it ensures online privacy.

Last year, Mr. Zuckerberg revealed his intention to rejig the architecture to integrate three platforms: WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger and Instagram. He also announced his intention to write in default end-to-end encryption.

Child safety activists are aghast as they believe that as far as child safety goes, this could well be a misstep. The U.K.-based John Carr, who has anchored the campaign against such encryption, is a leading authority on the use of the Internet by children and young people. He has summed up the primary opposition, on his blog, thus: "We are creating what are, for practical purposes, impregnable or unreachable spaces. These confer impunity on any and all manner of wrongdoing. Paedophiles and persons who wish to exchange child sex abuse material are permanently shielded, as are terrorists and an infinite variety of scam artists."

> Activists say end-to-end encryption will create 'unreachable spaces,' conferring 'impunity on any and all manner of wrongdoing. Paedophiles and persons who wish to exchange child sex abuse material are permanently shielded', they feel

"Limiting the ability of companies themselves to detect and prevent behaviour which contravenes their own terms of services is wrong and makes a mockery of the very idea of having terms of service in the first place," he records.

The evidence on the field, activists claim, makes their case a persuasive one. Mr. Carr outlines data from a series of Freedom of Information requests made to the police in England and Wales involving "online grooming behaviour directed at a child, or the distribution of child sex abuse material on Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp." From a total of 9,259 instances, over a year (2017-2018), police reported that 22% were on Instagram, 19% were on Facebook or Facebook Messenger, and 3% from WhatsApp. Since all three belong to one company that wants to encrypt everything, the petition takes on an urgent tone. Mr. Carr also clarifies: "We are not talking about Facebook's main platform. Nothing will change there. So, yes, if an illegal image goes up, they will find it and delete it in minutes, maybe seconds... But, this is all about their Messaging services. So that's Facebook Messenger and Instagram Direct – where they are proposing to make themselves blind."

In 2018, Facebook made 16.8 million reports to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), leading to 2,500 arrests and 3,000 children being safeguarded in the U.K alone. As per reports on online child sexual abuse imagery (CSAI) collated between 2008 and 2017 by the NCMEC, India tops the list of 10 nations where CSAI originated. A total of 38,80,235 cases were reported from India, the report said, but added that distortions might occur if virtual private networks (VPNs) or proxy servers were used.

The Rajya Sabha ad-hoc committee that went into the issue of pornography on social media and its effect on children has called specifically to permit breaking of end-to-end encryption to trace distributors of child pornography. It has also suggested that Prime Minister Narendra Modi take the lead in building a global alliance to combat child pornography on social media.

What are the key demands?

The signatories, including three Indian organisations (Tulir, Arpan and Equations), have urged that Facebook put the brakes on end-to-end encryption until it is able to satisfactorily demonstrate that there will be no reduction in children's safety.

The petition says: "Strong encryption plays a hugely valuable role in keeping citizens and their data safe. We fully recognise that users of online services have a legitimate interest in ensuring their data is protected, and there seems to be a growing appetite for users to have greater control over how their data is used by tech companies... Facebook has a responsibility to work with law enforcement and to prevent the use of sites and services for sexual abuse, including grooming, the sharing of child abuse images, and children being coerced into sending self-generated images and videos." In fact, Mr. Zuckerberg has himself recorded such concerns in a blogpost: "When billions of people use a service to connect, some of them are going to misuse it for truly terrible things like child exploitation, terrorism, and extortion. But we face an inherent trade-off because we will never find all of the potential harm we do today when our security systems can see the messages themselves."

What's the future?

The process of securing end-to-end encryption is not easy. Meanwhile, the coalition has also pledged its support to work with Facebook to embed safety mechanisms. Ultimately, the true test will be to pick that mode of encryption that will ensure privacy but address concerns of online safety too.

Why have LPG prices seen a sharp rise?

What is the pricing mechanism? What happens to those with subsidy?

K. BHARAT KUMAR

The story so far: On February 12, LPG prices, which are revised on a monthly basis, went up again. The rate for unsubsidised, 14.2 kg cylinders has risen by a steep ₹144.50 in Delhi, at ₹858.50. In January 2020, a non-subsidised LPG cylinder cost ₹714 in Delhi. In three other metros too, LPG prices jumped – Kolkata: ₹896 (increase by ₹149); Mumbai: ₹829.50 (increase by ₹145); and Chennai: ₹881 (increase by ₹147). The recent price hike has been the sharpest since January 2014.

What influences LPG prices in India?

Domestic prices of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) are based on a formula – the import parity price (IPP), which is based on international LPG prices. Saudi Aramco's LPG price acts as the benchmark for the IPP and includes the free-on-board price, ocean freight, customs duties, port dues and the like.

This dollar-denominated figure is converted into rupees before local costs – such as local freight, bottling charges, marketing costs, margins for oil marketing firms and dealer commissions and the Goods and Services Tax – are added. This helps the government arrive at the retail selling price for LPG.

The government resets the LPG price every month, the decision being influenced by international prices and how the rupee has behaved against the dollar in the immediately preceding weeks.

How have international prices behaved recently?

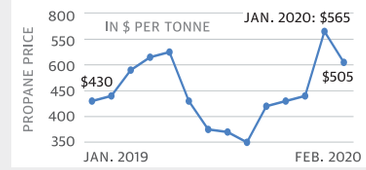
For most of December, the Brent crude price had been on an uptrend, and had breached the $68 level late that month. It peaked at $68.91 in early January, but with the coronavirus (COVID-19) disease hogging headlines in recent weeks, fears of a global slowdown have pushed oil prices down through January, save for a few spikes.

Saudi Aramco had raised its propane prices to $565 per metric tonne in January, up sharply from $440 a metric tonne set for December. Aramco propane prices offer a benchmark for pricing the West Asia LPG sales to Asian markets.

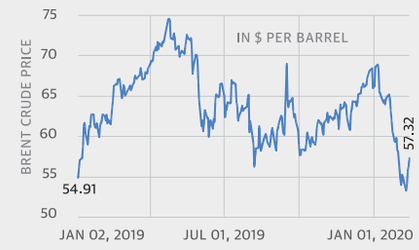
The dollar-rupee dance has since been within the range of ₹71-₹72 to the dollar, having briefly breached the ₹72 mark in early January.

High on gas | LPG prices across metros saw the steepest monthly hike in six years on February 12. This can be attributed to a price hike by Saudi Aramco, based on which LPG pricing is done in India

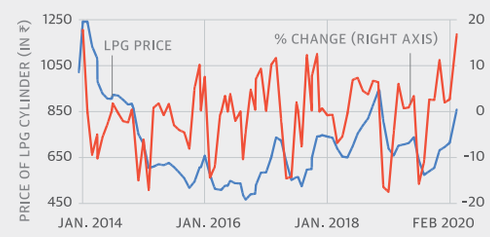
1. UPSTREAM AND DOWNSTREAM | Brent crude price steadily increased for most of December and continued its uptrend in early January. It was on a free fall for the rest of the month and early February. In this period it peaked at $68.91 a barrel on January 6



2. SOARING PRICES | Crude oil prices tend to affect Saudi Aramco's propane price. Owing to a rise in crude price through December, Saudi Aramco's propane price was $565 per tonne in January, the highest in at least a year



3. INDIA AFFECTED | A high propane price in January set LPG prices across the country soaring. Chart shows the price of an LPG cylinder in Delhi since Jan. 2014 and the % change in prices over the previous month



SOURCE: INDIAN OIL, REUTERS

Who will the price rise affect?

The price increase will affect retail consumers who have given up the subsidy.

The government has said that for those who avail subsidy, the increase would be mostly absorbed by the rise in subsidy. The Centre said the price of an unsubsidised cylinder would increase from ₹714 to ₹858.50 in Delhi, for example, and that the subsidy offered would go up from ₹153.86 to ₹291.48. Of the 27.76 crore retail consumers, 26.12 crore consumers avail LPG subsidy. Likewise, for Ujjwala consumers, the subsidy would go up from ₹174.86 to ₹312.48 per cylinder.

> With crude prices down, it is plausible that LPG prices will see a slump. Also, if there are no surprises on the rupee-dollar tango, a softening of prices is expected

Does this help the government move to an open pricing regime?

Prior to the latest round of the price increase, the government had raised LPG cylinder prices by ₹62, starting from August 2019. Compare this with the increase of ₹82 that had taken place over five years to mid-2019, indicating a penchant for increasingly lesser subsidy. In the latest round, though, the Centre has sought to absorb much of the increase for those availing subsidy. It looks like the most recent increase has been beyond its control and it is hence raising the subsidy levels to protect consumers, given that the economy is reeling from lack of consumer spending.

What is the outlook?

With international crude prices on the downtrend, it is plausible the LPG prices too would see a slump. Aramco has lowered its propane price for February to $505 per metric tonne. Assuming we receive no surprises from the rupee-dollar tango, a softening of LPG prices in the domestic context may be expected.

What are the implications for the broader economy?

At a time when consumer demand, in general, for goods and services in the country has slumped, more cash in the hands of the retail consumer may have helped spur demand. It is ironic that the government has had to raise LPG prices now.

This sucks away even more disposable income from those consumers who pay market rates for LPG. As a result, household budgets are bound to go up, especially for those not availing the subsidy. The increase in LPG price could spur headline inflation even further. As it is, the consumer price index inflation has seen a rise over the past few months. For January, it had accelerated to 7.59%, compared with 7.35% in December 2019. The January inflation metric was the highest since May 2014, when the figure was at 8.33%.

What does 'developed' tag mean for India?

How will the U.S. move to strip India of benefits reserved for a developing country impact trade?

PRASHANTH PERUMAL J.

The story so far: On February 10, the U.S. removed more than a dozen countries, including India, from its list of countries that are classified as "developing" for trade purposes. These countries will now be classified instead as "developed" economies, thus stripping them of various trade benefits. The move, which comes just ahead of U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to India later this month, has led to doubts over the chances of a trade deal being signed between India and the United States.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

What is the "developing country" status?

The office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) maintains a list of countries that it classifies as "developing", "developed", and "least-developed". Countries that are classified as "developing" are allowed to export certain goods to the U.S. without being hit by punitive tariffs that are usually imposed on goods from "developed" countries. The "developing country" status owes its origin to the U.S. Trade Act of 1974, which authorised the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) to help poor countries develop faster. These benefits were extended further under the World Trade Organization wherein rich countries agreed to grant trade benefits to countries that classified themselves as poor. It is worth noting that about two-thirds of countries that are members of the WTO classify themselves as "developing" countries and avail benefits.

Is such a classification justified?

Any classification of whether a country is "developing" or not is bound to be arbitrary. While the economic progress that India and China have achieved over the last few decades is seen by some as reason enough to get rid of their special status, others point to the various development indicators in which India and China still lag behind the rich world. Further, opinion on whether such a classification is required in the first place is divided.

Why is India being stripped of this status?

The U.S. administration under President Trump has repeatedly accused fast-growing countries such as India and China of wrongly claiming trade benefits that are reserved only for the truly developing countries. Therefore, Mr. Trump has sought to renegotiate trade deals with countries like China, essentially trying to make these deals more "fair" to the interests of the U.S. India has traditionally been one of the largest beneficiaries under the GSP, with over 2,000 goods having been exempted from import tariffs, until the Trump administration stripped it of the special benefit last year.

> Trump says India and China have witnessed significant growth in the last few decades, and trade benefits that are intended only for poor countries must be scaled back

With the current change in India's status under the USTR's classification, the task of reclaiming the lost GSP benefits now becomes even harder. In support of its actions, the Trump administration has argued that countries like India and China have witnessed significant growth in the last few decades. This, it believes, is enough reason to scale back the various trade benefits. It has further cited the share of global trade enjoyed by India and China and their membership in the G20 club to argue that they enjoy significant economic power. Moreover, many developed countries also classify themselves as "developing" in order to escape tariffs.

How will the U.S. decision affect global trade?

Any move to end duty-free access for foreign goods into the U.S., which becomes more likely after the change in trade status, will increase the overall tax burden on goods crossing international borders. This will add further pressure on the global economy, which has already witnessed a slowing of growth this year. The growth effects of a tariff war could rise further if countries that are stripped of their "developing" economy status decide to retaliate by imposing tariffs on goods that they import from the U.S.

Recently, India offered to scale back tariffs on American dairy and other products that are imported into India. This came after the U.S. complained about the restricted access that American companies have to developing countries like India. If such trade tactics manage to bring down trade barriers on both sides, it can benefit the global economy. But, with both the U.S. and its various warring trading partners looking to protect their domestic producers rather than consumers who benefit from lower tariffs, a general fall in tariffs across the board seems unlikely.

When can a judge opt out of a case?

What is the process of recusal in court? Do the reasons have to be specified?

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

The story so far: On February 12, Supreme Court judge Justice Mohan M. Shantanagoudar recused himself from hearing a petition filed by Sara Abdullah Pilot, sister of former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, against the government's move to charge him under the Public Safety Act. The case was finally heard by another bench. Recusal usually takes place when a judge has a conflict of interest or has a prior association with the parties in the case.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

What are the rules on recusals?

There are no written rules on the recusal of judges from hearing cases listed before them in constitutional courts. It is left to the discretion of a judge. The reasons for recusal are not disclosed in an order of the court. Some judges orally convey to the lawyers involved in the case their reasons for recusal, many do not. Some explain the reasons in their order. The decision rests on the conscience of the judge. At times, parties involved raise apprehensions about a possible conflict of interest. For example, if the case pertains to a company in which the judge holds stakes, the apprehension would seem reasonable. Similarly, if the judge has, in the past, appeared for one of the parties involved in a case, the call for recusal may seem right. A recusal inevitably leads to delay. The case goes back to the Chief Justice, who has to constitute a fresh Bench.

Should the reasons be put on record?

In his separate opinion in the *National Judicial Appointments Commission* judgment in 2015, Justice (now retired) Kurian Joseph, who was a member of the Constitution Bench, highlighted the need for judges to give reasons for recusal as a measure to build transparency. "It is the constitutional duty, as reflected in one's oath, to be transparent and accountable, and hence, a judge is required to indicate reasons for his recusal from a particular case," Justice Kurian wrote. One of his companion judges on the Constitution Bench, Justice (retired) Madan B. Lokur, agreed that specific rules require to be framed on recusal.

> There are no written rules on the recusal of judges from hearing cases listed before them in constitutional courts. It is left to the discretion of a judge

The two judges were referring to senior advocate Fali Nariman's plea to Justice J.S. Khehar, who was then in line to be the next Chief Justice, to recuse himself. But Justice Khehar refused to recuse himself though he admitted that Mr. Nariman's plea left him in an "awkward predicament". Justice Khehar reasoned that he did not recuse himself for fear of leaving an impression that he was "scared".

What happened in the Judge Loya and Assam detention centres cases?

In 2018, petitioners in the Judge Loya case sought the recusal of Supreme Court judges, Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and D.Y. Chandrachud, from the Bench as they both hailed from the Bombay High Court. The case banked on the written statements of two judges from that High Court, both saying that Judge Loya's death was from natural causes. The court refused the request and called it a "wanton attack". Recusal, the court observed, would mean abdication of duty. Maintaining institutional civilities are distinct from the "fiercely independent role of the judge as adjudicator", the court explained.

In May 2019, in the middle of a hearing of a PIL filed by activist Harsh Mander about the plight of inmates in Assam's detention centres, the then-Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi was asked to recuse himself. In a lengthy order, Justice Gogoi said a litigant cannot seek recusal of the judge. "Judicial functions, sometimes, involve performance of unpleasant and difficult tasks, which require asking questions and soliciting answers to arrive at a just and fair decision. If the assertions of bias as stated are to be accepted, it would become impossible for a judge to seek clarifications and answers," the court observed.

Why did Justice Mishra argue against recusal?

Refusing to recuse himself from the Constitution Bench hearing a question of law on the *Indore Development Authority v. Manohar Lal* (the issues involved in the case related to a reading of Section 24(2) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013), Justice Arun Mishra said acquiescing to the wishes of parties to recuse himself would sound the death-knell for judicial independence. The petitioners had objected to Justice Mishra leading the Constitution Bench which was hearing a question of law challenging his own earlier judgment in the case. But Justice Mishra said it would be a "grave blunder" on his part to bow out.

Convalescent plasma therapy tested on critically ill COVID-19 patients

Patients showed an improvement in clinical symptoms 12–24 hours after plasma infusion

R. PRASAD

In the absence of any preventive vaccine or specific antivirals for treating COVID-19 patients infected with the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, a pharmaceutical company in China has turned to plasma taken from people who have recovered from the infection to treat critically ill patients.

Convalescent plasma

Convalescent plasma has been listed as a therapeutic method by China's National Health Commission.

People who have recovered from COVID-19 disease would have antibodies against the virus. Infusing the antibodies to critically ill patients is expected to improve the chances of survival. The plasma that is transfused contains the antibodies.

The company had collected plasma from some recovered patients to prepare therapeutic products including convalescent plasma and immune globulin.Plasma taken from recovered patients in Wuhan since January 20 has been given to more than a dozen patients. Initially, three critically ill patients in a hospital in Wuhan received plasma treatment on February 8. An additional 10 patients have received the treatment since then. According to Xinhua, patients who received plasma therapy showed an improvement in clinical symptoms 12-24 hours after being given the therapy. Improvement in clinical symptoms includes key indicators such as blood oxygen saturation and significant reduction in inflammatory indicators.

Key indicators: Improvement in clinical symptoms includes blood oxygen saturation and significant reduction in inflammatory indicators. ▪ AFP

This is not the first time that plasma from recovered patients has been used to treat people infected with certain viruses for which drugs are not available. When Ebola struck Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia in 2014, the World Health Organization prioritised the evaluation of treatment with convalescent plasma derived from patients who have recovered from the disease.

Earlier trials

There was hardly any benefit seen in 84 patients treated with convalescent plasma in a trial carried out in Ebola patients in Guinea between mid-February and early August 2015. The results were published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

"The transfusion of up to 500 ml of convalescent plasma with unknown levels of neutralizing antibodies was not associated with a significant improvement in survival," the authors write.

Time-tested method

"Treatment with convalescent plasma is a classical, time-tested method. It has been used against measles, chickenpox, and rabies. In the case of rabies, it is acts as passive immunisation after dog bite and before disease develops," says virologist Dr. Jacob John.

Timing is crucial

"Best time to give convalescent plasma containing antibodies is before disease develops. In the case of COVID-19, by the time pneumonia is diagnosed it is too late. That is the reason why therapy using convalescent plasma is not popular for other viral diseases," Dr. John adds.

According to him, as the disease develops, the body has already begun developing antibodies against the virus. Infusing convalescent plasma is essentially like topping with more antibodies hoping that increased amount of antibodies will dampen the disease progression. "Antibodies in the plasma bind to the virus and prevent them from entering the cells. But by the time it is given, many cells have already been infected. Hence, convalescent plasma therapy is not very effective," says Dr. John.

Researchers decode how malaria parasite multiplies

Two large protein complexes help the parasite proliferate

ASWATHI PACHA

With over 4,00,000 deaths in 2018, according to the WHO, malaria still remains one of the biggest killer infections globally, concentrated mainly in Africa and India. The disease is caused by the parasite *Plasmodium* and transmitted by the *Anopheles* mosquito. To understand in detail how this parasite multiplies within a mosquito, an international team of researchers spent years studying different proteins in the parasite. Their study published in *Cell Reports* has found two important proteins essential for proliferation. These finding can help develop new drugs and thus pave way for malaria eradication.

The team found that two large protein complexes (condensins) called SMC2 and SMC4 played essential roles in the parasite proliferation. One of the co-authors Prof. Rita Tewari in an email to *The Hindu* says: "It means that these molecules are required for every stage of parasite multiplication, and even in the cyst-like structure in the mosquito (oocyst) where the infective stage of the parasite develops. It is at this stage that it is injected into humans through mosquito bite." She is from the School of Life Sciences at the University of Nottingham.

Potent transfer: The parasite is injected into humans at the infective oocyst stage through mosquito bite. ▪ REUTERS

The team showed that when genes behind these proteins were deleted, the number of oocysts in the mosquito gut significantly reduced and were smaller in size compared to the normal ones.

Adaptable parasite

Prof. Tewari adds in a release: "This malaria parasite is very adaptable. Even if you kill it in the human bloodstream, some of these sex cells taken in by the mosquito during a bite can develop and multiply further in the mosquito. Over time, it [the parasite] has adapted to survive and multiply using different modes, which is why it is difficult to control the disease."

The malaria parasite has different models of multiplication in different stages of its life cycle, and it is essential to track down all the important proteins behind it for developing a new effective drug. "We are now studying the novel modes of parasite cell division and the crucial regulatory molecules which are involved in the success of the parasite cell division," adds Prof. Tewari.

"With the increase in drug-resident malaria cases, it is essential and urgent to find new drug targets. These two proteins are conserved across all *Plasmodium* species and were found to be important for parasite multiplication. This adds a step towards exploring new drug targets" adds Dinesh Gupta, leader of the Translational Bioinformatics Group from the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), New Delhi. He is one of the authors of the paper.

How small regulatory molecules are generated in plants

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

Researchers from National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru, and SASTRA University, Thanjavur, have discovered how small molecules called microRNAs are made in plants. This finding makes it much easier for studying processes in plants. MicroRNAs are small molecules, about 21 nucleotides long, and help in controlling the levels of proteins in the cell. The research was published in the journal *Nucleic Acids Research*.

All aspects of growth and development of plants, whether it is initiation of flowering or control and distribution of hormones in response to external stress, are regulated at various levels in the cell. Such regulation is always mediated by proteins – the work horses of the cells. At one level, regulation of the processes is about controlling the amount of specific proteins being made in the cells. This is achieved by the microRNAs.

In order to decrease the level of a particular protein in specific cells, the microRNAs destroy the messenger RNA molecules that help with the production of that specific protein in the cell. The microRNA molecules do this by cutting down that particular messenger RNA thereby destroying it. This process is called the silencing of the messenger RNA.

Control centre: Growth and development of plants are regulated at various levels in the cell. ▪ ASHOKE CHAKRABARTY

The microRNA that achieve this silencing are evolutionarily conserved – that is, they are found in all flowering plants, whether they are mosses or roses.

Similarly, the best way to study the effect of a gene in the DNA is to silence or "knockout" the gene. Knocking out a gene does not mean removing the entire gene. In knocking out processes, those RNA that induce the gene to produce proteins are destroyed or their levels are reduced by the microRNA as described earlier.

MicroRNA structure

In this new research, the team has found that microRNAs have a high occurrence of the bases G and C and this helps their formation and abundance in the cells. Further, there is a position-specific bias for these bases in the microRNAs. This is recognised by a specific RNA-binding protein. As N. Anushree of NCBS, who is the first author of the paper clarifies, "We see more G or C in specific positions [across the length of the microRNA consisting of say, 21 nucleotides]. Such a preference is essential to make these molecules at an optimal level in the cells."

The present way to silence genes is by introducing artificial microRNA which binds to the messenger RNA of interest and prevents the production of protein. This is done in a deliberate process of trial and error.

"Researchers try out several artificial microRNAs, introduce them into plants one by one in a cumbersome process and then pick the best one which can remove most messenger RNAs of the gene of interest. Our results can help anyone to choose the one candidate that is sure to work," says P.V. Shivaprasad from NCBS, who led the study.

To avoid panic, WHO will not use SARS in new virus' official name

The Coronavirus Study Group has named the virus SARS-CoV-2 in keeping with conventions

R. PRASAD

Three days after the novel coronavirus got an official name, the World Health Organization has clearly indicated that it will not use the official name in all its public communication while referring to the virus.

On February 11, the WHO announced COVID-19 as the name for the disease caused by the novel coronavirus. The "CO" in COVID stands corona, while "VI" is for virus and "D" for disease. The number 19 stands for the year 2019 when the outbreak was first identified.

The same day, in a preprint posted in the *bioRxiv* repository, the Coronavirus Study Group of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses announced the official name for the virus – "Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2" or "SARS-CoV-2".

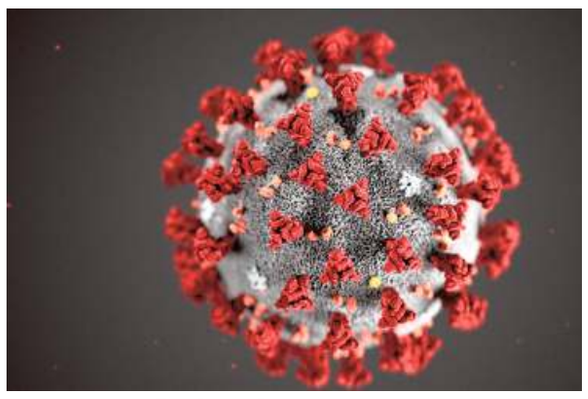
Official classification

The Study Group had assessed the novelty of the virus to arrive at the name. The Coronavirus Study Group is responsible for developing the official classification of viruses and taxa naming of the Coronaviridae family to which the novel coronavirus belongs.

A news item published in the journal *Science* mentions that WHO is "not happy" with the name given to the virus and hence is not planning to adopt it. It will instead call the pathogen "virus responsible for COVID-19" or the "COVID-19 virus", a WHO spokesperson told *Science*.

The WHO has clarified that neither of the two names that it plans to use to refer to the novel coronavirus are "intended as replacements for the official name of the virus" that the Study Group has chosen.

The reason why the WHO is not happy with the name and its refusal to use it while referring to the virus stems from the fact that the official name given to the virus has SARS (Severe acute respiratory syndrome) mentioned in it. The SARS coronavirus, which was identified in 2003, first infected humans in the Guangdong province of southern China in 2002. The SARS epidemic spread to 29 countries and resulted in 8,096 cases and 774 deaths before it was contained in July 2003.



Naming a virus: The Study Group has adopted a scientific approach while naming the new coronavirus. ▪ AP

So, from a "risk communications perspective, using the name SARS can have unintended consequences in terms of creating unnecessary fear for some populations, especially in Asia, which was worst affected by the SARS outbreak in 2003", the spokesperson told *Science*.

Different criteria

The WHO and the Study Group use two very different criteria and approaches while deciding the names. The WHO arrives at the name of a new disease by following the May 2015 guidelines. According to the guidelines, the disease name should not include geographic locations and people's names as this can be stigmatising. Also, names of animals such as swine flu should be avoided as this leads to confusion. The guidelines also say that it should avoid "terms that incite undue fear" while choosing a name.

The Study Group adopts a "scientific approach" while naming a new coronavirus. Based on whole genome sequence shared by China and other countries, scientists have confirmed that the novel virus belongs to the same species as the one that caused the SARS epidemic, which is called SARS-related coronavirus.

"The virus may be novel to the rest of the world, but it isn't really to taxonomists. So it's not getting its own name. Instead, the committee appended a '2' for viruses isolated from patients in Wuhan and elsewhere," the chair of the Study Group John Ziebuhr of Justus Liebig University Giessen told *Science*.

According to the journal, the paper was sent to *bioRxiv* repository on February 7, four days before it was posted on the repository. The authors had also sent the paper to a scientific journal for publication. After the outbreak, the WHO had requested all scientific journals to first share with it any paper that they receive before publishing.

"Research findings relevant to the outbreak are shared immediately with the World Health Organization (WHO) upon journal submission, by the journal and with author knowledge," notes a February 4 editorial in *Nature*.

So, the WHO was aware of the official name given by the Study Group well before it announced the name of the disease. "The timing of WHO's announcement was not influenced by the arrival of the manuscript," the WHO spokesperson told *Science*.

Warming terrain: The temperature in a densely populated city is as much as 2 degrees higher than suburban or rural areas. ▪ V SREENIVASA MURTHY

Urban heat islands in India

Why are our cities warmer than their suburbs and rural areas?

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. BALASUBRAMANIAN

A recent study from IIT Kharagpur called "Anthropogenic forcing exacerbating the urban heat islands in India" noted that the relatively warmer temperature in urban areas, compared to suburbs, may contain potential health hazards due to heat waves apart from pollution. Arun Chakraborty an author of the study said, "Our research is a detailed and careful analysis of urban heat islands in India. We study the difference between urban and surrounding rural land surface temperatures, across all seasons in 44 major cities from 2001 to 2017." He further said, "For the first time, we have found evidence of mean daytime temperature of surface urban heat island (UHI Intensity) going up to 2 degrees C for most cities, as analysed from satellite temperature measurements in monsoon and post monsoon periods." Other researchers from elsewhere have also noticed similar rise in daytime temperatures in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai.

Understanding urban heat island effect

We know of urban water lakes (as in Bhopal, Hyderabad, Bengaluru or Srinagar) which add pleasure and coolness, but an urban heat island? An urban heat island (abbreviated as UHI) is where the temperature in a densely populated city is as much as 2 degrees higher than suburban or rural areas. Why? This happens because of the materials used for pavements, roads and roofs, such as concrete, asphalt (tar) and bricks, which are opaque, do not transmit light, but have higher heat capacity and thermal conductivity than rural areas, which have more open space, trees and grass. Trees and plants are characterised by their 'evapotranspiration'– a combination of words wherein evaporation involves the movement of water to the surrounding air, and transpiration refers to the movement of water within a plant and the subsequent lot of water through the stomata (pores found on the leaf surface) in its leaves. Grass, plants and trees in the suburbs and rural areas do this. The lack of such evapotranspiration in the city leads to the city experiencing higher temperature than its surroundings.

UHI s also decrease air quality in the cities, thanks to pollution generated by industrial and automobile exhaust, higher extent of particulate matter and greater amounts of dust than in rural areas. Due to this higher temperature in urban areas, the UHI increases the colonisation of species that like warm temperatures, such as lizards and geckos. Insects such as ants are more abundant here than in rural areas; these are referred to as ectotherms. In addition, cities tend to experience heat waves which affect human and animal health, leading to heat cramps, sleep deprivation and increased mortality rates. UHIs also impact nearby water bodies, as warmer water (thanks to the pavements, rooftops and so on) is transferred from the city to drains in sewers, and released into nearby lakes and creeks, thus impairing their water quality.

It is painful to realize that Bengaluru, once known for its salubrious climate, now has UHIs, even in places like Koramandala and Jayanagar. The rapid expansion of buildings, industrial parks and associated high-rise apartments in suburbs, such as Electronic City and Whitefield, has made the city insalubrious (read: <urba-heat-island-effect-report>, prepared by The Energy and Resources Institute, India). Some of its praiseworthy lakes are dirty and diseased. Likewise, when my family and I moved to Hyderabad in 1977, we were told that we do not need air conditioning or even ceiling fans at night. Now, we have UHIs, again due to reckless expansion of industrial parks, factories and associated buildings in what was once a vast suburb, which has now become the third city called Cyberabad. These have not only led to formation of UHI but also the associated pollution due to a drastic reduction in the Air Quality Index (AQI), thanks to the exhausts from industries and automobiles. The 'safe' AQI is thought to be between 61-90 units (when particles from the air enter the human and animal bodies causing discomfort and illness), but in places like Delhi it has gone to very poor-to-dangerous levels of about 323. Fortunately, it is still on the safe side in Hyderabad and Bengaluru, but it is time to take steps to keep it low.

Control of UHIs and mitigation

Industrialisation and economic development are vital to the country, but the control of UHIs and their fallouts are equally vital. Towards this, several methods are being, and can be, tried. One of them is to use greener rooftops, using light-coloured concrete (using limestone aggregates along with asphalt (or tar) making the road surface greyish or even pinkish (as some places in the US have done); these are 50% better than black, since they absorb less heat and reflect more sunlight. Likewise, we should paint rooftops green, and install solar panels there amidst a green background.

The other is to plant as many trees and plants as possible. It is interesting to realise how beneficial trees are to us. The organisation Treepeople lists as many as 22 benefits from trees and plants (see <Tree people .org/tree-benefits>). Relevant to the present context are: they combat climate change; clean the surrounding air by absorbing pollutant gases (N_xO_y, O_3, NH_3, SO_2, and others) and trapping particulates on their leaves and bark; cool the city and the streets; conserve energy (cutting air-conditioning costs by 50%); save water and help prevent water pollution; help prevent soil erosion; protect people and children from UV light; offer economic opportunities; bring diverse group of people together; encourage civic pride by giving neighbourhoods a new identity; mask concrete walls, thus muffling sounds from streets and highways, and eye-soothing canopy of green; and the more a business district has trees, more business follows. So, plant as many trees and plants as you can around and between your buildings, schools, houses and apartment complexes. But, 'token' planting will not do, nurturing them year after year is vital!

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No room for dissent in Putin's Russia

The crackdown on an anti-fascist group is the latest case of the government stiffling criticism

MOSCOW

Ksenia Kondratieva is a journalist based in Moscow

In what has emerged as yet another case of the state cracking down on anti-government activism, a court in the central Russian city of Penza has sentenced seven members of a left-wing activist group 'Set' (Network) to a cumulative term of 86 years.

Dmitriy Pchelintsev, 27, received the harshest sentence – 18 years in a colony of strict regime. Others, Ilya Shakurskiy, 23, Andrey Chernov, 30, Maksim Ivankin, 25, Mikhail Kulkov, Vasiliy Kuskov, 31, and Arman Sangynbayev, 27, received somewhere between six and 16 years.

The convicted men are among the 11 people detained in 2017 in Penza and St. Petersburg for "plotting" terrorist attacks during presidential elections and the football World Cup in 2018.

Another activist believed to be a part of the 'Set', Igor Shishkin, was handed a three-and-a-half-year term in 2019. So far, he is the only one who has confessed to the charges. He collaborated with the investigation. According to Human Rights Watch, he did so after repeated torture. Two others, Viktor Filinkov and Yulian Boyarshinov, are awaiting their sentence later this month.

What do these young men have in common? Some of them belong to leftist, anti-fascist and anarchist movements, and most of them have been playing a popular outdoor game "airsoft", in which participants shoot at each other with plastic balls using a pneumatic weapon.

The Federal Security Service (FSB), which has opened a criminal case against them, claimed the games were actually 'training exercises' as part of preparation for insurgency. Families of the youth and those under trial as well as human rights experts in Russia and abroad maintain the case was "fabricated" and no serious evidence has been produced by the prosecution while the facts proving that some testimonies were obtained through torture were completely ignored by the court.

Plotting insurgency

What is the most astonishing in this case, experts and activists say, is that the harsh terms were given for just "plotting" insurgency and not for something that was actually done.

"Everything we know about the 'Set' case suggests that it was entirely fabricated. A blatantly unjust verdict shows the complete paralysis of the independent judicial system in our country. Unlike those fake terrorist attacks that the accused were allegedly plotting, the court decision itself is the real act of terror that strikes a blow to the very foundation of Russia's statehood," says a public petition started on February 12. Within two days, it was signed by over 3,000 people.

Inability of the judges to question 'powerful' investigators such as the FSB has been pointed out by many commentators in Russia. "If the judge doubts anything, it means that he has questioned the qualifications of FSB employees, and no one wants to get involved with this. The career of both a prosecutor and a judge can be over in a moment," said Olga Romanova, head of the NGO Russia Behind Bars.

Andrei Kolesnikov, a senior fellow and the chair of the Russian Domestic Politics and Political Institutions Program at the Carnegie Moscow Center, believes double-digit jail terms handed to young men who have neither killed or shot or beaten anybody nor stolen billions is "pure Stalinism".

"The harshness of the sentences for the throwing of plastic cups and for organising outdoor training, as the Network group did, is intended to demonstrate the State's readiness to defend itself from any manifestations of dissatisfaction and dissent, even action that is not particularly vividly expressed," he wrote in one of his op-eds.

Most of the experts speaking out on the case – which is hardly covered by the largely government-controlled mainstream media – believe the fear of mass dissent is something the Russian government is not able to tolerate because it doesn't really know how to deal with it. The 2019 summer protests rattled Moscow both because of their size and strength and because of the brutal force the police used to crack them down. The Kremlin would not like those incidents being repeated.

Sociologist Konstantin Gaaze reminds that the Russian government has always considered youth belonging to countless anti-fascist leftists groups spread across Russia an important concern. Mainly because these groups, unlike those belonging to so-called "systemic opposition", are not under the direct control of the Kremlin and the FSB. The Set members violated the monopoly of the Kremlin-sanctioned opposition.

Remember the dead and fight for the living

An art summit in Dhaka touches upon a broad set of themes from geological to social and feminist

DHAKA

Arun Devnath is a journalist based in Dhaka

Rahela Khanam was not an artist, never meant to be. After losing her 19-year-old son, Fazle Rabby, to Bangladesh's worst industrial disaster in 2013, Ms. Khanam found her life hollowed out. To carry the memories of her son into the future, she embroidered her sorrows into a handmade quilt, a seemingly permanent space in her fleeting life. It's part of *Memorial Quilts*, a moving collection of statements from the families of those who died in the Rana Plaza collapse about seven years ago.

Taslima Akhter, a documentary photographer and rights activist, put them together at the Dhaka Art Summit, renewing global attention to the struggles of garment workers, who drive Bangladesh's stellar economic growth, but themselves fall by the wayside.

The stories of those families upended by the disaster emerged as a collaborative effort to remember the dead and fight for the living. A counter-narrative to disasters, these quilts empower families to memorialise their loved ones and bring together a growing number of allies who demand better wages and safer workplaces.

Habiba Nowrose explores complex human relationships and the ambiguity of identity through photography. *The Life of Venus*, an ongoing project that started in 2014, portrays veiled women in a dazzling burst of colours and offers glimpses into their faceless world. "My photography is true to myself. I'm inspired by the patterns and colours women wear in Bangladesh all the time. I have been fascinated by those patterns and colours and wanted to include them in my works. That's one of the reasons my works are vibrant and colourful," Ms. Nowrose said in an interview.

The images of women shed light on the loss of identity that Ms. Nowrose felt in her life as a woman. "I was experiencing a lot of pressure from my family and peers to express myself in a particular way. I had a feeling that I was losing myself."

Freedom or the lack of it took centre stage in the theme, *Seismic Movements*. The art summit touched upon a broad set of movements from geological to social to feminist. The movements create the conditions that "move us to act and the power that comes with moving collectively," said Diana Campbell Betancourt, chief curator of the summit.

Chitra Ganesh expands upon her exploration of gender and power in a futurist imaginary that takes the 1905 utopian, sci-fi, feminist novella *Sultana's Dream* by author and social reformer Begum Rokeya as a point of departure to consider a world where men stay home, and women innovate new ways of being by harnessing the power of the sun.

Throughout the world, people of colour, indigenous peoples and people of diverse sexual and gender orientation continue to fight for space to express themselves. They immerse themselves in fantasy and poetry to reimagine new territories that emancipate them from the everyday violence of capitalism, patriarchy and religious fundamentalism.

Sense of alienation

On the other hand, Tahia Farhin Haque, a Dhaka-based photographer, traces the broken lives in the brutal aftermath of the Partition of India in 1947. Through the images of veiled women, Ms. Haque explores the public gaze and prejudice that follows a Muslim woman in a country where she happens to be part of the religious minority.

It is a jarring reminder of the turmoil and terror her grandmother had suffered more than seven decades ago, running away from her home in Kolkata with a child in her womb. The oppression of minorities has always existed and is evident even today. "Strolling through the streets [in Kolkata], I was always acutely aware of the eyes on me due to my identity and the pang of alienation that accompanies it," Ms. Haque wrote in a booklet on the overarching theme of her works.

In another corner, a vast canvas scroll by Nilima Sheikh, a prominent visual artist from Baroda, reflects on the tragedies in Kashmir, the epicentre of the destruction left in the wake of the Partition and later exacerbated by rising Indian nationalism. The narrative scroll immerses the viewer in a sense of loss and mourning often articulated in silence. Ms. Sheikh has been visiting Kashmir since she was a young child, and has envisioned a pluralistic society through her works since 2002.

As the nine-day summit came to an end on Saturday, Ms. Khanam's memorial quilt will be removed from the gallery at the Shilpakala Academy just like other exhibits, and she will continue to come to terms with the eternal absence of her beloved son in her own small world.

The 'good' women and 'bad' women of serials

A popular TV show in Pakistan has triggered debates on how women are depicted in serials

LAHORE

Mehmal Sarfraz is a journalist based in Lahore

Last month, Pakistanis saw the finale of the superhit drama serial, *Meray Paas Tum Ho (MPTH)*. The drama was such a hit that its finale was screened in cinemas across Pakistan and was watched by 80 million viewers. But the most watched TV show in Pakistan, which had 23 episodes that ran from August, has also triggered heated debates both online and offline on its depiction of women. A petition was filed in a court to stop its screening as, according to the petitioner, the story was giving a bad impression of women. It was dismissed.

MPTH was a tragic romance series written by Khalil-ur-Rehman Qamar. The story is about a love triangle where a married woman (Mehwish) falls in love with another married man (Shehwar). She leaves her husband (Danish) for her lover but the latter's wife throws her out and sends her husband to jail. She then tries to go back to Danish but he dies at the end of the series. Qamar has recently faced a lot of criticism for his sexist and misogynist views. In one interview, he said it is not in a woman's nature to be unfaithful and if she is unfaithful, she isn't a woman. "Women should gang rape men if they want equality," he said in another.

Critics of the show argued that the 'good' women and 'bad' women binary the *MPTH* presents is essentially misogynistic.

Tasneem Ahmar, founder and director of Uks, a research centre that focuses on the women-media relationship, says *MPTH* was no different from 99.9% of dramas on Pakistani TV channels. "It was as sexist, repressive and regressive as the others. The dialogues were not new to our ears; in fact, some dramas have had much worse content. *MPTH* reflects a mindset that reduces women to less than objects, shunning them as 'bad' women. It was a lethal combination of sexism, chauvinism and patriarchy, bordering on misogyny. Our TV plays are immensely popular with all sections of our society, if only our writers, producers, directors and actors could realise that this popularity could also become pivotal in making a change – from regressive to progressive."

Zebunnisa Burki, a journalist and academic, however doesn't believe in taking the makers of such shows to court. *MPTH* presents a rather interesting case study of 'big business' media, entertainment, activism and social media all overlapping into a confused mashup of outrage on all sides, she said. "Like 80% of Pakistani drama series, *MPTH* followed largely the same tropes we see on TV every single day.

In Ms. Burki's views, at times people can't separate the drama from the writer, "who holds the most odious opinion on women". "We need better writers; we need better decision-makers and we also need to recognise the fact that stunts like taking a TV drama to court will only trivialise any valid critique."

'Ridiculing women'

In the petition filed at the Sindh High Court, lawyer Sana Saleem had said the series was "ridiculing a woman who makes the same decision as every other man in society".

Ms. Burki said, "Our pop culture/entertainment issues won't be resolved by hashtag activism by a privileged few. We need to make sure we encourage the lost art of critical thinking among the young; without that, we will probably only produce Khalil-ur-Rehman Qamars and blockbusters like *MPTH*."

Actor and model Iffat Omar says she believes a writer has full rights over storytelling. The real controversy started when Qamar gave interviews in which he made controversial comments. "It was then that we started watching his drama *MPTH* in light of his views. I had a problem with the ending – both the male and female protagonists are disloyal to their spouses but the husband of the female lead dies and the man's wife accepts the husband back [But he doesn't go back to his wife in the serial because he says that he is not worthy of his wife]. So they show that it is in the nature of women to forgive cheating partners but men can't take it and they'd rather die. This is pretty sick. Women don't demand equality to rape men but at least we expect that men would know how hard it is for women to deal with cheating and unfaithfulness."

Writer and Anchor Ayesha Jahanzeb feels Pakistani women and women, in general, have never been represented the way they actually are in serials. "In *MPTH*, I found both female characters shallow. Qamar's women are flawed with tragic traits, whereas the men are very rounded characters. In reality, women handle situations very differently and not how Qamar has depicted them."

Revolt in the time of carnival

Brazilians turn samba into a means of protest against the government in their street parties

SAO PAULO

Shobhan Saxena is a journalist based in Sao Paulo

On a street with old warehouses and bars sitting side by side in the old quarters of the city, a group of 100-odd people – all wearing red T-shirts with an image of Fidel Castro smoking a Cuban cigar – danced around a drummer and singer belting out a samba song. With beer flowing like water, the group sang a samba that made fun of President Jair Bolsonaro. That was the birth of "Bloco Ursal", a street carnival party in Sao Paulo, just a few weeks after Bolsonaro was inaugurated last year.

Brazilian carnival is often confused with the glamorous parade in Rio de Janeiro, which attracts hundreds of thousands of tourists and millions of television audience from around the world every year. But the real carnival takes place on the country's streets in the form of parties called *blocos* – all centred around a specific theme – organised by common people who compose samba and play it for hours with their friends and neighbours. Bloco Ursal was created by a group of journalists in 2019 as a reaction to a bizarre episode during the 2018 election debate, when a fringe right-wing candidate accused Ciro Gomes, a centrist leader, of being part of "Ursal", an imaginary "union of socialist republics of Latin America".

The election got over and the right-wing candidate sank without a trace, leaving behind the term "Ursal", whose intended insult was turned on its head by the creators of this *bloco* to celebrate the Latin American left. In 2019, the group paid tributes to Castro; this Sunday (February 16), they will be gathering at the same place to pay homage to former Uruguayan President Pepe Mujica, with a new samba. "From WhatsApp has leaked a news/It is Free Lula. So good/I miss my former President. I had a dream that democracy is back. In my dream the Earth was round again/And Mujica came back. In my dream, sexism disappeared...," reads the lines of samba of Bloco Ursal.

Moment of liberation

Nothing defines – and describes – Brazil better than its carnival. Football probably comes a distant second. According to Roberto DaMatta, a Brazilian anthropologist, the carnival "reveals the background of Brazilian society". "It reverses the role, brings the bottom of the well up, like turning a bag upside down or a suit inside out. In Brazilian society, 'where everything is prohibited', the carnival brings the moment of liberation," says Mr. DaMatta.

To the outsiders, the carnival looks like a period of pure hedonism and non-stop partying. But as the country's liberal traditions, progressive groups and mixed cultural values come under attack, the carnival has turned into a platform for political protest.

After Mr. Bolsonaro rose to power on a far-right message, last year's carnival started a cultural war as several *blocos* and samba schools chose themes that challenged the far-right narrative. In his imitable style, the President responded by tweeting a graphic video as he condemned Brazil's biggest festival and soft-power export to the world.

The tensions, sparked last year, have become more intense in 2020 as Brazil's black population, women, followers of African religions and samba schools feel the heat of far-right propaganda that dominates the government narrative. The carnival parade of this year, which will take place in Rio and Sao Paulo over the next weekend, will turn into a political act as at least 10 samba schools have composed their lyrics criticising Mr. Bolsonaro. Mangueira, the samba school which won the parade trophy in 2019 by honouring Marielle Franco, the black and gay councillor who was assassinated in 2018, will be presenting the story of Jesus Christ as someone "who has a black face, indigenous blood and the body of a woman". Luiz Carlos Maximo, one of the composers of the samba, says their idea is to "portray Jesus as a man persecuted by the State and kidnapped by the prophets of intolerance".

The high glamour quotient of Brazilian carnival can't hide the fact that this show is actually put together by the residents of *favelas* (slums), who are mostly black and poor. With them facing the brunt of Mr. Bolsonaro's policies, the *favelas* are in full revolt at this year's carnival. Padre Miguel, another top samba school, will be portraying social and racial inequality. "We need to protest through our samba as we are facing attacks on African-based religions and there is no debate about racism in Brazil," says Marcio Silva, who will be taking part in the carnival parade. "We need to tell the world what is happening in Brazil."

With millions on the streets, the message will be loud and clear.

Bumrah and Shami on a roll

India bowls New Zealand out for 235; Shaw and Mayank off to a good start

INDIA IN NZ

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HAMILTON

Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami gave an exhibition of high quality fast bowling on day two of India's warm-up encounter against New Zealand XI, sending a warning signal for the home team ahead of first Test in Wellington.

Bumrah (2/18 in 11 overs) and Shami (3/17 in 10 overs) used the conditions well to bowl New Zealand out for 235 in 74.2 overs. Umesh Yadav (2/49 in 13 overs) and Navdeep Saini (2/58 in 15 overs) bowled more overs, but weren't half as good.

Prithvi Shaw (35 batting off 25 balls) and Mayank Agarwal (23 batting off 17 balls) ensured the visitors finished the day at 59 for no loss.

Basic idea

For head coach Ravi Shastri, the basic idea was to ensure his pacers got into the groove, and Bumrah and Shami did just that in overcast conditions.

While Umesh and Saini in their first spells bowled too full, Bumrah pitched deliveries on back of length generating disconcerting bounce. He bowled in three short spells while Shami bowled two spells.

The scores:

India — 1st innings: 263.

New Zealand XI — 1st innings: Will Young c Pant b Bumrah 2, Rachin Ravindra c Pant b Umesh 34, Tim Seifert c Pant b Shami 9, Finn Allen b Bumrah 20, Henry Cooper c Agarwal b Shami 40, Tom Bruce b Saini 31, Daryl Mitchell c Shaw b Umesh 32, James Neesham b Shami 1, Dane Cleaver b Saini 13, Scott Kuggeleijn (not out) 11, Ish Sodhi c Pujara b Ashwin 14, Extras (b-13 lb-9 w-3 nb-3): 28; Total (in 74.2 overs): 235.

Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-36, 3-70, 4-82, 5-133, 6-155, 7-161, 8-204, 9-213.

India bowling: Jasprit Bumrah 11-3-18-2, Umesh Yadav 13-1-49-2, Mohammed Shami 10-5-17-3, Navdeep Saini 15-2-58-2, Ravichandran Ashwin 15.2-2-46-1, Ravindra Jadeja 10-4-25-0.

India — 2nd innings: Prithvi Shaw (batting) 35, Mayank Agarwal (batting) 23; Extras (w-1): 1; Total: (for no loss in 7 overs): 59.

New Zealand XI bowling: Blair Tickner 3-0-19-0, Scott Kuggeleijn 3-0-34-0, Scott Johnston 1-0-6-0.

Getting into the groove: Mohammed Shami used the conditions well to scalp three New Zealand wickets. ▪ TWITTER

Ishant passes fitness test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Senior India fast bowler Ishant Sharma on Saturday passed the fitness test at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru and will join the team in New Zealand. "Yes, he (Ishant) has passed the fitness test and he will join the team in New Zealand," a BCCI source told PTI.

Ishant termed the injury phase as a "roller-coaster ride" and thanked NCA physio Ashish Kaushik for helping him to recover.

No fairytale finish for Leander Paes

Ramkumar-Purav combine triumphs in style; Bonzi to meet Duckworth

BENGALURU OPEN

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

Ramkumar Ramanathan and Purav Raja, who have played second fiddle to Leander Paes and Matthew Ebden for the bulk of the $1,62,000 Bengaluru Open ATP Tennis Challenger here, forced their way to the forefront when it counted most.

In a clinical display, the duo whipped Paes-Ebden 6-0, 6-3 in the final at the KSLTA Stadium here on Saturday and ensured that Paes – playing possibly his last ATP event in India – would not ride into the sunset as a champion.

While Purav was all class at the net, Ramkumar covered the back-court well and muscled his groundstrokes. Paes and Ebden simply had no answers to the devastating one-two punch, in a summit clash that lasted just 56 minutes.

Service proves the difference

Ebden and Paes both struggled with their serves, recording a poor 49% combined first-serve percentage. Ramkumar, on the other hand, was devastating, consistently finding the right spots at around 220-kmph.

Ramkumar and Purav, who have now won three titles in the four tournaments they have entered, collected a cheque of $9,300 and 125 ATP ranking points.

"I've never had such good results with a new partner. The future looks bright. I don't want to take Ramkumar away from his singles commitments, so I will have to work out my schedule so that we can play together often," Purav said.

Everybody loves... Leander Paes, who may have played his last ATP tournament at home, obliges fans on Saturday. ▪ V. SREENIVASA MURTHY

Ramkumar, whose main focus has been on singles, stated that he is enjoying his doubles run.

Bonding well

"Purav and I know exactly what to do in big moments. Purav knows where I will serve, and we know each other's weaknesses and strengths. We bond well and the vibe is good – that is important," said Ramkumar.

In singles, unseeded Benjamin Bonzi took out second seed S. Travaglia 6-3, 6-4 in the semifinals. Bonzi, who has beaten four higher-ranked rivals here, reached his second Challenger final.

The Frenchman will face Australian James Duckworth in the final on Sunday. Duckworth cruised past Italy's J. Ocleppo 6-3, 6-3 in the other semifinal.

The results:

Singles (semifinals): James Duckworth (Aus) bt J. Ocleppo (Ita) 6-3, 6-2; Benjamin Bonzi (Fra) bt S. Travaglia (Ita) 6-3, 6-4.

Doubles (final): Purav Raja & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Matthew Ebden (Aus) & Leander Paes 6-0, 6-3.

'That's a great way to go'

SPORTS REPORTER
BENGALURU

An emotional Leander Paes, who has possibly played his last ATP event match in India, stated that he will miss the massive home crowd support that he has enjoyed over his long career. The 46-year-old shed a few tears when asked about his fans, at the post-match press conference here on Saturday.

"The fact that I've played my last match in India – it sunk in after the match when I was signing autographs.

"A young girl – must have been five or six years old – gave me a 'One Last Roar' t-shirt which was twice her size. She gave it to me and said, 'Leander, can you sign this?'. She must have been about 40 years younger to me, and she wanted my autograph. It meant a lot to me, because she recognised the effort I have put into my career," Paes said,

"And when I signed the t-shirt and gave it to her, she turned around and said 'Bye'. She said bye. That's a great way to go."

Bhawana makes the cut for Tokyo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RANCHI

Unheralded Bhawana Jat qualified for the Tokyo Olympics in the 20km race walk event after pulling off a shock win with a national record time at the National Championships here on Saturday. The 23-year-old athlete clocked 1 hour 29 minutes and 54 seconds, well inside the Olympic qualification time of 1:31:00, to win the gold.

Bhawana's effort was a massive improvement of more than eight minutes from her personal best of 1:38.30s set in October last year during the National Open Championships here.

She had, however, clocked 1:36:17s during the all India inter-railway championships in August last year in Pune, which was competed on track.

"It's a dream come true. I was doing in the range of 1:27:00s during training," Bhawana told PTI.

Where Owens, Dhyan Chand hold sway

STAN RAYAN
BERLIN

As one walked into the Olympiastadion here on Saturday afternoon, one noticed the stadium guide narrating the story of Jesse Owens' memorable friendship with his German long jump rival Luz Long to a bunch of eager youngsters from Britain.

The Owens-Long story, that lit up the 1936 Berlin Olympics in this stadium, has probably been told a million times over the last 80 years or so but it has not lost even a bit of its charm.

This is the place where Owens won an unprecedented four Olympic golds in front of a stunned Adolf Hitler. And one could almost picture the young, bright-eyed Francina Koen running to Owens to get his autograph shortly after her very forgettable Olympic debut. But that moment with Owens in 1936 inspired the Dutch girl, who later won four golds herself as Fanny Blankers-Koen in the 1948 London Olympics, the first woman to do so.

"Without Long's advice, Owens would have bowed out in the long jump qualification. Long lost the Olympic gold to Owens but he gained a friend for life," repeated the guide a few times.

In another corner of the Olympia Park is the stadium where Dhyan Chand led India to the hockey gold, thrashing host Germany 8-1 in the final to complete a hattrick of Olympic golds.

The 'Wizard of Hockey' mesmerised Hitler and the world with his magical stickwork. He was so good that there are stories about play being stopped at some venues to check whether Chand had applied glue to his hockey stick or whether there was a magnet inside!

History lesson: Stadium guide narrating the story of Jesse Owens and Luz Long to young visitors at the Olympiastadion in Berlin on Saturday. ▪ STAN RAYAN

Red carpet

Berlin has now rolled out the red carpet for the Laureus World Sports Awards which celebrate its 20th anniversary at the Verti Music Hall on Monday.

Some of planet's biggest stars, present and past, like Eliud Kipchoge, Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, Sergey Bubka, Michael Johnson, Edwin Moses, Daley Thompson, Boris Becker, Cafu, Nadia Comaneci will light up the night.

(*The writer is in Berlin at the invitation of Laureus*).

Amendola bags a double

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS REPORTER
CHENNAI

Michelangelo Amendola notched a fine double to consolidate his top position while Jordanian teenager Manaf Hijjawi scored the maiden single-seater win of his racing career in the MRF Challenge here on Saturday.

With three more races to be run on Sunday, Amendola leads the table with 209 points, followed by Australian Dylan Young (175), Britain's Joshua Mason (160), and Hijjawi (130).

Earlier, Coimbatore's Arjun Balu (Race Concepts) chalked up a fluent win in the Indian Touring Cars class of the Indian National Car Racing Championship (Round-1).

The results (Provisional): MRF Challenge (all 15 laps unless mentioned): Race 1: 1. Michelangelo Amendola (Bel, 22mins, 58.236); 2. Dylan Young (Aus, 23:05.941); 3. Joshua Mason (GBR, 23:06.414).

Race-2: 1. Manaf Hajjawi (Jor, 23:13.797); 2. Mason (23:14.474); 3. Valdemar Eriksen (Den, 23:17.576).

Race-3: 1. Amendola (22:57.347); 2. Young (23:07.540); 3. Louis Foster (UK, 23:07.958).

National Championship (10 laps) - Indian Touring Cars (Race-1): 1. Arjun Balu (Race Concepts, 19:18.024); 2. D Vidyaprakash (Prime Racing, 19:41.347); 3. Vishnu Prasad (Prime Racing, 19:55.112).

Super Stock (Race-1): 1. Rithvik Thomas (Race Concepts, 20:11.569); 2. Raghul Rangasamy (Performance Racing, 20:19.452); 3. Alisha Abdullah (Race Concepts, 20:31.940).

Support races (10 laps) MRF F1600 (Race-1): 1. Raghul Rangasamy (16:38.930); 2. Vishnu Prasad (16:40.163); 3. Sohil Shah (16:41.535).

Volkswagen Ameo Super Race (Race-1, 10 laps): 1. Saurav Bandyopadhyay (19:21.422); 2. Anindith Reddy (19:22.578); 3. Dhruv Mohite (19:25.566).

Barca edges Getafe

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WOLVERHAMPTON

A slick Antoine Griezmann strike set Barcelona on its way against Getafe in *La Liga* on Saturday before it survived a late onslaught from the gritty visitors to win 2-1.

The result leaves Barcelona trailing on goal-difference atop *La Liga* before leader Real Madrid's Sunday home game with Celta Vigo.

In a physically engaging game, Barca star Jordi Alba limped off in the first half.

Denied by VAR

In the Premier League, Nuno Espirito Santo claimed football is in danger of becoming robotic after Wolves were controversially denied by VAR and Leicester's Hamza Choudhury was sent off in a stormy 0-0 draw at Molineux on Friday.

The results: Premier League: Southampton 1 (Ings 18) lost to Burnley 2 (Westwood 2, Vydra 60).

La Liga: Mallorca 1 (Cucho 63) bt Alaves 0; Barcelona 2 (Griezmann 33, Roberto 39) bt Getafe 1 (Rodriguez 66).

Bundesliga: RB Leipzig 3 (Klostermann 18, Schick 39, Mukiele 46) bt Werder Bremen 0; Hoffenheim 2 (Baumgartner 45, Kramaric 60-pen) lost to VfL Wolfsburg 3 (Weghorst 18-pen, 52-pen, 71); Augsburg 1 (Max 38) drew with Freiburg 1 (Haberer 51); Paderborn 1 (Jarstein 51-og) lost to Hertha Berlin 2 (Boyata 10, Cunha 67); Union Berlin 2 (Gentner 7, Buelter 87) lost to Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Havertz 22, Diaby 83, Bellarabi 90+4).

Friday: Premier League: Wolves 0 drew with Leicester 0.

La Liga: Valencia 2 (Gabriel Paulista 40, Kondogbia 59) drew with Atletico Madrid 2 (Llorente 15, Partey 43).

Bundesliga: Borussia Dortmund 4 (Piszczek 33, Sancho 50, Haaland 54, Guerreiro 74) bt Eintracht Frankfurt 0.

Saurav and Joshna reign supreme

NATL. SQUASH

K. KEERTHIVASAN
CHENNAI

Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa the top seeds here justified their billing to bag the men's and women's titles for a record 13th and 18th time respectively.

Saurav clinically dismantled Abhishek Pradhan 11-6, 11-5, 11-6 in the men's final while Joshna encountered a minor scare to outlast Tanvi Khanna 8-11, 11-6, 11-4, 11-7 in the women's summit clash.

The 23-year-old Tanvi showcased her repertoire in the first game, rattling the champion with finely-executed drops and attacking play from the backcourt.

Taking an 8-2 lead, Tanvi looked like closing out the game in quick time when Joshna clawed her way back to 6-8, but Tanvi raced ahead to pocket the first game.

The 33-year-old asserted her dominance from the second game. Pushing the Delhi girl to the backcourt with neat angles, Joshna won a lot of points through some delicate drops to Tanvi's forehand. The third game was a breeze for Joshna.

Undisputed champs: Saurav and Joshna clinched the men's and women's titles for a record 13th and 18th time. ▪ M. VEDHAN

Tanvi, however, would not leave without a fight. Joshna had to produce her best to win each and every point. Trailing 3-5 in the fourth, Joshna levelled at 5-5. The moment Joshna took a 9-7 lead when Tanvi was forced to hit a forehand to the 'tin', it was clear who the winner would turn out to be.

Saurav, on the other hand, had no trouble in defeating Abhishek.

SRFI sticks to its stand

Sticking to its stand of selecting only the players who took part in the senior Nationals for the Asian Team Championships, Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) said on Saturday that the semifinalists of the premier domestic tournament would form the team for the Asian event to be held in Kuala Lumpur from March 25 to 29.

The results (final): Men: 1-Saurav Ghosal (TN) bt 2-Abhishek Pradhan (Mah) 11-6, 11-5, 11-6.

Women: 1-Joshna Chinappa (TN) bt 3/4-Tanvi Khanna (Del) 8-11, 11-6, 11-4, 11-7.

India goes down fighting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MANILA

Lakshya Sen's stunning win over Asian Games champion Jonatan Christie went in vain as the Indian men's badminton team went down fighting 3-2 to two-time defending champion Indonesia in the semifinals and settled for a bronze at the Asia Team Championships here on Saturday.

Lakshya notched up a sensational 21-18, 22-20 win over World No. 7 Jonatan in the second singles to keep India in the hunt after B. Sai Praneeth retired following a 21-6 thrashing by Anthony Ginting in the opening game of the first singles.

The result: Semifinals: Indonesia 3 beat India 2 (Anthony Ginting bt B. Sai Praneeth 21-6, retd., Jonatan Christie lost to Lakshya Sen 21-18, 22-20; Mohammad Ahsan & Hendra Setiawan bt M.R. Arjun & Dhruv Kapila 21-10, 14-21, 23-21, Shesar Hiren Rhustavito lost to Subhankar Dey 21-17, 21-15; Marcus Fernaldi Gideon & Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo bt Chirag Shetty & Lakshya 21-6, 21-13).

IPL 2020 schedule

The Indian Premier League (IPL) will begin on March 29 with champion Mumbai Indians taking on Chennai Super Kings at home. 56 league matches would played over 50 days with double-headers only on Sundays.

Date	Venue	Teams	Time
Mar. 29	Mumbai	MI v CSK	8 p.m.
Mar. 30	Delhi	DC v KXIP	8 p.m.
Mar. 31	Bengaluru	RCB v KKR	8 p.m.
Apr. 1	Hyderabad	SRH v MI	8 p.m.
Apr. 2	Chennai	CSK v RR	8 p.m.
Apr. 3	Kolkata	KKR v DC	8 p.m.
Apr. 4	Mohali	KXIP v SRH	8 p.m.
Apr 5	Mumbai	MI v RCB	4 p.m.
Apr. 5	Jaipur/Guwahati	RR v DC	8 p.m.
Apr. 6	Kolkata	KKR v CSK	8 p.m.
Apr. 7	Bengaluru	RCB v SRH	8 p.m.
Apr. 8	Mohali	KXIP v MI	8 p.m.
Apr. 9	Jaipur/Guwahati	RR v KKR	8 p.m.
Apr. 10	Delhi	DC v RCB	8 p.m.
Apr. 11	Chennai	CSK v KXIP	8 p.m.
Apr. 12	Hyderabad	SRH v RR	4 p.m.
Apr. 12	Kolkata	KKR v MI	8 p.m.
Apr. 13	Delhi	DC v CSK	8 p.m.
Apr. 14	Mohali	KXIP v RCB	8 p.m.
Apr. 15	Mumbai	MI v RR	8 p.m.
Apr. 16	Hyderabad	SRH v KKR	8 p.m.
Apr. 17	Mohali	KXIP v CSK	8 p.m.
Apr. 18	Bengaluru	RCB v RR	8 p.m.
Apr. 19	Delhi	DC v KKR	4 p.m.
Apr. 19	Chennai	CSK v SRH	8 p.m.
Apr. 20	Mumbai	MI v KXIP	8 p.m.
Apr. 21	Jaipur	RR v SRH	8 p.m.
Apr. 22	Bengaluru	RCB v DC	8 p.m.

Date	Venue	Teams	Time
Apr. 23	Kolkata	KKR v KXIP	8 p.m.
Apr. 24	Chennai	CSK v MI	8 p.m.
Apr. 25	Jaipur	RR v RCB	8 p.m.
Apr. 26	Mohali	KXIP v KKR	4 p.m.
Apr. 26	Hyderabad	SRH v DC	8 p.m.
Apr. 27	Chennai	CSK v RCB	8 p.m.
Apr. 28	Mumbai	MI v KKR	8 p.m.
Apr. 29	Jaipur	RR v KXIP	8 p.m.
Apr. 30	Hyderabad	SRH v CSK	8 p.m.
May 1	Mumbai	MI v DC	8 p.m.
May 2	Kolkata	KKR v RR	8 p.m.
May 3	Bengaluru	RCB v KXIP	4 p.m.
May 3	Delhi	DC v SRH	8 p.m.
May 4	Jaipur	RR v CSK	8 p.m.
May 5	Hyderabad	SRH v RCB	8 p.m.
May 6	Delhi	DC v MI	8 p.m.
May 7	Chennai	CSK v KKR	8 p.m.
May 8	Mohali	KXIP v RR	8 p.m.
May 9	Mumbai	MI v SRH	8 p.m.
May 10	Chennai	CSK v DC	4 p.m.
May 10	Kolkata	KKR v RCB	8 p.m.
May 11	Jaipur	RR v MI	8 p.m.
May 12	Hyderabad	SRH v KXIP	8 p.m.
May 13	Delhi	DC v RR	8 p.m.
May 14	Bengaluru	RCB v CSK	8 p.m.
May 15	Kolkata	KKR v SRH	8 p.m.
May 16	Mohali	KXIP v DC	8 p.m.
May 17	Bengaluru	RCB v MI	8 P.M.

TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m.
South Africa v England: 3rd T20I, Sony Six (SD & HD), 6 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. onwards
Serie A: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 5 p.m. onwards; Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 8 p.m. onwards.

IN BRIEF

Golden Globe Hotels in the final

NEW DELHI

Golden Globe Hotels posted a 7-6 victory over Sujan in the semifinals of the Sawai Man Singh Gold Vase polo tournament on Saturday.

The results (semifinals): Aravali Polo 7 (Angad Kalaan 3, Manuel Llorente 3) bt Sphiro/Horse & Wagon 6 (Gerardo Mazzini 5); Golden Globe Hotels 7 (Daniel Otamendi 4, Padmanabh Singh 3) bt Sujan 6 (Siddhant Sharma 5).

Rushil and Samiksha win

GURUGRAM:

Rushil Khosla and Samiksha Dabas won the boys' and girls' titles in the Asian under-14 tennis tournament in Baliawas on Saturday.

The results (finals): Boys: Rushil Khosla bt Rethin Pranav Senthilkumar 6-2, 6-4. **Girls:** Samiksha Dabas bt Jo Leen Saw (Mas) 7-6(5), 1-6, 7-6(4). **Doubles:** Shruti Ahlawat & Saumya Ronde bt Samiksha & Riya Sachdeva 6-0, 6-2.

Raghav triumphs

Raghav Jaisinghani beat Chirag Duhan 6-4, 6-2 to clinch the title in the ₹1,00,000 AITA men's ranking tennis tournament at Baliawas on Saturday.

van der Hoek & Ankita out

HUA HIN (THAILAND)

Ankita Raina and Rosalie van der Hoek of the Netherlands lost the doubles semifinals of the $275,000 WTA tennis tournament here on Saturday. They retired midway through the second set

The results: $275,000 WTA, Hua Hin: Semis: Arina Rodionova & Storm Sanders (Aus) bt Rosalie van der Hoek (Ned) & Ankita Raina 6-1, 3-0 (retd.).

Rajasthan denies Delhi a win

Mahipal Lomror notches up a century

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Rajasthan's resolute batting easily denied Delhi an outright victory on the last day of their concluding Ranji Trophy league engagement here on Saturday.

After resuming its second innings at 128 for two, Rajasthan reached 345 for six – a lead of 21 runs – when play was called off by mutual consent.

By virtue of taking the first innings lead of 324, Delhi gained three points and finished its campaign with 21. Rajasthan collected a point and aggregated 17. Both could not make it among the five qualifiers from Elite Groups A and B.

The final day's play was dominated by overnight not-outs Mahipal Lomror (118, 14x4, 2x6) and Rituraj Singh (58, 9x4). The duo added 90 runs this morning to frustrate Delhi. After they departed and skipper Ashok Menaria fell cheaply, a worried Rajasthan was rescued by Salman Khan (56 not out, 5x4, 2x6).

Delhi eventually gave up its hope of forcing an outright win once Salman and Rajesh Bishnoi added 46 runs for the unfinished seventh-wicket stand. On a surface where the bowlers failed to get much assistance, spinner Shivam Sharma finished with three wickets.

The scores:
Delhi –1st innings: 623
Rajasthan – 1st innings: 299.
Rajasthan – 2nd innings: Manender Singh lbw b Simarjeet 4, Ramnivas Golada c Rawat b Shivam 28, Mahipal Lomror b Shivam 118, Yash Kothari c Rawat b Vashisht 19, Rituraj Singh c (sub) b Shivam 58, Ashok Menaria c Shivam b Rana 29, Salman Khan (not out) 56, Rajesh Bishnoi (not out) 13; Extras (b-14, lb-1 nb-5): 20; Total (for six wkts. in 97 overs): 345.
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-59, 3-218, 4-233, 5-253, 6-299.
Delhi bowling: Simarjeet 19-2-75-1, Bidhuri 7-2-19-0, Rana 9-0-21-1, Shivam 36-9-117-3, Vashisht 19-1-77-1, Himmat 4-0-14-0, Kshitiz 3-0-7-0.

Mahipal Lomror..coming good. • FILE PHOTO

RANJI SCORES, FINAL ROUND, LAST DAY

GROUP A

At New Delhi: Delhi 623 drew with Rajasthan 299 & 345/6 decl. in 97 overs (Mahipal Lomror 118, Rituraj Singh 58, Salman Khan 56 n.o.).
Points: Delhi 3 (21); Rajasthan 1 (17).
Nadiad: Andhra 177 & 258 in 113.4 over (Karan Shinde 64, B. Sumanth 47, Axar Patel 7/92) lost to Gujarat 406 & 31/2 in 9.5 overs.
Andhra 0 (27); Gujarat 6 (35).
Hyderabad: Hyderabad 272 & 244 in 75.3 overs (Sumanth Kolla 65, Mohammed Siraj 46, Aditya Sarvate 7/121) drew with Vidarbha 333 & 116/3 in 46 overs (Ganesh Satish 47 n.o.).
Hyderabad 1 (7); Vidarbha 3 (21).

GROUP B

Mumbai: Mumbai 427 & 238/5 decl. drew with Madhya Pradesh 258 & 314/6 in 112 overs (Aditya Shrivastava 130 n.o., Venkatesh Iyer 59, Mihir Hirwani 69 n.o.)
Mumbai 3 (17); MP 1 (12).
Rajkot: Tamil Nadu 424 drew with Saurashtra 481/9 decl. in 184 overs (Avi Barot 82, Arpit Vasavada 132, Chirag Jani 124 n.o., Jaydev Unadkat 40).
TN 1 (20); Saurashtra 3 (31).
Lucknow: Himachal 220 & 433/7 decl. in 107 overs bt Uttar Pradesh 119 & 148 in 40.4 overs (Aryan Juyal 56, Vaibhav Arora 5/41).
HP 6 (19); UP 0 (20).

GROUP C

Guwahati: Tripura 497 & 166/7 decl. in 40.1 overs (Milind 69, M.B. Mura Singh 48) drew with Assam 283 in 106.1 overs (Rishav Das 132, Gokul Sharma 41, Harmeet Singh 6/110) & 180/5 in 60 overs (Riyan Parag 43).

Tripura 3(9); Assam 1 (15).
Cuttack: Odisha 436 & 187/1 in 51 overs decl. (Subhransu Senapati 100 n.o., Debasish Samantray 64 n.o.) vs Jharkhand 356 in 109 overs (Kumar Suraj 107, Virat Singh 83).
Odisha 3 (38); Jharkhand 1 (24).
Raipur: Chhattisgarh 179 & 586/3 in 145.4 overs (Anuj Tiwary 100 n.o., Jiwanjot Singh 236, Harpreet Singh Bhatia 191 n.o.) vs Services 398.
Chhattisgarh 1(23); Services 3 (36).
Jammu: Jammu & Kashmir 340 & 174 lost to Haryana 291 & 227/8 in 80.4 overs (Rohit Sharma 75 n.o., Parveez Rasool 5/72).
J&K 0 (39); Haryana 6 (36).
Baramati: Maharashtra 207 & 313 bt Uttarakhand 251 & 202 in 80.3 overs (Kamal Singh 57).
Maharashtra 6 (34); Uttarakhand 0 (2).

PLATE

Cuttack: Bihar 305 & 417/8 decl. in 123.2 overs (Babul Kumar 195, Vikash Ranjan 63) drew with Sikkim 272 & 69/1 in 31 overs.
Bihar 3 (30); Sikkim 1 (11).
Puducherry: Nagaland 176 & 254 in 67.1 overs (Stuary Binny 43, Rongsen Jonathan 93, Santhamoorthy 5/79) lost to Pondicherry 625/8 decl.
Nagaland 0 (19); Pondicherry 7 (48).

QUARTERFINALISTS

Elite Group A & B: Gujarat, Bengal, Karnataka, Saurashtra and Andhra.
Elite Group C: Jammu & Kashmir and Odisha.
Plate Group: Goa.

Knotty Oak wins main event

BENGALURU: Prasanna Kumar-trained Knotty Oak (Antony up), won the F.K. Irani Memorial Trophy, the feature event of the races held here on Saturday (Feb 15). The winner is owned by Mrs. Debajani B. Mohapatra & Mr. P. Prasanna Kumar.

1 **ARDENT KNIGHT PLATE** (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): **FLAMINGO ROAD** (Srinath) 1, Arlette (Trevor) 2, Sir Jersey (Sandesh) 3 and Stormy Knight (Jagadeesh) 4. Not run: Stone House. 1-1/2, 4-1/2 and 1/2. 1m 13.62s. ₹ 51 (w), 15, 10 and 14 (p), SHP: 43, THP: 39, FP: 121, Q: 41, Trinella: 187 and 87, Exacta: 3,100 and 1,793. Favourite: Arlette. Owners: Mr. Rajan Aggarwal & Mr. Gautam Aggarwal. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

2 **DANDELI PLATE** (1,100m), rated 00 to 20: **HUNTERS MOON** (S. John) 1, Apollo Bay (Kiran Rai) 2, Air Force One (Mark) 3 and Altair (Irvan) 4. Not run: Nostradamus. 2-1/2, 3/4 and 2-1/2. 1m 07.99s. ₹ 22 (w), 13, 12 and 18 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 41, FP: 48, Q: 31, Trinella: 128 and 59, Exacta: 394 and 194. Favourite: Hunters Moon. Owner: Mrs. Deepa Devaney. Trainer: Neil Devaney.

3 **MELUKOTE PLATE** (1,600m), rated 15 to 35, 5-y-o & over: BROWN BESS (Trevor) 1, Smile Of Joy (A. Imran) 2, King Creole (David Allan) 3 and Kingsfield (Mark) 4. 3-3/4, Lnk and 3/4. 1m 40.31s. ₹ 52 (w), 17, 15 and 12 (p), SHP: 47, THP: 46, FP: 216, Q: 116, Trinella: 555 and 157, Exacta: 12,335 and 7,401. Favourite: King Creole. Owner: Mr. Roopesh S. Trainer: Dheeraj V.

4 **CHATRAPATHI CUP** (1,200m), rated 60 & above: **PSYCHIC WARRIOR** (Kiran Rai) 1, Set To Win (M. Naveen) 2, Commodus (Trevor) 3 and Regal Music (R. Manish) 4. 1-1/4, 3/4 and 2-1/2. 1m 12.47s. ₹ 99 (w), 18, 20 and 15 (p), SHP: 51, THP: 48, FP: 657, Q: 658, Trinella: 2,715 and 787, Exacta: 1,05,198 (carried over) and 45,085. Favourite: Corona Del Corsa. Owner: Mr. Hisqueel Taher. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

5 **F.K. IRANI MEMORIAL TROPHY** (1,400m), rated 30 to 50: **KNOTTY OAK** (Antony) 1, Cavaliere (S. John) 2, Princeazeem (Trevor) 3 and Schafenberg (R. Marshall) 4. Not run: Venus Bay. 1-1/2, 4-1/4 and 1-3/4. 1m 25.52s. ₹ 63 (w), 20, 12 and 17 (p), SHP: 41, THP: 44, FP: 125, Q: 60, Trinella: 652 and 456, Exacta: 11,254 and 5,958. Favourite: Cavaliere. Owners: Mrs. Debajani B. Mohapatra & Mr. P. Prasanna Kumar. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

6 **PLANETARIUM PLATE** (1,100m), rated 15 to 35: **DEBONAIR** (A. Imran) 1, Flt Captain (Vaibhav) 2, Super Gladiator (Trevor) 3 and Cashmere (M. Naveen) 4. Not run: Dontbreaktherules. 2-1/4, Lnk and 2-1/4. 1m 07.09s. ₹ 16 (w), 11, 29 and 11 (p), SHP: 101, THP: 44, FP: 256, Q: 169, Trinella: 314 and 79, Exacta: 1,224 and 718. Favourite: Debonair. Owners: Mr. M. Ayub Khan & Mr. Dayanand Kachuwah. Trainer: Faraz Arshad.

7 **ROYAL RUSSIAN PLATE** (1,400m), rated 15 to 35: **CAESARS PALACE** (S. Hussain) 1, Sun Splash (Vaibhav) 2, Chantelle (Trevor) 3 and Country's Jewel (T.S. Jodha) 4. 1-1/2, 1-3/4 and 1-1/2. 1m 26.90s. ₹ 34 (w), 16, 21 and 11 (p), SHP: 57, THP: 53, FP: 419, Q: 307, Trinella: 813 and 397, Exacta: 8,580 and 6,742. Favourite: Chantelle. Owners: Mr. Harakchand C. Gandhi & Mr. Srinivas Naidu. Trainer: S. Narredu.

Jackpot: ₹ 45,496 (10 tkts); Runner up: 1,875 (104 tkts); Treble (i): 673 (22 tkts); (ii): 846 (31 tkts).

Isabella has an edge in Telangana Race Horse Owners Association Trophy

HYDERABAD: Isabella has an edge in the Telangana Race Horse Owners Association Trophy (1,200m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Sunday (Feb. 16).

1 **CAPACHINO PLATE (DIV. I)**, (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Cat. II), (Terms), 1-15 p.m.: 1. Amaretto (2) Ashhad Asbar 55, 2. Chuckit (7) Aneel 55, 3. Kapell Bruke (4) A.A. Vikrant 55, 4. Proud Legacy (1) N. Rawal 55, 5. Beautiful Luv (5) I. Chisty 53.5, 6. Capriconia (8) Kiran Naidu 53.5, 7. Due Diligence (3) Ajeeth Kumar 53.5, 8. Hip Hop (12) Nakhat Singh 53.5, 9. House Of Diamonds (9) Suraj Narredu 53.5. 10. Misty River (10) Mukesh Kumar 53.5, 11. Saffron Art (6) Gaddam 53.5 and 12. Star Dancer (11) Santosh Raj 53.5.
1. AMARETTO, 2. HOUSE OF DIAMONDS, 3. SAFFRON ART

2 **MEGHALAYA PLATE (DIV. II)**, (1,600m), 5-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 1-45: 1. Destined Dynamite (3) Irvan Singh 60, 2. Big Brave (8) Ashhad Asbar 57.5, 3. On My Way (7) Aneel 56.5, 4. Top Contender (8) Mukesh Kumar 56, 5. Bayrd (9) Afroz Khan 55.5, 6. N R I Heights (1) Suraj Narredu 54, 7. Somerset (2) G. Naresh 53, 8. Golden Hope (5) Md. Ismail 52.5 and 9. Hope Is Eternal (4) Ajeeth Kumar 51.5.
1. N R I HEIGHTS, 2. BIG BRAVE, 3. DESTINED DYNAMITE

3 **CAPACHINO PLATE (DIV. II)**, (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms), 2-15: 1. Attica (1) Suraj Narredu 55, 2. Crazy Horse (3) Md. Ismail 55, 3. Lightning Pearl (5) Mukesh Kumar 55, 4. Aintree (6) I. Chisty 53.5. 5. Beauty On Parade (7) Kiran Naidu 53.5, 6. Certitude (10) N. Rawal 53.5, 7. Felix Flame (8) Kuldeep Singh 53.5, 8. Ice Berry (2) Nakhat Singh 53.5, 9. Lorena (11) A.A. Vikrant 53.5, 10. Purple Rain (9) B.R. Kumar 53.5 and 11. Southern Saffron (4) Ashhad Asbar 53.5.
1. ATTICA, 2. BEAUTY ON PARADE, 3. CERTITUDE

4 **ETURNAGARAM PLATE (DIV. I)**, (1,200m), 5-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45, no whip, (Cat. III), 2-45: 1. Gladstone (4) Abhay Singh 62, 2. Gorgeous Lady (1) Kiran Naidu 62, 3. Royal Green (13) I. Chisty 62, 4. Takisha (11) Jitendra Singh 61.5, 5. His Excellency (14) Mukesh Kumar 59.5, 6. Story Teller (12) Santosh Raj 58.5, 7. Wood Bridge (8) Surya Prakash 58.5, 8. Blazing Speed (7) Ajeeth Kumar 58, 9. Smarty (5) Koushik 56, 10. Curcumin (3) Afroz Khan 55.5, 11. Farmville (10) Ashhad Asbar 55, 12. Satin Symphony (9) Gopal Singh 54, 13. Limousine (2) N. Rawal 53.5 and 14. Southern Meteor (6) Ajit Singh 53.5.
1. GLADSTONE, 2. FARMVILLE, 3. BLAZING SPEED

5 **MEGHALAYA PLATE (DIV. I)**, (1,600m), 5-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3-15: 1. Dandy Man (3) I. Chisty 60, 2. Staridar (8) Suraj Narredu 59, 3. Lockhart (7) Ajeeth Kumar 56, 4. Ulysses (2) Nakhat Singh 56, 5. Vijay's Empire (5) R. Ajinkya 55.5, 6. Actually (10) Surya Prakash 54.5, 7. Dunkirk (6) Mukesh Kumar 54, 8. The Special One (9) Abhay Singh 52.5, 9. Platinum Claasz (4) Afroz Khan 51.5, and 10. Shiloh (1) Santosh Raj 51.
1. ULYSSES, 2. STARIDAR, 3. DUNKIRK

6 **TELANGANA RACE HORSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION TROPHY** (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated 75 and above (Cat. I), 3-45: 1. Isabella (6) Gopal Singh 62, 2. Titus (3) Kiran Naidu 60.5, 3. Highly Acclaimed (5) Surya Prakash 60, 4. Ambitious Approach (1) Koushik 57.5, 5. Versallies (7) A.A. Vikrant 56.5. 6. That's My Class (10) Md. Ismail 56, 7. Champion Bull (2) Mukesh Kumar 55, 8. Tootsie Roll (9) I. Chisty 52, 9. Agni (4) Afroz Khan 50 and 10. Starlight (8) Ajeeth Kumar 50.
1. ISABELLA, 2. AGNI, 3. VERSALLIES

7 **NAGARJUNA SAGAR CUP** (2,000m), 4-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4-15: 1. Artistryy (2) Mukesh Kumar 60.5, 2. Ruletheworld (3) Suraj Narredu 59, 3. Miss Marvellous (7) Jitendra Singh 58, 4. Buttonwood (5) Abhay Singh 53.5, 5. Gazebo (4) B.R. Kumar 53.5, 6. Alliston (8) I. Chisty 53, 7. Kesariya Balam (1) Ashhad Asbar 52.5 and 8. Lancashire (6) Ajit Singh 50.
1. RULETHEWORLD, 2. KESARIYA BALAM, 3. ARTISTRYY

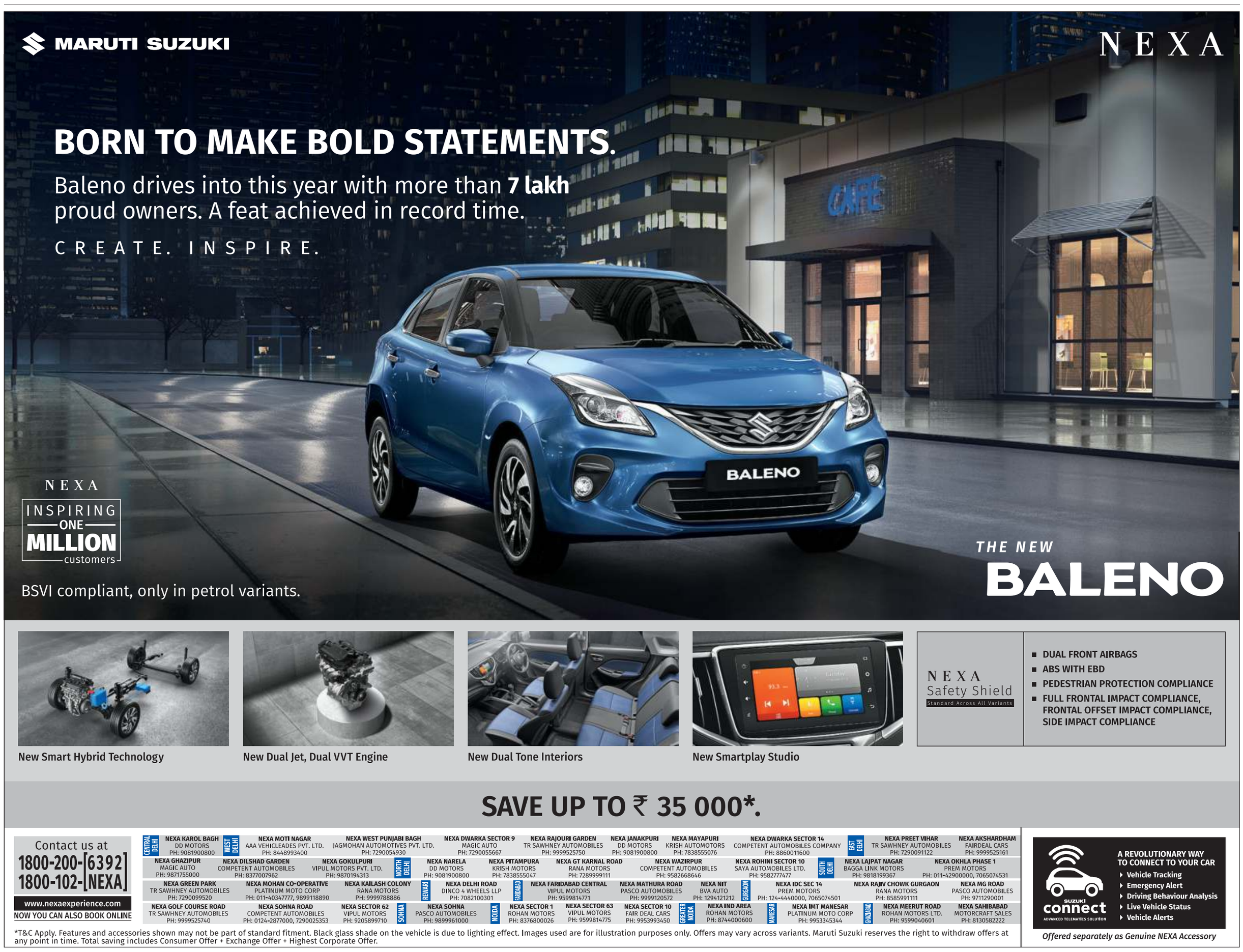
8 **ETURNAGARAM PLATE (DIV. II)**, (1,200m), 5-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45, no whip, (Cat. III), 4-45: 1. Hurricane (5) Abhay Singh 62, 2. New State (3) Mukesh Kumar 62, 3. Human Touch (1) Irvan Singh 61.5, 4. Mahira (2) Aneel 60.5, 5. Royal Dynamite (–) (–) 59.5, 6. Humaaghar (6) Santosh Raj 59, 7. Brush The Sky (8) Ajeeth Kumar 57, 8. On The Fire (9) N. Rawal 57, 9. Latest News (10) G. Naresh 56, 10. Negress Princess (11) Afroz Khan 56, 11. Vallee Ikon (12) A.A. Vikrant 55.5, 12. Patron Saint (7) Jitendra Singh 53.5, 13. Starboy (13) Surya Prakash 53 and 14. Bombastic (4) Rafique Sk. 50.5.
1. HURRICANE, 2. NEW STATE, 3. HUMAN TOUCH

9 **SIR BRUCE PLATE** (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, not won since July 1, 2019, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 5-15: 1. Jo Malone (2) Afroz Khan 62, 2. Let It Be Me (14) Santosh Raj 62, 3. Yogya (1) B.R. Kumar 62, 4. A Hundred Echoes (13) Mukesh Kumar 61, 5. Dance All Night (3) Deepak Singh 61, 6. Speed Warrior (10) Nakhat Singh 61, 7. Asgard (11) N. Rawal 60.5, 8. Brave Syera (5) Aneel 60.5, 9. Top Sprint (4) Jitendra Singh 60.5, 10. All Star General (12) Irvan Singh 59, 11. London Bridge (6) Suraj Narredu 58, 12. Light Music (7) C.P. Bopanna 55.5, 13. Golden Adara (9) Rafique Sk. 50.5 and 14. Ekam (8) Ajit Singh 50.
1. LONDON BRIDGE, 2. BRAVE SYERA, 3. LET IT BE ME

Day's best: **RULETHEWORLD**

Double: **N R I HEIGHTS - ATTICA**

Jkt (i): 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5; (ii): 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9; Mini Jkt (i): 2, 3, 4 & 5; (ii): 6, 7, 8 & 9; Tr (i): 1, 2 & 3; (ii): 4, 5 & 6; (iii): 7, 8 & 9; Tla: all races.



THE HINDU

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DELHI
Sunday, February 16, 2020

Magazine

BIG SCREEN

We might finally have a relatable father figure in Bollywood — to replace the boring old patriarch p4

60 MINUTES

The constitutional patriotism that is emerging is unprecedented, says historian Gyan Prakash p12

WIDE ANGLE

This year's Padma winners include a father and daughter who turned an arid wasteland into a food forest p6

LITERARY REVIEW

Sanjib Baruah's new book *In the Name of the Nation: India and Its Northeast* looks at the fallout of Partition in these parts p7

COVER

Goddess of all things

A dusty little village in Telangana hosts one of the country's biggest festivals to commemorate a mother and daughter who fought for the honour of Koya tribes p3

last week

Wendell no more

One of India's most iconic designers and an outspoken gay rights activist, Wendell Rodricks, died at his Goa home. He was 59. Rodricks, best known for his trendsetting resortwear, his use of natural fabrics and original silhouettes, had for several years been working on the Moda Goa Museum to document Goan costumes, design and lifestyle. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2014.

Suit up, junior

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) cruised to victory in the Delhi Legislative Assembly elections, winning 62 seats out of 70, while the BJP won a paltry eight and the Congress zero. AAP went on to invite a very special guest to CM Arvind Kejriwal's oath-taking ceremony — one-year-old Avyaan Tomar, who had shot to fame after photos of him dressed like 'Baby Kejriwal' or 'Baby Mufflerman' went viral.

Be my Valentine

Anti-CAA protests, ongoing for two months, continued at Delhi's Shaheen Bagh — in the Okhla constituency that voted overwhelmingly for AAP — with protesters issuing a "heartfelt" invitation to PM Modi to join them for Valentine's Day. Hearing petitions calling for their removal, the SC said it would hear the "other side", and listed the matter for February 17.

Howdy again

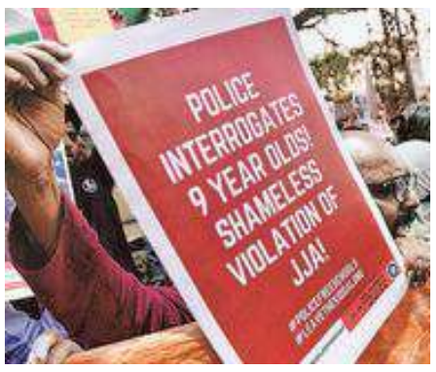
U.S. President Trump's visit to India on February 24-25 is set to kick off with a huge event in Ahmedabad called 'Kem Chho, Trump', where he will share the stage with PM Modi at the Sardar Patel Stadium. Ahead of the visit, India finalised two major deals with the U.S., worth ₹25,000 crore in total, to buy 30 helicopters for the Army and Navy.

Foreign first

South Korean thriller *Parasite* made history by becoming the first non-English film to win Best Picture at the Oscars, along with awards in three other categories. The Awards also saw British war film *1917* win in three categories, while Renee Zellweger and Joaquin Phoenix won Best Actress and Actor for their performances in *Judy* and *Joker*, respectively.

State of protest

The Congress-led Puducherry Legislative Assembly became the sixth State or UT legislature to pass a resolution urging the Centre to withdraw CAA, NRC and NPR. CM V. Narayanasamy moved the resolution with DMK support, while opposition parties — All India NR Congress and AIADMK — boycotted the session and the three BJP members walked out.



The sedition scam

A PIL has been filed against the sedition charges made against a school in Bidar for staging a play opposing the CAA. The headmistress and a 11-year-old student's mother were jailed on January 30, and the police have subjected several of the students to repeated interrogation. Another PIL will question the trauma inflicted on students and parents by the charges.

Black-capped

In ODI cricket, hosts New Zealand crushed an underperforming India in a 3-0 victory, winning the last match at Mount Maunganui by five wickets despite K.L. Rahul's valiant 112, his fourth century in the format. Martin Guptill and Player of the Match Henry Nicholls starred as NZ caught up to India's total of 297. It was the first whitewash India had suffered in a series in which all matches were played since a 5-0 loss to the West Indies in 1989.

Chinese checkers

The number of coronavirus cases in China continued to soar, with the total number in Hubei Province alone — the epicentre, where Wuhan city is located — standing at 48,206 at the time of writing, with 1,310 deaths. Over 60,000 cases were reported worldwide. In India, two of the three suspected patients in Kerala later tested negative, but other cases surfaced with passengers testing positive at Delhi and Kolkata airports.

Jungle law

A mining baron and MLA from Karnataka's Ballari district, Anand Singh, who has 15 cases against him — including on counts of illegal mining and forest crimes — was appointed Karnataka's forest Minister. Among the pending cases are violations of the Karnataka Forest Act: transport of forest produce and prohibited activities in reserved forests. The opposition slammed Anand Singh's appointment

DELHI THE HINDU ▪ Magazine
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With heads HELD HIGH

Women must take pride in professional success rather than feel guilty about it

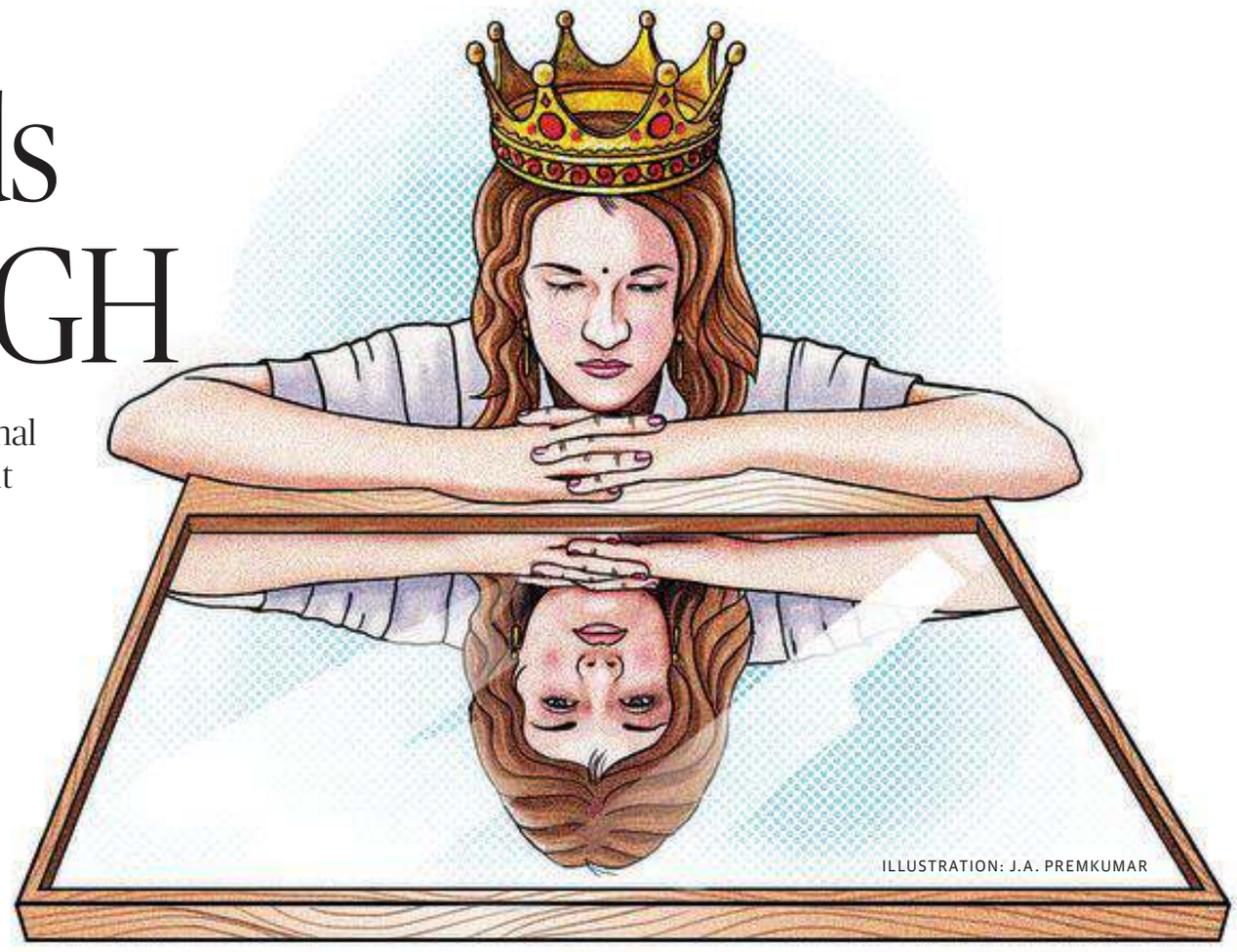

ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR

Ruchi Saini

A week ago, I was sharing with a friend my experience as a married woman of colour pursuing a doctoral study in the U.S. I remember telling him that I could not have achieved success in my academic journey without my husband's support.

My friend, who is also married, in turn, shared his experience as an international doctoral student and the challenges he overcame.

As I was walking back home, I was struck by the difference in the personal narratives of my friend and mine. My family was my cheerleader and played a pivotal role in all my achievements. He was his own cheerleader who achieved success primarily by dint of merit.

In her book *Lean In: Women, Work and the Will to Lead*, Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg draws attention to how women often tend to ascribe their success to external factors such as luck, family support and hard work, while men speak of internal skills and talent. In an interview to *Harper's Bazaar*, actor Deepika Padukone credits her stardom to destiny and luck among others. Her spouse, Ranveer Singh, in an interview to *Elle*, credits his success to grit and determination. Yet again, the difference in their narratives is hard to ignore.

So, what is it that makes women uncomfortable with taking responsibility for their hard-earned success, a trait which comes so naturally to many men? When I was getting married seven years ago, my parents were ecstatic that my husband's family was "supportive" of my desire to work and study after marriage. I was continuously reminded of this privilege by friends, family and even colleagues. The more success I achieved at the professional front, the stronger these reminders became. In a much-quoted interview within Indian households, Indra Nooyi talks about her mother's reaction when she came back home after being named the president of PepsiCo. Her mother first asks her to get milk, reminding her that while she may be the president of PepsiCo, "When you step into this house, you're a wife and mother first. Nobody can take that place. So leave that crown in the garage."

Why does the sight of a successful woman often elicit insecurity and discomfort?

Crown in the garage

But why should anyone leave in the garage a crown they worked so hard for? What harm could possibly come out of strutting around with the crown in the living room for a while or even the whole day? And most important, why does the sight of a successful woman often elicit insecurity and discomfort?

A study conducted by Lindeman, Durik and Dooley from Northern Illinois University in 2019 entitled "Women and self-promotion: a test of three theories" revealed that women experience greater discomfort talking about their achievements than men because of the "fear of how other people might perceive and react to them". Gender stereotypes dictate that women should behave modestly and the problem with internalising such an exaggerated model of humility is that often, women end up carrying this discomfort with self-promotion into their workplace. A study conducted by the National Bureau of Economic Research in 2019 further revealed that women tend to provide less favourable self-assessment of their performance at workplace than men. The research draws attention to the huge gap between male and female respondents when it comes to self-promotion, a skill of immense importance during job interviews and annual reviews. No wonder then that despite sustained efforts towards ensuring gender parity, women continue to be under-represented in positions of leadership across the globe.

Most professional women I know are already racked with enough guilt and do not need constant reminders about maintaining a work-life balance by those around them. And most important, to all those women who have worked tirelessly to win their crowns, you don't have to leave your crown in the garage.

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In praise of praise

Viney Kirpal

My brother suddenly turned to his wife and asked her, "Why don't you compliment me anymore? I compliment you, but why have you stopped?" Surprised, she asked him, "We have been married for 15 years, in case you have forgotten."

"What has years got to do with praising one's spouse," he countered her. She replied, "You do have a sense of humour!" All of us burst out laughing.

Praise keeps relationships well-oiled. When mature couples begin to find each other irritating, something invaluable is getting gnawed away, until the day people are shocked to hear of their separation.

A kind word, a sincere compliment, a timely uttered "Thank you" can grow any relationship into a valuable friendship. When grandfather passed on, my dad told my mother, "Thank you for looking after my father." It made her feel precious.

Women (more than men), not only in India but also in the West, get used to being criticised and saying "sorry" for every small "mistake". Imagine if husband and wife communicated more to praise than to damn, would it not cement their bonds better?

Great doctors and their medical teams praise their patients, compliment them, show care and compassion to help them recover. Tender loving care (TLC) is an important factor in the healing of patients. Just being made to feel good helps them look at themselves positively and induces optimism in them that they will recover quickly.

The art of good leadership uses praise to keep employees motivated.

Praise triggers a sensation of pleasure and value and ensures repeat positive behaviours. Negative criticism depletes one's self-esteem, approval enhances it.

Can we commence 2020 with the aim of praising others? Can we, from tomorrow, practise the art of offering genuine praise to those around us?

So praise sincerely for something well done.

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Why shy? It's in the persona

What people will think of you when you fail becomes your internal demon

George John

Hollywood legend Al Pacino said, "I'm so shy, now I wear sunglasses anywhere I go." Shyness commonly stems from insecurity or a kind of fear about what one is capable of. Introversion and shyness overlap but are distinct. Both include a fear of social judgment. Shy people want to connect with others but don't know how and cannot withstand the anxiety that comes with human interaction.

Some see shyness as a character defect, but Philip Zimbardo of Stanford University, a world expert on shyness, describes it as an index of social pathology rather than an individual pathology. While the extremely shy are recommended professional help, the sensitive, the prudent and the careful are often respected and valued in society.

In the genes

Some genes may make it more likely for shyness to develop but often a combination of inherited genes and learned behaviour from life experiences are thought to be the causes. For those with a specific genetic vulnerability, life experiences and seeing how others handle their shyness will shape the outcome. Shyness occurs more as a

reaction to certain situations than as a personality trait. And anything learned can be unlearned. But shyness can ruin opportunities without one realising it. When we keep our thoughts and opinions to ourselves, we may be suppressing a thousand loud feelings.

It is a paradoxical truth that while confidence is silent, insecurities are loud. Shyness can also be egoism out of its depth. Believing how we look and perform are important to others is a tinge of narcissism. Shy people worry that others are looking at them and noticing what they do. They dislike being introduced to others, find it hard to go to shops, restaurants and crowded places and are unable to be assertive even when they need to be. They become particularly anxious if they have to get up and talk or perform because they fear making a fool of themselves in public. They try to foresee possible points of embarrassments that could happen before the event and afterwards they mentally analyse to see how they could have done things differently.

Shyness is a common kind of mild social anxiety disorder (previously termed "social phobia"). Typical symptoms include dry mouth, sweating, pounding heart, palpitations, wanting to pass water or open bowels and numbness with pins and needles in fingers and toes. More visible are the blushing, stammering and trembling and the whole thing can culminate in a self-fulfilling prophecy. Shyness (aka diffidence) became officially recognised as a psychiatric disorder in the U.S. in 1980, when the FDA licensed advertisement of a serotonin-elevating drug for shyness. But some experts caution against use of medication.

What people will think of you when you fail becomes your internal demon. Even when hiding deep-seated insecurities, there is nowhere to hide when shyness-induced fear hits. One solution is to remember to ask ourselves if this is the best we can do right now and get help to build an internal compass to guide towards a better self-image.

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Humanoids and the erosion of aura

Humans have an ineffable quality which can never be replicated in a robot

Meera Sudheer

Recently, while reading a magazine, my eyes got stuck on an intimate picture of a woman with a humanoid robot. There was also a brief account of the benefits of having a machine robot as your life partner. It is all about artificial emotional intelligence or Emotion AI, a subset of artificial intelligence, that understands, measures, simulates and reacts to human emotions.

The romantic relationship with a machine takes away the delicate nature of human emotions and leaves you comprehending a simpler version of life within the human ken. Those times are not so far when youngsters opt for tying the knot with a machine!

Technological shift

As a profound technological shift is under way, it is time to think of what comes through the void created by the loss of the "aura" during the production of a humanoid that mimics humans.

The Oxford Dictionary defines aura as a feeling or a particular quality that

is very easy to notice and seems to surround a person or a place. As Walter Benjamin puts it, the "aura" differentiates between an original work of art and its reproduction akin to a painting and a photograph. It is like a magical or supernatural force arising from the uniqueness. The aura, according to him, is visceral, a kind of embodied sensation or a spirit that brings soul, eye and hand together to intensify the impression of a painting, which cannot ever be duplicated. His idea of the aura and its relation to authenticity is the reason an original work of art is valued in millions, but not its reproduction.

Another fascinating take on the aura is to believe that unique objects such as human beings have an ineffable quality – that is, being one of a kind. This starts waning and the loss becomes more pronounced while investing an object with human qualities and emotions. Emotions are sophisticated and subtle, the epitome of what makes us human. We tend to think of our emotions and intelligence as two separate entities. But putting them together as emotional intelligence is essentially a different way to be smart and successful.

Human beings are the most brilliant work of art, eternally challenged by creativity. Can it ever be surpassed by a humanoid? Mario Klingemann, a German artist who uses AI in his work, says: "Humans are original, we only reinvent and make connections between things we have seen. While humans can only build on what we have learnt and what others have done for us, machines can create from scratch."

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FEEDBACK

Letters to the *Magazine* can be e-mailed separately to mag.letters@thehindu.co.in

Cover story

According to the *Loktak Atlas*, 33% of lake-shore households harvest aquatic vegetation for fuel; 18% as vegetables; 2% as fodder; and 1% for handicrafts. ('And slowly dies a lake'; Feb.9) Most aquatic plants and fish in and around Loktak Lake are a source of income. But the Loktak hydro-power project and the Ithai barrage, plus factors such as the increasing number of fishermen, changes in fishing techniques, and indiscriminate fishing have reduced livelihood opportunities. It's time to harmonise the use of Loktak for food, livelihood and hydro-power by effective ecological management of the lake.

K.M.K. MURTHY

■ The cover story was a classic example of how man-made structures can ruin nature's creations. The narrative reminded me of James Cameroon's *Avatar*. The lake is a goddess (Loktak Lairembi) for Meitei fishermen and it is a part of their lives. In the name of development, the complex ecosystem was damaged and now the very survival of the lake is threatened. We need to remember Mahatma Gandhi's words that earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs but not every man's greed. If we go overboard it results in natural disasters like the forest fires in Australia.

SRAVANTHI VASAM

Line of longing

There are more similarities between India and Pakistan than differences. ('Déjà vu in Lahore'; Feb.9). Hindi and Urdu are different only in script. Both countries have rich culture and literature. The Line of Control between India and Pakistan should become the Line of Commerce.

K. PRADEEP

■ If in a neighbourhood, two families feud, the children are forbidden to talk to each other. But what if the families are the governments of two nations and the children innocent citizens? I am sure far less resources would be wasted if we all just make friends instead of enemies. Smiles cost nothing but weapons cost a fortune.

SHUBHI NEGI

■ The article left me with a lump in the throat and an ache in my heart. I was born in Lahore 88 years ago and grew up for the first 15 years of my life in undivided India. I studied in Government College Lahore during 1946-47 and was an eye-witness to the political upheavals that eventually led to the tragic Partition of the country. Ever since, I have been longing to revisit my birthplace at least once, but it has not been possible due to visa restrictions and strained relations between India and Pakistan. From Timeri Murari's article it was heartwarming to learn that the present generation of 'Lahoris' still remember our common heritage and are genuinely friendly towards us. Today, people like me, belonging to the pre-Partition generation on both sides of the border, are fast becoming an endangered species; soon we will be consigned to the archives and heard of no more. Therefore, to sustain the goodwill created by the opening of the Kartarpur Corridor, both governments should also facilitate such people to visit the remnants of their ancestral homes before it is too late.

MADAN MOHAN MATHUR

Big cat care

The interview with George Schaller (60 Minutes: 'India can never turn its back on tigers and say they are safe'; Feb 9) was excellent. He made us realise us how much we should take care of our species, especially tigers. Because, about half the remaining tigers in the world are right here in India. I request him to put forward all valuable suggestions.

ARIZ KHAN

Litmus test

Ruchir Joshi's column ('The time of orange towels', Feb. 9) told us the truth of one of the most sought-after *sarkari* jobs today. Most government servants face this constant tug-of-war between moral and mercenary decisions. We have seen Kannan Gopinathan resign to stand up for a principle. A *sarkari* job must not be made into a litmus test of patriotism.

NGURANG REE

More on the Web

thehindu.com/opinion/open-page

To reply or 2 'RPLY'!

SMS and WhatsApp lingo can become sinister, wrecking the structure of the language

SHUCHIKA SHARMA

All aboard in 'housing societies'

The common corridor is your play area, the next-door neighbours your "immediate" family

SHARADA SIVARAM

A dog named Obese

He lived, and left, unknown and unnoticed... but his sudden exit made a difference at least to me

URMI CHAKRAVORTY

This page consists of reader submissions. Contributions of up to a length of 700 words may be e-mailed to openpage@thehindu.co.in. Please provide a postal address and a brief background of the writer. The mail must certify that it is original writing, exclusive to this page. The Hindu views plagiarism as a serious offence. Given the large volume of submissions, we regret that we are unable to acknowledge receipt or entertain queries about submissions. If a piece is not published for eight weeks please consider that it is not being used. The publication of a piece on this page is not to be considered an endorsement by The Hindu of the views contained therein.

The faithful Millions of frenzied devotees take over Medaram village over the four days of the festival. ▪ NAGARA GOPAL, AFP, M. MURALI & G. RAMAKRISHNA

CARNIVAL

When the DEVIS come visiting

Every two years, a little village in Telangana turns into a riot of colours as millions of people gather here for a centuries-old Koya festival

Serish Nanisetti

As waves of protests led by women reverberate through the country, a four-day carnival, which celebrates women's valour in another era, unfolds in Medaram village, Telangana. Sammakka Saralamma Jatara, the centuries-old festival of the Koya tribe, has turned the dusty little village into the venue of one of the country's biggest festivals. Over four days every two years, usually between February 5 and 8, some 1.3 crore people throng to the village to make offerings to the goddesses Sammakka and Saralamma.

One of the legends is about the revolt of the Koya tribe against the Kakatiya rulers who asked them to pay taxes during a year of drought. "The Kakatiya rulers sent their army to fight the Koyas who were no match for the better equipped and disciplined Kakatiya army," says Jayadheer Tirumala Rao, an academic who has collected the oral histories of the Koyas.

One after the other the Koya warriors fell, forcing the matriarch Sammakka to enter the battle fray. She too could not win against the skilled Kakatiya soldiers and retreated to the jungle with injuries. She cursed them, saying the Kakatiya reign would soon end. It is to commemorate the mother and daughter, Sammakka and Saralamma, who wielded swords much before the Kakatiya queen Rudrama, that the Koyas began to organise the jatara. And n

ow, every two years, this ancient story is brought to life, enchanting millions in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

For some families, it is 10 days of revelry, where they get to let their hair down. The women stick to beer while the men wash down the food with plenty of hard liquor

Bringing them home

Carrying a whip, and wearing an oversized mask of a goddess, a group of dancing pilgrims makes its way to the VIP queue complex. "My ancestors did it, we are continuing the tradition," says Subaiah, a farmer from Khammam, who walks ahead of the drummers leading the band of revellers.

A day earlier, in the middle of the month of Magh, Koya priests had climbed down the Chilkalgutta hillock carrying a *bhariney* (casket) with vermilion symbolising Sammakka, who must be brought to her place of residence for three days. Saralamma is brought down from another hillock, Kannepally. As the priests descend the hillock, a police official fires three rounds into the air and a frenzied mass of people follows the priests as they race to bring the goddess to the altar. A round platform surrounded by tall railings is the *gadde* (throne or altar) for Sammakka for three days, and another one is dedicated to Saralamma.

Sacred, sexual

In the liberating anonymity of the festival, men dress as women with daubs of lipstick, trans people don oversized nose pins, and, together with young boys and married women, some carrying blocks of jaggery on their heads, jostle towards the twin *gadde*.

Before the devotees begin prayers, they must bathe in the river Jampanna Vagu, named after the martyred brother of Saralamma, which is a tributary of the Godavari. The brave ones step into the shallow, muddy, red water, while others choose to stand under the showers that pump treated water.

The sacred, the spiritual, and the sexual coalesce in this village fringed by a river and ringed by hillocks and forests. Thousands of makeshift tents dot the village where families wait for an opportune moment to pray to the goddesses. For some families, it is 10 days of revelry, where they get to let their hair down, to sing and dance to the tinny two-tone drumbeat whipped by the tribal elders. The women stick to beer while the men wash down the food with plenty of hard liquor.

From the watchtower, the bathing ghats appear like colourful grains of sand scattered on the riverbanks. In the water, groups of women huddle and then some of them go into a trance. A spiritual frenzy takes over as the 'possessed' women shake, convulse and flail their arms, swaying their hair and contorting their faces; they talk, shout and gesticulate: for the moment, they are oracles conversing with the gods.

Adilakshmi, 40, has travelled from Vemulwada, about 180 km away. Her family drags a vermillion-smeared lamb and chicken to the sacrificial spot created between two mounds of jaggery, coconuts and a quarter bottle of liquor. Adilakshmi goes into a trance. "What wrong have I done? When will I have a child? Amma tell me," a family member asks, as Adilakshmi mutters, grunts and rocks. Her reply is considered the words of the goddess. "Be nice to your family, you will have a child," someone translates the incoherent words.

Deva, who had walked 13 km from Gonepally with her family, will stay in the village for 10 days. Her breath has that overpowering smell of molasses, just like almost every person at the jatara. They visit every two years whenever the festival takes place, to pray for the family's well-being, she says.

Coconuts and helmets

But the closer the devotees get to the altar, the mayhem increases. The pilgrims send their offerings of coconuts and jaggery pieces sailing through the air to the altar. In the middle of it all is a tall bamboo, decked with a hairpiece and draped in saris. Today, several non-tribal beliefs have become part of the festival. "The tribal communities don't have idols. Also, until 1955, some 2,000 people used to visit Medaram, of which the main group of worshippers comprised 1,500 tribal people," says Dyavanapalli Satyanarayana, who has researched tribal traditions and beliefs in Telangana.

According to the 2011 Census, the Koya language is spoken by 4,07,423 people in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha. These original worshippers now form just 2% of the pilgrims, and the teeming masses largely comprise 1.3 crore non-Koya people and others. The Koya worshippers once carried a large triangular flag or *pagide*. "The flag was handed down the generations and had inscribed on it the story of the tribe with the names of ancestors, stories of their valour, and their origins. These flags are difficult to spot now," says Rao.

In the main altar, volunteers are wearing cricket helmets or hard hats as offerings can turn into dangerous missiles. "We are treating some hundred injuries every day, some of them serious and requiring dozens of stitches. Most of the injuries are to the head from coconuts and large chunks of jaggery being hurled," says R. Chaitanya, the duty doctor near the altar. The injured include devotees. "I was standing in the queue and got hit by a coconut," says Chandramouli from Bhadrachalam, as he walks out of the health centre with a bandage and a blood-soaked shirt.

The pilgrims send their offerings of coconuts and jaggery pieces sailing through the air to the altar. In the middle of it all is a tall bamboo, decked with a hairpiece and draped in saris

On the third night of the festival, as the full moon rises, the frenzy to pray to the goddesses reaches a crescendo. A police force of 12,000 tries hard to control the people pushing and shoving to try and break through every gate and entrance to pray at the holy site. The Telangana police's artificial intelligence technology for crowd control fumbles as the revellers leap across walls and jump the queues to reach the inner sanctum.

Tomorrow is another day. The priests will prepare to take the goddesses back to their hillocks. And soon, Medaram will return to being another village of 1,642 people.

Acknowledgements: K. Damodar Rao, former associate professor at Kakatiya University.

DELHI THE HINDU ▪ Magazine
Sunday, February 16, 2020

BIG SCREEN

Our fathers, who art in Bollywood

He may be late to the party, but a more rounded and credible father figure is finally emerging in Hindi cinema

Neha Bhatt

The caring, affectionate father is such a rarity on screen that when you do spot one, you do a double-take. Did I see it right or is there a catch, I wondered while watching *Panga*. The bar is set so low for a father that actor Jassi Gill's ever smiling, gentle, empathetic Prashant anchors the film just as much as Kangana Ranaut's meticulously played Jaya.

After several years of prioritising their son Adi's well-being, Jaya decides to go back to kabaddi while her husband Prashant takes over as the primary parent. This is easier said than done because although Prashant has a deep, playful bond and an easy camaraderie with their son, his housekeeping and cooking skills are questionable. But he steps up nevertheless, with some help from his mother-in-law. About the writing of Prashant's character, director Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari has said in interviews that she thought it was time to show progressive men who acknowledge this "era of coexistence".

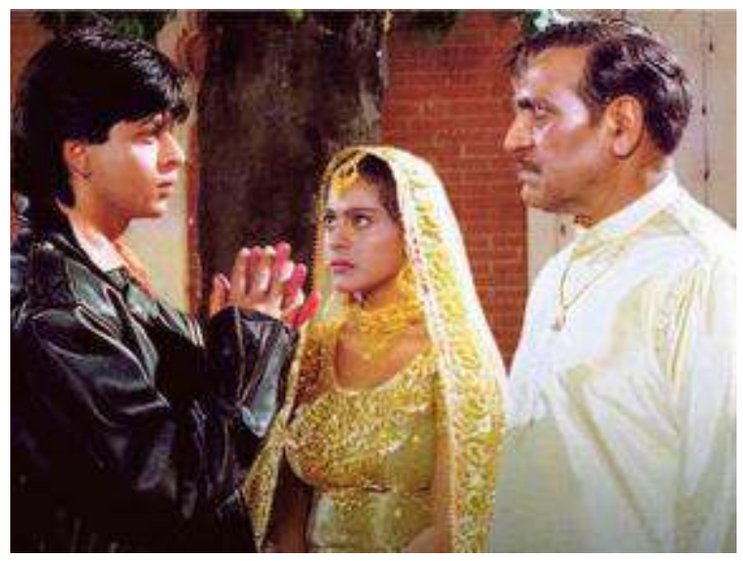
While motherhood has been closely and frequently deconstructed in Hindi films, there haven't been nearly as many nuanced explorations of fatherhood, or even glimpses of its complexity, outside the realm of the breadwinner or keeper of family honour. And so we have routinely seen fathers who are villain-like: conservative, authoritarian, violent and woefully one-note. The overarching patriarch has, in film after film, represented the conflict between the new and old in Indian society, standing as a larger-than-life obstacle between tradition and modernity.

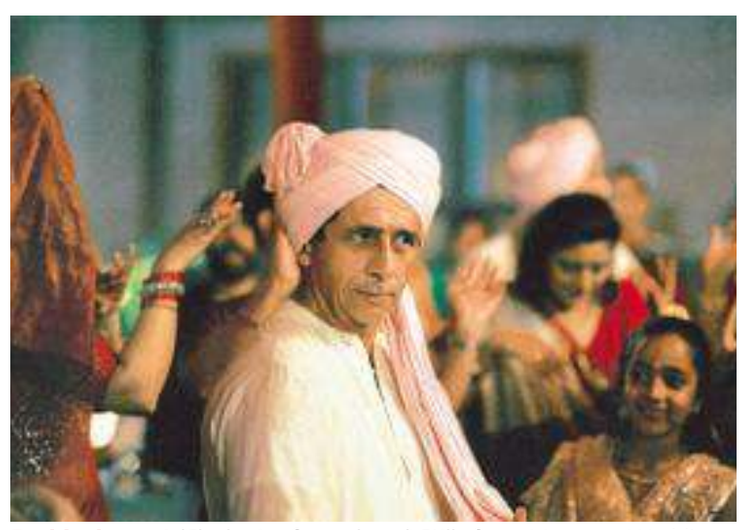
Warring, murderous fathers were as common as sacrificing, weepy mothers; the father's primary role was to stand in the way of their offspring's happiness

Upright, upper-class

It has been 25 years since *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (DDLJ)*, and it's still hard to shake off the series of resounding slaps that Baldev Singh (Amrish Puri) delivers to Raj (Shah Rukh Khan) for daring to fall in love with his daughter Simran (Kajol). Warring, murderous fathers in Hindi movies of the 80s and 90s were as common as sacrificing, weepy mothers; the father's primary role was to stand in the way of their offspring's happiness – albeit often with a miraculous change of heart by the end of the film. Then there is the slightly better template of the morally upright, good-at-heart father. In the book *Hero*, Ashok Raj notes Amitabh Bachchan's long run as "an upright, upper-class, omnipotent patriarch, who exercises his complete authority most of the time."

When on-screen fathers are compelled by circumstances to become the primary caregiver, a few memorable characters emerge. An earnest Ramlal (Kulbhushan Kharbanda) in *Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar* works hard to keep the kitchen fires burning. Musician Rohit (Aamir Khan) quickly hones his parenting skills in *Akele Hum Akele Tum* (based on *Kramer vs. Kramer*) when his wife and fellow singer Kiran (Manisha Koirala) leaves him. The guilt of leaving her son behind eats away at Kiran, however, in a way it might not affect most fathers. In a letter to her young son, Kiran explains: "Sometimes fathers go to work and mothers take care of the home, but sometimes mothers go to work and fathers take care of the home". By the end of the film, Rohit has fully embraced fatherhood.





Daddy dearest (Clockwise from above) Stills from *Monsoon Wedding*, *The Family Man* web-series, *Panga* and *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*.

Not the greatest

By the mid-90s, we got 'daddy cool' – the fun-loving, occasionally irresponsible breed – often written in as comic relief. Anupam Kher's memorable role as a sympathetic, supportive father in *DDLJ* was the perfect foil to Puri's bombastic Baldev. Saif Ali Khan in his most recent film *Jawaani Jaaneman* mines the party-boy forced to re-examine his ways as he wakes up – rather late – to his responsibility as not just a 'papa' but also a to-be grandpa. In *Paa*, Abhishek Bachchan's sensitive Amol is also late to the party, but eventually gives off a warm paternal vibe.

In the web series *The Family Man*, Manoj Bajpayee's Srikant Tiwari plays a colourful father. "He is not the greatest husband or father... He can't give much time to his family and even teaches his kids to lie," as his creators Raj Nidimoru and Krishna D.K. said in an interview, but he is, nevertheless, a father who is both invested in, and exasperated, by his pair of children who often turn out to be a step ahead of him.

One of the quieter, more moving fatherly roles was Naseeruddin Shah's Lalit Verma in *Monsoon Wedding*. It's not often that we see this pure male parental pain and protective love that's not wrapped up in layers of machismo. He is no hero; he struggles to make sense of his son's love for cooking and dancing over cricket. But his love is immense. "These are my children, *praji*, I will protect them from even myself, if I have to..." he tells his older brother-in-law.

But it is eventually a character like Prashant that demands more from a father figure than we usually get: not a perfect parent by any account, but one who thinks beyond tired ideas of manhood. And so we get a man who feels authentic, with a real personality.

In the trailer of the upcoming social comedy about gay love, *Shubh Mangal Zyada Savdhaan*, when the mother (Neena Gupta) tells her husband (Gajraj Rao), "*Haan, banoongi mein* Mother India, *ma ke paas dil hota hai*," ('Yes I will be Mother India, mothers have hearts') he shoots back sarcastically, "*Haan, baap toh battery se chaltein hain!*" ('Yeah, and fathers run on batteries') And that's the difference. Bollywood *baaps* are beginning to grow a heart.

The freelance journalist is a lover of cakes, chai, bookshops and yarns.

BUFFER ZONE

Is spamming even worth it?

From real estate deals to sex advice to restaurant coupons, telemarketing offers are endless

I went to a Chinese restaurant once in 2016. They noted down my phone number "for their records". I've never been there since; the food wasn't particularly good and I'm not a big fan of Chinese food either. Plus, it was a different city from where I live. Yet, once every few months, the restaurant sends me a WhatsApp message with photos of whatever new dish or deal they've introduced. This has been going on for four years now. I haven't blocked the number because it's become a tradition of sorts: they send me a photo, I look at it, curse half-heartedly, and move on.

It's weird how spam is just a normal part of life now. Every single day, I get about 10 phone calls from numbers I don't recognise. Five of those I answer and hang up immediately because there's music playing and a robot voice talking some rubbish with fake enthusiasm. The other five are real humans trying to sell me something, usually insurance or some bank-related stuff. I have a rehearsed answer – "not interested, thank you" – which I repeat more emphatically a second or third time if they're persistent. Sometimes they ask me to hear them out at least, but I don't. Other times, they understand and cut the call, moving on to the next number on their list. Then I block their number, so they call me from a different number the next day.

Accounting for both call and SMS spam, I have so far blocked 376 numbers on my phone, a phone I bought less than six months ago. Even then, there are around 20 new additions to my collection every day. My morning routine begins with periodically deleting all the spam emails I've gotten in the time I spent sleeping, despite the presence of a pretty vigilant spam filter on Gmail. On my phone, I'm targeted with all the usual stuff: real estate, astrology, sexual virility assistance, insurance, credit cards, restaurant deals, lottery wins, "friendship clubs". But a puzzling addition to all this is fish spam. For some reason, wholesale fish suppliers in Mumbai keep bombarding my phone with great offers for 10 kilos of surmai and pomfret. I have no idea why; I've never bought raw fish in my life.

▪ GETTY IMAGES

Wholesale fish suppliers keep bombarding me with great offers for 10 kilos of surmai and pomfret. I've never bought raw fish in my life

And yet, I rarely feel outright anger. Sure, it's super annoying. But I accept it as just one of those things that happens – a repetitive, ritualistic exchange that serves neither spammer nor spammee – and one moves on.

Nothing meaningful

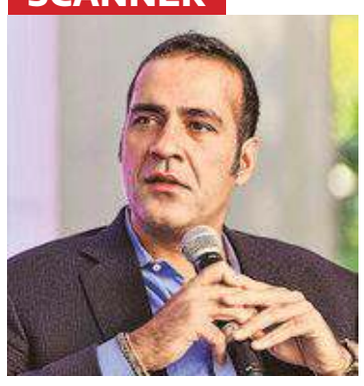
Which isn't to say that others don't feel rage. Some people get vindictive about it and in a misguided attempt at retribution direct their anger at the person calling them. But it's mostly just a momentary need to vent; a fickle anger that doesn't lead to anything meaningful. We've all just learnt to accept spam as a maddening part of everyday urban life. Like charging your phone. It sounds absurd only when you take a step back to think, "Why are strangers calling or texting me around 150 times a week to ask for my money? That can't be a normal thing that happens."

Except it does. And I can't remember when the change took place. Phone and email spam have always been a thing; companies have been sharing our information behind our backs for years, and we've always been furious. There's even a Do-Not-Disturb registry to which you can add your number for a relatively spam-free life. But for some reason, it feels to me like the past couple of years have seen spam rise considerably.

Loosely, I'd say it's because we're now registered on so many apps – for ordering food, for calling a cab, for hotel accommodation, for booking flights, for talking to friends, for meeting strangers, for putting up photos and videos, for counting how many steps we took today, for making payments, for listening to music – so there's a much wider pool to mine our data from. And there's, of course, the fact that literally everyone (barring one entire former State) has quick and easy Internet access now. So it makes sense, on the surface, for companies to direct their efforts into spam marketing. But does it even work? How many people, out of the lakhs that they presumably target, actually pay up? It can't possibly be worth all the trouble. But who will tell them?

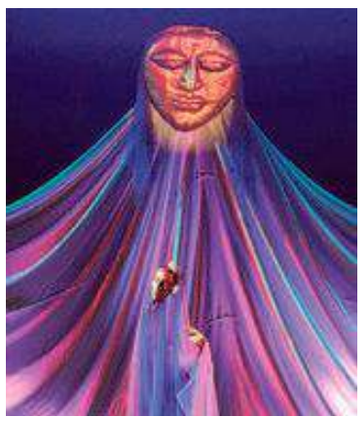
Akhil Sood is an author and freelance culture writer from New Delhi who wishes he'd studied engineering.

SCANNER



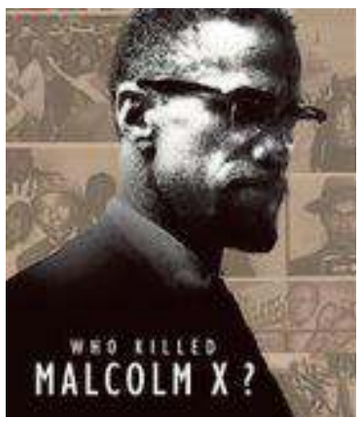
On minorities

In Search of India's Soul, a new two-part Al Jazeera documentary by Aatish Taseer, examines the fate of Muslims and other religious minorities under the BJP government. Taseer travels around the country and interacts with people on both sides of the political divide — and discovers that his own citizenship has been revoked.



Puppet festival

The Ishara International Puppet Theatre festival is being held at Delhi's India Habitat Centre and the Tagore Theatre in Chandigarh until February 22. Celebrating its 18th anniversary, the festival will feature leading puppeteers from countries including Spain, Brazil Finland and Turkey, alongside top Indian performers.



Who killed Malcolm X?

A new Netflix documentary titled *Who Killed Malcolm X?* has caused the Manhattan district attorney's office to reexamine the case of the civil rights activists' murder in 1965. The series argues that two of the three men convicted — all fellow Nation of Islam members — could not have been present at the scene of the crime.

UNPLUGGED

Two unique listeners

Between the delightful elderly gent and the peaceful sleeping child

This column has talked about the kinds of audience members at music recitals – from the raptly listening and appreciative to the distracted and fidgety. Two more categories can be added to the list.

The first is a rather interesting audience member – cannot yet call him a type or category, because the individual in question is rather unique. There may be more like him in other towns and cities, but I haven't met them yet. This is a delightful elderly gent, who merges with the crowd and has no distinguishing markings of any kind. He does not wear self-conscious silk kurtas with gold buttons and stoles; he is not up there in the front, swaying a lot. He merges with the crowd in his ordinary 'pant-shirt'.

At the end of the programme, as people begin to leave, he chooses someone to gift a teeny-tiny bottle of attar to, and tells the person why he or she caught his eye. It appears that he carries a fistful of these bottles of khus (vetiver) or mogra (jasmine). He never approaches the main performer – it is fellow audience members or perhaps a young organiser or volunteer he gifts the perfume to.

Gilahi mitti

Some months ago, I had an eight-year-old sitting with me – it was the first time she had asked to come along and promised to sit quietly through it, which she did. The man in the audience had spotted her, and when the performance ended, as we filed down the rickety stairs of the old hall, he gave her the bottle, much to her surprise and shy joy. He told us that it was heart-warming to see someone so young sit still and pay attention to classical vocal music.

He turns up here and there, this unobtrusive gent, and the last time I saw him, he was handing over another such tiny vial to a teenager. This time he was dispensing *gilahi-mitti* (petrichor). The youngster had caught his attention, not just for attending, but for sitting on the floor cross-legged and not opting for the chair, he said, and for not once checking his mobile phone throughout the performance.

▪ GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK

After spotting him yet another time, offering his little gift to a volunteer among the organisers, I had to speak to him.

Gone with the rain

No, he was not a perfumer. He was a retired person, is all he said. No pontificating about 'our musical heritage' and 'encouraging young listeners' and such. He just smiled awkwardly, when I tried to joke with him about what would qualify me to receive one of his attar bottles. And then he said, with the slightest of smiles: "Giving attar to ladies can be misread, so you will not qualify." He mentioned the name of the small perfume shop from where he gets these *taufas* (presents) – since I had shown particular interest in the wet-earth perfume. And then he was gone, throwing open his umbrella and vanishing into the unseasonal rain. Will I ask him his name the next time I encounter him? Probably not. The anonymity of his gesture is part of its charm.

The second category of audience member who is mention-worthy is the sleeping child. No, not babies who may wake up and wail. These are children aged between 6 and 10 or so, who come to classical Indian music programmes. Many a time, they sit still, listening, but then the sheer mesmeric drone of the tanpura, and perhaps the abstract nature of the music, makes them sleepy and they begin to doze. If it is night time, sometimes they will simply fold up, and the adult they are with will let them lie down in a sort of foetal position next to them.

At one time, I would anxiously wonder if this would be construed as insulting or would be a little disconcerting to the performer. However, in recent times, I have met a musician or two who have said that they are not at all affronted by a sleeping child in their audience. The fact that your music put someone to sleep is not in any way indicative that it is boring. Soothing is more like it. That the notes wash over a child, bypassing his or her cognitive centres and entering the soul, is a most rewarding feeling, they say. Many of us have had the fortune to experience that in childhood – the notes settling on us like a soft blanket.

Gouri Dange is a novelist, counsellor and music lover who takes readers through the Aladdin's cave of Indian music.

SPOTLIGHT

A sudden unveiling of treasures

The exhibition on Bengal Art in a revamped Currency Hall and the plans to promote Metcalfe Hall, Victoria Memorial and Indian Museum as exhibition spaces are part of a political game, but promise much cultural gains

Soumitra Das

On January 11, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Ghare-Baire, The World, The Home and Beyond, 18th-20th Century Art in Bengal' – a dazzling exhibition of original works at the 19th century Currency Building in Kolkata's BBD Bag. Bengal had hitherto lacked a museum to showcase its art – an inexplicable gap since it is within this matrix that Indian modernism was born. In his inaugural speech, Modi made it clear that by opening this new space, he was assuming the mantle of patron and custodian of Bengal culture. So, was it a charm offensive to win over a recalcitrant State whose people have a weakness for culture with a capital C? Yet, no mention of the invaluable and irreplaceable collection perishing at Gurusaday Museum was ever made.

The exhibition, planned, curated, executed and funded entirely by the Delhi Art Gallery (DAG), was the answer to Kolkata's prayers. As of now, 'Ghare-Baire' is on till March 5.

The Central Public Works Department had demolished the three massive domes fitted with skylights above the courtyard of what was originally known as the Currency Office, a handsome building in the Italian style constructed in 1868. It originally housed the Agra and Masterman's Bank and served as the currency department till the late 1960s.

Exhibiting heritage

The demolition was stopped during Durga Puja on October 19, 1996, when Kolkata Municipal Corporation and Intach intervened. Much later, after it had been denuded of its Italian marble floors, the building was restored by ASI, which is now its custodian.

At the inauguration, Modi announced that three other heritage structures of Kolkata, which have been restored of late – the Victoria Memorial Hall, Metcalfe Hall, and Belvedere House – would also be used to host exhibitions.

All three sprawling floors of the grand Currency Building and the stairwell have been used to great advantage for 'Ghare-Baire', an assemblage of several hundred works in the DAG collection, with only a handful loaned from the National Gallery of Modern Art and the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art. From planning to execution, it took the team two months to mount it. Yet, few in Kolkata, not even the scholars and art historians quoted in various panels, ever got wind of it.

New colours (Clockwise from above) The ongoing exhibition on Kolkata at Metcalfe Hall; a giant replica of the Bengali *topor* at Metcalfe; and the grand Currency Building. ▪ RAJEEV BHATT

With adequate space for the timeline and background information, the chronological narrative is presented in seven sections: 'European artists in Bengal', 'Early Bengal Indigenous Art', 'Realism and Academic Art in Bengal', 'Bengal 'School'', 'Santiniketan: Charting Untrodden Courses', 'Visualising Bengal's Man-Made Famine', and 'The Liminal Language of Bengal's Modernists'.

There are also three sub-sections: 'India's National Art Treasure Artists', 'Devi: Intrinsic to the City', and 'Printmaking: Democratising Art'. Modern sculpture in Bengal occupies a good part of the ground floor.

Going through the multiple galleries, I immediately recalled the brilliant, path-breaking exhibition 'Art of Bengal 1850-1950', which Ganesh Haloi had single-handedly put together in 1997 at the Calcutta Information Centre. The Tagores had been there in full glory. CIMA gallery-held a similar exhibition titled 'Art of Bengal' in 2001. So, there was a certain sense of déjà vu. But it was with great delight that I scanned the Solvyns, Daniells, Henry Salt, Olinto Ghilardi, Captain Robert Smith, Lieutenant-Colonel James George (Chittagong views) and a host of talented academic Bengali artists like Bamapada Banerjee, Kisory Roy, Atul Bose, J.P. Gangooly, Prahlad Chandra Karmakar and Hemendranath Mazumdar (no Sashi Kumar Hesh though), alongside Kalighat *pats* and oil paintings of Hindu deities that once hung in affluent Kolkata homes. The flickering light was a distraction.

As a reaction to colonial academism and in keeping with the rise of nationalism, Abanindranath Tagore had, at the start of the 20th century, rejuvenated and contemporised ancient Indian art, consequently siring modern Indian art. This departure is well represented through Asit Kumar Haldar, Sunayani Debi, M.A.R. Chughtai and Kshitindranath Majumdar. "The inclusion of this large selection of popular paintings and prints, academic painting and Bengal School paintings produces a new art historical narrative of the Bengal Modern," says art historian Tapati Guha-Thakurta.

Reduced to absurdity

While this is true, there are major gaps. There is no trace of K.G. Subramanyan, without whom Santiniketan is unthinkable. Hardly any representative works of the Tagores feature. And if this exhibition is about Bengal art, why has the Bengali language been reduced to absurdity? The Bengali text is littered with ludicrous errors. The roomful of Nemai Ghosh photographs of Satyajit Ray needs ruthless stock-taking.

At the Victoria Memorial Hall, all the clutter has been removed, and the grandeur of the domes is revealed soaring above the ground-floor galleries. While the entire gamut of European painters is still there, to these has been added Vassili Verestchagin's panoramic work – one of the largest oil paintings on a single canvas – depicting the Prince of Wales in a stately procession in Jaipur in 1876. The focus has shifted to Indian public figures, and it is a pleasure to see the simplicity of native flora and fauna in the Company School drawings close to Abanindranath's resplendent 'Bharatmata'. A series of photographs documenting the making of the Victoria Memorial from 1910 to 1920 is displayed in the entrance hall, and Indian labourers toiling at the construction site is a revelation. "An effort is on to decolonise the whole display, while retaining a sense of balance," says Jayanta Sengupta, secretary and curator (director), of the Victoria Memorial Hall.

Belvedere House in Alipore, after serving as the residence of bigwigs of the Raj, was turned into the National Library by Jawaharlal Nehru. After its restoration by the CPWD, it serves as an exhibition space – but shorn of its alcoves and wainscoting, the large hall, once the reading room, has lost its gravitas. In November 2011, the magnificent exhibition 'Treasures of Ancient China' opened here. Used for temporary exhibitions now, a "Centre for the Word" was earlier proposed there.

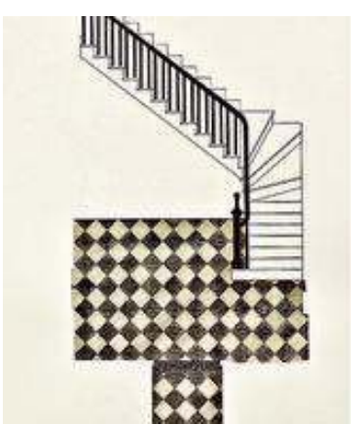
Metcalfe Hall at the crossing of Strand Road and Hare Street was modelled on the Temple of Winds in Athens. Now, it hosts an exhibition titled 'Ami Kolkata: Its History and Culture'. With its farcical giant *topor* (the crown that Bengali grooms wear during weddings) and clichés piled upon clichés, it makes a travesty of everything that is held sacred in Bengal, and desecrates this proud colonial structure. Just a reflection of our times.

The author is a heritage and culture writer from Kolkata.

It is a pleasure to see the simplicity of native flora and fauna in the Company School drawings close to Abanindranath's resplendent 'Bharatmata'

Facial prejudice

Bias in facial recognition software — causing, for example, black women to be identified as male — is the subject of Shalini Kantaya's documentary *Coded Bias*, which premiered at Sundance Film Festival last month. It follows the work of Joy Buolamwini, whose work on the topic has garnered widespread attention.



Vishwa Shroff show

A solo exhibition by artist Vishwa Shroff, on view at TARQ, Mumbai, until February 28, examines the architecture of inhabited spaces. Titled 'Folly Measures', it features paintings such as the 'Bombay Stairwell Series' — with even the individual floor tiles depicted in detail — and several works in the form of building plans.

Material art

The University of Chicago's Smart Museum of Art and Wrightwood 659 are hosting an exhibition on 'material art' — a term coined by the curator, art scholar Prof. Wu Hung, for trends in contemporary Chinese art in which artists use materials ranging from cigarettes to human hair. 'The Allure of Matter' will be on view in Chicago until early May.

DELHI THE HINDU ▪ Magazine
Sunday, February 16, 2020

FIELD NOTES

Among this year's Padma Shri awardees are a father and daughter who turned a barren wasteland into a riot of trees and crops

The food forest of Nayagarh

Food wood (Clockwise from above) Radhamohan and Sabarmatee; Sabarmatee distributing paddy seeds; a handful of soil; showing off the natural colour of organic fruits.
▪ BISWARANJAN ROUT

Satyasundar Barik

Furrowed with deep gullies, its topsoil all but gone, this degraded patch of land near Odagaon in Odisha's Nayagarh district was once a dense forest. Whenever nature tried to reclaim it, the little shoots would be nibbled away by goats and sheep. The villagers who owned the land had lost all hope of ever growing crops here. But for Sabarmatee and her father Radhamohan – founders of Sambhav, a non-profit organisation that works on gender and environment – this was precisely what they were looking for: the challenge of rejuvenating land that had been written off.

The duo bought 70 acres with the help of donations and set to work. First, they created a bio-fence by planting bamboo on the edges: unlike a compound wall that takes money to create, the bamboo fence becomes a source of income. Within two years, sprigs of grass appeared in the sunken patches. Then began their project to grow rice, fruits and vegetables. That was three decades ago. Today, Sabarmatee and Radhamohan, recipients of this year's Padma Shri, gaze upon a 'food forest' where there was once an expanse of fissured earth. Here, 500 varieties of rice, 100 types of vegetables and 40 different fruits now grow. The duo has also began documenting yields and preserving seeds.

Today, there is a 'food forest' where there was once an expanse of fissured earth. Here, 500 varieties of rice, 100 types of vegetables and 40 different fruits now grow

Waiting for ants

When they started out in the late 80s there was general mistrust for traditional practices, they recall. "Policymakers and academics expressed doubt about traditional agriculture practices, saying theycannot produce enough food to meet the needs of our growing population," says Radhamohan, who was Odisha's first information commissioner. His connections with policymakers and bureaucrats helped shape up the idea.

And Sabarmatee gave up a successful career to join him.

When they began scouting for land, the government first identified a plot near River Brahmani in Dhenkanal district for them to create a resource centre for organic farming. "But we realised that creating a green cover on fertile land would not impress farmers. We needed a more challenging spot to drive home the point that traditional agriculture can be taken up in inhospitable conditions," says Radhamohan. That's how they picked this place.

To control erosion, they started growing legumes, which spread rapidly. They spread cut grass on the earth and waited for white ants to bore tunnels under the layer. This allowed aeration and water infiltration. Trees began to spring up on their own as bird droppings dispersed seeds.

Upland, low land

The year 1990-91 was exceptional in terms of rainfall, and they started planting mango trees. Low-lying areas were used for horticulture – lemon, jackfruit, lychee and coconut – while 2.5 acres were dedicated to paddy. Sambhav grows 500 varieties of rice today. Uplands were, however, left untouched to help the forest grow. Seed balls were dispersed around other land patches. The efforts paid off: the campus, now spread over 90 acres, has over 1,000 species of plants.

"Creating topsoil was the real challenge. We stacked leaves and crop waste and allowed that to decay. Gradually, it became top soil that was cultivable," says Sabarmatee. Bamboo and grasses were planted to harness the topsoil, and water harvesting structures were created.

"Plants don't live in isolation," says Sabarmatee. "There is also a huge diversity of insects, aquatic life, amphibians, birds and mammals here."

Seeding ideas

Sabarmatee also began collecting traditional varieties of rice, vegetable and fruits to grow on campus. This helped build a seed bank. Now, Sambhav's seed bank has 700 indigenous varieties of seeds. Their 'Adopt a Seed' initiative gives region-specific varieties to farmers for free on the condition that they popularise them. Many of these are well suited to arid environments and waterlogged areas.

Sambhav should not be identified as a museum of seeds, cautions Sabarmatee. "Seeds have life. They have to be cultivated regularly," she says. Funds come from the sale of agricultural produce and donations.

Radhamohan, who embarked on a padayatra for forest protection in the 1990s, says it was never their intention "to create an oasis in the rain shadow area," but as they distributed saplings the forests regenerated on their own across thousands of acres. Traditional farming sans fertilizer and pesticide can do wonders. Much remains to be done, however: "We need to strengthen marketing for organic agricultural products through a separate procurement system," says Radhamohan. "And we need to reorient our scientific community and bring changes to agricultural education so as to sharpen the focus on organic produce."

GREEN HUMOUR BY ROHAN CHAKRAVARTY

ALLEGEDLY

I read a book, almost

If there is one thing I've learnt from our government, it is that you should never play down your achievements, even if they don't exist

Last Sunday, sitting at my desk, I wept tears of joy and self-improvement. For the first time in months, I had managed to read seven entire pages of a book. By book, I don't mean a text mounted on a screen – no Kindle-swindle. I mean a physical book, with pages that can't be scrolled, provision to insert a handmade bookmark, and infinite battery life.

Believe it or not, I didn't break off even once – not to check my phone, not to Google a reference, not even to rescue Indian democracy from fascism. I think the last time I accomplished a feat of this magnitude was in 1987, when I hit four consecutive boundaries off the last four balls of the last over to take my school to victory against Donnie Brasco Senior Secondary School, the then under-14 defending champions of West Mambalam.

Unfortunately, my joy was short-lived. The wife picked up the book and discovered that the bookmark was on the opening page of Chapter 1. "How do you claim to have read seven pages?" she demanded.

Well, this is what sets apart a true bibliophile like me from the millions of pretenders. It all comes down to how you count the pages. I am old school. I adopt the time-honoured practice followed by every publisher when they declare the number of pages in a new title: I count from the copyright page. So yes, when I said I read seven pages, I may have forgotten to mention that this included the copyright page, the title page, the author bio-page (he divides his time between New Jersey and Old Pyjama), the dedication page, two pages of 'Contents', and one blank page. I had just made it to the first full page of closely printed text when I got an urgent ping on my phone, and the rest, as they say, is Netflix.

Mighty feat

Nonetheless, if there is one thing I've learnt from our government, it is that you should never play down your achievements, even if they don't exist. So, while it may be true that I haven't finished a book in a long time, it must also be acknowledged that advancing seven pages deep into unknown bookish territory is no mean achievement in this day and age.

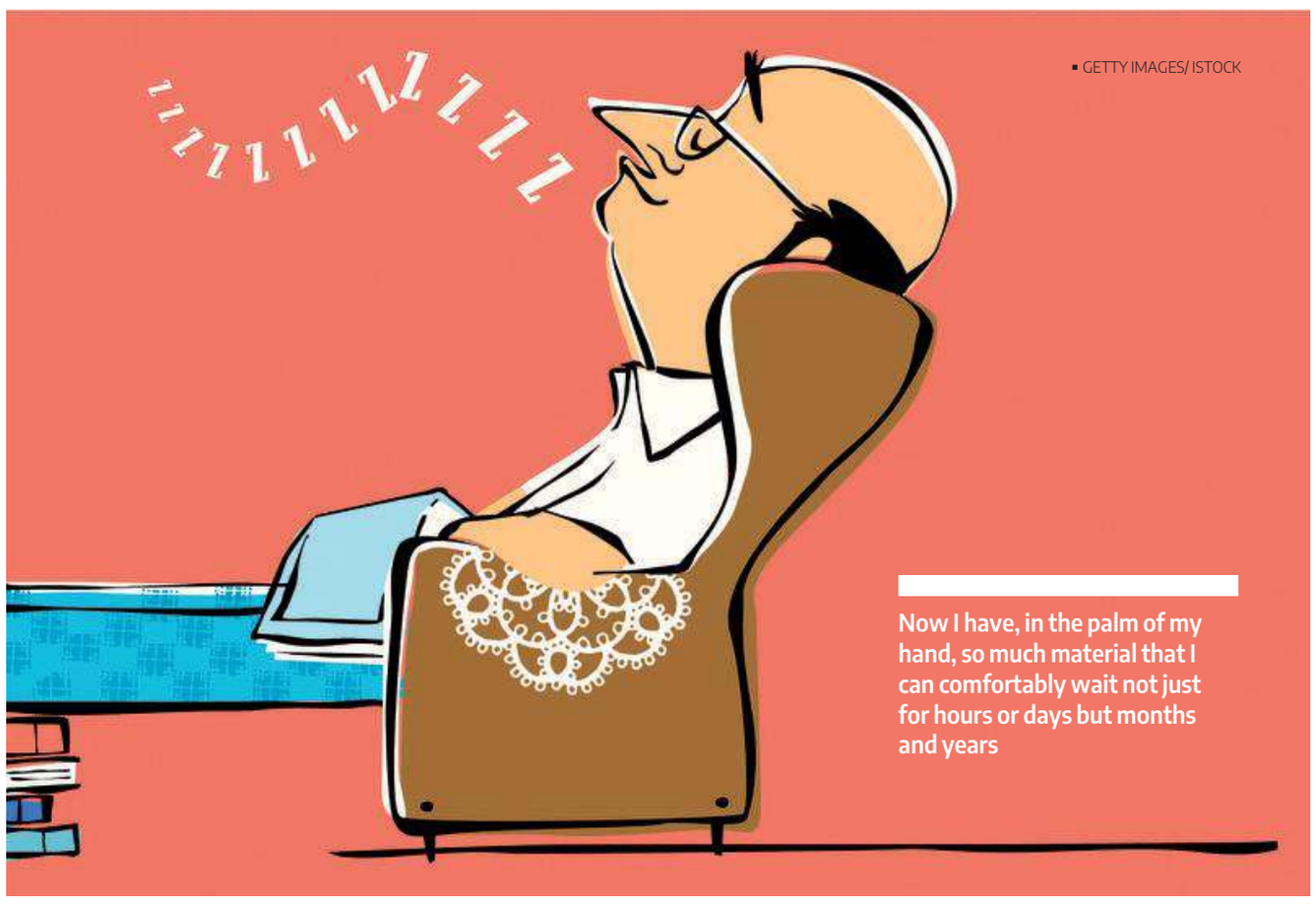
People who grew up in the pre-smartphone era would remember how easy they had it. All you had to do was curl up in bed with a book and keep turning the pages until you reached the last page. You didn't have to contend with a passive-aggressive gadget suffering from an attention-seeking disorder, as we all do now. I remember, as a teenager, having *The Brothers Karamazov* for breakfast, *War and Peace* for lunch, and *Vanity Fair* for dinner. Each of them is more than 1,000 pages long. And I finished them all in 24 hours flat. That's the kind of concentration I had. But today, all it takes is a momentary remembrance of pings past, and I drop the dead tree text for the digital device.

There was a time when I would never venture out without a book. What if I have to wait? Of course, I was the one who was always late. I think the last (and first) time I was expected somewhere and didn't turn up late was the momentous occasion of my birth – I arrived three weeks early. Since then I've been the aam aadmi's Godot, prone to making anyone wait anywhere any time for purely existential reasons.

Compulsory no more

Still, you never know. What if the person I'm meeting has an accident or something, and ends up being more late – later? – than even me? So a book for me was a compulsory accessory. But not anymore. Now I have, in the palm of my hand, so much material that I can comfortably wait not just for hours or days but months and years. I can spend the rest of my life simply waiting, say, for Indians to stop electing hateful Voldemorts while I finish every episode of every season of every series on my watch list.

The only problem is I have an image to keep up – of this person who reads a lot, supports the publishing industry by buying books, and boosts the self-esteem of struggling writers by donating free blurbs. None of this is sustainable if I don't actually, you know, read. So, whenever I feel like taking a break from streaming video, I try to read a book. Along the way, I give myself some positive reinforcement for effort – as without effort, I wouldn't have able to keep notifications at bay for the 13 treacherous seconds it took me to navigate from the copyright page to line 1 of page 1 of chapter 1. This may be an insignificant step for cynics without WiFi. But it's a giant leap for someone whose 'reading habit' is limited to subtitles.



▪ GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK

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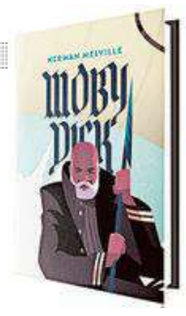
G. Sampath is Social Affairs Editor, *The Hindu*.

Literary Review



Diverse Editions suspended

Barnes & Noble has withdrawn its new Diverse Editions, where classics were given new covers featuring the characters as people of colour. Authors criticised the project as superficial, saying that the publishers should promote black authors instead.

David Copperfield returns

Armando Ianucci's *The Personal History Of David Copperfield* features Dev Patel in the title role. The latest movie adaptation of Dickens' classic has a diverse ensemble cast of stage and screen actors, including Tilda Swinton, Hugh Laurie, and Ben Whishaw.

Dearly

Chatto & Windus, Vintage, will publish Margaret Atwood's forthcoming book of poetry, *Dearly*, on November 10, 2020. The poems are about absences and endings, ageing and retrospection. *Dearly* is Atwood's first collection in over a decade.

THE LEAD

The anxiety of incompleteness

With anti-CAA protests taking on dramatically different dimensions in the Northeast, Sanjib Baruah's new book, *In the Name of the Nation: India and Its Northeast*, is a timely entry. This extract from the book looks at the fallout of Partition in the region and the ongoing solidification of porous borders

Rising fences An Assamese villager heads home for the day as BSF personnel keep watch on the Indo-Bangladesh border. ▪ RITU RAJ KONWAR

India's Partition was not the inevitable culmination of struggles by generations of anticolonialists. Nor was it a conclusive one-time event. The decision to formally and constitutionally divide British-ruled India was made only ten weeks before the actual transfer of power on August 15, 1947. What it would mean for ordinary people, as historian Gyanendra Pandey notes, could only be worked out "step-by-step in 1947-48 and afterwards." When violence between Hindus and Muslims forced people to move across the new international border, "it was not always obvious to them or to the new states that they would not go back." A person displaced by Partition told an interviewer many years later that she, like many others, did not expect the division of territories to be forever.... Seen from this perspective, it was perhaps inevitable that despite the insertion of an international border and the introduction of an illegality regime, the flow of people crossing into India would continue well beyond the immediate years of Partition. That Partition generated a massive new flow of Hindus into India is well known. What is less well-known – and contrary to the expectations of the architects of Partition – is that it did not stop an old pattern of migration from densely populated deltaic eastern Bengal into relatively sparsely populated Northeast India: that of poor Muslim peasants in search of land and livelihoods.

> [Partition] did not stop an old pattern of migration from densely populated deltaic eastern Bengal into the relatively sparsely populated Northeast India

The legal status of migrants from across the border remains a controversial issue in India... Hindu Partition refugees do not generally occupy a minoritized space in most parts of India. It is relatively easy for them to integrate into local society... But in Northeast India, the challenge has played out very differently for two reasons. First, both migration from eastern Bengal and opposition to it in this settlement frontier began well before 1947. Second, there is the "forgotten story of India's Partition" – that of the district of Sylhet. This region – a part of Bangladesh today – was a district of the province of Assam before it became a part of East Pakistan in 1947. The status of this Bengali-speaking region was a controversial issue in the politics of colonial Assam. Assamese Hindu political leaders of the Indian National Congress advocated its separation from Assam well before Partition. In some Sylheti Hindu Partition refugee narratives, they bear more responsibility for Sylhet becoming a part of Pakistan than even Muslim League politicians that fought for a separate Pakistan. A significant segment of Northeast India's population bears the burden of the intergenerational trauma and memories of the partitioned geography of Sylhet. Not surprisingly, there is among them a very different view of this history – and its implications for post-Partition India – from that in the rest of Northeast India.

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Since India's "identification revolution" – the greatly enhanced ability of the modern state "to individually designate its own nationals so as to legally differentiate between citizens and aliens present on its territory" – remains a work in progress; estimating the number of irregular migrants crossing the Partition border into Assam is a highly fraught exercise... All available estimates are extrapolations from census figures and electoral rolls, and they are intensely contested.

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The steps to put India's identification revolution on a fast track, to harden the Indo-Bangladesh border, and to securitise immigration and border control may or may not achieve their avowed goals. But their effects are likely to be significant and far-reaching... The efforts to toughen the illegality regime governing the Partition border along with the trends toward a majoritarian bias in Indian citizenship laws do not bode well for the future. One reason why their effects can be especially pernicious in this frontier region is that many settlers and their descendants... live in and cultivate "forest lands," "grazing lands," and various kinds of public lands. These land-use designations are no more than legal fictions in many parts of Assam. To assume that they are solid facts on the ground can further dispossess some of the world's most disenfranchised people.

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India's Border Security Force has proposed "Wagah-like shows" to promote "border tourism" in Northeast India. Wagah is a town on the India-Pakistan border where Indian and Pakistani soldiers participate in a flag-lowering ceremony, where they ritually enact their hostility toward each other. The performance underscores – and exaggerates – the lines drawn by Partition. There are no Wagah-like performances on the Partition's eastern border partly because the two borders are not alike. The more or less complete "exchange of population" that occurred in Punjab during Partition – and the extraordinary brutality that went with it – has no exact parallel in the East. Decisions on whether or not to move to the other side were not all made in 1947. The process has been open-ended. But the situation is now changing. The Border Security Force is not alone in seeking a rigorously policed Indo-Bangladesh border. Many in India would like to see the post-Partition Indian state become a "normal sovereign state" with normal borders and mandatory state-issued identity documents being required for entering the country and for exercising voting rights. After all, the "wish for well-defined, fixed boundaries" that comes out of the 19th idea of "exclusive and uncontested territorial state power" remains part of the dominant global political imaginary: the national order of things. Ernest Gellner had famously compared it with Amedeo Modigliani's paintings, where "neat flat surfaces are clearly separated from each other" and "there is little if any ambiguity or overlap." He contrasted it with the "riot of diverse points of colour" in the impressionist canvases of Oskar Kokoschka: his metaphor for the world before nations... If there is a desire to see a Kokoschka to Modigliani type of transformation of the Partition's eastern border, the managers of the Indian state can hardly afford to ignore it. But whether they can gratify it is another matter.

> The nation-state walls and fences being built today and the greater policing of international borders all across the world are symptoms of the crisis of the nation-state system

The nation-state walls and fences being built today and the greater policing of international borders all across the world are symptoms of the crisis of the nation-state system. These "mundane arrangements, most of them unknown two hundred or even one hundred years ago," as political theorist Timothy Mitchell reminds us, "help manufacture an almost transcendental entity, the nation state." The Indo-Bangladesh border fence, after all, is not meant to stand as a fortification against an invading army – India and Bangladesh are friendly countries – but to protect against nonstate transnational actors: cross-border migrants and "Jihadi terrorists". The capacity of states to control the flow of goods and people across borders is eroding worldwide. In many parts of the world, states had never fully developed that capacity. If at least in some parts of the world the nation-state had once monopolized loyalty, "transnational mobile practices" now point to the significant erosion of that capacity. And postcolonial states like India can only strive for that kind of monopoly; they have never actually enjoyed it – as reflected, among other things, in the lateness of the identification revolution fitfully taking place now. The impossible desire for walled sovereignty in the world today reflects the desire to become a "normal state" or to remain one. Dealing with this increasing "anxiety of incompleteness" will be a major challenge for India in coming years.

Extracted from the book published by Stanford University Press.

Untold tale Revati Laul. ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

THE HINDU PRIZE 2019 SHORTLIST

'We have created a political culture that feeds off hate'

Revati Laul talks about *The Anatomy of Hate*, the perpetrators of the Gujarat riots, and why their story needed to be told

Sudipta Datta

Do we know what it feels like to be part of a mob? Revati Laul's *The Anatomy of Hate*, shortlisted for the Hindu Prize for Non-Fiction, answers this question and raises several others about society's propensity to hate. An excerpt from a short interview:

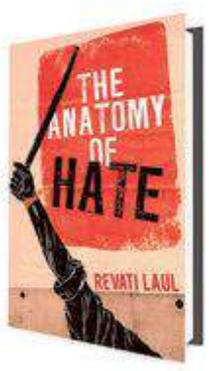
What made you want to tell the story of the perpetrators of the 2002 carnage?

■ I was based in Gujarat, reporting for NDTV the year after the 2002 pogrom against Muslims. And everywhere I went, Hindus would say – 'You won't understand why we took part in or supported the violence'. I thought to myself that I didn't understand where the impetus for this kind of hatred of the other, the Muslim, came from. But then I went a step further and asked myself another question: wasn't it important to find out why? We know academically the history of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, of the Hindu right wing etc., but do we know what it feels like to be part of a mob? The more I looked inside this space, the more I realised how crucial it was to tell the story of the perpetrators of violence. My favourite political scientist, Mahmood Mamdani, wrote, while telling the story of the Rwandan genocide, that we need to realise that it is the 'popularity' of the genocide that is its uniquely troubling aspect. This got me started.

What is it about hate-induced violence that should worry us the most?

■ The politics of mass hate has engulfed us today. It is powerful and addictive because it pulls out our basest instincts and gives them oxygen. In fanning the flames, we have created a political culture that feeds off hate. Being civilised is very hard. Letting loose the mob unleashes something we all have within us but social and political institutions help us curb it. When these institutions turn into curators of hate, it's like a deep vault opening up and the bloodletting consumes the institutions whole. We are left without a democratic fabric.

You write about the aftermath of the riots through three people — Pranav, Dungar and Suresh Langdo. Why them?



■ The three people were picked randomly from hundreds I spoke with, because these three were people I had access to and could track for three years at length. Pranav is upper caste, middle class, English speaking and educated, and was an outlier in the mob in 2002. Dungar is tribal, aspirational, middle class and part of the BJP and VHP. Suresh is serving a 31-year jail sentence for raping and killing Muslim women and men in 2002. Each of these people had very different backgrounds, different ways of entering the space of violence and decidedly different trajectories after. For me, writing about them was a way of telling the story inside out and also to leave people with the idea that violence is also varied and diverse and ever-changing. And complex. Everything and its opposite are true at the same time.

> Mahmood Mamdani wrote, while telling the story of the Rwandan genocide, that we need to realise that it is the 'popularity' of the genocide that is its uniquely troubling aspect

What are the lessons we must learn from a book like *The Anatomy of Hate*?

■ If we want to move away from the politics of violence, we need first to be able to understand it. Look at the personal and political circumstances that lead to it in order to learn from it and build alternatives. The first thing I learned while writing this book is that hate is not constant, it is shifting. If we continue to look at it as fixed, we are guilty of fixing it and now allowing it to escape from its box and change. The second thing I learned is that we have to look at the perpetrators of violence – their uncertainty, their fear of fear, of each other, of belonging. When we understand that, we can work on rebuilding their identities in ways that are more secure than what the politics of hate can offer. The people who are filled with hate are in a sense victims of circumstance, and we need to change those circumstances.

DELHI THE HINDU ▪ Magazine
Sunday, February 16, 2020

The end Soldiers hoist the Sri Lankan flag in triumph after capturing the town of Mankulam from the LTTE in 2008. ▪ AFP

GHOST STORY

The questions of Malinda

Amid its dark comedy, Shehan Karunatilaka's second novel, set in Sri Lanka in 1989, also asks profound questions about death

Chats with the Dead
Shehan Karunatilaka
Penguin Hamish Hamilton
₹526

Pasan Jayasinghe

Chats with the Dead, Shehan Karunatilaka's follow-up to his acclaimed debut *Chinaman*, bills itself as a murder mystery with a twist. Malinda 'Maali' Albert Kabalana – self-proclaimed gambler, photographer and slut – finds that he has died and is now a ghost in the Colombo of 1989. To solve his own murder, Maali must now wade through fellow ghosts with contradictory advice and questionable motives, the memories of the life he lived flooding back, and a country in permanent turmoil. All the while, he must contend with the debris of debts, infidelities and highwire political wagers he has left behind that have ongoing repercussions, especially for Jaki and DD, his official girlfriend and unofficial boyfriend. The ensuing novel is an impressive accomplishment that manages to be a tighter expression of his distinctive prose and an even more glaring mirror of Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka is once again Karunatilaka's setting and subject, this time much more directly. The Sri Lanka of 1989, moreover, is a special kind of anarchy. The government is officially at war with the Tamil Tigers, but the Indian Peace Keeping Force, in the country to help with the fight, is on a murderous rampage across the north, so much so that both the government and the Tigers are conspiring to have it gone. Meanwhile, the second youth-led neo-Marxist JVP insurrection in the south is being viciously put down by the government and its death squads. Assorted foreign mercenaries run amok as massacres, bombs, secret torture sites and mass burials have become frighteningly commonplace.

> There is a real heft to it, especially as more and more of Maali's memories return and the horrors he has witnessed and has been party to come to light

Maali's backstory as a fixer and photographer for nearly all these players allows Karunatilaka to impressively paint the whole picture in quick strokes. There is a definite risk in such an exercise where the moralities of all the actors at play, and at war, could be collapsed into one. It could make it seem as if everyone is equally culpable, but Karunatilaka lucidly makes the relative moral positions of everyone involved clear. A number of cinematic sequences wrestle intricately with such calculations.

Dark absurdity

The weight of these matters is balanced by Karunatilaka's prose, which is sardonic and knowingly vulgar, trading moments of both dark absurdity and lowbrow yet self-aware humour. This especially comes through in the keen observations of Colombo and Sri Lankan culture the book throws up, as well as in the sordid thrills Maali pursues as a closeted gay man in the country. There are also some charming nods to *Chinaman*, suggesting a shared universe.

Chats With The Dead turns out to be a leaner and more concentrated affair than that book, however; less disposed to drunken backtracking and more relentlessly focused on plot movement. Karunatilaka's device of ghosts stuck in the in-between and the particulars of its worldbuilding, including the ghosts being able to 'ride' winds and go to where their names are uttered, allows the novel to quite literally breeze ahead at breakneck speed. The success of this more than offsets some other niggling concerns, such as the book's living characters being more compelling than its ghosts; the somewhat piecemeal depiction of certain real life figures by name and others by allusion; and its imagery which at times may border on being gratuitously nihilistic.

The plot and the tone lend themselves to descriptions of the book being a "dark comedy" and while this isn't inaccurate, it's certainly not merely a comedy. There is a real heft to it, especially as more and more of Maali's memories return and the horrors he has witnessed and has been party to come to light, all underpinning rather complex ethical reflections. At its deepest, *Chats with the Dead* grapples with the value of a life in the aftermath of death. Karunatilaka increasingly raises questions of what you're remembered as you die; what your love meant for those you left behind; and if it was all worth it in the end, to frequently moving effect. Maali's hard-wrangled love for Jaki and DD, built up progressively over drunken parties, quiet coffees and lost photos, displays this to moving effect.

Caustic queries

In the context of the flaming vortex that is Sri Lanka, these questions about the after-death are even more caustic – could you really say you had done any good in your life when the very notion of that is so horribly compromised on the island? This is not because what is right is not clear, but because no one who claims to do good has, or can have, their hands clean. That feels as true of the Sri Lanka of 1989 as it does of the Sri Lanka of 2020, making the book acutely contemporary in a sense.

These questions Karunatilaka raises on death, too, appear as adjuncts to the book's frenzied velocity – not meditated upon for too long, before being consumed by the next bout of violence and terror. This, too, is fitting in its own way; we go through life in a blur, rarely pausing to take stock, before it all ends. *Chats with the Dead* zooms in on that very end, with stellar precision.

The writer is a researcher based in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

WHODUNNIT

They do it with coconut chutney

The ghost of Agatha Christie continues to haunt people who are continents away from her prim English countryside

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Sonya Dutta Choudhury

Twelve of us, gathered for a weekend of books at a homestay on the Kerala backwaters. Coconut palms rise into an azure sky, a houseboat's moored to the jetty, a yellow hammock's strung across trees. Now all we need is a murder, à la Agatha Christie.

High above the coconut palms a Brahminy kite soars and dives, and on the water, herons skim over the hyacinths. Less than a kilometre away in the wetlands is the notorious Cerbera odollam tree, whose green apple-like fruits cause instant death. On this still sunny early Friday evening in the backwaters, everything seems calm. But calm has never been particularly reassuring in a Christie novel.

I look around at the other 11, and it strikes me how little we know about each other. We could – all of us, anyone – be characters in a Christie novel.

There's A, whose travels take him for Vienna to Varanasi. In between he makes stopovers at the capital, where the powers-that-be accept files full of market reports from him.

There's R, who learnt Russian, because he fell in love with Dostoevsky and wanted to read him in the original. A son of the soil, his friends and acquaintances range from Polish, Czech and Canadian fellow students to chess grandmaster Kasparov and possibly even Putin.

Cosmopolitan cast

And D, who interestingly enough, works with the U.S. government, in the Department of Education, holding a position that sounds like the codeword for a spy. D seldom shrinks from speaking her mind. This sometimes draws her into controversy with her northern neighbour, the Canadian. A tall bluff man, hearty. He has a keen knowledge of the country and is well networked, being a member of two book clubs and a regular at little-known conferences. And if this sounds too John le Carré, there's also the Artist. She travels. Exhibitions in Paris and Dubai this year, in unknown other places coming up next year. Perhaps she is more than what she seems.

The last few to complete this motley mix are the Doctor of Development, the Tech Titan, the Chocolate Man, the Ghost Writer and the CEO. The Doctor of Development is Scandinavian, her work takes her to the smallest districts in India; the Tech Titan's travels are more international. The Chocolate Man commutes too, weekdays in Singapore, weekends in Mumbai.

Everyone's read Christie, starting from when we were about 10. Christie, like Enid Blyton, sells more in India than in England. Agatha Christie gave us our first lessons in psychology. We were mesmerised by Miss Marple, the elderly aunt who unerringly sniffs out out homicidal tendencies in a roomful of strangers. Christie gave us the first warnings about false news, with a tutorial on unreliable narrators. And all this complexity in such simple language.

> I look around at the other 11, and it strikes me how little we know about each other. We could — all of us, anyone — be characters in a Christie novel

Someone's missing

Back to the homestay, where teams are being drawn up for a Christie quiz. We realise someone is missing. It is the Ghost Writer.

We call out, we walk to the houseboat moored alongside. If this homestay were an English countryhouse, surely this houseboat would be Dead Man's Folly. In the Agatha Christie novel of that name, a game of guess-the-murderer turns sinister as a local girl turns up dead.

Thinking about this can spook us out, so we don't. We call out instead and there she appears, the Ghost Writer. She's been musing over the murders in *And Then There Were None*. Her edition looks unfamiliar, because the original had a title deemed racist now. Set on a lonely island, where a group of 10 fall prey to multiple murders, the book was called *Ten Little Niggers*.

It's dark by now: dinner has been served. The herons, kites and cormorants have retired for the night, only a frog or two croaks. Time to make our way through the darkness to our bedrooms.To sleep through the night, to come back to appams and coconut chutney for breakfast. And to a complete count of the original 12 of this cast, all alive and arguing still.

The writer is the author of *Career Rules: How to Choose Right & Get the Life you Want* and founder of the Juhu Book Club.

SHORT STORIES

Language and other maladies

The enactment of literary discourse in fiction might be an interesting exercise, but Roy is not quite able to pull it off

Anusua Mukherjee

Sumana Roy's penultimate work was a volume of poetry, *Out of Syllabus*, which, as the title suggests, hit out, not in so many words, of course, at the limitations of pedagogy – the bell might toll the end of a lesson in a particular subject in the classroom and the start of another, but outside the classroom all subjects overlap and watertight academic 'streams' merge into an ocean of knowledge. Roy is a professor – she speaks from experience.

Ironically, reading her latest collection of short stories, I felt I was locked up in a classroom and was being pelted with literary theory dressed up as fiction, because the teacher seemed to have decided that a story is the best way to make lesser mortals like her students grasp complex theory.

It's not an unexciting exercise *per se* – Oxford professor Iris Murdoch habitually pumped philosophy into her novels and the result was dizzying most often – but Roy, unfortunately, is neither here nor there.

A little lifeless

The stories barely touch you because the characters are diligently acting out some existential/ linguistic conundrum – they flop like lifeless puppets once the laboured performance is over. The endings are Roy's concession to the conventional story, which must head *somewhere*. Roy's subject matters – mostly unstructured cogitations of given characters – hardly warrant the kind of neat closures she gives them.

As to theory, a quote from Barthes – "I have a disease; I see language" – is the epigraph to the book and you know where this is headed. Only, it is much more rewarding to read Barthes than plod through Roy's stories pointing out the linguistic structures that underlie all that we think, see or feel.

In 'The New Provincials', an ambitious English professor from small-town Bengal realises, as he commutes to work on a public bus, that his surrounding linguistic reality better supports his middle-class mother reading Lakshmi's *panchali* every Thursday than George Eliot's Dorothea Brooke discovering that her provincial life in Middlemarch makes a mockery of her bookish idealism; in 'Literature and Other Ailments', the narrator cribs, "Literature turned me into a complainant, and it took away the joy of surprise and unexpectedness from my life", only to find out that lived life is far less dramatic than literature would have us believe.

The readers Roy's students might find the stories rewarding, but to other readers, they might sound just pretentious. ▪ SUPREET SAPKAL

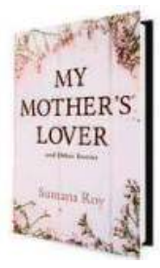
Roy's Eng-lit students might find the pieces rewarding – if only because they will resonate with what they have been taught by her in the classroom – but for the rest, the stories might sound just pretentious. Yes, there is humour, as in the death certificate that reads: "Unnatural death caused by trying to avoid natural death" ('Untouchability'); some stories, notably 'The Mountain Disease', with its subtle dismantling of the parochialism afflicting even so-called educated groups, are insightful. But they are hardly enough to keep you going.

Roy is a poet, as is the mother from the titular story. The mother here was a famous poet in Hindi – her poetry in translation (presented with apologies for what must have been lost in the process) speaks for Roy, I suppose. It might give you a few hiccups: "They are sending guards, I know,/ To prove that I stole the wombs you'd lent to the papaya tree..." As might some of her sentences: "It has begun to seem slightly artificial – this time, this borrowed time, like time borrowed from life for living a vicarious life inside a cinema hall, that is not like living inside a painting, chained by the frame" ('The Seventh Day').

Editor missing

Andrew Marvell's oft-quoted lines to his coy mistress: "But at my back I always hear/ Times wingèd chariot hurrying near" is attributed to Shakespeare in the same story. All of which makes one wonder: did this book go to press without an editor ever having looked at it?

Book blurbs are infamous for being hyperbolic. But this one's is plain misleading: "These are stories that will make you hide your tears and reach out for someone's hand as you read them, or phone a loved one to share the delicious humour, or underline sentences that you'd like to return to." Was it meant for some other book?



My Mother's Lover and Other Stories
Sumana Roy
Bloomsbury India
₹499

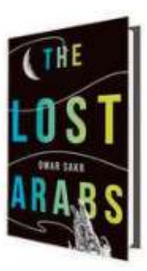
> It is far more rewarding to read Barthes than plod through Roy's stories pointing out the linguistic structures that underlie all that we think, see or feel

BROWSER

Suralakshmi Villa
Aruna Chakravarti
Pan Macmillan
₹650
A gynaecologist from Delhi abandons everything to travel to a village in Bengal and open a free clinic for women and children. Her actions confound her relatives and her story is pieced together from their accounts, letters and memoirs.

The Cliffhangers
Sabin Iqbal
Aleph
₹499
A tourist is raped in Kadaloor, a tranquil fishing village in south India. The chief suspects are a group of teenaged boys called the Cliffhangers. As they try to prove their innocence, there is rising communal tension in the village that tears it apart.

The Lost Arabs
Omar Sakr
Simon & Schuster
₹699
This collection of poetry by the Arab-Australian poet questions the bonds and borders of family, faith, queerness and nationality. Sakr's poetry confronts the notion of 'belonging', when one's family, culture and country are at odds with one's individual identity.



The World Between Us
Sara Naveed
Penguin Random House
₹250
Amal's disastrous Tinder match becomes her boss. Qais Ahmed is manipulative, arrogant, and charming. She is drawn to him until she discovers that he has a deep connection to a past she is trying to forget. Will this secret bind them or separate them?

SPORT

A mirror to cricket

Mature insights and fresh perspectives on the World Cup and other games of 2019

K.C. Vijaya Kumar

The *Wisden India Almanack* is more than a heavy book spread over 954 pages and featuring a cover patented with its blue shade unlike the mother brand in England, warmly referred to as the yellow brick considering its colour pattern. It is a tome that offers an affectionate look at the previous season and by delaying the latest edition, seventh to be precise, its editor Suresh Menon has managed to capture both the World Cup and the Indian Premier League.

The prose, as is the case with previous versions, sticks to elegance, nostalgia and an affectionate nod to the willow game. The gaze is both specific to India while also casting a bird's eye view across the cricketing globe. The writers range from veterans like Ayaz Memon, R. Kaushik, Sandeep Dwivedi and Gideon Haigh to the latest torch-bearers of marrying the right word with the exact shot – Bharat Sundaresan and Sidharth Monga. Yet, it isn't exactly a cosy boys club steeped in cricket writing and Menon draws in fresh voices be it a Rajdeep Sardesai, Shishir Hattangadi or Unmukt Chand.

'Wristy grace'

As starters go there is a Mike Brearley piece high on spice as he wryly points out India's reflexive opposition to change and the subsequent belated embrace be it Twenty20s or Decision Review System. Smriti Mandhana, Jasprit Bumrah, Mayank Agarwal, Fakhar Zaman, Dimuth Karunaratne and Rashid Khan, named Cricketers of the Year, get quaint tributes enriched with insights. And entering the Hall of Fame are Lala Amarnath and Gundappa Viswanath, and about the latter Menon writes: "All wristy grace and mischief, eastern magic and unattainability."

Wisden India Almanack 2019 & 2020
Edited by Suresh Menon
Bloomsbury
₹699

The World Cup's nerve busting final that ended in multiple ties before a quirky rule about number of boundaries serving as a tie-breaker at Lord's, gets its retrospective praise from Lawrence Booth. While referring to champion England and second-placed New Zealand, he pens: "To the victors, the spoils. And, for once, to the losers too."

Baring of the heart

The book is also about the baring of the heart and in this Unmukt scores big. Once toasted as the next big star, the former India under-19 captain lost his form, slipped into self-pity and then hauled himself up for the good fight.

Towards the end of his candid article, you can actually hear him whisper these words: "You chose this bat and ball and you chose it for a reason. Close your eyes and remember the first time you held it. It was simple then, and it should be simple now."

And there is pathos too. Sidhanta Patnaik, an editor with the almanack since its inception, passed away into the mists of time, succumbing to cancer. His colleague and co-author of the book on Indian women's cricket *The Fire Burns Blue*, Karunya Keshav wistfully remembers him: "As a writer, Patnaik was prolific and emotive. As a reporter, he was dogged and a trove of stats and abstruse facts." The almanack serves as a fair mirror to cricket and you cannot ask for more from a book.

SOCIETY

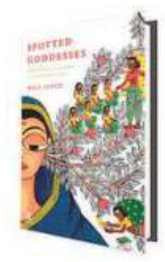
Streaming Dalit consciousness

Through ethnographic notes, a writer chronicles the fragile, vulnerable and personal experiences of women who, on occasion, know how to celebrate life too

Suraj Yengde

I had a good chance to host the book talk of Roja Singh's *Spotted Goddesses* in June 2018 at the Ambedkar Lecture Series I ran at Harvard. The book was then in a German publisher edition. Roja Singh's ancestors converted to Christianity for the very reason that many Dalits went to the liturgy of white wo/man's church – for economic viability and status and dignity.

Born into a family of educators, father a professor and mother teacher, Singh had a privileged childhood, where the "c" word seldom featured. Singh thus grew up with a non-caste (upper caste) sensibility. Upon realising her caste at the age of 26 she felt enraged for two reasons: her parents not exposing her to caste, and the lowness that her caste was kept into. Singh eventually overcame the trauma and "learned to love her Dalit identity more" in the thatched roof huts and among humble yet resolved Dalit women who own their identity with more pride.



Spotted Goddesses: Dalit Women's Agency-Narratives on Caste and Gender Violence
Roja Singh
Zubaan Books
₹795

It is through this lens of middle-class, Dalit Christian women that we witness the beat of a Dalit woman: her life, her story, talent, generosity and compassion in dealing with violence and subverting it to celebrate which the author foregrounds as *earthy humanness*, in the melodious notes of Dalit women of rural Tamil Nadu.

Earthy humanness centres on the degendered person – the human who is grounded in the ethics of dignity and wellbeing while devouring care in the songs of paraparesis of Indian caste society.

Singh dives into the colonial ethnographic methodology to reclaim herself and the method itself. Oral narratives are hardly caricatured as novel mediums if written from an intra-community perspective.

The musical storytelling does not have processed thought as a condition for building a discourse. They are fragile, vulnerable, private and extremely sensitive. Deciphering them as a mode of knowledge for the wider community's consumption, Singh argues that these oral narratives comprise "multi-textured dimensions of Dalit culture along with Dalit female agency" thereby becoming "resistance to victimization". Bama notes Dalit culture is a repository of Dalit women's wisdom.

The book meticulously weaves ethnographic notes – stories and songs – by carefully presenting a narrative that makes one shudder and tatter into pieces.

The stories are incredibly disturbing and yet Dalit people find occasions to celebrate their life too. It is the genius of the author who has managed to bring out such personal experiences.

> Amid the humble, rural Dalit women of Tamil Nadu, the author learnt to love her own identity more

Formidable ride

Singh has delivered a work of immense breadth. Sharp yet limited, this book has caricatured Dalit women's style, voice, rage, courage, disruption, wail, anger, innocence, morality, dare, subversion, protest, submission, etc. to the phenomenal life of sassiness and attractive pedagogy of Dalit community as a whole. The author couldn't remove herself from the text as it lives in her. She is passionate about the work and the stories and songs that have inspired her. This book is an academic story of two powerful Dalit women leaders, activists, justice seekers Kalai and Rani, among other formidable women in Tamil Nadu, who preface gallant by embodying the spirits of ancestors to subvert their submission. The author places Dalit women's body as a site of exiled self wherefrom the process of de-colonisation should begin.

Although the stories presented are of rural Tamil Nadu, they easily speak to the rest of India. It has brought forth the plight of Dalit women who are pushed into the unforgiving dark chambers of suffering and epidemic violence.

Good primer

The book is the story of charming sheroes that Dalits in contemporary times need to inspire. It serves as a good primer packed with nuanced commentary on India's caste condition. One can argue the problem of women in India and Dalit women in extension comes from the epics which condition the thought process of identifying characteristics, virtues, beauties and norms of moral high from the scriptural anecdotes such as *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* in real life. A Dalit girl has to "transgress" to feel beautiful.

In addition to the book's many strengths in data gathering, it misses the socio-historical density. The Dalit history month was already experimented by the creative genius of Kanshi Ram through "Ambedkar Mela on Wheels" in 1980. The question of queerness and sexuality would have been an important mediation for the readers to grasp on the entirety of Dalit women experience. Nonetheless, the book elucidates the importance of allyship and how it has helped the subjects of her study to continue their fight. However, in the cacophonous tit-for-tat type of clickbait politics it seems to be an impossible option.

The author of Caste Matters is a post-doctorate fellow at Harvard Kennedy School.

No words The Dalit women of Seshasamudram village in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu in front of their houses destroyed in caste clashes.
▪ B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

EDUCATION

Poverty of ideas and a crisis in learning

Why has Indian education failed to imbibe the teachings of Gandhi and Tagore and lead students towards a path of inquiry?

Krishna Kumar

Shashikala Srinivasan attempts to articulate what Tagore seems to have learnt from folk traditions and Gandhi from his practice of crafts, especially spinning. Together, they stand as tall and exceptional figures in the history of ideas about education. Their special contribution lies in critiquing colonial education. There were other critics too, but Gandhi and Tagore went deeper in realising why colonial ideas about educating Indians were going to prove a long-term liability.

This book looks at the present-day crisis of higher education by, first, probing colonialism philosophically and, then, listening to the deeper voices of Gandhi and Tagore, to seek answers for the future. As one might imagine, these answers are of a radical nature. In fact, this book is not about solutions at all. It helps us to understand how lost we are as a society, in terms of our idea of knowledge and its authentic pursuit in colleges and universities.

Colonial rupture

Srinivasan starts her complex critique of India's higher education by tracing the evolution of liberal education in Europe. She explains its socio-cultural and political roots that permitted it to blossom under the conditions created by industrial growth.

The European model of education offered to the young student a route to development of the self by inquiry into the natural and social worlds. Theory-building and personal verification played important roles in the student's growth. It is common knowledge that Indian education fails to develop these habits of mind and capacities in a vast proportion of students. The question why this is so is mostly answered with reference to poor management of higher education, paucity of funds, political interference, and so on. All these surmises may be true, but Srinivasan's approach takes us to a different plane of questioning.

She persuades us to recognise the rupture that occurred in our collective mind and ethos about two centuries ago when the colonial (or modern) system of education got established. Older institutions faced ridicule and destruction.

Srinivasan's sharp analysis of historical documents from early 19th century reveals that colonial observers could not fully grasp the nature of education imparted by indigenous institutions. The external gaze missed certain key characteristics of the older system, especially its conception of knowledge and the practice of learning. Without being emotional, Srinivasan tells us why the colonial rupture had such crippling effect that we still cannot reflect and converse at leisure about the crisis our universities and colleges face today.

Srinivasan devotes a substantial part of her book to Gandhi. She helps us to recognise the deeper epistemology of crafts like spinning that Gandhi practised as a matter of personal culture and promoted as a symbol of struggle against colonial rule. Crafts provide a reflective space for the growth of self-discipline as a necessary ingredient of social ethics. This kind of practical learning helps us conceive education without compartmentalising it into hierarchies of various kinds.

Healing art

Srinivasan's analysis of Tagore points out that he too was aware of the problem of treating the isolated individual self as the learner.

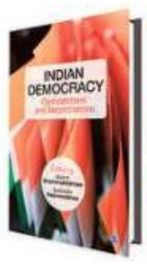
Art, he thought, will heal the injury colonial rule had inflicted on the Indian psyche, especially on its capacity to think freely and with confidence.

As one might imagine, Srinivasan has no solutions to offer. She hopes that by drawing on different traditions of thought, we can "create a richer milieu of discussion about education, enlarging our notion of what it means to lead a life of learning today." That is the last sentence of this incisive book, which must be read – and re-read – by people who are concerned about India's educational institutions. It is an exceptional contribution to a field currently wading through a long bog of trivialities.

The writer's latest book is Padhna, zara sochna (Reading, with a little care to think).

Liberal Education and its Discontents: The Crisis in the Indian University
Shashikala Srinivisan
Routledge
₹995

Indian Democracy: Contradictions and Reconciliations
Edited by Arvind Sivaramakrishnan & Sudarsan Padmanabhan
Sage
₹1,295
This volume analyses major facets of democracy in India. It highlights the way India, by adhering to democratic principles, has often reconciled contradictions arising from caste and other inequalities.



Mobilizing the Marginalized: Ethnic Parties without Ethnic Movements
Amit Ahuja
Oxford University Press
₹550
India's over 200 million Dalits have been mobilised by social movements and political parties. Ahuja draws on research to show that a marginalised group gains more from participating in a social movement than from voting as a bloc.

Missing in Action: The Prisoners Who Never Came Back
Chander Suta Dogra
HarperCollins
₹699
What happened to the men who disappeared in enemy territory while on missions to Pakistan and East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) in 1965 and 1971? A journalist tries to find the answer and raises questions about the role of the government.

From Cowrie to Crypto: Blockchain and the Future of Money
T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
Westland Books
₹399
This book explains what blockchain is, how it works, what it has to do with cryptocurrencies. It also discusses how this is different from any form of money, the advantages, dangers, and the best way to manage it.

DELHI THE HINDU ▪ Magazine
Sunday, February 16, 2020

BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE

Cuddly with a chance of venom

Slow lorises may look cute but will bite anyone stupid or ignorant enough to try touching them

Janaki Lenin

The focus of Swapna Nelaballi's research was a cute tailless creature, the size of a well-fed house cat, called the Bengal slow loris. None of the eight species of slow lorises reciprocates affectionate human cuddling and will bite anyone stupid or ignorant enough to try, not even sparing celebrities such as Lady Gaga. Their sharp teeth spill blood but also infect the wound with venom. Besides the platypus, slow lorises are the only venomous mammals.

The stinky oily secretion from glands on the inner surface of loris elbows is harmless but becomes toxic when mixed with its saliva. Smearing this nasty concoction on itself and its young puts off nocturnal mammal predators and even insect parasites. The venom, similar to allergy-causing proteins in cat dander, can cause a severe allergic reaction in humans.

Nelaballi, however, had no reason to worry about being bitten during her study at Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary, Tripura. She was content to gaze up at the forest canopy by the light of a headlamp that made the loris' large round eyes reflect bright, fiery red. "You cannot confuse them with anything else," she says.

Safe ride A Bengal slow loris with a young clinging on to her back. ▪ WIKI COMMONS

Liquid diet

Despite the potency of the venom that can kill its rivals, the Bengal slow loris does not use it to overcome prey as it lives on an almost entirely liquid diet. It snacks on fruits, insects and bird eggs occasionally, but unlike the south Indian and Sri Lankan slender loris, its staple is plant sap and gum. It rouses itself from sleep after nightfall and climbs down head first from the forest canopy. With its closely spaced lower incisors and canines that biologists call 'toothcomb', it gouges deep holes in the trunks of trees and lianas.

Not any tree will do. The primate favours particular species such as belliric myrobalan, climbing wattle, and elephant rope tree, and it selects specific specimens of those species much as we choose the best fruits in the market. Some trunks sport more than a hundred 'taps' while others are barely marked. Nelaballi watched a loris tear a new cavity for over 30 minutes. "It's rare to see one start afresh," she says. When it goes to work, it holds its posture stock-still for several minutes without suffering cramps because of its unique blood circulation.

Most often, instead of ripping fresh holes every night, the slow loris remembers the location of existing ones, visiting them as frequently as twice a night. With its long pointed tongue, the primate drinks up sap that drips from these injuries. Viscous gum collects slowly, which it scrapes and chews. While the watery liquid is easy to digest, the enlarged cecum in its gut processes the carbohydrate-rich gums.

It snacks on fruits, insects and bird eggs occasionally, but its staple is plant sap and gum

Stickler for routine

Late in the dry season, when the wild guava (unrelated to the common edible fruit) blooms at night, the slow loris abandons its habitual diet and favourite trees to bury its face in the pom-pom-like flowers to sip the sweet nectar. Nelaballi knew before the study to expect the creature to live off plant secretions, but she was surprised by how much time it spent at it.

The Bengal slow loris is a stickler for routine, always using the same routes to reach the same dining trees, a boon to the researcher during her fieldwork. If she arrived late, she knew where to find her subject.

The night after a heavy storm, she noticed a thin branch used by a loris had snapped. The animal paced back and forth, distressed by this unexpected obstacle on its highway. Reluctant to find an alternative route, it climbed on to the broken limb only to have it crash to the ground. The primate landed on all fours like a cat and stood stunned for a moment before shinning up the tree and walking along another branch to reach its dinner. And a new routine was born.

Janaki Lenin is not a conservationista but many creatures share her home for reasons she is yet to discover.

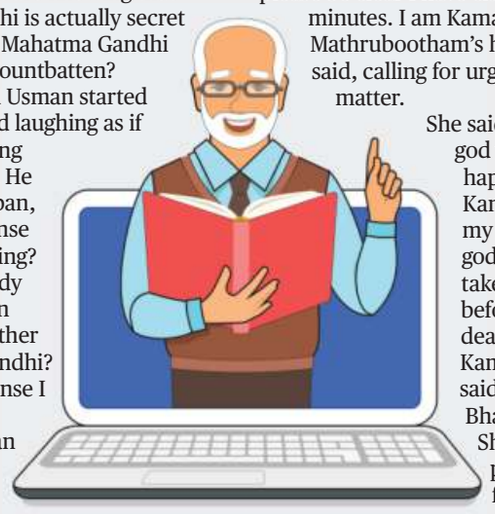
LETTER FROM A CONCERNED READER

All lies, all lies

Respected Madam/Sir,

Yoga means what? No, no, you tell me. Hello madam/ sir, you answer my question. Yoga means what? Yoga means relaxation and peace of mind and all no? Instead what is happening to Mr. Mathrubootham? Nonstop irritation.

Two days back, after Seniors Intermediate Yoga, our friends group is walking home and doing normal daily talks. Politics cricket cinema Modi and all. Suddenly Prathapan said hello friends whether you are knowing that Indira Gandhi is actually secret daughter of Mahatma Gandhi with Mrs. Mountbatten? Mohammed Usman started laughing and laughing as if tractor getting breakdown. He said Prathapan, what nonsense you are talking? How can Lady Mountbatten become mother of Indira Gandhi? What nonsense I say?



▪ GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK

Prathapan said, Usman, look in my phone. I will show you message on WhatsApp. Full story is there with secret photos and all. Whether they will put such shocking truth in history textbook? Never. Thank god people are now finding out these real truths because of WhatsApp.

I said Prathapan, whether you will believe anything coming on WhatsApp? He said Mathrubootham, anything means what? Look, there is photo and full details of secret letter from secret government department and U.K. intelligence agency and all. As if people will sit at home and do lies and chicanery and distribute?

Tell me Mathrubootham. If she is really daughter of Nehru then why her surname is Gandhi? Why it is not Indira Nehru? EUREKA! LIES EXPOSED! AGENDA EXPOSED!

What I should have done? I should have said Prathapan, enjoy WhatsApp. See you tomorrow for yoga. Instead, what I did? I said, Prathapan come to my flat. I am going to solve this. We sat on dining table and I put laptop and mobile phone ready for investigation. Firstly, I opened Internet encyclopaedia website on Mrs. Gandhi and Mahatma Gandhi and Mrs. Mountbatten. I said look, Prathapan not even one 1 mm information is there. He said these are all lies being spread by Indian government and royal family of U.K. See! Encyclopedia itself is called Britannica.

Then I took phone and called Mrs. Mathrubootham close friend Mrs. Bhatia. She is professor of history in one college in Bhopal. I said hello Mrs. Bhatia, this is Mathrubootham from Chennai. Whether you are remembering? She said there are 2 million Mathrubootham in Chennai, please be clear I have class in 20 minutes. I am Kamalam Mathrubootham's husband, I said, calling for urgent matter.

She said oh my god what happened to Kamalam? Oh my god, why god did not take me before my dear Kamalam. I said Mrs. Bhatia, no no. She is perfectly fine. I said one urgent question is there. Whether Mrs. Indira Gandhi is really daughter of Mahatma Gandhi and Mrs. Mountbatten? Immediately Mrs. Bhatia is cutting the phone, but after saying 10-15 words. I think it is Punjabi abuses.

Prathapan said see Mathrubootham, they are afraid to admit the shocking truth. I said Prathapan, we will do more research. What is the age difference between Mrs. Mountbatten and Mrs. Gandhi? Mrs. Mountbatten is in boarding school in U.K. when Mrs. Gandhi is being delivered. While Mahatma Gandhi is doing *gajabuja* against Britishers in Bombay. Now you see, you fool?

Prathapan said, maybe British Intelligence agency has changed all the dates. If you have guts, show me birth certificate. Oho. You will show WhatsApp *mannankatti* but I have to show birth certificate is it, Prathapan? Ok, then I am sending you something on WhatsApp, please believe every word okay? Then I sent him all the abuses Mrs. Bhatia is saying on phone.

Yours in exasperation,
J. Mathrubootham

GOREN BRIDGE

Spades or no trump

Neither vulnerable, North deals

Bob Jones

NORTH
♠ K J 10 3
♡ K J 9
◇ K 10 2
♣ K Q 8

WEST
♠ Q 6 4
♡ 10 4 3
◇ Q 3
♣ J 10 9 4 3

EAST
♠ 9 2
♡ Q 7 5 2
◇ 9 8 6 5 4
♣ 7 2

SOUTH
♠ A 8 7 5
♡ A 8 6
◇ A J 7
♣ A 6 5

The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
1NT*	Pass	4NT	Pass
6♠	All pass		

*15-17 points

Opening lead: Jack of ♣

Today's deal is from a competition in Australia, where the "weak" no trump, 12-14, is popular. Proponents show a 15-17 no trump by opening one of a minor and rebidding one no trump. When partner responds in opener's four-card major, opener has a choice of rebids. North, with a completely flat hand, chose to rebid one no trump instead of raising spades. South made a quantitative raise and North finally showed his spade support at the six level.

South was Mike Cornell, a world champion from New Zealand. Had they played this deal in six no trump, declarer would have had to pick up two out of the three missing queens. In spades, however, Cornell showed that it was only necessary to find the queen of trumps, provided that the trumps split 3-2. It is slightly better to play West for the queen of spades, as you can pick up a possible queen-nine-fourth only in the West hand. Accordingly, Cornell won the opening club lead with dummy's king, led a spade to his ace, and then led a spade to dummy's jack. Success!

It was now a simple matter to draw the last outstanding trump, cash the ace and queen of clubs, and then cash the ace and king of hearts. Cornell then exited with a heart, not caring which opponent won the trick. Whichever opponent had the queen would be end played and forced to yield a ruff-sluff or break the diamond suit. Cornell just faced his cards and the opponents conceded. Nicely played!

QUIZ

Easy like Sunday morning

Popular phrases and interesting idioms!

Berty Ashley

1 On February 16, 600 AD, Pope Gregory I did something that he believed was a way to combat the raging Plague of 590. He decreed that for a certain act (which he believed was the first sign of falling sick) any person in the vicinity should wish for divine protection on that person. What was the act and what were you supposed to do according to Pope Gregory the Great?

2 This phrase was made popular by its usage in *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens. It is a common saying which is not actually accurate. It refers to a particular bird which, unlike most other birds, does not swoop in the air but follows a certain path. Historically, these birds were kept on ships as on release they instinctively flew towards land. What phrase is this that is used to refer to a direct path between two points?

3 This phrase refers to a person or thing which is preferred above someone or something. The original version referred to an opening in a part of the body which is invaluable to us. The phrase appears five times in the *Bible* and once in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* where the aperture is replaced by a fruit. One theory is that the fruit which was spherical resembled the aperture and hence it was used in the phrase. What phrase is this?

4 This phrase refers to an insincere display of emotions. The origin of this phrase refers to the fact that this particular animal usually feeds above water and during the feeding their eyes dry out so they naturally lubricate them. This gives the illusion of irony of a remorseless creature doing something it does not mean to. What phrase is used to denote such superficial sympathy?

Tale end A sketch from *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens. ▪ WIKI COMMONS

5 The first recorded use of this phrase was in an American 1873 editorial which suggested that excess drinking could be curtailed if owners insisted on following a certain system where every drinker is responsible for his own bill. One of the theories is that it referred to a certain group of immigrant people in the U.S. who took pride on never owing a debt to anyone. What phrase is this?

6 This phrase means to not take something seriously or view it with scepticism. The origin of this phrase is supposed to have come from Pliny the Elder's *Naturalis Historia* where he gives the recipe for an antidote to a poison. It has a particular item that makes it seem improbable. What is this item which you might use for taste but not for credibility?

7 There are several theories about the origin of this phrase. The most common theory is that it refers to doing an action to carry out a certain method of execution. Another theory is that it refers to a beam on which slaughtered pigs were suspended. The object in this phrase also lends itself to a name of a list one would like to do before things come to an end. What phrase is this?

8 This is supposed to be a magical phrase first seen in the French translation *Les Mille et Une Nuits* by Antoine Galland of an Arabic work. The hero of the story overhears a group of 40 thieves saying this phrase to open a cave in which they store their treasures. What phrase is this which is quite popular, thanks to many movies and cartoons?

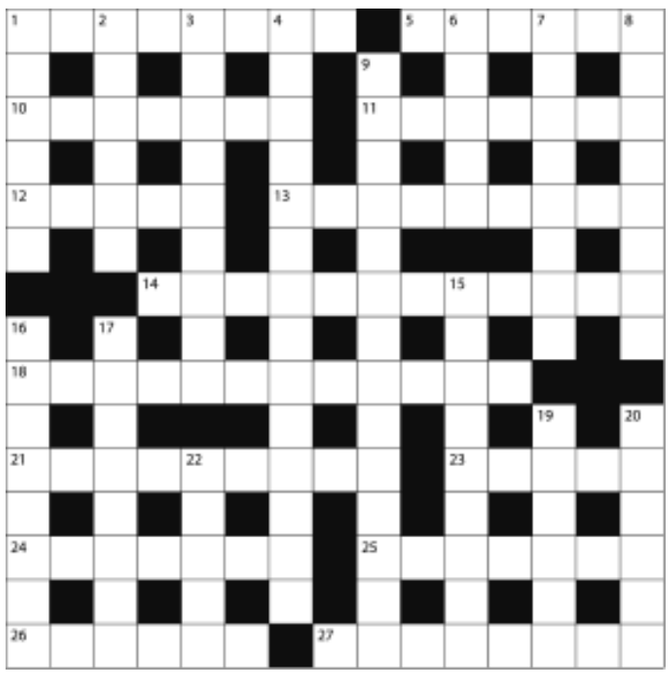
9 This idiom is used to describe the act of ignoring certain information which one does not wish to know. Although there is evidence of this phrase being used in the 17th century, it became popular in 1801 after Admiral Horatio Nelson was told by the commander of the British Forces to stop his action using signal flags. Nelson, who had a visual handicap, then apparently lifted his telescope and said, "I really do not see the signal," and went on to win the battle. What phrase is this?

10 This phrase comes from an usage by ships at sea. Ships that were victorious in battle would sail in to port with their flags raised high on the mastheads. A ship that had been defeated would bring down the flags. The two-word term refers to the act of unfurling and the flag itself. What phrase is this that one nowadays uses after an exam or interview?

A molecular biologist from Madurai, our quizmaster enjoys trivia and music, and is working on a rock ballad called 'Coffee is a Drink, Kaapi is an Emotion'. @bertyashley

Answers
1. Say 'God Bless You' when someone sneezes.
2. As the crow flies
3. Apple of my eye
4. Crocodile tears
5. Going Dutch
6. Take it with a 'grain of salt' or 'pinch of salt'
7. Kick the bucket
8. Open sesame
9. Turning a blind eye
10. With 'flying colours'

THE SUNDAY CROSSWORD NO. 3087



Across
1 A loud attack? Well, sadly, yes (6,2)
5 Wipes beer mats less regularly (6)
10 Perhaps Netanyahu is PM losing backing of Likud (7)
11 Engage some dim Merseybeaters (7)
12 After review, hotel won't accommodate screeching infant (5)
13 Discerning acts of love (6,3)
14 Hide with Star Trek character getting emaciated (4,3,5)
18 She'd start off falteringly, less likely to get job done (5-7)
21 Cook cassoulet? It's not worth the effort (4,5)
23 Back-to-back houses leading to a fuss (3-2)
24 Draw what to put on horse, an ornamental trinket (3-4)
25 Increases likelihood of popular verse in, for starters, Times Educational Supplement (7)
26 Composed, seated, relaxed (6)
27 Vacantly using authoritarian dogma, nicks Africans (8)

Down
1 A child's key (1,5)
2 Once in a blue moon, rate cut in half by bank (6)
3 Bizarrely, I twice knitted image of suspect (6-3)
4 What's seen with floating torsos? (8,6)
6 Type such as Abramovich (5)
7 Gentleman with symbol of potency: red meat (8)
8 'Most fragrant' wife involved as judge presides over trial (8)
9 Single fine king uneasily delivers premonition (7,7)
15 He arranged veg on hot cooker (9)
16 Vis-à-vis Ola, Tess largely makes interaction impossible (8)
17 Relaxed with name dropping? Something to explain (5,3)
19 Cirro-strati partially forming platforms (6)
20 Passes, lacking energy, making errors (6)
22 Gold is one asset initially included in valuation (5)

Solution No. 3086

Rainbow hues Roses packed and ready at the International Flower Auction Bangalore, a trading platform.

Not so natural Sellers often inject artificial dyes into the roses to create exotic coloured blue and green roses and more.

Flower power Retailers begin to count and check the roses after bidding is over at the International Flower Auction.

Bed of roses Sacks of short-stemmed roses, which are sold through the year, at the flower market in Bengaluru's K.R. Market. Business here begins as early as 2 a.m. every day.

FULL BLOOM

The day of the ROSE

Welcome to Bengaluru's K.R. Market, where the sale of roses peaks during Valentine's Day. But of course.

Bhagya Prakash K.

Over generations and across cultures, roses have come to symbolise love. A single rose stands for love at first sight; two for mutual friendship; three spell the words, 'I love you'. But what does a tonne of roses mean? Business, of course.

It's 2 a.m. at K.R. Market in Bengaluru, and trucks carrying roses in all hues are rolling in. The air is infused with the mingled scents of thousands of flowers. Soon, the crowds start to come, and business begins. And on Valentine's Day, roses are the obvious star.

India's tryst with roses goes back to the Mughals who, according to the Indian Rose Federation, came to the country with camel-loads of the flowers. As roses blossomed through the country and horticulture elevated it to an art form, the flowers crossed borders and kingdoms. Bengaluru's climate was perfect to grow it, and Mysuru kings Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan took an active interest in horticulture.

The flower is the life breath for other industries such as *attar* or rose-scented *agarbatti*. Bengaluru alone sells 30 to 40 lakh rose stems each day, says B.B. Devaiah, general manager of International Flower Auction Bangalore (IFAB). A.S. Patil grows roses in Doddaballapura, and he plans his harvest cycle in such a way that he can bring the the most roses to K.R. Market and the IFAB around February 14. "The rose is the king of flowers," he says simply.

Floral pattern An overhead view of K.R. Market early in the morning.

For the road The flower girls try to make the most of Valentine's Day as they come up to cars and bikes waiting at traffic lights.

DELHI THE HINDU ▪ Magazine
Sunday, February 16, 2020

60 MINUTES WITH GYAN PRAKASH

'The idea of a secular nation is emerging from the streets'

There are many parallels but also important differences between the current protests and the JP movement of the 70s, says this eminent historian

▪ ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

- M.A. in history from JNU, 1975; Ph.D. from Penn, 1984
- Areas of research include modern South Asian history, colonialism, postcolonial theory
- Was an active member of the Subaltern Studies Collective; jointly edited its journal in 1999-2000
- His 2010 book *Mumbai Fables* was adapted into the film, *Bombay Velvet* (2015)

Varghese K. George

A historian of modern India, Gyan Prakash is the Dayton-Stockton Professor of History at Princeton University and author of the 2018 book *Emergency Chronicles: Indira Gandhi and Democracy's Turning Point*. He compares the current situation in the country to the turmoil of the 70s. Excerpts:

How would you compare the current debates in India regarding state power, civil liberties and human rights with the situation in the early 70s?

■ There are many parallels and there are important differences too. The Emergency, although an exceptional period, was also in continuation of many of the laws that already existed, including preventive detention. The Indian state already had extraordinary powers that Indira Gandhi used. In a way, the Emergency was a sign of weakness. That was the only way she could stay in power. What is different today is that the present government can use those laws from a position of strength. It is not a position of weakness. The second difference is the social force on the ground. Though Indira Gandhi had the Youth Congress, it was not a strong social force. The present government has a substantial social force that acts in coordination with it. What happened at JNU is an example. You have people from the political organisation working with the police, which was not the case with the Emergency.

How is the social agenda of Hindutva nationalism different from the social agenda during Emergency?

■ Indira Gandhi faced the question of establishing a relationship between the state and the people. The JP movement brought that crisis dramatically to the forefront of national debate. One way in which she tried to solve that question was by using state power, the 20-point programme, for instance. You could see it cynically, but it was also in line with the practice of trying to enforce social change from above. But the Emergency was not able to solve it. After 1979, the relationship between the state and the people was sought to be reworked through other ideological tools. The idea of the nation was central then too – for instance, there were catchphrases such as 'talk less, produce more'. Today, the nation is central, but it is also segmented on religious lines. The attempt is to resolve the conflict between the state and the people through Hindutva.

The use of authority in pursuit of a standardised social agenda and for the creation of a Hindu Rashtra are two fundamentally different things perhaps?

■ Indira Gandhi would be the last time Indians were addressed as Indians. Today, they are addressed as Indians who are Hindus. That is a different kind of politics.

> JP talked about 'total revolution', but never about caste... The current protest movement is alive to the caste question in a manner JP never was

Is that something that will last long and change the course of the country?

■ It has already changed the nature of politics. Indians are disaggregated. It started in 1979 – caste and religion. Indira Gandhi herself had started using Hindu symbols. Rajiv Gandhi opened the gates of Babri Masjid. The BJP has taken it forward. The situation has become very much like Israel's. Being an Israeli and being a Jew have become indistinguishable. A religion-state-nation nexus has emerged and it has already changed India. In light of the current protests, you see some pushback, and the Constitution has emerged as a talisman. People may not know the details, but they are invoking Article 14, they are invoking the Preamble. It will be interesting to see how this plays out.

Do you think the Congress party can be the vehicle for protecting the idea of an inclusive India?

■ Well, they have not done much about it. For several years, commentators have been writing that the Congress has been unable to come up with a counter narrative. You know the BJP narrative but where is the counter narrative? Now there are counter narratives emerging from the streets. It is quite remarkable. Muslims are saying that they can be Muslims and Indians. This is an idea of a secular nation that is emerging from these protest movements. I think, what emerges from this will be very consequential if it can be sustained.

Rahul Gandhi often bears the brunt of Emergency. The BJP and PM Modi claim to be torchbearers of democracy and liberty. Is there some irony here?

■ It is ironic that the very people who claim to have been victims of Emergency – many of them were – are now adopting policies diametrically opposed to civil liberties, free speech and democracy. At the same time, many of the political leaders today cut their political teeth with the JP movement and emerged as leaders. It will be interesting to see what kind of leadership today's politics throws up.

What were the motivations of the participants of the JP movement and what lessons from it are relevant today?

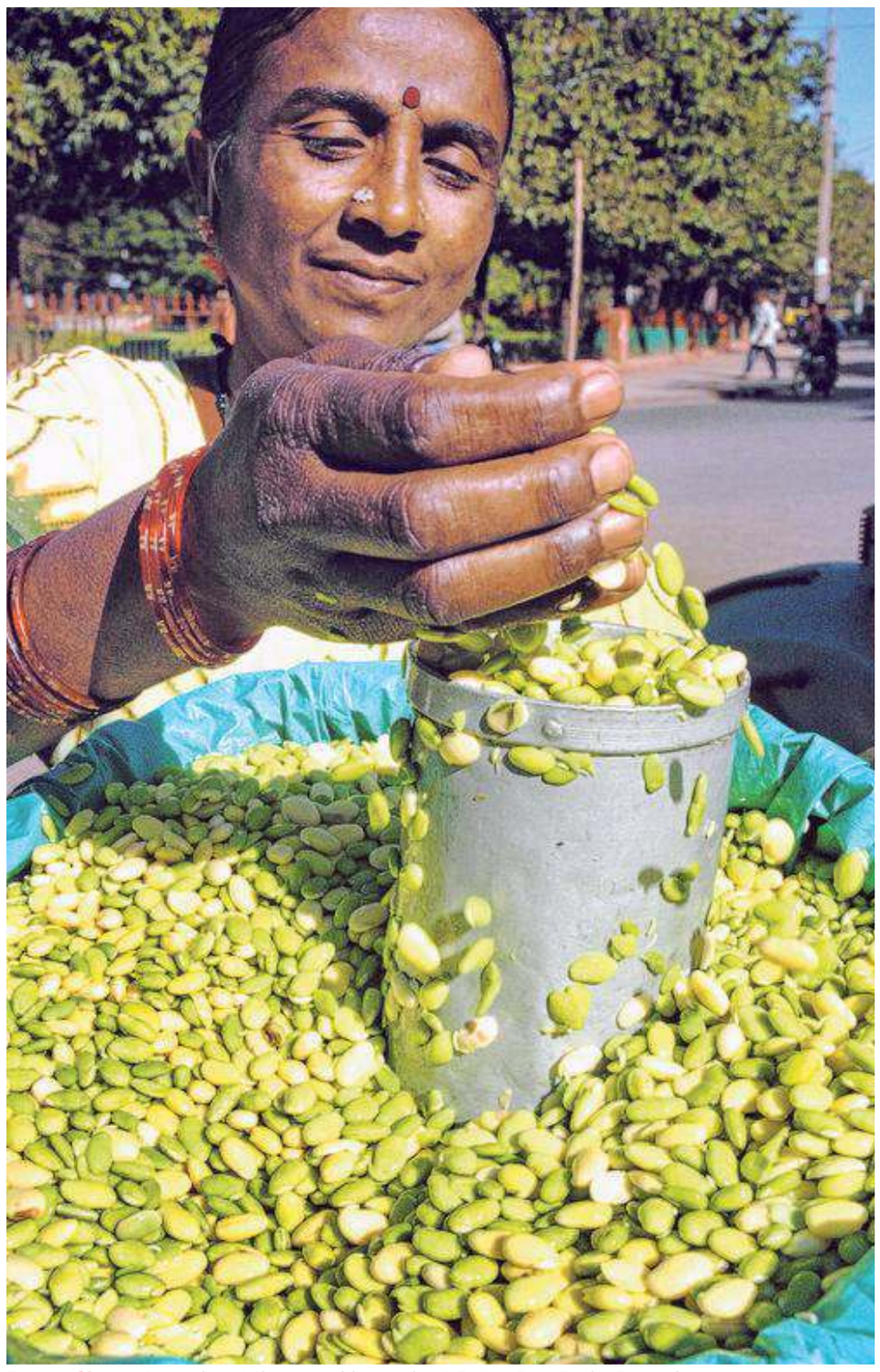
■ Just before the movement began, in 1971, all right-wing groups were defeated thoroughly by Indira Gandhi. It is a fact that the JP movement was driven by the RSS and ABVP. JP (Jayaprakash Narayan) was the face, but the organising force was RSS and ABVP and some caste leaders. They spoke of a total revolution. Their motivations were different. The current movement has no visible organisation, but it is generating its own art, poetry and literature. In the JP movement, there was nothing like that. In that sense, the present movement is more organic than the JP movement. The RSS was then waiting in the wing; since there is no political force behind the current one, what shape this will take remains an open question.

But you sound optimistic?

■ Yes I am. Students and youth are usually drivers of change. The constitutional patriotism that is emerging is unprecedented.

What role does caste play in such mobilisations?

■ In Bihar, for instance, many leaders of the JP movement belonged to OBC, including Nitish Kumar, whose father was a part of the Congress party but his growth was hindered by the caste factor. OBCs found an alternative in Lohiaite ideology. What is interesting is that JP talked about 'total revolution', but never about caste or upending local power structures. Never a word on land rights, etc. The current protest movement is alive to the caste question in a manner JP never was. JP was only against state socialism. Today, the younger leaders talk about Ambedkar, Dalits and the Muslim minority. The social roots and potential of this movement are far greater than the JP movement.



Bags of bean A vendor at the avarakkai mela at Sajjan Rao Circle, Bengaluru. ▪ K. MURALI KUMAR

NOSHTALGIA

An ode to the common broad bean

The wafting aroma of these winter beans was an annual ritual in our kitchen

Bindu Gopal Rao

I used to look forward to winter as a child growing up in Hyderabad, waiting to escape the city's unrelenting heat through the year. Winter meant stories of seasonal food, mostly of avarakkai (Hyacinth beans/broad beans), not available in Hyderabad around the year.

The meals at home, in our nuclear family, were always simple, fuss-free, vegetarian fare. My mother focused on eating local and seasonal – a guiding principle at home. As I write this, I wonder how this is the exact food concept that has taken over the world right now – of eating seasonal foods from the region.

Family affair

Come winter, the seasonal avarakkai would make its much-awaited appearance. My mom would regale us with stories of how shelling the beans and then removing the outer skin was once a family affair. She also spoke of how the best beans were the ones that had the characteristic *sogadu* – aroma of the beans harvested at the right time – and how the bean made its way into almost everything from idli, dosa, upma, rice, rasam and sambhar.

One winter my father returned from Bangalore with a bag full of avarakkai. The distinctive smell of the beans in a cloth bag is something I can never forget. Excited, my parents, sister and I sat together to shell the beans; I kept looking at my fingers change colour from the oily texture of the bean pod. My mother explained that *sogadu* is also when the bean is at its best size and flavour and is usually harvested after a spell of rainfall. The next few days were all about avarakkai – from avarakkai saaru (rasam), a recipe that she learnt from her mother, to avarakkai uppitu (upma) and akki roti (rice rotis).

However, my favourite was the hittaku avarebele huli (sambhar made with peeled beans). When I first tasted it, I knew it was unlike the regular sambhar we had at home. This one was made using the beans cooked in ground masala and not the traditional dal.

Sweet and fried

Years later when we shifted to Bengaluru, winters meant easy access to the much-loved avarakkai as well as seeing it in many other forms including in a halwa and as a fried savoury snack. At my first newspaper job in Bengaluru, the office canteen served it with poori and it tasted exactly like what we used to eat at home.

Winter is also when the avarakkai mela takes place at Bengaluru's Sajjan Rao Circle, an annual affair that sees crowds throng to sample myriad interpretations of the bean. After visiting several editions of the festival, I can say that there is something new to look forward to every year.

The bean can make its appearance even in your pani puri and gulab jamun. The versatility of this bean and the way it blends into so many dishes is really like no other. People also believe that the name of the city was inspired by the bean as it was called *Bendakala Ooru* (the city of baked beans) that eventually became Bengaluru. Avarakkai, for me, is a food memory that I cherish and hold close to my heart.

The freelance writer and photographer from Bengaluru seeks offbeat experiences through travel.

SUNDAY RECIPE

▪ BINDU GOPAL RAO

Hittaku Avarebele Huli

Ingredients

200 grams avarakkai without skin
2 medium onion
2 medium tomatoes
A few sprigs fresh coriander
100 grams dry coconut
4-5 dry red chillies
100 grams fresh coconut
2-3 green chillies
1 stick cinnamon
A few cloves garlic (optional)
1 tsp mustard seeds
1 tsp cumin seeds
A pinch asafoetida
1 tsp turmeric
2 sprigs curry leaves
1 tbsp oil or ghee
1 tbsp sambhar powder
1 tbsp rasam powder
50 ml tamarind juice
Salt to taste

Method

1. Fry onions, dry coconut, cinnamon, garlic and red chillies and set aside. Once cool, grind them with fresh coconut, green chillies, fresh coriander, garlic and tomato into a coarse paste.
2. Heat oil in a pan and add mustard seeds, cumin seeds, curry leaves and asafoetida. Once the mustard seeds sputter, add the ground masala and fry for a few minutes.
3. Add the washed avarakkai beans and fry for some time. Add a little water, salt, turmeric, sambhar and rasam powder. Keep adding water in small quantities as the dish starts to thicken. Cover and allow the avarakkai to cook in the ground masala.
4. Add tamarind juice and bring to a boil.
5. Serve hot. This can be had with rice, chappati or poori the way you like it — thick or watery.