



SC to hear petition for more compensation for Bhopal gas leak victims
page 7



Lalu Prasad, wife and son granted bail in IRCTC scam case
page 11



Cheteshwar Pujara powers Saurashtra into the Ranji Trophy final
page 15

NEARBY



Masseuse, son nabbed for couple's murder

NEW DELHI

A 40-year-old masseuse was arrested and her juvenile son apprehended on Monday for allegedly murdering an elderly couple at Mount Kailash apartments in south Delhi on January 18.

DELI METRO ▶ PAGE 1

Jind by-election records a turnout of over 75%

GURUGRAM

The high-stakes Jind Assembly by-election in Haryana recorded a turnout of more than 75% on Monday. The polling went off peacefully with no major incident of violence. The counting of votes will be taken up on January 31.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 10

Capital remains in grip of cold wave

NEW DELHI

Cold wave conditions remained unabated in the city on Monday with the minimum temperature settling at 5.5 degrees Celsius, three notches below average.

DELI METRO ▶ PAGE 1

SCORE 300 + in PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION By C. Rajput
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DELI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

Bodo outfit's leader, 14 others convicted in Assam blasts case

Ranjan Daimary-led NDFB set off series of explosions in 2008, killing 88 people

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

A special court on Monday convicted the chief of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), Ranjan Daimary, and 14 others in the 2008 Assam serial bombing case. In the serial blasts triggered by the NDFB on October 30, 2008, in Guwahati, Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon and Barpeta, 88 people were killed and over 500 injured.

Daimary and 21 others were named as accused in the case, which was taken over by the CBI from the Assam police. Seven of the accused are absconding, and three are believed to have been killed in encounters with security forces. The first chargesheet was filed in 2009, followed by the second and the final one on

Deadly strikes

Oct. 30, 2008:

Suspected NDFB extremists detonate bombs simultaneously in nine places, including 3 in Guwahati, leaving 88 dead, 540 injured

Dec. 2008:

Assam govt. hands over the case to CBI

Nine simultaneous blasts left a trail of death and mayhem

May 26, 2009:

CBI files chargesheet against 19 people, including NDFB founder Ranjan Daimary

Dec. 2009:

Daimary arrested from his hideout in Bangladesh

Dec. 2010:

Chargesheet filed against three others



Vehicles on fire after one of the blasts in Guwahati on October 30, 2008. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

The interim bail has been extended several times.

Death penalty sought

CBI investigating officer N.S. Yadav said the special court under Justice Aparna K. Chakraborty would pronounce the quantum of punishment on Wednesday. The

State sought the death penalty for the accused, he said.

They have been found guilty under the Indian Penal Code, the Explosive Substances Act, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Rahul promises income guarantee to the poor

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Monday announced that if voted to power in the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the government would ensure a minimum income guarantee to every poor person in the country.

"The Congress has decided to take a historic decision... The Congress-led go-

vernment is going to give minimum income guarantee. This means each poor person will have minimum income. This means there will be no hungry, poor people in India," he told the Kisan Abhaar Sammelan that was convened to express gratitude to Chhattisgarh's voters, particularly farmers. Mr. Gandhi followed it up with a tweet that promises to eradicate poverty and hunger. "We cannot build a new India while millions of our brothers and sisters suffer the scourge of poverty. If voted to power in 2019, the Congress is committed to a Minimum Income Guarantee for every poor person, to help eradicate poverty & hunger. This is our vision & our promise," the Congress chief tweeted.

Calling Mr. Gandhi's announcement 'historic and a turning point', former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram said it is based on the principle of universal basic income, a concept discussed in the Economic Survey by the ex-chief economic adviser to the Modi government, Dr. Arvind Subramanian.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Out of the blue



A body blow: A farmer couple trying to salvage the chili damaged in the rain at Allipuram near Khammam in Telangana on Monday. Unseasonal rain in many parts of the district in the last two days dealt a blow to chili farmers. The district received an average of 35.9 mm in the last 24 hours till 8 a.m. on Monday. ■ G.N. RAO

India clinches ODI series in style

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOUNT MAUNGANUI

India defeated New Zealand by seven wickets in the third One Day International (ODI) on Monday to take a 3-0 lead in the five-match series.

Chasing a target of 244, India rode on Rohit Sharma (62) and Virat Kohli (60) to power home with 42 balls left. India had won the first two games by eight wickets and 90 runs.

"Three clinical games for us. I couldn't have asked for a better performance. The relentlessness of the side is something that really pleases me," Kohli said at the post-match presentation.

The fourth ODI will be played in Hamilton on January 31.

DETAILED REPORT ON ▶ PAGE 15

Nowhere brides: PoK women feel pangs of separation

Many who landed in Kashmir now feel cheated by an official rehabilitation policy

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Caught in the tangle of an official rehabilitation policy, the Kashmir Valley is no longer a 'honeymooners paradise' for 27-year-old Kubra Gillani.

Ms. Gillani, a resident of Domail in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), met Altaf Ahmad Rather from Anantnag near Srinagar when he crossed the Line of Control as many youth from Kashmir did in the late 1990s apparently for arms training to become a militant. The two fell in love and got married in PoK on March 25, 2010.

"My husband and I decided to come to Kashmir under then Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's rehabilitation policy which began in 2010. Mr. Abdullah had promised



Kubra Gillani

that we could travel between the two parts [Kashmir and PoK] without any hassles," Ms. Gillani recalled.

However, as most brides who decided to accompany their husbands across the border, she was issued no documents of citizenship nor permanent residency, not even an identity card.

Her divorce in November last year has left Ms. Gillani

stranded between two countries – unable to either return home or settle in India.

In unbearable agony'

"My marriage lasted eight years. I got divorced in November last year after I could not bear a child. Since then, I have been stranded in Kashmir. I am not given clearance by the authorities on this side to travel back to Azad Kashmir [PoK]. The agony of losing both husband and now my original home is unbearable," Ms. Gillani said.

She is not alone. Over 150 brides from PoK moved to Kashmir along with ex-militant husbands after the rollout of the 2010 rehabilitation policy. "Three of these brides committed suicide because of the choking atmosphere here," Ms. Gillani alleged. The first person to

take her own life was Saira Begum, 35, wife of Abdul Majid Lone, in April 10, 2014 at Naidkhai village, around 40 km from Srinagar, in Bandipora.

"We are living a miserable life here," said Ms. Gillani, speaking for the women from across the border.

According to a government report, around 212 people returned from PoK through Nepal and other routes between 2010 and 2012, against 219 cases approved after security clearance. "At least, 90 men brought their families along to this side," the report said. The then government had confirmed receiving 1,082 application from youth, who crossed over into PoK for arms training.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Kumaraswamy upset by Cong. carping, threatens to step aside

Siddaramaiah loyalist sparks crisis, forced to apologise

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU / MYSURU

Karnataka's ruling coalition of the Janata Dal (Secular) and the Congress, which has barely recovered from recent alleged attempts by the Opposition BJP to poach Congress MLAs, was plunged into yet another crisis on Monday as Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy said he was ready to step down in response to repeated attempts to undermine his role in the coalition by loyalists of Congress leader Siddaramaiah.

The crisis, which sent senior Congress leaders scrambling to defuse the situation, was sparked off by four Congress MLAs, including a Cabinet Minister, publicly declaring on Sunday that for them, Mr. Siddaramaiah was still the CM.

'No development'
Yeshwanthpur MLA S.T. Somashekhar, newly appointed as Chairperson of the Bangalore Development Authority, went so far as to say the capital city had not seen any development in the past seven months of the coalition government.

An emotional Mr. Kumaraswamy, in the midst of pre-budget meetings, told reporters in Bengaluru that he was willing to quit. "If my style of functioning is not acceptable to anybody, I am

Even seven months after the government was formed, an action plan is not ready. No roads have been asphalted nor has water reached 110 villages in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike. Siddaramaiah should get one more chance [as CM]
S.T. SOMASHEKAR,
Congress MLA

If my style of functioning is not acceptable to anybody I am ready to quit. I do not want to continue... Congress and JD(S) leaders have formed this government to give good governance. Besides me, Deputy Chief Minister and several Ministers are doing a good job
H.D. KUMARASWAMY,
Chief Minister

Gowda wants a road map

Janata Dal (Secular) national president H.D. Deve Gowda on Monday favoured a road map from the Grand Alliance for a stable, secular and democratic government.

Seeking to limit the damage from Mr. Kumaraswamy's outburst, Mr. Siddaramaiah told reporters in Mysuru that he would speak to the CM, stressing that there was no question of his becoming CM again.

With KPCC president Dinesh Gundu Rao also saying that Mr. Somashekhar had crossed the line, the latter expressed regret in the afternoon for any anguish caused to the Chief Minister.

ready to quit. I do not want to continue and stick on to the chair. Congress and JD(S) leaders have formed this government to give good governance. Besides me, Deputy Chief Minister and several Ministers are doing a good job," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10
SIDDARAMAIAH LOSES HIS COOL ▶ PAGE 5

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WEDNESDAY, JAN. 30	
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RISE 02:33 SET 13:36	
THURSDAY, JAN. 31	
RISE 07:10 SET 17:59	
RISE 03:29 SET 14:19	

Delhi Weather max min
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Safdarjung 19 05
Palam 19 05

Delhi Pilm Today
19°C Cold wave condition may develop at few parts, shallow fog will prevail. Day will be sunny and cool. Pollution level will be unhealthy.

Delhi Pilm Tomorrow
20°C Marginal rise in daytime temperature. Clouding will increase afternoon onwards. Thunderstorm may occur at few parts towards late night.

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People responsible for Bargari sacrilege will not be spared'

SIT probe ordered by Congress govt. will conclude soon: CM Amarinder

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said on Monday that people responsible for the Bargari sacrilege will not be spared.

"The Special Investigation Team probe ordered by the Congress government would conclude soon," said Capt. Amarinder in Bathinda, where he announced ₹97 crore as relief to 18,308 small farmers against debt from cooperative banks.

The SIT has been probing the incidents of sacrilege



Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh. ■

cated in the Faridkot firing case had already been arrested. "It was obvious that the officer in question must have been following orders, and the SIT would identify those who issued the orders. They will not be spared at any cost," he said. The SIT had on Sunday arrested former Moga SSP Charanjit Sharma as a part of its investigation.

Capt. Amarinder alleged that the previous Shiromani Akali Dal-BJP government had ruined everything - from agriculture to industry and economy - during its 10-year

rule. "Badals and their cronies were busy filling their pockets, at the cost of people's welfare," he alleged.

'Drop in suicide cases'

The Chief Minister said there had been a sharp drop in the number of farmer suicides and a huge decrease in drug trade since his government took over.

"The Buddy and DAPO programmes were making significant strides in checking drug abuse and helping in rehabilitation of the affected people," he added.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer-3, Solid Waste Management-1, 2nd Floor, Dasappa Hospital Premises, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002.
No: EE-3/SWM-1/TEND/01/2018-19 Date: 28.01.2019

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer-3, Solid Waste Management-1, invites short Team tenders for Establishment of solid waste management Command and control center for solid waste Management Department and Operation and maintenance of the same for one year, any reputed firms/ Manufacturers/ Bidders/ Companies/consortium companies/ Company registered under companies act 1956 are eligible to apply. If there is consortium, not more than two agencies firm shall be allowed

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	EMD (₹. in Lakhs)
1.	Establishment & Operation and Maintenance of SWM Command and Control center For Solid Waste Management Department	2 lakhs

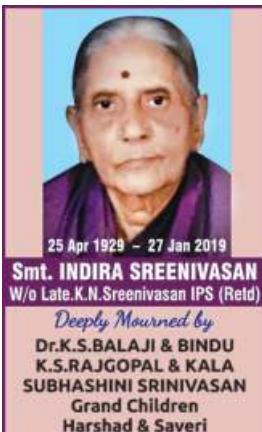
Calendar of Events : (1) Bid document downloading from 29.01.2019 onwards (2) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders on 12.02.2019 upto 4:00 pm. (3) Last Date for Uploading Queries on 05.02.2019 upto 4:00 pm. (4) Pre-Bid Meeting on 06.02.2019 at 11:00 am at the Office of the Joint Commissioner(H&SWM), BBMP Head office Premises, 2nd Floor, Annex Building, NR Square Bangalore-02 (5) Date of Opening of Technical Bids are on 14.02.2019 by 04:00 pm or Next Working Day. (6) Opening of Financial Bids will be intimated to Technically Qualified Bidders. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/-

Executive Engineer-3, Solid Waste Management-1
Pay Development Charges - Help to Develop Bengaluru

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



DEATH

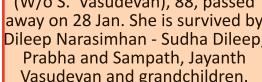
Mr.N.Narasimhan (88), Retired Senior Reporter, The Hindu, Chennai, passed away on 28-01-2019. Address: 1A, Sri Lakshmi, 23, 2nd Avenue, Indira Nagar, Adyar, Chennai 600020. Mobile: 6380358289

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Mrs. Baby Vasudevan
(W/o S. Vasudevan), 88, passed away on 28 Jan. She is survived by Dilip Narasimhan - Sudha Dilip, Prabha and Sampath, Jayanth Vasudevan and grandchildren. Ph. 044-2499 2275

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DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

IIT Ropar to tie-up with Taiwan varsity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar, has decided to tie-up with National Chung Cheng University of Taiwan to develop necessary expertise on artificial intelligence.

"As part of our international strategy we have decided to set up collaborative research with National Chung Cheng University of Taiwan. In this connection, a high-level academic delegation from NCCU visited IIT Ropar last week to work on the modalities of an Indo-Taiwan Research Centre on artificial Intelligence and machine learning," said S. K. Das, Director of IIT Ropar

in a statement.

Mr. Das said the centre will be the first of its kind between the two countries.

Process to bring accountability law to start soon in Rajasthan

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot assures early action

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JAIPIUR

The process to bring legislation on social accountability, which will ensure better delivery of public goods and services and make officials accountable, will start shortly in Rajasthan after a protracted campaign by civil rights groups. The Congress government in the State will also strengthen the public grievances redressal system.



CM Ashok Gehlot. ■

Chief Election Commissioner S.Y. Quraishi, IAS officer-turned-politician K. Raju, Common Cause Director Vilup Mudgal, Law Professor Babu Mathew and activists Harsh Mander and Kavita Srivastava.

Social audit

Mr. Gehlot said social audit of the government's functioning would be an important aspect of the new legislation. He called upon the non-government organisations to play a bigger role in making the administration accountable to people, while affirming that empowering the NGOs would bring pressure on the government right from the Pradhans of panchayat samitis to the top officers.

Nikhil Dey of MKSS said the draft Bill's provisions were based on best practices in the country and were an extension of the Right to Information.

AAP seeks apology from the British government

For the Jallianwala Bagh massacre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

"A hundred year ago the British government had martyred more than 1,000 unarmed freedom fighters for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly Harpal Singh Cheema has written a letter to Speaker K.P. Rana to present a proposal in this regard in the upcoming Vidhan Sabha session.

Mr. Cheema said that the resolution passed in the past two months, the Met Department said on Monday.

Drass shivers as mercury plunges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SRINAGAR

Mercury in Drass, the second coldest inhabited place in the world, plunged 31 degrees below freezing point even as the Kashmir Valley continued to reel under intense cold wave conditions prevailing over the past two months, the Met Department said on Monday.

Drass in Kargil district registered a low of minus 31.4 degrees Celsius while the maximum was 12.5 degrees on Sunday night.

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Beating Retreat Ceremony and Illumination

29th January, 2019 (4.00 pm onwards)



Beating Retreat Ceremony will be held on 29.01.2019 at Vijay Chowk, as part of the Republic Day Celebrations, 2019. Delhi Traffic Police has made elaborate arrangements for Beating Retreat Ceremony and illumination of Rashtrapati Bhawan, North Block, South Block and Parliament House.

TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

Traffic will not be allowed between 1530 hours to 2130 hours on following routes:

- Vijay Chowk will remain closed for general traffic.
- Rafi Marg between R/A Sunehri Masjid and R/A Krishi Bhawan.
- Raisina Road from R/A Krishi Bhawan towards Vijay Chowk.
- Beyond R/A Dara Shikoh Road, R/A Krishan Menon Marg and R/A Sunehri Masjid towards Vijay Chowk.
- Rajpath between Vijay Chowk and 'C' - Hexagon which will be totally pedestrianised.

General public/motorists are advised to take alternate routes i.e. Ring Road, Ridge Road, Aurobindo Marg, Madarsa 'T' Point, Safdarjung Road, Kamal Ataturk Marg, Rani Jhansi Road, Minto Road etc.

DIVERSIONS FOR BUSES

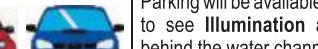
D.T.C and other city buses shall be diverted from their normal routes from 1300 hours to 2130 hours on 29.01.19 to facilitate the vehicles of invitees and spectators and to avoid traffic congestion on roads around the venue of the ceremony and India Gate.

- Buses bound for Central Secrtt. and Connaught Place coming from Shantipath-Vinay Marg-Sardar Patel Marg-R/A Shankar Marg-Park Street.
- Buses bound for Central Secrtt. will terminate at Uday Marg and return via Kali Bari Marg-Mandir Marg-Shankar Road.
- Connaught Place bound buses will take Mandir Marg, Kali Bari Marg, -G.P.O. -Baba Khadak Singh Marg and reach Connaught Place & return via Bhagat Singh Marg - Peshwa Road-Mandir Marg-Shankar Road and Vande Matram Marg.
- Buses coming from South Delhi on Tughlaq Road and bound for Connaught Place/Central Secrtt. will be diverted from Aurobindo Chowk to Safdarjung Road-Kamal Ataturk Marg -Panchsheel Marg - Simon Boliver Marg and follow the route as mentioned at Sl. No. 1.
- Buses coming to Mandi House and Feroz Shah Road and proceeding to Connaught Place via Barakhamba Road will terminate at Shivaji Stadium and return via Kasturba Gandhi Marg.
- Connaught Place bound buses coming on Shahjahan Road will proceed to Shivaji Stadium via Aurobindo Chowk - Safdarjung Road -Kamal Ataturk Marg -Panchsheel Marg and beyond.
- Buses bound for Old Delhi Railway Station, Red Fort and ISBT Kashmere Gate coming from South side will take Ring Road from AIIMS towards Daula Khan and then Ridge Road, Rani Jhansi Road.
- Buses bound from Old Delhi Railway Station, Red Fort and ISBT Kashmere Gate coming from Ashram side will take Ashram Chowk - Ring Road towards Sarai Kale Khan and proceed further via Raj Ghat.
- Buses coming from Old Delhi Railway Station, Red Fort, Kashmere Gate and bound for South and South-East will take Delhi Gate -Jawaharlal Nehru Marg -Rajghat -Ring Road - Sarai Kale Khan-Ashram Chowk.
- Buses coming from Vikas Marg and bound for South will take Ring Road - Sarai Kale Khan -Ashram Chowk.
- Buses coming from Connaught Place via Kasturba Gandhi Marg towards India Gate will take Minto Road - DDU Marg - I.P. Flyover - Ring Road - Sarai Kale Khan.

METRO STATION

	Metro Station	Entry / Exit Closed on 29.01.2019
	Udyog Bhawan	From 2:00 pm to 6:30 pm
	Central Secretariat	

Parking will be available for those coming to see Illumination at Vijay Chowk behind the water channels between Rafi Marg and 'C' Hexagon (after 7 PM).



INSTRUCTIONS TO GENERAL PUBLIC

In case of any unidentified object or suspicious person being seen, information must be conveyed to the nearest policeman on duty.

General public and motorists are advised to keep patience, observe traffic rules & road discipline and follow directions of traffic personnel and remain updated through Traffic Police facebook page, Twitter handle and Traffic Police Helpline. People are requested to plan their journey accordingly to avoid inconvenience.

24 Hours Traffic Helpline: 1095, 011-25844444

DP907519

Naveen alleges delay in Central funds

Odisha govt. spending money on projects from State budget, says Chief Minister

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

With a few days left for the Union Budget 2019 to be presented, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday expressed concern over non-receipt of Central funds to the tune of ₹6,400 crore in the current fiscal.

"Only about two months are left for the current financial year to come to an end, the State is yet to receive over ₹6,400 crore from the Central government," said

Mr. Patnaik after reviewing the status of release of central funds to Odisha during 2018-19, in New Delhi.

"A large amount of funds pertaining to agriculture, housing, rural development, health, education, women and child development, roads, irrigation and drinking water are still pending for release," Mr. Patnaik told reporters.

More than ₹1,000 crore for housing, over ₹375 crore in health, more than ₹400

crore under MGNREGA and over ₹650 crore under agriculture are still to be released by the Union government, he said.

"The Odisha government is spending more than ₹3,000 crore on drinking water from the State budget. The Centre has allocated a meagre amount of ₹180 crore, out of which they have released just about ₹80 crore. Similarly, under Smart City Poverty Alleviation, out of ₹200 crore, the

State has received only ₹6 crore till date," said the Chief Minister.

He asked senior officials to follow up with different Ministries about release of pending Central funds.

On a recent statement by Congress president Rahul Gandhi, accusing the Naveen Patnaik government of being remote-controlled by the Narendra Modi government, Mr. Patnaik termed it "bilkul bakwas" (completely rubbish).

Left Front all set for Feb. 3 rally in Kolkata

Hopes to regains lost ground in State

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

With an eye on the Lok Sabha polls, the CPI(M)-led Left Front is hoping to regain its lost ground in West Bengal with a mega rally here next week.

The rally is scheduled to be held at Brigade Parade Ground, the same venue where the ruling Trinamool Congress organised its mega Opposition meet on January 19. As many as 24 political parties, including the Congress and major regional parties such as the SP, BSP and DMK, had come together at the rally, vowing to defeat the BJP in the Lok Sabha polls.

The Left Front had skipped the TMC rally, stating that the ruling party in the State was no better as it had destroyed "democracy and its institutions".

"We will give the call to oust the TMC in Bengal and the BJP at the Centre. The people of this country are fed up with the Modi government, they want a change," CPI(M) State secretary Surya Kanta Mishra said.

The CPI(M)-led Front is making all efforts to ensure the rally's success. From flags, posters, slogans and roadside meetings to social media messages on Twitter and Facebook, the party is trying to reach out to the masses.

Once a formidable force in West Bengal, the Left Front lost to the TMC in 2011, ending a 34-year regime in the State.

The BJP, too, outsmarted the CPI(M) and the Congress

CPI(M), Cong. talks on seat sharing soon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

Discussions for seat sharing between the Congress and the CPI(M) in West Bengal for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls are expected to start soon, sources in the two parties said on Monday.

They said the parties have already been holding informal parleys, but formal talks are likely to begin after the February 3 rally.

According to State Congress sources, the party is keen on fighting at least 18-20 seats, including Raiganj and Murshidabad, which are the only two seats that the CPI(M) won in the last elections in the State. These two seats are presently the bone of contention between the two parties, sources said.

.....

to become the main Opposition in Bengal.

The role of the Left parties in national politics largely depends on the number of seats it will win from the State.

In 2004, the CPI(M)-led Left Front played a pivotal role in forming the UPA-I government by winning 35 Lok Sabha seats from the State. Nationally, the Front had won 62 seats. In 2014, the CPI(M) had won just two seats in Bengal, while the Left Front secured 11 seats.

Odisha water staff to go on strike from March 5

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

Around 25,000 field staff involved in drinking water supply in rural and urban areas of Odisha have threatened to go on an indefinite strike from March 5 over their four long-pending demands.

The Odisha Pipe Water Workers' Union has called for a Statewide strike if its demands are not fulfilled by the State government. The union has already sent a memorandum to the Chief Minister through the Revenue Divisional Commissioner, Southern Division.

According to union leaders, the strike would hit drinking water supply. The union has called for demonstrations throughout the State on February 28. It will be followed by a strike from March 5.

Most of the union's demands are related to job regularisation and salary of contractual employees, who

are the core workers for the drinking water supply works.

Union secretary Dina-bandhu Sripallab said that 2,078 contractual workers have been working for the past 25 years with no hope of regularisation. Since 1993 no contractual employee working under the Public Health Engineering Department in urban areas and Rural Water Supply and Sanitation in rural areas have been regularised, he added.

As per the union, there are around 15,000 Self Employed Mechanics in the State, who help in maintenance of drinking water supply in the rural areas. They are paid ₹1,653 per month, Mr. Sripallab said, adding that this is even less than minimum wages for unskilled workers. The union's other demands are pension for the regularised staff and payment of arrears of the Seventh Pay Commission to the employees.

Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister of Delhi



Assam Assembly disrupted over citizenship Bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUWAHATI

The Opposition Congress, the All India United Democratic Front and the Assam Gana Parishad came together to protest against the citizenship Bill in the Assam As-

sembly on Monday, alleging the contentious issue found no mention in the Governor's speech. The House was then adjourned for 45 minutes. Soon after Governor Jagdish Mukhi ended his tribute to legendary singer

composer Bhupen Hazarika, AGP president Atul Bora raised the issue of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, and said it found no mention in his speech. Thereafter, the Opposition MLAs shouted slogans and held

placards demanding scrapping of the Bill. Noisy scenes were witnessed on the opening day of the budget session as the Opposition members rushed to the Well and showed placards to the Governor as he read his speech.

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI

Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board

FC-18, INSTITUTIONAL AREA,

KARKARDOOMA, DELHI-110092

Website: www.dsssb.delhigovt.nic.in

No. F.4(271)/DSSSB/P&P/2019/Advt./1114

Dated: 24/01/2019

Vacancy Notice

ADVERSTISEMENT NO 01/2019

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The opening date, closing date of application, pay scale and post-wise break-up of vacancies are as under:-

Opening Date of Application :- 30/01/2019

Closing Date of Application :- 01/03/2019

S. Post No.	Post Code	Name of Post	Name of Deptt.	Classification of the Post (Group)	Grade Pay	Vacancies						
						UR	OBC	SC	ST	TOTAL	PH	EX-SM
1	1/19	Asstt. Engg. (Electrical)	MCD	B	4600	05	01	01	00	7	01	00
2	2/19	Asstt. Engg. (Civil)	MCD	B	4600	07	03	02	01	13	01	00
3	3/19	Junior Engineer (Civil)	MCD	C	4200	54	27	15	07	103	04	01
4	4/19	Junior Engineer (Electrical)	MCD	C	4200	11	05	03	01	20	01	00
5	5/19	Junior Engineer (Civil)	NDMC	C	4200	04	27	00	02	33	05	00
6	6/19	Junior Engineer (Civil)	DUSIB	C	4200	08	45	02	06	61	8	06
7	7/19	Junior Engineer (Electrical)	DUSIB	C	4200	12	09	04	02	27	02	02

Candidates must apply online through the website <http://dsssbonline.nic.in>. The closing date for submission of online application is upto 11.59 P.M. on 01/03/2019 after which the link will be disabled. Applications received through any other mode will not be accepted and will be rejected summarily.

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(K. K. Singh)
Section Officer (P&P)

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Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency
First Floor, Directorate of Panchayatraj, Opp-IT Park, Sahatrudha Road, Dehradun

Ref.No. 6982/I-02(xiv)/ITCO/URRDA/18

Dated: 25/01/2019

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)
e-Procurement Notice (2nd Call)

The Zonal Manager, NPCC on behalf of Chief Engineer, URRDA, Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Districts of Rudraprayag, Almora, Pithoragarh, for number of years (for stage I) five years (for stage I & II) from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent*.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement : 30.01.2019.

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgstyendersuk.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.8 (ii) of ITB with the NPCC Ltd., 98-Nehru Colony, Dehradun (Uttarakhand) or PIU NPCC, PMGSY, First Floor, BIC Gali, Near Indian Gas Agency (Ground Floor), Chaukhita (Ganai), Dist. Almora, Uttarakhand on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 14.02.2019, 01:00 PM.

For further details please log on to www.pmgstyendersuk.gov.in

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* Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

IN BRIEF



NDA tally may come down, says Paswan

BENGALURU While acknowledging that the number of seats for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) may come down, Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan on Monday exuded confidence that the NDA under Prime Minister Narendra Modi would get another term. He told reporters here that the country was in need of a strong government and a strong leader.

Toddler who fell from metro escalator dies

BENGALURU An 18-month-old baby girl, who fell from an escalator at Srirampura Metro Station here and landed on the busy road on Sunday night, succumbed to injuries at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health on Monday morning. The deceased, Hasini, was being carried by her grandfather. According to sources, the grandfather lost his balance and the child slipped from his hands and fell from a height of around 35 feet through the gap between the railing and the escalator's handrail.

Wanted Kerala man held from Andhra Pradesh

KOTTAYAM Ponkunnam police on Monday nabbed a 27-year-old man wanted in several criminal cases, including murder attempts. The arrested was identified as Murukesh, a native of Cherthala in Alappuzha. A police team nabbed him from Andhra Pradesh. Murukesh, an active RSS worker, is wanted in several criminal cases, including a few cases of political rivalry. He has been remanded in custody.

Siddaramaiah loses his cool, shouts at woman party worker

BJP comes down on him; terms the incident 'indecent and uncivil'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MYSURU

Former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday lost his cool during a public meeting at Gargeshwari in Mysuru and shouted at a woman party worker, who thumped the table in front of him to drive home her point.

A visibly agitated Mr. Siddaramaiah then grabbed the microphone from the party worker, Jamalar, and shouted her down. The incident occurred at a meeting organised ahead of a function to lay the foundation stone for a Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. facility.

Official apathy
Ms. Jamalar, a former taluk panchayat vice-president,



Frayed tempers: A video grab of Siddaramaiah engaged in a heated debate with a woman in Mysuru. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

was complaining about the alleged failure of Revenue Department officials of T. Narasipur taluk to attend to the problems being faced by people of her town, part of Varuna constituency represented by Mr. Siddaramaiah.

maiah's son Yathindra.

When a defensive Mr. Siddaramaiah asked whether the MLA was not available to hear her grievances, Ms. Jamalar replied in the negative and thumped the table in front of Mr. Siddaramaiah.

After snatching the microphone and angrily asking her to sit down, Mr. Siddaramaiah stood up and berated the woman for thumping the table. Though she tried to speak, Ms. Jamalar was repeatedly told by Mr. Siddaramaiah to remain silent.

Opposition hits out

The BJP criticised Mr. Siddaramaiah for his rude behaviour and said disrespecting women had been pattern in the coalition government.

Leader of the Opposition and BJP State president B.S. Yeddyurappa said Mr. Siddaramaiah's behaviour was undemocratic and said he was taking out his frustration against the JD(S) on the poor woman worker. He advised Mr. Siddaramaiah to be patient.



K. Chandrasekhar Rao

HC notice to govt. over land for helipad

MARRI RAMU

HYDERABAD

The Telangana High Court on Monday issued a notice to the State government over its proposal to acquire land on the outskirts of Karimnagar to construct a helipad for use by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

The order was passed by Justice Challa Kodanda Ram after hearing the contentions of five persons, including two women, who had filed a writ petition challenging the government notification to acquire five acres and three guntas of land at Theegala-guttapalli village. The judge directed the government to file a counter-affidavit within four weeks.

Petitioners' counsel V. Raghunath said land acquisition under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 should be for public purpose. But that was not intended in the notification.

Reading out points from a letter written by the Karimnagar Police Commissioner for land acquisition, counsel said that the official cited security threat as one of the grounds. The Chief Minister would not permanently reside in Karimnagar, he said.

Pinarayi says govt. is for free functioning of political parties

'Leaders generally cooperate with probe'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said that his government's policy is to create conditions for political parties to function independently.

The government did not approve of any action intended to undermine the functioning of political parties, Mr. Vijayan said in the Assembly on Monday while replying to a submission moved by Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chemnittha regarding the government action against Superintendent of Police Chaitra Teresa John who had conducted a raid inside the CPI(M) district committee office here on January 24.

"In a democracy, it is the responsibility of the police to protect such institutions," the Chief Minister said. Giving the details of the case that led to the raids in the CPI(M) district committee office, Mr. Vijayan said the officer in charge of the Medical College police station refused to entertain those who came to see the people



Pinarayi Vijayan

taken into custody.

Once permission was denied, the people gathered in front of the station and raised slogans. In the violent incidents that followed, the station suffered damage to the tune of ₹2,000.

Cases were registered under IPC 143, 147, 149, 353, 383 and 3 of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act. Normally, Mr. Vijayan said, the offices of the political parties were not raided by the police. A basic principle of democracy was to allow political parties to function independently.

"Political leaders in the State have generally cooperated with the police investigation," he said.

Purification rites: plea against notice to 'tantri' dismissed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOCHI

The Kerala High Court has dismissed a petition challenging the show cause notice served by the Travancore Devasom Board on Sabarimala 'tantri' Kandara Rajeevararu following the purification rites held at the temple.

The purification rites

were performed after two young women offered prayers at the temple.

The petition filed by V. Ranjith Sankar of Bengaluru was dismissed for want of locus standi.

It was on January 2 that the priest performed the rites after the women, Kanakadurga and Bindu, offered prayers at the temple.

Tweets land Kerala man in Saudi jail

STAFF REPORTER

ALAPPUZHA

A series of tweets criticising Prophet Mohammed has landed an Alappuzha native in jail for 10 years in Saudi Arabia. According to Radhakrishnan Nair, his son Vishnu Dev Radhakrishnan has been languishing in a jail since June 2018.

According to a letter received by the family of Vishnu from the Consular, Passport and Visa Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, he was arrested for "cybercrime pertaining to blasphemy and spreading messages against the Kingdom through social media."

Woman friend

Mr. Nair said that his son had befriended a Muslim woman in the U.K. on Twitter and they shared messages. "The woman spoke against Hindu gods in one of her conversations on Twitter. In reply, Vishnu tweeted something against the Prophet. He was arrested on June 7, 2018. On September 13, he was given a five-year jail term and a penalty of 1.5 lakh Saudi Riyal. His sentence was increased to 10 years on January 24," he said. Mr. Nair said that he had sought the help of several politicians to release his son, but so far to no avail.

Hegde draws flak for comments on Dinesh

He's unfit to be a Union Minister and deserves to be sacked, says Rahul Gandhi

STAFF REPORTER

BENGALURU



In an escalating social media spat, Union Minister of State Anantkumar Hegde on Monday made personal remarks with communal overtones against Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president Dinesh Gundu Rao when the latter questioned his provocative statements made in Kodagu on Sunday.

Responding to Mr. Hegde's statements, Mr. Rao had tweeted that it was "deplorable that such people had become Ministers and MPs". "What are your achievements after becoming a Union Minister or MP? What are your contributions

for Karnataka's development?" he asked.

The Union Minister responded by tweeting, "I shall definitely answer this guy's queries, before which could he please reveal himself as to who he is along with his achievements? I only know

him as a guy who ran behind a Muslim lady," referring to Mr. Rao's marriage to Tabu Rao.

Lack of culture'
Mr. Rao replied, "Sad to see Anantkumar Hegde stoop to such low levels as to bring in personal issues. Guess it's his lack of culture. Guess he hasn't learnt from our Hindu scriptures. Time hasn't run out, he can still try and become a more dignified human."

In her Facebook post, Ms. Rao said, "It appears I am a soft target for certain BJP leaders who are unable to politically take on my husband. After BJP MPs Pratap Simha and Shobha Kharandlaje, it is now the turn of Union Minister Ananth Kumar Hegde to drag me into a political slugfest, where I am nowhere involved. ... such misogynistic and provocative remarks are highly unbecoming of a Union Minister."

Mr. Hegde's comment drew flak from the Congress. AICC president Rahul Gandhi tweeted, "This man is an embarrassment to every Indian. He's unfit to be a Union Minister and deserves to be sacked". Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said Mr. Hegde "should apologise and resign immediately for his insensitive comments".

Narrow escape



A school bus with 50 students fell off a culvert at Mandadi village in Andhra Pradesh's Guntur district on Monday. Fourteen children were injured, three seriously, when the driver lost control while trying to avoid a vehicle coming in the opposite direction. • T. VIJAYA KUMAR

+ HC stays single judge order on SI recruitment

Telangana Bench says it is inappropriate to re-determine selection of candidates

MARRI RAMU

HYDERABAD

A Division Bench of the Telangana High Court on Monday stayed a single judge order to redetermine the list of selected candidates by deleting six questions from the Preliminary Written Test (PWT) held by the Telangana State Level Police Recruitment Board (TSLPRB) for recruitment of Sub-Inspectors.

The Bench, comprising Chief Justice Thottathil B. Radhakrishnan and Justice

A. Rajasheker Reddy, also stayed another order on an interim application of the petition that marks secured by all candidates in the PWT be published against their hall-ticket numbers.

Disclosure of marks

It was up to the candidate to request for disclosure of marks if he or she had any doubts, using the operational procedures or the Right to Information Act, the Bench said.

The PWT was conducted

on August 26, 2018. After the key was released by the Board two days later, 15 candidates moved the court, stating that they lost the opportunity for selection for Physical Measurement Test (PMT) because six of the 200 questions were wrongly framed or ambiguous.

Hearing the arguments, the single judge directed the TSLPRB to delete six questions from the PWT and re-determine a fresh list of candidates apart from those al-

ready declared eligible for PMT. The Board went in appeal before the Division Bench. The Bench said it had examined the deleted questions and answers.

The Supreme Court had already held that in case of a doubt over the correctness of the key, the benefit should go to the examination authority rather than to the candidate.

In this backdrop, it was inappropriate to re-determine the selection of candidates, the Bench observed.

Trial blasts near KRS cancelled

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MANDYA

A five-day exercise to examine the impact of explosions at nearby stone extraction units on the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) reservoir, scheduled to commence from Monday, was cancelled after farmers staged a massive protest.

A four-member team of the Central Water and Power Research Station, Pune, the Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation was set to conduct the trial blasts. However, members of the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha, which has opposed the trial blasts and termed them a conspiracy to help stone quarry owners, staged a protest near the reservoir.

er, concluded that the remains were much older. "Based on the architectural remains and inscriptional evidence it belongs to Satavahana period and the existence of Buddhism on Kondaveedu fort area," says Deputy Director N. Mallikarjun Rao.

One small fragment of Brahmi Inscription was found in the stupa remains. Based on this inscriptional evidence, it emphasises that Buddhism existed on Kondaveedu fort from Satavahana period. It has eight letters i.e. 'gha ra kha tha sa a tha vaa'.

Although the Irrigation Department officials tried to convince the farmers that the trial blasts would be scientifically done, the police ban orders.

Later, hundreds of people

gathered at the site before the officials arrived and threatened to enter the site marked to conduct the blasts, defying the police ban orders.

The farmers had gathered at the site before the officials arrived and threatened to enter the site marked to conduct the blasts, defying the police ban orders.

The incident took place around 7.30 a.m. and the blood-stained body of the victim was found near the bushes close to Hullumuthu village in the D.B. Kuppe

range of the national park.

Narayanaswamy, Conservator of Forests and Director of the Nagarhole National Park in H.D. Koti taluk on Monday. The victim, Chinnappa, 35, belonged to the local Beda tribe.

Eyewitnesses say the tiger dragged him for nearly 100 m before easing its grip. The post-mortem indicates that there was a deep gash and opening of the skull.

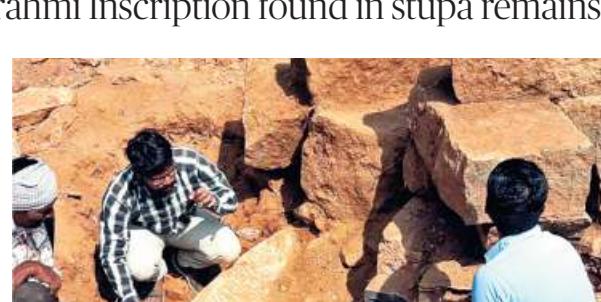
Meanwhile, two elephants are being used to

comb the adjoining areas to ensure that the tiger does not linger there. Officials said they wanted to ensure that the tiger was driven deep into the jungles.

The body of the victim was handed over to the relatives after the post-mortem.

This is the second such incident reported in the area. Madhu, a forest guard, was killed near Manimoole Haadi of the same taluk two months ago.

Small fragment of Brahmi Inscription found in stupa remains



Officials of the Department of Archaeology and Museums measuring the width of the stupa found at Kondaveedu fort.

G.V.R. SUBBA RAO

VIJAYAWADA

The Department of Archaeology and Museums has found Buddhist remains under the 'garbhagriha' ('sanctum sanctorum') of Sivalayam at Kondaveedu fort. The remains date back to later Satavahana period – 1st to 2nd century A.D.

The department has taken up conservation and restoration of two temples – Sivalayam and Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple – in the fort recently.

The department officials found the remains during the process of dismantling the temple for reconstruction. A petal design on railing piece, stupa, pillar etc were unearthed from the site.

Interesting facts
Department of Archaeology and Museums Commissioner G. Vani Mohan says the discovery of the 'Buddhist remains' push back the history past of the historic Kondaveedu fort to the Satavahana period. Now the history of Kondaveedu fort has to be rewritten as it goes

IN BRIEF



Tripura CM inaugurates indoor exhibition centre

AGARTALA
Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb on Monday inaugurated an international indoor exhibition centre at Hapania here, the largest facility of its kind in the northeastern region. Speaking at the event, Mr. Deb said companies and consultants would now get an address to showcase their products. PTI

2 killed, 7 hurt after car falls into gorge in Kangra

SHIMLA
Two persons were killed and seven injured when a car carrying a marriage party fell into a gorge in Chatter village in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra district on Monday. The deceased have been identified as Ravi of Charri village and Suraj Kumar of Tharot village. The condition of three persons is critical, an official said. PTI

Minor girl raped in U.P., accused nabbed

MUZAFFARNAGAR
A youth has been arrested for allegedly raping a five-year-old girl whom he abducted from near her house here on Sunday, the police said. Hearing the girl's cries, villagers rushed to the spot and caught the accused. They thrashed him and later handed him over to the police, said Circle Officer Yogender Kumar. The girl has been sent for medical examination. PTI

Police team attacked in Rajouri; four arrested

JAMMU
A police team was attacked by locals with stones while it was tracking a gang of drug peddlers in J&K's Rajouri district. Acting on a tip-off, the police team raided a shop in search of the peddlers. The family members of the shop owner started throwing stones at the team. A case was registered against six persons and four were arrested, Rajouri SSP Yougal Manhas said. PTI

Cultural connect



Artistes from Tripura performing the Mog tribe's Sangrai dance at the Lokrang Festival in Bhopal on Sunday. ■ A.M. FARUQUI

Gaya blast to avenge 'atrocities against Rohingya in Myanmar'

States NIA's supplementary chargesheet submitted in court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
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allegedly involved in the attack. One of them is a Bangladesh resident, Md. Jahidul Islam, and the other five – Md. Adil Sheikh, Dilwar Hossain, Abdul Karim, Mustafizur Rahman and Arif Hussain – are from West Bengal, said a statement issued on Monday.

Jahidul Islam alias Kausar, along with the other accused, formed a terrorist group and hatched the conspiracy to plant improvised explosive devices in the Bodh Gaya temple complex, said the NIA statement.

Six accused named

According to the chargesheet, Bangladesh-based terrorists group Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen was responsible for hatching the conspiracy to attack the Bodh Gaya temple and other symbols of Buddhist faith. The NIA has named six people who were

Rohingya in Myanmar and to overawe the government of India by the terrorist act," it said. Investigations also revealed that the accused travelled to different places in south India, including Hyderabad and Chennai, where the plan was given shape, the NIA said.

"In furtherance of the conspiracy, the accused persons contacted and assembled at various places, took hideouts at Jehanabad and Masaunhi, received Bodh Gaya temple complex, procured the explosives and other materials for fabrication of the IEDs," it said.

According to the statement, Jahidul Islam fabricated three IEDs and two hand grenades.

Buddhist symbols

"The motive was to attack symbols of Buddhism in retaliation for the alleged atrocities committed on the

Odisha group starts drive to retrieve discarded flags

Berhampur Sabuja Bahini sets example

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

A group of environmental activists of Odisha's Berhampur are engaged in retrieving national flags made of paper and plastic that have been thrown all around the city after the Republic Day celebrations.

They are members of Berhampur Sabuja Bahini. "We were hurt to see our national flag thrown in garbage dumps, drains and on the roadside," said BSB president Sibaram Panigrahy.

"Many people buy paper and polythene flags to express nationalistic fervour on Republic Day. However, after a few hours, they have no hesitation in disposing of these flags in a derogatory manner," said BSB member P. Aravind Kumar.

In its bid to create awareness among the people to respect the Tricolour, the BSB started its drive to salvage the discarded flags on January 27. During the drive, which continued on Monday, the activists told the residents that the national flag is like a picture of deities and it should not be disposed of unceremoniously.

The Tricolours salvaged by this group are being cleaned up and stored. "We will reuse them in future events," said BSB secretary P. Dilip Kumar.

The members of the group said they were happy to see that the use of polythene flags had gone down drastically in Berhampur in comparison to the Independence Day celebrations last year.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB; MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.30 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Cold/severe cold wave conditions likely at isolated pockets over Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Rajasthan and west Uttar Pradesh. Thunderstorm accompanied with hailstorm likely over Meghalaya

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	27.3	18.0	Kozhikode	—	35.0	22.6
Ahmedabad	—	25.2	8.6	Kurnool	—	23.4	20.1
Alizawl	—	27.9	13.5	Lucknow	—	20.0	6.8
Allahabad	0.2	21.0	6.4	Madurai	—	34.0	22.7
Bengaluru	—	29.6	19.0	Mangaluru	—	34.2	20.0
Bhopal	—	19.3	12.0	Mumbai	—	30.9	18.2
Bhubaneswar	—	26.2	17.8	Mysuru	—	31.1	17.0
Chandigarh	—	18.5	5.3	New Delhi	—	18.9	5.5
Chennai	—	29.1	24.8	Patna	—	23.4	13.5
Coimbatore	—	33.2	22.5	Poona Blair	—	30.0	25.7
Dehradun	—	21.1	4.3	Puducherry	—	29.8	22.2
Gangtok	0.6	14.4	6.1	Pune	—	26.2	10.9
Goa	—	32.5	20.4	Rajpur	—	23.2	15.8
Guwahati	—	28.6	12.9	Ranchi	—	20.2	10.5
Hubballi	—	26.0	18.0	Shillong	—	17.2	8.6
Hyderabad	1	22.7	17.1	Shimla	—	10.4	—1.0
Imphal	—	24.6	8.0	Srinagar	—	7.5	—3.5
Jaipur	—	19.0	6.2	Tiruvanamalai	—	33.8	23.7
Kochi	—	30.4	24.0	Tiruchi	—	31.7	23.1
Kohima	—	24.0	7.8	Vijayawada	6	25.8	20.0
Kolkata	—	23.6	18.3	Visakhapatnam	—	24.8	22.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)
Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

CITIES	SO	NO	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	47	83	29	120	—	■
Bengaluru	—	33	36	147	—	■
Chennai	—	11	42	20	—	■
Delhi	28	64	48	321	261	■
Hyderabad	28	52	37	153	104	■
Kolkata	16	93	10	303	184	■
Lucknow	10	29	56	276	—	■
Mumbai	—	15	84	79	112	■
Pune	27	—	53	109	103	■
Visakhapatnam	—	—	55	—	—	—

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

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e-mail :- support@ranchimunicipal.com

DATED:- 24-01-2019

LETTER No. :- 04/Erg/Eng/RMC

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- Date of Publication of Tender on Website
- Last date/Time for receipt of online bids
- Last date/Time for receipt of EMD (Hard Copy)
- Date/Time of Opening bid
- Helpline number

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approximate value of work (Rs)	Bid Security* (Rs)	Cost of Tender Document (Rs.)	Period of completion
1	3	4	5	6	7
1	Improvement & Widening of Old bituminous road from NH to RTC B.Ed College ward No- 05	7,69,05,308/-	7,70,000/-	25,000/-	12 Months

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SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Sonam, D/o Neeraj, R/o: H.No. B-60, Gali No. 7, West Karawal Nagar, Delhi, Age: Approx 13 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Medium, wearing Cream colour Shirt, Blue colour Jeans, Red colour Sweater and Red colour Shoes in feet, has been kidnapped from her house since 24.02.2014. In this regard a FIR No. 1194/14 U/S 363 IPC, dated 25.02.2014 has been lodged at P.S. Khajuri Khas, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-2436839
Ph. No. : 011-24368338, 24368641
DP/6797/NE/18

SHO
P.S. Khajuri Khas,
Delhi
Ph.: 011-22966851

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General public is hereby informed that an unknown male person was found dead from footpath, Between Gate No. 03 & 04, Pacific Mall, area of PS. Tilak Nagar, Delhi on Dated 16.01.2019 at about Time 09:26 AM. The dead body has been preserved at DDU Hospital Mortuary Hari Nagar, Delhi. In this regard Case vide DD No. 17

IN BRIEF



AI's 'flat rate' to bring back mortal remains

NEW DELHI In order to reduce the expenses of grieving families, Air India has decided to charge a "flat rate" to bring back mortal remains from six Gulf countries. The rates will be: 1,500 Dirhams for UAE, 220 Saudi Riyal for Saudi Arabia, 2,200 Qatari Riyal for Qatar, 225 Bahraini Dinar for Bahrain, 160 Omani Rial for Oman and 175 Kuwaiti Dinar for Kuwait. PTI

Six held for killing woman, her 4 children

BHUBANESWAR The police have arrested six persons, including a witch doctor, in connection with the murder of a tribal woman and her four children, including an infant, in Odisha's Sundargarh district. The five were killed after being branded as witches. The incident took place in Badindpur village on the intervening night of January 24 and 25.

Srijan scam: CBI arrests former Bihar officer

NEW DELHI The CBI has arrested a dismissed additional district magistrate, Jayshree Thakur, in connection with Bihar's Srijan scam. Ms. Thakur is an accused in the case. "Despite repeated summonses, Ms. Thakur had not been joining the probe. The agency then moved the court and got a non-bailable warrant against her," said a CBI official.

Tiger, tiger, burning bright

India has the highest number of wild tigers in the world. It needs a foolproof plan to manage the growing number of big cats

There are 50 tiger reserves in India, governed by Project Tiger administered by the National Tiger Conservation Authority

India is home to 70% of tigers in the world

In 2006, there were 1,411 tigers which increased to 1,706 in 2011 and 2,226 in 2014

The ongoing tiger census will reveal updated numbers this May

Total number of wild tigers, globally, was 3,891 in 2016, according to World Wildlife Fund and Global Tiger Forum

India can't handle more big cats'

As habitats shrink, the country is nearing its capacity to manage its tigers: experts

JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI

While conservation efforts are aimed at increasing the tiger count in India, global experts and officials in the government suggest that India must also prepare for a new challenge – of reaching the limits of its management capacity.

Officially, India had 2,226 tigers as of 2014. An ongoing census is expected to reveal an update to these numbers. But Rajesh Gopal, head of the Global Tiger Forum, said that India's current capacity to host tigers ranged from 2,500-3,000 tigers.

Moreover, said another official, 25-35% of India's tigers now live outside protected reserves.

With dwindling core forests as well as the shrinking of tiger corridors (strips of land that allow tigers to move unfettered across diverse habitat), officials said

Overall, given the low availability of prey in some reserves, this is the capacity that can be supported

Y. JHALA

there were several challenges – alongside the traditional challenges of poaching and man-animal conflict – to India's success at tiger conservation. Recent attempts at translocating tigers to unpopulated reserves, such as Satkosia in Orissa, have ended badly, with one of the tigers dying.

Mr. Gopal was speaking at a conference of representatives from a group of countries who've signed a declaration to double tiger numbers by 2022, organised by the National Tiger Conservation Authority. Barring China, all other tiger-range countries – Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Russia,

Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, India and Nepal – were part of the conference in New Delhi on Monday.

Another official, involved in the ongoing census said the report – expected to be made public in May – will also, for the first time, discuss challenges of having a thriving tiger population.

"Overall, given the low availability of prey in some reserves, this is the capacity that can be supported. However, there are vast tracts of potential tiger habitat that can be used to improve prey density, develop tiger corridors and therefore support a much larger population," said Y. Jhalal of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII).

Over 10,000 tigers

K. Ullas Karanth, director, Centre for Wildlife Studies, however, said, "I would estimate the potential carrying

capacity for tigers in India at 10,000 to 15,000, not the 3,000 we already have. When tiger recovery efforts began 50 years ago we had about 2,000 tigers.. If after all this effort and expenditure, we are satisfied with just 3,000 tigers, it points at a serious management problem: needlessly huge amount of money is being dumped repeatedly on the same 25,000-30,000 sq. km area where tigers are already at saturation densities, while other areas with potential for future recovery are starved of key investments."

Since 2006, the WII has been tasked with coordinating the tiger estimation exercise. The once-in-four-years exercise calculated, in 2006, that India had only 1,411 tigers. This rose to 1,706 in 2010 and 2,226 in 2014 on the back of improved conservation measures and new estimation methods.

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Centre has demanded more compensation for the victims

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday decided to examine in April a curative petition by the government for more compensation to the victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy, over and above the \$470 million paid by Union Carbide.

The petition, which came up before a Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, said the compensation, determined in 1989, was based on the assumptions of truth unrelated to realities.

In 2011, the Supreme Court issued notice to the Union Carbide Corporation, now a wholly owned subsidiary of Dow Chemicals Co., U.S.; Dow Chemicals; McLeod Russel India, Kolkata; and Eveready Industries, Kolkata.

Seeking justice: Survivors of the Bhopal gas tragedy taking part in a protest rally in Bhopal, in this file photo. ■ A.M. FARQUI

Methyl Isocyanate, escaped from the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL). It resulted in the death of 5,295 humans and injuries to 5,68,292 persons, besides a loss of livestock and property of 5,478 persons.

The court has already dismissed a curative petition filed by the CBI in 2010 for increasing the punishment.

'Colossal failure'

The agency had wanted to correct the Supreme Court's "colossal failure of justice" in 1996 when it chose to dismiss the gas leak as the result of an act of negligence, and not culpable homicide, by former Union Carbide chairman Warren Anderson

and his Indian employees. Mr. Anderson died in 2014.

Dismissing the curative plea in 2011, the court held that "no satisfactory explanation has been given to file such curative petitions after about 14 years from the 1996 judgment."

As a Bhopal court order sentencing Union Carbide executives to two years in jail sparked public outcry, the CBI moved the Supreme Court and wanted it to "restore" the criminal charge under Section 304 Part II of the IPC (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) against the accused. Those convicted included former Union Carbide India chairman Keshub Mahindra.

Up in flames



Gone in minutes: Flames rising out of the Jaguar fighter jet that crashed soon after take off on Monday in Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar district. The pilot ejected safely. It was the third accident involving the twin-engine Jaguar aircraft in the past seven months. ■ PTI

IS suspects radicalised on Internet: ATS

Handler based abroad guided them, put them in touch with each other

GAUTAM S. MENGLE

MUMBAI

The 10 accused charged by the Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) for allegedly planning terrorist activities in the State crossed paths with their handler while being radicalised on the Internet, investigating officers said on Monday.

Last week, the ATS picked up nine accused from Mumra and Aurangabad, and charged them under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act. They were allegedly found to be in possession of chemicals and in touch with an Islamic State (IS) handler based abroad. Inquiries indicated that they were allegedly working for the Ummat-e-Mohammadiya (followers of Prophet Mohammed) and had been tasked with carrying out a mission at the local

level. On Sunday, the ATS arrested one more accused from Mumra. ATS officers with the 10th accused, who was arrested in Mumra, outside a court in Aurangabad. ■ YOGESH LONDHE

quence of events is being verified, inquiries indicate some of the accused, in the course of these discussions, started interacting with their handler. After several such conversations, during which they were further radicalised, the handler put them in touch with each other. We believe this handler is the common link between the Aurangabad module and the

Mumra module."

The officer said this was the genesis of the Ummat-e-Mohammadiya, the second alleged IS sleeper cell to be busted in the State. The accused discussed the plan to procure chemicals and poison food or water. They were guided by their handler, who promised them a larger role in the struggle for the global Caliphate as reward.

In 2016, the ATS, in collaboration with the National Investigation Agency, had busted the Junood-e-Khalifa-e-Hind (the Army of the Caliphate in India), with the arrest of 15 alleged operatives across the country.

The officer said, "All those who were in touch with the 10 accused are under the scanner. We can find out if more such cells have been or are being formed in India."

PM to interact with students, teachers

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with 2,000 students, parents and teachers from across the country and abroad at the "Pariksha Pe Charcha 2.0" session at the Talkatora Stadium here on Tuesday. The event will be broadcast live on Doordarshan.

The Prime Minister will share tips on writing exams without stress, a government statement said. Indian students residing in Russia, Nigeria, Iran, Nepal, Doha, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Singapore are among the participants. An online competition was held from January 7 to January 17 to select the participants.

Tamil translation wins Romain Rolland Prize

Award given at Jaipur Literary Festival

B. KOLAPPAN

CHENNAI

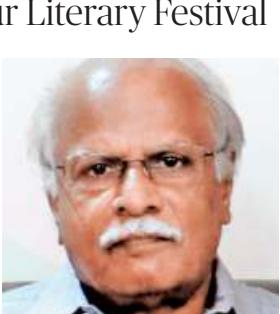
Munpin theriyathavanin vaazhkai, the Tamil translation of the French novel *La vie d'un homme inconnu* (*The Life of an Unknown Man*) by Andre Makine has won the prestigious Romain Rolland Prize by the French Embassy at Jaipur Literary Festival.

It was translated by S.R. Kichenamorti, former Professor and head of the French Department, Pondicherry University and published by Kalachuvadu. Kannan Sundaram, the publisher of the book, received the award on behalf of the author.

The novel revolves around the revisit of a dissident Russian writer Shutov to St. Petersburg after almost 30 years of exile in France after being rejected by his lover half his age.

He hopes to reconnect with his roots and the woman he loved in his youth, but disappointed as she was already married.

It took almost 10 months for me to complete the translation. While it is easy to translate a French novel into English because of the cultural similarities of countries in Europe, I have had to add extra details while doing it



S.R. Kichenamorti

directly from French to Tamil to give a clear idea to a Tamil reader," Mr. Kichenamorti told *The Hindu*.

The admission of Geoffrey Strachan, who translated the book in English, that the author had used some Russian words in French text which he had retained in the English translation, further explained Mr. Kichenamorti's idea.

Mr. Kichenamorti, who has been translating French literary works in to Tamil and Tamil works in to French, said he was occupied with the task of rendering into French the works of Ramalinga Vallalar.

He had published an anthology of French short stories into English with a preface by noted Tamil writer Ki. Rajanarayanan. Another work was translation of 11 Tamil short stories into French in association with K. Madanagobalane.

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Refrigeration and Air Conditioning	Electronics/ Mechanical or any allied Branch
Software Development	Computer Science/ Information Technology/ MCA or any allied Branch
Graphics and Multimedia	Computer Science/ Information Technology/ MCA or any allied Branch
BFSI	MBA/ PGDM or any allied Branch
Travel and Tourism	MBA/ Hotel Management or any allied Branch
Food Processing	Agriculture/ Hotel Management or any allied Branch
Electronic Manufacturing Services	Electronics/ Electrical or any allied Branch
Medical Image Technology	Pharmacy or any allied Branch
Printing and Packing Technology	Printing Technology or any allied Branch
Interior Design	Architecture or any allied Branch
Only B.Voc	
Mobile Communication	Electronics/ Electronics and Telecommunication or any allied Branch
Only D.Voc	
Architecture Assistantship	Architecture or any allied Branch

Eligible institutions may seek approval from AICTE to run relevant course(s) using existing infrastructure and facilities as additional programme. Institute will conduct classes for General Education component whereas AICTE recognized Skill Knowledge Provider (SKP)/ Industry/ Training Partner will impart hands on skills. The AICTE web portal for approval has been made live from 14th Jan, 2019.

Further detail can be seen at Chapter-V of Approval Process Handbook (APH 2019-20) at: <https://www.aictc-india.org/sites/default/files/APH%202019-20.pdf>

For an additional information, contact Director(SDC), AICTE HQs, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi at sdc@aictc-india.org

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Member Secretary (AICTE)

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Shot in the arm

The Supreme Court's ruling eases the implementation of the IBC in knotty cases

Last week's Supreme Court judgment upholding the validity of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 (IBC) in its "entirety" could have a major impact on the country's economic landscape. The fledgling IBC has been severely tested in the two years since its enactment, with the Centre being forced to amend a couple of its provisions in order to plug some loopholes that enabled defaulting borrowers to challenge the legislation. Any law of this nature that takes over businesses and assets from defaulters and empowers lenders to change the management is bound to face legal challenges. Borrowers were never going to take the IBC lying down, and that is exactly what happened; over the last two years, they have challenged various aspects of the law in tribunals and courts. In the event, the apex court's stamp of approval on the entire Code is a strong signal to borrowers and banks even as it brings a sense of relief to the Centre, which has been watching one of its better economic initiatives being stifled by vested interests.

One of the major challenges mounted against the IBC was by operational creditors, who are owed money by the company in the normal course of operations for supply of goods and services. In the payment waterfall prescribed under Section 53 of the IBC in the event of liquidation of the company or its sale to another entity, their dues rank below those of financial creditors, workers and employees. This was challenged by the operational creditors, who wanted equal treatment with financial creditors in the waterfall mechanism. Several landmark cases that were referred to the National Company Law Tribunal under the IBC remain stuck there, including that of the high-profile Essar Steel, as a result of its operational creditors seeking equal treatment. With the Supreme Court now ruling that there are "intelligible differentia" between operational and financial creditors, an avenue that defaulters used to stymie proceedings has been closed. Repayment of financial debt by borrowers infuses capital into the economy as lenders can on-lend the money that has been repaid to other entrepreneurs, thus aiding economic activity, the judges observed. The apex court has also clarified that a mere relationship with an ineligible person cannot disqualify someone from becoming a bidder for a troubled asset. It has to be proved that such a person is "connected" with the business activity of the resolution applicant. The court used strong words: "...[T]he experiment conducted in enacting the Code is proving to be largely successful. The defaulter's paradise is lost." This constitutes a clear signal of its backing for the IBC which, despite all the challenges that it has faced, has been successful in sending a message to recalcitrant defaulters that there can be no more business-as-usual when they default.

Effortless brilliance

Djokovic beats an error-prone Nadal for a record-breaking seventh Australian Open title

Novak Djokovic, at his absolute best, can make even the most fiercely competitive of draws appear enervated. From the start of 2015 to mid-2016, when he won five of the six Grand Slam events, he arguably played at a level unmatched in tennis history. With his merciless demolition of Rafael Nadal in Melbourne on Sunday, which gave the World No. 1 a men's-record seventh Australian Open singles trophy, and his 15th Major overall taking him past American great Pete Sampras, he is on the cusp of repeating that golden run spread across 2015 and 2016. The Serb's transformation, in just over six months, from a physically compromised and mentally withdrawn state to having a shot at sporting immortality, has been staggering. Against Nadal, he did not quite have to hit his peak; the World No.2, despite having looked the better player leading up to the final, never truly arrived, with his rhythm, timing and tactics all over the place. The 17-time Grand Slam champion seemed smitten by anxiety, a far cry from the 2018 Wimbledon semifinal when he fearlessly matched Djokovic shot for shot over five epic sets. But that is probably what the mask of invincibility does to opponents, something that Djokovic wears so effortlessly.

To be sure, Djokovic had lost in each of the three tournaments before the Australian Open – to rising youngsters in Karen Khachanov and Alexander Zverev, and the gritty Roberto Bautista Agut – suggesting a few cracks. But the manner of victory over Nadal, where he conceded a mere eight games and did not drop a set, a first in 25 finals for the Spaniard, proved that the 31-year-old had lost none of his astonishing powers of recovery. Nadal was on the path to recovery as well, playing only his first tournament since his injury-forced retirement in the U.S. Open semifinal last September. Following Roger Federer's loss to Stefanos Tsitsipas, the 20-year-old sensation from Greece, the tournament seemed open to further upsets, but the business end demonstrated that the elite can never be written off. As Nadal said after dismantling Tsitsipas in the semifinal, what fans can instead look forward to is an irresistible battle of the generations. On the women's side, this clash has seemed heightened in recent years, and Naomi Osaka, with her gallant three-set win over Petra Kvitova in the final, firmly established herself as the next big thing. For the 21-year-old to back up her maiden title at the U.S. Open with a win in the very next slam is character-revealing. She is now the World No.1 and also the first Asian to get there. She has the temperament and the poise to go much further.

A chessboard called Uttar Pradesh

It's do or die for all three in U.P. — the BJP and its resurgent rivals, the SP-BSP combine and the Congress



VIDYA SUBRAHMANIAM

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's bombshell induction into the Congress and her being given the charge of East Uttar Pradesh just ahead of the general election did the one thing previously unimaginable. It caused a little tsunami in the TV studios habitually glued to the movements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. India Today TV set its fetching photo feature on Ms. Vadra to the 1980's Bollywood hit song, "Bijli girane mei hun aayee (I've come like a thunderbolt)." Anchors across channels debated the Priyanka game-changer.

A fusion and shift

Yet, for all the hype around Ms. Vadra's wild card entry, it is not the first big thing to happen this election season. That credit goes to the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) which closed a breathtaking deal just weeks earlier. The alliance was between two subaltern forces, each with a committed vote base, the fusion of which was capable of effecting a tectonic shift in the power politics of U.P. The two had been bitter enemies before but have buried the hatchet realising the match-winning potential of their combined strength. The story of the SP-BSP threatened to be the story of the fall of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in U.P. and it triggered a furious rejig of calculations: the alliance did look poised

to overtake the BJP. But then came the Modi Government's announcement of 10% quota in education and jobs for the general category. Into this cocktail has now been added the Priyanka Vadra factor, the consequences of which are as yet unclear, aside from its electrifying effect on the morale of the Congress cadre. The Congress, which had been left out of the SP-BSP deal, has since acquired a swagger which it is showing off for all to see.

Admittedly, there will be more twists with the near certainty of schemes tailored for U.P. in the Union Budget. The frantic one-upmanship between the parties in U.P. owes itself to the State's fabled role in deciding who wins and who sinks at the national level. Although at least three governments, led each by the Congress and two versions of the United Front, in 1991 and 1996-1998, have made it to Delhi bypassing U.P., the belief remains that the way to the national capital is via Lucknow. The reason for this is the BJP's critical dependence on U.P. Whether in 1996, when it emerged as the largest single party and briefly held power for 13 days, or in 1998, 1999 and 2014, when it formed full-fledged governments at the Centre, U.P. has been central to the party's successes.

State's poll arithmetic

Consider U.P.'s role in making BJP governments at the Centre. In 1996, 52 of the party's total seats of 161 came from U.P. In 1998, 57 out of 182. In 1999, 29 out of 182. And in 2014, exceeding all expectations, 71 out of 282. In sum, no U.P. no government for the BJP. So if the BJP must win all it can in U.P., its rivals in the State, whether the



SP-BSP alliance or the Congress, must ensure precisely the opposite result because the stakes are equally high for them with three crucial objectives to be met: dislodge the Modi government, ensure their own survival in the State, and have a shot at forming the next government.

With equations changing constantly and ever new inputs causing the poll arithmetic to undergo rewrites, is it possible at all to guess who will stand where in U.P. when the last vote is counted? On paper, the BJP is unassailable. But the U.P. of today is not the U.P. of 2014 or even 2017. Demonetisation, which powered the BJP's 2017 victory, has recoiled on the poor. State Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's cow-centric policies have deepened the woes of farmers already in distress even as the targeted killings of Muslims, sizeable at 20% of the population, have left the community feeling under siege.

So even in a static political situation, the BJP would have found it hard to repeat its 2014 performance. In 2014 as well as in 2017, the BJP beat its opponents in every department – in caste arithmetic, in booth management and in being visible 24 into 7 via a captive media. Mr. Modi's charisma, the

party's deep coffers and the old chestnut of communal polarisation did the rest. In 2019, the rivals are a savvier lot, with their own caste arithmetic and PR tricks.

It is a given that the Modi-Shah pair will not stand by while their opponents strategise to defeat them. Reports suggest that the 10% general quota has enthused the alienated upper castes. Whether this group will be diverted in part to the Congress because of Ms. Vadra remains to be seen but her entry undoubtedly poses a threat to this previously solid BJP vote bank. A resurgent Congress can also chip away at the SP-BSP's Muslim support. The biggest plus point for the Congress is the goodwill it has always enjoyed in U.P. On the other hand, it has no core constituency that can act as a pivot to attract other castes and communities.

A deeper reading

The SP-BSP alliance was not meant to happen, and if it has happened, it is only because the situation was dire for both of them. The partners had no future individually. The BJP's vice-like hold on the State and its resources meant that the respective cadre of the SP and the BSP had no hope for the foreseeable future. No party can indefinitely retain its rank and file without the carrot of an electoral triumph and a realistic chance at the loaves and fishes of office. The arithmetic of togetherness, ignored earlier, could no longer be overlooked. After the failure of their last unity experiment in 1993, the SP and the BSP had resolutely resisted teaming up, largely due to deep personal animosities. A change of guard in the SP in the form of Akhilesh Yadav did a lot to ease things. But

it is arithmetic that clinched the deal. Together the SP and the BSP are match winners and have been so in every election since 1993 when they first beat the BJP. Indeed, statistics show that together they will have likely stopped the BJP's conquest of Delhi, whether in 1998, 1999, or even in 2014. In 1998, the BJP's vote share from U.P. was 36.49%. In the same election, the SP-BSP had a combined vote of 49.60%. In 1999, the partners had 46% to the BJP's 27.64%. And in 2014, they lagged behind but only by a few decimal points.

Today, the two parties look formidable. They have got the Rashtriya Lok Dal on board, and are looking to add smaller Other Backward Classes (OBC)-based parties. Realising that the OBC castes are vital for victory, the BJP fused them together brilliantly in 2014. This time the advantage of social engineering could be with the SP-BSP alliance. If the combine's vote share crosses the one-third mark, it could even benefit from the three-way split.

If the alliance brings itself to do one more thing, it could become unbeatable. And that is to stop chasing the chimera of upper caste votes and pitch itself as a protector of OBCs and reservation, as against the BJP which has returned to its upper caste roots with the 10% general quota. Will they do it?

At the time of writing, Rahul Gandhi had promised a minimum income for the poor. How the BJP tops that will be known on February 1.

Vidya Subrahmaniam is Senior Fellow at The Hindu Centre for Politics and Public Policy. E-mail: vidya.subrahmaniam@thehinducentre.com

Capable even if disabled

An institutional display of pure and simple discrimination dressed up as legal reasoning is unacceptable



RAHUL BAJAJ

One of the darkest moments in the American disability rights movement was the American Supreme Court's decision, in 1927, upholding the forced sterilisation of a mentally infirm woman, reasoning that it helped get rid of those who would sap the state of its strength by swamping it with incompetence. Similarly, in India, the Supreme Court's ruling last Tuesday, in *V. Surendra Mohan v. Union of India*, has to be regarded as one of the darkest in India's disability rights movement.

The Court had to rule on the legality of the Tamil Nadu government's policy of reserving the post of civil judge only for people whose percentage of blindness does not exceed 40-50%, resulting in the exclusion of the applicant who was 70% blind. It held that the government's decision was rational and reasonable. It ruled that a judicial officer has to possess a reasonable amount of sight and hearing to discharge her functions. It accepted the claim that impaired vision makes it impossible to perform the functions required of judicial officers, such as assessing the demeanour of wit-

nesses and reading and analysing evidence. It also accepted that asking a blind judicial officer to perform such administrative functions as recording dying declarations and conducting inquiries can result in avoidable complications. The judgment is problematic for four key reasons.

Examples of success

First, the view that a totally blind person cannot thrive as a judge is belied by several examples of successful judges who are blind. One is former South African Constitutional Court judge Zak Yacoob, who has repudiated the notion that one needs to be sighted to assess a witness's demeanour as being nonsensical, to U.S. Court of Appeals DC Circuit judge David S. Tatel, who thinks that it is neither fair nor accurate to impose low expectations on what blind lawyers can do. There is also former San Diego County Court judge David Szumowski, who has described the view that a blind person lacks the wherewithal to become a judge as an unfair characterisation, to Yousef Saleem who, last year, became Pakistan's first blind civil judge.

Second, how, some contend, can a blind person be reasonably expected to thrive as a judge without being excessively dependent and inefficient? However, as the Supreme Court itself noted in 2017, "A lawyer can be just as effective in a wheelchair, as long as she



has access to the courtroom and the legal library, as well as to whatever other places and material or equipment that are necessary for her to do her job well."

Those voicing such a statement of cynicism might find it equally hard to imagine how a blind person can write an article for *The Hindu*, as this writer is doing, or study computer science, as many blind Indians have done or be a successful civil servant, as Beno Zephine N.L. is.

Third, the Court's unreasoned assertion is an outcome of their ignorance about the capabilities of the disabled. However, as Laura Wolk notes, ignorance simply cannot be an excuse in 2019. It is simply unacceptable to condemn disabled legal professionals, possessing the intellectual wherewithal to be a judge, to the status of outcasts only because the judges delivering the judgment in this case appear simply not to have bothered to notice the competence of the millions of disabled

people who inhabit this world. As Judge Szumowski asks Indian judges, "if you went blind while on the bench, and were able to efficiently discharge your responsibility before this, how would you feel if told that you can no longer continue as a judge, even if you are able to perform your functions with some amount of retraining and adaptive tech?"

Reasonable accommodations

Fourth, as to obviating avoidable complications, the reasonable accommodations required by a blind judge may be considered irksome. However, it bears noting that "there is a distinct exhortatory dimension to be recognised in deciding whether an adjustment to assist a disabled person to overcome the disadvantage that she or he has in comparison to an able-bodied person is reasonable." It does not lie in our mouth to say that we are truly committed to ensuring that the constitutional promise of equality is fully realised, if we lack the ability to even pay the price of making reasonable accommodations.

This is not just of academic interest for me. On my path to becoming a blind postgraduate law student at the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, I have often been compelled to engage with the cynicism of those who thought that something was simply too difficult and messy for me to do as a blind person. And perhaps some

things were, and continue to be, comparatively more difficult. But those experiences also helped me cultivate the ability to assert myself and to find ways of thriving in a world not designed for me – qualities that many able-bodied persons do not possess to the same degree and qualities which were recently recognised by a sitting Supreme Court judge in open court.

When my Supreme Court tells me that my blindness makes me intrinsically incapable of becoming a judicial officer, when it arrogates to itself the power to stamp a badge of incompetence on thousands like me about whom it knows nothing, its declaration cuts to the core of my confidence about the fairness and robustness of our judicial system. Indeed, it is telling that even the applicant in this case took it as a given that those who are completely blind for all intents and purposes, like me, cannot become a judge; it only argued that a partially blind person can become a judge. I have never had any interest in becoming part of the judiciary. However, I earnestly believe that how we choose to respond to this institutional display of pure and simple discrimination dressed up as legal reasoning will be reflective of what kind of a society we hope to be.

Rahul Bajaj is a postgraduate law student at the University of Oxford, as a Rhodes Scholar

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

The next mandate

The writer, a former Union Minister, needs to look at his party's own history of being in co-habits with the mob in stifling the freedom of expression (Editorial page, "The essence of the next mandate", January 28). Who can forget how the party aided forces that were against *The Satanic Verses*? The present dispensation may be synonymous with a flaring up of communal tensions, but the fact is the Opposition too does not have constitutional values in mind. To gain the confidence of independent voters who do not have any political predisposition, the Opposition needs to be more vocal about acknowledging its fatal flaws and make credible promises that it will not pursue such lines if it comes to power.

M. NIHILESH,
Hyderabad

The writer appears to be living in an ivory tower as he is totally disconnected from ground realities. The so-called 'mahagathbandhan' is non-existent as every one of its constituents is following a different trajectory. Voters face a catch-22 situation and are befuddled. The BJP is bound to have an easy run in the general election.

DEEPAN SINGHAL,
Noida

opportunism. In fact, the greatest threat to democracy seems to arise from the intolerance of the Congress which has been behaving as if it has a personal score to settle with the Prime Minister. Unfortunately for the Congress, smear campaigns and clever propaganda belong to the pre-Internet era.

V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN,
Thiruvananthapuram

Since 2014, we have seen the preaching of a majoritarian agenda for electoral gains, hits to our secular ethos and pluralistic fabric, and a rise in social and economic disparities. These are only a few examples. I hope 'the soul of a suppressed nation' does assert its authority.

KSHITIJ MANI TRIPATHI,
Lucknow

What promised to be a thriller of a men's final in the Australian Open, turned out to be a lopsided one. But, it was one of the best ever

world war will be fought over water, appears to be coming true. The decline in monsoon rain is bound to affect India, more so in the drought-prone areas (Editorial page, "India stares at water scarcity", January 23). The disproportional transfer of water between rural-urban areas will further worsen the already ruined agrarian sector. Farmers are already burdened with debt traps and price volatility and if the drought situation worsens, they will face even greater danger. Cutting across party lines, politicians must constitute a commission to study water scarcity and look for practical solutions.

SANJITH M. NEYOR,
Kottayam, Kerala

At Melbourne

What promised to be a thriller of a men's final in the Australian Open, turned out to be a lopsided one. But, it was one of the best ever

performances by world No.1 Novak Djokovic, as he demolished Rafael Nadal ('Sport' page, "Djokovic makes it seven with a magnificent display", January 28). Djokovic's win, yet again, reopens the debate over who is the greatest male tennis player of all time. However, the trio, of Roger Federer, Nadal and Djokovic, have crafted a golden era in men's tennis.

R. SIVAKUMAR,
Chennai

Light pollution

The article "Night shifts may cause DNA damage" ("Life" page, January 28) was interesting. In this connection, I would like to

raise the issue of light pollution, which most Indians are unaware of. A

Think differently about healthcare

India's public health system can no longer function within the shadows of its health services system



RAVIKUMAR CHOCKALINGAM



"India certainly has a serious problem with health literacy and it is the responsibility of public health professionals to close this gap." Stubble burning in Dadri, Uttar Pradesh in 2018. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

In India, public health and health services have been synonymous. This integration has dwarfed the growth of a comprehensive public health system, which is critical to overcome some of the systemic challenges in healthcare.

A stark increase in population growth, along with rising life expectancy, provides the burden of chronic diseases. Tackling this requires an interdisciplinary approach. An individual-centric approach within healthcare centres does little to promote well-being in the community. Seat belt laws, regulations around food and drug safety, and policies for tobacco and substance use as well as climate change and clean energy are all intrinsic to health, but they are not necessarily the responsibilities of healthcare services. As most nations realise the vitality of a robust public health system, India lacks a comprehensive model that isn't subservient to healthcare services.

A different curriculum
India's public health workforce come from an estimated 51 colleges that offer a graduate programme in public health. This number is lower at the undergraduate level. In stark contrast, 238 universities offer a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree in the U.S.

In addition to the quantitative problem, India also has a diversity problem. A diverse student population is necessary to create an interdisciplinary workforce. The 2017 Gorakhpur tragedy in Uttar Pradesh, the 2018 Majerhat bridge collapse in Kolkata, air pollution in Delhi and the Punjab narcotics crisis are all public health tragedies. In all these cases, the quality of healthcare services is critical to prevent morbidity and mortality. However, a well organised public health system with supporting infrastructure strives to prevent catastrophic events like this.

Public health tracks range from research, global health, health communication, urban planning, health pol-

icy, environmental science, behavioural sciences, healthcare management, financing, and behavioural economics. In the U.S., it is routine for public health graduates to come from engineering, social work, medicine, finance, law, architecture, and anthropology. This diversity is further enhanced by a curriculum that enables graduates to become key stakeholders in the health system. Hence, strong academic programmes are critical to harness the potential that students from various disciplines will prospectively bring to MPH training.

Investments in health and social services tend to take precedence over public health expenditure. While benefits from population-level investments are usually long term but sustained, they tend to accrue much later than the tenure of most politicians. This is often cited to be a reason for reluctance in investing in public health as opposed to other health and social services. This is not only specific to India; most national health systems struggle with this conundrum. A recent systematic review on Return on Investment (ROI) in public health looked at health promotion, legislation, social determinants, and health protection. They opine that a \$1 investment in the taxation of sugary beverages can yield

returns of \$55 in the long term. Another study showed a \$9 ROI for every dollar spent on early childhood health, while tobacco prevention programmes yield a 1,900% ROI for every dollar spent. The impact of saving valuable revenue through prevention is indispensable for growing economies like India.

Problem of health literacy

Legislation is often shaped by public perception. While it is ideal for legislation to be informed by research, it is rarely the case. It is health literacy through health communication that shapes this perception. Health communication, an integral arm of public health, aims to disseminate critical information to improve the health literacy of the population. The World Health Organisation calls for efforts to improve health literacy, which is an independent determinant of better health outcome. Data from the U.S. show that close to half of Americans lack the necessary knowledge to act on health information and one-third of Europeans have problems with health literacy. India certainly has a serious problem with health literacy and it is the responsibility of public health professionals to close this gap.

Equally important is a system of evaluating national programmes.

While some fail due to the internal validity of the intervention itself, many fail from improper implementation. Programme planning, implementation and evaluation matrices will distinguish formative and outcome evaluation, so valuable time and money can be saved.

The public health system looks at the social ecology and determinants focusing on optimising wellness. Healthcare services, on the other hand, primarily focus on preventing morbidity and mortality. A comprehensive healthcare system will seamlessly bridge the two.

A council for public health

A central body along the lines of a council for public health may be envisaged to synergistically work with agencies such as the public works department, the narcotics bureau, water management, food safety, sanitation, urban and rural planning, housing and infrastructure to promote population-level health. In many ways, these agencies serve to bring in many facets of existing State and federal agencies and force them to see through the lens of public health. The proposed council for public health should also work closely with academic institutions to develop curriculum and provide license and accreditation to schools to promote interdisciplinary curriculum in public health.

As international health systems are combating rising healthcare costs, there is an impending need to systematically make healthcare inclusive to all. While the proposed, comprehensive insurance programme Ayushman Bharat caters to a subset of the population, systemic reforms in public health will shift the entire population to better health. Regulatory challenges force governments to deploy cost-effective solutions while ethical challenges to create equitable services concerns all of India. With the infusion of technology driving costs on the secondary and tertiary end, it is going to be paramount for India to reinvigorate its public health system to maximise prevention. India's public health system can no longer function within the shadow of its health services.

Ravikumar Chockalingam is a public health scholar and psychiatrist at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Saint Louis, Missouri

Learning to probe early

Why research should be made part of UG curriculum in India



HARSH V. PANT & ANTARA SENGUPTA

While addressing the 106th Indian Science Congress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi underscored the need for universities to get involved in research. While India has made considerable strides in achieving a near-perfect enrolment rate in primary education, it has failed to give higher education as much attention. As a consequence, Gross Enrollment Ratio in higher education is 25.8%, against China's 48.44% and the U.S.'s 88.84%. Mr. Modi's address alerts us to major lacunae in the education system that need to be looked at urgently if the higher education system is to meet the demands of today.

The importance of research

Research remains a significant weakness in India's higher education system, traditionally cocooned in specialised institutes such as the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). Unlike the world's best higher education systems, there is hardly any interaction between these institutes and teaching universities.

In India, about 80% of the students enrolled in higher education are concentrated in undergraduate (UG) programmes. Research and application-oriented education can substantially enhance the quality of UG education. While the concept of UG research is fairly new in India, it is now taken as a given in many parts of the world. Several studies on such programmes have shown a positive impact on students, such as enhanced learning through mentorship, increased retention, increased enrolment in graduate education, more prowess in critical thinking, creativity, problem solving, intellectual independence, and understanding of research methodologies. Research at the UG level increases the aptitude for research-oriented career options as well as the employability of students. Based on the nature of their association and the nuances of a research programme, the faculty can also gain by sharing their research ideas with students, receive valuable feedback as well as help in the form of assistance and apprenticeship. Additionally, research also helps the faculty enhance their teaching abilities and content by upgrading knowledge. Introducing and sustaining the culture of research at this level can also help solve the problem of shortage of faculty, as more students will likely opt for

doctoral and post-doctoral studies and teach in their home country. In any sound higher education system, research and teaching should ideally go together.

Besides, the government has also floated two ambitious projects towards internationalising higher education in India: 'Study in India' and 'Institutes of Eminence'. Both these will need institutes to become world class and carry out high-quality research on campuses. Only then will competent faculty as well as doctoral students from across the world come to India. Internationalisation of campuses is important if India wants to be in the global university ranking lists and this will not happen without encouraging an ecosystem that promotes high-quality research.

Some strategic steps

However, given the impediments vis-a-vis infrastructure, teachers, funds and content, the government will need to take strategic steps to roll out policies to promote UG research programmes. First, investment in education needs to meet the world standard of at least 6% of GDP, to upgrade infrastructure, labs and resources, which are essential to carry out high-quality research. Second, the University Grants Commission and other regulatory bodies will have to come out with a priority list of reputable journals. This will rid the country of the problem of bogus journals and publications. Research institutes such as TIFR and IISc should mentor some of the well-performing universities and colleges till they become aware of the nuances of conducting fair and high-quality research. Once capable, these trained institutes can then help the second rung of colleges and so on. Third, there should be planned ways to embed research in UG curriculum. Due to limitations in curriculum and the practice of rote learning, most students in India, even at the Masters level, graduate without having attempted an original piece of research or dissertation. The UGC should make it compulsory for students to submit at least a 5,000-word research paper that should be assessed just as publication in serious research journals are. Unless students are made aware of the value of research from an early stage, they will not recognise the true value of higher education.

The status quo in education has resulted in education that is not only substandard but also fails to open inquiring minds to the world of research. India must be innovative in its approach if its demographic dividend is to be tapped into. Otherwise, what Mr. Modi said will remain a quotable quote.

Harsh V. Pant is Director, Studies and Head of the Strategic Studies Programme, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi, and Antara Sengupta is a Research Fellow at ORF's Mumbai Centre

SINGLE FILE

Investment over subsidies

A reconfiguration of public policy is needed to replace agricultural subsidies with investment

PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN

We are witnessing something akin to lobbying for a universal basic income whereby every Indian citizen gets money paid into their bank account. A recent proposal published in the print media is presented also as a solution to the current agrarian impasse. It argues for the removal of

all agricultural subsidies, which range from fertilizer subsidies to those on interest, water and power, and distributing the saving among most of the rural population. To its authors, this scheme presents itself as addressing 'rural' and not just 'farm' distress. To evaluate what is being proposed as a way out of the present agrarian crisis it would be useful to understand what defines it and to recognise the originally intended role for the agricultural subsidy.

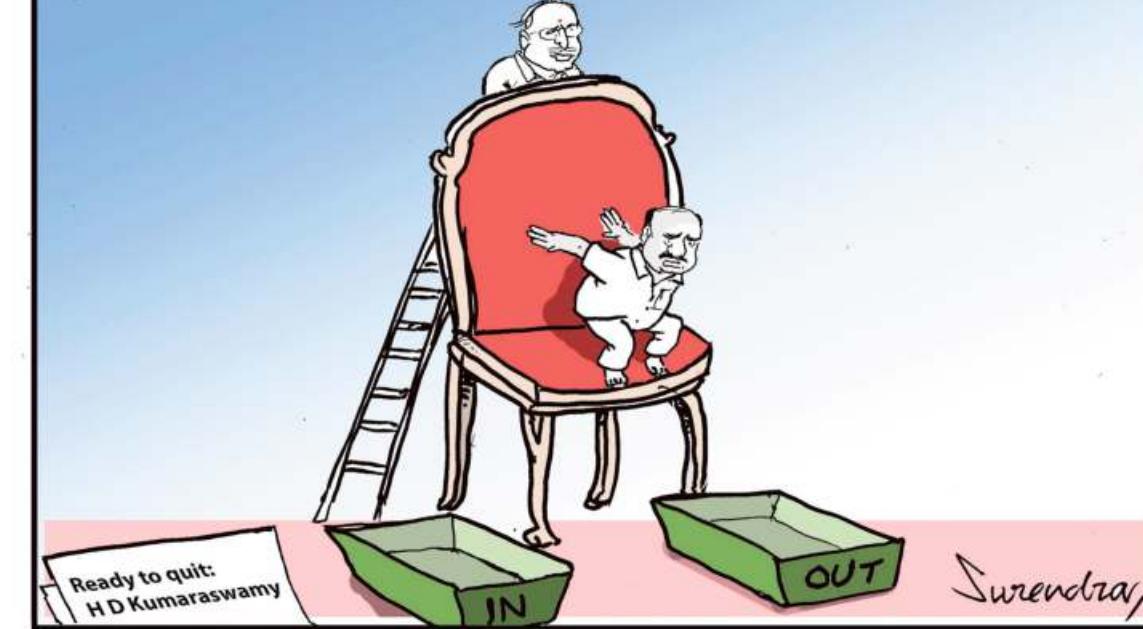
At its core the agrarian crisis is a case of agricultural activity not yielding enough returns for a section of the farming population. This group is facing a declining farm size due to partitioning across generations. As this population grows the process of fragmentation of the family farm will continue, with succeeding generations staring at a shrinking pie. There are two solutions to this problem. One is the obvious one of enabling some members of each household to shift out of farming. The other is to reconfigure public expenditure on agriculture to raise the yield of land. Actually, the latter would serve both objectives.

A reconfiguration of public policy is needed to replace agricultural subsidies by capital formation or 'investment'.

For three and a half decades now subsidies have progressively replaced public investment for agriculture. Having once been less than half that of investment it is now five times as large. Evidence points strongly to a case for moving some distance back. The impact of public investment on both the yield of land and rural poverty, encompassing a cohort wider than farmers, is far greater than that of fertilizer, electricity, irrigation and interest rate subsidy. This crucial finding is due to the Sino-Indian team of economists Shengen Fan, Ashok Gulati and Sukhadeo Thorat. In their study, the investments found most valuable were "educational" and on rural roads.

The agricultural subsidies that are now found wasteful were designed with a purpose. The plan was to place agricultural production on a sound footing. It envisioned raising the yield of land, which works to generate rising output without inflation and with reasonable profit. The price of food has historically been high for Indians at the bottom of the income distribution. This has held back industrialisation and the desirable shifting of population away from farming to other activities. Even a total elimination of subsidies to enable this transformation via public investment may not be such a bad thing. However, eliminating them merely to implement a universal basic income would be unwise.

Pulapre Balakrishnan is Professor, Ashoka University and Senior Fellow, IIM Kozhikode



NOTEBOOK

What reporters and rockets share in common

Covering rocket launches is a tricky affair, especially when deadlines beckon

T.K. ROHIT

On a starry night last Friday, the reflection of the moon glimmered on the dark waters of Pulicat Lake. It was close to midnight, but that didn't stop enthusiasts from lining up near the lake to watch yet another rocket go up from ISRO's launchpad at Sriharikota.

Inside the spaceport, the speakers blared with the countdown. When the words "lift-off successful" rung through the night air, the black sky turned orange. Large trees always block the view of the base of the launchpad for us at the media centre and this time I was in for a surprise: unlike the GSLVs, which boom so much at lift-off that one waits in anticipation for the spectacle that unfolds over the next few seconds, the PSLV-C44 soared soundlessly into the sky. Only a few seconds after it sped ahead did a booming noise come from

the vehicle, a modified rocket with two strap-on boosters.

This was also the first time in nearly 13 years that I saw the separation of the rocket's first stage and second stage engine firing so clearly. The darkness of the sky ensured a clear view: white fumes emanated from the rocket, the fumes' tail accentuated by a dark red smoke, the first stage shut off, there were a few milliseconds of darkness, and then a sudden surge of orange light as the second stage fired, powering the rocket ahead on its path. While all this was taking place in the distance, I was in for a third "first": a flock of birds sailed across the sky. These migratory birds are regular visitors to the lake. This was such a beautiful sight to behold that I urge everyone to gather on the other side of the lake if there is another launch in those days we'll give a lot of uncertain moments to reporters as they were prone to failure. On the

other hand, PSLVs were fairly easy to cover as ISRO has truly mastered them.

The C44 was also the first time I was covering a near-midnight launch, which is a nightmare as it is close to the time when our edition is put to bed. With the speeches of the ISRO chairman and the launch team eating into the deadline, I had a window of only about 15 minutes to cram in as many details as possible. It was then that my phone rang. Never a good sign. "Rohit, where's the copy," the copy editor asked. I was frantic. "Give me 10 minutes, I have two more paragraphs to go!" The voice on the other side was calm: "In two minutes, the edition has to go." "Damn," I muttered to myself. I typed as quickly as I could and mailed the copy. Sometimes we cannot write everything we want, but then there are other days. Who said only rockets have countdowns?

FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 29, 1969

Call for trade preferences

The Council of Europe to-day [Jan. 28, Strasbourg] urged all member-Governments of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to proceed as rapidly as possible with the proposed scheme for a system of non-reciprocal temporary preferences in favour of raw materials, foodstuffs, semi-finished and manufactured goods and processed farm products of the developing countries. In a resolution based on the report of a committee of the council, it also called upon rich members of UNCTAD to increase their financial aid efforts in accordance with the new target figure of one per cent of Gross National Product agreed to by them at New Delhi last year.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 29, 1919

The Mad Hatter Again.

(From an Editorial)

That journalistic paragon, the Madras Mail, whose fairness in comment is on a par with the brilliancy of its logic, has discovered a new epithet for The Hindu. "Our Home Ruin contemporary" would strike most people as a somewhat vapid contribution to the vocabulary of vituperation, but if it pleases the Madras Mail to work it overtime we can only wish it joy of its modest ambitions in this direction... We quote this masterpiece in full so that our readers may not miss a syllogism which in its way is as perfect an one as they will find outside an asylum for the mentally indigent: "When we originally described as a "Home Ruler" the traitor Sitarama Iyer, whose appeal against the sentence of seven years' imprisonment recently passed upon him had just been rejected, local Extremist journals howled protestingly in chorus that he had no connection with the "Home Rule" movement... "We note also that, Home Rulers apart, the aid of the Indian public was also relied on by Sitarama Iyer. Would that not be a sufficient reason for branding that public as at least potential traitors? Junkerdom must be hard put to it if it cannot find a more worthy exponent of its cause than the Mad Hatter.

CONCEPTUAL

Psychological warfare

MILITARY

This refers to the use of effective propaganda, threats and other non-combat psychological techniques to manipulate the morale and the general behaviour of enemy forces. Psychological warfare may include using false media propaganda in order to negatively affect the psychological well-being of an enemy population and carrying out covert military operations that are intended to mislead the enemy and cause mental fatigue. It is often employed by governments to gain some level of mental advantage over the enemy and, in several cases, to influence public opinion within their own countries.

MORE ON THE WEB

The Universe responds to #10YearChallenge

<http://bit.ly/NirujMohan>

FROM PAGE ONE

Bodo outfit chief convicted in 2008 blasts

Apart from Daimary, the 14 convicts are George Boro, B Tharai, Raju Sarkar, Nilim Daimary, Agsai Bodo, Indra Brahma, Lokra Basumatary, Khageswar Basumatary, Prabhat Bodo, Jayanta Boro, Ajay Basumatary, Mridul Goyari, Mathuram Brahma and Rajen Goyari.

The trial began in February 2011, almost two years after the CBI filed chargesheets in the case, first against 19 and then against three others. "The prosecution produced 650 witnesses and 687 documentary evidences," CBI's special public prosecutor T.D. Goswami told *The Hindu*.

'Talks will be hit'
Rights activist Anjali Daimary and the sister of the NDFB chief, said the verdict would undermine the ongoing talks with the extremist group.

"This kind of judgment and peace process cannot go together" she said.

The NDFB was suspected to have detonated bombs simultaneously in nine places across Guwahati and three western Assam towns – Barpeta Road, Bongaigaon and



Police personnel escorting NDFB chief Ranjan Daimary after his conviction in Guwahati on Monday. ■ PTI

Kokrajhar.

The bombs were placed in two Maruti 800 cars and in motorbikes that were parked strategically in crowded areas. Of the 88 dead, 53 were killed in three blasts in Guwahati, 20 in three blasts in Kokrajhar and 15 in two blasts in Barpeta Road. No one died in the Bongaigaon blast.

Much of the damage inflicted was in the Ganeshguri area of Guwahati, at a spot about 350 metres from the office of former Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi.

After preliminary probe, the Assam police said the NDFB faction headed by Ranjan Daimary had carried out the blasts.

Upset Kumaraswamy threatens to step aside

Scrambling to limit the damage, AICC Organising Secretary and in charge of Karnataka K.C. Venugopal said the Congress high command had full faith in Karnataka government and Chief Minister. He also instructed KPCC to issue show cause notice to Mr. Somashankar, seeking an explanation for his controversial remarks.

"If the explanation is not satisfactory, party will take strong disciplinary action. The Congress will not tolerate any such indisciplined statements and actions," he said.

Coalition dharma
KPCC president Dinesh Gundu Rao said Mr. Somashankar had crossed the line of coalition politics, especially when he is holding a responsible position.

"It's an act of indiscipline and action will be initiated. Our coalition with the JD(S) is to take on the communal forces and unseat the anti-democratic forces ruling this country, not to indulge

in petty politicking," he tweeted.

By late afternoon, Mr. Somashankar reached the KPCC office and offered an unconditional apology for his remarks. Mr. Rao also tweeted later asking party legislators and ministers not to speak against the government and violate coalition dharma. "Problems, if any, can be discussed in party forum," he said.

Meanwhile, the BJP jumped into the fray and used the Chief Minister's remarks to deny allegations that it was trying to topple the government by poaching coalition MLAs.

The Chief Minister's statement exposes the internal bickering between coalition partners. It has also proved that allegation of Operation Lotus is a bogus claim by the Chief Minister and other Congress leaders to divert people's attention from the government's failures," Leader of the Opposition and BJP State president B.S. Yeddyurappa said.

Cong. promises income guarantee to the poor

In a series of tweets, Mr. Chidambaram, who heads the Congress Manifesto Committee, said the party would explain the details in its manifesto.

"The principle of Universal Basic Income (UBI) has been discussed extensively in the last two years. The time has come to adapt the principle to our situation and our needs and implement the same for the poor. We will explain our plan in the Congress manifesto," he said.

"140 million people were lifted out of poverty between 2004 and 2014. Now we should make a determined effort to wipe out poverty."

Nowhere brides: PoK women feel the pangs of separation

A J&K High Court judgment, issued in 1971 in the Mohsin Shah case, had observed that no deportation exercise could take place for such couples because "one person had merely travelled from one part of India to another".

Ms. Gillani has now appealed to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan to put pressure on Indian authorities to clear her travel documents and also those of all other women from PoK living in limbo in the Valley. As of now, she has a Pakistani

AJL did share transfer clandestinely'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Centre told the Delhi High Court on Monday that Associated Journals Ltd. (AJL), publishers of the *National Herald* newspaper, "clandestinely" transferred its majority shares to Young Indian in which Congress chief Rahul Gandhi and his mother Sonia Gandhi are majority shareholders.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta said there was a "calculated, clandestine design" to transfer the ownership. He said AJL was allocated the land on lease for a printing press but this "dominant purpose" was stopped several years ago.

The High Court has posted the case for further hearing on February 1.

Shah takes a dig at Cong.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHIMLA

For the Congress, OROP means 'only Rahul, only Priyanka', said BJP president Amit Shah at Una on Monday, using the acronym for 'one rank, one pension' scheme.

His jibe comes days after Congress president Rahul Gandhi made sister Priyanka Gandhi party general secretary for eastern U.P.

Caught in a triangular contest with Krishan Middha of the BJP and Digvijay

The counting of votes will be taken up on January 31.

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Monday referred to a Constitution Bench a plea questioning a revised education code followed by the Central government-run, 1,125-strong Kendriya Vidyalaya schools, which compels students to recite Sanskrit and Hindi verses with folded palms and closed eyes during morning assemblies or face public humiliation in front of the entire school.

Important issue

A Bench led by Justice Rohinton Nariman found that the petition raises an important issue where a secular state, which is supposed to have no religion, is compelling students drawn from diverse faiths, beliefs, minority communities and many who may be coming from agnostic,

Jind by-election records a turnout of over 75%

Crucial contest in Haryana seen as bellwether for LS polls

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

The high-stakes Jind Assembly by-election in Haryana recorded a turnout of more than 75% on Monday. The polling went off peacefully with no major incident of violence.

Deputy Commissioner, Jind, Amit Khatri told *The Hindu* over phone that 75.5% polling were recorded by 7 p.m., while voting was still on at a few booths. The final count could increase marginally, he said.

Of the 1.7 lakh electorate, around 1,30,000 had cast their votes when last reports came in, with rural areas witnessing over 80% polling.

No violence

Jind police spokesperson Pawan Kapoor said there were no reports of violence. Elaborate security arrangements were made for polling at all the 174 booths with the deployment of around 3,000 police personnel and 500 Home Guards, besides a company each of the Central Reserve Police Force and the Rapid Action Force.

The bypoll was necessitated by the death of Indian National Lok Dal legislator Hari Chand Middha.

Caught in a triangular contest with Krishan Middha of the BJP and Digvijay



Happy to vote: Women leaving a polling booth at Kandela village in Haryana on Monday. ■ PTI

79.14% polling in Ramgarh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

A voter turnout of 79.14% was recorded in the Assembly by-election in Rajasthan's Ramgarh constituency on Monday.

Votes will be counted on February 3. The polling in the seat was countermanded in December after the death of BSP candidate, Laxman Singh. The ruling Congress has fielded ex-zilla pramukh Safia Khan, while the BSP has put up Jagat Singh, son of former External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh. The BJP has fielded Sukhwant Singh.

The counting of votes will be taken up on January 31.

Plea challenges 'Hindu prayers' in KVs

Constitution Bench of the SC to hear petition against revised education code



Kendriya Vidyalayas violates Articles 19 (right to freedom of speech and expression) and Article 28(1), which prohibits the state from providing any religious instruction in an educational institution run on public funds. The petition said the common prayer amounted to "religious instruction".

Kendriya Vidyalayas function under the aegis of the Ministry Of Human Resource Development. The Union Minister is the Chairman. The schools, which have been in existence for over 50 years, constitute one of world's largest chain of educational institutions spread over regions with diverse languages, culture and traditions.

The petition pointed to Article 92 of the revised code, which mandates that "all students irrespective of

scepticist and rationalist family backgrounds, to recite a prayer which is "based on Hindu religion", under threat of punishment.

The Supreme Court had issued notice to the Centre on the petition filed by Veerayak Shah, who is represented by advocates Satya Mitra and Pallavi Sharma, in January last year.

The petition said the revised education code of the

petition said it is constitutionally impermissible to impose the prayer on students of other faiths and beliefs.

Besides, the practice is an obstacle to fostering a scientific temperament among the students as the "whole idea of God and religious faith is given immense priority and the same is instilled as a thought process among the students".

Give date for quizzing Karti, SC tells ED

Seeks permission to travel abroad

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to come back on January 30 with the dates on which it wanted to question Karti Chidambaram, son of senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram, in the INX Media and the Aircel-Maxis cases.

A Bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Sanjiv Khanna asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the ED, to seek instructions and give the date on which the probe agency wanted to quiz Mr. Karti. The court was hearing an application from Mr. Karti seeking permission to travel abroad for the next few

months for international tennis tournaments organised by a company called Totus Tennis Ltd.

"We will ensure both. We will ensure that he appears before you [ED] and he goes for his tennis assignment," CJR Gogoi said.

The ED is investigating the Foreign Investment Promotion Board clearance given to INX Media for receiving foreign funds of 305 crore when Mr. Chidambaram was Finance Minister.

Meanwhile, a Delhi court on Monday further extended the time of protection from arrest granted to the duo in the Aircel-Maxis case. Special Judge O.P. Saini extended the relief till February 18.

Full Budget against Constitution: Sinha

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

If the Modi government presents a full Budget instead of a vote-on-account, it will be unconstitutional, former Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha said on Monday.

"No Finance Minister has presented a Finance Bill in a vote-on-account session. If this government does that, it will be the first time and it

will be in direct contravention of the Constitution," he said at a session with the Indian Women's Press Corps.

Mr. Sinha said the government does not have the authority to present the Economic Survey or a Finance Bill.

"They can only introduce an appropriation Bill for sanctioning expenditure for the next three to four months," he added.

Fadnavis to Sena: BJP is not a helpless party

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday said while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is interested in a tie-up with the Shiv Sena, it is not helpless and more than prepared to contest the elections on its own.

Alliance with Sena

"Yes, we want an alliance [with the Sena], but we are not helpless or dependent upon it. The BJP is the party of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Narendra Modi...the only reason we are interested in an alliance is because we do not want power in the hands of the Congress and other opposition parties who have looted the country," Mr. Fadnavis said at the BJP's day-long State executive meet in Jalna district.

The CM further said the BJP will move forward with those allies who adhere to the principle of Hindutva. "We [the BJP] will take those who side with us, or else we will fight on our own. Our party's national president Amit Shah has already clarified this point."

Mr. Fadnavis' remark was a thinly-veiled jibe at Sena president Uddhav Thackeray and his attempts to position himself as the mascot of the Hindutva vote bank.

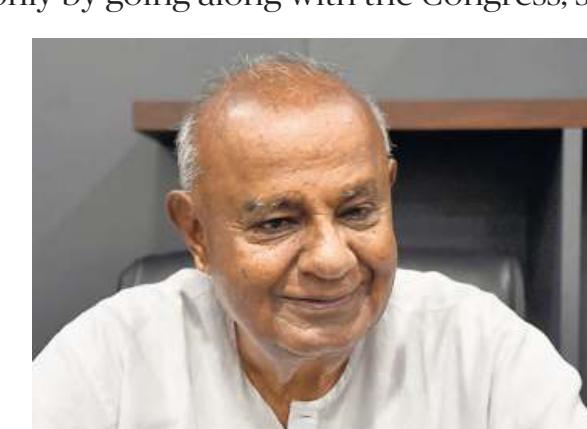
BJP State president Rao-sabha Danve said while the BJP was ready for an alliance, it all depends on whether the Sena was willing to hold out its hand.

Hitting out at the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Mr. Fadnavis said the Opposition neither has any vision nor any direction and that the formation of regional alliances against Mr. Modi will come a cropper.

INTERVIEW | H.D. DEVE GOWDA

'Opposition should sink its differences'

Goal to unseat the BJP can be achieved only by going along with the Congress, says former PM



MURALIDHARA KHAJANE

Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda appears to be upset with the Congress. Mr. Gowda, who took the initiative of bringing together non-BJP leaders on a common platform and sending a strong signal to the BJP-led NDA eight months ago says people have to be made confident that a Congress-led front would offer a stable government for five years. However, he says it is not right to blame the Congress alone on issues related to consolidation of the Opposition. Regional parties should also understand the ground realities and make sacrifices to a certain extent. Excerpts from an interview:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has targeted the Opposition plans for an alliance as a choice between a *majboot* and *majboor* (strong and weak) government, besides describing Opposition unity as 'comical' and 'opportunistic'.

If the grand alliance can't understand its problems and address them, there is no point in reacting to the criticism of Mr. Modi. People of the country want a stable government. With the polls to the Lok Sabha round the corner, leaders of the Opposition should sink their differences and provide a clear roadmap on how they plan to provide a stable government for five years and ensure good governance. Regional parties, which came

together with an idea of fighting the threat to secular and democratic values should sit together and discuss the modalities of seat sharing with an open mind. It is better to understand that the goal will be achieved only by going with the Congress. But, the rift between the regional parties and the Congress has provided Mr. Modi an opportunity to attack the grand alliance plan. Mr. Modi is all set to destroy the secular nature of the country and all constitutional institutions.

What was the trigger for the differences in the Opposition ranks?

The leader of the Bahujan Samaj Party, Mayawati, sought 10 seats in the recent polls to the Madhya Pradesh

Assembly. The Congress could have conceded the demand. But it did not. The BSP won two seats in Madhya Pradesh and six seats in Rajasthan. This development resulted in the coming together of the Samajwadi Party and the BSP in Uttar Pradesh and the Congress deciding to contest independently. I don't consider this as a failure, but a significant political development, which created confidence in Mr. Modi to attack Opposition unity as a failed experiment. The confidence of Mr. Modi, which got dented with the initiation of the plans for a grand alliance after the Opposition leaders came on a

common platform during the swearing-in of H.D. Kumaraswamy as Karnataka Chief Minister, got reinvigorated with the differences in the Opposition.

Is there still room for a course correction?

Of course. But, the Congress is yet to warm to the idea of a united front against the BJP. The Congress could have taken forward the unity of the Opposition by organi-

zing rallies with regional parties, which are eager to support it, across the country.

Had the Congress done this, a formidable Opposition combine would have taken shape by this time. However, it has been eight months since the national leaders congregated for a show of strength in Bengaluru.

But, the BJP wants to know who is the Opposition's choice for the Prime Minister's post?

Congress president Rahul Gandhi is a natural choice. None of us are competing



Gabbard accuses critics of 'religious bigotry'

WASHINGTON
Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard has hit back at critics who accuse her of being a "Hindu nationalist". In an article written for Religious News Services agency, she asserted that questioning her commitment to the U.S. while not probing non-Hindu leaders created a "double standard" rooted in "religious bigotry". PTI

Ex-Starbucks CEO could run for President

WASHINGTON
Billionaire former Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz said in a TV interview that he is looking into running against Donald Trump in 2020 as an independent presidential candidate. "I am seriously thinking of running for President," Mr. Schultz told the CBS news show "60 Minutes" late on Sunday. AFP

U.S. lifts sanctions on Russian tycoon

WASHINGTON
U.S. President Donald Trump's administration on Sunday lifted sanctions on the core empire of Russian tycoon Oleg Deripaska, including aluminium giant Rusal and its parent En+ Group, despite a Democrat-led push to maintain them. The move has watered down the toughest penalties imposed since Moscow's 2014 annexation of Crimea. REUTERS

U.S. declares it has agreed upon peace framework with Taliban

Envoy says militants have vowed not to allow the use of Afghanistan for terrorism

MUJIB MASHAL

KABUL
American and Taliban officials have agreed to the framework of a peace deal in which the insurgents guarantee to prevent Afghanistan from being used by terrorists, and that could lead to a full pull-out of U.S. troops in return for a ceasefire and Taliban talks with the Afghan government, the chief U.S. negotiator said Monday.

"We have a draft of the framework that has to be fleshed out before it becomes an agreement," the American envoy, Zalmay Khalilzad, said in an interview in Kabul. "The Taliban [has] committed, to our satisfaction, to do what is necessary that would prevent Afghanistan from ever becoming a platform for international terrorist groups or individuals."

After nine years of halting efforts to reach a peace deal with the Taliban, the draft framework, though preliminary, is the biggest tangible step toward ending the two-decade war.

Talking to Afghan govt. A senior American official said that the Taliban delegation had asked for time to confer with their leadership about the U.S. insistence that the insurgents talk with the Afghan government and agree to a ceasefire as part of any finalised deal. The official said they had made it clear to the Taliban that all

**The way forward:** Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, centre, with U.S. special representative Zalmay Khalilzad, top left, during a Cabinet meeting in Kabul on Monday. • AP

the issues discussed were "interconnected" as part of a "package deal". The official's account was supported by details that have been leaked by some Taliban and Western officials in recent days.

Although other Taliban sources said that more concrete details of a U.S. troop withdrawal had already been agreed upon, American officials said on Monday that those details had not yet been hashed out.

Mr. Khalilzad returned to Afghanistan on Sunday to brief the government in Kabul after conducting six days of talks with the Taliban delegation in Doha, Qatar.

In an address to the nation after being briefed by Mr. Khalilzad, President Ashraf Ghani expressed concern that a peace deal would be rushed. He highlighted previous settlements that ended in bloodshed, including

when the Soviet Union withdrew from the country in the late 1980s. Despite a promise of a peace deal at the time, Afghanistan broke into anarchy. "We want peace quickly, we want it soon, but we want it with prudence," Mr. Ghani said. "Prudence is important so we do not repeat past mistakes."

Appointment of Baradar During the talks last week, the Taliban signed its seriousness by appointing one of its most powerful officials from the original movement, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, as their chief peace negotiator.

Senior American officials said new talks would start in late February, but suggested that teams from both sides could start on technical details before then.

As the first step in the framework, Mr. Khalilzad said

that the Taliban was firm about agreeing to keep Afghan territory from being used as a staging ground for terrorism by groups like al-Qaeda, and had agreed to provide guarantees and an enforcement mechanism.

That had long been a primary demand by American officials. The next set of contingencies would see the U.S. agreeing to withdraw combat troops from Afghanistan, but only in return for the Taliban's entering talks with the Afghan government and agreeing to a lasting ceasefire. Those last two points have long been resisted by Taliban officials, and could still provide trouble with the process, officials said.

But the agreement in principle to discussing them at all was seen as a breakthrough after years of failed attempts, American and Afghan officials said. NY TIMES



Kamala Harris begins campaign

Projects herself as a 'candidate of the American people'

SIRIRAM LAKSHMAN

Kamala Harris, a U.S. Senator from California of African and Indian descent, officially launched her 2020 presidential campaign on Sunday from her hometown of Oakland.

Speaking in front of the Oakland City Hall, with over 20,000 people in attendance – a larger crowd than former President Barack Obama had at his campaign launch in 2007 – Ms. Harris projected herself as a candidate of the people.

"I walked into the courtroom for the very first time and said the five words that would guide my life's work, 'Kamala Harris, for the people,'" she said, speaking of her early days as a public prosecutor 30 years ago. Those five words flashed across screens at Sunday's rally and now constitute her campaign slogan for 2020.

Shortly after announcing her candidacy on Martin Luther King Jr. Day last week, Ms. Harris had declared that she had raised \$1.5 million within the first 24 hours.

A child of Jamaican and Indian immigrants, Ms. Harris was, in 2010, the first woman of African and Indian descent to become California's Attorney-General, and, in 2016, the second African-American woman in the U.S. Senate.

Invoking her mother Early on in her speech, Ms. Harris invoked memories of her mother, Shyamala Gopalan, a biologist who immigrated to the U.S. from Chen-

Ms. Harris also called Mr. Trump's border wall his "medieval vanity project" and in what was perhaps a reference to the plight of federal workers in the recent government shutdown, Ms. Harris said that while American families were living paycheque to paycheque, bankers responsible for the economic crash were getting bonuses and the country's biggest corporations were getting "a trillion dollars" – a reference to the Trump administration's tax cuts.

'Age-old forms of hate'

"And guys, let us understand what is happening here: people in power are trying to convince us that the villain in our American story in each other," Ms. Harris said, adding that "age-old forms of hate with new fuel", including racism, sexism and homophobia were real in America.

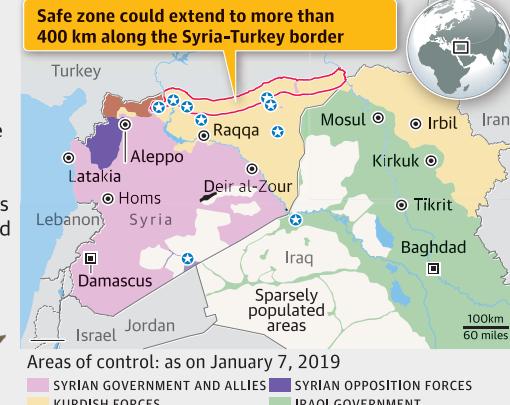
Ms. Harris is running on a platform that includes promises to deliver the "largest working and middle-class tax cut in a generation", Medicare for All, declaring education a fundamental right, and criminal justice reform.

Ms. Harris has received criticism for not adopting progressive policies in her role as California's Attorney-General.

With the official launch of her campaign, Ms. Harris is increasingly considered one of the strongest in a pack of diverse Democratic candidates – women, racial and sexual minorities – making a bid for the White House in 2020.

No-war zone

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday reiterated his government's call for the creation of a safe zone in the semi-autonomous Kurdish-populated northeastern Syria, which would enable around four million Syrian refugees in his country a safe passage to their homeland



7-10% of Syria's population is Kurdish

25% Kurds control a quarter of Syrian territory

20,000-30,000 fighters

The YPG, the leading Kurdish militia, has thousands of fighters



A Kurdish fighter in Raqa firing at an Islamic State-operated drone in June 2017. • Reuters

The three main players

The U.S. President Donald Trump has signalled his intention to pull out the 2,000 U.S. troops stationed in Syria, a move that has shocked American lawmakers as well as U.S. allies. To assuage the concerns of those who feel that Turkey may attempt to gain control over the region, Trump has backed the creation of a safe zone, where there would be no fighting

Turkey Ankara considers the People's Protection Units (YPG), who are allied with the U.S. and whose support has been instrumental in driving out Islamic State from the region, a terrorist force. It says that the YPG is an extension of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has been fighting the Turkish state for greater autonomy for three decades. Last year, Syrian rebels backed by Turkey drove out YPG fighters from Afrin. Turkey is the most prominent backer of the safe zone idea

The Kurds The northeastern Syrian region along the Syria-Turkey border is under the control of the Syrian Democratic Forces, an anti-IS force commanded by the YPG. The Kurds fear coming under the occupation of Turkey or forces backed by Ankara and have rejected the idea of a 'safe zone', considering it a Turkish ploy to gain greater control over the region

Source: Graphic News, Reuters

Chinese rights lawyer jailed for subversion

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BEIJING

Chinese human rights lawyer Wang Quanzhang was sentenced on Monday to four-and-a-half years in prison for state subversion.

Mr. Wang, 42, who defended political activists and victims of land seizures, had disappeared in a sweep aimed at critics of authorities. Charged in January 2016 with state subversion, Mr. Wang had been the last of more than 200 lawyers and activists arrested in the crackdown to be tried or released.

Mr. Wang was "found guilty of subverting state power, sentenced to four years and six months in prison, and deprived of political rights for five years," the Tianjin Second Intermediate People's Court said in a statement.

Citing Mr. Wang's lawyer, his wife Li Wenzu said the 10-day period to submit an appeal starts on Tuesday and that they will "of course appeal".

Source: Graphic News, Reuters

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Chief Engineer (C&M), MSETCL

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- Approximate Cost of the Work** ₹ 7,91,23,906/-
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- Ernest Money Deposit (EMD)** ₹ 5,45,620/-
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MARKET WATCH

	28-01-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	35,657	-1.02
US Dollar	71.10	0.09
Gold	33,650	1.05
Brent oil	59.96	-2.12

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	326.10	-47.75
Asian Paints	1379.50	7.35
Axis Bank	656.30	-13.45
Bajaj Auto	2565.55	-60.80
Bajaj Finserv	6050.90	-270.65
Bajaj Finance	2458.50	-141.05
Bharti Airtel	305.15	-2.35
BPCL	348.70	-8.75
Cipla	492.15	-15.50
Coal India	225.20	4.25
Dr Reddys Lab	2624.75	-47.65
Eicher Motors	19987.40	-62.55
GAIL (India)	333.20	-1.70
Grasim Ind	732.80	-26.80
HCL Tech.	977.80	8.40
HDFC	1946.90	-30.90
HDFC Bank	2084.15	-11.85
Hero MotoCorp	2598.60	-71.55
Hindalco	200.00	-4.45
HPLC	239.20	-2.60
Hind Unilever	1743.00	-13.80
Indiabulls HFL	699.30	-45.20
ICICI Bank	343.55	-13.65
IndusInd Bank	1443.70	-41.20
Bharti Infratel	287.30	7.55
Infosys	727.95	-2.40
Indian Oil Corp	138.05	0.30
ITC	274.75	-4.45
JSW Steel	267.75	-6.90
Kotak Bank	1260.45	-5.70
L&T	1300.45	15.00
M&M	673.05	-10.45
Maurit Suzuki	6511.05	-2.35
NTPC	138.60	0.30
ONGC	141.65	-0.35
PowerGrid Corp	187.80	1.95
Reliance Ind	1229.55	-16.45
State Bank	281.60	-3.80
Sun Pharma	411.75	-10.65
Tata Motors	172.30	-0.95
Tata Steel	445.70	-7.20
TCS	1955.00	34.20
Tech Mahindra	735.15	6.10
Titan	958.65	-19.35
UltraTech Cement	3374.45	-136.35
UPL	760.65	6.95
Vedanta	191.50	-3.20
Wipro	355.15	1.70
YES Bank	207.50	-12.10
Zee Entertainment	373.30	54.90

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 28		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	70.90	71.22
Euro	80.92	81.29
British Pound	93.25	93.68
Japanese Yen (100)	64.76	65.06
Chinese Yuan	10.51	10.56
Swiss Franc	71.44	71.77
Singapore Dollar	52.36	52.60
Canadian Dollar	53.59	53.83
Malaysian Ringgit	17.24	17.33

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI		
January 28 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses		
Retail Silver (1g)	43.2...	(42.2)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3127. (3092)	

Tata Steel sells stake in SE Asia arms to HBIS

Indian major will receive \$327 million and 30% equity in a new entity as sale consideration

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA



A milestone: The deal would also include Tata Steel's Vietnam operations that manufacture reinforcing bars. ■ AFP

Tata Steel said on Monday that its step-down subsidiary T S Global Holdings (TSGH) has signed definitive agreements with China's HBIS Group to divest the entire stake in its southeast Asia business.

T S Global Holdings Pte. Ltd. (TSGH), an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Steel Ltd., has executed definitive agreements with HBIS Group Co. Ltd. (HBIS) controlled entity to divest its entire equity stake in Nat-Steel Holdings Pte. Ltd. (NSH) and Tata Steel (Thailand) Public Company Ltd. (TSTH). Tata Steel said in a regulatory filing.

A new company is being formed in which 70% of equity would be held by a

Canara Bank profit jumps over twofold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Public sector lender Canara Bank on Monday reported an over twofold jump in net profit to ₹317.52 crore for the December quarter 2018 as provisioning for bad loans declined.

The bank had logged a net profit of ₹125.75 crore in October-December 2017.

Total income in the reported quarter stood at ₹13,513.35 crore compared with ₹12,341.09 crore in the year-ago period, the bank said in a regulatory filing.

Asset quality improved a tad with gross non-performing assets falling to 10.25% of gross loans as at December-end 2018 against 10.38% in the year-ago period.

The other risk threshold is negative return on assets for two consecutive years, and

Narendran, CEO and managing director, Tata Steel said. The sale is likely to get regulatory approvals by May 2019. The deal, signed on Monday in Beijing, would also include Tata Steel's Vietnam operations (manufacture of reinforcing bars under NSH).

Tata Steel would receive \$327 million and 30% equity as sale consideration. "It's a significant milestone in our strategic relationship, offering SEA business robust growth opportunities, given the access of resources, technical expertise and regional understanding of HBIS," Mr. Narendran said.

HBIS Group is among the world's largest steel makers and is into auto steel and home appliances but also supplies to nuclear power and marine engineering sectors.

Domestic operations

Mr. Narendran also said that Tata Steel was keen to stay focused on its domestic operations now. To a query, he said that TSL would get two board-level positions and

Bank of India net NPA drops below 6%

Metric opens door to exit PCA; bank posts ₹4,738 cr. Q3 loss on higher provisions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

State-run lender Bank of India posted a ₹4,737.56 crore loss in the October-December quarter on higher provisioning. The move to provide a higher sum for bad loans could help the lender exit the prompt corrective action (PCA) framework of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as the net non-performing asset ratio has fallen below 6%.

The PCA framework gets triggered when a bank breaches one of the three risk thresholds, and crossing 6% net NPA is one of them. The bank is comfortable on the capital front with a capital adequacy ratio of 12.47%.

The other risk threshold is negative return on assets for two consecutive years, and

Bank of India has breached that parameter. "We have compiled on two parameters out of three. Our provision coverage ratio is also the highest in the industry, at 76.76%," said A.K. Das, executive director, Bank of India, at the post-earnings media interaction. He said it is up to the regulator to decide if the

bank would come out of PCA.

Bank of Maharashtra, which also announced its third quarter results, also reported a net NPA ratio below 6% and is also a contender for coming out of the PCA framework.

For the reporting period, Bank of India made a provision of ₹9,197

crore for non-performing assets, compared to ₹4,373 crore a year earlier.

As a result of the higher provision, net NPA ratio fell to 5.87% from 10.29% a year ago, and 7.64% sequentially.

The gross NPA ratio also improved to 16.31% from 16.93% a year ago.

"We have made 100% provision for the accounts that are in NCLT.

"Any recovery from these accounts will be added to profit," said Dinabandhu Mohapatra, MD & CEO, Bank of India.

He expects resolution of at least two more such accounts by the end of March.

The bank is also planning to sell about ₹12,000 crore of bad loans by then.

The lender also said its exposure to IL&FS is ₹3,400 crore which has been classified as non-performing.



New horizon: The JV will take the private equity approach while investing in firms, says Mukund Rajan. ■ PAUL NORONHA

Mukund Rajan to head new \$1 bn ESG fund

To tap long-term foreign investors

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Three former Tata Group executives in partnership with Quantum Advisors will launch a \$1 billion Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) Fund which will invest in Indian companies that value the environment, society and corporate governance to the core.

"We will take a private equity approach while investing in companies and these companies will be role models among others on ESG values," Dr. Rajan told *The Hindu*.

"The focus on ESG offers a new and much needed mantra of sustainable investing and better risk weighted returns to investors," he added.

"We believe that with the highly experienced team brought together by Mukund, Govind and Alan who will engage with the investee companies at the board and execution levels, we can identify promoters of companies who are keen to know how to improve their ESG practices thereby giving them, and the investors in the new fund, the dual benefit of a truly sustainable business and allowing the market to reward them handsomely for these efforts," Mr. Dayal said.

While Quantum founder Ajit Dayal would lead the investment team, Mukund Govind Rajan, formerly brand custodian and chief ethics officer, the Tata Group, would be the chairman of the JV.

Former Tata Capital chief operating officer Govind Sankaranarayanan and former Tata Sons director Alan Rosling would join him

in the initiative.

"There is pressing need for such a fund in India as there are concerns on standards of corporate governance in the country and Indian companies will need to play a central role to help achieve global climate change targets.

The proposed equal joint venture(JV) would mobilise funds from long-term foreign investors such as pension funds, sovereign wealth funds and family offices of high networth individuals (HNIs) who value ESG.

Operate after SEBI nod

The company would be registered soon and operate after the Securities and Exchange Board of India gives its approval which may take about two to three months.

While Quantum founder Ajit Dayal would lead the investment team, Mukund Govind Rajan, formerly brand custodian and chief ethics officer, the Tata Group, would be the chairman of the JV.

Former Tata Capital chief operating officer Govind Sankaranarayanan and former Tata Sons director Alan Rosling would join him

Be prepared for one or two major shocks in NBFC sector: Piramal

Only a few strong players will succeed, says PEL chairman

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The liquidity problem among NBFCs is expected to continue for some time and there could be one or two major shocks in the financial services sector in the coming months, Ajay Piramal, chairman, Piramal Enterprises Ltd. (PEL), said on Monday.

"PCA banks were advised to maintain the trend of improvement in performance, with a view to bringing them out of the PCA framework at the earliest," said a statement.

The bankers also held a separate meeting with Mr. Das, during which the Governor conveyed the expectations of the RBI and heard their views of the banking sector's performance.

"Basically, the idea was to share with the PSBs, their

as our system is fragile," Mr. Piramal said in response to a question.

"In August, I had said that there could be a shake up in the financial services sector and it will turn systemic. So, we had taken corrective steps and added to the equity," he said.

"Our group's credibility, robust track record and balance sheet strength enabled us to get enough liquidity from banks and mutual

funds, despite tightened liquidity for the sector over the last few months," he added.

Mr. Piramal said like the real estate sector, the NBFC sector was



City Union Bank Q3 net rises 15% to ₹178.1 crore

CHENNAI City Union Bank posted a 15% rise in net profit to ₹178.1 crore for the third quarter ended December 2018, from the ₹154.8 crore of the year-earlier period. Net interest income grew 15% to ₹418.09 crore, the bank said in a statement. Gross and net non-performing assets stood at 2.91% and 1.74%, respectively. For the 9 months ended December, total deposits rose 13%.

Natco Pharma launches heart failure drug

HYDERABAD Natco Pharma has launched combination drug Valsartan-Sacubitrel tablet in India. The product is used for certain types of heart failure and works by relaxing blood vessels, making it easier for the heart to pump blood to the body. The company on Monday said it has launched the drug under its brand Valsac at an affordable price. It is available in 50 mg and 100 mg strengths at an MRP of ₹45 and ₹55 per tablet respectively, the firm said.

Sakthikumar is MD of Schwing Stetter India

CHENNAI Schwing Stetter India announced the retirement of vice-chairman and managing director Anand Sundaresan, a pioneer in the concreting and manufacturing industry. His colleague V.G. Sakthikumar, currently whole-time director at Schwing Stetter India, will take charge as the managing director while Gunther Abolins, currently non-executive vice-chairman will take charge as the chairman of the board of Schwing Stetter India.

Saint-Gobain to invest ₹720 cr. more in Tamil Nadu

The French glassmaker opens three facilities, worth ₹1,200 crore, at its Sriperumbudur factory premises

K.T. JAGANNATHAN
CHENNAI

petitors were already there in the North and the West, he added "Our products don't travel easily," he said. In hindsight, he felt that Saint-Gobain had made the best locational choice, what with the automotive cluster that had sprung up around it.

In an interaction with *The Hindu* prior to the inauguration of three global class facilities at its existing factory premises in Sriperumbudur, near here, on Monday, he said, "Historically, India has been a hugely successful one for us though we have a large presence in China."

"We are able to rely on the strong local management," he said. The strategic location of its plant at Sriperumbudur was also a contributory factor for the success of the company since its com-



Expansion mode: Saint-Gobain chairman Pierre-Andre de Chalender addressing the media in Chennai. • BIJOY GHOSH

dia," he added. The float glass market in India, estimated at over two million tonnes, is growing at around 7-8%. Though Saint-Gobain has largely focussed on the B2B (business-to-business) segment, Mr. de Chalender said "end-user has become

important." In this context, he underscored the need for fostering the well-being and sustainability message of the Saint-Gobain brand. The three facilities that went on stream on Monday comprise an advanced float line (the third in Sriperumbudur),

magnetron coater and glass solution lines and a rainwater harvesting reservoir. They have come up at an investment of ₹1,200 crore. "This is the largest and most sophisticated of all float lines of Saint-Gobain worldwide," said B. Santhanam, MD, Saint-Gobain India.

Switching to gas

The facility is capable of making very large-to-small panes of glasses of varied thickness. The special waste heat recovery system coupled with the power generated from roof-top solar power would almost be sufficient to run the float line, he added. Mr. Santhanam also indicated that efforts were on to switch to gas away from expensive furnace oil. He was hoping that IOC, which had

Tata Power net drops by ₹464 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Tata Power Limited has reported a ₹464.13 crore fall in its December quarter consolidated net profit to ₹126.68 crore compared with a net profit of ₹590.81 crore in the year-earlier period, following lower profit from the coal business and higher losses from the Mundra power project due to fuel under-recovery.

The previous year included an exceptional gain of ₹299 crore for deferred tax on sale of investment.

The fall in profit was reported on a 16% rise in consolidated revenue to ₹7,571 crore. Tata Power renewable segment EBITDA was seen higher at ₹511 crore in Q3 FY19 as compared with ₹471 crore in Q3 FY18.

Fitch Ratings downgrades RCom's arm

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Fitch Ratings has downgraded Global Cloud Xchange Limited's (GCX) long-term foreign- and local-currency issuer default ratings (IDRs) to 'CC' from 'CCC'.

The agency has also lowered the rating on GCX Limited's \$350 million, 7%-senior secured notes due in 2019, to 'CCC' from 'B-'.

With a recovery rating of 'RR2'. The downgrade reflects Fitch's view of very high levels of credit risk regarding refinancing of the secured notes, given GCX's poor access to capital markets, due to default and break-up of its parent Reliance Communications, Fitch said in a statement.

The carrier, saddled with debts of about \$1.14 billion, has been hit by fierce competition, rupee depreciation and high oil prices. The company owes money to banks, pilots, vendors and lessors – some of whom are considering taking back aircraft, sources said.

The airline will seek a green light from shareholders to convert part or all of its loans into equity at a special meeting on Feb. 21, subject to regulatory approval.



It will also seek permission to convert future loans into equity, it said in a regulatory filing. Jet will also seek approval to issue new equity, it said.

The airline plans to increase its share capital to ₹2,200 crore from ₹200 crore. The firm did not say how much debt it is planning to convert into equity.

Dr. Reddy's unit gets FDA observation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) has issued a Form 483 with one observation to the API manufacturing plant of Dr. Reddy's Laboratories in Miyapuraguda, Telangana.

The certificate was issued on completion of an audit of the facility. "We have been issued a Form 483 with one observation, which we are addressing, the company said in a regulatory filing on Monday.

Through a Form 483, the USFDA notifies objectionable conditions, which may constitute violation of the provisions, observed by its investigators during an audit, to the management of the company.

Mercedes-Benz targets 25 small cities to boost sales

About 60% of enquiries come from outside metros'



Martin Schwenk

coming from outside metro cities. Customers from SME sectors, realty, start-ups sectors from non-metros are fueling demand.

Brand tour

In 2018, the company sold 15,538 units garnering around 40% market share in the luxury car segment and has now chalked out a Brand Tour across 25 cities to familiarise prospective customers with its products.

The firm's teams, along with products, having started the tour in Gandhidham, will soon visit locations such as Anand, Varanasi, Amravati, Panipat, Amritsar and Tripura to find new buyers.

Shirdi's Eternal Message of Unity

A Century of Solace commemorates the centenary of the Baba's attainment of samadhi, and examines his philosophy and the influences that shaped him. It pays tribute to India's living tradition of secularism and syncretic vision of culture and spirituality.



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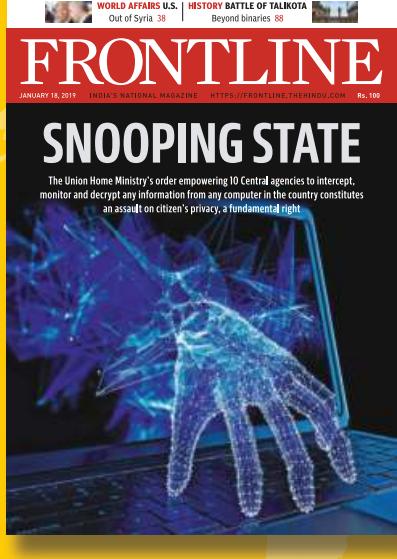
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The Indian juggernaut rolls on, clinches New Zealand series

Kohli and Rohit hit half-centuries to make short work of a modest target; bowlers come up with another clinical display

INDIA IN NZ

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MOUNT MAUNGANUI

A formidable India trounced New Zealand for a series-clinching seven-wicket win in the third One-Day International here on Monday.

With an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series, skipper Virat Kohli signed off his tour down under on a high with a first ODI series win in New Zealand in 10 years.

Team effort

It was a complete team effort after the bowlers shot New Zealand out for 243 in 49 overs with all-rounder Hardik Pandya (two for 45 in 10 overs) making his presence felt with the ball as well as on the field. Pandya was playing his first match after the suspension for inappropriate remarks on a TV show was lifted.

"Three clinical games for us. I couldn't have asked for a better performance. The relentlessness of the side is something that really pleases me," Kohli said at the post-match presentation.

The chase was a cakewalk with skipper Kohli (60, 74b) and his deputy Rohit Sharma (62, 77b) adding 113 for the second wicket to set up the victory in only 43 overs.

With the pitch on the slower side, the two had to keep it slower than usual but even that didn't come in the way of another comprehensive performance. Once Shikhar Dhawan (28, 6x4) was dismissed, caught in the slips off Trent Boult, Rohit opened up. He hit a straight six off



Howzat! Unfazed by the tribulations of the past few weeks, Hardik Pandya made a significant contribution. ■ AFP

Mitchell Santner.

Kohli, at the other end, punched Lockie Ferguson through point and hit Ish Sodhi for two boundaries.

The first was a top spinner that was pulled in the mid-wicket region while the next was a wrong 'un which he cut for another boundary.

In full flow

Rohit, who has treated Ferguson with a lot of disdain, hit a front-foot pull off the bowler for his second six.

His skipper also got a six off Ferguson even though he was not in complete control as the ball flew off the top edge. Rohit, who now has 39

half-centuries, was stumped off Santner when he tried to go for an ugly hoick.

Kohli, who now has 49 ODI half-centuries, also hit six fours apart from the six off Ferguson.

Dinesh Karthik (38 not out, 38b) and Ambati Rayudu (40 not out, 42b) steered the team home with an unbroken 77-run stand for the fourth wicket.

Pandya on the mark
Earlier, Pandya seemed unfazed by the tribulations of the past few weeks and made a significant contribution to India's impressive bowling effort. Pandya had figures of

- The fourth ODI will be played in Hamilton on January 31 (Thursday)

- Rohit will lead India as Kohli has been rested for the final two ODIs and the T20I series

two for 45 in 10 overs and choked the run flow during the middle overs.

Save a 119-run fourth-wicket stand between Ross Taylor (93, 106b) and Tom Latham (51, 64b), New Zealand couldn't really accelerate. Mohammed Shami (three for 41), who has all but sealed the third seamer's spot for

the World Cup, once again provided the thrust.

Meanwhile, New Zealand has brought in all-rounder Jimmy Neesham and leg-spinner Todd Astle for the remaining two ODIs.

Rayudu can't bowl: ICC

Rayudu has been suspended from international bowling two weeks after being reported for a suspect action, the ICC announced on Monday.

The part-time spinner's action was flagged by match officials, who cited concerns over its legality, after the first ODI against Australia on January 12.

Stat attack

Number of ODIs Dhoni has missed in his career

vs NZ, Mount Maunganui, 2019 (hamstring)

3 ODIs in tri-series in WI, 2013 (hamstring)

2 ODIs vs Ireland & SA, Belfast, 2007 (viral fever)

PowerPlay1 scores against India in 2019

41/2
38/2
30/2
34/2
63/2
42/2

2 M. Shami's Man-of-the-Match awards in this series (first and third ODIs)

2 India's second series win in New Zealand after the 2009 success when it triumphed 3-1

Highest win % as captain
76.19% (64/84): Clive Lloyd (WI)
74.60% (47/63): Virat Kohli (Ind) (minimum 25 ODIs)

Most ODI victories since 2015 World Cup
53 India
(Win% 67.09)
51 England (66.23)
41 S. Africa (60.29)

India's ODI series results after 2017 Champions Trophy
W | W | W | W | W
W | L* | W | W | W

Most 100-plus partnerships in ODIs
26: Tendulkar-Ganguly
20: Dilshan-Sangakkara
16: Gilchrist-Hayden
16: Rohit-Kohli

The only loss came against England in England in 2018

A rare miss



M.S. Dhoni.
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MOUNT MAUNGANUI

M.S. Dhoni was forced to skip the third ODI due to a hamstring strain. The last time Dhoni missed a one-dayer due to injury was six years ago during the 2013 tri-series in the West Indies. Known for his high fitness levels, Dhoni had overall missed only five ODIs in the last 14 years.

SCOREBOARD NEW ZEALAND VS INDIA, THIRD ODI

NEW ZEALAND

Martin Guptill c Karthik b Bhuvneshwar 13 (1b, 1x4, 1x6), Colin Munro c Rohit b Shami 7 (9b, 1x4), Kane Williamson c Pandya b Chahal 28 (4b, 4x4), Ross Taylor c Karthik b Shami 93 (106b, 9x4), Tom Latham c Rayudu b Chahal 51 (64b, 1x4, 1x6), Henry Nicholls c Karthik b Pandya 6 (8b), Mitchell Santner c Karthik b Pandya 3 (9b), Doug Bracewell run out 15 (18b, 1x4), Ish Sodhi c Kohli b Shami 12 (12b, 1x6), Trent Boult c Shami b Bhuvneshwar 2 (4b), Lockie Ferguson (not out) 2 (2b); Extras (lb-4, w-7): 11. Total (in 49 overs): 243.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-10 (Munro, 1.6, 2-26 (Guptill, 6.1), 3-59 (Williamson, 16.2), 4-178 (Latham, 37.3), 5-191 (Nicholls, 39.3), 6-198 (Santner, 41.3), 7-222 (Taylor, 45.1), 8-239 (Sodhi, 47.6), 9-239 (Bracewell, 48.1).

INDIA BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 10-1-46-2, Shami 9-0-41-3, Chahal 9-0-51-2, Pandya 10-0-45-2, Kuldeep 8-0-39-0, Jadhav 3-0-17-0.

INDIA

Rohit Sharma st Latham b Santner 62 (77b, 3x4, 2x6), Shikhar Dhawan c Taylor b Boult 28 (27b, 6x4), Virat Kohli c Nicholls b Boult 60 (74b,

6x4, 1x6), Ambati Rayudu (not out) 40 (42b, 5x4, 1x6), Dinesh Karthik (not out) 38 (38b, 5x4, 1x6); Extras (b-1, w-16): 17; Total (for three wkts. in 43 overs): 245.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-39 (Dhawan, 8.2), 2-152 (Rohit, 28.5), 3-168 (Kohli, 31.1).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING

Boult 10-1-40-2, Bracewell 6-0-49-0, Ferguson 10-1-57-0, Santner 10-0-45-1, Sodhi 7-0-53-0.

Toss:

New Zealand.

Man-of-the-Match:

Shami.
India won by seven wickets with seven overs to spare.

Team confidence on a high, says India skipper

Kiwi captain Williamson appreciates 'lessons' from Indians

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MOUNT MAUNGANUI

"When a guy doesn't get runs in a couple of games, he's actually hungry to score and the opposition feels a bit nervous because he's gonna fire at some stage. So, that's the kind of confidence we carry in the team right now," said India skipper Virat Kohli here on Monday.

He went on to say that watching young Shubman Gill bat at the nets made him realise that he had not been even 10 percent as talented when he was 19.

Young talent

"There are some outstanding talents coming in. You saw Prithvi Shaw grabbed his opportunities with both hands (opening Test in the West Indies). Shubman again is a very exciting talent," Kohli said.

"That's the confidence they carry and it is great for Indian cricket if the standard keeps going up and the guys coming in can make impact



On the ball: Mohammed Shami picked the right areas to bowl and picked up the rewards. ■ AP

performances straight away

skipper Kane Williamson said a strong India is actually teaching them hard lessons in the five-match series.

"They are a very good side and they are teaching us a lesson. There are improve-

ments today and we want to appreciate some of the lessons we have learnt," Williamson said.

"The consistency about their plans and the way they forced some mistakes, I

guess we gotta be better than that."

He praised Ross Taylor and Tom Latham for their innings.

"The wicket was tough and the partnership between Latham and Ross was outstanding," he said.

The Kiwi bowlers also failed to provide regular breakthroughs and Williamson said they needed to take wickets to put pressure on India. "I think we are going okay with the ball in hand. We need early wickets to put pressure on the opposition," he said.

Shami's pat for 'Bhuvi'
Mohammed Shami, who was adjudged Man-of-the-Match for his three-wicket haul, said: "It's really difficult to bowl against the wind.

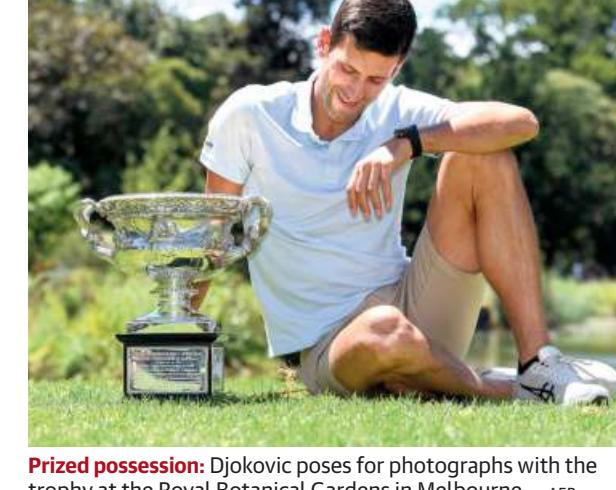
"It is difficult, but not too hard. Bhuvneshwar (Bhuvneshwar Kumar) at the other end was also a great help. Sticking to areas where we want to bowl is the key."

Novak Djokovic has designs on Roger Federer's 20 Grand Slam crowns after completing a record-breaking Australian Open victory.

Djokovic won a record seventh Melbourne crown, 15th Grand Slam title and third in a row after Wimbledon and the US Open when he swatted aside Rafael Nadal 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 in a two-hour exhibition of tennis perfection on Sunday.

The Serbian World No. 1 said he was motivated to "have a shot" at Federer's record but conceded that it was "still far" away.

"I am aware that making history of the sport that I truly love is something special.



Prized possession: Djokovic poses for photographs with the trophy at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Melbourne. ■ AFP

and maintaining the overall well-being so I would be able to have a shot at eventually getting closer to Roger's record.

It was the manner of victory that had many, including Djokovic, believing he can go on to match or possibly overtake Federer.

At 31 years old, six years younger than Federer, he has time on his side. "I want to definitely focus on continuing to improve my game

and the overall well-being so I would be able to have a shot at eventually getting closer to Roger's record," Djokovic said.

Djokovic has already ripped one record from Federer's grasp — lifting the Norman Brookes trophy for a seventh time put him clear of the Swiss and Roy Emerson, who both won six Australian Open men's singles titles.

Plucky Pujara helps Saurashtra seal a berth in the final

Fine fourth-innings effort gives team another tilt at the title, meets Vidarbha in Nagpur from Feb. 3

RANJI SEMIFINAL

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
BENGALURU

It took Saurashtra just an hour and a half on the fifth morning to knock off the 55 runs it needed to seal its place in the Ranji Trophy final.

There were no hiccups and no surprises as the visitor cruised to the target of 279, defeating Karnataka by five wickets at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Cheteshwar Pujara remained unbeaten on 131, having spent 449 minutes at the crease. His overnight partner, Sheldon Jackson, fell one ball after completing his hundred, bowled by R. Vinay Kumar.

The veteran bowler fought with much enthusiasm as



Happy bunch: Saurashtra captain Jaydev Unadkat gets his guys to say cheese. ■ SUDHAKARA JAIN

he could muster, and took

particular delight in Jackson's dismissal.

Arpit Vasavada fell for 12, caught fending to forward-short-leg, but the result was a mere formality at that stage.

"Looking at the wicket, I thought once the ball was old it would be good to bat

selves," Pujara said later.

The partnership (of 214 runs with Jackson) was crucial because when we were 23 for three, we were under pressure.

It marks a third final in six years for Saurashtra, which is still looking for its first Ranji Trophy win.

"The way he approached this game, or even the last game, he wants more than any of us," said Unadkat of his senior colleague. "That's one thing I really love about him."

TV PICKS

New Zealand Women vs India Women: 2nd ODI, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m.
NBA: Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m.
PWL: Sony Six (SD & HD), 7 p.m.

AFC Asian Cup: Star Sports 3 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

Premier League: Star Sports 1, 2 & SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 1 a.m. (Wednesday).

IN BRIEF



George leads Thunder past Bucks

LOS ANGELES Paul George scored 36 points and pulled down 13 rebounds and Russell Westbrook notched up his 16th triple-double of the season on Sunday in Oklahoma City Thunder's 118-112 victory over league-leader Milwaukee Bucks.

Other results: Cleveland Cavaliers 104 bt Chicago Bulls 101; Los Angeles Clippers 122 bt Sacramento Kings 108; Houston Rockets 103 bt Orlando Magic 98; Toronto Raptors 123 bt Dallas Mavericks 120; Utah Jazz 125 bt Minnesota Timberwolves 111; San Antonio Spurs 132 bt Washington Wizards 119; Miami Heat 106 bt New York Knicks 97; Los Angeles Lakers 116 bt Phoenix Suns 102. AFP



Djokovic tightens grip on top of rankings

PARIS Novak Djokovic strengthened his grip at the top of the men's ATP tennis rankings on Monday following his destruction of Rafael Nadal in the Australian Open final. Nadal held on to second spot while Roger Federer slipped from third to sixth. Alexander Zverev replaces Federer in third ahead of Juan Martin del Potro, fourth. South African Kevin Anderson moved up a spot to fifth. Japan's Kei Nishikori rises to seventh. AFP

Indian women hold Spain

MURCIA (SPAIN) Indian women earned a 1-1 draw against Spain in the second international hockey match. Gurjot Kaur's 43rd minute strike was nullified by Maria Tost in the 49th. PTI



MIAMI Two-time F-1 World champion Fernando Alonso, 37, sparked his team to victory on Sunday in the 24 Hours of Daytona. He added the US endurance event to a list of career achievements that includes 32 F1 race wins and world titles in 2005 and 2006. AFP

India will be no pushover on grass: Barazzutti

Italy's non-playing captain says he prefers the old best-of-five format

DAVIS CUP

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

The professional circuit rankings matter little when it comes to playing for the country, said Italy's non-playing captain Corrado Barazzutti as his team held its first practice ahead of the Davis Cup World Group qualifier tie against India.

"In Davis Cup, good rankings give you confidence, but one has to play to win."

"Many times, the rankings determine who plays first and second."

"Everything changes on the court. There are players in Davis Cup who play better in tournaments," said Barazzutti who featured as a player in Italy's 1976 Davis Cup triumph.

Training hard

The Italian side, led by World No. 19 Marco Cecchinato, had an extended session at the venue – Calcutta South Club – on Monday.

Cecchinato was joined by Andreas Seppi (37), Matteo



Extended session: The Italian players are leaving nothing to chance for the tie against India. • DEBASISH BHADURI

Berrettini (53), Thomas Fabbiano (85) and Simone Bolelli (138), the players getting used to the grass courts.

The Italians are seeded fifth, but Barazzutti pre-

fferred to treat the unseeded Indians with respect.

"They are a good team be-

cause they have quality players and are playing at home on their preferred sur-

face – grass. We have to play with focus and have to apply ourselves hard. I think it will be a tough tie," said Barazzutti.

Format

About the change in the playing format, Barazzutti said he preferred the old best-of-five set format as it offered better competition.

"I played and won the Davis Cup for my country and I think the tournament was much better in the best-of-five format," Barazzutti said.

"Changing this format is like changing the Slam events."

"You put a Slam in a best-of-three format and you play one week only. You think it is the same?"

"Everything is getting fast, and then there is money too. But I don't think the best players play for money. I don't think (Roger) Federer plays Wimbledon, (Rafael) Nadal plays Roland Garros and (Novak) Djokovic plays Flushing Meadows for the money," said Barazzutti.

Pesky mum leads to coach's exit

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SHANGHAI

A renowned tennis coach who has worked with stars such as Maria Sharapova says he has split with promising Chinese teenager Wu Yibing because of the player's mother.

"I am no longer working with Wu," Sven Groeneweld tweet.

"He has a right to have a coach whose views are better aligned with his mother."

The Dutchman thanked Wu "for a great past eight months" that included the 19-year-old winning silver at the Asian Games last August.

Judy Murray, the mother of Britain's Andy Murray and a fellow tennis coach, tweeted in response: "Oof those pesky mums."

Potential star

Wu has been touted as China's first potential male tennis star after winning the junior title at the 2017 US Open.

Ronaldo sends Juventus 11 points clear

Real Madrid holds on for a 4-2 victory over Espanyol

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MILAN

Cristiano Ronaldo converted a penalty to seal a hard-fought 2-1 win for Juventus against Lazio in Rome on Sunday to pull 11 points clear in Serie A.

Juventus had trailed after an Emre Can own-goal after an hour before substitute Joao Pedro pulled the champion level and then earned the penalty which Ronaldo slotted in with two minutes to go.

An eighth straight Serie A title beckons Massimiliano Allegri's side which soars clear of second-placed Napoli which was held to a goalless draw at AC Milan on Saturday.

Inter Milan is 19 points behind the leader after losing at Torino earlier on Sunday. Lazio drops to eighth



Not now! Lazio goalkeeper Thomas Strakosha was able to thwart Cristiano Ronaldo this time, but the superstar had the last laugh. • AP

place – three points off the Champions League spots – after its second defeat in a row after losing to Napoli by

the same score last weekend. Gareth Bale needed just two minutes to mark his return from injury with a goal

as 10-man Real Madrid held on for a 4-2 victory over Espanyol in La Liga on Sunday. Bale had been out since Ja-

nuary 3 with a calf strain but made an instant impact off the bench. Karim Benzema continued his own rich vein of form by scoring twice.

Sergio Ramos was also on target with a brilliant header before Leo Baptistao kept Espanyol in sight. Bale and Benzema seemed to have wrapped things up but Raphael Varane was sent off with 18 minutes left and substitute Roberto Rosales drove in to set up a nervy finish.

The results: Serie A: Torino 1 (Izzo 35) bt Inter Milan 0; Lazio 1 (Can 59-og) lost to Juventus 2 (Cancelo 74, Ronaldo 88-pen).

La Liga: Athletic Bilbao 1 (Muñain 21) bt Real Betis 0; Real Sociedad 0 drew with Huesca 0; Espanyol 2 (Carrijo 25, Rosales 81) lost to Real Madrid 4 (Benzema 4, 45+1, Ramos 15, Bale 67).

Bundesliga: Fortuna Dusseldorf 0 lost to RB Leipzig 4 (Poulsen 2, 16, Konate 9, Laimer 68). **CHOWMAHALLA PLATE** (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 26 (Cat. III): LOVE MACHINE (Kiran Naidu) 1, Crimson Fire (Kuldeep Singh) 2, Darshish (Ashish Asbar) 3 and Sarvatra (Akshay Kumar) 4. Not run: Urvashi, 1/4, 5/4 and 22 (p), SHP, 15, FP, 14, Q, 8, Tla: 202. Favourite: Roll Call. Owner: Col.S.B. Nair. Trainer: Sequira.

MIR FAZILATH HUSSAIN SK PLATE (1,000m), (Cat. II): ROLL CALL (Akshay Kumar) 1, Pontius Pilate (Ashish Asbar) 2, Safra (N. Rawal) 3 and Shooter (Nakhat Singh) 4. Not run: Urvashi, 1/4, 5/4 and 22 (p), SHP, 15, Q, 28, Tla: 235. Favourite: Blazing Speed. Owners: M/s. K.S.N. Murthy, B.S. Reddy, C.V. Krishna Rao & Shailendra Singh. Trainer: Prasad Raju.

MEMBERS CUP (1,200m), 5-y-o & over, rated 42 to 62 (Cat. II): DIGGER (Rafique Sk.) 1, New State (Nakhat Singh) 2, Shandaar (Suraj Narredu) 3 and Sarvatra (Akshay Kumar) 4. 1/3, 4/1 and 3/4, Im. 14.54s, ₹110 (w), 26, 12 and 13 (p), SHP, 35, Q, 28, Tla: 235. Favourite: Digger. Owner: Mr. Tekula Chandra Reddy. Trainer: M.F. Alikhian.

BEST OF FUN PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III): BLAZING SPEED (Suraj Narredu) 1, Parizat (Nakhat Singh) 2, Golden Adara (Afroz Khan) 3 and Samba (B.R. Kumar) 4. 3, 2/1, and 2/1, Im. 16.34s, ₹6 (w), 5, 8 and 11 (p), SHP, 30, FP: 35, Q: 28, Tla: 235. Favourite: Blazing Speed. Owners: M/s. K.S.N. Murthy, B.S. Reddy, C.V. Krishna Rao & Shailendra Singh. Trainer: Prasad Raju.

CHOWMAHALLA PLATE (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 26 (Cat. III): LOVE MACHINE (Kiran Naidu) 1, Crimson Fire (Kuldeep Singh) 2, Darshish (Ashish Asbar) 3 and Sarvatra (Akshay Kumar) 4. Not run: Alexanderthegeat, Shd, nk and 1/4, Im. 28.82s, ₹9 (w), 6, 6 and 7 (p), SHP: 16, FP: 25, Q: 16, Tla: 41. Favourite: Love Machine. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: D. Netto.

TINTINNABULATION CUP (1,600m), (Cat. II), maiden 3-y-o only (Terms): BLAZER (C. Umesh) 1, Miss Marvellous (Sai Kumar) 2, Royal Ruby (Nakhat Singh) 3 and Magnetospire (Ashish Asbar) 4. 1, 3/4 and 2/2, Im. 43.62s, ₹29 (w), 7, 17 and 6 (p), SHP: 60, FP: 1,020, Q: 583, Tla: 2,793. Favourite: Yours Forever.

BEST OF FUN PLATE (Div. I), (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III): DORMELLO (Akshay Kumar) 1, Eau Claire (Kuldeep Singh) 2, Hammer (Ashish Asbar) 3 and Alalishaan (Deepak Singh) 4. Not run: Koshinor Legend and Southern Belle, 2, 2 and nk, Im. 17.15s, ₹12 (w), 7, 6 and 8 (p), SHP: 17, FP: 27, Q: 16, Tla: 75. Favourite: Dornello. Owner: Mr. M. Satyanarayana. Trainer: Deshmukh.

Jackpot: ₹6,271 (57 tkts), Runner up: 819 (187 tkts), Treble (i): 75 (552 tkts), (ii): 584 (227 tkts).

Real Kashmir beats Chennai City FC

Krizo's winner helps the team close in on the table toppers

I-LEAGUE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SRINAGAR

Real Kashmir upsetst Chennai City FC for the second time, clinching the I-League debutants joined Churchill at the second with 28 points from 14 matches and narrowed down the gap with leader Chennai (30 from 14) to just two points.

struck in the 81st minute to extend Real Kashmir's unbeaten run to 10 matches and send the home supporters into wild celebrations.

With three points from Monday's win, the I-League debutants joined Churchill at the second with 28 points from 14 matches and narrowed down the gap with leader Chennai (30 from 14) to just two points.

If it was not for Chennai goal-

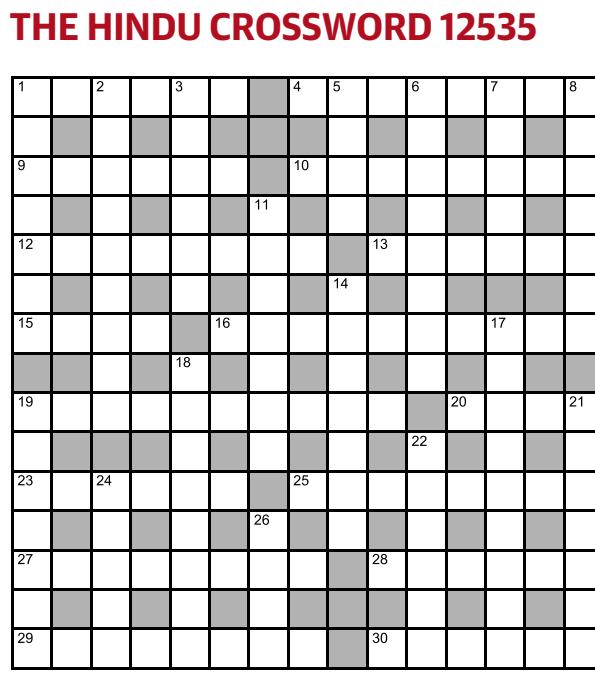
keeper Santana's fine saves, Real Kashmir would have been ahead at the half-time.

The second half was not too different with the home side threatening to take the lead but the forwards kept wasting chances. With just nine minutes of regulation time left, Real Kashmir finally earned the rewards when Krizo headed home a Danish Farooq cross from right.



Making it count: After wasting a few chances, Ivorian striker Gnohere Krizo finally heads home for Real Kashmir. • NISSAR AHMAD

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12535



ACROSS

- 1 Favourite vehicle? Original Wilton (6)
- 4 Try redirecting 1st, 5th, 10th bits out of a narration (8)
- 9 Country game, played as is (6)
- 10 Worrying heart scare – bases eroded into inflammations (8)
- 12 Primarily, the position of a lead climber? (5,3)
- 13 Flies off with this confused, rich woman, leaving man behind (6)
- 15 Bomb is undug, keep checking at regular intervals (4)
- 16 Block wild fornication in the absence of love (10)
- 19 They cover up speed bars broken around break of dawn (10)
- 20 Davenport yet gives up prematurely (4)
- 23 Cool season (6)
- 25 They can welcome us in afternoon to dorms, possibly (8)
- 27 Mostly evade duty – off-time? (5,3)
- 28 England quits about festering conflict (6)
- 29 Son to take off loose outfit (8)
- 30 Cleaners needing right tools for plastering (6)
- 31 Blind dog's silly antic cut short (7)
- 32 Remain affected starting out, took a fill again (9)

- 1 Blind dog's silly antic cut short (7)
- 2 Pollutes some water available here? (4)
- 3 Flies off with this confused, rich woman, leaving man behind (6)
- 4 Try redirecting 1st, 5th, 10th bits out of a narration (8)
- 5 Lead priest's led astray – unfounded dilemma (4)
- 6 Not fashionable – harping about chips' designs (8)
- 7 Get rid of some upholstery (5)
- 8 Nervous cousin calls husband in for support (7)
- 9 Happens to be ahead of trends (7)
- 10 Demands of setters? (7)
- 11 Hollow one shifting sides in good game of chance (6)
- 12 Expert followers imbibing the Bible (5)
- 13 Flies off with this confused, rich woman, leaving man behind (6)
- 14 Beard rope with ends trimmed – that adds grace to the face! (7)
- 15 Bomb is undug, keep checking at regular intervals (4)
- 16 Block wild fornication in the absence of love (10)
- 17 Cold Violet is a criminal (9)
- 18 Top cluesmith, an unexpected winner? (8)
- 19 Happens to be ahead of trends (7)
- 20 Davenport yet gives up prematurely (4)
- 21 Demands of setters? (7)
- 22 Hollow one shifting sides in good game of chance (6)
- 23 Expert followers imbibing the Bible (5)
- 24 Pollutes some water available here? (4)
- 25 Son to take off loose outfit (8)
- 26 Cleaners needing right tools for plastering (6)
- 27 Primarily, the position of a lead climber? (5,3)
- 28 Flies off with this confused, rich woman, leaving man behind (6)
- 29 Try redirecting 1st, 5th, 10th bits out of a narration (8)
- 30 Remain affected starting out, took a fill again (9)

DOWN

- 1 Blind dog's silly antic cut short (7)
- 2 Pollutes some water available here? (4)
- 3 Flies off with this confused, rich woman, leaving man behind (6)
- 4 Try redirecting 1st, 5th, 10th bits out of a narration (8)
- 5 Lead priest's led astray – unfounded dilemma (4)
- 6 Not fashionable – harping about chips' designs (8)
- 7 Get rid of some upholstery (5)
- 8 Nervous cousin calls husband in for support (7)
- 9 Happens to be ahead of trends (7

Shelton Moses to lead Chennai Spartans

Two points for an ace will put the focus back on serve, which has been neglected in India for long

PRO VOLLEYBALL

K. KEERTHIVASAN
CHENNAI

The Chennai Spartans team is confident and is eager to prove its worth in the RuPay Pro Volleyball League scheduled to be held in Kochi and Chennai from February 2 to 22. The Chennai leg will begin on February 2.

The team has been practising at the ICF indoor stadium here for the last fortnight. At the press conference here on Monday, the Chennai outfit announced veteran blocker from Tamil Nadu, Shelton Moses as captain and Statemate Naveen Raja Jacob (attacker) as vice-captain.

While expressing his happiness at being made the skipper, Moses emphasised that his main job would be to keep the team united. "For me, team unity is important. [I will have to] handle problems and have a clear communication with the coach," he said.

Terming the PVL as a great experience for Indians, Moses said Indians must make



Meet the Spartans: The Chennai side's Shelton Moses, Akhin, Ruslans Sorokins, head coach M.H. Kumara, Naveen Raja Jacob and Rudy Verhoeft are confident of doing well in the PVL. ■ R. RAGU

the most of the opportunity to improve their skills interacting and watching the foreigners, which in turn will help the Indian team lift its standards.

Spartans' head coach M.H. Kumara described PVL

as "a great thing for Indian volleyball and we are fortunate to have two Olympians, blocker Rudy Verhoeft (Canada) and blocker Ruslans Sorokins (Latvia)."

Of the many tweaks done in PVL, Kumara said the con-

cept of giving two points for a service ace will put the focus back on serve, which has been neglected in India for long.

"Indians have never excelled in service in International matches. Now weightage is given to service, it is a great thing," said Kumara, who is a FIVB Level-III accredited coach. According to the coach, the new format will make the Indians mentally strong.

Naveen said PVL will be a huge boost for youngsters in villages and those studying in SAI hostels as they too can come up and shine in the sport.

"We are all excited," said Naveen, who has competed in similar leagues in Iran (2011) and Oman ('13).

Kerala's blocker G.S. Akkin, an icon player, said it was nice to be back in Spartans' after being part of the TN team that won the Senior Nationals in 2013.

Verhoeft and Sorokins felt that India has very good attacking players, but it has a lot of catching-up to do in other areas.

Galaxy of stars for PSPB badminton

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GREATER NOIDA

World No. 11 Sameer Verma, H.S. Prannoy, B. Sai Praaneeth, Ajay Jayaram and defending champion Saurabh Verma are among the leading players to be seen in action when the 39th PSPB inter-unit badminton tournament begins here on Tuesday.

Representing various Petroluem units, the players are expected to take part in the team championship as well as the individual events.

However, indications are that not all top names are going to be seen in the individ-

■ Bharat Petroleum is not fielding a team

dual events unless their employers issue a firm directive.

Last year, ONGC won the men's team event and also the singles titles, with former National champions Saurabh and Rituparna Das emerging winners.

ONGC favourite

ONGC will once again be the overwhelming favourite for the men's team title. Indian Oil will miss the services of P.

Kashyap, who is reportedly suffering from fever.

In the women's section, with Saina Nehwal not available and P. V. Sindhu no longer with the Petroleum sector, defending champion Bharat Petroleum has decided not to field a team.

In the singles, besides Rituparna, the other title-contender is Tanvi Lad.

The event concludes on February 2. The competition in the doubles will see specialists like Ashwini Ponnappa, N. Sikki Reddy, the vastly experienced Aparna Balan and Chirag Shetty, among a few others.

Yashaswini makes Sarah sweat

Udit Gogoi downs Deepender Grewal

SPORTS BUREAU
INDORE

Second seed Sarah Dev fought her way past Yashaswini Panwar 4-6, 7-6(I), 6-0 in the girls' first round of the ITF grade-5 junior tennis tournament at the Indore Tennis Club courts on Monday. In the boys' first round match Udit Gogoi sailed past Deepender Grewal.

The results (first round):

Boys: Udit Gogoi bt Deepender Grewal 6-1, 6-3; Thomas George Brun (Sui) bt Aashutosh Kulkarni Prachet 6-3, 6-1; Kartik

Saxena bt Tejasvi Mehra 6-3, 6-2; Nikhil Niranjani (USA) bt Karthikneal Vaddepalli 6-3, 6-0; Ajay Malik bt Rohan Srivastava 7-5, 6-1; Prassana Pravin Bagade bt Rishi Jalota 6-3, 6-4; Nishant Dabas bt Deep Munim 6-2, 6-4; Aditya Vishal Balsekar bt Patrik Spiegel Kumer (Slo) 6-3, 7-5; Denim Yadav bt Neel Garud 6-2, 6-3; Ishan Sethi bt Tarush Bagai 6-2, 6-1; Boopathi Sakthivel bt Arjun Siriram 6-3, 6-4; 6-3; Kabir Hoss bt Iqbal Mohd. Khan 7-6(8), 6-2.

Girls: Priyanshi Bhandari bt Ashpreet Kaur Bajwa 6-1, 6-0; Prerana Korala (Nep) bt Lenien

Jamia 6-2, 6-3; Sanjana Sirimalla bt Saniya Manoj Masand 6-1, 6-0.

Archita Mahalwal bt Bhakti Shah 6-2, 6-3; Ishita Singh bt Shanaya Naik 6-2, 6-1; Preerna Vichara bt Mahika Gupta (USA) 6-0, 6-0.

Vipasha Mehra bt Sukhmani Sahota 6-0, 6-2; Jagmeet Kaur Grewal bt Swarad Parab 6-2, 6-4; 6-1; Reshma Challarapu bt Hetvee Chaudhari 6-3, 6-4, 6-3; Gargi Pawar bt Chhavi Rathia 6-0, 6-3; Chandrika Joshi bt Naisha Srivastav 7-5, 6-4; Sarah Dev bt Yashaswini Panwar 4-6, 7-6(1), 6-0.

Anita helps Royals rally to victory

UP Dangal also makes semifinals

PWL

Y.B. SARANGI
GREATER NOIDA

Anita's narrow upset win over Asian champion Navjot Kaur in the women's 62kg bout ensured Punjab Royals' superb come-from-behind

4-3 win over UP Dangal in the last league encounter of the Pro Wrestling League at the Gautam Buddha University indoor hall on Monday.

After Royals recovered to stay up from by a 3-2 margin, Anita stunned Navjot 1-1, on the basis of scoring the final point, in a tussle between two seasoned wrestlers. It ensured Royals' victory with a bout to spare and earned it a place in the semifinals.

Jitender's win also took Dangal to the semis. Haryana Hammers and Delhi Sultans have also reached the last four.

Following Georgi Sakanidelidze's 4-2 win over Korey Jarvis in the opening 125kg bout, former World champion Vanesa Kaladzinskaya gave Dangal a 2-0 lead.

For Mahak Jain and Riya Bhatia, the tournament will serve as the final preparation before the Fed Cup to be held in Kazakhstan.

The results: Qualifying singles (first round): Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Avika Sagral 6-1, 7-5.

Jennifer Luikhamb bt Anoushka Sharma 6-1, 6-1; Sathwika Samta bt Vaidehi Nar singhani 6-0, 6-0.

Soha Sadiq bt Alexandra Riley (USA) 6-1, 6-3; Mihaela Djakovic (Srb) bt Ayayushi Tanwar 6-0, 6-4; Mihika Yadav bt Saumya Vig 6-2, 7-5; Sai Samitha bt Farhat Aleen Qamar 6-2, 6-2; Bhuvana Kalva bt Natasha Palha 7-6(3), 6-4.

Vaidehi in main draw

SPORTS BUREAU
JODHPUR

Vaidehi Chaudhari defeated Avika Sagral 6-1, 7-5 and made the main draw of the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament on Monday.

Vaidehi won her first qualifying round and had a bye in the second and final round, joining four wild card entrants Sowjanya Bavisetti, Mahak Jain, Riya Bhatia and Zeel Desai in the main event.

As per the new rules, the qualifying event is played on Monday and Tuesday, and the main draw from Tuesday to Sunday.

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD. (A State Govt. Undertaking)

PRESS TENDER NOTICE (E-Tendering Mode only)

Online tenders (Two Part Bid) are invited for the supply of following items during FY 2019-20, on the prescribed form (Tender Documents). The dates of Sale/Submission and Opening of techno commercial bid of tenders is as per detail given below. The Detailed Tender Notice can also be downloaded from website <https://www.tenderwizard.com/HPSEB>.

Tender No.	Brief Description of Items	Qty.	Estimated Cost (in Lacs.)	Tender document fee (Non-refundable inclusive GST in Rs.)	Estimated Cost Value (ECV)	EMD @1% of Value (ECV)	Last date & Time of online submission of Tender	Last date & Time of opening of Techno-comm. bid
CE(MM)-01/2019	ISI Marked Swaged Steel tubular Poles of assorted size (8 Mtr, 9 Mtr, 10Mtr, 11 Mtr and 13 Mtr long)	63000 Nos.	₹ 51200	₹ 1400/- only	₹ 51.20 Lacs	20.02.2019 (17:00 Hours.)	21.02.2019 (12:30 Hours.) onwards	22.02.2019 (12:30 Hours.) onwards
CE(MM)-02/2019	ISI Marked CSR/AAC/AAC conductors of assorted size.	8108.98 Kms.	₹ 2955.00	₹ 1400/- only	₹ 29.55 Lacs	20.02.2019 (17:00 Hours.)	22.02.2019 (12:30 Hours.) onwards	23.02.2019 (12:30 Hours.) onwards
CE(MM)-03/2019	ISI Marked 11/0.433 Kv and 22/0.433 Kv Class, 3 Phase Distribution Transformers of assorted ratings.	2672 Nos.	₹ 3362.00	₹ 1400/- only	₹ 33.62 Lacs	20.02.2019 (17:00 Hours.)	23.02.2019 (12:30 Hours.) onwards	25.02.2019 (12:30 Hours.) onwards

Notes :- 1. The detailed tender notice can be viewed at website <http://www.tenderwizard.com/HPSEB> and tender documents can be had after making prescribed payment. For detailed terms and conditions visit above website. 2. The undersigned reserves the right to change the scope of purchase and to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereto. 3. The above quantities are based upon tentative requirement (FY-2019-20) and likely to be increased/decreased. 4. In case, any tampering of bid documents (uploaded) notice shall be liable for rejection. 5. In case, the date of opening of tender remains holiday, the tender shall be opened (e-mode) on next working day.

Sd/-

Chief Engineer (MM), HPSEBL Ltd., Vidyut Bhawan, Shimla-171004.

Tele/Fax : 0177-2801265 e-mail : cemm.hpsebl@gmail.com

कार्यपाल द्वारा दिए गए संदेश

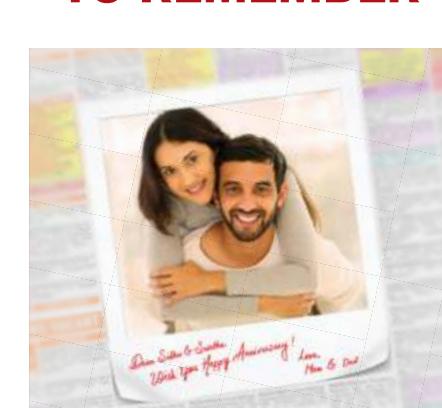
लोक स्वास्थ्य योगिकीय खण्ड राजगढ़ (ब्यावरा) म.प्र.

पता-लिखी पर रोड पुराने पेट्रोल पथ के पास राजगढ़ (ब्यावरा) म.प्र.

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Djokovic's 15 Slam titles trigger Indian memories

Sunil Yajaman recalls how the champion was a big name even in his junior days

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Novak Djokovic winning his 15th Grand Slam title in Melbourne on Sunday triggered memories of a young boy taking the big strides about 15 years ago in the Junior Davis Cup.

It adds a fascinating angle to what is shaping up to be a memorable title race between the two north-west giants although there is no doubt Liverpool's players have the advantage in terms of rest and recovery.

“We still remember those serves and groundstrokes. Perfect clay courtier,” said Sunil, in a chat with *The Hindu*.

Having watched Rafael Nadal and Kevin Anderson a year earlier in the Junior Davis Cup in France, Sunil stressed the importance of a healthy environment and good people to nurture layers to world standards.

More events needed

“We need events. If we conduct 10 Challengers every year for five years, there will be a good chance of having eight to 10 top-100 players. One or two of them will travel long,” Sunil observed.

“We need to have a travelling team with a coach and

trainer/ physio, to ease off expenses for the players.”

Of course, we need to have a good domestic circuit where the 14-16 years olds can gain experience by competing against the 25-30 year old professionals.

When Somdev Devvarman went to play the US Open juniors in 2003, he skipped a grade-I junior event to play two weeks of ITF Futures. “He had to be pushed into deep waters. He came back and a month later won his first ITF Futures title in Kolkata,” Sunil recalled.

Indian tennis did deliver a world-beater in Sania Mirza. “Sania was so strong mentally that even with so many limitations in her game, she was always a winner in her mind,” Sunil remarked.

In fact, Djokovic had to win the doubles as well against Rupesh and Sumit Gupta to put his team ahead as Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan had put India in the lead by

**Twins' death case**

Delhi Police will file final report in Max Hospital case in which twin babies died in November 2017 Page 3

**Heartfulness meditation**

Heartfulness meditation has a positive effect on heart rate variability, blood pressure, heart rate Page 4

**Lending a helping hand**

Sandhya Raman strikes a balance between traditional crafts and contemporary tastes in her latest collection Page 5

**Photography's game-changers**

World is falling in love with mirrorless cameras for their on-the-go portability and shooting quality Page 6

IN BRIEF**E-auction of vacant plots: phase 2 by Feb 15**

NEW DELHI
The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) will be launching the second phase of e-auction for vacant plots across the Capital within two weeks, urban body officials told *The Hindu* on Monday. This came after the DDA received a huge response to the first phase.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Man sets himself on fire outside police HQ

NEW DELHI
A 25-year-old man suffered about 80% burns after he set himself on fire outside the Delhi Police headquarters on Sunday night, the police said on Monday. He was rushed to a hospital and doctors said he is critical. Police sources said he has been identified as Ravi and that he seems to be mentally disturbed.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	267	Gurugram	-
Ghaziabad	254	Faridabad	-
Noida	254	Greater Noida	236
Good 0-50	Satisfactory 51-100	Moderate 101-200	
Poor 201-300	Very poor 301-400	Severe >401	

AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) | SOURCE: CPCB

The air quality index at 4 p.m. yesterday (average of past 24 hours) | SOURCE: CPCB

Farmers to get MSP based on Swaminathan report

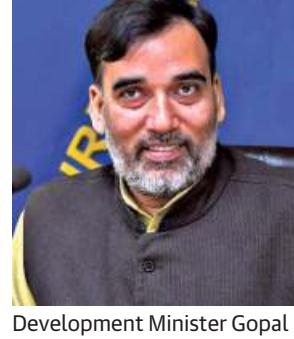
Conference with farmers to be held on Tuesday to discuss implementation: Rai

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI
The Delhi government will provide the Capital's farmers a minimum support price (MSP) for their crops based on the recommendations of the M.S. Swaminathan Committee's report, Development Minister Gopal Rai said on Monday.

A conference with farmers will be held on Tuesday to discuss the implementation of the report, Mr. Rai said at a press conference here. He added that the Delhi government had formed an expert committee on December 4, 2018 to draft an agricultural policy. This committee included a senior scientist of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, farmers and officials of the Agriculture Department.

While the Centre had not implemented the recom-



The [expert] committee has worked out the cost of production and is in the process of calculating the average cost of production

GOVERNMENT STATEMENT

Development Minister Gopal Rai at a press conference in New Delhi on Monday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

mendation of giving 50% more than the weighted cost of production, Mr. Rai said the Delhi government would give farmers the MSP based on the Swaminathan report.

He added that the expert committee had deliberated on the issue and its report would be discussed with the

ficiaries was formed.

"The committee has worked out the cost of production and is in the process of calculating the average cost of production. To further deliberate on these issues and to arrive at a reasonable weighted cost of production and to suggest separate MSP for farmers of Delhi, the farmers conference has been convened at the Delhi Secretariat on Tuesday," a government statement said.

Invitees at conference

Apart from the members of the expert committee and farmers, officers of the Odisha and Telangana governments' Agricultural Departments have also been invited for the conference.

A final decision on MSP would be taken after consulting all stakeholders, the government said.

DNA of traced kid does not match with Delhi couple

The boy was three years old when he was reported missing in 2012

HEMANI BHANDARI

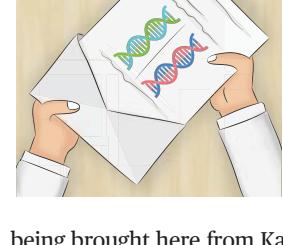
NEW DELHI
The DNA of a nine-year-old boy, who was traced by the Delhi Police Crime Branch months back, has not matched with that of the couple who claimed to be his parents, sources said. The child was traced six years after he had gone missing from Lahori Gate.

Traced to Punjab

The boy was three years old when he was reported missing in 2012. The police traced him in June 2018 to Punjab's Kapurthala and brought back him to Delhi. He had been staying there with a family.

After he was brought to the city, the police conducted a DNA test of the Delhi couple who had reported him missing and the boy to find out whether they were a familial match.

The report was received about two months ago. After



being brought here from Kapurthala, the child was shifted to an observation home in east Delhi," said a senior police officer privy to the case.

Sources said the minor will be produced before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), which has been informed about the report and are yet to decide on his future.

The boy did not really recognise the Delhi couple since he was too small when he went missing. He wants to go back to the Kapurthala family he lived with for two years. That family is willing

to take him back and raise him. The CWC also does not appear to be inclined to give his custody to the Delhi couple. They are still deliberating," said the officer.

Sources said the Delhi couple "were heartbroken after they were informed about the report because circumstances and information provided by them fit with the sequence of events, and the boy also bears resemblance to the couple's son".

The police said the boy was reported missing on May 21, 2012, at Lahori Gate police station by a spice vendor, who lived in the jhuggis. The case was subsequently transferred to the anti-human trafficking unit of the Crime Branch by the High Court and a cash reward of ₹50,000 was announced for information leading to the boy's whereabouts. The case was taken up by the team of Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Joy Tirkey.

Sanjay's neighbour Minta Devi, who was on a visit to Delhi, saw the boy's poster and asked Sanjay to contact the police, the police said, adding that the boy did not remember anything from 2012 to 2016. The police suspect he had hopped onto a train passing near Lahori Gate jhuggis in 2012.

who had put up messages and pictures of the boy across the Capital.

On June 20 last year, the police received a tip-off that the boy was in Kapurthala. A team went there and brought him back to Delhi.

The Kapurthala family raising the boy told the police that they had found him on a train to Bihar in 2016. When they asked him about his parents, he was unable to give them information regarding his family. After spending a month in Bihar, Sanjay, a factory worker, and his wife took him to their house in Kapurthala.

Sanjay's neighbour Minta Devi, who was on a visit to Delhi, saw the boy's poster and asked Sanjay to contact the police, the police said, adding that the boy did not remember anything from 2012 to 2016. The police suspect he had hopped onto a train passing near Lahori Gate jhuggis in 2012.

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IN BRIEF



SC not happy with HC order in sealing matter

NEW DELHI The Supreme Court on Monday expressed displeasure over the Delhi High Court's recent order in a sealing matter and restrained it from entertaining any plea related to the apex court-mandated monitoring committee on sealing of unauthorised constructions in the Capital. PTI

North body proposes amnesty scheme

NEW DELHI A resolution calling for an amnesty scheme for property tax for residents in North body was passed at house meeting on Monday. The resolution calls for amnesty from interest rates, penalties and all other charges for tax payers in all types of colonies that submit fees by 31 March. STAFF REPORTER

RO plants linked to gangster sealed

NOIDA Two commercial water plants allegedly linked to a local gangster here were sealed on Monday by authorities in Gautam Buddha Nagar on the charge of flouting pollution norms, the officials said. The water plant in Khanpur village was sealed in a joint action, a senior official said. PTI

DJB to move HC over pollutants in Yamuna

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Jal Board on Monday said it would move High Court over the release of pollutants by Haryana into the Yamuna, which has been affecting water supply in the Capital since January 25.

In a statement, the DJB said Delhiites continue to "suffer" repeatedly as raw water from Haryana sees spikes in ammonia levels several times a year.

Ammonia level

Since January 25, the ammonia level has been high in the Yamuna, leading to a 30% reduction in water treatment.

The level of ammonia at Wazirabad has been almost double the amount that can be treated, the DJB will inform the court, the statement said. The pollution in the Yamuna was due to the Haryana government's inability to stop pollution, the DJB said.

E-auction of vacant plots: DDA mulls second phase by Feb 15

In phase I, around 645 plots were up for consideration; DDA collected over ₹900 crore

Winning plot

DDA concludes phase I of e-auction of vacant plots

Residential plots:

128 of 138 sold

Commercial plots:

6 of 8 sold

Kiosks:

28 of 44 sold

Shops:

148 of 400 sold



SOURCE: DELHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

days time to deposit the money.

Stating that the last auction, held in 2013, saw only one residential plot out of 52 plots being sold, Commissioner Land Disposal Subu R. said: "This time we thought of expanding the scope and we have received an overwhelming response. This is the first time when an e-auction of the vacant plots was held on a mass-scale and it has helped us to get an analysis of where we stand."

The plots ranged from small shops for vegetable sellers to land measuring up to 10 acres, said officials. The plots, fixed at circle rates specified by the Delhi government, was sold at five to six times the price, said senior officials.

No encroachments'

"It was a common notion that land in Delhi is very expensive and people will not buy. However, through the e-auction, we realised that people are still willing to pay the cost as the DDA land also provides assurance. There are no encroachments or court cases or any other such hassles. There is authenticity," said Mr. Subu.

"Phase I of the e-auction was an experiment for us, which turned out to be a huge success and we will hopefully launch the next phase by Feb 15

SUBUR
Commissioner Land Disposal

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IN BRIEF



Four men held for extortion in Dwarka

NEW DELHI

Four men have been arrested near Dwarka Sector 22 on charges of extortion after they allegedly unloaded 50 of 200 bags of cement from a truck here, the police said Monday. The driver told the police that he saw a car following him around 11.30 p.m. on January 24 as he was nearing Gurugram. The car waylaid the truck and the men forcibly unloaded some bags of cement, said the police. The driver spotted some policemen and told them about the incident. PTI

Delhi cop beaten in suspected road rage case

NEW DELHI

In a suspected case of road rage, an ASI with the Delhi Police was attacked in Dwarka district's Baba Haridas Nagar, the police said Monday. A cab rammed ASI Kishan Lal's car near Dwarka sector 14 metro station, they said. When he confronted the cab driver, he found the accused and his accomplice consuming liquor inside the vehicle, a senior officer said. He informed police. However, the accused called for backup and thrashed him, he said. Three accused have been arrested. PTI

DU student found dead in Noida PG

NOIDA

A law student (21) was found dead in her Sector 27 PG accommodation here, the police said on Monday. The DU student was found hanging from the fan on Sunday, they said. "She was from Uttarakhand," the police said. "Her roommate tried calling her on Sunday. When she failed to answer, the roommate asked the PG cook to get her on the phone. The cook knocked on the door but there was no response," the police said. The cook and other PG inmates peeped inside the room from a window and saw her hanging, the police said. PTI

DCW notice to police over child's death

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) on Monday issued a notice to the city police seeking details of the investigation pertaining to the death of a minor, who was found murdered in Samaypur Badli on Sunday.

"The DCW has taken suo motu cognisance of media reports regarding a five-year-old girl being brutally raped and murdered in Samaypur Badli. It has been reported that the deceased child was missing from her home since January 26 and next day, her body was found in a pool of blood. She was reportedly raped before the murder," said a DCW official.

The DCW has asked the police to provide information on arrests made in the case and a copy of the post-mortem report by Friday.

"Please provide information on whether any person has been arrested in the case and if not, please provide reasons for the same," read the letter to the police.

DELHI TODAY

Exhibition: Mandata and Darpan, a solo exhibition by Jayadev at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Exhibition: 17th All India Water Colour, 15th All India Traditional Art, and 10th All India Portrait Exhibition at All India Fine Arts & Craft Society (AIFACS), 1 Rafi Marg, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Exhibition: 'Displace', a group show portraying Bangladesh through the lenses and artworks of photographer and artists at Exhibition Gallery, Korean Cultural Centre, A-25, Lajpat Nagar IV, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Exhibition: 'A Wired Ecology' solo show by Jayashree Chakravarty at Akar Prakar, First Floor, D-43 Defence Colony, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

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

CMK

Police to file final report in Max Hospital twins' death case

Senior officer says everything communicated verbally, nothing documented

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police will file a final report in the Max Hospital Shalimar Bagh case, in which twin babies had died in November 2017, sources said.

A senior police officer privy to the case said though the investigation found negligence on the part of the doctors, "nothing incriminating" was found. "About 30 people were questioned, including doctors, nurses, management and security guards, and procedural errors were found. Everything was communicated verbally and nothing was documented," the officer said.

None chargedheeted' Sources said that no person has been chargedheeted in the case. "According to the 2005 SC order, the police cannot establish medical negligence, only State Medical Councils can. Here, the Delhi Medical Council [DMC] has the power. The DMC has in its report found no medical



Max Super Speciality Hospital in Shalimar Bagh. ■ FILE PHOTO

negligence," the officer said, adding that the draft of the report is under review before it is submitted to the court. The Supreme Court ruled that "a simple lack of care, an error of judgment or an accident is not proof of negligence". The apex court had also said that before arresting a doctor, the investigators will also have to get an opinion from a government doctor.

The DMC, in its order dated May 2, 2018, observed

that "no medical negligence can be attributed on the part of the doctors of Max Super Speciality Hospital, in the treatment administered to the complainant's newborns". Therefore, the officer said, no person has been chargedheeted in the case, which was registered under Section 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide) of the IPC.

On November 30, 2017, the premature twins were allegedly declared dead by

...Delhi Medical Council has the power. The DMC has in its report found no medical negligence. The draft of the report is under review before it is submitted to the court

A SENIOR POLICE OFFICER

doctors of Max Hospital in Shalimar Bagh and handed over to their parents. The parents realised that one of them was alive only when they were on their way to perform the last rites.

The woman, Varsha, had given birth to twins and the doctors had allegedly declared the girl as stillborn. The boy was declared dead a couple of hours later. The family said the twins were allegedly wrapped in sheets and handed over to them. The boy was found alive while on the way to perform the last rites. He was rushed to a hospital, where he died six days later.

Woman robbed, thrown out of autorickshaw

Driver detained; his role being probed

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 24-year-old woman, who boarded an autorickshaw from Kashmere Gate while returning home from work, was robbed at knifepoint and thrown out of the moving auto in North East Delhi's Shastri Park on Sunday night. Police have detained the auto driver for questioning and is looking into his role.

The woman told the police that she tried to raise an alarm amid heavy traffic, but the driver slowed down and the accused pushed her out of the vehicle.

"The woman sustained injury in her leg. She went back home and called the police. During investigation, the auto driver was identified and has been detained for questioning. The vehicle has also been seized," the officer said adding that a case under relevant Sections of the PC has been registered.

Police are scanning the CCTV footage to ascertain the identity of the accused and are also looking into the role of the driver.

and snatched her bag. When she fought back, they opened her bag and took out her phone," said a senior police officer.

The woman told the police that she tried to raise an alarm amid heavy traffic, but the driver slowed down and the accused pushed her out of the vehicle.

"The woman sustained injury in her leg. She went back home and called the police. During investigation, the auto driver was identified and has been detained for questioning. The vehicle has also been seized," the officer said adding that a case under relevant Sections of the PC has been registered.

Police are scanning the CCTV footage to ascertain the identity of the accused and are also looking into the role of the driver.

40-year-old man kidnaps 8-year-old 'as he liked her'

Accused arrested; but he did not harm girl, claim police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 40-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly kidnapping an 8-year-old girl from West Delhi's Kirti Nagar. He allegedly told police that he kidnapped the minor 'because he liked her'. However, he did not touch the girl, police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Monika Bhardwaj said the accused is a driver who resides in Rajaouri Garden. He belongs to Uttar Pradesh's Faizabad.

Police said that he had kidnapped the 8-year-old in October last year from Hari Nagar.

Girl returns herself

Police said on January 25, they were approached by

the minor girl's father, who said that his daughter had gone to use the public toilet but didn't return thereafter. Following this, a kidnapping case was registered. While police were on the lookout of the girl, she returned home herself the next morning (January 26).

The girl said that she had gone to the toilet where one 'uncle' lured her and took her to his home on his bike. She was kept at his home overnight and the next morning. She was dropped back at the place near her house.

The girl affirmed that the 'uncle' neither committed any crime nor did anything 'bad thing' with her," said Ms. Bhardwaj.

With the help of CCTV footage, the accused's bike

Man sets himself on fire outside police headquarters

Suffers about 80% burns; his condition is critical: doctors

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 25-year-old allegedly suffered about 80% burns after he set himself on fire outside the Delhi Police headquarters on Sunday night.

He was rushed to a hospital, where doctors said his condition is critical. He has been admitted to the ICU.

Police sources said the man has been identified with the help of ID cards found in his possession. He seems to be mentally disturbed.

They said he lives in a rented house in Pandav Nagar, but belongs to Kanpur. His family's statement will be recorded, the police said.

Crowd takes pictures Local shopkeepers claimed that they spotted the man near the mosque, located besides the police headquarters at ITO around 8 p.m.

They said he was carrying a bag and kept walking around. A few minutes later, he set himself on fire.

The police said a crowd



Locals spotted the man near the police headquarters at ITO around 8 p.m. on Sunday. ■ FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

gathered around him. Instead of dousing the fire, they were busy clicking pictures. He was rescued after staff from a PCR van and the IP Estate Police wrapped a blanket around him.

Money issue

Preliminary inquiry revealed that he had lent money to some people, who refused to return it. His family told the police that he was upset due to this.

The police claimed that he had not approached

them with a complaint.

An inquiry has been initiated to find out whether he was turned away by the police.

Footage from CCTV cameras at ITO metro station and the police headquarters are being scanned to establish the sequence of events, said the officials

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 am-7.30 pm

Man held in hit-and-run case that killed couple

SUV mows down middle-aged couple

STAFF REPORTER
GREATER NOIDA

A 32-year-old man has been arrested in a hit-and-run case which claimed the lives of a couple on January 26, the police said on Monday. The accused was arrested with the help of CCTV footages recovered from the area.

Accused Lokesh (32), a resident of Neemrana village in Bulandshahr, was returning home from Delhi with four of his friends. The accident took place around 7 p.m. on Saturday when the vehicle reached near the Greater Noida Authority office in Surajpur. The SUV mowed down a middle-aged couple on a bicycle.

The deceased have been identified as Lakshmi (40) and her husband Ram Singh (45), residents of Chattisgarh. They worked as daily-wage workers at a construction site in Surajpur and lived in a rented accommodation in Dadri.

The deceased's daughter alerted the police about the accident around 7:30 p.m. By the time the police team reached the spot, the accused had fled. The injured were rushed to the hospital where they were declared dead. Based on a complaint from the daughter of the deceased, we have filed an FIR under IPC Sections 304A, 279 and 427" said SHO at Surajpur Muneesh Chauhan.

The police tracked down Lokesh on Monday. "We identified the accused with the help of CCTV footage and based on tip-off. The accused has been sent to the jail," added Mr. Chauhan.

Gunrunner held for supplying ammunition to Maoists

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police's Special Cell has arrested a 35-year-old man for allegedly supplying ammunition to the CPI (Maoist) in Bihar's Ara, officials said on Monday.

Raj Bahadur alias Raj Kishore, a resident of Kasap village in Ara town of Bihar's Bhojpur district, was carrying a reward of ₹1 Lakh on his head, police said on Monday.

The arrest was made on January 23 after police got a tip-off that Bahadur will visit one of his acquaintances in Shiv Ganj Colony of Ara city, police said. A trap was laid and Bahadur was apprehended. Around 35 cartridges were recovered from his possession, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special

Cell) P.S. Kushwah said. Bahadur's associates, who were arrested last year in connection with the case, disclosed to the police that he was the main supplier of illegal cartridges, Mr. Kushwah said. Investigations revealed that Bahadur was arrested earlier for supplying illegal cartridges to the Maoists in Odisha, Mr. Kushwah added.

He has been supplying cartridges illegally since 2008. He used to procure cartridges from a Patna-based man named Santosh, the DCP said. Ram Krishna Singh used to procure cartridges from Ara, which were supplied to a Gadchiroli-based Maoist cadre. Ray has been involved in several cases of crime in States of Maharashtra, Odisha and Chhattisgarh since 1990, the DCP said.

Bahadur came in contact with Ray in Mumbai when he used to supply labour to a

construction company. He, along with Ram Krishna Singh, was arrested in Odisha in 2008, while he was carrying cartridges for supplying them to Maoists, Mr. Kushwah added. Bahadur is also involved in various other cases, including robbery and attempt to murder, the DCP said.

His associates Ram Krishna Singh, Ajeeb Ray and Sanjay Singh were arrested last year in connection with the case, the DCP said. Ram Krishna Singh used to procure cartridges from Ara, which were supplied to a Gadchiroli-based Maoist cadre. Ray has been involved in several cases of crime in States of Maharashtra, Odisha and Chhattisgarh since 1990, the DCP said.

He is accused of allegedly laundering black money

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A Delhi court on Monday extended for five days the police remand of advocate Gautam Khaitan in a case of allegedly laundering ₹500-₹1,000 crore of black money.

Special Judge Arvind Kumar extended his police remand when the Enforcement Directorate produced him, seeking extension of the remand for seven days, alleging the accused knew all the persons related to arms deals other than AgustaWestland.

Defence deal

Countering it, counsel for the accused, P.K. Dubey, said that the Directorate was



Lawyer Gautam Khaitan at Patiala House Courts in New Delhi on Monday. ■ PTI

forcing him to falsely implicate anyone influential in any defence deal which happened during the UPA regime. He further submitted

that that there was no fresh ground for the present case.

The Directorate claimed that it is a fresh case of money laundering instituted on the basis of the Income-Tax Department's probe under Section 51 of the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act.

The Directorate had earlier arrested Mr. Khaitan in September 2014 in connection with the AgustaWestland chopper deal case.

It later filed a charge sheet in the case alleging that he was part of one of the channels, involving middlemen Carlo Gerosa and Guido Haschke, through which the alleged bribe money was routed.

The accused is serving a prison sentence of three years.

He is serving a prison sentence of three years.

He is serving a prison sentence of three years.

He is serving a prison sentence of three years.

4 CITY

IN BRIEF



Woman apprehended with gold biscuit at IGI

NEW DELHI
A 55-year-old Chinese woman has been apprehended at the Delhi airport for allegedly carrying a gold biscuit in her baggage in violation of rules, officials said on Monday. They said the woman was intercepted by CISF personnel on January 26 when she arrived to take a flight to Dehradun along with another person. PTI

Four held for smuggling gold, forex worth ₹1.8 cr

NEW DELHI
Four people have been arrested by Customs Department officials in separate cases for allegedly trying to smuggle gold and forex worth ₹1.88 crore at the Delhi airport, according to an official statement issued on Monday. PTI

Minor girl raped in Gurugram, accused held

GURUGRAM
A youth has been arrested for allegedly kidnapping and raping a girl in Farukhnagar here, the police said on Monday. The accused has been identified as Gaurav Saini (24), they said. "The victim said that the accused abducted her on January 24 in a car from outside her school around 8 am. He allegedly took her to an isolated place and raped her thrice," SHO at Manesar police station, Kanta Devi said. PTI

Traffic restrictions in city lead to heavy jams

NEW DELHI
Restrictions on movement of vehicles in central Delhi due to Beating Retreat rehearsals and breakdown of a few cluster buses led to traffic jams at major intersections on Monday. The Delhi Traffic Police has been constantly updating commuters about the congestion through its twitter handle. PTI

'Heartfulness meditation has a positive effect on overall health'

Study says yogic meditative practice has a good impact on BP, heart rate

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The practice of heartfulness meditation, a set of yogic meditative practices, has a positive effect on heart rate variability, blood pressure and heart rate.

This was found in a study conducted by the National Resource Centre for Value Education in Engineering (NRCVEE) at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi and the Department of Non-Invasive Cardiology, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket.

The study was conducted as part of an ongoing research programme at the Non-Invasive Cardiology Laboratory at the hospital. It involved 30 volunteers, 21 men and nine women, who have been practising heartfulness methods regularly and were in the age range of 19-70 years. All participants were subjected to a standard set of procedures while data were recorded on a computer. The entire procedure was performed in three stages of 30 minutes each – baseline stage, cleaning stage and



meditation stage.

The data point towards the significant effect of heartfulness practices of cleaning and meditation on heart rate, blood pressure and heart rate variability, which is an indicator of cardiovascular as well as overall health.

"A 30-minute session of heartfulness meditation and cleaning produces significant modulation of the autonomic nervous system towards parasympathetic dominance, so as to favourably moderate basic vital pa-

rameters. The results also indicated that these practices helped improve the feeling of overall happiness and well-being following meditation sessions, without being demanding," noted the study.

The findings of the study have been published in the *Indian Heart Journal*, the official journal of the Cardiological Society of India.

Commenting on the study, heartfulness guide Kamlesh D. Patel said: "While meditation is now readily recognised as a practical, safe and effective tool to reduce stress and manage health, this research is the first attempt to study heartfulness meditation and its effect on cardiovascular measures."

He added that several studies have shown the beneficial effects of heartfulness meditation on physical health, psychological health, emotional intelligence, sleep, etc., but there was a gap in literature on studies pertaining to the impact of the heartfulness practices of cleaning and meditation on heart rate variability.

While meditation is now readily recognised as a practical, safe and effective tool to reduce stress and manage health, this research is the first attempt to study heartfulness meditation and its effect on cardiovascular measures

KAMLESH D. PATEL

Heartfulness guide

and effective tool to reduce stress and manage health, this research is the first attempt to study heartfulness meditation and its effect on cardiovascular measures."

He added that several studies have shown the beneficial effects of heartfulness meditation on physical health, psychological health, emotional intelligence, sleep, etc., but there was a gap in literature on studies pertaining to the impact of the heartfulness practices of cleaning and meditation on heart rate variability.

Pleas sought adequate release of water from Sardar Sarovar Dam

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has dismissed a plea that sought adequate release of water from the Sardar Sarovar Dam to the downstream areas of the Narmada, stating that there is a separate tribunal to adjudicate the particular matter.

A Bench headed by NGT judicial member Justice Raghuvendra S. Rathore noted that the Water Dispute Tribunal and the Narmada Control Authority are already in place to deal with matters pertaining to the river.

"Therefore, it would be appropriate that the current matter also be placed before the Narmada Tribunal so as to consider all aspects of the grievance raised by the applicant. The applicant will be free to represent his case before the tribunal," the Bench said.

The directions came while the green panel was hearing a plea moved by the Narmada Pradushan Nivaran Samiti and the Bharuch Citizen Council, which sought directions to make

urgent provisions for the release of 1,500 cusecs of water from the Sardar Sarovar Dam to the downstream Narmada areas on a daily basis. ■ FILE PHOTO

"Due to unavailability of surface water, water-intensive and heavily polluting industries along the Narmada estuary withdrew large quantities of water from borewells aggravating the water crisis in the region and accelerating the rate of toxic sea water intrusion into aquifers of the downstream area," the plea had contend-

ed. The petition further alleged that due to release of 600 cusecs of water, the riverbed was drying up. This, the petition said, led to adverse impact on the environment.

1984 riots: Sajjan Kumar produced in Delhi court

Production warrant issued on Jan 22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

produce him.

Trial charges

In the case before the trial court, three persons – Kumar, Brahmanand Gupta and Ved Prakash – are facing trial on charges of murder and rioting pertaining to the killing of Surjit Singh in Sultanpur.

The riots broke out after the assassination of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards on October 31, 1984.

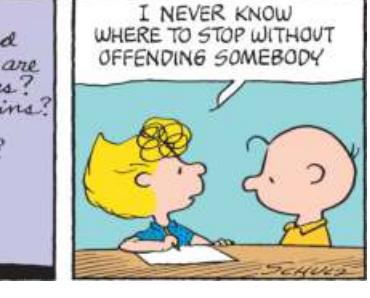
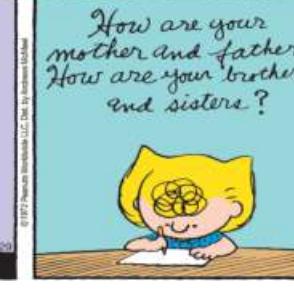
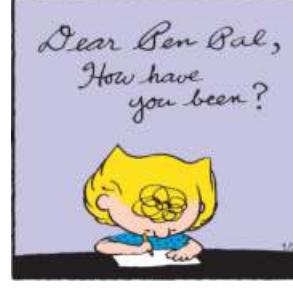
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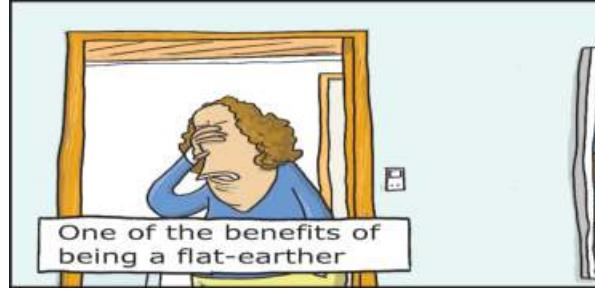
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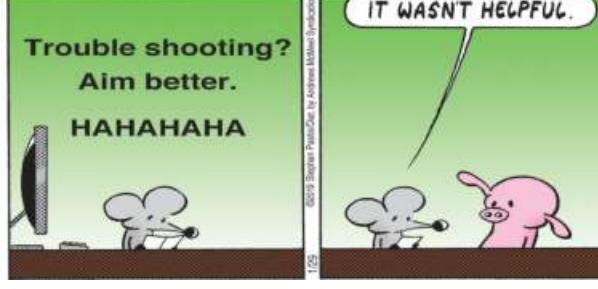
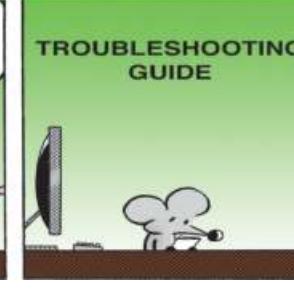
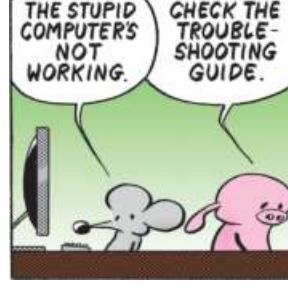
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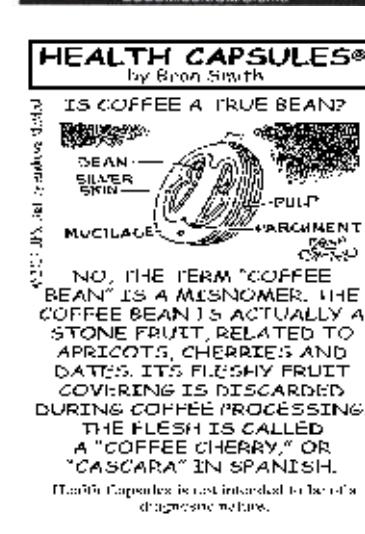
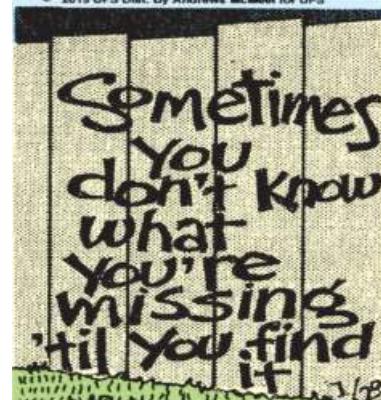
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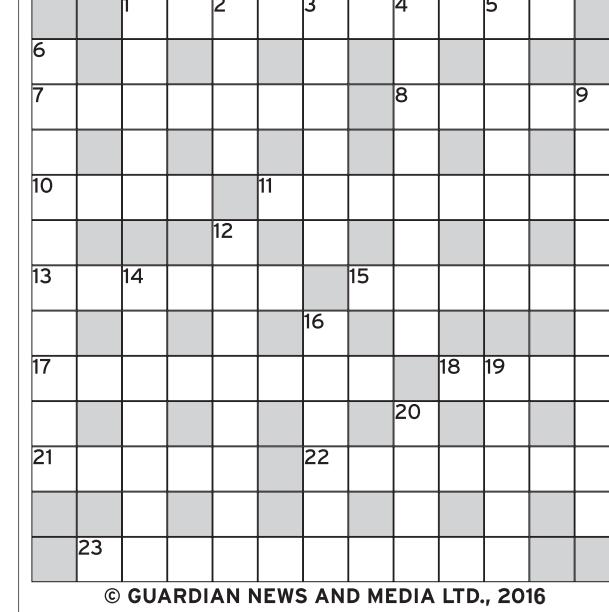
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



GRAFFITI



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-12979



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- 2 Backless slipper (4)
- 3 Sample intended to stimulate interest (6)
- 4 One who renovates works of art (8)
- 5 Language widely used in East Africa (7)
- 6 Shown to be a party to (10)
- 9 With meticulous care (10)
- 12 Book of the Bible (8)
- 14 Entrance (7)
- 16 Fisherman (6)
- 19 Go well together (5)
- 20 Port and holiday centre on the west coast of Scotland (4)

Solution will appear in Delhi Metro dated January 30, 2019.

Solution No.

12979

- Across
- 1 Halt (4,2,4)
- 15 Causing irritation (6)
- 8 Ground covered by a mat of grass and grass roots (5)
- 10 Deposit of valuable ore running through other rocks (4)
- 22 Progressive – open-handed (7)
- 23 Over a short distance (5,5)
- Down
- 1 Remedied (5)

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CM YK

Lending a helping hand

Textile revivalist Sandhya Raman tells us how she is striking a balance between traditional crafts and contemporary tastes in her latest collection

MADHUR TANKHA

"Arunachal Pradesh is enigmatic in every possible way you eyes can perceive. The people, their landscape, their food habits, their clothing and their gentle demeanour, all bring in the enigma that the culture carries," says seasoned designer Sandhya Raman. The North Eastern state has virtually become a second home for her as she has been interacting with local weavers over the past two years.

This joint collaboration has yielded a collection. Called "Enigmatic East: from Zero to Infinity", it brings alive the bold and dramatic hand woven fabrics from Arunachal. Aimed to dress up a global woman, the pret outfits are on display at Atelier, Lado Sarai till January 30.

Organic dinner

Reflecting on her bond with the members of Apatani tribe, Sandhya recalls a traditional dinner she had with them. What worked in her favour was that she was quick in capturing the local accent. "We sat around the central fire in a bamboo house. The head of the family and his wife sat in the centre and cooked food for us. They are fish eaters but for me they made rice, vegetables which they inserted in the bamboo containers. Bamboo gave the dish a smoky flavour and herbs made the meal healthy. It was cooked on slow fire; on the lines of dum pukht," she adds, while linking this peculiar cooking pattern with her approach to sustainable fashion.

For Sandhya, the dinner was an example of being organic and eco-friendly. And it was in sync with the kind of work she has been doing to



Rewarding experience: Sandhya Raman with models wearing outfits from her latest collection that was unveiled in New Delhi

* SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

give a push to indigenous crafts and revive those on the brink of extinction. This perhaps explains the rationale why Sandhya has joined hands with the Arunachal Pradesh State Weavers Federation as strategic design partners.

"The weaving treasures of Arunachal have to remain pristine and the pride of this tradition has to be experienced. The weavers are multi-talented; they have computer inside their brains! Now, we need to channelise their talent and energy. They need to be torchbearers and train the trainers," Sandhya, who is also known for dressing up

classical dancers for recitals.

On working with weavers of Arunachal Pradesh

For two years, I have been reviving lesser known traditional fibres used in weaving and are encouraging craftsman to reintroduce silks, cottons and natural dyes into their fabrics. I am working with traditional fibres of several tribes.

So there is Apatani tribe fabric, Nyishi tribe fabric and Galo tribe fabric. Traditional motifs, which are part of their daily lives, are also there. So we are celebrating tribal fabric. And I am making sure that while the tradition remains alive, my clothes are internationally styled and wearable.

On the collection

I have retained the simplicity of the region in my collection. It's a mix of bold and minimalistic. The silhouettes are classic and easily wearable, and fit into any age group. It's for people who appreciate fine detailed work

years, we hope to see a great change.

On ensuring that the outfits create zero impact on the environment

As a textile revivalist and a designer, it is imperative that we bring to the world our authentic treasures and remain true to the place it comes from.

Their art and craft have evolved to the level of being a classic. I am working on reviving the use of natural dyes, working with natural silks and cottons. We are here to produce high quality products, ensuring a healthy and happy growth for the weavers. Keeping in mind the future, I am training youngsters and making sure that by new intervention the heritage does not disappear.

You have to be conscious as one harshly done process could actually ruin career of a lot of upcoming designers from the region. This is responsible fashion.

On designing costumes for classical dancers

Designing for fashion and designing for dancers are very different in many ways yet are similar.

As an apparel designer, my objectives and responsibilities are to make outfits which are accessible to a large set of audience. When I design for fashion, the trend takes the front seat, because it has to be relevant in the present context.

Whereas, when I design costumes, the driver of my thought process is culture and identity. Nevertheless, the common denominator in both is elegance in styling and comfort for the user.

I have made costumes speak the language of the dance and the dancer whether it has been Anita Ratnam, Leela Samson, Mallika Sarabhai and Aditi Mangaldas. Each dance form whether has a different grammar. Apart from nuances of each dance, it is also important for me to know the mood, feeling as one wrong move can spoil the entire performance.

Dancer should not be conscious about the attire while performing. Therefore, right body measurements are important. My attempt is to bring about a visual change in the aesthetic experience of a performance.

Around the world in 159 days

When you're on a bicycle, riding alone, through temperatures as low as -20°C and as high as 37°C, that's fast!

SUNALINI MATHEW

Vedangi Kulkarni is 20, the youngest woman to bicycle around the world, and the fastest Asian to do it. In a journey across 15 countries, 29,000 km and 159 days, she says she is now in post-expedition mode, where the physical and mental intensity are slowly registering. "Now that it's over, and I'm not riding anywhere, I wake up and say, 'Where do I go today?'

The spark

Vedangi, who is a second-year student at Bournemouth University, UK, where she's studying sports management, said it was little things that egged her on to make the trip: reading about Juliana Buhring, the fastest woman in the world to do it, contemplating about her research topic, and the desire to have done something unique before graduating.

"I once set out to do 400 km in a day, and that turned into a 21-day ride across the UK," she says. This gave her the confidence of riding ultra distances. "I'd moved to another country, I'd done something pretty big alone, and I felt I didn't need someone with me all the time." Most of her journey was done alone, except for some stretches that had her roommate Callum Howard ride along. "It was about exploring the world on my bike."

The build-up

Her father reached out to sponsors, and bore a lot of the expense, along with being her strongest support. In addition, she had a solid team that gave her all the emotional support she needed: her friend Callum; her mentor, Sumit Patil; and her professors who helped her with diet, training, full-body conditioning, building mental strength.

"Something that stayed with me when I was at my lowest was that the sports psychologist had told me that no matter what the situation, always look at the good in it." The advice stood her in good stead when she was mugged in Spain, and thrown headfirst into a ditch, leaving her with a concussion. "The people who saved



Keep moving: Vedangi completed her trip despite being mugged in Spain

* SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

my life were more important than those who nearly killed me," she says.

The journey

She partitioned off the ride into 1,600-km 'brackets', beginning from Australia-New Zealand, going on to Canada, Europe, Russia and India, ending the ride in Australia. Her performance suffered terribly, after the attack, but she decided to continue – her bike was fine, and she took that as a sign. "There were days I would ride slower than I could walk." She'd sometimes take 10 hours to finish the same distance she'd have done in 4 or 5 hours, but said to herself, "I will keep going."

Her pattern was to ride 4 hours, rest 25 minutes, then ride another 4 hours, and rest for 4 or 5 hours, either pitching a tent or even in trucks, if she felt they were safe. "Russia was a surprise. There's a false notion that the Russians are cold." On the contrary, they offered her a spot in their car just to use the heater, or would sip tea with her, or feed her cottage-cheese pancakes.

With 30-35 kg on her cycle, no fixed nutrition plan ("I eat at gas stations: bacon rashers, meat jerky, peanut butter, tortilla wraps – anything for the calories, anything that was cheap."), Vedangi Kulkarni arrived home in India, on Christmas eve. She soon plans to start an adventure scholarship for those who'd like to marry endurance athletics with adventure. As for her research study, she'll probably do it on the link between trauma and performance.

A journey we walk together

The second edition of India Heritage Walk Festival seeks to take forward the idea of participatory heritage conservation

LATA GIDWANI

The wave of globalisation indeed ushered exchange of ideas, cultures and commodities but its magnificence to a great extent washed away the footprints of heritage that have long preserved us as a community. Owing to the waning interest in art and heritage of India, Dr. Sudha Gopalakrishnan and the Sahapedia team took the lead in guiding India a step closer to its 'self'. After its resounding success in the first edition in 2018, India Heritage Walk Festival, a month long, pan-India event, is set for its second edition from 2nd to 8th February, in collaboration with UNESCO.

Dr. Sudha Gopalakrishnan, Founder and Executive Director, Sahapedia maintains, "One of India's key strengths lies in its myriad and diverse culture that has helped it find a unique position on

the world map. There are, for instance, 36 World Heritage Sites recognised by UNESCO in India. It was the need to celebrate this vast cultural heritage and make it accessible to everyone that led to the inception of India Heritage Walk Festival last year. It also laid the ground to identify and form a network of cultural practitioners across India who have continued to support us in realising this mission since the first edition. This not only allows regional engagements that we seek but addresses

C As a child, I have been to Khari Baoli with my dad who used to trade in spices in the market. I have learnt about one of the largest markets of spices, herbs, incense and dry fruits

PRIYA PODDAR



Down the spice lane: At Khari Baoli in Delhi ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

the special needs of varied target groups, including the differently-abled."

Expanding its presence from 25 to 37 cities including Delhi, Mumbai, Varanasi, Puducherry, Chennai to name a few, over 87 heritage walks and 100 outreach events have been planned to explore, unravel and celebrate the historically significant monuments and markets, natural landscapes and rich local art and cuisines. The parallel heritage walks across India will trace the Sacred Route (Ahmedabad), Victoria Memorial (Kolkata), Sajjan Garh Fort (Udaipur), Khari Baoli (Delhi) and Dargah Yousufain Sharifain (Hyderabad) among others. Apart from the walk, multiple outreach events will be, inter alia, in the form of photography, social media based instameets, informal and multi-disciplinary baithaks and a number of workshops. The baithaks will see the

discussions centred on the history

of cities, educational prospects for

heritage management and the fu-

ture of sustainable tourism and

participatory heritage conserva-

tion led by academics, design and

architecture professionals, histori-

ans and general public.

Inclusive approach

"Sahapedia has also made special arrangements of sign interpreters,

tactical representations, Braille

books etc. for users with speci-

al needs through their partner-

ships with NGOs and experts. Sites for

special walks include Bhubaneshwar's Muktesvara Temple, Mumbai's ancient Gilbert Hill and Kolkata's Nehru Children's Museum," says Mr. Vaibhav Chauhan, Festival Director and Secretary, Sahapedia.

He further informs, "The regis-

tration and participation in the

event is free to make the pro-

gramme inclusive and interactive

and that this festival would be a

quintessential to sustainable tour-

ism in its underlying aims and ap-

proach towards art, heritage and

community development." The

IN BRIEF



Japanese in aesthetics

The concept of wabi-sabi, a Japanese worldview that finds beauty in incompleteness and simplicity, is the theme of the 22ndoutpost of Social. The Vasant Kunj outlet has been designed to win over patrons with its verdant greens and minimalist design.

Sharing details about the outlet's design, Amith Chhabra, Principal Designer at Living Colors Design, says, "Every part of this space is based on the concept of anti-design, and stays true to the Social design philosophy of minimal intervention and maximum upcycling."

5 EVENTS WORTH-YOUR-WHILE



EXHIBITION

Roaring Sea
The ongoing solo exhibition of Satish Gupta titled, "Roaring Sea - Still Mind", showcases the recent works of the artist's paintings, sculptures and zen calligraphy. Curated by Astrid Narguet, the exhibition features 13 sculptures, 10 collages, 15 large paintings and about 125 drawings and calligraphic works with haikus.
VENUE: Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre
TIME: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



DOCUMENTARY

Tribute
Samved Society for Performing Arts in collaboration with Kri Foundation screening "Nirvana Through Dance" - a film on late Kathak maestro, Pandit Durga Lal. A renowned Kathak dancer of the Jaipur Gharana, Lal was a disciple of Sunder Prasadji and taught Kathak at the National Institute of Kathak Dance, New Delhi.
VENUE: Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre
TIME: 7 p.m.



CUISINE

Western coastal menu
Tamra, a multi-cuisine restaurant at Shangri-La's - Eros Hotel, New Delhi offers a plate full of flavors from NH 66, a western coastal menu, covering Mumbai, Goa, Mangalore and Kochi. Some of the dishes from these regions offered include - Nandu Puttu, Kozhi Seeragam, Thalassery Fish Curry, Malabar Biryani.
VENUE: Tamra, Shangri-La's - Eros Hotel
TIME: 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm



EXHIBITION

Glazed pottery
A solo show of contemporary ceramics with Chinese and Japanese glazes and lustres by Nandita Jain Mahajan, titled "Whimsical Glazes", is on display. An IT advisor-turned-ceramic artist Nandita showcases her experiments with ceramics and glazes, that features her works on porcelain, stoneware and terracotta.
VENUE: Art Gallery, Annexe Building, IIC
TIME: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



FILM

La surface de reparation
It is a story of Franck, who has lived for 10 years on the sidelines of a provincial football club without status or pay. One night he meets Salomé, the ex-mistress of a player, who has set his sights on Djibril, an old football fame come to finish his career at the club.
VENUE: M.L. Bhartia Auditorium, Alliance Française De Delhi
TIME: 10 a.m.



SERISH NANISSETTI

Why does a photograph clicked with a camera and a massive lens look deeper than the one clicked with a small cellphone? The difference is in the innards of a camera. To put it simply, all photography is about light. Rather, about the quantum of light entering the camera. See the cellphone and its small lens? See the bigger

camera and the bazooka lens? The difference in the quality of the photograph becomes easy to understand.

A few tech blokes thought they could solve this problem by matchmaking a bigger lens with a smaller and smarter camera. They just removed the big mirror from the clunky camera, shrunk it and called it a mirrorless camera. A camera defined by what it isn't. So is the mirror-

Photography's game-changers

The world is falling in love with mirrorless cameras for their on-the-go portability and increasingly superior shooting quality. So what's the big deal with these little gadgets?

Close up:
Mirrorless cameras internationally favoured include the Fujifilm X-T20 while the hefty Canon 5D Mark IV is a DSLR classic

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



less camera the perfect marriage of a big lens with a smaller device to process the light, or is the term mirrorless camera an oxymoron?

Right? Wrong? Think again.

'Intuitive operations'
While this year's edition of the Consumer Electronics Show didn't unveil any mir-

rorless cameras outside a prototype stage, there's an evergreen quality that hints these guys have a grip on the market. And when you're scrolling through the enviable feeds of Instagram accounts such as A Game Of Tones, most of the eye-catching content was born out of a mirrorless camera and a great eye.

Holding a Fujifilm X-T20 is pure joy. It is a mirrorless camera with three dials on the top and a few scrolling buttons on the front and rear of the camera. The control dials give a tactile satisfaction that cannot be matched by the touchscreen or scrolling buttons, the barrel of the lens has the aperture control. Then there is a flip-up

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

**THROUGH TIME**

The first pinhole camera was a mirrorless camera.

The earliest cameras had the simplicity of capturing an inverted image which could be seen normally when printed. Then came Single-Lens Reflex cameras with a mirror in the gut that would snap down for a fraction of a second to allow the image to be captured on the film.

The cellphone has the simplest mirrorless camera.

The rangefinder camera is also a mirrorless camera.



FIRST ON THE FRONTIER
Fuji Photo Film Co Ltd was established in 1934 with the aim of being the first Japanese producer of photographic films.



nomics seems like a no-brainer of a debate. Who wants to choose ergonomics over performance? But when it comes to cameras and lenses, ergonomics get a big play. Reading the gripes about the grip, balance and dials may be derisively dismissed. When you realise that a professional photographer grips the camera, balances it and twiddles with the dials at the same time for a few hours during a single shoot, the debate over performance and ergonomics

doesn't appear so lame.

Hold the Canon 5D Mark IV and you feel as if you are holding a real weapon. The grip appears as natural as if it were a 3-D print of your palm. Take the camera to your eye and the image is clear. All you now need to get the perfect photograph is to fiddle with a dozen buttons to get the settings right. Hallelujah. You have arrived.

So, is there a clear winner between the mirrorless and DSLR camera? No, but there are clear choices.

The mirrorless camera can perform some amazing feats. It is a perfect example of 'what you see is what you get'. It is more playful. The video recording capabilities, colour rendering, desaturation modes and the ease of operations makes it a winning proposition.

In the DSLR on the other hand, the image looks perfect, but before clicking, the photographer has to squint and see the numbers on the + and - side before pressing the shutter, then check the metering mode, then the white balance and a host of other control features. All these are nifty touches to full control of the image. And you can click an image that you visualise, not just see through the eyepiece. You visualise a starburst of the sun, you can click it. The same cannot be said of the mirrorless cameras, though their performance is improving at a rapid pace.

As someone who has to lug a camera around for reporting assignments, climb hills and trek, the choice is still difficult: Do I carry around a three-kilogram dumbbell that gives me full control or do I carry a small weapon that is light but might not quite hit the mark? It's a tough choice for a pro.

TECH-A-BYTE**Edge fights fake news**

Microsoft has launched a filter that helps users weed out fake news on Edge. The fake news filter functionality has been added to the Edge browser as an optional setting. Founded by journalists Steven Brill and Gordon Crovitz, NewsGuard informs readers if the site is genuine or fake. The Edge browser on iOS has a built-in NewsGuard feature that acts as a fake news filter. NewsGuard says that it uses a group of trained journalists instead of algorithms to rate and review news and websites. A report in CNET says that after turning on news rating in Edge's settings menu, users can see NewsGuard's shield icon in the browser's address bar whenever they visit a news site. Green indicates a reliable outlet, while red suggests you should be sceptical about what you read.

**A new cryptocurrency?**

MIT researchers claim to have developed a new cryptocurrency that reduces the data users need to join the network and verify transactions. Cryptocurrencies are networks built on the blockchain, a financial ledger formatted in a sequence of individual blocks, each containing transaction data. To join a cryptocurrency, new users must download and store all transaction data from hundreds of thousands of individual blocks. They must also store these data to use the service and help verify transactions. This makes the process slow or computationally impractical for some. In a paper to be presented at the forthcoming Network and Distributed System Security Symposium, the researchers introduced Vault – a cryptocurrency that lets users join the network by downloading only a fraction of the total transaction data.



JULIAN ALMEIDA

RESIDENT EVIL 2

Developer + Publisher: Capcom
Price: ₹3999 for PC, Xbox One and PlayStation 4

The first Resident Evil was a marvel when it came out in 1996, with its mix of puzzles and zombies. Resident Evil 2, which came out in 1998, propelled the franchise to new heights, making it a household name. Just like its zombies, Capcom has decided to bring what was once thought dead, back again to life, by breathing in new life into it with a full-fledged remake. Which is the best way to do justice to one of their best games.

What's it about?

Set after the events of the first Resident Evil game, the T-virus has been spreading slowly across the mid-west. Which sees Raccoon City taken over by zombies. You can play as Leon S Kennedy or Claire Redfield, who find themselves thrown together as they seek refuge in the Raccoon City Police Station, where Claire Redfield has come to search for her missing brother. While Leon, who goes on to be the main protagonist in several other Resident Evil games, is a rookie who's just shown up on the first day of his job, tough luck.

To keep the story fresh, for those who've played the original, Capcom has juggled things around a

bit. The narrative overall has more meat and everything has been modernised, with slick cutscenes using their new graphics engine, with new updated looks for both the protagonists. Despite the changes, the story remains tight, with a bit of padding. Creating a rabbit hole that starts with zombies and leads to something more intriguing, and ultimately delivers an experience that will please fans and newcomers alike. The most important part is that Capcom has treated the source material with the love and respect that it deserves, and the result is a ghastly horror game.

How does it play?

Resident Evil 2 has not only retooled the story but has also introduced a lot of quality-of-life improvements. One of the hallmarks of the original was the fixed camera, where essentially your characters were the only 3D elements that interacted with pre-rendered backgrounds. The remake introduced a third-person view, with the

police station gloriously rendered in detail. While many purists may lament the loss of the fixed camera, after experiencing it in the recently-remastered Onimusha: Warlords, I fully embrace the familiar camera controls.

The result is a game that is more visceral and horrifying, especially walking through dark corridors with just your flashlight. To add to the tension, these zombies do not go down easy, and since the game is a Survival Horror, ammo is scarce, which makes it even more terrifying. To add to that, the gore is off the charts, as the fleshy bits that fall off zombies look real, complete with noodle-like guts, flesh ripping off with glistening muscle and sinew, and blood that drips realistically. Though once you get a hang of the action, blowing apart zombies' heads is fantastic. Just make sure to hold on to your lunch.

To keep things fresh, the jump-scares have been moved around to increase the tension. The puzzles are engaging and are tied to exploration, so you have to keep an eye out for clues hidden around the station as you try and find a way out.

There are a few pacing issues and there are times where the game missteps, but they're over quickly.

Should you get it?

This is one game you cannot afford to miss out on. A re-



turn of a classic in a completely new re-imagined form. Whether you played the original or not, you will love every moment of Resident Evil 2.

ACE COMBAT 7: SKIES UNKNOWN

Developer: Project Aces
Publisher: Bandai Namco Entertainment

Price: ₹3499 approx. on PlayStation 4 and Xbox One

**Of zombie fights and combat moves**

In Resident Evil 2 and Ace Combat 7

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

On one hand, you have people eagerly booting up a flight simulator with an assortment of expensive peripherals to help them learn to fly a plane. On the other hand, there are games which let you jump into a jet bristling with all the latest in technology and then send you on missions to blast enemy planes. Ace Combat 7 is the latter, letting you take to the skies in an arcade experience that's more fun than substance.

What's it about?

The stage is set for two countries on the brink of war. As a pilot whose call-sign is 'Trigger', you are an Osean tasked with taking on missions from some higher power to become the Top Gun fighter pilot. The game tries hard to set up a Metal Gear Solid-esque narrative, which involves a lot of metaphysical dialogue that's told through cutscenes, briefings and as chatter from your other pilots.

Honestly, trying to follow the deep political world of Ace Combat 7 does take a while. For the most part, you will find yourself just listening to it for cliff notes on what to do on your mission.

For those paying attention, there's quite a good story for you to follow. Otherwise, it's comfortable as white noise, as it's the dogfighting you've come here for.

How does it play?

You better have a good set of Aviators

on hand, because you may have to pilot some of Ace Combat 7's jets. All these bad boys are beautiful to fly and the arcade mechanics do let you do almost the impossible with them, letting you focus on the action in the most cinematic ways possible.

What stands out is the world design though, and the way your plane reacts to it. The dynamic weather system serves up storms, and the skies themselves are not bland, but curated with all sorts of elements that af-



capcom has decided to bring what was once thought dead, back to life

fect your handling – like flying through a cloud can ice up things. That said, there's pretty much a lot you can do, as the game throws you ample opportunities to fly low to the ground, or close to buildings, as you pursue your enemies in intense aerial combat.

Ace Combat 7 looks a little dated, especially when you've had a slew of games come out that really push your PlayStation or Xbox to produce some amazing graphics. There could have been more done with this game, and it seems like it does not take full effect of your 4K TV either. The AI of your teammates is virtually non-existent, save for serving as voices in your earpiece. That said, the game does have its moments, from tense encounters to quiet moments, where you can hear the wind boomerang off your jet as you speed across the terrain.

Should you get it?

Games like Ace Combat 7 have pestered out in the last few years, and if you find yourself yearning to get into the cockpit of a very good arcade fighter, then this game is it.

The writer is a tech and gaming enthusiast

who hopes to one day finish his sci-fi novel