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2016	116	152	168
2015	107.34	168	162 (GS) + 140 (CSAT)
2014	205 (incl. CSAT Marks)	168 (GS) + 148 (CSAT)	168 (GS) + 148 (CSAT)
2013	248 (incl. CSAT Marks)	168 (GS) + 148 (CSAT)	168 (GS) + 148 (CSAT)

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NEARBY



AMU issue referred to Constitution Bench

NEW DELHI
 The Supreme Court on Tuesday referred the contentious issue of minority status for Aligarh Muslim University to a seven-judge Constitution Bench. The court agreed that the issue of the varsity seeking minority status needed to be referred to a larger Bench.
NATION ▶ PAGE 7

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OPPORTUNITIES ▶ DELHI METRO
 PAGE 4
 DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

SC holds Rao guilty of contempt

Former CBI interim Director and agency's legal counsel fined and punished

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday held the former interim Director of the CBI, M. Nageswara Rao, guilty of contempt for disobeying its order not to transfer Joint Director A.K. Sharma, who was probing the Bihar shelter home cases, from the investigating agency.

A Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, termed his act "blatant" disobedience of the order and directed him and the agency's legal adviser, S. Bhasuram, to sit in the courtroom for the remainder of the working hours. It also levied a fine of ₹1 lakh each on the officers.

The Bench, comprising Justices L.N. Rao and Sanjiv Khanna, refused to accept



Court upset: The Bench refused to accept the apology of M. Nageswara Rao, saying he was aware of the order.

the unconditional apology tendered by Mr. Rao, saying he was aware of the order. It said, "He was the interim Director. Would the heavens fall if the relieving letter [of Mr. Sharma] was issued a day later?"

The Bench said it was unable to comprehend why Mr.

Rao transferred Mr. Sharma as Additional Director-General of the CRPF on January 17 but did not communicate his decision to the court, despite being advised to submit an affidavit immediately.

Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal, appearing for Mr. Rao, asked the court to take

a sympathetic stand towards the officer, terming the incident a *bona fide* mistake and an error of judgment. "Speaking for myself, the dignity of the court must be maintained, but this is blatant," the CJI said.

The Bench, while making it clear that both officers would be held guilty of contempt, asked them if they had anything to say before it pronounced its sentence, which could go up to 30 days in jail.

Mr. Rao and Mr. Bhasuram urged the court to pardon them.

Mr. Venugopal urged the Bench to accept the unconditional apology and said, "To err is human, to forgive is divine."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

17 killed as fire breaks out in Karol Bagh hotel

Three of family from Kerala who came for wedding among the dead; magisterial probe ordered

HEMANI BHANDARI

NEW DELHI

In a massive fire that broke out at the four-storey Hotel Arpit Palace in central Delhi's Karol Bagh in the early hours of Tuesday, 17 people were killed, including three Myanmar nationals, and three sustained injuries. The fire started around 2.30 a.m. but the fire service was alerted two hours later. About 25 fire tenders were pressed into service as soon as the call was received, and 35 people were rescued.

While 15 of the dead, including three members of a family from Kerala, have been identified, the identity of two could not be ascertained till evening.

The fire is suspected to have started from the first floor and spread to the upper floors, mostly affecting the third and fourth floors and the rooftop where a restaurant was in operation.

An eyewitness who resides behind the hotel said that he saw people jumping from the



The hotel in flames in the early hours of Tuesday. ▶ PTI

windows to save themselves.

Deputy Chief Fire Officer Sunil Chawdhary said: "We rescued about 35 people us-

ing the hydraulic lift after breaking the windows. The operation went on for nearly five hours," he said.

Sources said the owners of the hotel, which was running since the early 90s, were in possession of a No Objection Certificate which was taken in December 2017 and was valid till December 2020. A North Delhi Municipal Corporation official said the building was erected illegally in the early 90s. "However, the entire structure is under protection up to 2020," the official said.

The dead identified are: Vidyasagar, 60, Nalini Amma, 84, and Jayashree, 53, from Kerala; Nanda Kumar, 35, and Arvind Sukumaran, 50, from Tamil Nadu; Pranav Kumar Bhaskar of Bihar, 32, EVS Chalapathi Rao, 52, – Andhra Pradesh, Dawlma, May, 67, Tun Hla Sein, 32, and Mya Mya Htwe, 45, – Myanmar; Rabia Menon, 50, – Surat; Tara Ram, 42, – Uttarakhand; and Suresh Kumar, 42, – Panchkula, besides Dr. Santosh Mahadev, 35, and Dr. Shankar Narayan Sheshadri, 52. Three persons, Saumya Shrestha, 4, Beena, 50, and Chan Mya Mya Nyein sustained injuries.

Sources said the owners of the hotel, which was running since the early 90s, were in

U.P. bars Akhilesh from flying to AU

State govt. cites 'law and order' concerns; SP chief alleges vindictive tactics

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW

A political row erupted in Uttar Pradesh after the State's BJP government on Tuesday barred Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav from flying to Prayagraj (formerly known as Allahabad), where he was scheduled to attend a students' union function at Allahabad University.

While authorities cited concerns about Mr. Yadav's visit leading to a law and order situation as the reason for its action, the SP chief alleged vindictive tactics on the part of the Uttar Pradesh government.

Mr. Yadav was prevented from boarding a special flight at the Chaudhary Charan Singh Airport here, with one official blocking his path by standing on the stairs of the aircraft while other policemen looked on. Observing that he had informed the authorities about his plans as early as December 2018, Mr. Yadav said the authorities had failed to provide him with a proper reason for preventing him from boarding the plane.



Officials preventing SP leader from boarding a flight to Prayagraj at the Lucknow airport on Tuesday. ▶ PTI

By stopping him from speaking, from asking questions that are on everyone's lips – to be prevented from engaging with the youth is just another clear sign of how scared the government is," Mr. Yadav said in a statement.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath justified the government's action by citing a plea from the AU administration, which he claimed had asked the State to pre-

vent Mr. Yadav's visit on the grounds that student rivalry could lead to violent clashes and a law and order situation on campus. "The SP should refrain from its unruly activities," Mr. Adityanath asserted.

Dismissing the State administration's stand, Mr. Yadav said the Chief Minister's comments were a "cover to hide their nervousness because our youth have had enough."

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Rafale deal not on 'better terms' than UPA-era offer

This is among the key findings of the three domain experts on the Indian Negotiating Team

N. RAM

Three senior Defence Ministry officials who were the domain experts on the seven-member Indian Negotiating Team (INT) came to a well-substantiated and clear conclusion that the Narendra Modi government's new Rafale deal for 36 flyaway aircraft was not on "better terms" than the offer made by Dassault Aviation during the procurement process for 126 aircraft under the United Progressive Alliance government.

Mr. Rao and Mr. Bhasuram urged the court to pardon them. Mr. Venugopal urged the Bench to accept the unconditional apology and said, "To err is human, to forgive is divine."

They also concluded that the delivery schedule of even the first 18 of the 36 flyaway Rafale aircraft in the new deal was slower than the one offered for the 18 flyaway aircraft in the original procurement process.

Contrary to claims
 These findings are directly contrary to the two central claims made by the Indian government of a cheaper deal and faster delivery of fighter aircraft, claims that have been affirmed before the Supreme Court of India in official submissions.

Further, the three officials registered serious concern over the Indian government's acceptance of a 'Letter of Comfort' in lieu of a sovereign or government guarantee or bank guarantees, legal issues relating to the IGA, offset issues, and Dassault Aviation's restrictive trade practices.

Commenting on the final ₹ 7.87 billion cost of the new

Rafale deal, the domain experts stated that "the reasonability of price offered by the French Government is not established. Even the final price offered by the French Government cannot be considered as 'better terms' compared to the MMRCA [medium multi-role combat aircraft] offer and therefore not meeting the requirement of the Joint Statement."

TERMS AND TIME FRAME

This was a reference to the Indo-French Joint Statement issued on April 10, 2015 during Mr. Modi's visit to France. It promised that the new deal to acquire 36 Rafale jets in flyaway condition through an inter-governmental agreement would be on "terms that would be better than conveyed by Dassault Aviation



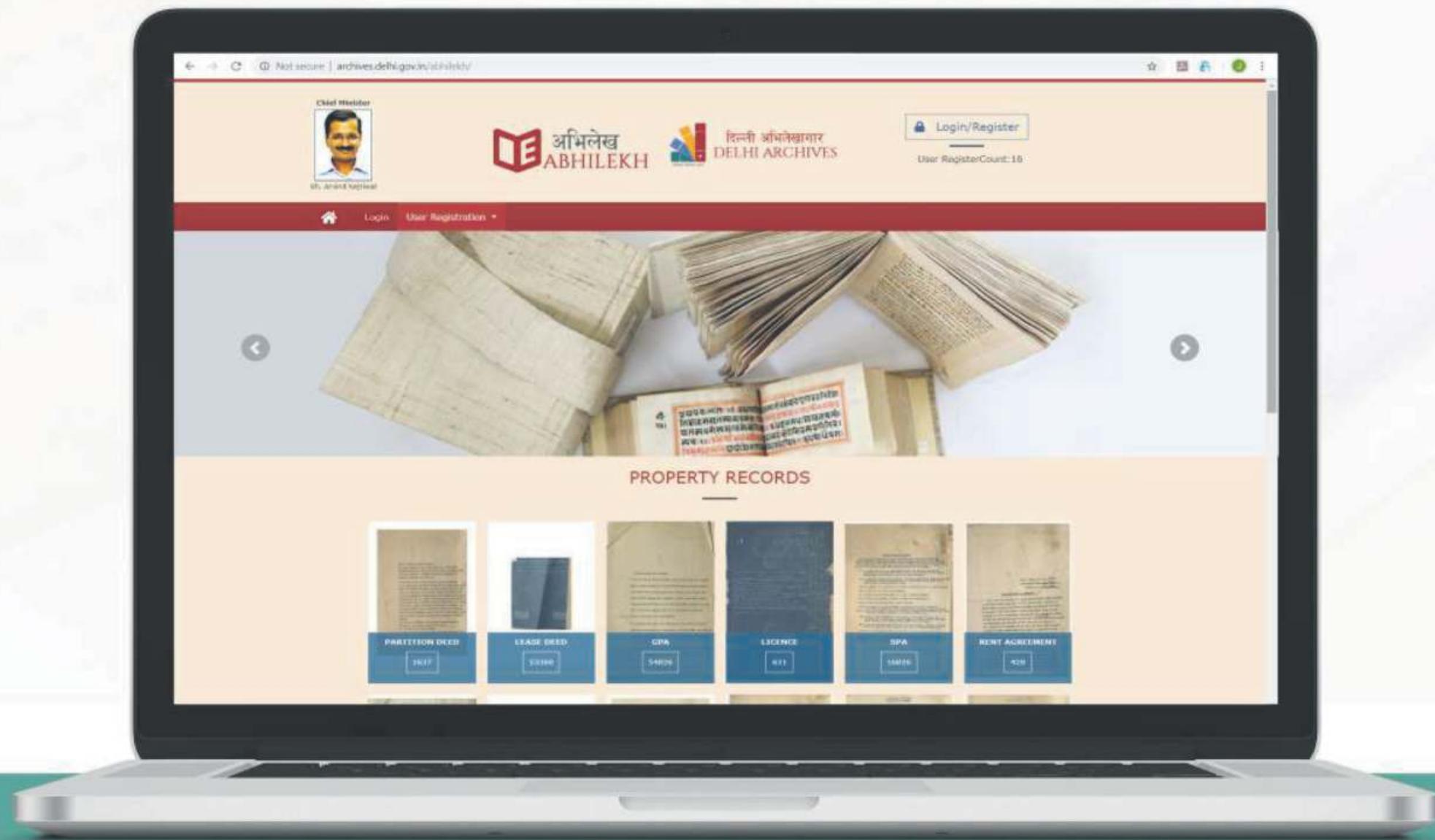
Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi

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by
Manish Sisodia
Dy. Chief Minister, Delhi

On Wednesday, 13th February, 2019 at 2 P.M.

Venue: C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre (IIC), Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi

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Noisy scenes in Punjab Assembly

Opposition walks out over farm loan waiver on first day of the budget session

VIKAS VASUDEVAN
CHANDIGARH

Noisy scenes were witnessed on the first day of the budget session of the Punjab Assembly on Tuesday as the Opposition parties – the Shiromani Akali Dal and the BJP – protested against the Congress government on the issue of agrarian distress and farmers' suicides in the State.

Soon after Governor V.P. Singh Badnore started his address to the House, the SAD-BJP members shouted slogans against the government, accusing it of being responsible for the plight of farmers. Akali Dal-BJP MLAs then staged a walkout from the House.

LIP protest

The MLAs of the Lok Insaaf Party also staged a walkout protesting against the Governor's address being delivered in English and not in Punjabi.

Later, the Akali Dal leaders along with family members of the farmers who had committed suicide sat on a protest near the Vidhan Sab-



SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal with the kin of farmers who committed suicide, in Chandigarh on Tuesday.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ha. Former CM Parkash Singh Badal said that Chief Minister Amarinder Singh should "honour his commitment on complete loan waiver to farmers or quit."

SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal said the party will take the farmers' issue to the Governor and if needed launch a state-wide agitation to ensure the promises made to them by the Congress government are honoured.

The Chief Minister, however, dubbed the Akali Dal protest as a petty political stunt with an eye on the up-

coming Lok Sabha polls.

'Cheap tactics'

"The Akalis had failed to do anything for the farmers for 10 years and are now resorting to all kinds of cheap tactics in a desperate bid to mislead them on the issue of debt waiver," said Capt. Amarinder talking to journalists after the Governor's address.

He said that the Opposition's walkout was a clear case of rudeness against the Head of the State. "The problem with the Opposition is that it had no issue to raise

in the House and it was trying to divert public attention by making a noise on non-issues," he said.

Meanwhile, the Governor in his address spoke about the State government's commitment to pursue and take to their logical conclusion the investigations into the sacrilege cases and the false cases registered during the previous regime, while maintaining its policy of zero political vendetta or intolerance against anyone, irrespective of political affiliations or ideologies.

The main Opposition, AAP, termed the Governor's speech lacklustre and bereft of substance. Leader of the Opposition Harpal Singh Cheema accused the government of misleading the Governor on the public-centric issues and concerns. "The government is making a fool of the people on loan waiver to farmers. The government had played a cruel joke on the farming community by backtracking on the promise of complete farm loan waiver," said Mr. Cheema in a statement.

Focus on education in Bihar budget

Opposition describes the budget as 'depressive and anti-poor'

AMARNATH TEWARI
PATNA

The revenue surplus budget of ₹2,00,501 crore was on Tuesday presented in the Bihar Assembly with focus on education, rural development and energy sectors.

"It's a revenue surplus budget of ₹21,516.99 crore for the financial year 2019-20 with focus on education, energy and development in rural sectors... an amount of ₹34,798 crore is allocated for the education sector while ₹15,699 crore would go to the rural development sector.

The allocation for the energy sector is ₹8,894.32 crore," Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Sushil Kumar Modi said after presenting the budget.

Mr. Modi added that the "sustained efforts by the go-



Bihar Finance Minister Sushil Kumar Modi in Patna on Tuesday. ■ RANJEET KUMAR

vernment for the last few years have yielded good results in the economic growth of the State".

The budget also has provision for opening 11 medical colleges in the State, while a substantial amount has been allocated for the welfare of

the Scheduled Castes and Tribes, Mr. Modi said. An amount of ₹734 crore has been allocated towards the welfare of the SCs and ₹1,565 crore towards the ST welfare in the budget.

Nine-fold increase
The development expenditure for the year 2019-20 is ₹43,133.73 crore and non-development expenditure ₹54,367.30 crore.

"Bihar has the highest growth rate among all States, and the budget is nine times more than that of the year 2004-05," added Mr. Modi.

The Annual Scheme Outlay for the financial year 2019-20 is estimated at ₹1,00,000.98 crore, which is ₹8,206.25 crore more than for the year 2018-19.

The Establishment & Commitment expenditure for the financial year 2019-20 is estimated at ₹99,110.01 crore which is ₹4,437.39 crore more than for the year 2018-19.

Revenue receipts
The grants-in-aid from the Central government is estimated at ₹49,19.38 crore in 2019-20 which is ₹2,588.26 crore more than for 2018-19.

The funds for the Central Sector Schemes for the financial year 2019-20 are estimated at ₹497.03 crore. Total revenue receipt has been estimated at ₹1,76,747.64 crore in 2019-20 which is ₹18,696.23 crore more than for the year 2018-19.

However, the Opposition parties termed the budget "depressive and anti-poor".

Oil merchant's twin sons kidnapped

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SATNA (M.P.)

The six-year-old twin sons of a businessman were kidnapped at gunpoint by two masked persons in Madhya Pradesh's Satna district on Tuesday, the police said.

The children, both in kindergarten, were boarding their schoolbus in Chitrakoot town when they were kidnapped under Nayagaon police station limits, a senior police officer said.

From school premises
"The twin sons of oil merchant Brijesh Rawat, were boarding a bus in their school premises to return home after classes got over for the day. Two unidentified motorcycle-borne persons took them away at gunpoint," District Superintendent of Police Santosh Singh Gaur said.

CCTV footage

Police teams are scouring CCTV camera footage in the area to get leads on the two men, he added.

Inspector K.P. Tripathi of Nayagaon police station said the incident might be a fallout of some enmity as the two kidnappers have not demanded any ransom from the family as yet.

He added that the police are suspecting the involvement of gangster Babbu Kol, a historysheet with a ₹5 lakh reward on his head.

The two kidnappers disappeared into a forested area of the district, he added.

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RISE 07:00 SET 18:11

RISE 13:39 SET 02:46

Delhi Weather max min

Delhi City 24 11

Safdarjung 24 11

Palam 22 12

Delhi Palam Today 26°C

Moderate fog/smoke

haze will persist during morning. Rise in temperatures. Day will be comfortable.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 20°C

Significant fall in day temperature is likely. Spells of moderate rain/thundershower will occur.

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



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IN BRIEF



Huge haul of red sanders logs in Chittoor

CHITTOOR
A special team of the Chittoor Task Force (Red Sanders Operations) on Tuesday seized a lorry that was carrying 2.3 tonnes of red sanders logs at Damalacheruvu village on the Chittoor-Piler highway, and apprehended a man suspected of smuggling the logs. On seeing the police, the lorry driver abandoned the vehicle and tried to flee under the cover of darkness but was apprehended.

Telugu producer, director Vijaya Bapineedu dead

HYDERABAD
Producer-director Vijaya Bapineedu, who made his presence with blockbusters in the 1980s in Telugu cinema, passed away here on Tuesday due to age related illness. He was 82. Bapineedu gave actor Chiranjeevi the title of 'Megastar' with massive hits like *Maga Maharaju*, *Mahanagram Lo Mayagaadu*, *Khaidi Number 786* and *Gang Leader*, the last one being instrumental in pushing Chiranjeevi into a new league and giving him a cult status.

Kerala House adjourns sine die amid protest

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The Kerala Assembly was adjourned sine die on Tuesday following protests by UDF legislators over the Speaker's denial of permission to seek leave for an adjournment motion on the criminal conspiracy charges against CPI(M) Kannur district secretary P. Jayarajan and MLA T.V. Rajesh in the chargesheet filed by the CBI in the Abdul Shukoor murder case. Shukoor, 21, an activist of the Muslim Students Federation, was hacked to death in Kannur on February 20, 2012.

Naidu proposes pre-election alliance

Political parties not competing at the State-level can offer anti-BJP national alternative, says A.P. CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday pitched for a possible pre-poll alliance at the national level among political parties that are not competing at the State level.

Speaking to reporters a day after his 12-hour hunger strike, he said the TDP, the Congress, the Trinamool Congress, the JD(S), the NCP, the RJD and others could come together before the election just to present an alternative to voters against the BJP.

"We will have to work it out. This is only an idea right now. But ultimately there has to be a holistic approach, a very idealistic approach. Everything is possible in politics. We have to wait and watch," he told *The Hindu*.

He clarified that the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party could not possibly be part of such a pre-poll alliance because of



Gathering support: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu during his protest march from Andhra Bhawan to Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Tuesday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHAKAR

the triangular fight in Uttar Pradesh.

Other than the Left parties, the BSP was the only Opposition party which did not visit Mr. Naidu's day-long fast. "I have always had a good relationship with Mayawati. We will continue

working with them," Mr. Naidu said.

'BJP diverting attention'
Reacting to the personal attack made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Guntur rally on Sunday, Mr. Naidu said the BJP had started

abusing the TDP to hide its own failures. "I am fighting for a cause, for the last five years. How can they say that I am doing this all of sudden? If you had fulfilled your promises, there is no case for me to fight. They want to divert attention from the issue

by abusing me. You see all political parties are supporting me because it is about justice," he said.

'Jagan's dirty politics'

Mr. Naidu's rivals have claimed that Mr. Naidu is using taxpayers' money to divert attention from the TDP's slipping fortunes and the rising popularity of YSR Congress chief Jagan Mohan Reddy in Andhra Pradesh.

"That is not correct. He (Mr. Jagan Reddy) is in collusion with the BJP, and he is in deep trouble as there are so many cases pending against him. To protect himself, he is playing dirty politics," he said.

On Tuesday, Mr. Naidu, along with his legislators, MPs and party leaders marched from Andhra Bhawan to Jantar Mantar. Later, he met President Ram Nath Kovind and submitted a 17-page memorandum detailing the promises yet to be fulfilled by the Centre.

Kerala CPI(M) MLA faces prospect of prosecution

He publicly denigrated Sub-Collector

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Devikulam MLA S. Rajendran of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) appears to be facing the prospect of prosecution on the charge of having deterred revenue officials and police officers despatched by Idukki Sub-Collector Renu Raj to prevent the Munnar grama panchayat from illegally building a commercial complex on ecologically sensitive land abutting the Muthirapuzha river.

In a damning indictment

of the legislator's conduct, Idukki Collector H. Dinesan reported to the government that the MLA had publicly denigrated Ms. Raj in a manner that affected her morale. The report alleged that the MLA had insulted Ms. Raj as an officer and a woman, causing her acute mental distress. Video footage of the MLA disparaging Ms. Raj had emerged as a smoking gun in the media.

The Collector said the action of the Munnar panchayat was tantamount to contempt of the High Court.

Heavy rush as Sabarimala shrine opens

Temple will close on February 17 after 5-day monthly puja

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PATHANAMTHITTA

The Lord Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala opened on Tuesday afternoon for the five-day monthly rituals in the Malayalam month of 'Kumbham', which begins on Wednesday.

The 'sannidhanam' witnessed heavy rush as hundreds of devotees from different parts of south India thronged the holy hillock.

The 'sanctum sanctorum' was opened at 4.45 p.m. The rituals will begin with 'Ashtadravya Ganapati homom' on Wednesday morning. The temple will close after 'Athazapuja' on February 17.



Devotees waiting to ascend the holy 18-steps leading to the Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala on Tuesday.

The police have made elaborate security arrangements at Sabarimala, Pampa, Nilakkal in the wake of the announcement by certain progressive women's groups to visit the temple

and the Sabarimala Karma Samithi's decision to check any such move.

A Kottayam report said the police had put Erumely and adjacent areas under a tight security blanket.

Centre committed to helping A.P.: Prabhu

Opens extended runways at Vijayawada and Rajahmundry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

VIJAYAWADA/KAKINADA/

VISAKHAPATNAM

Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu on Tuesday inaugurated the extended and strengthened runways of the Vijayawada and Rajahmundry airports and laid foundation stone for the expansion of the Visakhapatnam airport via video link from the Airports Authority of India office in New Delhi.

AAI chairman Guruprasad Mohapatra said the runway of 2,486 metres in the Vijayawada airport had been strengthened and extended to 3,360 metres at a cost of ₹145 crore to handle Code E aircraft like Boeing 747 and 777. Similarly, the 1,750-metre runway in the Rajahmundry airport had been extended to 3,165 metres at a cost of ₹182 crore.

The 19,800 square foot passenger terminal at Visakhapatnam would be expanded into a 29,050 square-foot one to handle "Bifurcation has created a lot of issues for Andhra Pradesh and it has all possibility for growth. The Union government is committed to providing all support for it to grow and get over the pain of partition." Capacity expansion of the Tirupati airport had been planned and the foundation stone would be laid by Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu in a couple of days, he said.



four million passengers per annum and 1,050 passengers during peak hours against the present capacity of 700,000 passengers per annum.

Mr. Prabhu said it was the beginning of a new phase of development in Andhra Pradesh. He said the Centre was committed to providing all support to the State.

"Bifurcation has created a lot of issues for Andhra Pradesh and it has all possibility for growth. The Union government is committed to providing all support for it to grow and get over the pain of partition." Capacity expansion of the Tirupati airport had been planned and the foundation stone would be laid by Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu in a couple of days, he said.

The 19,800 square foot passenger terminal at Visakhapatnam would be expanded into a 29,050 square-foot one to handle

Karnataka Speaker compares himself to a rape victim

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

In a gender insensitive comment, the Karnataka Speaker said on Tuesday his condition was like that of a rape victim.

"The rape happens only once. But the victim suffers more when she approaches the police and the issue comes up before courts as several embarrassing questions are posed to her in public. I'm in a similar situation now as the allegations

of bribing me are being repeated," he said. This comment was perceived as a joke by the largely male-dominated Assembly. Guffaws were heard following the Speaker's comment.

In an audio clip released on Budget day by Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, a BJP leader purportedly claimed that the Speaker had been paid ₹50 crore by his party top brass to accept the resignation of dissident ruling coalition MLAs.

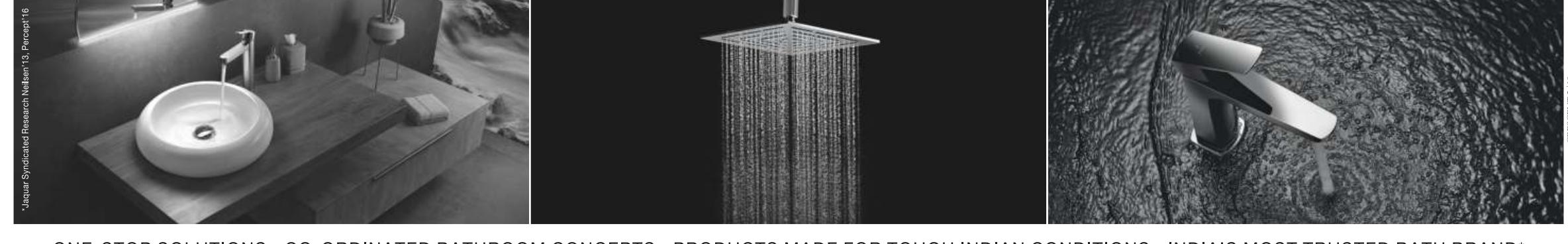
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CRISCEANT 2/19

IN BRIEF



Former Bihar Congress president joins JD(U)

PATNA,
Former Bihar Congress president Ram Jatan Sinha on Tuesday joined the ruling Janata Dal (United) and lavished praise on Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who heads the party. "Mr. Sinha is not an ordinary leader and his joining our party will have immense consequences," Mr. Kumar said. PTI

Two killed in accident in Muzaffarnagar

MUZAFFARNAGAR
Two persons were killed when their car collided with a tractor trolley near Basera road in the district, the police said on Tuesday. The victims were going to distribute wedding cards when they met with the accident on Monday evening. SHO Subhash Singh said. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem. PTI

Five missing after factory fire, search on

KOLKATA
Five people went missing after a fire broke out in a plastic furniture manufacturing unit in North 24 Parganas district on Monday, a State Minister said. After visiting the site on Tuesday, West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra said a search for the missing people was being carried out by fire officials. PTI

3 women drug traffickers arrested in Guwahati

GUWAHATI
The Government Railway Police on Tuesday arrested three women drug traffickers and recovered 24 grams of heroin from their possession. According to the GRP, a joint team of the GRP and the Crime Branch of Guwahati Police apprehended the three women at the Guwahati railway station on Tuesday. PTI

Secretaries' panel to look into demands of people of Kargil

Shutdown observed for the fourth consecutive day over demand for rotational offices

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR



The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday constituted a committee of secretaries to look into the demands of the people of Kargil, where a shutdown was observed for the fourth consecutive day on Tuesday over the demand for rotational offices.

"The Governor [Satya Pal Malik] and the government have taken note of the sentiments of the people of Kargil. The government is equally sensitive to the needs and aspirations of both districts," a government spokesperson said.

The spokesman said the government has formed a committee of senior officers "to determine the location

set up divisional commissioner's office at Leh after Ladakh was declared a separate division recently and was split from Kashmir division.

Work in offices and court was suspended for the day. Hundreds of people marched on the streets to press for their demand to have "rotational headquarters at both Kargil and Leh".

Rejecting the constitution of a committee, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) MLA Naeem Akhtar said: "The measure is a mere delaying tactic. The Governor's administration didn't feel the need to consult anybody in granting divisional status and why a committee now?"

He alleged that the Governor's move was "thoughtless

with grave consequences and at the behest of the BJP". "It has a potential to flare-up. The Governor must immediately rescind the order and set up six monthly full rotation of all offices," Mr. Akhtar said.

Former Chief Minister and National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah also backed the demand of the people of Kargil. "It seems the decision was taken in a haste and is contrived to pitch one community against the other. Had the idea behind this act been to empower the people of Ladakh, then the governor would have held deliberations," said Mr. Abdullah.

He said divisional headquarters at Leh only will serve no good.

Nath likely to contest from Chhindwara

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHOPAL

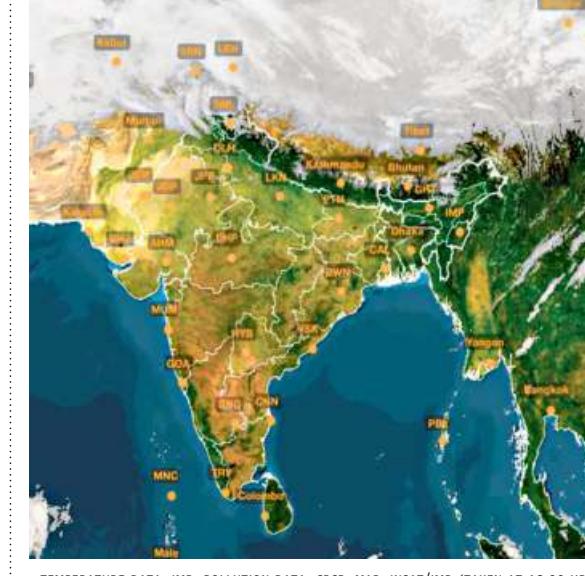
Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath, who was mulling contesting the Assembly bypoll from Saigar seat, is most likely to fight from his home turf Chhindwara, his aide said on Tuesday.

According to the aide, Mr. Nath also wants his eldest son Nakul to fight the upcoming general election from the Chhindwara Lok Sabha constituency.

"Mr. Nath, a nine-time MP from Chhindwara, has almost made up his mind to contest from the Chhindwara Assembly seat," his aide said on the condition of anonymity. Chhindwara MLA Deepak Saxena said: "As soon as Nath ji decides to fight from my seat, I will resign to clear the way for him. We all want him to fight from here."

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Wednesday: Thunderstorm accompanied with hails/storm/gusts winds likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and west Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	29.3	10.2	Kozhikode	—	36.4	25.0
Ahmedabad	—	33.3	14.8	Kurnool	—	35.6	21.7
Aizawl	—	30.6	—	Lucknow	—	24.0	10.5
Allahabad	—	27.8	8.8	Madurai	—	34.7	23.3
Bengaluru	—	29.0	17.2	Mangaluru	—	38.3	22.4
Bhopal	—	31.4	10.6	Mumbai	—	36.3	17.8
Bhubaneswar	—	31.2	13.8	Mysuru	—	31.0	19.2
Chandigarh	—	21.8	11.5	New Delhi	—	23.6	10.6
Chennai	—	31.4	24.6	Patna	—	24.8	10.6
Coimbatore	—	32.9	21.0	Pond Blair	—	30.8	24.7
Dehradun	—	25.2	10.0	Puducherry	—	31.2	22.4
Gangtok	—	16.0	—	Pune	—	34.0	14.6
Goa	—	34.3	22.8	Rajpur	—	30.0	14.2
Guwahati	—	29.0	11.6	Ranchi	—	26.7	9.5
Hubballi	—	32.0	21.0	Shillong	—	19.0	6.2
Hyderabad	—	30.2	20.2	Shimla	—	15.9	7.4
Imphal	—	26.8	6.9	Srinagar	—	6.8	—1.0
Jaipur	—	24.3	11.6	Trivandrum	—	35.2	23.4
Kochi	—	33.6	24.6	Tiruchi	—	33.2	23.4
Kohima	—	20.8	6.4	Vijayawada	—	31.5	22.0
Kolkata	—	27.6	15.2	Visakhapatnam	—	29.7	21.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	70	101	23	.89	—	—
Bengaluru	.6	18.39	113	—	—	—
Chennai	.4	11.53	.51	—	—	—
Delhi	35	78.78	410	.352	—	—
Hyderabad	.2	136.37	154	.121	—	—
Kolkata	15	116.26	302	.205	—	—
Lucknow	12	76.48	338	—	—	—
Mumbai	28	58.96	213	.179	—	—
Pune	.53	40.59	177	.148	—	—
Visakhapatnam	.6	38.31	.90	.116	—	—

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

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

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

Government of Jharkhand Department of School Education and Literacy Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan

Notice

Sealed tenders are invited from eligible, interested and registered contractors (registered in appropriate class only) of Government of Jharkhand for Strengthening of KGBVs located in different blocks of Jharkhand. Interested and eligible bidders registered in appropriate class only are requested to submit their proposal latest by 5:00 PM on 25.02.2019.

The details of tender document can be seen and downloaded from departmental website education.jharkhand.gov.in under download section.

Sd/-
(Uma Shankar Singh)
Director, Secondary Education cum State Project Director.
Jharkhand Education Project Council.

Government of Jharkhand Directorate of Tourism MDI Building, 2nd Floor, Dhurwa, Ranchi-4

Ph.-0651-2400493, Fax-0651-2400492, E-mail: dirjharkhandtourism@gmail.com

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR EMPANELMENT OF AGENCY FOR PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES TO UNDERTAKE PHOTO SHOTS OF JHARKHAND TOURISM

Short Notice

Ref. No. Tou/ Dir/ Pub.-04/2019 – 255
Dated:- 08/02/2019

Directorate of Tourism, Govt. of Jharkhand as an endeavour for promotion of tourism and culture, intents to issue this Expression Of Interest (EOI) For Empannelment Of Agency For Photography Services to Undertake Photo Shoots Of Jharkhand Tourism, for initial period of 2 (Two) years.

Bids are invited from reputed and experienced agency. EOI can be downloaded from the website www.jharkhandtourism.gov.in. A pre-application conference will be held on 15/02/2019 by 15:30 Hours.

EOI document completed in all respect, shall be submitted at the address mentioned in EOI on or before 14:00 hrs. of 26/02/2019.

Corrigendum, Addendum, Revised Bid if any shall be uploaded in the above stated website only and shall not be published in the newspapers.

Directorate of Tourism reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and annul the empanelment process at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/-
P.R.201686 Tourism, Art Culture Sports And Youth Affairs (18-19):D
Director, Tourism.

कार्यालय जिला श्रमिक विकास अभियान, रंची Email: drdaranchi2017@gmail.com Fax: 0651-2211465

NOTICE INVITING

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR

SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT/PLANNING & MONITORING UNIT (PMU) FOR INCREASING EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF SCHEME "PRIME MINISTER AWAAS YOJANA - GRAMIN" IN RANCHI DISTRICT

1	Date of online and newspaper notice publication	12/02/2019
2	Downloading of tender documents	12/02/2019
3	Pre Bid Meeting	19/02/2019
4	Physical submission of EMD and Cost of tender documents	02/03/2019 by 5 PM
5	Date of submission of bids	02/03/2019 by 5 PM
6	Date of opening of Technical Bid	03/03/2019
7	Amount of EMD	Rs 1,00,000 (Rs 1 lakh only) in favour of "Deputy Commissioner, Ranchi"
8	Time period of contract	3 years
9	Selection method	QCBS 70:30 Technical: Financial
10	Proposal validity period	90 days after submission
11	Method of submission	Separate technical and financial bids in separate sealed envelopes, submitted in a single envelope with the name of the agency

The consultants are required to submit physically (original technical proposal, DD of EMD and Financial Bid) as per above schedule.

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए रंची जिला के बेबाइटरन रंची.नि.पर टेंडर सेक्शन देखा जा सकता है

उप निकाय आयुक्त, रंची

Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation

IN BRIEF



BPL families in T.N. to get money by month-end

CHENNAI
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Tuesday told the Assembly that the beneficiaries of the special financial assistance of ₹2,000, announced for those living below the poverty line, will receive the money in their bank account by the end of the month.

Mig-27 crashes in Jaisalmer, pilot safe

NEW DELHI
A Mig-27 fighter jet of the Air Force crashed in Rajasthan on Tuesday. The pilot ejected safely. A Court of Inquiry will investigate the cause of the accident.

Bedi seeks Centre's help to implement helmet rule

PUDUCHERRY
Lieutenant Governor Kiran Bedi on Tuesday said she has sought the intervention of Government of India in implementing helmet rule in the Union Territory.
In a WhatsApp message to reporters, Ms. Bedi said "we have written to Government of India to direct the Chief Minister not to obstruct enforcement of the law. We were compelled to do so."

Jharkhand govt. bans Popular Front of India

RANCHI
The Jharkhand government on Tuesday banned the Popular Front of India (PFI) in the State to curb its anti-national activities and for links with terror outfits like the IS, a notification said. The PFI has been banned with immediate effect under the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1908. PTI

HC issues notice to Parrikar's son over eco-resort near sanctuary

Was hearing petition alleging project destroyed forested area, by-passed several laws

PRAKASH KAMAT
PANAJI

The Bombay High Court at Goa on Tuesday issued notices to Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar's younger son, Abhijit, over the alleged destruction of forested area to construct an eco-resort near the Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary in south Goa.

A Division Bench of Justices Mahesh Sonak and Prithviraj Chavan directed Mr. Abhijit Parrikar, promoter of Hideaway Hospitality, and the State Chief Secretary, Secretary of Environment and Forests and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, to respond by March 11.

On February 4, Abhijit Dessai, deputy sarpanch at Netravali, filed a petition seeking stay on the construction of the eco-resort promoted by Mr. Abhijit

Mr. Dessai has also sought the restoration of the land by the promoter.

The issue sparked a war

of allegations between the Opposition Congress and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) recently. All India Congress Committee Secretary A. Chellakumar, Goa State Congress president Girish Chodankar, former Chief Ministers Digambar Kamat and Pratapsingh Rane, and leader of Opposition Chandrakant Kavlekar addressed a press conference on February 6. They said that the area, which is part of the 83,625 sq metres plot owned by Mr. Abhijit Parrikar, was deforested in the guise of an eco-tourism project.

The Congress legal cell chief and former Goa Advocate General Carlos Ferreira had alleged that the project which was initiated in 2013, and fast-tracked by multiple government agencies like

the Investment Promotion Board, State Town and Country Planning and Forest departments.

"There have been three governments headed by the BJP from 2012-2014 by Mr. Manohar Parrikar, 2014-2017 by Laxmikant Parsekar and the present one headed by Mr. [Manohar] Parrikar again. All three have been party to nepotism and facilitation of illegalities," he said.

BJP Goa president Vinay Tendulkar, in response to a query from *The Hindu*, had rubbished the allegations made by the Congress leaders. "There are no illegalities in the project. Mr. Manohar Parrikar's son will not do anything against the law. He has purchased the land. We have full faith in them," he said at a press conference last weekend.

ACB arrests two for bribery in Kolhapur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLHAPUR

A village-level government revenue official and his private assistant were on Tuesday arrested by the Maharashtra Anti-Corruption Bureau in Kolhapur for allegedly demanding and accepting ₹5,000 as bribe, an official said.

Shivaji Chandar Koli (53), a talathi posted at Kaneri village of Panhala tehsil had demanded money from a person to have the latter's name included in the 7/12 land record extract, an official said.

"Koli first demanded ₹10,000 and then brought it down to ₹5,000 following negotiations. The victim then approached the ACB and a trap was laid," Girish Gode, ACB Dy Superintendent of Police, said. "Koli and his private assistant Sushant Bajirao Lavate (23) were caught red-handed. Incidentally, it was Lavate's first day at work," he said.



The new rifles will replace the INSAS rifles (in photo).

India inks contract for 72,000 assault rifles

U.S. firm to deliver arms in 12 months

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

After several failed attempts to equip the infantry with a basic rifle, the Army on Tuesday signed a contract with Sig Sauer of the U.S. for 72,400 SIG716 assault rifles for front-line soldiers deployed in operational areas.

"A contract for 72,400 assault rifles through fast track procurement was signed with Sig Sauer on Tuesday," the Defence Ministry said in a statement. The entire lot will be delivered in 12 months.

Of the 72,400 rifles, 66,400 are meant for the Army, 2,000 for the Navy and 4,000 for the Air Force. The broad parameters for the weapon are an effective range of 500 m and weight of less than 3 kg. The new rifles will replace the Indian National Small Arms System (INSAS) rifles.

The Defence Ministry also issued the Expression of

Interest (EoI) for a deal to buy 111 naval utility helicopters. This is the first project to be executed through the strategic partnership policy. Under this, the chosen Indian private company will team up with the Original Equipment Manufacturer to build the product in India.

The EoI follows the Request for Information (RFI). The Navy will likely issue a detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) at the end of the third quarter of this year to short-listed Indian companies.

The copters will replace the ageing Chetak fleet.

Professor cleared in Sukma murder case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RAIPUR

Jay Parate, Manju Kavasi and Mangla Ram Karma, Sukma Superintendent of Police Jitendra Shukla said.

The tribal, identified as Shammath Baghel, was allegedly killed by naxals on November 4, 2016, in Nama village.

According to the complaint lodged by Shammath's wife Bimla, the ultras had accused her husband of disobeying Prof. Sundar and five others who are their "well-wishers", a police officer said.

Militant who aided Jatt's escape killed in Pulwama

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The searches were going on, hiding militants fired at security personnel. Rather was killed in retaliatory fire. The operation was called off in the morning after the body was retrieved," said the police.

The police said Rather had hatched the conspiracy for LeT's Jatt alias Hanzalla to escape from a Srinagar hospital on February 6 last year. Jatt was eventually killed in an operation on November 28 last year in Budgam's Chadoora area.



Deadly brew

A multi-pronged plan is needed to prevent the sale and consumption of toxic alcohol

The death of more than 100 people to toxic alcohol in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand has exposed the thriving sale of illicit liquor in the region. India remains among the countries with a high number of alcohol-related deaths, with poor governance, corruption and distorted policies contributing to such periodic tragedies. The governments in U.P. and Uttarakhand cannot evade responsibility for the death of so many people, the majority of them in Saharanpur district of U.P. Preliminary investigation has confirmed the well-entrenched system of illicit liquor vends that are known to exist in the region; several factories producing hooch in U.P. were unearthed within a couple of days of the episode. Moreover, although several liquor-related deaths have been taking place, it took this staggering number of casualties for the authorities to acknowledge the presence of free-flowing illicit liquor. The Yogi Adityanath government prides itself on its law and order measures but its failure to crack down on these dens exposes the hollow claims. It has tried to put the blame for previous incidents on political opponents hatching conspiracies.

Several instances of toxic alcohol poisoning in India, including the Malvani hooch tragedy in Mumbai in 2015 that killed 106 people, have been attributed to the lack of affordable liquor for the poor. High taxes and excise raise prices, and cheap brews are peddled by criminal organisations, often in collusion with law enforcement personnel. In U.P., many communities have protested the sale of cheap liquor in pouches that are freely distributed during social events. What seems to have happened in Saharanpur follows the trend, with toxic alcohol originating in Haridwar in Uttarakhand being supplied at a family ritual. While it is no one's case that consumption of cheap liquor needs to be encouraged or promoted, severe bottlenecks are proving counterproductive. An enlightened policy is needed to strike a balance, curbing illicit flows with zero tolerance, discouraging consumption through social campaigns and reviewing levies on less harmful beverages. At the moment, it is essential to make an example of those who participated in the sale of the lethal brew, and investigate any nexus with the authorities. If it is true that the suspects had a history of dealing in hooch, the Special Investigation Team constituted by the U.P. government should find out how they continued to operate their trade. In parallel, it is vital that the capacities of the health system be upgraded to handle victims of toxic alcohol. Toxicity often comes from drinking methanol, which results in blindness, tissue damage or death. Timely treatment through haemodialysis, infusion of sodium bicarbonate and ethyl alcohol can save lives.

Ageing revolution

The Iranian regime must rethink its approach to dissent and personal freedoms

Iran has concluded the formal celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the Islamic revolution at a time when the regime is under serious global, regional and domestic pressure. The theocratic regime, established by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1979, struck a defiant note by mobilising a huge rally in Tehran and repeating its familiar anti-West rhetoric. But Iran's leaders are under pressure with a weak economy and social tensions rising at a time when U.S. President Donald Trump is becoming increasingly hostile towards Tehran. The fact that the Islamic Republic has survived four decades is telling. Over these years, Iran saw an eight-year-long war with Iraq, near-total isolation in West Asia, and economic hardships. The Iranian regime turned some of these challenges into opportunities – as in the case of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war – and made substantial changes in certain sectors. For example, the investments made in education and health care have seen positive results. As of 2015, the literacy rate among Iran's adult population was 93%. More than 60% of university students in Iran are women. Access to health care has also improved for large sections of society.

But even as the Islamic Republic holds strong, discontent has risen. When Iran signed the multilateral nuclear deal in 2015, the Tehran elite hoped it would allow the country to join the global economic and diplomatic mainstream. President Hassan Rouhani banked on increased investments to bolster the economy. But the détente between the U.S. and Iran ended as soon as Mr. Trump became U.S. President. The Trump administration pulled the U.S. out of the nuclear deal and reimposed sanctions on Tehran. The U.S. has also joined hands with Iran's rivals, such as Saudi Arabia, to scuttle the country's regional ambitions, while Israel is repeatedly bombing Iranian positions within Syria. Within Iran, the regime is facing repeated protests as economic hardships mount. After the 2009 Green Movement, which was suppressed brutally, there were widespread anti-government demonstrations in 2017-18. Women came out against the mandatory headscarf in recent months, challenging religious orthodoxy. The Iranian state responded typically – an Amnesty report says "a shameless campaign of repression" was unleashed in 2018, resulting in the arrest of more than 7,000 protesters. Tehran's criticism of foreign intervention has some merit. American sanctions will only multiply Iran's economic woes. Tehran will have to deal with the U.S.'s unilateral and hostile policies with help from other countries. But it should also fix its system, tackle corruption and hold government departments accountable for the decisions they take. It is also time for the government, which is celebrating the anniversary of the fall of a despotic monarch, to rethink its approach towards dissent and personal freedoms.

The shape of the jobs crisis

India has no industrial policy or employment strategy to ride the wave of its demographic dividend



SANTOSH MEHROTRA

Job creation has slowed since 2011-12, the year of the last published National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) labour force survey. I used Labour Bureau annual survey (2015-16) data and Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy Pvt. Ltd. (CMIE) data (post-2016), which has a sample size larger than the NSSO labour force surveys, to reach this conclusion. Both surveys cover rural and urban, and organised and unorganised sector employment; in other words, they capture both the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation/National Pension Scheme (organised) as well as such employment as might be generated by Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Ltd (MUDRA) loans or platform economy jobs. The latter two job sources are precisely what the government claims were not being captured by jobs data available. We have repeatedly stated that government claims on absence of 'good' data on jobs are simply untenable.

My analysis prior to the leak of NSSO 2017-18 data had shown that the jobs situation has turned grim since 2012.

A jump now

What the leaked NSSO 2017-18 data have shown is that while the open unemployment rate (which does not measure disguised unemployment and informal poor quality jobs that abound in the economy) by the usual status never went over 2.6% between 1977-78 and 2011-12, it has now jumped to 6.1% in

2017-18. This was expected. In the last 10-12 years, more young people have become educated. The tertiary education enrolment rate (for those in the 18-23 age group) rose from 11% in 2006 to 26% in 2016. The gross secondary (classes 9-10) enrolment rate for those in the 15-16 age groupshot up from 58% in 2010 to 90% in 2016. The expectation of such youth is for a urban, regular job in either industry or services, not in agriculture. If they have the financial wherewithal to obtain education up to such levels, they can also "afford" to remain unemployed. Poor people, who are also much more poorly educated, have a much lower capacity to withstand open unemployment, and hence have lower open unemployment rates.

What NSSO 2017-18 also shows is that as open unemployment rates increased, more and more people got disheartened and fell out of the labour force; in other words, they stopped looking for work. The result is that labour force participation rates (LFPR, i.e. those looking for work) for all ages, fell sharply from 43% in 2004-5 to 39.5% in 2011-12, to 36.9% in 2017-18 (a reflection mainly though not only of the falling female LFPR). This shows up in the growing numbers of youth who are NEETs: not in education, employment or training. They are a potential source of both our demographic dividend but also what is looking to be a mounting demographic disaster.

Meanwhile, government economists have repeatedly told us that there is no jobs crisis.

Between 2004-05 and 2011-12, as many as 7.5 million new non-agricultural jobs were being created every year. The unemployment rate was only 2.2%. The volume of open unemployment was almost constant (at around 10 million) until 2011-12, but it increased to 16.5

million by 2015-16. Increased open unemployment, post 2011-12, suggests that those in education prior to 2011-12 would start searching for non-agricultural jobs but did not find them. The latest NSSO data suggest that this situation had worsened further by 2017-18.

Across education categories

A sharp increase in the unemployment rate of the educated (based on our estimates of the Annual Survey, Labour Bureau) should have worried the government. My estimate is that the unemployment rate rose over 2011-12 to 2016 from 0.6% to 2.4% for those with middle education (class 8); 1.3% to 3.2% for those who had passed class 10; 2% to 4.4% for those who had passed class 12; 4.1% to 8.4% for graduates; and 5.3% to 8.5% for post-graduates. Even more worrying, for those with technical education, the unemployment rate rose for graduates from 6.9% to 11%, for post-graduates from 5.7% to 7.7%, and for the vocationally trained from 4.9% to 7.9%.

While NSSO 2017-18 data show the share of regular wage jobs rising, especially in urban areas (and the share of self-employed and casual wage work falling), this rise in nowhere close to the number of educated youth entering the labour force.

For an economy at India's stage of development, an increase of

workers in agriculture (of 20 million that took place over 1999-2004) is a structural retrogression, in a direction opposite to the desired one. Between 2004-5 and 2011-12, the number of workers in agriculture fell sharply, which is good, for the first time in India's economic history. Similarly, the number of youth (15-29 years) employed in agriculture fell from 86.8 million to 60.9 million (or at the rate of 3 million per annum) between 2004-5 and 2011-12. However, after 2012, as non-agricultural job growth slowed, the number of youth in agriculture actually increased to 84.8 million till 2015-16 and even more since then (as the CMIE data would attest). These youth were better educated than the earlier cohort, but were forced to be in agriculture.

Drop in manufacturing jobs

Even worse, manufacturing jobs actually fell in absolute terms, from 58.9 million in 2011-12 to 48.3 million in 2015-16, a whopping 10.6 million over a four-year period. This is consistent with slowing growth in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), which consists of manufacturing, mining, and electricity. The IIP had sharply risen from 100 in 2004-5 to 172 by 2013-14 (in the 2004-5 series), but only rose from a base of 100 in 2011-12 in the later series to 107 in 2013-14, and to 125.3 in 2017-18. This is also consistent with exports first falling after 2013, then barely recovering to levels still lower than 2013. It is also consistent with investment-to-GDP ratio falling sharply since 2013, and still remaining well below 2013 levels. This holds for both private and public investment.

What is tragic is the growing number of educated youth (15-29 years) who are "NEET". This number (70 million in 2004-5) in-

creased by 2 million per annum during 2004-5 and 2011-12, but grew by about 5 million per annum (2011-12 to 2015-16). If that latter trend continued (as there is evidence it has) we estimate it would have increased to 115.6 million in 2017-18. That is a 32 million increase in "NEETs" in our society over 2011-12 to 2017-18 – potential lumpen fodder.

These youth ("NEET" and unemployed) together constitute the potential labour force, which can be utilised to realise the demographic dividend in India. Will a new government at least recognise there is a crisis?

I estimate that the number of new entrants into the labour force (currently at least 5 million per annum), and especially educated entrants into the labour force will go on increasing until 2030. It will thereafter still increase, though at a decelerating pace. By 2040 our demographic dividend – which comes but once in the lifetime of a nation – will be over. China managed to reduce poverty sharply by designing an employment strategy (underpinned by an education and skills policy) aligned to its industrial strategy. That is why it rode the wave of its demographic dividend. Unfortunately, India has neither an industrial policy nor an employment strategy, let alone the two being aligned.

Is our political class listening? Or are our educated unemployed and NEETs meant to be merely used as political fodder? That is the trillion rupee question for the fastest growing large economy in the world, about to become the fifth largest in the world.

Santosh Mehrotra is Professor of Economics and Chairperson, Centre for Informal Sector and Labour Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Twitter:@smehrotra1

A case for Commons sense

There needs to be a review of how biodiversity and natural resources are governed



BALAKRISHNA PISUPATI

When 196 countries met at Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, last November for the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), a key question on top of the agenda was how to govern biological resources (or biodiversity) at different levels for the world's sustainable future.

The meeting had come at a significant time: it was the CBD's 25th year of implementation, countries had approximately 350 days to meet global biodiversity targets, and there was the backdrop of a damning report that humans have mismanaged biodiversity so badly that we have lost 60% of resources (which can never be recouped). Finally, there was growing concern on how the Convention's objectives of conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits were being compromised, including by the parties themselves.

For thousands of years, humans have considered natural resources and the environment as a global public good, with communities having diligently managed these resources using the principle of 'Commons'.

In simple terms, these are a set of resources such as air, land, wa-

ter and biodiversity that do not belong to one community or individual, but to humanity. All developments we see in the establishment of civilisations across the world as well as agricultural development feeding the world today are a result of such 'Commons' being managed by communities for centuries.

Then came the urge of those with money and power to privatise these resources for individual prosperity in the form of property management principles, intellectual property rights and others. In one form the CBD – a multi-lateral environmental agreement that has provided legal certainty to countries through the principle of sovereign rights over biodiversity – also contributed to states now owning the resources, including their rights on use and management.

Today, states control and manage biodiversity with strict oversight of who can use what and how. The intent of the CBD and having sovereign rights was to manage resources better. But the results of such management have been questionable. A key reason cited is that 'Commons' and common property resource management principles and approaches are ignored and compromised.

Why 'Commons'?

According to estimates, a third of the global population depends on 'Commons' for their survival; 65% of global land area is under 'Commons', in different forms. At least

293,061 million metric tonnes of carbon (MtC) are stored in the collective forestlands of indigenous peoples and local communities. This is 33 times the global energy emissions in 2017. The significance of 'Commons' in supporting pollination (the cost estimated to be worth \$224 billion annually at global levels) cannot be overlooked.

In India, the extent of 'Common' land ranges between 48.69 million and 84.2 million hectares, constituting 15-25% of its total geographical area. 'Common' pool resources contribute \$5 billion a year to the incomes of poor Indian households. Around 77% of India's livestock is kept in grazing-based or extensive systems and dependent on 'Commons' pool resources. And 53% of India's milk and 74% of its meat requirements are met from livestock kept in extensive 'Common' systems.

Despite their significance, 'Commons' in India have suffered continued decline and degradation. National Sample Survey Office data show a 1.9% quinquennial rate of decline in the area of 'Common' lands, though microstudies

show a much more rapid decline of 31-55% over 50 years, jeopardising the health of systemic drivers such as soil, moisture, nutrient, biomass and biodiversity, in turn aggravating food, fodder and water crises. As of 2013, India's annual cost of environmental degradation has been estimated to be ₹3.75 trillion per year, i.e. 5.7% of GDP according to the World Bank.

Why the concern?

'Commons' becoming uncommon is a major socio-political, economic and environmental problem. While the state can have oversight over resource management, keeping people away from using and managing 'Commons' is against effective governance of 'Commons'.

The sovereign rights provided for, legally, under the CBD should not be misunderstood by the state as a handle to do away with 'Commons'-based approaches to managing biodiversity, land, water and other resources.

Current discussions under the United Nations should focus on how and why 'Commons' have been negatively impacted by progressive pronouncements to save the earth and people.

Another key concern is the changing socio-political impact of migration. Gone are the days when we can consider 'Commons' as resources relevant only for rural communities. 'Commons' are now a major provider of livelihood options for both urban and peri-urban populations. The relevance of 'Commons' impacting urban

dwellers cannot be overlooked with more urbanisation happening.

Approaches for the future

There needs to be a review of current governance of biodiversity and natural resources. After 18 years of action to reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity, it is very likely that the same 196 countries will meet in 2020 to apologise to the world for having failed to meet the objectives of the convention.

In addition to seeking more money, time and capacities to deal with biodiversity and natural resource management, we need to focus on three specific approaches: one, to re-introduce more strongly, the management and governance principles of 'Commons' approaches into decision-making and implementation of conservation, use and benefit sharing action; two, to use Joseph Schumpeter's approach of creative destruction to put resource management in the hands of the people; and three, to re-look at Elinor Ostrom's Nobel Prize winning principles of dealing with 'Commons'.

The time for corrective approaches and action is now.

Balakrishna Pisupati, currently working on the promise of 'Commons', is Chairperson, Forum for Law, Environment, Development and Governance (FLEDGE) and former Chief of Biodiversity, Land Law and Governance at the United Nations Environment Programme

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.

Post-retirement posts

It is not clear how the writer's suggestion that a committee made up of retired judges decide the question of who among retired judges should be chosen for post-retirement government appointments, which in turn would secure the independence of the judiciary, will work (Editorial page, "Time to raise the bar", February 12). In such a scenario, the discretion of the government and the discretion of the retired judge would be substituted for the discretion of the committee which could be equally faulty. The best way would be to marginally increase the retirement age of judges and see that there are no post-retirement appointments. When the

seniority of Supreme Court judges was overlooked in the appointment of the Chief Justice of India, Nani Palkhivala had said,

"Hereafter we will have only looking forward judges and not forward looking judges." That will equally apply when retired judges seek office or are appointed to office after retirement. N.G.R. PRASAD, K.K. RAM SIDDHARTHA, Chennai

would harness their valuable experience and insights. This is the era of the gig economy. DEEPAK SINGHAL, Noida

■ While post-retirement jobs must neither be offered nor sought by retired judges of all grades, the accompanying question is whether retired judges can aspire for high positions. Two very respected judges of the Supreme Court of India, contested, after retirement, for the post of President of India, and both lost. Though one may argue that they deserved the post, they could have been more judicious in turning down the offer. Judges must remain aloof, both during and after their tenure. V. LAKSHMANAN, Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

Checking radicalisation
The writer has highlighted how rising nationalism can result in the radicalisation of a community (Editorial page, "Caught between two extremisms", February 11).

But I fail to understand what the threat was in the 1970s when an organisation such as the Students' Islamic Movement of India made an appearance. All fundamentalists try to usurp power, engage in destabilising established institutions and try to impose their own ideology using fear. But it is to our great advantage that the social fabric in India is secular by nature, which is why any seed of fundamentalism may find it hard to germinate and take root. Intellectuals need to play a major role in

FROM PAGE ONE

SC holds Nageswara Rao guilty of contempt

The Bench, then, ordered both the officers to "please sit at the corner of the court (till the rising of the Bench)."

The court was hearing a contempt case initiated by it on February 7 against Mr. Rao for transferring the joint director.

In his apology letter, Mr.

Rao said, "I sincerely realise my mistake and while tendering my unqualified and unconditional apology, I specially state I have not wilfully violated the order of this court as I cannot even dream of violating or circumventing the order of this court."

Internet shut as stir against citizenship Bill intensifies in Manipur



Residents protesting against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, in Mizoram on Tuesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
IMPHAL/GUWAHATI

The BJP-led Manipur government on Tuesday imposed restrictions under Section 144 in Imphal East and West districts besides suspending mobile internet services as protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, intensified.

The Bill seeks to hasten the process of granting citizenship to six non-Muslim groups from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan.

Leaders of People's Alliance Manipur (PAM), an umbrella organisation of civil bodies, said the police prevented people from coming out of their homes. But many defied restrictions to carry out black flag protests while women vendors continued to squat in and around the Ima Keithel, considered Asia's largest all-woman market, in State capital Imphal.

Eyes on NPP

The PAM had called a 36-hour Statewide shutdown in Manipur from 5 a.m. on Monday.

Mizoram too witnessed widespread protests against the Bill with hundreds spilling on to the streets of Aizawl holding placards, some

of which read 'Hello Independence'.

In Meghalaya, the ruling National People's Party (NPP) reiterated its decision to sever its ties with the BJP if the Bill is passed in the Rajya Sabha. The NPP has 20 MLAs in the ruling coalition comprising 36 legislators in the 60-member Meghalaya Assembly with an effective strength of 59 after the death of one MLA.

One of the allies of NPP in Meghalaya is the BJP, which has two legislators. Both have threatened to quit the party if the Bill is passed.

Severing ties with BJP might not affect the NPP-led coalition government in Meghalaya, but it is likely to threaten the existence of the BJP-led Manipur government, though N. Biren Singh has opposed the Bill.

The NPP has four MLAs in Manipur where the strength of the BJP-led coalition is 31, the simple majority mark in the House of 60. In Nagaland, the NPP has two MLAs in the ruling coalition that, like Manipur, has a strength of 31 in the 60-member Assembly. Withdrawal of support by the NPP could thus spell trouble for the coalition government headed by Neiphiu Rio.

Voters want more women in LS: survey

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

More than 82% voters want more women in the next Lok Sabha, according to a survey by a citizen's collective called Shakti.

The survey was conducted among 10 lakh voters across 24 States on a mobile application called Neta app. The application has more than two crore verified users and covers all 543 parliamentary constituencies.

The users were posed one simple question – Do you want more women in Lok Sabha 2019? And, in response as many as 82.2% of participants voted 'yes.' The finding was shared at an event here on Tuesday.

"Only 1.4% of independent candidates get elected. Therefore, it is important to focus on political parties and put pressure on them so that more women leaders stand for elections. We have seen from data from the Election Commission of India that more women get voted than men, but we needed to know whether voters were willing to elect women leaders and that's the question we asked in our survey," said Tara Krishnaswamy, co-convenor, of Shakti. The collective was set up in December last year to promote participation of women in politics.

Minister promises to get TikTok banned

BJP backs move; cultural policing: DMK



The logo of the application TikTok. ■ FILE PHOTO

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

TikTok, a popular mobile phone application that allows users to shoot and share 15-second videos with lip-sync set to popular film songs and dialogues among others, is being seen as a "cultural" and "law and order" threat by section of politicians in Tamil Nadu.

The fact that a large number of youngsters are hooked to the app has prompted T.N. Information Technology Minister M. Manikandan to announce in the Assembly that he would get the Chinese-developed app banned.

PMK leader S Ramadoss sought a ban last month complaining that many users were uploading "suggestive sexual dance choreography".

On Tuesday, Manithanya Jananayaga Katchi MLA M. Thamimun Ansari

(Nagapattinam) raised the issue saying people, regardless of age groups, were getting "addicted" to the application. Stating that it would lead to cultural degradation and even law and order issues, he called for government action against the application.

Responding to the demand, Mr. Manikandan said the government had been receiving reports in this regard. Just as it did in the case of the 'Blue Whale', a game being operated through social media platforms, it would recommend to the Centre to get the application banned.

While BJP state president Tamilsai Soundararajan welcomed the proposal, DMK spokesperson Manushayputran said the government could not sit in judgment over what defined obscenity. It would amount to cultural policing, he said.

"This Agreement provides a very liberal visa regime for Maldivian nationals to visit India for tourism, business, education & medical purposes.

Under the agreement, the government will free up the visa regime for Maldivian citizens who travel to India while their children at

CM YK

Cong. walks out over JPC demand

Opposition party is manufacturing a new falsehood every day on Rafale: Jaitley

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday staged a walkout in the Lok Sabha on rejection of its demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the Rafale deal, even as the government fielded senior Ministers to counter the Opposition campaign.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh intervened in the House to say the issue had been discussed and the Supreme Court had also given its judgment.

Other Ministers such as Arun Jaitley and Ravi Shankar Prasad sprang to the government's defence after the Congress attack.

Mr. Jaitley, who was the Defence Minister before the charge was handed over to Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar and before current Minister Nirmala Sitharaman took over, said the Congress was manufacturing "a new falsehood every day" with regard to the deal.

'Mehrishi had no role'

"The latest is in relation to the present Comptroller and Auditor-General (Rajiv Mehrishi) and his participation in the decision-making process of Rafale. I say this without fear of contradiction that no file or paper relating to the Rafale transaction ever reached him nor was he in any way, directly or indirectly, associated with the deci-



No going back: Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge speaking in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. ■ PTI

CAG report not tabled

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The much-awaited Comptroller and Auditor-General report on the Rafale deal was not tabled in Parliament on Tuesday.

The Congress has alleged conflict of interest in CAG Rajiv Mehrishi overseeing the audit of the Rafale deal since he was the Finance Secretary at the time the

deal was being sealed.

The Congress further accused Mr. Mehrishi of trying to save the government.

The CPI(M) too has raised questions on the CAG report calling it highly compromised. The report is now expected to be tabled on Wednesday, which is also the last day of the 16th Lok Sabha.

deal was being sealed.

The Congress further accused Mr. Mehrishi of trying to save the government.

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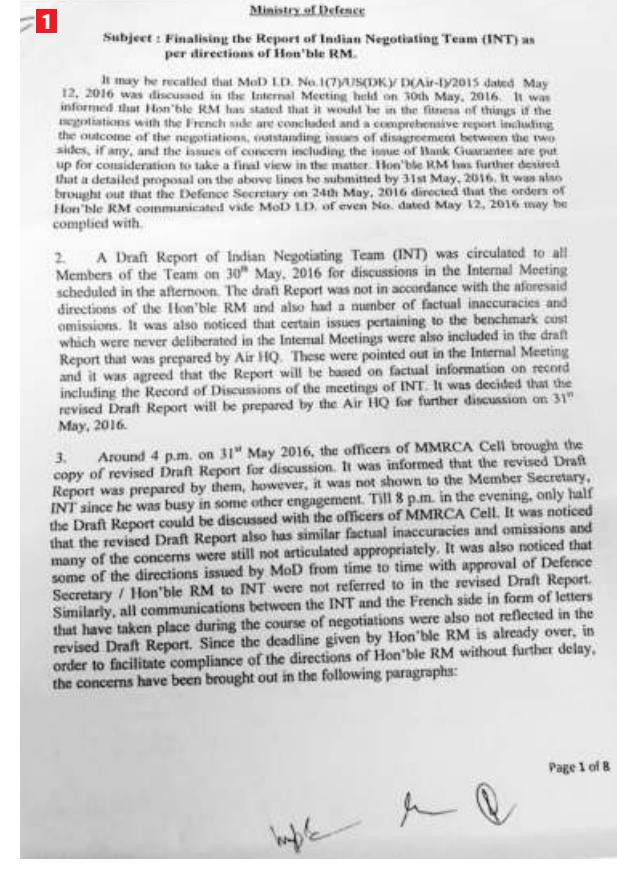
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Rafale deal delivery schedule worse than UPA-era offer

The eight-page dissent note by the three members of the Indian Negotiating Team on the new Rafale deal and the story it tells



Ministry of Defence
Subject : Finalising the Report of Indian Negotiating Team (INT) as per directions of Hon'ble RM.

It may be recalled that MoD L.D. No.17/UDK/DY/RM/14/2015 dated May 12, 2016 was discussed in the Internal Meeting held on 30th May, 2016. It was informed that Hon'ble RM has stated that it would be in the fitness of things if the negotiations were to continue. The INT had also informed that the outcome of the negotiations, outstanding issues of disagreement between the two sides, if any, and the issues of concern including the issue of Bank Guarantee are put up for consideration to take a final view in the matter. Hon'ble RM had also desired that a detailed proposal be submitted to him by 24th May, 2016. It was also brought out that the Defence Secretary on 24th May, 2016 directed that the orders of Hon'ble RM communicated via MoD L.D. of even No. dated May 12, 2016 may be complied with.

2. A Draft Report of Indian Negotiating Team (INT) was circulated in all Members of the INT on 28th May, 2016 for discussions in the Internal Meeting held in the afternoon. The draft Report was not in accordance with the aforesaid directions of the Hon'ble RM and also had a number of factual inaccuracies and omissions. It was also noticed that certain issues pertaining to the benchmark cost which were never deliberated in the Internal Meetings were also included in the draft Report that was prepared by Air HQ. These pointed out in the Internal Meeting and it was agreed that the Report will be based on factual information on record including the Record of Discussions of the meetings of INT. It was decided that the revised Draft Report will be prepared by the Air HQ for further discussion on 31st May, 2016.

3. Around 4 p.m. on 31st May 2016, the officers of MMRCA Cell brought the copy of revised Draft Report for discussion. It was informed that the revised Draft Report was prepared by them; however, it was not shown to the Member Secretary, Report was prepared by them; however, it was not shown to the Member Secretary, INT since he was busy in some other engagement. Till 8 p.m. in the evening, only half INT was convened to discuss the revised Draft Report. It was noticed that the revised Draft Report could be discussed with the officers of MMRCA Cell. It was noticed that the revised Draft Report also has similar factual inaccuracies and omissions and that many of the concerns were still not articulated appropriately. It was also noticed that some of the directions issued by MoD from time to time with approval of Defence Secretary / Hon'ble RM to INT were not referred to in the revised Draft Report. Similarly, all communications between the INT and the French side in form of letters that have taken place during the course of negotiations were also reflected in the revised Draft Report. Since the deadline given by Hon'ble RM is already over, in order to facilitate compliance of the directions of Hon'ble RM without further delay, the concerns have been brought out in the following paragraphs:

Page 1 of 8

5. Exorbitantly high cost of India Specific Enhancements (ISE).

As per the Joint Statement during the visit of Prime Minister to France in April 2013, it was commented that the Rafale aircraft and associated systems and weapons would be delivered on the same configuration as had been tested and approved by Indian Air Force, and with a longer maintenance responsibility by France. During the MMRCA procurement process, the ISEs stipulated by MoD Dassault Aviation did not meet these deficiencies as India Specific Enhancements (ISE), for which an Additional Commercial Proposal was submitted by NDA government to Dassault Aviation in the MMRCA procurement process with the approval of INT. The compensation for the Rafale aircraft to meet the ASQRs stipulated in the MMRCA RFP in order to comply with the Joint Statement. The MMRCA offer of MoD Dassault Aviation, including the Additional Commercial Proposal, was an un-negotiated offer and reasonability of all elements of cost was yet to be established. It was particularly noted by the INT that the Additional Commercial Proposal for Design and Development of ISE was exorbitant and unrealistic. The price has been further escalated in the final offer and then reduced factoring in global discounts given by the French side and also the financial impact due to alignment of advance / stage payments schedule with the MMRCA offer. As deliberated in the Internal Meeting, it was brought out that the Mirage MLU Contract of July 2011 wherein price for D&D was only 348 million Euros, therefore, the price quoted for ISE in the final offer is extremely high. The high cost of ISE is a major concern in view of the statement made by Hon'ble RM in his letter dated 23.01.2016 held with Defence Minister of France on 06.05.2015; that there would not be any deviation in the specifications.

6. Acceptance of Letter of Comfort of French Prime Minister in lieu of Sovereign / Government Guarantee or Bank Guarantees.

i) The Indian Negotiating Team (INT) since the beginning repeatedly insisted upon the French side to provide Sovereign / Government Guarantee or the Bank Guarantees considering the fact that huge pay-out of the contract value is to be made to the French Industrial Suppliers without actual deliveries. This was also the advice given by the Law Ministry and by the FA (DS). The French side instead offered a Letter of Comfort of French Prime Minister. The procurement through Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) should be based on Sovereign or Government Guarantee resulting in consequential cost savings for both sides. This was our most preferred option, which would have brought down the cost of procurement substantially, at the same time, safeguarding the interest of Government of India against unforeseen risks to cover the IGA. The French side neither agreed for providing Sovereign / Government Guarantee nor for Bank Guarantees. The quantum of financial implications due to non-submission of Bank Guarantees was arrived at by the INT in its Internal Meeting. However, the French side did not offer corresponding reduction in the price because of this factor.

Page 5 of 8

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(i) It is part of our procedure to seek such Bank Guarantees from the vendors as a risk mitigation measure, even if such costs are embedded in the price offer and borne by the buyer. Performance of the contractual obligations including Warranty also needs to be backed by appropriate Bank Guarantees. Notwithstanding the fact that the procurement is on Government-to-Government basis, the IGA involves "Transfer of Rights and Obligations" to supplies of equipment and related industrial services by French Government to the French Industrial Suppliers, and the payment is also to be made to the French Industrial Suppliers and not to the French Government; therefore, it is not advisable to sacrifice the basic requirement of financial prudence.

7. Impractical delivery schedule committed by the French Government.

ii) The India-France Joint Statement issued in April 2015 during the visit of PM to France stated that Government of India conveyed to the Government of France that in view of the critical necessity for Multirole Combat Aircraft for Indian Air Force, Government of India would like to acquire 36 Rafale jets in fly-away condition as quickly as possible. The delivery schedule incorporated in the IGA for IAF is the fundamental premise behind the decision to purchase 36 Rafale Aircraft from France as per the India France Joint Statement issued in April 2015. As per the minutes of DAC meeting held on 28-08-2015 and 01-09-2015 the delivery schedule incorporated in draft IGA is T₀+36 months to T₀+60 months. This would be at the rate of approximately 18 aircraft per year. In the DAC meeting, the Chairman had also directed that with the present timelines, the Indian side should explore options of advancing the delivery. Therefore, ensuring timely supplies from French side becomes very critical. However, the delivery schedule finally offered by the French side is T₀+36 months to T₀+67 months. In the MMRCA process, the first 18 flyaway aircrafts were being delivered between T₀+36 months to T₀+48 months whereas in the delivery schedule offered by the French side, first 18 aircrafts will be delivered between T₀+36 months and T₀+53 months.

iii) The updated Financial Statement of MoD Dassault Aviation for Financial Year 2015 reveals that the company has backlog for Rafale aircraft of 83 numbers (38 France, 21 Egypt and 24 Qatar). In Financial Year 2015 MoD Dassault Aviation manufactured and supplied 8 Rafale aircraft (5 France and 3 Egypt). At the production rate of 0.8 aircraft per year MoD Dassault Aviation would take at least 10 years to complete its present backlog of Rafale aircraft. Considering the current backlog of 83 Rafale aircraft with MoD Dassault Aviation and its current production rate of 0.8 aircraft per year, the delivery schedule being offered by the French side in the IGA is highly optimistic.

iv) The above analysis has two implications. It creates serious doubts with regard to ensuring timely supplies to fulfill critical operational needs for Multirole Combat Aircraft for IAF, as envisaged in the Joint Statement. It may also be possible that French side has factored in cost escalations in price quoted by them because of delays in supplies that may eventually become inevitable. Under these circumstances, Bank Guarantees may be an effective deterrent on the French side for ensuring that it may fulfill its obligations under IGA.

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6

new deal was €5.06 billion. Here the note from the three domain experts provides crucial and hitherto unpublished information on how the final price for the whole Rafale package shot up to €7.87 billion. "It is highlighted that the initial commercial offer from the French side was for firm and fixed price which was converted to price based on escalation formula during the price negotiations. The benchmark price prepared by INT was for firm and fixed price and not adjusted to price based on escalation formula. The final price offered by the French Government (which is escalation based) is 55.6% above the benchmark (which is for firm and fixed price). Considering the future escalations till the time of delivery, the gap in the benchmark and the final price would further increase. Minor adjustments towards costs of Technical Publications, Advance Training of IAF Pilots and Technicians and Role Equipment would not make much dent to this huge gap."

Eurofighter offer is much cheaper

The offer which also figured in the determination of the benchmark price was from M/S EADS, the maker of the Eurofighter Typhoon, the only other aircraft to qualify the UPA-era trials along with Rafale. "During the benchmarking exercise," the note reveals, "the INT had noted that the offer of 20% discount by M/S EADS was absolute without any escalation factor except some modifications in the payment terms." Factoring in an additional 5% discount as the negotiating margin, the Indian Negotiating Team applied a discount of 25% on the M/S EADS cost as one of the inputs for the benchmarking exercise.

"Even without taking this discount into consideration, the offer of French Government is still substantially higher than the price offered by M/S EADS (adjusted to the scope of 36 Rafale Aircraft Procurement) when compared on firm and fixed price as per broad assessment carried out with the MMRCA Cell."

Cost of bank guarantees

Contrary to the argument put forth by the government that the UPA-era commercial offer and the deal signed by Modi government are not comparable, the note states that in the DAC on May 13, 2015, where the case for the 36 Rafale flyaway aircraft was first approved, G. Mohan Kumar, the Defence Secretary,

future escalations until the time of delivery

M/S EADS, which had technically qualified, had given an offer of 20% discount on a fixed basis before negotiation. After adjustment for 36 aircraft, the price offered by the French side was much higher

Dassault Aviation did not align the procurement cost of 36 Rafale aircraft with

the corresponding offer in the MMRCA procurement process, which is of paramount importance in terms of the Indo-French Joint Statement. When the counter offer of 30% discount was made, the French side refused to take cognizance of this aspect

The final price offered by the French government was without any Sovereign/

Government guarantee or Bank guarantees, unlike the MMRCA offer, and the final price offered by the French government was only 2.35% less than the aligned cost of €8.06 billion. But the commercial impact of bank guarantees worked out to 7.28% and would amount to approximately €574 million for a total procurement cost of €7.87 billion. Taking into account the financial impact

of the bank guarantees (without even factoring in the effect of escalation), the final price offered by the French side was still 5.3% higher than the aligned cost of the commercial quotes submitted by M/S Dassault Aviation and M/S MBDA in the MMRCA procurement process

During the MMRCA procurement process, Dassault

Aviation did not meet certain ASQRs (Aerospace Supplier Quality Requirements) stipulated and the private French company offered to meet these deficiencies at an additional cost, terming them 'India Specific Enhancements'. It was an un-negotiated offer and the reasonability of costs was not determined. The additional commercial proposal of €1.4 billion for

the 'design and development' of enhancements was exorbitant and unrealistic

Accepting a Letter of Comfort from the French Prime Minister instead of a Sovereign guarantee/ Government guarantee or Bank guarantees would go against basic requirements of financial prudence

Offset Issues

Restrictive Trade Practices of Dassault Aviation

were longer than what was asked. Dassault Aviation had a backlog in deliveries for the Financial Year 2015 of 83 aircraft to various countries. The final delivery of the first 18 aircraft was slower than in the MMRCA proposal

IGA Issues

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IGA Issues

ELSEWHERE



Mnuchin in Beijing for key bilateral trade talks

WASHINGTON U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said he was "looking forward" to crunch negotiations with China as he reached Beijing on Tuesday. Mr. Mnuchin appeared at a Beijing hotel a couple of days ahead of scheduled high-level meetings with Chinese officials on Thursday. AFP

Thai leader apologises for Princess' candidacy

BANGKOK Phechaphol Pongpanit, leader of Thailand's Raksa Chart party, expressed public contrition on Tuesday for selecting Princess Ubolratna as a candidate for Prime Minister, days after the move provoked a rebuke from her brother, King Maha Vajiralongkorn. AFP

Saudi committed to a Palestinian state: King

Riyadh Saudi King Salman said Tuesday that the kingdom was committed to an independent Palestinian state with east Jerusalem as its capital, ahead of a U.S.-led conference on West Asia peace and security. He was speaking during a meeting with visiting Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas in Riyadh. AFP

Singapore vows action over HIV data leak

SINGAPORE Singapore vowed on Tuesday that it will bring back and prosecute Mikhy Farrera Brochez, the American man accused of leaking data on thousands of people with HIV. The Health Ministry announced last month that confidential information of 14,200 people diagnosed with the virus had been dumped online. AFP

U.S. lawmakers reach tentative deal to avoid govt. shutdown

They agree on funding border security programmes through September 30

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

U.S. Congressional negotiators on Monday reached a tentative deal to try to avert another partial government shutdown on Saturday, but Congressional aides said it did not contain the \$5.7 billion President Donald Trump wants for a wall.

"We reached an agreement in principle" on funding border security programmes through September 30, Republican Senator Richard Shelby told reporters. "Our staffs are going to be working feverishly to put all the particulars together," Mr. Shelby said. Neither he nor three other senior lawmakers flanking him provided any details of the tentative pact.

But it was far from clear if the Republican President would embrace the agreement. His December demand for \$5.7 billion this year to help pay for a wall on



Call for wall: U.S. President Donald Trump speaking at a rally in El Paso, Texas, on Monday. • AFP

the U.S.-Mexico border – rejected by Congressional Democrats – triggered a 35-day partial government shutdown that ended last month without him getting wall funds.

A Congressional aide, who asked not to be identified, said the outline of the deal included \$1.37 billion for erecting new fencing

along the southern border. That is about the same amount Congress allocated last year and far below what Mr. Trump has demanded.

Costly and ineffective
The aide said none of the money would be for a "wall", which Mr. Trump has been touting since he launched his campaign for

President in 2016. Democrats say the wall would be costly and ineffective.

Two other Congressional sources said only currently deployed designs could be used for constructing 90 km of additional barriers.

Those designs, which include "steel bollard" fencing, have been in use since before Mr. Trump became President.

Shortly after the deal was reached in the U.S. Capitol, Mr. Trump held a rally in the border city of El Paso, Texas, to argue for the wall he says can protect Americans from violent criminals, drugs and a "tremendous onslaught" of migrant caravans.

Mr. Trump said he heard about progress in the talks just before he took the stage, but he too did not discuss details. "Just so you know – we're building the wall anyway," he said. "Maybe progress has been made – maybe not."

BBC journalist attacked by Trump supporter

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) asked the White House for a review of security arrangements on Tuesday after its cameraman was assaulted at a Donald Trump rally.

BBC cameraman Ron Skeans was attacked by a Trump supporter yelling anti-media slogans during the U.S. President's rally in El Paso, Texas, on Monday night. Mr. Skeans was un-hurt and the man wearing a "Make America Great

Again" hat was restrained and removed from the riser.

Paul Danahar, the BBC's Americas Bureau Editor, said in a tweet that he had asked White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders for a "full review of security arrangements..." BBC Washington correspondent Gary O'Donoghue said his cameraman was pushed and shoved by the unidentified assailant "after the President repeatedly goaded the crowd over supposed media bias". He said he attempted to smash the camera.

Threat from N. Korea less despite fuel generation'

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

North Korea has continued to produce bomb fuel while in denuclearisation talks with the United States and may have produced enough in the past year to add as many as seven nuclear weapons to its arsenal, according to a study released just weeks before a planned second summit between the North Korean leader and U.S. President Donald Trump.

However, the country's freeze in nuclear and missile testing since 2017 mean that its weapons programme probably poses less of a

threat than it did at the end of that year, the report by Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation found.

Siegfried Hecker, a former director of the U.S. Los Alamos weapons laboratory in New Mexico, who is now at Stanford and was one of the report's authors, said that analysis of satellite imagery showed North Korea's production of bomb fuel continued in 2018.

He said spent fuel generated from operation of the five-megawatt reactor at its main nuclear plant at Yongbyon from 2016 to 2018 appeared

Congresswoman Ilhan Omar apologises for tweet on Israel

She suggested U.S. support for Israel is fuelled by money

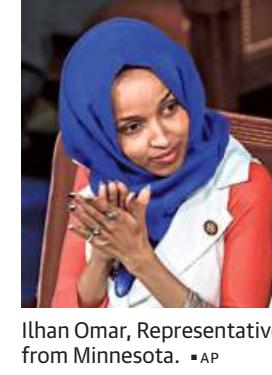
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Ilhan Omar, one of the first two Muslim women in the U.S. Congress, "unequivocally" apologised on Monday after suggesting U.S. support for Israel is fuelled by money from a pro-Israel lobby group.

The Minnesota freshman has faced criticism for weeks over her positions on the Jewish state, but it boiled over late on Sunday after she reacted to a Republican critic in a tweet. "It's all about the Benjamin's baby," Ms. Omar replied, referring to \$100 bills featuring the likeness of Benjamin Franklin.

When a user asked who Ms. Omar believes is paying U.S. politicians to support Israel, the former Somali refugee tweeted a one-word response – "AIPAC!" – referring to the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee.

The exchanges triggered an uproar, with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi castigating Ms. Omar and demanding an "immediate" apology for using "anti-Semitic tropes" in her tweet.



Ilhan Omar, Representative from Minnesota. • AP

"This is why I unequivocally apologise."

Shocking tweet

Democrat Eliot Engel, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee of which Ms. Omar is a member, called it "shocking to hear a member of Congress invoke the anti-Semitic trope of 'Jewish money'."

Liz Cheney, a top Republican in the House of Representatives, urged Democratic leaders to remove Ms. Omar from the committee.

President Donald Trump also weighed in, telling reporters that Ms. Omar "should be ashamed of herself. I think it was a terrible statement and I don't think her apology was adequate".

Several lawmakers said Ms. Omar was wrong about why lawmakers support Israel, arguing that the support is based on shared values and strategic interests, but many quickly applauded Ms. Omar for her apology.

riched uranium, may have allowed North Korea to increase the number of weapons in its arsenal by between five and seven.

Halt in testing

The Stanford report said that while North Korea was likely to have continued work on warhead miniaturisation and to ensure they can stand up to delivery via intercontinental ballistic missiles, the halt in testing greatly limited its ability to make such improvements.

"They have continued the machinery to turn out plutonium and highly enriched

uranium," Mr. Hecker said, "but it also depends on weaponisation – the design, build and test and then the delivery." "When they ended missile testing, those things rolled backwards. So when I look at the whole spectrum, to me North Korea.. is less dangerous today than it was at the end of 2017..."

The Stanford experts said it was their assessment that "North Korea cannot deliver a nuclear warhead with any measure of confidence to the U.S. mainland," although Mr. Hecker said its nuclear weapons were a real threat to Japan and South Korea.

+ Pakistan censors NYT article critical of its powerful military

The piece was about denial of rights to the ethnic Pashtuns

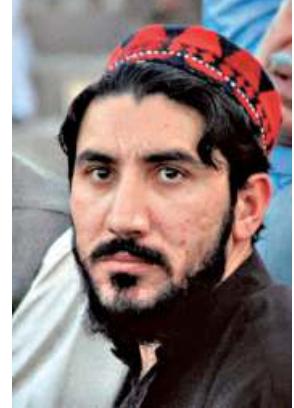
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ISLAMABAD

An opinion piece in the *International New York Times* criticising Pakistan's powerful Army was censored by its local publisher on Tuesday, replaced with blank space in a country where it can be dangerous to reprimand the military.

The article by Manzoor Pashteen, the leader of a movement which calls for an end to what it says are enforced disappearances and extra-judicial murders of ethnic Pashtuns by security officials, was widely available online, however.

'Not traitors'

It was headlined "The Military Says Pashtuns Are Traitors. We Just Want Our Rights". In it, the former veterinary student detailed how the impoverished northwest, along the Afghan



Pashtun leader Manzoor Pashteen, who wrote the article. • REUTERS

border, has been "desolated" in Pakistan's long fight with militancy. He described his group, the Pashtun Protection Movement (PTM), as "peaceful".

"We held numerous sit-ins and protests and continued to hope that Pakistan's

leaders would try to address our concerns. Instead, they responded with intimidation and violence," he wrote. "After every major protest, police arrests and charges PTM activists and supporters with rioting, treason or terrorism," he continued.

He also accused the security establishment of ensuring that "almost nothing is reported about our movement in the mainstream Pakistani newspapers and television networks".

The piece was "removed for print by our publishing alliance in Pakistan. *The New York Times* and its editorial staff had no role in its removal," a note at the bottom of the empty-single column on the front page said.

The paper is printed in Pakistan by the local English-language *Express Tribune*, which regularly censors NYT articles.

1112 held in crackdown on Gülen supporters

Arrests linked to police exam cheating

REUTERS
ISTANBUL

Turkey launched on Tuesday one of its largest operations against alleged supporters of the U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gülen, ordering the arrest of 1,112 people, the spokesman, Hayrettin Chakhanlı, said on Twitter.

The Taliban has long demanded that Anas be released, saying that he is a student. Afghan authorities accuse him of being a high-level player in the Haqqani network.

Tuesday's operation related to a police force examination in 2010 for those seeking to become deputy inspectors, and allegations that some of those taking



part had received the questions in advance, state-owned Anadolu news agency reported.

Interior Minister Süleyman Soylu said on Sunday a "big operation" was looming against Gülen supporters. "Devils would not perpetrate deceptions like they have," he said. "We will finish them off."

Militants include Haqqani leader in it

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

The Taliban announced on Tuesday a 14-member team to meet American negotiators this month in Doha, including five former Guantanamo Bay inmates and a high-profile militant behind bars in Afghanistan.

U.S. special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad has undertaken extensive recent peace talks with the Taliban about ending the 17-year war in Afghanistan, with another round expected in late February.

Captured in 2014
The expanded negotiating team unveiled by the insurgents includes Anas Haqqani, who was captured in

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PUBLIC NOTICE

MARKET WATCH

	12-02-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	36,154	-0.66
US Dollar	70.70	0.67
Gold	34,080	-0.42
Brent oil	62.53	2.40

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	326.80	-2.00
Asian Paints	1452.10	-15.00
Axis Bank	705.60	-5.25
Bajaj Auto	2832.35	-21.25
Bajaj Finance	6096.40	0.15
Bharti Airtel	311.25	-0.95
BPCL	339.30	5.70
Cipla	543.30	0.00
Coal India	223.05	4.25
D Reddy's Lab	2652.50	37.15
Eicher Motors	21137.50	384.35
GAIL (India)	325.70	-2.70
Grasim Ind	718.85	2.20
HCL Tech	1058.80	-20.55
HDFC	1905.05	-43.15
HDFC Bank	2129.70	-9.95
Hero MotoCorp	2799.55	-89.50
Hindalco	198.35	-1.10
HPCL	234.05	2.45
Hind Unilever	1794.50	-10.30
Indiabulls HFL	598.90	0.85
ICICI Bank	344.30	-5.75
IndusInd Bank	1497.20	-13.80
Bharti Infralet	312.85	-10.65
Infosys	750.45	-12.35
Indian Oil Corp	134.75	-1.10
ITC	275.30	-1.80
JSW Steel	271.75	10.15
Kotak Bank	1298.65	-2.90
L&T	1246.85	0.35
M&M	648.70	1.15
Maurit Suzuki	7162.50	-15.40
NTPC	133.25	2.90
ONGC	137.45	-0.75
PowerGrid Corp	181.25	-1.10
Reliance Ind	1256.40	3.15
State Bank	275.40	-5.10
Sun Pharma	436.60	8.05
Tata Motors	151.80	-0.85
Tata Steel	487.40	6.70
TCS	2051.60	-14.30
Tech Mahindra	805.15	-4.25
Titan	1066.25	9.85
UltraTech Cement	3452.35	2.95
UPL	796.20	-9.65
Vedanta	152.85	0.70
Wipro	375.00	1.95
YES Bank	172.65	-0.60
Zee Entertainment	414.70	13.00

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	70.50	70.82
Euro	79.49	79.85
British Pound	90.59	91.01
Japanese Yen (100)	63.78	64.08
Chinese Yuan	10.41	10.46
Swiss Franc	69.87	70.20
Singapore Dollar	51.92	52.16
Canadian Dollar	53.13	53.37
Malaysian Ringgit	17.28	17.37

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

February 12 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g) 43.1... (43.2)

22 ct gold (1 g) 3145... (3150)

'95% of registered realty firms have no PAN'

CAG says I-T dept. has no mechanism to ensure all registered companies have PAN and file returns

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In an audit of assessments made by the Income Tax Department on the real estate sector, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) found that a whopping 95% of the companies registered with the Registrar of Companies (RoC) did not have a permanent account number (PAN).

In an analysis of the data of the RoCs in 12 States, the CAG also noted that there were several companies that the tax net had failed to capture and that the department had no mechanism to ensure that all the registered companies had PAN or that they filed their income tax returns (ITR) regularly.

"RoCs did not have information about PAN in respect of 51,670 (95%) of a total of 54,578 companies for which



CAG said firms should be told to submit ITR acknowledgement copies while furnishing annual reports. ■ PAUL NORONHA

data was made available to audit," the report said. "It was difficult for Audit to ascertain from the information obtained from RoCs whether these companies were in the

tax net of the ITD or not."

The CAG said that it forwarded the information received from the RoCs regarding the companies without PAN to the Income Tax De-

partment, but received no reply. "Audit attempted to ascertain whether the companies in RoC data with PAN were regular in filing their ITRs," the report added.

"In respect of 840 companies with PAN coming under selected assessment charges, we noticed that 159 companies [19%] were not filing their ITRs," the CAG further recommended.

"From the above, it can be concluded that there is no mechanism with the Income Tax Department to ensure that all the registered companies have PAN and are filing their ITRs regularly," the CAG said. In order to rectify this, the CAG recommended that the Central Board of Di-

Centre invites interest for Air India arm stake sale

AIATSL provides passenger and baggage handling services

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

The government has invited interest for 98% stake sale in Air India's ground handling arm – Air India Air Transport Services Limited (AIATSL). The remaining 2% will be offered to the employees of the subsidiary for a stock ownership plan.

The expression of interest was floated on Tuesday on behalf of Air India Asset Holding Company, the special purpose vehicle set up by the government which will house Air India's subsidiaries, assets as well as debt. Interested players have time till March 26 to submit their bids.

The ground handling company currently provides passenger and baggage han-

The entity has 1,372 permanent staff and 11,790 contractual staff from Air India

dling, cabin cleaning, ramp handling and cargo handling services at 76 airports. It has 46 airlines as its customers including Air India, its subsidiary airlines.

It has a market share of about 48%. The company earned a total revenue of ₹668 crore and profit of ₹122 crore in 2017-18. It has an average EBITDA margin of 19%.

Eligibility

Private limited companies, public limited companies, corporate, funds and AIATSL employees are eligible to buy the ground handling company, either as a sole bidder or as part of a consortium provided they have a net worth of at least ₹200 crore.

The entity has 1,372 permanent employees and 11,790 contractual employees from Air India. According to the bid document, nearly 42% of the permanent employees will be retiring in the next five years.

In 2017-18, employees' expenses accounted for 68% of the entity's total revenue. The bid document doesn't provide details of liabilities or severance package that the new buyer will have to offer, which will be shared at a later stage in the request for proposal document.

Air India to focus on putting grounded planes back in the air

Plan is to consolidate instead of expanding network

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Air India will focus on making 14 of its snag-ridden aircraft airworthy in the next three months and add more frequencies in order to improve its aircraft utilisation.

This is part of the airline's efforts to make it more attractive to private players when the government revisits its disinvestment.

"Our plan is to consolidate instead of expanding our network and curtail costs. We will be focussing on improving available seat miles [or passenger carrying capacity] by getting planes to fly more," said Vipin Hejmadi, member-finance, Air India, at CAPA Summit 2019 in New Delhi.

He said that Air India had

received ₹100 million from the government, which would be invested to ensure that its 10 Airbus planes and 3-4 Boeing 787s grounded for past more than six months were airborne.

Route rationalisation

"Our route rationalisation isn't very good. We fly 10.5

hours on our Airbus routes and we plan to take this to 11 hours," Mr. Hejmadi added.

Once this is achieved, the airline will add frequencies to Melbourne and the U.S. Domestically, the airline will aim to mount more flights to tier-2 and tier-3 cities. "This is where there are better yields and profitability rather than metro routes," Mr. Hejmadi said.

The government's attempt to privatise the national carrier came a cropper last summer when no private player came forward to evince interest after the government floated a tender for AI's disinvestment. The government maintains that it will revisit the disinvestment plan to after macro-economic conditions stabilise.

However, the losses for

Das meets foreign investors in Hong Kong

RBI move a positive change: IIFL's Jain

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

After about two years, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has resumed interaction with investors, with Governor Shaktikanta Das meeting foreign investors in Hong Kong on Tuesday.

Held an interactive meeting with FPIs in Hong Kong today. Good participation and discussion," Mr. Das tweeted on Tuesday.

Sources indicated that the Governor was open to suggestions on guidelines pertaining to foreign portfolio investments.

Recently, the RBI decided to allow FPIs to take exposures of more than 20% in a

corporate entity. After taking charge in December, Mr. Das had made it clear that his approach would be consultative.

He has held a series of meetings with public sector banks, private banks, cooperative banks, non-banking finance companies, economists and also with industry bodies.

"This is a big positive change at the RBI, with the Governor meeting all quarters and sections of the market. Any leader of an organisation should be communicative and take feedback from all sections. Such meetings will help the RBI to maintain a connect to the ground realities," Nirmal Jain, founder and chairman, IIFL Group, said.

The offer for sale (OFS) of Axis Bank shares by the Specified Undertaking of the Unit Trust of India (SU-UTI) was subscribed 2.56 times on Monday, as per data from the National Stock Exchange.

Bids were received for 11.69 crore shares as against 4.57 crore equity shares on offer at a floor price of ₹689.52. The indicative price as arrived on the basis of bids received was ₹696.67. The offering was opened for institutional investors on Tuesday while the retail offering would open on Wednesday. While the total offer size is in excess of ₹5,300 crore, 10% of it has been reserved for retail investors.

Axis Bank OFS subscribed 2.56 times

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

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hours on our Airbus routes and we plan to take this to 11 hours," Mr. Hejmadi added.

Once this is achieved, the airline will add frequencies to Melbourne and the U.S. Domestically, the airline will aim to mount more flights to tier-2 and tier-3 cities. "This is where there are better yields and profitability rather than metro routes," Mr. Hejmadi said.

The government's attempt to privatise the national carrier came a cropper last summer when no private player came forward to evince interest after the government floated a tender for AI's disinvestment. The government maintains that it will revisit the disinvestment plan to after macro-economic conditions stabilise.

However, the losses for

Contempt: SC asks Anil Ambani to appear today

RCom yet to comply with Oct. order

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday posted the hearing on a contempt plea filed by Ericsson India against Reliance Communications Ltd. chairman Anil Ambani and others for not clearing its dues of ₹550 crore to Wednesday.

Mr. Ambani, who was present in the courtroom on Tuesday, was told by the Bench of Justice R.F. Nariman and Justice Vineet Shrivastava to be present again on Wednesday.

The contempt notices were issued to Mr. Ambani, Reliance Telecom Ltd. chairman Satish Seth and Reliance Infratel Ltd. chairman Chhaya Virani. The Bench could not complete the hearing due to time constraints.

The SC, had on October 23 last year, asked RCom to clear the dues by December 15, 2018. The plea by Ericsson had sought that the court direct Anil Ambani and the lenders forum to hand over the ₹550 crore as per the October 23 order.

IN BRIEF



Boeing appoints Salil Gupte as India head

MUMBAI U.S aircraft manufacturer Boeing has named Salil Gupte as its India head, effective March 18. He will be based in New Delhi and report to Marc Allen, president of Boeing International, the company said in a release. Mr. Gupte will join as president, Boeing India, from the aircraft maker's wholly-owned subsidiary Boeing Capital Corporation, where he served as vice president, Boeing said. PTI

Rane TRW Steering sets up unit in Tiruchi

CHENNAI Rane TRW Steering Systems Pvt. Ltd. has set up a new facility in Tiruchi to make occupant safety products at an investment of ₹40 crore. The new unit will have an initial capacity to make around five lakh modules of airbags and 10 lakh units of seat belt assemblies per annum. In the next two years, the firm plans to double the capacity with a fresh investment of ₹25-₹30 crore, said a release.

DRL launches generic version of Adcirca

HYDERABAD Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (DRL) has launched Tadalafil tablets, a therapeutic equivalent generic version of Adcirca (tadalafil) tablets, in the U.S. market. A trademark of Eli Lilly and Company, Adcirca is used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension. Stating that the USFDA had approved its generic version, DRL said Tadalafil tablets were available in 20 mg strength and in 60 count bottle size.

Dr.Reddy's inches a step closer to resuming sales of Suboxone

U.S. court rejects Indivior's plea to stay issuance of mandate in the case

N.RAVI KUMAR
HYDERABAD

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories moved one step closer to resuming sales of its generic version of Indivior's opioid dependence treatment drug Suboxone with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (CAFC) turning down the British drug maker's plea to stay issuance of the mandate in a case between the two companies.

"The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit [has] denied Indivior's motion to stay issuance of the mandate following the CAFC's ruling vacating the preliminary injunction (PI) granted against Dr. Reddy's Laboratories," Indivior said in a regulatory filing to the London Stock Exchange on Tuesday.



Advantage Dr.Reddy's: The case against Indivior is heading in the right direction for the Hyderabad-based firm. •REUTERS

The preliminary injunction was granted in a patent case pertaining to Suboxone. On February 11, while denying Indivior's motion for a stay, the court also ordered that the mandate be issued on February 19.

Indivior said it would file a petition with the Supreme

Court of the United States to stay the mandate.

Post the court ruling, vacating the PI, Indivior had filed a motion for rehearing en banc, which too was denied by the court earlier this month.

The issue of the mandate is important as it is a formal

filings by which the CAFC returns the case to the district court for action consistent with its ruling.

Once the mandate is issued, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories as well as Alvogen Pine Brook LLC, which also has a generic version of Suboxone, "will no longer be prevented from selling, offering to sell or importing their generic buprenorphine/naloxone sublingual film product." Stating this, Indivior said it assumed DRL and Alvogen would launch their respective generic versions as soon as CAFC issued the mandate.

Any DRL and Alvogen generic product sales in the U.S., however, would be on an "at-risk" basis, subject to the outcome of court cases pertaining to the patents related to Suboxone.

Subscribers now have time till March 31 for exercising the option.

According to TRAI, about 65% of the subscribers of the cable services and 35% of the DTH services have exercised the option till now.

"It was brought to the notice of the Authority that as the system of selecting channels/bouquet by the subscribers had been introduced for first time in the country, some subscribers were facing difficulties in selecting the channels/bouquet of their choice," TRAI

Cable TV subscribers get time till March 31 to select channels

Customers face difficulties in selecting channels: TRAI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Tuesday extended the deadline for customers to select TV channels under the new tariff regime for the broadcasting sector.

Subscribers now have time till March 31 for exercising the option.

According to TRAI, about 65% of the subscribers of the cable services and 35% of the DTH services have exercised the option till now.



all distribution platform owners (DPOs) to create 'Best Fit Plan' for its subscribers, who have not exercised their options yet.

The plan will be designed based on consumers' usage pattern, language spoken and popularity of channels.

'Best Fit Plan'

"It should preferably be a blended combination of various genres... while making 'Best Fit Plan' for a subscriber, DPOs should ensure that payout per month of the 'Best Fit Plan' generally does not exceed the payout per month of existing tariff plan of the subscriber," the authority said.

Additionally, TRAI has directed all DPOs to migrate subscribers who do not exercise their options to the 'Best Fit Plan'. The Authority has asked

said in a statement.

In some cases, local cable operators have not been able to reach out to subscribers.

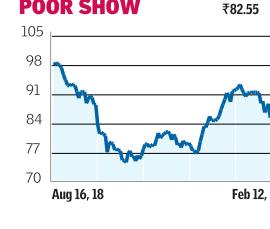
Also, some subscribers may be required to go to nearest point of sale (PoS) for exercising their option as they do not have access to IT facility or are not comfortable using an IT system.

The Authority has asked

Karur Vysya Bank Q3 net slips on provisions

Net NPA grows to 4.99% from 3.88%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI



Karur Vysya Bank Ltd. has reported a 70.34% drop in its net profit for the third quarter ended December 2018, to ₹24.61 crore from ₹71.49 crore registered in the corresponding year-earlier period.

Net interest income increased 3.4% to ₹580.83 crore.

Other income (non-interest income) grew by 15.6% to ₹259.89 crore and the operating profit rose to ₹425 crore from ₹421.19 crore.

Gross non-performing assets (NPA) as a percentage of total advances stood at

Hindalco Q3 net up 47% to ₹713 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Hindalco Industries reported a 47% jump in its December quarter net profit to ₹713 crore due to operational efficiencies, better realisations and lower finance costs.

The revenue rose 8.1% over the last year to ₹11,938 crore. Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) in the quarter improved by 4% to ₹1,926 crore. This was despite increase in input costs of coal and furnace oil. Aluminium and copper contributed ₹1,286 crore and ₹431 crore to EBITDA, respectively.

"Adjusted for this, net profit growth for Q3FY19 was 49% year-on-year," the company said.

During the period, the company reported a gross sales income of ₹7,657 crore, up 16% compared to the

Sun Pharma Q3 profit rises 49%

Drug maker's sales revenue rises by 16% to ₹7,657 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. for the third quarter (Q3) ended December 31, 2018, reported adjusted net profit of ₹1,242 crore, an increase of 49% as compared to the same period last year.

Net profit for Q3 last year was adversely impacted by one-time deferred tax adjustment of ₹513 crore related to changes in the U.S. tax rates.

"Adjusted for this, net profit growth for Q3FY19 was 49% year-on-year," the company said.

EBITDA, at ₹2,069 crore, grew by 48% with resulting EBITDA margin of 27%.

Margins were partly driven by forex gains, the company said.



Siddhartha Lal gets EY award

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Siddhartha Lal, MD and CEO, Eicher Motors, is named as the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2018. He will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) in Monte Carlo from June 6-8.

Azim Premji, chairman, Wipro, gets the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Titan Company Limited MD Bhaskar Bhat gets the Entrepreneurial CEO award. A eight-member jury led by Uday Kotak selected the winners. The winners comprising unicorns and market disruptors have a revenue of more than ₹1,28,000 crore.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN TENDER NOTICE	
For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Mechanical), Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-tender for following work from experienced and capable tenderers	
1. Tender No.	197-S/215/Certification of ISO/MS/C&W depots/DLI/18/M-IV
2. Name of Work	Certification for Integrated Management System, (IMS) for C&W depots which include Certification of Quality Management System (QMS) i.e. ISO 9001:2015, Environmental Management System (EMS) i.e. ISO 14001:2015, Occupational health and safety assessment series (OHSAS) i.e. ISO 45001:2018 and certification of 5S (Seiri, Seiton, Seiso, Seiketsu, Shitsuke) & Certification of Quality Management System (QMS) i.e. ISO 9001:2015 for 4 Rajdhani, 12 Shatabdi & 1 Gatimaan Express Train of Delhi Division
3. Advertised Tender Value	Rs. 46,37,654.31/- (With provision of GST)
4. Earnest money in favour of Sr. DFM/NR, New Delhi	Rs. 92,800/- (Note: It should be in the form of non banking or gateway only. FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPSS)
5. Date & time of submission of tender bid	Up to 11.03.2019 at 12:00 hrs.
6. Date of Pre-Bid meeting	14.02.2019 at 15:00 hrs.
7. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in
No. 197-S/215/Certification of ISO/MS/C&W depots/DLI/18/M-IV	404/19

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	
NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE (through E-Tendering)	
Name of work Augmentation of Railnet at DEMU Diesel Shed & Training with its location Center Shakurbasti.	
App. Cost of the work (₹) ₹ 43,19,029.98/- only	
Tender Document Fee (₹) ₹ 3,540/- only.	
Earnest Money Deposit (₹) ₹ 86,310/- only.	
Address of the office Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-I, Northern Railway, the office 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.	
Date & Time for upload of tender / closing of tender Tender uploading / closing date & time 06.03.2019 up to 15:00 hrs.	
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc. www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055	
Tender No. 558-Sig-16-Tele-OT-886 Dated : 11.02.2019, 417/19	
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

North Eastern Railway E-Tender Notice

Opened E-tender based on Single Packet system (Tender Notice No. M/C/W/32/2018-19 dt. 11.02.2019) are invited by Divisional Rail Manager/Mech/C&W/Varanasi/N.E. Railway for and on behalf of President of India for following work:-

Description of works	Approx. Value (Rs.)	EMD Money (Rs.)	Cost of Tender Forms (Rs.)
Supply, Installation with testing and commissioning of Laundry Machines and Equipments along with two year comprehensive AMC of Laundry machines after Expiry of Warranty period at Mechanized Laundry Ghazipur City & Chharpur of Varanasi Division.	1,74,40,591.31	2,37,200.00	5,000/-

Period of Work :- For Supply, Installation & Commissioning - 120 Days from the dt. of issue of LOA

Warranty Period - Min. 1 year from the dt. of commissioning of laundry machine & equipments. **Comprehensive AMC -** Two years from the expiry dt. of warranty period for laundry machines only. **Date and time of opening of E-Tender :** 13.03.2019 at 14.30 Hrs. **Date and time of opening of E-Tender :** 13.03.2019 at 15:00 Hrs. • Tenderers may submit their offers online up to 13.03.2019 at 15:30 Hrs. • Please go to the website www.ireps.gov.in to see the complete details and upload the tender.

SR. DME/C & W/B/SB
CPO/Mech. 95 [About any Passenger Amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No. 09794845955]

Pass level crossings safely

Office of Superintending Engineer 3rd Circle, P.W.D. Pithoragarh

Short Term Tender Notice

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand, The Superintending Engineer 3rd Circle, Public Works Department Pithoragarh invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) for following works. All information will be available from dated 15-02-2019 onwards on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>

SI No. : 1

Name of Work: Renewal of kanprayag gwaldam chaukori that munskyari jauljivi motor road from Km. 161.00 to 164.00 and from Km 174.00 to Km 158.00 by SDBS under Annual Repair

Vihari hits century, but Rest of India loses its way

Mayank sets the ball rolling before Vidarbha spinners hit back

IRANI CUP

M.R. PRAVEEN CHANDRAN
NAGPUR

After a session of high-voltage batting, which defied the greenish tinge on the wicket, Vidarbha spinners struck to bowl out Rest of India (RoI) for 330 on the opening day of the Z.R. Irani Cup cricket tournament at the VCA Stadium here on Tuesday.

It all began ominously for Vidarbha in the morning as the mainstay of its batting, Wasim Jaffer, failed a fitness test and was ruled out.

Blitz

After losing the toss, Mayank Agarwal's blitz in the opening session pulverised the Ranji champion but, led by its spinners, Vidarbha fought back by taking nine wickets post lunch.

Rest slipped from an imperious 171 for one to 258 for seven before Hanuma Vihari (114) and the tailenders took the total beyond 300.

The Vidarbha spinners weren't spectacular but were persistent enough to induce mistakes from the batsmen.

Akshay Wakhare (three for 62) was the pick of the lot and he found good support from Aditya Sarvate (three for 99).

Vihari, who played an innings of controlled aggression, had a slice of luck on 29 when his tentative prod off Sarvate fell short of Fazal who claimed the catch. The batsman was ruled not out after it was referred.

However, Sarvate had his revenge when he got one to bounce and turn and had the settled batsmen caught in the slips by Fazal.

Earlier, Mayank Agarwal (95) was on song as his authoritative strokeplay made the Vidarbha bowling look innocuous. Rajneesh Gurbani's wayward first over set the trend as RoI's opening



Controlled aggression: Hanuma Vihari bided his time and played a sensible knock to take Rest of India to a respectable total. ■ S. SUDARSHAN

pair of Mayank and Anmolpreet Singh feasted on some loose offerings to put on 46 runs for the first wicket in quick time.

However, Rajneesh got one to nip back and cleaned up Anmolpreet for 15.

Vihari was circumspect at the start but gradually found the range of his strokes against the spinners and, along with Mayank, put the attack to the sword.

Mayank, who looked set for a century, checked a drive and was caught at mid-off by Gurbani off Thakur.

The rot sets in
Mayank's dismissal started the rot. Captain Rahane (13)

struggled and his misery ended when he pushed tentatively at Sarvate and Sanjay at short gully juggled with the ball before cupping the catch.

Shreyas Iyer looked in good touch and played the big shots off the spinners but was trapped in front when he played the wrong line to Karnewar.

Ishan Kishan and K. Gowtham went into aggressive mode too early in their innings and perished to catchers in the deep.

But in the end Rahul Chahar (22) and Ankit Rajpoot (25) wielded the long handle to good effect and gave respectability to the total.

The scores:

Rest of India – 1st innings:

Mayank Agarwal c Gurbani b Thakur 95, Anmolpreet Singh b Gurbani 15, Hanuma Vihari c Fazal b Sarvate 114, A. Rahane c Sanjay lbw b Karnewar 13, Shreyas Iyer lbw b Karnewar 19, Ishan Kishan c Gurbani b Wakhare 2, K. Gowtham c Gurbani b Wakhare 7, D.A. Jadeja b Sarvate 6, Rahul Chahar b Gurbani 22, A. Rajpoot b Wakhare 25, Tanveer Haq (not out) 0; Extras (b-2, 1b-7, nb-2, w-1); 12. Total (in 94.9 overs): 330.

Fall of wickets:

1-46, 2-171, 3-186, 4-231, 5-234, 6-246, 7-258, 8-305, 9-305.
Vidarbha bowling: Gurbani 15-2-58-2, Thakur 17-3-52-1, Sarvate 28-5-99-3, Karnewar 15-3-50-1, Wakhare 14-4-0-62-3.

Vijay Shankar – the dangerous floater India needs in England

The batting all-rounder is a handy seamer and agile fielder

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

A career blighted by injuries is finally up and running. Vijay Shankar is now making the big moves.

"I want to be a match-winner for India," said Vijay Shankar to *The Hindu* here on Tuesday.

It does appear that this batting all-rounder may gather his way into the Indian team for the World Cup. He could be that dangerous floater the Indian team seeks in English conditions.

As he showed in New Zealand, the 28-year-old Vijay Shankar can build an innings with technical nous and cultured strokeplay if early wickets are lost.

His 45 of focus and solidity enabled India recover from a precarious 18 for four and build a platform for an eventual victory in the Wellington ODI.

Measured aggression

If that innings showcased Vijay Shankar's composure, tight game and measured ag-

gression, when the ball zipped around for the seamers, his 28-ball 43 in the Hamilton Twenty20 International, smashing the Kiwi attack, displayed another aspect of his batting.

Vijay Shankar can be a brutal striker of the ball, hitting through the straight-field, pulling, cutting and whipping off his legs.

Interestingly, the Indian team-management showed the confidence to send Vijay Shankar at No. 3. And the cricketer delivered with his blitzkrieg.

Vijay Shankar has worked on power hitting with coach S. Balaji. He practises range hitting and uses the Robo-Arm. The all-rounder generates force with his bat-speed, shoulders and wrists.

He has clearly impressed Ravi Shastri. The Indian coach believes Vijay Shankar has, both, the attacking and the defensive games.

"Shastri sir told me he liked the way I batted. His words gave me a lot of confidence. And Arun sir said I

was consistent with the ball. I wanted to bowl in the right areas. The team was very welcoming, I learnt a lot," said Vijay Shankar.



And this Indian team seeks versatility, different methods for different conditions and situations and the ability to bat at different slots. Vijay Shankar fits the bill.

The batting all-rounder brings some valuable qualities with him. He is a handy seamer and an agile fielder.

Whenever given the ball, Vijay Shankar sent down his seamers with control. At 130 kmph, he is not the quickest bowler around but could be useful in English conditions with his ability to bowl around the off-stump and extract some lift with his height and high-arm action.

Adaptability

Actually, it was the disciplinary action against Hardik Pandya that opened the pathway for Vijay Shankar. He joined the team down under and has shown efficiency, adaptability and team-spirit. Then, when Hardik joined the team in New Zealand, both played together. Hardik and Vijay Shankar in the same eleven makes the team more dynamic and vibrant, lends it greater depth.

Vijay Shankar, given his qualities and the conditions in England, is on course for a World Cup spot.



Impact player: Vijay Shankar can build an innings with technical nous and cultured strokeplay, as he showed recently in Wellington. ■ AFP

Viswanath – the hero and role model – is now 70

India never lost a Test where Vishy made a century, and he made 14 of them



BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

Sometimes you choose your heroes; at other times, proximity, convenience or back story mean that heroes choose you. Mike Brearley has written about how Jack Robertson became his boyhood hero above the claims of Dennis Compton who played in the same Middlesex team.

For writer Simon Barnes, the choice fell on Mike Smith, not the greatest of batsmen, but done – he rationalised later – "in order to know pain." We choose our heroes as much to glory in their successes as to empathise with their failures, and thereby to understand those two Kiplingesque imposters when they visit us.

Choosing heroes

I must have been eight when I first became aware of Gundappa Viswanath. Boys of that age are flexible in choosing heroes. Accomplished performers, fictional characters, comic book eccentrics, imaginary beings that exist only in their heads – they can all make the grade.

My heroes turned out in whites, wore boots with studs, and could either hit a stump from 22 yards or prevent that happening with a bat in hand. Asked what I wanted to be when I grew up, I said, "Viswanath".

Yesterday (Tuesday), Vishy (familiarity breeds contraction) turned 70; and just as a later generation used Sachin Tendulkar as a marker to its growing years, mine used Vishy. His international career lasted just over a dozen years, the time it takes for a boy to grow into a man, to understand hero-worship better, and to acknowledge the complexities of heroism. The latter can be a lifetime pursuit.

Perhaps you see a bit of yourself in your hero, perhaps you hope that there is a lot of your hero in you. Perhaps – and this realisation takes time

India-A looks to dominate yet again

Lions are expected to fight back, given the balanced nature of the pitch

LIONS IN INDIA

RAYAN ROZARIO
MYSURU

The bowlers were expected to call the shots but the batsmen made merry in the first 'Test' between India-A and England Lions at Wayanad recently. However, the second four-day game, which begins at the SNR Wadeyar grounds here on Wednesday, may be pretty balanced given the nature of the pitch.

It's all about playing with patience in the first hour as the wicket is expected to assist faster bowlers. But thereafter as the sun comes out shining so will the batsmen.

No worries

The India-A stars may not worry much as they had shown their ability and courage in building strong partnerships in the opener.

Priyank Panchal hammered a double hundred and so did K.S. Bharat with an equally pleasing 142.

K.L. Rahul, the elegant



Looking ahead: India-A skipper K.L. Rahul and coach Rahul Dravid will be keen to score a win. ■ RAYAN ROZARIO

opener, came up with a fine 89 and that set the ball rolling in favour of the Indians.

The responsibility is going to be bigger for Rahul now as he is leading the side.

But it may not bother him much as he is a cool character. He knows his men will do a much better job this time around.

Priyank is eagerly looking forward to this match. "I played against Australia-A in Bengaluru and there I spoke to Rahul (Dravid) sir and

gained in confidence," he said. "I am just trying to do my best. It's all about playing as a team and that matters."

Lions bowlers must fire

England Lions are expected to roar back. Ollie Pope, Sam Hain, Ben Duckett and William Jacks have played their parts for the team. It is the bowlers who need to fire to make it an even contest.

Lions skipper Sam Billings said he has been out of the four-day format for a while. He said switching formats was a challenge for any player. "The best players are able to do that regularly and consistently. Four-day cricket teaches you basic techniques which can be used in any format."

The teams (from):

India-A: K.L. Rahul (Capt.), Abhimanyu Easwaran, Priyank Panchal, Ankeet Bawane, Karun Nair, Ricky Bhui, Siddhesh Lad, K.S. Bharat, Shabazz Nadeem, Jalaj Saxena, Mayank Markande, Shardul Thakur, Navdeep Saini and Varun Aaron.

England-A: Thomas Bailey, Dominic Bess, Sam Billings (Capt.), Danny Briggs, Matthew Carter, Zachariah Chappel, Alex Davies, Ben Duckett, Lewis Gregory, Sam Hain, Max Holden, William Jacks, Jamie Overton, Ollie Pope, James Potter and Steven Mullaney.

Media has created heroes in sports, says Gavaskar

G. VISWANATH &
SHAYAN ACHARYA
NEW DELHI

The National selection committee will pick the squads, for the five-match One-Day International series and two-match T20I series against Australia, in Mumbai on Feb. 15.

Dhawan may be rested

Shikhar Dhawan may be rested for the final two ODIs and K.L. Rahul could be drafted in to keep him ready for the World Cup.

The one-dayers will be played in Hyderabad (March 2), Nagpur (March 5), Ranchi (March 8), Mohali (March 10) and New Delhi (March 13).

Visakhapatnam (Feb. 24) and Bengaluru (Feb. 27) will host the T20Is.



Sunil Gavaskar.



electronic and print – which has created heroes and role models in various sports for youngsters to emulate and follow."

Gavaskar is the chairman of the five-member jury for

the Sportstar Aces Awards that includes former India hockey captain M.M. Somaya, *The Hindu* Publishing Group chairman N. Ram, and Olympians Anju Bobby George and Anjali Bhagwat.

"Firstly, it was a tremendous honour to be asked to chair the jury with such eminent sporting personalities like Anju Bobby George, Somaya, Anjali, and, of course, the huge sports lover with a fund of knowledge of all sports, Mr. N. Ram," Gavaskar said, adding: "There was the Sportstar team led by (Editor) Ayon (Sengupta) and K.C. Vijaya Kumar (Sports Editor, *The Hindu*), whose inputs were invaluable. That made the jury's task easier."

The Sportstar Aces Awards ceremony will be held in Mumbai on February 14.

wherever he played – league matches, friendly tennis ball knockabouts, the lot. The YMCA ground once witnessed a wonderful battle between Vishy's State Bank of India and Bhagwat Chandrasekhar's Syndicate Bank.

The grass was thick all around, and some of the finest drives seldom made it to the boundary. Vishy driving Chandra was a treat – he seemed to have calculated the precise height he needed to drive at so the ball would just skim the tops of the clumps of grass. Vishy's technical mastery was enhanced by his innovative ability.

When he was making his classic 97 not out in Chennai, West Indies captain Clive Lloyd paid him the compliment of placing a man at cover-point for Andy Roberts, the world's fastest bowler.

Vishy says that wasn't the fastest he had faced. Sylvester Clarke at the same venue four years later was. Vishy made 124 (next highest score was Kirmani's 33).

"I played beside the line of the ball," he said.

The rationalisation came later; the move was instinctive. And then, Vishy being Vishy, he ended with a self-deprecating follow-up. "Next Test on a slower wicket, I said, 'Play beside the line,' and was caught behind for nine." But three others made centuries as the match was drawn. India never lost a Test where Vishy made a century, and he made 14 of them.

When Vishy and Sunil Gavaskar (who also turns 70 this year) batted together, it was as if Dionysius and Apollo were in action. The thrill of a Vishy square-cut was heightened by the element of danger that seemed ever present. Gavaskar was solidly personalised, Vishy had a vulnerability that is the companion of those who operate at the edge of the possible.

Vishy is a uniquely Indian hero

TV PICKS

New Zealand vs Bangladesh: 1st ODI, SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m.
NBA: Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m.
Irani Cup: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.
South Africa vs Sri Lanka: 1st Test, Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 1.30 p.m.
Pro Volleyball League: Sony Six (SD & HD), 7 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Ten 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Thursday)

IN BRIEF



Harden extends streak as Rockets down Mavericks

LOS ANGELES James Harden produced a scintillating late burst of scoring to extend his remarkable 30-point scoring streak to 30 games on Monday as Houston Rockets defeated Dallas Mavericks 120-104. **Other results:** Cleveland Cavaliers 107 bt New York Knicks 104; Detroit Pistons 121 bt Washington Wizards 112; Indiana Pacers 99 bt Charlotte Hornets 90; Toronto Raptors 127 bt Brooklyn Nets 125; Milwaukee Bucks 112 bt Chicago Bulls 99; Minnesota Timberwolves 130 bt Los Angeles Clippers 120; Oklahoma City Thunder 120 bt Portland Trailblazers 111; Denver Nuggets 103 bt Miami Heat 87. AFP

Suraj to lead India colts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

Rajasthan's Suraj Ahuja will lead the India under-19 team in the two four-day 'Tests' against South Africa colts, starting February 20.

The squads: India u-19 squad (for four-day games against SA u-19): Suraj Ahuja (Capt. & wk), Divyaansh Saxena, Varun Nayyar, Avneesh Sudha, Yashavni Jaiswal, Vaibhav Kandpal, Shaurya Saran, Hrithik Shokeen, Manav Suthar, Manishi, Sabir Khan, Anshul Kamboj, Rajvardhan Hangarkar, Rohit Dattarayya, Rex Singh, and Vathsal Sharma.

For quadrangular series:

India under-19: A-team: Neeraj Wadhera (Capt.), Yashavni Jaiswal, Qamran Iqbal, Arjun Azad, Priyansh Arya, Shashwat Rawat, Dhruv Chand Jurel (wk), Siddhesh Veer, Ravi M. Bishnoi, Yuvraj Chaudhary, Shubhang Hegde, Yatin Mangwani, Ishan Afridi, Kartik Tyagi, Harsh Dubey, and Akash Singh.

B-team: Rahul Chandrol (Capt. & wk), Thakur Tilak Verma, Varun Lavande, Arya Sethi, Pragnesh Kanpillerwar, Prashod Ranjan Paul, Sameer Rizvi, Nitish Reddy, Prayas Ray Burman, Shivam Sharma, Athvara Anoklekar, Sumeet Juyal, Prabhat Maurya, Sushant Mishra, Purnank Tyagi, and Karan Lal.

Black Hawks down U Mumba in thriller

Clark, Bader deliver for the Hyderabad side in the decider

PRO VOLLEYBALL

STAN RAYAN

KOCHEI

A fantastic performance from American Carson Clark and Canadian Alexander Bader under pressure took Black Hawks Hyderabad to an exciting 3-2 victory over U Mumba Volley in the RuPay Pro Volleyball League at the Rajiv Gandhi indoor stadium here on Tuesday.

The victory saw the Hawks finish their league engagements with two wins from five matches and keep alive their hopes of reaching the semifinals.

That scenario looked unlikely when U Mumba led 6-3 in the final set. At this stage, the Hawks brought in Alexander from the bench and moments later, he came up with a superb cross-court smash and followed it up with some smart play.

Carson dominated after that, winning three straight points. The left-hander's strong serves upset U Mumba's backcourt rhythm and, as they sent weak returns, Carson came up with some hard smashes from the back row. That took Hawks to a 7-6 lead, and though U Mumba levelled at 11 after a super point smash by Pankaj Sharma and another spike from captain Dipish Kumar, Hawks moved ahead to 13-11 through Rohit Kumar's aggression and clinched the issue a little later.

"I wasn't attacking that well tonight and I was a little bit frustrated about that. But I focused on my defence which was really good. After



Big boost: Carson Clark was the architect of Black Hawks' resurgence. ■ H. VIBHU

that, I decided to be more aggressive with my serves and that worked well for us," said the 30-year-old Carson, Hawks' captain.

Desperate

The Southern sides currently occupy the top four spots in the six-team league and U Mumba, without a win so far, looked desperate to change that. U Mumba, which played for a major part with just one foreigner (Tomislav Coskovic), came close to turning it around,

thanks to the good work from Pankaj Sharma, Vinit Kumar, captain Dipish Kumar, Hawks moved ahead to 13-11 through Rohit Kumar's aggression and clinched the issue a little later.

For Hawks, Rohit Kumar and Ashwini Rai led the scoring charts while setter Muthusamy served them well. Pankaj Sharma and Vinit topped the U Mumba table.

The result: Black Hawks Hyderabad bt U Mumba Volley 13-15, 15-11, 7-15, 15-14, 15-11.

Wednesday's match: Calicut Heroes v Ahmedabad Defenders, 7 p.m.

Shubham Chaudhary, one of the U Mumba players to impress earlier, looked good in the early stages. But when Hawks set up a three-man block for him, Shubham's confidence began to wane. But Vinit rose to the occasion and sparkled for a good part of the contest.

For Hawks, Rohit Kumar and Ashwini Rai led the scoring charts while setter Muthusamy served them well. Pankaj Sharma and Vinit topped the U Mumba table.

The result: Black Hawks Hyderabad bt U Mumba Volley 13-15, 15-11, 7-15, 15-14, 15-11.

Wednesday's match: Calicut Heroes v Ahmedabad Defenders, 7 p.m.

England great Banks is no more

Tributes pour in for former World Cup winner

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

LONDON

Gordon Banks, England's goalkeeper during its triumphant 1966 World Cup campaign, has died aged 81, his former club Stoke City announced on Tuesday.

His family said the 73-time capped Banks, who lost an eye in a car crash in 1972, had passed away in his sleep. "It is with great sadness that we announce that Gordon passed away peacefully overnight," his family said.

"We are devastated to lose him but we have so many happy memories and could not have been more proud of him."

Geoff Hurst, who scored a hat-trick in the 4-2 win over West Germany in the World Cup final at Wembley, tweeted a fulsome tribute to his former teammate.

"Very sad to hear the news that Gordon has died. One of the very greatest,"



Eternal moment: Gordon Banks is best remembered for his save off Pele in the 1970 World Cup. ■ AP

tweeted 77-year-old Hurst.

Enduring memory

Banks, who played in every game of the 1966 campaign on home soil, is probably best known for a wonder save he produced to deny Brazilian great Pele in the 1970 World Cup group match.

However, Banks later recounted that he did not ap-

to it I hadn't a clue where it was going," he modestly said afterwards.

Pele - who would go on to lift the trophy - admitted later he had said 'goal', so sure was he that the ball was heading into the net. Brazil still won the game 1-0.

However, Banks later recounted that he did not ap-

Canadian duo powers ahead

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

ROTTERDAM

Milos Raonic and Denis Shapovalov scored a first-round double for Canada on Tuesday with both powering ahead in straight sets at the Rotterdam Open.

Raonic fought past German Philipp Kohlschreiber 7-6(8), 7-5 on the back of 21 aces.

Shapovalov, seeded 10th, defeated Croatian Franko Skugor 7-5, 6-3.

The results: First round: Milos Raonic bt Philip Kohlschreiber 7-6(8), 7-5; Ernest Gulbis bt Marius Copil 6-2, 6-4.

Denis Shapovalov bt Franjo Skugor 7-5, 6-3; Fernando Verdasco bt Matthew Ebden 7-5, 6-4; Gael Monfils bt David Goffin 7-6(5), 7-5; Tomas Berdych bt Gilles Simon 7-6(8), 6-4.

Smooth start for Lakshya

NATL. BADMINTON

SPORTS BUREAU

GUWAHATI

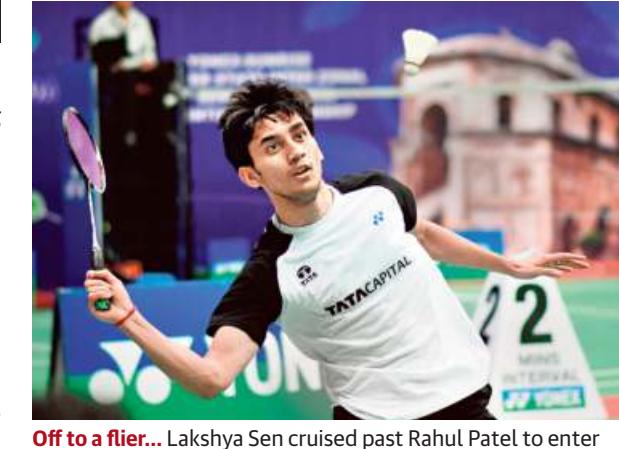
Lakshya Sen made a winning start at the Yonex Sunrise 83rd senior National badminton championships on Tuesday.

The Asian junior champion, seeded 14th, needed just 28 minutes to dismiss Rahul Patel 21-13, 21-13 to reach the third round.

Former two-time champion Sourabh Verma of PSPB also began his campaign on a positive note with a commanding 21-10, 21-8 demolition of Jayaprakashan.

Assam's Imran Sonowal outplayed J&K's Raghu Dogra 21-9, 21-3 to set up a clash with Sourabh.

Harsheel Dani prevailed over former World junior champion silver medalist Siril Verma 23-21, 21-17 to reach the third round.



Off to a flier... Lakshya Sen cruised past Rahul Patel to enter the third round. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

mir's Raghu Dogra and Rupali Anand notched up a fine 21-12, 21-15 victory over Sikim's Rewash Rai and Tashi Choden Gurung.

Shlok Ramchandran and Mithila, too, reached the next round, overcoming Akshit Mahajan and Anupama Upadhyaya 21-12, 21-19.

Root century puts England on top

Skipper can now think of pressing for a consolation victory

ENG IN WI

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

GROS-ISLET (SAINT LUCIA)

Joe Root's 16th Test century highlighted England's first day of complete dominance in an otherwise disappointing Caribbean campaign as the captain anchored his team to an unassailable position by the end of the third day of the third and final Test against the West Indies at the Darren Sammy Stadium here on Monday.

His workmanlike, unbeaten 111 off 209 deliveries included just nine boundaries and typified England's effort to make amends for previous failures in reaching stumps at 325 for four in the second

England on course for victory

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

NEW YORK

James Anderson was at his destructive best in blowing away the West Indies top-order to put England on course for a massive victory as the hosts were tottering at 119 for six past the lunch break.

Set a target of 485 after Joe Root declared his side's second innings at 361 for five, the home team crashed to 35 for four with Anderson taking the first wickets.

His workmanlike, unbeaten 111 off 209 deliveries included just nine boundaries and typified England's effort to make amends for previous failures in reaching stumps at 325 for four in the second

innings, an overall lead of 448 runs with two days still available to push for a consolation victory.

With the home side short-handed in the bowling department on the day due to an early injury to Keemo Paul, England took full advantage of the situation.

Root had never gone through an entire Test series without at least registering a half-century, and with just 55 runs from five previous innings he was due to come good.

It happened on a day when a few others in a suspect England batting order

managed to get important runs. Successive partnerships of 74 for the third wicket with Joe Denly (69), 107 for the fourth wicket with Jos Buttler (56) and 71 for four for the fifth wicket with Ben Stokes (29 batting) ensured that the captain's steady influence was ever-present from the moment he arrived.

SCOREBOARD WINDIES VS ENGLAND, 3RD TEST, 3RD DAY

England – 1st innings: 277. West Indies – 1st innings: 154. England – 2nd innings: 8. Burns c Joseph b Paul 10, K. Jennings b Joseph 23, J. Denly c Dowrich b Gabriel 69, J. Root (batting) 111, J. Buttler b Roach 56, B. Stokes (batting) 29; Extras (b, lb, w, n, w): 27. Total (for four wkts. in 100 overs): 325.

Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-73, 3-147, 4-254.

West Indies bowling: Roach 16-6-31-1, Gabriel 21-87-1, Paul 5-11-1, Joseph 15-2-63-1, Chase 31-92-0, Brathwaite 12-24-0.



Young talent: Sancho enjoying breakthrough season with Dortmund - after transfer from Man City in 2017 - scoring first Champions League goal against Atletico in group stage

Youngest English goalscorers in Champions League

2011 Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain 18 yrs 44 days

2018 Jadon Sancho 18 yrs 213 days

2007 Theo Walcott 18 yrs 221 days

2010 Jack Wilshere 18 yrs 291 days

2004 Wayne Rooney 18 yrs 340 days

Sources: UEFA, Gracenote Picture: Getty Images

© GRAPHIC NEWS

Basheer
on song

NEW DELHI: Basheer Ali smashed eight goals to power Horse & Wagon to a 11-4-1/2 victory over Army Polo and Riding Club (APRC) in a league match of the Jiwaji Rao Scindia Gold Cup 10-goal polo tournament on Tuesday.

The results (league):

Horse & Wagon 11 (Basheer Ali 8, Buchi Prakash, Akhil Sirohi, Phil Seller) bt APRC 4-1/2 (Saurabh Saharan, handicap 3-1/2).

Rajnigandha Achievers 4 (Gaurag Sahgal 2, Salim Azmi, Matthew Philip Perry) bt Indal Panther 3 (Simran Shergill, Akshai Malik, Dhanjay Singh).

Aravali Polo-Garcha Group 6 (Angad Kalaan 3, Manuel Llorente 2, Ajitesh Singh) bt Sona Polo 5 (Vandit Golechha 2, Abhimanyu Pathak 2, Sidhant Sharma).

Prannoy to miss Nationals

Flying to the United States for medical treatment

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD



Fighting to be fit: H.S. Prannoy is going through a tough phase with health issues haunting him. ■ V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

Even as the nation's top shuttlers prepare to leave for Guwahati for the senior badminton Nationals, former National champion H.S. Prannoy is battling a health problem that is keeping him away from the competitive circuit.

Prannoy, who had a career-best World ranking of No. 8 two years ago, is flying to the US next week for treatment for gastroesophageal reflux which leads to burning sensation in the chest and breathing problems.

"It is disappointing to be away from the circuit," Prannoy says after a long stint at

the Gopi Academy here. "There have been issues, but I have been training for a week for the first time after the PBL," Prannoy told *The*

Hindu. "I have been running around for tests for quite some time now. It is pretty complicated. Have tried many things, but nothing seems

to be working out. So, decided to go to the US," the World No. 19 said.

"When I was in discomfort for the first time during last year's World Championship, I thought it was not that serious. Even the doctors felt so then," Prannoy recalled.

"And, later on, I have seen many doctors. All medical tests were done. I am going abroad now for treatment," he said.

But, true to his character, Prannoy was giving of his best through the grimaces as he went for the big smashes or diving returns. And, like a true champion, he was often cracking jokes with his good friends K. Srikant, P. Kashyap and B. Sai Praneeth.

Former Delhi and North Zone pacer Luthra passes away

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI



Suresh Luthra.

Former Delhi and North Zone fast bowler Suresh Luthra passed away in Faridabad on Tuesday following prolonged illness. He was 74 and is survived by wife and two sons.

Luthra, a left-arm with pronounced swing which left many reputed batsmen baffled, was a trusted match-winner for his team. A student of Swami Talwar, well known coach and player from Punjab, he was a much feared bowler in the North.

"I have seen his style and skills for a long time," said former Haryana off-spinner

ter and much-respected for his gentle behaviour off the field. On the field he was fiercely competitive."

Personal loss

For Vinay Lamba, a former Delhi captain, it was a personal loss. "We grew up in west Delhi and played for the same club (Salwan). My association with him was 50 years old. He should have played higher grade of cricket."

It is said that in tournaments in the north, many teams would request the organisers not to put them in the same group as State Bank of India (SBI). "It's true," said Talwar. "Suresh would de-

stroy the opposition with his prodigious swing and he was a terror on matting pitches. I have seen batsmen step away against Suresh. He was really quick."

In Lamba's view, "He was a gentleman. Very helpful. He was sincere in every assignment that he undertook. He was a fast bowler with swing as his forte but he had a terrific slower one. It was not easy to pick him."

Scrap book

Luthra maintained a scrap book of his exploits as a young bowler. The pages were highlighted by paper cuttings with screaming hea-

dlines "Luthra lethal; Luthra destroys; Luthra devastating..." As Talwar pointed out, "It was always Luthra versus opposition."

After a First Class career of 67 matches (1014 runs with one century and 262 wickets with nine for 70 as his best), Luthra served Delhi as a coach, manager and selector.

"His reading of the game made him a popular man on the cricket circuit. He was a good cricketer who was also a good human being," noted Talwar. He was committed to cricket. Talwar fondly remembered, "He even played a local match on his wedding day."

Odisha women stay afloat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HISAR

Odisha defeated Coorg 3-0 in its final Pool A match to stay in contention for a place in the quarterfinals of the ninth senior National women's hockey championship (Division A) here on Tuesday.

Odisha finished its league engagements with six points from four games while Coorg, which lost all its

from four matches, and it was in the third spot in the pool. Bhopal remained winless.

Uttar Pradesh and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) played out a 1-1 draw in a Pool C match. The draw ensured both teams remained at four points each. CRPF, however, still has a game on hand.

In Pool D, Kerala defeated Tamil Nadu 5-3, its second win.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES	
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER, SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN, AT/PO:- LAXMIPOSI, DIST:- MAYURBHANJ	
Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE	
Bid Identification No. 05 /18-19 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi	
i.	Name of Work : "Construction of all Minors and Sub-Minors off-taking from JLMC within RD 45776M to RD 52901M including all Structures and Cement concrete lining.
ii.	Estimated Cost (Lakh) : Rs.1324.82 Lakh
iii.	Period of Completion : 11 (Eleven) Calendar Months
iv.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal : 18.02.2019 at 10 A.M.
v.	Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal : 07.03.2019 up to 5.00 PM.
vi.	Name & Address of the O.I.T. : Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/o the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>".
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,
Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi.
bid_cebmsbb@rediff.com

We like being underdogs:
Steve Rhodes

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WELLINGTON

Bangladesh coach Steve Rhodes says his charges are relishing being underdogs as they chase a maiden victory over the Black Caps on New Zealand soil on Wednesday.

Bangladesh has never beaten the host in any format during four previous tours of New Zealand, but Rhodes said it should not be written off ahead of the first One-Day International in Napier on Thursday.

"We know it's going to be very difficult, we've got to be realistic," the Englishman told reporters.

"But we quite like being underdogs. We can surprise

a few people being an underdog and I think New Zealand know they've still got to play some very good cricket to beat us."

Rhodes said Bangladesh's task had been made tougher by the injury-enforced absences of all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan and paceman Tasmin Ahmed.

He said the gruelling Bangladesh Premier League Twenty20 tournament had been a mixed blessing for his players as they prepare for a New Zealand tour that includes three One-Day Internationals and three Tests.

"It's been a hard grind but a great competition as well (with) lots of positives," he said.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENT OF SPACE	
SATISH DHAWAN SPACE CENTRE SHAR CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, SRIRAKIKOTA-524124.	
E-TENDER BRIEF NOTICE	
e-Tender Notice No.CMG/C/G 1887055, U 1887057 1. On Behalf of the President of India, item-rate tender is invited through e-tendering for the following work(s).	
Sl. No.	Description
1	Title of Work Pre-Project activities: Construction of Sub-Station for Visitors Complex at SDSC SHAR, Civil, PH & Road Works
NIT No & Date	CMG/C/G 1887055, Dt:07/02/2019
2	Estimated Cost put to tender ₹ 150 Lakhs
3	Period of Completion 06 Months
4	Period during which the tender documents can be requested From:15/02/2019, 10:00 Hrs To : 25/02/2019, 14:00 Hrs
5	Last date and time for uploading of tenders 27/02/2019, 14:30 Hrs
6	Interested tenders may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) from website www.isro.gov.in / www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO . For further details and purchase of tender documents visit www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO . Group Director, CNG, SDSC SHAR 08623 226447, 226420.

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
इसरो जड़तीय प्रणाली यूनिट / ISRO INERTIAL SYSTEMS UNIT
वट्टियोर्कावु / VATTIYOORKAVU, तिरुवनंतपुरम् / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 013

आईआरएसयूसी.नि./विज्ञापन-22/2018 दिनांक 23.01.2019

ADVT.NO.ISU/PT/ADVT-22/2018 dated 23.01.2019

भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिए तथा उनकी ओर से नियन्त्रित मर्दों के लिए विशेष क्रय एवं भंडार अधिकारी, इसरो जड़तीय प्रणाली यूनिट (आई आई एस यू, वट्टियोर्कावु पी.आ., तिरुवनंतपुरम्, मानवरक्ष, निविदा और आमंत्रित करते हैं : / For & on behalf of the President of India, the Senior Purchase & Stores Officer, ISRO Inertial Systems Unit (IISU) Vattiyoorkavu, Thiruvananthapuram invites Sealed Tenders for the following items:-

क्रम सं. Sl.No.	निविदा सं. TENDER NO.	विवरण / DESCRIPTION	गति Qty.	बदला जाना शक्ति / EMD
1.	8362-2018004940 [दो भाग / TWO PART]	स्थानान्तरणीय एवं उच्च साधन Viscometer and Accessories	1 सेट / Set	निविदा दस्तावेजों का संदर्भ में Refer Tender documents
2.	8433-2018005136 [दो भाग / TWO PART]	अंतरिक्ष श्रेणी निम्न पात नियामक बेअर डाइस Space Grade Low Dropout Regulator Bare Dice	400 सं./Nos.	
	नोट :- विविदेशीय तथा विस्तृत निवेदन एवं शर्त निविदा दस्तावेज के अनुसार Note :- Specification and detailed terms & conditions as per Tender document			
	निविदा शुल्क / Tender Fee	Rs. 560/- प्रति निविदा / per tender		
	निविदा कार्य जारी करने की अंतिम तिथि Last Date for issue of Tender Forms	25/02/2019 16.00 बजे तक /up to 16.00 Hrs		
	निविदा क्रमांक के लिए नियोजित तिथि Due Date for Receipt of Tender	26/02/2019 16.00 बजे तक /up to 16.00 Hrs		
	निविदा खालने की तिथि Tender Opening Date	27/02/2019 10.00 बजे /at 10.00 Hrs		

इसरो वेब साइट www.isro.gov.in पर निविदा दस्तावेज उपलब्ध हैं। इच्छुक निविदाकार वेब साइट से निविदा दस्तावेज करें और निविदा सूचना में दिए गए विवरण के अनुसार, वरिष्ठ लेखा अधिकारी, आईआरएसयू लेखा, वट्टियोर्कावु पी.आ., तिरुवनंतपुरम् - 695013 के नाम पर भारतीय स्टेट बैंक, नेटवर्क शाखा, तिरुवनंतपुरम् में देखें, रेखित डिमांड ड्राइप के रूप में निर्धारित निविदा लागत के साथ अपना प्रस्तुत करें। Tender document is available at ISRO web site www.isro.gov.in. Interested tenderers may, download the tender document from the web site and submit their offers alongwith the prescribed tender cost in the form of CROSSED DEMAND DRAFT drawn in favour of Sr. Accounts Officer, IISU Accounts, Vattiyoorkavu P.O, Thiruvananthapuram-695013 payable at State Bank of India, Nettayam Branch, Trivandrum - 695 013 as per details given in the Tender Notification. हस्ताक्षरित / Sd/- वरिष्ठ क्रय एवं भंडार अधिकारी / Sr. Purchase & Stores Officer

India-A women win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

The India-A women's hockey team defeated France-A 2-0 in the third match to take a 2-1 lead in the four-match series here on Tuesday.

Mumtaz Khan (42nd minute) and Sharmila Devi (60th) scored for the home team.

ISL standings

Team	M	W	D	L	Gd	Pts
Bengaluru Fc	15	9	4	2	9	31
Mumbai City Fc	15	8	3	4		



Launch of **Entrepreneurship MINDSET** CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

in Delhi Government Schools

On Wednesday, 13th February 2019

Venue: Thyagaraj Sports Complex, New Delhi

Chief Guests:

Arvind Kejriwal

Chief Minister, Delhi

&

Padma Bhushan Mahashay Dharampal Gulati

Founder, Mahashian Di Hatti (MDH)

Guest of Honour:

Manish Sisodia

Dy. Chief Minister, Delhi

Vijay Kumar Dev

Chief Secretary, Delhi



**Drivers on strike**

Drivers sit on an indefinite strike called over the non-renewal of the HMV driving licences **Page 2**

**Victim of cybercrime**

Karnataka MP Shobha Karandlaje loses ₹15.62 lakh from her salary account to cybercriminals **Page 3**

**Keeping up with Alia Bhatt**

A conversation on *Gully Boy*, trolls, and Hollywood with the young face of an alternate Bollywood **Page 5**

**Beyond panic buttons**

We can't treat the issue of women's safety as merely a problem for technology to solve **Page 6**

IN BRIEF

Got call nearly two hours after blaze erupted: fire dept

Karol Bagh hotel flouted safety rules by installing wooden staircase and fibre-laden walls which led to the spread of fire, say firefighters

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

The Fire Department claimed that there was a delay of more than an hour in calling the authorities after Hotel Arpit Palace caught fire in the early hours of Tuesday.

"The fire started around 2.30 a.m.- 3 a.m., but the hotel staff made the call around 4.30 a.m. They first tried to douse the flame themselves. If they had called us before, there might have been less casualties," claimed Deputy Chief Fire Officer Sunil Chawdhary.

The officer also said that it is suspected that the hotel also flouted fire safety norms by installing a wooden staircase and fibre-laden walls across four floors which led to the fire spread, preventing people on the upper floors to reach the exit on the ground floor. "They had a No-Objection Certificate from the Fire Department but it seems they did a few renovations after getting the NOC. The matter will be investigated," he said.

Recalling the hours of rescue operation, Mr. Chawdhary said that as the fire spread in the staircase and corridors, the team could not get inside the hotel where guests were trapped. "We used the hydraulic lifts to rescue people from top floors. The team could only go inside once the fire was doused," he said.

When the officers went inside, many people were found dead. "It seems that they tried to come out of their rooms but went inside because of the smoke. Some of them were found holding hands, some of them [bodies] were found under the table sitting," he said.

Jammed windows
Mr. Chawdhary claimed that the emergency exit at the



A view of the charred rooftop of Hotel Arpit Palace in Karol Bagh where a massive fire broke out killing 17 people on Tuesday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

Past incidents

JANUARY 23, 1986

37 killed at Siddharth Hotel in Vasant Vihar

JUNE 13, 1997

59 died at Uphaar Cinema in Green Park

NOVEMBER 20, 2011

18 died during a eunuchs' conference in a community hall in Nand Nagri

JANUARY 20, 2018

17 died at a factory in Bawana

back of the hotel could not be opened by guests and they could also not open the windows as they were jammed. "All the windows were tightly closed, therefore, there was no ventilation. When they tried to open, they couldn't. The fire team broke the windows to rescue people and also opened the emergency exit," he said.

Initial enquiry by guests and inspection also revealed that the sockets and plug points were loose and sprin-

kers were either missing or were not functioning, a fire officer said. A fire officer who did not wish to be named also claimed that the hotel was running three kitchens, including one in basement and one on the rooftop which is illegal. The most affected were the third, fourth floors and the rooftop where there was wooden furniture.

Hotel was up for auction
Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Mandeep Singh Randhawa said the

documents have been seized and whether the restaurants were running legally will be probed. A fire officer also mentioned that they had trouble reaching the spot because the area was barricaded from entry points and they had to remove the barricades themselves as there were allegedly no police officers present at the time.

It has been learnt that the hotel was put up for auction by a State-run bank last year.

SEE ALSO ► PAGE 3

Hotel did not inform of fire initially, claims guest on official tour

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 58-year-old resident of Ahmedabad who had landed in Delhi on Monday morning and checked into the hotel around 9 a.m. said that the staff did not inform the people that a fire had broke out in the hotel.

Dilip Trivedi, an employee of an FMCG company, was

on an official tour and was staying on the first floor of the hotel.

Recalling the incident, he said that it was around 3 a.m. that he heard noise outside his room and went outside. "The staffers might have knocked but because the rooms are so close to each other, I thought they knocked at someone else's

door. Nobody said there was a fire till the noise outside increased," he said.

Mr. Trivedi went outside and heard people mentioning that a fire broke out in the hotel. "There was also a lot of smoke. I quickly rushed to the ground floor. There was no fire on the staircase till then," he said.

When he exited the hotel,

he saw the third and fourth floor were up in flames and was eventually spreading to the rooftop. "People were shouting for help. They couldn't come down. They were trapped. Some of them jumped also," he said.

While Mr. Trivedi managed to bring his luggage out after the rescue operation, he claimed to have lost two

of his mobile phones.

Many returned to get their luggage and documents and were accommodated in nearby hotels. "We'll not charge them. It's a huge tragedy and who cares about money in such a situation.

We are just glad they are safe," said a manager of a nearby hotel who did not wish to be named.

Deaths have occurred due to suffocation and burn injuries, four bodies beyond recognition, say doctors

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Panic, grief and disbelief loomed large outside Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital's mortuary on Tuesday morning where the post-mortem of the 13 bodies were under way after they were rushed to the hospital following the Karol Bagh hotel fire which left 17 dead and three injured.

The cordoned mortuary area saw heavy police deployment with a small information counter set up right outside that had photographs of the deceased for identification.

Paperwork counter
The counter also handled the paperwork for handing over the bodies to their relatives. Ambulances and stretchers lined the mortuary unit even as bewildered relatives sat with hospital and police authorities trying to identify the bodies from whatever little remained of the deceased.

Yogesh Tyagi, Head of Forensic Department, Ram Manohar Lohia said, "We received 13 bodies this morning from the Karol Bagh fire accident. Of this, nine were partially burnt and are in a state to be identified but four bodies are beyond recognition."

He added that deaths have occurred due to suffocation and burn injuries.

Hard to identify

The people who have died

and were brought to RML include three from Kerala, two from Tamil Nadu, one from Patna, two persons from

Myanmar.

"The mortuary is full and we have a very difficult task of helping the relatives identify the bodies. Some of them are charred beyond recognition.

One family has identified their relatives with the help of bangles and neck chain that they were wear-

ing," said a hospital staff.

The mother of Pranav Kumar Bhaskar, 32, from Bihar broke down as soon as she identified her son. "I have no one left," she cried refusing to be consoled.

Bhaskar is survived by two children.

"We don't know how to live

again in this lifetime."

parents sitting outside the post-mortem room.

Several other relatives were seen rushing in to identify the bodies. "This is a very tough time for everyone,"

said a mortuary staff adding

that he would "never want to

see another Tuesday like this ever again in this lifetime."

Pall of gloom: Police personnel and hospital officials help families of victims; (right) an inconsolable relative outside the mortuary at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital on Tuesday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

A trip to the Attari border with her family will now remain an unfulfilled dream for Nalini (83) and her children – Jayshree (53) and Vidya Sagar (55) – who were among the 17 people who died in Hotel Arpit Palace, Karol Bagh fire on Tuesday morning.

A call about the fire was received at 4.35 a.m. and 24 fire tenders were rushed to the spot, a senior officer from the Delhi Fire Service (DFS) said.

Thirteen people were brought dead to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital while four others were taken to two other hospitals in the same area. A short circuit is suspected to be the cause of the fire that broke out here.

Doctors said the three bodies were charred and that most deaths took place due to suffocation.

The family was identified by their relatives from the jewellery that the victims were wearing. "The bodies will now be taken back to Wagh border today at 5.30 a.m. on a tour bus," he said.

"We believe that the mother was in the toilet when the electricity went off and when the three came out to check hearing the chaos, they realised that something was amiss. The survivors told us the three of them were staying on the second floor but could not manage to escape," he said.

They said wooden paneling in the corridors of the hotel contributed to the quick spread of the fire. Other members of the family were staying in other hotels in the same area.

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IN BRIEF



Lekhi raises Delhi poll roll issue in Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI
The Delhi government is playing "politics of deception" on the issue of electoral rolls and action needs to be taken, BJP leader Meenakshi Lekhi said in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. "Many people are getting calls that their names have been deleted from the voter list. To their surprise it turns out to be false when they check," she said during the Zero Hour. This kind of "fraud" is taking place and police have filed a case but no action is being taken, she said. "How the politics of deception is being played by Delhi government is for everyone to see," she said. PTI

'52 ventilators in govt hospitals not working'

NEW DELHI
The AAP government has informed the Delhi High Court that of the 400 ventilator beds in hospitals under its control, 52 are not functional and efforts are being made to repair them. The Delhi government has said that the hospitals have been asked to repair the ventilators or procure new ones at the earliest. The submission came in a report filed through additional standing counsel Satyakam in response to the court's query regarding the status of ventilators available in government hospitals. PTI

School heads told to follow advisory on video games

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Acting on an advisory issued by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights on violent video games causing harmful, negative and adverse impact on the brain of the children, the Directorate of Education has asked all heads of schools to follow the advisory in "letter and spirit".

The advisory had said that some violent video games which are available on iOS/android platform and console platforms like PUBG, Fortnite, Grand Theft Auto Series, God of War, Hitman Series, Plague Inc and Pokemon are causing "harmful, negative and adverse impact on the brain of the children".

All the heads of schools have been asked to sensitise students and staff about the adverse impacts of such games during morning assembly and putting the information on school notice boards.

"The above advisory shall also be discussed during PTMs/SMC meetings. EVGs and SMC members are also to be involved in sensitising the students and parents in this regard," the circular said.

Non-renewal of HMV licences renders Nuh drivers jobless

Authorities claim that licences were procured illegally without meeting conditions

ASHOK KUMAR
NUH

Drivers from across the district on an indefinite dharna against non-renewal of HMV licences in Nuh for the last two years, on Tuesday. ■ ASHOK KUMAR

Mohammad Isral, a BPL card holder, had been working as a truck driver to support a family of ten for the last 15 years. The 47-year-old has been rendered jobless since April last year after the Road Transport Authority, Nuh, did not renew his Heavy Motor Vehicles (HMV) driving licence.

A resident of Ferozepur Namak, Isral said that he procured the licence from Gurugram RTA in 2005 and got it duly renewed all these years. He had deposited the licence renewal fee of ₹780, but has been facing problem in renewing it.

Tired of running from pillar to post, Isral has now decided to sit on an indefinite dharna called by the Mewat Vikas Sabha, a social organisation, over the non-renewal of the HMV driving licences, along with the other drivers from the area.

Jakir Hussain, a resident of Machrioli village, has been visiting the RTA office in Nuh after his HMV licence got expired on January 7 this year. "The HMV licence needs to be renewed every three years. I got my licence renewed four times from Gurugram and two times from Nuh after it became a district. But now the authorities are creating a problem," said Hussain. He claimed that he had procured his licence from Gurugram RTA in 2000.

Sahaleri resident Sahun,

another driver on the dharna, said the middlemen in Gurugram assured to get their licences renewed from Gurugram RTA, but were asking for a bribe of ₹25,000-30,000. "I am a poor man. I cannot afford to pay so much. But many have paid after their licences could not be renewed in Nuh. Some have even got their licences renewed from other States," said Sahun.

30,000 licences pending
All India Mewati Samaj president Ramzan Chaudhary said as per estimates, around 30,000 licences could be pending before the Nuh RTA over the last two years affecting the livelihood of the people. "Nuh being one of the most backward districts in the country, the literacy rate is very low here. A majority of the population depends on agriculture and takes up

driving as a profession to earn their livelihood. The non-renewal of licences has resulted in financial crisis for thousands of families," said Mr. Chaudhary, who was the former president of Mewat Vikas Sabha.

Seeks solution
Mr. Chaudhary said that if the people had fallen prey to middlemen in procuring licences without meeting the conditions, the authorities should now work out some solution. "Most of these people are illiterate. But are expert drivers. The government authorities can test their driving capabilities and issue them fresh licences by giving them some concession in minimum educational qualification," he suggested.

Additional Deputy Commissioner-cum-Secretary, RTA, Nuh, Vikram Singh, told *The Hindu* that most of these

drivers had procured the licences from Agra through illegal means and without meeting the conditions. "To be eligible for HMV licence as per the present day conditions, one must hold a Light Motor Vehicle licence at least for a year, besides having studied up to Class VIII and completed a month's training.

The condition of LMV licence existed when they procured licences, but most of them do not have LMV licence. I have written to the headquarters in this connection seeking further clarification," said the officer.

A spokesperson of Minister Rao Inderjit Singh said that the Minister had verbally raised the issue with Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari in a meeting recently and the latter had assured to speak to Haryana government in this regard.

Prevented from holding meeting on EWS quota, says JNU admin

Claims students, teachers blocked access to venue

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Jawaharlal Nehru University administration on Tuesday said that it was prevented from holding an emergency meeting of the Academic Council at the Convention Center as JNTUA office bearers and some "self-styled student leaders blocked the entry to the venue".

The meeting was called to adopt the 'Government of India Policy on Reservation for Economically Weaker Sections for admission in Central Educational Institutions'.

The administration had to eventually hold the meeting in an alternative venue and passed the agenda so that the "interest of hundreds of thousands of student aspirants were not hampered by a handful of agitators".

"The Academic Council meeting was called as per regulations M1-3(2) concerning conduct of meetings of the council which says: The V-C may authorise convening of an emergency meeting of the council at short notice to consider issues of special importance or urgency," said the university.

The JNU Teachers' Association (JNTUA), however, alleged that the meeting was called in violation of the same rule.

Demands rescheduling
The JNTUA organised a protest at the Convention Centre demanding the rescheduling of the meeting and said that more than 20 members of



Members of JNUSU and JNTUA protesting outside the Convention Centre on Tuesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the Academic Council had already written to the Registrar demanding the meeting to be rescheduled.

The members of JNTUA said that the Academic Council is being called only to discuss the adoption of a policy of reservation for EWS, for which the JNU administration has not provided adequate papers. "Agenda papers do not share any information about the sources for providing additional funds for the expansion of infrastructure and faculty and staff strength in case a 25% expansion in admissions are implemented," the JNTUA said.

It added that unlike what was the case when 27% reservations for OBCs were introduced, the policy of reservation in admissions for EWS flows not from an Act of Parliament but from an Office Memorandum issued by the MHRD and dutifully forwarded by the UGC.

"Urgency cannot be cited as a pretext for short circuiting democratic deliberations on this matter and not discuss in detail how best this

new policy may be harmonised with the JNU Act and existing admission policy," the JNTUA said.

The administration said that JNTUA and JNUSU office bearers are not full members of the Academic Council and are only special invitees. It added that currently, there is no legally notified JNUSU as the elected office bearers have failed to submit their election bills and it is these people who sought to disrupt the meeting.

JNU administration in a statement said that it condemns in strongest terms the behaviour of JNTUA office bearers and the student leaders for their unruly behaviour towards both the external members and the Deans and Center Chairs of the JNU. "They seem to be interested only in creating disruptions in the functioning of the university and damage its good standing in the public eye. The meeting was held at the alternative venue and passed the agenda items after due deliberations and discussions," said the statement.

IIT-D launches fellowships for foreign students

Institute hopes to provide 500 PhD fellowships over the next five years

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

In an effort to attract more meritorious International students to the IIT Delhi Campus, the institute on Tuesday launched an International PhD Fellowship Programme (IPFP). The programme is an initiative that the institute has taken after being recognised as an Institution of Eminence by the Government of India.



vide 500 PhD fellowships over the next 5 years.

Generating new ideas

Speaking at the launch of the initiative, Director of IIT Delhi, V. Rangopal Rao, said: "that having meritorious PhD students coming to IIT Delhi from all over the world

will not only enhance the quality of research happening at IIT Delhi but will also help India develop its soft power across the world. The cultural diversity that will happen because of this step will go a long way in generating new research ideas."

Dean of Academics, IIT Delhi, Bhim Singh, said that the initiative would see a larger mix of international students leading to more diverse PhD research that will help address both global problems and more specifically problems of the developing world.

28 academic units
Foreign students can apply for PhD in 28 academic units

at IITD. This includes: Applied Mechanics, Atmospheric Sciences, Biochemical Engineering and Biotechnology, Biological Sciences, Biomedical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Design, Electrical Engineering, Information Technology, and Public Policy among others.

The institute said that focus on internationalisation was one of the core strategic pillars of its vision for advancing knowledge through high impact research and teaching and IPFP would encourage the meritorious foreign students to join IIT Delhi for PhD.

PIL opposing Ministers using govt funds for polls junks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday declined to entertain a PIL opposing the practice of Ministers, at State as well as national level, using the government machinery and funds in election campaigns for their parties.

A Bench of Chief Justice

Rajendra Menon and Justice V.K. Rao dismissed the petition saying it pertained to guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India (EC) and asked the petitioner to approach the poll panel.

"Go to the Election Commission. We are not entertaining it. Dismissed," the court said.

The order came on a plea by B.R. Harish Babu who had contended that once elected to power, the Ministers, whether at the Centre or in States, owed allegiance to the citizens of the country and not to their respective political parties.

In his petition, he had also

claimed that the Election Commission's "Model Code of Conduct guidelines specifically provide that the State government and the Central government shall not misutilise any public funds nor make use of the government machinery for the purpose of election rally and campaigning."

For squatting on floor of metro coaches, commuters fined over ₹67 lakh in 2018

Registers a 230% jump from the amount collected for the same offence in 2017

SHINJINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI

In 2018, the Delhi Metro collected over ₹67 lakh from commuters found sitting on the floor of metro coaches, an RTI response to a query filed by *The Hindu* has revealed.

The Delhi Metro has a list of offences for which metro station managers can penalise commuters. Passengers found squatting on the floor of metro coaches are fined ₹200. Data from the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) revealed that the amount collected in fines for the offence saw a 230% jump between 2017 and 2018.

Last year, the DMRC collected ₹67,19,000 from over 33,000 passengers found squatting on the floor of metro coaches; in 2017,

₹20,31,000 was collected from over 10,000 commuters for the same offence.

also conducted to ensure reduction in violation of rules.

Awareness drives

"To ensure that passengers follow the rules and regulations inside metro premises for a smooth and convenient travel, the Delhi Metro makes regular announcements inside trains and stations. Regular drives are also carried out to counsel errant passengers and realise penalties for offences such as squatting, spitting, nuisance, travelling with undervalued tokens and so on," said a Delhi Metro official.

The amount collected for 'spitting and creating nuisance' in 2018 was ₹19.48 lakh from around 9,700 passengers; in 2017, ₹13.06 lakh was collected from over 10,000 commuters.

Ticketless travel
Fines collected for travelling without a ticket saw an 8% hike. In 2017, the DMRC collected ₹39.77 lakh from commuters for the offence; in 2018, it collected ₹43.20 lakh.

Delhi Metro officials said that apart from announcements inside coaches and stations, regular drives are

further, the data revealed that ₹6.62 lakh was collected from commuters for entering the coaches reserved for women in 2017. In 2018, ₹7.45 lakh was collected in fines for the same offence – a hike of 12%.

"Earlier, violators detected by the DMRC flying squads were counselled before producing them to the Metropolitan Magistrates. However, as there is only one Magistrate having the jurisdiction of imposing fines, the DMRC has now granted power to one metro personnel at each metro station, for imposition of fines," said a DMRC official.

In 2017, the DMRC collected ₹80,75,320 in fines; in 2018, the total was ₹1,39,30,900 – an over 72% increase.

Costly affair

Amount in fines collected from passengers in 2017 and 2018:

FOR SQUATTING ON THE FLOOR



FOR DEFACING METRO PROPERTY



TICKETLESS TRAVEL



SPITTING AND CREATING NUISANCE



SOURCE: RTI REPLY BY DMRC ■ 2018

BND-NDE

IN BRIEF



Plea in HC against national awardees appearing in ads

NEW DELHI
A plea has been moved in the Delhi High Court questioning whether national award recipients, like Sachin Tendulkar, can be allowed to participate in private advertisements for commercial gains. The Bench has listed the matter for hearing on February 26. PTI

No response from States on breastfeeding rooms: HC

NEW DELHI
The Centre has informed the Delhi High Court that it has requested all the States and UTs to set up separate feeding rooms for ensuring privacy for mothers and their babies in public places but none of them has responded yet. The court was hearing a PIL filed on behalf of a mother seeking facilities for breastfeeding in public places. PTI

AVUT convener seeks Surakshit Bharat before Swachh Bharat

Krishnamoorthy says DFS cannot be blamed as they are working with half the manpower

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI

Wooden panelling on the staircase, an illegally constructed sixth floor with temporary ceiling composed of flammable material and an unmanned fire exit ostensibly locked from the outside, together led to the fire tragedy, said Association of Victims of Uphaar Tragedy (AVUT) convener Neelam Krishnamoorthy.

The fire at a Karol Bagh hotel here early on Tuesday claimed 17 lives.

Ms. Krishnamoorthy, who lost both her children in the fire at Uphaar cinema in 1997, said fire safety norms being

+ Govt opposes parole plea of Jigisha murder case convict

Says Ravi Kapoor might misuse the relief and abscond



Jigisha Ghosh was killed on March 18, 2009, at 4 a.m. in Vasant Vihar. ■

He is also facing trial in the 2008 murder of TV journalist Soumya Viswanathan.

Murder convict Ravi Kapoor, in custody since March 2009, has approached the court seeking parole for three months to take proper medical treatment as he was suffering from life-threatening disease and for surgery of chronic sinus.

Bad conduct in prison
Highlighting Kapoor's record in jail, the State government in its report said his conduct in prison is not good and he has been given 41 punishments on various counts, including misbehaviour.

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Seminar on "War, Memories and National Identity: Assessing the Role of War in the Evolution of Modern Indian Identity" by Muhammed Kunhi, Research Associate, ICS at Seminar Room, Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), 8/17, Sri Ram Road, Civil Lines, 2:30 p.m.

Talk: 10th N.K. Bose Memorial Lecture: "The Buddha as an Institution Builder" by Prof. Shailendra Raj Mehta (President and Director, Mudra Institute of Communications, Ahmedabad (MICA), Lecture Hall, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), 11, Mansingh Road, 4 p.m.

Music: One-on-One: Motifs and Melodies. A series of musical interactions and exchanges between veteran guitarist Deepak Castelino and sarod exponent Pritam Ghosal at Amritas Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Hampi Temples," a painting show by Balu Sadagave at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 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)

Hotel fire: foreign nationals, IRS officer, chef among the dead

The chef, who is survived by wife and 4 kids, was the sole breadwinner, say kin

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

Around 80 people were staying at Hotel Arpit Palace and most of the rooms were booked, which was quite rare for the establishment, said locals. On Tuesday, 17 people, including foreign nationals, lost their lives when the Karol Bagh hotel caught fire.

Three Myanmar nationals who died in the tragedy had come to the city on Monday, said their acquaintance, Gyandeep, a monk from Tripura.

On a pilgrimage

He said the group was on a pilgrimage across India. "They were eight people in the group, including a photographer, assigned by their travel agent from Burma. Three of them have died, including the photographer.



A foreign national enquires about a missing relative at RML Hospital in New Delhi on Tuesday. ■ AFP

One woman is injured and the other four are fine," he said. The acquaintance said the group had plans to visit a place of worship in New Delhi's Sant Nagar near Iskon Temple. "The injured woman - Chan Mya Mya Nyein - jumped from the second floor to save herself. She sustained a spinal injury," he said.

An IRS officer deployed as an assistant commissioner at

the Income Tax Department, Suresh Kumar, who was staying at the hotel for nearly two years, died in the tragedy.

His family resides in Panchkula while he was posted in Delhi. "It was his wedding anniversary today [Tuesday]. He used to stay at the hotel for four days and go home over the weekend. He would also come and stay with us at

times. We have been told that he jumped to save himself and died on the spot," said Anubhav, Kumar's nephew.

The victim is survived by his wife and a son, who is pursuing graduation in Bengaluru, the family said.

Sole breadwinner Tara Ram, chef at the hotel, also died in the fire. His brother-in-law Virendra said Ram was working at the hotel for nearly two years and used to reside with his family in Shadipur's Baljeet Nagar.

"He has four children, including two daughters. His eldest son is about 10 years old. How will the wife manage now?" he said, adding that they had told his wife that he was injured.

The family has been told that Ram from Uttarakhand had jumped from the building to save himself.

Over ₹15 lakh missing from BJP MP's salary account, probe on

No alert messages on the transactions made, says Karandlaje

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

Member of Parliament from Karnataka, Shobha Karandlaje, allegedly lost ₹15.62 lakh from her salary account to cybercriminals, the police said on Tuesday.

Ms. Karandlaje approached North Avenue police station with a complaint on Tuesday.

She stated that last week when she got her salary account entry book updated, she found that ₹15.62 lakh was missing.

The account was hacked and multiple transactions were made in December 2018 on several instances, she said.

"It was shocking for me because usually, I get SMS alerts of transactions but this huge amount was sys-



The account was hacked and multiple transactions were made in December 2018 on several instances
SHOBHA KARANDLAJE
MP from Karnataka

phoned off from my account and I did not get a single message alert," said Ms. Karandlaje.

She is a BJP MP from Udupi Chikmagalur constituency in Karnataka.

We are getting the details of the transactions from the bank to find out whether the transactions were done in the country or from outside the country," said a police officer.

Similar incident

On November 22, the Press Secretary to the President, Ashok Malik, lost ₹1.38 lakh to credit card fraudsters while he was in Australia for a week-long visit with President Ram Nath Kovind.

60-year-old doctor found dead near his house in Mukherjee Nagar

He had injuries on neck, chest; left practice 9 years ago

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 60-year-old doctor was found dead under mysterious circumstances near his home in north-west Delhi's Mukherjee Nagar on Tuesday morning.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North-West) Vijayanta Arya said Vipin Bajaj was found dead in a pool of blood in a narrow lane adjacent to his house.

"Most establishments like restaurants and pubs are trying to utilise three to four feet of space, which should be for fire exits to set up an extra table or two instead of for emergencies...In this case, I believe, even the fire exit was locked from outside...an emergency can occur any time. And what about the NOC from the DFS? Did the inspectors not see the wooden paneling as a hazard?" she added.

spot, the team found the doctor lying dead with injuries on the neck and chest.

On Tuesday, his wife who was sleeping in the adjacent room with their daughter, went to Bajaj's room to ask him for tea.

after which the police were informed.
The family lived on the second floor, the police said.

Cause of death

"We are investigating the case. We have also procured CCTV footage of the area to get any clue. We will also speak to family members. It is not clear whether Bajaj jumped off the balcony or he was murdered," said Ms. Arya.

Bajaj was a government doctor but left the practice around nine years back. He is survived by his wife and a daughter.

Trash to treasure



Eking out a living: Two boys look for valuables on the banks of the Yamuna in New Delhi. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

Air quality plummets to 'very poor'

May show some improvement by Thursday, says SAFAR



The level of PM2.5 was recorded at 179 and the PM10 level was at 301 on Tuesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The Centre-run System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting (SAFAR), said air quality is expected to improve on Thursday due to scattered rain.

"Expected western dis-

turbance is visible in eastern Afghanistan as cyclonic circulation. It is expected to have an impact by Thursday... will improve air quality substantially to 'moderate' by February 14," it said.

Govt fined ₹5 lakh for failing to curb noise pollution

Green panel says neither a 24-hour helpline nor public redressal has been set up

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal on Tuesday rapped the Delhi government for its failure to check noise pollution in west Delhi and slapped a fine of ₹5 lakh on it for non-compliance of its order.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel noted that more than four months have passed since its September 27, 2018 order and none of its directions have been complied.

Within a week

The tribunal directed the Aam Aadmi Party government to deposit the fine amount with the Central Pollution Control Board within



a week.

"We are satisfied that the authorities failed to comply with the orders of the tribunal," the Bench said after perusing a quarterly report on the noise pollution in Rajouri Garden.

The green panel said that neither a dedicated 24-hour helpline nor a public redressal mechanism has been devised for receiving com-

plaints by SMS, telephone or e-mails.

It also noted that even the DCP and the SDM have not held joint weekly meeting to review the situation.

The green panel was hearing a plea filed by Hardeep Singh and others alleging that bars and restaurants in Rajouri Garden area were using loudspeakers and DJ systems during weddings, receptions, parties and other functions and causing noise pollution from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

"They are also operating bars, restaurants, arranging parties, marriages etc., in the said area. The noise emanating from the loudspeakers, musical systems, DJ sets, etc., disturbs the residents," the plea said.

OPPORTUNITIES

WEDNESDAY • FEBRUARY 13, 2019

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

Flexible working hours, a key consideration

53% of the employees interviewed for a survey say they will take a pay cut in exchange for a remote-working arrangement

Going by the findings of a survey by job site Indeed, the demand and need for remote-working are on the increase. Nearly 83% of the employees surveyed feel that a company's remote working policy is important while they are searching for a job.

According to the release, employees across sectors believe that being able to work remotely allowed them to achieve better work-life balance and that it reduces stress and improves morale.

More than 50% of employees said flexibility at work made them more productive workers.

The release said that a majority of the companies were looking at adopting remote working policies to attract and retain the best of talent. Almost all the surveyed companies (99%) had invested in technology such as video conferencing tools, laptops, smart phones, Slack (searchable log of all conversation and knowledge) to make remote working more accessible to their employees, it added.

However, a small minority of the employers surveyed (2%) said they discontinued remote working options as it hindered collaboration.

Hackathon for hiring

DBS is inviting applicants for the sixth edition of its hackathon – Hack2Hire – based on the theme 'Intelligent banking'.

Through the event, the digital bank plans to hire over 100 people in emerging technologies such as Cloud Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Big Data, says a release.

According to a press release, Hack2Hire will be expanding to include chaos and platform stability engineers, mobile app developers, full stack developers, DevOps engineers, QA engineers, UI/UX developers and scrum masters.

For details, visit www.dbs.com/hack2hire/index.html

GENERAL



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1. B.Tech (with 60% marks) or equivalent with 12-15 years, OR M.Tech or equivalent with 10-15 years, R&D/teaching or professional experience in a reputed organisation or institute.

2. Total professional experience should include at least 5 years' experience in planning, project supervision and administration of scientific or other projects.

Desirable: Post graduate qualification in Management/ Business Administration.

Age: Not more than 50 years, on the last date of application, subject to permissible relaxation as per Government norms.

Persons with good leadership quality and drive for initiating and executing innovative action plans for the organisation will only be selected.

Details are given in www.cdit.org/careers. Applications can be submitted online through www.careers.cdit.org. Last date of submission - 27.02.2019

Sd/- Director

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान भुवनेश्वर INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BHUBANESWAR

Advertisement No. Rectt/01/2019

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GENERAL



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A Ph.D. degree with first class in B.E. / B.Tech. & M.E. / M.Tech. in the appropriate branch of Engineering & Technology / M.Sc. (in the relevant field) / M.A. (in the relevant field) / MBA

Professor - A minimum of 15 years of experience in teaching / industry / research as evidenced by research papers in reputed journals / patents of which at least 5 years should be in teaching at the level of Professor. (Retired Professors can also apply)

Associate Professor - A minimum of 12 years of experience in teaching / industry / research as evidenced by research papers in reputed journals / patents

Assistant Professor - A minimum of 5 years of experience in teaching / industry / research as evidenced by research papers in reputed journals / patents.

2. Assistant Professor (Agriculture / English / Physics / Chemistry / Mathematics / Media & Communication / Commerce / Management Studies / Computer Science / Criminology)

First class in their Masters Degree with Ph.D. and considerable teaching / research / industry experience with NET/SLET qualification.

3. Lab Technician (Agriculture / Mechanical Engineering / Aerospace - Engineering / Civil Engineering / Media & Communication / English)

Agriculture - B.Sc. (Agriculture / Horticulture / Botany / Chemistry / Biotechnology) with computer knowledge in MS-Office for handling the labs of Soil Sciences, Crop Physiology, Genetics and Horticulture.

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A Ph.D. degree with first class in B.Sc. / B.A. & M.Sc. / M.A. in Visual Communication / Mass Communication with minimum of 12 years of experience in teaching / industry / research as evidenced by research papers in reputed journals / patents / consultancy.

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Candidates 8th grade qualified in any one of the instruments like Piano / Violin / Drum. 8th grade in Theory of Music or Vocal from Trinity School of Music or Royal School of Music is an added advantage. Experience in performing and conducting choir is preferred.

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15. Office Assistant

Any degree, preferably MBA with computer knowledge in MS Office. He should be familiar with drafting letters, preparing minutes, record notes of the meetings. Age up to 35 years can apply. Proficiency in Tamil and English is required. Knowledge in additional language is an advantage.

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File No. Estt./Misc./001/2019

Date: 6th February, 2019

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The young face of an alternate Bollywood, she is hard to pin down these days. When we finally do, it turns into a conversation on *Gully Boy*, trolls, and Hollywood



Alia Bhatt

RUTWIK NAKHWA

At 25, Alia Bhatt is living the dream. With multiple box-office hits and critical successes behind her, she has three diverse releases this year: Zoya Akhtar's *Gully Boy*, Abhishek Verma's *Kalank*, and Ayan Mukerji's *Brahmastra*.

A couple of weeks ago, I'd seen her sharing the stage with some of Mumbai's finest hip-hop artists, at *Gully Boy*'s music launch, before an electrified 10,000-strong audience. This week, an interaction with her has me going on what seems like a wild goose chase, from Prabhadevi to Goregaon's Westin hotel and finally to Film City, to the sets of *The Kapil Sharma Show*.

At the *Gully Boy* concert, she'd formed an instant connect with the

Stills from the film, (above and below) Alia, with Ranveer Singh, at *Gully Boy*'s music launch



crowd, addressing them in Mumbai's patois – Hindi laced with street slang. With Kapil Sharma, she was disarming, joking with the host about a possible 'Funny Boy' sequel. In contrast, Westin's modern glass-metal architecture, where the planned press interaction was to happen, preclude any possibility of warmth and intimacy. As the minutes excruciatingly turn into hours, I wonder if I'm waiting for Alia or Godot?

The experimenter

I finally catch up with her – dressed in a strappy pink-beige button-down dress – in her new 'moving home' designed by Gauri Khan. Charming and warm, she is in perfect control, issuing orders to her team as I feel off my questions. Alia has maintained a similar balance in her acting career, essaying roles in mainstream entertainers – *Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania* or her début, as leading lady in *Student of the Year* (she appeared as a child star in *Sangharsh*) – and gritty takes in *Highway*, *Udaan* and *Raazi*.

She is among the new crop of young Bollywood actors, like Rajkummar Rao, Ayushmann Khurana, Taapsee Pannu and Vicky Kaushal, who are straddling mainstream and independent cinema with equal ease. "I genuinely believe balance is important. For my sanity and satisfaction, I like to do both 'mainstream' and 'non'", she shares.

In *Gully Boy* she plays Safiyya, a young Bombay ("Mumbaiya"), she playfully corrects me girl from the other end of the social spectrum. Safiyya is an ambitious medical student from a conservative family, who is "over expressive... has a kind of cute but psycho feeling, but there is a lot of sensitivity to her". Her description makes me wonder about the similarities between the actor and her character. "She is very clear about what she wants in life. So am I, career-wise and personally, and I'll do everything to achieve it. That's the only commonality."

Tackling trolls

With parents – filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt and actor Soni Razdan – who are stalwarts in the film industry, Alia grew up in the public eye. Does stardom get overwhelming? "It is a different life that you lead and I can't compare it to anything else because it's the only life I've led. But it's not normal," she says, before quickly switching the word "normal" with "regular" – "which is also the wrong word".

What she can agree on, however, is the pressure that actors face, of 24/7 scrutiny on social media platforms. Trolling is in vogue – she was on the receiving end after she named Prithviraj Chauhan the president of India on season four of *Koffee*

Style Forward

For someone who is constantly experimenting with her style, Alia is neither brand or designer conscious. "I believe in wearing anything you are comfortable in," she says.

Interiors is another passion. Her home has been covered by *Architectural Digest* and recently, her vanity van, in which we met, made headlines too. It feels like an extension of her personality, mixing work and play in equal measure:

pastel tones, metallic walls that reflect mood lighting, wooden

flooring, Victorian era lamps. Alia has also bought a new house that she is converting into an office space.

"I love anything home related and doing up homes and places,"

she says.

with Karan and, more recently, dating Ranbir Kapoor has also provided grit – but her mantra now is ignorance is bliss. With 27.8 million followers on Instagram and over a million on Facebook, she says, "While there is love, there will be some hate too. As much as possible, you have to let it affect you." Nowadays she often introduces herself in public appearances stating, "My superpower is that I don't know the name of the president". "It really gets people laughing and that makes me happy," she shares.

A good rap

Alia prepared for her role in *Gully Boy* with an intensive workshop with Zoya Akhtar, co-actor Vijay Raaz and workshop director, Atul Mongia. It involved nailing the dialect and improvising Safiyya's reactions. "Zoya corrected and I reacted. In three days, we had the character painted out and we went on sets," she says.

For Akhtar, this was her first time working with Alia, and the director says the actor "was painless", adding, "She is so diligent, so thorough. We met a couple of times, did readings. She came to sets on time, did her thing; you didn't even notice when she walked in and out. She is a great actor to collaborate with."

Meanwhile, ever since *Gully Boy*'s album release, there's been a wave of appreciation for its eclectic music. Alia herself is in thrall. "The music seems like it's a revolution. It's totally raw, new, and the stories are hard truths. I feel it could be a very important footprint on the sands of our cinema, and that is crucial when you're setting out to make a mark," says the actor, who sang in films like *Highway* and *Udaan*.

Since she doesn't rap in the film, she didn't bond with the rappers like co-star Ranveer Singh did. But she did hang out with them on sets and in the dubbing studio. "I love their vibe and what they've brought to the film. I listen to the music every morning, so Ranveer has totally rubbed off on me," she smiles. The film is inspired by the lives of rappers Divine and Naezy and Mumbai's hip-hop community.

Hollywood calling

Alia calls Hollywood a "dream", "a hope", something she'd like to venture into. "But baby steps! I am not leaping into it," she says. "The Indian film industry is big enough to try and make a mark in. First I'll try and find my feet here and then swim over there."

Gully Boy releases in theatres on February 14.



POOCH CAFE



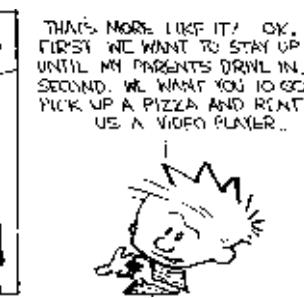
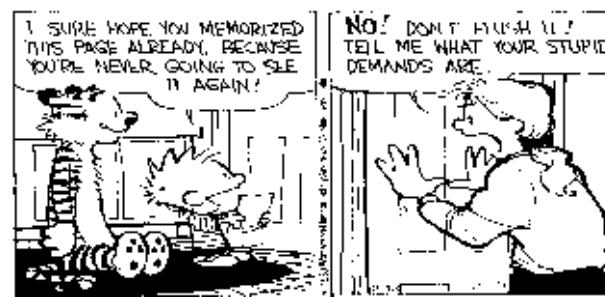
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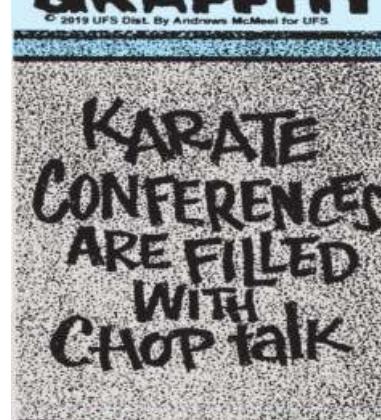
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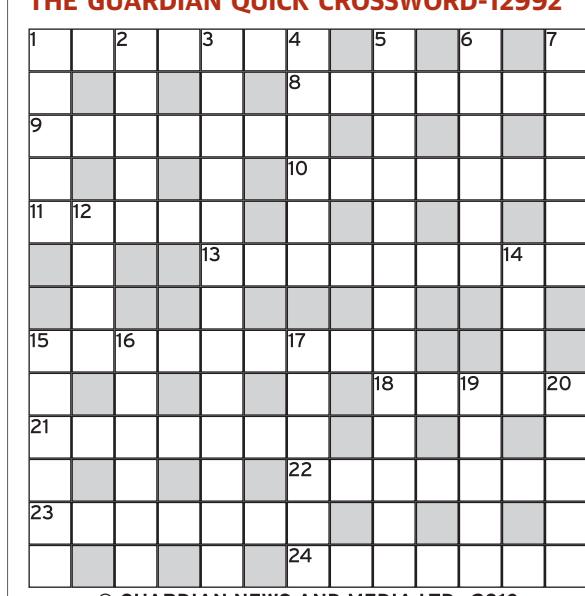
TIGER



GRAFFITI



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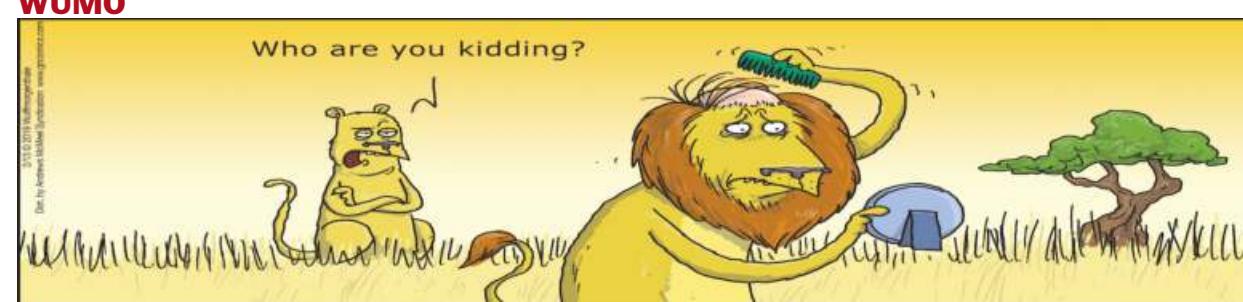
- 4 Human forearm
- bone (6)
- 5 Watford's county
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- 14 Observed (4)
- 15 Tool for cutting
- grain (6)
- 16 Edible nut (6)
- 17 Have to do with (6)
- 19 In the lead (5)
- 20 Engaged in an
- activity, but not
- seriously (5)

Solution will appear in Delhi Metro dated February 14, 2019.

Solution No. 12991

P	H	I	S	I	C	I	A	N	C	O	O	L
A	A	A	A	A	A	A	M	M	M	M	M	M
P	R	I	V	I	L	E	G	E	M	E	M	E
A	S	E	C	L	S	S	C	C	T	T	T	T
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T	A	I	G	I	G	I	O	O	O	O	O	O
O	U	T	I	N	M	R	U	R	R	R	R	R
C	E	G	R	O	A	T	L	L	L	L	L	L
R	A	M	P	O	R	F	S	S	S	S	S	S
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WUMO



- Across**
- 1 Branch of language study (7)
 - 2 With quickness and lightness (7)
 - 3 Set piece of play in rugby (4-3)
 - 4 Skipped (7)
 - 5 Chanted (7)
 - 6 Mortar missile (5)
 - 7 Written or spoken communication (9)
 - 8 Broken into bits (9)
 - 9 Scarcely sufficient (5)
- Down**
- 1 Sheen (5)
 - 2 Actor's remark for the audience alone (5)
 - 3 Treasure hunter's tool (5,8)
- 10 PUNGENT LEMON CHILI PEPPERS
- 11 SWEET CALMS NERVES
- 12 CLEANSES TISSUES
- 13 SALTY IMPROVES TASTE OF FOODS
- 14 LUBRICATES TISSUES
- 15 BITTER DETOXIFIES AND LIGHTENS TISSUES
- 16 PUNGENT STIMULATES DIGESTION AND METABOLISM
- 17 ASTRINGENT ABSORBS WATER, TIGHTENS TISSUES, DRIES FAIR

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



6 WHEELS

All set to roll out: Kia will be locally produced at its plant in Andhra Pradesh, which has begun its trial

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

If you are curious about Kia, then read on to find out what

Kia SP2i SUV, the first product for the Indian market, has to offer



plans to produce the SUV at its existing facility in South Korea for international markets. The Indian facility is expected to cater mainly to the local market, at least initially.

7. India launch likely in August

While an exact date is not currently known, the production of Kia SUV is expected to launch sometime in August in India, with the plant already having begun trial production for the SUV earlier in January. As per reports, full-scale

production of the SUV is expected to start soon.

8. Sportier derivative

Kia also plans to develop a sportier iteration of the SP2i SUV. This variant will be offered with a 140hp, 1.4-litre turbo-petrol motor paired with a 7-speed dual-clutch auto gearbox as standard. The model is expected to get a sportier body kit and interior trim to set it apart from the standard SUV, as well as a retuned suspension for a sportier drive. This model is likely to arrive in 2020.



JAIVEER MEHRA

Hyundai's sister brand Kia made its India debut at the 2018 Auto Expo, showcasing a range of products, from concepts to production models on sale in global markets. One of these models on display was the SP Concept, which previewed a rival to the likes of the Hyundai Creta and Nissan Kicks. The production SUV (codename SP2i) will be the manufacturer's first model for India and is set to go on sale this year. Here is what we know about the upcoming SUV.

1. Kia's first model for India
The SP2i SUV will be the first Kia product to hit the Indian market. Its styling will bear resemblance to the SP concept with bits like Kia's 'Tiger Nose' grille, dual-headlamps set-up and upright stance. What is interesting is that the platform underpinning the production SP2i is expected to form the basis of the

next-gen Creta, with Kia being a sister brand to Hyundai.

2. Locally produced at Kia's AP plant

While many brands have entered India with CBU products and then begun local assembly or production, the Kia SUV will be locally produced at the company's new plant in Andhra Pradesh. This will allow Kia to benefit from lower costs of production and allow for aggressive pricing of the SUV. The car-maker also has plans to launch two additional locally-produced models and two CKD models in India by 2021.

3. Multiple engines on offer

At the time of launch, the production-spec SP2i will come with a pair of 1.5-litre petrol and diesel engines. Both units will get manual and automatic gearbox options, and are likely to be BS-IV compliant initially. The manufacturer

will shift to BS-VI compliant engines closer to the April 2020 deadline.

4. Feature loaded

Kia is expected to offer the production SP2i with a fair bit of tech, including some that will be segment-first or best-in-segment. As per sources, the equipment list is expected to include in-car WiFi, a 360-degree camera, wireless charging, electric adjust driver seat, heads-up display and ambient lighting. The SUV is also expected to get a dual-tone cabin with a widescreen infotainment system taking centre-stage on the dashboard – as seen in the SP concept shown at the Auto Expo.

5. Aggressive pricing

Kia is expected to price its first product for the Indian market aggressively, with reports suggesting a price tag in the range of ₹10-16 lakh (ex-showroom). The pricing will put the production SUV in the same segment as the Hyundai Creta, Nissan Kicks and the Renault Captur.

6. World début likely in April

The SP2i isn't just an India-specific model, and is likely to be sold in other mar-

kets like North America and China. The production SUV for global markets is expected to make its global début at the New York motor show later this year, and while it may be similar to the model for India, we can expect some differences. Apart from producing the SUV in India, the manufacturer also has

STREETWISE

Beyond panic buttons, raksha bands

While the idea of setting up quick response systems to deter crime is not a worthless goal, we can't treat the issue of women's safety as merely a problem for technology to solve



SAMEERA KHAN

Ever since the horrific gang rape-murder of Nirbhaya in Delhi in December 2012, everyone – be it politicians or laypersons – seems interested in only one question: 'What can keep women safe in public spaces?'

Just a few weeks ago, Maharashtra's State cabinet cleared a ₹252 crore Safe City project for Mumbai, mooted by the Central government under the Nirbhaya Fund. While the Centre will provide 60% of the funding, that is, ₹15.2 crore, the State government's share will be ₹100.8 crore. Similar Safe City projects meant to reduce crimes against women are in the process of being initiated in seven other Indian cities, including Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Chennai, Bengaluru and Ahmedabad – with a total of almost ₹2,920 crore earmarked for them.

That is no small number. But more importantly, how will that money guarantee safer cities? A big percentage of the Nirbhaya funds for these eight 'safe' cities – plans for which have been prepared in coordination with municipal corporations and police commissioners in each city – are to be utilised on technology solutions for women's safety. According to news reports, around ₹170 crore of the Mumbai Safe City budget has been earmarked for technological upgradation, ₹18 crore for GIS mapping of criminal hotspots, ₹2 crore for training, among other initiatives.

The Maharashtra government has expressed interest in upgrading and expanding its Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) surveillance system in Mumbai, by adding 500 more cameras to its existing network of 4,746 cameras. These are to be linked to the plan of developing victim and abuse tracking web applications. Reports indicate funds will be used for initiating SOS hotspots – as to what they are still to be elaborated – and developing a 'Track Me' mobile appli-



Go back to basics: It's not always a technology solution, as more often safety lies in provision of basic efficient accountable infrastructure ■ THE HINDU



cation, which will be used to send alert messages to known persons in case of emergency. Panic buttons on mobile phones and key chains are also on the horizon for women and girls. Similar reports from Bengaluru indicate an interest among civic officials to invest 'Safe City' Nirbhaya funds in 'Raksha bands' for women.

The band – armed with motion sensors and a panic button – is to be worn on the wrist and will be accompanied by a mobile application, which in turn will be integrated with police control rooms.

While the idea of setting up quick response systems to deter crime is not a worthless goal, we can't treat the issue of women's safety as merely

a problem for technology to solve.

The same day that newspapers carried the story of the Maharashtra government approving funds for Mumbai's Safe City project came the news that not one new bus was added in 2018 to Mumbai's public bus system (the iconic BEST) – despite an annual depletion of 150-200 buses – on which more than 25 lakh commuters depend daily. Once known as the most efficient bus service in the country, the BEST fleet has shrunk from 4,200 buses to 3,337 in the last five years, with strong rumours that civic authorities are determined to privatisate it.

What do buses have to do with safety you ask? That's just it. Ask yourself what Nirbhaya was looking for the night she and her friend were picked up by a white private bus, in which we now know were six men who beat, tortured and gang-raped her, which eventually led to her death. She was looking for a safe way to get home. An efficient public bus system for

which you can hold the State accountable may have kept her safe. Safety is not always a technology solution – though some tech infrastructure is not a bad idea. But more often than not, safety lies in provision of basic efficient accountable infrastructure – public transport, public toilets, lighting – and training of law enforcers and local communities to look out for women who need help. Let's not run after tech solutions when more easier ones are right in front of us.

Sameera Khan is a Mumbai-based journalist, researcher and co-author, *Why Loiter? Women & Risk on Mumbai Streets*

CREATE A SAFETY NET
On an average, spending on safety nets accounts for 1 to 2% of GDP across developing and transition countries, though sometimes much less or much more.

Q AND A WITH HORMAZD



A bike for touring

Raj Kumar, Bengaluru: What's a good bike within the range of ₹3 to ₹6 lakh. I want good performance but the priority is touring.

■ The best solution to go touring in our environment is on an adventure bike. The top three ADV tourers available today under ₹5 lakh are the Royal Enfield Himalayan, BMW G 310 GS and Kawasaki Versys-X 300. Each has its strong points, but we found all three lacking in the engine department for various reasons. As of today, your best bet for a capable ADV bike in this price range is to wait and see what the KTM 390 Adventure brings to the table when it goes on sale next year.

If you're not interested in an ADV, another good touring option is the Royal Enfield Interceptor 650 – it has the power, smoothness and comfort you'd want from a bike like this.

At the lower end of the price range, the Bajaj Dominar is set to get improved suspension and performance early next year, so that's worth looking out for. Another option is to look at a used example of the Kawasaki Versys 650. You should find one within your budget and it makes for a fantastic tourer.

The right choice

Omkar M, Navi Mumbai: I am looking for a cruising bike and am not sure whether to pick the Jawa Forty Two and the Royal Enfield Thunderbird 350X. Which do you think makes better sense?

■ We've only just ridden the Jawas as pre-production motorcycles, and while the initial verdict is good, we still need to see what the quality levels are like on the final, production-spec bike. The bigger

issue, however, is that the waiting period is huge and Classic Legends has announced that the bikes are sold out until September 2019.

If you don't think you can wait that long, your only other viable options at the price point lie with Royal Enfield. The Thunderbird 350X is one of the latest launches from Royal Enfield, and we recommend that you spend extra money to purchase the ABS-equipped model.

For the new rider

Shashank Krishna, Hyderabad: I am new to the world of motorcycles and learned to ride only a couple of months ago. Since then, I've been riding a Yamaha FZ version 1. Is it a good idea to upgrade to the TVS Apache RR 310, or is it too soon? If not, please suggest a good sports bike that would suit me for daily commutes. I'm fairly tall, at 6ft 2in, and I'll be using my bike for my daily commute to college.

■ The Apache RR 310 is a quick, but forgiving sports bike and it's fairly easy to live with, on a day-to-day basis. However, we'd suggest you spend some more time on the FZ before you upgrade.

The basic lessons come easy, but there are still a number of finer skills you'll need (especially on our roads) and these only come with time and practice. It's always safer to learn at a lower pace, and the FZ offers a good dose of fun without getting overwhelming.

The RR 310 will fit you decently well, but it won't be easy for you to find a properly spacious bike to fit your frame at this price point. Your best bet in that regard would be to look at an Adventure tourer like the BMW G 310 GS or the upcoming KTM 390 Adventure.

Hormazd Sorabjee is the Editor of Autocar India. Mail your feedback and queries to roadshow@thehindu.co.in