



Will allow NPR but not NRC, says Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray
page 12



Sanjay Kothari tipped to be Chief Vigilance Commissioner
page 12



Foodgrain production to touch all-time high in 2019-20, says Centre
page 16



Sunil Kumar wins gold in Asian wrestling
page 20

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NEARBY



India is becoming a Hindu Pakistan: Ittija

NEW DELHI
Ittija Javed, the daughter of former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, said on Tuesday that the Centre was not able to handle the consequences of the revocation of Article 370, and the erstwhile State was grappling with "an economic, psychological and emotional crisis". "I am a proud Indian but we are now becoming a Hindu Pakistan. The discourse has fallen so low," Ms. Javed said.

NATION ▶ PAGE 9



Jamia alumni demand FIR against policemen

NEW DELHI
The alumni association of Jamia Millia Islamia wrote a complaint to SHO of Jamia Nagar police station, accusing police officers of various grievous offences committed on the university campus on December 15 last year and demanded that an FIR be registered against them. The complaint has been sent by post.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGES 15

Pakistan to remain in terror financing watchdog's 'Grey List'

It must enact a 27-point action plan to curb terror financing, says review group

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The International Co-operation Review Group (ICRG) of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Tuesday recommended that Pakistan be retained on the 'Grey List', given its failure to completely implement the 27-point action plan to check terror financing.

The final decision would be announced on Friday, at the end of the five-day FATF Plenary session in Paris, sources aware of the proceedings said.



Not enough: Protesters seeking the death penalty for Lashkar chief Hafiz Saeed in Mumbai last week. At the FATF meet, Pakistan claimed that it had cracked down on terror operatives. ■ AFP

achieved as early as June 2020. He claimed that since the last FATF plenary, the country had taken all possible measures against terror financing.

Pakistan was presented with the 27-point action plan in the previous FATF meet in October last.

Mr. Azhar said Pakistan had acted against transnational terror funding operations on priority and that it had convicted an unprecedented number of persons, which includes Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief Hafiz Saeed. All the shortcomings identified in the mutual evaluation report would also be addressed soon, he added.

India countered Pakistan's claims, saying the recent action taken by Islamabad against Saeed and others was an attempt to evade further FATF sanctions.

While the LeT chief was recently convicted of terror financing, the Pakistani authorities had claimed that a large number of terrorists were arrested, the accounts of banned outfits frozen and the institutions run by them were taken over by the government.

India asserted that the terror funding operations were still on and outfits such as the LeT and the Jaish-e-Mohammed, whose chief Mausood Azhar's location as per

Pakistan is "unknown", were having a free run in Pakistan.

In November last, when Pakistan complied with only five of the 27 action plan points, the FATF asked it to "swiftly complete its full action plan by February 2020".

The FATF statement said: "Otherwise should significant and sustainable progress not be made across the full range of its action plan by next plenary, the FATF will take action, including urging members to advise their financial institutions to give special attention to business relations/transactions with Pakistan."

Chargesheets filed in Jamia violence

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Two chargesheets have been filed by the Delhi police in connection with the violence that erupted at and outside Jamia Millia Islamia on December 15. They were filed on February 13 at the Saket court, the police said.

A senior police officer said the document mentions the name of Jawaharlal Nehru University Ph.D student Sharjil Imam for persuading an accused person to commit violence.

"He is not named as an accused in the chargesheet. He has been arrested in connection with the Jamia case on Sunday. However, one of the accused, during interrogation, said he had heard Imam's speech and got instigated to commit violence," the officer said.

Referring to one accused who has been arrested and interrogated, the document reads, "... He also disclosed that on December 13, the atmosphere was highly surcharged due to the anti-CAA [Citizenship (Amendment) Act] protest and violent incidents of rioting in Jamia. On that day, one Sharjil Imam, student of JNU, also gave provocative speeches against the CAA..."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Steps soon to deal with virus impact

Nirmala meets industry leaders



Allaying fears: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with industry leaders in New Delhi. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Disruption in supply of raw materials from China due to the coronavirus outbreak could have a serious impact on several Indian industries, especially the pharma sector, industry leaders told Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at a consultation on the issue on Tuesday.

Speaking to journalists after the meeting, Ms. Sitharaman downplayed fears of any rise in prices of medicines or other products, saying there were no reports of immediate shortages.

Official sources present at the meeting said most sectors had three to four weeks of raw materials available, adding that the longer-term impact is still uncertain.

In fact, the pharma sector

has suggested that if necessary, active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) could be airlifted to India, sources said. As this would push up prices, industry representatives requested that customs duties be reduced if such a situation arises, said officials.

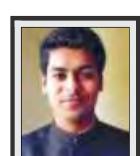
Ms. Sitharaman said the Secretaries of the Finance Ministry would coordinate meetings with the Secretaries of other stakeholder Ministries on Wednesday to chart a government response to the outbreak and the issues raised by industry leaders.

Measures would be announced "soon", after consultations with the Prime Minister's Office, Ms. Sitharaman said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

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Karbis against ST status for hill Bodos

Our identity under threat, says outfit

VIJAYA SINGH SANDEEP PHUKAN

NEW DELHI

An Assam-based insurgent group of Karbis, which signed a ceasefire agreement with the Centre, has demanded that the Bodos in the hill areas not be given the Scheduled Tribe status as it will affect the "identity of the Karbis".

The Home Ministry, the Assam government and Bodoland People's Council signed the pact on January 27 to redraw and

rename the Bodoland Territorial Area District (BTAD), spread over Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa and Udalguri districts.

Under the agreement, the Bodos in the hills will be given the Scheduled Hill Tribe status and villages dominated by the Bodos outside the BTAD will be included and those with non-Bodos excluded after the areas are redrawn.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

J&K panchayat bypolls put off

CEO cites security reasons, defers exercise by three weeks

with the announcement of the by-elections last week.

The panchayat elections were held in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir in 2018, when 27,281 panchayats and sarpanches were elected.

There are 12,776 vacant seats for sarpanches and panchayats.

The elections were then boycotted by the Peoples Democratic Party and the National Conference.

On Tuesday, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Shailendra Kumar held a meeting with

all political parties, amid criticism that political leaders remained in detention, and they were not allowed to conduct political activities.

"We held a meeting of all the parties to hear their concerns. They raised some grievances," he said.

Mr. Kumar issued a notification later in the day. It said the Home Department has advised the Election Commission to consider deferring of the conduct of polls based on credible inputs from the law enforcement agencies".

(With inputs from PTI)

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At America's Got Talent, it was V Unbeatable

Mumbai dance group wins big

STAFF REPORTER

MUMBAI

After their high-energy act, the team stood on stage shaking nervously, waiting for the big announcement. When it came after a hushed silence, there was an explosion of excitement, tears and a standing ovation in the Las Vegas studio. A 34-member dance group from the fringes of Mumbai, V Unbeatable, had won *America's Got Talent: The Champions Season 2*.

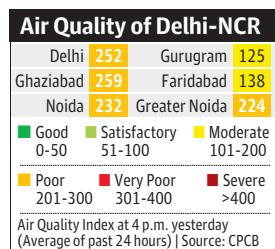
The dancers aged 12 to 27 were touted to be a favourite with the show's judges – Simon Cowell, Heidi Klum, Alesha Dixon, and Howie Mandel. They came under the spotlight when they participated in the fourth season of the Indian reality show, *Dance Plus* in 2018.

Moments after winning the show, the group said on Instagram: "It is a feeling of immense pride when you get a chance to represent your country at [an] international platform with a group [which] is like family."

In the show's second season, Mr. Mandel gave the group a performance, and V Unbeatable chose *Tattad Tattad* from *Goliyon ki Rasleela Ram Leela*, pairing up with Travis Barker, drummer for the rock band Blink-182.

Showstoppers: The jubilant V Unbeatable team with the judges after the win. ■ @V_UNBEATABLE ON TWITTER

vating them to the semi-finals. "I knew V Unbeatable was special from the moment they walked on stage. Thank you for opening up the world to us. You deserve this



Akademi fires woman after harassment plaint

Termination letter says she was on probation for two years

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Oliver Nelson Gonsalves, Associate Fellow, National Maritime Foundation will deliver a lecture on "Side-stepping the Malacca Strait on Alternative: Exploring the Canadian Alternative to Mitigate China's oil Insecurity at Seminar Room, Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), Civil Lines, 3 p.m.

Music and talk: "Instruments of the Orchestra," a video-lecture by Nicholas Hoffland. He will give an introduction to all the instruments of the orchestra through the music of composers across time, at Amritas Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Spiritual Journey," a solo painting exhibition by Sanjoy Majumder at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Aarambh," a group show of sculptures and painting at Alituraash Art Gallery, 147, DLF South Court, Saket, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Known Unknown," an exhibition of contemporary artists curated by Amitava Das at Shridharani Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. (Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@thehindu.co.in)

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

The employment of a 32-year-old woman working at Sahitya Akademi, who had complained of sexual harassment against the organisation's Secretary K. Sreenivasarao, has been terminated.

On February 14, the victim, an official at the Akademi, was sent her termination letter, which said that she was on probation for two years starting February 15, 2018, and her performance was not found satisfactory, due to which her services could not be confirmed.

On November 7 last year, an FIR was registered under Section 354A (sexual harassment) of the IPC, in which the victim alleged that Mr. Sreenivasarao had been making sexual advances towards

her since she joined the Akademi in February 2018, and when she confronted him recently, he held her hand and told her she should have understood his "hints".

An internal enquiry was also being conducted by the Internal Complaints Committee. However, the victim feared its outcome and hence approached the Local Complaints Committee under the District Magistrate.

"The ICC has members who are close to the Secretary and I did not trust they would be impartial. They also gave their report stating that no action can be taken against him [Sreenivasarao] because I did not participate in the proceedings," she said, adding that she had approached the LCC in December. The LCC directed on De-

cember 16, that the victim should be given three months paid leave.

The victim then approached the High Court which on January 29, directed that the monthly payments to the victim shall not be stopped for a period of three months. However, her employment was terminated on February 14.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, the victim said that her fear of getting terminated if she spoke against sexual harassment at workplace came true. "This was the reason I stayed mum for 18 months after my employment and finally spoke when I couldn't take it anymore," she said.

Mr. Sreenivasarao and administrative staff at the Akademi refused to comment on the matter.

'Can't set up Water Front Management Authority'

It requires legislative provisions, Delhi Development Authority tells tribunal

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Tuesday informed the National Green Tribunal that the setting up of a Water Front Management Authority, as directed by the green tribunal earlier, was not possible as it required legislative provisions which was not under the purview of the urban body.

A Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel was told that as pointed out by the Yamuna Monitoring Committee, the DDA or the INTACH would require assistance from the municipal corporations or the police as they did not have regulatory powers.

"The suggestion of the Ya-



constitution of the authority may again require legislative provision," the urban body said in a report filed before the tribunal.

DDA report Adding that other authorities and stakeholders were involved in management of the riverfront, the DDA in its report said, "Several experts are also involved from time to time... these organisations can access funds from their own budgets. While coordination between all these agencies is of utmost importance but any society or other body may not be able to exercise the powers of these organisations."

Stating that there was effective monitoring of en-

croachments and unauthorised construction on the floodplain by the police, the DDA said, "Land in Delhi is with the government of India and the DDA is the agency authorised to manage land parcels in Delhi. Therefore, the landowner by the DDA along the riverfront cannot be transferred to any other agency."

Cleaning of the Yamuna The green panel has reserved its order which is to be pronounced later. Earlier, the panel had sought responses from the DDA after the YMC suggested the setting up of a Water Front Management Authority to ensure cleaning of the river Yamuna.

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Court stays notice on Johnson & Johnson

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday stayed a show cause notice issued to Johnson & Johnson Pvt Ltd. for allegedly resorting to profiteering by not passing on the benefit of tax reduction to buyers of its sanitary napkins.

A Bench of Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Sanjeev Narula stayed the notice issued by the National Anti-Profitteering Authority (NAPA) to Johnson & Johnson and said no penalty proceedings will be initiated till the next date of hearing on September 24.

Johnson & Johnson had challenged NAPA's November 21, 2019 order which stated that it did not pass on the commensurate benefit of reduction in the rate of tax to its recipients between July 27, 2018 and September 30, 2018.

The NAPA order had stated that Johnson & Johnson profited ₹42.7 crore in contravention to the provision of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act.

Centre's response sought on plea by Arjuna awardee

He claims discrimination in rewarding Deaflympics athletes

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

In fact, Para Olympics are being treated at par with Olympics and are getting the same cash rewards awarded by the government of India to the winners of open category

PETITION

a minimum of hearing disability of 55 decibels.

The Paralympic Games, on the other hand, are international multi-sport event for athletes with physical disabilities or intellectual impairments. This includes athletes with mobility disabilities, amputations, blindness, and cerebral palsy.

Special awards

In 1986, the government introduced scheme of special awards to the medal winners in international events and their coaches.

The objective was to incentivise the achievements of outstanding sportspersons, encourage and motivate them for higher

achievements.

Advocate Verma contended that as per the scheme, the award is given to sports disciplines in Olympics or Asian Games or Commonwealth Games and chess.

The plea argued that the current policy of rewarding the persons winning medals in Olympics or Para Olympics games is discriminatory with the persons winning medals in blind or deaf championships.

"In fact, Para Olympics are being treated at par with Olympics and are getting the same cash rewards awarded by the government of India to the winner of open category.

The petition has also sought for a direction to include him and other sportspersons who are medalist in International Deaf Olympics sports or other sports in the category of deaf/dumb in the Scheme of Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons.

Cool flight



Kites on the lawns of Rajpath on a pleasant Tuesday in New Delhi. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

HC seeks Centre's response on plea against NCLAT appointments

It claims selection of technical members to tribunal was illegal

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought response of the Centre on a petition claiming the appointments of 'technical members' to the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) as illegal.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar asked the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and the technical members of NCLAT concerned to respond to the petition filed by an NGO.

The NGO, India Awake for Transparency, in its petition, claimed that the ap-

pointment of all the technical members of the NCLAT was illegal.

It

sought a direction to one of the newly appointed technical members to set out on what authority he/she was holding office as technical member of the tribunal.

The

plea

said that pursuant to the Appellate Tribunal and other authorities (qualifications, experience and other conditions of service of members) Rules, 2017, the Central government had issued notifications in January 2017 and May 2019, inviting applications from persons holding 25 years in law for appointment as technical members.

It said the rules should never have come into force when nearly identical provisions under the rules were declared unconstitutional.

The High Court has listed the case for further hearing on May 1.

Nonagenarian finishes his MA from IGNOU

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

"Family responsibilities kept me from pursuing my passion for studies, but at 87, finally, that opportunity knocked on my door," said 93-year-old CI Sivasubramanian who was the oldest student at the IGNOU convocation on Monday.

Sivasubramanian received his masters' degree in public administration at the convocation and his zest for knowledge was praised by HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' who called him a 90-year-old "youngster".

Sivasubramanian retired as a director from the Ministry of Commerce in 1986.

Plea seeks action against realtor for flouting norms

NGT directs State Pollution Control Board and DM to ensure enforcement of law

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Following a plea seeking remedial action against a housing developer for allegedly flouting environmental norms in Noida, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the State Pollution Control Board and District Magistrate concerned to ensure enforcement of the law.

A Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said: "The State Pollution Control Board

needs to take further action for stopping illegality and recovering the assessed environmental compensation by using coercive measures, including blacklisting and seizing assets of the project proponents."

Furnish report

"It is also open to the State PCB to take assistance of any other public authority, including the District Magistrate concerned or the Noida Authority for enforcing the

law and environmental rights of the affected parties," the Bench said, while directing the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board to furnish an action-taken report by March 23.

Effluents' discharge The directions came when the green panel was hearing a plea moved by a group of residents of Sector 77 which alleged that developers Antrikish Kanball 3G, were discharging effluents into a

green belt and stormwater drain by flouting environmental norms.

It was also alleged that water was being extracted illegally.

In an action-taken report furnished before the tribunal, the State pollution control board said that an environmental compensation of over ₹3.28 crore was imposed on the developer and that action had been recommended against the direc-

Jamia alumni association demands FIR against police personnel

Complaint sent to SHO, top officers by post; police deny receiving it

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The alumni association of Jamia Millia Islamia wrote a complaint against police officials accusing them of various grievous offences committed on the university campus on December 15 last year and demanded that an FIR be registered against them.

While the complaint, written to the SHO of Jamia Nagar, had not been accepted in person, it was sent to him by post, as well as to the DCP (South-East), ACP (South-East), the Commissioner of Police, the Home Ministry and the Lieutenant Governor, a member of the association said. However, police said they have not received the complaint so far.

The association has le-



The letter details the sequence of events on December 15.

* FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

velled charges of criminal trespass with intent to cause grievous injuries, assault, criminal intimidation, mischief, causing harm with dangerous weapons, attempt to murder, malicious acts to outrage religious feelings, wrongful confinement, and several others against

the police officers.

The letter details the sequence of events on December 15, stating that police personnel barged into the campus beating up students, started firing teargas shells and stun grenades creating panic among students and alumni present on the cam-

pus. It also alleged that police personnel barged into the university library and beat up many students with batons, till many were left unconscious.

Traumatic for students

"The students are in an immense mental and physical trauma and in a state of terror after the brutal and violent act of officials of Delhi Police force which blinded one student and rendered many others grievously injured with broken bones, dislocated tissues, internal bleeding..." it said.

The association termed the actions of the police "a serious threat to the rule of law", "barbaric" and a violation of human rights and demanded that action be taken against them.

Crime Branch visits Jamia Millia Islamia

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police Crime Branch on Tuesday visited Jamia Millia Islamia to investigate the violence that erupted during the anti-CAA protest on December 15 in the wake of videos that surfaced in the last few days.

Police said that the Special Investigation Team constituted under DCP (Crime Branch) Rajesh Deo visited the university.

"It inspected various locations, including the library. The SIT interacted with the faculty and also examined a few students," police said in a statement.

Police also said that the SIT met the Chief Proctor of the university and requested him "to help in securing the presence of students whom it wants to examine," they said, adding that the team was at the university for about three hours.

Sharjeel Imam named 'instigator' in chargesheet

He was sent to judicial custody till March 3

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday sent Sharjeel Imam, who is named as an "instigator" by Delhi Police in its chargesheet on violent protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act at New Friends Colony here last year, to judicial custody till March 3.

Delhi Police filed the chargesheet before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Gurmohina Kaur and named Imam as an instigator of the violence. Imam was arrested on sedition charges last month in a separate case.

On Monday, the court had sent Imam to one-day police custody in the case.

The police had earlier told the court that Furkan, an accused in the December 15, 2019 violence case, has alleged in his disclosure



Sharjeel Imam

statement that he was provoked by Imam's speeches.

Furkan was arrested on the basis of a CCTV footage which showed him carrying a container allegedly containing petrol. The probe is still on to ascertain his role, the chargesheet said.

Imam was arrested from Bihar's Jehanabad on January 28 in a case for allegedly making inflammatory speeches at the Jamia Millia Islamia and in Aligarh.

JNU aims to raise ₹100 cr. from its alumni

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

In its 284th meeting of the Executive Council on Tuesday, Jawaharlal Nehru University has set up a JNU Alumni Endowment Fund and has appealed to its alumni to contribute to make a difference in enabling deserving students to reach their full potential.

Vice-Chancellor M. Jagadesh Kumar said that the university has set a target of raising ₹100 crore by the end of this year for this fund so that the university could achieve financial self-sufficiency.

Mr. Kumar added that funds raised through contributions will transform the lives of thousands of students.

In a letter to the alumni, Mr. Kumar said: "During the last half a century, JNU alumni have succeeded in different fields. You have occupied prestigious positions and have been recipients of many recognitions. JNU alumni will agree that JNU has made a significant difference in their lives. It is time for you to think of your alma mater and be a part of its ongoing journey."

Mr. Kumar said that around the globe, higher educational institutions benefit from contributions received from their alumni and the time has come for JNU to reach out to its alumni to contribute to "Alumni Endowment Fund".

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THE HINDU
India's National Newspaper

Green corridor created to transport heart from IGI

18.4 km covered in 21 minutes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

A team of doctors from Fortis Escorts, Okhla, retrieved a live donor heart from Ruby Hall Clinic in Pune on Tuesday. The live heart was air transported from Pune to Delhi and an 18.4 km-long green corridor was created from Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport to Fortis Escorts in Okhla for swift transport of the organ.

The team of doctors included Z.S. Meharwal, Head of Adult Cardiac Surgery, VAD & Heart Transplantation Programme; Vishal Rastogi, Head, Heart

Failure Clinic at FEHI; and Dr Naveen Saraf, Principal Consultant, Cardio Thoracic Vascular Surgery at Fortis Escorts, Okhla.

The team was alerted by National Organ Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) about a possible donor heart on the early hours of Tuesday. The team immediately left for Pune to retrieve the heart. The team reached IGI with the organ at 5.40 p.m. from where it was transported to the destination in 21 minutes amidst traffic.

The organ was shortlisted by NOTTO for a 34-year-old woman from Delhi.

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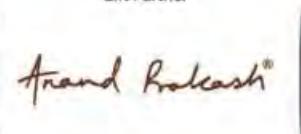
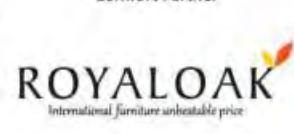
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Timings

DELHI

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19	RISE 06:57 SET 18:14
THURSDAY, FEB. 20	RISE 03:50 SET 14:23
FRIDAY, FEB. 21	RISE 06:56 SET 18:15
Saturday, FEB. 22	RISE 04:43 SET 15:17
SUNDAY, FEB. 23	RISE 06:55 SET 18:15
MONDAY, FEB. 24	RISE 05:31 SET 16:13

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 27 10
Safdarjung 27 10
Palam 27 09

Delhi Palam Today
26°C Dry weather with shallow/mist during very cool morning is likely. Day will be comfortable with few clouds.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
27°C A rise in temperature is expected. A comfortable day is likely. Night will be very cool.

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THE HINDU
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Blast in H.P. school lab, two injured

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHIMLA

Two Class XII students who were seriously injured in an explosion inside a school's chemistry laboratory here were referred to PGI Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh Education Minister Suresh Bhardwaj said on Tuesday.

Five students were injured in the explosion that took place on Monday at the Government Senior Secondary School, Matiana, of Theoog sub-division during the Class XII chemistry board practical exam.

Two of the students, Mukul Panchta and Ajit, were referred to PGI Chandigarh from IGMCH hospital here after they both sustained injuries in their eyes and face, Mr. Bhardwaj said in a statement.

Mukul was successfully operated upon, the Minister said, adding that Ajit is under treatment.

Not angry with Scindia, says CM Kamal Nath

Cong. leader had threatened stir over poll promises issue

SIDHARTH YADAV
Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath on Tuesday said how he could be angry with Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia if he couldn't be angry with Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the BJP vice-president and former Chief Minister of the State.

The statement in the form of an analogy came after Mr. Scindia last Thursday threatened to hit the streets if promises made before the 2018 Vidhan Sabha elections were not kept by the Congress government, to which Mr. Nath, following a Madhya Pradesh coordination committee meeting in New Delhi where Mr. Scindia was also present, retorted: "Toh utar jaaye" (Then hit the streets).

On Sunday, Mr. Scindia in Gwalior reiterated the threat



Chief Minister Kamal Nath

stating fighting for issues was his duty as a public servant. However, he inserted a caveat saying the State government needed time as it was just a year into its tenure.

Mr. Scindia in the past has assailed the government for its survey of crops ravaged by rain and demanded adequate compensation for the affected. Meanwhile, Forest Minister Umang Singh, from his camp, accused

former Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh of trying to destabilise the government, while two Congress MLAs levelled a corruption charge against Health Minister Tulsiram Singh.

In December, Mr. Scindia told party workers in Bhind that loans of farmers hadn't been waived entirely as promised in the manifesto, prompting Mr. Singh to launch into damage control by stating that all leaders were together in serving the State's people who had given them the mandate.

Eye on post'

Earlier a frontrunner for the post of Chief Minister, Mr. Scindia, who lost from his stronghold Guna in the 2019 Lok Sabha election, is now seen to be eyeing to helm the State Congress unit, currently led by Mr. Nath.

Yogi woos youth with jobs

Number of 'registered jobless' rose by 16 lakh since Nov. 2017

OMAR RASHID

LUCKNOW

In a bid to woo the youth, the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday introduced two new employment schemes in its latest budget.

The government has its task cut out as, according to its own admission, the number of "registered unemployed" persons or job seekers in the State has witnessed a spike of almost 16 lakh since November 2017, the year when Yogi Adityanath came to power.

Presenting a budget of ₹5.13 lakh crore for the year 2020-21, State Finance Minister Suresh Khanna introduced two new employment and self-employment schemes for the youth - the Chief Minister Apprenticeship Promotion (CMAP) scheme and the Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan (YUVA).

Under CMAP, youths would be imparted on-job training in MSME units and



U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Finance Minister Suresh Khanna in Lucknow on Tuesday. ■PTI

be linked with employment for definite periods. Not only will the youths be imparted training but also given a monthly stipend, out of which ₹1,500 will be borne by the Centre and ₹1,000 by the State government and the remaining by the concerned industry.

A budget of ₹100 crore was allocated to the scheme, said Mr. Khanna in his speech.

Through YUVA, employ-

ment would be provided to lakhs of trained youths and YUVA Hubs will be set up in every district to assist them in project conception and operation of unit while providing them financial help for one year, the government said.

This scheme will take over 1 lakh youths towards "self-reliance", said Mr. Khanna.

This year's budget is "dedicated to the youth", Mr. Khanna said.

₹2,000 crore allocated for Jewar airport

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GAZIABAD

The fourth budget of the Yogi Adityanath government has allocated money for a number of projects in western Uttar Pradesh.

The government has allocated ₹2,000 crore for the development of Jewar international airport and ₹9,00 crore has been granted for the Delhi-Meerut rapid transit system. Agra Metro will get an allocation of ₹286 crore.

Finance Minister Surinder Khanna has proposed building of two universities in Saharanpur and Aligarh respectively. An expressway will be built from Meerut to Prayag. Called Ganga Expressway, it is said to be a pet project of the Chief Minister.

The Finance Minister also announced that women working in night shift can call 112, and a police van with a female constable will drop them home.

Fighting fire



A firefighter attempts to douse a blaze that broke out in a chemical factory in Kanpur on Tuesday. ■PTI

Punjab govt. sanctions 650 cr. for rejuvenation of Sutlej tributary

Highly polluted Buddah Nullah passes through Ludhiana

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Cabinet on Tuesday approved ₹650 crore in the first phase for rejuvenation of the highly polluting Buddah Nullah - a seasonal tributary of Sutlej in Ludhiana.

"Under this ambitious plan, an additional sewage treatment plant having a capacity of 275 MLD, including associated infrastructure, would be developed which would go a long way in solving the problems of Buddah Nullah and subsequent pollu-

tion of the river Sutlej," said an official statement.

The Cabinet meeting, which was held here, also decided to levy 1% additional stamp duty on registration of sale-purchase of urban properties to finance water supply and environmental improvement programmes in the urban areas of the State.

The NGT has already directed the government to take proactive steps to immediately address the problem.

The Cabinet also approved creation of 550 posts in the Government Medical Colleges at Patiala and Amritsar with the objective of further improving and streamlining the functioning of these institutions, the statement added.

ries. Also, treated effluents from existing STPs, based on UASB technology, does not meet the required quality and overflow from sewer lines add to the problem.

The NGT has already directed the government to take proactive steps to immediately address the problem.

The Cabinet also approved creation of 550 posts in the Government Medical Colleges at Patiala and Amritsar with the objective of further improving and streamlining the functioning of these institutions, the statement added.

Road rage: SP leader's son shot dead

Collision between motorcycles led to stone pelting, firing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ALIGARH (U.P.)

A Samajwadi Party leader's son was shot dead during a violent clash that broke out here after a "road rage" incident involving them and a local BJP politician's son, police said on Tuesday.

They said 20-year-old Sachin, son of a district-level SP leader Puranmal Prajapati, was killed on Monday night in Palashababad locality in Sasni Gate area as the argument following the collision between two motorcycles led to stone pelting and firing.

At least six people, including the deceased's younger brother and a policeman,

were injured in the clash, the police said.

They said the incident happened when Prajapati and his another son - Narendra - were going to attend a function related to backward classes.

They were on a motorcycle which collided with the two-wheeler of Amit, son of Ishwar Chand Upadhyay, a BJP leader who was previously an office-bearer in the party's district unit, the police said.

The incident led to a heated argument between them which escalated into stone-pelting and gunshot firing as the two sides were joined by

their supporters, the police said, adding the mob set Amit's motorcycle ablaze.

Sachin also arrived at the scene and was hit by a bullet, they said, adding he died at a hospital later.

Three arrested

Three people have been arrested but the main suspects have managed to escape, they said.

SP (Crime) Arvind Kumar said it was a case of "road rage".

He also said the police are questioning some people to ascertain if the two sides had any enmity between them, as claimed by local residents.

Education plan

Traders from far-off places regularly come to the small Punchari village, having a population of 2,000, to purchase clay griddles and sell them with profit in the towns.

Mr. Saini said an action plan was being formulated to connect the Prajapati community's children, who were also engaged in the work, with education through regular schooling.

volumes with the technical upgradation of kilns in which the earthenwares are baked before they are supplied to big towns.

The clay griddles are in heavy demand in Delhi, Agra, Mathura, Gurugram and other towns of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Bharatpur-based Lupin Foundation has constructed tin sheds in Punchari at a cost of ₹15 lakh to help out the potters who were earlier drying the baked griddles in the open. "Tin sheds will protect the griddles during the monsoon rains as well as in the winter when frost damages earthenwares susceptible to moisture," Manphool Saini, Lupin Foundation's Nagar block coordinator, said on Tuesday.

The clay pottery was taken up in Punchari both as a traditional occupation and the only livelihood option available to the Prajapati community. The potters, who exclusively fabricate griddles by procuring clay mostly from the village's pond, maintain earthy scent of black soil even after the earthenware is baked.

The city dwellers believe that the chapati's nutrients

are protected when cooked on an earthen plate. Bhagwan Singh, 27, a griddle maker in Punchari, said the potters, having produced griddles for two decades to meet the market's demand, had modified their design and thickness to suit the requirement of gas stove and heater in the cities.

A team from the Rural Technology Action Group (RuTAG) of Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, visited Punchari recently to study the pattern of clay griddle production and provide technical assistance for upgrading the kilns to bake more griddles with lesser quantity of mustard stubble used as fuel.

Mr. Saini said the RuTAG's

assistance would help improve efficiency of furnaces and reduce pollution in the village. The technical experts are also likely to find a solution to the problem of about 25% of griddles breaking during baking in the kilns.

The unmet needs of the potters

Cong. set to corner Haryana government

Budget session of the State Assembly to start on February 20

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

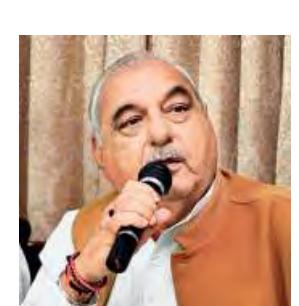
With the budget session of the Haryana Assembly slated to start on February 20, the principal Opposition party, the Congress, is all set to corner the ruling BJP-JJP government over the State's "poor economic health, unemployment, corruption, farmers' distress and deteriorating law and order situation".

The ruling BJP-JJP alliance government, led by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, on the other hand, is all set to take on the Opposition with its achievements during the past 100 days in power, claiming that the government has provided people a clean, transparent and corruption-free administration.

Among others, increasing the old age allowance and other social security pension from ₹2,000 per month to ₹2,250 per month and deciding to ensure 75% reservation to unskilled labourers from Haryana in industries, are key accomplishments that the State government is claiming to have achieved.

The budget session will start with the Governor's address on February 20.

'Mountain of debt'
Former Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition in



Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda

the Haryana Assembly Bhupinder Singh Hooda told *The Hindu* that the party would forcefully raise issues pertaining to the worsening economic situation in the State, where the debt has increased from ₹61,000 crore to ₹1.81 lakh crore under the BJP regime.

"The mountain of debt is continuously rising, the government should present a White Paper on the debt situation," he said.

Mr. Hooda said rising unemployment, corruption, deteriorating law and order situation and farmers' plight were other important issues that the party intends to raise in the House.

"The unemployment rate under the Congress regime was at 2.8%, which has gone up by 10 times to 28% under the present government. Where is the unemployment allowance they (BJP-JJP) promised to pay?" quipped Mr. Hooda, adding that Haryana, which was once leading the nation in per capita income and per capita investment has now seen 18% decline in rural consumption under the BJP regime.

'Who told Centre about review of probe?'

Pawar questions conduct of police officers in Elgaar Parishad case, says Fadnavis govt. misused power

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Raising questions over the conduct of the Maharashtra Police, and especially that of the Pune Police, in the investigation into the Elgaar Parishad and Bhima-Koregaon violence case, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday said the previous Devendra Fadnavis government had misused its power in the probe.

The former Union minister raised questions over the coincidence of the Centre transferring the case to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) from the Pune Police the same day the State government reviewed the status of the investigation.

"How did the discussion inside the meeting leak? Who told the Centre that the State government was reviewing the probe? Was it the senior officers who attended the meeting?" Mr. Pawar asked at a press conference in the city, a day after directing NCP ministers to form a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to look into the case.

"An SIT should be appointed to probe the conduct of the Pune Police and the misuse of power by the Fadnavis-led government.



Jayant Patil and Sharad Pawar at a press conference in Mumbai on Tuesday.
■ TWITTER/@PAWARSPEAKS

The Centre transferred the case from the State to the NIA fearing that the truth would be out," Mr. Pawar said.

He also said the Elgaar Parishad matter and the violence at Bhima-Koregaon in Pune district on January 1, 2018, were two completely different cases, and the violence was a result of the different atmosphere created by Hindutva activists Milind Ekbole and Sambhaji Bhide.

Mr. Pawar said, "Till then, even locals were in support of organising programmes without any ill feelings. Cases were registered by the Pune Police against those who were neither involved with Elgaar Parishad nor the

Bhima-Koregaon violence."

The matter relates to alleged inflammatory speeches delivered at the Elgaar Parishad, a conclave held at Shaniwarwada in Pune on December 31, 2017, which the police claim triggered violence near the Bhima-Koregaon war memorial in the district the next day.

During the probe, the Pune Police arrested left-leaning activists Sudhir Dhawale, Rona Wilson, Surendra Gadling, Mahesh Raut, Shoma Sen, Arun Ferreira, Vernon Gonsalves, Sudha Bhadravaj and Varavara Rao for alleged Maoist links and claimed there was a plan to assassinate the Prime Minister. They have been booked under the India Penal Code and the anti-terror law, Unlawful Acts (Prevention) Act.

"It is comical to say the plot was to murder Narendra Modi," Mr. Pawar said.

'Will discuss NPR'

When asked questions about the State rolling out the National Population Register, Mr. Pawar said the party opposed it, but the State has a government of different parties. "We will discuss with everyone and take a call. It won't impact the stability of the government," he said.

Centre wants to label Dalits as Naxals: Cong.

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

The manner in which the Central government transferred the Elgaar Parishad case to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) raises concerns and is an attempt to label people associated with progressive, Dalit and Ambedkarite movements as Naxals, State Congress president and Revenue Minister Balasaheb Thorat said on Tuesday.

"Elgaar Parishad was a platform for intellectuals, liberals and poets. It is wrong to take action against them just because they have spoken against the government. This is an attempt to gag progressive and Ambedkarite voices," he said.

His statement comes at a time when both Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar have advocated the need to set up a Special

Investigation Team to probe the case. This is seen as an attempt by all three parties in the Maha Vikas Aghadi government to corner the Bharatiya Janata Party on the matter.

Mr. Thorat said the party is not supporting anyone who acted with any other intentions. "But the timing of the case being handed over to the NIA makes it even more suspicious," he said.

However, Tuesday also brought to the fore the differences between the three parties over the National Population Register, with Mr. Thackeray saying the State would not block the exercise. Mr. Thorat said the Congress opposes the NPR, Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizenship. "There is no question of going back on this. We will speak to our allies and convey our stand," he said.

Trump visit reason for our eviction, say slum dwellers

No plan for forceful removal, says Ahmedabad civic chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has issued eviction notice to more than 40 slum houses located 1.5 km from the newly built Motera stadium, where the "Namaste Trump" event will be held on February 24.

"You have encroached upon a plot of land belonging to the AMC. Evict the plot in another seven days with your household chattels, otherwise, departmental action will be taken to evict the land. If you have to make any representation, you can do so on February 19 at 3 p.m.," reads the notice issued by the estate wing of the corporation.

The residents alleged that they were being removed for a "beautification exercise" ahead of the U.S. President's visit. The slum is located along a road connecting Ahmedabad to Gandhinagar, around 1.5 km away from the Motera stadium.

Shailesh Bilwa, a slum dweller, claimed on Tuesday that AMC officials have visited them several times in the last seven days.

"Some of them even threatened to use force against us ... We are ready to vacate, but we need an alternative accommodation.

Otherwise, we will be forced to live on pavements," he said.

"We have been living here for over a decade. We had never been served any eviction notice in the past. Why is it being served to us now?" asked Dinesh Adravani, a daily-wage labourer who said he was asked to vacate his shanty by Tuesday.

Municipal Commissioner Vijay Nehra denied any such move and said, "No slum is being evicted ahead of the Namaste Trump event in the



Homes lost: Slum dwellers show the eviction notices issued to them by the AMC on Tuesday. ■ VIJAY SONEJI

PM thinks Ahmedabad only choice for dignitaries: Pawar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

ople chose Ahmedabad," Mr. Pawar told reporters, when asked why Maharashtra was missing from Mr. Trump's itinerary. "We are happy that the PM thinks Ahmedabad is the best place to show in India to any visiting foreign dignitary," he said.

Global leaders who visited Gujarat after Mr. Modi became the PM include Chinese President Xi Jinping and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

city. There are no plans of any forceful eviction in near future. There are no plans to evict any slum dwellers near the event venue or the route which the dignitaries will take. The AMC has an estate department which is responsible for preventing any settlements on public land."

"However, as per the existing policy the AMC builds houses for such people and offer free alternate housing before any eviction," Mr. Nehra said.

(With PTI inputs)

Goa bans liquor consumption during carnival float parades

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PANAJI

Consumption of liquor in public will not be allowed during the Goa Carnival float parades from this year, the State government said on Tuesday.

Unveiling the programme for the Carnival 2020 celebrations, which will be held between February 22 and February 25,

Tourism Minister Manohar Ajaonkar said, "People

won't be allowed to drink [alcohol] on streets while they watch the float parades."

The move is part of the ban on alcohol consumption in public places which is already in force in Goa, he said at a press conference.

'Clean' floats only
This year, lawyer Shalom Sardinha has been selected as King Momo, a mythological figure which heads float parades organised by the

Tourism Department.

The minister reiterated that floats on the Citizenship Amendment Act and related topics will not be allowed. He advised the participants to come up with "clean" floats showcasing the culture of Goa.

"Unwanted floats would be eliminated from the parade. We can't allow the floats like those making a statement on the Citizenship Amendment Act or any other

thing," the minister said. Commercial floats will also be discouraged by a State screening committee.

Section 144 withdrawn

Meanwhile, ahead of the carnival, the North Goa district administration has withdrawn Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), which was imposed last week after intelligence inputs about possible terror threat along the western

coast. North Goa Collector Gopal Parsekar issued a notification on Monday to withdraw CrPC Section 144, which bans unlawful assembly of people.

As per the schedule, the main float parade will be held in Panaji on February 22 and also in Margao, Quepem, Vasco, Curchorem, Mapusa and Morjim. The government will spend around ₹1.5 crore towards organising the event.

After MANS, now Trupti Desai seeks case against kirtankar

Preacher apologises; minister says govt. won't take action

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Menstruation remark by seer stokes controversy



Gender rights activist and Bhumata Brigade leader Trupti Desai has demanded a police case be lodged against Marathi *kirtankar* (preacher) Nirvriti Maharaj Indurikar, even as the latter apologised on Tuesday for his controversial remarks.

Ms. Desai submitted a proposal to Ahmednagar District Superintendent of Police Sagar Patil, urging that the case be lodged within four days' time.

She warned that if a case

was not lodged or if Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and the Maha Vikas Aghadi government tried to support Mr. Indurikar, then she and her fellow activists would be compelled to lock Mr. Thackeray inside his cabin" at the start of the next session of the legislature.

"I have submitted a proposal demanding an FIR be lodged against Indurikar as his remarks violated the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act as well as the anti-superstition law," Ms. Desai said.

Mr. Indurikar, who is known for addressing social issues through his sermons by deploying witty though hard-edged satire, drew the ire of rationalists and acti-

vists when he allegedly said during a sermon in Ahmednagar district that a couple having intercourse on an even date would beget a male child, and on an odd date a girl.

"I regret if my remarks have hurt anyone's feelings. That was never my intention. Through my sermons for the past 26 years, I have always laid great stress on rooting out blind faith and working towards social enlightenment," Mr. Indurikar said in a handwritten note on his letterhead. The preacher, who has a massive following, said his remarks were taken out of context.

A follower of the *kirtankar* from Ahmednagar, Smita Ashtekar, allegedly threatened Ms. Desai on social media if the latter dared to enter the district, while other supporters protested Ms.

Rathod said. He took the phone to a local mobile shop to buy a SIM card on Monday and was informed that it wasn't a regular cellphone, the police official said.

As per preliminary investigation, the satellite phone is not active and call record details will be extracted soon based on the IMEI number, she added.

Satellite phone found on Kutch island

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHUJ

He also warned men against consuming food prepared by menstruating women. Scolding women for being "careless" about menstruation, which he likened with "penance", he can also be heard asking men to learn cooking. The swami belongs to the Nar-Narayan Devgadi of Swami Narayan Sect.

A local fisherman allegedly recovered a satellite phone on an island near Kandla port in Gujarat's Kutch district, an official said on Tuesday.

The police has launched a probe into the recovery of the Inmarsat satellite phone, which was found on Paprava island, Superintendent of

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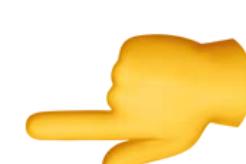
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IN BRIEF



One killed as car falls off road overbridge

HYDERABAD

One person was killed and five sustained injuries when their car fell off a road overbridge in Hyderabad late on Monday. Car driver Sunil, 22, allegedly crashed the car into the cement railing and the vehicle plunged over 20 ft height on to a road. Sohail, 27, who was sitting beside the driver died on the spot.

Veteran actor Kishori Ballal passes away

BENGALURU

Veteran actor Kishori Ballal died in a private hospital here on Tuesday. The multi-lingual, octogenarian actor was suffering from age-related ailments. Ms. Ballal was best known for her role Kaveriamma in the Hindi film *Swades*, in which she acted with Shah Rukh Khan. She has acted in over 50 movies, though she has mostly essayed the role of mother or grandmother.

UIDAI seeks proof of citizenship

Hyderabad resident to move HC; over 1,000 have received notices, claim lawyers

SYED MOHAMMED
HYDERABAD

A resident of the old city of Hyderabad who was reportedly asked to prove his Indian citizenship by the Unique Identification Authority of India is all set to move the High Court once the first hearing concludes.

An association of lawyers which came to the resident's defence claimed that UIDAI had sent similar notices to over 1,000 individuals.

Rule 30

Mohammed Sattar Khan, a resident of Bhavani Nagar in Talabkatta, a carpenter and autorickshaw driver, received the notice under Rule 30 of Aadhaar (Enrolment and Updates) Regulations, 2016 at home on February 16, his counsel Muzaffar Ul-lah Khan said. Section 30 deals with communication to a cardholder of deactivation of the card.

"Mr. Khan is an Indian citizen. He has never left the country. He was born here, his parents were born here.



Aadhaar has got nothing to do with citizenship, the UIDAI said.

In fact, his father worked for Hyderabad Allwyn Limited," the lawyer said.

The notice, signed by Hyderabad Regional Office Deputy Director Amita Bindroo, informed him of a complaint which alleged that Mr. Khan was not an Indian citizen and that his Aadhaar card was obtained by furnishing false documents.

The notice further directed him to appear before her at a function hall in Balapur, an area which houses Rohingya camps, in Rangareddy

district with "all the necessary documents in original to prove all your claims of citizenship".

The notice directed Mr. Khan to prove that he had entered the country legally and his stay is valid if he is a foreign national. In case Mr. Khan failed to appear, the matter would be decided *suo motu*.

"The UIDAI has no powers to ask any person to prove citizenship. What it can do is deactivate Aadhaar under Section 33 A. We are going to appear before the Deputy Director and will approach the High Court once the order is given," the counsel said, adding that two others who had received the notice had approached him.

Notice condemned

Earlier on Tuesday, the Advocates Joint Action Committee condemned the notice and announced free legal aid to those who had received the notices.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, JAC convener Mohd. Valiur

Rahman said, "Once we got to know of this notice, we started our own inquiries. People by the dozens started calling us, this is why we can say that around 1,000 notices have been sent. People are afraid to come out, which is why we are offering free legal aid and representation."

UIDAI clarifies

The UIDAI, in a release, said that Aadhaar has got nothing to do with citizenship.

It said the UIDAI regional office, Hyderabad, received reports from the police that 127 people had obtained Aadhaar on false pretences because they were found to be illegal immigrants. Such Aadhaar numbers are liable to cancellation. Therefore, the regional office had asked them to appear before the Deputy Director on February 20.

Since they may need more time to collect original documents, the UIDAI has postponed the hearing to May.

Documents provided to U.K. to retrieve stolen idol

Idol Wing CID seeks restitution of 16th century bronze

R. SIVARAMAN
CHENNAI

The Idol Wing CID police has furnished documents through the Indian High Commission, London, to the Ashmolean Museum, in Oxford, U.K., requesting the restitution of a 16th century bronze idol of Thirumangai Azhwar. The idol reportedly went missing from a temple near Kumakonam half a century ago.

In November 2019, an independent scholar brought new research to attention, relating to the provenance of an Indian 16th century bronze of Saint Tirumangai Azhwar, which was acquired by the Ashmolean Museum from Sotheby's in 1967. Research in the photo archives of the IFP-EFEO (Institut Français de Pondicherry and the Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient) appears to show the same idol in the Soundarrapaperumal temple near Kumakonam in Tamil Nadu in 1957.

"Although there is currently no claim against the object, the museum officially brought the matter to the attention of the Indian High Commission in December last year requesting any



Perfect match: Thirumangai Azhwar bronze idol traced to London Museum. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

further information (including possible police records) that would aid us in establishing the work's provenance and noting that we were open to holding further discussions around the possible repatriation of the sculpture," said a statement from the museum.

The museum acquired the statue in good faith in 1967, it said.

According to the Sotheby's catalogue, the bronze was sold from the collection of collector Dr. J.R. Belmont (1886-1981).

Additional Commissioner of Police, Idol Wing, CID, Abhay Kumar Singh told *The Hindu*

Hindu: "The Ashmolean Museum had taken a proactive step on its own and contacted the High Commission in London seeking more details of this case. The investigation report has now been sent to the High Commission."

Rahul Nangare, First Secretary, High Commission of India, London, told *The Hindu*: "We thank the University of Oxford and Ashmolean for taking proactive step in this matter and hope that other museums and galleries would follow your example and take a similar proactive approach in dealing with suspected stolen idols."

Uproar in Karnataka Assembly over 'tukde tukde gang'

Comments of Ministers spark verbal duel between the ruling BJP and Opposition members

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

Some BJP Ministers told the Karnataka Assembly on Tuesday that the "tukde tukde gang" of the Congress was supporting the ongoing protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act across the nation. This sparked off a verbal duel between the ruling party and Opposition members.

While Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah was making a preliminary submission to convince the chair to take up the issue as an adjournment motion on



the "deteriorating" law and order in the State in the wake of anti-CAA, NCR and NPR protests, Kannada and Culture Minister C.T. Ravi and Home Minister Basavaraj

Bommai alleged that the Congress was the "owner of the *tukde tukde gang*" and had no moral right to speak on the Constitution and the CAA.

"The Congress has been promoting the *tukde tukde gang* and provoking innocent people to protest against the CAA, an Act passed by Parliament. Advocates belonging to the Congress are coming in the way of arresting the *tukde tukde gang*," he said.

Congress leaders Priyank Kharge, Sowmya Reddy, U.T. Khader, K.J. George, Zameer

Ahmed, Dinesh Gundu Rao and Ramalinga Reddy took strong exception to this.

Define the concept'

Mr. Kharge asked the government to define the concept of "*tukde tukde gang*" as the Union Home Ministry had said that it had no information on the terminology.

Mr. Kharge challenged the Home Minister to arrest the so-called *tukde tukde gang* if it existed in the State. Ms. Reddy too urged Mr. Bommai to inform the House about the members of the said gang.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MANGALURU

Claims and counterclaims on the fastest kambala jockey have been surfacing ever since Srinivas Gowda of Karnataka's Moodbidri hit the headlines for covering 142.5 m in 13.62 seconds at a kambala event on February 1 and 2.

On Tuesday, reports surfaced that in another kambala race held at Venur in

Dakshina Kannada district on February 15 and 16, Nishanth Shetty of Bajagoli in Udupi district covered 143 m in 13.61 seconds. This, the reporters claimed, had resulted in Mr. Gowda's record being overtaken.

A senior kambala organiser, who did not wish to be named, said the 13.62 seconds record of Mr. Gowda was in the 'Negili Kiriya' category. However, he had come under discussion.

Another claimant for kambala record?

They failed to start census, says HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday directed the Bengaluru Urban District Tree Authority to submit the names of all its members for initiating contempt proceedings against them for not commencing tree census in the city despite a specific direction given by the court on August 20, 2019 setting a deadline of two weeks to start the process.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Abhay Shreenivas Oka and Justice Hemant Chandangoudar issued the direction during the hearing of a PIL petition that complained of non-implementation of various provisions of the Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, 1976.

As R. Gokul, Chairperson of the Bengaluru Urban Dis-

trict Tree Authority, who was present in the court was not able to answer the court's query whether the census would commence by Wednesday, the Bench said there was no option but to initiate contempt of court proceedings against the members as there was "blatant violation" of the specific direction issued six months ago.

Observing that tree census, as mandated by law 44 years ago, was not commenced despite the specific direction, the Bench said though the Commissioner of the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike had said in his affidavit that the census cannot be confined to the trees on the sides of the roads, the affidavit still referred to census of only such trees and did not include trees on public and private properties.

A.P. launches 'Nadu-Nedu' programme

STAFF REPORTER

KURNool

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday launched the 'Nadu-Nedu' programme aimed at revamping hospitals and health centres across the State at a cost of ₹15,337 crore in three years.

Addressing a public meeting at the STBC grounds here after the launch, Mr. Jagan said government hospitals would be constructed or modernised conforming to the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS).

The number of doctors and nurses would go up proportionately and no patient would return disappointed, he said.

Former head of Chittoor cooperative bank held

Manhunt launched for his associate

STAFF REPORTER

CHITTOOR

The Chittoor urban police on Tuesday arrested P. Shanmugam, 54, former chairman of the Chittoor Cooperative Town Bank, on charges of cheating the bank to the tune of ₹1.2 crore by availing gold loans and using artificial jewellery as mortgage.

The accused is a senior leader of the Telugu Desam Party.

Addressing a press meet here, Deputy Superintendent of Police - Chittoor Eeshwar Reddy said on February 13, bank officials approached the I Town Police with a complaint that Shanmugam had resorted to fraud during his tenure with the help of gold appraiser Dharani Sagar.

The duo had allegedly committed fraud with 43 accounts of 15 persons, who

are either their relatives or friends. Mr. Reddy said that the cheating was detected while the manager was handing over charge to his successor, followed by verification and reappraisal of properties mortgaged for gold loan accounts.

When the bank authorities contacted Shanmugam, he reportedly turned hostile.

The police officer said that a search is on for Dharani Sagar, who is absconding. The fake gold used by the duo was seized.

It was further ascertained in the course of the investigation that as many as 14 cases were booked against Shanmugam between 2011 and 2020 at various police stations in the Chittoor district, including those under Section 420 and for cheque bounce, the police said.

The duo had allegedly committed fraud with 43 accounts of 15 persons, who

Fire alarm



Pollution scare: Fire and Rescue Services personnel trying to douse the fire that broke out on the Brahmapuram solid waste

treatment plant near Kochi, in Kerala on Tuesday. ■ THULASI KAKKAT

Siva linga discovered atop hillock at A.P. temple

It was believed to have been formed during Neolithic age

P. SAMUEL JONATHAN

GUNTUR

An 18-foot Siva linga has been discovered by a freelance archaeologist at the Bhairaveshwara Swamy Temple atop the Mopuru hillock, in Vemula mandal of A.P.'s YSR Kadapa district.

The linga was believed to have been naturally formed ('swayambhu') during the Neolithic age dated back to 3,000-2,800 B.C.

The sighting of the Siva linga on the banks of the Mogameru rivulet, close on the heels of the discovery of stone implements such as axes and other tools used by the Megalithic civilisation by the Archaeology Department,

A view of the Siva linga sighted atop a hillock in Kadapa. ■ T. VIJAYA KUMAR

locals believe that the idol was not manmade, but a natural formation.

Sabarimala sanitation workers left unpaid

TDB slams district administration for delay in paying 900 workers from T.N.

RADHAKRISHNAN KUTTOOR

PATHANAMTHitta

The Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) and various organisations have taken exception to the undue delay on part of the district administration in disbursing wages to 900 Tamil sanitation workers who were deployed by the Sabarimala Sanitation Society (SS) at Sabarimala, Pampa, Nilakkal and Pandalam for 71 days during the last pilgrimage

IN BRIEF

**Bengali actor-politician Tapas Paul passes away**

KOLKATA

Veteran Bengali actor and Trinamool Congress leader Tapas Paul passed away in Mumbai on Tuesday due to cardiac arrest. He was 61. Paul was elected to the Lok Sabha in 2009 and 2014 on a Trinamool Congress ticket. In 2016, he was arrested by the CBI in connection with the multi-crore Rose Valley scam.

GoAir flight aborts take-off after bird hit

MUMBAI

A GoAir flight to Bengaluru had to abort take-off following a bird hit, which caused a minor fire in an engine and damaged a fan blade, at the Sardar Vallabhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad on Tuesday. The passengers and the crew deplaned safely.

Railways cracks down on illegal ticketing software

NEW DELHI

In a relief for train travellers, the Railways on Tuesday claimed that it had arrested at least 60 people since December as part of a crackdown on illegal software that allowed agents to book thousands of tatak tickets within seconds of bookings being opened making it virtually impossible for genuine travellers to get Tatkal bookings.

Bengali question paper leaked during exam

KOLKATA

Purported images of the Bengali question paper went viral on WhatsApp soon after the first language examination of the Class 10 State Boards began on Tuesday. However, WBBSE president Kalyanmoy Ganguly denied the claims and said the exams were conducted smoothly. PTI

SC voices concern over deforestation

The court was hearing a plea challenging cutting of old trees for an overbridge in West Bengal

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Deforestation is so rapid that before anyone knows everything will be lost, Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde said on Tuesday, voicing concern over the loss of green cover.

A three-judge Bench, led by the Chief Justice Bobde, was hearing a petition challenging the cutting of heritage trees in West Bengal to create space for an overbridge in an accident-prone area of a highway.

Advocate Prashant Bhush-

an, for the petitioner, agreed that in another 50 years, the effects of climate change might take a turn for the worse.

'Greed and profit'

Chief Justice Bobde did not hold back while condemning humanity's tendency to abuse natural resources for greed and profit.

"I understand you don't have the brains to build new ones [water conservation systems], but you are also destroying what is there," said Justice Bobde.



The court said the green cover must be preserved.

"People are not willing to explore alternatives. There could be a way to create a

path without cutting trees, though it might be a little more expensive," Chief Justice Bobde said with the reference to the over-bridge project.

A tree's value

The Bench even considered taking on board economists and environmentalists to estimate the value of a tree, factoring in the value of the quantum of oxygen it emits in its lifetime.

"When you cut a heritage tree, imagine the value of the oxygen the tree produced all

these years. Compare it with how much you would have to pay for the equivalent amount of oxygen if you have to buy it from somewhere else," Chief Justice Bobde had observed at an earlier hearing.

Mr. Bhushan had suggested a change in the alignment of the project or even an underbridge.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, for West Bengal, had said the State had discussed the issue for 18 months before deciding on cutting as few trees as possible.

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: Dense fog likely in isolated parts over Odisha. Under the influence of western disturbance over Kashmir & neighbourhood influence, light isolated to scattered rainfall is likely to occur over the western Himalayan region during the next two days.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...30.0...	14.0	...	Kozhikode	...34.0...	24.0	...
Ahmedabad	...35.0...	18.0	...	Kurnool	...36.0...	20.0	...
Aizawl	...20.0...	10.0	...	Lucknow	...28.0...	13.0	...
Allahabad	...29.0...	11.0	...	Madurai	...34.0...	22.0	...
Bengaluru	...31.0...	16.0	...	Mangaluru	...37.0...	22.0	...
Bhopal	...30.0...	12.0	...	Mumbai	...37.0...	23.0	...
Bhubaneswar	...33.0...	17.0	...	Mysuru	...32.0...	17.0	...
Chandigarh	...26.0...	9.0	...	New Delhi	...27.0...	10.0	...
Chennai	...32.0...	20.0	...	Patna	...27.0...	14.0	...
Coimbatore	...33.0...	20.0	...	Port Blair	...30.0...	22.0	...
Dehradun	...26.0...	10.0	...	Puducherry	...32.0...	20.0	...
Gangtok	...14.0...	9.0	...	Pune	...33.0...	17.0	...
Goa	...37.0...	22.0	...	Raipur	...31.0...	15.0	...
Guwahati	...27.0...	14.0	...	Ranchi	...28.0...	12.0	...
HUBLI	...33.0...	19.0	...	Shillong	...17.0...	7.0	...
Hyderabad	...33.0...	17.0	...	Shimla	...21.0...	8.0	...
Imphal	...25.0...	8.0	...	Srinagar	...15.0...	-1.0	...
Jaipur	...31.0...	12.0	...	Thiruvananthapuram	...35.0...	23.0	...
Kochi	...34.0...	25.0	...	Tiruchi	...33.0...	19.0	...
Kohima	...16.0...	7.0	...	Vijayawada	...34.0...	21.0	...
Kolkata	...29.0...	19.0	...	Visakhapatnam	...30.0...	23.0	...

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	.79	...18	195	187	195	...
Bengaluru	.15	36	71	66	91	...
Chennai	.8	33	44	110	110	...
Delhi	.66	72	...	321	311	...
Hyderabad	.4	81	30	129	126	...
Kolkata	.15	82	27	300	287	...
Lucknow	.9	58	40	286	26	...
Mumbai	.19	101	36	226	283	...
Pune	102	40	88	205	151	...
Visakhapatnam	.8	59	49	75	112	...

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

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

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

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Guwahati, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 62. The level of pollution, in contrast, Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 62.

Box office receipts cross ₹10,000 cr.

Hollywood big gainer with 31% rise in collections

NAMRATA JOSHI

MUMBAI

Gross box office receipts crossed the ₹10,000 crore mark for the first time in 2019, making it a historic year for cinema in India, according to Mumbai-based media consulting firm Ormax Media's Indian Box Office Report 2019.

Total gross earnings across all languages rose almost 12% last year to ₹10,948 crore, from ₹9,810 crore in 2018, according to the report. The reduction in GST slabs also helped boost net earnings at an even faster pace of 19% to ₹9,490 crore.

Ironically, the biggest gainer was Hollywood, with its productions registering a 31% jump in gross collections (across all languages, in original as well as dubbed versions) to touch an all-time high of ₹1,595 crore. This also helped it overtake Tamil

Hollywood on high

Gross box office collections of Hollywood movies in India grew

204% since 2013, overtaking the Tamil and Telugu movie industries to rank second after Bollywood in 2019

and Telugu to the number two spot in terms of earnings after Hindi.

Till last year, Hindi had led the race followed by Tamil and Telugu, with Hollywood placed fourth. The biggest film in India last year was the Marvel superhero movie *Avengers: Endgame* that grossed ₹433 crore in all the language versions. It was followed by three more films that went beyond the coveted ₹300 crore figure – the Hrithik Roshan-Tiger Shroff bromance *War* (₹357 crore), multilingual action thriller *Saaho* (₹349 crore) and the

controversial *Kabir Singh* (₹321 crore).

Bollywood on top

Hollywood also increased its box office share. While Hindi led with 44% of the gross domestic box office, Hollywood (in all language versions) stood second with 15% share, followed by Tamil and Telugu at 13% each.

Besides *Avengers: Endgame*, *The Lion King* did well for Hollywood with ₹184 crore gross box office earnings across all language versions.

Shailesh Kapoor, CEO and

founder of Ormax Media, points at the increasing success of multilingual cinema.

Saaho got 60% of its earnings from the Hindi than the Telugu or Tamil versions," said Mr. Kapoor. Telugu film *Sye Raa Narasimha Reddy*, dubbed and simultaneously released in Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam and Tamil, featured in the top 10.

"It shows that the success of *Baahubali* was not one off," said Mr. Kapoor. "Hindi film industry will continue to get challenged by dubbed versions of the South and Hollywood films," he added.

Sd/- SECRETARY
Society for Rural Self Development and Rehabilitation,
(Implementing Agency- Jharkhand Food Processing Cluster)
Mobile: 9491619607

TENDER NOTICE
Sealed Tenders are invited in the prescribed format and in two cover system from the Govt. Registered Engineers/PWD/CE/Architects/Contractors/Consultants/Engineers/Architects/Contractors/for the construction of Corridor Facility Centre (CFC) for Jharkhand Food Processing Cluster at Jonnada (V), Almora (M), East Godavari (Dt.), Andhra Pradesh.

1. Tender should be submitted in separate envelopes, (Technical Bid & Financial Bid), at below mentioned address and should be reached on or before 10.03.2020 at 03.00 pm. Applicant should submit the EMD of Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh only) through Demand Draft in favor of Society for Rural Self Development and Rehabilitation payable of Jonnada, East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh. Tenders opening date, time and venue will be communicated separately.

2. Tender forms can be obtained from Society for Rural Self Development and Rehabilitation, D.No. 6-70, Muliastan village, Almora Mandal, East Godavari (Dt.), Andhra Pradesh-533233 by paying tender application fee of Rs. 1,000/- on any working day from 19.02.2020 to 10.03.2020 between 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

3. The details of work and terms & conditions are available in the tender form. The agency reserves the rights to cancel the tender(s) without assigning any reason(s) therein.

Sd/- SECRETARY
Society for Rural Self Development and Rehabilitation
(Implementing Agency- Jharkhand Food Processing Cluster)
Mobile: 9491619607

**GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ROADS TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM (HPSRTP)****REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REoI)**

Name of Project: Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Program (HPSRTP)

Loan No./Credit No./Grant No.: To be allotted

Date: February 18 , 2020

The Chief Engineer-cum-Project Director, State Roads Project, Nirman Bhawan, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002, Himachal Pradesh, India invites Expression of Interest



Visa power

While mounting a diplomatic offensive, India should be more accommodative of criticism

The government has explained its decision to detain and deport British Labour MP Debbie Abrahams, saying that she had attempted to enter India on an "invalid visa", as the government had revoked her e-business visa three days prior to her travel. It also seems clear that the decision to revoke the visa was prompted by her frequent criticism of India on the issue of human rights in Jammu and Kashmir, and a proclivity towards echoing Pakistan's line on the issue. After the government's amendment to Article 370 in August, Ms. Abrahams, who is the Chairperson of the U.K.'s All-Party Parliamentary Group on Kashmir, had stepped up her campaign, and raised the issue of J&K in the British Parliament as well. The government has not explained, however, how someone it considers so inimical to Indian interests received a one-year business visa in the first place in October 2019, and why it took four months to cancel it. Eventually, its reaction to her arrival in New Delhi, detaining and questioning her before deporting her was nothing short of ham-handed. To be clear, the government is well within its rights to deny entry to anyone that it desires to. However, if its plan was to avoid public criticism of its actions in J&K or of its democratic values, then its treatment of the MP has only ended up having spotlighted its actions even more. Parallels will also be made to the response to criticism from the U.S. Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, who like Ms. Abrahams has family ties with India, and co-sponsored a House resolution critical of India on J&K. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, in Washington in December, cancelled a meeting with the influential House Foreign Affairs Committee as a snub to Ms. Jayapal, instead of trying to engage her at the meeting. The government is apparently banking on the fact that Ms. Jayapal and Ms. Abrahams are from Opposition parties, and hence it will not face adverse consequences from the Trump administration or the Johnson government.

Where governments like those in Turkey and Malaysia have themselves been critical, India's response has been equally sharp: the démarche to the Turkish Ambassador this week and travel advisories issued earlier to Indians travelling to Turkey, or the trade restrictions on palm oil imports, most of which are from Malaysia, are notable examples. New Delhi's anger over negative comments by Turkish President Erdogan or Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on India's "internal affairs" would seem more valid if it was not at the same time organising groups of envoys to visit J&K and encouraging them to express their positive opinions on the situation there. In the same vein, the boycott or deportation of politicians, visa denials to foreign journalists, all appear to be a part of a pattern of whimsical behaviour not suited to a democracy like India that prides in its traditions of openness and debate.

Birds hit

Bird diversity in India must be protected for cultural and ecological reasons

Birds are under increasing pressure from human activity, struggling to survive as habitat loss, pesticides, hunting and trapping for the pet trade push them closer to the edge. Once-thriving endemic or migrant bird populations have been decimated over the past quarter century in India, as the scientific report, 'State of India's Birds 2020', points out. The analysis, produced by 10 globally influential organisations, is a major addition to ornithology. It is a rare synthesis of scientific understanding and citizen-led initiatives, using over 10 million observations made by over 15,500 bird watchers, achieving what would be difficult for small groups of researchers working alone. What emerges is an alarming picture of long-term declines of several species for which enough data is available over a 25-year period, as well as a more recent trend of annual losses. Data inadequacies have led to the exclusion of many species. Some bird species assessed as 'least concern' by the IUCN, were found in peril in India. Remarkably, in spite of having a rich ornithological tradition, only 261 species out of 867 spotted qualified for a full analysis, based on robust long-term data; 52% of them are now classified as being of 'high concern'. The heartening news is that sparrow numbers remain stable overall, although the bird has largely disappeared from some of the big cities. But the Western Ghats offer bleak prospects, and the abundance index of 12 endemic species there has dropped by 75% since 2000. The fortunes of the Nilgiri Pipit, Nilgiri Thrush and several Sholakilis are tied to the survival of the high shola forest-grasslands. Equally critical to some species, such as the Hodgson's bushchat wintering away from Mongolia, is the protection of terai grasslands in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and the northeastern States.

India's conservation community expects the Environment Ministry, which released the status report at the global conference of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals at Gandhinagar, Gujarat, to secure a future for birds. Resolute steps to protect forests and other habitats will confer multiple benefits, protecting other myriad species too. The latest report is refreshing as it taps into citizen science for good data and should serve as a foundation for further collaborative work. It is essential to revive the Great Indian Bustard, now pushed to precariously low numbers. Couriers and floricans need help with their delicate habitat, as do neglected small birds such as the Green Myna that is widely trapped. Bird diversity makes India, Kerala in particular, a birdwatching destination. That variety must be protected not just for cultural reasons, but to improve the health of forests, wetlands, open country habitat and high mountains.

In U.S. trade action, an Indian counter-strategy

Indian interests would be well-served by maintaining a reasonable level of tariff protection



BISWAJIT DHAR

Last week, the United States officially designated developing and least-developed countries for the purposes of implementing the countervailing measures provided by the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (ASCM) of the World Trade Organization (WTO). According to the ASCM, developing countries are allowed to grant higher levels of subsidies as compared to the developed countries before countervailing duties (CVD) can be imposed.

The agreement stipulates that any countervailing duty investigation for a developing country must be terminated if the subsidies granted are found to be *de minimis*, which is defined as less than 2% of the value of imports of the product being investigated. For a developed country the *de minimis* is 1% of the import value of the investigated product. The United States's annual exercise of designating developing, and least developed countries has assumed importance for India this year: it has been dropped from the list of developing countries. In other words, in its future countervailing duty investigations, the U.S. would treat India as a developed country.

India as target

Under the WTO rules, any country can "self-designate" itself as a developing country. In fact, the WTO does not lay down any specific criteria for making a distinction between a developed and a developing country member, unlike in the World Bank where per capita in-

comes are used to classify countries. But despite this clearly laid down criteria in the WTO rules for making a distinction between developing and developed countries, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) employed an arbitrary methodology that took into consideration "economic, trade, and other factors, including the level of economic development of a country (based on a review of the country's per capita GNI) and a country's share of world trade" to exclude India from list of designated developing countries.

This is the second instance in less than a year, when the U.S. has refused to extend to India the benefits enjoyed by developing countries under the multilateral trade rules. On May 31, 2019, U.S. President Donald Trump had announced that India would be taken off the list of beneficiary-developing countries under its scheme of Generalised System of Preferences (GSP). The GSP is a special window provided by the U.S. and several other developed countries, through which they import identified products from developing countries at concessional rates of duties. Importantly, GSP confers non-reciprocal benefits, implying that the developed countries cannot expect reciprocal market access from the beneficiary developing countries. Yet, the U.S. denied GSP benefits to India arguing that India was unwilling to offer better market access to its products.

Excluding India from the lists of developing countries for the purposes of using countervailing measures or denying benefits of GSP are but two of the more recent initiatives that the U.S. has taken to challenge India's status as a developing country in the WTO. Over the past years, the U.S. has been arguing that the emerging economies, especially Brazil, China and

GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO



India, have performed much better than those in the developed world and therefore they should no longer enjoy the slew of benefits that they have as developing country members of the organisation.

The impact

What are the benefits that developing countries enjoy in the WTO and what could the potential impact of the exertions that the U.S. is making to deny India the status of a developing country be? Potentially very large, for India would then lose the ability to use the special and differential treatment (S&DT) to which every developing country member of the WTO has a right. In short, S&DT lessens the burden of adjustment that developing countries have to make while acceding to the various agreements under the WTO. Besides, when the WTO finalises an agreement in a specific area, developing countries are allowed longer implementation periods. This measure helps developing countries to introduce a new agreement in phases and are thus required to deploy resources beyond their capacities. S&DT has been particularly beneficial for India in two critical areas: one, implementation of the disciplines on agricultural subsidies and, two, opening up the markets for both agricultural and non-agricultural products.

The WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) provides an elaborate discipline on subsidies. Subsidies are classified in three

categories; but two of these are virtually outside the discipline since the WTO does not limit spending on these categories of subsidies. The discipline exists in case of price support measures (minimum support price) and input subsidies which is the more common form of subsidies for most developing countries, including in India. For developing countries, spending on price support measures and input subsidies taken together cannot exceed 10% of the total value of agricultural production. In contrast, developed countries are allowed to spend only 5% of their value of agricultural production.

Shifting to DBT

India is a major user of price support measures and input subsidies, and given the constraints imposed by the AoA, the government has spoken about its intention to move into the system of direct benefit transfer (DBT) for supporting farmers. A shift to DBT is attractive for India since there are no limits on spending, unlike in case of import competition. With increasing use of tariffs, almost across the board, India's average tariffs have increased from about 13% in 2017-18 to above 17% at present. The 2020-21 Budget has enhanced the level of protection of the domestic players in several key sectors, thus pushing the average tariffs even higher. Developed country members of the WTO have generally maintained very low levels of tariffs, and, therefore, India's interests of maintaining a reasonable level of tariff protection would be well served through its continued access to S&DT, by remaining as a developing country member of the WTO.

adequate levels of subsidies to a crisis-ridden agricultural sector, and therefore it is imperative that continues to enjoy the benefits as a developing country member of the WTO.

Issue of tariffs

The issue of market access, or the use of import tariffs, is one of the important trade policy instruments. It has some key provisions on S&DT, which the developing countries can benefit from. The most important among these is the undertaking from the developed countries that they would not demand reciprocal tariff cuts, and this reads as follows: "The developed contracting parties do not expect reciprocity for commitments made by them in trade negotiations to reduce or remove tariffs and other barriers to the trade of less-developed contracting parties."

Over the past two years, the government of India has been extensively using import tariffs for protecting Indian businesses from import competition. With increasing use of tariffs, almost across the board, India's average tariffs have increased from about 13% in 2017-18 to above 17% at present. The 2020-21 Budget has enhanced the level of protection of the domestic players in several key sectors, thus pushing the average tariffs even higher. Developed country members of the WTO have generally maintained very low levels of tariffs, and, therefore, India's interests of maintaining a reasonable level of tariff protection would be well served through its continued access to S&DT, by remaining as a developing country member of the WTO.

Biswajit Dhar is Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Powering the health-care engine with innovation

There is potential for private care providers, innovators and start-ups to be partners in the Ayushman Bharat scheme



AMITABH KANT &
INDU BHUSHAN

It has been close to 18 months since the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, launched the country-wide implementation of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), or the national health protection scheme; the initial momentum has been very encouraging. The scheme is currently being implemented in 32 of 36 States and Union Territories. It has provided 84 lakh free treatments to poor and vulnerable patients for secondary and tertiary ailments at 22,000 empanelled hospitals, country-wide. Under PM-JAY, there is one free treatment every three seconds and two beneficiaries verified every second.

Expanding the supply side

As the scale of this scheme grows, a key area of focus is to expand the secondary and tertiary hospitals empanelled under PM-JAY and ensure their quality and capacity while keeping the costs down. At present, there is one government bed for every 1,844 patients and one doctor for every 11,082 patients. In the coming years, considering 3% hospitalisation of PM-JAY-covered beneficiaries, the scheme is likely to provide treatment to 1.5 crore patients annually. This means physical and human infrastructure capacity

would need to be augmented vastly. Conservative estimates suggest we would need more than 150,000 additional beds, especially in Tier-2 and -3 cities. While a comprehensive long-term strategy will focus on expanding hospital and human resources infrastructure, an effective near-term approach is needed to improve efficiencies and bridge gaps within the existing supply and likely demand. A strong, yet under-tapped lever for accelerating health system efficiency and bridging these gaps is mainstreaming innovation in the Indian health system.

Transformative solutions

India's burgeoning entrepreneurial spirit combined with a systematic push for the development of a start-up ecosystem has led to a plethora of innovations in health care. It is estimated that there are more than 4,000 health-care technology start-ups in India. Today, start-ups are working to bring innovative technologies and business models that leapfrog infrastructure, human resources, cost-effectiveness and efficiency challenges in Tier-2 and -3 cities. Artificial Intelligence platforms that aid in rapid radiology diagnostics in low resource settings, tele-ICU platforms to bridge the gap in high-skilled critical care personnel, centralised drone delivery of blood, medicines and vaccines to reach remote locations cost-effectively and reliably are all no longer just theoretical ideas. They are real solutions that are ready to be tested on the ground and potentially implemented. It is high time for transformative solutions to make their way into our hospitals,



especially in Tier-2 and -3 cities, to turbocharge the way health care is delivered at scale.

This mainstreaming of health-care innovations, is lined with challenges at every step. The friction in their path to market often stems from multiple reasons.

Addressing the constraints

One challenge is non-uniform regulatory and validation standards. Regulatory requirements, specifically for biomedical start-ups, are still evolving in India. As a result, hospitals often rely on foreign regulatory certifications such as FDA and CE, especially for riskier devices and instruments. In addition, it is difficult for a start-up to understand the minimum necessary validation requirements in order to qualify for procurement by hospitals. Lack of standards in this area leads to a huge variation in validation requirements at States and hospitals, forcing the start-up into a spiral of piloting studies. The government is now pushing ahead to overhaul Indian med-tech regulatory standards and product standards which will help bridge this trust deficit.

Another problem in promoting start-ups is the operational liquidity crunch due to a long gestation period. Health-care start-ups

spend long periods of time in the early development of their product, especially where potential clinical risks are concerned. The process of testing the idea and working prototype, receiving certifications, performing clinical and commercial validations, and raising funds, in a low-trust and unstructured environment makes the gestational period unusually long thereby limiting the operational liquidity of the start-up.

Another hurdle is the lack of incentives and adequate frameworks to grade and adopt innovations. Health-care providers and clinicians, given limited bandwidth, often lack the incentives, operational capacity, and frameworks necessary to consider and adopt innovations. This leads to limited traction for start-ups promoting innovative solutions.

Start-ups also face procurement challenges in both public and private procurement. They lack the financial capacity to deal with lengthy tenders and the roundabout process of price discovery. Private procurement is complicated by the presence of a fragmented customer base and limited systematic channels for distribution.

To accelerate this process of mainstreaming innovations within the hospital system in India, we need to focus on identifying promising market-ready health-care innovations that are ready to be tested and deployed at scale. There is a need to facilitate standardised operational validation studies that are required for market adoption, to help ease out the start-up procurement process such that these solutions can be adopted with confidence. This, in

effect, will serve the entire ecosystem of health-care innovators by opening up health-care markets for all. A strong theme in mature health-care systems in other parts of the world is a vibrant and seamless interface between hospitals and health-care start-ups. Through Ayushman Bharat, India has the unique opportunity to develop a robust ecosystem where hospitals actively engage with health-care start-ups by providing access to testbeds, communicating their needs effectively and adopting promising innovations. Start-ups can be effective collaborators for the most pressing health-care delivery challenges faced by hospitals, as opposed to being mere suppliers of technology or services.

We believe that the launch and expansion of Ayushman Bharat-PM-JAY is a watershed moment for the Indian health-care service delivery ecosystem. The government has taken a big step by rolling out world's largest and most ambitious publicly funded health-care assurance programme. We are now calling out to private sector health-care providers, health innovators, industry and start-ups to become equal partners in this movement. The dream of an accessible, affordable and high-quality health-care system for all, will be achieved when we work in alignment to complement each other and jointly undertake the mission of creating an Ayushman Bharat.

Amitabh Kant is CEO, NITI Aayog. Indu Bhushan is CEO, Ayushman Bharat-PM-JAY and National Health Authority. The views expressed are personal

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.

Trauma narrative

A country can be judged by how it treats its children. Looking at the recent chain of events, from Kashmir to Karnataka, it is anybody's guess where India stands on this issue (Editorial page, "India's disturbing trauma narrative," February 18).

With growing reports of children across India experiencing trauma, we often ask ourselves whether we have reached a low, stretching our threshold of tolerance. The time is ripe for citizens to say enough is enough.

A. VENKATASUBRAMANIAN,
Tenmur, Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Women officers

Talk of empowerment of women to enable them to live with a life of dignity, honour, equality, recognition and respect have been making waves in recent years (Page 1, "Women Army officers eligible for permanent commission: SC," February 18). Gender bias based on physiological features is baffling in an environment where women continuously outperform men in various fields. Considering that woman officers constitute only a fraction of the total number of officers in the Indian Army, the Court order would be an incentive

for more women to join the forces. The watershed judgment, by opening up new avenues for women, has dispelled the wrong notions about their ability to sparkle in an area earmarked specifically for men in the past.

V. SUBRAMANIAN,
Chennai

■ One must be wary of drawing sweeping and unqualified conclusions from the Supreme Court's verdict, ordering the provision of permanent commission to women army officers (Page 1 and Editorial, "Women-at-arms," both February 18). The facts do not justify the

construction of any moralising narrative about a tussle between a progressive judiciary and a patriarchal and misogynistic government. Having announced a policy to provide a permanent commission to women officers in 10 streams of the "Combat Support Arms" and "Services" sections, there was no reason for the government to convey the impression that it did not intend to walk the talk. A judicial pronouncement is not merely about what it finally says. It should ideally involve a process of consultations with various stakeholders, either directly

or through legal counsels, to ensure that justice is seen as done. More than the abstract notions and superior legal knowledge of judges, it is the mundane and first-hand knowledge of those working on the ground that should matter in approving changes in policies, especially those relating to battlefield conditions. The question is, did the court seek direct feedback from the Indian Army instead of merely relying on affidavits drafted by bureaucrats?

V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN,
Thiruvananthapuram

Fact-finding in Kashmir

I truly wonder why the

government is taking teams of foreign delegates to Kashmir. Why waste taxpayer's money on a PR exercise? Every delegate should be given the freedom to interact with people, students, businessmen and politicians and present the ground situation either in a press conference or as a written report. The branding of those who question the government as "anti-national" appears to be spreading from Indian citizens to a British MP and even Turkey.

T. ANAND RAJ,
Chennai

government is taking teams of foreign delegates to Kashmir. Why waste taxpayer's money on a PR exercise? Every delegate should be given the freedom to interact with people, students, businessmen and politicians and present the ground situation either in a press conference or as a written report. The branding of those who question the government as "anti-national" appears to be spreading from Indian citizens to a British MP and even Turkey.

T. ANAND RAJ,
Chennai

CMYK



ND-NDE

The significance of the term 'secular'

It enables focus on religion-based discrimination and misrecognition



RAJEEV BHARGAVA

What value is added by the term 'secular' to liberal democracies, i.e. states that safeguard liberties of individuals and political freedoms of citizens? For some scholars, virtually nothing. Why? Because, while secularism is against discrimination only on the basis of religion, a 'liberal democracy' is against all forms of discrimination. The term 'liberal democracy' subsumes 'secularism'. Why bother with 'secularism' then? Why not commit ourselves to the priorities of a liberal democracy instead? This is a fashionable view in Europe. Even some Indian scholars argue for the sufficiency of Articles 14-16 and 19 of the Constitution.

Discrimination and recognition
This view is inadequate, if not wrong. The word 'secular' is important. Those who claim the sufficiency of 'liberal democracy' must think again. True, their claim has had some validity in Europe, but it is losing relevance there too. But in places like India, it is a virtual non-starter.

Why? Let us first get a handle on Europe's specificity. Secular states did not emerge in Western Europe in the immediate aftermath of the religious wars. These wars were stopped by the establishment not of a secular but a confessional state in which people were forced to embrace the religion of the king. Those who did not comply faced death or expulsion. Every European society from then on became religiously homogenous – England became Anglican; Scandinavia, Lutheran; France, Catholic. Over time some dissenting groups were tolerated, but not without paying a price for their dissent. For example, although they were permitted to have their own church, it had to be hidden away in bylanes. Even the rich were forced to build chapels within the premises of their homes. Dissenters lived under the threat of persecution and daily harassment. The tolerant states of early modern Europe were a far cry from modern European liberal democratic states.



BIBEK CHETTRI

Once other religions were eliminated or tamed, a struggle began against a politically meddlesome and socially oppressive church. The demand to separate church and state (which later came to be called political secularism) was supported by those who favoured free markets, private property and personal liberties. The moment this separation was sufficiently achieved, it began to be taken for granted, and slowly receded into the background. In this sense, 'secularism' lost its political and social salience in these religiously homogenous societies. The fight for a liberal state seemed sufficient.

Centuries later, when the general ethos in Western Europe witnessed the further decline of Christianity, the term 'secular' found itself linked to a humanist world view for which religion, whatever its private benefits, was potentially a public problem. While becoming increasingly less salient, it was etched in the bitter collective memory of these societies as the source of discord from which they had mercifully escaped. A religion, already on the defensive, faced greater devaluation and marginalisation. No one wanted religion-grounded recognition. With this, the idea of separation of state and religion lost its normative value further. These liberal states, where religion was no longer significant, granted formal equality to all citizens and called themselves liberal democratic.

But what if Europeans had to institute a liberty-loving, equality-loving state as soon as religious wars erupted? What if there was not much of a time lag between religious wars and the growth of a serious commitment to the values of liberty, equality and

fraternity? Had this been so, demands for ending the religious persecution of dissenters and preventing religious homogenisation would have been immediate. How else could a state live up to the ideals of liberty and equality? Moreover, the dynamics of a multi-religious society is such that religion would not have lost salience. Then, instead of getting rid of religious dissenters and minorities, a general consensus might have been sought to prevent their domination by the majority religious community. Had multiple religious identities been part of the social climate, a commitment to equality would have compelled European states to give impartial public recognition to all religions. Such states would be secular precisely in the sense that Indians conceived it – something with which to fight not just religious fanaticism and intra-religious oppression but also the domination of one religion by another. They would have been forced to call themselves not just liberal (subsuming within it secular in the European sense) but also 'secular' in the sense defended by Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar where it designates impartial public recognition to all religions. My point then is that the greater the salience of religion and depth of diversity in society, the larger the prospect of intra- and inter-religious domination, and the more pressing the need for a state – given its commitment to liberty, equality and impartial recognition – to call itself 'secular'.

Also, if religion-related bigotry and denial of recognition is present persistently, then it is hard to forget or ignore it. People potentially affected by them need to be repeatedly

told that the state is there for them. The function of the term 'secular' is to do precisely that, to reassure anyone threatened by religious or religion-based exclusion, discrimination or misrecognition that the state is committed to preventing all this. To drop the word 'secular' then undermines confidence in the impartial character of the state.

Why use a specific term?

The point can be made differently. Why lump together all forms of discrimination and oppression under the same general term? If the term 'secular' focuses on one specific kind of domination, why not to use it? Isn't de-cluttering our world and helping us focus on particular features an important function of all concepts? Why not call a flower 'red' when you have a distinguishing word for it? What point would be served by simply calling it coloured? To be sure, in some contexts, this might be sufficient. For example, if our purpose is to differentiate it from all white flowers the use of the term 'coloured' is adequate but not if one coloured flower is to be distinguished from another. Likewise, 'secular' helps focus on institutionalised religious domination, to demarcate it from other kinds of domination based on class, gender, ethnicity, etc. 'Secularism' implores us to resist it.

In religiously homogenous societies, particularly where the importance of religion has weakened, liberal democratic states tend to be relatively indifferent to the term 'secular'. However, in religiously strong and diverse societies such as India, 'secular' is indispensable. It cannot disappear from public and constitutional discourse. Is it surprising then that after a few years of exile, it has recently resurfaced in India?

Here we cannot follow European habits but must embrace both liberal democracy and a form of secularism that fights religion-based misrecognition. Indeed, even Europe is changing. After the migration of workers from former colonies, Europe's new religious diversity has brought religion-based recognition to the fore. Therefore, in Europe too demands for an impartial secular state (in the Indian sense) will become louder.

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It's time to empower mayors

Elections to urban local bodies should take place on non-party lines



T. RAMAKRISHNAN

The spectacular victory of the Aam Aadmi Party in the Delhi Assembly election is seen as a reiteration of voters' confidence in the leadership of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, even though several factors together contributed to the poll outcome. This development may again give rise to the demand for a 'strong mayor' helming urban local bodies (ULBs), as the role of the Delhi Chief Minister is treated on a par with the role of a mayor of a municipal corporation. With electoral politics in India becoming increasingly personality-centric, the idea of an empowered mayor may find many takers.

Indirect elections

In the last six months, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu decided to have indirect elections of ULB chiefs. In Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, the Congress won in a majority of ULBs after effecting the change. In fact, according to one estimate, the system of direct election of mayors is in vogue only in two States – Uttarakhand and Jharkhand.

The larger issue at hand is the quality of urban governance. It is unrealistic to expect a high quality of governance as long as political parties have a complete grip over the way civic bodies function. It is time policy-makers and political leaders began to seriously contemplate party-less elections to ULBs. This idea is not new. It has been debated at the All India Mayors conference. But due to the unwillingness of parties to examine the concept, the idea has not taken off.

Already, in a majority of the States, the election for the posts of presidents and councillors of gram panchayats is done on non-party lines. At least in respect of rural local bodies (RLBs), there is some justification for the presence of political parties as, otherwise, caste alone might determine votes. But in ULBs, the caste factor remains subdued, especially during elections. Besides, there is no sound rationale for holding polls for ULBs on party lines as these bodies neither legislate nor frame policies. Also, there is no scope for any political ideology to play a role in the affairs of ULBs. The main task of the bodies is to handle problems concerning sanitation, water supply and solid waste management. Even in the area of water supply and sewerage, the role of the municipal

corporations of Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad has got reduced as there are entities exclusively for this purpose. Delhi too has a Jal Board, headed by the Chief Minister.

Protagonists of the party system may point out that there has been a tradition of political leaders heading ULBs. They may also argue that the participation of political personalities in elections to ULBs cannot be prevented. But the reality is that the calibre of the political leadership is in short supply and the issues concerning ULBs have undergone a sea change over time. According to the 2011 Census, there are about 8,000 towns in India. There are at least 50 cities or urban agglomerations with more than a million people, says the 15th Finance Commission. These cities face challenges of pollution, ground water depletion and sanitation. There are also inter-State disparities in the level of urbanisation and in the urban poverty ratio. ULBs don't have finances, a problem ignored by the elected representatives.

Parties have nothing to fear

There is also political justification for why elections to the ULBs should take place on non-party lines. Under the present scheme, Chief Ministers do not want strong ULB chiefs to emerge, especially if the person happens to be from his or her party. This explains why parties prefer indirect elections. On the contrary, if the polls are held on non-party lines with direct elections for chiefs of ULBs, a new crop of leaders will emerge outside the political class. Well-educated and well-qualified youngsters will be encouraged to take part in the election process. More importantly, municipal elections are bound to become cheaper as there will be no need for competitive spending by nominees of rival parties.

Even if some successful mayors emerge in the process and want to take on established parties in the Assembly or Lok Sabha polls, this will be a Herculean task for them, so parties have nothing to fear. In fact, parties stand to gain, as MLAs may not be vilified for all the wrongdoings of local bodies.

Questions will be raised about the credentials of candidates for the post of mayor. State Election Commissions can prescribe qualifications for mayors, over and above the existing ones, to address them. The issue of cohesion between mayors and councils will also be raised. This remains a major problem but committed individuals, if elected, can easily thrash out this issue. ULBs can have meaningful empowerment only if the concept of non-party elections is adopted. This is a prerequisite for the implementation of the 'strong mayor' model.

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Lending a helping hand

India's tepid response to China's woes has put its impressive soft power gains on notice

ATUL ANEJA

bal Times, on India's response.

Many contrast New Delhi's arguably overcautious response – initially banning all export of face masks, suspending e-visas for over a billion Chinese, and sending a delayed message of empathy at the highest level to the distressed Chinese – with the solid and spontaneous support shown by the Japanese for their embattled neighbour.

Japan's response

Disregarding the trauma of Tokyo's 1937 invasion and its enduring fallout, Chinese Internet users have showered praise on a retailer from Japan, which donated one million

masks to the city of Chengdu. The Japanese city of Oita sent 30,000 masks to its sister city, Wuhan. The hashtag #Japan sends a million face masks to aid Wuhan# went viral, with more than 500 million views on Weibo. The Japanese also avoided fire-walling their borders. In their initial response, Japanese authorities barred the entry of only those Chinese citizens whose passports had been issued in Hubei province, the epicentre of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Despite the initial damage, there may still be an opportunity for India to recover some of its soft power erosion. The key would be to follow the precedent of 2003, when George Fernandes, then Defence Minister, travelled to Beijing to express India's full support to the Chinese people, during the SARS outbreak.

That visit reminded people of Dwarkanath S. Kotnis, an Indian surgeon who had died in China, where he had gone in 1938 as part of a five-member medical team to assist Chinese revolutionaries at the time of the Sino-Japanese war. That team had been cobbled together by Subhas Chandra Bose, on the instructions of Jawaharlal Nehru, to flag anti-colonial internationalism in Asia. Incidentally, before entering ground zero of the Chinese revolution, the Indian medical unit had been moved from Hankou port in Wuhan, where SARS-CoV-2 was first detected.

Striking the right balance

But India's tepid response to the mounting woes of ordinary Chinese – the target of the novel coronavirus, which has killed over 1,800 people, spread panic, and threatened to derail the economy – has put these impressive soft power gains on notice. Chinese netizens question whether India has struck the right balance in protecting its domestic population from the deadly disease and dousing the flames of a neighbour whose house is on fire. "Chinese people believe that a drop of water given in need shall be returned with a burst of spring, which means if others offer even a little bit of help, one should return the favour with all he or she can," wrote the state-run tabloid *Glo-*

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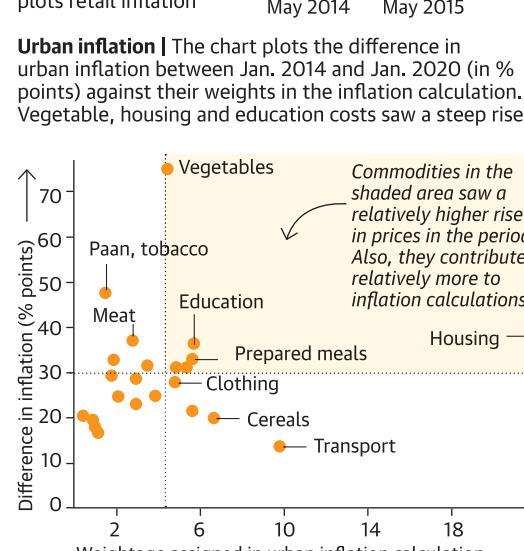
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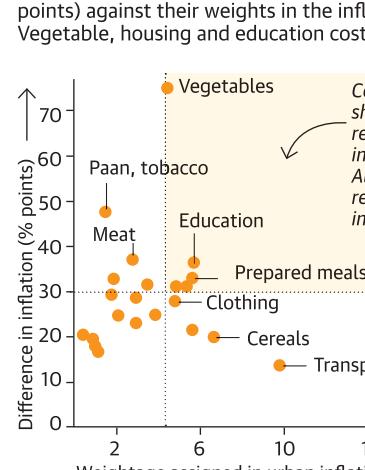
Paying the price

Rural price rise
In January 2019, retail rural inflation decelerated to 1.22%, the lowest since May 2014. However in January 2020, it accelerated to 7.73%, the third highest since May 2014. The chart plots retail inflation

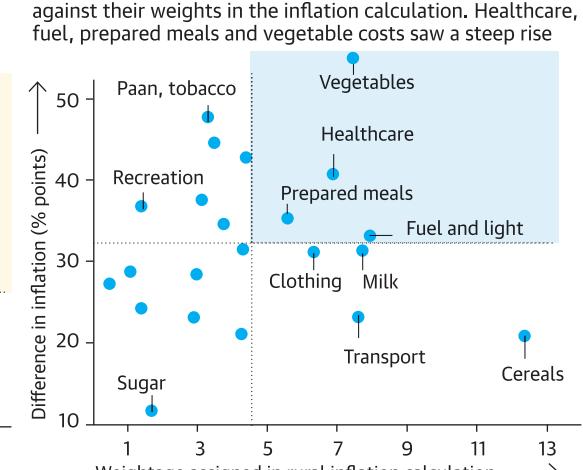
Retail inflation accelerated to a five-and-a-half-year high of 7.59% in January 2020. In January, urban inflation showed a marginal drop compared to the previous month, though it remained above 7%. Rural inflation continued to rise and reached a six-year high of 7.73%. Since 2014, rural prices have mostly gone up due to the increase in the cost of vegetables, healthcare and fuel. Urban prices have gone up mostly due to the increase in the cost of housing, education and vegetables. By Sumanth Sen & Naresh S



Urban inflation | The chart plots the difference in urban inflation between Jan. 2014 and Jan. 2020 (in % points) against their weights in the inflation calculation. Vegetable, housing and education costs saw a steep rise



Rural inflation | The chart plots the difference in rural inflation between Jan. 2014 and Jan. 2020 (in % points) against their weights in the inflation calculation. Healthcare, fuel, prepared meals and vegetable costs saw a steep rise



FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 19, 1970

Centre contemplating law on archives

A proposal for legislation on archives covering Central Government records would be shortly submitted to the Union Government for approval, the Union Education Minister, Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao, said while delivering the presidential address to the 40th session of the Indian Historical Records Commission here [Madras] to-day [February 18]. He hoped to introduce the Bill in Parliament before this year. The Commission, he said, would take advance action to provide the facilities needed to meet the obligation under the proposed legislation and also find out what recommendations they should make for the State Governments' consideration, if there should be State legislation also on archives. The Centre had advised the States to include the development of archives as an item in their respective Plans, Dr. Rao said, and suggested a five-point programme to ensure the orderly and rapid development of archives. His suggestion included provision of buildings to house records, acquisition of records of permanent value, papers of historical importance with private institutions and individuals, microfilm copies of papers of Indian interest in foreign countries and preservation of records on scientific lines.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEB. 19, 1920.

Life Insurance in India.
(From an Editorial)

There can now be no doubt as to the advantages which have accrued to the public by the legislative regulations framed in regard to the working of the Life Assurance Companies and Provident Fund Societies. They are recorded in popular language by Mr. H.G.W. Meikle, F.F.A., Actuary to the Government of India in his lucid and interesting report for the year 1918. People in this Presidency and in Bengal have known to their cost the serious mischief caused by the rise of provident societies for all imaginable purposes, and the heavy losses sustained by credulous investors and policy holders. The Provident Societies Act has wrought considerable havoc in this matter and on the whole, the public have stood to gain from the very large reduction in the number of these associations. We learn from the report that there about 1,200 societies of this type thirteen years ago of which only 34 have survived, 9 of which are proprietary and the rest mutual. Except one which has a capital of Rs. 30,000, the average capital of others is about Rs. 3,000.

CM YK

FROM PAGE ONE

Chargesheets filed in Jamia violence

The document states that the protesters, including the arrested accused, were stopped by a police party after which they jammed the Mata Mandir Road in New Friends Colony, damaged and torched vehicles and threw stones at the police.

The chargesheet mentions that empty cartridges of 3.2 mm pistol were recovered, suggesting that the shots were fired from a countrymade pistol. However, the police said the persons who fired the shots were yet to be found, and the matter was being investigated. The chargesheet has the statements of over 100 persons as witnesses, which have been attached as evidence.

The officer said a total of 18 persons had so far been arrested in connection with the two FIRs registered and none was a student. "No student has been named in the chargesheet."

The document also has

medico legal certificates attached of 95 public persons and over 30 police officials who sustained injuries on December 15.

Sources said the document also mentioned the Popular Front of India, and its role was being probed.

One FIR was registered in the Jamia Nagar police station under IPC Sections dealing with rioting and assault to deter public servant from discharging his duty and under the Arms Act; and the other was filed in the New Friends Colony Police Station under similar Sections, besides attempt to murder and criminal conspiracy. The cases were transferred to the Crime Branch.

On Tuesday, a special investigation team, headed by Deputy Commissioner of Police Rajesh Deo, visited the university in the wake of videos that surfaced in the last few days showing police "excesses" on December 15.

Steps soon to deal with coronavirus impact

Some of the major issues raised include quarantine paperwork blocking the import of goods, worries about congestion at ports in the future due to the staggered and disrupted supply lines and requests that banks be flexible with regard to repayment receipts, said Ms. Sitharaman.

However, she added that several industries, including pharma, chemicals, fertilisers and solar energy promoters and manufacturers, saw opportunity in the crisis. They felt this would be the best time for them to start up new units, so that India is not dependent on imports from China, and can use this as an excuse to expand capacity, she said.

According to an analysis by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), submitted to the Centre, China supplies 43% of India's imports of the top 20 goods, includ-

ing mobile handsets (\$7.2 billion import from China), computers (\$3 billion), integrated circuits and other inputs (\$7.5 billion), fertilisers (\$1.5 billion), APIs (\$1.4 billion) and antibiotics (\$1.1 billion).

The industry body requested that a task force be set up to address the spillovers of the epidemic affecting China.

"The coronavirus pandemic in China is impacting critical inputs for Indian industry which may adversely impact small businesses and some jobs. A joint government-industry task force can institute risk mitigation measures on an immediate basis," said CII Director-General Chandrapratap Banerjee. "While the situation is serious, there is no call for panic as Indian industry is resilient and can enhance domestic production to meet temporary shortfalls," he added.

Karbis protest against ST status for hill Bodos

The Bodos, an ethnic group in Assam, had been demanding a separate State since 1972, and are recognised as a Scheduled Tribe (Plain).

After the conclusion of the latest Bodo pact, the Karbi Longri and North Cachar Hills Liberation Front (KLNLF), a militant group that signed a ceasefire pact with the Centre in 2009, has said a "political settlement" should be reached soon. "The identity of Karbis will come under threat if Bodos who live in the hill areas [along with Karbis] are also given a Scheduled Hill Tribe status," KLNLF general secretary Thong Tepong Kabi said.

The group's primary demand was a separate State.

In Assam, there are 14 recognised Plains Tribe communities, 15 Hill Tribe communities and 16 Scheduled Caste communities.

After the peace accord with all Bodo groups, the Centre is at a very advanced stage of sealing a peace deal with other key militant groups, including the pro-talks faction of the United Liberation Front of Assam and the Karbi insurgent group.

But, with the Assembly election due in April-May next year, the final announcements could be tailored to suit the ruling BJP electorally.

The BJP is expected to do well in the 15 Assembly constituencies in the Bengali-dominated Barak Valley because of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA). The recent Bodo peace deal will give the ruling par-

ty an edge in 12 seats under the BTAD. Similarly, a Karbi peace deal will give the party an edge in the 5 seats in the hill districts.

There are 33 districts in Assam, and seven have been exempted from the CAA as they fall in the areas protected by the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

The exempted districts comprise three autonomous district councils: BTAD, Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao.

Mr. Kabi said there was a lot of pressure from the people to conclude the talks with the Centre.

The group is in talks with the Centre's interlocutor A.B. Mathur. "Ninety per cent of the dialogue is complete, we have had over 50 rounds of talks with three interlocutors in the past 10 years. We want a final settlement on the lines of the Bodo agreement," KLNLF publicity secretary Rijak Dera said.

The Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council has 26 seats, and the elections to the councils are due in 2022. "It is one of the oldest councils in existence since 1951... Nagaland and Mizoram that were autonomous councils initially became States years ago; only Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao remain. We want a ST status for the entire region so that non-tribals will not be able to contest in the elections," Mr. Dera said.

The non-tribals comprise 46% of the 9.6 lakh population of the council. The Bodos could not have a separate reservation in hills and plains, he said.

The recent Bodo peace deal will give the ruling par-

NPR can go ahead, says Uddhav

He, however, says the NRC will not be allowed

STAFF REPORTER
PUNE

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said on Tuesday that he would not block the National Population Register (NPR) in Maharashtra.

He said he would "personally check the columns" in NPR forms. "The Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) are different and the NRC is different. No one has to worry if the CAA is implemented. The NRC is not there, and will not be implemented in the State," he wrote on Twitter.

He said he would not allow the NRC to be implemented in the State. "If the NRC is implemented, it will affect not only Hindus or Muslims but also Adivasis. The NRC is a census, and I don't think anyone will be affected as it happens every

If the NRC is implemented, it will affect not only Hindus or Muslims but also Adivasis. The NRC is a census, and I don't think anyone will be affected as it happens every 10 years

UDDHAV THACKERAY
MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER



10 years," he said.

Mr. Thackeray said the Centre had handed over the probe into the Elgaar Parishad case to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), but the State government would never permit the investigation into the Bhima-Koregaon clashes to be handed over to the Centre.

Bhima Koregaon probe

On the second day of his Konkan tour, he said the Elgaar Parishad case and the Bhima Koregaon clashes (of January 1, 2018) were two separate issues. "The Elgaar Parishad case and the Bhima Koregaon clashes are two separate matters. The Ambedkarite fraternity is concerned with the Bhima

Koregaon riots... I have not handed over the investigation into the clashes to the Centre and nor would I do so in the future," he said.

Mr. Thackeray said the atrocities on Dalits during the riots were "unfortunate" and he would never allow any further injustice to the community. "I reiterate that the violence at Bhima-Koregaon in 2018 is distinct from the Elgaar Parishad case investigation. The Centre has taken over the latter from the State government and not the former. Let there be no misunderstanding."

His remarks came a day after the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), an ally of the Shiv Sev

na in the Maha Vikas Aghadi, called for a special investigation team to probe the Elgaar Parishad case. Mr. Pawar recently expressed displeasure with Mr. Thackeray's decision to transfer the Elgaar case to the NIA.

The Republican Yuva Morcha, a Pune-based Ambedkarite outfit, said that if the Chief Minister was truly concerned about Dalits, he must immediately constitute an SIT to probe afresh the Bhima-Koregaon riots.

Mr. Thackeray clarified on the Shiv Sena's stance on the Ratnagiri Refinery Petrochemical Limited project. Answering a question on an advertisement for the project placed in the Konkan edition of the party's mouthpiece *Saamna*, he said, "I take all decisions regarding the Shiv Sena, and the stance that is to be adopted by the party on any issue is decided by me. No entity that gives any advertisement in the *Saamna* ever decides the Sena's stance."

Will not implement NPR 'at present', says Nath

He says Dec. 9 notification won't stand

STAFF REPORTER
BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath on Monday said the National Population Register (NPR) would not be implemented in the State "at present", allaying fears over notification for update the register issued by the State government earlier.

"The notification being talked about was issued on December 9," he was quoted as saying in a note issued by his office.

"After this, the Centre implemented the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 1955, a clarification given in response to Congress MLA (Bhopal Central) Arif Masood's threat of agitation if the State government went ahead with the update.

"We would launch a campaign from Bhopal against the CAA, the NRC and the NPR," Mr. Masood had told reporters.



Kamal Nath
President's assent on December 12.

Mediator to talk to protesters and police

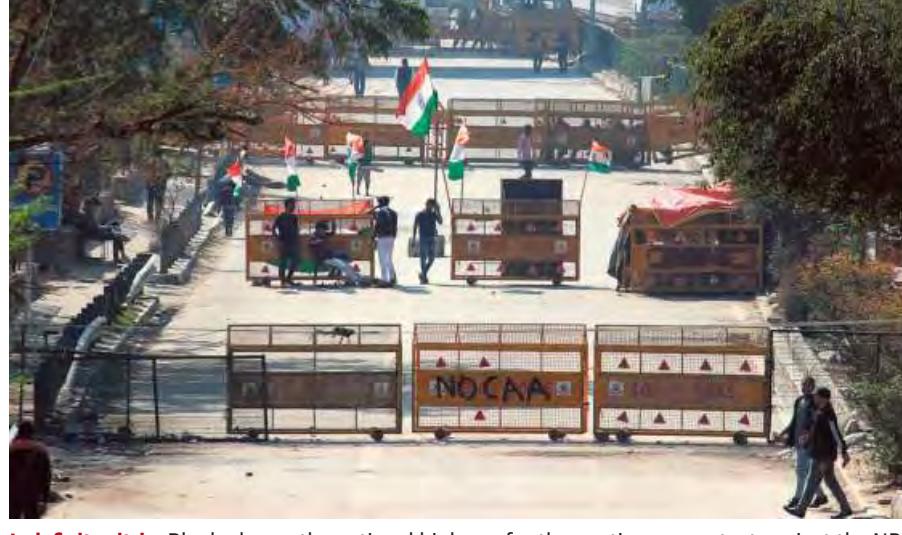
Advocate Hegde will study SC order, hold consultations and chalk out plan of action on Shaheen Bagh

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, the Supreme Court-appointed interlocutor to hold talks with Shaheen Bagh protesters, said on Tuesday that he would study the court's order and chalk out a course of action in consultation with all stakeholders.

In its order, a Bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and K.M. Joseph said, "Mr. Sanjay R. Hegde, learned senior counsel, is present in court, and we would like him to play a constructive role as an interlocutor to make the persons at the site see reason. He, along with Mrs. Sadhana Ramachandran, learned counsel, or any other person of his choice, may do so."

The order, published on the court's official website



Indefinite sit-in: Blockades on the national highway for the continuous protest against the NRC and the CAA at Shaheen Bagh in New Delhi on Tuesday. ■ BIBEK CHETTRI

on Tuesday, also recorded advocate Tasneem Ahmadi's submission that she would endeavour to talk to former bureaucrat and intervenor

Wajahat Habibullah and even take up with the protesters' apprehensions about a prolonged blockade.

The court on Monday upheld the protesters' right to dissent on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, but with a rider that they should not

hamper public movement. "The law has been enacted by Parliament, and is facing a constitutional challenge before this court, but that by itself will not take away the right to protest of the persons who feel aggrieved by the legislation. However, the question is where and how protest can carry on without public ways being blocked. Our concern is more than this matter alone, as there may be persons of different points of view who may tomorrow seek to emulate this protest. Such a scenario only leads to chaotic situation. This must cease on public ways everywhere," the court said.

It has scheduled the next hearing for February 24.

The interlocutors would most likely meet the protesters and the Delhi police in the next few days.

Kothari tipped to be CVC; Julka is CIC

Panel, headed by PM, goes by majority opinion after Opposition leader objects

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

Sanjay Kothari, Secretary to the President of India, is tipped to be the next Chief Vigilance Commissioner. Former Information and Broadcasting Secretary Bimal Julka will be the Chief Information Commissioner.

Former CMD of Andhra Bank Suresh Patel has been chosen as a Vigilance Commissioner, while former member of Punjab Civil Services Commission Amita Pandove will be an Information Commissioner.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the selection committee on Tuesday. The government is yet to make a formal announcement.

The meeting, presided over by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was attended by Home Minister Amit Shah, Congress Leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh.

The decision, however, was arrived at by a majority opinion as the Opposition leader objected to the fact that for the post of CVC, a member of the search committee was included as a short-listed candidate.

Mr. Modi is learnt to have directed the officials to ensure that norms were followed and the Opposition leader was provided with the

Scouting for talent

The Prime Minister heads the selection committee for choosing the CVC chief. The Home Minister and the Leader of the Opposition party make up the rest of the panel

- The post of Chief Vigilance Commissioner has been vacant since June 2019, after K.V. Chowdary completed his tenure. Vigilance Commissioner Sharad Kumar has been functioning as the interim CVC
- After the Personnel Ministry called for applications for the post in March 2019, the deadline for submission was extended thrice between May and June 2019
- The CVC is led by the Central Vigilance Commissioner and has two Vigilance Commissioners

meeting, as is the norm. The Opposition leader also objected to the fact that for the post of CVC, a member of the search committee was included as a short-listed candidate.

Mr. Modi is learnt to have directed the officials to ensure that norms were followed and the Opposition leader was provided with the

short-listed names before such meetings.

'Deeply flawed'

"It is regrettable that the entire process of appointment to the high offices of the CVC and the CIC was deeply flawed and violative of the constitutional guarantees, and was undertaken in a non-transparent manner," Mr. Chowdury said. "These fundamental flaws have vitiated the entire exercise. Sad that the government is using the flawed procedure to appoint persons to these high offices. Such arbitrary decisions will defeat the very objective of holding the government and the Executive accountable to the people of India," he said.

A few other posts in the CIC are lying vacant and, the Commission has been working with a reduced strength of six Information Commissioners as against the sanctioned strength of 11.

Interested investors are expected to participate in the J&K Global Investors Summit-2020 in Srinagar and Jammu in March.

"The summit will prove a determining factor in ushering Jammu and Kashmir into an industrial hub," Chief Secretary B.V.R. Subrahmanyam said. "It will not only help to present business-friendly policies but also harmonise Jammu and Kashmir's intrinsic strengths and aspirations of development and employment opportunities."

To speed up the process for investors during the roadshows scheduled between February 17 and March 9 in Bengaluru, Kolkata, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai and Ahmedabad, he said, "Signing of memoranda of understanding with interested investors will also form a part of the roadshows and the main summit."

According to the Department of Industries and

Commerce, there were only 439 industrial units in the Kashmir Valley spread over 115.5 acres and 415 units over 126.75 acres in Jammu. "About 1,250 acres of land is being acquired under 18 land acquisition cases to develop industrial estates across J&K," the official document says.

In an online campaign, the J&K administration said there were 30 cinema screens, and sought to make a case for investment opportunities in multiplexes. The campaign comes even as all 14 cinemas in the Valley have been shut for more than three decades now.

Film tourism

"With mesmerising scenic locations, J&K is a perfect destination for film tourism, production houses, studios and film city. Invest in the paradise of the earth," reads the campaign, identifying the famous shrines and mosques such as Jamia Masjid and Hazratbal Shrine as being open for shooting.

The J&K administration has centred its campaign to woo investment on six key sectors, including healthcare, tourism, IT, food processing, education and skill development and industries. "More than 40 projects and 14 focus sectors have been identified, which are investor-friendly," said an official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Statting that J&K has a gross enrolment ratio of 30.9% in higher education, the administration has asked investors to explore the opportunities in the education and skills sector.

SC reserves order on Fadnavis' review plea

Counsel says he did not conceal information

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday reserved its judgment on a review petition filed by former Maharashtra Chief Minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis against its October 2019 verdict directing him to face trial for suppressing information about two pending forgery and criminal defamation cases in his 2014 election docu-

ments. A Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra, however, did not heed to a plea by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, who argued for Mr. Fadnavis, for stay of the trial court proceedings.

Mr. Rohatgi argued that there was no concealment of information and charges had not

Trump's visit may seal helicopter deal

Defence pacts likely during U.S. President's visit

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The deal for 24 MH-60R Multi-Role Helicopters (MRH) for the Navy, which is likely to be announced during the visit of U.S. President Donald Trump, is lined up for the final approval of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on Wednesday, official sources said.

"The deal is before the CCS for final approval which is meeting on Wednesday. We are hopeful that it will be cleared," a defence source told *The Hindu*.

All procedural requirements for the deal have been completed, he added.

Trade deal unlikely

The 24 Lockheed Martin-built helicopters, worth \$2.4 billion, are being procured through the Foreign Military Sales route of the U.S. government.

Mr. Trump will visit India on February 24 and 25. With

Flight support

The deal to procure 24 MH-60R multi-role helicopters (MRH), as replacement for 15 Sea King anti-submarine warfare and one Sea King 42B MRH which was lost in accident, is expected to be announced during U.S. President Donald Trump's visit. A look at some features of the MRH:

- **The 24 helicopters**, worth around \$2.4 billion, are being procured through the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route of the U.S. government
- The current MRHs in service were inducted in the **1980s**

MISSION CAPABILITIES: Anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, special operations, search and rescue, utility, vertical replenishment, command and control



WEAPONRY:
.50 caliber/
7.62mm machine
guns, torpedoes,
Hellfire missiles

INTERNATIONALLY USED BY:
U.S. Navy,
Royal Danish
Navy, Royal
Australian Navy,
Royal Saudi
Naval Forces

COMMUNICATION:
Airborne low
frequency
sonar, electronic
support mea-
sures, tactical
communications

no headway in the talks for a trade deal, there are expectations that a few big-ticket defence deals will be announced.

There are several big-ticket deals in the pipeline. These include six Boeing P-8I long-range surveillance aircraft and 13 BAE Systems-built 127-mm MK-45 naval gun systems worth around \$1 billion for the Navy, six AH-64E Apache attack helicopters for the Army, 30

armed drones for the three services and a tactical air defence system for Delhi.

However, these are at various stages of procurement.

"Apart from the deal for MH-60R helicopters, an announcement is possible on P-8I and Apache," a second official source said.

In the last few years, India has signed two foundational agreements: the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) and the

Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) and the Industrial Security Annex (ISA), which is part of the General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) signed long time ago.

The last agreement, Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA), is under discussion.

"BECA is some time away

from conclusion," a third official said.

Apart from defence cooperation, of particular interest will be any progress in Indo-Pacific cooperation, especially the upgrade of the 2015 U.S.-India Joint Strategic Vision for the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region.

MRH shortage

The Navy is facing an acute shortage of MRH, with several warships operating with empty helicopter decks. These helicopters are being procured as replacement for 15 Sea King Anti-Submarine Warfare helicopters de-inducted in 1991 and one Sea King 42B MRH lost in accident.

The MRHs in service, Sea King 42Bs, were inducted in the 1980s and are in need of replacement.

Given the urgency, the U.S. is likely to take some MH-60R helicopters from its newest aircraft carrier, *USS Gerald Ford*, which is undergoing upgrades.

"We are hopeful of getting four or five MH-60s from *USS Gerald Ford* once the deal is signed," a Navy official said.

Kerala woman up against Ahmedabad wall

MAHESH LANGA
AHMEDABAD



Aswathy Jwala

on February 24 here.

"I read in the newspapers that the Gujarat government

has built a wall to hide the slum," she told *The Hindu* on Tuesday.

Proper rehabilitation

"I talked to these people and learnt that they are scared of the police. So I am here to support them," she added while going on the hunger strike in a tiny corner of the newly built wall.

She demanded that all people living in the slums for

decades must be rehabilitated with proper housing by the government.

"The government and its agencies are spending approximately ₹80 crore to beautify the city ahead of the U.S. President's visit. In the name of beautification, they have constructed this wall to hide slums," she added, slamming the authorities for coming up with the idea of the wall.

Debbie stood against Indian interests'

Official says visa was revoked on Feb. 14

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



Debbie Abrahams

However, the official said it was revoked on February 14 on account of her anti-India activities and she was in the same day.

There was no provision of "visa on arrival" for U.K. nationals at the airport, dismissing Ms. Abrahams' claim.

The official said an e-Business visa for business meetings could not be used for visiting "family and friends".

Cong. divided on deportation of MP

Singhvi backs govt., Tharoor slams it

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress leaders spoke in different voices over the deportation of British lawmaker Debbie Abrahams, with party MP Abhishek Manu Singhvi on Tuesday backing the government move.

"She is not just an MP, but a Pak. proxy known for her clasp with Pak. government and ISI," Mr. Singhvi tweeted. His comments stood out in sharp contrast with those of Shashi Tharoor and Gaurav Gogoi.

"British MP Who Criticised Govt on J&K Stopped At Airport: conduct really unworthy of a democracy & guaranteed to give us a far worse press than if she had been admitted. Govt claims situation is normal in Kashmir. Why is the govt then so scared of critics?" Mr. Tharoor tweeted on Monday.

"I rather have the Go-

vernment of India take a consistent position instead of selective red carpet treatment. Taking foreign ambassadors on shikhar rides while denying Member of Parliament to travel seems childish," Mr. Gogoi tweeted.

At the official briefing, Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh, however, said the government should officially say why Ms. Abrahams was denied entry.

For further details, please visit our website:

www.madrasfert.co.in or
<https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>

Corrigendum, if any, will be issued in the above websites only

MADRAS FERTILIZERS LIMITED
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Manali, Chennai 600 068

e-TENDER NOTICE

Name of Tender	Estimated Value	Last date for submission
Rehabilitation of NPK A' Train Civil Structures at MFL - Phase I	Rs. 5.57 Cr.	10.03.2020 at 16:00 Hrs.

For further details, please visit our website:

www.madrasfert.co.in or

<https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>

Corrigendum, if any, will be issued in the above websites only

TIRUNELVELI CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
E.Tender and Sealed Two cover system
Tender Notice No. 1/2019-2020 (P.H)

1	Tender Inviting Authority Designation, Address	Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Tirunelveli.
2	Name of Work	To appoint Sanitary workers on outsourcing basis (233 persons)
3	Estimate Cost & EMD	Total Estimate cost : Rs.3.90 Crores EMD : Rs.3.90 Lakhs
4	Website Address	https://tntenders.gov.in (Tender document available from the above website at free of cost)
5	Date and Time for the Bid document available	From 21.02.2020 upto 24.03.2020, 3.00 PM
6	Due date and time for submission of bids	24.03.2020 upto 3.00 pm
7	Place, Date and time of opening of bids	Tirunelveli Corporation main office, 26.03.2020 at 3.30 pm
8		Commissioner, Tirunelveli Corporation

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Sealed tenders will be received by the Superintendent Engineer, PWD, Planning and Design Circle (Building), Chepauk, Chennai-5 for the following work:

Sl. No. Name of Work Approximate value of work Amount of Earnest Money Deposit & Period of Completion Cost of tender documents with GST Cost of Tender & EMD should be remitted in favour of

1 Construction of a New Museum Building Complex to preserve the underneath artefacts in Keeladi with modern facilities at Konthalai village of Tiruvanamamalai Taluk in Sivagangai District. Rs.1056.00 Lakhs Rs.5,38,000/- 12 Months Rs.15,000/- + Rs.1800/- (GST)

1. Tender schedule can be Downloaded at free of cost from the Website <http://www.tntenders.tn.gov.in> (or) <http://www.tntenders.gov.in> Tender schedule can be obtained from the Superintendent Engineer, PWD, Planning and Design Circle (Building), Chepauk, Chennai-5 for office hours upto 5.45 PM from 20.02.2020 to 05.03.2020 and the same will be received up to 3.00 PM on 06.03.2020 and opened at 4.00 PM on the same day.

2. Details regarding the class of contractor, Tender specification and other conditions are available in the above website.

Superintending Engineer, PWD, Planning and Design Circle, (Building), Chepauk, Chennai-5.

DIPR/951/Tender/2020

General Manager (E)

DIPR/951/Tender/2020

Planning and Design Circle, (Building), Chepauk, Chennai-5.

DIPR/951/Tender/2020

General Manager (E)

DIPR/951/Tender/2020

Ghani named winner of Afghan election

Rival Abdullah challenges final figures, says he will form own government; Taliban terms results 'illegal'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

KABUL

Ashraf Ghani secured a second term as President of Afghanistan on Tuesday, but his rival Abdullah Abdullah immediately challenged the final election figures and said he was forming his own government.

The results of the September 28, 2019 poll were released after lengthy delays following vote-rigging allegations by Mr. Abdullah that led to a recount.

Mr. Abdullah, who serves as Afghanistan's 'Chief Executive' under Mr. Ghani in a tense power-sharing arrangement, said his team was "the victor".

His intent to try to form a separate government brought back memories of the 2014 election, which also saw Mr. Ghani declared winner and Mr. Abdullah protest. That time, Mr. Abdullah's supporters held violent demonstrations before the U.S. finally intervened to broker an awkward deal between the two rivals.



Victory lap: A December 22 photo of Afghanistan's incumbent President Ashraf Ghani in Kabul after he won a slim majority of votes in preliminary results of the presidential election.

But more than five years on, it was not clear how much support Mr. Abdullah would get. The U.S., which is currently negotiating a withdrawal deal with the Taliban, has less interest in Afghanistan's politics than it did in 2014 under then-President Barack Obama. And ordinary Afghans have shown little passion for Mr. Abdullah or the poll process in general, with most of them abstaining from voting in the

lacklustre and personality-driven election that saw candidates pitch few new ideas.

"The fraudsters are the shame of history and we announce our inclusive government," Mr. Abdullah said.

The Taliban also rejected Mr. Ghani's win, calling it "illegal" and "against the peace process".

Earlier, Mr. Ghani had hailed the results, saying in televised comments that "our government, our arms

are open to all the people of Afghanistan".

Peace deal

Election commission chief Hawa Alam Nuristani said Mr. Ghani had taken 50.64% of the votes, compared to Mr. Abdullah's 39.52%.

"May God help him in serving the people of Afghanistan... I also pray that peace comes to our country," she added at a press conference in Kabul.

The final results come just as Washington seeks a deal with the Taliban which would allow it to withdraw troops in return for various security guarantees and a promise that the militants would hold peace talks with the Afghan government.

U.S. peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad said on Monday that he was "cautiously optimistic" about progress toward an eventual deal, adding that the U.S. has "commitments from the Taliban on security issues". Once the deal is reached the Afghan government would have to prepare to meet the Taliban and negotiate a formal peace agreement on behalf of the Afghan people.

Political analyst Atta Noori called the results "a step forward towards the possible talks with the Taliban". "Now is the time for Ghani to act as a statesman and form an inclusive team to talk with the Taliban," he said, adding that people from Mr. Abdullah's camp should be among the negotiators.

Sirisena joins the Rajapaksas in pre-poll alliance in Sri Lanka

He had defected from the Mahinda Rajapaksa govt. in 2015

MEERA SRINIVASAN

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's former President Maithripala Sirisena, who defected from the Mahinda Rajapaksa government to the rival political camp before being elected to office in 2015, has rejoined his former colleague and current Prime Minister Mr. Rajapaksa.

Mr. Sirisena's Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) on Monday formed an alliance with the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP or People's Party) to contest the general election scheduled this summer.

Significantly, President Sirisena – who remained neutral in the November presidential election though the SLFP backed President Gotabaya Rajapaksa – will contest the parliamentary election as part of the new alliance in his home constituency Polonnaruwa (North Central Province), according to SLFP general secretary Dayasiri Jayasekara, who is also a State Minister.

"President Sirisena and our team are scheduled to meet with the SLPP leadership to chalk out the strategy for our alliance," Mr. Jayasekara told *The Hindu* on Tuesday. "This must be one of the most powerful coalitions in our history, with three Presidents at the helm," he said, referring to former Presidents Mr. Sirisena and Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, and his younger brother and current President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Re-consolidation

The formation of the new alliance effectively signals a re-consolidation of forces that were earlier aligned to the SLFP, one of Sri Lanka's fore-



Former Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena

most national parties that has produced three Presidents in the past, including Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaraatunga and Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa.

It was after Mr. Sirisena's defection – he formed government with the rival United National Party (UNP) in 2015 – that the Rajapaksas founded their own party, the SLPP, in 2016.

Mr. Sirisena was left with the SLFP rump, as many of its members joined the Rajapaksas, who pitched the SLPP as their new political vehicle.

"President Sirisena and our team are scheduled to meet with the SLPP leadership to chalk out the strategy for our alliance," Mr. Jayasekara told *The Hindu* on Tuesday. "This must be one of the most powerful coalitions in our history, with three Presidents at the helm," he said, referring to former Presidents Mr. Sirisena and Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, and his younger brother and current President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

"Measures should be taken proportional to the situation. Blanket measures may not help," Mr. Tedros said.

Rambukwella, a Minister and government spokesman. In the 1950s, the SLFP emerged as a centre-left party challenging the economically right-wing UNP. Over the decades, the SLFP's support grew among Sri Lanka's Sinhala-nationalist base and the party drew criticism from others who contested its leftist claim.

"The alliance will work out a mechanism," Mr. Rambukwella said. Asked who would call the shots – Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa has been named leader of the alliance, while Mr. Sirisena has been designated its chairman – he said: "According to the party structure it has got to be general secretary Basil Rajapaksa," referring to the third Rajapaksa brother, a former Minister, and the key election strategist of the Rajapaksa camp.

The alliance is eyeing a two-thirds majority in Parliament in the general election likely in April.

Opposition campaign

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition Sajith Premadasa is leading the oppositional campaign through an alliance that some political parties representing the hill country Tamil and Muslim minorities have pledged to support.

The development comes after differences emerged within the UNP over party leadership that Mr. Wickremesinghe currently holds and deputy leader Mr. Premadasa reportedly sought.

"Though SLPP and SLFP may have had some differences in the past, they hold similar policies. Basically, all the left-wing forces have reunited now," said Keheliya

WHO urges calm as China virus death toll nears 1,900

Chinese study of 72,000 patients reveals that 81% of them had only mild infections

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

BEIJING

The death toll from the COVID-19 outbreak rose again on Tuesday but Chinese and international health officials sought to calm global nerves, citing a study showing that most cases are mild and warning against excessive measures to contain the epidemic.

Nearly 1,900 people have died and more than 72,000 others infected by the virus in China, with hundreds more cases in 25 countries.

The situation remains dire

at the epicentre, with the director of a hospital in the central city of Wuhan becoming the seventh medical worker to succumb to the illness. But Chinese officials released a study showing most patients have mild cases of the illness, and the World Health Organization officials said the mortality rate was relatively low.

'Less deadly' than SARS
The official death toll in China hit 1,868 on Tuesday after another 98 people died – most in Hubei and Wuhan,

where the virus emerged in December.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus cautioned that it was too early to tell if the decline would continue.

A study among 72,000 confirmed, suspected and clinically diagnosed cases showed that 81% of patients had only mild infections. Those most at risk were the elderly, and people with underlying medical conditions.

The study released by China's Centre for Disease Control and Prevention also showed that the death rate

stood at 2.3%, falling below one per cent for people in their 30s and 40s.

The research was cited by WHO officials, who said the COVID-19 illness was "less deadly" than its cousins, such as the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) or the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

Michael Ryan, head of WHO's health emergencies programme, said the outbreak was "very serious" and could grow, but stressed that outside Hubei the epidemic was "affecting a very,

very tiny, tiny proportion of people". There have been some 900 cases around the world, with five deaths.

Another 88 people tested positive for the virus on the quarantined Diamond Princess cruise ship off Japan on Tuesday, raising the number of infections to 542.

WHO rejected the suggestion that all cruises should be halted amid the outbreak.

"Measures should be taken proportional to the situation. Blanket measures may not help," Mr. Tedros said.

14 dead in apparent toxic gas leak in Pakistan

Dozens admitted to hospitals in Karachi

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

KARACHI

An apparent gas leak killed at least 14 people near the port city of Karachi, officials said on Tuesday, as investigators worked to determine the source of the deadly emission.

Residents of Keamari, a commercial and residential area, began falling sick on Sunday, officials said. A doctor at one hospital, who asked not to be named, said 250 people had been admitted for treatment, after complaining of breathing difficulties and burning eyes.

Health Ministry spokesman Zafar Mehdhi said 14 people died at various hospitals. At the state-run Jinnah

Medical Centre, about 35 people arrived for emergency treatment. "Most of the patients were suffering from choking and breathlessness," said Seemun Jamali, who heads the emergency department.

Authorities initially sus-

pected that some sort of gas could have leaked from the port, but the Karachi Port Trust denied that was the case. "All the casualties took place outside the port, and our facility is clean," a port spokesman said.

Authorities have sought help from the navy's chemical and biological department, according to Nasir Shah, Provincial Information Minister.

A rising Bloomberg qualifies for U.S. Democratic debate

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WASHINGTON

U.S. media tycoon Michael Bloomberg has qualified for Wednesday's Democratic presidential debate, after a new poll shows him leapfrogging several of his rivals, including Joe Biden, to claim second spot in the race for the party nomination.

Mr. Bloomberg's surge meant that he cleared a polling threshold set by the Democratic National Committee, placing the former New York Mayor on stage to spar with fellow candidates, several of whom have launched broadsides against him, for the first time.

The billionaire businessman, who only jumped into the race in November, near-

ly a year after many of his rivals, earned 19% support nationally, second to leftist Bernie Sanders at 31%, in an NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist survey.

The moderate former Vice-President Biden came in third at 15% in the poll of some 1,400 registered voters, while progressive Senator Elizabeth Warren was at 12% and pragmatist Senator Amy Klobuchar at 9%.

"Mike is looking forward to joining the other Democratic candidates on stage and making the case for why he's the best candidate to defeat Donald Trump and unite the country," his campaign said in a statement.

Mr. Bloomberg, a centrist, is likely to face fire in the debate. His fellow Democratic contenders have stepped up their attacks against him in recent days, decrying him for trying to "buy the election" and criticising his support of the "stop-and-frisk" tactic while Mayor that led the police to target mostly black and Hispanic men for searches.

REUTERS

JERUSALEM

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's corruption trial will start on March 17, two weeks after Israel holds its third national election in less than a year, the Justice Ministry said on Tuesday.

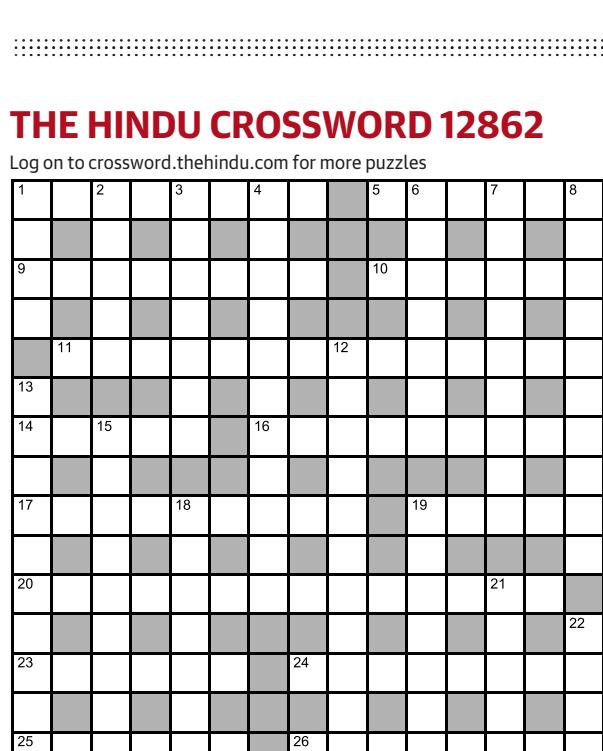
Mr. Netanyahu, the first sitting Israeli Prime Minister to be charged with a crime, has denied any wrongdoing in the three corruption cases against him.

In addition to his legal battle, Mr. Netanyahu, who heads the right-wing Likud party, is fighting for his political life in a March 2 election, after inconclusive ballots in April and September. The Ministry said Mr. Ne-

tanyahu will be required to attend the Jerusalem District Court for the first session to hear an indictment against him. Mr. Netanyahu, 70, is accused of wrongfully accepting \$264,000 worth of gifts from tycoons, and of dispensing regulatory favours in alleged bids for improved coverage by a popular news website.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12862

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



ACROSS

- One in Boston laid the seeds of a revolution... (3,5)
- ...against a piece of poetry in the recital (6)
- Not good to start off the work of a sailor in a pilot's field (8)
- Bully in the plaintiff's cricket club gets dismissed by Bishop (6)

(set by Neyertha)

- Tall male welcoming company assignment in a foreign office (4,10)
- Emu cushioned partially by a slimy protective fluid (5)
- Sensible to get behind a little change to become careful with money (5,4)
- Seemingly endless university closure following Dana's disruption (2,7)
- Speedy hedgehog making hair push Curie back after confusion at the end (5)
- Water shows dust patterning in a particular direction (14)
- Coaches daughter for a short time and withdraws (6)
- Doctor complicated CEC's ouster by a foreign office employee (8)
- Sailor with an intoxicating cigarette (6)
- Daughter misplaced fruit after the Indian girl's entry and became emotionally troubled (8)
- Reportedly pulled along by a despicable person (4)
- Excuse provided by leaders of ASEAN leveraging Indira's brazen ideas (5)
- Nail on an upright member in a timber framework (4)

SUDOKU

6		7	9	5	3
	7				
1		5			2
4	8		3	9	1
5			6		1
				9	7
2	9	4	8		5

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 12861

5	2	8	
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OPPORTUNITIES

WEDNESDAY • FEBRUARY 19, 2020

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

An openness to talk about failure

When they are a subject of discussion, errors can become lessons — some companies encourage such conversations

LIFFY THOMAS

Failure may be a stepping stone to success, but let us face it, everyone wants to skirt around that stone — for good reason.

Despite an inbuilt resistance to the idea of failure, we have to get out of our comfort zone, and attempt the seemingly impossible, knowing that we may fail spectacularly. Line managers may have a role here, encouraging an open conversation around failure.

Intuit practices what it calls 'Screw-ups of the month', a team huddle where members from product engineering discuss what went wrong and deliberate on how to fix it.

Intuit has been promoting this system globally for the last one year.

Somnath Baishya, head human resources- Global Development Centres, Intuit, says organisation has been trying to build such a culture from the top.

"We have been driving a data-driven leadership model," says Baishya. For in-



ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH RAVIKUMAR

stance, meet-ups involving the senior leadership are driven through a dashboard

every month where people talk about their failures and how they dealt with it.

"We are trying to move to a culture where we say that having a 'red' in the dashboard is not bad as long as you know how to deal with it and go beyond it. The discussions are also driven through data," says Baishya.

By encouraging employees to open up about failures — also done through one-on-one meetings — the company feels it is trying to make failures more acceptable. "Through these forums, we have created a culture of vulnerability and accountability," says Baishya, adding that the company's performance management system has also been tweaked.

An unusual springboard
When companies are building a culture of innovation, mistakes are bound to happen.

Srijata Bhattacharjee, who authored a book *Setback Leadership* featuring stories of 12 leaders, says the biggest setback for the many people she interviewed is that failure set the stage for their biggest growth.

Srijata herself has faced

A team with a high BNQ will be open to discussing failures more openly and quickly imbibe the lessons that are needed to move forward

'BNQ', bad news quotient. Managers with a good BNQ will create systems that will allow bad news to flow in, and also have the ability to deliver bad news fearlessly. Teams should also be enabled to develop their BNQ.

"A team with a high BNQ will be open to discussing failures more openly and quickly imbibe the lessons that are needed to move forward," says Rupak Agarwal, founder and CEO of EvueMe Selection Robot.

The company follows the 'AIR' principle where A is for 'Be Accurate'; I for 'Immediately plan for communication' and R for 'Take full Responsibility'.

"When you make some bad news sound like not such a bad thing, some day it will backfire. We encourage leaders that while delivering bad news they should just keep it as accurate and objective as possible. Our leadership huddle every Monday starts with me talking about where I committed mistakes and encouraging others to share their mistakes," says Agarwal.

NEWS BYTES

Focus on social-impact careers

The third edition of 'Demystifying Social Impact Careers', a joint effort of Arthan, Amani Institute and International Innovation Corps, will be held on February 21 in Mumbai.

The conference would address the widespread notions that people have of social-impact careers as being low-paid or as a break-away from 'real-world work', says a press release. Chetna Sinha, founder and chairperson, Mann Deshi Bank and Mann Deshi Foundation; Deval Sanghavi, co-founder and partner, Dasra; and Luis Miranda, chairperson, Centre for Civil Society will talk about exploring the growing opportunities in the social-impact field. Pa-

nel discussions include making a living while working in the social-impact sector and how corporates can make social impact beyond their CSR budgets. For details, visit <http://socialimpactcareers.mystrikingly.com/>

Online coding challenge

EduTech platform Coding Ninjas is conducting the fifth edition of 'Code Kaze', an online coding event for coding enthusiasts who could be students and working professionals. The online competition will feature multiple choice questions based on data structures, algorithms and aptitude. The last date for registrations is February 27. To register, visit <https://www.codingninjas.com/events/code-kaze>

GENERAL



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GENERAL



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Last date for submission of application: 10.03.2020



SAARC Development Fund

Vacancy Announcement for CEO, SDF

Applications are invited from senior finance professionals from the SAARC Member States (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka) for the Post of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the SAARC Development Fund (SDF), the umbrella financial institution of the SAARC, which is located in Thimphu, Bhutan.

For the eligibility criteria, application form and other details, please visit the website of SDF at <http://www.sdfsec.org/>

Application must be sent by 23 March 2020.



KARUNYA REQUIRES PRINCIPAL SCIENTISTS

Karunya Deemed University is hiring candidates for the position of **Principal Scientist** to head the Research Centres in Food, Water, Health and Energy. The Principal Scientist shall lead the team in evolving solutions for human problems on the thrust areas of the University, designing prototypes and developing products leading to patents. He shall liaise with national & international funding agencies, reputed industries and bring potential R&D mega projects and consultancy works. Candidates with proven experience in obtaining funds from international agencies, and has significant number of patents & publications are preferred.

Eligible candidates may send their resume to:

careers@karunya.edu



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Disciplines	Vacancies	Category				Persons with Disability
		UR	OBC(NCL)	SC	ST	
Mining	10	5	2	1	1	-
Personnel	6	3	1	-	1	OH/VH/HH-1
Finance & Accounts	6	3	2	-	1	OH/VH/HH-1
Marketing	2	2	-	-	-	OH/VH/HH-1
Materials	2	1	1	-	-	OH/VH/HH-1
Process (Chemical, Metallurgy, Mineral Processing)	6	3	2	1	-	-
Contract Management	4	3	1	-	-	OH/VH/HH-1
TOTAL	36	20	9	2	3	-

For details please log on to our website www.moil.nic.in on the link "Recruitment". Any amendment/modification relating to this advertisement will be notified on MOIL's website only.

Last date of submission of online applications : 09.03.2020

Jt. General Manager (Per.)



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOOD PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY

Ministry of Food Processing Industries
Government of India

Pudukkottai Road, Thanjavur - 613 005, Tamil Nadu Tel. 04362-228155

Email : director@iifpt.edu.in Website : www.iifpt.edu.in

No:IIFPT/Admin/Projects/2020 Date: 19.02.2020

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

A Walk-in-interview will be conducted at Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology, Thanjavur - 613 005 (Tamil Nadu) on 04.03.2020 at 09.30 AM for selection of candidates for various time-bound and temporary positions.

Candidates meeting requisite qualification and experience may attend.

SI.No.	Name of the post	No. of Post
1.	Adjunct Faculty	1
2.	Project Assistant	1
3.	Research Associate	1
4.	Senior Research Fellow	6
5.	Junior Research Fellow	1
6.	Physical Education Teacher (Female) - Contractual	1

Application Fee: Rs.500/- (exempted for SC/ST/PWD Candidates). For application format, Age, Educational qualification, eligibility criteria and emoluments, etc; Please visit our website: www.iifpt.edu.in

DIRECTOR



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SRINAGAR

HAZRATBAL KASHMIR - 190006 (J&K)

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE No. 02 of 2020

Dated: - 13-02-2020

A Walk in interview will be conducted for the post of JRF / Project Assistant on a purely time bound sponsored project undertaken by Indo-Tunisia joint project entitled "Development and Tribological Characterization of self Lubricating Nano-Sialon Ceramic Composites" on 24.02.2020 at 11:00 AM in the Committee room of the Institute. The Engagement shall be co-terminus with the project

Details are given below:-

1. Name of the Temporary position:- JRF (Junior Research Fellow)
2. Name of the Research Project:- Development and Tribological Characterization of self Lubricating Nano-Ceramic Composites.
3. Name of Funding Agency:- Department of Science and Technology Govt of India.
4. Tenure of scheme:- Two years / Co-terminus to project.
5. Number of Post:- One (1)
6. Job Description:- Research related to project work in Tribology Laboratory.
7. Qualification:- Post Graduate Degree in Basic Science (Physics & Chemistry) with NET qualification or Graduate Degree in professional Course with NET qualification or post Graduate Degree in professional Course in Mechanical / Metallurgical & Materials Engg./Chemical Engg.
8. The Experience or relevance in the field of Materials / Tribology is desirable for those candidates possessing Non professional qualification.
9. Consolidated Monthly Fellowship : **Rs. 25,000/-** Per month for the first 02 years ; **SRF @ Rs. 28,000/-** per month for the third year. HRA @ 20% of the fellowship .

For Additional details / information about the project, the candidates may contact the Principal Investigator at the following address.

Principal Investigator

Contact No:- 7006472038

No: NIT/R/127, Dated: 18.02.2020

Sd/
(Registrar)



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MARKET WATCH

	18-02-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	40,894	-0.39
US Dollar	71.54	-0.35
Gold	41,865	0.57
Brent oil	56.45	-1.40

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	366.60	3.80
Asian Paints	1863.65	-17.75
Axist Bank	733.65	-4.75
Bajaj Auto	3082.50	6.90
Bajaj Finserv	9529.50	0.65
Bajaj Finance	4758.00	-18.65
Bharti Airtel	548.25	-16.60
BPCL	470.75	9.10
Britannia Ind.	3066.45	-17.65
Cipla	436.00	4.10
Coal India	171.85	4.00
Dr Reddys Lab	3251.35	-44.20
Eicher Motors	18760.35	224.45
GAIL (India)	119.45	1.45
Grasim Ind	723.90	-13.50
HCL Tech	607.05	-6.40
HDFC	2318.80	-31.45
HDFC Bank	1213.25	-3.90
Hero MotoCorp	2252.65	-30.70
Hindalco	184.35	-5.90
Hind Unilever	2234.40	-18.20
ICICI Bank	541.20	-0.40
IndusInd Bank	1140.70	-32.25
Bharti Infralet	210.00	-25.00
Infosys	797.65	8.20
Indian Oil Corp	112.65	0.85
ITC	203.85	-0.95
JSW Steel	284.80	-3.35
Kotak Bank	1691.00	-0.10
L&T	1286.35	6.15
M&M	523.20	0.45
Maruti Suzuki	6781.10	-12.65
Nestle India Ltd.	16403.85	-184.60
NTPC	109.60	-0.70
ONGC	99.30	-0.65
PowerGrid Corp	185.00	1.40
Reliance Ind	1467.40	-10.85
State Bank	317.55	3.35
Sun Pharma	408.65	0.25
Tata Motors	161.60	-7.50
Tata Steel	431.40	-5.45
TCS	2215.75	12.50
Tech Mahindra	838.80	5.55
Titan	1311.00	-5.05
UltraTech Cement	4475.70	25.85
UPL	585.20	-9.80
Vedanta	140.55	-1.55
Wipro	244.05	0.25
YES Bank	35.05	-2.10
Zee Entertainment	245.60	6.40

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 18
CURRENCY TT BUY TT SELL
US Dollar..... 71.35 .. 71.67
Euro..... 77.25 .. 77.60
British Pound..... 93.08 .. 93.50
Japanese Yen (100)..... 65.03 .. 65.33
Chinese Yuan..... 10.19 .. 10.24
Swiss Franc..... 72.74 .. 73.07
Singapore Dollar..... 51.25 .. 51.49
Canadian Dollar..... 53.82 .. 54.07
Malaysian Ringgit..... 17.16 .. 17.26

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

February 18 rates in rupees per-pre- vious rates in parentheses
Retail Silver (1g)..... 50.6..... (50.2)
22 ct gold (1g)..... 3926..... (3902)

IN BRIEF



Primelinvestor.in to guide retail investors

CHENNAI A team of investment experts has launched Primelinvestor.in, a subscription-based research and recommendations platform for investors. It is a platform for retail investors seeking guidance for their personal finance decisions, the company said. Investors will have access to in-depth research and recommendations on mutual funds, bonds, fixed deposit products and exchange-traded funds.

Ship to skip Cochin port over COVID-19 fears

CHENNAI MV World Odyssey, a Semester at Sea (SAS) passenger ship, has decided to divert route from port stops in Malaysia and India. Cochin Port is being skipped following the confirmation of two cases of COVID-19 in Kerala. Currently, the ship, carrying about 600 students, is conducting a multi-country study abroad programme as per Spring 2020 schedule. It left San Diego on January 4 and will reach Port Klang, Malaysia on February 19 for provisioning and bunkering.

Ravi Viswanathan is TVS Supply Chain JMD

CHENNAI Ravi Viswanathan took charge as the joint managing director (JMD) of TVS Supply Chain Solutions (TVS SCS). He will report to the company's managing director, Mr. R. Dinesh. On April 1, 2020, Mr. Viswanathan will also assume the role of the chief executive officer of the company. He joins TVS SCS from Tata Consultancy Services where he was, until recently, the global chief marketing officer. Mr. Viswanathan is an alumnus of the REC Tiruchirappalli.

CMYK

Foodgrain production set to touch a record high

Abundance of late monsoon rains resulted in larger-than-expected harvests

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Total foodgrain production is projected to scale an all-time high of almost 292 million tonnes in 2019-20, propelled by record production of both rice and wheat, according to the Agriculture Ministry's second advance estimates released on Tuesday.

Production of several crops, including rice and major pulses, was lower than targeted in the kharif or the monsoon season. However, the abundance of late monsoon rains resulted in cumulative rainfall that was 10% higher than the long-period average for the season.

This helped farmers rake in rabi or winter harvests that were larger-than-expected in almost all crops.

Thus, the estimate for total foodgrain output of

Food for the palate

The estimated total foodgrain output of 291.95 MT is over 6 MT higher than that produced in 2018-19

In million tonnes-MT	2018-19	2019-20 target	2019-20 2nd advance estimate
Total foodgrain production	285.21	291.10	291.95
Rice	116.48	116.00	117.47
Wheat	103.60	100.50	106.21
All pulses	22.08	26.30	23.02
Jowar	3.48	4.90	4.38
Bajra	8.66	9.50	8.90

SOURCE: GOVT.

291.95 million tonnes is more than six million tonnes higher than the 285.21 million tonnes produced in 2018-19.

Higher rice output
The Agriculture Ministry expects rice production to reach 117.47 million tonnes, slightly higher than the

target failed to match targets this year, with the estimate pegged at 45.24 million tonnes.

Pulses production was also estimated to come in lower-than-targeted 23 million tonnes, although it was still higher than the previous year's harvest. Most pulses are dry land crops, grown on land without irrigation and the delay in monsoons in many areas hit kharif harvests although rabi production improved.

It was a similar story with oil seeds. Production was estimated at almost 342 million tonnes, higher than last year but still lower than the target for this year. Sugarcane is the only major crop where this year's estimated production of 3,538 million tonnes was significantly lower than last year's output of 4,054 million tonnes.

Birla meets Telecom Secretary

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Vodafone Idea Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla on Tuesday met Telecom Secretary Anshu Prakash amid reports that the government may look at encashing bank guarantee over default in payment of adjusted gross revenue-related dues. Mr. Birla was accompanied by Ravinder Takkur, MD & CEO of Vodafone Idea. The meeting lasted for about an hour. Mr. Birla refused to answer any queries from the media.

"Many general insurance companies have underwriting losses but they are carrying on their business because of investment proceeds. This is a short-sighted measure and we have to graduate ourselves to ensure that there are no underwriting losses," S.C. Khuntia, Chairman, IRDAI, said on the sidelines of an event here.

However, as per DoT's assessment, the liabilities of the company for licence fee and spectrum usage charge stand at about ₹53,000 crore.

General insurers need to raise the bar to cut losses: IRDAI

Regulator for listing insurance firms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has said that general insurance companies need to be more efficient by controlling expenses in order to cut losses.

"We don't intervene in pricing. But if the pricing is not right and the product is put for approval to us, then we certainly point it out to them. It's an open market and we don't want to regulate prices in a deregulated economy," he said.

The general insurance segment grew at 14% last year as against its potential to grow at 17-18%, while the life insurance segment grew only at 10% as against the 12-13% potential, he said.

"Any company which goes public, there will be better corporate governance and better disclosure," he added.

He said it was a good idea for every insurance company to list and that IRDAI would nudge entities to go for the same but not make it mandatory. "It is, however, not making it mandatory to list because smaller companies are yet to achieve the scale for going public," Mr. Khuntia said, adding ideally a company should achieve sufficient scale to list within 10 years of its existence.

V.L. Dutt passes away

KCP Group scaled new heights under him



V.L. Dutt

medical care, education and industry, he was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters by the Nagarjuna University, Andhra Pradesh, and became a Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Turkey in Chennai.

Born on December 27, 1937, Dr. Dutt was educated in London.

In appreciation of his outstanding contribution to the areas of rural development,

Apple sales to fall short of target due to COVID-19 impact in China

Tech major may not meet sales guidance set 3 weeks ago

REUTERS

Apple Inc warned on Monday it was unlikely to meet its March quarter sales guidance set just three weeks ago as the world's most valuable technology firm became one of the biggest corporate casualties of China's COVID-19 epidemic.

The rapidly spreading virus has killed nearly 1,900 in China and stricken some 72,000 people, confining millions to their homes, disrupting supply chains and delaying reopening of factories after the extended

Near New Year holiday break. Manufacturing facilities in China that produce Apple's iPhone and other electronics have begun to reopen, but are ramping up more slowly than expected, Apple

said. That will mean fewer iPhones available for sale around the world, making Apple one of the largest Western firms to be hurt by the outbreak.

Some of its retail stores in the country remain closed or are operating at reduced hours, hurting sales. China accounted for 15% of Apple's revenue, or \$13.6 billion, last quarter. In late January, Apple had forecast \$63-\$67 billion in revenue for the quarter ending in March. It did not offer a new revenue estimate on Monday.

Over 60 lakh bales bought at MSP: Cotton Corporation

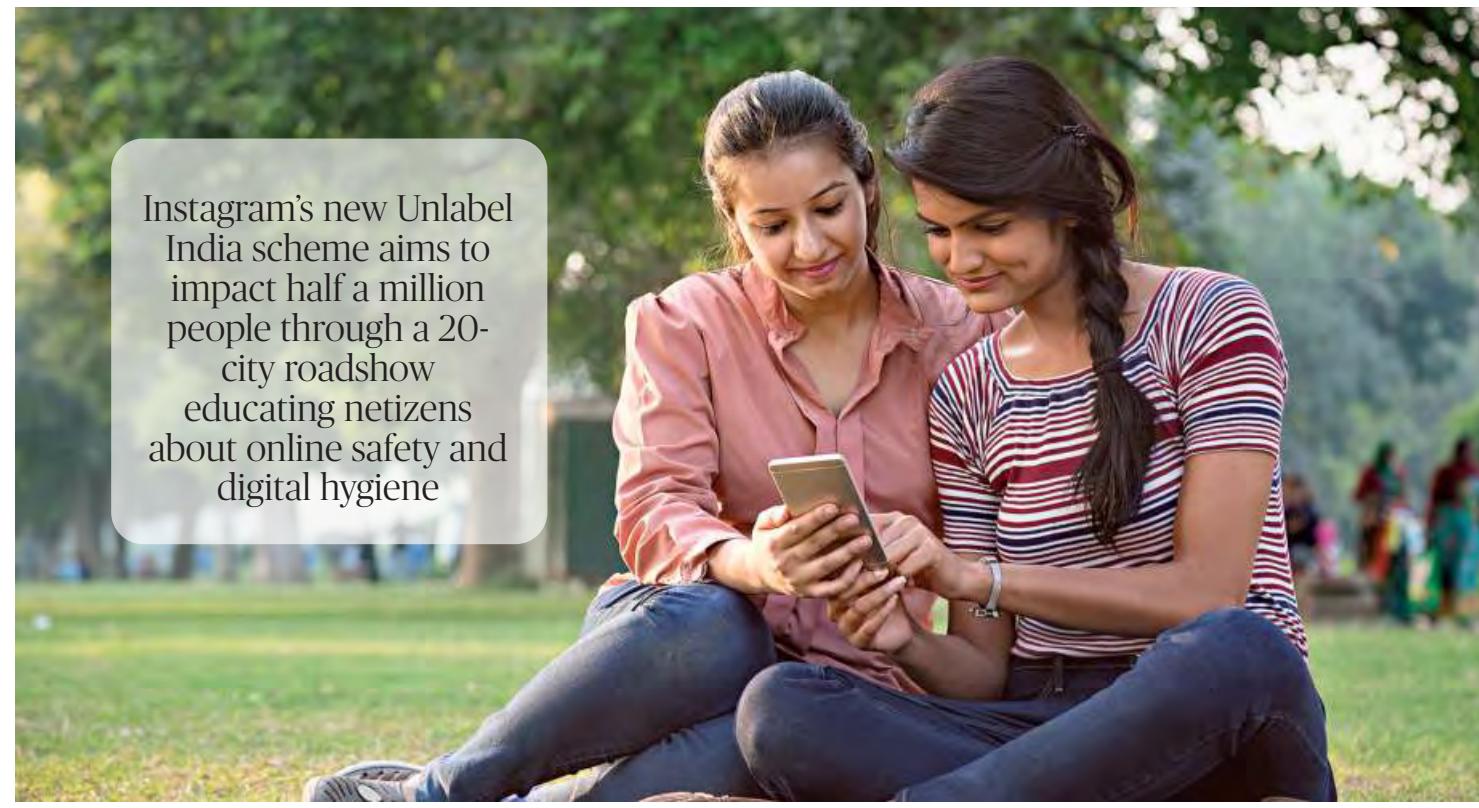
'Selling at market price may hit farmers'

M. SOUNDARI PREETHA
COIMBATORE

Oil fell more than 2% on Tuesday, pressured by concerns over the impact on oil demand from the COVID-19 outbreak in China and a lack of further action by OPEC and its allies to support the market.

Forecasters have cut 2020 oil demand estimates because of the virus. Though new cases in mainland China have dipped, experts say it is too early to judge if the outbreak is being contained. Brent crude was down \$1.34, or 2.3%, at \$56.33 a barrel at about 1830 IST after rallying in the previous five sessions.

"OPEC+" has shown no sign yet of reacting to the virus-related slump in demand by making additional production cuts," said Commerzbank analyst Carsten Fritsch.



Instagram's new Unlabel India scheme aims to impact half a million people through a 20-city roadshow educating netizens about online safety and digital hygiene

Bringing the ONLINE, OFFLINE

DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

When was the last time you wondered about the safety of a friend online? Whether someone has slid into their DMs or sent them unsolicited pictures, or even been the victim of bullying? Safety online should be as much of a priority as it is offline.

This year's Safer Internet Day (February 11) was appropriately themed Together For A Better Internet. Given there are about a billion monthly users globally, Instagram has decided that this should be a full-fledged part of the online population's day-to-day routine: the Facebook-owned platform has announced Unlabel India, an offline initiative to democratise the platform further and catalyse a safer social media experience.

This is Instagram's response to the bullying and harassment that has permeated profiles on countless occasions.

In an email interview, Tara Bedi, public policy and community outreach manager at Instagram, explains how the safety and well-being of our community is the platform's top priority with Unlabel India, adding, "We will lead a country-wide conversation with students to spark a movement of kindness, empathy and respect, that is core to our platform and hopefully percolates to the entire community."

Battling for mental health

Instagram, which turns 10 this year, has teamed up with Yuva (a youth media and insights company) to approach this in a phased manner. "The first phase will be a roadshow to 20 cities – Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Bengaluru – in 50 colleges, where young Indians will be encouraged to speak up on issues such as mental health, bullying, safe spaces and gender sensitivity."

Tara adds that the next phase will be about having "a sustained engagement with colleges through 'kindness clubs', 'kindness ambassadors' and targeted digital campaigns. We aim to reach half a million people via online and offline engagements by the end of the year with this initiative." Basically, the idea is to spread the word on the Internet's positive aspects.

"We also have the Counter Speech Fellowship which is run with our partner, Young Leaders for Active Citizenship (YLAC)," adds Tara, "to engage creative teens to use the power of visual storytelling to start meaningful conversations on issues



POSTING IN THE TIME OF STRIFE

India's digital space is swirling with political and social dissent – centred around the CAA and NRC conflicts. Instagram remains neutral while keeping hate speech off its pages.

Tara Bedi explains, "To do this, we have dedicated content reviewers who are based around the world and who speak India's majority languages natively, and we've also invested significantly in proactive detection technologies to help us find violating content on our services more quickly. We also publish a Community Standards Enforcement Report, which shows how we're doing at finding and removing violating content on Facebook and Instagram."

Genuine sharing Tara Bedi (below) says Instagram now offers better mental health conversations
• GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

that are important to young citizens around the world. Mental health is a strong theme covered in this fellowship."

Declining mental health is a given when it comes to the pressures of social media. Tara says the Time Spent tools on Instagram and Facebook which include an activity dashboard, a daily reminder and a new way to limit notifications are part of this scheme.

"We developed these tools based on collaboration and inspiration from leading mental health experts and organisations, academics, our own extensive research and feedback from our community."

On World Mental Health Day last year (October 10), Instagram and Facebook announced a global donation of up to US\$1 million to mental health organisations, of which Goa-based Sangath's It's Okay To Talk initiative, a strong Instagram partner, is one of them, says Tara.

Hiding likes?

Last November at Wired25 in San Francisco, USA, Instagram CEO Adam Mosseri announced that U.S. audiences would be the first testing grounds for the 'hiding likes' feature. Predictably, the Internet imploded, and other countries started following suit.

Enter the Private Likes Counts test; a recent addition to Instagram's framework. "We rethought the whole experience of Instagram and recently announced [this feature], which we also expanded globally... This includes helping people to focus on the photos and videos they share, not on how many likes they get. This is a fundamental change to Instagram, and so we're continuing our test to learn more from our global community. We hope that by making the number of likes private, people will be able to focus more on the photos and videos posted in Feed, and that this will drive deeper engagement."

Instagram also recently launched a new way for people to manage their followers, depending on their offline interactions; basically one can decide who of their followers can see certain parts of their content... liken it to the Close Friends feature on steroids.

PEOPLE

Memories in classic lighting

How food entrepreneur Nandi Shah turned to photography and made it to Delhi's India Design ID



Like other achievements in Nandi Shah's life, the most recent one can also be traced back to her love for food. And her love for her roots. The founder of Restore, Chennai-based Shah has been educating the city about organic foods and local varieties of produce for years. Research and business skills aside, she is now being recognised for more artistic reasons, having displayed a collection of her photographs at the recently-concluded India Design ID.

India Design ID, a luxury design week held in Delhi every year, featured handpicked artists in this edition. Shah was among those approached by Sharan Apparao for her photographs: a feat unto itself, considering she is a self-taught photographer.

"I picked up the DSLR only for my food blog, about two or three years ago. Aside from some help figuring out camera settings – which I am grateful for – I figured everything else on my own. Lines, lighting, framing..." she says. So it is no surprise that she never took compliments about her photography seriously, until she was approached by Apparao herself.

The Still Life, as her series is called, features just that – still after still of quaintly plated food and traditional utensils. Set to bare, dark backdrops, they are reminiscent of classical paintings. "As a student of Fine Arts, I used to primarily do watercolours. With this series, I wanted to do still life with an Indian accent," explains Shah. So, the style of her imagery is inspired by the Dutch masters of painting, even as the subjects stay unwaveringly Indian.

The food in the photographs is hers, as are all the utensils – "I love not only old recipes, but also old objects of brass and patina." With the quiet dignity contained in the former and a tinge of nostalgia provided by the latter, the mood throughout each image is uniform, and soothingly nostalgic. "I have always loved to style my food, so styling and plating comes naturally to me," says Shah, and she has a brass tray filled with pink-and-gold potpourri-esque rosebuds to back her claim.

But that image is a fairly recent one – Shah admits that her photography was not this fine when she first started out. The growth in her personal style of photography can be visibly traced through the her blog posts over the past three years: "In the colour, designs, lines, style, we are all constantly growing as people," she concludes.

MEGHNA MAJUMDAR

PRODUCTS

The biryanis of India

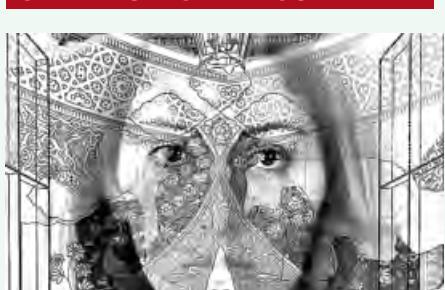


JustMyRoots.com an online interstate food delivery platform, has recently incorporated biryanis onto their portal. They claim to have tied up with various communities across India that make the dish, to offer authentic biryani from traditionally known pockets like Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Delhi. The portal fashions itself as one that bridges distances to ship various authentic regional foods of India from iconic restaurants and entrepreneurs. They also list Rajasthani Ghewar, Bengali Parsho Sorshe, Kashmiri Bok Phool, and various other sweets and dishes from all across the country.

Available at JustMyRoots.com, ₹450 upwards, per plate

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



EXHIBITION

Mixed media
Multi-disciplinary artist Remen Chopra W. Van Der Vaart's solo exhibition titled Memory's Cut: Its Deep Embrace, is on display. Remen uses varied media, like photography, drawing, textiles and sound. This collection is a chronicle of her life that intertwines personal archives with notions of home and memory.

VENUE: Gujral Foundation, 24 Jor Bagh

TIME: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



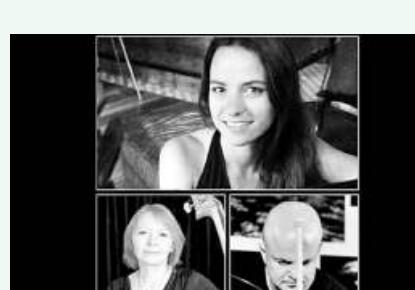
FOOD

Awadhi cuisine

Café Pride, at Pride Plaza Hotel, has an Awadhi food fest titled Lucknowi Andaz. Curated by chef Vikas Pant, the food is prepared using Mughal cooking techniques. The menu offers dishes such as Murg Badami Korma, Mutton Shammi Kebab, Murg Mussalam, Gosht Nalli Nihari, Paneer Ki Kaliyan, Dal Sultan, and more.

VENUE: Aerocity, IGI Airport

TIME: 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.



GIG

Live jazz

The Piano Man Jazz Club is hosting Tatyana Shandrkova live tonight. Tatyana is a professional piano player and composes her own music, which is influenced by jazz, folk, soul and hip-hop. She will be accompanied by Sava Boyadzhiev on the drums and Ekaterina Aristova on the double bass.

VENUE: B 6-7/22 Safdarjung Enclave Market

TIME: 9 p.m. - 11:55 p.m.



THEATRE

Hindi drama

Asmita Theatre Group will stage playwright Mohan Rakesh's Aadhे अधूरे, directed by NSD alumnus Vijay Kumar. The play details the life of Savitri, a middle-aged, educated woman, who is the sole bread-earner of the house, while her husband Mahendra is unemployed and spends all of the family's savings on his daily whims.

VENUE: Mukundhara Auditorium, Gole Market

TIME: 7 p.m.



FILM

Bonded labour system

IHC will screen *Damul* (bonded until death), a 1985 Hindi film, this evening. Directed by Prakash Jha, the film is based on writer Shaiwa's short story, *Kaalsoota*. It highlights the ill-effects of the bonded labour system, through the tale of a bonded labourer who is left with no choice but to steal from his landlord.

VENUE: Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre

TIME: 7 p.m.

CMYK

Adventures await

While the KTM 390 Adventure has the capability to go almost anywhere, it also looks to be a fantastic long-distance road bike



RISHAAD MODY

The KTM 390 Adventure has just made its India début. It promises to be just the sort of fast, premium and (relatively) affordable go-anywhere motorcycle the Indian market has been sorely missing. The 390 certainly looks the part and has quite some presence. In person, you will realise that the 390 ADV is a considerably large machine – it is bigger than the BMW G 310 GS in every dimension, and is taller and wider than the Royal Enfield Himalayan as well. Thankfully, it isn't as hefty as the 199kg Himalayan, but at 177kg kerb weight, it is about 8kg heavier than the BMW.

Substantial it may be, but the 390 Adventure certainly isn't pretty. Just like KTM's big ADV family, its trademark insect-like styling is instantly recognisable – but it is not for everyone. There are a few interesting details, though. The fuel tank plastic, for example, is infused with colour,



Plus points As far as comfort and practicality go, this bike is miles ahead ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

instead of being painted, and this should help keep a cleaner look after a period of time and wear-and-tear.

As far as comfort and practicality go, this bike is miles ahead of anything else KTM offers in India. The 14.5-litre fuel tank is the largest on any India-made KTM to date, and you should easily get well over 300 kilo-

metres on a full tank. A new subframe has liberated vast seating space for the rider, and there's a decently-sized pillion seat as well.

Technology-wise, there is the now-familiar, full-LED headlamp that comes right off the 390 and 790 Duke. The TFT display is also nearly the same, but this one can display turn-by-turn navigation assists if you purchase the optional KTM MyRide Navigation App for ₹600. And then, of course, there are the headline-grabbing electronic assists. The bike gets a bi-directional quickshifter that works decently well, even if it's not as smooth and crisp as the system in the 790 Duke. There is also a three-axis IMU that enables a cornering ABS feature, and a corner-sensitive traction control system.

Our first taste of the 390 ADV was on some rocky, gravelly trails, with a few steep climbs strewn with large boulders. First things first, the ergonomics are quite decent, in terms of



SPECIFICATIONS OF KTM 390 ADVENTURE

PRICE ₹2.99 lakh (ex-showroom, Delhi)

ENGINE 373.2cc, liquid-cooled, single-cylinder

POWER 43hp at 9,000rpm

TORQUE 37Nm at 7,000 rpm

GEARBOX 6-speed

KERB WEIGHT 177kg

WHEELBASE 1430mm

GROUND CLEARANCE 200mm

FUEL TANK 14.5 litres

SUSPENSION (F/R) USD fork/monoshock

BRAKES (F/R) 320mm disc/230mm disc

the feet positioning and shape of the fuel tank, but most of us agreed that we would have liked a taller handlebar for when standing up and riding.

Switching to the faster, more open trails, the 390's trademark raucous power delivery was great fun, especially when you cross the magic 6,000rpm mark. But just as the 390's excellent top-end thrills in the fast stretches, its grumpy bottom end makes it a pain when climbing steep and technical trails at low speeds.

In the dirt, the off-road ABS mode which deactivates the rear wheel intervention worked beautifully, but the same cannot be said for the traction control. A number of us encountered an unusual issue where the TC would randomly cut in briefly, rob-

bing you of all power, and this was with the system fully turned off and while the engine was running.

It is on the road where the Adventure's 1.5-degree increase in steering rake and 77mm increase in wheelbase over the 390 Duke reveal their biggest change. While we didn't get to evaluate high-speed stability, it is clear that this bike feels nothing close to as fizzy or on-edge as the Duke. Instead, there is an enjoyable sense of stability, which comes without a major sacrifice in agility and front-end feel, despite the 19-inch front wheel.

As far as comfort goes, the riding position is commanding and simply excellent. What you should know is this is a bike that will be easier for taller riders. On the road, the 855mm seat height will be just about manageable if you're over 5ft 6in, but things can get quite tricky off-road if you don't have long legs to mask a lack of talent.

Performance-wise, the BS-VI engine makes the same 43hp/37Nm as the BS-IV motor in the 390 Duke, although the exhaust note sounds a bit more muffled. What is new, however, is a redesigned curved radiator with a dual-fan set-up. The intention is to improve cooling efficiency and redirect the hot air away from the rider.

The KTM 390 Adventure also looks to be a fantastic long-distance road bike. The ₹2.99 lakh ex-showroom price is stunning when you consider how much this bike has to offer. If KTM can offer a reliable and niggle-free experience from the start, the 390 Adventure could be quite a special machine.

Q AND A WITH HORMAZD



Kia resolves Seltos issues

Maniprasad Sundaramoorthy, Coimbatore: I booked the Kia Seltos GTx, but within a month of its launch, I saw complaints online regarding DCT heating, infotainment system hanging and low mileage (automatic). Should I go for the Compass or Octavia instead?

■ Yes, the Kia Seltos faced problems with DCT overheating and the infotainment system hanging. The latter was causing the screen to suddenly blank out, and Kia says this has been fixed by an OS update. The DCT issue was because the software was calibrated to disengage the clutch only partially with a light application of the brakes. The idea was to still provide a bit of drive in stop-start conditions and reduce lag, but this excessive clutch 'slip' led to clutch overheating, which the safety system then disengaged until it cooled down; hence, even in 'D' there was no drive. Kia has now upgraded the gearbox software. The 2020 Skoda Octavia will be fantastic, but more expensive.

Amaze versus Venue

Prasanth, Coimbatore: I am looking for an automatic for about ₹11 lakh, for city and weekend rides, to comfortably seat five. Should I opt for the Honda Amaze VX CVT diesel, Hyundai Venue S DCT, or wait for the VW T-Cross?

■ The Venue DCT is certainly the nicer car to drive, thanks to its punchy and smooth engine. However, it's not as spacious as the Amaze. Also, the Venue's fuel efficiency won't be as good as the Amaze, which also has the advantage of lower diesel fuel costs. If your use is mainly in the city, we suggest the diesel Amaze, which works quite well with the CVT transmission. The T-Cross will be almost twice the cost. Worth considering if you have the budget, but, it won't come with a diesel motor.

Limited choice for bikes

Santhosh, Hyderabad: Should I buy a Benelli Imperiale 400? I am 6 ft. 1 inch and 90 kg. I am looking for a bike for under ₹3 lakh, which can do both city and occasional road trips. Should I go with the Benelli or is there any other bike I should look out for?

■ The Imperiale is a nicely-sized bike for a large rider and is doing quite well for Benelli. The turning radius is quite large and, in fact, the whole bike feels bigger and heavier to manoeuvre than a Royal Enfield in the city. Currently, you don't have much choice in this segment and perhaps the only other option at a similar price is the Bajaj Dominar 400.

Hormazd Sorabjee is the editor of Autocar India. Mail your feedback and queries to roadshow@thehindu.co.in

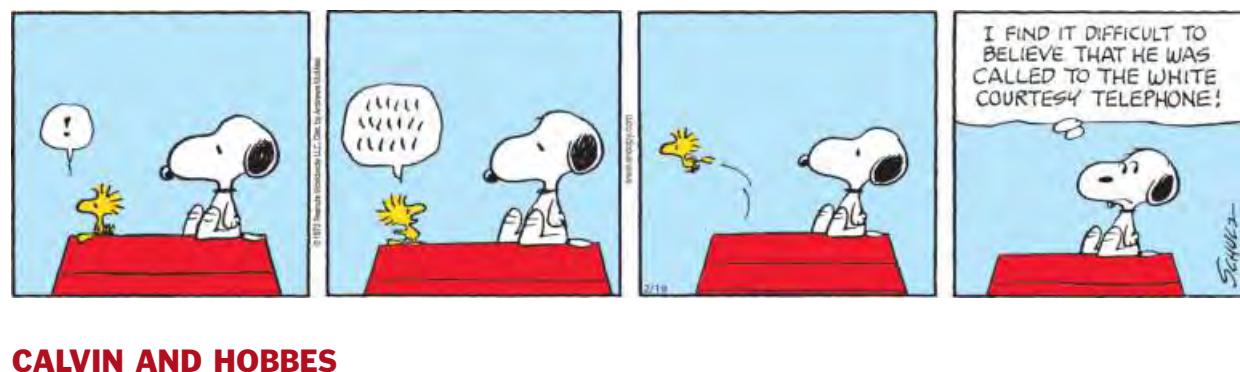
POOCH CAFE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



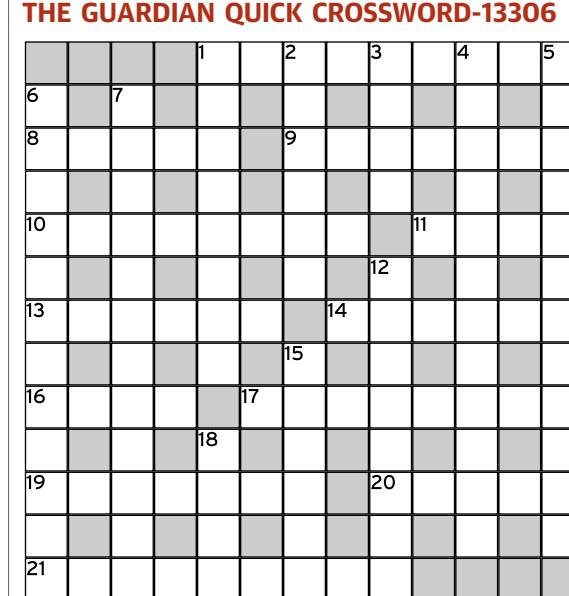
PEANUTS



TIGER



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13306



To play The Guardian Quick Crossword, The Hindu Cryptic crossword, Sudoku & other puzzles online, scan the QR code.

crooked church spire (12)

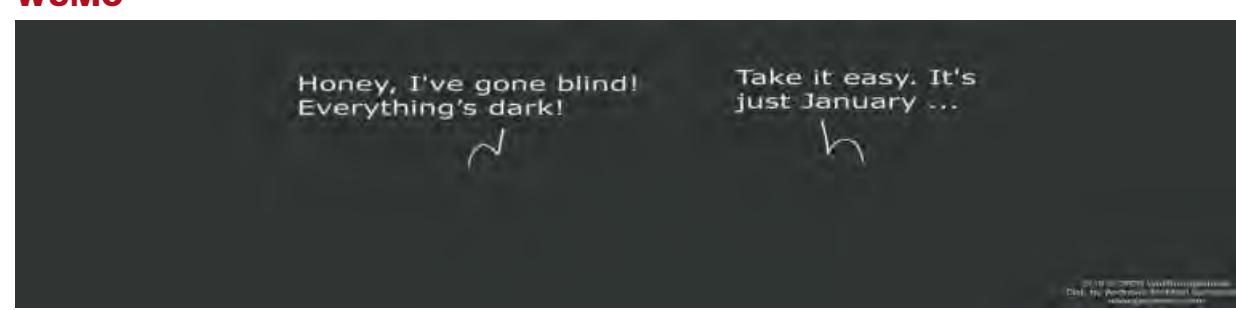
7 Wastes time by being indecisive (5-7)

12 Hot drink – teenager (anag) (5,3)

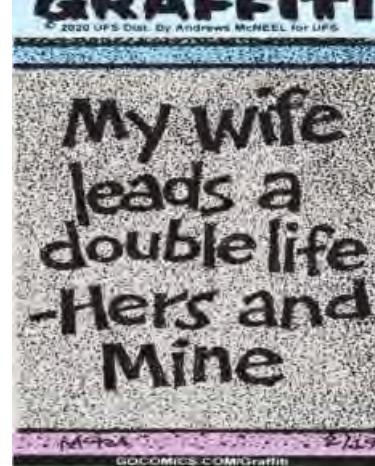
15 Arm muscle (6)

18 Wind instrument (4)

WUMO



GRAFFITI



HEALTH CAPSULES

By Brian Smith
WHAT'S THE BEST MEDICATION FOR HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE?
A DIURETIC, OF COURSE. BUT IT'S ALSO CALLED A WATER PILL.
A LARGE STUDY INVOLVING ALMOST 5 MILLION PATIENTS REVEALED THAT THOSE WHO WERE PRESCRIBED THIAZIDE DIURETICS HAD 15% FEWER HEART ATTACKS AND STROKES THAN THOSE WHO TOOK ACE INHIBITORS, ANOTHER TYPE OF BLOOD PRESSURE MEDICATION.

Health Capsules is not intended to be a diagnostic or prescriptive source.

Across

19 Large structure (7)

20 Short melody (5)

21 Indigestion (9)

Down

1 Seminar (8)

2 Penitent (6)

3 Resound (4)

4 Long established (4-8)

5 Let down (12)

6 Heretics fled (anag) – Derbyshire town with a

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The solution will appear on February 20, 2020. Solution No. 13305

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



CM YK

We have the team to beat New Zealand in its backyard: Arun

India's bowling coach aware of dynamics of windy Wellington and Basin Reserve as the players gear up for the Test series beginning on Feb. 21



Ideal choice: R. Ashwin gets the ball to dip or drift while bowling against the wind and may be the lone spinner in the playing XI. ■ FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

INDIA IN NZ

S. DINAKAR
WELLINGTON

The big white sheets covered the pitch and the square, soaking up the water. It rained here on Tuesday forcing the Indians to cancel their practice session.

Indeed, the picturesque Basin Reserve ground, the soul of New Zealand cricket, wore a forlorn look with just two more days to go before the first Test gets underway here on Friday.

Although the surface for the game was not in view, locals said there was a fair amount of grass under the covers. The conditions should favour the seamers here.

Showers forecast
While showers have been forecast for the first two days of the Test, the weather should be fine for the last three.

The pitch could also be seamer friendly in the first two to three days and then flatten out.

The Indians discovered this the hard way on their last Test tour here when Brendon McCullum's history-making triple hundred, backed up by centuries from B.J. Watling and Jimmy

Neesham enabled New Zealand script a great escape.

With the Indians calling off their training session, the team's bowling coach Bharat Arun was able to eke out time for shopping at the busy Lambton Quay in Wellington's CBD.

Arun was confident about India's chances against New Zealand.

He told *The Hindu*, "New Zealand is a combative side but we have the team to beat it in its backyard."

Not too concerned

Arun was not overly concerned about India's ODI set-back.

He said, "We were without six of our World Cup players. Sometimes, it is not all about winning."

Arun added, "It's about trying out cricketers in different positions and we might lose some matches in the bargain."

He observed, "Look we found an ideal No. 4 for the shorter versions in Shreyas Iyer.

"And K.L. Rahul offers us a lot as a versatile batsman at No. 5 who can also 'keep competently'."

Switching his attention back to Tests, Arun was aware of the dynamics of the windy Wellington and the



Taking a break: Bharat Arun found time amidst the busy schedule to do some shopping. ■ S. DINAKAR

Basin Reserve.

Here, bowling against the strong winds is a huge ask from a seamer. Arun said, "Not one, but each of our pacemen could take turns bowling against the wind. We could also ask the spinner to bowl against the wind and rotate the pacemen from the other end."

India will play only one spinner, and, at this stage, it appears R. Ashwin may be that man since he gets the ball to dip or drift while bowling against the wind.

He offers more in the air than Ravindra Jadeja who is better on tracks where the

ball grips.

It's also likely that Rishabh Pant will get the nod ahead of Wriddhiman Saha. While Saha is a more accomplished stumper, Pant can keep smartly standing back on these pitches and also attack the Kiwi seamers to swing games.

The talented Prithvi Shaw should open with Mayank Agarwal, who has a fine temperament.

The sublime Shubman Gill may have to wait longer for his chance.

Ishant brings experience

Ishant Sharma, set to join the team on Tuesday night, adds much to the Indian pace pack with his experience and skill.

"Yes, Ishant will join us. In the conditions here, the pacemen can bowl a bit up, than they did in Australia," said Arun.

Ishant could combine with Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami with the inform Umesh Yadav missing a place by a short-head. The competition among the Indian pacemen is intense and that's not good news for the Kiwis.

Lethal combo

Trent Boult will be back in action for New Zealand, combining with Tim Southee. And in picking the lanky Kyle Jamieson, someone who bowls with pace and can extract lift around off-stump, the Kiwi think-tank is zeroing in on an old Indian failing.

The battle lines have been drawn even if the weather is murky here.

Indian women edge out WI

Poonam claims three wickets to derail the chase

WARM-UP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BRISBANE

Spinner Poonam Yadav claimed three wickets as India geared up for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup with a thrilling two-run win over the West Indies in a low-scoring warm-up match here on Tuesday. Electing to bat, India posted 107 for eight in the stipulated 20 overs before restricting West Indies to 105 for seven.

Deepti strikes

Chasing 108, West Indies was comfortably placed at 57 for one in 13 overs when Deepti Sharma struck, cleaning up opener Lee-Ann Kirby (42) to trigger a collapse. Soon skipper Stefanie Taylor (16), Chedean Nation (0) and Deandra Dottin (1) were back in the hut as West

Indies slipped to 67 for five in the 17th over.

Hayley Matthews (25) and Chinelle Henry (17) blasted three fours and a six in the 19th over to leave the team



Poonam Yadav. ■ FILE PHOTO

with 11 to get off six balls.

Henry blasted Poonam for a four but the Indian dismissed Hayley off the fourth ball. West Indies needed three runs off the last ball but Chinelle was caught by Veda Krishnamurthy on Tuesday.

Earlier, the top-three failed to fire as India was reduced to 17 for three. Opener Smriti Mandhana (4) lasted just six balls, while Jemimah Rodrigues fell without opening her account. Shafali Verma blasted a couple of fours before being caught by Britney Cooper off Shamilia Connell (2/20).

Deepti Sharma made a 32-ball 21 before falling to Anisa Mohammed, while Pooja Vastrakar (13) was removed by Aaliyah Alleyne.

The scores: India 107/8 in 20 overs (Anisa Mohammed 2/16) bt West Indies 105/7 in 20 overs (Lee-Ann Kirby 42, Poonam Yadav 3/20).

Manpreet at the helm

HOCKEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Manpreet Singh will lead India in the upcoming FIH Pro League matches against World No. 2 Australia, a 24-member team for which was announced by Hockey India on Tuesday.

Harmanpreet Singh will be the vice-captain in the matches, scheduled to take place on February 21 and 22 in Bhubaneswar.

The Indian team had posted a 2-1 win over World champion Belgium in the first Pro League match, while losing 2-3 in the second game.

"After having two high intensity matches against the world champions, we will be facing another strong team in Australia," chief coach Graham Reid said. "We have again gone with a strong group of players who can provide us with a good



Manpreet Singh. ■ FILE PHOTO

balance throughout the field," he added.

The squad:

P.R. Sreejesh, Krishan Pathak, Amit Rohidas, Surender Kumar, Birendra Lakra, Harmanpreet Singh (vice-captain), Varun Kumar, Gurinder Singh, Rupinder Pal Singh, Manpreet Singh (captain), Vivek Sagar Prasad, Hardik Singh, Chhenglansingh, Raj Kumar Pal, Akashdeep Singh, Sumit, Lalit Upadhyay, Gursahibjit Singh, Dilpreet Singh, S.V. Sunil, Jarnpreet Singh, Simranjeet Singh, Nilakanta Sharma and Ramandeep Singh.

Clijsters 'feels good' despite loss

Sania-Garcia pair through to the second round

TELEVISION

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
DUBAI

Kim Clijsters said she is going to plough ahead with her tennis comeback despite losing her return match 6-2, 7-6 (8) to Garbine Muguruza in the opening round of the WTA event here.

Four-time Grand Slam champion Clijsters, 36, had been out of the game for seven years before the clash with Muguruza, who reached the final of the Australian Open last month, and is keen to push ahead after an encouraging display against the World No. 16 Spaniard.

"I had a good feeling out there, I felt a pace I can handle. I felt like I was able to go toe-to-toe with her from the baseline," said Clijsters. "I wouldn't have done this if I didn't have that belief some-



Ready for the grind again: Kim Clijsters gave a good account of herself before going down to Muguruza. ■ AP

how. It might take 10 matches to get the way I played in the second set, might take me 10 matches to get that from start to finish.

"I have patience. I'm going to work my way into it and fight. We'll see what happens," Clijsters did not say where she will continue her comeback, not mentioning any future tournament

entries after taking part here as a wild card.

In doubles, Sania Mirza and Caroline Garcia overcame the Russian-Slovenian combination of Alla Kudryavtseva and Katarina Srebotnik 6-4, 4-6, [10-8].

After winning the first set, the Indo-Spanish pair lost the second before winning 10-8 in the super tie-breaker.

T20: Mining data is as important as hitting sixes and fours



BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

How many world-class batters do you need to win a T20 World Cup? That's a question Indian teams – both men and women – will be asking themselves. The women will get their answer earlier as their World Cup begins on Friday. The men will have to wait till October-November. Australia Women's coach Matthew Mott has said that India have the most feared batting line-up in the world.

"They've got four world-class batters and when I say world-class I mean top of the tree guns," Mott has been quoted as saying. Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues are in the Top 10 of the ICC rankings, while 16-year-old Shefali Verma last year became the youngest Indian to hit an international half-century, younger than even Sachin Tendulkar was. The batting has both potential and record.

Exciting line-up
It is an exciting line-up, and like many exciting line-ups, they have a tendency to swing from one extreme to the other. India are as capable of taking the game by the scruff of its neck and sauntering to a win as they are of collapsing unexpectedly and throwing it all away. Former captain Diana Eduljee has put it best: "It's both unfair and nasty. If all the guns fire and if collapses are

averted, this team has the potential to make it to the final. They have beaten Australia, the favourites, but a World Cup is different, especially one in Australia.

Sensibly, coach Woorkeri Raman refuses to buy into the hype. India are one of the favourites, he concedes, and says, "Even if the top order is firing, the winning runs will be the 20-odd from the lower order," thus exhibiting the streak of pragmatism so essential to those in charge. India recently lost a series final to Australia after losing seven wickets for 29 runs; only four days earlier they had beaten the same team by seven wickets while chasing 174.

Women's cricket should not make the mistake that the men did at the 1992 World Cup (50-overs) in Australia, when India's plan was for Krishnamachari Srikkanth to scatter the bowling at the top and for the remaining batsmen to walk though the opening he had created. It didn't work then, and such a plan is unlikely to work now. Everybody has a role in a team, and to rely on just a few is both impractical and dangerous. It is easy to say, as some have, that the top four should bat through 20 overs to put India ahead, but team sport is about shared responsibility.

When Indian men won the T20 World Cup in 2007, the effect on the cricketing world was profound. The IPL was inaugurated the following year, and from sceptics, India became T20 proselytisers. If the women's team does well in the World Cup in Australia, a logical case can be made for a women's IPL, an idea that has been in the air for sometime now.

Both the Indian teams are ranked fourth in the world, so they have something to aim for, and a couple of things to prove.

'Wasn't surprised Sania became a top player'

Four-time Grand Slam champion Mary Pierce will visit Delhi next week

INTERVIEW

KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Mary Pierce was 20-years old when she won the Australian Open in 1995, dropping a mere 30 games in seven rounds.

It took her five more years to win her favourite Grand Slam on clay at the Roland Garros in Paris, even though she had grown up on clay.

In fact, the tall and power-stroking Pierce had looked ready to win the French Open in 1994 itself, when she reached the final, dropping a mere 10 games along the way, which included a 6-2, 6-2 triumph over Steffi Graf.

However, Pierce was beaten in the final by Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in straight sets.

The four-time Grand Slam champion, who won the Wimbledon mixed doubles title with Mahesh Bhupathi in 2005, will be in Delhi to inspire the Indian boys and girls who will be competing in the Oppo Roland Garros junior wildcard event in Delhi from February 24 to 26.

"I am very happy to be coming to India. It is one of my favourite countries," said Pierce, in a telephonic conversation from Paris.

Throwback
She distinctly remembered competing in the WTA tournament in Hyderabad in



Looking ahead: Mary Pierce says she is happy to come to India as it is one of her favourite countries. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

2003, and partnering the 16-year-old Sania Mirza in doubles.

"Mahesh was organising that tournament and wanted to know whether I would like to play with a local girl. It was Sania's first tournament at that level."

"She was not that well known then. I saw her hitting the strokes well. There were a lot of mistakes. But, I knew that once she started keeping a lot of balls on

court, she would be good. I wasn't surprised when she developed into a top player," said Pierce.

"It is a good question, but there is no answer. Some players have natural gift. Indian tennis has had great champions. Am sure there will be more in future. Yes, passion for the game, hard work, dedication, sacrifice and very supportive people... are all important. You need good structure, training and sponsors to help you travel for tournaments," said Pierce.

Lot to learn
Pierce was understandably thrilled to promote clay court play. "I developed my game, playing on clay. You need to have strong legs and patience to play long rallies. Clay teaches you a lot. It is so special to me. It is great to promote the event," said Pierce. The 45-year-old Pierce does follow women's tennis closely, and was happy that Sofia Kenin won the Australian Open with her fearless game. "It is too early to assess the chances for Roland Garros. We will see how the girls, so many of them and so good, compete in the clay season, before we take a pick," said Pierce.

TV PICKS

ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
UEFA Champions League: Sony Ten 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Thursday).

IN BRIEF



Kohli first Indian with 50m Instagram followers

NEW DELHI
Virat Kohli has become the first person from India to have 50 million followers on Instagram. Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas is the second most-followed Indian on Instagram with 49.9 million users. Deepika Padukone comes third with 44.1 million followers. IANS



Bavuma out of first T20I against Australia

JOHANNESBURG
South African batsman Temba Bavuma has been ruled out of the first T20I against Australia at the Wanderers on Friday because of a hamstring strain. Bavuma opened the batting in three T20Is against England and scored 123 runs at a strike rate of 153.75. He was injured while fielding in the third match against England. AFP

Sasikumar advances

KOBLENZ (GERMANY)
Qualifier Sasikumar Mukund sailed into the second round with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Filip Cristian Jianu of Romania in the €46,600 Challenger tennis on Tuesday. In the second round, Sasikumar will play Lucas Miedler of Austria. Other results:
\$25,000 ITF men, Aktobe, Kazakhstan: First round: Denis Yevseyev (Kaz) bt Arjun Kadhe 6-2, 6-0.
\$15,000 ITF men, Sharm El Sheikh: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Simon Anthony Ivanov (Bul) & Simon Yitbarek (Swe) bt Mehuli Don Ayanda Sibanda (Zim) & Aryan Goveas 6-4, 6-3.
\$15,000 ITF men, Monastir: First round: Rishabh Agarwal bt Florent Bax (Fra) 7-6(3), 2-6, 7-6(3).

Mihika in second round

JODHPUR
Mihika Yadav got past Nikola Breckova of the Czech Republic 7-5, 6-3 in the first round of the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament on Tuesday. In the second round, Mihika will play sixth seed Riya Bhattacharya, who beat Jennifer Luikham 6-4, 7-6(4). In doubles, Ankita Raina and Snehal Mane outplayed Lakshanya Choudhary and Jigyasa Narsinghani for the loss of one game.

The results: First round:
Mihika Yadav bt Nikola Breckova (Cze) 7-5, 6-3; Riya Bhattacharya bt Jennifer Luikham 6-4, 7-6(4); Evgeniya Burdina (Rus) bt Shira Attur (USA) 6-3, 6-3; Michika Ozeki (Jpn) bt Humera Shaikh 7-5, 6-2; Francesca Jones (GBR) bt Mihaela Djakovic (Srb) 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Doubles: Miyabi Inoue (Jpn) & Rutuja Bhosale bt Anchisa Chanta & Supapichai Kuearum (Tha) 6-4, 6-1; Ekaterina Nikiforova (Rus) & Saumya Vig bt Saura Honda & Michika Ozeki (Jpn) 6-3, 2-6, [10-8]; Evgeniya Burdina (Rus) & Valeria Strakhova (Ukr) bt Caroline Romea (Fra) & Zeel Desai 6-4, 6-1; Ankita Raina & Snehal Mane bt Lakshanya Choudhary & Jigyasa Narsinghani 6-1, 6-0; Prema Bhambri & Nidhi Chilumbar Sama 6-2, 6-2; Mihaela Djakovic & Bojana Marinovic (Srb) bt Nudnidha Luangnam (Tha) & Parthana Thombare 6-3, 3-6, [10-7].

Mickey Wright passes away

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LOS ANGELES
Thirteen-time Major winner Mickey Wright, often described as the greatest woman golfer of all time, died aged 85.

Wright, who accumulated 82 LPGA Tour titles during a professional career which stretched from 1954 to 1969, died in Florida after a heart attack, reports said on Monday.

Sunil Kumar grapples his way to glory

It is India's first Greco-Roman Asian championship gold in 27 years

WRESTLING

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

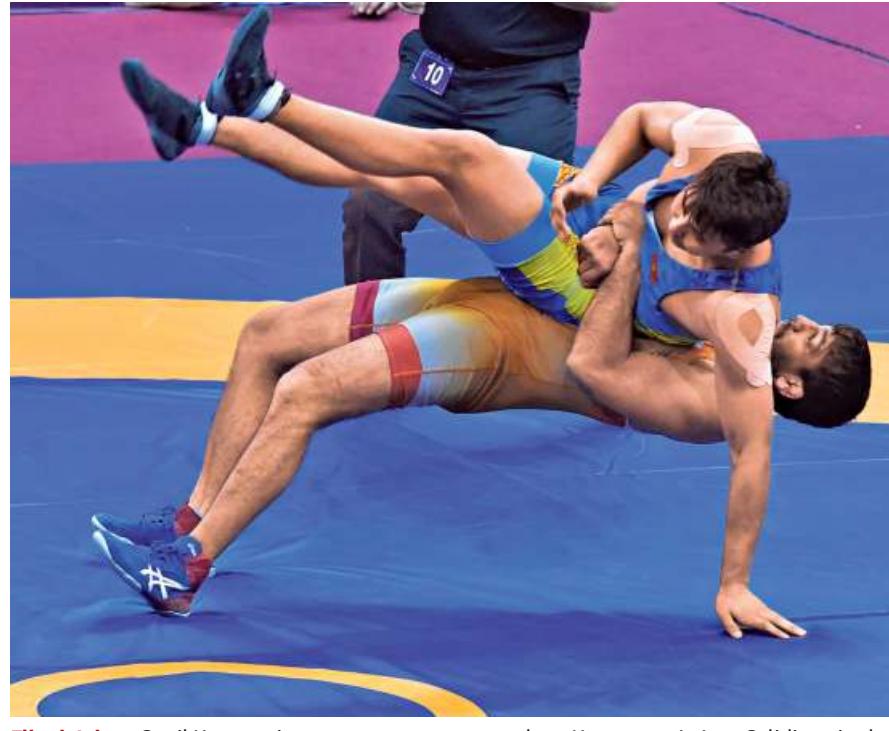
India had managed a grand total of one gold in the previous edition of the senior Asian wrestling championship.

On Tuesday, Sunil Kumar ensured there won't be any less this time around, opening the gold tally for the host with a 5-0 win in the 87kg final against Azat Salidinov of Kyrgyzstan.

It was not just an improvement on Sunil's own silver-winning performance in 2019 but also India's first Greco-Roman gold in the competition after 27 years. The last time it happened was in 1993, when Pappu Yadav won the 48kg title.

"It feels great to better your own performance and change the medal colour from silver to gold. I have worked a lot on my ground wrestling techniques in the last one year and improved my defence. That helped me today," Sunil said after the bout at the K.D. Jadhav Indoor Stadium.

National coach Hargobind Singh hoped the win would help bring more focus on Greco-Roman, often reduced



Flippin' time: Sunil Kumar tries to execute a gut wrench on Kyrgyzstan's Azat Salidinov in their 87kg title bout. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

to shadows against the more popular freestyle category.

Halakurki wins bronze

In the 55kg, 21-year old Arjun Halakurki won bronze with a 7-4 win against Dong Hyeok Won of Korea.

Leading 7-1 in his semifinal bout against 2018 junior

World Champion and eventual gold-medallist Pouya Mohammad Naserpour of Iran, Halakurki paid for his aggressive play to go down 7-8 in the final few seconds.

"I played the way I have always done in junior and under-23 levels but there is a big difference at the senior level.

I have now learnt that you need to hold on and go a bit slow at this level. That is what the coaches also said after the semifinals and I tried to avoid my mistakes," said the Karnataka wrestler, competing in his maiden senior tournament.

Having won the U-23 and

Venues for FIFA U-17 Women's WC announced

Guwahati, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Navi Mumbai to host the games



Kick Off The Dream: Praful Patel, Kiren Rijiju, Sarai Bareman and Roberto Grassi, Head of Youth Tournaments, FIFA, during the slogan launch of the Under-17 Women's World Cup. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

World Cup) that it can be a great host. We had done a professional job. This event will be a great impetus to Indian football and also prove that gender equality is here to stay."

Patel added, "We want football to grow outside of the traditional area. Northeast has become the epicentre of the game in the country and we are happy to add new venues to the football map.

"We look forward to

bring the Under-20 and Club World Cup tournaments to the near future.

"There is inspiration from the 3-3 draw our girls' team forced against Romania (on Monday)"

Applauding the Indian girls' effort, Bareman said, "It's an incredible result against an European team. There are few countries with professional leagues for women. Women are not paid to play football.

"India should look at the

positives from the under-17 women's tournament.

"The tournament slogan 'Kick Off The Dream' perfectly captures the aspirational and empowering message for the tournament as we look to grow women's football."

Rijiju promised to take the movement forward by maintaining the trend set by Khelo India women's league. "Every school and college should have a women's team."

Manchester United bests Chelsea, closes in on top four

Rebic nets winner for AC Milan in Serie A

EURO LEAGUES

REUTERS
LONDON

Headed goals from Anthony Martial and Harry Maguire earned Manchester United a 2-0 win at Chelsea on Monday, putting it back in the hunt for a top-four Premier League finish.

In a high tempo, if often scrappy, game Ole Gunnar Solskjær's United side made the most of its chances while Chelsea, whose form at home has been suspect all season, squandered a string of opportunities.

A fine glancing header from Anthony Martial just before halftime from an Aaron Wan-Bissaka cross put the visitors ahead. It was United's first Premier League goal in four games.

Defender Harry Maguire made it two in the 66th minute, losing marker Antonio Rudiger to head home from a corner by United's new Portuguese signing Bruno Fernandes.

VAR comes into play

Chelsea had two goals ruled out by VAR. Kurt Zouma scored from a corner in the 54th but there was a push in



Firing it in: Harry Maguire, left, rises high to slot home Manchester United's second goal against Chelsea. ■ AFP

the area. Substitute striker Olivier Giroud's headed effort in the 77th was cancelled when he was adjudged marginally offside.

The loss left Chelsea fourth, a point clear of resurgent rival Tottenham Hotspur led by its ex-coach Jose Mourinho. Chelsea hosts Spurs on Saturday. United, another of Mourinho's old clubs rose to seventh, three points behind Chelsea.

Meanwhile in Serie A, AC Milan forward Ante Rebic continued his superb run of form by securing a 1-0 over Torino at San Siro that sent it

within touching distance of the European spots.

The Croatia international latched onto a Samuel Castillejo cross to sweep home the decisive goal after 25 minutes, marking his fifth in the last five league games.

Milan moved into eighth place on 35 points but only trails seventh-placed Parma and Hellas Verona in sixth on goal difference.

The results:
Premier League: Chelsea 0 lost to Manchester United 2 (Martial 45, Maguire 66).
Serie A: AC Milan 1 (Rebic 25) bt Torino 0.

Within touching distance of the European spots.

The Croatia international latched onto a Samuel Castillejo cross to sweep home the decisive goal after 25 minutes, marking his fifth in the last five league games.

The selected players:
Boys: Dev Javia, Chirag Duhani, Krishan Hooda, Uddayvir Singh, Karan Singh, Ajay Malik, Nitin Jaipal Singh, Mohit Bondre.
Girls: Reshma Maruri, Akansha Nitture, Sandeepi Singh Rao, Sarah Dev, Vanshika Choudhary, Sanjana Sirimalla, Nikita Vishwase, Vaishnavi Adkar.

Madras HC sets aside AICF office-bearers' election

CHESS

MOHAMMED IMRANULLAH S
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Tuesday set aside the unopposed election of Ajay Patel, Vipresh Bhardwaj, Bharat Singh Chauhan, Arun Singh and Naren Sharma as the president, vice-president, secretary, joint secretary and treasurer of All India Chess Federation (AICF) and ordered conduct of fresh elections by convening a special general body meeting.

All candidates shall file nominations only in person strictly as per the National Sports Development Code of 2011," the judges clarified after finding that the nominations of Raja and his team had been rejected precisely on the ground that they had not filed their nominations in person though they could do so due to circumstances revolving around the previous court order.

To challenge order

The order is set to be challenged by Bharat Singh and others. "We are awaiting the copy of the order. We will move the Supreme Court against the order," said Chauhan.

Delhi clinches title

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Delhi University beat Mumbai University 3-0 to clinch the men's title in the All-India inter-university squash championship which concluded at the Manipal University, Jaipur, on Tuesday.

In the match for the third place, Pune University beat Manipal Academy of Higher Education 3-1.

The results (final): Delhi University bt Manipal Academy of Higher Education 3-0 (Ashwin Kandath bt Shubham Anuangare 11-2, 11-5, 11-9; Kunal Singh bt Rupesh Parmar 11-1, 11-7, 11-6; Divyanshu Sharma bt Taksh Bhawani 12-10, 11-7, 8-11, 11-4).

Quarterfinals: Delhi University bt Punjabi University, Chandigarh, 3-2 (Kunal Singh bt Pagat Sharma 11-0, 11-0, 11-4; Ashwin Kandath lost to Abhishek 6-11, 14-12, 9-11, 8-11; Divyanshu Sharma bt Yashvir Singh 11-1, 8-11, 11-7, 11-9; Rahul Vasishtha lost to Sonu 5-11, 8-11 (retd); Abdur Rahman bt Tamruveer Singh 11-3, 11-3, 12-10).

Triumphant: The Delhi University team which won the All-India inter-university squash championship in Jaipur on Tuesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH)-I
OPPOSITE J-BLOCK MARKET, SAKEET : NEW DELHI-110017

NIT NO. 72(S-I)(2019-20)

S. No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Replacement of damaged portion of peripheral sewer lines of institutional area Vasant Kunj Phase-2 against deficiency charges deposited by DDA under EE (South)-I	1,80,13,130/-	2020_DJB_188106_15.02.2020	upto 3:00 PM

NIT along with all the terms & conditions is available on web https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in

Issued by P.R.O. (Water)

Advt. No. J.S.V. 826/19-20

(L.L. Meena)

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH)-I

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(EAST)-II E-BLOCK: PREET VIHAR: DELHI-110092 PRESS NIT NO. 55/E/JII(19-20)				
S. No.	Name of work	Amount put to tender	Tender processing fee	Earnest Money
1.	Making house sewer connection from proposed sewer chamber to existing DBJ manhole under Mukhyamantri Muff Sewer Connection Yojana in ward no. 28E and 29E Shahdara in AC-62, in East-II	44,97,255.00	500.00	90,500.00
2.	Making house sewer connection from proposed sewer chamber to existing DBJ manhole under Mukhyamantri Muff Sewer Connection Yojana in Radhey Shyam Park, New Govind Pura, Brij Puri and adjoining ward No. 23E, Krishna Nagar in AC-60 in East-II (Re-invited)	31,18,097.00	500.00	63,000.00
3.	Making house sewer connection from proposed sewer chamber to existing DBJ manhole under Mukhyamantri Muff Sewer Connection Y			



Dr. Velagapudi Lakshmana Dutt Executive Chairman

December 27, 1937

February 18, 2020

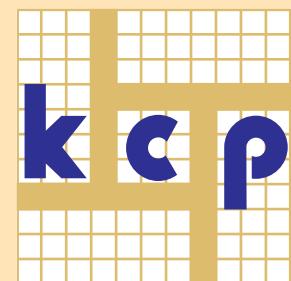
Words Fail Us in this Hour of our Grief

The Light of your Legacy Shines on ... to Inspire Us

Your Values Live Forever ... to Motivate Us

We Pledge to Carry Forward your Vision

May Your Noble Soul Rest in Peace



The KCP Limited

V.L. Indira Dutt
Kavitha Ravi Shivani
The Board of Directors
Employees

