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Swedish royal couple want climate awareness, end to sexual violence
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Gotabaya suspends Sri Lanka's Parliament ahead of snap polls
page 14



Record sixth Ballon d'Or award for Lionel Messi
page 20

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NEARBY



Rajoana not pardoned, says Amit Shah

NEW DELHI
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that Balwant Singh Rajoana, convicted of the assassination of former Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh, had not been pardoned. The Minister was responding to a query from Ravneet Singh Bittu, Congress member from Punjab, who asked the Home Minister why the Centre pardoned the killer of the former Chief Minister.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 12

OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 7

GST revenues not enough for States' compensation: Centre

Letter to States flags falling collections

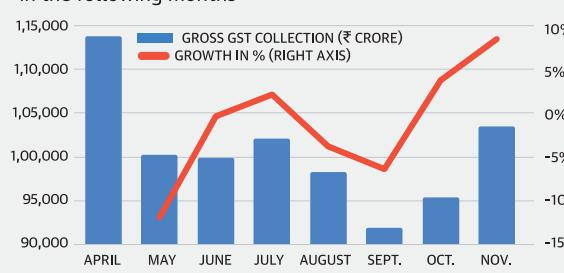
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre has written to all States voicing concern that due to the lower Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections, the compensation cess might not be enough to pay for losses arising out of the tax system.

The communication comes at a time when several States, including Rajasthan, Kerala, Delhi, Punjab and West Bengal, have publicly urged the Centre to transfer pending compensation payments as they have not received the dues for several months.

Mixed record

The GST collections went down in September but recovered in the following months



night of December.

"Among other issues, the GST revenue position shall be discussed in detail at this meeting," the Centre's letter to the States, reviewed by *The Hindu*, said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

FLOOR PRICE FOR DATA ▶ PAGE 15

11 men held for thrashing OBC groom in M.P.

Porting request will now be met in days: TRAI

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

Mobile phone users will now be able to switch their telecom service provider while retaining their number in a maximum of five days, December 16 onwards, as the new regulations on number portability come into effect.

The amended rules, which provide for penalty of up to ₹10,000 per wrongful

rejection of a porting request, also reduce the role of the telecom operators in the process.

An individual porting request within a particular service area will be completed in three working days, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) said on Tuesday.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

FLOOR PRICE FOR DATA ▶ PAGE 15

Chennai skywatcher first to spot debris from Chandrayaan-2 lander, says NASA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

In the first authentic information from any source on the fate of Indian lunar lander Vikram, NASA late on Monday released the latest images of the lunar surface that point to the fact that the lander broke into many pieces after crash-landing on September 7.

Images taken on November 11 by NASA's moon orbiter show that Vikram's debris was strewn across at least 750 m of the crash site, which itself is now believed



to be away from the planned landing target, the U.S. space agency said.

NASA credited Chennai-based freelance space observer and professional programmer Shanmuga Subramanian with discovering the first spot of debris from the Chandrayaan-2 mission's lander and alerting it on October 3.

PIXEL BY PIXEL ▶ PAGE 9

Man detained for halting Defence Minister's convoy

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 35-year-old man has been detained by Delhi Police for allegedly coming in front of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's convoy near Parliament on Tuesday. Police said the man, identified as Vishambhar Prasad Gupta of Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar, is not mentally sound and is a local singer in his village.

"In a joint interrogation by

Delhi Police and other agencies, it was revealed that he wanted to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the purpose of changing his name in his Aadhaar card. Nothing suspicious has surfaced in the interrogation so far," said a police officer.

The Aadhaar card, the police said, has the man's name as Vishambhar Prasad Gupta but he wants it changed to Vishambhar Badal.

In memoriam



A day to remember: Children enacting the tragedy in front of the abandoned Union Carbide factory in Bhopal on Tuesday, the 35th anniversary of the gas leak. Protest marches and prayers marked the occasion. ■ A.M. FARUQUI

Procession waylaid

"They threatened us, kicked me off the horse, thrashed my father, and when the police came to the rescue, tried to snatch their rifles, and pelted stones at us," said Dharmendra Parmar, whose procession was waylaid on the way to Rajasthan from Bhadwala village in the district.

Mr. Parmar said that when he insisted with the men that a procession like this wasn't anything new, he was asked to not take it in front of their houses. "They asked me to go instead on motorcycles or a tractor."

"They said we should consult them before taking all decisions. They even practise untouchability with us. Well, we are educated. Why should we consult anyone?" said Mr. Parmar, an employee at a cooperative bank with MCom and BEd degrees.

Though he denied any animosity between the two communities, Mr. Parmar said the Rajputs wanted to show their supremacy in the area.

Church where Charnock lies buried faces a grave problem

People living nearby think little before throwing trash into the compound

BISHWANATH GHOSH
KOLKATA

As far as colonial-era monuments go, St. John's Church in Kolkata is by far the richest in terms of history. In its compound lie buried several figures who landscaped the colonial era, and a mere walk in the churchyard – looking at the tombstones and tablets – can help discerning visitors reconstruct in their heads the period when the sun never set on the British Empire.

This should make the 1787-built church a popular destination for visitors, but ignorance and indifference keep it largely deserted: it serves as an island of peace in the



The Moroccan-style mausoleum of Job Charnock in the compound of St. John's Church in Kolkata. ■ BISHWANATH GHOSH

shrug off the incident with the remark: 'That was some blessing from the heaven'. Only in India will you find such disregard for heritage," laments Mr. Datta.

Mr. Datta has even lodged a complaint at the local police station, but that hasn't helped. "Our staff cleans up

the mess. What else can we do? The ASI (Archaeological Survey of India) has merely erected a signboard that this is a protected moment, beyond that it has done little to help," he says.

The fact that Charnock, who died in January 1693, lies buried here makes the

church compound – a former riverside cremation ground – the oldest existing known site of the British period in Kolkata. Among the others buried here include Vice-Admiral Charles Watson, who had accompanied Robert Clive when the latter was dispatched from Madras to recapture Calcutta from the Nawab of Bengal; Lord Brabourne; Lady Canning (lediken), the popular Bengal sweet, was named after her); and Frances (Begum) Johnson.

Rich history
The church itself is a handsome piece of architecture and it houses – besides several plaques marking milestones in the lives of celebrated soldiers – Zoffany's *Last Supper* (painted in 1787) and

a still-functional pipe organ installed in 1824. One of its rooms once functioned as the office of Warren Hastings, and there, in a glass case, Hastings's chair remains preserved.

The church, run by the Calcutta Diocese, may be rich in history but remains cash-strapped. As a result, renovations, which should be carried out more often are being carried out only now – after 35 long years.

"We were somehow able to raise enough funds from our own members to carry out this renovation," says Mr. Datta. "But more than funds, what we need is respect for heritage. You have no idea how angry I feel when I find chicken bones and liquor bottles strewn around Charnock's mausoleum."

51 left India, defrauding over ₹17,900 crore

CBI processing extradition requests

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has informed the Finance Ministry that 51 absconders and proclaimed offenders in 66 cases, who face allegations of fraud involving over ₹17,900 crore, have left for other countries.

In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, the government quoted the figures shared by the CBI and other enforcement agencies.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has reported that six economic offenders had left the country illegally. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had filed applications in

court against 10 individuals under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act. The CBIC sent two extradition requests to the External Affairs Ministry in July.

The Interpol had issued Red Notices on the ED's requests for the extradition of eight individuals.

As reported by the Department of Financial Services, the expected losses on account of the stressed loans stemming from such cases were reclassified as non-performing assets.

While the CBI and the ED have moved court in these cases, the CBI is processing 51 extradition requests pending at various stages.

A ND-NDE

BSES ready for power demand in the Capital during winter

Consumption is expected to touch 4,700 MW

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Electricity discom BSES on Tuesday said that power demand during the winter was expected to reach 4,700 MW and consumers can expect to get reliable power supply with arrangements made for the same.

'Load forecasting' with the help of statistical solutions as well as ma-

chine learning had been carried out to ensure optimal power purchase, it said. Additionally 'power banking' arrangements with neighbouring States had been made to supply BSES with surplus power during the winter which would help meet load requirements during the summer, a BSES spokesperson said.

ANNEXURE-A

PRESS NOTICE TO BE ISSUED FOR PUBLICATION IN NEWSPAPERS

The Executive Engineer I&PH Division Thunag re-invites tender on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractor for the following work(s) through e-tendering process:-

Name of Work : Augmentation of various WSS under 19 Nos. Gram Panchayats of Seraj and Balichowki Block Tehsil Thunag District Mandi (HP) (SH - Construction of intake well, 7.45 mld Water Treatment Plants, Providing, Laying, Joining and Testing of Gravity Mains, Rising mains and distribution system, Pump houses Stage I, II & III at various locations, S/E of pumping machinery, MBRs and SRs at various locations including trial run period for ninety days on full designed water requirement with defect liability period for six months.)

Estimated Cost :- Rs.75,02,53,097/-, Earnest Money:- Rs. 75,02,600/-
Cost of Tender document:- Rs. 2500/-, Time Limit :- 24 Months

Schedule of tendering:-

1. Site Visit	From 30-11-2019 to 13-12-2019 between 11 AM to 5 PM except on holidays.
2. Pre Bid Meeting date	16-12-2019 at 11.00 AM, in the office of Engineer-In-Chief, I&PH Department Jal Shakti Bhawan, Tutikandi, Shimla, (HP).
3. Bid Submission start date	30-11-2019 at 11.00 AM
4. Bid Submission end date	19-12-2019 at 5.00 PM
5. Earnest Money Deposit, Cost of Tender form if not submitted online.	20-12-2019 upto 11.00 AM
6. Opening of Eligibility criteria& Technical bid (Cover-I)	20-12-2019 at 11.30 AM
7. Opening of Financial Bid (Cover-II)	Date and place to be notified separately

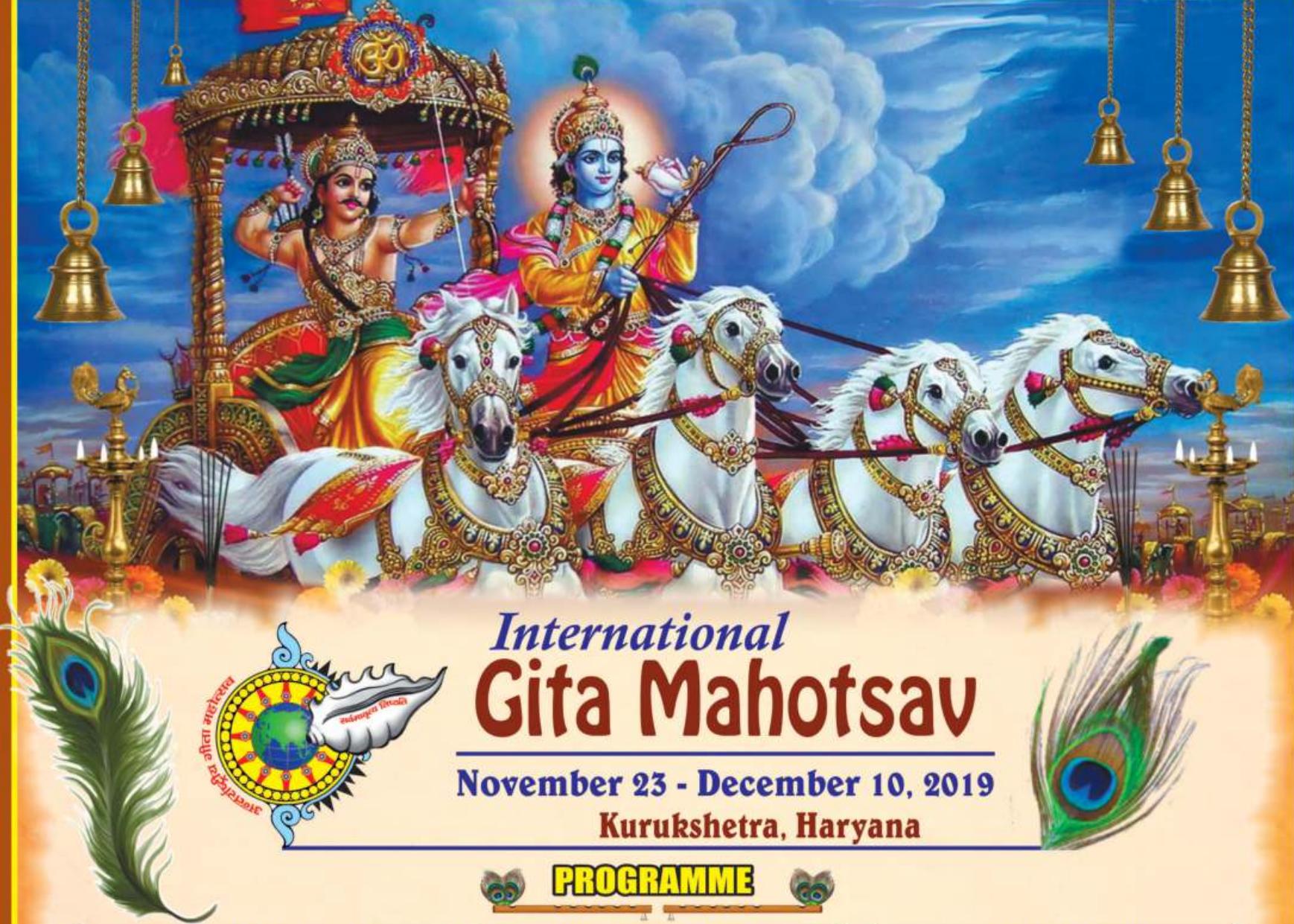
The tender document can be downloaded from departmental website i.e. www.hppih.org.w.e.f. 30-11-2019 at 10:00 AM upto 19-12-2019 at 5:00 PM.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
I&PH Division, Thunag
Distt Mandi

HP / 3274/19-20

HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

नैनं छिन्दन्ति शस्त्राणि नैनं दहति पावकः । न चैनं कलेदयन्त्यापो न शोषयति मास्तः॥



PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY, 4 DECEMBER

- 10:00 AM Senate Hall, Kurukshetra University International Gita Seminar
- 11:00 AM Purushottam Baag, Brahma Sarovar Cultural Programme by Artists of North Zone Cultural Centre
- 5:00 PM Cultural Pandal, Mela Ground, Brahma Sarovar Rashmirethi - Cultural Performance & Krishna Leela by Renowned Film Actress Ameesha Patel
- 5:30 PM Brahma Sarovar Water Laser Show
- 6:00 PM Purushottam Baag, Brahma Sarovar Maha Aarti & Bhajan Sandhya

SATURDAY, 7 DECEMBER

- 10:30 AM Jyotisar - The Birthplace of Gita Complete Recital of Srimadbhagavadgita by Devotees
- 11:00 AM Purushottam Baag, Brahma Sarovar Cultural Programme by Department of Art & Cultural Affairs, Haryana
- 2:00 PM Cultural Pandal, Mela Ground, Brahma Sarovar Sant Sammelan
- 5:00 PM Cultural Pandal, Mela Ground, Brahma Sarovar Sajda - An Event of Poetry & Live Music & Performance by Renowned Singer Abhijeet Bhattacharya
- 5:30 PM Brahma Sarovar Water Laser Show
- 6:00 PM Purushottam Baag, Brahma Sarovar Maha Aarti & Bhajan Sandhya

THURSDAY, 5 DECEMBER

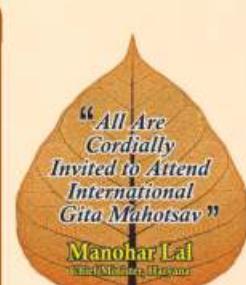
- 10:00 AM Senate Hall, Kurukshetra University Valedictory Session of International Gita Seminar
- 10:30 AM Jyotisar - The Birthplace of Gita Gita Paath
- 11:00 AM Purushottam Baag, Brahma Sarovar Cultural Programme by Kurukshetra University
- 5:00 PM Cultural Pandal, Mela Ground, Brahma Sarovar Bhajan Performance & Performance by Renowned Singer Daler Mehndi
- 5:30 PM Brahma Sarovar Water Laser Show
- 6:00 PM Purushottam Baag, Brahma Sarovar Maha Aarti & Bhajan Sandhya

SUNDAY, 8 DECEMBER

- 10:00 AM Jyotisar - The Birthplace of Gita Gita Yajna
- 10:00 AM Theme Park, Kurukshetra Recital of Ashtadasha Shloki Gita by 18,000 Students
- 11:00 AM Purushottam Baag, Brahma Sarovar Cultural Programme by North Zone Cultural Centre
- 12:00 Noon Theme Park and Jyotisar Tirth Global Gita Chanting
- 2:00 PM In front of KDB Office (Departure Venue) Gita Shobha Yatra
- 5:00 PM Cultural Pandal, Mela Ground, Brahma Sarovar Vrindavan Phoolon ki Holi - Cultural Performance & Performance by Renowned Punjabi Singer Satinder Sartaaj
- 5:30 PM Brahma Sarovar Water Laser Show
- 6:00 PM Purushottam Baag, Brahma Sarovar Gita Maha Aarti and Deepdaan

FRIDAY, 6 DECEMBER

- 10:30 AM Jyotisar - The Birthplace of Gita Complete Recital of Srimadbhagavadgita by Devotees
- 11:00 AM Purushottam Baag, Brahma Sarovar Cultural Performance by Multi Art Cultural Centre
- 5:00 PM Cultural Pandal, Mela Ground, Brahma Sarovar Bhajan Performance and Kavi Sammelan
- 5:30 PM Brahma Sarovar Water Laser Show
- 6:00 PM Purushottam Baag, Brahma Sarovar Maha Aarti & Bhajan Sandhya



Phone: +91 744-270187, 259505, 251288



E-Mail: kdbkr@gmail.com, Website: www.48koskurukshetra.com



Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana | www.prharyana.gov.in

We need more intelligent youth to join politics: Kejriwal

Chief Minister asks students not to take up politics as the last option

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said that India needed the intelligent youth of the country to join politics and work towards changing the system so that there is good governance. Mr. Kejriwal was addressing students at the convocation ceremony of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University.

"Some of the most intelligent people in the world are Indians. If you look across the world, Indians are at the top of many of the biggest companies and research organisations. We need intelligent youth who are willing to sacrifice everything and seek no rewards. They should be willing to work towards making India the best country in the world," he said.

Sharing a personal anecdote, he said that when he and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia were working for an NGO, before joining politics, it would take them several months or

Some of the most intelligent people in the world are Indians. If you look across the world, Indians hold top positions in many of the biggest companies and research organisations. We need intelligent youth who are willing to sacrifice everything and seek no rewards. They should be willing to work towards making India the best country in the world

ARVIND KEJRIWAL, Chief Minister



even years to sort out a single issue, but after joining politics they had managed to make huge improvement in the health and education sector in Delhi in five years.

The Chief Minister, however, warned students not to take up politics as a career option only after finding that nothing else worked out for them. "We need intelligent youth who are willing to sacrifice everything and seek no rewards for many years but are willing to work towards making India the best country in the world," he said.

A total of 68,662 degrees for the last three academic years, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19, including 108 Ph.D.s, 11,683 Master degrees, 55,367 Bachelor degrees, 542 MBBS degrees, 108 BDS degrees, 656 MD/MS degrees, 122 DM/M.CH degrees and 76 M. Phil degrees were presented on the occasion. A book to mark the 21st anniversary of the university was also released on the occasion.

Maliwal sits on hunger strike over spike in cases of rape

DCW chief writes to Prime Minister

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal on Tuesday began an indefinite hunger strike at Jantar Mantar against the spike in incidents of rape being reported from across the country. She was joined by several women protesters.

Ms. Maliwal said she has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding that rapists be hanged within six months of their conviction. She said the process to decide on mercy petitions should be time-bound.

"My demand to the Prime Minister is that we want capital punishment for the rapists of minor and major victims. The accused in the Hyderabad case must be hanged. Last year, I sat on protest and within 10 days, the government made a law that the rapists of minors will get capital punishment within six months, but this did not happen. I want Mr. Modi to implement the law now," Ms. Maliwal said.

The DCW chief alleged that the police were not providing her permission to protest at Jantar Mantar. The police were not allowing any provisions to pitch a tent to spend the night, she said.



Swati Maliwal during the strike at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Tuesday.

■ R.V. MOORTHY

The police said a letter was sent to DCW seeking details about the nature of the protest, mode of transport, microphone arrangements and the number of protesters expected with a copy of an undertaking to be filled according to Supreme Court guidelines, which were still awaited.

Ms. Maliwal said, "The police are not supporting us. I want to tell them that we are protesting so that your force will get 66,000 new officers," Ms. Maliwal added.

The police said they had offered to provide an alternate venue. "There are certain guidelines for the protest at Jantar Mantar. The agitators are allowed to protest till 5 p.m.," said Meenakshi Singh Randhawa, Delhi Police PRO and DCP (Central). (With PTI inputs)

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (Power Wing)

Notice Inviting E-tender

E-N.I.T No: 01/O&M-DLH/2019-20

Dated: 02.12.2019

Name of Office: Addl. SE, O&M Division BBMB Delhi-110035

Name of work: Renewal and replacement of damaged danger Plates, circuit Plate and Tower No. Plates of 220 KV D/C Panipat-Narela-Delhi Line and 220 KV S/C Panipat-Narela Line at 220 KV S/Stn. BBMB Delhi.

Last date of submission of pre-qualifying Documents along with cost of tender documents 08.01.2020 upto 17:00 Hours

Estimated cost of the work ₹ 6.07 Lacs

Earnest Money to be Deposited ₹ 6100/-

Cost of Tender document: ₹ 1180/- including GST (Non Refundable)

Detailed E-NIT can be downloaded from official website <https://bbmbprocure.abcprocure.com or www.bbmb.gov.in>

1129-PR-TS-4 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

HIMACHAL PARDESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Tel. No. 01795222199, e-mail: ee-nal-hp@nic.in

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer HPPWD Nalagarh Distt. Solan HP on behalf of Governor of HP invites the Item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HP PWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs)	Starting Date for downloading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of Bid	Time
1.	Construction of 50 bedded Civil Hospital at Baddi Distt Solan (H.P.) SH C/O Building portion WS & SJ, Septic tank 2NOs, Rain Harvesting tank, site Development, Boundary wall, ground recharge pit, fire hydrants, land scapping and preparation of lawn etc .	5,19,38,033	11-12-2019 3:00 P.M	5,52,000	30-12-2019 10:30 A.M	18 months

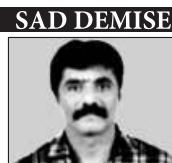
The bidders are advised to note other details of Tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in.
Executive Engineer Nalagarh B&R Division, HP PWD, Nalagarh B.R. on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh Tel/Fax: 01795-222199 E-mail: ee-nal-hp@nic.in

HP/3262/19-20

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE



Mr. P. Raveendran (52)
Deputy Despatch Officer
The Hindu
Maraimalai Nagar
Passed away on 03.12.2019

Address :
No: 40, Hindu Avenue,
Karanapuducherry, Urupakkam,
Chennai.
Mob: 8870038816

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

2ND YEAR ANNIVERSARY



V. RAJARAMAN (Ex-BHEL)

12.02.1950 - 04.12.2017

IN BRIEF

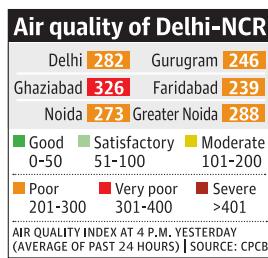


Patnaik launches mobile canteen for reserve staff

NEW DELHI
Commissioner of Police Amulya Patnaik has launched a mobile canteen for the reserve staff at New Police Lines in Kingsway Camp here. Delhi Police personnel deployed in various law and order situations like riots, political rallies, among others, will get food items, aerated water, soft drinks in the canteen.

Give report on quality of Yamuna water: NGT

NEW DELHI
The NGT-appointed Yamuna Monitoring Committee has asked the Delhi Pollution Control Committee to prepare a report on the river's water quality citing data from the last five years to assess if there has been any improvement in it.



'NOC from councillors not needed for MLALAD works'

STAFF REPORTER

The Delhi Assembly on Tuesday passed a resolution that works using MLALAD fund cannot be stopped due to the requirement of any approval from standing committees or House of the civic body or the councillors.

The Commissioners of the three civic bodies were present at the Assembly after Speaker Ram Niwas Goel asked them to come in the afternoon.

The issue came up after a written answer to questions raised by AAP MLA Rakhi Birla said that the North Delhi Municipal Corporation had passed a resolution that the works using MLALAD fund cannot be done without the permission of the municipal councillor concerned.

The resolution passed by the Delhi Assembly on Tuesday said that the "insistence of no objection certificate [NOC] from the municipal councillors is completely illegal".

"No work identified by the hon'ble members for the execution of projects under the MLALAD fund should be stopped on the grounds that NOC of municipal councillors is not available," the resolution said.

AAP MLAs said that many works using MLALAD funds were being delayed by months as for they did not have an NOC.

The Assembly's resolution will also be applicable to Mukhya Mantri Sadak Punarnirman Yojana.

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Lecture on "Global Spillovers, Multilateral Cooperation and WTO Reform" by Prof. Bernard Hoekman, Robert Schuman Chair, Director of the Global Economics Research Area of the Global Governance Programme, Dean of External Relations at Gulmohar Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Music Talk: A video-lecture on "Western classical and choral music" by Nicholas Hoffland, at Amaltas Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Nature of the city" an artwork exhibition by Alka Jhamb at Shridharani Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 20 Tansen Marg, 11 a.m.- 8 p.m.

Exhibition: "Verve de l'art", a group exhibition of paintings and sculptures at Open Palm Court Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m.- 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Confident Humility", a solo show of sculptures by Seema Singh Dua at Gallery Foyer, Lalit Kala Akademi, Rabindra Bhavan, Mandi House, 11 a.m.- 7 p.m.

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

CMK

CAG report pulls up govt. bodies, finds ₹1,701.14 cr. loss in 500 cases

Delhi Transport Corporation incurred ₹3,843 crore loss, states report

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI
A Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report tabled in the Delhi Assembly on Tuesday criticised different government bodies for their lapses and laxity which has cost hundreds of crores of rupees to the exchequer.

Under assessment/short levy/loss of revenue and other irregularities involving ₹1,701.14 crore in 500 cases was revealed during test check of the records of 70 units of the Department of Trade and Taxes, State Excise, Transport and Revenue conducted during 2017-18, the report said.

Transport and tourism
The CAG report came down heavily on the Department of Transport and the Department of Tourism.

"Due to failure of Delhi Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited [DTIDC] to provide work fronts timely, the upgradation work of ISBT Kashmere Gate could not be completed even after more than eight years of stipulated completion date, resulting in

raising of claims of ₹113.80 crore by contractor and DIMTS," the report read.

"Delhi Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited incurred avoidable payment of interest of ₹2.76 crore due to default/delay in filing of ITR and default/deferral in payment of advance tax," the report said. It also pointed to the lapse of not establishing ISBTs at North and South West entry points of Delhi in Dwarka and Narela even after Supreme Court directions 20 years ago.

"The objective of reducing air pollution in GNCTD [Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi] by establishing these two ISBTs could not be achieved as 516 and 1,243 inter-State diesel operated buses arriving from Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh continue to ply to/from ISBTs at Sarai Kale Khan and Kashmere Gate respectively on daily trip basis," it said.

"In the case of Narela ISBT, after releasing payment of ₹10.30 crore to DDA, the land for establishment of the ISBT has not yet been finalized. Major losses were incurred by Delhi Transport Corporation to the tune of ₹3,843.62 crore as per the latest finalised accounts of the corporation. As per the latest finalised accounts for 2017-18, out of 13 PSUs, five earned profit of ₹70.32 crore and four PSUs incurred losses of ₹3,859.78 crore and four incurred marginal profit and loss," the CAG report said.

During the period – July 2017 to March 2018 –, 70% to 98% taxpayers had filed their returns. The report also said as, on March 31, 2018, there were 18 State PSUs which included 16 government companies and two statutory corporations. Of this, 13 PSUs (other than Power Sector) incurred overall losses during the five year period from 2013-14 to 2017-18.

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During the period – July 2017 to March 2018 –, 70% to 98% taxpayers had filed their returns. The report also said as, on March 31, 2018, there were 18 State PSUs which included 16 government companies and two statutory corporations. Of this, 13 PSUs (other than Power Sector) incurred overall losses during the five year period from 2013-14 to 2017-18.

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"In the case of Narela ISBT, after releasing payment of ₹10.30 crore to DDA, the land for establishment of the ISBT has not yet been finalized. Major losses were incurred by Delhi Transport Corporation to the tune of ₹3,843.62 crore as per the latest finalised accounts of the corporation. As per the latest finalised accounts for 2017-18, out of 13 PSUs, five earned profit of ₹70.32 crore and four PSUs incurred losses of ₹3,859.78 crore and four incurred marginal profit and loss," the CAG report said.

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IN BRIEF



CM distributes certificates to differently abled

NEW DELHI On World Disability Day, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal along with Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam gave appreciation certificates to differently abled people as a recognition of "longest accessible awareness ride", covering a distance of 3,500 km in retrofitted scooters. They travelled from Delhi to Mumbai and back. "The ride was flagged off from India Gate on October 1. This ride will be placed in Limca Book of record and India Book of Records," an official statement said.

55 vehicles flagged off to curb air pollution

NEW DELHI Fifty five vehicles were flagged off by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation on Tuesday to curb air pollution. The vehicles, which include six mechanical road sweepers, 17 tractors with water tankers for sprinkling, two super sucker machines and 26 CNG powered trucks were purchased under the urban development fund at a cost of ₹12.64 crore as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission and flagged off by UD secretary and the south Delhi Mayor.

Man involved in 3 cases arrested by PCR staff

NEW DELHI A 27-year-old man, identified as Sandeep, a resident of Samaypur Badli, who has three cases registered against him, was arrested by the PCR staff from Rohini DCP Sharat Sinha said that the staff found a bike parked suspiciously. When they checked the vehicle, it was found stolen after which he was arrested.

Those skipping exams will lose studentship: JNU

NEW DELHI The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union is planning to boycott the semester examinations scheduled from December 12 to protest against the hostel fee hike, with the JNU on Tuesday saying that students not appearing in the exams will lose their studentship.

IIMC students stage protest against fee structure

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI The protest to keep public education affordable that started at JNU has now moved to the Indian Institute of Mass Communication with students staging a protest against what they have called an "unaffordable fee structure". A section of the students organised a protest on the campus to highlight the "high tuition fee and hostel and mess charges".

"IIMC is supposedly the best media institute in the country and is supposed to run on "no-profit, no-loss" basis, but the fee is sky-high here and increases at a rate of 10% every year. A fee of ₹1,68,500 for a ten-month course plus hostel and mess charges is unaffordable for a middle-class student, let alone a poor student," the students said in a statement.

The fee per year for a course in Radio & TV Journalism is ₹1,68,500, for Advertising and PR it is ₹31,500, for Hindi Journalism, it is ₹95,500, ₹95,500 for English Journalism, and ₹55,500 for Urdu Journalism. Hostel and mess charges are around ₹6,500 for women and ₹4,800 for men per month, the students said. They also said that there were very few hostel seats and most students had to live outside the campus by paying very high rents.

They added that media education would be out of the reach for many if the fees continued to increase.

Differently abled vow to continue protest till their demands are met

Vehicle movement severely affected; a few roads leading to Mandi House closed off

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI World Disability Day, observed on Tuesday, was a "Black Day", said differently abled persons staging an indefinite protest against railway authorities at the Mandi House roundabout. They have been protesting for more than a week now demanding jobs in the railways.

The demonstrations have severely affected the vehicle movement in the area with a few roads leading to the roundabout having been closed off.

Protesters alleged that they were denied employment in the Group D category as a consequence of a "conspiracy."

Hopes shattered

Anil Kumar Sisodia, one of the leaders of the movement, said that the group was hoping for a favourable resolution on Tuesday but authorities had rejected all their demands.

Explaining their ordeal,



Braving the cold weather, differently abled continue their protest at Mandi House on Tuesday night. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Mr. Sisodia, who is from Ahmedabad, said all those sitting on protest here were informed that depending on verification of their documents, they would be awarded employment. However, when the final list of those selected was released, many were left out without any explanation, he said.

With temperature in the

city dipping to single digit, protesters said that the conditions were difficult but vowed to continue the demonstrations till their demands were met. "Our clothes turn wet by morning. There is risk of falling ill, but if we are not getting employment then we might fall sick," said 38-year-old Laves Kumar from Rajasthan.

"They have taken away jobs that we were qualified for. We have a right over it," said Mahesh Meena, also from Rajasthan, adding "Modi says he wants sabka sath, sabka vikas but seems like he doesn't include differently abled people."

"We aren't going to move from here till our demands are met," said Mr. Sisodia.

Six held for robbing taxi driver, passenger of cash, mobile phone

CCTV footage help the police identify, nab the accused

C

He stopped the vehicle at a CNG station on San Martin Marg and when he was about to leave, four to five people came towards him and started beating him

POLICE OFFICER

driver, told them about the robbery.

Sharma said that he had picked up a passenger from Kaveri Apartments and was on his way to the airport when the incident happened. He stopped the vehicle at a CNG station on San Martin Marg and when he was about to leave, four to five people came towards

him and started beating him," the officer said.

When Sharma resisted, they robbed him of ₹4,500. Seeing this, the passenger intervened and tried to save the driver but the accused thrashed him and robbed him of his phone. "The driver escaped with his taxi. Meanwhile, the passenger rushed to IGI Airport by another taxi as he had to catch his flight," Mr. Yadav said, adding that a case on charges of robbery was registered and investigation was taken up.

During investigation, CCTV footage was obtained and analysed which helped in identifying the accused. With the help of human intelligence, the accused were arrested, the police said.

Labourer charred to death in godown fire

Six others were rescued by locals

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 55-year-old labourer was charred to death and a fire official sustained injuries when a major fire broke out at a godown in south-east Delhi's Tughlakabad in the early hours of Tuesday.

The police said that the deceased has been identified as Master (45) and the injured official as Dayaram Meena. A case has been registered against godown owner Saleem alias Guddu, they said.

A fire official said that a call was received at 12.40 a.m. regarding a fire at a thread and raw material godown in Tughlakabad's Churiya Mohalla. When the fire department officials reached the spot, it was found that the fire started

from an adjacent waste godown spread across 500 square yards. Because of paper and plastic, the blaze spread to the thread godown.

At the waste godown, a few jhuggis were set up by labourers, who used to live and work in the premises. A total of seven labourers were living in those jhuggis. Locals who reached the spot on seeing the fire rescued six of them but Master got trapped in it. His body was recovered during the rescue operation, fire department officials said.

"A total of 39 fire tenders were pressed into service and the fire was brought under control around 4 p.m. but the cooling off operation continued for the next few hours," the official said.

India tests Swedish technology to reduce stubble burning

Foreign firm launches its first pilot project plant in Punjab

JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI

Pollution from stubble burning in winter is the key contributor to the sharp decline in air quality in Delhi. But stubble burning continues unabated. To find a solution to this issue, India is testing a Swedish technology – torrefaction that can convert rice stubble into 'bio-coal'.

The Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) to Government of India has funded a pilot project in Punjab to evaluate the feasibility of the technology. Bioendev, a Swedish company, has set up a pilot plant at the National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute in Mohali.



The Punjab and Haryana governments have for years exhorted farmers not to burn stubble, but it continues unabated.

■ SANDEEP SAXENA

250 degrees Celsius - 350 degrees Celsius. This changes the elements of the biomass into 'coal-like' pellets. These pellets can be used for combustion along with coal for industrial applications like steel and cement production.

"We have a very small plant at Mohali but we are hoping to make a plant that can treat 30,000 tons [of residue] per annum," said Mr. Singh. So far the technology has only been substantially tested in Scandavia as a 16,000 ton/year plant.

The Bioendev project was discussed at a gathering on Tuesday, chaired by King Carl Gustaf XVI of Sweden. Swedish and senior Indian government officials, academics and representatives from companies and non-governmental organisations were also present.

DUTA calls for indefinite strike over ad hoc appointments

Appointments made after July 20 will not be renewed



session.

"This is no relief. The movement is demanding more relief. The four demands – withdrawal of letter dated August 28, release of option and promotion forms, counting of past services and keeping in abeyance – have been made very clear to the V-C. There is no going back," Mr Ray said.

DUPA had earlier decided that all ad hoc appointments would be kept in abeyance till clarifications were received.

Identifying the university's directive to appoint

guest teachers in a letter dated August 28 as the root of the current crisis, DUTA has demanded a withdrawal of the same. On Tuesday, DUTA also wrote to the University Grant's Commission seeking its intervention in the matter. If the university's direction is implemented, it would destabilise the teaching-learning environment in the university and put at risk the employment of thousands of teachers currently serving, it said. The teachers' union, which plans to hold demonstration on Wednesday in this regard, also announced that it would begin an indefinite strike and carry out an evaluation boycott if the letter is not withdrawn.

Meanwhile, the university's students' union has also appealed for the letter to be withdrawn and that the semester examinations not be disrupted as consequence of the current imbroglio.

5-year jail to man for assaulting minor

NIRNIMESH KUMAR

NEW DELHI A Delhi court has awarded five years' imprisonment to a man for sexually assaulting an 11-year-old girl on the pretext of giving her money.

The victim, a young girl of 11 years, is a female who was in her formative age at the time of commission of the offence by the convict. Trampling the child's body, sexually assaulting her and making a demand for un-

due sexual favours would surely have caused the child not just a mental shock and trauma at the relevant time, but would have and shall continue to haunt the child in the years to come," Additional Sessions Judge Seema Maini said in her conviction order.

Childhood destroyed "It is not just an 'inappropriate touch' that the convict is guilty of, but rather

Burning a hole in the pocket



Onion sacks kept at a market in Azadpur Mandi. The price of the vegetable has skyrocketed in the city. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Delhi Congress protests outside Nirman Bhawan

Centre, AAP govt. hatching conspiracy to uproot 40 lakh people from illegal colonies'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Congress on Tuesday protested outside Nirman Bhawan, the office of Union Urban Development Minister Hardeep Puri, to protest against the The National Capital Territory of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Unauthorised Colonies) Bill, 2019.

The Delhi Congress argued

that the Bill would exclude 40% of unauthorised colonies from regularisation as these colonies fall under the list of exclusions for being situated in areas marked as forest land, or the Yamuna flood plains or close to monuments protected by the Archaeological Survey of India.

Delhi Congress chief Subhash Chopra alleged that the

BJP government at the Centre and the Kejriwal government in Delhi were "hatching a conspiracy" to uproot over 40 lakh people living in unauthorised colonies. Mr. Puri has admitted that according to Section 7A in the Gazette Notification on unauthorised colonies, 9% colonies will go out of the purview of regularisation, but the actual figure is 40% and he is not in touch with the ground realities," Mr. Chopra said. He added that the Congress would fight this clause in the notification and would not allow those living in the unauthorised colonies to be forced out without giving them ownership rights.

The protest caused a traffic jam in central Delhi and the police detained several leaders who were protesting.

Sacked from Ayodhya case, says Muslim parties' lawyer

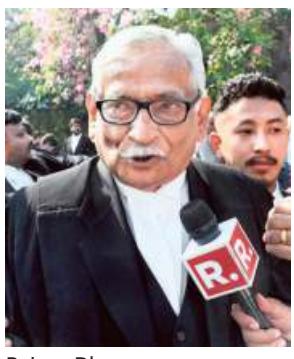
No longer involved in plea for review of SC verdict: Rajeev Dhavan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI / LUCKNOW

Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, who represented Muslim parties in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title dispute case, on Tuesday said he has been sacked from further appearance and is no longer involved in the plea for a review of the Supreme Court verdict.

A five-judge Constitution Bench of the apex court on November 9 in a unanimous 5-0 verdict paved the way for the construction of a Ram temple at the disputed site at Ayodhya, and directed the Centre to allot a five-acre plot to the Sunni Waqf Board at a prominent place in the holy town for building a mosque.

Mr. Dhavan took to Facebook to disclose that he has



Rajeev Dhavan

volved in the review or the case," he wrote.

"I have been informed that Mr. Madani has indicated that I was removed from the case because I was unwell. This is total nonsense. He has a right to instruct his lawyer AOR Ejaz Maqbool to sack me which he did on instructions. But the reason being floated is malicious and untrue," Mr. Dhavan added on the social networking site. Arshad Madani is the All India president of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind.

A plea seeking review of the Ayodhya verdict was filed in the apex court on Monday by Maulana Syed Ashhad Rashidi, legal heir of original litigant M. Siddiq and also the Uttar Pradesh president of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind. It stated that

"complete justice" could only be done by ordering reconstruction of the Babri Masjid.

The mosque was demolished on December 6, 1992 by kar sewaks triggering communal riots.

As Mr. Dhavan later said he didn't want to divide the Muslim parties, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) said it was hopeful that the veteran lawyer will represent the body when it files a review petition.

AIMPLB support

In a tweet, AIMPLB spokesman Khalid Saifullah Rahmani said, "Rajeev Dhavan has always been a symbol of justice and unity. @AIMPLB Official will continue its efforts in the Supreme Court under his esteemed leadership."

Girl allegedly raped and shot, body burnt in Bihar's Buxar

Identity and age of the victim yet to be ascertained: police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BUKAR

In a gruesome incident akin to the Hyderabad veterinary doctor killing, a girl was shot dead and burnt after being allegedly raped in Kukudha village of Bihar's Buxar district on Monday night, police said on Tuesday.

Police recovered the charred body of the girl on Tuesday morning from a deserted field under the jurisdiction of Itahdi police station, Buxar Deputy Superintendent of Police Satish Kumar said.

Buxar is around 100 km from the State capital Patna.

"After being informed by people police recovered the body of a girl who was burnt above her waist", the DSP

Police recovered the body of a girl who was burnt above her waist

SATISH KUMAR
Deputy Superintendent of Police, Buxar

by the perpetrators before being burnt with the intention to destroy the evidence.

The victim was shot in head, they said adding police have recovered an empty cartridge from the spot.

Hundreds of villagers gathered at the spot in the morning but none of them could identify the girl as she was badly burnt above waist, police sources said.

Efforts to contact District Superintendent of Police Upendra Nath Verma turned futile as he did not take calls.

The Bihar incident has come close on heels of the chilling incident in Hyderabad where a young veterinarian was burnt to death after gang-rape by four men on November 27.

The officer said the identity and age of the victim were yet to be ascertained.

Post-mortem report

"Whether the girl is a minor or major will be clear once the post-mortem report comes," he added.

Itahdi police station officers said that the girl was allegedly raped and shot dead

Yogi govt. removes D-G Home Guards

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday removed Director General, Home Guards, G.L. Meena, a senior State government official said.

The decision holds importance as a major scam had recently surfaced wherein salaries of scores of Home Guards were drawn for May and June even though they had shown up for work during only half of that time.

While Mr. Meena has been put on the waiting list, D-G Jail Administration

Anand Kumar has been given the additional charge of the Home Guards, the spokesman said.

The government also transferred 12 other IPS officers.

U.P. Raj Bhavan gets threat letter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Raj Bhavan on Tuesday got a letter threatening to blow it up if the Governor does not leave the place in 10 days time.

A Raj Bhavan statement said the letter was from "TSPC Jharkhand", an apparent reference to the Maoist group Tritya Sammelan Prastuti Committee.

The letter threatened to blow up the Raj Bhavan with dynamite.

The matter is being taken seriously, the statement added.

Hemath Rao, Additional Chief Secretary to Governor Anandiben Patel, has sent the letter to the State's home department, it said.

Healthcare campaign in Rajasthan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

An ambitious campaign, called "Nirogi Rajasthan", is on the anvil in the State for people's health care with special provisions for call centre, a dedicated website and geriatric departments for elderly patients in all medical colleges.

The State's new health policy will be implemented during the campaign with the school children acting as its brand ambassadors.

The campaign will be launched on December 17, marking the completion of one year of the Congress government in the State.

Man arrested for triple murder

Accused also raped a victim, minor daughter: police

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

A man was arrested on charges of allegedly murdering a couple and their infant while also raping the woman and their minor daughter in a shocking triple murder case in a village in Azamgarh district, police said.

The accused allegedly raped the corpse of the woman and filmed the episode on his mobile phone, said Azamgarh Superintendent of Police Triveni Singh, describing him as a "sexually deviant person".

Accused confessed'

Police said the accused, identified as Naziruddin, had confessed to committing the crime. Hours before the crime, he had allegedly even purchased Viagra and con-

doms from a chemist to ensure he left behind no trace after committing the rape, police said.

The bodies of the husband, his wife and their four-month-old infant were recovered in their house, located a little distance off their village in Mubarakpur area, on the morning of November 25. Since the family lived in poverty, the police were not convinced that it was a case of loot or dacoity and suspected manipulation of the crime scene.

"When we looked at the crime scene, prima facie we felt it was linked to sex in some way. It also appeared as if the entire crime scene was manipulated to mislead police by showing it as a case of loot and dacoity... clothes were left scattered," said Mr. Singh.

Naziruddin stayed at the scene for three hours and raped the woman and her minor daughter several times, said Mr. Singh.

We focus on work, not announcements: Nath

'Loans of 21 lakh farmers waived'

STAFF REPORTER
BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh government is started on a tradition of not making any announcement of schemes but the people themselves declaring their completion, Chief Minister Kamal Nath said on Tuesday.

He was thanking the voters at a gathering of panchayat members in Jhabua after the Congress's Kantilal Bhuria got the better of Bhuria of the BJP in the Assembly by-election by over 27,000 votes. Now, the Congress is just one short of the majority mark of 116 in the 230-seat Assembly. The BJP has 108 MLAs.

An atmosphere conducive to investments had been created so as to generate jobs for the youth, he said.

Mr. Nath said it was important to accept criticism as well as suggestions to take the State forward.

DELHI Timings

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 04

RISE 06:58 SET 17:24
RISE 12:57 SET 00:00

THURSDAY, DEC. 05

RISE 06:59 SET 17:24
RISE 13:29 SET 00:29

FRIDAY, DEC. 06

RISE 07:00 SET 17:24
RISE 13:59 SET 01:21

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 24 09
Safdarjung 24 09
Palam 24 09

Delhi Palam Today 23°C Dry weather with sunny sky during cold morning. Day will be pleasant with bright sunshine.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 22°C A moderate pollution level is expected with mist/haze during cold morning. Day will be pleasant with sunny sky.

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U.P. violence accused denied bail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ALLAHABAD

The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday dismissed the bail application of an accused in last year's violence in Bulandshahr, where a mob shot dead a police inspector.

While dismissing accused Lokendra's bail plea, Justice Yashwant Varma observed, "The incident shows that the authority of the State itself was challenged and the deceased, a police officer, mercilessly killed."

In December 2018, a mob attacked the police after some cattle carcasses were found in Bulandshahr's Siyana tehsil.

Police Inspector Subodh Kumar Singh was pulled out from his vehicle and shot dead. Another man, believed to be part of the mob, was also killed in the violence.

Dead rat in midday meal in U.P.

8 students fall ill; FIR filed against teachers and NGO

ANUJ KUMAR
GHAZIABAD

In yet another bad news for the Uttar Pradesh government's midday meal programme, a dead rat was found in the food meant to be served for the children of Class VI to VIII in a government inter-college in Muza�ar Nagar on Tuesday.

Eight students fell ill and were taken to the government hospital.

The district administra-

tion has registered an FIR against the NGO designated to supply the food and the erring principal and teachers.

The incident took place in Janta Inter College in Pa-chenda village of Mustafa-bad when students were being served urad-chana dal.

Though some media reports suggested that some children consumed the contaminated food, District Magistrate Selva Kumari J. de-

nied it. "Thankfully, none of the students consumed the contaminated food. As they felt nauseated after seeing the rat, they were taken to the hospital for a check-up as a precautionary step."

She said an FIR has been registered against Jan Kalyan Sanstha, a Hapur-based NGO, which supplied the meal.

Later, the names of the principal and some teachers were added in the FIR.

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No. 01/EE(cm)/UPCL-A-2 DATE EXTENSION OF e-TENDER NOTICE-IV Date : 02/12/2019
In reference to this office e-tender specification no. 07/SE(MM)/2019-20 for supply of ACSR Conductor scrap material on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" available to be available in Electricity Store Center Dehradun/ Rishikesh/ Roorkee/ Haridwar/Kotdwara. Due to unavoidable circumstances the tender will be opened on dated 06.12.2019 at 16:30 hrs., Last Date & time of online request for purchase of tender document & submission of tender in online and offline mode will be on dated 05.12.2019 upto 17:00 hrs. All other terms and conditions will remain same as per original tender notice. For further details, please visit website www.uktenders.gov.in.

Superintending Engineer (MM)

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Office of The Executive Engineer-M-I (Shah-South)

Block-5, Geeta Colony, Delhi

NIT No. EE-M-I(Shah-South)/TC/2019-20/15 Dated : 03.12.2019

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tenders are invited for execution of following works by the approved/registered contractors of EDMC/NDMC/SDMC as per the following schedule:-

Sl. No.	MCD Stage	Contractor Stage	Start Date & Time	Expiry Date & Time
1	Release Tender		03.12.19 10:00	03.12.19 18:00
2		Download Tender Document	03.12.19 18:00	12.12.19 12:00
3		Bid Preparation and Hash Submission	03.12.19 18:00	12.12.19 14:00
4	Close for Bidding		12.12.19 14:01	12.12.19 16:00
5		Re-encryption of online bids	12.12.19 16:01	13.12.19 14:00
6	Opening of Financial Bid		13.12.19 14:01	13.12.19 18:00

SI. No. Name of work Tender Amt. Earnest Money H/A Time of Compl. Tender Cost
1. Improvement Development of Subji Mandi Road in Jheel Khurjana by pdg. CC Pavement W. No. 21E, Krishna Nagar AC-60 Sh. S. Zone. 317767 ₹ 58,04,353/- ₹ 1,16,100/- XL-VIII-S-IV 3 months ₹ 1000/-
2. Imp. Dev. of road near M.C. Primary School Mahila Colony by pdg. CC Pavement in W. No. 21E Krishna Nagar AC-60 Sh. S. Zone. 317712 ₹ 45,45,607/- ₹ 90,900/- XL-VII-S-IV 3 months ₹ 500/- Rates are valid up to six Months. Detailed NIT can be seen from the following website or from the office of the undersigned <http://mcddetender.com>, www.mcdonline.gov.in

RO NO - 101/DPI/EAST/2019-20 Executive Engineer-M-I (Sh

Shah holds talks on CAB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday held discussions with representatives of students' bodies and civil society groups of Assam on the proposed Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB), sources said. Chief Minister of Assam Sarbananda Sonowal was among those attending the meetings.

Odisha extends time for land acquisition in Puri

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government has extended the time period by a week for people who wanted to part with their immovable properties voluntarily for creating security zone around the 12th Century Shri Jagannath Temple in Puri.

"In view of eagerness among people to participate

in the acquisition of land around the temple, the State government has extended time by seven days to December 9," says a statement issued by Chief Minister's Office on Tuesday.

CM Naveen Patnaik on Monday said the government had acquired 75% of private land required within 75-metre radius of the Jagannath Temple.



Government of Himachal Pradesh Department of Tourism & Civil Aviation E-Procurement Notice Invitation For Bids (IFB)

1. The Department of Tourism & Civil Aviation, IDIPT-HP invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in Two Cover System for the under mentioned works from the eligible bidders.

No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Time
1.	Design and Installation of Light, Sound and Multimedia Show having "WOW" effect at Town Square, Mall Road, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. Including Operation & Maintenance for Five Years.	Rs. 8,66,00,000/-	Rs. 5,00,000/-	Rs. 5000/-	120 days

2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://htenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and Password for participating in e-tendering in Himachal Pradesh may obtain the same from the website <https://htenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorised CSAs can use the same in this tender.

3. Key Dates:

1. Date of Online Publication	4 th Dec. 2019; 18:00 Hrs
2. Document Download Start and End Date	4 th Dec. 2019; 18:30 Hrs upto 25 th Dec. 2019; 17:00 Hrs
3. Pre-Bid Meeting	10 th Dec. 2019; 11:30 Hrs
4. Bid Submission Start and End Date	12 th Dec. 2019; 18:00 Hrs upto 26 th Dec. 2019; 10:30 Hrs
5. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	26 th Dec. 2019; 10:30 Hrs
6. Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid	26 th Dec. 2019; 11:00 Hrs

4. Tender Details: The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in two Covers:
(i) Cover 1: Shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents / Eligibility Information"
(ii) Cover 2: Shall contain "BOQ / Financial Bid", where bidders will quote their offer for each item.

5. Submission of Original Documents: The bidders are required to submit (a) Original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) Original Bid Security / Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Bid documents as per bid documents to the authorized official in the office of the Project Director, IDIPT-HP, US Club, Shimla-1, H.P., as specified in key dates Sr. No. 3 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

6. Bid Opening Details: The bids shall be opened on 26th Dec. 2019 at 11:00 hrs by the authorized official in the office of the Project Director, IDIPT-HP, US Club, Shimla-1, H.P. In their interest the bidders are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.

8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidder's responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

9. The Director, Tourism & Civil Aviation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof or to accept any bid in the interest of Himachal Pradesh Tourism Department.

Director,
Tourism & Civil Aviation,
Block No.28 SDA Complex,
Kasumti, Shimla-9.

HP/0530/2019-2020

Dismissed constable held in gang-rape case

Odisha police step up investigation

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Police arrested two persons, including a dismissed police constable in the gang-rape of a minor girl in Puri district.

The constable and co-accused had committed the crime in a police quarter at Puri. The police are looking for two more accused in the case.

"We had arrested two of the accused on Monday night itself. One of them is a dismissed police constable of Puri police. We would file the charge sheet as soon as possible. There are four teams working on the case and conducting raids at different places," said Satyajit Mohanty, Director General of Police.

The victim had missed her bus to her native village on Monday. She was waiting for another bus when the accused constable came to her and offered to drop her at her village.

Rescued by neighbours

There were three other men in the car. Initially, the girl was reluctant. To convince her, the accused showed his old police identity card. They took the girl to a police quarter in Puri. It is alleged

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Named**: Navi Hassan S/o Saturi Miyan R/o Siwan (Bihar) **Age** : 62 years, **Height** : 5'6", **Complexion** : Wheatish, **Wearing** : White colour Chadar has been found at Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital, Delhi on 28.11.2019. In this regard a case vide DD No. 1A dated 28.11.2019 has been lodged at P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this dead found person may kindly inform to the following:-

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Railway Station, Delhi
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DP/4223/RVY/19

27 died of dengue in State, Mamata informs House

Left, Cong. members stage walkout before CM's response

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday told the Assembly that 27 people have died of dengue in the State while the number of dengue cases were about 44,000.

Ms. Banerjee was responding to the allegations raised by the Left and the Congress about the outbreak of the disease. Before Ms. Banerjee, who holds Health portfolio, could respond, the Left and the Congress members walked out of the House.

"If you have asked questions, why won't you hear to our replies," Ms. Banerjee said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA

The rancour between the State government and the Governor hit a new low as Speaker Biman Banerjee on Tuesday adjourned the House for two days as bills slated to be placed in the Assembly are yet to get Jagdeep Dhankar's nod.

The House will remain adjourned till December 5 and the winter session will resume from December 6 at 11 a.m., Mr. Banerjee said in the Assembly.

spent ₹475 crore on checking the outbreak of spread of dengue.

'Under check'

The Chief Minister said compared to last year when the death was higher at 86, this year the number of deaths have been kept under check. There are 3,000 doctors and 4,000 nurses who are working against the outbreak. The State government has

Minister transferred State's Health Secretary reportedly over the spike in the cases of dengue.

Worse hit

According to reports, North 24 Parganas district has been the worst affected with about 17,000 cases reported from the district. Even in Kolkata, there have been reports of deaths due to dengue infection.

On Monday, the Chief

and Nicobar Islands) cadre. In response, Mr. Singh said he had asked the DoPT to undertake an exercise to study the implications and feasibility of the request, an official release said.

Mr. Singh also said that two more Union Territories – Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh – will also become a part of the AGMUT cadre.

Mr. Zoramthanga also took up the issue of 10% financial assistance through non-exempt ministries with Mr. Singh and requested for some mechanism for dispensing the unspent balance.

Centre mulling new IAS, IPS cadre for Mizoram, says DoNER Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI



Jitendra Singh • FILE PHOTO

up with the DoNER Minister the request to have a separate IAS or civil services cadre for Mizoram, which is presently part of the AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territories, excluding the Andaman

This was conveyed to Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga by Mr. Singh when the former called on him here.

The Chief Minister took

to

Mr. Singh also said that two more Union Territories – Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh – will also become a part of the AGMUT cadre.

Mr. Zoramthanga also took up the issue of 10% financial assistance through non-exempt ministries with Mr. Singh and requested for some mechanism for dispensing the unspent balance.

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Activity	Timeline
Last date of Online Application	31st December 2019
Tentative date of Hall ticket download	1st February 2020
Date of Online Written Test	11th March 2020
Date of Interviews (Tentative)	Last Week of March 2020
Issuance of Sponsorship Letters (Tentative)	First Week of July 2020

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CFO / Finance Managers / Accountants: CA's / M Com certificate holders with minimum 10 years of relevant experience. Candidates should be well versed with all finance and accounting activities, statutory requirements, IT rules and regulations, New age ERP solutions and FP & A Skills.

Hotel General Managers: An ideal aspirant for the position should have minimum 5 years' experience as GM at a well-known five-star resort / hotel. Candidates shall be responsible for running internationally recognized properties and further developing the properties to emerge as leaders in the targeted market. Experience of P & L management is a must.

General Manager PR and Marketing Communications: Candidate with minimum 10 years of proven track record in luxury brand building with proficiency in print, visual and digital space.

Director / F&B Managers: The prerequisites for the position mainly include minimum 8 years' experience as F&B manager in a reputed five-star hotel. Candidates will be responsible for best in class guest experience, financial returns, team motivation. The ideal candidate must have a positive attitude and good communication skills.

Sales and Marketing Managers (Locations: Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Middle East): We are seeking high-caliber sales professionals having a strong track record of sales growth, opening new channels and new relationships.

Master Chefs/Sous Chefs/Chefs (Various Cuisines): Ideal candidates should have rich experience in hospitality industry. Candidates should be passionate about culinary arts apart from having successfully developed new concepts. Proven team skills are a must.

Executive House Keepers: Minimum 8 years' of relevant experience in a five-star resort / hotel. Candidates should possess in depth knowledge and expertise of managing all functional areas of housekeeping operations.

Procurement Managers: The ideal candidate should have a minimum 8 years of relevant experience. Knowledge of the supplier base and sources to be able to procure best quality at most competitive prices is a must for the position.

Loss Prevention Officers: Minimum 10 years of relevant experience. Candidates must have knowledge and experience of best practices and a keen eye for both preventive as well as corrective actions.

Guest Service Associates in Various Departments: Candidate should have a minimum 2 years' experience in a reputed hotel with positive personality and good communication skills.

SPA Managers and Therapists: The ideal aspirant for the position should have minimum 5 years' of relevant experience in the same role in a reputed spa. Candidates should have relevant qualifications and proven track record. The candidate must be sincere, loyal, committed as well as a strong team player.

Engineers / Managers for Maintenance, Projects and Designs: Candidate with minimum 5-7 years hands-on experience in multiple engineering disciplines such as Electrical, Civil, Structural and Mechanical would be ideal. Graduates with knowledge in best practices, cost optimisation, quality procurement, team handling skills with pre-opening exposure are preferred.

The group offers best remuneration in the industry to deserving candidates.

Interested candidates may send the resumes to careers@theraviz.com or log on to www.theraviz.com/careers

IN BRIEF

Train derails in A.P.,
no injuries reported

KADAPA
Passengers of the Tirupati-Sainagar Shirdi Express (17417) had a narrow escape when the train derailed near Kodur station on Tuesday. As soon as the coach went off the track, the driver brought the train to a halt. No injuries were reported.

Road safety in Kerala school curriculum

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Kerala is set to incorporate road safety as part of the curriculum from the pre-school to the high school level to sensitise youth on the importance of responsible driving behaviour. The initiative has been taken by the Kerala Road Safety Authority and the General Education Department.

Attack on Naidu's convoy: TDP complains to Governor

Police failed to respond to the situation, party leaders allege

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders met Governor Biswa Bhushan Harichandan on Tuesday to complain about the attack on the convoy of party president and former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu during his visit to the capital region on November 28.

The delegation, led by Deputy Floor Leader in the Assembly K. Atchannaidu, told the Governor that a few "pro-YSRCP" farmers had hurled stones and footwear on the convoy, and the police remained mute spectators. In fact, a lathi was also

Kerala HC tells Collector to take over Kothamangalam church

After peace is restored, it will be handed over to the Orthodox faction

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Tuesday directed the Ernakulam Collector to take over the Kothamangalam Marthoman Cheriapally, its precincts and all movable property after removing all persons squatting on the premises and make arrangements he considers proper to look after the church and its property.

Justice P.B. Sureshkumar ordered the Collector to forthwith ensure that public order, peace and tranquillity prevail in the locality.

The court said if the Collector was satisfied, after the takeover, that the situation in the area was conducive for the petitioner, who is the



Restoring order: A view of the Kothamangalam Marthoman Cheriapally. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

vicar of the church (and owes allegiance to the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church and its constitution) to conduct religious ceremonies, the church, its premises and movable property shall be handed over to the petitioner.

In the meanwhile, if the

body of any parishioner is to be buried, there shall not be any impediments for the same.

Plea for police help
The directives were issued on a writ petition filed by Father Thomas Paul Ramban seeking police assistance to

implement a Supreme Court judgment and orders of a lower court in Muvattupuzha in favour of the Orthodox faction.

Though he sought police assistance to conduct religious services in the church in December 2018, parishioners belonging to the Patriarch faction (Jacobites) had prevented him from entering the church.

Court slams govt.

The High Court slammed the stand of the State government in not extending police assistance in implementing a Supreme Court verdict and lower court orders in favour of the Orthodox faction vicar of the Kothamangalam church.

Youth from Nizamabad held for Facebook post on Disha

He posted objectionable comments about rape victim

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

A youth from Fakirabad in Nizamabad district was arrested by the Hyderabad Cyber Crime police on Tuesday for posting distasteful comments on a social media platform against gang-rape and murder victim Disha.

"He posted vulgar and objectionable comments about the victim on Facebook page 'Stalin Sirram,'" said Joint Commissioner of Police (Detective department) Avinash Mohanty. The derogatory posts were doing the rounds on social media, he added.

The accused, Chavan Sri Ram, 22, was held after a case was registered on November 30. A resident of Saroor Nagar approached the Rachakonda police on Sun-

60-year-old sexually assaulted, murdered

STAFF REPORTER
I. POLAVARAM

A 60-year-old woman was sexually assaulted and murdered, allegedly by her neighbour, at Guttenadeevi Vemavaram village of I. Polavaram mandal in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. The victim, a

widow, was found dead in her house in the early hours of Tuesday.

The accused also stole ₹80,000 from the woman, which was recovered. The accused sprinkled chilli powder to evade detection. However, the sniffer dogs led policemen to his house.

day, demanding action against people posting offensive comments and uploading photos on social media.

Cyberabad Police Commissioner V. C. Sajjanar had on Sunday urged people to

refer to the woman veterinarian as 'Disha' instead of identifying her with her original name. The move came after the Commissioner consulted family members of the victim.

Both BJP, JD(S) are rivals: Siddaramaiah

Party high command will take a decision when the time comes, he says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Amid speculations over the Congress and the Janata Dal (Secular) renewing their alliance post the Karnataka by-polls – fuelled by some Congress leaders – former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said the regional party was as much a political rival to the Congress as the BJP.

However, he went on to add later that the party high command would take a suitable decision on the matter.

"There is no understanding between the Congress and the JD(S). We are fighting the bypolls against each other. The JD(S) is as much a political rival to the Congress as is the BJP," Mr. Siddaramaiah told reporters on his arrival



Siddaramaiah

Leaders go all out on last day of campaign

KARNATAKA BUREAU
BENGALURU

The high decibel campaign for bypolls to 15 Assembly constituencies in Karnataka came to an end on Tuesday with most leaders involved in last-minute road shows for their party candidates.

Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, who spearheaded the BJP's campaign, stayed indoors at his residence here. The Chief Minister was closeted with senior party strategists taking stock of the party's position in all the 15 seats.

but insisted that the JD (S) was a political rival.

"Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa will have to resign and our party will come back to power," the former Chief Minister said.

in Mysuru.

In Hunsur, where he participated in a road show, Mr. Siddaramaiah, told reporters that there had been no talks with the JD(S) on the issue so far.

"The party high command will take a decision when the time comes," he added.

Mr. Siddaramaiah claimed that the Congress would return to power after bypolls,

ENTERPRISE CONNECT

Safety seminar by association of railway p.Way engineers(arpwe) at engineers bhavan



Safety Seminar on "An initiative towards Accident Free Work Culture" was organized by Association of Railway Permanent Way Engineers(ARPWE). More than 200 P. Way Engineers from various Indian Railway Zones participated the seminar. Convener Sh R. K. Uppal, President Sh. P.K.Sharma, Gen. Secretary Sh. Santosh Dubey and Finance Secretary Sh. D.K. Sharma insisted on 100% safety of Passengers on Railway Track. P.Way Engineers discussed ways for safe running of trains and raised issues related to P.Way Engineers' working.

25th Convocation Ceremony of Himachal Pradesh University Shimla



As many as 448 Degrees and Gold Medals were awarded on the occasion to meritorious students, out of which 276 were females and 172 males. On the occasion, Vivek Kumar was awarded D.Litt Degree, whereas Afghan national Mohammad Sharif Shaheen was also awarded gold medal in Public Administration, Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' awarded meritorious students of the University with gold medals and degrees.

Soft launching of New Exhibition Halls at Pragati Maidan

The 14th edition of Paperex 2019 - the International Exhibition and Conference on Pulp, Paper and Allied Industries will be a new experience for the exhibitors and business delegates as it is being organised during December 3-6, 2019 in the newly constructed modern exhibition halls of the International Exhibition and Convention Centre(IECC) complex at Pragati Maidan.

Conference on "Reliability & Safety of Electric Locomotives during winter and foggy season" in the Electrical Department of North Central Railway HQ



PSPCL continues to crack whip on corrupts in ongoing crusade to identify unscrupulous elements - suspends another two officers

PSPCL management reiterates its resolve to curb the menace of corruption in organization and to take strict action against officers/ employees found indulging in corrupt practices. PSPCL in continuation to ongoing crusade to identify unscrupulous elements among its staff who despite having been forewarned through written communication, have not stopped indulging in misdemeanors cracked its whip again on two errant officers.

Sh. Manoj Kumar has taken over as Chairman & Managing Director, EdCIL (India)



Sh. Manoj Kumar is an officer from the Indian Engineering Services belonging to the UPSC-1994 batch.

FAI Annual Seminar 2019



Krishan Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO), the world's premier fertilizer producing cooperative, produced a film titled "Boond Boond Se Khushali" inspired by the Prime Minister's vision on "More Crop per Drop", has been adjudged Best Video Film and awarded 1st prize by FAI in its Annual Conference held in New Delhi on December 2, 2019. The award was given by Sh. Mansukh Mandaviya, State Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers. The award was received by Shri V.S. Sirohi, Marketing Director, KRIBHCO in the presence of Sh. Chhabilendra Roul, Secretary, Fertilizers.

Bharat Petroleum Bags FIPI Award



Bharat Petroleum bagged "Oil Marketing Company of the year" Award at the FIPI Oil and Gas Awards 2019. At a glittering award ceremony held in Delhi on 2nd December 2019, Shri. Arun Kumar Singh, Director (Marketing) BPCL, received the award at the hands of Shri. Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel.

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IN BRIEF



ED records statement of Videocon Group chief

NEW DELHI The ED has recorded the statement of Videocon Group chief Venugopal Dhoot, who is under investigation in connection with the alleged sanction of loans to group companies during the tenure of Chanda Kochhar as the managing director and chief executive officer of ICICI Bank.

1,390 kg gold worth ₹490 cr. seized this fiscal

NEW DELHI The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and other Customs agencies seized about 1,390 kg of smuggled gold, valued at ₹490 crore, and foreign currency worth ₹428 crore till July this financial year. In all, 101 foreigners were arrested.

Navy to set up aircraft museum in Kolkata

KOLKATA The Navy will set up a Tupolev TU-142 aircraft museum in Kolkata on the lines of the naval museum in Visakhapatnam, said Naval Officer-in-Charge, West Bengal, Commodore Suprobo De. Commodore De informed that land for the museum has been allocated in New Town and work has already started.

Searching for Vikram, pixel by pixel

It took 'Shan' 30 hours to spot the lander's debris

PON VASANTH B.A.
CHENNAI

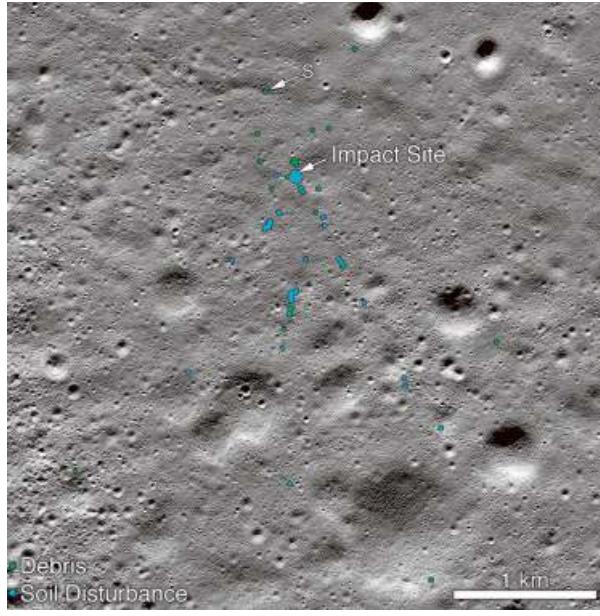
The modest apartment of Shammuga Subramanian, a 33-year-old techie from Chennai, is chock-a-block with journalists, jostling since Tuesday morning to speak to him after his crucial 'clue' helped NASA zero-in on debris of Chandrayaan-2's lander, Vikram, on the moon.

Asked how he located the debris, which has in part solved the mystery of what happened to the lander, Mr. Subramanian is modest, saying it was not rocket science.

According to him, all it took was two computers and roughly 30 hours of detailed viewing to spot what potentially looked like the lander's debris. NASA confirmed his conclusions on Tuesday morning, crediting 'Shan', as he likes to be called, for the first clue to Vikram's fate.

Mr. Subramanian, a native of Madurai and a Mechanical Engineering graduate, has always been curious about space. He was one of the thousands of Indians who followed by the minute every update of the Chandrayaan-2 mission. He was heartbroken when the lander lost contact during the landing.

Though he was reading up



Deep impact: A mosaic of the impact site of the Vikram lander found by NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter. ■ PTI

and following updates on the mission from space scientists and enthusiasts across the globe, his curiosity peaked when NASA released images from its Lunar Renaissance Orbiter (LRO) that flew over the area where Vikram was to touch down.

"The LRO flew over the area on September 17 and NASA released the images through a blog on September 29," he said.

Over the next three to four days, Mr. Subramanian spent seven to eight hours a day comparing this image with images taken by LRO of the same area before the lander

crashed. The images were of roughly 1.5 GB size and had a resolution of 1.25 square metre per pixel. There were vertical and horizontal lines with each square marking one square kilometre area.

"While I was initially not sure where to look, later I found the intended landing site of Vikram lander and started looking in the adjacent squares for differences," he said.

He learnt from information put out by multiple sources that the crash landing must have happened to the north of the intended landing site. This led him to

further narrow down his search area.

Basic tools

Mr. Subramanian says he did not use any advanced software and utilised basic image viewing tools.

"I thought of developing an image processing tool for this purpose. But then decided that it was too much of an effort for this purpose," said the techie, who has developed multiple tools for weather monitoring and clutter-free viewing of websites on mobile phones.

"The method I used was very crude. Just have the images open side-by-side and go through pixel after pixel," he added.

On October 3, he tweeted tagging NASA and ISRO about a spot which he believed could be the part of the crash site and potential lander debris. On October 18, he emailed NASA. "But I couldn't email ISRO since I did not have the right contact."

After running confirmatory checks, NASA confirmed his finding and emailed him in the early hours of Tuesday.

Mr. Subramanian said his colleagues did not take him seriously when he told them that he was trying to find the Chandrayaan-2's lander. "Now, I can go to office and tease them back," he quipped.

ISRO silent on NASA pictures

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has not commented on Monday's disclosure by the U.S. space agency NASA of information and pictures about India's moon lander Vikram that disappeared from the radar tracking screen on September 7.

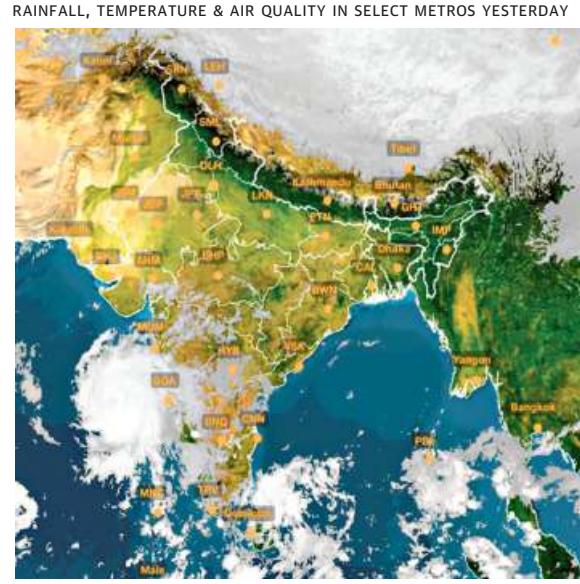
The pictures of debris at the crash site and of the lander itself puts paid to claims in some quarters that Vikram had landed bodily 'intact' and in a 'tilted manner'.

The Chandrayaan-2 orbiter is working and has a camera with a very high resolution; it is believed to have sent out pictures of the crash site. However, except for sketchy information, ISRO has shied away from sharing its own analysis of the crash.

Until now, NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter could not distinctly locate Vikram or its splinters.

In the new image, NASA has identified about 20 impact points where the debris may have fallen; along with a few spots where the lunar 'soil' or regolith was disturbed due to impact of the debris.

WEATHER WATCH



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP; INSTAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.30 HRS)
Forecast for Wednesday: Dense fog very likely in isolated pockets over plains of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...-27.5...	13.2	...	Kozhikode	...-32.5...	25.6	...
Ahmedabad	-29.3...	19.3	...	Kurnool	...-27.7...	21.3	...
Aizawl	...-	9.5	...	Lucknow	...-23.6...	10.0	...
Althababad	-26.6...	12.0	...	Madurai	...-30.6...	22.9	...
Bengaluru	0.5...	19.4	...	Mangaluru	15.6...	23.5	...
Bhopal	-26.0...	15.4	...	Mumbai	...-33.3...	23.7	...
Bhubaneswar	-28.1...	16.2	...	Mysuru	...-26.1...	19.5	...
Chandigarh	-22.8...	8.0	...	New Delhi	...-24.4...	9.1	...
Chennai	0.5...	26.3	...	Patna	...-25.2...	14.2	...
Coimbatore	2.6...	29.2...	...	Port Blair	...-31.6...	26.4	...
Deradun	-25.4...	7.5	...	Puducherry	9.4...	30.7...	20.8
Gangtok	...-	7.9	...	Pune	...-28.5...	19.4	...
Goa	...-	25.4	...	Raipur	...-29.4...	18.0	...
Guwahati	-26.6...	14.6	...	Ranchi	...-24.6...	13.4	...
Hubballi	-24.0...	20.0	...	Shillong	...-16.9...	6.0	...
Hyderabad	4.3...	26.4...	19.7	Shimla	...-15.5...	7.0	...
Imphal	-24.3...	9.2	...	Srinagar	...-30.3...	24.6	...
Jaipur	-25.6...	9.3	...	Thiruvananthapuram	0.9...	30.3...	24.6
Kochi	-31.2...	24.4	...	Tiruchi	2.6...	29.0...	22.4
Kohima	-24.8...	8.4	...	Vijayawada	...-30.3...	24.0	...
Kolkata	-27.3...	16.6	...	Visakhapatnam	...-30.0...	24.2	...

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO ₂	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	113	64	48	71	80	■■■■■
Bengaluru	.04	49	77	.44	.65	■■■■■
Chennai	.05	16	25	.69	■■■■■
Delhi	.06	34	33	.347	.253	■■■■■
Hyderabad	.12	38	44	.94	■■■■■
Kolkata	.11	89	35	.267	.187	■■■■■
Lucknow	.04	36	46	.294	■■■■■
Mumbai	.07	76	15	.106	.134	■■■■■
Pune	.85	.21	46	.57	.57	■■■■■
Visakhapatnam	.11	37	39	.134	.115	■■■■■

Yesterday

In observation made at 4 p.m., Patna, Bihar, recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 380, indicating a dangerous level of pollution. In contrast, Mysuru, Karnataka, recorded a healthy AQI score of 32.

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

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

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

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like 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.

ISRO takes possession of PSLV debris

Casing of a spent strap-on motor of the launch vehicle was caught in fishing nets

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUDUCHERRY

The casing of a spent strap-on motor of Indian Space Research Organisation's satellite launch vehicle, PSLV, which was caught in the fishing nets here, was on Tuesday retrieved by a team from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

The team, which arrived early in the morning, had to wait till noon to take possession of the 30-feet-long motor after Keerapalayam fishermen staged a protest demanding compensation for the damage caused to the net and boats while they were towing the rocket-like object to the shore on Monday morning.



The strap-on motor of PSLV being lifted from the beach using a crane ■ THE HINDU

After local legislator A. Anbalagan assured them that they would get compensation from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, the fisher-

men withdrew their agitation and assisted the ISRO team to shift the motor from the beach. The motor was lifted using a crane be-

fore being transported into a heavy vehicle owned by ISRO to be taken to Sriharikota.

"It is one of the motors of earth observation satellite, Cartosat 3 launched on November 27. Once it has fallen into ocean after separation, it is only trash and has no significance. But since there could be traces of unburnt solid fuel, it is not safe to keep the object in an open place," said an ISRO official.

In the past too, fishermen had spotted spent strap-on motors in the sea. Like in the latest case, some of them were brought to the shore by the fishermen and later shifted to Sriharikota, the official said.

AMMK to contest local body polls'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

AMMK general secretary T.T.V. Dhinakaran on Tuesday claimed that there had been no attempts to facilitate the re-entry of V.K. Sasikala, his aunt and former interim general secretary of the AIADMK, into the ruling party.

"There is no need to do so. Their [AIADMK leaders] wish to wean some of you away from this movement did not get fulfilled, thanks to your steadfast loyalty," Mr. Dhinakaran said in a statement addressed to members of his organisation.

He referred to certain ob-

servations of AIADMK functionaries regarding whether Sasikala would be allowed back into the party.

Announcement soon'
Making a statement in connection with the third death anniversary of former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, which falls on December 5, the AMMK leader said an announcement on the completion of all formalities with regard to the registration of his party would be out "any time now".

Mr. Dhinakaran hinted that the AMMK would contest the forthcoming elections to rural local bodies in the State.

employees, a source said.

"The application window which was opened on November 4, closes on December 3. Till evening today [Tuesday], the combined employees count who opted for VRS for the two PSUs stood at 92,956. We should be able to give the final figures on Wednesday," the source added.

DPS students left in the lurch: parents

Gujarat govt. too cancels recognition after Nithyananda controversy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

More than 800 students of the Delhi Public School (DPS) in Ahmedabad (East) face uncertainty following the school's move to close down after the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the Gujarat government cancelled its affiliation in the wake of the Nithyananda Ashram controversy.

Hundreds of parents on Tuesday staged a sit-in and blamed the State government for not helping the students. Some parents have approached the High Court to keep the school running.</



National shame

Gender sensitisation and wider societal changes are needed to end sex crimes

Last week's brutal rape and murder of a 26-year-old veterinarian in Hyderabad has led to an outpouring of anger across the country and in Parliament. Several MPs questioned the adequacy of criminal laws and a judicial system that permits under-age convicts to get away with lenient punishment and others sentenced to death to escape the noose through mercy petitions. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the government was "ready to make more stringent provisions in law". After the 2012 Nirbhaya outrage in Delhi, and on the recommendations of the Justice J.S. Verma Committee, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 was passed, by bringing in changes to the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012. Key amendments were brought in to provide for death penalty for rape that led to death of the victim or reduced the survivor to a persistent vegetative state and anyone found guilty of rape more than once. In 2018, further changes introduced death as the maximum punishment for every perpetrator in a gang-rape when the victim is less than 12, and life-long imprisonment if the victim is less than 16. In the Delhi case, a fast-track trial court sentenced four to death in September 2013, while the only juvenile accused was freed after a stint at a remand home. The Supreme Court dismissed their appeals against conviction in 2017; two years on, the convicts have filed curative petitions in the court and one has already written to the President of India for clemency.

As protests rocked Hyderabad demanding speedy justice, four lorry workers, arrested on charges of raping and killing the veterinarian returning from work, were kept in solitary confinement. After the Nirbhaya incident, the UN Human Rights chief had called rape and violence against women in India a "national problem" which would need "national solutions". Unfortunately, in the past week, rapes and assault have been reported from Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. The National Crime Records Bureau which released its 2017 data this October said a total of 3.59 lakh cases of crimes against women were reported, a 6% rise compared to 2016. Of this, assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty comprised 21.7%, and rape 7%. For every rape reported, there are many which go unrecorded as patriarchal mindsets remain unchanged. A suggestion by an MP that rapists "must be brought out in public and lynched" is hardly the answer. Better policing, fast-track courts, quick sentencing are the need of the hour as each can serve as a deterrent. What should be included in every curriculum is gender sensitisation, right from school. Public places must be made safer for all. Boys and girls should be raised right in an atmosphere of freedom and a culture of mutual respect. The cycle of rapes, outrage and amnesia must end.

Waiting for change

The BCCI is subtly pushing for a rollback of its reworked constitution

Indian cricket operates at two levels as its heroics on the field are often juxtaposed with a state of limbo off the turf. Virat Kohli's men have relished a scalding hot winning streak and it is a contrast to the slow wheels of change that coursed through the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) over the last few years. The introspective bout started with the spot-fixing scandal that rocked the IPL's 2013 edition. A few players and officials came under the scanner for under-performance and betting. The Supreme Court stepped in and appointed the Lodha Committee to devise corrective measures besides unveiling a set of administrative reforms within the BCCI. The Committee of Administrators helmed by Vinod Rai, oversaw the implementation of reforms that evoked dogged resistance from the BCCI's old guard. Eventually, a new dispensation led by president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah took shape. And the much-delayed BCCI annual general meeting held at Mumbai, after a gap of three years, on Sunday, was expected to take the sporting behemoth forward. It partially did that by backing enhanced subsidies for State associations and a higher pay-scale for senior domestic cricketers. Yet, it turned out to be a sluggish exercise as the BCCI sought clarity from the Supreme Court on some constitutional amendments that the former seeks to make.

The powers of its office-bearers, the tenure of its president and secretary, a relaxation of the age-cap of 70 specific to its representative at the International Cricket Council and an exemption from seeking the Supreme Court's approval for every amendment to its constitution are the various factors about which the board has requested a second gaze from the law. These issues were seemingly sorted through the Lodha Committee's reworked constitution but in seeking the court's clarification, the BCCI is pushing for a rollback without trying to be seen as confrontational. The Lodha reforms were aimed at removing the veil of bias that often blinds any old boys' club. Transparency was its byword but some of its suggested rules were constricting. For instance the insistence that an office-bearer who has served two terms of three years each, be it at the State or board level, has to compulsorily take a three-year cooling-off period can go against the grain of cumulative wisdom acquired over the years. It is a rule that would mean the current president and secretary will have to relinquish office within a year as both Ganguly and Shah have already served five years in their respective State associations – Bengal and Gujarat. The Supreme Court may reshape some rules and its last word is essential to lubricate Indian cricket's conveyor belt.

One state push for Israel and Palestine?

Any future solution must be one that rectifies past evils and offers democracy to all Palestinians



ILAN PAPPE

The recognition of the U.S. State Department of the illegal Jewish settlements in the West Bank is yet another indication that the two-state solution is dead. There are 600,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank and they will soon be one third of the overall population. When the Zionist settlers in the 1930s became one third of the population, Palestine was doomed. This is when the Zionist leadership began to contemplate the 1948 ethnic cleansing of Palestine.

The West Bank is under a similar danger. Vast areas have already been ethnically cleansed, and the rest are enclaved in spaces that at any given moment Israel can turn into inhabitable areas, as it did in the Gaza Strip. This policy has so far been immune from any significant international rebuke.

Imaginary homeland

The "Green Line" – the 1949 armistice line that separates Israel from the West Bank – is a figment of the imagination of those who support the two-state solution. It was replaced by a greater Israel, ruled by the Israeli nationality law passed in 2018 that states that only the Jews have the right of self-determination all over historical Palestine, sanctions the continued colonisation of the country and upholds its apartheid system.

This new reality requires a different approach by anyone caring for the future of the Palestinians and respects their basic rights.

This is now a struggle for a regime change. A regime that allows half of the population living between the River Jordan and the Mediterranean to have all the privileges and continue to rob the other half of its living space, lands, rights, dignity and life. Such an oppressive reality is not solved by a "peace process" but only by decolonisation that would reformulate the relationship between the third generation of Jewish settlers who arrived in the late 19th century and the indigenous population of Palestine on the basis of equality.

Decolonisation is rightly associated with processes that took place in the first half of the last century (such as the one leading to the liberation of India), but that does not mean colonisation disappeared from the rest of the globe. Even more importantly, the process of decolonisation, apart from two places, Algeria and South Africa, has not affected settler colonial projects which ended in the creation of the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Israel, to mention but few of those cases.

Ongoing 'catastrophe'

In some cases, the settler community acted upon the logic, defined by the late Australian scholar, Patrick Wolfe, as "the logic of the elimination of the native". This led to the genocide of native Americans and aborigines. But even there the struggle continues for recognition, restitution and equality. In Palestine, that logic was translated to an incremental process of ethnic cleansing, which the Palestinians call "the ongoing Nakba" (Nakba in Arabic is catastrophe and is used in the Palestinian narrative to describe the ethnic cleansing of 1948).

The Zionist movement succeeded in expelling half the Palestinian



population in 1948 and since 1967 led to departure of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from all over historical Palestine (the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Israel). Today, the Israeli government continues to dispossess land and take away resources from Palestinians, thus creating conditions that become more unsustainable for many Palestinians.

In the 1960s and 1970s the Palestinians resisted this policy of colonisation and dispossession with an armed struggle in their quest for freedom and liberation. In many ways, the Hamas in Gaza seems still to believe that this can be an effective tool in the struggle. But quite a few Palestinians seem to prefer a different kind of popular resistance, given the imbalance of power between the strongest military force in West Asia and the weakest one.

The "march of return" – the weekly peaceful demonstrations by thousands of Palestinians on the fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel is one example of a different kind of a popular resistance, which demands not only the end of the inhuman siege on Gaza and its two million people that has led to a human catastrophe there, but also the right of return of the refugees to their homes; 80% of the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are refugees who live near their lands, villages and towns from which they were expelled in 1948.

Popular or armed resistance on the way to liberation would have not been needed had international diplomacy bravely examined the origins of the conflict in Palestine and on its basis support a just and lasting solution. But the international community, and mainly western political elites, fully support Israel and remain silent in the face of continued dispossession of Palestinians. It adopted the two-state solution as its mantra for what should be done and was supported by the Palestinian leadership which hoped to salvage at least part of Palestine (22%). This approach has failed miserably. Israel has established that any sovereign Palestinian state is impossible. And now we have an American administration that fully endorses Israel's wish to de-politicise the Palestinian question and allow Israel to fully extend its sovereignty all over historical Palestine (and by that also rejecting categorically the right of any Palestinian refugee to return – a right recognised by the UN in its Resolution 194 from December 11, 1948).

We wasted 50 years in trying to push towards this solution and the end result of this effort was more Jewish settlements in the West Bank and a total separation between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank; and now we see another fruit of this approach – an American recognition of the Judaisation of the West Bank.

The civil society in Palestine and around the globe believes in a different way forward. Unlike its political elites it frames the situation in Palestine not as a conflict but a struggle against settler colonialism; not unlike the struggle against Apartheid South Africa. And hence the first step forward suggested by Palestinian civil society was to call upon the interna-

tional community to divest from, boycott and sanction Israel in order to stop the "ongoing catastrophe". This BDS, or Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions, campaign will continue until the people of the West Bank would be liberated from a military rule, the people of Gaza from the siege, the refugees return from their exile, and the Palestinians in Israel would be recognised as equal citizens.

Next Palestinian step

The next step is now beginning to unfold. A clear alternative Palestinian call for the establishment of a one democratic state all over historical Palestine. At this moment in time it is a vision, soon it will become a clear Palestinian political programme. One that rectifies past evils by compensating and restituting lost land and property, enables the repatriation of the refugees, and offers democracy for all who live in historical Palestine, without any discrimination. This vision has now a growing support in the international community, among young Palestinians and progressive Jews inside and outside Israel. For many people it still looks like an insurmountable task – privileged people like the Jews of Israel would not willingly give up their position. But pressure from the outside, a continued popular struggle from the inside and a clear Palestinian vision for the future can turn this vision into reality.

Ilan Pappe is the director of the European Center for Palestine Studies at the University of Exeter, U.K. A historian, he has written 20 books, among them his bestseller, *'The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine'*

Headwinds after a hard-line approach

With Xi Jinping and the Communist Party facing various pressures, Beijing could be tempted to deflect the attention



HARSH V. PANT

The challenges for the Communist Party of China and Chinese President Xi Jinping are mounting by the day. In a stunning rebuke to the Communist Party's handling of the Hong Kong crisis, pro-democracy forces made massive gains in local elections held last month; 17 of the 18 district councils are now controlled by pro-democracy councillors. The election saw an unprecedented voter turnout of more than 71%.

Managing Hong Kong
This outcome is a strong show of support for the protesters in a first real test of sentiment in the territory since protests began early in 2019 over the introduction of a bill authorising extraditions to mainland China. In her statement, the embattled leader of Hong Kong, Carrie Lam, said her government respected the results and would "listen to the opinions of members of the public humbly and seriously reflect".

It is not clear, however, if the

voices of the Hong Kong street protests would be heard in Beijing where there is little incentive for Xi Jinping to change his approach. Instead he might just double down on his hardline approach as his options shrink faster than he would have anticipated when the crisis started earlier this year.

This is particularly problematic for Mr. Xi as he held the Hong Kong portfolio on the Communist Party's Politburo Standing Committee before he became China's de facto emperor. He seems to have an implicit faith in his unyielding tough stance, and as he has centralised power to an unprecedented level, there is no one else to share any blame for the policies enunciated by Mr. Xi. Not surprisingly, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has reiterated that "no matter what happens, Hong Kong is a part of China" and warned that "any attempt to mess up Hong Kong, or even damage its prosperity and stability, will not succeed."

Uighur issue
Yet the inability of the Xi regime to exercise control came into sharp relief when a massive trove of classified Chinese government documents leaked to the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, showcasing a much more granular narrative of how

China is carrying out the mass detention of Muslim Uighurs and other minorities in its northwest Xinjiang province. These documents belie repeated Chinese claims that it is sending the estimated million or more people to vocational training schools with the notional goal of combating terrorism. What is even more of an eye-opener is that Chinese embassies and consulates worldwide had been instrumental in facilitating the mass detention. Every time such details emerge, they diminish China's global credibility. It might not seem much on the surface but China's global stature does take a beating.

For Mr. Xi, this growing global backlash has enormous costs back home. There are no good options for him in Hong Kong. If he continues his hardline approach, he will make the ground situation worse in Hong Kong but making concessions also is not a very viable option for him as it is not readily evident how far the demands

might go. Though the extradition bill has been withdrawn, the demands of protesters in Hong Kong have grown to include genuine universal suffrage and an inquiry into allegations of police brutality. From Hong Kong to Taiwan where there are elections in January, there is only a short distance.

Effect on party dynamics
Mr. Xi's reputation as a leader who will lead China's emergence as a major power in the 21st century might also come under a cloud in so far as mainland Chinese is concerned. The delicate balance that the Communist Party has managed to evolve in the politics of China can be frayed if ordinary Chinese believe their leadership is incapable of managing turmoil.

There is also a chance of internece rivalries within the Communist Party flaring up as Mr. Xi's policies take a hit. He has made a lot of enemies in his drive to emerge as the supreme leader and he has been ruthless with his opponents. Some of them would be waiting in the wings to respond in kind. The Chinese economy is not doing well. There is growing internal criticism of Mr. Xi's flagship Belt and Road Initiative and the costs China is having to bear for a grandiose project, driven more by Mr. Xi's vanity than by sound eco-

nomic logic. China's aggressive influence operations in other countries are also generating strong backlash, with new revelations coming out every few months. Most recently, the Australian media has reported on an alleged Chinese plot to plant a spy in the Australian Parliament which has been termed as "deeply disturbing" by the Australian Prime Minister and is being investigated now by the nation's domestic spy agency. This along with reports that a Chinese spy has applied for asylum in Australia after providing information about Chinese operations in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Australia and suggesting that he was "personally involved" in espionage work has damaged an already battered Chinese global image.

As pressures mount on Xi Jinping and the Communist Party, there are dangers that Beijing might want to divert attention from its own internal failures by lashing out at the world. New Delhi should guard against any Chinese misadventures even as it prepares itself to deal with negative externalities emerging out of the multiple crises brewing in Beijing.

Harsh V. Pant is Director, Studies at Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi and Professor of International Relations at King's College London

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.

War of words

It is unfortunate that the absence of seven members who raised starred questions led to the adjournment of the Upper House five minutes earlier on Monday. House Chairman Venkaiah Naidu is right in terming it a "sorry state of affairs" (Inside pages, "Venkaiah upset at absence of members", December 3). Does their absence mean that the members who raised the questions were not so serious about their questions? It is only appropriate that suitable forms of punishment are meted out to such members.

Also, while it was unbecoming of Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury to have used an inappropriate word to describe the Prime Minister and the Home Minister it was indiscreet on the part of the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to have reacted by raising the Congress

president's foreign origin in the Lok Sabha. This kind of tit-for-tat serves no meaningful purpose. Moreover, it is a sheer waste of time, energy and money ("BJP, Congress spar over 'infiltrator' comment", December 3). It is a *sine qua non* that the level of conduct of our lawmakers and the standard of their debate require a marked improvement. It is time that they stopped being argumentative, acted as responsible lawmakers and became effective debaters too.

C.G. KURIAKOSE,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

Meting out punishment
There is widespread protest in various parts of the country demanding capital punishment in connection for the perpetrators of the rape and murder of the woman veterinarian in Hyderabad. Some of our politicians too have voiced this opinion

("Rajya Sabha in rage over rape", December 3). At this juncture, my heart goes to the young girl of Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir who was abducted, raped for days and then murdered. At that time, the arrests of the accused saw some heartless and communal-minded elements oppose their arrest. The gravest shock was the presence of persons with political affiliations take part in these protests. For long, I have been against capital punishment, but after reading about the Kathua case and now Hyderabad, I am doubly convinced that it is a must.

THARCUS S. FERNANDO,
Chennai

■ The suggestion from some of our lawmakers and the public to impose death penalty for rape is fraught with danger. This may motivate rapists to murder all their victims, since the punishment for both the crimes (rape as well as

murder) is the same, and eliminating the victim gives them a better chance to avoid punishment, by removing the person who can testify against them. I feel that it may be better to introduce castration along with life imprisonment, since the social stigma of castration and the public humiliation thereof may act as a major deterrent. It may also leave the perpetrator suitably dampened and therefore less of a menace even if he is released after a sufficiently long sentence.

C. RAMESH,
Thiruvananthapuram

■ The Hyderabad rape and murder is a heinous crime no doubt but it is also disturbing that some of our parliamentarians got too emotional in Parliament on Monday and listed drastic options. One may appreciate their concern and their seriousness, but such statements would send out wrong signals as we are already witness to members

of the public taking the law into their own hands and indulging in acts of revenge at the slightest provocation. The reactions in Parliament also expose the Central and State governments – they still do not have clear cut policies for ensuring the safety of women.

V. SUBRAMANIAN,
Chennai

■ It has become customary for the government to talk about making more stringent provisions in the law for grave offences. There are already strict laws; enforcement is the question. Merely strengthening the laws to curb rape will have little effect if they are not enforced through fast track courts and the guilty punished immediately after the judgment. The slow pace

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:
The Editorial page article titled "India's food basket must be enlarged" (Nov. 29, 2019), erroneously said globally there are 37 sites designated as GIAHS. As per the FAO website, globally there are 57 sites designated as GIAHS.

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of justice only emboldens the perpetrators.

D. SETHURAMAN,
Chennai

Uptick in tiger numbers

It is glad tidings that the tiger population in India has gone up from 750 in the last four years to 2,976 (December 3). However this would now mean the need for a corresponding vacation of human habitations near forest buffer areas. There is also the issue of inbreeding as with the rise in numbers, there has to be "better dispersal". Such important details need to be clarified. Expanding existing sanctuaries and creating new ones are also crucial.

R. SAMPATH,
Chennai

INTERVIEW | RATHIN ROY

'Structural policies needed for 7-plus % growth'

The slowdown is an outcome of supply-side constraints, says the economist



PUJA MEHRA



FILE PHOTO - R.V. MORTHY

The official GDP growth estimate for the July-September quarter, at 4.5%, is the lowest in 26 quarters. Rathin Roy, Director of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, and former member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, discusses the causes of the economy's troubles and suggests possible remedies. Edited excerpts:

The Finance Minister says the economy is not in recession. According to the latest official estimates, GVA growth in the first and second quarters of this financial year were 0.6% and 1.0%. Going by the technical definition, isn't manufacturing very close to being in recession?

■ It's definitely close to being in recession but for different reasons. Measuring recession in terms of negative growth in two quarters is a developed countries concept. It applies when economies are in a steady state and recession is a departure from the steady state. [A state of fully tapped land and capital so that growth is possible in case of improvements in technology and productivity, as happens in developed economies. In developing economies, growth is possible by increasing use of resources.] The Finance Minister is correct that in terms of conventional economics this is a slowdown, not a recession.

In India's case, 6-7% is the achievable growth rate without doing much since we are a growing economy. With reforms we can aspire for even higher growth. We are now below 6%, that is below what I would expect the growing Indian economy to normally achieve without doing much. Therefore, in the sense of a developing and growing economy, I would say, and I hope the Minister is persuaded, that we are in recession.

The Chief Economic Adviser has said that growth will begin to pick up from the third quarter. Do you agree?

■ I think so, but what really matters

is that if India is to complete its development transformation, it must grow at more than 5%, even when things are bad. Sub-5% growth is a development disaster and cannot be tolerated.

What needs to be done to make sure that the full-year growth rate does not dip to sub-5%?

■ The first thing we need to understand is that we are not a command and control economy. We need to accept this recession is structural in nature. Therefore, getting the growth rates consistently up to 7-plus% will require structural actions. If these actions are taken, short term-actions can be thought of to keep the growth rate above 5% over a two-year window, which is the maximum you can afford to keep such short-term actions in place because they are a bit like steroids.

What short-term actions and structural actions?

■ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) can quickly increase the amount of cash in the economy. Then banks, especially public sector banks, can use that together with interest rate policy to provide easy credit. A larger supply of credit should lead to cheaper credit. This will have to be supported by reduction of the administered price of credit, which is the RBI's repo rate. There could be hurdles to credit off-take due to fiduciary or prudential reasons, so those need to be tackled. Same for mismatched expectations. If these temporary measures for boosting aggregate demand - both consumption demand and investment demand - are the only mea-

If India is to complete its development transformation, it must grow at more than 5%, even when things are bad. Sub-5% growth is a development disaster

sures taken, and structural measures get neglected, then the threat of inflation is real. The inevitable result of that will be stagflation.

How can mismatched expectations be tackled? Many people will not take on loans even at 0% interest rate today because they can no longer see what the next few years hold.

■ The government needs to hold granular conversations with the private sector. For instance, we have a market for textiles that we are losing to Bangladesh. What is it that inhibits us from gaining that market through import substitution? What can we do in terms of credit and securing the running of a business in that specific sector? One reason we are not able to compete with Bangladesh is that we are not able to locate moderately priced medium-value high-volume textile factories in those States where labour is relatively cheap. Tirupur and Gujarat are high-wage geographies to produce ₹400 shirts. Why are we not able to locate the industries in Bihar, Jharkhand or Varanasi? So, if you kick-start investment in north and eastern India, you start taking advantage of India's biggest asset: an abundant pool of reasonably priced labour, which has over the years got fairly skilled because of migration. This is what I would call a skills and industrial policy. This is

so, the slowdown is an outcome of supply-side constraints and not demand-side constraints.

■ Absolutely. If you produce things that Indians earning minimum wages can afford, aggregate demand will increase.

Puja Mehra is an independent journalist

complex policymaking. It requires political investment.

What other sectors are key to the structural actions strategy?

■ Agriculture, housing, health and education. What is the balance sheet of agriculture? We have never asked that question because our priority always was to take food to the hungry, a very laudable objective. But a consequence of that is farmers have been disempowered by multiple interventions. If I divide India into 14-15 agroclimatic zones, can I take a view of the viability of farming as a business? We never hear of farmer suicides in Bengal as we do in Maharashtra. Why does the business model in Bengal work better than in Maharashtra? The business model of agriculture was successful in Punjab but temporarily so. So, business model change is needed in agriculture.

Similar problems arise in healthcare and education. Healthcare for people like you and me is expensive but affordable. In the sense, a major once-in-a-lifetime intervention costs possibly three-four months' salary. Minimum wage earners face similar prices. We don't have a business model allowing them use of their earnings to buy reasonable amounts of healthcare which the government can then supplement. Either you get rationed healthcare after the entire machine of government has had its fill of the public health system...

Or you get bankrupted going to the private system?

■ Subsidies and welfare giveaways will not work because we do not have the supply of medical personnel to deliver affordable healthcare at this scale - not at subsidy, but at scale.

We have the same problem in education. Housing is simpler. The land is available with government. The question is, is there is willingness to deploy it for affordable housing and not golf courses and flyovers.

So, the slowdown is an outcome of supply-side constraints and not demand-side constraints.

■ Absolutely. If you produce things that Indians earning minimum wages can afford, aggregate demand will increase.

A critique of China, not Pakistan

Decoding Alice Wells's speech lambasting the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

MICHAEL KUGELMAN

On November 21, Ambassador Alice Wells delivered an address at the Wilson Center in Washington lambasting the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Why did Ms. Wells make this speech? And why now? After all, while several Trump administration officials have criticised the broader Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), they have said little publicly about CPEC.

Additionally, Washington's relations with Islamabad have improved over the last year or so as the administration has sought Pakistani cooperation with the peace process in Afghanistan. With Washington not wanting to antagonise Islamabad, the timing may seem odd for a senior U.S. official to excoriate what Pakistan designates as its most high-priority development project.

Indo-Pacific strategy

In reality, why Ms. Wells made this speech, and why now, has more to do with China than Pakistan.

The speech was an incisive critique of Chinese policy, and of the development model embodied by BRI. It was not a critique of Pakistan. (Islamabad's relatively subdued response acknowledges as much.) Ms. Wells argued that America's development model is more desirable than China's – and that Pakistan and other nations receiving BRI monies can benefit more from American largesse.

The speech was an expression of the Trump administration's Indo-Pacific strategy, which aims to underscore a vision for Asia that facilitates more freedom and prosperity than that espoused by Beijing. To be sure, the Indo-Pacific strategy doesn't include Pakistan. Still, what better way for Washington to push back against Beijing than by calling out CPEC, the most operationalised and expensive component of BRI – and a project that raises concerns about financing, transparency, and sustainability?

It's also worth keeping the administration's broader China policy in mind. The White House has been relentlessly hawkish towards Beijing. It set the tone when its first national security strategy identified strategic rivalry as a national security concern –

and China, by extension, as a national security threat. While the administration has contemplated conciliation with some bitter rivals (North Korea and even Iran), it has been consistent in its hard line on China. Against this backdrop, Ms. Wells's speech makes perfect sense.

Challenge for the U.S.

It's easy to agree with her CPEC criticism; the concerns she articulated about cost, debt, transparency, and jobs are acknowledged by many, including some CPEC boosters in Pakistan. However, her suggestion that the U.S. can develop better – both in Pakistan and the broader region – is a harder sell. The U.S. may well promote "a vision for the Indo-Pacific region that is free and open," and it may pledge to partner with the region on "freedom, openness, and economic prosperity." Implementation, however, is the challenge.

Yes, Washington has provided billions in development aid to Islamabad. It has long backed the fledgling Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline. The Trump administration's first budget included the New Silk Road initiative – first articulated by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in 2011 as an idea to better connect South and Central Asia – as part of its funding request for activities in both regions. Other opportunities abound, from engaging with development-focused regional groups like BIMSTEC to backing a potential electricity-sharing arrangement between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal. And yet, to date, the U.S.'s collective efforts on economic development in Pakistan and the region can't hold a handle to those of China. Beijing has more capital, presence, projects, and arguably popularity.

Still, Ms. Wells' speech is a wake-up call for Beijing about Washington's concerns about CPEC, and a reminder of the intensity of U.S.-China rivalry. We shouldn't expect smoother sailing for the world's two most powerful nations any time soon.

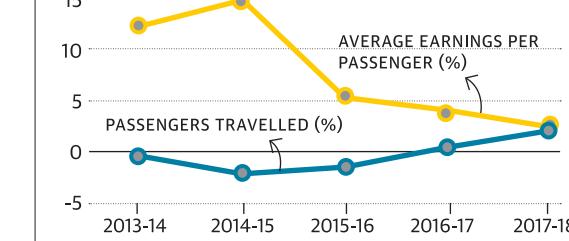
Michael Kugelman is the Deputy Director of the Asia Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars in Washington, DC

Raising red flags

1. Dwindling returns | In FY18, railways spent ₹98.44 for every ₹100 it earned: an operating ratio (OR) of 98.44%, the lowest in 10 years. Its surplus revenue dropped to ₹1,665.6 cr, a six-year low. Importantly, if not for the advances paid by NTPC* (₹4,761.9 cr.) & IRCON (₹2,580 cr.), the operating ratio would have shot up to 102.66% with a non-existent surplus



2. Sedate growth | The decline in operating ratio and revenue surplus can be attributed to poorer income growth in FY17 and FY18. In FY18, growth of "earnings per passenger" slackened significantly for the third consecutive year while passenger traffic grew at a robust pace

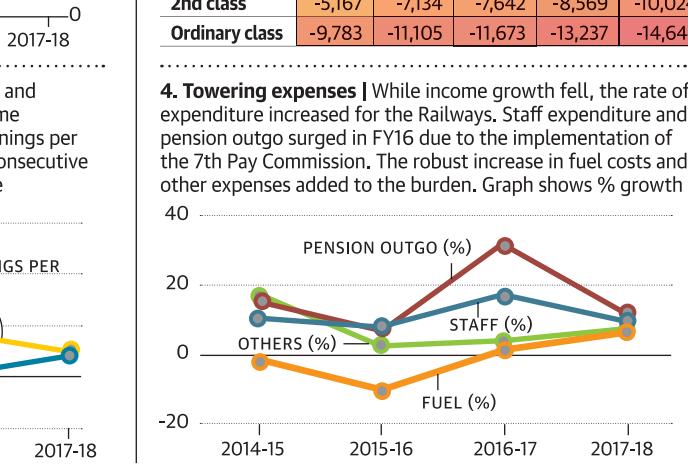


* NTPC: National Thermal Power Corporation Limited. Source: CAG report No.10 of 2019

3. Mounting losses | Earnings from passengers grew at a slow pace as operational losses incurred in classes such as 'sleeper', 'second' & 'ordinary' ballooned in FY16 and FY17. For instance, in FY13, the Railways made a loss of ₹40 crore in operating AC first class. Free tickets/passes and fare concessions contributed to the losses significantly

Class	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
AC 1st class	-40	-47	-127	-175	-139
1st class	-61	-92	-69	-58	-53
AC 2nd tier	-348	-497	-495	-463	-559
AC 3rd tier	495	410	881	898	1,040
AC chair car	-38	-148	-142	-5	117
Sleeper	-6,852	-8,407	-8,510	-8,301	-9,313
2nd class	-5,167	-7,134	-7,642	-8,569	-10,024
Ordinary class	-9,783	-11,105	-11,673	-13,237	-14,647

4. Towering expenses | While income growth fell, the rate of expenditure increased for the Railways. Staff expenditure and pension outgo surged in FY16 due to the implementation of the 7th Pay Commission. The robust increase in fuel costs and other expenses added to the burden. Graph shows % growth



Setting the clock back on intersex human rights

The Transgender Persons Bill does not distinguish between transgender and intersex persons



PRASHANT SINGH

condition of intersex persons with transgender persons. Barring a few overlaps, the legal and welfare needs of intersex persons are different from those of transgender persons.

Therefore, the definition should highlight this distinction between transgender persons and intersex persons enabling them to exercise the rights which they are entitled to. Some persons born or living with intersex traits can live with a non-binary identity or may choose to live as gender fluid persons. The Bill fails to account for these possibilities. Neither does it provide for the definition of terms such as gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.

The Bill doesn't say much about discrimination against intersex persons. Intersex conditions are termed in derogatory terms even by medical professionals. To address this, the Bill should have included a provision directing medical professionals to ensure that intersex traits are not characterised as "disorders of sex development". Intersex traits should not be considered as genetic defects/ disorders, and terms like 'gender dysphoria' should be used to characterise them.

Journey of intersex human rights

In April 2019, the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court delivered a historic judgment in *Arunkumar v. The Inspector General of Registration*.

This judgment marks the beginning of a normative journey of intersex human rights in India. The court took up the issue of validity of consent given on behalf of intersex infants for undergoing sex selective surgeries. It held that the consent of the parent cannot be considered as the consent of the child. Hence, such surgeries should be prohibited. This is a momentous judgment as it recognises the consent rights of intersex children and the right to bodily integrity. The judgment declared a prohibition on sex selective surgeries on intersex children in Tamil Nadu. Complying with the directions of the court, Tamil Nadu banned sex reassignment surgeries on intersex infants and children. As the Transgender Bill also deals with issues related to human rights protection of intersex persons, it needs to be examined in light of the developments of intersex human rights.

However, the title of the Bill itself is exclusionary as it does not accommodate all persons whose legal protection it seeks to recognise. It is instructive for the legislature to appreciate the nuances when it comes to distinguishing between transgender and intersex persons. Transgenders have a different gender identity than what was assigned to them at birth, while intersex indicates diversity of gender based on biological characteristics at birth. There are also multiple variations in intersex itself. The Bill is not in alignment with the evolving international human rights framework. Parliament will be well-advised to consider changing the title of the Bill to Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sex Characteristics (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019. The Bill also conflates the

Prashant Singh is an advocate at the Supreme Court of India

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 4, 1969

Ajoy wants Basu to quit

Mr. Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee, West Bengal's Chief Minister, to-day [December 3] called for the exit of Deputy Chief Minister Jyoti Basu from the Government. Sixty-nine-year-old Mukherjee is on hunger strike for the third successive day in a protest at Curzon Park "to rouse the conscience of the people against the forces of violence in West Bengal". He asked the large gathering outside the protest, "Is

FROM PAGE ONE

GST revenues not enough for compensation: Centre

"This discussion is quite critical as lower GST and compensation cess collections have been a major concern in the last few months."

"The compensation requirements have increased significantly and are unlikely to be met from the compensation cess being collected," the letter added.

This situation assumes significance because it was the promise of compensation to the States for losses arising out of GST implementation that convinced a large number of reluctant States to sign on to the new indirect tax regime. The Centre had promised compensation for any shortfall in tax revenue due to GST implementation for a period of five years.

In the letter, the Centre also asked the States to submit their suggestions by De-

cember 6 on augmenting GST collections. They were specifically asked to look into ways to review the items currently exempted from GST, review the tax rates and compensation cess rates on various items, and on improving compliance measures.

These suggestions will be placed before the Committee of Officers from the States and Centre that has been set up to suggest measures to increase collections.

The government had budgeted for ₹6,63,343 crore in GST collections for the current financial year 2019-20, out of which it has collected only about 50% in the first eight months. It had targeted ₹1,09,343 crore of compensation cess collections, of which it has so far collected ₹64,528 crore.

BJP cracks whip ahead of Citizenship bill

A significant portion of Mr Singh's address also referred to cautioning BJP MPs against using unparliamentary language during their intervention in Parliament and said they should be aggressive in countering the Opposition but not go to the extent of what the Congress, the BJP's main rival, does.

His remarks came against the backdrop of party MP Pragya Thakur being forced to apologise in the Lok Sabha for her comments on Mahatma Gandhi's assassin

Nathuram Godse. The BJP subsequently barred her from attending its parliamentary party meeting during the ongoing session. She was not present at Tuesday's meeting.

Woman and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani, in her address, highlighted the efforts of her ministry in fighting malnutrition among pregnant women and infants, and said it had organised a record 3.5 lakh events in a month in this regard.



The request for port out from one circle to another will be completed in five working days, said TRAI. ■ V.V. KRISHNAN

Porting request will now be met in days: TRAI

The request for port out from one circle to another will be completed in five working days, TRAI said.

While the amended rules were brought out by the regulator in December last year, the implementation was delayed from the original timeline of June 2019 on the request of the service providers. Under the new process, the mobile number portability service provider (MNPSP) has been tasked with generating and communicating the unique porting code (UPC) to a subscriber, instead of the telecom service provider. A UPC is an eight digit alpha numeric code that a subscriber wanting to switch their operator needs to generate by sending an SMS to '1900'.

"Through these amendment regulations a major shift in the mechanism for generating Unique Porting

Code (UPC) has been provisioned," TRAI added. Now, the request for UPC will be received by the operator and instantly forwarded to the concerned MNPSP.

"The MNPSP, after conducting the requisite checks on a real time basis with the database of the Donor operator will then generate the UPC and send it to the subscriber."

A record of the UPC will also be kept by the MNPSP, so that the porting request can be verified by the recipient operator as well.

As per estimates, the rejection of porting requests on the grounds – UPC Mismatch and Expired UPC, accounted for an average of around 45% of the total rejection of porting requests for the period April, 2017 to May, 2018. These can be brought down following the new regime.

"Please don't go by media reports. No pardon has been given," the Home Minister told the Congress

"Please don't go by media reports. No pardon has been given," the Home Minister told the Congress

Opposition demands debate on electoral reforms

Shiv Sena, BSP and TRS sign motion by 16 parties seeking a return to paper ballot in place of electronic voting machine

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

At least 16 Opposition parties have signed a motion demanding a debate on "electoral reforms for free and fair elections". The parties are likely to ask the Narendra Modi government to revert to paper ballot in place of the electronic voting machine.

The signatories include BSP's Satish Chandra Mishra and Telangana Rashtra Samithi's Keshava Rao. The two parties have so far not been

part of any Opposition efforts and it is the first time in this session that they have decided to stand with the rest of the Opposition on the issue.

If Chairman Venkaih Naidu allows the debate, it will be held next week. The parties that have signed the motion include the Trinamool, Congress, DMK, NCP, RJD, PDP, Samajwadi Party, MDMK, TDP, AAP, Kerala Congress(M), CPI (M) and CPI. The Shiv Sena, which re-

Lok Sabha sizzles over onion prices, Chowdhury's comments

Bedlam marks Zero Hour as BJP members demand apology from Congress MP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



Tearful tale: The Centre imports onions at ₹67 a kg and sells at ₹130, said Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The Lok Sabha witnessed an uproar on Tuesday as Congress and BJP members engaged in sharp exchanges over onion prices and Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's comments relating to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Ministers Amit Shah and Nirmala Sitharaman.

The ruckus erupted during Zero Hour, when Congress members led by Mr. Chowdhury raised the issue of the "skyrocketing" prices of onions. The Treasury benches promptly hit back by demanding an apology from Mr. Chowdhury for earlier referring to Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah as "infiltrators", and describing Ms. Sitharaman as a "weak" Finance Minister.

The Congress leader had attacked the government over the high prices of commodities of daily use like onions, vegetables, and pulses.

Accusing the government of not taking strong steps to

State for Parliamentary Affairs. BJP member from Mumbai Poonam Mahajan slammed the Congress MP for his *Nirbala* (weak) remark against the Finance Minister.

"All parties were together over the issue of rape and murder of a Hyderabad doctor in the House yesterday [Monday]. But, after a while, Adhir Ranjanji lost his patience," Ms. Mahajan said.

"I condemn the remarks he made against our first woman Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. It is very bad. This is a government where the maximum number of women have been given post of minister," Ms. Mahajan added.

"You are *nirbal* as you stand for one family. You are weak as you call the Prime Minister an infiltrator," she said, to noisy shouts of "Adhir Ranjan *Hai Hai*" from the Treasury benches.

Congress members then staged a walkout.

Centre issues order to halve onion stock limits

NEW DELHI

The government is playing the role of a "mere spectator" as onion prices hit the roof, Communist Party of India (Marxist) MP K.K. Raghesh said in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

He said that in various parts of the country, onion prices had reached ₹120 a kg. Speaking during Zero Hour, when members are allowed to raise issues of national importance, Mr. Raghesh said that while replying to a question, Food Minister Ramvilas Paswan had said that "32,000 tonnes of onion has rotted in our godowns".

"The government is allowing onions to rot in godowns but not providing it to the people," Mr. Raghesh said.

"The government has claimed that the price rise, which started in October, is due to a fall in production, he said, adding that there has been a 30% fall in production.

"The government was aware of the rise in demand. But unfortunately, what role has the government played? I would like to know whether the government had intervened. Now, sir, the government has played a mere spectator's role," the MP said.

"The government could have procured onions and stored it in godowns and the government could have intervened in the market. Why is the government not doing that," he asked.

Pawar knew of Ajit-Fadnavis discussions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday said he was aware that party leader Ajit Pawar was in touch with Devendra Fadnavis even as he distanced himself from his nephew's sudden political move to join hands with the BJP on November 23.

Mr. Sharad Pawar had on Monday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had proposed "working together" but he rejected the offer.

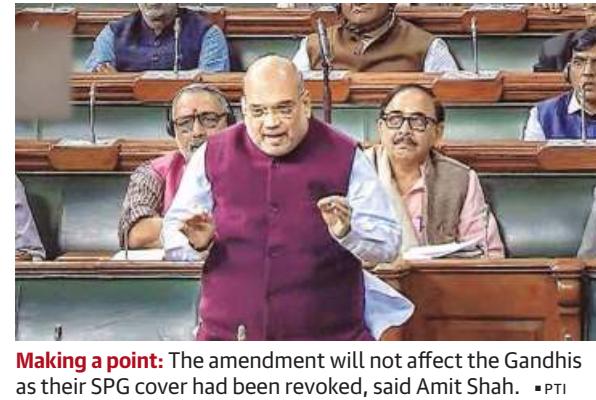
"I knew Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar were in talks, but the speculation that I was aware of Ajit's political move is wrong," he told NDTV in an interview.

"There were no talks with the Sena before elections. We were fighting against the Sena and the BJP," he said.

SPG Act amendment Bill gets Parliament nod

It will end dilution of the Act over the years: Amit Shah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



Making a point: The amendment will not affect the Gandhis as their SPG cover had been revoked, said Amit Shah. ■ PTI

Parliament on Tuesday passed an amendment to the Special Protection Group Act, 1988, that will allow SPG cover to the Prime Minister and former Prime Ministers for a period of five years after leaving office.

The SPG (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was passed in the Rajya Sabha by voice vote, after the Congress staged a walkout accusing the government of targeting the Gandhis – Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Responding to allegations of "political vendetta," Home Minister Amit Shah said he was opposed to "dynasty, not family." He said the SPG had been raised to provide security to Prime Ministers after the assassina-

tion of the then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1984, but four amendments to the Act had been brought over the years to dilute it in order to provide SPG cover to former Prime Ministers' families.

The amendments would end the "dilution" of the Act over the years. They had been brought keeping "one family" in mind.

He said the amendment would not affect the Gandhis as their SPG cover had already

been revoked following a review.

He said the government was concerned about the security of "130 crore Indians," and they included the Gandhis as well as "BJP workers." He said 120 workers of the party had been killed in Kerala.

With the amendment, he said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi would stand to lose as SPG cover would be revoked five years after he leaves office.

Probe ordered into Priyanka security breach

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Home Minister Amit Shah told the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday that a high-level inquiry has been initiated and three security personnel were suspended following the November 25 incident when a black SUV allegedly trespassed into the Lodhi Road bungalow of Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

Giving details of the incident, Mr. Shah told the House that the security personnel were informed that her brother Rahul Gandhi would be visiting her in a black 'Tata Safari SUV' but some Congress workers from Meerut in Uttar Pradesh arrived at the same time in a similar vehicle and were allowed to go through

the main gate without a security check. Several members had linked the security breach to the removal of SPG cover.

Mr. Shah said the security cover of the Gandhi family had not been removed but replaced with Z plus CRPF cover with the same number of personnel and vehicles.

He was speaking on the Special Protection Group (SPG) Amendment Bill, 2019. Ms. Priyanka Gandhi's husband Robert Vadra had termed the incident a "very big" security lapse and alleged that the removal of the Gandhi family's SPG cover was a "political" move.

"Our security is not important as much as the security of the women in the country," Mr. Vadra said.

Rajoana not pardoned, says Amit Shah

Home Minister responds to query from Congress MP on assassin of Punjab CM

Statement unfortunate: SAD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) termed Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement about Balwant Singh Rajoana's death sentence not having been commuted unfortunate, saying it has anguished the Sikh community. "We thought we had moved ahead when news appeared last month disclosing the death sentence of Bhai Rajoana had been

commuted to life sentence. However today's assertion has shocked everyone. There is a feeling of hurt that justice has not been done to the Sikh community and the spirit of the clemency which was espoused on the occasion of the 550th Parkash Purb has not been carried through," said Sukhbir Singh Badal, president, SAD. "A high-level delegation would meet Mr. Shah soon," he said.

member, who is the grandson of Beant Singh.

In September, Home Ministry officials said the go-

vernment had decided to commute the death sentence of Rajoana to life imprisonment as a "hu-

manitarian gesture" on the occasion of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak.

A former Punjab police constable, Rajoana was convicted of his role in an explosion outside the Punjab Secretariat in 1995 that killed the then Chief Minister and 16 others.

In July 2007, a special court awarded the death sentence to Rajoana and he was scheduled to be hanged on March 31, 2012.

However, the execution was stayed two days before the scheduled date after the Shiromani Gurudwara Prabhandak Committee (SGPC), the Sikh religious body, filed a mercy petition.

"Honourable Minister, pay attention to questions and listen carefully," said Mr. Birla and asked the Shiv Sena member not to repeat the question.

"I will give one more chance, but don't ask the same question," the Speaker said. A visibly upset Speaker then asked Shiv Sena leader in the Lok Sabha Arvind Sawant to explain to his colleague.

Finally, when Mr. Godse asked a different question, Mr. Danve's senior colleague, Union Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, stood up and replied to the Shiv Sena MP's question.

Unhappy over absence Earlier, Mr. Birla had expressed his unhappiness over the absence of several members in the House after giving names to ask supplementary questions, and ruled that those absent would not be given a chance to ask such questions during

the remaining period of the winter session.

Rahul meets Birla Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi called on Mr. Birla at his office and had a 10-minute one-on-one meeting. Sources in the Lok Sabha Secretariat described it as a courtesy call but the meeting comes amid reports that Mr. Birla could refer BJP MP Pragya Thakur's privilege notice against Mr. Gandhi (for calling her a terrorist in a tweet) to the Privileges Committee.



A 'no' vote: Several parties said the Election Commission had not been able to set at rest doubts on EVMs. ■ AFP

cently parted ways with the BJP, has also joined forces with the Opposition. This is the second instance when it has backed the rest of the Opposition in demanding a

debate. Earlier it was one of the signatories to push the government to debate the current economic situation.

"This is one issue where all the parties feel strongly. There are many issues on electoral reforms that we need to raise, be it the opacity of electoral bonds which allows the BJP to garner maximum funds in comparison to all the other parties," an Opposition leader said.

The parties submitted the motion in the morning.

Sources in the Lok Sabha Secretariat described it as a courtesy call but the meeting comes amid reports that Mr. Birla could refer BJP MP Pragya Thakur's privilege notice against Mr. Gandhi (for calling her a terrorist in a tweet) to the Privileges Committee.

AN-ND-NE

Swedish royals seek climate awareness

King asks farmers to convert farm waste into a profitable business; Queen seeks end to sexual violence

NARAYAN LAKSHMAN
KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

India and Sweden should spread awareness of climate change to the grassroots level to help create a front to meet the global challenge, said King Carl XVI Gustaf on Tuesday in an exclusive interview with *The Hindu*. The Swedish king urged Indian farmers to convert agricultural waste into a profitable business, and Queen Silvia demanded a campaign to end sexual violence in India.

Meets PM

The royal couple arrived in India on Monday and met Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Indian and Swedish delegates participated at the High Level Dialogue on Innovation Policy where science and technology collaboration between the two sides was firmed up.

Both sides signed three agreements on Monday, including one that will facilitate



Royal guests: King Carl XVI Gustaf and Queen Silvia at the Swedish Embassy on Tuesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

tate closer scientific research in polar science. The Swedish king expressed concern about stubble burning in the agricultural fields in northern India, and proposed that farmers should be trained in the new ways of disposing of agricultural waste in a profitable manner.

"There are Swedish companies that can turn dry

stubble into tissues, textile, and furniture. They can make the stubble into compressed pellets which the farmers can sell. This can help generate work for farmers in the countryside," said the king.

The royal couple who are on their third visit said that India has progressively become aware of the threat of climate change and the chal-

lenges that it poses to the health and economy of the people.

The royals will travel to Mumbai on Wednesday and will proceed to Rishikesh and Haridwar in Uttarakhand where they will inaugurate a sewage treatment plant. Apart from official engagements they also attended on Tuesday a meeting on air pollution and an interaction on trafficking and gender violence.

"You have to inform the population and you have to deal with this question and create a campaign for it. It's present in many countries and for many years we dealt with this in Sweden," said Queen Silvia.

The king said there are many possibilities to expand contacts between India and Sweden in areas like energy, environment and innovation and said that both sides should create an environment for investments, adding "We want to see some

investment from companies in the Indian side."

Pointing to the number of Nobel prize winners from India, the king acknowledged that the Nobel prizes won by Indians from Rabindranath Tagore, to Abhijit Banerjee indicate the high quality of research and academics in the country.

Peace campaign

India and Sweden were part of the global disarmament campaign for many years and the king remarked that both sides think similarly on such globally relevant issues.

"India is the largest democracy and Sweden is also a democratic country and we cope quite well when it comes to this kind of countries. We are working together in different UN missions around the world for peace. It is easy to work together as we understand each other well," said the king, referring to Sweden's global campaign for disarmament.

19 civilians killed in Valley since Aug. 5, says Minister

Kishan Reddy tells LS that terrorist violence has declined

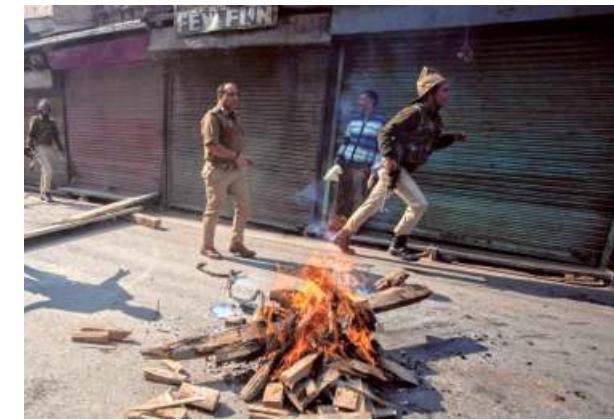
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Nineteen civilians, including non-Kashmiris, were killed in various terror-related incidents in the Kashmir Valley since August 5, when the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 was revoked, the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy said there had been an increase in infiltration from across the border. From August 5 to October 31, the "net infiltration" was 59.

"In view of the aggressive anti-India social media posts being pushed from across the border aiming at instigating youth of the Valley and glamorising terrorists and terrorism, certain restrictions on Internet have been resorted to," he said. Security forces killed 157 terrorists in 2019 so far.

"The incidents of terrorist violence have declined after August 5. During the 115-day period from August 5 till October 31, there have been 84 such attempts as against



Tense moment: In this photo dated October 29, 2019, policemen giving chase after protesters lit fires in the streets of Srinagar. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

ember 27, there have been 88 such incidents as compared to 106 such incidents from April 12 till August 4," he said in a written reply.

"On the other hand, there has been increase in the number of infiltration attempts from across the border. During the 88-day period from August 5 till October 31, there have been 84 such attempts as against

53 such attempts from May 9 till August 4, 2019. Correspondingly, the estimated net infiltration has increased from 32 to 59 during the above period," he said.

Security agencies continued to receive inputs on the intention of terror outfits that are supported and sponsored from across the border, the Minister told the House.

Mumbai 2034 plan to be reviewed

Uddhav calls for scrutiny of all major urban projects in the past five years

SHARAD VYAS
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has ordered a financial review of all the major works undertaken by the State Urban Development Department (UDD) in the past five years. The works include the controversial Mumbai Development Plan-2034 and the reservation of land made for it by the previous Bharatiya Janata Party government.

The records of projects related to the department in the past six months and the money spent on them should be submitted in the next one week, reads the di-



Uddhav Thackeray

rective from the Chief Minister's Office. The directive also demands suggestions on how much funds would be needed for the UDD projects in the future.

"We have started submit-

ting the details of the UDD

works related to the DP, which had earmarked nearly 3,355 hectares of no-development zone and 2,100 hectares of land for affordable housing. The reservation of land parcel under the DP will also be reviewed," said a senior official of the UDD.

Former Congress leader Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil last year made a sensational disclosure that the CMO had struck a deal of ₹10,000 crore with some builders in lieu of introducing some favourable changes in the Development Control and Promotion Regulation 2034 (DCPR-2034).

The then Chief Minister

Devendra Fadnavis had threatened to take Mr. Patil to court and demanded an unconditional apology. Mr. Patil did not follow up on the allegations, while later joining the BJP. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar had alleged Mr. Patil had joined the BJP in a bid to suppress the "multi crore scam in the preparation of the DCPR-2034."

"It is widely believed Mr. Vikhe Patil was allowed a berth in the government in return for a promise not to dig deeper into the scam in the DCPR-2034," Mr. Pawar had said following the allegations by Mr. Patil.

Navy forces Chinese ship to retreat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh on Tuesday said that a Chinese naval ship was driven away from India's Exclusive Economic Zone in the Andaman sea recently.

Military sources said the research ship Shi Yan 1 forayed into Indian waters in September but was forced to retreat after it was suspected to be involved in spying. "Our stand has been that if you do anything in our region, you have to notify us or take our permission," the Navy Chief said at a press conference.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways has expressed serious concern about the Ministry's lack of effort to address its reservations over the maintenance protocol for bridges that are more than a century old.

The panel also underscored the need for re-evaluating the classification of railway bridges to augment their safety.

In a report submitted in Parliament on Tuesday, the

committee reiterated two of its recommendations on the issue while rejecting the replies of the government.

The panel had in an earlier report highlighted the need for a review of the existing system of classification of railway bridges among 12 other recommendations. It had also highlighted the need for taking the age of a bridge into consideration while formulating inspection/maintenance protocols.

"In this context, the committee strongly recommend-

Parliamentary panel draws attention to older rail bridges

ed that bridges which were more than 100 years old warranted a separate protocol for inspection and maintenance.

The committee is concerned to note that the Ministry has made no effort for addressing the concerns in their action taken replies

and have instead stated that their current system of classification of bridges was felt to be adequate," the committee observed, adding that the current categorisation of bridges was too broad and could exclude many.

IN BRIEF



Lalu elected RJD chief for 11th consecutive term

PATNA
Imprisoned Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad was re-elected party president unopposed on Tuesday for the 11th consecutive term. No other nominations were filed. A formal announcement will be made on December 10. Mr. Prasad is now serving his sentence in a Ranchi jail.



The Naval version of LCA Tejas. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

DRDO to develop naval fighter jet

It will be a deck-based aircraft'

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) has offered to develop a new twin-engine deck-based fighter aircraft for the Navy based on the experience of the naval light combat aircraft (LCA) and it should be ready by 2026, the Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Karambir Singh, said on Tuesday. He said the Navy expected to have the first indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC-I) *Vikrant* operational by 2022.

"The Qualitative Requirements [QR] are being made. They said they should be able to push it [the fighter aircraft] out by 2026. If it meets our time and QR requirements, we will definitely take it," he said at the annual press conference ahead of the Navy Day.

The naval LCA recently successfully completed the take-off and landing trials on the shore-based test facility (SBTF) in Goa.

Adm. Singh said the current LCA Mk-I was a technology demonstrator and it would further be put to carrier compatibility tests. And if it worked, whatever lessons they had learnt would be ploughed back by the DRDO into the new fighter to be developed.

On the need for a third aircraft carrier, Adm. Singh

said, "As the Navy chief, I am convinced the country requires three aircraft carriers so that two are operational at any given time."

New aircraft carrier
He said they were preparing the case for IAC-2 and finalising the requirements. After this, they would go to the government for Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) and it would be followed by design consultancy to decide the exact contours.

On the IAC-I, which is under an advanced stage of construction in Kochi, Adm. Singh said all ship-build issues "are over" and trials would begin now. "We are almost certain that we will take delivery by February-March 2021, he stated and added that aviation trials would take a year after that. "We should have a fully operational carrier by 2022."

The Navy is scheduled to fit its largest multilateral exercise, MILAN off the coast of Visakhapatnam in March 2020, for which 41 countries have been invited. So far, over 15 countries have confirmed their participation. However, China has not been invited.

Asked as to why China has been left out, Adm. Singh said they invited "like-minded" countries with whom they have interacted earlier.

EC to launch online party registration

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Tuesday said it would launch an online portal for political parties to apply for registration.

In a statement, the ECI said it had reviewed its system and process of registration of political parties and new guidelines for the same would come into effect on January 1.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY

e-TENDER NOTICE
Tender No : 27,28 & 29/19-20/SE/PHC/PKD. State Plan 2019-20 RWSS to Vaniyamkulam GPs & CWSS to Kuzhalmannam - Replacing 250mm and 200mm AC pipes to DI pipes & Distribution network. EMD : Rs. 50000 - 100000. Tender fee : Rs. 5600 - 8400. Last Date for submitting Tender : 18-12-2019 03:00pm
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in /www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Phone : 0491254927 KWA-JB-GL-6-457-2019-20
Superintendent Engineer
PH Circle
Palakkad

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-TENDER NOTICE No: E/HO/CN/MS/EOT-3/2019-20
Dated : 30.11.2019

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (General) Construction, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai - 600008 Invites E-Tender for "New Perambur Railway Hospital - Phase - II - Provision of 400TR capacity centralized Air- Conditioning system with Water Cooled Chillers in A&B Block" with the above E-Tender Notice Number. All the details of the Tender are available on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in

The E-Tender Opening Date and Time : 23.12.2019 and 11.30 a.m.
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer (General)
Construction, Egmore, Chennai - 600008.

For any clarification, contact at e-mail id powertrading@noidapower.com or mobile no. 9718804966.

For detailed terms and conditions and downloading of catalogue please visit our website http://www.ireps.gov.in->E-Auction->Sale->Live Auctions

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY

e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 30/19-20/SE/PHC/PKD
State Plan 2019-20 - CWSS to Kuzhalmannam Thenkurissi and kannadi Pts Phasell - Kuzhalmannam zone- Construction of OHSR and pipe laying works. EMD: ₹1,00,000
Tender fee: ₹8,400. Last Date for submitting Tender : 28-12-2019, 03.00 pm.
Phone: 0491-2544927
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in /www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
KWA-JB-GL-6-459-2019-20
Superintendent Engineer
PH Circle
Palakkad

Government of Andhra Pradesh Commissioner, Panchayat Raj & Rural Development Department

TENDER NOTICE
O/o. Commissioner, Panchayat Raj & Rural Development, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh invites bids from eligible bidders for design, manufacture, supply, commission, operations and maintenance of borewell drilling rigs across all districts of Andhra Pradesh. Interested bidders can download the bid documents from websites cpr.ap.gov.in & https://aepprocurement.gov.in from 04-12-2019. For further details please visit cpr.ap.gov.in
Date: 04-12-2019
DPR 251PP/CL, Dt.03/12/2019
Sd- Commissioner, PR&RD

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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT AYURVEDA MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL

New Sayaji Rao road, Vishweshwaraiah Circle, Mysore - 570001
Tel No.0821-2443701, 0821-2442205 Fax No.: 0821-2443701 Email ID: gamcmysore@gmail.com
No.GAMC/HADM/32/2019-20 Dt: 29.11.2019

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Principal, Govt. Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital, Mysore, have invited the e-portal on 28.11.2019 for the supply of Ayurveda Medicine & Unani Medicine required for the Institution from the eligible and Registered Tenderers for the year 2019-20, in accordance with to KTPP act 1999 rule 2000. The details of short time e-Tenders are available on the e-governance website http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. The last date for submission of tenders on e-portal is 07.12.2019 at 5.00pm, and tender opening is on Dt: 09.12.2019. The approximate tender value of Ayurveda Medicine is Rs.73.00 lakhs & E.M.D. Rs.1,46,00/-, and Unani Medicine Tender value is Rs.3.50 lakhs & E.M.D. Rs.8,750/- Ayurveda Medicine & Unani Medicine samples to be submitted by Dt: 05.12.2019. If any further information required, the same may be obtained in the office of the Principal, Govt. Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital, Mysore, during working hours.

Sd/- Principal/Chairman, Tender Inviting Authority, Govt. Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital, Mysore -1

DIP

MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	40,675	-0.31
US Dollar	71.66	0.00
Gold	38,789	0.21
Brent oil	60.62	-1.17

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	361.95	-15.80
Asian Paints	1736.45	-1.80
Axist Bank	733.40	-10.90
Bajaj Auto	3259.75	100.50
Bajaj Finance	9089.75	141.45
Bharti Airtel	459.10	0.50
BPLC	494.50	-5.55
Britannia Ind	3048.30	-21.40
Cipla	464.25	0.25
Coal India	205.60	-0.25
Dr Reddys Lab	2858.35	-13.35
Eicher Motors	21372.75	-340.35
GAIL (India)	123.55	-3.05
Grasim Ind	782.30	-24.95
HCL Tech	1124.55	-0.75
HDFC	2319.70	13.10
HDFC Bank	1255.40	-10.35
Hero MotoCorp	2422.40	15.45
Hindalco	196.00	-4.80
Hind Unilever	2028.45	-14.75
ICICI Bank	509.35	-1.55
IndusInd Bank	1544.70	-31.30
Bharti Infratel	248.45	-17.05
Infosys	698.35	5.65
Indian Oil Corp	128.50	-0.15
ITC	244.05	-0.90
JSW Steel	257.25	-11.05
Kotak Bank	1646.75	13.75
L&T	1313.20	-20.15
M&M	522.90	-11.25
Maruti Suzuki	7138.80	-0.55
Nestle India Ltd.	14353.50	-204.15
NTPC	114.55	-0.75
ONGC	127.65	-0.45
PowerGrid Corp	189.40	-2.00
Reliance Ind	1578.90	-7.60
State Bank	336.25	-2.25
Sun Pharma	433.60	-6.40
Tata Motors	158.20	-2.85
Tata Steel	399.65	-21.20
TCS	2051.00	29.95
Tech Mahindra	746.25	-2.20
Titan	1158.15	4.35
UltraTech Cement	4211.70	-64.55
UPL	569.50	-0.75
Vedanta	139.70	-5.00
Wipro	236.80	-1.80
YES Bank	59.50	-4.55
Zee Entertainment	279.90	-12.90

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.47	71.79
Euro	79.16	79.52
British Pound	92.87	93.29
Japanese Yen (100)	65.64	65.93
Chinese Yuan	10.13	10.17
Swiss Franc	72.26	72.59
Singapore Dollar	52.35	52.60
Canadian Dollar	53.74	53.99
Malaysian Ringgit	17.11	17.20

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

Retail Silver (1g)	47.90	(47.6)
22 ct gold (1g)	3628	(3617)

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



Mercedes Benz unveils GLC 200 at ₹52.75 lakh
NEW DELHI
German luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz India on Tuesday launched the latest generation of its 'GLC' sport utility vehicle (SUV) in India, starting with a price tag of ₹52.75 lakh. "The new GLC 200 is the most tech-savvy, 'Made in India' SUV. We are confident that this unique offering will continue to win the hearts and minds of our discerning customers," Martin Schwenk, MD & CEO, Mercedes-Benz India, said.

Thomas Cook India to acquire brand rights
NEW DELHI
Thomas Cook India Ltd. (TCIL) said it has entered into a pact to acquire the rights of the Thomas Cook brand in India, Sri Lanka and Mauritius for about ₹13.9 crore. TCIL has signed a pact with AlixPartners, Thomas Cook U.K.-appointed special managers, to acquire the exclusive ownership of the brand in these three markets for one-time payment of £1.5 million (about ₹13.9 crore), the company said. This move by TCIL also prevents possible new entrants into these markets, using the brand name. PTI

Xiaomi launches lending platform in India

NEW DELHI
Xiaomi on Tuesday formally launched its digital lending platform Mi Credit, in India, which can aid users with a personal loan of up to ₹1 lakh. "Mi Credit is an online curated marketplace for lending, to offer the best personal loans to Mi Fans... It's built as the first personal loan choice for aspirational young professionals and millennials," the company said, adding that the current lending partners included NBFCs or fintechs such as Aditya Birla Finance Limited.

In November outreach, public sector banks lend ₹2.39 lakh cr.

Corporates get the lion's share at ₹97,366 crore, says the government

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Public sector banks (PSBs) have disbursed loans worth ₹2.39 lakh crore during the outreach programme in November, taking total disbursements during the two months of the programme (October and November 2019) to ₹4.91 lakh crore, the government said on Tuesday.

"The strong outreach effort of PSBs has continued in November as well, with disbursement of ₹2.39 lakh crore to MSMEs, NBFCs, corporates, retail and agriculture sector borrowers," a statement said.

In October, PSBs had disbursed ₹2.52 lakh crore

Pump-priming

Total disbursal during October and November 2019 under the outreach programme stood at over ₹4.91 lakh crore

Loan category	Oct. 2019	Nov. 2019	Total
MSME loans	37,210	35,775	72,985
Loans to NBFCs	17,163	25,005	42,168
Loans to corporates	1,22,785	97,366	2,20,151
Home loans	12,166	15,088	27,254
Vehicle loans	7,085	4,003	11,088
Education loans	425	686	1,111
Agricultural loans	40,504	37,870	78,374
Other loans	15,250	23,454	38,704
Total	2,52,589	2,39,245	4,91,834

(All figures in ₹crore)

worth of loans. The largest beneficiary of the loans disbursed continues to be the corporate sector, which re-

ceived loans worth ₹97,366 crore in November, taking the total to ₹2,20,151 crore. The MSME sector has also

been a major beneficiary, receiving ₹35,775 crore worth of loans in November, with a total of ₹72,985 crore over the two months. Farmers were also big beneficiaries of the programme, receiving ₹37,870 crore worth of loans in November, and a total of ₹78,374 crore over October and November.

NBFCs received ₹25,005 crore worth of loans from public sector banks in November, and a total of ₹42,168 crore over the two months. "PSBs, being adequately capitalised and [with] record recovery underway, have sufficient liquidity to support credit growth," the release added.

The company added that

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki on Tuesday said it would hike prices across its vehicle range from January 2020. However, the company did not disclose the quantum of the increase.

"Over the past year, the cost of the company's vehicles has been impacted adversely due to increase in various input costs. Hence, it has become imperative for the company to pass on some impact of the additional cost to customers through a price increase across various models in January 2020," the carmaker said in a communiqué to the stock exchanges.

The company added that

the increase in prices would vary for different models. The move to increase prices comes at a time when the automobile industry is reeling under a slowdown in demand, mainly due to poor consumer sentiment, as well as the move to switch over to vehicles that are compliant with the new BS-VI norms, which take effect from April next year.

IRDAI nod for Max stake sale in venture with Bupa

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

Insurance regulator IRDAI has approved the divestment of Max India's entire 51% stake in Max Bupa Health Insurance Company to Fettle Tone LLP, an affiliate of private equity firm True North.

The all-cash transaction announced in February valued Max Bupa at an enterprise value of ₹1,001 crore. An announcement on the IRDAI approval by Max India saw the company's shares on Tuesday gaining over 8% intraday, before closing 2.68% higher at ₹80.40 apiece.

The stake sale transaction is expected to be concluded within the next few weeks. All existing customer policies will continue unimpacted and all customer support channels will remain unchanged, said Max India, which is a part of the \$3.2 billion Max Group.

Bupa, the existing joint venture (JV) partner in Max Bupa, remained committed to the JV and will continue to play an active role as before through its board positions and knowledge-exchange initiatives, the release said. Max Group VP and Max India managing director Mohit Talwar said, "The transaction will lead to a substantial cash inflow for Max India. As a part of our portfolio rebalancing exercise, we intend to utilise part of the proceeds to invest in both existing and new business opportunities." True North has invested in more than 50 Indian businesses over 20 years through its six investment funds with a total corpus of over \$2.9 billion.

HDFC Bank's netbanking down for the second day

Glitch resolution taking more time

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

HDFC Bank's Internet and mobile platforms were down for the second consecutive day on Tuesday, impacting hundreds of customers who were unable to conduct any transaction.

It is not the first time that the bank's customers are experiencing such a situation.

Similar issues had surfaced in the past when the systems were unable to handle the load

glitch is taking more time than anticipated.

"Our experts are working round-the-clock. While some customers are able to transact using the NetBanking and MobileBanking App, a few may still be facing intermittent issues," the bank said in a social media post.

"Needless to say, this is not the experience we would like our customers to have and we sincerely regret the inconvenience," it added.

SAT overturns SEBI order on Karvy

Bars depositories from further transfer of shares to client accounts of Karvy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has barred depositories from transferring more securities from Karvy Stock Broking's (KSB) account while directing SEBI to look into the representation of Bajaj Finance and pass an order by December 10.

The National Securities Depository Ltd. (NSDL) had said on Monday it had transferred the securities of nearly 83,000 clients of KSB from the broking firm's account to the respective client accounts.

KSB, which is under the regulatory scanner for misusing client funds and has already been barred from signing new clients, had borrowed ₹345 crore from Bajaj Finance, a non-banking

financial company (NBFC) by pledging client securities.

The issue came to light on Tuesday after the NBFC filed an appeal with SAT against the order passed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) which, among other things, directed depositories to transfer the shares from KSB's account to the respective client accounts.

According to the NBFC, KSB had pledged the securities to raise a total of about ₹345 crore but had now violated certain terms of the loan agreement. Hence, the NBFC wanted to invoke the pledge but could not do so due to the SEBI order.

As per submissions made by the brokerage's counsel, the brokerage had also given an undertaking that the pledged securities were owned by the broker and were not from client accounts.

'SEBI's unilateral action'

Wounds heal from battles fought



VIJAY LOKAPALLY

It was dismissed as a Novel of Doom. Rejected by nine publishers before the manuscript found a taker in Rajhans Prakashan, *Panipat* was six years in the making. Once it took the shape of a book, Vishwas Patil could sleep in peace. The book and his first child arrived at the same time, in 1988. He was 28 and anxiety gripped him. What if his "project" sank. Within a week he became a mini celebrity. Rave reviews triggered huge sales and Patil was hailed as a trend-setter in writings on history. In the

years that followed, it is counted among the five best selling Marathi novels of all time, selling more than 2,50,000 copies in six Indian languages, with 42 reprints in Marathi alone. Now, the book is available in an English translation, published by Westland.

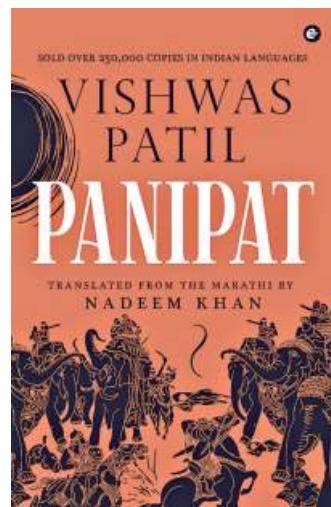
The third battle of Panipat is a stirring saga of a bloody battle between the Marathas and the king of Afghanistan, Ahmad Shah Abdali. "It was the bloodiest battle ever. In the span of 12 hours, 1.5 lakh men died on 14 January, 1761. This is their tale," said Patil. Among his works, *Mahanayak*

(translated into 14 languages with 25 reprints in Marathi), a biography of Subhas Chandra Bose, and *Sambhaji*, the story of the Chatrapati Shivaji's eldest son, are rated as classics. In 1992, he won the Sahitya Akademi Award for *Zadazadati*, a novel on people displaced due to projects like dams.

Panipat, documenting the Maratha defeat in the battle, was aimed at a populist audience. For Nadeem Khan, who has scripted the 575-page English translation, the challenge was to tone down the hyperbole, accepted in Marathi literature, but not in English.

glish, without tinkering with the story line. He says he knew he "had to stay as true to the original as possible. Patil gave me a complete free hand. I had to ensure that it read not like a translation, but like a standalone book." In this quest, he had even suggested a new title – *Panipat The Epic*. "I will be happy if the readers like the effort," says Khan, who taught English at Shri Shivaji

Excellent reconteur Vishwas Patil in New Delhi ■ V.V. KRISHNAN



Available for preorder online, or in bookstores from December 9 onwards; ₹899

FOOD REVIEW

NAVAL SATARAWALA CHOPRA

Self taught and brilliant, my good friend, Chef Ruchira Hoon Philip has taken over the helm of the A. D. Singh owned Ek Bar in Defence Colony, and brought about a sea change. A completely new food menu, Ruchira has focused predominantly on South Indian and Sri Lankan dishes, drawing heavily from her own heritage and that of her Syrian Christian husband. With their spice, crunch and texture, Ruchira's small plates make the perfect bar snacks and as the evening winds down, the large plates provide the ideal comfort food to tide you over to the next day. The renewed India-inspired cocktail menu plays with traditional ingredients like paan, chakotara (grapefruit), murabba (sweet pickled amla), delighting your palette with its creativity.

The Vibe: Ruchira has brought her uplifting spirit to Ek Bar. The small touches, be it the fairy lights on the ceiling or the pin-wheels on shelves, have made Ek Bar, in its new avatar, warm, inviting and comfortable, just like you'd want your "regular" (watering hole) to be. The crowd reminded me of the good old days of Bombay (not Mumbai) where it didn't matter what your baap did or how close you were to the PM. The Saturday evening I visited, Ek Bar was buzzing and filled with interesting, unpretentious people of all ages. It was not suffocating, thanks to the high ceilings and perfect ambient lighting.

Do try: The 'Indian mezze' platter

Yesterday once more



Revamped and renewed, Ek Bar is so many people's favourite watering hole



Old times and new (Clockwise from top) Indian Mezze Platter; Beetroot Jalebi Jellied Rabri; Chorizo and Cheese Doughnuts with Bacon Crumble; Butter Garlic Prawns Chorizo ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



ter and the spicy crispy lotus stem that are must orders. The mezze comes on a thali with small bowls filled with four different dips which will change throughout the year. The thecha (green chillies, garlic and spice mix) packs a solid punch. The aubergine, walnut and pomegranate dip, my other favourite, is airy, creamy and a perfect antidote to the thecha. The lotus stem comes in thin sali form and is crispy, crunchy and mouth-wateringly

spicy. You cannot but help yourself from having more even though your tongue is on fire. Thankfully the Indian inspired cocktails are at hand to douse the flames. The Jackfruit and Yam Galouti melts in your mouth just like its mutton counterpart is supposed to, and is smoky, peppery and a tiny bit sweet.

The Kerala Fried Chicken is light, with the perfect oil-free batter, and served with sour cream and fries. The Chorizo and Cheese

Doughnuts are also excellent – light, soft and with a bacon crumble. Then there are the Sri Lankan-inspired Bacon and Egg Hoppers (appams). Fluffy, warm and full of flavour, the hoppers come with pol sambol (a coconut based mildly spicy condiment) and is finger lickin' good. Also the baby potatoes with saffron yoghurt, pomegranates and candied walnuts had all of us fighting over the last bite.

For those of you who need a

Science College, Amravati, and has translated the novels of celebrated Marathi writers Avadhoot Dongre and Bhau Padhye.

Patil was generous in his response to the translation. "Nadeem Khan has done a superb job. Just as Keert Ramachandra has (with *Mahanayak* and *Zadazadati*). Panipat is not an everyday story. Like my other novels, it is based on historical facts. When I was writing the novel I was possessed with it. I travelled far for the research and am glad that the battle of Panipat is now seen as a huge victory in big defeat."

Patil, according to Patil, reflected his love for history. "I always visit history with this perspective: What happened? That history will live. Concocted history has no life," he says. "I wrote the novel to project a national incident. Like the Ramanayan and Mahabharat, this is also an epic. It shows the vices and virtues of the Maratha race. I gave eight years of my life to the novel – six for the book and two for the play I wrote on it. Even today I sometimes wonder if I wrote it."

The novel takes the reader on a racy track. There are three sections. The journey (1,300 kilometres) of the Marathas to Panipat, the enemies locked face to face in Panipat and the great drama that followed involving three great characters, Abdali, Sadashivrao, Bhau and Najeeb Khan. "For me, Bausaheb was a villain when I started but my impression changed after my research. He was an extraordinary soldier who fought destiny. Few books recognised the strength of Najeeb but I found many threads from books in Arabic and Persian," says the 60-year-old Patil.

He still goes back to visit Panipat often, and though the city has grown into another urban centre, he does stand at the site of the battle and marvel at the men, who travelled such a distance to fight a battle they believed in.

Available for preorder online, or in bookstores from December 9 onwards; ₹899

DISCOVER

Tuning in afresh

A new audio content start-up from Pune is trying to make way into the burgeoning podcast-space in India



A new Pune-based content start-up, called AudioHop is focusing solely on podcasts. Founder Piyush Shinde, 30, who has been at this now for eight months, claims that his venture is only the second "premium podcast network" in India after IVM Podcasts of Indus Vox Media, which was founded by Amit Doshi.

"The reason I believe in audio is that there's huge market [in India], but there's [not enough quality] content," Shinde says, adding that "a lot of people create podcasts because they think it's easy – that's a myth." AudioHop already has four shows ongoing. This includes one in partnership with Fittr, an online health community, on food histories and our contemporary relationship with items like cheese, potatoes, almond, and soya. The host for this show is fitness entrepreneur Jitendra Chouksey, founder of SQUATS (Systematic Quantitative Unified Aesthetic Training System).

Another such featured podcast is in collaboration with columnist Sudha Menon. Called *Fabulous at Fifty*, it is a spin off from her 2018 book, *Fiesta at Fifty*, and deals with a lot of otherwise taboo or unspoken topics in a relaxed manner.

The Fittr podcast especially has found favour with listeners, he says, claiming to have over 7,000+ unique listeners within two months of the show. "I see podcasting as an immersive experience," says Shinde, adding that most podcasts have kept to a typical chat-show-like format.

According to PwC's *Global Entertainment & Media Outlook 2019-2023 India*, "India's music, radio and podcasts market was worth ₹5753Cr in 2018, up from ₹3890Cr in 2014...Podcast

listening has increased markedly in India in the past few years. Monthly listeners (defined as people who listened to at least one podcast in the last month) totalled 4Cr at the end of 2018, up a sharp 57.6% from 2.54Cr in the previous year. This made India the world's third-largest podcast-listening market (after China and the U.S.), although it ranks much lower on a per capita basis. Growth is set to continue over the forecast period with listener numbers set to increase at a 34.5% CAGR to 17.61Cr by 2023."

Perhaps the reason Sweden-based audio streaming platform Spotify is targeting its India expansion plans with localised non-music content, like original podcasts. Launched just yesterday, these include a cricket podcast called *22 Yarns* with former TV host Gaurav Kapur, a show on relationships called *Love Aaj Kal*, and a fictional thriller called *Bhaskar Bose*.

Other global platforms like Audioboom, Overcast, Apple Podcasts also have had a slew of Indian shows with stars and independent content producers alike. Shinde has two more shows coming up by the end of this month, and aims for his content to go niche in 2020. More shows that aim to bring thought leaders and changemakers into the podcasting space, he says.

For more, audiohop.podcasts.com/; free to stream

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

PRODUCTS

E-gifting ayurveda



Beauty brand Kama Ayurveda has partnered with GyFTR (Vouchagram), a peer-to-peer gifting platform to launch their range of e-gift vouchers. Redeemable at all listed brand outlets across the country, as well as on kamaayurveda.com, the voucher values range from ₹100 to ₹5000, and can be clubbed with ongoing sales and offers across board.

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



CRAFT WEEK

Craft Village is hosting the second edition of GMR India Craft Week, supported by the World Craft Council. This five-day fair, which begins today, brings together craftsmen, designers, institutions, brands, and organisations. They will participate in workshops, live demonstrations, installations, folk performances and talks.

VENUE: GMR Square, Aerocity

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



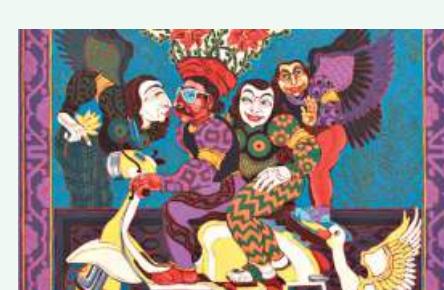
DANCE

Kathak recital

IHC is hosting a Kathak performance by guru and performer Hemanta Kumar Kalita, along with his senior disciples Shreeya, Prabha, and Radhika. A disciple of Pt. Birju Maharaj and Guru Munna Shukla, Hemanta will be accompanied by Goutam Biswas on the tabla and Akram Hussain on the sarangi.

VENUE: Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre

TIME: 7 p.m.



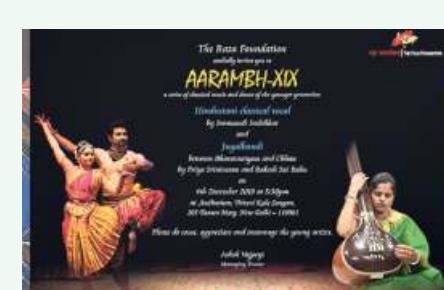
EXHIBITION

Mixed-media

An ongoing solo art show by artist Pradiptaa Chakraborty, titled Melted Parameters comprises 33 works on canvas, tempera, and watercolours on rice paper. In this collection, Pradiptaa touches upon the many emotions in human relationships, and how some of these are hidden in light of prevailing social mores.

VENUE: Dhoomimal Art Centre, Connaught Place

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



PERFORMANCE

Hindustani classical

The Raza Foundation is putting up Aarambh-XIX, a series of classical music and dance performances by younger generation artistes. Expect a Hindustani classical vocal recital by Swanandi Sadolikar, followed by a jugalbandi of the Bharatanatyam and Chhau forms by Priya Srinivasan and Rakesh Sai Babu.

VENUE: Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House

TIME: 5:30 p.m.



BEVERAGE

Cocktail festival

Marking the onset of the city's winters, Pier 38, an Indo-Arabic kitchen and cocktail bar has launched a special Winter Cocktail Fiesta. On till 10th December, the menu offers sweet to warm drinks like Pomegranate Mojito, Monk Mule, Pier 38 Mulled Special, Ruby Red Honey, Rum Blast, Bloody Maria, Doctors Suggestion, and more.

VENUE: DLF Cyber City, Sector 24, Gurugram

TIME: 12 noon - 12 midnight



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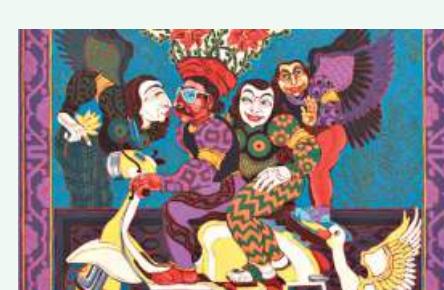
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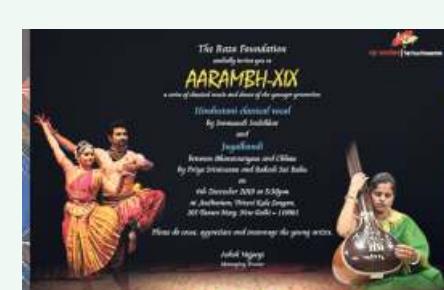
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VENUE: DLF Cyber City, Sector 24, Gur

Upcoming hatchbacks in 2020

What can we expect in the coming year? Here is a sneak peek

AKBAR MERCHANT

With the end of 2019 approaching, carmakers are already starting to line up new launches for 2020 – there is a bevy of models ranging from hatchbacks to luxury SUVs. We take a look at some of the important hatchbacks set to arrive next year.



Maruti Suzuki Ignis facelift

The Ignis will get a mid-cycle update next year. The refreshed model will get styling tweaks up front and a refreshed interior as well. It will also get the BS-VI-compliant, 1.2-litre petrol engine, mated to either a 5-speed manual or an AMT. The new SmartPlay Studio infotainment will also be included in the updated Ignis, which will make it more competitive.

**Coming: Mid-2020
Expected Price: From ₹4.8 lakh**



Tata Tiago facelift

The Tiago is sure to benefit from the major styling tweaks and the new features expected with the upcoming facelift. The update will give the Tiago an angular nose, similar to the Altroz's. The facelift will comply with crash test and pedestrian safety norms. Tata, however, will drop the 1.05-litre diesel, which means only the 1.2-litre petrol, mated to either a 5-speed manual or an AMT, will be on offer.

**Coming: Early 2020
Expected Price: From ₹4.3 lakh**



All-new Maruti Suzuki Celerio

The current-gen Celerio has been on sale since 2014, and has been a steady seller for Maruti in India. The new Celerio (codename: Y1B) will be launched in the second half of 2020. Like all newer Marutis, including the S-Presso, it will use the lighter, yet stiffer, Heartect platform. Maruti will offer the new Celerio with a BS-VI-compliant 1.0-litre petrol engine and a CNG option.

**Coming: End 2020
Expected Price: From ₹4.2 lakh**



Hyundai i20

The popular i20 will see a full model change next year. Spy shots confirm the car will be more of an evolution over its predecessor. It will get Hyundai's new 'cascading grille', with an array of LED lights at the front and back. The new i20's headlamps merge with the grille, giving it a look similar to that of the Elantra facelift. On the inside, expect the new car to have more tech and features, with top variants getting a sunroof. Hyundai will also include its new Blue Link connected car tech in the next-gen i20. Under the hood, it will come with a BS-VI-compliant, 1.5-litre diesel and a 1.2-litre petrol engine. Hyundai will also add the 1.0-litre GDI turbo-petrol engine to the i20's engine line-up – this engine made its debut on the Venue compact SUV in India.

Coming: Mid-2020

Expected Price: From ₹5.5 lakh

Tata Altroz

The Altroz will mark Tata's entry into the premium hatchback segment in India – one that includes the likes of the Hyundai i20 and the Maruti Baleno. The Tata

Altroz is expected to come with three engine options – the 85hp, 1.2-litre, naturally aspirated, three-cylinder motor from the Tiago; the 1.2-litre three-cylinder turbo-petrol that's shared with the Venue and Tiago JTP in a lower 102hp state of tune; and a 90hp version of the Venue's 1.5-litre, four-cylinder, turbo-diesel engine. It was expected to arrive late in 2019, and there were talks of it launching with BS-IV-compliant engines, following which, BS-VI units would be introduced later. This idea, however, was scrapped and Tata did a rethink as planning in the first phase would have been complicated. We can now confirm that Tata Motors has pushed the launch to early 2020, in order to equip the Altroz with BS-VI-compliant engines.

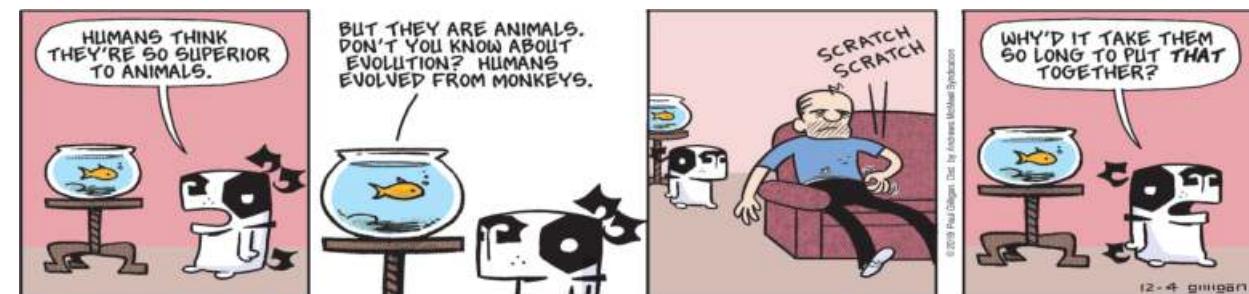
Coming: Early 2020

Expected Price: From ₹5.3 lakh



Images for representation purpose only

POOCH CAFE



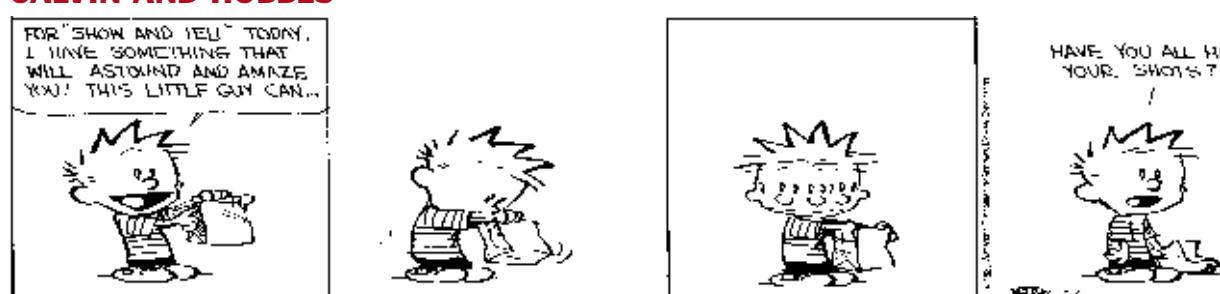
PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBES



TIGER



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13241

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- (7)
3 Party-giver (4)
4 Feel aggrieved at (6)
5 Alpinist (anag) – state of panic (8)
6 Give rise to (5)
7 Protection from loud noise (3,9)
8 Be informed of something (4,4,4)
13 Conspired together (8)
16 More renowned (7)
17 Strongly opposed (6)
19 Male bird (5)
21 Male deer (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated December 5, 2019

Solution No. 13240

L	A	D	I	D	A	P	O	G	R	O	M
A	O	W	U	B	E	E	U				
P	A	S	S	I	N	E	L	D	E		
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WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



- Across**
1 Lacking generosity (4-4)
9 Leaves (5)
10 Laugh disrespectsfully (7)
11 Public disturbance (4)
12 Liquorice flavoured liqueur (8)
14 Media boss (6)
15 Slight prickling (2)
- Down**
18 Female sweetheart (4-4)
20 Small ball with a hole through the middle (4)
22 Magpie (7)
23 Dramatic artist (5)
24 Fashion leaders (12)
- sensation (6)
18 Female sweetheart (4-4)
20 Small ball with a hole through the middle (4)
22 Magpie (7)
23 Dramatic artist (5)
24 Fashion leaders (12)

L	A	D	I	D	A	P	O	G	R	O	M
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H	E	C	K	L	E	F	B	R	E		
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K	N	A	V	E	S	T	R	A	T	U	M
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West Indies gets down to business

Pollard at the forefront of a practice session at a venue where he made a mark a decade ago

WI IN INDIA

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

Kieron Pollard returns to the venue – the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here – where he announced himself as one of the most explosive batsmen in the T20 format when he scored a spectacular 18-ball 54 for Trinidad & Tobago against New South Wales in the Champions League T20 Championship a decade ago.

Pollard was at the forefront of a practice session on Tuesday afternoon ahead of the West Indies' opening game of the three-match T20I series against Virat Kohli-led India to be played here on December 6.

Enjoying themselves

The smiling visages of the West Indian cricketers was again a reminder that most of them continue to enjoy the game which they obviously love so much. They just joked around, had a few brief chats and shared thoughts. Pollard walked across to the HCA curator Y.L. Chandrasekhar, to get a feel of what kind of a pitch would be in place for the big game on Friday.

After a long warm-up session with the emphasis on



Energetic bunch: The West Indians will want to prove that they can surprise the more accomplished Indian team in the T20I series beginning on December 6. ■ K.V.S. GIRI

physical conditioning, the players were off to a more serious business of training in the nets under the watchful eyes of the head coach Phil Simmons.

Interestingly, Hyderabad Cricket Association media

liaison officer Vikram Man Singh was the manager of the West Indies team which won the 2016 T20 World Cup in Kolkata and he shared those memories with members of that winning team.

HCA secretary R. Vijaya-nand said that every effort is being made to make the match a big success even as overcast conditions prevailed on Tuesday after the heavy rains on Monday night.

"The first priority will be to ensure a spectator-friendly ambience inside the stadium. This is the first match for our new team of office-bearers led by Mohammad Azharuddin. And, we want to make it truly memorable."

Williamson and Taylor score unbeaten centuries

Help the Kiwis pull off a draw in the second Test against England; hosts clinch series 1-0

ENGLAND IN NZ

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HAMILTON

Centuries from Kane Williamson and Ross Taylor ensured New Zealand drew the rain-hit second Test against England here on Tuesday, sealing a 1-0 series win.

The weather turned sour soon after lunch on the fifth day when New Zealand, having taken advantage of some sloppy fielding, was 241 for two in the second innings, 140 ahead with Taylor on 105 and Williamson on 104.

Improves record

With the weather denying England a second turn at bat, it ensured New Zealand's series win after its innings victory in the first Test, and improved its record to eight wins, a draw and one loss (to South Africa) in the past 10 series.

Williamson brought up his 21st Test century with a four off Joe Root in the third over



Seasoned campaigners: Kane Williamson and Ross Taylor's unbroken partnership kept England at bay on the final day. ■ AP

after lunch, while Taylor reached century number 19 with a flourish in Root's next over when he smacked a four and two sixes off consecutive balls.

Two balls after Taylor had raised his bat and poked his tongue out in his signature celebration, the rain arrived to wash out England's faint hope of forcing a result alth-

ough that chance had already been damaged by dropped catches. New Zealand resumed at 96 for two with England hunting early wickets, but its plans went

off track when Ollie Pope and Joe Denly spilled simple chances from Williamson.

The New Zealand skipper was on 39 when wicketkeeper Pope put down a regulation offering, much to bowler Ben Stokes' annoyance, and on 62 Denly inexplicably dropped an even easier chance. Williamson gently chipped a slower delivery from Jofra Archer straight to Denly at short midwicket and, as the bowler leapt in celebration and Williamson made an apologetic gesture to Taylor, the ball popped out of Denly's hands.

Williamson had another life when he should have been run out on 97 but Sam Curran's shy at the stumps was so far off line that the batsmen picked up an extra run.

Even without the rain, Root's chances of pulling off victory seemed very remote as the England bowlers toiled with an ageing ball on an unresponsive wicket.

SCOREBOARD

New Zealand – 1st innings: 375.

England – 1st innings: 476.

New Zealand – 2nd innings: T.

Latham c Root b Woakes 18, J. Raval lbw b Curran 0, K. Williamson (not out) 104, R. Taylor (not out) 105; Extras (b-2, lb-3, w-3, nb-1, pen-5): 14; Total (for two wkts. in 75 overs): 241.

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-28.

England bowling: Broad 9-0-28-0, Curran 16-2-56-1, Archer 12-1-27-0, Woakes 11-4-12-1, Stokes 14-1-58-0, Denly 9-1-27-0, Root 4-1-23-0.

Man-of-the-Match: Joe Root.

Player-of-the-Series: Neil Wagner.

Match drawn. New Zealand wins series 1-0.

New Zealand wins Spirit of Cricket award

IANS
MELBOURNE

The New Zealand cricket team has been awarded with the MCC's Christopher Martin-Jenkins Spirit of Cricket Award for 2019 for its sporting conduct in the aftermath of the World Cup final against England.

After losing to England in a thrilling final on July 14 at the Lord's –

regarded as one of the most exciting ODI matches of all time – Kane Williamson's team displayed an exceptional level of sportsmanship, humility and selflessness in defeat.

MCC president Kumar Sangakkara said: "The New Zealand team are worthy winners of this award. In the heat of battle they displayed a level of

sportsmanship that was fitting for such a fantastic final, and indeed tournament."

"It is a testament to their squad that even after a match that will live long in the memory for the cricket that was played, we are still talking about the spirit of cricket. Their actions deserve this recognition."

The Black Caps were widely praised for their

sportsmanship and their exemplary conduct towards opposition players throughout the tournament.

The award has previously been won by Wayne Madsen of Derbyshire, Sussex's Luke Wright, Brendon McCullum of New Zealand, Tom Fell of Worcestershire and England's Anya Shrubsole.

New Zealand – 1st innings:

375.

England – 1st innings: 476.

New Zealand – 2nd innings: T.

Latham c Root b Woakes 18, J.

Raval lbw b Curran 0, K. Williamson (not out) 104, R. Taylor (not out) 105; Extras (b-2, lb-3, w-3, nb-1, pen-5): 14; Total (for two wkts. in 75 overs): 241.

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27-0, Root 4-1-23-0.

Man-of-the-Match: Joe Root.

Player-of-the-Series: Neil Wagner.

Match drawn. New Zealand wins series 1-0.

The attempt to dilute the Lodha panel recommendations is troubling



BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

"Tenures are finished, tenures are finished. You cannot go beyond tenure," said Sourav Ganguly. He was speaking of the national selection committee, and may have been unaware of the irony.

For his own tenure ends next year, but he himself wants to go beyond tenure. The president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India seems more keen to sign on to the past than to the future.

This is a pity, because Ganguly is capable of shaking out the old and bringing in the new. He might, however, have gi-

ven up some of the strength needed to do that by aligning with the old-timers who asked not what they could do for cricket but what cricket could do for them.

Glimpse into mindset

Whether the Supreme Court allows the BCCI to dilute its rulings or not, the proposed changes give us a glimpse into the mindset of the administrators. And it hasn't changed in decades.

In effect these are:

1. We are in power, and we want to remain in power.

2. Remaining in power calls for compromises with others who also want to remain in power, as well as politicians who can smoothen the path to permanency.

3. We would like to make our own rules, even if some of these go against decency and common sense.

4. There is too much money in the game for sports administration to be

left to professional CEOs and Directors.

5. We will make a fetish of "elections" and say "the people have spoken", as though it is a state or national election, although in reality it is a small minority of people.

6. We will pretend, as a group, that cricket and cricketers are on top of the agenda, and if we say it often enough, we will be believed.

7. Anyone who doesn't fit into the scheme of things will have to be eased out, squeezed out or bought.

8. We will (and this is the latest) exhibit greater patience than the Supreme Court and tire that body out. After all, the highest court in the land has more important things to deal with than deciding the arithmetic of a "cooling-off" period.

It is too early to say which of these Ganguly has signed up to, but the attempt to dilute the Lodha panel recommendations is troubling. Ganguly, as the new face of an old system, is a com-

promise he might not like to be identified with. It might also be the start of another round of SC v BCCI battles in Indian cricket could do without.

If all this sounds excessively cynical, you only have to follow the events of the recent past. A successful player and captain becomes the Board president to much acclaim and fresh hopes (cricket fans are the most optimistic of people).

Perhaps he will clean up the administration. Perhaps he will change a system built on favours and political manoeuvres. He is young. He has no compulsion to be seen with the India captain and clicky selfies with him. He knows the strengths and weaknesses of the system from inside.

He understands where things could go wrong. He will not play favourites since that was his reputation when he was the national team's captain.

Five years ago, he was in the Supreme Court-appointed Justice Mudgal

Committee which began the investigations into spot-fixing in the IPL, so he has seen cricket from many sides.

Perhaps I am overstating it here. Perhaps Ganguly simply needs more time to set the house in order and it is for this unselfish reason that he needs an extension till 2024.

Perhaps India is not ready yet for the professional at the top of the administrative tree who is susceptible to regular appraisals, performance-based increments – with dismissal from the job being the other side of the coin.

The current CEO, who began well, and held things together in the confusing days when no one knew who was responsible for what, has had his wings clipped.

Fundamental divide

There is a fundamental divide between players and administrators on what constitutes success. Players look at performance, and security. Administrators

tend to see everything in terms of revenue and the influence (and visibility) it brings. Which explains why both sides can claim to be successful at their jobs, and changes – even if by the Supreme Court – are dismissed as interference.

Ganguly has made much of the conflict of interest issue which, he says, has kept former players away from the Cricket Advisory Committee. This committee has little to do apart from picking the selectors and the coach, and can be safely scrapped. The Apex Council can do that.

In the BCCI's ideal scenario, the Supreme Court would withdraw, the officials would be allowed to go back to the bad old days and the huge amount of time, money and effort spent in reforming cricket administration would be written off as a bad dream.

Then, nothing would have changed in decades. The only difference would be that the subtlety has gone out of the manoeuvres.

Ganguly visits Sardar Patel Stadium

Venue set to have a record capacity of 1.10 lakh

SHAYAN ACHARYA
MUMBAI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) chief Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah visited the new Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad on Tuesday.

During his two-hour visit to the stadium – set to be the world's largest stadium with a capacity to host 1.10 lakh fans – Ganguly took a stock of things, interacting with the officials of the Gujarat Cricket Association and enquiring about the latest developments.

"(He Ganguly) had quite

an elaborate discussion with the officials of the State association. He had a look at the facilities," one of the officials told Sportstar.

After razing down the old structure at the Motera, around ₹700 crore is being spent on building the new stadium, which is scheduled to be inaugurated in March next year.

Friendly fixture likely
There is a possibility of World XI playing a friendly fixture with Asia XI as an inaugural tie, but that is subject to the approval of the In-

ternational Cricket Council. After commencing the work in January 2017, the Gujarat Cricket Association officials are hopeful of finishing the work well in time.

Spread over 63 acres, the stadium will have a clubhouse with 50 rooms and a swimming pool.

"There will also be 73 corporate boxes and an indoor cricket academy along with practice grounds for the cricketers. The work is in progress," the official, who has been involved with the project since the beginning, said.



Aerial view: The Sardar Patel Stadium, Motera, where construction is in full swing. ■ VIJAY SONEJI

Pavitra's waiting game succeeds

Seethal Shaji downs Rutuja Devkar

BOXING

STAN RAYAN
KANNUR

Heena Tokas opened with a wild flurry of punches and continued that streak for a major part of her lightweight bout against Pavitra of Railways in the fourth Elite National women's boxing championship at the Mundayad indoor stadium here on Tuesday.

But the seasoned Pavitra, a former Asian silver medalist who had been to the Worlds a few years ago, waited patiently, waited for openings and when they came, she landed some strong punches on Delhi's Heena.

Williamson had another life when he should have been run out on 97 but Sam Curran's shy at the stumps was so far off line that the batsmen picked up an extra run.

Short comes down hard on AICF's 'foot-dragging'

The FIDE vice-president feels India doesn't really pull its weight in terms of hosting prestigious tournaments



Candid: Nigel Short says India can be the No. 1 power in chess by 2030, with the right policies in place.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CHESS

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

True to his reputation, British Grandmaster and FIDE vice-president Nigel Short minced no words in blasting All India Chess Federation (AICF) for its "foot-dragging" ways and " vindictiveness" towards aggrieved players.

In an exclusive interaction with *The Hindu* here, Short referred to FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich's declaration on July 5 this year to restore the rating of over 100 Indian players, and said, "though months have passed, the matter is still not sorted out because there has been foot-dragging and obstacles thrown in the way."

"For me, it's ridiculous when the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has ruled that the AICF had breached regulations, abused its powers in a dominant position and all of that.

"Then AICF tells the players, 'Okay, you can rejoin the AICF but you should apologise.'

"But AICF should be apologizing to the players. This slow-minded, petty, vindictiveness is totally unbecoming for a major federation."

FIDE stand

Touching upon FIDE's stand on non-interference, Short clarified, "FIDE statutes from our policy of strict neutrality, doesn't imply inertia or lack of concern."

"Ultimately, we have to take sides in certain things because FIDE recognises the federations, because they meet various criteria.

"If not, it is an observation of failings. FIDE takes note."

Reflecting on India's presence in FIDE where D. V. Sundar (vice-president) is part of the decision-making Presidential Board, Short candidly stated, "you have an honorary, non-voting member on the Board. If In-

dia would have backed the right candidature in the previous elections, then you would have had a voting member on the Board."

"So, if you back people who have done so little to advance the game, over a period of a quarter of a century, at some point you are going to find yourself at the wrong side of history."

Important for FIDE

Asked how FIDE viewed India, the 54-year-old responded, "India is hugely important for FIDE. It is an enormously strong country and becoming stronger. It's already a power house."

"I think India doesn't really pull its weight in terms of hosting prestigious tournaments. It is not to say

it never had any."

"It has, but for a country of this size and importance, it has not quite contributed the way it should."

"There are many things that are very good within Indian chess. I could easily see, India being the No. 1 power in chess by 2030, but with the right policies in place."

Short, in particular, recalled how one major project in India never took off.

National league

"Like the National League, with big, big, big money which would be fantastic for Indian chess, but was torpedoed by some individuals or an individual, insisting upon controlling absolutely all aspects of chess in the country."

"Say, two players are playing chess in a park for a couple of rupees, are you going to impose sanctions because the AICF has not approved of them? I think, it's nonsensical."

of players," said national selector Trevor Hohns.

"The performance of the team against Pakistan was very impressive across all areas."

The only omission from the squad was spare batsman Cameron Bancroft

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

India clinches 10 medals in athletics

Mehuli shoots 10m air rifle gold; Both men and women spikers triumph

SAG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KATHMANDU

India dominated the track and field events of the 13th South Asian Games (SAG) by clinching 10 medals, including three gold, on the first day of athletics competition here on Tuesday.

Archana Suseendran (women's 100m), M. Jashna (women's high jump), Sarvesh Anil Kushare (men's high jump) and Ajay Kumar Saroj (men's 1500m) won a gold each.

Archana clocked 11.80 seconds to emerge the fastest woman, leaving behind Sri Lankans Thanuji Amasha (11.82) and Lakshmi Sugand (11.84), who won the silver and bronze respectively. In women's high jump, Jashna cleared 1.73m for the gold while Rubina Yadav bagged a bronze with an effort of 1.69m. Kushare cleared 2.21m to win the men's high jump gold while compatriot Chetan Balasubramanya claimed the silver with an ef-



On target: Mehuli Ghosh won the gold with a score better than the World record. ■ FILE PHOTO: KAMESH SRINIVASAN

fort of 2.16m.

Saroj won the men's 1500m gold in a time of 3.54.18 while Ajeeet Kumar took the silver by clocking 3.57.18. The bronze went to Tanka Karki (3.50.20s) of Nepal. Kavita won the women's 10,000m silver in 35m 7.95s.

Earlier, Chanda (4.34.51) won the silver in women's 1,500m while compatriot Chitra Palakeez (4.35.46) claimed the bronze. Sri Lanka's Uda Kuburalage claimed the silver with an ef-

fort of 4.34.34 won the gold.

A sweep

Indian shooters swept all the medals on offer in the women's 10m air rifle event, with Mehuli Ghosh winning the gold with a score better than the World record. Mehuli's effort, however, will not be considered as a World record as the SAG's results are not recognised by the ISSF for the purpose of records.

"SAG results will not be recognised for record purposes. Only the results of World Cups, World Championships and quota events are considered by the ISSF. Moreover, there will have to be an ISSF referee in an event if the results are to be considered for records," a top NRAI official said.

Paddlers shine

The Indian men's and women's table tennis teams claimed gold medals after defeating Nepal and Sri Lanka 3-0 in the respective finals.

Sri Lanka and Bangladesh were awarded a bronze each in the men's event. Among women, Nepal and Maldives got a bronze each.

India also won the team gold in the 10m air rifle event.

The 19-year-old Mehuli scored 253.3 in the final, 0.4 more than Apurvi Chandela's current World record of 252.9. Shriyanka Sadangi took the silver (250.8) while Shreya Agrawal (227.2) clinched the bronze.

"SAG results will not be recognised for record purposes. Only the results of World Cups, World Championships and quota events are considered by the ISSF. Moreover, there will have to be an ISSF referee in an event if the results are to be considered for records," a top NRAI official said.

India defeated Pakistan 20-25, 25-15, 25-17 and 29-27 in a hard-fought men's summit clash to defend the title while holders India women had to toil hard to beat Nepal 25-17, 23-25, 21-25, 25-20, 15-6.

Guardiola rules out Manchester City January spree

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MANCHESTER

Pepe Guardiola says he will not be splashing out in January to revive Manchester City's flagging Premier League title fortunes despite the yawning gap to leaders Liverpool.

The champions, in third place and trailing Jurgen Klopp's men by 11 points after 14 matches, visits Burnley on Tuesday.

City has gone seven games without a clean sheet, which Guardiola said was not "good enough" and the club has been linked with Leicester City defender Caglar Soyuncu.

But he played down the idea of buying a centre-back when the transfer window re-opens next month.

Instead he will keep his faith in Fernandinho and await the return of Aymeric Laporte after a lengthy absence with a knee injury.

Asked if City's transfer strategy had changed, Guardiola said: "No. I don't want any players in January."

"If we cannot do it in summer, we cannot do it in January. When they come for an incredible opportunity in January for the next four, five, six years, maybe we could think about it, but that is not possible."

"Normally the players we could think it would be interesting to add something for our squad, they are not going to sell."

Since losing Laporte in August, and following the exit of captain Vincent Kompany, Guardiola has deployed Fernandinho, usually a holding midfielder, in defence.

And he will turn to the Brazilian again at Turf Moor despite the direct approach of the hosts and aerial and physical threat of Burnley forward pair Ashley Barnes and Chris Wood.

"Fernandinho is not the reason why we win or lose.

When we beat Chelsea, everyone said how fantastic Fernandinho was," said Guardiola.

"It's very difficult to be out in front and you can sometimes be complacent and not do things you should do. That's when you can slip up."

"We put a healthy pressure on our shoulders to say we can achieve this, and we can claw back points and close the gap. We're still the champions and we should have that healthy arrogance about it."

Sergio Aguero, the match-winner at Burnley last season, with a thigh injury that will also rule him out of Saturday's Manchester derby.

City has won just one of their past five games in all competitions but England defender John Stones believes leader Liverpool will now face added pressure to stay at the top.

"It's very difficult to be out in front and you can sometimes be complacent and not do things you should do. That's when you can slip up."

"We put a healthy pressure on our shoulders to say we can achieve this, and we can claw back points and close the gap. We're still the champions and we should have that healthy arrogance about it."

"When we don't win it's because of Fernandinho. It will be my decision. I like him in that position because of the build-up for the fast, for the long balls, many things." City will be without the suspended Ilkay Gundogan in midfield and striker

Shutto Shrestha gave a tough time to A. Amalraj before the Indian rallied to win 12-10, 14-16, 11-5, 11-8 to put his team in the lead. Soumyajit Ghosh then accounted for Shiva Sunder Gothe 11-3, 11-2, 12-10 and Harmee Desai finished it off with a 11-4, 11-4, 11-8 win over Purushottam Borjacahra.

In the women's final, Su-

tirtha Mukherjee beat Sri Lanka's Ishara Madhurangi 11-9, 11-7, 11-3 and Krittika Sinha Roy won 11-6, 11-4, 11-2 over Erandi Warusithana before Sreeja Akula accounted for Hansini Piumila 11-5, 11-5, 11-3.

Double delight

India won both the men's and women's volleyball titles on Tuesday.

India defeated Pakistan 20-25, 25-15, 25-17 and 29-27 in a hard-fought men's summit clash to defend the title while holders India women had to toil hard to beat Nepal 25-17, 23-25, 21-25, 25-20, 15-6.

HOCKEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CANBERRA

The Indian junior women's hockey team will look to begin its campaign on a positive note against New Zealand in the opening match of the Three-Nation tournament here on Wednesday.

Besides India and New Zealand, the tournament will also feature hosts Australia.

For the Baljeet Saini-coached Indian team, the tournament is an opportunity to gain much-needed exposure of playing two top teams in the world.

The team is scheduled to take part in the AHF Women's

men's Junior Asia Cup next year in Japan, and Saini expects the side to make the most out of the tournament.

"Our target in the next year is to perform well at the AHF Women's Junior Asia Cup. This group has been training with us for a fair amount of time now and to have the opportunity of playing in Australia against two top teams is a great way to prepare for the upcoming year," said Saini.

"We are also hoping that these four matches will give us a good idea of how the team is shaping up in terms of dealing with different scenarios that you face during a match. We have a very talented bunch of players,

some of which have even represented the senior team recently. I am really looking forward to our first match against New Zealand," he added.

"We have not come across New Zealand in any tournaments that we have participated in the past three-four years. I will be watching the opening match between Australia and New Zealand and will analyse their style of play. I am expecting a good run of four matches against these two sides. It will be a good test," Saini said.

India will play Australia on December 5, New Zealand on Dec. 7 and Australia again on Dec. 8.

Young cricketer dies on field

SYED SAJJAD ALI
AGARTALA

In a shocking incident a young cricketer playing a practice match died of cardiac arrest in Agartala on Tuesday.

The incident occurred at Maharaja Bir Bikram cricket stadium around afternoon.

Mithun Debbarma was a member of under-23 Tripura team. He was a resident of Bishalgarh, some 25km south of here.

His teammates told Mithun collapsed into the field while attending a practice session.

He was immediately taken to the Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital where doctors declared him brought dead.

Doctors said the young cricketer suffered from a massive cardiac arrest and died on way to hospital.

Rawat rallies to down Khade

SPORTS BUREAU
ZHUHAI, CHINA

Sidharth Rawat bounced back from losing a tight first set to beat compatriot Arjun Kadhe 5-7, 6-3, 6-1 in the first and final qualifying round of the Asia-Oceania Australian Open wild card play-off tennis tournament in on Tuesday.

In the main draw, featuring 16 players, Sidharth will play another compatriot, the seventh seed Sasi Kumar Mukund.

The i76th ranked Ramkumar Ramanathan has been seeded third and drawn to play the 358th ranked Ze Zhang of China.

"The onus now lies on us, we need to be really accurate and sharp whenever we have the chance to attack.

"We are very well aware that they are a very competitive outfit.

"The only omission from the squad is spare batsman Cameron Bancroft

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Australia sticks to winning formula

The only omission from the squad is spare batsman Cameron Bancroft

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
ADELAIDE

Australia heavily hinted on Tuesday that it will field the same XI for the opening Test against New Zealand to the one that thrashed Pakistan, with selectors keen to build a core group of players.

Tim Paine's men have proven to be far more consistent in recent months, having retained the Ashes in England before a 2-0 series sweep against Pakistan, culminating in a thumping victory and 48-run win here on Monday.

Tough opposition

Tough opposition awaits with the arrival this month of New Zealand for three Tests – in Perth, Melbourne and Sydney – and selectors named an unchanged 13-man squad.

"As we said prior to the Pakistan series we are striving to maintain a core group

of players," said national selector Trevor Hohns.

IN BRIEF



Ronaldo crowned Series A player of the year

MILAN Juventus and Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo has been named Series A player of the year. Ronaldo, who scored 26 goals in his debut season in Italy and helped Juventus towards another domestic title, picked up the individual prize in a ceremony which took place on Monday night, reports goal.com. IANS



BERN Tennis legend Roger Federer will become the first living person in Switzerland to have a coin minted in his honour. The Federal Mint, Swissmint, has created a 20-franc silver coin bearing Federer's image. It's the first time in its history that Swissmint has created a commemorative coin to honour a living person. IANS

Rishab in second round

NONTHABURI (THAILAND) Rishab Agarwal got past Noppadol Noikrit 7-6(7), 2-1, when the Thai retired, in the first round of the \$15,000 ITF men's Futures on Tuesday. Other results: \$15,000 ITF, Cairo: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Men: Niels Lootsma (Ned) & Joao Monteiro (Por) bt Tarun Anirudh Chilakalapudi & PC Vignesh 6-4, 6-1; Ignacio Monzon & Fermin Tenti (Arg) bt Iancu-Lustinian Ghinda (Can) & Sahil Gawar 6-3, 6-3. Women: Amira Badawi & Aya El Sayed (Egy) bt Julia Klimovitz (Bra) & Aaliya Ebrahim 6-1, 7-5.

Messi voted the best, yet again

He stands alone in the history of the game's most prestigious individual prize

FOOTBALL

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

MADRID

Lionel Messi won a record-breaking sixth Ballon d'Or on Monday after another sublime year for the Argentinian, whose familiar brilliance remained undimmed even through difficult times for club and country.

Despite Barcelona's collapse at the end of last season and Argentina losing to Brazil in the semifinals of the Copa America, Messi's genius was ever-present in 2019, for which he now stands alone in the history of the game's most prestigious individual prize.

Four years after his last Ballon d'Or, Messi pulled clear of the five next to the name of Cristiano Ronaldo, and now owns twice as many as Johan Cruyff, Michel Platini and Marco van Basten.

Goals galore

In 54 appearances this year, Messi has managed an astonishing 46 goals and 17 assists while for Barcelona alone he hit 41 goals and 15 assists in 44 matches, which included seven doubles and three hat-tricks.

"It's like he is extra-terrestrial," said Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde in March. "Every time he gets the ball something extraordinary seems to happen."

Messi's first season as club captain brought a third consecutive La Liga title and he scored the winner in the game that clinched it, a 1-0 victory over Levante.

He also claimed his sixth Pichichi Trophy as the division's top-scorer, with 36 goals in 34 matches.

But Barcelona unravelled as its 3-0 advantage over Liverpool – to which Messi contributed a brace – went up in smoke at Anfield and the club crashed out in the

Messi wins record sixth Ballon d'Or



2019 HIGHLIGHTS

- Wins tenth *La Liga* title with Barcelona – his 34th trophy for Spanish giants since 2005
- Scores 54 goals for club and country in 2018-19 season to secure sixth *European Golden Boot* and Champions League top scorer

MESSI'S MAJOR TROPHY HAUL

- 10 La Liga
- 6 Copa del Rey
- 4 Champions League
- 6 Ballon d'Or



Source: France Football

BALLOON D'OR 2019: TOP TEN

Lionel Messi ARG	Barcelona
Virgil van Dijk NED	Liverpool
Cristiano Ronaldo POR	Juventus
Sadio Mane SEN	Liverpool
Mohamed Salah EGY	Liverpool
Kylian Mbappe FRA	PSG
Alisson BRA	Liverpool
Robert Lewandowski POL	Bayern
Bernardo Silva POR	Man City
Riyad Mahrez ALG	Man City

Picture: Getty Images

© GRAPHIC NEWS

scored 16 goals in 12 games as Barcelona put together a relentless winning streak.

He scored his 50th career hat-trick in a 4-2 win at Sevilla and in April and another that was so good even Real Betis fans felt compelled to applaud.

When asked about their reaction, Messi said: "To be honest I don't remember anything like that."

His goal was nominated in the FIFA Puskas Award's 10-long shortlist.

"I have not seen any player like Messi in the history of football," said Betis coach Quique Setien. "His goal was something you do playing Playstation."

After finishing the Champions League as the top-scorer with 12 goals and collecting his sixth Golden Shoe for a record third consecutive

year, Messi joined up with Argentina for the Copa America, a tournament that kick-started a frustrating three months.

Messi was sent off against Chile in the third-place play-off and his comments about the refereeing drew him a three-month suspension from international football.

Yet he made up for lost time by scoring six goals in five games and then a hat-trick against Celta Vigo, this time a treble made up of set-pieces, two from free-kicks and one a penalty. It was his 34th hat-trick in La Liga, equalling Ronaldo's record in the Spanish top flight.

Another milestone came in November when his goal and two assists in a 3-1 win over Borussia Dortmund coincided with his 700th appearance for Barcelona.

Indian men's team achieves best-ever ranking

TABLE TENNIS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The Indian men's table tennis team on Tuesday achieved its best-ever ranking by moving up to the eighth spot in the latest ITTF rankings.

Seasoned cueist Alok

Kumar, who secured a

break of 89-11 to beat

Simanta Hazari

133-0, 90-0

and help Oil and Natural

Gas Corporation (ONGC)

thrash Oil India Limited

4-0 in the snooker team

semifinals of the 16th Pe

troleum Sports Promotion

Board (PSPB) inter-unit bil

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ONGC.

ONGC will meet Indian

Oil, which defeated Bharat

Petroleum 4-1 in the other

last-four contest, in the fi

nal.

week by beating higher-ranked opponents Simon Gauzy of France and Jonathan Groth, was the highest ranked India at No. 30.

Sharth Kamal jumped two spots to 36th while Harmeet Desai leapfrogged 19 places to break into the top-100 and occupy the 85th spot.

China is the expected No. 1 in the team rankings, followed by Japan and Germany.

In women's section, Manika Batra (61) remained the top Indian, followed by Ayhika Mukerjee (118) and Madhurika Patkar (124).

Kothari stars for ONGC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA

Sourav Kothari made fine breaks of 91 and 90 to beat Simanta Hazari 133-0, 90-0 and help Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) thrash Oil India Limited 4-0 in the snooker team semifinals of the 16th Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) inter-unit bil

liards and snooker champion

ships here on

Tuesday.

Seasoned cueist Alok Kumar, who secured a

break of 89, beat Tolan Bo

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ONGC.

ONGC will meet Indian

Oil, which defeated Bharat

Petroleum 4-1 in the other

last-four contest, in the fi

nal.

The Indian team comprising World No. 30 G Sathiyan and World No. 36 Sharath Kamal, is tied with ninth placed Austria on 280 points but is ranked ahead of them.

G. Sathiyan, who reached the pre-quarters of

the ITTF World Cup last

Tuesday.

The Indian team comprising World No. 30 G Sathiyan and World No. 36 Sharath Kamal, is tied with ninth placed Austria on 280 points but is ranked ahead of them.

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