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## IAS MOCK INTERVIEW PROGRAMME

MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> ONWARDS

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- Mock Interview by Eminent Civil Servants
- Discussion on Personal Profile and Detailed Application Form (DAF)
- One to One Discussion with the experts
- Video Recording of the Mock Interview

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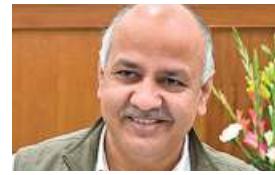
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## NEARBY



Delhi lagging behind in transport, infrastructure

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi government's transport and road infrastructure projects were lagging behind other departments like education and social welfare when it came to meeting targets set by the Outcome Budget 2018-19, according to the status report presented in the State Assembly on Monday.

DEHLI METRO ▶ PAGE 1

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DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

## SP, BSP tie up for polls in 2 more States

## OMAR RASHID

LUCKNOW  
After coming together in Uttar Pradesh, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Samajwadi Party (SP) are set to contest the Lok Sabha election in Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh as well in an alliance.

In Madhya Pradesh, the SP will contest three seats and the BSP the remaining 26. In Uttarakhand, the SP has been allotted the Garhwal seat and the BSP will contest the remaining four.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 10

## Modi opens war memorial, hits out at Congress on Rafale

PM accuses the party of delaying procurements; points fingers at 'one family'

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched another no-holds-barred attack on the Gandhi family and the Congress while inaugurating the National War Memorial (NWM) near the India Gate in the capital on Monday.

"From Bofors to the [AgustaWestland] chopper deal, all the investigations are pointing to one family, which says a lot. Now these people are making a lot of effort to ensure that Rafale aircraft don't arrive in India," Mr. Modi said, addressing veterans at the national stadium. He added that the Rafale jets would fly into India in a few months.

Stating that the Army had asked for bullet-proof jackets in 2009 but had not got them till 2014, Mr. Modi said his government purchased over 2.3 lakh bullet-proof jackets after coming to power. "On whose head is this sin and stain," Mr. Modi questioned.

The Prime Minister made several other references to the Gandhi family and at-



Not in vain: The National War Memorial after its inauguration in New Delhi. ■ REUTERS

tacked it for failing to make timely defence procurements.

## Success of OROP

Claiming credit for announcing the One Rank One Pension (OROP) for veterans and building the NWM, Mr. Modi said, "So far, over ₹35,000 crore has been disbursed." As a result, there had been a 40% increase in pensions, he added.

Stressing that his government was working to bring

in transparency and a level playing field in the system, Mr. Modi said "whether people remember Modi or not," tales of the valour and sacrifices of people must be remembered.

The Prime Minister also announced a series of measures for the military fraternity, including the setting up of three super-specialty hospitals, an increase in the intake of women officers through the Short Service Commission and online pen-

sions claims.

Later, Mr. Modi formally dedicated to the nation the NWM, constructed at the 'C' Hexagon near India Gate, to honour over 25,000 soldiers who have laid down their lives for the country since Independence. A National War Museum has been constructed at the Princes Park complex gate.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

'MODI'S EGO PREVENTING GRANT OF MARTYR STATUS' ▶ PAGE 10

## PM knew about attack, says Mamata

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA

Despite knowing that a militant attack was about to take place, Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not try to prevent it in Pulwama, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Monday.

Addressing a meeting of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) here, Ms. Banerjee asked why the Prime Minister did not play a proactive role to stop it.

"You [Mr. Modi] knew that the attack would take place. Intelligence input was there. But they [jawans] were neither airlifted, nor was there any naka [checkpoint] or road checking. Everyone was allowed to move freely. Why? In order to take advantage during the election. Now, Mr. Modi is trying to play a game of war," she said.

The State BJP criticised her for the allegation and called it "baseless."

This is the first time that Ms. Banerjee has directly blamed the Prime Minister for the Pulwama attack that killed over 40 CRPF jawans.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

## Owner of Pulwama attack vehicle has joined Jaish: NIA

Agency tracks down Anantnag student



## Terror trail

A look at how inquiry led to the owner of the vehicle used for terror attack

On Feb. 14: Broken and mangled bumper of the vehicle was found

Feb. 17-19:

The bumper helped the NIA establish that it was a Maruti Eeco

Between Feb. 20 and Feb. 22, a Maruti team assisted the NIA in establishing details of the car

It changed hands seven times before it reached Sajjad Bhat (in photo)  
■ It changed hands seven times before it reached Sajjad Bhat (in photo)  
■ Bhat reportedly joined JeM's squad after a raid at his Shopian residence on Feb. 23

GER12BN164140, was sold to Muhammad Jaleel Ahmed Haqani, a resident of Heaven Colony, Anantnag, in 2011. It subsequently changed hands seven times. The last person to own the vehicle was Sajjad Bhat, son of Muhammad Maqbool Bhat, a resident of Bijbehara, Anantnag. "Bhat acquired the vehicle on February 4, 2019," the NIA said.

Bhat's house was raided by an NIA team and the police on February 23. "However, Sajjad was not found and has been evading arrest since then. He has reportedly now joined the JeM," said the NIA.

A photograph of Bhat holding a pistol and a gun has also emerged on social media. The picture also claimed that Bhat is part of a JeM fidayeen (suicide) squad.

EU, GERMANY URGE PAKISTAN TO ACT ON TERROR ▶ PAGE 10

## Congress, BJP want tribal eviction order to be reviewed

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The presidents of the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Rahul Gandhi and Amit Shah, have directed the Chief Ministers of the States ruled by their parties to file a review petition in the

Supreme Court over its ruling ordering the eviction of tribals unable to provide sufficient proof of claim to forest land were rejected.

Mr. Gandhi on Monday said he had written to all Chief Ministers of the BJP-ruled

review of the order that asked the States to ensure eviction of families whose claims to living in forest land were rejected.

Later in the day, Mr. Shah announced on Twitter that he had spoken to all Chief Ministers of the BJP-ruled

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

OF MARTYR STATUS ▶ PAGE 10

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

2 EAST

THE HINDU  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019

## MDM scheme food found to be unsafe in 2 Odisha districts

STAFF REPORTER

BHUBANESWAR

The State food analyst has found food served as part of the Mid Day Meal programme "unsafe and sub-

standard" in Kendrapara and Kandhamal districts.

Based on the finding, the Odisha State Food Commission has directed the Secretary of School and Mass Education and Collectors of the two districts to take action.

According to the report, samples of loose dals sent from Kandhamal

boiled rice collected from Kendrapara were deemed unsafe. Salt samples in Kendrapara were also substandard.

The State food testing lab-

oratory has found synthetic colour in samples of split arhar dal, which is unsafe under Section 3(l)(zz) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.



### EXHIBITION AT ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, NOIDA

The exhibition cum project work on 'The cities of Delhi' was put up by the class XI history students of Army Public School, Noida. The Primary Wing students visited the exhibition along with their teachers. The exhibition displayed the history and historical monuments of Delhi which was explained in detail by the students. The students were apprised on different aspects and importance of the monuments.



### A CEREMONY AT QUEEN'S CONVENT SCHOOL

A Candle Light Ceremony was held for the students of class X and XII of Queen's Convent School, Delhi. The Ceremony was held on 29th January in the school premises. It was presided over by the Chief Guest Mr. Anand Pillai, Managing Director of Leadership Matters Inc., Guest of Honour Rev. Vikram Aziz Masih, Pastor Incharge, Bethel Methodist Church, Noida, Chairman of the school, Mr. Ved Mittal, Manager, Mrs. Sunita Mittal, Assistant Manager, Ms. Kavya Mittal Goyal and Principal Ms. Nalini Andrew. The event commenced with a choir presentation and a welcome dance.



### MEET AT ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, DHAULA KUAN

Army Public School, Dhaula Kuan organised an Old Students' Meet in February 2019. Six stars of the institution were invited as panelists to share their experiences and success mantras. Admiral R. K. Dhawan PVSM, AVSM, YSM (Retd) former Chief of Naval Staff and Mr. Deepak Parashar, an eminent actor, both of the 1969 batch, Dr. Rahul Khare, a renowned orthopedic surgeon, Mr. Navin Gulia, a world record holder in adventure sports and motivational speaker of the 1992 batch, Mr. Bhanu Sachdeva, an internationally acclaimed swimmer and Arjuna Awardee of the 1994 batch and Advocate Jai Wadhwa of the 2009 batch were the guest speakers for the day. The meet began with a welcome address by the Principal, Mrs. Komal Sood.

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Brand connect initiative

### Lending a helping hand

Healthcare can be quite unexpectedly expensive, resulting in most of us running



from pillar to post to arrange sufficient funds for the treatment they require. Sometimes due to the lack of funds in time, lives are lost. Mujtaba Hasan



Askari is a former IT professional who quit his job to dedicate himself to this cause full time.

"We started 'Helping Hands Foundation' (HHF) in 2007 and I left my job in 2015 to work full time towards this cause. Our main focus is to serve people in medical distress by helping them foot their medical bills. Till date, we

have managed to mobilise close to Rs. 50 crores to help them," says Mujtaba.

HHF works closely with community donors and has collected a data base of over 33,000 public citizens. He also connects with charitable trusts in the US and some prominent business families in Hyderabad who contribute regularly towards these funds. Every month, they manage to raise ten to fifteen lakh rupees through crowd funding. They have 15 to 20 people walking into their office every day, seeking help, and HHF supports them with cash ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 1,00,000 depending on their need.



"We sometimes see people selling their organs, in desperation, to save a loved one's life, and we don't want them to do that," says Mujtaba.

They are working with over 30 government hospitals today and volunteers go on a daily basis to take care of patients who need good bedside care.

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Farmers through  
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Metric Tonne of Wheat.



Rs. 14,793 Cr. Paid to the  
Farmers through Direct  
Purchase of 89 Lakh  
Metric tonne of Paddy.

Saaf Niyat - Sahi Vikas

Information & Public Relations Department, Uttar Pradesh

## Manipur fake encounters: kin allege bribe for settlement

Court disposes of case in absence of prosecution sanction



Members of the Campaign For Peace and Democracy (Manipur) protesting in New Delhi against 'State-sponsored atrocities in Manipur'. • FILE PHOTO

cial Magistrate, Thoubal, had disposed of her father's case on Saturday saying it cannot proceed further as the Manipur government has not given the prosecution sanction.

The family of the victim

on Monday alleged that it was fighting the case despite coercions, including a lump sum being offered as "bribe" to withdraw the case.

Tampha, the wife of Angousana Athokpam of Bishnupur district who was arrested on February 27, 2011, by a Thoubal district police team and allegedly killed in a fake encounter, told reporters in Imphal that some stranger had come to her home last month and offered her "27 lakh for an out-of-court settlement".

"I refused to accept the bribe and told the person that we only want befitting punishment to those personnel who killed my husband in a staged encounter," she said at a press conference.

Tanoubi, Athokpam's daughter, said the Chief Judi-

cies in Manipur filed by Ex-traditional Execution Victims Families Association Manipur, a group seeking speedy trial in these cases.

There has been no explanation from the BJP-led State government as to why no prosecution sanction was issued in Athokpam's case.

The EEVFAM activists are not happy with the court order in the case.

Renu Takhellambam, president, EEVFAM, said: "The judgment is not acceptable. How can a man be declared not guilty without a proper trial? People should appeal to the CM to issue the prosecution sanction so that the guilty are punished."

**High-profile hopefuls begin campaign in Manipur**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
IMPHAL

Though the Lok Sabha election schedule is yet to be announced and party tickets yet to be allotted, some high-profile candidates have already launched their campaign in Manipur.

Former Chief Minister Radhabinod Koijam is one of the heavyweights who is seeking a BJP ticket for the Inner Manipur Lok Sabha constituency. His election posters have come up in all the valley districts. However, these posters do not state which party he will represent in the polls.

Another candidate, Oinam Nabakishore Singh, a former Chief Secretary, is also appealing to the voters of this constituency to elect him in front-page newspaper advertisements.

**CPI candidate**  
The State executive council of the CPI on Monday approved the candidature of M. Nara Singh, a former Minister. L. Sotin Kumar, the State secretary of the CPI, said there is a need to safeguard the people of the State since the BJP leaders are keen on including the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, in the party's poll manifesto.

Former CM and now Congress Legislative Party leader Okram Iboibi Singh said: "The burning issues which will be major poll planks are the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill and the shrinking territory of Manipur, among others."

**Delhi Weather** max min  
Delhi City 25 09  
Safdarjung 25 09  
Palam 26 11

**Delhi Palam Today**  
23°C Clouds will increase and day temperature will decrease. Rain/thundershower with gusty winds will affect at many places.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
20°C A pleasant weather will occur due to occurrence of rain/thundershower with strong winds at many place. Pollution level will improve.

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**DELHI Timings**

TUESDAY, FEB. 26

RISE 06:50 SET 18:19

MOON 00:25 SET 11:33

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27

RISE 06:49 SET 18:19

MOON 01:23 SET 12:16

THURSDAY, FEB. 28

RISE 06:48 SET 18:20

MOON 02:18 SET 13:02

Office of Superintending Engineer  
2nd Circle, P.W.D . Nainital

Letter No:- 938/41 M -2/18-19 Dated- 22/02/2019

National Competitive Bidders  
Short term Tender Notice

The Superintending Engineer 2nd Circle, Public Works Department Nainital invites Tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand for the following works. All other information will be available from date 26.02.2019 & onwards on website <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>.

S. No	Name of Work	Earnest Money (in Lac)	Validity of Tender	Period of Completion	Contractor's category of registration
1	Renewal work by microsurfacing in Km 1 to 4 and 12 to 18 Nainital Kalduhungi Baijup Dora-ha Motor Road (SH - 13) under Annual Repair year 2018-19.	1.90	30 days	03 month	Registration in Category C/C+ for Road work under state Govt/Govt of India

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e-Procurement Cell  
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT  
JHARKHAND, RANCHI

e-Procurement Notice

e-Tender Reference No.- BCD/Special Works Division, Ranchi/315/2018-19 Date-22-02-2019

1	Name of Work	Construction of Road, Landscaping and Horticulture, Water Fountain, IBMS, Electrical, GRC, HVAC, Plumbing, Furniture, Interior Works etc, at New Jharkhand Assembly Building, Ranchi.
2	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 74,71,45,06/- (Rupees Seventy Four Crore Seventy One Lakh Forty Five Thousand Sixty Six only).
3	Time of Completion	03 Months
4	Date of Publication of Tender on Website	01-03-2019 at 11:00 A.M.
5	Pre Bid Meeting	07-03-2019 at 3:00 P.M.
6	Last Date/ Time of Submission of Bids	18-03-2019 upto 6:00 P.M.
7	Last Date/ Time of Submission of Bid Security Money and Tender Fee	22-03-2019 upto 3:00 P.M.
8	Date/ Time of opening of Bid	22-03-2019 at 3:30 P.M.
9	Name & Address of office Inviting tender	e-Procurement Cell, Building construction department, Jharkhand, Ranchi-834004
10	Contact no. of Procurement officer	0651-2446166
11	Helpline Number of e-procurement Cell	0651-2446166

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Bihar abuse case: CBI told to appoint SPP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Expressing displeasure over the delay in appointment of a Special Public Prosecutor in the Muzaffarpur shelter home abuse case, a Delhi court on Monday asked the CBI to make the appointment within two days.

"I want the notification day after tomorrow. If you cannot, just inform the Supreme Court. I am sending a copy of this order to the CBI Director as well. If this is not done, some senior officer of the level of Joint Director will have to appear," said Judge Saurabh Kulshreshtha.

**Copies of chargesheet**  
The court also directed the investigating officer of the agency to make available within two days a CD containing scanned copies of the chargesheet and other documents to the counsel for the accused.

## Social security cover for farmers and workers in Haryana budget

No new taxes proposed by Khattar govt; total outlay 14.73% more than last year

VIKAS VASUDEVA  
CHANDIGARH



Finance Minister Captain Abhimanyu presenting the budget at the Assembly in Chandigarh on Monday. ■ AKHILESH KUMAR

With focus on agriculture and allied sectors, Haryana Finance Minister Capt. Abhimanyu on Monday presented tax-free budget proposals for 2019-20 with a total outlay of ₹1,32,165.99 crore, 14.73% more than last year.

Presenting the budget proposals in the Assembly, Capt. Abhimanyu announced two new schemes to provide financial and social security cover to families of farmers with landholding of up to five acres, and those of workers in the unorganised sectors with family income of less than ₹15,000 per month.

The budget proposes to raise the outlay for agriculture and allied services to ₹3,834.33 crore in 2019-20 as against ₹3,670.29 crore in 2018-19.

"The State government plans to transform the agriculture sector completely by diversifying the focus from crop husbandry to horticulture crops, animal husbandry and fisheries in the coming years, and making these sectors holistic, integrated, progressive and futuristic,"

said Capt. Abhimanyu.

The proposed budget does not include any new taxes for 2019-20. "This year also, I do not intend to propose any change in the present rate of taxes under the Haryana Value Added Tax Act, 2003, or introduce any new tax in the budget esti-

mates for the fiscal 2019-20," he said.

"Even though no new tax has been proposed, revenue receipts are expected to increase to ₹82,219.41 crore in 2019-20 on account of better realisation of tax and non-tax receipts," he said.

### GSDP growth

Capt. Abhimanyu said during 2018-19, as per advance estimates, the Gross State Domestic Product of Haryana was expected to achieve a growth of 8.2% as against 7.2% recorded at the national level.

The Finance Minister said the State's fiscal deficit had been kept within the limit of 3% prescribed by the 14th Finance Commission even though the demand for funds for development activities had increased manifold over the years.

## Amarinder hits back at BJP president

After Shah's broadside against CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

of Punjab, with the BJP at the Centre also failing to come out in support of the State despite the financial crisis faced by it," he said.

### String of posers

Reacting to the BJP national president's criticism of his government, Capt. Amarinder hit back with a list of questions for Mr. Shah: "What have they (SAD-BJP) done for the farmers? What did they do all these years to check stubble burning?

What incentives have they given to industry? How many jobs did they give the youth? Who pushed the youth into drugs?"

"If they (SAD-BJP) were really concerned about the common man, why did they allow farmers to continue to end their lives instead of rescuing them from their massive debts," the Chief Minister asked.

Search starts again for five jawans in H.P.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE  
SHIMLA

A day after snowfall halted the search operation for five jawans, who went missing last week after an avalanche hit Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh, the operation began again on Monday, officials said.

"The rescue operation started at 7 a.m. More engineering efforts like chain saws and drill machines have been deployed to enhance the operation," an official, who is coordinating the operation, said.

The search was halted on Sunday due to intermittent snowfall throughout the day. No clues were found till then.

As the search operation entered the sixth day on Monday, officials said chances of survival of those trapped in the snow were slim.

Many mountaineers from the area are also involved in the operation.



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## IN BRIEF



Seven-year-old boy steps on live wire in park, dies

BENGALURU  
A seven-year-old boy was electrocuted while his five-year-old brother escaped with minor injuries after they came in contact with a live wire from a lamp post while playing in a park in Banaswadi on Sunday evening. The deceased, Uday Kumar N., was the elder child of Nagaraj and Gowramma. Nagaraj works as a contractor, while Gowramma is a homemaker.

## Toll in A.P. spirit tragedy rises to seven

VISAKHAPATNAM  
The toll in the suspected industrial spirit consumption tragedy in Visakhapatnam rose to seven with four more people, including three women, succumbing while undergoing treatment at the King George Hospital early on Monday. Three persons, including a woman, died and 13 people were hospitalised after they consumed the spirit found in a garbage dump presuming it to be locally brewed arrack in Pedagantyada Mandal under the Gajuwaka police station limits on Sunday.

Kochi  
The trial of the rape and abduction of a woman actor will begin before Honey M. Varghese, Special Judge 3 of the CBI special court, the Kerala High Court has ordered. Justice V. Raja Vijayaraghavan issued the order on a writ petition filed by the victim seeking a special court and a woman judge to consider the case. Counsel for actor Dileep and Sunilkumar, the two accused in the case, had opposed the plea of the victim for a woman judge.

# IAF choppers roped in to bring Bandipur blaze under control

Water-bombing sorties over Himavad Gopalswamy Betta douse raging fires

R. KRISHNA KUMAR  
BANDIPUR



An IAF helicopter doing a location survey over the Himavad Gopalswamy Betta range in Bandipur on Monday. ■ M.A. SRIRAM

■

## 2,000 litre capacity

■

The helicopters, which did a reconnaissance and location survey, established coordi-

nates of the spots from where the smoke was billowing to zero in for water-bombing.

Two choppers did around 10 sorties each and dropped the flames. Each buck-

et has a capacity of 2,000 litres and the fire was doused in Kaardikal Betta and Chamanahalla, which were two critical areas.

Punati Sridhar, Head of Forest Forces and Principal

Chief Conservator of Forests, told *The Hindu* that the IAF choppers did their initial sortie and lifted water from the Nugu reservoir, but then opted for a lake in the Maddur range as it was closer.

## To continue on Tuesday

"The sorties will continue tomorrow and we will request them to douse the fire in the adjoining Mudumalai forests as well," said Mr. Sridhar.

Forest Minister Satish Jarkiholi visited the spot.

IAF choppers have been used in the past to fight forest fires in Uttarakhand, Nagaland, Andhra Pradesh, and Mt. Abu in Rajasthan, but it is for the first time that they were pressed into service in Karnataka.

## Migrant labourers targeted in Kodagu

Jobless locals vent ire, using arrest of two workers in a rape case as an excuse

LAIQH A. KHAN  
MYSURU



Growing friction: Estate owners prefer migrant labourers to locals as they work for lower wages. ■ GRN SOMASHEKAR

who are mostly from the Northeast.

Sundar Raj, Madikeri Deputy Superintendent of Police, said demonstrations were held by local organisations taking up the cause of the rape and murder victim in Siddapura, but no case of assault against migrant work-

ers was reported so far. The demonstrators have demanded that the workers be sent back to their native places.

## No police complaints

However, the KGF and the Kodagu Planters' Federation have alleged that two or

three instances of assault on migrant labourers from Asam have taken place in south Kodagu even though formal police complaints have not been lodged.

The Kodagu Loaders' Association president Bharat traced the origin of the discontent among locals to estate owners' preference for migrant labourers after tribals, who had for ages worked as bonded labourers, began demanding fair wages.

Plantation owners are employing migrant labourers for their own convenience, but local workers, contractors and transporters have come together to exploit the rape case to their advantage, Mr. Bharat said.

## 'HAL did not get NOC for aero show'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

The Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) had not obtained a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Fire Department for the Aero India 2019, according to ofical sources. The NOC is mandatory according to the guidelines.

Close to 300 vehicles were gutted at the parking lot during the event here on Saturday.

Sources said the HAL failed to obtain an NOC despite a notice issued to the organisers a day before the event.

Usually, organisers of major events approach the Fire Department seeking an NOC, but despite having a detailed plan for the event, the organisers did not approach the Fire and Emergency Service personnel for the NOC, an official from the Fire Department said.

On February 19, a team of officials from the Fire and Emergency Services visited the aero show venue and inspected the area before issuing a notice to the organisers to comply with fire-safety norms, sources said.

The organisers had taken control over the on-site area, including the parking lots, which according to them, comes under the purview of Ministry of Defence, fire officials said.

HAL spokesperson Gopal Sutar said, "As far as HAL's role is concerned, we clarify that the land belongs to the IAF, and fire services is the responsibility of the State Fire Dept. HAL provided assistance and support in this activity as it has done in other areas related to Aero India 2019. HAL cannot comment on notices issued."

"The aircraft fly through

## Pinarayi questions Adani group's bid

Alleges 'drama' in airport bidding

  
Both Narendra Modi and Adani are friends, but Adani Group has no prior experience of operating an airport. It is natural to doubt the bidding process when a single company wins the bid to operate five out of six airports in the country

PINARAYI VIJAYAN  
Kerala Chief Minister

the sky. But, the infrastructure should be developed on the land. They cannot alone develop the airport. The land should be acquired by the State government. It is not good to keep the State government on the opposite side. It will affect the development of the airport," Mr. Vijayan said.

**Privatisation move**  
He said the Centre's move was aimed at privatising the Thiruvananthapuram airport.

"We have demanded the Centre to hand over the airport to the State. We are successfully running the CIAL and have the eligibility to manage and operate the Thiruvananthapuram airport," the Chief Minister said.

**Submission to HC**  
The approval of the Union Cabinet will be obtained before issuing the letter of award for those who won the privatisation bids of the six airports, including the Thiruvananthapuram airport. The Centre made its position known in a case which challenged the privatisation bid of the Thiruvananthapuram airport.

"The aircraft fly through

MAIN REPORT BUSINESS PAGE

## E-TENDER NOTICE

NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
Electricity Department, Office of the Executive Engineer (E-C) Div.,  
Vidhyut Bhawan, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi-110011  
Ph: 23013269 & 23010111 Ext. 555. E-mail: eec1.elect@ndmcmail.gov.in

## e-procurement Tender Notice (3rd Call)

Name of Work: Preliminary estimate (Revised) for electricity load of 542 KW for assam house at 1-Gopi Nath Boardoloi Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.

Sub Head: Cartage, Erection, Testing and commissioning of HT VCB Panel, SITC of Metering CT including earthing at ESS Assam House, Bordoloi Marg, New Delhi.

Estimated cost: ₹5,70,243/-

Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution : 25.02.2019

Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution : 06.03.2019 at 03:30 PM

Date/time for opening of Bid through e-procurement solution : 06.03.2019 at 04:00 PM

Further details can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

Note: To participate in e-tender in NDNCM registration with application services provider NIC is mandatory.

Tender ID No. 2019\_NDMC\_169857\_1 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (E) C-1

To be The Global Benchmark for a Capital City

## NORTHERN RAILWAY

## TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer/Const., Northern Railway, Shakurbasti, Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under TWO Packet System for the under noted work:- 1. Name of Work and location: Construction of Road Under Bridge with approaches under running traffic conditions on Railway Level Crossing No. 567 at km 1482/348, 572 at km 1495/692 of size 5.0m x 5.0 m. (internal) on Balabhagam-Palwal Railway Section of Northern Railway by Box Pushing method under Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction/Shakurbasti 2. Completion period of the work : 18 Months 3. Approx Cost of Work : Rs. 17,00 Crore 4. Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online) : Rs. 10,00,000/- 5. Sale / availability of tender document on Railway Web side : Tender documents will be available on IRREP's web site i.e. [www.irrep.gov.in](http://www.irrep.gov.in) from 08.03.2019 to 22.03.2019 upto 11.30 hrs. 6. Last date/time of upload of tenders : 22.03.2019 upto 11.30 hrs. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IRREP's web site w.e.f. 08.03.2019 to 22.03.2019, 7. Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender : 22.03.2019 at 11.30 hrs (immediately after closed of uploading of tender (D2). In case of two packet system, Financial bid of the eligible tenderer would be opened subsequently on the date and time to be notified later on.

Tender Notice No. 363-ACS-C-SSB Dated 25.02.2019 589/2019

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one girl Namely: Kajal, D/o: Kishore Shah, R/o: Village Bokane, P.O. & P.S. Pateni, Distt. Motihari, Bihar Present Address: House No. I-16/723, Gali No. 11, Military Road, Bapa Nagar, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 12.08.2018 from the area of P.S. Prasad Nagar, Central Distt., Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 230/18 dated 12.08.2018 has been lodged at

P.S. Prasad Nagar, Central Distt., Delhi. The description of the missing girl are as under: Age: 15 years, Height: 5' 5" Complexion: Fair, Face: Oval, Wearing: Pink Colour Suit and Pajami. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in SHO Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Prasad Nagar, Delhi Fax No. 011-24368639 Ph.: 011-25725652, 25751048 DP/6080/CD/19

## BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer  
Sarvagnanagar Division, 7th Floor, P.U. Building, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001

No.: EE(SGN)-E-Proc/Tend/18/2018-19 Date : 25-02-2019

## INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Two Cover System) Through GoK e-Procurement Portal only) The Executive Engineer (Sarvagnanagar Division), on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP invites proposals (Technical and Financial) for appointing Consultant for Consultancy Services for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the projects detailed below:

SI. No.	Name of Works	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Improvements and Asphaltic to VST Main Road, Gundappa Mutt Road, Tank Bund Road, Patel Ramaiah Road, KSFC Layout and Janakiram Layout Main Road in Ward No. 49 (10.00 Cr) (Package 2018-19 SGN-01)	25,000/-
2	Comprehensive Development of Roads and Drains in Ward No. 23,24 & 30 (10.00 Cr) (Package 2018-19 SGN-02)	25,000/-
3	Comprehensive Development of Roads and Drains in Ward no. 27, 28 & 29 (13.00 Cr) (Package 2018-19 SGN-03)	50,000/-
4	Comprehensive Development of Roads and Drains in Ward No. 49 & 59 (10.00 Cr) (Package 2018-19 SGN-04)	25,000/-
5	Development of Non Motorized Transit and Improvement of Footpath in Sarvagnanagar Constituency (20.00 Cr) (Package 2018-19 SGN-05)	50,000/-
6	Comprehensive Development of Roads and Drains in Ward No. 23, Nagawara and Ward No. 24, HBR in Sarvagnanagar Constituency (20.00 Cr) (Package 2018-19 SGN-06)	50,000/-
7	Construction of Ambedkar Bhavan in Sarvagnanagar Constituency (3.00 Cr)	15,000/-

Calendar of Events: (1) RFP documents may be downloaded from e-Procurement portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> from 28.02.2019. (2) Date of Pre-bid meeting: 05.03.2019 at 3.30 PM at Office of The Chief Engineer (East), BBMP. (3) Last date for uploading the filled Proposals: 07.03.2019 upto 4.00 PM. (4) Date of opening of Technical Proposals: 08.03.2019 at 11.00 AM. (5) Date of opening of Financial Proposals: After the approval of Technical Proposals. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Sarvagnanagar Division "Pay development charges, help to develop Bengaluru"

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General Public is hereby informed that one unknown male, Age about 45 years, Height 5'8", Complexion Wheatish, Wearing Blue colour woolen round neck baniyan and khaki colour pant was admitted in Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital, Delhi on 11.02.19 and refer to Safdurjung Hospital, Delhi was died during treatment on 16.02.19. In this regard a vide DD No. 39-B dated 16.02.19 has been lodged at PS Nangloi, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly inform the undersigned.

SHO  
PS : Nangloi, Delhi  
Ph.: 25947225, 25949470

DP/1969/OD/19

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male Age : About 40-42 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Build: Medium, wearing white colour T-shirt, black colour jeans pant and blue colour sports shoes in feet, was found dead on 21.02.2019 in park in front of Oriental House, Delhi Gate, Darya Ganj, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 70-A dated 21.02.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Darya Ganj,

## IN BRIEF



## PM Modi to hold rally in Rajasthan's Churu today

**JAIPUR**  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a public meeting in Churu district of Rajasthan on Tuesday, a BJP spokesperson said. It will be Prime Minister Modi's second public meeting in Rajasthan within four days. He had visited Tonk on February 23. PTI

## Smriti Irani inaugurates Titanwala Museum

**Jaipur**  
Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani on Monday inaugurated the 'Titanwala Museum' in Bagru, Rajasthan. The museum showcases the Chhipa community's hand-block printing. The museum will be open from Monday to Sunday between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. PTI

## MP cable TV firm owner held for partner's killing

**INDORE**  
The main accused in the murder of a businessman in Indore over a ₹19-crore dispute in a cable TV firm has been arrested in Uttarakhand capital Dehradun, police said on Monday. Businessman Sandeep Agarwal (42) was shot in Vijay Nagar, Indore, on January 16. Main accused Rohit Sethi was held by Uttarakhand police with 112 grams of charas from a park in Dehradun. PTI

## Five killed in road accident in Odisha

**BARIPADA (ODISHA)**  
At least five persons were killed and one injured in a road accident on National Highway-18 in Mayurbhanj district, police said on Monday. The incident happened on Sunday night at Tarakoti. Six persons on three bikes were on their way to Baisinga and Baleswar respectively when a speeding lorry hit the bikes. PTI

# Delhi court refuses to stay ED interrogation of Robert Vadra

Directs him to join Enforcement Directorate's probe; to hear plea on March 2

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday refused to stay the interrogation of Robert Vadra in a money laundering case, directing him to join the Enforcement Directorate's investigation on Tuesday.

It also posted Mr. Vadra's plea, seeking directions to stay the ED interrogation, for hearing on March 2.

Special CBI Judge Arvind Kumar also directed the agency to supply within five days the hard copies of the documents seized from Mr. Vadra during raids conducted at his offices last year.

Mr. Vadra, who is the brother-in-law of Congress president Rahul Gandhi, had said in the application moved by him on Saturday that the ED has been interrogating him based on seized documents and, therefore, their copies should be provided to him.

Senior advocate K.T.S. Tulsi, appearing for Mr. Vadra, alleged that the agency wants to speed up the investigation and they are losing



Robert Vadra

their patience as elections are approaching.

## Political campaign'

"The ED is only interested in political campaign. They have given us documents in electronic form, which are not opening. I am seeking a stay on interrogation till the documents are given to me," Mr. Tulsi said. The court rejected the request.

Mr. Tulsi told the court that under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, Mr. Vadra was entitled to get a copy of the documents.

Special public prosecutor D.P. Singh, appearing for the agency, said that the ED can only give documents that

## 'In no hurry to join politics'

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

A day after hinting at "a larger role in serving the people", Robert Vadra on Monday said he was not in a hurry to take the political plunge.

His comments came on a day when posters were put up in his hometown Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, welcoming him to contest the elections.

Mr. Vadra had on Sunday put up a Facebook post saying he might play "a larger role

in serving the people" after the ongoing cases against him were over, sparking speculation over his joining active politics.

Mr. Vadra is being probed by the Enforcement Directorate in money laundering cases.

"I need to absolve myself from baseless accusations and allegations... I will start working on it. There is no hurry. People need to feel that I can make a change," he clarified.

fore the ED after it took up his plea for hearing.

Mr. Vadra is facing probe in cases relating to purchase of alleged illegal assets abroad and an alleged land scam in Bikaner, Rajasthan.

The court had on February 16 extended the interim bail granted to Mr. Vadra till March 2.

## Chouhan leads BJP protest in Satna over killing of twins

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BHOPAL

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

The main Opposition party staged protests across the State, including Bhopal, over the shocking abduction-killing of twin brothers, and demanded death sentence for the culprits besides action against those guilty of "inept probe" into the case.

The march was led by senior BJP leader and former

gunpoint by two masked men from their school's premises in Chitrakoot, Satna, on February 12. The kidnappers later killed the minors, whose bodies were found in the Yamuna in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh.

Talking to reporters after the march, Mr. Chouhan said the State government should take measures to ensure such incidents do not recur

in the future.

The Satna case should be tried in a fast-track court and the prosecution should ensure death sentence for the culprits, Mr. Chouhan said.

## Shoddy probe'

The ex-CM said those guilty of shoddy probe should also be punished because the twins were in captivity of the kidnappers for 12 days and

## Apex court to hear Ayodhya case today

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Tuesday the politically sensitive Ayodhya's Ram-Janmabhoomi Babri Masjid land dispute matter.

It will be heard by a five-Judge Constitution Bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S.A. Bobde, D.Y. Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S. Abdul Nazeer.

The apex court had on January 27 cancelled the scheduled hearing for January 29 as Justice Bobde was not available that day.

Fourteen appeals have been filed in the apex court against the 2010 Allahabad High Court judgment, delivered in four civil suits, that the 2.77-acre land in Ayodhya be partitioned equally among the three parties: the Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla.

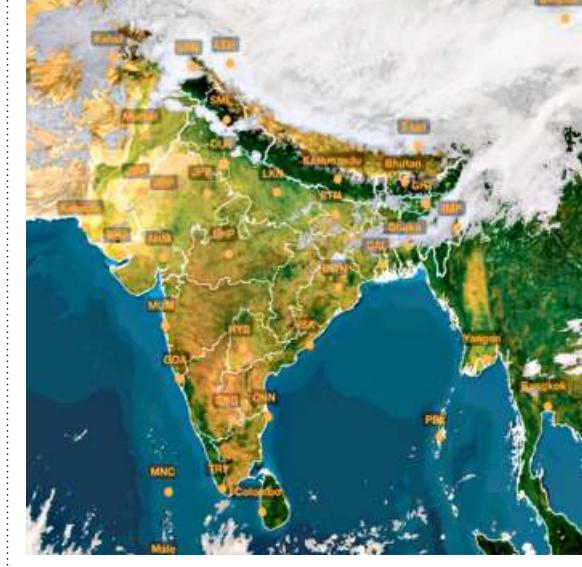
The 0.313 acre plot, on which the disputed structure stood before it was demolished on December 6, 1992, was within the 2.77-acre disputed premises, the plea filed by the government had said.

The 0.313 acre plot, on which the disputed structure stood before it was demolished on December 6, 1992, was within the 2.77-acre disputed premises, the plea filed by the government had said.

The ruling Congress said this is not an issue related to politics. "The incident is very sad. It is not an issue of politics. The Opposition needs to look at a mirror... BJP people were found involved in recent crimes in Mandsaur, Ratlam and Barwani," said State Congress media cell coordinator Narendra Saluja.

## WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE &amp; AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

**Forecast for Tuesday:** Thunderstorm accompanied with hail-storm/lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Sikkim, Odisha, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	6.7	24.1	17.2	Kozhikode	....	34.5	24.6
Ahmedabad	....	32.2	16.0	Kurnool	....	39.6	24.0
Aizawl	....	28.2	14.2	Lucknow	....	27.5	10.4
Allahabad	0.1	29.7	11.0	Madurai	....	36.3	20.7
Bengaluru	....	35.5	17.2	Mangaluru	....	34.0	21.6
Bhopal	....	29.3	12.6	Mumbai	....	33.1	17.5
Bhubaneswar	0.2	32.5	22.0	Mysuru	....	35.5	13.0
Chandigarh	....	22.7	8.1	New Delhi	....	25.4	9.2
Chennai	....	32.2	23.7	Patna	....	29.0	13.8
Coimbatore	....	37.2	20.5	Port Blair	....	31.5	22.4
Dehradun	....	22.5	9.5	Puducherry	....	32.2	22.8
Gangtok	....	—	8.7	Pune	....	34.6	14.0
Goa	....	32.4	21.5	Raipur	....	31.9	21.2
Guwahati	29.6	15.3	15.3	Ranchi	....	8.2	12.5
Hubballi	....	34.0	21.0	Shillong	....	19.2	9.9
Hyderabad	....	37.3	21.3	Shimla	....	12.1	2.1
Imphal	....	19.0	10.0	Srinagar	....	0.3	0.9
Jaipur	....	27.0	13.3	Trivandrum	....	34.5	22.4
Kochi	....	32.2	24.4	Tiruchi	....	36.3	19.5
Kohima	0.4	23.4	7.5	Vijayawada	....	35.6	22.0
Kolkata	19	24.1	16.8	Visakhapatnam	....	30.9	25.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

## Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	CO	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	CODE
Ahmedabad	48	.61	25	....	....	....
Bengaluru	....	8	.71	25	....	....
Chennai	....	6	.15	43	118	....
Delhi	29	.64	99	290	217	....
Hyderabad	....	8	.30	28	....	....
Kolkata	10	.88	34	242	148	....
Lucknow	....	12	.36	34	308	....
Mumbai	21	.28	87	....	102	....
Pune	....	30	.15	52	....	....
Visakhapatnam	28	.53	52	....	84	.137

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh recorded the overall air quality index (AQI) score of 277 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 60.

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

SO<sub>2</sub>: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO<sub>2</sub>: Nitrogen Dioxide. Abnormal respiratory issues, 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<sub>2.5</sub> & PM<sub>10</sub>: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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PH: 98203 50726

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Mr. GAURAV SEHGAL

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## VISVESVARAYAJALANIGAM LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)

## IN BRIEF



Ramdev may head first Vedic education board

**NEW DELHI**  
Yoga guru Ramdev may head the country's first government-recognised board of Vedic education, with a proposal from his Patanjali Trust being recommended by a selection committee. Ramdev's group has promised to provide a funding of ₹21 crore. PTI

## Two Trinamool leaders shot dead

**KOLKATA**  
Nazmul Sheikh, a 33-year old Trinamool leader from Baharampur in Murshidabad district was shot dead on Monday near his residence. The victim's family accused Trinamool leader Rajib Hossain of murdering Sheikh. Another TMC leader, Raju Naskar, was on Sunday shot dead at Canning in South 24 Parganas district. Naskar's wife has blamed party leader Rabindra Naskar.

## Kamal seeks applications from likely candidates

**CHENNAI**  
Makal Needhi Maam founder Kamal Haasan on Monday invited applications from candidates interested in contesting the Lok Sabha election. All applications would be considered and reviewed by the party's election committee and a formal interview would be conducted at the party headquarters after March 7, he said.

## Now, check online how your train meal is cooked

**NEW DELHI**  
Train passengers can now access live feed of how their meals are being cooked and packed at railway kitchens. The portal can be reached at [www.raftdrishi.cris.org.in](http://www.raftdrishi.cris.org.in). The portal will give information on various trains, stations, tickets sold and live feed from IRCTC kitchens. PTI

**C** It's a moment to be proud of. She (Guneet Monga) has done it. She and Shaan Vyas and all the co-producers and the directors who made it possible have something to be proud of

**ANURAG KASHYAP**, filmmaker

**C** It's a moment of great pride for us. Guneet has fought against all odds to be where she is and it's a remarkable team effort. It's a very inspiring, empowering and loving film about hope

**RICHIA CHADHA**, Actor

**C** Congratulations to Guneet and the entire team of Period. End of Sentence for winning big. A much-needed topic of discussion and well-deserved win

**AKSHAY KUMAR**, Actor

**C** One of the most special moments... a film based on the taboos around menstruation wins Best Documentary Short. Congratulations to the team, and Guneet Monga

**PRIYANKA CHOPRA**, Actor

## Here is to more girl power: Guneet Monga

Now that we have an Oscar, let us go change the world, says co-producer of *Period. End of Sentence*

**NAMRATA JOSHI**

MUMBAI

This was how the Oscar-winning *Period. End of Sentence* got to be made: Ten teenaged girls from Oakwood School, North Hollywood, had read that girls in rural Indian schools drop out because of periods. They raised \$3,000 to donate a pad-making machine, with the help of GLI (Girls Learn International), an NGO in Los Angeles, and Action India, Delhi. Later, they decided to make a short film on the effort, to spread the message further.

The documentary shows how in Kathi Khera village in Uttar Pradesh, local women, deprived of affordable pads, don't just find steady income and empowerment by making their own brand called Fly but also end up getting access to the feminine hygiene product themselves.

In a press note, co-producer of the documentary, Guneet Monga, thanked the Academy in recognising the efforts of the young girls from Oakwood as well as those in Kathi Khera.

**I am honoured**  
She also acknowledged the decade-long work of Action India, run by Gauri Chaud-

hary, on spreading awareness about reproductive rights. "I am honoured and absolutely humbled to partner with Melissa [Berton] and Rayka [Zehtabchi] in making our short documentary hap-

pen. Mandakini Kakar from Sikhya was on the floor working with the film and is the voice of the film too. And thank you Stacey Sher and Lisa Taback for supporting this massive dream. And thank you Netflix for truly putting us on the map," she said.

She added that period is an end of a sentence but not a girl's education. "Here is to more girl power... I really want every girl to know that each one of them is a goddess... Now that we have an Oscar, let us go change the world," she said.

This is the second film set

in India, after Megan Mylan's *Smile Pinki* (2008), to have won the best documentary short Oscar. Mylan's documentary was also set in U.P. – Rampur Dahaba village in Mirzapur, near Varanasi.

Monga herself has previously worked on another Oscar contender *Kavi*, which was a 2010 nominee in the live action short film category but couldn't take the trophy home.

Monga is also a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences herself; she was among the 20 Indians invited to join last year.



Guneet Monga

## 'Pad Man' feels his message will reach global audience

**M. SOUNDARIYA PREETHA**

COIMBATORE

Arunachalam Muruganathan, a 56-year-old social entrepreneur in Coimbatore, had his handset ringing with congratulatory calls and messages on Monday morning. *Period. End of Sentence*, a documentary that reflects his work, had won an Oscar in the Best Short Documentary category.

"I am very happy. We never expected an Oscar. The subject (menstrual hygiene) has reached a global audience. Not just in India, but, women in Kenya, Uganda, or Bangladesh can learn about menstrual hygiene through the documentary," he says.

*Pad Man*, the Akshay Ku-

**Inspiring people:** Arunachalam Muruganantham in Coimbatore on Monday. ■ S. SIVA SARAVANAN

mar-starrer inspired by the life of Mr. Muruganantham had created a huge impact in India. The Oscar for *Period. End of Sentence* will take the subject to more people in different countries, he adds. "I

have received several calls from women who have seen the movie and not only started using the napkins but are educating other women too. That is the real award."

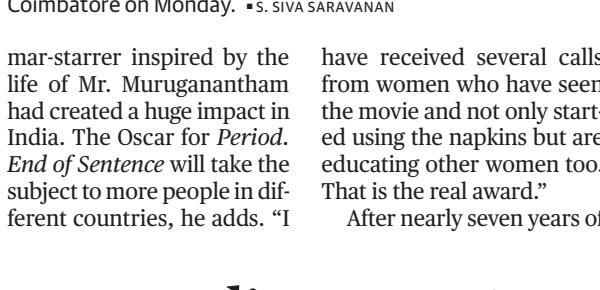
After nearly seven years of

research, Mr. Muruganantham started manufacturing machines in 2004 to produce affordable sanitary napkins. The machines are set up mainly in rural areas, where women make the napkins and sell them. "I have installed 5,300 machines in India. More than one lakh women are employed and they produce 1,500 different brands of sanitary pads," he says.

The aim is to achieve 100% use of sanitary napkins among women and provide self-employment opportunities to 10 lakh women. He has also enabled installation of the machines in 24 countries, including six machines in Pakistan and 10 in Bangla-

des. He has trained a group of women in Afghanistan. One machine will be commissioned in Chennai on March 8 this year, to be operated by 20 hearing and speech impaired women.

According to him, the challenge is not in installing the machinery but in breaking the taboo against use of sanitary napkins. "Several communities have beliefs against use of the pads. Such beliefs exist in many other countries too." The Government should include menstrual hygiene in the curriculum," he says. The Delhi government plans to incorporate a summary of important events in his life in the school curriculum.



Arunachalam Muruganantham in Coimbatore on Monday. ■ S. SIVA SARAVANAN

one paisa in compensation to those who have died in the sewers?" said Darshan Rattan Ravan, the leader of the group.

He was also scathing about Mr. Modi's earlier justification of manual scavenging as a "spiritual experience" for the

Valmiki community. "If people can attain moksha for entering the sewers, why go on a pilgrimage? This is the way to misguide illiterate people," he added.

The Aadi Dharma Samaj calls itself a spiritual, cultural and educational movement. People at the Jantar Mantar protest venue waved blue flags and wore bead necklaces hung with Valmiki medallions. Their focus is to rehabilitate the safai karamchari community through training for alternative professions, fighting drug addiction and illiteracy, and promoting education, espe-

cially for the girl child.

Swaraj India president Yogendra Yadav, who addressed the protesters, laid out their demands to political parties.

"All manifestos for the 2019 Lok Sabha polls must include the promise to implement the Supreme Court's orders and the anti-manual scavenging laws, to end all human entry into sewers within one year, to regularise all sanitation jobs by ending contract work in the sector within five years and to develop a national consensus on sub quotas for the castes engaged in such work," said Mr. Yadav.

## Assam hooch tragedy toll rises to 155

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

GUWAHATI

The death toll in the Assam hooch tragedy touched 155 on Monday as preliminary investigation identified methanol and jaggery as the killer combination.

The disaster struck

some villages around two tea estates in as many eastern Assam districts on Thursday night. According to data provided by the government in the Assembly on Monday, 95 and 60 people have so far died in Golaghat and Jorhat districts. Of the deceased, 45 are women. The administrative heads of the districts said a total of 268 people were undergoing treatment.

## Lack of advice to pilots led to collision

**ADITYA ANAND**

MUMBAI

The non-availability of any advice to the pilots by the airport operator's dispatch section with regard to restrictions on taxiing and poor lighting have been found to be the cause of a ground collision of two aircraft at Mumbai airport in 2016.

An official probe by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Board into a ground collision between a Kuwait Airways flight which had just landed in Mumbai and an IndiGo aircraft headed for Jaipur has also recommended that the Mumbai International Airport Ltd and the

Airports Authority of India treat the incident site as a 'hot spot' till a permanent solution is reached. The incident, reported on November 30, 2016, occurred when the IndiGo aircraft was cleared to taxi via a specified path and hold when it reached a particular point.

## Sanitation workers slam Modi govt.

Demand end to manual scavenging, regularisation of contract jobs

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi washed the feet of five sanitation workers at Parliament Street under the banner of the Aadhi Dharm Samaj to slam his government's failure to take concrete steps to end manual scavenging and better the lives of sanitation workers.

"What is the point of washing feet when his government has failed to stop those feet from entering sewers? When it has failed to give even



Sanitation workers stage a protest in Mumbai on Monday. ■ SUPREET SAPKAL

one paisa in compensation to those who have died in the sewers?" said Darshan Rattan Ravan, the leader of the group.

He was also scathing about Mr. Modi's earlier justification of manual scavenging as a "spiritual experience" for the

## STEP gets award for best EdTech firm

**STAFF REPORTER**

CHENNAI

STEP (Standardized Test of English Proficiency) received the prestigious Digital learning company of the year award at EdTech Review Summit and Expo 2019 - India's biggest EdTech gathering. The event was attended by more than 1,000 members of the EdTech community including startup founders, venture capitalists and educators.

Launched by The Hindu Group in 2016, STEP's mission is to address the prevalent English language communication gap in the country, identified as one of the major reasons for underemployment and unemployment. To achieve this goal, they are building billion-scale, low-cost web and app-based products to suit the requirements of all categories of learners, from students and job seekers to housewives and executives.

dry the flooded mine.

The apex court further issued show cause notice to the owner of the mine, saying it would consider granting compensation to the family members of the victim as the prime factor of responsibility and liability for the mishap was with the owner. Rat hole mines are illegal.

In January, Mr. Mehta had informed the court that the mine was 25 storeys deep and a maze with no blueprints available to guide the specialist Navy divers in search of the miners.

He had said the divers were working blind.

**ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED**

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Tender No: PDS/1/35/Sugar Tender/Apr-June-19 Date: 25.02.2019

**SHORT TENDER NOTICE**

EMANELMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF SUPPLIERS FOR SUPPLY OF 22717.97 MTs. OF ISS GRADE S-30/S-31 CANE SUGAR UNDER PDS FOR THE MONTHS FROM APRIL 2019 TO JUNE 2019 THROUGH NCDEX e MARKETS LTD

All interested Sugar manufacturers in All Over India are invited for registration as suppliers eligible to participate in the e reverse auction to be conducted by NCDEX e Markets Ltd on behalf of APSCSC Ltd for supply of sugar to the MLS Points of (13) Districts in Andhra Pradesh State.

For Registration, interested Sugar manufacturers may visit [www.apscsc.gov.in](http://www.apscsc.gov.in) & [www.ncmct.in](http://www.ncmct.in) for application form and information brochure, please visit the official NIMCET-2019 website <https://www.nimcet.in>

The application fee is Rs. 1100/- for SC/ST/PWD candidates and Rs. 2200/- for OPEN/OBC candidates.

**Date of Examination: 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2019**

Starting date of submission of online application is March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 and Closing date is March 31, 2019

**SECRETARY, NIMCET-2019**

10th August 1918 26th February 2010

**P. PUNNAIAH**

## Drought less probable this year: Skymet

'El Nino conditions petering out'

**JACOB KOSHY**

NEW DELHI

There's unlikely to be a drought in 2019 as the El Niño – a climate phenomenon linked to poor monsoon in India – is likely to peter out by the beginning of the season, according to a forecast on Monday by private weather forecaster Skymet.

"The El Nino conditions were on the rise in the Pacific Ocean till December last. The temperatures are now declining, and the probability of El Nino is also falling. This will reduce to about 50% by the time monsoon arrives with a gradual decline thereafter as well. This means it is going to be a developing El Nino year," said Justin Singh, managing director, Skymet Weather.

An El Nino refers to a half-to-one-degree rise in temperatures in the Central equatorial Pacific and is linked to those of several other institutes, for now, agreed that the odds of a major El Nino (a temperature rise greater than a degree) were low. "So we're confident on that front but a fuller forecast can only be made, at the earliest, by April," Mr. Singh told *The Hindu*.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) too concurred that a strong El Nino is unlikely but said it's too early to rule out a drought. "The way we compute...we need weather conditions until March 30 to input into our models and only then we get a sense of the monsoon. However, the odds of a strong El Nino are low," said K.J. Ramesh, Director-General, IMD.



Chances of a normal monsoon the highest.

from 90% to 96% of the normal is 'below normal' and less than 90% constitutes a drought. Mr. Singh said that while the chances of a normal monsoon were the highest, about 50%, the next highest odds were those of 'below normal' rains.

**Not formal forecast**  
Skymet's estimate doesn't constitute a formal monsoon forecast, Mr. Singh clarified. However the organisation's weather models as well as those of several other institutes, for now, agreed that the odds of a major El Nino (a temperature rise greater than a degree) were low. "So we're confident on that front but a fuller forecast can only be made, at the earliest, by April," Mr. Singh told *The Hindu*.

Earlier this month, the U.S. National Climate Centre issued a forecast that an El Nino had formed, was likely to persist until spring but there was only a 50% chance that it would persist beyond spring (March-April). "Because forecasts through the spring tend to be more uncertain and/or less accurate, the predicted chance that El Nino will persist beyond spring is 50% or less..." the climate centre's statement noted.

Skymet defines 'normal rains' as that in a 4% window of 88 cm between June and September; 8



## Before eviction

States must quickly determine if procedural lapses deprived forest-dwellers of their rights

The Supreme Court's order to evict, over the next five months, occupants of forest lands who failed to make a successful claim for tenure under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, has once again highlighted the dilemma of reconciling inalienable tribal rights with biodiversity conservation. When the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act was passed, it was with the wholly welfare goal of making these communities partners in conservation. They would be stewards of forests that have shrunk and become fragmented over the decades. It was another landmark, therefore, when the Forest Rights Act protected possession and conferred heritability of land to over 23 lakh out of 44 lakh claimants who are either specified Scheduled Tribes, or people who have lived in forests traditionally, relying on forest produce for at least 75 years prior to the cut-off year of 2005. But over 20 lakh other applicants who could not establish their claim through gram sabhas and appellate authorities have now been ordered to be evicted by July 12. The 17 State governments which have been asked to carry out the evictions must respond by quickly determining whether there were procedural lapses that deprived applicants of due process, notably in making appeals. This process may take time, more so in an election year, and the sheer scale of action required would necessitate an extension of the eviction date.

In the ideal scheme, as the Forest Rights Act envisages, forested areas and their biodiversity will be protected by communities, with individuals taking forest produce only for sustenance and livelihood. Such an approach is at odds with the colonial paradigm of forests being treated as a resource run by an opaque bureaucracy that replaced precious old-growth trees with monocultures such as teak. Today, forests have shrunk to about 5% of the land in terms of protected areas, while human pressures are growing: landscapes are alienated for resource exploitation, road and dam building, and a lot of wildlife is lost to poaching. Man-animal conflict is growing. Claims for tenure under the Forest Rights Act must therefore satisfy the primary test of whether they are legally unimpeachable, and even if they are, whether they would impose additional pressures on forests and wildlife. The answer in many areas may lie in resettlement. In some well-documented cases, such as in the Western Ghats, alternative land and cash compensation convinced tribals to move out of core areas. One example is that of the Nagarhole National Park, where the outcome has been good for both people and wildlife, as evidenced by the recovery of tiger density over three decades. State governments need to pursue such programmes in a humane and vigorous fashion. They must also come forward to declare critical wildlife habitats under the Act. This will aid in formulating resettlement schemes for tribal residents.

## Pre-poll gambit

Reduction in rates brings cheer to real estate sector, but unsettles the GST regime

On Sunday, the Goods and Services Tax Council recommended a dramatic reduction in the headline indirect tax rates payable on under-construction properties. The GST rate payable on affordable homes, with effect from April 2019, will come down from 8% to 1%, and all other residential properties outside the affordable segment will attract 5% GST instead of the 12% levied at present. The new rate on affordable homes, defined as units that cost less than ₹45 lakh and have a carpet area of 60 square metres in metro cities and 90 square metres in non-metros, is far lower than the 3% rate mooted by a ministerial panel. The Council needs to meet again in March to clear the transition rules for the proposed rate cuts, and the conditions to be stipulated for housing projects to be eligible for the new rates. Days ahead of the expected announcement of the Lok Sabha poll dates by the Election Commission, the government is clearly keen on reaching out to different sections of voters. It has argued that the move will help meet the aspirations of millions of homebuyers, and revive the fortunes of real estate developers. Among the country's largest employers in recent years, the realty sector has been marred by the debt overdose that has plagued much of corporate India; this has been compounded by high unsold inventory that hit cash flows. Properties that were already complete at the time of the GST's adoption were spared the tax. But the introduction of 12% and 8% GST for under-construction premier housing units and affordable homes, respectively, had come as a dampener for fresh bookings.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley reckons that revenues will not be hit by the rate cut. The implicit assumption is that higher sales volumes will compensate the exchequer. Experts expect a 4.5% reduction in home prices, but the decision to deny input tax credits to builders could bring a twist in the tale. Developers may be forced to raise base prices as critical inputs, particularly cement (taxed at 28%), entail high levies that can no longer be offset. Buyers may still prefer to opt for unsold completed properties that don't attract GST, instead of incomplete projects. Compliance as well as material costs could go up too, as the Council is likely to mandate that around 80% of a project's inputs must come from formal sector vendors in the GST net. It is difficult to determine to what extent a proposed tax exemption on development rights will offset these costs for developers. Whatever the outcome of this pre-election ploy, the frequent structural tinkering ahead of electoral battles has emerged as the biggest challenge to the stabilisation of India's fledgling GST regime.

# Coalition of the concerned

Multi-pronged diplomacy is vital to compel Pakistan to end its support for terrorist groups



SUHASINI HAIDER

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO



In the wake of the Pulwama attack on February 14, the government has iterated once again its plan for the "diplomatic isolation" of Pakistan. The idea, which was first articulated after the 2016 Uri attacks, is a non-starter, as was underlined by the visit of the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman to both countries earlier this month, just a few days after Pulwama. In Pakistan, the Prince called himself "Pakistan's Ambassador" in his country, and issued a joint statement praising Pakistan for its fight against terrorism. Clearly, a more considered diplomatic strategy, less full of rhetoric, must be chalked out by the government in response to cross-border terrorism.

### Beyond isolation

To begin with, the government would do better to repackage its idea of "isolating Pakistan" into one of building a more inclusive 'coalition against terrorism emanating from Pakistan'. In the past couple of weeks alone, Iran and Afghanistan have faced terror attacks on their security forces along the border with Pakistan – and several other countries, which have also faced such attacks or see the presence of Pakistan-based groups on their soil, would be willing to join ranks on this. The truth is, in today's interconnected world, it is vainglorious to expect countries to join a unilateral plan for isolation.

Despite the U.S.'s considerable might, it has been unable to get most countries, including India, to sever ties with Iran and North Korea, for example. The impact of

such a campaign is also doubtful: after years of trying to isolate North Korea, the U.S. is pursuing talks with its leader. While isolation might work as a campaign slogan for domestic audiences, it is quickly rebuffed each time a country engages with the nation one is trying to isolate. An inclusive coalition is more likely to move nations at the global stage as well. The success of the efforts led by the U.S. and other countries to 'grey list' Pakistan at the Financial Action Task Force or of French efforts for a United Nations Security Council statement on Pulwama points to that.

Second, India must focus on the case against Masood Azhar, which pre-dates the case against 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed. In a first, the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) claimed responsibility for the Pulwama attack in a suicide bomber video that has not thus far been disputed by its leader Masood Azhar. Azhar has been on the U.S.'s radar since 1992, when he was a leader of the banned terror group Harkat ul-Ansar, and worked with jihadi groups in Sudan and Bangladesh. His release after years in Indian prisons in exchange for hostages on board the IC-814 flight should on its own merit his banning and prosecution – not just in Pakistan, but in all the countries whose nationals were on board

that Indian Airlines flight, as well as the stops that flight made: in Nepal, the United Arab Emirates and Afghanistan.

Third, India must prepare for a pushback from Pakistan, most likely in terms of internationalising the Kashmir issue, and linking it to progress in Afghanistan. This is what Pakistan's Ambassador to Afghanistan, Zahid Nasrullah, did when he said that any attack by India would "impact the momentum" of the peace talks in Afghanistan. His words were heard beyond Kabul, in Washington and Moscow. On February 18, members of the Taliban negotiating team were due to meet U.S. special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad in Islamabad. The talks were called off after Afghanistan objected to the Taliban team's travel to Pakistan, and rescheduled for February 25 in Doha. It remains to be seen how much countries trying to negotiate with the Taliban will need Pakistan's leverage to make progress on those talks. U.S. President Donald Trump sees them as the precursor for plans to pull out most troops in combat in Afghanistan before his re-election bid for 2020.

### The American angle

Next, the government must prioritise action over words, when it comes to moves against Pakistan's sponsorship and hosting of the

JeM. The measures taken thus far – cancelling Most Favoured Nation status, maximising use of Indus waters, denying visas to Pakistani sports persons, etc. – have little real impact on Pakistan and certainly none on the military establishment. Instead of priding itself on extracting statements of condemnation from various governments in the world, it is better for New Delhi to use India's considerable diplomatic leverage to ensure action that would shut down the JeM and the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) permanently and bring their leaders to justice. In this regard, mere statements and bans have not worked for more than two decades, and the government must consider other options, especially with the countries that carry the most leverage and access in Pakistan: China, the U.S. and Saudi Arabia.

It is puzzling that the U.S. has been able to carry out drone strikes on a whole host of terror group leaders on Pakistan's western front, but never once targeted camps and infrastructure belonging to the JeM and the LeT, despite their well-established links to al-Qaeda. India must also press the U.S. to place travel sanctions on specific entities in the Pakistani military establishment unless visible action is taken against the JeM, whose leaders hold public rallies and issue videos threatening India.

Contrary to popular perception, the Trump administration's moves to cancel funds to Pakistan last year is not the toughest action the U.S. has contemplated: in May 1992, then U.S. President George H.W. Bush had directed his Secretary of State James Baker to send a stern letter to then Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif threatening to designate Pakistan as a "State sponsor of Terror" for its support to Kashmiri and Sikh militant groups.

A similar line of talks must be

pursued by New Delhi with Riyadh – which once was a donor to Pakistan's Islamist institutions, but now is wary of funding extremism – to withhold any funds that may trickle down to charitable wings run by the JeM and the LeT. With China, it is surprising that the issue of a simple ban at the UN Security Council has not been made India's chief demand from Beijing. It is hoped that this will be rectified soon when the next proposal to ban Azhar is brought to the UNSC, and during Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj's visit to China this week for the trilateral Russia-China meeting. More than the ban, however, India must ask China for action against any entities dealing with the JeM in Pakistan, given that China is the partner with the most influence in Pakistan today, and one with the most to lose from terror groups in Punjab operating along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

### Steady dialogue

Finally, India must look to its own actions on the diplomatic front with Pakistan. Calling off a formal dialogue process for more than a decade has clearly yielded no desired outcome. South Asia as a region, and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) process too have suffered the consequences of this disengagement, without yielding any desired outcomes. A measured, steady and non-political level of dialogue is a more effective way of impressing India's determination to root out terrorism than the present on-again, off-again policy. As the nation prepares for a possible military response to the Pulwama attack, it is important that New Delhi consider its diplomatic response carefully, particularly taking into account both the historical and regional context of its moves.

[suhasini.h@thehindu.co.in](mailto:suhasini.h@thehindu.co.in)

## The correct prescription

Entry of e-pharmacies will bring down the price of medicine for Indian patients



PRASHANT REDDY T.

Amid a slew of conflicting judicial decisions from different High Courts, the legality of e-pharmacies continues to be questioned by various trade associations such as the All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD). It represents 8.4 lakh pharmacists who run the brick and mortar pharmacies in neighbourhoods across India.

E-pharmacies, which operate through websites or smartphone apps on the Internet, offer medicines for sale at a discount of at least 20% when compared to traditional pharmacists, with the added convenience of home delivery of medicines to one's doorstep. For scheduled drugs, patients can submit photographs of prescriptions while placing orders. Despite operating in India for at least four years now, the legal status of these e-pharmacies is not clear because the government is yet to notify its draft rules that it published in 2018.

The fiercest opponents of e-pharmacies are trade associations

of existing pharmacists and chemists. They argue that their livelihoods are threatened by venture capital backed e-pharmacies and that jobs of thousands are on the line. Apart from these obvious arguments, these trade associations also spin imaginary tales of how e-pharmacies will open the door to drug abuse and also the sale of sub-standard or counterfeit drugs, thereby threatening public health. There is enough evidence on record to demonstrate how existing pharmacies contribute generously to drug abuse and sale of sub-standard medicine. There is no reason to suspect that e-pharmacies are going to worsen the situation in anyway.

### A case of cartelisation

The more prudent way of looking at the entry of e-pharmacies is competition and the resultant effect it will have on lowering the price of medicine for Indian patients. Viewed from this perspective, there is virtually no doubt that e-pharmacies should be allowed to operate because the history of India's trade associations of pharmacists is one of rampant, unabashed cartelisation that has resulted in an artificial inflation of medicine prices.

In a fully functional, competitive market, pharmacists would compete with each other for busi-

ness. This competition could happen in the form of discounts or improving operational efficiency. For example, if two retailers buy a medicine from a wholesaler at ₹50 and the maximum retail price of the drug is ₹75, they are free to sell it at ₹70 or ₹65 or even ₹51. The seller with the lower price gets more customers and can make more profits. However, if both sellers enter into an agreement with each other to sell the drug at ₹75 and they also clearly define the geographical area within which they are operating, they both make higher profits but at the cost of the patient who now has to pay higher prices.

This practice of two competitors colluding to fix the sale price and area of operation is called cartelisation, and is illegal under India's Competition Act. The premise of this law is that a free market is efficient only if all sellers are competing with each other to offer the lowest price to the customer.

Over the last decade, the Com-

petition Commission of India (CCI) has had to deal with several complaints alleging that trade associations of pharmacists are providing platforms for cartelisation where pharmacists are basically rigging the market. In simple terms, this means that pharmacists, who should otherwise be competing with each other to offer lower prices for their customers, prefer to enter into agreements with each other to fix the price at which they will sell medicines to patients. Once all parties are on the same page, there is no reason to compete with each other and reduce prices.

### Another barrier

A second, more insidious strategy is the practice of requiring pharmaceutical companies to apply for a no objection certificate (NOC) from the regional trade association before they appoint new stockists in a region to sell a particular drug. This has the effect of artificially restricting competition in certain markets because more stockists mean more competition. By creating such artificial, extra-legal barriers to the free trade of medicines within India, these trade associations create huge distortions in the Indian market. It is suspected that these practices continue despite multiple restraining orders by the CCI.

In its recent policy note on "Making markets work for affordable healthcare", published in October 2018, the CCI noted, "One major factor that contributes to high drug prices in India is the unreasonably high trade margins." One of the culprits for this phenomenon identified by the CCI was "self-regulation by trade associations [which] also contributes towards high margins as these trade associations control the entire drug distribution system in a manner that mutes competition".

One of the solutions proposed by the CCI was encouraging more e-pharmacies. As stated by the CCI in its policy note, "Electronic trading of medicines via online platforms, with appropriate regulatory safeguards, can bring in transparency and spur price competition among platforms and among retailers, as has been witnessed in other product segments."

Where the state has failed, it is possible that venture capitalist backed e-pharmacists will succeed in bringing back competition to the retail drug markets in India. There is no reason for India to continue indulging trade associations that have no taste for competition or fair business practices.

*Prashant Reddy T. is a Senior Resident Fellow at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy*

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As some of the letters show ('Letters to the Editor', February 25), the new format of the 'Magazine' has been well received.

How about shifting the 'Open Page' to the tabloid? Most of us would like to read its interesting stories/anecdotes at leisure during the week. Most often, the main paper loses its importance by evening.

*J.S. Acharya, Hyderabad*

The makeover has resulted in a product that is rich in content. Perhaps the Literary Review can have poems and short stories, which will also allow creative writers to have a space of their own in the magazine. There should be a forum for readers' opinions.

*B. Prabha, Varkala, Kerala*

*MORE LETTERS ONLINE: [www.thehindu.com/opinion/letters/](http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/letters/)*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to [letters@thehindu.co.in](mailto:letters@thehindu.co.in) must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

### After Pulwama

Being a former government interlocutor for Jammu and Kashmir, one expected the writer to acknowledge the complexity of the problem (Editorial page, "After Pulwama, a sorry response", February 25). There was an eagerness to sing paeans to the erstwhile UPA government's responses.

Nowhere in the article could one find any suggestion or solution to end Pakistan's treacherous and cowardly policy: of locking its regular army in barracks and training and dispatching terrorists to bleed India. Will mollycoddle the separatists make Pakistan shut down its terror camps? The comment about the lack of a Kashmir policy is astonishing because there is no Kashmir policy without

a Pakistan policy. It is impossible to have any policy towards a nation which is a de facto militaristic theocracy masquerading as a modern democracy and which operates in the shadow of international conventions.

V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN, Thiruvananthapuram

**Managing the waste**

The reality about sanitation is a lot more different than what is on record. The mega Swachh Bharat Mission appears to have lost its purpose and it may not be an exaggeration to say that it has been reduced to an exercise of building toilets. The major issues such as whether they are being used or whether these toilets are indeed connected to a proper sewerage system need to be the focus (Editorial page,

"De-odourising sewage", February 25).

DEEPIKA TRIPATHI, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

■ Every citizen is entitled to potable water, but with the population explosion and water management programmes far from satisfactory, the problem of sewage management has been compounded. The other major cause of water pollution is the unchecked discharge of industrial effluents into water bodies, which can be seen across India. The government and other stakeholders should exercise care. Finally, when one talks about sanitation, cosmetic and superficial measures such as "photo ops" of celebrities cleaning roads do not help the main cause.

DEEPAK SINGHAL, Noida

**Migrant focus**

A paradigm shift in the attitude towards migrant labourers in Kerala, to make them live a life of dignity, is no more an optional policy. In a State where there are shifts in the work force ratio, a growing population of the elderly and a yet-to-wane attraction among the young for seek overseas employment, the role that migrant labourers play in ensuring Kerala's progressive march cannot be over-emphasised.

While the LDF government seems alive to this, cosmetic steps need to be augmented with proactive measures (OpEd page, "Old challenges in building a new Kerala", February 25).

AYYASARI RAVEENDRANATH, Aranmula, Kerala

**A Sunday refresh**

The new format of the 'Magazine' is interesting. I have come across the magazines of other newspapers but *The Hindu*'s is different. The

# The case of Shamima Begum

If the U.K. goes with the exclusionary instinct of an angry public, it will be dangerous for democracy



VIDYA RAM

In February 2015, three British schoolgirls from East London, aged between 15 and 16, took a flight to Istanbul and then Syria. They had told their parents they were going out for a day, but they didn't return. While their worried families went to Turkey in March to find out what happened to them, the disappearance of the girls sparked a national conversation on how young men and women in the U.K. were leaving for Syria and Iraq, often unbeknown to their families, to join the ranks of the Islamic State (IS) and other terrorist groups.

Giving evidence to a parliamentary committee shortly after the girls disappeared, the then Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Mark Rowley, spelt out what appeared to be Britain's approach: "If you have been innocently duped, you travelled to a war zone and you regretted it and you have come back, there is nothing criminal or terrorist in that. Clearly, if you have taken part in terrorism... then we are going to do everything we can to make sure you face the consequence of that through the criminal justice process." Britain has been contending with the issue of returnees for some time now. The government believes that of the 900 individuals who travelled to Syria and Iraq to join forces such as the IS, 40% have returned to the U.K., 20% have died, and 40% remain in the region.

Four years after the disappearance of the girls, *The Times* discovered one of them, Shamima Begum, in a Syrian refugee camp of 39,000 people. Heavily pregnant at 19 after having lost two children, Begum told the newspaper she had no regrets. She insisted that she was not the "silly" schoolgirl who ran away, but was still frightened. "Now all I want to do is come home to Britain," she said.

**The question of citizenship**  
The story created an uproar in Britain; tabloids raged at her "unrepentant" attitude. The government swiftly ratcheted up its response. While



"The fact that Shamima Begum admitted to having no regrets leaving the U.K. is not surprising given that she lives in a refugee camp that is home to many Islamic State sympathisers." A picture of Begum. ■REUTERS

the Security Minister initially insisted that no British lives would be put at risk to "go looking for terrorists or former terrorists in a failed state," it soon emerged that the authorities were determined to withdraw Begum's British citizenship. Under the British Nationality Act of 1981, the Secretary of State has the power to deprive a person of citizenship on the grounds that it is "conducive to the public good" and that the person would not be rendered stateless. The government believes that Begum either currently holds Bangladeshi citizenship or is eligible to apply for one. Begum and the Bangladesh government deny that she holds dual citizenship, and Bangladesh has even firmly said that there is "no question of her being allowed to enter into Bangladesh." This suggests that Home Secretary Sajid Javid's decision to strip Begum of her citizenship would render her stateless. Her family is considering legal options to challenge this decision. While deplored her conduct and comments to the media, her sister wrote in a letter to Mr. Javid that it is not possible for the family to abandon her either.

The issue has deeply divided Britain. On the one hand, the right-wing has sought to use the controversy to add to the narrative that it has often resorted to: of a supposedly magnanimous, set upon Britain, apt to be exploited by rogue individuals such as an impudent "jihadi bride". To this effect, many have attacked Begum's comments that revealed her

## Migration to Britain

To many others, this has highlighted the dangerous trajectory of British politics, where citizenship and the concept of belonging are under threat, and at the mercy of a capricious political system. Britain's attitude to migrants has already been under great scrutiny over its treatment of the Windrush generation (Commonwealth citizens who were invited to Britain between 1948 and 1971 to help rebuild the country after World War II, and were wrongly treated as illegal immigrants and some even deported). The Begum controversy highlights how only those with foreign roots are at the risk of losing citizenship. A white Brit without foreign ancestry would have no recourse to other countries and would therefore not be stripped of her citizenship. This makes the situation particularly discriminatory.

It raises other ethical questions. One Conservative MP asked in Parliament: "In removing British citizenship, the Home Secretary is essential-

ly saying, 'She's somebody else's problem', but... 'Which other country is supposed to look after her on our behalf? Can you imagine the fury here if we took a French or Italian citizen who joined Islamic State?'" Others wonder about leaving a young woman, who could potentially do harm or radicalise others, in Syria, a country without resources and vulnerable to terrorist activity.

Through all this Mr. Javid has insisted that his decision is all about "keeping the country safe". He has also questioned the ability of Britain's judicial system to hold Begum to account given that she and others like her are in a "very lawless and dangerous place, so it is not always possible... to gather evidence of... activities that could be used to try to have a successful prosecution." However, many in the law enforcement agencies disagree with this perspective. The head of Mi6, Alex Younger, told *The Times* that while those who returned did pose risks, they had the right to come back. Others have pointed to the mechanisms that exist for returnees, such as through the use of temporary exclusion orders that place conditions on their return and enable them to be monitored at home. Still others have noted that depriving Begum of her citizenship could send out the dangerous signal that Britain is playing into the hands of terrorist recruiters, who are eager to make minority communities in the U.K. feel isolated. However, it's easy to see why Mr. Javid, widely seen as having prime ministerial ambitions, may disregard such considerations: A recent *Sky News* poll suggested that 76% of the public are in favour of Begum not being allowed to return.

What Begum did during her time with the 'Caliphate' and the extent to which she continues to sympathise with the IS is not known. The fact that she admitted to having no regrets is hardly a surprise given that she remains in a refugee camp that is home to many IS sympathisers. But if the starting point is to just go with the punitive instinct of an angry public and deprive a young woman, who was potentially brainwashed as a minor, of her fundamental rights, it is a dangerous time for democracy, due process and the rule of law.

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## SINGLE FILE

### More mixed events, please

If the Hopman Cup gets the axe, it will be a loss for the sport

PREETHI RAMAMOORTHY



It was one of tennis' most striking images: Roger Federer and Serena Williams, arguably the greatest players of the sport, playing against each other for the first time. This moment was possible thanks to the Hopman Cup, a mixed team competition that has been held in Perth, Australia, for the past three decades. "Fed/Serena and Hopman Cup is dominating sports news today," *Sports Illustrated's* Jon Wertheim tweeted. "Even 14 time zones removed, there is more talk of this than college bowls. If I'm Tennis Australia, I'm thinking long and hard before I mess with this event."

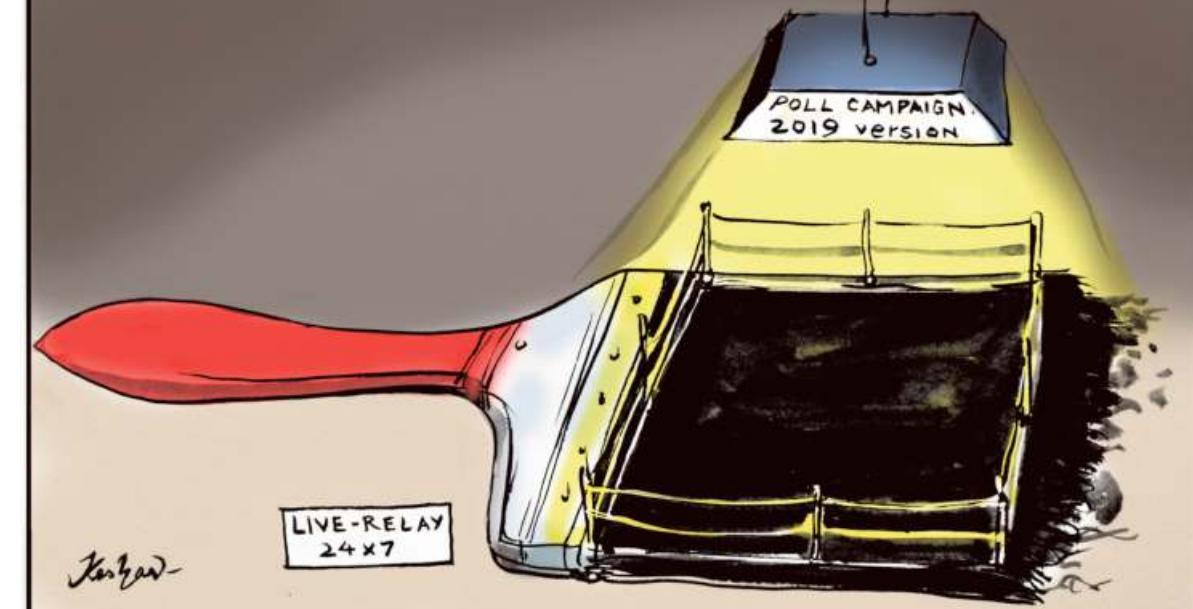
Despite making headlines worldwide, it is unlikely that the world will see a repeat of this. The future of the Hopman Cup is uncertain because the Association of Tennis Players (ATP) is planning to relaunch its World Team Cup, the ATP Cup, around the same time. This all-men's event will serve as another springboard before the Australian Open, carry a hefty \$15 million in prize money and, most importantly, contribute to player ranking points. On the other hand, despite its star performances, the Hopman Cup does not count towards rankings.

Of all major sports, tennis celebrates men and women competing as equals in the same major tournaments, for the same prize money, and in front of the same crowds. Apart from mixed doubles at the Grand Slams and the Olympics, the Hopman Cup is the only tournament where tennis fans can witness the best men and women players compete on the same court. It is one of those rare events that features mixed doubles as the main crowd draw. Some stellar examples from the past include Boris Becker and Steffi Graf, who played together in 1992, and Federer and Martina Hingis, who played together in 2001. This year, Federer and Belinda Bencic won. A record 1,10,364 people were in attendance and several days were sold out.

This is perhaps why it is surprising that the sport has decided to let it go, rather than embrace it as a huge selling point. It also points to what the sport thinks of mixed doubles. Even at Grand Slams, these matches are given little fanfare and often relegated to smaller courts. The prize for winning at Wimbledon is \$1.45 million compared to \$3 million for the singles winner.

But for fans of tennis, some of the most entertaining matches feature both men and women. They are a mixture of power and finesse, joy and unpredictability. Tennis is a gender-balanced sport. But in the last two years, three new all-men events have been introduced: the ATP Cup, the revamped Davis Cup and the Laver Cup. There is no reason why these tournaments cannot include a female or mixed doubles version. When you get your best men and women together, it is ultimately the sport that wins.

The writer writes on tennis for The Hindu



## NOTEBOOK

### When India-Pakistan animosity was pushed to the back burner

Not long ago, the two public service broadcasters promised to share treasures

ANURADHA RAMAN

Since the time of its inception in 1930, All India Radio (AIR) has broadcast interviews, public addresses, conversations, and music. Senior officials often speak about the invaluable treasures in AIR's archives and narrate the most fascinating stories. One that has stayed with me is about Saadat Hasan Manto. Manto apparently scribbled stories on paper napkins, which are in AIR's possession. I dream of seeing those paper napkins some day.

Almost every single artist has sung in AIR studios. I heard that veteran singer Gangubai Hangal was made to wait at the gates of AIR before being allowed to enter its studios for a recording. Much as I wish she had not been made to wait, I have also heard about how, much before television, when AIR ruled the roost, its studios played host with generosity. A newly inde-

pendent country wished to preserve its cultural diversity, and AIR was the patron saint for one and all.

Along with the archival material, which is accessible to journalists, came the problem of storing the spools of recordings in a temperature-controlled environment. Some rare recordings were erased to make way for new public speakers, and these made news.

But what I was looking for six years ago were the rare Muhammad Ali Jinnah tapes – two public speeches made on August 11 and 14, 1947. As with AIR recordings, there was a back story to Jinnah's original tapes on spools (the speeches are now available on YouTube). I was told that the original spool recordings were buried in the vaults of AIR. I was also aware that Pakistan wanted the original tapes of their Quaid-e-Azam's address.

The story goes that two



GETTY IMAGES / ISTOCK

south Indian engineers (most of the engineering staff then were recruited from south India for their technical skills) were dispatched to Pakistan to record Jinnah's address as there were no recording facilities in Lahore and Peshawar then. Here is where things get a little muddled. Apparently, the engineers came back with the recordings, but the recordings got misplaced in the chaos that followed Partition. While Pakistan insisted that India had the tapes, India countered this saying that it didn't have the August 11 recording. This had Jinnah's speech about how all faiths

would enjoy equal treatment in the new country.

After I chased officials at AIR for eight long months, they made available the August 14 recording, which was later returned to Pakistan amidst much fanfare. A public-spirited individual had also filed a request under the Right to Information Act to make public the Jinnah recordings. What AIR also had was another recording of June 3, 1947, a brief talk by Jinnah in Delhi. This was not the 'multi-faith' address.

There was much bonhomie on display as India too made a request for some rare recordings of its film stars, Prithviraj Kapoor and Dilip Kumar, from Pakistan to be returned to its archives. On display was a common legacy where two public service broadcasters promised to share treasures from the past. And for a brief moment in time, animosity was pushed to the back burner.

## FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 26, 1969

### Indus Valley inscriptions deciphered

A team of Finnish scientists yesterday [February 25] announced that they had succeeded in deciphering – by logic, intuition and computer – the language of India's ancient Indus Valley civilisation that vanished about 4,000 years ago and left a mysterious legacy of thousands of inscriptions on beautifully carved seals. The team, sponsored by the Scandinavian Institute of Asian Studies here [Copenhagen], said the breakthrough came only three weeks ago, and provided a key that threw open the doors to a new understanding of the Indus people. "Our key already gave the answer to the mystery of the origin of the Hindu caste system," said Dr. Asko Parpola one of the four Finnish researchers on the team. "It also approved for certain that the bearers of the Indus culture were Dravidians." The deciphered Indus inscriptions showed that the caste system existed long before the Aryans swarmed into India.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 26, 1919

### A Daring Robbery.

A daring robbery is reported to have been committed [in Bangalore] at 2nd Q.V.O. Sappers and Miners. It is stated that at about seven o'clock in the evening a domestic servant, who subsequently turned out to be unemployed, appeared at the guard room with a chit asking for the family allotment cash box to be handed over to Captain Joyce. Believing the chit to be genuine the Havildar of the guard, with the permission of the officer of the day, gave the cash box to the servant. In company of a Sapper, it is stated that these men say that they went to the R.E. officers' mess where they saw a European officer to whom they handed the cash box told the Sapper to return at 10 P.M. for the box, which he did. The man, it is said, alleges that when he went back the same officer said the cash box was locked up in a big safe and he was to come for it in the morning. In the morning, however, the cash box was found broken open and empty with the exception of two or three cheques, on Coles Road, about a furlong away.

## CONCEPTUAL

### Hysterical strength

BIOLOGY

This refers to the abnormal levels of strength exhibited by certain individuals during times of extreme stress. For instance, people have been reported as lifting heavy objects like cars and huge rocks when their lives were under imminent threat. Such superhuman strength is attributed to the production of a variety of hormones like cortisol and adrenaline by the human body when exposed to extreme stress, which in turn increases the overall energy level of an individual.

## MORE ON THE WEB

Oscar fashion in Pictures: Tuxedo gowns, much pink, and jewel tones

<http://bit.ly/oscarphoto>

# Re-imaging Delhi

The governance structure is in need of a drastic remake



RAGHU DAYAL

High wages with little accountability for actual service delivery make public sector agencies an obvious target for patronage hiring. It also results in massive over-staffing. We need privatisation of civic delivery services like cleaning of roads and drains.

### Use of technology

Conservancy services deserve a senior-level exclusive administration. Waste management demands professionalism and technology. The use of biotechnology should help in the treatment and disposal of waste; information technology in city planning and service delivery options; energy saving and cleaner technologies in urban transport; and high-tech, low-cost materials in building and housing. Technology can be used to implement user-based charges for access to roads, electricity and water. Economies of scale can be achieved by sharing service areas such as billing and tariff collections, cable laying and maintenance.

China envisions three big urban clusters – along the Pearl River, the Yangtze River, and the Beijing-Tianjin corridor – each with 50 million people or more. The National Capital Region, aiming to relieve pressure on Delhi, needs to be similarly treated as a Common Economic Zone, with a rationalised inter-State tax structure, uniform financial/banking services, telecom facilities and power supply, an integrated education and health policy, rail and road transport network, water supply and drainage system.

It is not a case of a lack of funds, but of governance and delivery. In most cities, municipalities are viewed as dens of corruption and inaction. Inspectors do not inspect, they only extort. A structured, mandatory inspection system is necessary for effective delivery. Councillors and commissioners don't regularly move around their wards; they remain inaccessible to people.

Owing to its great importance for national reconstruction and countrywide impact, especially for India's large cities – Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru – the real catalyst for reimaging the NCR needs to be the Union government. A compact, less diffused and pruned structure will hopefully usher in a promising paradigm of urban management that is worthy of being replicated across the country. The primary need is for the delivery apparatus to be transformed. The city needs to first address its basic problems before it dreams of striding towards the goal of being really *swachh* and 'smart'.

The writer is former Managing Director, Container Corporation of India



## FROM PAGE ONE

## PM opens war memorial, hits out at Congress

The government approved the construction of NWM on October 7, 2015 with a tentative timeframe of five years for completion of the project. Mr. Modi claimed credit for the memorial, stating that the long wait of veterans was now over.

"In 2014 we started the process for constructing the memorial. Today we have completed it before schedule," he said.

A new Amar Jawan Jyoti (AJJ) was also inaugurated at the memorial and according to officials, the NWM will henceforth be the place for wreath laying for all designated events.

The NWM built at a cost of ₹171 crore, has a 15.5 metre tall main obelisk with an eternal flame at the centre. This is surrounded by four concentric circles – the *Amar Chakra* or Circle of Immortality, the *Veerta Chakra* or Circle of Bravery, the *Tyag Chakra* or Circle of Sacrifice and the *Rakshak Chakra* or Circle of Protection.

The *Tyag Chakra* has 16 circular walls of honour which bear the names of 25,942 soldiers written in gold on granite walls. Statues of the 21 *Param Vir Chakra* awardees have also been installed.

## Prime Minister knew about attack: Mamata

"At a time, when the country is trying to counter the forces which carried out such an attack, she is raising questions...is she for the country or for Pakistan," asked Dilip Ghosh, the State president of the BJP.

"They [BJP] are calling people and offering money to join the party. Where is this money coming from," Ms. Banerjee said. She also accused the BJP of instigating Hindus against the Muslims. "They [BJP] have bought burqa and are making [miscreants] wear those. Then they are spreading rumour that these are *chededhara* [child abductors]. The

objective of doing this is to turn the Hindu community against the Muslims and we have been informed about such incidents," Ms. Banerjee said and asked the party leaders to maintain calm.

"Resist such moves but do not take the law into your hands. Complain to the police and if they do not act come to my house...report to me directly," she said.

"If we can defeat the Left Front government of three decades, the BJP is a party of five years and there is no reason why we cannot [defeat it]," she said and gave a call to capture "42 out of 42 seats" in Bengal.

## Cong., BJP direct CMs to file review petitions

The RSS-affiliated organisation for tribals, Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, passed a hard-hitting resolution at its meeting, demanding that the Union government either come out with an ordinance or file a review petition.

Mr. Gandhi also stated, "MoTA [the Ministry of Tribal Affairs] had pointed out that forest staff often raised 'frivolous' objections leading to rejection. In this backdrop, eviction based on rejected claims alone, without a proper review and appeal process, violates the due process of law."

Mr. Shah said he had spoken to the Chief Ministers of the BJP-ruled States over "the situation arising out of the Supreme Court's order..." The States, he said, would soon be filing review petitions and "care will be taken to safeguard the rights of our tribals, and prevent [their] eviction."

"The BJP remains committed to the upliftment of our tribal brothers and sisters and we will do everything to protect their rights. I would also urge them to not fall into the trap of rumours

from the usual suspects," he said.

The RSS-affiliated organisa-

tion for tribals, Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, passed a hard-hitting resolution at its meeting, demanding that the Union government either come out with an ordinance or file a review petition to ensure a stay order is secured against action on those whose claims have been rejected, and later they can think of a permanent solution."

**Injustice again'**

Its resolution said the court order only "added to the injustice done to tribals in the last few decades."

An NGO working on wildlife in 2009 raised a challenge about the constitutional validity of the Forest Rights Act before the Supreme Court. It was later joined by a group of retired forest officials known to be against the law from the beginning," said the resolution. It further cited media reports that government lawyers "sat quietly in the last three hearings of the case before the Supreme Court and in the last hearing on February 13th they were not even present."

"An NGO working on wil-

dene," he said.

The CM said an inquiry committee to be headed by a commissioner would be formed to investigate the causes behind the violence. An assessment committee would also be formed to compensate for the damage to private property.

Musicians from Assam and Nagaland and participants of the abandoned IIFF have sought compensation from the State government for the damage to their vehicles, musical instruments, acoustics and other gadgets during the mob violence.

The Congress is in a letter to Home Minister Rajnath Singh demanded the sacking of Mr. Khandu, Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein and Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju for their "failure in tackling the situation."

Mr. Khandu admitted a "communication gap" regarding the PRC issue that was to be brought up in the Assembly only for discussion and to make the report of the joint high power committee public. "We had no plan to introduce a Bill or resolution in this regard. We made this clear through so-

cial media," he said.

The CM said an inquiry committee to be headed by a commissioner would be formed to investigate the causes behind the violence. An assessment committee would also be formed to compensate for the damage to private property.

On a day when Mr. Modi dedicated the National War Memorial to the nation, Congress leaders accused the NDA government of doing politics over soldiers.

"It's our resolve to continue

## SP-BSP tie-up in 2 more States

Both parties to contest LS election in Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh in alliance

**OMAR RASHID**  
LUCKNOW

After coming together in Uttar Pradesh, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Samajwadi Party (SP) are set to contest the Lok Sabha election in Uttarakhand and Madhya Pradesh as well in an alliance.

In Madhya Pradesh, the SP will contest three seats and the BSP the remaining 26. In Uttarakhand, the SP has been allotted the Garhwal seat and the BSP will contest the remaining four.

The seats the SP will contest in Madhya Pradesh are Balaghat, Tikamgarh and Khajuraho, SP president Akhilesh Yadav and BSP supremo Mayawati said in a joint statement on Monday.

**U.P. pattern**

The BSP getting a larger share of seats in the arrangement between the two allies follows the pattern of Uttar Pradesh, where the BSP will fight 38 and the SP 37, with adjustments still to be made to accommodate allies such as the Nishad Party.

Last week, when the two parties announced the seats they would contest in Uttar Pradesh, SP patron Mulayam Singh criticised his son Mr. Akhilesh Yadav saying he



Setting new goals: BSP chief Mayawati with Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav. ■ RAJEEV BHATT

head given too much to the BSP and accused him of weakening the party, which currently has seven Lok Sabha seats against the BSP's none. "On what basis were half the seats given [to the BSP]?" Mr. Singh asked.

**Poser to Modi**

Meanwhile, Ms. Mayawati targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi a day after his holy dip at the Sangam at the Kumbh Mela, asking if the "shahi dip" will be "able to wash the sins of reneging on poll promises, treachery and other state wrongs." Ms. Mayawati said it "was not

possible for people to forgive the BJP easily for making their life miserable" through demonetisation, GST, vengeance, casteism, communal and authoritarian rule.

Taking to Twitter, the BSP supremo said the Modi government "should differentiate" between farmers and landless labourers, dig at the PM-KISAN scheme launched by Mr. Modi in Gorakhpur on Sunday.

"His Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme of ₹500 a month may be useful for labourers but not helpful for farmers who want remunerative prices for their produce which

the BJP government has failed to ensure. This is a failure," Ms. Mayawati said.

While the SP and the BSP may not be the major players in Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand, they do have pockets of influence and vote shares that can become crucial in the event of a tight fight between the two main players, the Congress and the BJP.

**Vote share**

In Uttarakhand, the BJP vote share in 2014 Lok Sabha election was 55.95% while the Congress's was 34.4% and the BSP's 4.79%. In Madhya Pradesh, the BSP's share was 3.85% as against the 54.76% of the BJP and 35.35% of the Congress.

However, in the recent Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, the position of the SP and the BSP became important as the Congress just scraped past the BJP. The two parties extended support to the Congress in government formation. While the BSP got a vote share of 5%, the SP received 1.3% of the votes.

In Uttarakhand, though the BSP and SP did not win any seat in the 2017 Assembly polls, their combined vote share was a little over 7%.



The BSP wields some influence in constituencies bordering Uttar Pradesh.

party may not be a part of the grand alliance. Sources in the State BSP told *The Hindu* that Ms. Mayawati could finalise the list of candidates during that meeting.

**RJD offer**

Earlier, Leader of Opposition in Bihar Assembly and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav had gone to Lucknow to greet Mayawati on her birthday and, according to party sources, had offered the BSP two Lok Sabha seats in Bihar. The grand alliance comprises the RJD, Congress, Rashtriya Lok Samata Party, Jitan Ram Manjhi-led HAM (S), Vikashin Insaan Party, the CPI, the CPI(M) and the CPI(ML).

## EU, Germany join calls for Pakistan to act on terror

Move comes amid growing concern and international attempts to defuse tensions between New Delhi and Islamabad

**SUHASINI HAIDAR**  
NEW DELHI

Calling on Pakistan to take "clear and sustainable" actions against terror groups including those who have taken responsibility for the Pulwama attack, the European Union joined a number of international entities attempting to defuse tensions between New Delhi and Islamabad over the weekend.

In a telephone call with Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi on Sunday, EU Vice-President and High Representative for Foreign Affairs Federica Mogherini "stressed the urgency to de-escalate the situation and confirmed that the European Union is also in contact with Indian counterparts," an EU statement released on Monday said.

**Pushing dialogue**

"The European Union's policy has always been to promote a dialogue between Pakistan and India to sort out differences..." [Pakistan] needs to continue addressing terrorism including clear and sustained actions targeting not only all UN-listed terrorist groups but also individuals claiming responsibility for such attacks," the statement said.

**Panic mode**

"The European Union's policy has always been to promote a dialogue between Pakistan and India to sort out



Panic mode: People waiting at a petrol station in Srinagar on Monday. The Valley is facing fuel shortage in the wake of the current tension. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

details of which were released on Monday, Mr. Qureshi called German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas to discuss Pakistan's concerns with tensions post-Pulwama. "FM Heiko Maas... appealed to both sides to work to de-

escalate the situation. Specifically, Pakistan resolutely needs to put a stop to cross-border terrorism," the German Foreign Ministry said.

The statements shared a sharp tone in telling Pakistan to act against the Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Taiba

and other banned groups, something welcomed by External Affairs Ministry officials.

However, the Ministry did not respond to questions on the flurry of calls for "de-escalation", or any hint of mediation by other countries, seen as interference in India's bilateral affairs.

**Swaraj visit**

Mr. Qureshi spoke to Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Monday, in a conversation just ahead of Mr. Wang's meeting with External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj when she travels to Shanghai and Wuhan on Tuesday for the Russia-India-China trilateral.

"State Councillor Wang Yi... agreed that the unfolding regional situation was serious with implications for peace and security of the region," said a statement issued by the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Earlier, U.S. President Donald

## SC rejects plea for probe into terror attack

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court refused to entertain a PIL petition for an independent probe led by a retired apex court judge into the Pulwama attack.

A Bench led by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi cursorily dismissed the petition for setting up a judicial commission to investigate any lapses at the local level.

The PIL filed by Vineet Dhanda wanted the Supreme Court-ordered judicial commission to investigate the "role played by Indian nationals in helping the terrorists from Pakistan in executing the Uri and Pulwama attack."

The petition sought an appropriate direction to the Centre to submit a "detailed report regarding the action taken against the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leaders who are actively involved in anti-national activities."

The plea also wanted a direction to freeze the accounts of the APHC and their leaders and submit an action taken report before the Supreme Court.

It sought an immediate order from the government to permanently withdraw security cover given to these leaders.

## Twitter told to ensure no interference in election

Parliamentary panel seeks transparency in advertisements

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI



Anurag Thakur

sey to the committee was read out.

According to sources, Mr. Thakur also told the Twitter team that there should be "clarity and transparency" in respect of advertisements and sponsored content on

the platform. The Twitter officials were also told that there should not be any "international interference" in the Lok Sabha election.

The committee has given 10 days to reply, in writing, to questions posed by the members. The committee will meet next on March 6, and officials of Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram have been invited for this meeting. The message to the micro-blogging site was in an apparent reference to complaints of interference by social media platforms in the U.S. elections, the sources said.

Mr. Gandhi, however, expressed the hope that the Prime Minister would act on the Supreme Court's order for better pay to the paramilitary forces personnel.

"We must recognise the sacrifices of our paramilitary forces, like the CRPF & award their martyrs the title of 'Shaheed'. Even if the PM's ego will not allow him to act on my request, I hope he will act on the SC's order for better pay to the paramilitary," he tweeted.

The Congress chief attached a media report that claimed that before the Pulwama terror attack, the Centre had opposed salary hike to the CRPF in the Supreme Court.

The CPI(M) said the Modi government should make a "public commitment" to retain Article 35A. "The Polit Bureau of the CPI(M) expresses its strong opposition to the move to interfere with Article 35A," the party said.

**Poser on scholarships**

On a day when Mr. Modi dedicated the National War Memorial to the nation, Congress leaders accused the NDA government of doing politics over soldiers.

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
SRINAGAR / NEW DELHI

hue fighting for the protection of Article 35A and Article 370... A peaceful State like Arunachal Pradesh is also in flames. Any misadventure in fiddling with the special status will unarguably have serious consequences," said Mr. Abdullah.

Ms. Mufti said: "Article 35A is a part of Article 370 which confers certain rights on citizens of the State. By launching an assault on Article 35-A, attempts are being made to change the Muslim-majority character of J&K. Scrapping it will nullify the legitimacy of accession of J&K with the Indian Union."

The CPI(M) said the Modi government should make a "public commitment" to retain Article 35A. "The Polit Bureau of the CPI(M) expresses its strong opposition to the move to interfere with Article 35A," the party said.

**Poser on scholarships**  
On a day when Mr. Modi dedicated the National War Memorial to the nation, Congress leaders accused the NDA government of doing politics over soldiers.

## 'Modi's ego preventing grant of martyr status'

At least pay our forces well: Rahul

**Rahul Gandhi**

Tagging another news report that claimed that the Centre had cut scholarships of children of ex-service men, Congress's community chief Randeep Surjewala tweeted that the country won't tolerate any insult to the soldiers. "Modi ji can spend thousands of crores of rupees for self-promotion but do not have money for the heroic youths of the country," Mr. Surjewala tweeted.

Ahead of the inauguration of the National War Memorial in Delhi, senior Congress leader Kapil Sibal asked what had Mr. Modi done to

## IN BRIEF



## SC notice to Meghalaya HC on judge's remarks

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has ordered the Meghalaya High Court Registry to reply on a plea seeking expunction of controversial remarks by judge Sudip Ranjan Sen that India should have been declared a Hindu country in 1947.

## Why continue Indus Water Treaty, asks Gadkari

PHAGWARA

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday asked what was the point of continuing the Indus Water Treaty if Pakistan was not honouring its spirit of mutual love, harmony and cordial relations. Mr. Gadkari said Pakistan should stop sponsoring terrorists and sending terrorists into India; else, it would have to reel under shortage of water. PTI

## Assam has over 3.6 lakh landless families

GUWAHATI

Assam has a total 362,450 landless families, data provided by the State government in the Assembly on Monday revealed. The chart, in response to a question by Congress MLA Debabrata Saikia, said Dima Hasao and Hailakandi were the only two among the 33 districts in the State without any landless families.

## Parrikar's health stable, not to be moved to AIIMS

PANAJI

Doctors are happy with the progress of ailing Goa CM Manohar Parrikar, the Goa CMO tweeted on Monday. A close aide of Mr. Parrikar from the CMO ruled out shifting Mr. Parrikar to the AIIMS and said he may be discharged and taken to his residence on Tuesday or Wednesday.

## Remove Arunachal CM and Rijiju: Cong.

Party demands inquiry by sitting judge into the violence that broke out in the State over the PRC issue

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday demanded a judicial inquiry by a sitting judge into the violence in Arunachal Pradesh that left at least three people dead and several injured. The party sought the removal of Chief Minister Pema Khandu and Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju for accusing the Congress of "instigating" the people.

Senior leader Luizinho Fa-leiro, former Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Nabam Tuki and Arunachal Pradesh Congress chief Takam Sanjoy submitted a memorandum to Home Minister Rajnath Singh's office.

At a press conference, Mr. Sanjoy accused the BJP government in the State of pur-



Raging fire: One of the buildings set on fire during the violence that rocked Itanagar. ■ PTI

suing divisive politics by first bringing in the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill and then deciding to grant permanent resident certificate (PRC) to six tribal communities from

outside Arunachal Pradesh. "Why does the BJP want to make Arunachal Pradesh a second Kashmir," he asked.

"Kiren Rijiju has tweeted that the Congress instigated

[the protesters]. Mr. Kiren you have to prove it. We have urged the Home Ministry to find out who has instigated," he said.

Alleging that Mr. Rijiju,

MP from the State, had failed the people of Arunachal Pradesh by not trying to restore normalcy, the Congress demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi ask him to step down or sack him.

## PRC issue

Violent protests broke out in the State over the decision to grant the PRC to Deoris, Sonowal-Kacharis, Morans, Adivasis and Mishings, who are living in Namsai and Changlang districts of the State and the Gorkhas living in Vijaynagar.

Though the State government scrapped its decisions following the protests, the Congress leaders pointed out the situation was tense and Chief Minister Pema Khandu had failed to handle the situation effectively.



Reaching out: Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during a roadshow in Lucknow. ■ FILE PHOTO

## Crucial CWC meet in Gujarat on Thursday

Priyanka, Sonia to attend public meet

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

AHMEDABAD

For the first time after Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was made a Congress general secretary, she will share a stage with her mother and party leader, Sonia Gandhi, along with party president Rahul Gandhi, on Thursday in Gujarat.

cent terrorist attacks in Jammu & Kashmir," Gujarat Congress president Amit Chavda said.

"After the prayer meeting, all leaders will arrive at Sardar Patel Memorial for the CWC meeting," Mr. Chavda told presspersons while briefing about the preparations for the crucial meeting ahead of the Lok Sabha election.

During the meeting, the main Opposition party is likely to pass several resolutions against the Modi government and its failures on various fronts.

## Jan Akrosh rally

After the meeting, a public meeting has been organised at Adalaj, near Gandhinagar, in which top Congress leaders will address more than 50,000 people expected for the Jan Akrosh rally.

"We have formed various committees to welcome top leaders who will be arriving to attend the meeting," Mr. Chavda said.

## Law soft on stone-throwers, SC told

Army officers' daughters allege security personnel get booked for self-defence

## KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

The law seems to protect stone-throwing in Jammu and Kashmir while working against armed forces personnel who brave the stones, two young daughters of Army officers told the Supreme Court on Monday.

Kajal Mishra, 20, and Preeti Kedar Gokhale, 19, said it looked like the law had thrown its protective cloak around the stone-throwers while the Army personnel, who retaliate or act in self-defence, were booked for crimes.

"FIRs are filed against soldiers if they take action in retaliation or in self-defence against the perpetrators of stone-pelting... no similar



Street fight: The petition says decision to withdraw 9,760 FIRs against stone-throwers was shocking. ■ FILE PHOTO

action is taken against the perpetrators of violence against the armed forces personnel," the petitioners said.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi admitted the petition, repre-

sented by senior advocate Meenakshi Arora and Neela Gokhale, and sought a response from the Union of India, the Defence Ministry, the National Human Rights Commission and the State.

The young women drew the court's attention to a declaration made by the former Chief Minister of J&K on February 2 last year, about the withdrawal of 9,760 FIRs filed against stone-throwers on the ground that they were "first-time offenders". The petition said the announcement by the former CM was "shocking" as the law did not even allow the State to withdraw an FIR once it was registered without the due process of law.

The petition contained specific instances when heavy stone-throwing by mobs was orchestrated to distract armed forces personnel during counter-insurgency operations in areas like Shopian and Pulwama.

## Ex-IPS officer's suicide note names Mamata

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KOLKATA

A retired IPS officer, who committed suicide last week, blamed West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for his death, a charge dismissed by the ruling Trinamool Congress as "baseless".

In a six-page letter to the Chief Minister, Gaurav Chandra Dutt, who retired earlier this year, accused her of abetting his suicide by keeping him in "compulsory waiting" for a posting. The 1986-batch IPS officer also alleged he was "harassed and tortured in devious ways" by various State institutions at the behest of the Chief Minister.

T he CWC meeting is being held in the State more than six decades after the previous meeting held in 1961.

"Before the meeting commences at Sardar Patel Memorial, all leaders will first gather at Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram, where they will attend a prayer meeting. The leaders will also hold a condolence meeting for the death of CRPF and Army personnel in re-

cent terrorist attacks in Jammu & Kashmir," Gujarat Congress president Amit Chavda said.

The meeting will be preceded by a crucial meeting of the Congress Working Committee, the top decision-making body of the Congress, at Sardar Patel Memorial here.

During the meeting, the main Opposition party is likely to pass several resolutions against the Modi government and its failures on various fronts.

## Jan Akrosh rally

After the meeting, a public meeting has been organised at Adalaj, near Gandhinagar, in which top Congress leaders will address more than 50,000 people expected for the Jan Akrosh rally.

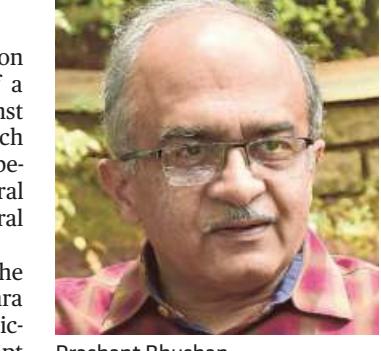
"We have formed various committees to welcome top leaders who will be arriving to attend the meeting," Mr. Chavda said.

## Bhushan seeks recall of notice on contempt of court

'As CJI had not allocated the case, Bench had no jurisdiction on issue'

## LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI



Prashant Bhushan

cided to take up the back-to-back contempt pleas filed by Mr. Venugopal and the government against Mr. Bhushan.

**CJI's undisputed role**  
In an application filed through his counsel Kamini Jaiswal, Mr. Bhushan said the Attorney-General mentioned the contempt plea directly before the Mishra Bench. No effort was made to mention the contempt before Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi. Neither was the CJI's consent taken. The application referred to a Constitution Bench decision in the Campaign for Judicial Accountability and Reforms case, which had upheld the CJI's undisputed role as the 'master of roster' with exclusive powers to take up cases and allocate them to Benches in the apex court.

Cause, on the appointment of former interim CBI Director M. Nageswar Rao. He had alleged in his tweets that efforts were made by the government to "mislead" the court.

Though the Bench of Justice Mishra and Navin Sinha upheld Mr. Rao's appointment, they de-

## Clarify on military build-up in Mizoram'

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

The People's Representation for Identity and Status of Mizoram (PRISM), a corruption watchdog turned political party, has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking clarification on the reported military build-up along the State's border with Myanmar.

In a letter to the Prime Minister on Monday, the PRISM said Mizoram has no disturbed area necessitating militarisation. Mizoram has six international border districts – Champhai, Serchhip, Lunglei, Siaha, Lawngtlai, and Mamit – where there is neither disturbance nor law and order problems, it pointed out.

There have been reports of deployment of extra forces along Mizoram's border with Myanmar following drive against extremist groups such as Arakan Army by that country's military. Officials said the movement of extra troops was part of "routine exercises" along the border.

Kumar resigned from the Congress after his conviction in the case.

The case in which Kumar was

convicted and sentenced relates to the killing of five Sikhs in Delhi Cantonment's Raj Nagar Part-I area of southwest Delhi on November 1-2, 1984 and the burning down of a gurdwara.

The riots broke out after the assassination of then prime minister Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984, by her two Sikh bodyguards.

Kumar resigned from the Congress after his conviction in the case.

The case in which Kumar was

## Cochin Smart Mission Limited (CSML)

Revenue Tower, 10th Floor, Park Avenue, Kochi-11, Kerala

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Cochin Smart Mission Limited (CSML) invites tenders for the implementation of the following projects under Smart Cities Mission.

Tender Reference No.	Name of the Project
CSML/Smart Road/RFP/003	Development of Smart Roads in Ernakulam
CSML/Other Roads/RFP/004	Development of Other Roads in Ernakulam
CSML/Smart Road/RFP/005	Development of Smart Roads in West Kochi
CSML/Other Roads/RFP/006	Development of Other Roads in West Kochi
CSML/Energy Supply/RFP/001	Electrical Infrastructure Improvement Works in Ernakulam and West Kochi

Details can be obtained from the following websites: www.csml.co.in, www.kochimetro.org and www.etenders.kerala.gov.in under the organisation name – "Kochi Metro Rail Ltd."

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## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due Date
181933	Transportation of Dry fly ash from Mettur Thermal Power Station, Unit-1&2, Mettur to TNPL Cement Plant, Kagithapuram	11.03.2019
181933	Transportation of Dry fly ash from TNPL Unit-2, 000586 Mondapatti to TNPL Cement Plant, Kagithapuram	11.03.2019
181933	Transportation of Fuel Dust & Slag from JSW Steel Ltd. at Pottaneri Salem works to TNPL Cement plant, Kagithapuram	12.03.2019
181933	Transportation of Cement from TNPL Cement factory at Kagithapuram to various destinations throughout Tamil Nadu	02.03.2019

Terms & conditions, Qty., Tender Fee, EMD are available in Tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in

DIPR/1333/Tender/2019

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## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA

"e" Procurement Notice for Road Work

Identification No.- Online Tender-Road N.C.B. No.153 for 2018-19

1824-O: Letter No. 510 / Date : 25.02.2019 /

1. Name of the Work	: Construction of OMBADC Road works in the District of Mayurbhanj during 2018-19
2. Total No. of Work	: 10 Nos. (Ten)
3. Estimated Cost	: Rs.26.

**Pakistan court rejects Sharif's bail plea**

A Pakistani court on Monday rejected a plea by former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to be released on bail and have a seven-year prison term over the ownership of a steel mill in Saudi Arabia suspended, court documents showed. **REUTERS**

**U.K. to classify Hezbollah as 'terrorist' group**

**LONDON**  
Britain said on Monday it plans to ban all wings of Hezbollah due to its destabilising influence in West Asia, classing the Lebanese Islamist movement as a terrorist organisation. London had already proscribed Hezbollah's external security unit and its military wing in 2001 and 2008 respectively, but now wants to outlaw its political arm too. **REUTERS**

**Trump delays hiking tariffs on Chinese exports**

**'Substantial progress made in talks'**

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
**WASHINGTON**  
President Donald Trump said on Sunday that he would delay a planned tariff increase on Chinese exports after both sides hailed "substantial progress" in trade talks, raising the prospect of a summit with President Xi Jinping to seal the deal.

Mr. Trump said there could be "very big news" in the next two weeks, and he planned to meet with Mr. Xi at the U.S. leader's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida if more

**Khalilzad meets Taliban leader**

The presence of Mullah Baradar will add extra heft to the dialogue process

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
**DOHA**

U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad met with the Taliban's top political leader in Doha on Monday, in what is believed to be the highest level engagement between the U.S. and the Taliban since the months-long peace push began.

Mr. Khalilzad tweeted that he and Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, a co-founder of the Islamist movement, had held a "working lunch" ahead of a fresh round of talks with the insurgent group as the U.S. seeks a way out of its longest war.

**Close to chief**  
The arrival in Qatar late on Sunday of Mr. Baradar, seen as close to Taliban leader Haibatullah Akhundzada, has helped fuel speculation of a breakthrough.

Marathon talks last month saw the two sides walk away with a "draft framework" that included a Taliban vow to prevent Afghanistan from



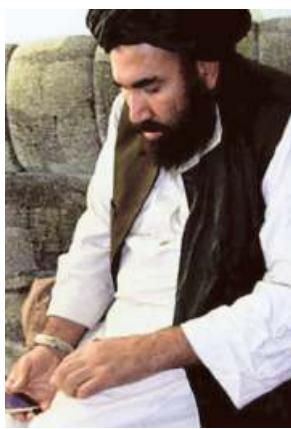
**Key negotiators:** U.S. special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad and, right, Taliban leader Mullah Baradar. **APP, REUTERS**

becoming a haven for international terror groups.

There was no accord on a U.S. withdrawal or a ceasefire, however, issues which have derailed attempts at peace talks in the past, while the government in Kabul has voiced increasingly loud fears it was being sidelined in the talks. "Arrived in Doha to meet with a more authoritative Taliban delegation. This could be a significant moment. Appreciate #Qatar for hosting & #Pakistan in facilitating travel. Now the work begins in earnest," Mr. Khalilzad tweeted.

He later posted: "Just finished a working lunch with Mullah Baradar and his team. First time we've met. Now moving on to talks."

It remained unclear what role Mr. Baradar would have during the talks, but the presence of the influential lead-



cant moment. Appreciate #Qatar for hosting & #Pakistan in facilitating travel. Now the work begins in earnest," Mr. Khalilzad tweeted.

He later posted: "Just finished a working lunch with Mullah Baradar and his team. First time we've met. Now moving on to talks."

It remained unclear what role Mr. Baradar would have during the talks, but the presence of the influential lead-

er widely believed to carry popular support across the Taliban's myriad factions set expectations high.

Afghan special envoy for peace Mohammad Omar Daudzai also lauded Mr. Baradar's participation, saying the insurgent leader was known for being "independent" and making "tough decisions". Mr. Baradar was long considered the number two to Taliban chief Mullah Omar, who died in 2013. Now he is one of several deputies to Mr. Akhundzada.

Meanwhile the govern-

ment in Kabul continued to voice concerns on Monday over being sidelined in the negotiations.

"The Taliban are still not ready to talk to Afghan government, but we are ready. We think that Taliban's dishonesty is the only obstacle," said Abdullah Abdullah, the country's de-facto Prime Minister, in a televised address on Monday.

"We are flexible and ready to make a team that is acceptable to all."

**'Britain should hand over Chagos islands to Mauritius'**

ICJ gives verdict on archipelago, still under U.K. control

**VIDYA RAM**  
**LONDON**

Britain has an obligation to end its administration of the Chagos archipelago – home to the U.S. military base of Diego Garcia – and complete the process of decolonisation of Mauritius, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague has said in an advisory opinion that is a significant legal victory for Mauritius and other nations, including India, which supported its case.

Delivering the opinion, ICJ president Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf said the judges had rejected the contention that the issue did not fall within its jurisdiction because it was a bilateral matter for the two countries, and concluded that the decolonisation of Mauritius was not lawfully completed as a result of Britain's continued administration of the Chagos islands.



**Right to return:** Former Chagos islands residents evicted by the U.K. raising their hands to demand repatriation, in a demonstration held in Mauritius in 2015. **GETTY IMAGES**

been unable to return.

The advisory opinion is unlikely to impact the U.S. military base, even assuming that Britain acted on the advisory opinion. "Mauritius is committed to the continued operation of the base in Diego Garcia under a long-term framework..." Mauritius had said in the UN General Assembly, during the discussions on requesting an ICJ advisory opinion.

"This is an advisory opinion, not a judgment. Of course, we will look at the detail of it carefully. The defence facilities on the British Indian Ocean Territory help to protect people here in Britain and around the world from terrorist threats, organised crime and piracy," said a spokesperson for the U.K. Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The case is seen as having far wider ramifications beyond the two parties immediately concerned as it deals with the legacy of colonialism. It also raises the question of whether agreements struck between colonial powers and their colonies in the final stages their rule could really be seen as

legitimate, given the imbalance of power.

**1965 pact**

Mauritius's contention is that the leadership of its independence movement had been corralled into agreeing to the 1965 separation of the islands, fearful that if it did not do so, independence would not be granted.

India too supported Mauritius in its case, with India's Ambassador to the Hague Venu Rajamony telling the court last year that a historical survey of facts placed the archipelago as part of Mauritian territory. "Regarding the process of decolonisation of Mauritius, it remains incomplete both technically and in substance as long as the Chagos archipelago continues to be under the colonial control," he

said a spokesperson for the U.K. Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The case is seen as having far wider ramifications beyond the two parties immediately concerned as it deals with the legacy of colonialism. It also raises the question of whether agreements struck between colonial powers and their colonies in the final stages their rule could really be seen as

**Labour to back second referendum**

**REUTERS**

Britain's Opposition Labour Party will back a call for a second referendum on Brexit, its leader Jeremy Corbyn will tell his lawmakers on Monday.

Parliament is due to debate and vote on Wednesday on the next steps in Britain's tortuous departure from the European Union (EU) on Brexit, and lawmakers are expected to put down proposals, or amendments, including at least one that would demand that the exit deal is put to a public vote.

"We are committed to also putting forward or sup-



porting an amendment in favour of a public vote to prevent a damaging Tory (Conservative) Brexit being forced on the country," Mr. Corbyn will tell a meeting of

his Labour lawmakers, according to extracts provided by his office.

The party will also support a bid by Labour lawmaker Yvette Cooper to give Parliament the legal power to force Ms. May to seek an extension to the Article 50 negotiating period beyond the exit date currently set down in law – March 29.

Mr. Corbyn has been under pressure for some time to support a second referendum.

Last week, eight referendum-supporting lawmakers quit the party, in part owing to frustration over his failure to back another vote.

**'Wrongful act'**

He found that the continued administration of the territory by the U.K. amounted to a "wrongful act," that was not consistent with the right to the people of "self determination." The judges concluded that any detachment of part of a colony had to be based on the "freely expressed and genuine will" of the people.

The Chagos islands are home to the U.S. military base of Diego Garcia, under lease from the United Kingdom since the 1960s.

In his statement, the judge also noted that the original agreement had not allowed for third-party involvement in the territory. The base's construction led to the displacement of some 1,500 people, who have

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Sealed and Superscribed tenders dated 26/02/2019 are invited for the supply of various Raw materials / Chemicals / Packing materials of Blood Bag / Copper - T / Surgical Suture. For details visit HLL E-Tender site [https://etender.lifecarehll.com](http://etender.lifecarehll.com), HLL website <http://www.lifecarehll.com/tender/> & [https://eprocurement.gov.in/cpppp/](http://eprocurement.gov.in/cpppp/). Any subsequent changes/amendments will be published only on website.

General Manager (Materials)

**TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED****e - Procurement TENDER NOTICE**

The Transmission Corporation of A.P Limited invites bids online for the following works.

**SI. Spec. No.** **Name of work** **Date of final availability of tender on e-procurement**

1. APT-e-02/2019 Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 132/33 KV Substation at Palakkul along with Erection of 132 KV DC / SC line(29KM) from 220/132/33 KV Duva Substation to proposed 132/33 KV Duva Substation and Erection of 132 KV Feeder bay extension at 220/132/33 KV Duva Substation in West Godavari District on turnkey basis and Operation of 132/33 KV Palakkul SS for a period of 2 years from date of commissioning

**Note :-** i) Tender documents will be available On-line at date and time as mentioned above.

ii) Name and address of the officer inviting tenders - Chief Engineer/Construction.

iii) The contractors / firms are requested to upload the information in the Zip format preferably.

iv) Further details can be seen at <http://www.eprocurement.gov.in>

Docket document is available on <http://www.eprocurement.gov.in>

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Ro No:83/18

CHIEF ENGINEER/CONSTRUCTION

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**NOTIFICATION INVITING TENDER (NIT) (Through e-procurement)**

BESCOM invites tender from eligible bidders for the work of Conversion of 11KV OH line into UG cable, Running of new feeder for bifurcation of load, Conversion of LT OH line into UG/AB cable and laying of OFC cable along with 11 KV/LT UG cable wherever necessary on Rate Contract basis on percentage basis quoting under PHASE-II.

**SI. No.** **Enquiry No.** **Place of Work**

1. BESCOM/CGM(P)/UG/BMAZ/JAY/BC-14/18-19/06 S-1, S-2, S-6, S-14 & S-15 Sub divisions of JAYANAGAR division, Bangalore SOUTH Circle, BMAZ (SOUTH), BESCOM.

2. BESCOM/CGM(P)/UG/BMAZ/RRN/BC-14/18-19/07 W-1, W-2, W-6, W-7 & W-8 Sub divisions of R.R. NAGAR division, Bangalore WEST Circle, BMAZ (SOUTH), BESCOM.

3. BESCOM/CGM(P)/UG/BMAZ/SHI/BC-14/18-19/08 E-1 & E-5 Sub divisions of SHIVAJINAGAR division, Bangalore EAST Circle, BMAZ (NORTH), BESCOM.

4. BESCOM/CGM(P)/UG/BMAZ/IND/BC-14/18-19/09 E-11 Sub division of INDIRANAGAR division, Bangalore EAST Circle, BMAZ (NORTH), BESCOM.

5. BESCOM/CGM(P)/UG/BMAZ/C-7/BC-14/18-19/10 C-7 Sub division of HEBBAL division, Bangalore NORTH Circle, BMAZ (NORTH), BESCOM.

6. BESCOM/CGM(P)/UG/BMAZ/C-8/BC-14/18-19/11 C-8 Sub division of HEBBAL division, Bangalore NORTH Circle, BMAZ (NORTH), BESCOM.

**Bid documents available from :** 02.03.2019 @ 17:00 Hrs. **Last date for submission of Queries through e-procurement portal :** On or before 23.03.2019 @ 17:00 Hrs. **Pre-Bid meeting :** On 29.03.2019 @ 11:00 AM at Corporate office, BESCOM, K.R. Circle, Bangalore-560001. **Last date for bid submission :** 13.05.2019 @ 17:00 Hrs. **Opening of Technical Bids :** 15.05.2019 @ 15:30 Hrs.

Aspiring bidders needs to be registered on e-procurement portal. Bidders can take the assistance from the office of the Chief General Manager, Electr., Projects, 2nd Block, 4th Floor, Corporate Office, BESCOM, Bangalore during working hours.

**Sd/-** Chief General Manager, Electr., Projects, BESCOM

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No.KUWSDB/CE/CEII/TA-2/AE-9/TPI-CW/2992/2018-19 Date:25.02.2019

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**

(Through Electronic Procurement portal only)

Item rate tender for the following work is invited (two cover system) through e-Procurement from eligible Agency/Contractors as detailed below:

**Name of Work:** Services for third party inspection of civil and electromechanical works at site of Water Supply & Under Ground Drainage schemes anywhere in Karnataka State for Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board. Earnest Money Deposit: Rs.2,00,000/- Tender Processing Fee: As per e-procurement Portal.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

## MARKET WATCH

	25-02-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	36,213	0.95
US Dollar	70.97	0.23
Gold	34,590	0.00
Brent oil	65.15	-2.89

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	324.55	-29.75
Asian Paints	1398.25	0.45
Axis Bank	703.70	1.65
Bajaj Auto.	2847.55	30.70
Bajaj Finance	6333.55	137.90
Bharti Airtel	317.25	3.40
BPCL	336.05	-8.15
Cipla	548.30	7.00
Coal India	214.35	-0.60
Dr Reddy's Lab	2666.90	27.40
Eicher Motors	20704.80	109.35
GAIL (India)	327.80	0.65
Gasim Ind	778.65	19.95
HCL Tech.	1082.25	16.10
HDFC	1894.50	7.10
HDFC Bank	2125.40	33.95
Hero MotoCorp	2712.50	32.65
Hindalco	196.50	0.05
HPLC	228.15	-2.80
Hind Unilever	1770.15	1.60
Indiabulls HFL	678.80	-1.15
ICICI Bank	355.60	3.55
IndusInd Bank	1491.20	28.40
Bharti Infratech	302.95	-9.65
Infosys	754.90	19.95
Indian Oil Corp	138.60	1.40
ITC	276.70	2.40
JSW Steel	287.80	1.95
Kotak Bank	1240.95	3.05
L&T	1275.85	-4.50
M&M	650.70	4.10
Maurti Suzuki	6924.90	12.50
NTPC	140.35	0.65
ONGC	147.75	-0.85
PowerGrid Corp	181.95	0.05
Reliance Ind	1232.30	-0.05
State Bank	270.15	-0.80
Sun Pharma	436.10	5.60
Tata Motors	175.75	1.45
Tata Steel	505.10	2.80
TCS	1985.15	59.50
Tech Mahindra	830.65	4.65
Titan	1043.00	1.40
UltraTech Cement	3716.60	90.90
UPL	847.65	20.30
Vedanta	171.25	1.60
Wipro	385.40	6.65
YES Bank	229.10	7.10
Zee Entertainment	445.15	-3.10

# Adani is the highest bidder for 5 airports

Airports Authority of India may garner more than ₹500 crore in the first year of awarding contracts'

JAGRITI CHANDRA

NEW DELHI

Adani Enterprises Ltd. emerged as the highest bidder for five of the six airports offered for bidding by the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

The winner would operate, manage and develop the airports for a period of 50 years. The Cabinet has to accord its approval for the same, according to a senior AAI official.

#### Error in submission

The AAI opened the financial bids of nine entities on Monday, more than a week after technical bids were opened in a two-phase bidding process. Adani Enterprises was among the 10 companies which had submitted a total of 32 bids for the six airports. One of the bidders didn't make it to the final round because of an error in its submission.

Bids were invited on the

#### The clincher

Figures in ₹ per passenger payable to AAI

S No.	Name of bidder	Names of airports				
		Ahmedabad	Jaipur	Lucknow	Thiruvananthapuram	Mangaluru
1	GMR Airports	85	69	63	63	18
2	Adani Enterprises	177	174	171	168	115
3	Autostade	60	48	55	—	—
4	PNC Infratech	66	36	27	—	—
5	NIIF & Zurich Airport	146	155	—	—	—
6	AMP Capital*	127	139	139	—	—
7	I-Investment	93	72	39	—	—
8	KSIDC	—	—	—	135	—
9	Cochin International Airport	—	—	—	—	45

\* AMP Capital (GIF II Lux Holdco) SLP

— Indicates no bids were placed

and ₹115 for Mangaluru.

The request for proposal document doesn't bar the Authority from awarding different airports to the same entity. Industry experts estimate that the AAI would be able to garner more than ₹500 crore in the first year alone of awarding the airports to the concessionaires.

"Hitherto, the airports sector in India was predominantly dominated by couple of players. The entry of a private player with deep pockets to manage these operational assets augurs well for the sector and in the days ahead, we should see good competition amongst the players. We expect AAI to get a revenue in the region of ₹255-275 crore in the first year and future revenue would be linked to the traffic growth," said Jagannarayan Padmanabhan, director and practice lead-transport and logistics, Crisil Infrastructure Advisory.

Adani Enterprises has offered ₹177 per passenger for Ahmedabad Airport, ₹174 for Jaipur, ₹171 for Lucknow, ₹168 for Thiruvananthapuram

Source: AAI

# Adani Group flies high in airport privatisation plan

New entrant outmanoeuvres rivals with aggressive bids; analysts question award to single player

LALATENDU MISHRA

MUMBAI

The adage 'the winner takes it all' has come true in the case of the outcome of the latest round of Airports Authority of India's (AAI) airport privatisation programme.

Ahmedabad-based Adani Group on Monday was named the winning bidder for all the five airports for which the bids were made public.

These include airports at Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Mangaluru, Lucknow and Thiruvananthapuram which are all

run by AAI now and will undergo ownership change in 90 days.

Going by the bids, Adani Group, a new entrant in the airport space, has bid aggressively with the second-highest bidders quoting far less than the winner, indicating the aggression with which the group had placed its bids.

GMR, which had also bid for all the airports, was found to be lacking in aggression. For Jaipur, GMR had quoted ₹69 per passenger against Adani's ₹174 as per passenger fee.

#### NEWS ANALYSIS

"The outcome also indicates that investors are looking at the airport sector," he said. Through this, AAI would realise ₹2,500 crore in 90 days via upfront payment from the winning bidder and approximately ₹525 crore annually as concession fee.

This will enable AAI to invest in the development of new airports or modernising the existing ones.

#### Capacity expansion

"Based on illustrated estimates all these airports will be saturated between 12 and 16 years and would require capacity expansion. Considering lack of availability of space, the opening of second airports outside the city should be set into motion," said Mark Martin, founder and CEO, Martin Consulting.

An analyst, who did not wish to be named, ques-

tioned the rationale behind awarding all the airports to a single player who had no experience in running airports.

"All five going to one player is something I can't digest," the analyst said.

"The airports [at the five locations] remain lifelines to their respective States that will enable us to infuse enhanced growth and give wings to the aspirations of the Indian people," an Adani Group spokesperson said.

"We would be aiming to scale up the infrastructure to bring the facilities on par with global standards."

## + Two crore jobs created in 16 months to December 2018: CSO

New employment in formal sector nearly trebled, says EPFO

PRESS TRUST INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Nearly 72.32 lakh new subscribers were added to social security schemes of EPFO

employees whose monthly wages are up to ₹21,000.

During the period from September 2017 and December 2018, as many as 1.96 crore new subscribers joined the scheme.

Similarly, the EPFO data showed that employment generation in the formal sector almost trebled to touch a 16-month high of 7.16 lakh in December 2018, compared to 2.37 lakh in the year-ago month.

The report gives different perspectives on the levels of employment in the formal sector and does not measure employment at a holistic level, the report said.

to December 2018. The EPFO covers all those firms that have 20 or more employees. Workers, whose basic wages are up to ₹15,000 per month at the time of joining the job, are mandatorily covered under the scheme.

#### New NPS numbers

The estimated number of new NPS (National Pension Scheme) subscribers during the period – September 2017 to December 2018 – is 9,66,381.

The NPS covers central and State government employees while others can voluntarily subscribe to it.

The regulator further directed that all their existing commodity broking clients be allowed to move to other brokerages within 45 days.

#### Additional rules

There was speculation as to whether the equity business would be subjected to additional regulatory compliance or proceedings since the commodity arms had

been found unfit to function due to their alleged role in the ₹5,600-crore settlement scam at the National Spot Exchange Ltd. (NSEL).

Shares of Motilal Oswal Financial Services fell more than 2%, or ₹12.60, to ₹599.70. That the stock was in focus was further corroborated by the fact that the volume saw an eightfold rise

on the BSE with 32,000 shares changing hands versus the two-week average of less than 4,000 shares.

IIFL Holdings too lost a little over 1%, or ₹3.85, to close at ₹361.50. During intra-day trades, however, the stock was down almost 9%, or ₹33, to touch a low of ₹322.50.

"Both the broking outfits feature among the largest

# Banks may set repo rate as benchmark

New loan pricing regime from April 1

MANOJ SAHA

MUMBAI

Most commercial banks in India are likely to select RBI's repo rate as the external benchmark to decide their lending rates, from April 1. The repo rate is the key policy rate of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The banking regulator had asked the banks to move to an external benchmark for loan pricing from April 1, a move expected to improve monetary transmission as lenders had, in the past, been found reluctant to reduce lending rate.

Banks had four options from which to choose the external benchmark: the repo rate, the 91-day treasury bill, the 182-day T-bill or any other benchmark interest rate produced by the Financial Benchmarks India Private Ltd (FBIL).

"The repo rate is the most stable one as compared to the other options," a chief executive of a large public sector bank told *The Hindu*, while explaining the reason behind the selection. A few other bank chiefs *The Hindu* spoke to also confirmed that the repo rate is the ideal candidate for the external benchmark. At present, the repo rate is 6.25%.

The marginal cost of fund based lending rate (MCLR) is currently the benchmark for all loan rates. Banks typically add a spread to the MCLR while pricing loans for homes and automobiles. For the new benchmark, the central bank has mandated that the spread over the benchmark rate – to be decided by banks at the inception of the loan – should remain unchanged through the life of the loan, unless the borrower's credit assessment undergoes a substantial

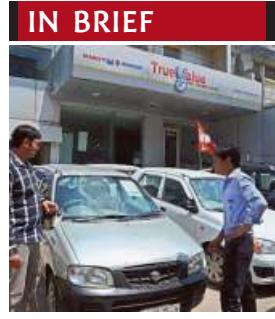
trial change and as agreed upon in the loan contract. If the lending rates are linked to the repo rate, any change in the repo rate will immediately impact the home and auto loan rates, since RBI has mandated the spread to remain fixed over the life of the loan.

#### Banks against move

Many banks have opposed the move to shift to a new external benchmark for loan pricing on grounds that their cost of funds are not linked to these benchmarks and that without a fall in the costs, it would not be possible to change the rates.

The issue came up for discussion again last week when RBI governor Shaktikanta Das, along with his deputies, met the bank chiefs to discuss monetary transmission.

"Some of the banks have raised the issue once again during the meeting. The governor said he will look into the

**IN BRIEF**

## IL&FS accounts can't be NPAs without NCLAT nod

Appellate Tribunal says the order is issued in the interest of the debt resolution plan of the infrastructure company

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

No bank or financial institution can declare the accounts of debt-ridden IL&FS and its group companies as non-performing assets (NPAs) without NCLAT's permission, the appellate tribunal said on Monday.

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) bench said this has been done in the interest of the IL&FS debt resolution plan.

"...we make it clear that due to non-payment of dues by the Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Ltd. or its entities, including the 'Amber companies,' no financial institution will declare the accounts of 'Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited' or its entities as 'NPA' without prior per-

mission of this appellate tribunal," it said.

The direction came after the hearing of an application moved by the government.

The new management of IL&FS is pursuing asset sales to bail out the company and its group entities and pay back its lenders over ₹90,000 crore.

During the last hearing on February 11, NCLAT had allowed IL&FS group's 22 companies, classified in the green category based on their financial health, to service their debt obligations.

It had also approved the appointment of former Supreme Court judge D. K. Jain to supervise the resolution process. NCLAT had also lifted the moratorium and allowed 133 IL&FS firms incorporated outside India to



**On a comeback trail:** IL&FS' new management is pursuing asset sales to pay back its lenders ₹90,000 crore. ■REUTERS

continue with the resolution process. IL&FS group companies are classified into three groups – green, amber and red.

The companies falling under green category will continue to meet their payment obligation. While the compa-

nies which cannot meet their obligations but can meet on-time operational payment obligations to senior secured financial creditors are classified as amber.

The red category includes those entities which cannot meet their payment obliga-

tions towards even senior se-cured financial creditors.

Meanwhile IL&FS on Monday said four workers of one of its subsidiaries who were held hostage in Ethiopia over non-payment of dues have safely returned to India.

**Hostages freed**

"IL&FS Transportation Network Limited (ITNL), a part of IL&FS Group, confirms that it has been able to secure the safe return of its four employees, working on projects in Ethiopia, to India," IL&FS said in a statement.

ITNL, through its subsidiary Elsamex SA, has been executing projects across various sites in Ethiopia.

Since mid-2018, under instructions of ITNL, several of the Indian staff employed by its project companies, had

returned to India. However, a few Indian employees were not being allowed to leave Ethiopia for past several weeks on account of unpaid dues of locals.

"Of those, three em-ployees returned to India between December 2018 and January 2019; and further four employees have re-turned to India on 24 Febru-ary," IL&FS said.

"The company takes this opportunity to thank all the agencies, including Ministry of External affairs, Indian Embassy in Addis Ababa and other authorities and regula-tors in India and Ethiopia, for their tireless efforts to-wards facilitating the safe re-turn of its employees from Ethiopia," it added.

(With inputs from Manojit Saha)

Logos to buy warehousing assets from Casa Grande

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
MUMBAI

Casa Grande Distripark Pvt. Ltd., the warehousing and industrial logistics park development arm of Casagrande Builder Pvt. Ltd., has entered into agreements to sell 2.2 mil-lion square feet of pre-leased warehousing assets to Logos for an unspecified amount.

The property has been acquired within Logos's India Logistics Venture, which has commitments from Canadian investors Ivanhoe Cambridge and QuadReal Property Group. The deal marks Logos's first operational footprint in the fast-growing ware-housing market of India.

### Start-up NIRAMAI raises \$6 mn

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
MUMBAI

Artificial intelligence-based health tech start-up NIRAMAI Health Analytix has closed \$6 million in a Series A round of funding, led by Dream Incubator, a Japanese VC firm, with participation from BEENEXT and other investors.

"Earlier investors pi Ventures, Ankur Capital, Axilor Ventures and Binny Bansal also participated in the round. The funds will be used for scaling up in India, hiring top talent and getting additional regulatory approvals for international expansion," said a company statement. Founded in July 2016, NIRAMAI has previously raised \$1mn in April 2017.

### JBM acquires majority stake in Linde-Wiemann

German firm has 17 plants in 8 nations

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Auto components major JBM Group on Monday said it had acquired majority shareholding in Germany-based Linde-Wiemann GmbH KG – a manufacturer of complex structural components and assemblies to automakers globally.

While the company said this was the biggest business transaction in the history of the JBM Group, financial details of the deal were not disclosed. However, it added that the group's turnover is expected to leapfrog to \$2.2 billion.

Linde-Wiemann, with revenues of \$700 million and 2,300 employees, has base of 17 manufacturing plants

across eight countries, including Germany, U.S., China, Spain, Turkey, the Czech Republic, Hungary and South Africa.

The acquisition is being done through the the group's flagship company, Neel Metal Products.

Linde-Wiemann specialises in proprietary technologies in areas such as hot forming, tubular assemblies and usage of alternate materials such as aluminium resulting in lightweighting in auto systems.

"JBM will also have access to L+W's strengths in domains such as Electric Vehicle components & systems and battery structure & systems," the company statement added.

### Tata Motors to launch Altroz in mid-2019

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
MUMBAI

Tata Motors has named its upcoming hatchback as Altroz. Called 45X Concept during the Auto Expo 2018, the production version of the vehicle would be unveiled at the Geneva Motors Show 2019. The name is inspired from the bird 'Albatross'.

Mayank Pareek, president, passenger vehicle business unit, Tata Motors, said: "The upcoming model will redefine the premium hatchback segment for the industry." The vehicle will be introduced in mid-2019. It would be the first product to be engineered on Tata Motors's new Agile Light Flexible Advanced architecture.

## Luxmi Tea to buy Mcleod Russel's Africa tea gardens

The ₹149-crore deal will boost Luxmi's quality tea portfolio'



**MRL's 2017-18 turnover.**

MRL had earlier sold four Assam tea estates to Luxmi Tea Company, which is more than 100 years old and whose crop averages 23 million kg.

**Sustainable production**  
Rudra Chatterjee, MD, Luxmi Tea told *The Hindu* that this buy fitted with the company's focus on increasing its supply of tea which were of good quality, were produced in a sustainable way and which could be marketed directly to customers.

The total turnover of Gisovu and Pfunda is ₹125 crore, accounting for 5.6% of

Pfunda Tea Company, also in Rwanda. Luxmi Tea Company and The Wood Foundation, Africa are the shareholders of RTIL.

"Gisovu is almost next door to our existing garden and produces excellent highland tea," he said.



THE HINDU GROUP

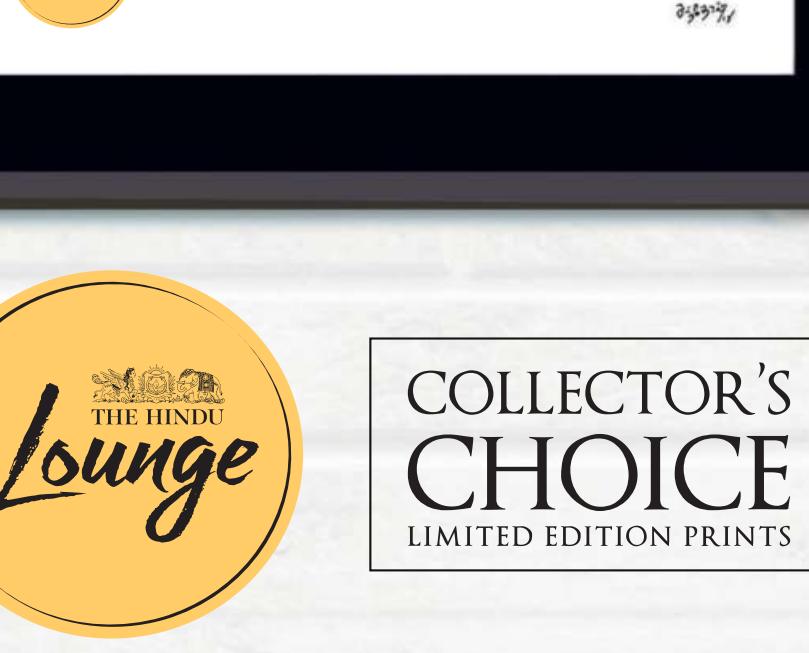
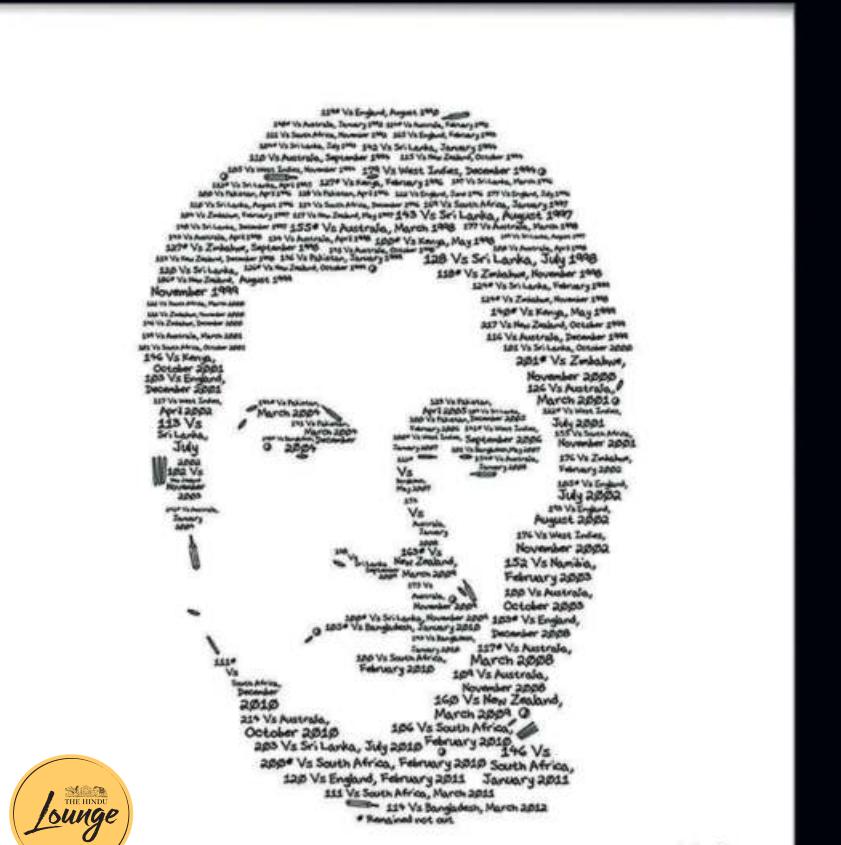
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## TV PICKS

**NBA:** Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m. & 9 a.m.  
**Dubai Open:** Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. & 8.30 p.m.

## IN BRIEF



Smriti to lead India in T20 series

MUMBAI

Smriti Mandhana will lead India in the absence of the injured Harmanpreet Kaur, in the three-match T20I series against England to be played at Guwahati on March 4, 7 and 9. Veda Krishnamurthy has been recalled.

**The team:** Smriti Mandhana (Capt.), Mithali Raj, Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepa Sharma, Tanya Bhatia (wk), Bharti Fulmali, Anuja Patil, Shikha Pandey, Komal Zanzad, Arundhati Reddy, Poonam Yadav, Ekta Bisht, Radha Yadav, Veda Krishnamurthy, and Harleen Deol.

## West Indies-England third ODI abandoned

ST. GEORGE'S (GRENADA)

The third One-Day International between West Indies and England was washed out without a ball being bowled here on Monday. The series is level 1-1 after England won the first game and the hosts the second.



Federer starts bid for 100th title in style

DUBAI

Roger Federer began his quest for a 100th career title, beating Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 in the opening round of the \$2,887,895 ATP tournament on Monday.

Wildcard Ramkumar Ramanathan lost to Roberto Bautista Agut 6-4, 6-3. In doubles, Leander Paes and Benoit Paire defeated Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan 6-2, 7-6(2).

Karen Khachanov and Milos Raonic suffered surprise first-round exits.

**Other results (first round):** Nikoloz Basilashvili bt Karen Khachanov 6-4, 6-1; Jan-Lennard Struff bt Milos Raonic 6-4, 5-7, 6-4. AFP



Man City retains League Cup

LONDON

Manchester City retained the League Cup by edging Chelsea 4-3 on penalties on Sunday after an incredible bust-up between Chelsea boss Maurizio Sarri and goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga, after the Italian tried to replace the world's most expensive player towards the end of a cagey 120 minutes that ended 0-0. City goalkeeper Ederson denied Jorginho and David Luiz hit the post in the shootout before Raheem Sterling smashed the winning penalty past Kepa. AFP



Abhijeet wins title

CANNES Grandmaster Abhijeet Gupta of India won the Cannes International Open chess after a draw with Pier Luigi Basso of Italy in the ninth and final round here on Monday. Having been tied for the top spot in the previous edition, Abhijeet did one better, winning the tournament with 7.5 points, one point more than his nearest rivals Nikita Maiorov of Belarus, Nasuta Grzegorz of Poland and Yuri Solodovnichenko of Ukraine.

# Jhulan, Shikha and Smriti fashion India's series victory

Mithali, too, chips in as the hosts cross the line in the 42nd over with seven wickets to spare; the bowlers had earlier restricted England to 161

## ENG IN INDIA

G. VISWANATH  
MUMBAI

The pace duo of Jhulan Goswami and Shikha Pandey skittled out England for a paltry 161.

Then the stylish Smriti Mandhana, Punam Raut and Mithali Raj wielded their willows to help India score an emphatic seven-wicket win in the second ODI of the three-match ICC Women's Championship series at the Wankhede Stadium here on Monday.

With Jhulan and Shikha sharing eight wickets, the home team clinched the series with the final match to be played on Thursday.

## Premier strike bowler

Jhulan has been India's premier strike bowler for eighteen years and on Monday the world's highest wicket-taker in ODIs, scalped four victims for the eighth time.

Jhulan was chosen as the



Smiling assassin: Shikha Pandey struck in the second over to send back Amy Jones, a blow from which England never really recovered. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

Player-of-the-Match ahead of Shikha's remarkable and career-best effort.

Reacting to the choice of the player of the match at

the press conference, Shikha, said: "I am above all that now, I would say. It doesn't really matter to me whether I am the Player-of-the-Match

or not.

"We have won the series and that's more than enough. I have been able to contribute to it and hence

## SCOREBOARD INDIA VS ENGLAND, SECOND ODI

## ENGLAND

Amy Jones c Ekta b Shikha 3 (6b), Tammy Beaumont c Deepi b Shikha 20 (42b, 3x 4), Sarah Taylor b Jhulan 1 (5b), Heather Knight c Jemimah b Jhulan 2 (9b), Natalie Sciver lbw b Jhulan 85 (109b, 12x4, 1x6), Lauren Winfield c Smriti b Poonam 28 (49b, 4x4), Georgia Elwiss lbw b Shikha 0 (2b), Katherine Brunt lbw b Shikha 0 (3b), Anya Shrubsole lbw b Poonam 1 (8b), Sophie Ecclestone b Jhulan 5 (14b, 1x4), Alex Hartley (not out) 0 (17b); Extras (b-4, lb-6, nb-3, w-3): 16; Total (in 41.3 overs): 162.

## FALL OF WICKETS

1-1 (Jemimah, 1.5 ov), 2-74 (Punam, 19.1), 3-140 (Smriti, 33.1).

## ENGLAND BOWLING

Brunt 7-21-26-0, Shrubsole 8-2-23-2, Elwiss 7.1-28-1, Ecclestone 7-0-31-0, Sciver 3-0-11-0, Hartley 6-0-29-0, Knight 3-0-10-0.

## Toss: England.

**Player-of-the-Match:** Jhulan. India won by seven wickets with 53 balls to spare.

14th over with Deepti Sharma converting a superb running catch at square-leg.

In her second spell, she sent back Geroina Elwiss and Katherine Brunt.

Jhulan removed Saray Taylor, who inside-edged the ball on to the stumps while attempting a drive, and the England skipper Heather Knight.

And when Natalie Sciver resorted to some bold hitting during England's best-ever partnership for the 10th wicket, Jhulan trapped her in front to bring an end to the visitor's innings with 39 balls remaining.

India lost Jemimah Rodrigues with just a run on the board, but Smriti took control of the chase with some lovely front-foot shots between cover and mid-off and added 73 with Punam Raut.

Smriti's another valuable stand with Mithali Raj – 66 for the third wicket – clinched the match in under 42 overs.

## Rahul makes a strong statement on return

The Karnataka player was easily the best Indian batsman on view in the first T20I

## AUS IN INDIA

SHREDDUTTA CHIDANANDA  
VISAKHAPATNAM

It was not quite a match-winning effort, but K.L. Rahul should be more than a little relieved with his half-century in the first T20 International.

Comebacks are not always easy: the weight of expectations is often great. And when, like in this case, a player is returning from a suspension imposed for off-field acts, there is perhaps a need to feel confident on the field again. In these circumstances, his 36-ball 50 should count as a success.

**Quickly into the groove**  
Rahul was quickly into the groove on Sunday. He was the best of the Indian batsmen on show, and on a sluggish pitch batted with a fluency that eluded most of his colleagues.

In the months after Rahul made his Test debut, having built a reputation as a composed, technically-sound opener in First Class cricket, he was at pains to point out that he was not a one-dimensional batsman.

Three months later, he was hammering a spectacular 51-ball 110 in a T20 against West Indies at Lauderhill, becoming only the third Indian to score hundreds in all three formats of the game.

"I feel he was our best bat-



Turnaround: K.L. Rahul batted with fluency on a sluggish Visakhapatnam pitch on Sunday. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

asked if the perception that he could succeed only in the longest format had changed.

"You should tell me," he shot back. "For me there was never a doubt about the skill. But obviously I hadn't put in the same kind of performances in the previous years."

Three months later, he was

slamming a spectacular 51-ball 110 in a T20 against West Indies at Lauderhill, becoming only the third Indian to score hundreds in all three formats of the game.

It was puzzling then that he slipped out of the reckoning in ODI cricket while remaining something of a regular in the Test and T20I teams.

He has played only 13 ODIs, in some of which he has batted at three, four and five. His first one-day hundred, scored on ODI debut, remains his only ton in the format; he has two in T20 Internationals.

**Free spirit**  
In last year's IPL, Rahul bat-

ted like he was thoroughly enjoying himself, as he averaged nearly 55 from 14 games, going at a strike rate of 158. There is perhaps something liberating about batting in T20s.

"In this format of the game, he always plays with a lot of freedom," Jasprit Bumrah said of Glenn Maxwell on Sunday. Maybe it's true of a lot of batsmen. Rahul will hope he carries his form into the one-day series, and then perhaps into the English summer.

## Aizawl holds East Bengal

The result not ideal for Kolkata giant

## Real Kashmir match moved to Delhi

## SPORTS REPORTER

BENGALURU  
With the situation in the Kashmir valley continuing to be tense, the AIFF League Committee has decided to shift Thursday's Real Kashmir-East Bengal I-League fixture to Delhi from Srinagar.

The call was made after Real Kashmir informed the Committee in writing that it wanted the match played at a neutral venue in view of the prevailing security situation.

The effect was felt on the I-League second division too, with Wednesday's encounter between Lonestar Kashmire and Bengaluru FC-B now postponed.

This comes after Sunday's match involving Lonestar and ARA was called off as security agencies refused clearance. I-League CEO Sunando Dhar, however, expressed confidence that Lonestar's next home game on March 3 would take place as scheduled.

It was also decided to refer the matter pertaining to Minerva Punjab FC's no-show in Srinagar on February 18 to the AIFF Executive Committee.

Further, March 15 and 16 were announced as dates for the Hero Super Cup qualifiers in Bhubaneswar.

half, but the referee disallowed Ansumana Kromah's goal. Coach Alejandro Menendez introduced the fifth foreigner in Spaniard Toni Dovale in the 57th minute.

This gave the home attack better direction as the combination between Dovale and Samad Ali Mallick on the right provided an opportunity in the 66th minute. Dovale set it up for an overlapping Samad whose cross into the box saw Enrique Esqueda make it 1-1.

Aizawl was reduced to 10 in the 70th minute when it lost defender Karim Omojala Nurain, sent off for dissent after the referee booked him for an infringement.

The result: East Bengal 1 (Esqueda 66) drew with Aizawl 1 (Dovale 23).

## Kamenskiy shows his class

## SHOOTING WC

KAMESH SRINIVASAN  
NEW DELHI

Far ahead: Sergiy Kamenskiy of Russia was too good for the rest of the 10m air rifle field. ■ KAMESH SRINIVASAN

three, with the quota won by Saurabh Chaudhary in men's air pistol.

**No catching up**  
Only after taking a 2.9 point lead did the Russian relax a bit, as he delivered a 9.8 on the penultimate shot.

There was no catching up, but Liu and fourth-placed Martin Strempl of Austria had the satisfaction of securing Olympic quota places.

Kamenskiy had missed the gold by 0.1 point in the rifle 3-position event on Sunday, which saw third-placed Marco Di Nicolo of Italy take the second quota place behind champion Istvan Perni of Hungary.

The Chinese have already collected four quota places in the current World Cup, to take their tally to 14. India has taken its collection to

## Controversial win for Real Madrid

## EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
MADRID

Gareth Bale came off the bench to score a controversial winning penalty against Levante on Sunday but his refusal to celebrate suggested all may not be well again at Real Madrid.

Bale's spot-kick earned Madrid a battling and, in truth, undeserved 2-1 victory at the City of Valencia Stadium where referee Ignacio Iglesias failed to reverse his decision, despite VAR exposing a theatrical dive from Casemiro.

Bale replaced Karim Benzema in the 74th minute, after the Frenchman had scored his own penalty in the first half before Roger Marti pulled Levante level.

**The results:** La Liga: Real Valladolid 0 lost to Real Betis 2 (Mandi 45+3, Joaquin 87); Levante 1 (Roger 60) lost to Real Madrid 2 (Benzema 43+pen, Bale 78+pen).

**Serie A:** Parma 0 lost to Napoli 4 (Zielinski 19, Milik 36, 73, Ounas 82); Fiorentina 3 (de Vrij 1-o.g., Muriel 74, Veretout 90+11+pen) drew with Inter Milan 3 (Vecino 6, Politan 43+pen, Perisic 52+pen).

**Bundesliga:** Borussia Dortmund 3 (Zagadou 30, Sancho 38, Goetze 60) bt Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Volland 37, Tah 75).

## Abhijeet wins title

CANNES

Grandmaster Abhijeet Gupta of India won the Cannes International Open chess after a draw with Pier Luigi Basso of Italy in the ninth and final round here on Monday. Having been tied for the top spot in the previous edition, Abhijeet did one better, winning the tournament with 7.5 points, one point more than his nearest rivals Nikita Maiorov of Belarus, Nasuta Grzegorz of Poland and Yuri Solodovnichenko of Ukraine.

**NATIONAL SENIOR OPEN**  
DEC. 2018 BY KARIM BENZEMA



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**CMYK**

## 16 SPORT

## Assam springs a surprise on Bengal

Karnataka proves too good for minnow Mizoram, consolidates position at the top

**MUSHTAQ ALI**AYAN ACHARYA  
CUTTACK

Sibsankar Roy struck a brilliant 83 off just 53 balls as Bengal's batting failed once again to slip to a 26-run defeat against Assam in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Twenty20 cricket tournament here on Monday. Assam's third consecutive win propelled it to the No. 2 spot in Group D.

Set 163 to win, Bengal was dealt an early blow when opener Vivek Singh was caught behind off Mukhtar Hussain.

Kanishk Seth was promoted as a pinch hitter but the move backfired after the left-arm pacer was caught short of his crease by wicketkeeper Wasique Rahman.

And when Abhimanyu Easwaran's top-edge was snaffled up at point three overs later, Bengal was left wobbling at 34 for three inside the first six overs.

**Goswami hangs on**  
Shreevats Goswami, the inform batsman, struggled to time the ball on a two-paced pitch but hung on for a 34-



**Spinning a web:** Shreyas Gopal picked up four wickets for just eight runs as the Mizoram batsmen were all at sea. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

run fifth-wicket stand with Wriddhman Saha.

However, Saha's dismissal off Hussain compounded the problems. With the asking rate climbing, Goswami perished for 43 off Rryan Parag.

Earlier, Ashoke Dinda removed openers Sarupam Purkayasha and Pallav Das in quick succession after Bengal put Assam in.

Dinda bowled an incisive

first spell conceding only five in two overs.

**Porel's fine spell**

Ishan Porel further limited the scoring opportunities, bowling three overs on the trot giving away just 14.

Sibsankar tried to inject life into Assam's otherwise sedate scoring up front, collecting four boundaries off Seth, two of those glorious

cover-drives.

He brought up his fifty off 36 balls and added 137 for the third wicket with Parag.

Sibsankar was eventually run out for a 53-ball 83, but Parag's quickfire half-century ensured Assam reached an eventually winning total. Dinda finished with four for 17.

In another match, Karnataka rolled over minnow Mizoram

by 137 runs to consolidate its position at the top of Group D.

**Toying with the attack**

Rohan Kadam and Karun Nair toyed with the opposition attack, plundering 11 boundaries and eight sixes between them as the first-timer from North East wilted.

The duo added an enterprising 128 for the second wicket, with Karnataka breaching the 100-run mark in just 10.3 overs.

Rohan and Karun brought up their half-centuries of 39 and 26 balls respectively.

Twenty fours and 11 sixes in total were hit by the Karnataka batsmen as leg-spinner Sinan Khadir ended up leaking 54 in four overs – the most expensive of the seven bowlers used.

Mizoram openers Tarun Kohli and Akhil Rajput put on an opening stand of 63 but their dismissals sealed the team's fate.

For Karnataka, Shreyas Gopal picked up four wickets giving away eight runs.

## J &amp; K has it easy against Andhra

Delhi records a comfortable seven-wicket win over Kerala



**Consistent:** Shubham Singh Pundir's second consecutive half-century, which included six boundaries and a six, ensured J&K's win over Andhra. ■ FILE PHOTO: K.V.S. GIRI

SPORTS BUREAU

MULAPADU

Jammu & Kashmir pulled off a five-wicket win over Andhra in a Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 cricket league match on Monday.

Andhra, put into bat, scored 146 for seven in 20 overs with wicketkeeper-batsman K. Srikanth Bharat (41, 38b, 3x4, 1x6) being the topscorer. The others found the bowling tough to score with medium-pacer Ram Dayal

(two for 23) being the main wicket-taker. Off-spinner Parvez Rasool had a tidy spell of one for 19 in four overs.

In reply, J & K achieved the target thanks to a belligerent knock by Shubham Singh Pundir, who cracked his second consecutive half-century (51, 36b, 6x4, 1x6), and Parvez Rasool's breezy 22-ball 31 (1x4, 2x6).

In another match, Delhi recorded a comfortable, seven-wicket win over Kerala

thanks to a fine knock by Nitesh Rana (52 not out, 36b, 4x4, 2x6) after opener Unmukt Chand struck a 32-ball 33 (2x6).

Manipur notched up the most emphatic win of the day when it drubbed Nagaland by 10 wickets with openers Mayank Raghav (80 not out, 45b, 4x4, 6x6) and P. Prafullamani (51 not out, 54b, 4x4, 1x6) batting with lot of freedom to help team chase down 133 easily.

## THE SCORES

## Group A (Mulapadu)

Nagaland 132 for seven in 20 overs (Sedezhalie Rupero 26, Abrar Kazi 36, K. Priyajit three for 23) lost to Manipur 134 for no loss in 16.3 overs (Mayank Raghav 80 n.o., P. Prafullamani 51 n.o.).

Kerala 139 for seven in 20 overs (Sachin Baby 37, Vinoop Manoharan 38) lost to Delhi 140 for three in 18.3 overs (Unmukt Chand 33, Hiten Dalal 28, Nitish Rana 52 n.o.).

Andhra 146 for seven in 20 overs (G. Hanuma Vihari 28, K.S. Bharat 41) lost to Jammu & Kashmir 148 for 18 in 3.3 overs (Abdul Samad 30, Shubham Pundir 51, Parvez Rasool 31).

## Group B (Surat)

Bihar 78 in 18.5 overs (Asfa-han Khan 25) lost to Himachal 81 for one in 10.3 overs (Ankush Bains 54 n.o.).

Tamil Nadu 125 for six in 20 overs (N.S. Chaturvedi 34, Washington Sundar 33, N. Jagannathan 32).

Goa 140 for four in 20 overs (Sagun Kamat 27, Amogh Desai 38, Amit Verma 27, Keenan Vaz 26) lost to Mumbai 141 for four in 18.2 overs (Prithvi Shaw 71, Ajinkya Rahane 31).

Madhya Pradesh 159 for six in 20 overs (Naman Ojha 74, Parth Sahani 40, Amit Mishra three for 19, Anureet Singh three for 24) lost to Railways 161 for five in 19.4 overs (Prathmesh Singh 61, Ashish Yadav 32,

Shreyas Gopal four for eight).

Assam 162 for five in 20 overs (Sibsankar Roy 26, Debabrata Pradhan three for 10) lost to Odisha 76 for two in 13.1 overs (Abhishek Raut 40 n.o., Sandeep Pattnaik 28 n.o.).

Karnataka 242 for four in 20 overs (Rohan Kadam 78, Karun Nair 71, Manish Pandey 33 n.o., J. Suchith 26 n.o.) lost to Mizoram 105 for six in 20 overs (Akhil Rajput 41, Tarun Kohli 36, Shreyas Gopal four for 17).

Haryana 210 for five in 20 overs (Chaitanya Bishnoi 65 n.o., Sumit Kumar 43, Pramod Chandila 35, Rahul Tewatia 59 n.o.) lost to Chhattisgarh 211 for five in 20 overs (Rishabh Tiwari 62, Harpreet Singh Bhatia 49, Rohit Sharma 30).

Uttarakhand 147 for five in 20 overs (Karanveer Kaushal 58, Vaibhav Singh Panwar 46 n.o.) lost to Tripura 110 in 19 overs (Nirupam Sen Chowdhury 34, Manikumar Murasingh 33, Rohit Dangwal three for 16, Rajat Bhattacharya three for 29).

Baroda 75 in 18.2 overs (Vikas Yadav three for 15) lost to Services 76 for three in 16.2 overs.

Uttarakhand 147 for five in 20 overs (Karanveer Kaushal 58, Vaibhav Singh Panwar 46 n.o.) lost to Tripura 110 in 19 overs (Nirupam Sen Chowdhury 34, Manikumar Murasingh 33, Rohit Dangwal three for 16, Rajat Bhattacharya three for 29).

Odisha 124 for six in 20 overs (Rohit Rayudu 47 n.o., B. Sandeep 25) lost to Maharashtra 125 for three in 18 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 54, Naushad Shaikh 42 n.o.).

Chhattisgarh 126 for nine in 20 overs (Akash Kumar 41, Akash Kumar 39 n.o., Bipul Sharma three for 23).

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## IN BRIEF



Djere dedicates Rio win to cancer-victim parents

RIO DE JANEIRO

Serbia's Laslo Djere won his first career title at the Rio Open on Sunday and dedicated the victory to his parents, both of whom died of cancer. The 23-year-old defeated Canadian teenager Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-3, 7-5 in the final and will rise from 90 in the world to 37 on Monday. "I want to dedicate this title to my parents. I lost my mum seven years ago and my dad two months ago. It's due to them that I am who I am today, I hope they are watching me now," said Djere. AFP



Greek star Tsitsipas is Marseille champion

MARSEILLE

Rising Greek star Stefanos Tsitsipas claimed his second ATP Tour title on Sunday by beating Mikhail Kukushkin in the final of the Marseille event. The 20-year-old continued his excellent start to the year, which included a run to the Australian Open semifinals on the back of a fourth-round defeat of Roger Federer. "Winning titles is the thing that I am working for... It is the biggest satisfaction and the biggest joy in tennis," said Tsitsipas, who won his first ATP title in Stockholm last year. AFP



Albot is first Moldovan to win ATP Tour title

WASHINGTON

Radu Albot made history by becoming the first Moldovan to win an ATP Tour title as he saved three championship points and defeated qualifier Daniel Evans of Britain 3-6, 6-3, 7-6(7) in the Delray Beach Open final on Sunday. "This is just a great feeling. It's difficult to put into words," said Albot after the match. Despite a 56-minute rain delay thwarting Albot's momentum after he broke for a 2-1 lead in the third set, the World No. 82 held his nerve to lift his first trophy after thrilling two hours and 51 minutes of play. IANS

## Kaushik, two other Indians enter semifinals

NEW DELHI

Commonwealth Games silver-medallist Manish Kaushik (60kg) was among three Indian boxers who advanced to the semifinals on Sunday and assured themselves of medals at the Makran Cup in Chahbar, Iran. Kaushik defeated Salar Mourimvand 5-0 in his quarterfinal. Also making the semis were former National champion Duryodhan Singh Negi (69kg) and Rohit Tokas (64kg). The total number of Indians in medal rounds now stands at eight. PTI



van Uytvanck wins second straight Budapest crown

BUDAPEST

Belgian top seed Alison van Uytvanck successfully defended her WTA Budapest title by fighting back to beat Czech Marketa Vondrousova 1-6, 7-5, 6-2 on Sunday. The 24-year-old, ranked 50th in the world, has now won three WTA titles. van Uytvanck had only won two matches all year before this week, but capped a fine tournament with a battling victory despite being broken four times in the opening set.

## Lifetime Achievement award for Karthikeyan

Narain recalls his father's role in promoting motorsport in the country

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

G.R. Karthikeyan, father of India's first Formula One driver Narain Karthikeyan, was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement award at the FMSCI annual awards function on Monday.

Raghul Rangasamy was applauded as he walked up to receive the Upcoming Motorsport Person of the Year award for the Raymond Gauhat Singhania Trophy.

FIA president Jean Todt was the chief guest and handed over the awards.

Narain spoke about his father's inspiring presence in his career and as one of the pioneers in establishing a framework for Indian motorsport.

Raghul, 25, earned recognition and appreciation for winning the LGB Formula 4 title in the JK Tyre FMSCI National Racing Championship and the FF 1600 category at the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Racing Championship.

FMSCI President J. Prithviraj spoke about the new ventures that have been planned.

**The awards:** Lifetime Achievement award: G.R. Karthikeyan.

**Upcoming Motorsport Person of the year:** Raghul Rangasamy.

**Outstanding Achievement in World Motorsport:** Abhilash PG, winner APRC 2 Cup for drivers; Abdul Wahid, second overall in Rally of Morocco; Jehan Daruvala, several podiums in FIA Euro F3 championship; Karthik Matei, second in Asia Cup of Road Racing (Indonesia); **Outstanding Women:** Mira Erda, Sneha Sharma, and Shriya Lohia.

**National Racing Championship:**

**Euro JK 18:** Karthik Tharani;

**LGB Formula 4:** Raghul Rangasamy; **Champion Team (LGB Formula 4):** Msport; **Rookie Driver (LGB Formula 4):** Sohil Shah.

**Indian National Racing: MRF FF 1600:** Raghul Rangasamy; **FLGB 1300:** Sohil Shah; **Cham-**



**Honour:** G.R. Karthikeyan receives the Lifetime Achievement award from Jean Todt. Gautam Singhania, J. Prithviraj and Narain Karthikeyan are the others in the picture. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Raghul Rangasamy.  
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**MotorSports: Indian Touring Cars:** Ashish Ramaswamy; **Champion Team (Indian Touring Cars):** Arka Motorsports.

**Indian National Rally Championship: Driver Overall:** Gaurav Gill; **Co-driver Overall:** Musa Sherif; **Team (INRC 1):** Mahindra Adventure; **Driver (INRC 2):** Karna Kadur; **Co-driver (INRC 2):** Nikhil V.

**sa Sheriff; Team Overall:** INRC Mahindra Adventure; **Driver (INRC 1):** Gaurav Gill; **Co-Driver (INRC 1):** Musa Sherif; **Team (INRC 1):** Mahindra Adventure; **Driver (INRC 2):** Karna Kadur; **Co-Driver (INRC 2):** Nikhil V.

**Pai; Team (INRC 2):** Arka MotorSports; **Driver (INRC 3):** Aroor Vikram Rao; **Co-Driver (INRC 3):** Somayya.

**National Rotax Max Karting Micro Max:** Ishaa Madesh; **Team (Micro Max):** Peregrine

**Mspot;** **Junior Max:** Shahan Ali Mohsin; **Team (Junior Max):** Mspot; **Senior Max:** Debarun Banerjee; **Team (Senior Max):** Mspot.

**Indian National Motorcycle Racing: Rider (Pro Stock 301-**

**400 cc):** Satyanarayana Raju; **Team (Pro Stock 301-400 cc):** Gusto Racing India; **Manufacturer (Pro Stock 301-400 cc):** KTM.

**Rider (Super Sport Indian upto 165 cc):** Jagan Kumar.

**Team (Super Sport Indian upto 165 cc):** TVS Racing; **Manufacturer (Super Sport Indian upto 165 cc):** TVS; **Rider (Pro Stock upto 165 cc):** Anish D. Shetty.

**Team (Pro Stock upto 165 cc):** Honda Ten10 Racing; **Manufacturer (Pro Stock upto 165 cc):** Honda; **Rider (Stock upto 165 cc Girls):** Ann Jenifer; **Team (Stock upto 165 cc Girls):** Sparks Racing; **Manufacturer (Stock upto 165 cc Girls):** Yamaha; **Rider (Stock upto 165 cc):** Karthik Matei; **Team (Stock upto 165 cc):** Sparks Racing; **Manufacturer (Stock upto 165 cc):** Yamaha.

**National Rally Championship:**

**Overall:** R. Nataraj; **Rider (Super Bike Pro Expert Group A Rider):** R. Nataraj; **Rider (Super Bike Expert Group A Rider):** Jatin Jain; **Rider (Super Sport 130 cc Group B Rider):** Rakesh Kumar; **Rider (Super Sport 165 cc Group B Rider):** Imran Pasha; **Rider (Super Sport 260 cc Group B Rider):** Rajendra; **Rider (Super Sport 400 cc Group B Rider):** Venu Ramesh Kumar; **Rider (Super Sport 550 cc Group B Rider):** Vinit Sharma; **Rider (Scooters Group B Rider):** Pinkesh Thakkar; **Rider (Ladies Class):** Aishwarya.

## Formula E is the baby of motorsport, says Jean Todt

## NANDAKUMAR MARAR

MUMBAI

Jean Todt, the president of Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) termed Formula Electric (FE) as the baby of world motorsport.

He mentioned about Mahindra Racing performances and hoped India would one day host a FE race.

The Frenchman, speaking on the sidelines of FMSCI annual awards 2018, spoke about his stint as

Ferrari CEO and how the F1 team, having Michael Schumacher in the unit, got closer as circumstances got tougher. The Indian team in FIA FE Championships has managed three podium finishes in three races in fifth season.

Asked about the road ahead for FE, Todt said: "Formula E is doing very well, promoting safety, promoting environment and incidentally, one Indian team (Team

Mahindra) is doing well in a new championship, in fact the baby of the FIA. I would be happy to see one race in a big Indian city. Races are held in 12 cities worldwide."

He was of the view that FE and F1 have their spaces and explained that the prominence gained by electric cars as part of evolution in motorsport, like in life.

"Formula One is a different category (from FE). We all know motoring

is changing. Evolution of cars is part of technology. There are good evolutions and bad evolutions. Bad evolutions are traffic and congestion, more cars on roads in the cities and traffic problem. So if you can encourage new technology using racing, it will be beneficial."

Todt, referring to his own career in the sport, rising to the post of Ferrari boss, remarked. "I am blessed to be involved with

motorsport. As a young guy, I did not think that one day I will be asked to run Ferrari. It is not easy to seek continuity. I was lucky to have the energy to stay 16 years. The reason I left Ferrari was because I felt the chapter was ending. We achieved as much as we could."

Asked about working with German F1 icon Michael Schumacher with him he is supposed to built a strong rapport, he said:

"The toughest part of my career was when things got difficult."

"Such situations builds very strong relationships with people. Michael has been clearly very important in achieving the success, along with other team members. When we have had tough times, if you stick together, you will come out stronger. We stuck together and achieved something that had not been done."

## Subroto goes down memory lane

Recalls days of hope and optimism under Lillee's tutelage



Subroto Banerjee.

■ VIJAY SONEJI

be giving something back to his home State.

"It's a young side finding its feet. I keep telling the boys to keep fighting. It's the same thing that I learnt from Lillee. He would always talk about the never-say-die attitude."

Relishing his time back in India after 10 years in Australia, Subroto said, "Guiding young cricketers gives you a lot of happiness."

And his bond with Chennai remained special. He recalled playing in the TNCA first division league. "I turned out for India Pistons and SPIC. The standard was high, it was very competitive and we even played on matting tracks which enhanced our skills." He added, "And we played with the Sonex ball that stopped doing much after the first 10 overs. So we had to be inventive as pacemen."

These days he is coaching Bihar after a successful stint as a bowling coach with Vidarbha that saw the side triumphing in the Ranji Trophy for the first time.

"When I grew up, there was only Kapil Dev. Now there is so much pace, quality and variety."

## Cause for delight

Subroto is delighted with the depth in the Indian pace bowling ranks now.

"When I grew up, there was only Kapil Dev. Now there is so much pace, quality and variety."

## Indian athletes' mindset has changed' Borromeo says we can expect encouraging results at Tokyo

definitely not going to look back. We are only going to go forward."

## Training abroad

Reportedly, last year was the first time India's track and field athletes had gone abroad to train for the Asian Games. They had gone to Thimphu (Bhutan) for high-altitude training.

"That mindset is there now because they are well-supported, well-protected, so that they are fine financially, physically and mentally."

"Now, after 2018, we are

athletes now train abroad in general, and that there is a healthy competition among themselves in each discipline."

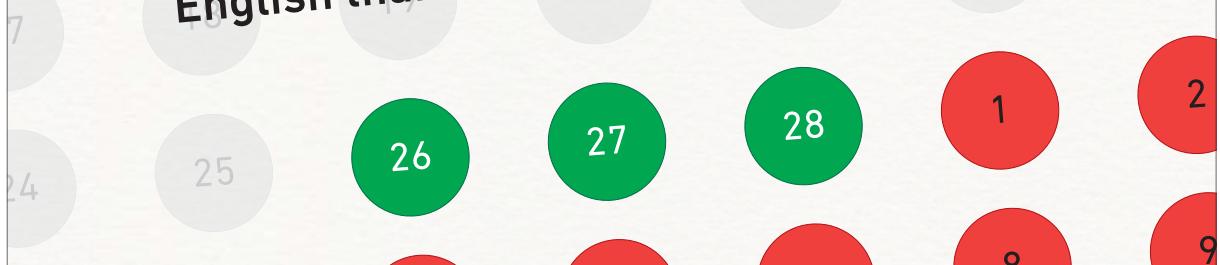
On looking forward to the Tokyo Olympics, he said, "Throughout 2019, they (the athletes) will be exposed to a lot of international competitions."

"Also, since 2020 Olympics is in an Asian country, the conditions will be favourable for the Indians, I feel."

"Be it javelin throw, or 400m, or any event, we can expect encouraging results."

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## IN BRIEF



## 25 mn voice assistants face risk of being hacked

BARCELONA  
More than 25 million voice assistants globally, which are connected to the Internet of Things (IoT) devices at home, face an increased risk of being hacked as cyber criminals are exploiting vulnerabilities present in them, a report by cyber security firm McAfee said. Most such devices have guessable passwords and insecure default settings, making them vulnerable. IANS



**Moments of a lifetime:** Director Peter Farrelly, winner of Best Picture and Best Original Screenplay for *Green Book*; an emotional Lady Gaga, who won Best Original Song for 'Shallow' in *A Star is Born*, with her trophy; and Spike Lee, along with Charlie Wachtel, David Robinowitz and Kevin Willmott, after accepting the Best Adapted Screenplay award for *BlacKkKlansman*. •AFP

## At this year's Oscars, diversity comes up as a big winner

While Alfonso Cuarón *Roma* bagged prizes for Best Director, Cinematography and Foreign Language Film, *Black Panther* won key awards



## Vitamin C may lower BP, sugar levels in diabetics

MELBOURNE  
Taking vitamin C supplements can help diabetics by lowering elevated blood sugar levels throughout the day, a study has found. The research, published in the journal *Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism*, also found that vitamin C lowered blood pressure in people with type 2 diabetes, suggesting benefits for heart health. PTI



## UAE's first astronaut to head for space in Sept.

DUBAI  
The UAE has announced the date the first astronaut from the Gulf Arab nation will go into space. The UAE said on Monday it will send its astronaut to the International Space Station on September 25 aboard a Russian Soyuz rocket. AP

## BROOKS BARNES

LOS ANGELES

*Green Book*, about a white chauffeur and his black client in segregation-era America, won Best Picture at the Academy Awards, overcoming mixed critical notices and a series of awards-season setbacks. By backing *Green Book*, voters slowed the ascendancy of Netflix, which had been pushing a competing nominee, *Roma*.

The first hostless Academy Awards in 30 years took its lead from the Grammys, opening Sunday with a rousing rendition of *We Will Rock You* by Queen, the supergroup chronicled in the blockbuster best-picture nominee *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

"Welcome to the Oscars!" shouted Adam Lambert, who has taken over for Freddie Mercury as Queen's frontman in recent years.

Tina Fey, Amy Poehler and Maya Rudolph then took the stage and – while explaining they were not the hosts – gave a mini-performance that drew relaxed laughter from the audience and seemed to make the case that the three women should be hired to co-host next year, pronto.

Regina King won the Best Supporting Actress trophy for the lyrical art film *If Beale Street Could Talk*. "I'm an example of what it looks like when support and love is poured into someone," Ms. King said, composing herself after breaking into tears.

Alfonso Cuarón won Best Director for his semi-autobiographical *Roma*, as expected, his second victory in the category in five years, having received an Oscar for *Gravity* in 2014. It was the fifth time in six years that a Mexican filmmaker has taken the prize.

The semi-autobiographical drama tells the story of an indigenous woman named Cleo, a domestic worker and nanny for a middle-class family in Mexico City's Roma district in the 1970s.

Olivia Colman, a first-time nominee, won Best Actress for playing a lonely and manipulative Queen Anne in *The Favourite*. Ms. Colman's victory was a humbling defeat for Glenn Close, a seven-time nominee who had been expected to clinch her first win this year for playing the title role in *The Wife*.

Rami Malek, a first-time Oscar nominee, won Best Actor for his toothsome portrayal of Freddie Mercury in the blockbuster Queen biopic *Bohemian Rhapsody*.



**Top honours:** (From Left) Rami Malek, winner of Best Actor; Olivia Colman (Best Actress), Regina King (Best Supporting Actress) and Mahershala Ali (Best Supporting Actor). •AFP

tor for his toothsome portrayal of Freddie Mercury in the blockbuster Queen biopic *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

## Spike Lee takes the stage

Spike Lee and his three fellow *BlacKkKlansman* writers won Best Adapted Screenplay for their story about an African-American police officer who infiltrates the Ku Klux Klan with the help of a

Jewish surrogate. It was Mr. Lee's first competitive Oscar. He started his speech with an expletive and praised his family before pivoting into anti-Trump politics by sounding a battle cry for the coming presidential election.

"Let's all mobilise," Mr. Lee shouted. "Make the moral choice between love versus hate. Let's do the right thing!"

Later, Mr. Trump hit back. "Be nice if Spike Lee could read his notes, or better yet not have to use notes at all, when doing his racist hit on your President," Mr. Trump said in a tweet.

*Green Book* won Best Original Screenplay. It was written by Nick Vallelonga, Brian Currie and Peter Farrelly.

*Shallow*, the duet between Lady Gaga and Bradley

Cooper that serves as the centrepiece of *A Star Is Born*, won Best Song. The film came up short during much of the awards season, but *Shallow* proved irresistible to voters.

Two subsequent awards also found African-American women called to the stage.

## Win for Black Panther

Ruth E. Carter won Best Costume Design for her Afro-futuristic *Black Panther* attire. Ms. Carter, a three-time nominee (*Amistad*, *Malcolm X*), was the first African-American winner in the category.

Hannah Beachler made history herself as the first African-American to win in the Production Design Category, also for her work (with Jay Hart) on *Black Panther*. "When you think it's impossible, just remember to say this," Ms. Beachler said, reading off her phone during an emotional speech. "I did my best, and my best is good enough."

The film also won for Ludwig Goransson's score.

Another early trophy went to Mr. Cuarón, who won the Oscar for Cinematography for *Roma*, making him the

first director to win for shooting his own film. *Roma* also won Best Foreign Language Film.

*Free Solo*, about a daring rock climber, took the prize for Documentary Feature.

"Thank you National Geographic for believing in us, and for hiring women and people of colour," said one of its directors, Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi.

*Bohemian Rhapsody* picked up Oscars for sound editing and sound mixing. John Ottman also won the Oscar for editing *Bohemian Rhapsody*. None of the winners thanked Bryan Singer, who was fired as the film's director because of erratic behaviour on the set and has been dogged by sexual misconduct allegations.

*Green Book* got on the board with a Supporting Actor victory by Mahershala Ali, who plays an erudite musician in the film who hires an unrefined white man as his chauffeur and bodyguard.

It was Mr. Ali's second Supporting Actor win.

*Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* won best animated feature for Sony Pictures, as expected. NY TIMES

## Chinese firms plan to go the whole hog

They are pushing facial and voice recognition to protect pigs as swine flu sweeps through the country's farms

SUI-LEE WEE  
ELSIE CHEN

A database of every pig's face. Voice scans that detect hogs with a cough. Robots that dispense just the right amount of feed.

This could be China's pig farm of the future.

Chinese companies are pushing facial and voice recognition and other advanced technologies as ways to protect the country's pigs. In this Year of the Pig, many Chinese hogs are dying from a deadly swine disease, threatening the country's supply of pork, a staple of Chinese dinner tables.

So China's ebullient technology sector is applying the same techniques it has used to transform Chinese life – and, more darkly, that the Chinese government increasingly uses to spy on its

own people – to make sure its pigs are in the pink of health.

"If they are not happy, and not eating well, in some cases you can predict whether the pig is sick," said Jackson He, chief executive officer of Yingzi Technology, a small firm based in Guangzhou that has introduced its vision of a "future pig farm" with facial- and voice-recognition technologies.

China's biggest tech firms want to pamper pigs, too. Alibaba, the e-commerce giant, and JD.com, its rival, are using cameras to track pigs' faces. Alibaba also uses voice-recognition software to monitor their coughs.

Many in China are quick to embrace high-tech solutions to just about any problem. A digital revolution has transformed China into a



**Pig push:** A video grab from Yingzi Technology shows a pig's face. •NYT

public bathrooms to dispense toilet paper, in train stations to apprehend criminals and in housing complexes to open doors.

This pig push, however, may be a step too soon.

"I like the idea, I like the concept, but I need to be shown that it works," said Dirk Pfeiffer, a professor of veterinary epidemiology at the City University of Hong Kong. "Because if it doesn't work, it's counterproductive."

**Comprehensive database**  
Facial recognition won't help unless China has a comprehensive database of pig faces to track their movement, he pointed out. Also, facial recognition doesn't help "once the animal is in the slaughterhouse and they chop it into bits."

"How then can you connect the head to the rest of the carcass?" Mr. Pfeiffer asked.

Many of China's pig farmers are also skeptical. China is in the midst of closing and consolidating many of its small pig farms, blaming them for polluting the environment. But there are still 26 million small pig farms in the country, representing about half the number of farms, according to the Agriculture Ministry.

"We will not choose to invest in these things," said Wang Wenjun, a 27-year-old farmer who won a modest amount of fame after he uploaded videos of himself singing to his hogs. "Unless it's a large-scale pig farm, farms that have just over a couple hundred pigs will not find a use for it." NY TIMES

## Warming imperils clouds that deter 'hothouse' conditions

It could melt polar ice and lift sea levels by tens of metres

## AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PARIS

Marine clouds that protect us from hothouse Earth conditions by reflecting sunlight back into space could break up and vanish if CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere triples, researchers warned Monday.

"Our results show that there are dangerous climate change thresholds of which we were unaware," Tapio Schneider, a scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California and lead author of a study detailing the findings, said.

So-called stratocumulus clouds cover about 20% of subtropical oceans, mostly near western seaboards such as the coasts of California, nia, Mexico and Peru.



polar ice and lift sea levels tens of metres.

The last time the planet was that hot, some 50 million years ago during the Eocene Epoch, crocodiles roamed the Arctic.

Even half that much warming would overwhelm humanity's capacity to adapt, scientists say.

"When they disappear, Earth warms dramatically, by about eight degrees Celsius – in addition to the global warming that comes from enhanced greenhouse concentrations alone," according to the study.

A temperature increase of

that magnitude would melt

## Till death do us part: a cemetery in Germany offers grieving pet owners comfort

After the carcass of Ralf Hendrichs's doberman ended up in a public grinder, he opened the country's only pet graveyard that provides both burial and cremation services

## AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

TELTO

Ralf Hendrichs was devastated when his Doberman died. But he was even more distraught when he learnt that its carcass ended up in a public grinder along with those of roadkill and farm animals.

"We cried for days on end," Mr. Hendrichs said, recalling the death of his faithful friend more than 15 years ago and its sad end that prompted him to set up a cemetery for pets south of Berlin.

Mr. Hendrichs now not only manages the 10,000-square-metre cemetery called Tierhimmel (Animal Heaven), he also offers grieving pet owners comfort.

The graveyard at Teltow is the only one in Germany offering pet burials as well as

cremations.

"We often see very sad scenes here. People cry buckets," the 66-year-old said, noting that some even turn suicidal.

## A family member

"For us, a pet is not just an animal, but a companion, a member of the family" who deserves to be given a dignified send-off, he said.

Domestic pets have claimed a firm spot in the hearts of Germans.

Today, 34.3 million people in the country of 80 million own a pet, up 45% from a decade ago, according to a joint study by the Industrial Association of Pet Care Producers (IVH) and the German Pet Trade and Industry Association.

No clear reason for the increase however has been identified.



**Sense of loss:** A deceased pet dog lies 'in state' before being cremated at the Tierhimmel crematorium in Teltow; and right, stones inscribed with the names of pets. •AFP



miniature pinscher, Alien.

"For the last 14 months since he died, I've come here everyday, twice a day," said the 63-year-old, who has turned Alien's grave into the most decorated and colourful in the cemetery.

## Social partner

Not only the elderly, but also young professionals, are turning to pets for comfort and companionship.

"A domestic animal as a social partner, in particular for singles, has become more and more important in our society," said IVH president Georg Mueller in the 2017 study, noting the trend among both the elderly and younger adults.

Mr. Hendrichs confirmed the tendency. "Young adults who have a very busy professional life often have an ani-

mal at home," he said.

"They want to go home in the evening and pet their cats, hug their dogs, and it's precisely these young people who said when their pets die that they are not just good for the trash."

Across Germany, 120 cemeteries and 26 crematoriums offer a final resting place for animals, although there is no firm data on the number of pets buried.

At the Teltow cemetery, boxes of tissues are available at every corner – at the entrance of the main building, the crematorium or the quiet room, where the walls are covered with photos of dearly departed companions.

The bereaved can also light a candle, like in a chapel.

And Mr. Hendrichs is

there too to lend a listening ear; a pet owner's grief needs to be taken seriously, he stressed.

For those in need of professional support, the cemetery has a veterinarian at hand trained in psychology.

## Share a grave

In a little hall at the Teltow cemetery, a dog is delicately put on a willow basket, half covered by a beige veil upon which lies a yellow rose.

The little white and clay coloured furball is given a final caress by his master, before being cremated.

"Some say that a dead animal is poisonous – that's completely wrong," said Mr. Hendrichs.