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NEARBY



Rain helps improve Capital's air quality

NEW DELHI
Heavy rain accompanied by gusty winds washed away pollutants in the city on Tuesday, taking the Air Quality Index to the "moderate" category. However, along with the relief came problems as several areas reported waterlogging that left commuters stranded for hours.

DELI METRO ▶ PAGE 1

India takes back 31 stranded Rohingya

NEW DELHI
India on Tuesday agreed to take back 31 Rohingya stranded on the International Border between Bangladesh and Tripura, and sent them to Tripura police custody. The decision to take back the group of refugees, who had been stuck on the border since January 19, ended a standoff between BSF personnel and the Border Guards of Bangladesh.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 11

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OPPORTUNITIES ▶ DELHI METRO
PAGE 4
DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

Shimla smothered



A coat of snow: A scene in Shimla after the cold wave intensified following snowfall and rain in the hills of Himachal Pradesh on Tuesday. Schools in Chamba were ordered closed for Wednesday. Heavy snowfall in Kashmir triggered avalanches that left two dead. ▶ PTI (PAGE 7)

IPS officer's brother among 3 militants killed in Shopian

4 photo-journalists injured in pellet fire as protests erupt

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Three militants, including the brother of an IPS officer, were killed in a fierce gunfight in south Kashmir's Shopian on Tuesday. Fifteen persons, including four photo-journalists and six security personnel, were injured in clashes during the encounter.

Shamsul Haq Mengnoo, whose elder brother Inamul

Haq is an IPS officer of the 2012 batch and posted in northeastern India, was trapped and killed along with two other militants in a daylong operation in the Shirbal-Zainapora area, an official said. Security forces blasted the hideout in an orchard.

Former Director-General of Police S.P. Vaid described Mengnoo's killing as "a sad end." "I remember the ef-

forts that were made by his brother and other family members and the J&K police to bring him back to the mainstream but he met with a sad end today," said Mr. Vaid.

The police identified the other militants as Aamir Su-hail Bhat and Shoib Ahmad Shah, both from Shopian.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10
PELLET INJURIES ▶ PAGE 10

Centre files status report on CIC selection

Petitioners asked to file response

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government on Tuesday handed over a status report to the Supreme Court on the progress in the process of appointment to the Central Information Commission even as PIL petitioners alleged that the procedure followed was arbitrary.

A three-judge Bench, led by Justice A.K. Sikri, took the status report on record and ordered that a copy be handed over to RTI activists-petitioners Anjali Bhardwaj, Lokesh Batra and Amrita Johri, represented by advocates Prashant Bhushan and Pranav Sachdeva. They have

agreed to file a response to the report in three days.

The government may file a rejoinder to the petitioners' reply by January 28. The court scheduled the next hearing for January 29.

During the hearing, the petitioners submitted that the appointment process of Information Commissioners to the Central Information Commission happened in an "arbitrary manner as the search committee, had in violation of its mandate, short-listed persons who had not even applied for the post in response to advertisements."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

India can lead the world on solar grid, says PM Modi

Pilgrimage scheme for NRIs being planned

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

At the annual Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Varanasi on Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted India's potential to lead the world in sustainable development.

He said the people living abroad need to connect culturally with the homeland, and announced that India was planning a pilgrimage scheme for them. "In many respects, India can provide leadership in the world. The International Solar Alliance, or ISA, is one such platform.



Narendra Modi with his Mauritian counterpart Pravind Jugnauth in Varanasi on Tuesday. ▶ PTI

Through this medium, we want to take the world towards one world, one sun and one grid," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10
PM TARGETS CONG. ▶ PAGE 10

The three-day event is part of the weeklong festivities that coincide with the Kumbh Mela and precede the Republic Day celebrations.

Mr. Modi said Indians living abroad should work to inspire foreigners to visit the country. "I have said before and I reiterate now. Wherever you live and if you have five non-Indian families near you then motivate them to visit India. Your attempts will help in boosting the tourism sector," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10
PM TARGETS CONG. ▶ PAGE 10

Pune-Secunderabad Shatabdi is India's cleanest train

Survey asked passengers about toilets, linen, quality of housekeeping and general cleanliness

S. ANIL RADHAKRISHNAN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The results of the first-ever 'Total Cleanliness Survey' of the Railways are now out, and the winners are North Western Railway (NWR), which topped the zonal rankings in the 'Premium' category trains, and Southern Railway, which came out on top in the 'Other than Premium' category trains.

The cleanliness survey covered 209 trains and was conducted by the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) through two professional agencies. The survey's stated aim was to assess the progress of the 'Swachh Rail-Swachh Bharat' mission and



The Anubhuti coach in a Shatabdi train. Over 15,000 passengers participated in the ranking exercise.

promote healthy competition among trains.

While the NWR recorded an average score of 860 out of 1,000 in the 'Premium' category, South Central Railway finished at the bottom with an average

score of 658. Southern Railway topped the 'Other than Premium' category, recording the highest average score of 736 among the 16 railway zones, while the East Central Railway was the dirtiest in this

category. The overall score of the Rajdhani trains was 787. This included separate scores for process audit, direct observation, and passenger feedback. Out of the 23 Rajdhans surveyed, the Mumbai Rajdhani emerged on top with 875, followed by those linking Bhubaneswar and Sealdah.

In the case of the 26 Shatabdi trains, the Pune-Secunderabad Shatabdi,

with 916, finished on top, followed by the Howrah-Ranchi and Delhi-Kanpur Shatabdis.

The Kochuveli-Chandigarh Sampark Kranti was the cleanest among the 20 Sampark Kranti trains surveyed in the 'Other than Premium' category, with a score of 754. The KSR Bengaluru-Ernakulam train topped among the 20 Intercity services.

Opinion of on-board passengers was sought on the state of toilets, housekeeping, linen and general cleanliness, with the rating options ranging from 1 to 5.

The 15,360 passengers from 16 zones, who took part, were allowed to fill up the questionnaires in 10 regional languages too.

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WEDNESDAY, JAN. 23	
RISE 07:14	SET 17:53
THURSDAY, JAN. 24	
RISE 07:13	SET 17:54
RISE 21:32	SET 09:41
FRIDAY, JAN. 25	
RISE 07:13	SET 17:55
RISE 22:36	SET 10:22

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 19 12
Safdarjung 19 12
Palam 18 13

Delhi Palam Today
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Rain is likely over some parts.
Good pollution level is expected.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
21°C A foggy and cold
morning is likely with a few
clouds. Pollution level will be
satisfactory.

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PDA to project Mayawati as next PM, says Khaira

'No discussion on seat-sharing yet'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LUDHIANA
The Punjab Democratic Alliance (PDA), a conglomerate of splinter groups of the Akali Dal and the AAP, will project BSP supremo Mayawati as the next Prime Minister of the country.

The decision to project Ms. Mayawati as the next PM was accepted in principle at a PDA meeting here on Tuesday, said Sukhpal Singh Khaira of the Punjabi Ekta Party.

The PDA comprises the Akali Dal (Taksali), Punjab Ekta Party, Lok Insaf Party, United Akali Dal and Patiala's suspended AAP MP Dharamvir Gandhi.

BSP State unit president Rachpal Singh Raju was also present at the meeting.

After the meeting, Mr.



BSP chief Mayawati
• FILE PHOTO

Khaira and Akali Dal (Taksali)'s Ranjit Singh Brahmpura told the media that the PDA will contest all the 13 Lok Sabha seats in Punjab. However, they said that there was no discussion on seat-sharing during the meeting as the main issue before them was to defeat the Congress and the Akali Dal-BJP alliance.

Rain brings cheer to farmers

Wet spell will boost wheat crop output; likely to continue for 12-18 hours

VIKAS VASUDEVAN
CHANDIGARH

Widespread overnight rain and a drop in temperature in the country's key wheat producing States of Punjab and Haryana are expected to boost wheat crop output this Rabi season, officials and experts said on Tuesday.

Rain and thundershowers lashed most places over Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh during the past 24 hours. Heavy rain in the northern parts of Punjab brought cheer to farmers, especially wheat growers who needed another round of irrigation this month.

According to the India Meteorological Department, the current active wet spell over the two States is likely to continue for another 12-18 hours, and reduce thereafter in spread and intensity.

Better yield

"Widespread rain at this time will prove to be beneficial for the wheat crop. The rain will help in improving photosynthesis resulting in better growth of the crop, which will result in improved yield," agriculture



Farmers clearing rainwater from their wheat field in Amritsar. Stagnant water is harmful to the crop, says a Punjab government official. • FILE PHOTO

expert and former Punjab State Farmers' Commission adviser P.S. Rangi told *The Hindu*.

"The minimum temperature has also come down and it is likely to remain low during the next few days, which is again good for the wheat crop as it thrives in cold conditions," he added.

According to the Union Agriculture Ministry data, wheat crop has been sown on nearly 35 lakh hectare in Punjab during the ongoing Rabi season.

In Haryana, wheat acreage was nearly 25 lakh

hectare till December 21.

"Rain has come at the right time. This will not only help in reducing pressure on groundwater but would also help in retaining soil moisture," said IMD Chandigarh Director Surinder Pal.

Mr. Pal said the current spell of rainfall will decrease from tomorrow in intensity and distribution in both the States. "The weather will be dry after January 26, leading to a fall in minimum temperature by 4 to 5 degrees Celsius," he added.

Rain will also help in containing the fungal disease

yellow rust, Punjab Agriculture Department Director Jasbir Singh Bains said.

"The weather conditions were congenial for the attack of yellow rust. But now with rain, it will be controlled to a large extent," Mr. Bains said.

Yellow rust is a fungal disease which turns crop's leaves yellowish and stops photosynthesis activity.

Mr. Bains, however, advised wheat growers not to let rainwater stagnate in the fields as it could be harmful to the crop.

Wheat, the main Rabi (winter) crop, is sown between late October till December and harvested from April onwards.

In the current spell, Pathankot received the highest rainfall of 94 mm. Amritsar (13.1 mm), Ludhiana (53.6 mm), Patiala (14.8 mm), Adampur (57 mm) and Haldwani (44 mm) in Punjab and Chandigarh (10.6 mm), Ambala (7.7 mm), Hisar (30 mm), Karnal (16.8), Narnaul (12 mm), Rohtak (3.2 mm), Bhiwani (1.4 mm) and Sirsa (5 mm) in Haryana received rainfall, an IMD official said.

(With PTI inputs)

Amarinder concerned over fall in FCI procurement

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Tuesday expressed concern over the Food Corporation of India's gradual withdrawal from procurement of foodgrains in the State.

He said the State government would raise the issue with the Centre and seek increase in the central agency's procurement share.

An official statement said that Capt. Amarinder, during a meeting to review the procurement arrangements for the upcoming Rabi season, said that he would ask the Union Food Minister to increase the share of FCI in State procurement. The procurement, he pointed out, had declined from 30.69% to a mere 12% in the last 20 years.

"In the last ten years, FCI had been pulling back at the last minute from procuring even the quota decided at the start of the season," said the statement.

Ex-NSUI district chief held for harassing college student

Hunt on to nab the other accused

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHAHJAHANPUR (U.P.)

A former NSUI district unit president was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly harassing a woman college student here, the police said.

The woman had complained to the college authorities that former NSUI president Irfan and three others had misbehaved with her in the Sadar Bazar area, they said.

After she complained to the authorities, the accused allegedly had threatened her and a video of the incident went viral on social media on Monday.

The police said that as the issue concerned

members of different communities, a case was immediately lodged against Irfan and others who were identified as Nadeem, Kamran and Shahroz.

Some Hindu organisations had also burnt Irfan's effigy and submitted a memorandum to the authorities for immediate arrest of the accused, they said.

SP (City) Dinesh Tripathi said Irfan was arrested on Tuesday and a hunt has been launched to nab the others.

Meanwhile, Congress district unit president Kaushal Misram said that Irfan has been suspended from the party.

Bal Sabhas to resolve issues in rural schools

Bid to bring qualitative changes in education

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

A new initiative launched by the Congress government in Rajasthan for identifying and resolving issues in upper primary schools situated in the rural areas through "Bal Sabha" (Children's Assembly) is set to bring about qualitative changes in education. Besides students, the Sabhas will be attended by parents, teachers and village elders.

A series of Bal Sabhas was organised in as many as 3,300 schools in Jaipur district on Saturday last. Minister of State for Education Govind Singh Dotsara attended the congregation in Bhojtal village of the Govindgarh panchayat samiti.

Mr. Dotsara said that the novel concept would ensure the participation of all stakeholders and significantly improve the quality of education in government schools.



A girl speaking about issues faced by students at a Bal Sabha organised in Jaipur district. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

proceedings, said they would like the village elders to play an active role in the school's affairs and guide them in their career choices.

Govindgarh panchayat samiti pradhan Lal Chand Sherawat said the Bal Sabha would be organised on each Saturday at a public place.

Mr. Dotsara said that the novel concept would ensure the participation of all stakeholders and significantly improve the quality of education in government schools.

Principal Secretary (School Education) Bhaskar A. Sawant said extracurricular activities would shape the personality of students, while Director (School Education) Pradeep Kumar Borad said the Bal Sabhas would promote dialogue between villagers and schoolchildren.

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Gen. (Dr.) V.K. Singh
Minister of State for External Affairs, Govt. of India

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY

Venue

Programme	Venue
Plenary Session IV: Indian Community Organizations working for Indian nationals in distressed situation	Trade Facilitation Centre
Plenary Session V: Indian Diaspora's role in capacity building of Artificial Intelligence in India	Trade Facilitation Centre
Plenary Session VI: Role of Indian Diaspora in capacity building for affordable waste management	Trade Facilitation Centre
Plenary Session VII: Developing cyber capacity of India	Trade Facilitation Centre
Valedictory Session: Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards Ceremony and Valedictory address by Hon'ble President of Republic of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind (5:00 PM onwards)	Stadium

NRI Department, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh

Case against Mizoram dry days deferred

Liquor dealers complain of losses due to extension of ban on sale till March 10

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI
The Aizawl Bench of the Gauhati High Court on Tuesday rescheduled for January 29 the case against the extension of dry days in Mizoram.

The Mizoram Liquor Dealers' Association and owners of three bonded warehouses in the State filed lawsuits on January 17 against the Mizo National Front government's decision to extend the dry days till March 10. Under pres-

sure from the church and keeping its election promise to impose prohibition, the government had declared dry days from December 21 last to January 14 in view of Christmas and New Year celebrations. But the ban was extended earlier this month.

More documents sought

"The court, which had earlier asked the government to submit its dry day notifications, sought more documents," one of the petitioners said.

The owners of the bonded warehouses and the liquor outlets said the State government should have had an exit policy instead of extending the dry days "whimsically".

As there was no indication that the prohibition would be reintroduced, the dealers stocked up, placing orders till March, and incurred losses.

Prohibition decisions

Total prohibition was first imposed under the Mizoram

Liquor (Total Prohibition) Act in 1997 when Lal Thanhawla was the Chief Minister. The decision, however, did not help the Congress retain power in the Assembly election the next year. The Congress replaced total prohibition with controlled prohibition 18 years later through the Mizoram Liquor (Prohibition and Control) Act, 2014. A few wine shops were opened in 2015, and the government netted ₹70 crore in annual revenue through liquor sales.

Assam clears 10% quota for poor in general category

Cabinet approves funds for farmers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

GUWAHATI
The Assam Cabinet has approved 10% quota for the economically weaker sections in the general category in government jobs and education, officials said on Tuesday.

The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal here on Monday night. The Constitution (124 Amendment) Bill, 2019, providing for 10% reservation in jobs and educational institutions to the EWS in the general category was passed by Parliament in its recently concluded winter session.

The State Cabinet also approved the guidelines for disbursement of ₹5,000 each to five lakh farmers under the Mukhya Mantri Krishi Sa Sajli Yozana for purchase of farm tools and



Sarbananda Sonowal

implements, an official spokesman said.

The Cabinet approved a loan amount of ₹95 crore from NABARD, he said. The loan amount will be utilised to construct and strengthen embankments, dykes and other infrastructure across the State, he added.

The Cabinet also approved incentives for government doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers under the Ayushman Bharat and Atal Amrit Abhiyan schemes.

MASKagathbandhan!



dacunha/AB/637

10 die, 30 hurt as truck falls into ditch in Odisha

CM announces ₹2 lakh ex gratia for kin

STAFF REPORTER

BERHAMPUR
Ten persons died and over 30 were injured when a mini-truck in which they were travelling fell into a 40-foot-deep ditch at Poiguda Ghat road in Odisha's Kandhamal district on Tuesday.

Six of the victims died on the spot. Four others succumbed to their injuries while being taken to MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur. A total of 32 injured persons have been admitted to the hospital and five of them are stated to be in a critical condition.

In another incident on Tuesday, a child died and nine others were injured when a tipper overturned at Jharani Ghat road in Rayagada district. On Monday evening, two persons died and 15 were injured when a bus overturned near Choudwar in Cuttack district. On Monday morning, a head-on collision between a four-wheeler and a truck near Kakatia on Cuttack-Chandbali road claimed four lives and left five others injured.

turn on Ghat Road and the truck fell into the ditch.

Free treatment

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik expressed grief over the accident and announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased. He also declared that the injured would be provided free treatment.

State Transport Minister Nrusinha Charan Sahu directed the Kandhamal Regional Transport Officer to probe the accident.

In another incident on Tuesday, a child died and nine others were injured when a tipper overturned at Jharani Ghat road in Rayagada district. On Monday evening, two persons died and 15 were injured when a bus overturned near Choudwar in Cuttack district. On Monday morning, a head-on collision between a four-wheeler and a truck near Kakatia on Cuttack-Chandbali road claimed four lives and left five others injured.

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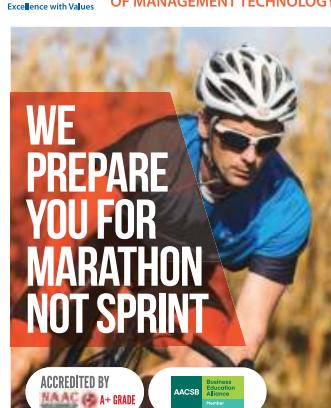
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Amitabh Rajan, IAS <small>Former Secretary, MHA</small>	Maheesh Sachdeva, IFS <small>Former Indian Amb. to Nigeria</small>
Vikram Singh, IPS Retd <small>Former DGP, Uttar Pradesh</small>	Sri K. Siddhartha <small>Earth Scientist</small>
Dr. Qamar Ahsan <small>Professor, LBSNAA</small>	Manoj Malaynil <small>Zee Programme Editor</small>

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IN BRIEF



A.P. Cabinet clears quota for Kapus, EBCs

VIJAYAWADA
In a move that will have far-reaching political implications, the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet on Monday decided to give 5% quota for Kapus and another 5% to the economically backward classes among the forward castes. However, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu favoured further deliberations and then tabling it in the legislature during the session, beginning January 30.

Notices to censor board, producer of NTR biopic

HYDERABAD
The Telangana High Court on Tuesday issued notices to the censor board and the producer of the yet-to-be-released Telugu film, *Lakshmi's NTR*, following a PIL petition. Counsel for petitioner S.V.S.N. Varma of East Godavari district told the court that a song in the film, which was uploaded on YouTube and got widely circulated on social media, had shown Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in poor light.

Church seeks explanation from another Kerala nun

KOCHI
Sister Neena Rose Edathil, a Catholic nun who had participated in a public protest demanding the arrest of rape accused Bishop Franco Mulakkal of Jalandhar, has been asked to appear before the superior general of the Catholic order Missionaries of Jesus to submit a defence of her actions. The letter said Sister Edathil was not cooperating with the mother superior at the convent. She was advised in June 2017 "to shed hostile attitude and live in harmony with others in the community", the letter said.

Mekedatu dam plan violates Supreme Court verdict: T.N.

It is an attempt to impound uncontrolled flows in intermediate catchment areas'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The proposed construction of the Mekedatu reservoir on Cauvery river by Karnataka is an attempt to impound the uncontrolled flows in the intermediate catchment areas and is violative of the decisions of the Supreme Court and the Cauvery Tribunal, Tamil Nadu told the Supreme Court on Tuesday.

This is part of the rejoinder filed by the Tamil Nadu government against the Centre's claim that conditional clearance given to Karnataka for preparing a detailed project report (DPR) on the Mekedatu balancing reservoir-cum-drinking water project was subject to the amicable resolution of connected inter-State matters.

Claim misplaced

Tamil Nadu said the Centre's claim was misplaced. The State, referring to the Guidelines of Submission, Apprai-



Tamil Nadu argued that inter-State aspects had to be dealt with while preparing the pre-feasibility report on the project.

sal and Acceptance of Irrigation and Multipurpose Project of 2017, argued that inter-State aspects had to be dealt with even at the stage of preparing the pre-feasibility report on the project.

The Centre failed to realise that even an "in-principle clearance" from its side to a detailed project report would require prior examination on whether the interests of the co-basin States like Tamil Nadu and Puducherry were protected under the 2017 Guidelines.

"The central agencies are duty-bound to act fairly and seem to have consciously ignored these guidelines while granting the permission to proceed for the preparation of DPR which is wholly illegal and untenable," Tamil Nadu contended in its rejoinder.

Case adjourned

Meanwhile, a Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar adjourned the case for hearing after four weeks.

Karnataka filed an affida-

DPR submitted to Central Water Commission

BENGALURU
The detailed project report (DPR) for the proposed ₹5,900 crore Mekedatu balancing reservoir cum drinking water project was submitted by Karnataka to the Central Water Commission on January 18, sources said. In-principle approval was given to Karnataka in November 2018 for preparation of the DPR.

vit in the Supreme Court informing that the project proponent, Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd, submitted the DPR with the Central Water Commission on January 18, 2019.

The affidavit said the DPR was prepared "taking into consideration the points raised by the Tamil Nadu government."

Tamil Nadu contended that the decision of the Centre to ignore the 2017 guidelines was "wholly illegal and untenable."

Adieu to seer



Final journey: The funeral procession of Siddaganga mutt seer Shivakumara Swami being taken out in Tumakuru on Tuesday. In a tribute, the mutt's community feeding programme ran uninterrupted on Tuesday, with over 15 lakh devotees being attended to. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

Kanaka Durga refused entry into family home

She is now lodged at a State shelter

ABDUL LATHEEF NAHA
MALAPPURAM

Ostracised and allegedly assaulted by her family, social activist Kanaka Durga, whose entry into Sabarimala Temple triggered a wave of violent protests across the State, has been sent to a One Stop Centre for violence-affected women at Perinthalmanna managed by the Social Justice Department.

She was discharged on Monday from the Government Medical College Hospital, Kozhikode, where she had been admitted with injuries to her head, allegedly inflicted by her mother-in-law when she tried to enter her house at Perinthalmanna last week.

Mediation attempts by the police failed and Ms. Durga's husband refused to allow her into his house in Perinthalmanna. He and his family vacated the house



Kanaka Durga and shifted to a rented house at Manjeri.

Legal remedy

Ms. Durga can stay at the One Stop Centre for five days.

She is seeking legal remedy to get an order under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act to enter her husband's closed house at Perinthalmanna.

Her brother, Bharat Bhushan, too, disowned her last week and said they would not allow her into their house until she apologised to Ayyappa devotees.

SC/ST panel issues notice to 'tantri'

G. ANAND
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe Commission has issued notice to Sabarimala 'tantri' Kandararu Rajeevararu to explain why his decision to ritually cleanse the shrine following the entry of two women, one of them a Dalit, on January 2 should not be construed as a brazen practice of untouchability outlawed by Article 17 of the Constitution.

Commission member S. Ajaykumar told *The Hindu* on Tuesday that he had summoned the priest for a hearing on January 17. However, he deigned not to appear before the forum.

Hence, Mr. Ajaykumar said he was constrained by the law to issue the 'tantri' a show cause notice.

Mr. Ajaykumar, has also confirmed the issuance of the notice in a post on his Facebook account.

Kerala college move draws flak

It seeks consent for urine test on students to assess signs of substance abuse

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The contentious decision by a private medical college hospital at Kolenchery in Ernakulam district to seek consent letters from students to test their urine for possible signs of substance abuse has drawn flak from the Kerala Students Union (KSU) and raised questions about the human and privacy rights of youngsters.

KSU president K.M. Abhi-

ji told presspersons on Tuesday that the decision of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church Medical College, Kolenchery, to impose such demeaning and needless tests on students smacked of a total disregard for the rights of students.

The college management has since disputed the claim and said it had decided to conduct the tests with the consent of parents, teachers and students themselves.

The step was taken against the background of increasing signs of drug abuse among youngsters.

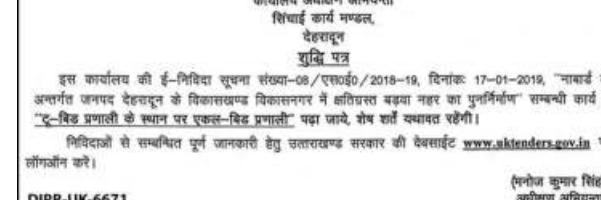
The measure would help doctors wean vulnerable youngsters off addictive substances, particularly those hooked to readily available painkillers, and prevent a drug epidemic from breaking out in the medical education sector.

A State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) office-

bearer said the commission was aware of the incident. It was perusing television news reports to find out whether there was any legal scope to open an inquiry on its own. A large number of medical students and doctors had protested the move on social media. The college had issued the controversial order on January 17. It had also procured field test kits to detect alcohol, cannabis or opioid impairment.

She is seeking legal remedy to get an order under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act to enter her husband's closed house at Perinthalmanna.

Her brother, Bharat Bhushan, too, disowned her last week and said they would not allow her into their house until she apologised to Ayyappa devotees.

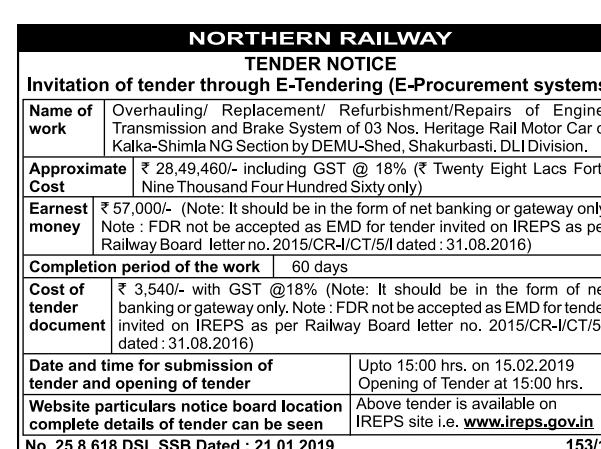
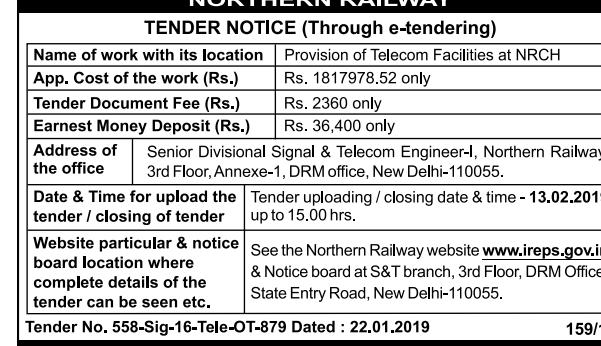


इस कार्यशाला की ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या-08/एक्सीपी/2018-19, दिनांक: 17-01-2019, "नामकरण के अन्तर्गत जलाध देशवासु के विवरणमय निवारण बद्य नाम का प्राप्तिनिधि" सर्वान्वयन कार्य में "एक इक ग्रामीण के लालन पर एक्सीपी द्वारा आयोजित कराया जायेगा, जो उसकी विवरण की वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in पर प्राप्तीय होती है।

(प्राप्तीय कुप्राप्ती विवरण)

प्राप्तीय कुप्राप्ती विवरण

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 - Visit your Voter Centre (list available on the website)
3. If you don't find your name, apply immediately in Form 6
4. For correction of any of your details in the Voter List, fill Form 8

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Citizens completing 18 years on 1st January 2019 or before, may ENROL TODAY

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2. Apply Offline: Fill details in Form 6 and submit to your Voter Centre

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Candidates eligible may forward their applications along with updated CV and recent colour photograph to the address as given above or e-mail at hr@atdcindia.co.in not beyond 4th February, 2019. The detailed Advertisement & Application forms can be downloaded from www.atdcindia.co.in

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Final Year Students Present
A devised performance
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based on Sreemoyee Piu Kundu's novel 'Cut'
Direction
Abhilash Pillai
25, 27 - 30 January 2019 at 6.30 p.m. daily
Additional Show on 27 - 29 January at 3.00 p.m.

Abhimanch
NSD Campus, Bahawalpur House
Bhagwandas Road, New Delhi-110001
Tickets will be available from 23 January 2019 between 11.00 a.m. & 1.00 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. & 4.00 p.m. at NSD reception. Tickets - Rs. 50/-, 30/-, 20/-
Tickets are also available on bookmyshow.
Children below 10 years are not allowed.
NSD, Bahawalpur House, Bhagwandas Road, New Delhi-110001
Enquiries : 011-23389402, 233031120/21 Website : www.nsdcovin.org
Davp 09130/11/074/1819

IN BRIEF

**Jharkhand CM presents ₹85,429 crore budget**

RANCHI Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das on Tuesday tabled an estimated ₹85,429 crore budget for 2019-20 in the Assembly with more than 25% of the funds earmarked for development of ST/S areas. Presenting his fifth straight budget, Mr. Das, who also holds charge of Finance Department, said ₹27,142.60 crore has been earmarked for the development of ST/S areas. PTI

14-year-old raped by two men in U.P.

BALRAMPUR (U.P.) A 14-year-old girl was allegedly raped by two men in Hompur village here, the police said on Tuesday. The incident took place on Sunday evening when the girl was returning from her agricultural field. PTI

Carcass of aged tusker found in Ganjam

BERHAMPUR (ODISHA) Forest Department personnel on Tuesday recovered the carcass of an aged tusker at the Buguda forest range in Ganjam district. The elephant was around 50 years old and suffering from old age-related ailments for some time, Forest Department officials said. PTI

One killed in roof collapse in Punjab

FATEHGANJ SAHIB (PUNJAB) An 80-year-old woman was killed and her 18-year-old grandson was injured when the roof of their house collapsed due to incessant rain, the police said on Tuesday. The incident took place on Monday night in Bhadal Thuha village of Fatehgarh Sahib district, they said. PTI

Inside Kolkata



An elderly woman selling old coins by the roadside in Kolkata on Tuesday. ■AP

BJP MLA, 200 others booked for protesting against M.P. govt.

Demanded action against criminals involved in murder of its leaders

**ANUP DUTTA
BHOPAL**

An FIR has been registered against a Bharatiya Janata Party MLA and nearly 200 workers for protesting against the deteriorating law and order situation in Madhya Pradesh and demanding action against criminals involved in the murder of its party leaders.

The M.P. Nagar police station has registered cases against Hazur MLA Rameshwar Sharma under various sections of the Indian Penal

Code, Upendra Singh Bhatti, in-charge of the police station.

BJP supporters, led by district heads and local MLAs, held demonstrations in all the 52 districts of the State on Thursday demanding action against criminals involved in the murder of party leaders and submitted memorandums to the districts authorities for immediate action.

They were protesting against the recent murders of their leaders- Manoj Thakrey in Barwani and Prahlad

Bandhwar in Mandsaur districts.

Though there is no headway in the Barwani murder case, the police have arrested Manish Bairagi, who is said to be a BJP worker, in connection with the Mandaur murder case.

Last week, the Congress government in the State had decided to withdraw criminal cases lodged against party workers, farmers and social activists during the 15-year rule of the previous BJP government.

The Class IX student in her statement to the police said the accused lured her

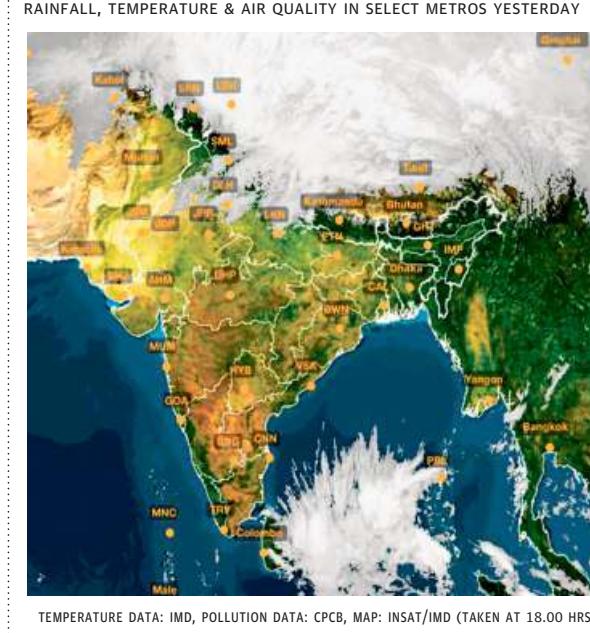
Doctor jailed for sexually assaulting girl**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA**

A court here on Tuesday sentenced a homoeopathic doctor to five-year imprisonment for sexually assaulting an eight-year-old girl at a clinic in south Kolkata's Beniapukur.

Describing the act as inhuman and barbaric, Additional District and Sessions judge at Sealdah Court Jimut Bahar Biswas sentenced Partha Hue under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offence Act, 2012.

The court noted that the doctor had taken the girl into his chamber, keeping her grandmother outside, and had sexually assaulted her on September 19 last year, when she was taken to the clinic for stomach pain.

The court also imposed a fine of ₹50,000.

WEATHER WATCH

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

Forecast for Wednesday: Dense to very dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, north Rajasthan and coastal Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.8	10.9	Kozhikode	—	33.7	22.4
Ahmedabad	—	26.8	13.8	Kurnool	—	32.6	17.7
Aizawl	—	28.0	—	Lucknow	—	32.3	16.2
Allahabad	—	26.3	13.0	Madurai	—	32.8	17.6
Bengaluru	—	29.1	14.0	Mangaluru	—	33.3	20.9
Bhopal	—	27.3	13.8	Mumbai	—	29.3	18.4
Bhubaneswar	—	31.0	18.3	Mytsuru	—	30.1	14.5
Chandigarh	10.6	14.4	11.9	New Delhi	—	14.8	12.5
Chennai	—	29.1	20.2	Patna	—	26.8	11.4
Coimbatore	—	31.7	17.0	Port Blair	—	30.3	25.2
Dehradoon	16.1	13.7	9.5	Puducherry	—	30.0	19.0
Gangtok	—	15.2	6.7	Pune	—	29.0	10.8
Goa	—	32.0	20.6	Rajipur	—	29.5	14.6
Guwahati	—	27.6	10.2	Ranchi	—	29.2	10.0
Hubballi	—	29.0	14.0	Shillong	—	16.8	6.8
Hyderabad	—	31.4	15.3	Shimla	—	18.2	1.0
Imphal	—	23.8	10.7	Srinagar	—	3.4	-0.2
Jaipur	—	20.4	11.2	Trivandrum	—	33.1	18.9
Kochi	—	31.2	20.6	Tiruchi	—	31.7	18.4
Kohima	—	19.6	6.2	Vijayawada	—	29.1	19.0
Kolkata	—	27.5	13.7	Visakhapatnam	—	29.4	19.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	80	69	29	161	—	■
Bengaluru	5	38	34	228	—	■
Chennai	14	17	41	205	121	■
Delhi	22	73	62	198	121	■
Hyderabad	9	48	19	110	—	■
Kolkata	22	208	77	407	330	■
Lucknow	10	40	92	349	—	■
Mumbai	29	40	79	63	108	■
Pune	32	6	25	96	.99	■■■
Visakhapatnam	—	—	43	—	—	—

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Patna, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 449 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Amritsar recorded a healthy AQI score of 24

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

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

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

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

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Dalit girl raped in school; accused, 2 teachers held**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RAJGARH (M.P.)**

A 16-year-old Dalit girl was allegedly raped by a man at a private school in a village in Rajgarh district of Madhya Pradesh, the police said on Tuesday.

The two other accused, Ritik Kushwaha (21) and Shyam Prajapati (22), both working as teachers at the same school, then locked the girl and Azim in a room on the campus where the latter allegedly raped her, the official said.

The girl later went home and informed about the incident to her family members, who registered a complaint at the Chhapiheda police station on Monday.

while she was standing at a bus stand in Sandawata village and then took her to the school, located nearby, where she was a student, Mr. Solanki said.

The main accused, Azim Khan (21), and two school teachers, who allegedly helped Azim in committing the offence, were arrested after the incident that took place on Sunday, Chhapiheda police station in charge Sangita Solanki in a room on the campus where the latter allegedly raped her, the official said.

The girl later went home and informed about the incident to her family members, who registered a complaint at the Chhapiheda police station on Monday.

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THE HINDU

Government of Jharkhand Dr. RamDayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Schedule Tribe, Minority and OBC Welfare Department, Ranchi-834008

Dated 21.01.2019 Ref no. 117(ii)Ranchi, Expression of Interest

This institute intend to invite Publishers (Self & authorised distributor) for the empanelment & procurement of books for TRI, Ranchi library during the current financial year.

Brief of Empanelment Process: TRI, Ranchi will be organising Book Fair in which Publishers have to participate & submit their books on subjects mentioned below before the Selection Committee of TRI, Ranchi during book fair at TRI, Ranchi. A Selection Committee of TRI, Ranchi will select/shortlist books from publishers during Book Fair as per below mentioned subjects. Post short listing of books by selection committee, an empanelment process will get initiated by the institution for empanelling publishers (referred as "Agencies") for the period of one year with TRI, Ranchi.

Interested Publishers/Book Shops may submit their terms and conditions along with PAN and maximum discount they can give on books in the sealed cover on or before February 2019 by 4.30 PM in the office of **Dr. RamDayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Morabadi, Ranchi-834008.** The envelope should be superscripted "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SUPPLY OF BOOKS". The sealed cover will be opened on the next day at 3.30 PM.

- Books concerning Humanities i.e Anthropology, Sociology, History, Psychology, Economics, Statistics, Tribal Literatures etc.
- Old Reference Books/ Monographs/Encyclopaedias on Tribes.
- Tribal Livelihood and Development
- Displacement, Rehabilitation and Resettlement
- PESA, Forest Right Act, and other laws related to tribals.
- Socio-economic Planning and Evaluation of tribals schemes and project Museology, Art & Craft and material culture of tribals.
- Indigenous Knowledge and Intangible Cultural Heritage
- Gazetteers of Bihar/Jharkhand/Bengal/Orissa/Chhattisgarh/M.P.

TRI, Ranchi reserves all rights to accept or reject all or any of the EOI's at any stage without assigning any reasons. TRI, Ranchi also reserves the right to engage/empanel one or more firm depending on requirements.

SD/ Director

P.R.200206 Welfare(18-19):D NO VOTER TO BE LEFT BEHIND

Period: 1st February 2019 to 30th April 2019 Duration in Hrs: 17:00 Hrs to 21:30 Hrs Quantum: 25 MW

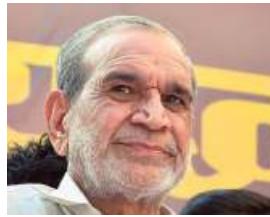
Central Council for Research in Siddha Anna Hospital Campus, Arumbakkam, Chennai-106

Advt. No. 1/2019

CCRS proposes to engage the following positions on contract basis:

1. Research Associate (Siddha): 1 (Male-1) - Delhi Remuneration: Rs.36000+HRA
2. Consultant (Sidd

IN BRIEF



Production warrant against Sajjan Kumar

NEW DELHI
A Delhi court on Tuesday issued production warrant for January 28 against former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case. District Judge Poonam Bamba issued the warrant against Mr. Kumar after Tihar Jail authorities, where he was lodged in another case of riots, could not produce him on Tuesday. In the case before the court, three persons – Kumar, Brahma-nand Gupta and Ved Prakash – are facing trial on charges of rioting and murder of Surjit Singh in Sultanpuri. PTI

Priya Ramani could be summoned

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday reserved for January 29 its order on summoning senior journalist Priya Ramani in a criminal defamation case filed by former Union Minister M.J. Akbar.

Ms. Ramani has allegedly accused him of sexually assaulting women journalists when they were working with him.

Mr. Akbar has sought Ms. Ramani's prosecution for "wilfully, deliberately, intentionally and maliciously defaming" him.

Several women journalists last year alleged the former Minister had sexually assaulted them and others in the past few decades at publications he edited, including *The Telegraph* and *The Asian Age* newspapers.

T.N. disability limit for judicial post upheld

Civil judge candidate loses appeal

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has held as reasonable stipulating a limitation of 50% visual and audio impairment for the post of judicial officer.

A Bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan and K.M. Joseph, in a judgment on an appeal filed against a Madras High Court decision, held that such a limitation does not violate The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

Court's logic
The court reasoned that a judicial officer, in this case a

Navy resumes rescue efforts in Meghalaya

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

After a gap of two days, Navy personnel on Tuesday resumed the operation to retrieve the remains of a body found in the Meghalaya coalmine, where at least 15 miners have been trapped since December 31.

A spokesperson in the State's East Jaintia Hills district said the Navy started the process of extracting the body with the help of an underwater robot from 11 a.m. Earlier attempts to extract the body had hit the skids because it was in a highly decomposed state.

Fishing for clues
Meanwhile, district officials have been trying to contact the five people who had escaped the mishap on December 13 for a better idea of the mine to enable faster detection and retrieval of the bodies.

States put on high alert as swine flu cases spike across the country

1694 cases and 49 deaths have been reported in first 2 weeks of January; situation alarming in Rajasthan where 200 people died in 13 months

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

With 49 swine flu deaths and 1,694 cases reported in just one fortnight from January 1-13 as per data released by the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), several States are on alert.

Rajasthan alone has reported 31 deaths in this period with other instances being reported from Delhi, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

While the Rajasthan health department has reported that the number of cases in the State has crossed 1,000 with more

than 200 people having died in the past 13 months, the Union Health Ministry has said that there is no cause for panic and that the situation is being closely monitored.

Highly contagious
H1N1 influenza (or swine flu) is a highly contagious acute respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza virus that regularly causes outbreaks of influenza in pigs. Swine flu viruses do not normally infect humans. However, sporadic human infections with swine flu have occurred. Most commonly, these cases occur in people with direct exposure

Feeling the heat

In 2019, Rajasthan has recorded the maximum cases of swine flu, known for being a highly contagious and potentially fatal disease

SOURCE: INTEGRATED DISEASE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME

* till January 13

Andhra Pradesh 402 24
Delhi 205 168
Gujarat 2,164 210
Haryana 61 128
Maharashtra 2,593 17
Punjab 47 46
Rajasthan 2,375 789
Tamil Nadu 2,812 48
Telangana 1,007 107



to pigs (e.g., children near pigs at a fair or workers in the swine industry). However, there have been cases of human-to-human spread of swine flu.

"All State governments have been asked to create awareness about the spread, testing and prevention of swine flu and we have also asked them to ensure that

there are enough beds and medicines to treat any cases that are being reported," noted a senior Union Health Ministry official.

The Rajasthan health de-

Two more die in

JAIPUR

Bikaner and Karauli
Two more people died due to swine flu in Rajasthan on Tuesday, taking the death toll to 54, an official spokesperson of the state Health Department said. The two deaths were reported from Bikaner and Karauli. As many as 54 people have died due to swine flu in the State since January 1. PTI

65 people tested positive for the flu," the official added.

According to Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry's IDSP, 14,992 people contracted swine flu in 2018, while 1,103 people died. In 2017, 38,811 people tested positive with 2,270 deaths.

"Children younger than five years old and adults who are 65 years and above, patients with chronic pulmonary condition (including asthma), neurological, neuromuscular or metabolic disorders (including diabetes), obese adults and pregnant women are in the high risk group," said Dr. D.S. Chaddha, Fortis Hospital.

Inaugural of war memorial postponed

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Inauguration of the National War Memorial (NWM) which was scheduled for January 25 has been postponed as construction work is still incomplete, officials sources confirmed. Some officials said it was also to avoid any protocol issues.

"The inauguration has been postponed as work on one part of the memorial is still incomplete. It is now likely to happen in mid-February," a defence official said on Tuesday.

Preparations were on in full swing for the inauguration with the Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman reviewing its progress some weeks back. However, it was decided to postpone the inaugural till the memorial is fully ready, the defence official said.

Research fellowship hike likely to be notified by February

Students are seeking an 80% increase

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

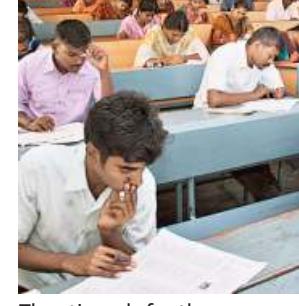
With hundreds of student-researchers in several institutions across the country picking for a hike in fellowships, two senior officials said that a decision should be out by the first week of February and the hikes could range from 25-50%.

On January 16 about 2,000 students and researchers, including from the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), the labs of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and several universities converged for a protest in Delhi. About 700 of them were briefly detained by the Delhi Police, as *The Hindu* has previously reported.

The students are gunning for at least an 80% hike in the research stipends given to those pursuing their doctoral degrees.

"These are legitimate demands and the matter is being deliberated in the finance ministry. Hopefully, it should be announced in a day or two," said Shekhar Mandre, Director-General, CSIR. The CSIR and the University Grants Commission have the largest outlay towards disbursing fellowships.

Another scientist, who was privy to the proceedings of the meeting, said the hike was likely to be announced "before the Budget/Vote-on-Account (Feb 1)." and that it



The stipends for the fellowship were last revised in 2014.

would be above the norm. "It could be from 25-50% but not an 80-100% hike as demands were being made. Currently, finance advisors of various ministries are examining the required budgetary increases," the scientist said.

Typically these stipends are significantly revised once in four years – the last being in 2014 – and a committee of scientists had recommended an increase after a meeting last December.

Paltry sum
Inspite of being a leading scientific power in terms of research publications, India spends about 0.7% of its GDP on research and development, which is much lower than countries of comparable scientific prowess.

The civilian science ministries were allotted ₹2,322 crore in February 2018, a hike of approximately 10% from the last year.

APPOINTMENT

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DHARWAD

(Institute of National Importance by an Act of Parliament)

Ref.No: IIITDWD/ EST/RECR/2019/2436 Date: 22/01/2019

Applications are invited for the following regular positions at IIIT Dharwad.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Job No.	No of Posts
1	Assistant Registrar	001	01
2	Junior Superintendent	002	02

Last date to receive applications: 13 Feb 2019, Reservations will be as per GOI rules.

For application, details of experience and educational qualifications please visit our website: www.iiitdwd.ac.in/non-faculty-positions/

Sd/- Registrar

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राष्ट्रीय पटसन बोर्ड

वक्र मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

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Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India

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Email: jute@njbindia.in

Ref No: NJB/Sect/Deputation/2019/1 Dated 21.01.2019

REQUEST FOR DEPUTATION - DIRECTOR LEVEL POST

National Jute Board (NJB) is a statutory organization established under Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India as per National Jute Board Act, 2008 for the development of Cultivation, Manufacture and Marketing of Jute and Jute Products and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

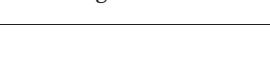
NJB invites applications for filling up of one post of Director on deputation in the revised Pay Matrix of level 13 Rs.1,23,100/- to Rs.2,15,900/- pre-revised PB-4 GP 8700 following the Composite Method including short term contract. Officers working in the same field or in the analogous posts with 5 years of regular service in GP Rs.7600/- (revised Pay Matrix of level 12 Rs.78,800/- to Rs.2,09,200/-), in organized services/posts in the central or state government or statutory/autonomous organizations or public undertakings are eligible to apply. The details of the posts is given below:

1 Director (Finance & Economic Services)-Kolkata	GP 8700 / Level-13 Rs.1,23,100/- to Rs.2,15,900/-
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Interested candidates are requested to visit the website www.jute.com of National Jute Board for further details. Last date of receipt of application is 20th February, 2019.

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CIN:L35921TN1992PLC022845

STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER & NINE MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

(Rs. in Crores)

S. No	Particulars	Quarter ended	Nine Months ended	Quarter ended	Year ended
		31.12.2018	31.12.2018	31.12.2017	31.03.2018
					(Audited)
1	Total income	4,664.63	13,829.86	3,703.11	15,617.66
2	Net Profit (before Tax, Exceptional items)	258.45	777.03	210.36	878.64
3	Net Profit before tax (after Exceptional items)	258.45	777.03	210.36	878.64
4	Net Profit after tax (after Exceptional items)	178.39	536.31	154.35	662.59
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	193.06	537.25	176.72	659.72
6	Equity share capital (Face value of Re.1/- each)	47.51	47.51	47.51	47.51
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)				2,832.91
8	Earnings Per Share (Face value of Re. 1/- each) (not annualised) (i) Basic (in Rs.) (ii) Diluted (in Rs.)	3.75 3.75	11.29 11.29	3.25 3.25	13.95 13.95

Notes:

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 3



Inflation conundrum

A weak performance and low inflation may persuade the RBI to go for an interest rate cut. The multi-month low retail and wholesale inflation prints for December pose an interesting challenge for policymakers and the central bank. Inflation in Consumer Price Index (CPI), at 2.19% in December, is at an 18-month low, while the WPI, at 3.8%, is at an eight-month low. The Reserve Bank appears to have been blindsided by the CPI number, which is way below projections made during its last few monetary policy pronouncements. The RBI has maintained a CPI projection of 4.4-4.8% for the second half of fiscal 2019. Even in the October policy announcement, the bank projected 3.8-4.5% retail inflation in the second half with upside risk, and even changed its policy stance to “calibrated tightening” from “neutral”. The MPC and the RBI may well want to reassess the robustness of their inflation projection mechanism in light of the data coming in. When the new Governor, Shaktikanta Das, sits down with the monetary policy committee (MPC) in early February he may well have to return to a “neutral” stance given the soft trends in headline CPI. There may even be pressure on him to look at a rate cut, especially given the weak economic data coming in – factory output growth was a low 0.5% in November with manufacturing showing a contraction. The automobile industry, the first to feel the effect of an economic slowdown, has seen sales falling over the last two months.

The inflation data have also thrown a curveball at policymakers in that their different components show divergent trends. So, while headline CPI inflation is trending lower, core inflation is still sticky at close to 6%. Again, there is a divergence between core rural and urban inflation – the former is trending higher at 6.34% while the latter is heading downward at 5.26% in December. Curiously, rural health and education index numbers are high. The point with all this divergence in data is that monetary policymaking is a challenge. Governor Das alluded to this in a recent speech where he pointed to the divergences and volatility in different sub-groups as a major challenge in inflation assessment and projection. But the broader question is whether the interest rate structure is lagging behind the big structural change in inflation in the last few years. According to Mr. Das, headline CPI inflation has moderated from around 10% in 2012-13 to 3.6% in 2017-18 and 3.7% in April-December this fiscal. Yet the nominal interest rate structure has not changed significantly, leading to rather high real interest rates. Prominent policymakers, including principal economic adviser Sanjeev Sanyal, have called for the RBI to take a re-look at the interest rate structure. It will be interesting to watch how the RBI under the new Governor reacts to these calls.

A wide Democratic field

Party leaders seek to capitalise on soaring anti-Trump sentiment to enter the primaries

As expected, the array of presidential hopefuls for the 2020 U.S. election has widened considerably on the Democratic Party side, with at least eight candidates declared running, another six likely to run, and a further eight potential entrants sitting on the fence. Some analysts put the total size of the potential Democratic aspirational pool at 34. The latest addition to the list was Kamala Harris, a first-term Senator from California and daughter of Indian and Jamaican immigrants. Ms. Harris enters this crowded arena with the heft of her star power, having accumulated considerable political capital through her tough questioning of President Donald Trump’s cabinet nominees – including then Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who admitted that being grilled by Ms. Harris made him “nervous” – and other notables. Nevertheless, she was beaten to it by the New Year’s Day announcement of Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, a top-tier Democrat who also took on Mr. Trump over policy issues but attracted criticism for an unnecessary controversy over a DNA test to establish her Native American ancestry. While it is likely that the two Senators will remain on the ballot when the first state, Iowa, heads to the primaries in early February 2020, most entrants between now and then are expected to drop out as their popularity and donor-support figures come into sharper focus.

That is the real question at the heart of America’s complex Democratic primary: why are so many candidates throwing their hats in the ring at this juncture, and what does it tell us about the challenge that the ultimate nominee will pose to Mr. Trump’s re-election prospects? First, whoever wins the nomination will inherit the burden – and benefits – of the considerable anti-Trump sentiment that is swirling across diverse pockets of the country. An early indication of this likely outcome lies in the fact that most prospective candidates have announced policy positions that are situated in the centre-left of the American political spectrum, positioning themselves against Trump on immigration, health care, criminal justice and more. An example of such a policy position is Medicare-for-All, which not only Ms. Harris and Ms. Warren, but some newcomers too, such as Julián Castro, the former mayor of San Antonio, Texas, consider a part of their core agenda. Second, the Democratic universe is enthusiastic about this race as Mr. Trump not only lost the popular vote in 2016, by 46% to 48%, nearly three million votes, but also, currently, has the worst net approval rating of any post-World War II U.S. President. However, a big challenge that looms for Democratic candidates is to gauge the way independent voters, who often keep their voting preferences secret from pollsters, lean. These voters were the undoing of Hillary Clinton in the Rust Belt states, and they could again tip the scales back toward the nativist populism of their Commander-in-Chief.

India stares at water scarcity

Tackling drought must be the immediate priority for administrators across the country



GOPALKRISHNA GANDHI

The coming elections to the Lok Sabha, crucial to the future of our democracy, our pluralism, our federalism, are only a few weeks away.

But something else, something urgent, something is already upon us. And something that is going to coincide with the elections. A drought.

The rains have failed us. Nothing new, one might say. True, except that the rains’ let down this time comes on top of an already low-rain and, in many places, no-rain ground situation. And the next nearest rains are six months away. The cruelly blue, cloudless skies over much of India, north, central, eastern and peninsular India, say it all. And there is no guarantee that June will see the onset of a normal monsoon.

What the sky says

Does anyone care? Does the political class? The Prime Minister and Chief Ministers are not unaware of the situation. They cannot be. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has given them enough data. But when droughts and elections intersect, it is extremely uncomfortable to leaders. It is inconvenient to dwell on the skies’ tidings. Which government would like to tell farmers that suffering lies at their threshold? Who would like to tell them that water will be scarcer than before, that aquifers will plummet, crops wither, livestock go thirsty? Which government would, just weeks before the elections, tell us that with reservoirs

drying up taps will sputter to a stop and that we may well be looking at water-rationing? The truth is, none of them will say that. This is where, as Amartya Sen has told us time and again, the media comes in, and comes in redemptively. It is India’s great good luck that public awareness, nudged and prodded by public discussions on meteorological data and media reportage, has kept droughts from deepening into famines in our country.

The IMD report on scant rains has received scant attention so far, with exceptions being provided by P. Sainath’s relentless warnings and observations of experts of the calibre and veracity of Ramchandra Sable, agro-meteorologist, and D.M. More, Secretary of the Second Maharashtra Irrigation Commission, reported in *The Hindu Times* (January 6, 2019).

Rain deficit facts

To turn to the facts. The actual deficit last monsoon was modest – barely 10%. But the post-monsoon rainfall (October to December, 2018) or PMR as it is called by meteorologists has registered a 44% deficit. This national average deficit conceals shortages in some regions where it is much higher. In Marathwada, according to the IMD, the deficit is 84%, in Vidarbha, 88%.

Why should we worry, more than before, this time? For the reason that this low-rain and no-rain situation is going to aggravate the water crisis that we have brought upon ourselves without the ‘help’ of a dry sky. Years of policy-driven, corporate-driven water transfers from rural to urban, agriculture to industry, poor to rich and so on have made our country-side chronically water-scarce. Urban India does not realise this fast



enough or well enough. It will, when there are power-outages and air-conditioners do not work! “By April-May,” Mr. Sainath said to me, “this drought could be tormenting millions in several States.” And that is when election-campaigning will be at its peak.

The pre-election mood ‘yesterday’ was all about agrarian distress, farm-loan waivers. Will the pre-election mood ‘tomorrow’ be even thinking of, leave alone talking of, drought and what can be done to address it beyond loan-wavers?

Though our major leaders deny it, *Kaun Banega Pradhan Mantri* – KBPM – is what occupies the high seat in their thinking today. They seem to be in aphasia if not amnesia about the massive waterlessness that has hit us already. If they see the parched ponds, the shard-ed earth, the leaf-shedding trees, panting crops, drooping livestock, they do not talk about it.

That is how politics is. And yet that is not how politics should be and that is not how the rural Indian voter is going to allow politics to be. Not any more. And good for that voter that it be so. Anti-incumbency may take five years in electoral politics to mature into an ostracist. It does not take more than one

failed farm-season to turn to impatience and then to rage. No politician in office or aspiring to it today can ignore the drought. It is going to be the biggest and immediate test for the new governments in Karnataka, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh. Somewhere in her hurt ego, a ‘relieved’ Vasundhara Raje must be glad she is not going to have to fight the drought. Likewise, Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Raman Singh. Not the Bharatiya Janata Party, not the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), not Narendra Modi but the drought is going to be the real challenge to the ‘collective opposition’ as it seeks to and could well manage to, oust the present regime.

Let there be no doubt that the Prime Minister of India 2019 will have to be India’s Drought Commissioner.

And let her or him face the challenge four-square and render a national service.

Time and money are short

There is a prequel to this.

For the NDA, time is short, money is not. For the Opposition, time is short, money shorter. What is short for both, equally, is credibility. It is critically short. The voter, especially the rural voter, has no illusions. A government either helps it overcome its life-and-death problems or does not. The ‘Delhi Government’ will be tested in 2019 for its credibility on many issues, among which certainly l’affaire Rafale is now top-of-the-list, followed by the Reserve Bank of India and the Central Bureau of Investigation mess-ups. But the elections in 2019 will test its credibility by what it does and says it will do for water-starved, food-short, livelihood-broken, rural India’s agrarian distress.

And in States where

the NDA is not in power – and now the States in which it is not exceeds the number of States in which it is – the rural voter will vote against whoever is in office unless the ‘government party’ makes drought relief, water-use, food security and massive earth-related programmes its absolute priority. In other words, unless it makes agrarian distress, now aggravated by the drought, its priority.

The failure of rains this time is so serious that ‘drought’ now means not just a farm crisis but a national crisis that will affect towns and cities no less than villages. ‘Agrarian crisis’ appears to urban India as something ‘out there’. No longer true. It is only a matter of time when the ‘taken-for-granted’ piped water supply will falter and when water cans will cost even more than they do, today.

Whoever becomes Prime Minister will do well to appoint a commission like the Farmers’ Commission, which Dr. M.S. Swaminathan headed, to advise him or her on how water scarce India, all of India, needs to face drought. And give that Commission just one month to complete its study, make its recommendations not just to government but to all Indians, to us, who have become so used to water-access imbalance, water-use lopsidedness, water prodigality in the midst of water poverty that we just do not care. And this time, not advisories or appeals but penalties will be needed.

Addressing the deepening drought, agrarian distress and water-management are critical not just for our governments to survive but for us to survive our governments.

Gopalkrishna Gandhi is a former administrator, diplomat and governor

Buried in the sands

The new CRZ notification of 2018 now reads as a rejection of science and the anticipated impacts from climate change



SUJATHA BYRAVAN & AARTHI SRIDHAR

In late December, the government approved the Draft Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2018, which had been earlier circulated by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC). The CRZ consists of designated areas along the coast that are regulated by the government. The government introduced the new CRZ 2018 notification as a promise of a ‘better life’ for coastal communities that would add value to the country’s economy. Various recommendations to the draft from research think tanks and coastal community groups during the year were largely ignored and consultation appears to have been limited to select government bodies and departments.

History and changes

CRZ regulations were first introduced in 1991 and subsequently revised in 2011. A coastal hazard line was established taking into account natural disasters including the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. While the 2011 notification recognised that there were areas of high erosion and vulnerability along

the coast, few attempts were made to develop this hazard line scientifically or transparently across the country to regulate development. One amendment, in July 2018, removed the hazard line from the main regulation without consulting the public. In the new 2018 notification, as well, all reference to a hazard line has been removed and is replaced with a fixed setback line.

Some areas along the coast, for example, experience very high storm surges, but will not get the protection they deserve. Formerly (in the 2011 version), the CRZ extended up to a minimum of 500 m and up to the area of the ‘hazard line’ if it was found to be beyond 500 m. By removing the hazard line altogether, the new notification maintains a uniform CRZ of 500 m from the high tide line. Except for the most ecologically sensitive areas (CRZ-I) and water areas (CRZ-IV), for which any development clearance requires MoEFCC approval, State governments will be responsible for regulating urban and rural coastal areas (CRZ-II and III).

The CRZ for land adjoining creeks and backwaters is reduced from 100 to 50 m. CRZ 2018 relaxes important restrictions and permits construction in urban CRZ zones and densely populated rural coastal areas. Rural areas have been bifurcated, with greater allowances, ironically, for more populated areas. The greatest number of relaxations has been accorded



to hotels, resorts and the tourism sector.

Boost to business

Big hotels, restaurants, houses, coastal highways and small and large port facilities can now be built closer to the shoreline. Increased coastal tourism translates into further destruction of lagoons, marshland and other coastal ecosystems and their services. In fact, a limited study of the Tamil Nadu coastal districts from 2009 found that lakhs of crores of public investment, ecosystems and land are at risk from a one metre rise in average sea levels.

The cyclones Ockhi and Vardah are fresh in people’s memories and so is the experience of loss of life and property. These frequent weather-related coastal vulnerabilities are, however, omitted in the CRZ 2018, which moved the concept of vulnerability and the hazard line from being at the heart of the regulatory mechanism to an optional appendage in the law applicable for a vaguely worded sec-

tion on ‘disaster management’. The document trims the list of restricted activities in the ecologically sensitive CRZ-I areas and erases baselines. These include original baselines of what constituted this coastal zone (where it begins and ends, based on high water marks), what makes for a violation and further, what action should be taken for violations thus far and in future. Meanwhile, shorelines are already eroding due to sand mining controlled by mafias and building of seawalls along the coast.

At our peril

At the recent international climate meeting at Katowice (COP24), when the U.S., Saudi Arabia and Russia refused to “accept” the special 1.5 degrees report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), India and other developing countries rightly protested that these countries were placing the world at risk. That report called for the world to prepare for severe impacts from climate change if average global temperature was to rise above 1.5°Celsius. The effects from rising seas are already visible and will worsen as temperature rises. Countries need to prepare for an increase in the frequency and intensity of very severe storms and accompanying effects on their coasts. An earlier 2018 study published in *Nature Climate Change* deduced that, among all countries of the world, India would experience the worst social and economic impacts from

climate change.

The CRZ notification from the Cabinet, however, now reads as a rejection of the IPCC’s science and anticipated impacts from climate change, including the 1.5°C Celsius report. It is not clear whose interests are being heard in this CRZ notification. This environmental legislation has seen repeated fiddling with its provisions (the 1991 version saw about 25 amendments) and regular overhauls (the 2018 version makes for three fresh re-introductions of this law). Little of this activity from the MoEFCC has been towards improving or implementing the law, but rather to reduce regulatory oversight.

The regulation now moves into another era, while existing deadlines to identify violations and phase out sewage and waste disposal and make wholesome management plans lapse. The legal mechanisms and innovations that entered the CRZ lexicon in the wake of the 2004 tsunami and coastal vulnerabilities to climate change have been deleted from the CRZ 2018. In one fell swoop, about two decades of deliberation and action to secure the coasts for the nation’s citizens has been erased. With eyes wide open, the country is walking into disaster for its coast and the tens of millions who live on it.

Sujatha Byravan is a scientist who studies science, technology and policy. Aarthi Sridhar is Trustee, Dakshin Foundation. The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

The EVM test

The writer (OpEd page, “Why EVMs must go”, January 22) seems to be an anti-technology person. The three tests mentioned are all protected when an electronic voting machine, or EVM, is used. Computers are used to handle mind-boggling amounts of data, largely without accusations of fraud and manipulation. Conducting an election using the paper ballot in a country of 1.3 billion people requires money, time, effort, and paper. The logistics are also high and complex. EVMs have checks and balances to ensure a fair election.

PADMINI RAGHAVENDRA, Secunderabad

the EVMs under question in that particular case were made by a Dutch Company (NEDAP) and were possibly hacked and the same was accepted by the OEM. Experts in India have declared EVMs here to be tamper proof. The hackathon organised by the Election Commission was given a complete miss by those wizards who are now out to defame EVMs. The randomisation of EVMs, mock polls involving polling agents, the sealing of machines and their storage procedures are all fool proof – but not for suspecting and biased minds.

U.S. AWINASH, Hindon, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh

a few are now crying foul over the use of EVMs in elections (Inside pages, “EC mulls legal action on anti-EVM campaign”, January 22). If the allegation that a certain party benefited from “unreliable EVMs” is true, then, logically, the party concerned must have manipulated all poll results to its advantage which is not the case. Let us not revert to Stone Age practices just because a few modern scientific devices are faulty. EVMs have come to stay, saving us from the Herculean task of manual counting.

PUSHPA DORAI, Nurani, Kerala

unmatchable. It is the EVMs that ushered in the era of free and fair elections, by eliminating electoral malpractices, speeding up the voting process, and thereby, increasing voter turnout. Though a number of political parties have cried foul over EVM use, they have still to prove that the device can be hacked. The core issue should be for all of us to engage in real election problems such as the use of muscle power and black money in the election process and encouraging communal politics, paid news and the criminal-politician nexus.

PARTH SARTHI MISHRA, Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh

even the slightest possibility to scuttle this process. Perhaps seeking the help of countries which abandoned the use of EVMs would be of use.

VIMAL VASUDEVAN, Alathur, Palakkad

Gory sport

One really fails to understand why the organisers of extreme events

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

>>> Business page story on SBI Life’s December quarter performance (Jan. 20, 2019) gave the premium income and investment income figures in trillions of rupees. They should have been in billions.

>>> The report, “Hyderabad’s Chowmahalla Palace, fit for the Nizams once again” (Jan. 19, 2019), erroneously stated that Mukarram Jah Nizam VII was crowned in 1967 after the demise of his grandfather Nizam VI Mir Osman Ali Khan. Actually, Nizam Osman Ali Khan was Nizam VII and his grandson Mukarram Jah was Nizam VIII.

>>> A Sports page report about Malaysia Masters badminton title (Jan. 21, 2018, some editions) was erroneously headlined “Son and Marin are Champions.” It should have read: “Son and Intan are champions.”

THE WEDNESDAY INTERVIEW | SITARAM YECHURY

'Sabarimala will have a positive impact on the Lok Sabha elections'

The CPI(M) general secretary on Opposition unity, the reservation debate, and why the Left is more relevant today than ever before

SOBHANA K. NAIR

Despite protests in Kerala against the entry of women aged 10-50 into Sabarimala, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury believes that the controversy will have a positive impact on the party's performance in the Lok Sabha elections. In this interview, Mr. Yechury says Opposition unity will "vary from State to State", explains why the CPI(M) supports 10% reservation for the poorer sections in the general category and why the Left is still relevant. Excerpts:

Last year, the CPI(M) had said that its priority is to oust the BJP-led government at the Centre. With less than 100 days left for this government to complete its term, how confident are you of meeting this target?

■ Very confident. In fact, it reminds me of the 100 days before the 2004 Lok Sabha elections given that the same narrative was built then too: that there is no alternative to Atal Bihari Vajpyee, that India is shining, that there is a feel-good factor... The BJP had won a round of Assembly elections then and had advanced the [Lok Sabha] elections with the confidence that they were going to come back to power. But we know what happened. The same thing is in the process today. Why I am confident is that, in our country, given its diversity, different political parties have different spheres of influence in different States... The coalition that forms the alternate government has always emerged only after the elections. That was the case with the United Front government in 1996, the Vajpayee government in 1998, and the Manmohan Singh government in 2004.

Many in the CPI(M) are worried about the impact that the Sabarimala controversy will have on the party's chances in the elections. Your views?

■ Conflicting ideologies will come in the way. The Left parties did not skip the rally, we were not invited. And if we were invited, we would have taken a decision on what to do. You cannot be murdering democracy in Bengal and championing the protection of democracy elsewhere in India. Between the BJP and the TMC in Bengal, there is competitive communalism. This [poses] immense danger [to] the unity and integrity of India – more so because it is a border State with tensions with Bangladesh and Myanmar. The only way forward is to defeat the TMC and save Bengal and defeat the BJP and save India.

But what about Opposition unity?

■ It will vary from State to State. The decision we have taken – and I think that is the line pursued by all the secular parties – is to maximise the pooling of anti-BJP votes.

The CPI(M) surprisingly supported 10% reservation for the economically

The Left parties skipped the recent Opposition rally organised by Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief Mamata Banerjee. In this context, do you think conflicting ideologies and personal ambitions will come in the way of an anti-BJP alliance?



The Congress has been supporting the call to ban women's entry into Sabarimala. In the fight for votes between you and the BJP, will the Congress emerge as the winner?

Our goal is to defeat the TMC and save Bengal and defeat the BJP and save India

backward among the general category.

■ At the time of the Mandal agitation, this issue had surfaced. At that time, we were the only party talking about economic criteria, as far as the OBCs were concerned. The constitutional position regarding the SCs/STs is undisputed, and there is no compromise possible on that. On the OBCs, we had said that we will require economic criteria to determine that the benefits of reservation go to the people who actually deserve it. We were the only party that took this position. Even the other Left parties were not in favour of this. The Supreme Court, our only ally, came up with the formulation of a creamy layer. At that point of time, the question that had come up was, what about the economically poor in non-reserved categories? We said that should also be considered. We were critical of the manner in which they

brought in the [quota] Bill. Who are the people who will benefit? There is no discussion or consultation on how you will define the economically weaker section. It is clear that this is only meant for elections. But as a concept, we said this merits serious consideration.

What are the amendments that you propose to make this law more effective?

■ One, immediately there should be some sort of a mechanism to identify who are the people who qualify. This can't be confined to any one section. It has to be extended to the poor everywhere. How do you define the poor? The numbers have to be enumerated. All this is, to use the BJP's terminology, a 'jumla'. Unless there is job creation, this is a meaningless exercise. The amendment we want is that you should extend this, along with all other reservations for SC/STs/OBCs, to the private sector. The government is recklessly privatising everything and is outsourcing all its work. Government jobs are declining rapidly. What is the meaning of this reservation if there are

What about your situation in West Bengal and Tripura?

■ Let's see. Things are changing and rather fast in Tripura. The Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) is moving away from the BJP. Many tribals are now seeing through the game plan of this opportunistic getting together of the BJP and the IPFT. What the BJP promised the tribals was a separate State. Now they have rescinded

no jobs?

So do you think caste-based reservation should be completely done away with and replaced by economic criteria alone?

■ No. Caste-based reservation is a constitutional provision. Reservation is meant for social inclusion and is not a poverty alleviation measure. Even when these measures [reservation for SCs/STs] are in existence, we have not been able to achieve our objective. We are not against that. What we are saying is that the economically weaker section category can only be an add-on, if at all.

Can you give me a ballpark figure on how many seats the CPI(M) will win in 2019?

■ We are fighting every seat to win. All the seats where we are going to be in a contest are seats where we are seriously in contention.

So how many seats are you contesting, considering you are looking at alliances in many States?

■ It depends on how these understandings evolve. The discussions are on, in Bihar, Maharashtra, and various other States. Normally, we contest around 60. So it will be close to that.

What about your situation in West Bengal and Tripura?

■ Let's see. Things are changing and rather fast in Tripura. The Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) is moving away from the BJP. Many tribals are now seeing through the game plan of this opportunistic getting together of the BJP and the IPFT. What the BJP promised the tribals was a separate State. Now they have rescinded

their promise... Things are in a state of flux. There is a good chance of improvement from the Assembly results.

In Bengal, the overall mood indicates that we are in a position to advance towards our goal of saving Bengal by defeating the TMC and saving India by defeating the BJP. But the main point in Bengal is to allow our support to translate into votes. That has to be ensured. What has been happening is, we have been losing elections because our support base has not been physically allowed, due to attacks, to go and cast their vote. If there is a peaceful, free and fair election in Bengal, we have a good chance of improving.

There is a feeling that the communist ideology is no longer relevant.

■ Which is the second economic powerhouse in the world? China. The ruling party there swears by Marxism and Leninism. And the fact that China has achieved this success is not because communism is irrelevant, but because it is relevant. Secondly, in non-socialist countries, all across the Latin America, it is the Left and Left-inspired movements that are taking on the U.S.'s might. In France, President Emmanuel Macron had to finally back down and accept the demands of the working classes. On the one hand, there is the rise of the right, which is taking a neo-fascist form. Xenophobia and racism are growing. And on the other hand, there is the Left and popular struggles. This is the political fight. The turn to the political right is in order to control these protest actions and ensure that they do not turn into a political alternative to capitalism. So, it is not that it is becoming irrelevant; it is becoming more relevant. And this battle is going on in our country too.

SINGLE FILE

Fiction in the time of Islamophobia

Ausma Zehanat Khan's Khattak-Getty series is an antidote to the stereotypical portrayal of Muslims of the West

MOHAMMED AYOOB

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT At a time when Islamophobia is at its peak in the West, Pakistani-Canadian novelist Ausma Zehanat Khan has performed great service in countering the stereotype of the Western Muslim as an outsider. A writer of crime fiction, she has done this through her Khattak-Getty series of four novels that are set partly in Canada and partly in different Muslim majority countries, such as Bosnia, Iran and Syria.

The central protagonist of the series is detective Inspector Essa Khattak, a Canadian whose parents migrated to Toronto from Peshawar. Khan does not try to hide Khattak's internal struggle between his Muslim identity and his loyalty to the Canadian state. Simultaneously, he is depicted as a police officer with a conscience who goes beyond the call of duty when brought face to face with human suffering. His assistant Rachel Getty is similarly portrayed as an efficient policewoman, but one who must contend with personal demons. Getty often appears more hard-headed than her more idealistic superior and her intuition sometimes surpasses Khattak's instincts for detection.

Whilst critical of negative Western attitudes towards Muslims even when the latter are superb performers in their fields, Khan makes no attempt to gloss over the inherent faults and weaknesses of Muslim societies that she exposes. She especially targets the tyrannical nature of Muslim regimes in West Asia. Her novel *A Dangerous Crossing* is a severe indictment of the tyrannical Syrian regime as well as of agents of human trafficking masquerading as saviours. *Among the Ruins* is a stringent denunciation of the mullah-dominated regime in Iran that exposes the workings of its torture chambers and the intrinsic corruption of a dictatorship masquerading in the guise of "righteous" Islamic rule.

Whilst emphasising the positive contributions of Muslim citizens of the West, Khan is not oblivious to the actions of a very small minority of extremists among them that provides justification for Islamophobia in the West. In *The Language of Secrets*, she tackles this issue and the distorted ideology that provides terrorist cells justification for their violent acts against fellow citizens. She paints a realistic image of the charismatic personality of the leader of one of these cells and the rhetoric and tactics he uses to attract a small number of gullible youth to his cause. Khattak and Getty eventually foil the terrorist plot despite the obstacles placed in their way by superior officers.

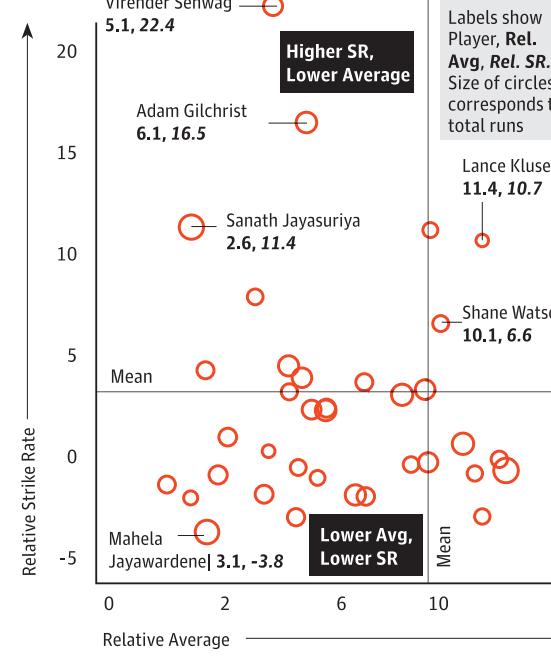
Khan's Khattak-Getty series is a potent antidote to the simplistic and stereotypical portrayal of Muslim citizens of the West that one finds in a section of the Western media and among right-wing public personalities.



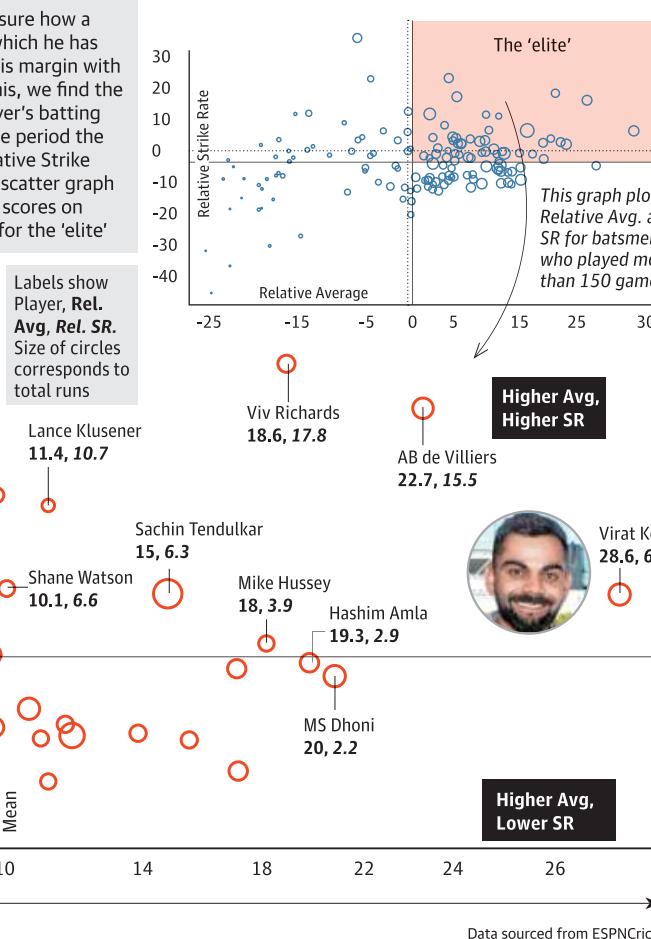
DATA POINT

The Dons of ODIs

To determine who the best batsmen are, we measure how a batsman has done in his time and the extent to which he has outperformed his peers. We can then compare this margin with the margins of other batsmen in their eras. For this, we find the Relative Average – the difference between a player's batting average and those of all other batsmen during the period the player was active. Similarly, we calculate the Relative Strike Rate (SR). We then plot these two variables on a scatter graph (see right) and find the players who had the best scores on both parameters. Graph below plots values only for the 'elite'.



Advanced numbers show that Virat Kohli is among the best batsmen in One Day International cricket, up there with AB de Villiers and Viv Richards. By Srinivasan Ramani



Data sourced from ESPNcricinfo

FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 23, 1969

Macbeth's witches not guilty

Three judges yesterday [January 21] cleared a man of a witchcraft conviction and said that on the evidence they would have done the same for the three witches in Macbeth. The man, Seychelles islander Jean Eugenie, had been sentenced to 18 months in prison there for possessing articles of witchcraft. Three packs of cards, including one with 12 aces, a sheet of paper with the names of three local judges on it, a box of black powder, firecracker fuses and a match box with two coins and dried leaves. But the three judges, sitting here [London] at the British Indian Ocean colony's Court of Appeals, said better expert evidence would have been needed "even if the articles found had included the head of a cockerel, the feet of a bat, or the things that went into the Macbeth pot". Eugenie claimed the cards belonged to his children and that he used the dried leaves and black powder as a herbalist, specialising in asthma and indigestion cases.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 23, 1919

Cholera in Bombay.

There were over 500 deaths in Bombay city in 24 hours ending this morning and 311 of them are certified to be cholera. The Health Officer in an explanatory statement this evening says: The sudden and rapid rise in the mortality of the city is due to cholera chiefly amongst the mill hands and in mill districts. On the 10th January cholera deaths were 36 and declining. On the 9th January, mill hands struck work and the mills were closed a few days later. The cholera mortality rose to 48 on the 17th and 311 to-day [January 22]. Instead of being able to use the latrine of the mills 1,50,000 persons resorted to congested chawls in the streets, eating and drinking whatever they could get parading the streets and joining funeral parties.

CONCEPTUAL
Labelling theory

SOCIOLOGY

This refers to a theory of social behaviour which states that the behaviour of human beings is influenced significantly by the way other members in society label them. It has been used to explain a variety of social behaviour among groups, including deviant criminal behaviour. According to this theory, individuals who are labelled as criminals by society, for instance, may be more likely to engage in criminal activities simply due to such social labelling. By the same logic, positive labelling by society can influence individuals to exhibit positive behaviour. The labelling theory was developed and popularised by American sociologist Howard S. Becker in his 1963 book *Outsiders*.

MORE ON THE WEB

Who is Stefanos Tsitsipas?

<http://bit.ly/explaineronstefanstsitsipas>

FROM PAGE ONE

India can lead the world on solar grid goal: PM

Apart from noted persons of Indian origin, the event is also being attended by a large number of foreign dignitaries including Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth who will also participate in the Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj.

Mr. Modi also urged foreign-based Indians to contribute to the making of the 'new India'.

"You can boost research and innovation with your actions here," he added.

IPS officer's brother among 3 militants killed

Mengnoo, a resident of Shopian's Draggud village, was pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Unani Medicine and Surgery (BUMS) degree in Srinagar when he was reported missing in May 2018. He later joined the Hizbul Mujahideen.

The police identified the other two militants as Aamir Suhail Bhat and Shoaib Ahmad Shah, both from Shopian. "Mengnoo was part of terror conspiracies along with others, leading to weapon snatching, recruitment and attacks on the security forces. The bodies were handed over to their families after completion of medico-legal formalities," said the police.

The operation, launched early on Tuesday despite the inclement weather, was jointly carried out by the Army's 44 Rashtriya Rifles, para commandos and the special Operations Group (SOG) of the police, following in-

Centre files status report on CIC selection

They argued, through Mr. Bhushan, that the "minutes of the search committee revealed that no rational criteria were adopted on the basis of which the short-listing was done." Further, the minutes showed "the completely ad hoc manner of functioning of the search committee," they said.

People who were appointed members of the committee, also applied for the post and had to be subsequently replaced, they submitted. One of the persons who has been appointed, Suresh Chandra, had not even applied for the post, they argued.

'Defective ad'
The petitioners also alleged that the government has

AIADMK and AMMK must come together, join NDA: Athawale

Addressing a press conference here on Tuesday, Mr. Athawale said both parties should come together to take on the DMK-led front in the Parliamentary elections. "Like how CM E. Palaniswami and Deputy CM O. Panneerselvam came together, AMMK general secretary T.T.V. Dinakaran should bury his differences with the parent party," he said.

INTERVIEW | PRAVEEN CHAKRAVARTY

'I don't see BJP winning any of the large States it won in the 2014 election'

Congress's data wing head says the level of disenchantment with BJP is being underestimated; poor farm incomes and lack of jobs will be key issues for the voter

SANDEEP PHUKAN

From Punjab to Puducherry, the Congress has launched 'Operation Shakti' in the run-up to the 2019 Lok Sabha election. Praveen Chakravarty, a former Wall Street banker, is overseeing the Congress's data-driven election strategy. The party's Data Analytics Department chairperson spoke after the Tamil Nadu launch of the Congress's Shakti app:

How will Shakti change the functioning of the Congress in the run-up to the 2019 election?

■ Well, to understand how this will evolve in the 2019 elections, we need to step back and see how Shakti was used in the recent Assembly polls [Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Mizoram]. Shakti is the internal platform through which we have connected committed booth-le-

vel Congress workers and taken ground feedback for important decisions like feedback on candidates, finding out seats where we are strong to taking opinion on alliances on the ground.

So, will the app be used more to pick candidates?

■ I want to make it very clear here that feedback on candidates is just one internal input in the process of selection among a variety of other

factors. It is not the sole decision point.

Is this the Congress's answer to BJP's 'panna pramukh' (page-in-charge) who target specific voters in a constituency?

■ Well, different parties may call it by different names. There is a lot of noise and bluster too about all this.

But this is basically good old door-to-door campaign with the help of some real data and technology. And I don't think any other party in the country has involved their average workers to this level in the decision-making process. Feedback on candidates, leadership, alliances, marking out seats in terms of

strength and so on.

Talking about alliances, in Uttar Pradesh, the Congress is all set to go alone. Do you have any data that tells us how the Congress will fare

outside the BSP-SP alliance?

■ In Uttar Pradesh, the BJP is facing double anti-incumbency due to non-performance of the Centre and the State government there. The data also indicate key issues, areas of strength for us. But it would be premature for me to say anything in terms of the number of seats.

But how will the Congress gain from the anti-incumbency?

■ My data clearly shows that we could spring a surprise in U.P. We have looked at every seat in detail, every social combination, analysed the sentiment of voters who voted for the BJP in 2014 etc. I

think most are underestimating the level of voter disenchantment with the BJP, specifically with certain sections of its core support base. Don't forget we had a 21% vote share in U.P. in 2009. I can't say beyond this.

Have you done a data analysis of the seats across the country? If yes, how does it look like for the Opposition in 2019?

■ Yes, we have done our data analysis and other surveys across the country. And I don't see the BJP winning a single State in 2019 of the large States that they won in 2014 – U.P., Maharashtra, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Chhattis-

garh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Haryana, Delhi. Which is why I had termed the 2014 BJP victory a "black swan" unrepeatable victory even back in 2014.

In fact, Maharashtra is the angriest State as per our survey. This may come as a surprise to many but this is very evident from the data. For example, 91% of the BJP's 2014 voters in Maharashtra say this 10% job reservation for the poor is another election 'jumla' [false promise].

We have done a survey across top 10 States, mostly from north India, with a large sample size. And more than 72% of the respondents, people who had voted for the BJP, say it is a mere election promise.

What are the key issues for the voters in 2019?

■ The first key issue is the handling of the economy. Jobs, poor farm incomes and so on. But we didn't just stop at no jobs. We asked 'why are there no jobs?' And majority of the people said it is because of 'notebandi' [demolition].

The second layer is what I call 'dholka' [deceit]. People feel deceived since so many election promises have been made but never fulfilled. And lastly, divisive issues will backfire on the BJP as they are being seen as mere excuses because of lack of delivery.

(Full interview at www.thehindu.com)

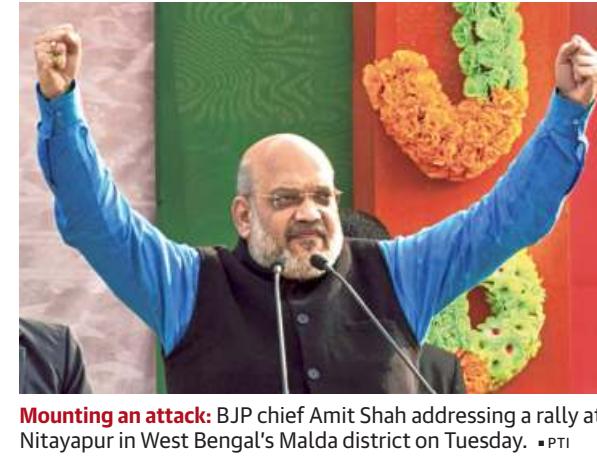
Opposition has 9 PM aspirants, no leader: Shah

Such a long queue on their side and on our side there's only one leader, says BJP chief, launching poll campaign in Bengal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Amit Shah on Tuesday asserted that the rally of the Opposition parties at Kolkata's Brigade Parade Grounds showed that there were several contenders among them for the Prime Minister's post and no real leader for the grouping.

"Out of the 23 persons who were at Brigade Parade Grounds, nine of them want to become Prime Minister," Mr. Shah said at a rally in West Bengal's Malda district. "There were nine Prime Minister aspirants on one stage... Such a long queue on their side and on our side there is only one leader, Na-



Mounting an attack: BJP chief Amit Shah addressing a rally at Nitayapur in West Bengal's Malda district on Tuesday. ■ PTI

rendra Modi, for the NDA," he added in his speech, which was webcast on the party's official YouTube account.

Only personal interests
The 'mahagathbandhan' of Opposition parties had been formed to attain "power and for their personal interests," Mr. Shah said. "All these leaders of the gathbandhan want a *majboor sarkar* [weak government]... They want to remove Modi, while we want to remove poverty, corruption," he said.

Flagging off the party's Lok Sabha poll campaign in West Bengal, the BJP president also attacked the State's ruling Trinamool Congress

party and urged the people to "uproot Mamata Banerjee's government".

Raising the contentious issue of the Citizenship

not been supported by the Trinamool in the Lok Sabha, would be a poll issue in West Bengal.

the party wins at least 23 of the 42 Lok Sabha seats from West Bengal.

Mr. Shah contended that Ms. Banerjee's decision to keep the State out of the Ayushman Bharat [health insurance] scheme was a 'classic' example of the extent to which the Trinamool Congress government had gone to prevent the Centre's development projects from reaching the people.

Responding to the BJP leader's rally, Trinamool Congress national spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien said Mr. Shah's speech was "low on facts and poor in taste", adding that the BJP seemed "nervous and desperate".

4 photojournalists suffer pellet injuries

Appalling, says Kashmir Press Club

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

ween protesters and security personnel. "We, in fact, raised our cameras to convey to the security personnel that we are photojournalists. However, all of a sudden, a barrage of pellets hit us," Mr. Andrabi said.

A Kashmir Press Club spokesman said "it is not the first time such an incident has happened. It is appalling..."

The Kashmir Video Journalists Association appealed to the Governor and the Director General of Police "to initiate strict action."

Former J&K Chief Minister and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah said the indiscriminate use of force, often without any accountability, would always be counterproductive.

Bloodbath in J&K

Twelve out of the 22 districts in Jammu and Kashmir have witnessed encounters between the security forces and terrorists in 2018

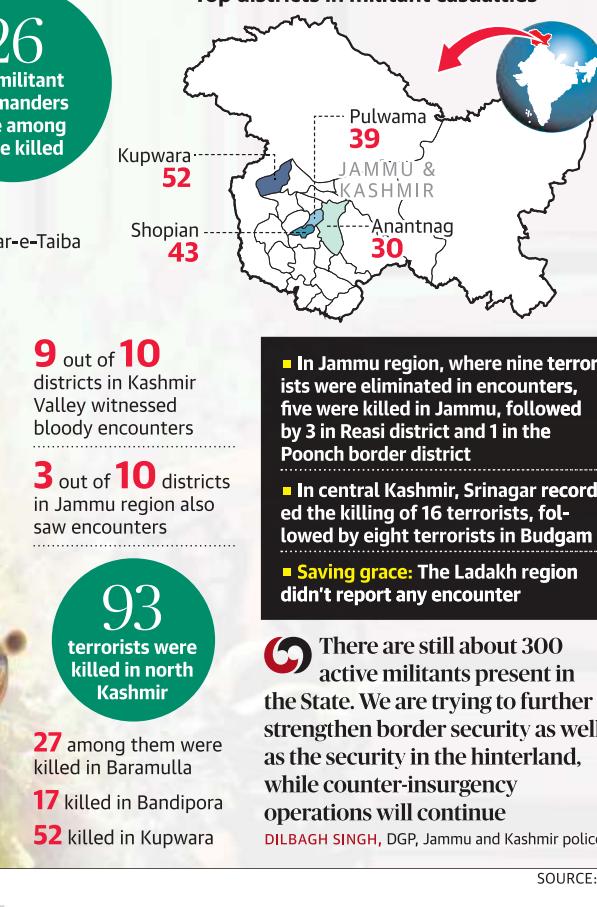


256 militants were killed in encounters in the State

26 top militant commanders were among those killed

Active militant groups

- Hizbul Mujahideen | ■ Lashkar-e-Taiba
- Jaish-e-Mohammad
- Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind



SOURCE: PTI

PM targets Congress at NRI meet

Says the party did nothing to check corruption whereas BJP has stopped 'loot'



Narendra Modi with Mauritius PM Pravind Jugnauth at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas meet in Varanasi on Tuesday. ■ PTI

Modi misusing govt. events, says Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of misusing public money and government events to attack the Opposition and further the BJP's propaganda. At a press conference here, senior leader Anand Sharma urged the Election Commission to take note of it.

"He cannot use public money and all the facilities that come with the office of Prime Minister to address his party meetings," Mr. Sharma said. He also denied Mr. Modi's claims at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in Varanasi. "Instead of making tall claims, Mr. Modi must answer why we are losing jobs," he said.

Naik, and Minister of State for External Affairs V.K. Singh, among others.

The government has changed the mindset that India cannot change, he said in the presence of the chief guest, Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat, U.P. Governor Ram

Naik, and Minister of State for External Affairs V.K. Singh, among others.

Mr. Modi said India's contribution was being recognised at the international level, especially its role with regard to environment.

Taking a swipe at the Congress, Mr. Modi said it got to know about the disease, acknowledged the disease, but neither thought about it, nor did anything to cure it.

The second layer is what I call 'dholka' [deceit]. People feel deceived since so many election promises have been made but never fulfilled. And lastly, divisive issues will backfire on the BJP as they are being seen as mere excuses because of lack of delivery.

(Full interview at www.thehindu.com)

IN BRIEF



PM to inaugurate Bose museum tomorrow

NEW DELHI
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Subhash Chandra Bose museum at Red Fort on Wednesday to mark the leader's 122nd birth anniversary. The museum on Bose and the Indian National Army showcases various artefacts related to Subhash Chandra Bose and the INA.

India, Africa joint training exercise in March

NEW DELHI
In a major Indian military outreach to Africa, the Army will host a Field Training Exercise with 12 African countries in March at Pune. "The India Africa FTE 2019 is scheduled to be conducted at Aundh Military Station and College of Military Engineering in Pune from March 18 to 27," an Army source said on Tuesday.

Kartarpur project: India invites Pak. delegation

NEW DELHI
India on Tuesday announced the coordinates for the construction of the Kartarpur corridor and invited Pakistan to send a delegation for the expected official talks in February and March. "Pursuant to the decision taken by the government of India on November 22, 2018, to expeditiously realise the long-pending proposal to establish Kartarpur Corridor, India today shared the coordinates of the zero point of the corridor along the International Border with Pakistan," the MEA said.

Pakistan forces attack Indian fishing boat

NEW DELHI
The Pakistani maritime agency fired on an Indian fishing boat with seven persons on board and sank it on January 17, following which India has lodged a strong protest with Pakistan, officials said Tuesday. Six Indian fishermen on board the boat "Sudama Puri" were rescued by the Indian Coast Guard while one fisherman was missing after the incident.

GIRIRAJ SINGH, Union Minister

GIt is scary that the agenda of Pakistan and China was sponsored and supervised by a top Congress leader. Once out of power, the Congress wants to kill democracy in the country. We have seen it earlier during the Emergency



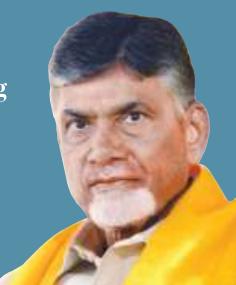
KAPIL SIBAL, Congress leader

GThere should be an inquiry in the charges he (Shuja) has made. The SC and law says there should be an FIR. It is your responsibility. If someone is making allegations, it is important to ascertain whether the charges are right or not



N. CHANDRABU NAIDU, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister

GIt is worrying to know the claims made on the possibility of tampering of EVMs. It is a big threat to democracy and hence, we need to revert to the paper ballot system immediately



AKHILESH YADAV, Samajwadi Party leader

GWhy does a country like Japan, which is very advanced in science and technology, not use EVMs? The question should be raised among the nation's 130 crore people



EC files complaint against 'cyber expert'

ECIL denies that Syed Shuja was its regular employee



Stand-alone machines: A file photo of employees of Electronics Corporation of India Limited working at the EVM manufacturing unit in Hyderabad.

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

Taking cognisance of the claims made at a press conference in London by Syed Shuja, a self-styled Indian cyber expert, that the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) used by the Election Commission of India could be hacked, the poll body on Tuesday asked the Delhi Police to register an FIR.

The Commission wrote to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi), alleging that by making such claims, Mr. Shuja had caused public mischief, which is an offence under Section 505(1) (b) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The Supreme Court and several High Courts, in their judgments, had endorsed the use of EVMs in elections.

Open challenge

Following doubts raised by various political parties, the Commission, on June 3, 2017, organised an "open chal-

lenging", inviting experts to demonstrate any vulnerability in the machines, the poll panel said. "Nobody turned up for such demonstrations," said the EC in its complaint, adding that the act of Mr. Shuja was violative of Section 505(1)(b).

Mr. Shuja – who is said to be in the United States – addressed the press conference in London through Skype on Monday. He claimed that he was part of the EVM design team and that he could hack the machines.

In a letter to the Commission, the Electronics Corporation of India Limited said that Mr. Shuja had neither been its regular employee nor was he in any way associated with the design and development of EVMs in the public sector undertaking between 2009 and 2014.

The police said they had received the complaint and that legal action was being taken under Section 505 of the

IPC. They would further explore if more penal provisions were needed to be invoked.

Under Section 188 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the police also have powers to investigate crimes committed overseas by an Indian citizen, with prior sanction of the Central government.

The Commission on Tuesday said that members of the Technical Experts Committee (TEC) have reconfirmed to the poll body that EVMs were stand-alone machines designed to connect only among their units (Ballot Unit, Control Unit and VVPAT) through cables that remained in full public view.

It issued a statement that the committee members, D.T. Shahani, Professor Emeritus of IIT-Delhi; Rajat Moona, Director of the IIT-Bhilai; and D.K. Sharma, Professor Emeritus of IIT-Bombay (Mumbai), said the EVMs were stand-alone machines designed to connect only among their units (Ballot Unit, Control Unit and VVPAT) through cables that remained in full public view.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav also supported the stand and asked the government and the ECI to take a call.

India takes back 31 stranded Rohingya

BSF, Bangladesh Border guards stand-off ends

**VIJAYA SINGH
SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI**

India agreed on Tuesday to take back 31 Rohingya stranded on the International Border between Bangladesh and Tripura on Tuesday, and sent them to custody with the Tripura police.

The decision to take back the group of refugees consisting of 15 adults and 16 children including a 6-month old baby, who had been stuck in no-man's land between the two countries since January 19, ended a stand-off between Indian Border Security Force personnel, and the Border Guards of Bangladesh.

Heading to camps

However, officials warned that the 31 Rohingyas are part of a much larger wave of more than 1,300 refugees who have fled India for Bangladesh's Cox's Bazaar camps, which further strain diplomatic ties between Dhaka and New Delhi.

India also contested claims by Bangladeshi officials that the BSF was forcibly pushing the refugees over the border from its side.

"Government is aware of media reports of alleged movement into Bangladesh by some such persons. Government is not a party to such movements. We will work with our neighbours to handle such matters through mutual consultation," the official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs said on Tuesday.

He added that the 31 persons who were on the 'Zero line' on the India-Bangladesh bor-



Stuck in no-man's land: One of the Rohingya who was arrested by the Assam police near the India-Bangladesh border in Tripura. ■ ABHISEK SAHA

der, had been provided "necessary shelter, food and material" while their documentation was examined.

Sources said once the authorities were given clear evidence the group had crossed over from the Indian side, it was taken back by the Border Security Forces, and then handed to Tripura police, who have taken the adults into custody while the children are likely to be sent to juvenile homes until their case is decided.

A Tripura government official said after Bangladesh refused to accept them, India decided to arrest them under the Passport Act.

Investigations revealed the Rohingyas had been living in a Jammu camp since 2012 and were on their way to Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh when they were caught by Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) in the early hours of January 19.

International Human Rights agencies like the office of the UN High Commission for Refugees have been

hingyas, a senior government official told *The Hindu* that they had a card issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), India.

The MEA did not respond to a question on whether Rohingyas are fleeing India.

Fear of repatriation

According to Nayana Bose, Communications Officer of the Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), "More

than 1,300 individual Rohingyas refugees – some 300 families – have recently arrived from India in Cox's Bazaar which already houses more than 7,00,000 refugees.

On Monday night, Tripura police apprehended another group of 30 Rohingyas Muslims travelling on a Guwahati-bound bus at Churailari, believed to be trying to travel across the border as well. As per the Home Ministry's estimate, there are around 40,000 Rohingyas in India, of whom around 5,700 are in Jammu. Of these, only 16,000 are said to be registered with the United Nations, most of whom came in 2012-13.

International Human Rights agencies like the office of the UN High Commission for Refugees have been

calling on India to reconsider plans to deport Rohingyas back to Myanmar unless their safety is guaranteed, but the government has already repatriated two groups there. According to officials the repatriations, as well as the threat of attacks at their camps in Jammu, Delhi and other parts of the country are driving more and more Rohingyas to flee India for the camps in Cox's Bazaar which already houses more than 7,00,000 refugees.

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The new arrivals are being housed at the Transit Centre which is run by a number of partners, including UN Agencies, NGOs, the Bangladesh Red Crescent and others." Ms Boze told *The Hindu* in response to a written query.

International Human Rights agencies like the office of the UN High Commission for Refugees have been

'No link between clashes and EVMs'

Hyderabad police refute charges levelled by Syed Shuja on the 2014 incidents

**MARRI RAMU
HYDERABAD**

The Hyderabad police on Tuesday refuted the claims made by self-styled cyber expert Syed Shuja. Mr. Shuja had linked the hacking of EVMs with the communal clashes reported in May of 2014 in Kishanbagh of Rajendranagar abutting Hyderabad's Old City.

The police said they did not find any basis for such claims in police records. "Yes. There were clashes between groups of Sikhs and Muslims in Kishanbagh in May 2014 but the main reason and trigger point were completely different from

**ASIAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL
NEW DELHI**

The Foreign Press Association dissociated itself from the claims made by 'cyber security researcher' Syed Shuja at an event held in London on Monday regarding the hacking of EVMs during the 2014 Lok Sabha polls. "The Foreign Press Association

strongly disassociates itself with any claims made by the speaker Syed Shuja during the #IIJA event in London yesterday. Not one of the masked speaker's accusations has so far been corroborated," the FPA tweeted on Tuesday.

At the event, Mr. Shuja

made several claims on the vulnerability of EVMs.

Jindrangar police station in Cyberabad commissionerate and Investigating Officer of the violence-related cases.

Presently, he is working as

Assistant Commissioner of Police in Hyderabad.

The religious flag of the Sikh community got burnt when a person burnt iron scrap. This resulted in tension and persons belonging to two communities indulging in clashes. That was election time and para-military forces deployed for election arrangements were pressed into service to control the clashes.

"As the situation was going out of control, the police opened fire resulting in the death of three persons. Nothing beyond this was found during the subsequent investigation," Mr. Kushalkar said.

Cong. behind EVM press meet, says BJP

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW**

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati demanded on Tuesday that voting for the 2019 Lok Sabha election be conducted through ballot paper and not the Electronic Voting Machines.

Ms. Mayawati said until the "serious doubts" about EVMs were resolved to everyone's satisfaction, it would be better to conduct the upcoming polls through ballot. Asking the ECI to step in and take action, Ms. Mayawati said the issue demanded urgent attention in the interest of democracy.

A self-styled cyber expert, seeking political asylum in the U.S., on Monday claimed the 2014 general election was "rigged" through the electronic voting machines, which he said can be hacked.

"We will expose this claim," Mr. Prasad said, adding that the Congress was insulating the 2014 mandate.

Mr. Prasad also raised questions over the presence

Sibal defends presence at London meet

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

Former Law Minister Kapil Sibal on Tuesday said he attended the London event, where a self-proclaimed cyber expert Syed Shuja made a sensational claim that Electronic Voting Machines in India are being hacked, at the personal invitation of London-based journalist Ashish Ray who was one of the organisers.

Mr. Sibal said the allegations concerned the survival of India's democracy and demanded a probe.

After the Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad questioned Mr. Sibal's presence at the event.

"In what capacity was Kapil Sibal present at the EVM hackathon event? Is the Congress sponsored event designed to defame the popular mandate of India?" he asked.



Ravi Shankar Prasad

Government of India

Ministry of Human Resource Development,

Department of Higher Education,

Technical Section-II, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

Advertisement No. MHRD/01(04)/2019

Applications are invited for the post of MEMBER SECRETARY in the All India Council for Technical Education on deputation basis/short term contract for a term of three years, renewable for one more term of three years or till the age of 62 years as per the details given below:

1. Name of post: Member Secretary

2. No. of Vacancy: One

3. Scale of Pay: Pay Matrix-15 (₹182200-224100)

General Eligibility and other condition along with application form can be downloaded from the website (www.mhrd.gov.in) under the sub head technical education or website (www.aicted-india.org/bulletins/). Application in duplicate in the prescribed Proforma may be sent through proper channel, to Under Secretary (Technical Education) Department of Higher Education, MHRD Shastri Bhawan New Delhi-110001 so as to reach within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.

SC seeks feedback on law against custodial violence

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Tuesday gave States' chief secretaries three weeks to provide feedback on the Centre's draft law to prevent custodial torture and inhuman treatment.

A Bench led by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi was informed by Attorney General K.K. Venugopal that the Central government has circulated the draft bill to the States. Mr. Venugopal submitted that so far only seven States have given their feedback.

Office of the Chief Engineer, Electrical Circle - Thiruvananthapuram

E-Tender ID : 2019_KSEB_261756_2 * Last Date : 31-01-2019, 4 PM

Office of the Chief Engineer, Renewable Energy & Energy Savings - Thiruvananthapuram

E-Tender ID : 2019_KSEB_261756_2 * Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Ground Mounted Grid Tied Solar Photo Voltaic Power plants in the land owned by KSEBL at Brahmapuram, Agali and Kanjikode with a total installed capacity of 8.0 MWp *

PAC :Rs.45

China carries out overhaul of military

Report says the Army is downsizing but investing in technology; PLA chain of command changed

ATUL ANEJA
BEIJING

China is on course to overhaul its military by pumping in technology and cutting down personnel, to enable its leaner armed forces to project power far beyond their borders.

The Xinhua news agency reported that for the first time, the Army now absorbs less than half of the total personnel in the Chinese armed forces.

Beijing is also modernising its nuclear deterrent, based on a triad of long range missiles, bombers that can deliver atomic weapons, and nuclear submarines.

The size of China's Type 094 nuclear submarines, which entered service in 2010, is expected to climb to eight by 2020.

The Xinhua report signalled that the Navy, Air Force, rocket force and strategic support force, which handle areas such as cyber warfare, comprise more than half of China's armed

forces. Besides, the entire chain of command in the People's Liberation Army has been changed to enable integrated warfare of all combat units, steered by a joint operational chief of staff.

"The Army's share of the total number of troops in the military has fallen below 50%; the number of active duty members in non-combat institutions has been reduced by nearly half, and the number of officers has decreased by 30%," says the report.

'Holistic reforms'

The write-up points out that the military's "holistic and revolutionary reforms" began in November 2013, when the Communist Party of China, in its 18th edition, held a plenary session of its Central Committee, a top decision making body.

The report follows Chinese President Xi Jinping's remarks earlier this month that Beijing wanted a peaceful unification with Taiwan



Lean and mean: The Army now absorbs less than half of the total personnel in the Chinese armed forces. ■REUTERS

on a one-country-two-systems basis. But Mr. Xi also warned that China deserved the right to use force. In 1997, Hong Kong peacefully integrated with mainland China under the one-country-two-systems formulation, allowing the metropolis to function as a self-governing unit.

China's military reforms became visible in early 2016

when President Xi, as head of the apex Central Military Commission (CMC) inaugurated the formation of five-theatre commands. The Eastern, Western, Northern, Southern and Central theatre commands have been tailored for joint combat under the supervision of the CMC. The Joint Staff Department of the CMC is the overall command center and

the headquarters of the PLA. China's intent to cut down its human resources had become visible, even earlier when President Xi announced in September 2015 that he intended to shed 300,000 troops from the PLA. Despite its long-term goal of military advancement, some analysts say China will have to consistently add new aircraft carriers to dominate the high seas far away from its shores.

Last month, the state-run tabloid *Global Times* quoted Chinese military experts as saying the PLA Navy will have to operate at least five to six aircraft carriers in the near future, including the country's first two nuclear-powered ones, in order to exercise a blue water footprint. China has one aircraft carrier, while another has begun sea trials. A WeChat article from Xinhua on November 25 announced that the construction of a third aircraft carrier had commenced.

'Hard border' in Ireland if no Brexit deal: EU spokesman

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRUSSELS

Ireland will see a new "hard border" spring up with the North if Britain fails to approve a Brexit withdrawal deal with the European Union, Brussels warned on Tuesday.

EU commission spokesman Margaritis Schinas said he had heard nothing new since British Prime Minister Theresa May's tweaked divorce plan on Monday. "If you'd like me to push me and speculate on what might happen in a no-deal scenario,

rio in Ireland, I think it is pretty obvious: you will have a hard border," he said.

A new physical frontier between the British province and the Irish Republic would increase the threat that Brexit poses to the peace deal that ended decades of unrest.

On Monday, Ms. May appeared before a British parliament anxious to hear a "Plan B" after lawmakers rejected the withdrawal agreement she signed with Europe last year. Instead, she promised to seek changes to

the accord to push back the prospect of Europe invoking a "back stop" clause that would keep Britain in the EU customs union.

"I will not now speculate on this Plan B because, as I said seconds ago, we are for Plan A, which is set by the withdrawal agreement," Mr. Schinas said.

The back stop insurance policy in the agreement that Ms. May welcomed in November is intended to prevent the return of a border between Northern Ireland and Ireland.

Trump's shutdown proposal faces uncertain fate in Senate

President has sweetened immigration provisions in new Bill

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump's proposal to reopen the government, sweetened with immigration provisions aimed at mollifying Democrats but which have alienated some conservatives, is headed for Senate action, its prospects uncertain.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell will try to muscle through the 1,300-page spending measure, which includes \$5.7 billion to fund Mr. Trump's proposed wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, the sticking point in the standoff between Mr. Trump and Democrats that has led to a partial government shutdown now in its 32nd day.

Meanwhile, another missed paycheck looms for hundreds of thousands of federal workers. Senate Republicans late on Monday unveiled the legislation, dubbed the "End The Shutdown And Secure The Border Act," but its passage this week is by no means certain.

Rеспubicans hold a 53-47 majority in the chamber but need Democrats to reach the usual 60-vote threshold for Bills to advance. No Democrat has publicly expressed support for the proposal Mr. Trump announced over the weekend.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer's office reiterated that Democrats are unwilling to negotiate any border security funding until Mr. Trump reopens the Obama-era programme, which covers people who arrived in the U.S. illegally as children, but has been blocked so far by federal lawsuits.

That figure is substantially lower than the 1.8 million people Mr. Trump proposed protecting a year ago in a plan that also included other immigration changes and \$25 billion to pay the full costs of building his wall. Mr. Trump's proposal was



No deal yet: President Trump leaving the podium after speaking about the partial shutdown in Washington. ■AP

the government stays shut. That isn't a compromise or a negotiation it's simply more hostage taking."

The new Senate Bill would also provide three more years of protection against deportation to around 3,25,000 immigrants in the U.S. who have fled countries racked by natural disasters or violent conflicts.

Mr. Trump has ended that programme, called Temporary Protected Status, for El Salvador, has which the most holders of the protected status, as well as for Honduras, Nicaragua and several other countries.

Democrats said Mr. Trump's proposal didn't go far enough and that he was simply offering to restore elements of immigration provisions he'd taken away.

Some on the right, including conservative commentator Ann Coulter, accused Mr. Trump of offering "amnesty." "No, Amnesty is not a part of my offer," Mr. Trump tweeted on Sunday, in response. He added: "Amnesty will be used only on a much bigger deal, whether on immigration or something else."

While the House and the Senate are scheduled to be back in session on Tuesday, no votes have been scheduled on Mr. Trump's plan.

Court backs Trump ban on transgender troops

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

The Trump administration can go ahead with its plan to restrict military service by transgender men and women while court challenges continue, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday.

The court split 5-4 in allowing the plan to take effect, with its five conservatives greenlighting it and four liberal members saying they would not have.

As a result of the court's decision, the Pentagon can implement a policy so that people who have changed

their gender will no longer be allowed to enlist in the military. The policy also says transgender people who are in the military must serve as a member of their biological gender unless they began a gender transition under the less restrictive Obama-era rules.

The Trump administration has sought for more than a year to change the Obama-era rules and had urged the justices to take up cases about its transgender troop policy immediately, but the court declined for now.

+ Ronaldo to pay €18.8 mn fine for tax fraud in Spain, avoids jail

Football star played for Real Madrid from 2009-18

Cristiano Ronaldo arrives at the court in Madrid on Tuesday. ■AP

court on Tuesday over accusations of tax fraud, was suspended, a court magistrate said. Prosecutors were seeking a five-year jail sentence and a fine of €4 million for Spaniard Alonso, who retired as a player in 2017.

Ronaldo had to enter the courtroom through the front door after his request for special security measures to avoid the spotlight was denied on Monday.

In 2017, Ronaldo denied the accusation that he knowingly used a business structure to hide income generated by his image rights in Spain between 2011 and 2014. After reaching the deal, he paid a fine of €5.7 million, plus interest of about €1 million, in July 2018, the prosecutor's office said last week.

Ronaldo will not have to go to prison.

His court appearance lasted about 15 minutes as the five-times world footballer of the year only needed to sign off on the previously settled agreement.

The trial of Ronaldo's former Real Madrid team mate Xabi Alonso, also in

Rescue mission



A rescue vessel involved in a fire-fighting operation following an accident between two Tanzanian-flagged fuel ships, *Candy* and *Maestro*, near the coast of Crimea. At least 14 sailors were killed and six others are missing. Officials at the Directorate General of Shipping in Mumbai said that a good number of the 15 Indians who were on board the ships have survived. ■REUTERS

Democrats summon King's legacy while shaping their own

From Washington to South Carolina, gatherings show Democratic presidential hopefuls invoking the civil rights leader

They also reflected the political imperative of reaching out to black voters, who are a crucial part of the Democratic coalition and are increasingly demanding accountability on race from their own leaders.

Speaking at a breakfast in Washington, former Vice-President Joe Biden, who was first elected to public office the year after King's assassination, acknowledged that more was expected of him at this moment.

From the nation's capital to the South Carolina Statehouse to the Rev. Al Sharpton's storefront headquarters in New York, the gatherings were solemn, spirited and reflected the fraught nature of what would have been the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 90th year.

Mr. Biden said he regretted supporting the tough-on-crime drug legislation of the 1980s and 1990s, expressing remorse in particular over a Bill that created different legal standards for powdered cocaine and street crack cocaine. "It was a big mistake that was made," Mr. Biden

said of the measure, which has been criticised as disproportionately affecting black Americans.

The former Senator, who helped write the 1994 crime Bill now cited as having led to an era of mass incarceration, went even further, allowing that he "may not have

always gotten things right" in regards to criminal justice. Mr. Biden's remarks, at an event hosted by Sharpton, served as a pre-emptive move to head off criticism of his past policy decisions and made clear that he is both seriously considering a presidential bid and recognises

the hurdles he would face from his increasingly progressive party.

Marquee event

In South Carolina, where the 2015 mass killing by a white supremacist prompted the State's Governor to remove the Confederate battle flag from the statehouse grounds, about 1,000 people gathered in Columbia for a rally that has become a marquee event on the political calendar of a crucial early nominating state.

Senators Cory Booker (Democrat) and Bernie Sanders (independent), both likely presidential candidates, spoke to the attendees after attending an early-morning prayer service and marching with NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) leaders to the statehouse.

It is an annual gathering that began in 2000 as a protest of the flag that once flew above the statehouse dome.

The day was drenched in history. The church that hosted the service, Zion Baptist, was poised to host King in the spring of 1968, but he postponed a trip there to remain with striking sanitation workers in Memphis, where he was assassinated.

Mr. Booker summoned the pastor's words and those of other African-American icons to challenge the mostly black crowd to emulate King's determination.

"What is important is that we apply the ideals of Martin Luther King," said the Senator, adding: "Our dissatisfaction has to turn to action." Sanders sought to link his signature call for a "political revolution" with the life of King. ■NY TIMES

According to the *Post*, the book features "exploitive-filled scenes of chaos, dysfunction and duplicity among the President, his family members and administration officials."

New book depicts 'out of control' White House staff

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

An upcoming book portrays a White House staff under President Donald Trump that was "absolutely out of control" at times and often at each other's throats, according to excerpts published on Tuesday.

The Washington Post, National Public Radio and Axios published excerpts from the 384-page book by Mr. Sims, who served as a special assistant to the 45th President.

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According to the *Post*, the book features "exploitive-filled scenes of chaos, dysfunction and duplicity among the President, his family members and administration officials."

The book is "neither a sycophantic portrayal of the President nor a blistering account written to settle scores," the *Post* said.

Enemies list

"It's impossible to deny how absolutely out of control the White House staff — again, myself included — was at times," Mr. Sims writes, but he says "it's dang near impossible to spend one-on-one time with Donald Trump and not end up liking him."

Mr. Trump was deeply suspicious of his own staff, Mr. Sims writes, and he once helped the President and his longtime bodyguard Keith Schiller draw up an "enemies list." "We're going to get rid of all the snakes, even the bottom-feeders," Mr. Trump told them.

IN BRIEF



Mnangagwa vows to probe crackdown

Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa vowed on Tuesday to investigate security forces over their deadly crackdown on protesters, as he returned to the country and scrambled to fend off a barrage of criticism. ■AFP

Israel, U.S. test ballistic missile interceptor

The Israeli and U.S. Defence Ministries said on Tuesday that they had successfully tested the Arrow 3 interceptor system deployed at Israeli airbases. The tests came a day after the latest deadly exchange of fire between Israel and Iranian forces operating in Syria. ■AFP

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Hand in hand

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MARKET WATCH

	22-01-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	36,445	-0.37
US Dollar	71.44	-0.22
Gold	33,325	0.38
Brent oil	60.97	-2.72

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	390.60	-5.60
Asian Paints	1406.95	-15.15
Axis Bank	661.60	1.30
Bajaj Auto	2688.35	3.75
Bajaj Finance	6435.55	51.00
Bharti Airtel	304.85	-6.50
BPLC	353.80	2.25
Cipla	507.10	-2.15
Coal India	227.75	-1.25
Dr Reddys Lab	2640.30	-40.50
Eicher Motors	20023.60	-4.40
GAIL (India)	332.90	5.10
Grasim Ind	804.35	-11.30
HCL Tech	940.75	-25.00
HDPC	1979.40	-25.05
HDPC Bank	2135.85	-12.30
Hero MotoCorp	2824.90	30.65
Hindalco	203.55	-4.10
HPLC	242.00	3.35
Hind Unilever	1750.20	3.30
Indiabulls HFL	797.35	-7.45
ICICI Bank	369.05	-2.65
IndusInd Bank	1501.60	-6.00
Bharti Infratech	277.65	-0.15
Infosys	745.35	0.35
Indian Oil Corp	135.95	0.30
ITC	289.75	-0.15
JSW Steel	278.00	-6.60
Kotak Bank	1291.75	24.15
L&T	1301.15	-13.40
M&M	708.50	-21.80
Maurti Suzuki	7068.85	-139.55
NTPC	142.80	-0.60
ONGC	144.35	-0.35
PowerGrid Corp	189.70	-1.55
Reliance Ind	1235.15	-2.55
State Bank	290.25	-2.20
Sun Pharma	418.95	20.65
Tata Motors	180.85	-0.65
Tata Steel	456.55	-15.15
TCS	1091.90	-6.80
Tech Mahindra	714.20	0.30
Titan	982.65	19.90
UltraTech Cement	3860.50	10.95
UPL	763.30	-5.85
Vedanta	191.50	-6.95
Wipro	346.50	8.70
YES Bank	192.20	0.25
Zee Entertainment	425.25	-11.40

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.24	71.56
Euro	80.93	81.30
British Pound	91.84	92.26
Japanese Yen (100)	65.12	65.41
Chinese Yuan	10.46	10.51
Swiss Franc	71.50	71.83
Singapore Dollar	52.34	52.58
Canadian Dollar	53.44	53.68
Malaysian Ringgit	17.24	17.32

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

Retail Silver (1g)	42.2	(41.9)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3096	(3080)

Centre's debt-to-GDP falls, States' rises

While Centre's total debt as percentage of GDP fell to 46.5% in 2017-18, States' debt rose to 24%

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN

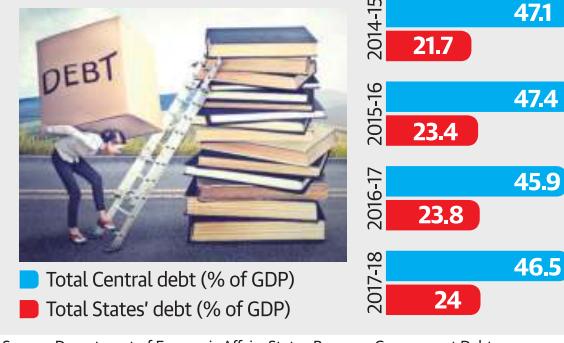
While the Centre is moving in the right direction in terms of meeting the N.K. Singh Committee recommendations on public debt, the States are moving in the opposite direction, data released by the government show.

According to the Status Paper on Government Debt for 2017-18, the Centre's total debt as a percentage of GDP reduced to 46.5% in 2017-18 from 47.5% as of March 31, 2014. The total debt of the States, however, has been rising over this period, to 24% in 2017-18, and is estimated to be 24.3% in 2018-19.

In absolute terms, the Centre's total debt increased from ₹56,69,429 crore at the end of March 2014 to ₹82,35,178 crore in 2017-18, representing a 45% increase. The total debt of the States increased from ₹24,71,270 crore to ₹40,22,090 crore over the same period, an in-

Some leeway

States do have some fiscal space to reduce borrowings over the years due to the large cash surpluses they hold



Source: Department of Economic Affairs Status Paper on Government Debt

crease of almost 63%.

The N.K. Singh-headed FRBM (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management) Review Committee report had recommended the ratio to be 40% for the Centre and 20% for the States, respectively, by 2023. It said that the 60% consolidated Central and State debt limit was consistent with international best

practices, and was an essential parameter to attract a better rating from the credit ratings agencies.

"The Central debt has been within control because the government has been trying to stick by-and-large to the fiscal deficit parameters," Ranen Banerjee, leader, PwC India, said. "The increase in the debt stock at the State level is worrying because they don't have the wherewithal to service the debt if it goes beyond a certain point. They could then start getting into a debt trap situation."

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UDAY bonds

"Outstanding liabilities of States have increased sharply during 2015-16 and 2016-17, following the issuance of UDAY bonds in these two years, which was reflected in an increase in liability-GDP ratio from 21.7% at end-March 2015 to 23.4% at end-March 2016 and further to 23.8% at end-March 2017," the status report said.

"The total outstanding liabilities as a percentage of GDP stood at 24% as at end-March 2018 and is expected to move upward to 24.3% at end-March 2019." This, combined with the fact that ratings agencies have predicted that the combined fiscal deficit of the States to be 3.2% of GDP in financial year 2020

higher than the prescribed 3%, and it begins to look increasingly unlikely that the States will meet their 20% debt-GDP ratio target by 2023. The report, however, says that the States do have some fiscal space to reduce their borrowing in the coming years due to the large cash surpluses they hold.

"State governments as a group have exhibited a tendency to hold large cash surpluses/investments in Cash Balance Investment Account on a consistent basis while at the same time resorting to market borrowings to finance their GFD (Gross Fiscal Deficit)," the report said.

"This indicates scope for reducing the quantum of market borrowings by State governments in case they bring down their cash surpluses (parked as investment in treasury bills of the Central government)," the report added.

Asian Paints Q3 net rises 14.6% as volumes surge

Higher input cost impacts margins

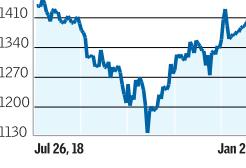
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Asian Paints has reported a 14.6% rise in its December quarter consolidated net profit to ₹635.6 crore as the decorative business segment in India registered a high double-digit volume growth and delivered strong performance across regions.

Consolidated revenue rose 24.1% to ₹5,293.99 crore. Profit before depreciation interest and tax (PBDIT) for the group during the quarter increased 17% to ₹1,042.98 crore from

Positive hues



₹891.18 crore in the year-earlier period. However, the margins during the quarter contracted to 19.7% from 20.9%.

"Margins remained under pressure on account of the higher raw material prices," said K.B.S. Anand, MD and CEO.

Speaking here at a session of the World Economic Forum annual meeting, Dr. Rajan said, "We benefit tremendously from business of

scale, there are benefits of efficiency at large corporations and consumers are gaining in a big way from low prices.

"For example, Google provides a big amount of free services," said Dr. Rajan, who teaches at the Chicago University and is regarded as global voice on economics.

He added that "more than being about too big to manage, it is about too big to control. Our corporations are becoming too big to control for our political systems."

ness of scale is creating 'super star firms' and as to who has the real power: "Is it large corporations or the governments?"

"The concern is not so much about today, but about tomorrow. We need to think whether these benefits from scale would continue for the consumers," he said and added that "more than being about too big to manage, it is about too big to control. Our corporations are becoming too big to control for our political systems."

Market participants seek dynamic classification of firms



October 2017 when SEBI came out with the guidelines for categorisation of MF schemes. Large cap MFs, it said, were those which invested only in the top 100 companies in terms of market capitalisation.

"The view is that it would be better if the SEBI comes with a dynamic band or lays down a range in terms of market capitalisation for identifying firms as large-cap, mid-cap and small-cap."

"That would also take care of the impact of the market volatility on the valuation of the companies."

For small-cap funds, the SEBI categorisation has made the band of market capitalisation in the current scenario fairly large leading to issues in terms of stock selection," said a person familiar with the discussions.

"The view is that it would be better if the SEBI comes with a dynamic band or lays down a range in terms of market capitalisation for identifying firms as large-cap, mid-cap and small-cap."

"That would also take care of the impact of the market volatility on the valuation of the companies."

On the reason behind entering the sector which is susceptible to external risks, Ms. Jindal told *The Hindu*, "We have taken a measured decision and we are aware of the market conditions. We have studied and saw ups and downs. But we thought the benefit of getting into the business outweighs the risks and challenges. It was a risk that we were willing to take."

The business of micro lending came of the age three years back when nine such entities were allowed by the banking regulator to start small finance banks.

Separately, ratings agency Icra placed 6 mutual fund schemes under watch with negative implications due to their exposure to the IL&FS group.

When asked if entering the banking sector is a goal, Ms. Jindal said, "We are starting off with the thought process to start small and get the formula right but obviously we do have plans in the future to be as big as possible... and this is something (banking) which is not on the cards but it is something we hope to do one day."

Rating agency Crisil has downgraded Jharkhand Road Projects Implementation Company Limited (JRPICL) which is a subsidiary of IL&FS Transportation Networks Ltd. (ITNL), and a part of the Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Ltd (IL&FS) Group to D which is default or junk grade after the company failed to service debt.

"The downgrade reflects non-payment of interest and principal obligations on Crisil-rated [non-convertible debentures of ₹438 crore] which were due on January 21, 2019," it said.

Crisil said the rating action is on account of non-adherence to the structured payment mechanism, despite adequate funds in

Jharkhand Road defaults on NCDs

JRPICL's escrow account. Crisil said JRPICL, with its strong track record, has enough wherewithal to service the NCDs from its cash flow. As on December 31, 2018, the company had ₹345 crore of liquid funds available for debt servicing which is around 4.5 times the quarterly debt obligation of ₹76 crore due in January 2019.

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IN BRIEF



IOB raises ₹217 cr. via share sale to employees

Chennai: Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has raised ₹ 217 crore through its Employee Stock Purchase Scheme (ESPS). The ESPS issue was launched on December 31, 2018. It closed on January 21. The employees were offered up to 18.24 crore equity shares at a discounted price of ₹11.90. According to a release, 24,550 employees contributed towards the share capital by participating in the scheme.

Coromandel third quarter profit falls 14%

Hyderabad: Fertilizer maker Coromandel International Ltd. has posted a consolidated net profit of ₹154 crore for the quarter ended December 31 compared with ₹180 crore in the year-earlier period, a decline of 14%. Total income rose 11% to ₹3,059 crore (₹2,747 crore). Managing director Sameer Goel said the topline growth came despite the deficient North-East monsoon, that impacted sowing and agri-input consumption in key markets.

Rane (Madras) Q3 net profit dips 22%

Chennai: Rane (Madras) Ltd. has reported a 22.4% dip in its stand-alone net profit for the third quarter ended December 31 to ₹11 crore against ₹14.2 crore in the corresponding year-earlier period on sluggish demand and higher cost of raw materials. The firm posted net revenue of ₹341.4 crore compared with ₹319.7 crore, a 6.8% rise. "Q3 saw sluggish demand environment in India," said L. Ganesh, chairman, Rane Group.

Prabhat Dairy stock plunges 14%

Market reaction follows sale of its dairy business to Lactalis for ₹1,700 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Shares of Prabhat Dairy Ltd. on Tuesday plunged 17% in intraday trade, a day after the company announced the sale of its fresh milk business to Tirumala Milk Products Private Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of French dairy multinational Groupe Lactalis, for a total consideration of ₹1,700 crore.

The milk products business of Prabhat Dairy will be sold on a lump-sum basis along with transfer of its entire shareholding in its wholly-owned subsidiary, Sunfresh Agro Industries Pvt. Ltd. The stock fell 14.29% to ₹79.75 on the BSE.

Several brokerages have a 'sell' recommendation for this stock as they believe that shareholders will not benefit



Aiming high: The Lactalis acquisition will set this business up for growth, says Prabhat Dairy's Vivek Nirmal. ■ PAUL NORONHA

significantly, though the unit has been sold at a substantial premium. Kaustubh Pawaskar, research analyst, Shreehan by BNP Paribas, said:

"Though the deal is happening at a significant premium of 80% to current market

cap of ₹909 crore, there is lesser clarity on the company's intent to sell its core business [98% of revenue] and invest in existing cattle feed business." As per the agreement entered into by both the parties, Prabhat Dairy

will sell its dairy business by way of slump sale on a going concern basis, along with sale of 100% shareholding in Sunfresh Agro Industries Pvt. Ltd. (a step-down subsidiary of Prabhat Dairy Ltd.) via a share purchase agreement.

"The association with Lactalis will offer this business a strong platform for accelerated growth in becoming one of the largest private dairy businesses in India," said Vivek Nirmal, joint MD, Prabhat Dairy.

After closing of the transaction, the company will concentrate on its cattle feed business and further grow it across the country. It also has plans to expand into allied businesses such as animal nutrition and animal genetics, the company said.

TVS Motor Q3 net rises 15.5% on volume growth

Exports rise 25.8% to 1.77 lakh units

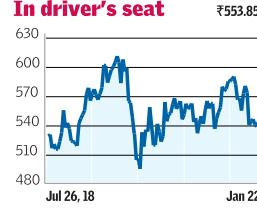
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

TVS Motor Company, the flagship company of the \$8.5 billion TVS Group, posted a 15.5% increase in its stand-alone net profit for the third quarter ended December 2018 to ₹78.4 crore against ₹54.4 crore in the year-earlier period on increased sales volume.

The two and three-wheeler manufacturer posted revenue of ₹4,664.6 crore against ₹3,703.1 crore, marking an increase of 26%.

Two-wheeler sales
From October to December, the firm's overall two-wheeler sales, including exports, grew 18.9% to 9.50 lakh units from 7.99 lakh units, mo-



torecycles by 20.3% to 3.78 lakh units and scooters by 31.7% to 3.54 lakh units. Three wheelers rose 47%.

Total exports grew 25.8% to 1.77 lakh units from 1.40 lakh units.

During the period under review, the company invested ₹35 crore in the equity shares of TVS Credit Services Ltd., ₹31.80 crore in TVS Motor (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. and ₹21 crore in PT.TVS Motor Company, Indonesia.

Early closure of tea plucking may improve quality, prices

About 25 million kg of poor quality tea taken out of market

INDRANI DUTTA

KOLKATA

An upward trend has been noticed at the tea auctions in 2019, with improved demand for quality teas. This spiral is likely to gain in strength as the effects of the Tea Board of India's circular on early closure of the plucking season in north India kicks in, with lesser quantities arriving at the sales.

Sources at the regulator as well as industry said that about 25 million kg of poor quality teas had been taken out of the market through this measure. For quite a few years now, tea plucking continued till end-December, although earlier the onset of

the winter signalled a closure of tea plucking.

Auction prices hit

Mostly, poor quality teas grow during this period and auction prices were affected due to this for north Indian produce, which accounts for about 75% of India's tea crop. South Indian tea is tra-

ditionally grown year-round, without impacting quality.

Exercising its powers under the Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003, the Tea Board issued a directive to all tea manufacturers to stop plucking and receiving green tea leave by December 15, 2018. The board said that tea plucking could be resumed from mid-February. It said manufacturing tea during winter dormancy resulted in made tea lacking the quality prescribed under Food Safety and Standards Act. The Tea Board said producing bad quality teas harmed exports of Indian teas known for their flavour, aroma and briskness.

A safe place to heal

queries raised. Domestic violence situations are complex and each needs tailor-made solutions to address the specific context. Experienced staff send a clear message to the victims that they are not alone, and that PCVC team is there to help.

This is continued with both short and long term support to the victims to move forward and change

their abusive environment. They provide shelter, food, and guidance to the victims, as well as aim to empower them to seek a life without violence.

PCVC has designed a new support system through their important CEA approach. CEA stands for Crisis Intervention, Emotional Support, and Advocacy and Legal Assistance.

Awareness is the first and most crucial step to bringing to light such incidents, and PCVC plays a vital role in this.

and sexual harassment. In addition to this, PCVC also provides assistance in detection of anonymous calls along with providing legal assistance and counselling, which are some of the most essential services required for victims of crime.

Every year, PCVC receives approximately 300 calls through the 24-hour hotline services set up by them with expert counsellors, and call centre staff assist the callers with accurate information to the

Under My Watch is an initiative by The Hindu that celebrates conscious and responsible citizens who make India better, one small act at a time. Tell us your story and get a chance to be featured in The Hindu.

SUBMIT YOUR STORY AT WWW.THEHINDU.COM/UNDERMYWATCH

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

NIT No. 86-2018-19 W3 1. Name of work: Repair to washing line no. 9, 10, 11 & 12 in Rajdhani complex in the section of ADEN/Spl/NDLS. 2. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 85 Lakhs. 3. Earnest Money: (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-IC/CT5/I Dated: 31.8.2016.) Rs. 1,69,700. 4. Completion period of work: 06 months. 5. Cost of tender: (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-IC/CT5/I Dated: 31.8.2016.) Rs. 5,900.00. 6. Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 15.00 hrs on 15.02.2019 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 15.02.2019. 7. Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. 8. Allocation: Demand No. 4. Tender Notice No.: 128-W/280/E-Tender Notice/NIT-86-2018-19-W3 Dated: 21.01.2019 151/19

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CHENAB VALLEY POWER PROJECTS [P] LIMITED

(A Joint Venture of NHPC Limited, JKSPDC & PTC India Limited)
CIN: U40105JK2011PTC003321; website: www.cvpindia.com

Chenab Jal Shakti Bhawan, Opp. Saraswati Dham, Rail Head Complex, Jammu -180012 (J&K), India

Notice Inviting e-Tenders (Press Notice)

DOMESTIC COMPETITIVE BIDDING (Open Tender)

NITNo.CVPP/pakad/Bridge/2019 Dated: 18.01.2019
Name of Work :- "Design & Construction of one no approximately ± 97 meter clear span 70R double lane Steel Truss/ Girder Bridge over river Chenab at Kwar (Dul), Kishtwar, J&K." E-Tender ID No. 2019_CVPP_432825_1. Last date & time for online bid submission : -18/02/2019, 5:00 P.M. & Deadline for receiving offline documents : -18/02/2019, 3:00 P.M. Complete bid document can be downloaded and submitted through the portal <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. The site can also be viewed through e-procurement corner of CVPP website www.cvpindia.com. Subsequent amendments, if any, shall be posted on <http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> only.

General Manager (Contracts)

Fax: +91-191-2479834, Email: contracts@cvppindia.com

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, (U.P.)

Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited from firms / contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com and <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

(A) 1 64/Noida/GM-(S)/SM-WC-09/ET/2018-19, D/o Village Bakhtawarpur (M/o Community Center/Baratghar in Village), Noida Cost Rs. 13.80 Lac

Which can be uploaded by date 29.01.2019 upto 5:00 pm. Prequalification shall be opened/ downloaded on date 30.01.2019 at 11:00 am.

General Manager (K), Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

CMAI to help govt. in 'Size India' project

M. SOUNDARI PREETHA

COIMBATORE
The Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI) will work with the Union Ministry of Textiles in the "Size India" project, which is expected to be launched next month.

Rahul Mehta, president of the Association, told *The Hindu* that the aim of the project, was to arrive at standard Indian sizes for apparels.

"We are going to do a study across India to arrive at standard sizes. We are hoping to associate with someone who has been involved in a similar project before," he said.

Having standard sizes will reassure customers and reduce wastages for the apparel makers.



A leg up: As an incentive, Centre should bring back 200% deduction of R&D expenses, says Vinod Dasari. ■ BIJOY GHOSH

Ashok Leyland targets 15% rise in volumes

BS VI to make for a good FY20: Dasari

N. ANAND

CHENNAI

Commercial vehicle (CV) maker Ashok Leyland Ltd. is aiming to post an at least 15% increase in sales volume in 2018-19, said its managing director Vinod K. Dasari.

"We have been posting increasing sales volume month after month. We saw increased sales except in December 2018 compared with December 2017. It was due to pre-buy. It was a one-off event," he said.

From January to December 2018, Ashok Leyland sold nearly 1.43 lakh units, including export of 11,500 units.

While highlighting Ashok Leyland's support for startups, he wanted the State government to come out with a single-window policy to cut down on bureaucratic hassles.

"The number of clearances they have to get is incredible," he said.

"We have our own internal start-up through Sun Mobility for battery-swap system for e-vehicles. We are not averse to start-ups.

"We will evaluate them and work with them on their capability and not on tenure and business. We just showcased our electric vehicle with a swap system at the Vibrant Gujarat Summit," Mr. Dasari said.

Incentivise local firms'

"If Make in India has to be successful, Design in India has to be done. If Design in India has to be successful, local companies have to be given incentives to invest more in R&D."

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"We will evaluate them and work with them on their capability and not on tenure and business. We just showcased our electric vehicle with a swap system at the Vibrant Gujarat Summit," Mr. Dasari said.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



(1922 – 2019)

Smt. S. Lakshmi

Wife of (Late)

Justice V. Seturaman

passed away peacefully on the morning of

January 22nd 2019.

Cremation on

January 23rd morning.

Deeply mourned by:

Krishnan and Kalyani

Jaya and Gopalakrishnan

India starts favourite against a talented New Zealand side

At home, Kiwis are a formidable force to reckon with; visitors looking to address a few concerns before the World Cup

INDIA IN NZ

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NAPIER
On a high after a defining tour of Australia, the Virat Kohli-led Indian team faces a trickier challenge when it locks horns with an ever-so-sprightly New Zealand in a five-match ODI series starting here on Wednesday.

India, which has shifted its focus to World Cup preparations, is still searching for the right middle-order combination.

Different test

Mahendra Singh Dhoni's hat-trick of half-centuries has brought joy to the dressing room but the smaller grounds in New Zealand against a better seam attack comprising the wily Trent Boult, the talented Lockie Ferguson and the relentless Tim Southee will be a different test altogether for the Men in Blue.

New Zealand, in its own backyard, has always been a force to reckon with and Indian teams which have toured over the years will testify to that, having won only nine of 30 ODIs, including a 4-0 drubbing in the last series in 2014.

Skipper Kohli is well aware that the Black Caps, with some quality players in their ranks, can be very competitive.



Black meets Blue: Kane Williamson, Amy Satterthwaite, Mithali Raj and Virat Kohli will be leading New Zealand and India as the men's and women's teams come to grips. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The fact they are No. 3 in the world speaks about their consistency over the last couple of years. We played them in India and got beaten in Mumbai, and all the games were competitive and we felt they had a really good balance. They have that energy and that buzz about them and they play their cricket in the right way which is something we always appreciate," Kohli said.

Left-hander Shikhar Dha-

wan's position at the top of the order is under no imminent threat but a highest score of 35 in the last nine games doesn't present a pretty picture.

That Rishabh Pant has been instructed by the team management to face the new ball against England Lions in a home series is an indicator that they are trying to get back-up options ready.

An immensely talented Shubman Gill has been se-

lected as reserve opener, but it is unlikely that Dhawan will be dropped after a few failures.

The No. 4 position is another area of concern for India as Ambati Rayudu looked out of sorts and is unlikely to regain his place in the side.

The teams:

India (from): Virat Kohli (Capt.), Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (wk), Kedar Jadhav, Dinesh Karthik,

Vijay Shankar, Shubman Gill, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohammed Siraj, Khaleel Ahmed and Ravindra Jadeja.

New Zealand: Kane Williamson (Capt.), Ross Taylor, Tom Latham, Martin Guptill, Colin de Grandhomme, Trent Boult, Henry Nicholls, Doug Bracewell, Lockie Ferguson, Matt Henry, Colin Munro, Ish Sodhi, Mitchell Santner and Tim Southee.

Match starts at 7.30 a.m. IST.

India-New Zealand ODI numbers

H2H	Total	India	NZ	Tied	NR
Overall	101	51	44	1	5
In NZ	30	9	18	1	2
At Napier	5	2	3	0	0

ODI schedule	Jan. 28: Mount Maunganui
Jan. 23: Napier	Jan. 26: Mount Maunganui
Jan. 29: Napier	Feb. 3: Wellington
(All matches at 7.30 a.m. IST)	

Jan. 28: Mount Maunganui

Jan. 31: Hamilton

Feb. 3: Wellington

(All matches at 7.30 a.m. IST)



Of the seven bilateral ODI series India has played in New Zealand, it has won only one (2008-09), lost four and drawn two.

Season	Result	Season	Result
1975-76	Lost 0-2 (2)	1998-99	Drew 2-2 (5)*
1980-81	Lost 0-2 (2)	2002-03	Lost 2-5 (7)
1993-94	Drew 2-2 (4)	2013-14	No Result

* No Result

Tied

Season

Result

2008-09

Won 3-1 (5)*

2013-14

Lost 0-4 (5)*

The mutual admiration club

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NAPIER

Expressing his admiration for Virat Kohli, New Zealand captain Kane Williamson on Tuesday

said his team would

primarily focus on how to "best combat" his Indian counterpart in the limited

over series, starting here on Wednesday.

Returning the compliment, the Indian run-machine also lauded the prolific Williamson, calling him one of the best in the world.

Williamson said,

"Someone like Virat is

certainly a player I admire and enjoy watching and he's pushing the boundaries of the game so that's brilliant," said Williamson.

Kohli picked Williamson and Ross Taylor as batsmen his team would look to dismiss cheaply.

Mithali & Co. set for White Fern challenge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NAPIER

Asserting that her dispute with former coach Ramesh Powar and CoA member Diana Edulji was a thing of the past, India women's ODI captain Mithali Raj said on Tuesday cricket had helped her deal with the adversities of life.

The Indian team's New Zealand tour begins on Thursday with the first ODI at McLean Park. The women will play three ODIs and as many T20Is.

Asked how the team would deal with foreign conditions, Mithali said the side had prepared well. "Most of the team might be inexperienced to the New Zealand conditions, but otherwise we are an experienced lot that has been together for four to five years."

"We have arrived one week early to adapt to the windy conditions, we had a practice game and the girls are in good shape," she added.

Women's ODI schedule

Jan. 24: Napier
Jan. 29: Mount Maunganui
Feb. 1: Hamilton
(All matches at 6.30 a.m. IST)

Kohli sweeps ICC awards

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI

Virat Kohli became the first player to win the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Cricketer-of-the-Year, his second consecutive, the ICC Test and the ODI Player-of-the-Year awards following an extraordinary 2018. He was also named captain of the Test and ODI teams.

ICC roll of honour



RISHABH PANT

JASPRIT BUMRAH

ICC Men's Test Team of the Year (in batting order): Tom Latham (NZ), Dimuth Karunaratne (SL), Kane Williamson (NZ), **Virat Kohli (Ind) (capt.)**, Henry Nicholls (NZ), **Rishabh Pant (Ind) (wk)**, Jason Holder (WI), Kagiso Rabada (SA), Nathan Lyon (Aus), **Jasprit Bumrah (Ind)**, Mohammad Abbas (Pak)



ICC Men's ODI team of the year (in batting order): Rohit Sharma (Ind), **Virat Kohli (Ind) (capt.)**, Jonny Bairstow (Eng), Joe Root (Eng), Ross Taylor (NZ), Jos Buttler (Eng) (wk), Ben Stokes (Eng), Mustafizur Rahman (Ban), Rashid Khan (Afg), Kuldeep Yadav (Ind), **Jasprit Bumrah (Ind)**

ICC Emerging Player of the Year: Rishabh Pant (Ind)
ICC Associate Player of the Year: Calum MacLeod (Sco)
Fan's moment of the year: India's ICC U-19 World Cup triumph
ICC Spirit of Cricket award: Kane Williamson (NZ)
ICC T20 Performance of the year: Aaron Finch (Aus)
ICC Umpire of the year:

Ultimate batsmanship, unprecedented feat

The latest ICC recognition is a new feather that swells an already-crowded cap



Purple patch: Virat Kohli proved unstoppable in all formats of the game. ■ FILE PHOTO

Kohli's preparation commences from the first ball of the innings faced by the team's openers. His batting is built on qualities that stand out – from footwork to shot selection.

His range of strokes allows him the freedom to set the pace, especially in limited overs. In Tests, he loves to grind the bowlers, who face intense scrutiny from Kohli's remarkable ability to observe the slightest change in the line of attack from the opposition.

The way he deals with the spinners these days is a throwback to the vintage times of Viv Richards – walking towards the ball, instead of stepping out, and then guiding the ball suitably for runs.

Artistic splendour

How often, and how comfortably, he wades into the bowling instantly on his arrival at the crease. His endurance is exemplary because he learns from errors and builds on the reprieves. His cricket is a demonstration of artistic splendour, a style constantly evolving and inspiring a generation to emulate him.

If he is magnificence personified at the crease, Kohli has earned it every bit. The cricketing world can rejoice in his majestic vocation of eternal poise.

Fantastic

Virat Kohli scored runs, runs and more runs in what turned out to be a phenomenal 2018. A look at his numbers:

Mat	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	BF	SR	100	50	0
Tests										
13	24	0	1,322	153	55.08	2,433	54.33	5	5	2
ODIs										
14	14	5	1,202	160*	133.55	1,172	102.55	6	3	0
T20s										
10	9	2	211	61*	30.14	173	121.96	0	1	1

lutionised batting with his ability to excel on all surfaces.

Mastery in the middle

Figures don't fully reflect Kohli's mastery in the mid-

dle. You have to watch it to relish it. It is not that Kohli deals with the situation differently in Tests, ODIs and T20s. He only sets different barometers – constructive and constantly innovative.

Who is Danielle Collins?

The 25-year-old American has been the surprise pack of this year's Australian Open, reaching her maiden semifinals on Tuesday.

Collins, who made her Grand Slam debut at the 2014 at the US Open as a wildcard, turned professional only in 2016. The University of Virginia graduate holds a degree in media studies and a Masters in Business.

She is playing in her first Australian Open. Collins, who is yet to win a singles title on the tour, had not won a match at the Majors before knocking out 14th seed Julia Goerges of Germany in the opening round in Melbourne.

Playing for Saurashtra an honour'

Youngsters should look forward to playing Ranji Trophy, says Pujara

SREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
BENGALURU

Cheteshwar Pujara clearly enjoys playing domestic cricket. He turned out for Saurashtra in the Ranji Trophy quarterfinals eight days after his return from a long Australia tour and on Tuesday, following a delayed flight, he headed straight to the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium from the airport to join his teammates in the nets.

"Playing for Saurashtra is an honour," he said afterwards. "I've grown up playing Ranji Trophy cricket. It has taught me many lessons on playing long innings. I always respect the Ranji Trophy. Youngsters should look forward to playing this tournament

because it prepares you for the longer format."

Confident unit

Coming from behind to defeat Uttar Pradesh had filled Saurashtra with confidence ahead of its semifinal clash with Karnataka, Pujara felt. "It's a five-day game and we saw (in Lucknow) what we can do as a team. Now, we're a confident unit after chasing 372.

"We played good cricket against Karnataka when we won in Rajkot this season (in the group stages). We're looking forward to the semifinal. The Chinnaswamy Stadium is a special ground for me because I made my Test debut here."

Saurashtra has never won the Ranji Trophy (not including the title Nawana won in 1936-37) and in the last six years has twice finished runner-up (2012-13 and 2015-16 seasons). But the quest for a



Friends and foes: Mayank Agarwal, right, and Cheteshwar Pujara will play against each other in the semifinals after being India teammates less than a fortnight ago. ■ SUDHAKARA JAIN

maiden title would not weigh the current side down, Pujara stated.

"At times, we have been very desperate about winning the Ranji Trophy but this time there's no pressure," he said.

"I'm going to talk about this to all the players. Even if we lose, the kind of cricket we've played this season has been exceptional."

Very special
"The quartet victory was very special to me. To make a comeback like that

shows we have a very good chance of winning the semifinals and perhaps even the final."

Pujara admitted that playing on Indian surfaces after a tour of Australia would need some work.

"It's a bit of a change coming here from Australia, getting used to the low bounce and playing with the SG ball," he said.

"But I've played enough cricket at the Chinnaswamy Stadium. I'm sure once I spend some time at the crease, I'll be OK."

An India star and senior player, Pujara will be expected to deliver for Saurashtra. "Sometimes there is extra pressure," he said.

"When I was playing the quarterfinal, I knew there was a lot of responsibility on my shoulders.

"But I also need to understand that I need to be normal to perform well."

"I just have to focus on the process rather than worrying about the pressure or expectations.

"I just have to prepare well."

Not focusing on Pujara alone: Mayank

Karnataka batsman says the team needs to take 10 wickets, not just one

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

Mayank Agarwal and Cheteshwar Pujara embraced warmly when the latter arrived at the KSCA-B ground here for training.

They were teammates less than a fortnight ago but later this week will be on opposite sides as Karnataka takes on Saurashtra in the semifinals of the Ranji Trophy.

"It is not strange," Mayank said later. "That is the exact thing I told him, that we will be on opposite sides. It should be a good contest."

Karnataka would not obsess over Pujara, he added. "To be honest, he is an im-

portant wicket, but so are the rest. You have to take 10 wickets and not just one, and we are focusing on everybody equally."

Mayank missed Karnataka's quarterfinal victory over Rajasthan with a sore thumb but he is back in the squad now, having recovered fully. Playing a Ranji Trophy game as an India international – for the first time – would not make any difference, he felt.

Just the same

"For me it is just the same as before. Nothing changes. Preparation remains the same whether you have played for India or not."

"Obviously, you will have some confidence under your belt. Also, you have a bit more experience so that is something you can carry with you."

Mayank was full of praise for the likes of D. Nischal and K.V. Siddharth, who had delivered for Karnataka despite their relative lack of experience.

Testimony to the effort

"To be playing in the semifinals while we are transitioning is just testimony to how much effort they are putting in," he said.

"It is not easy to step up in the first season (in Sidd-

harth's case) and score runs.

"We, as a team, are really proud of them. There is something for us to learn in that as well."

Mayank may not have been part of the Karnataka squad for the previous game but he was in attendance, watching the action from the sidelines at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. "It means a lot to me," he said.

"The State has given you a lot of opportunities and facilities and whatever you do, you have to come back and play for the State and put in the same effort you did before you went to play for the country."

South Africa draws level

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DURBAN

Hendrick 'Rassie' van der Dussen and Andile Phehlukwayo guided South Africa to a series-leveling win in a roller-coaster second One-Day International against Pakistan at Kingsmead on Tuesday.

The pair came together when South Africa was 80 for five in reply to Pakistan's 203.

They put on an unbeaten 127 as South Africa won by five wickets with eight overs to spare.

van der Dussen, 29, playing in his second ODI, made an unbeaten 80 after scoring 93 on debut in South Africa's five-wicket defeat in the first match in Port Elizabeth.

Phehlukwayo shines

Phehlukwayo was named man-of-the-match after two career-best performances.

He took four for 22 in Pakistan's innings and then scored 69 not out to share du Plessis' praise for what he

said was an outstanding partnership.

The match went through several phases. An early finish seemed likely when Pakistan crashed to 112 for eight after being sent in to bat.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA VS PAKISTAN, SECOND ODI

Pakistan: Imam-ul-Haq c Phehlukwayo b Rabada 5, F. Zaman c Miller b Olivier 26, Babar Azam c Phehlukwayo b Rabada 12, Mohd. Hafeez c Du Plessis b Phehlukwayo 9, Shoib Malik c Hendricks b Phehlukwayo 21, Shabab Khan c van der Dussen b Shamsi 18, Hussain Talat st Klaasen b Shamsi 2, Sarfraz Ahmed b Phehlukwayo 41, Faheem Ashraf lbv b Shamsi 0, Hasan Ali c du Plessis b Phehlukwayo 59, Shaheen Shah Afridi (not out) 1; Extras (lb-2, w-4); Total (in 42 overs): 203.

Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-15, 3-29, 4-80, 5-80.

Pakistan bowling: Ashraf 7-0-32-0, Afridi 9-0-44-3, Hafeez 6-0-36-0, Hasan 8-0-31-0, Shabab 10-0-46-2, Talat 2-0-16-0.

Toss: South Africa

Man-of-the-match: Phehlukwayo
South Africa won by five wickets to level the five-match series 1-1

The circle of sport, as fascinating as inevitable

Change in the kind of pitches prepared at home has encouraged pacers and developed batsmen who played fast bowling better



BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

the above.

Why can't India be more like Australia, we asked. Why can't we have a professional system in place like that country? Perhaps we should have fewer first class teams leading to a more competitive national championship.

Roles reversed

Now that Australia have lost a home series against India for the first time, it is interesting to listen to the experts and ex-cricketers there say much the same thing; except where India spoke of the system and the structure and the players in Australia, Australians are saying the same about India; there is a touch of envy.

Shane Warne found fault with Australia's preparation. Major mistakes had been made, said Ricky Ponting, and two

leading writers, Gideon Haigh and Peter Lalor sounded like the leading Indian writers of four years ago!

"India play tons of four-day cricket," said Haigh, pointing to India's 37 First Class teams as opposed to Australia's six.

"You are not handed opportunities in India," said Lalor suggesting that Australian players didn't need to fight as hard, and pointing to the difference in the two systems that seemed to favour India. The role of the IPL scouts was praised too – they travelled beyond the traditional areas to find talent.

Suddenly, our domestic structure is strong, the IPL was making a difference by discovering players, and there was no talk of endorsements or swollen-headedness.

Some years ago Greg Chappell had said that when India finally got their act together, they would be unbeatable,

perhaps even capable of fielding three international teams of near-equal strength.

In four years since the last tour, India have been – despite the shenanigans in the Board of Control for Cricket in India – preparing for just this result. Even before the 2014 setbacks, the BCCI had instructed curators across the country to retain a minimum grass cover on the pitches. Between four and five millimetres, sometimes up to eight on hard surfaces.

We fail to see cause and effect if the intervening period is long. The deliberate change in the kind of pitches prepared had the twin effect of encouraging fast bowlers as well as developing a generation of batsmen who played fast bowling better than most.

Pacers better than spinners

In the last five Ranji seasons, pace bowlers have had better averages than spinners and, barring one year, better strike rates too. This is a telling statistic; the

Bumrah and Shami didn't emerge from thin air.

Perhaps there are only so many reasons for a team's failure. The least complicated is the acknowledgement that the opposition is vastly superior, as the Windies of the 70s and 80s were or the Australians of more recent years.

Sometimes the reasons have stretched from the presence of wives and children on tour (occasionally brought up by the losing Ashes team) to poor umpiring (this, in the days before neutral umpires and the DRS).

When England lost all the Tests in India in 1992-93, skipper Graham Gooch had some original reasons: the pollution in Kolkata, the prawns in Chennai and the facial hair of the England players. You took your pick.

Yet, in real terms, there can be only a handful of reasons, and we recycle them. Injury to a leading player or two (or their absence for other reasons) can be added to the list. Fatigue too. Players are human after all. Lack of inspiration

that leads to a flat performance. Poor selection. And not too many more.

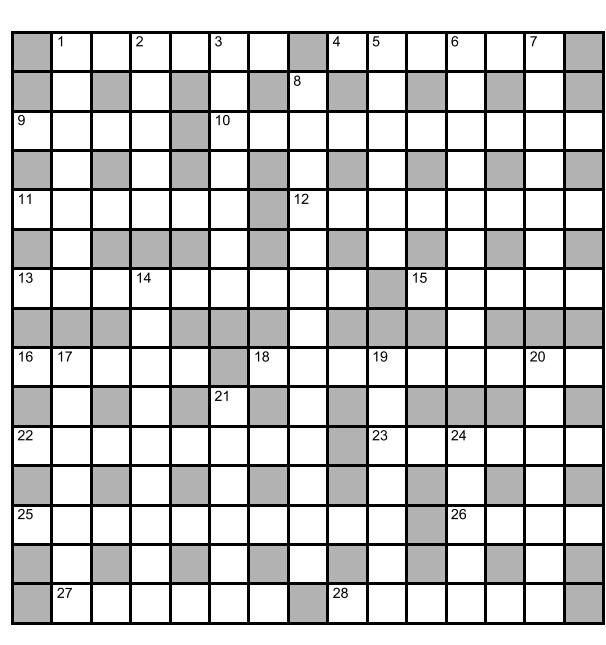
India are done with red ball cricket for a while now, and the focus is on the World Cup which is less than four months away.

The white ball tournaments in New Zealand and at home against Australia no matter how they end will still place India as one of two favourites – England being the other – to win the trophy.

The Indian team looks more or less settled (which is an advantage of winning series especially abroad), with only the combinations to be worked out from among a bunch of perhaps 17 or 18 players. There is overchoice, and that is a pleasant problem. The Dhoni question seems to be settled for the moment.

I am not sure who first said that cricket is a funny game. Whoever it was would feel vindicated afresh if he were to read the reactions following Australia's defeat. Haigh and Warne and the others are right, of course, just as Indian critics were four years ago.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12530



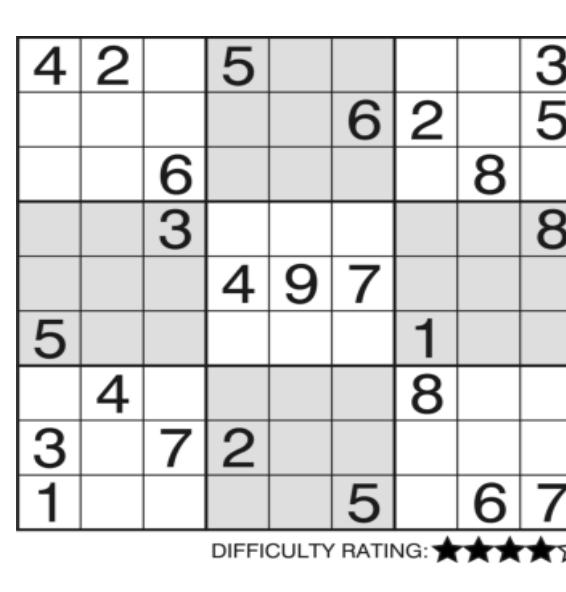
ACROSS

- 1 Area of former enclosure (6)
- 4 Limit removed from skirts by commands (6)
- 9 Prima donna, eager, looks back (4)
- 10 Unfortunate weak book expert (10)
- 11 Greek goddess, in those days, was in Armenia's boundaries (6)
- 14 Found out about crowd on the radio (5)
- 18 Lady users affected without a doubt (9)
- 22 Ancient writing system at first crass, homogeneous (8)
- 23 Passionate craftsmanship outside lair (6)
- 25 Pagan menus reconstructed with gum (10)
- 26 Need riot in Shangri-La (4)
- 27 Feels sorry for decapitated birds (6)
- 28 Weird boy having better than even chance of winning (4-2)
- 30 One who forces out last race winner (7)

(set by Anon)

- 2 Flowers for seamen on strike (8)
- 3 New religious leaders, needing no introduction, at canals (7)
- 5 At first, rage, ire of command (6)
- 6 Studied at Oriental research facility's discourse (9)
- 7 Arresting foreigner in street corners (7)
- 8 Bans stammerer, resulting in shame (13)
- 14 Sign of husband's upturned undergarment in European nation (9)
- 15 Drive last carriage at station (5)
- 19 Without weapons, peacekeepers are inducting man, delinquents' leader (7)
- 20 Light left aside, at first, for headless temp (7)
- 21 Little girl to shock darling (6)
- 24 Replace second stanza in songs with first line in fights (5)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 12529

N	S	C	E	D	H	I
B	A	C	T	O	S	Q
K	I	N	U	N	I	N
C	A	R	I	S	M	A
H	A	R	I	S	M	A
A	S	I	R	A	D	R
P	E	R	T	E	R	D
A	S	H	A	T	E	R
P	E	R	T	E	R	D

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	1	8	7</td

TV PICKS

New Zealand vs India: 1st ODI, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 a.m.
West Indies vs England: 1st Test, 1st day, Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
Australian Open: Sony Ten 2 & Six (SD & HD), 5.30 a.m.

IN BRIEF



Klay Thompson leads Warriors past Lakers

NEW YORK Klay Thompson's blistering performance propelled Golden State Warriors to a 130-111 victory over the injury-depleted LA Lakers. **The results:** Philadelphia 76ers 121 bt Houston Rockets 93; Utah Jazz 104 lost to Portland Trail Blazers 109; Boston Celtics 107 bt Miami Heat 99; Memphis Grizzlies 85 lost to New Orleans Pelicans 105; Brooklyn Nets 123 bt Sacramento Kings 94; Atlanta Hawks 103 lost to Orlando Magic 122; Washington Wizards 101 bt Detroit Pistons 87; Milwaukee Bucks 116 bt Dallas Mavericks 106; Cleveland Cavaliers 88 lost to Chicago Bulls 104; NY Knicks 109 lost to Oklahoma City 127. AFP



Sala feared missing in plane crash

NANTES Premier League club Cardiff City's record new signing, Argentina-born striker Emiliano Sala, was on board a light aircraft that disappeared over the English Channel on Monday night, police sources said. Sala, signed by Cardiff on Saturday from French club Nantes for a reported €17 million fee, was flying to Cardiff aboard a small plane that disappeared from radars around 20km north of the island of Guernsey. A statement from police on Guernsey, said lifeboats and helicopters had searched for several hours for the plane, which had two people on board, without success. AFP

AITA's Wimbledon offer

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI The All India Tennis Association (AITA) has made an exciting offer for enthusiasts, who play in a club or academy around the country, to win Wimbledon tickets, by registering on its portal www.aitatennis.com

There will be 10 tickets up for grabs and AITA has also announced that it would give ₹20,000 to each winner to meet part of the travel cost to London.

The tennis lovers have to give basic details, once they click the relevant banner on the website, and then attach a proof of their membership to a club or academy. Entries will be accepted till April 15. Afterwards, a draw of lots will be made to decide the 10 lucky winners.

Anikta Raina begins well

SPORTS BUREAU
SINGAPORE Anikta Raina beat Cagla Buyukcay of Turkey 6-3, 6-2 in the first round of the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament here on Tuesday.

The results First round: \$25,000 ITF women, Singapore: Anikta Raina bt Cagla Buyukcay (Tur) 6-3, 6-2. \$15,000 ITF women, Sharm El Sheikh: Simona Waltert (Sui) & Ashmitha Easwaranmurthy bt Ksenia Tarasova (Rus) & Amber Washington (US) 6-2, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Aryan Govais bt Maksim Tikhomirov (US) 6-4, 6-4.

Pant has to await his chance: Gambhir

Former opener feels the Indian one-day team should not be tinkered with, ahead of the World Cup

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Rishabh Pant will have to wait for his place in the Indian ODI team, believes Gautam Gambhir. "They've got M.S. Dhoni and Dinesh Karthik there; he can wait for his opportunity," he said here on Tuesday.

"Obviously, he (Pant) has done well in Test cricket. He's doing all the right things. But if you've got Dhoni, who's got man-of-the-series, he deserves to be there now. And it's so close to the World Cup, you need someone like Dhoni. Karthik has been in decent form as well, over the last four-five months. The good thing is Rishabh is keeping them on their toes."

Gambhir was speaking at an event to launch Funnigage PowerPlayer, a nationwide cricket scholarship programme.

The Indian one-day team should not be tinkered with ahead of the World Cup, the former opener felt. "I'm sure the team management has finalised the 15. You probably can shuffle a little in the 15, but I don't believe in changing too many things because consistency will give any player freedom to express himself."

"We only have ten ODIs left before the World Cup. So



Augurs well: Gautam Gambhir says it's a good sign that 'keeper Rishabh Pant is keeping M.S. Dhoni and Dinesh Karthik on their toes. ■ FILE PHOTO

we should give people who are going to play the first game of the World Cup these ten games and see how they deliver," he said.

Gambhir agreed with the view that Shikhar Dhawan and Dhoni ought to have

played first-class cricket before turning out in the Australian ODI series. "Absolutely. Why do you skip it?

Because ultimately you will get confidence by scoring runs, not by hitting the nets. You can't be thinking, 'I'm going to come back into form just by playing international cricket.'

"It's a World Cup year and you've got to be in prime form," he said.

"Whether it was MS Dhoni, Shikhar Dhawan, or Ambati Rayudu...all those guys who went to Australia (should have been asked to play first-class cricket). It's a World Cup year, so I think the selectors should have made everyone play domestic cricket."

Gambhir was reminded of the time he gave away his 'man-of-the-match' award to Virat Kohli, on the occasion of the latter's first international hundred, on Christmas eve in Kolkata in 2009. Did he imagine that day that Kohli would, nine years on, be making a clean sweep of the ICC awards?

"Whatever he's achieved is all because of his hard work," Gambhir said. "I shared it (the award) because it was his first international hundred. I wanted to make him feel special because your first hundred always stays close to your heart. Whenever he sees that trophy he should remember that."

India-A ready to tame the Lions

A. VINOD
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The cricket bandwagon continues its relentless trail, the exhilarating series win over Australia still fresh in the memories of the Indian fans.

The stage is now set for the India-A squad, under Ajinkya Rahane's captaincy, to carry the good tidings ahead as it takes on England Lions in five ODIs and two four-day Tests starting here on Wednesday. While all the one-dayers are to be played at the Sports Hub, Kariyavom, the two Tests are to be held in Krishnagiri (Wayanad) and Mysuru.

England Lions captain Sam Billings and head coach Andy Flower said that the series was a platform for the team to perform to potential and look out for positives with an eye on the future.

The remaining four ODIs will be played on January 25, 27, 29 and 31.

The teams (from):

India-A: Ajinkya Rahane (Capt.), Anmolpreet Singh, Rituraj Gaekwad, Shreyas Iyer, Hanuma Vihari, Ankit Bawne, Ishan Kishan, Krunal Pandya, Axar Patel, Mayank Markande, Jayant Yadav, Siddarth Kaul, Shardul Thakur, Deepak Chahar and Navdeep Saini.

England Lions: Sam Billings (Capt.), Danny Briggs, Matthew Carter, Zak Chappell, Joe Clark, Alex Davis, Ben Duckett, Lewis Gregory, Sam Hain, Tom Cadmore, Jamie Overton, Ollie Pope, James Porter, Tom Bailey, Max Holden and Amar Wardi.

Hockey veteran Bhola passes away

Won gold and silver at the 1956 & 1960 Olympic Games

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

Hockey Olympian and former India selector Group Captain Ragbir Singh Bhola passed away in his sleep at his residence here on Monday. He was 92 and is survived by his wife Kamla, three daughters and three grandsons.

Bhola was a member of the Indian team at two Olympics – 1956 and 1960 – winning gold and silver respectively. The Indian Air Force veteran, born in Multan in Pakistan on August 21 1927, completed his studies from the Delhi College of Engineering and joined IAF as an aeronautical engineer in 1952. He was part of the National championship-winning Services side in 1953, the first time ever, and made his India debut in 1954.

He was also selected by the IAF for a two-year post graduation course in Electrical Engineering at the College of Aeronautics, Cranfield University, UK in 1962 and retired from the IAF in 1978. Bhola was awarded the Arjuna for Lifetime Contribution in 2000.



■ THE HINDU ARCHIVES

umpire by the FIH for five years, was appointed manager of the Indian team on several international tours and was the government observer till the late 90s, including the 1994 World Cup and the 1998 Asian Games.

Even till the late 2000s, Bhola kept himself abreast of the developments in hockey, including attending seminars and workshops at his own expense before poor health forced him to withdraw.

Batra condoles death

FIH president N.K. Batra condoled the death of Bhola. "I am deeply shocked to hear of the passing of Group Captain (Retd) Ragbir Singh Bhola. He made outstanding contribution to hockey, as player, umpire and team manager. I have known him as one of the most upright and outstanding students of the game and as someone who was always willing to assist anyone who sought his counsel."

and retired from the IAF in 1978. Bhola was awarded the Arjuna for Lifetime Contribution in 2000.

Different roles

Bhola was also one of the few former India players to continue their association with hockey after their playing days. He was a national selector in the Indian Hockey Federation regime for almost nine years, was inducted as an international

Batra condoles death FIH president N.K. Batra condoled the death of Bhola. "I am deeply shocked to hear of the passing of Group Captain (Retd) Ragbir Singh Bhola. He made outstanding contribution to hockey, as player, umpire and team manager. I have known him as one of the most upright and outstanding students of the game and as someone who was always willing to assist anyone who sought his counsel."

CSK's gesture to Martin

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Chennai Super Kings has contributed ₹3 lakh to the medical treatment of cricketer Jacob Martin who met with scooter accident in Vadodara recently.

"CSK has given ₹3 lakh and assured more help if needed. Jacob is suffering. The BCCI should do a lot more than what it has done. Jacob is getting good treatment, but his family needs a lot more money. Many parts of his body are damaged," said Sanjay Patel, former BCCI secretary who has taken the responsibility of raising money for the cricketer.

Batra condoles death FIH president N.K. Batra condoled the death of Bhola. "I am deeply shocked to hear of the passing of Group Captain (Retd) Ragbir Singh Bhola. He made outstanding contribution to hockey, as player, umpire and team manager. I have known him as one of the most upright and outstanding students of the game and as someone who was always willing to assist anyone who sought his counsel."

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No strict action on AAI now: WA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

World Archery (WA) has said that it will not take any hasty decision over issues related to the Archery Association of India (AAI) constitution and will keep the archers' interest in mind in the run-up to the 2020 Olympics.

As such, we will not rush this process but work towards a stable long-term outcome.

"WA has the interests of Indian athletes as its priority throughout this period and will put paramount importance in ensuring that those athletes' preparations for the Olympic Games in Tokyo are not interrupted as a result of administrative uncertainty."

"At this time, the AAI is recognised as a WA member in good standing and no penalty or suspension has been instigated," WA said in a statement.

On January 16, WA Secretary General Tom Dielen had sent an email to Rao and the rest of the association administration informing them that WA did not recognise the outcome of the General Assembly (GA), including Rao's election, held on December 22 due to the constitution not being formally approved.

WA acknowledged the receipt of the minutes of the

AAI's GA meeting.

Potential

Dielen said, "India is a promising archery region and it is imperative that we build a strong federation that will realise its potential going forward."

As such, we will not rush this process but work towards a stable long-term outcome.

"WA has the interests of Indian athletes as its priority throughout this period and will put paramount importance in ensuring that those athletes' preparations for the Olympic Games in Tokyo are not interrupted as a result of administrative uncertainty."

Rao expresses happiness

Speaking to *The Hindu* from Lausanne, Rao said, "I asked them what was their objection about good governance in the constitution. I will place everything before the GA and the Supreme Court."

"I am happy for the archers, who were a little demoralised after the previous statement from the WA. This will help them focus on their job."

BCCI awards ₹20 lakh for each selector

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI The BCCI on Tuesday announced cash awards of ₹20 lakh each for the senior selection committee members following India's maiden Test series win in Australia.

The selection committee comprises chairman M.S.K. Prasad, Devang Gandhi, Jatin Paranjape, Gagan Khoda and Sandeep Singh.

Committee Of Administrator (CoA) chairman Vipin Rai lauded the selectors for picking a balanced Indian squad during the Test and ODI series in Australia.

"We are extremely proud of the way Team India have performed in Australia. We had announced cash rewards for cricketers and support staff earlier and are now rewarding selectors," he said.

"I am happy for the archers, who were a little demoralised after the previous statement from the WA. Each member who played a role in India's triumphs in Australia needs to be appreciated," she said.

Ronaldo misses penalty but Juventus has it easy

Costa, Can and Rugani find the target

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MILAN

game after a three-week winter break. Ronaldo, who has scored 14 times in the league, missed a goal from the spot. But Juventus was never worried by Chievo with Douglas Costa and Emre Can scoring in the first half and Daniele Rugani heading home a third.

Portuguese superstar Ronaldo had sealed Juventus' first title of the season – a record eighth Italian Super Cup against AC Milan last Wednesday in Saudi Arabia.

But the 33-year-old was off-form in the first league

and retired from the IAF in 1978. Bhola was awarded the Arjuna for Lifetime Contribution in 2000.

The results: Serie A: Genoa 0 lost to AC Milan 2 (Borini 72, Suso 83); Juventus 3 (Costa 13, Can 45, Rugani 84) bt Chievo 0.

La Liga: Eibar 3 (Enrich 24, de Blasis 51, Charles 84) bt Espanyol 0.

Sealing it: Juventus' Daniele Rugani, centre, celebrates after scoring the third goal. ■ AFP

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail : ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com

Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-71/ 2018-19

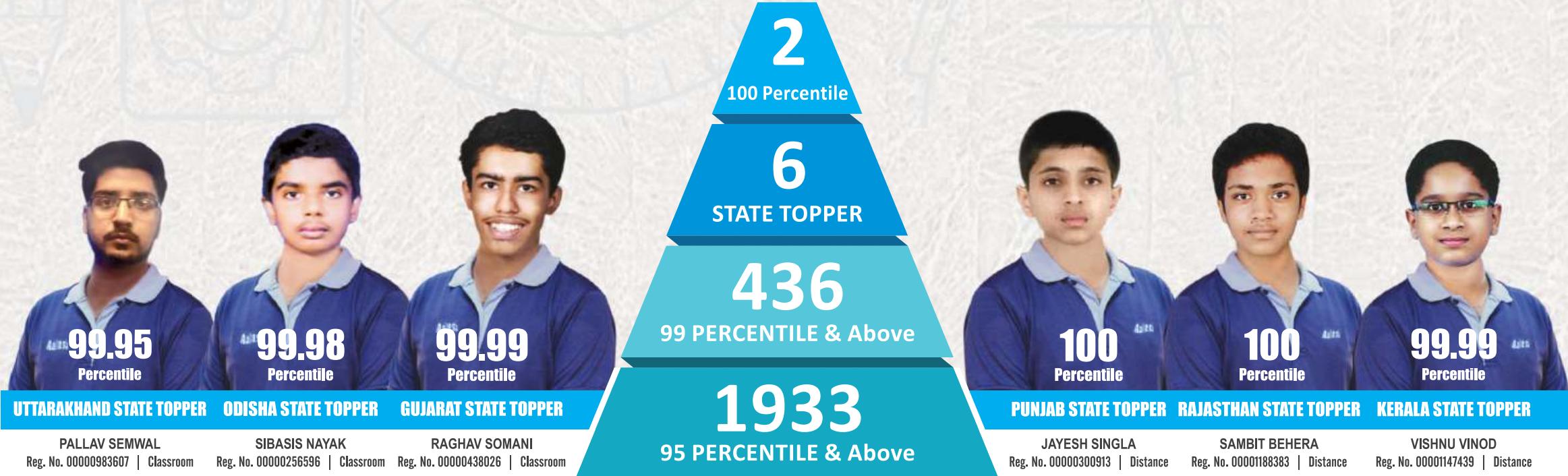
1. The Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road / Bridge works as mentioned below:

2. Nature of work : Road / Bridge works
3. No. of work : 06 Nos.
4. Tender Paper Cost : Rs.10,000.00
5. Class of Contractor : 'A' Class/ Special Class/ Super Class as noted against each work
6. Available of bid document : From 10.00 A.M. of 25.01.2019 to 5.00 PM of 04.02.2019
7. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.05.02.2019 at 11.30 AM
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

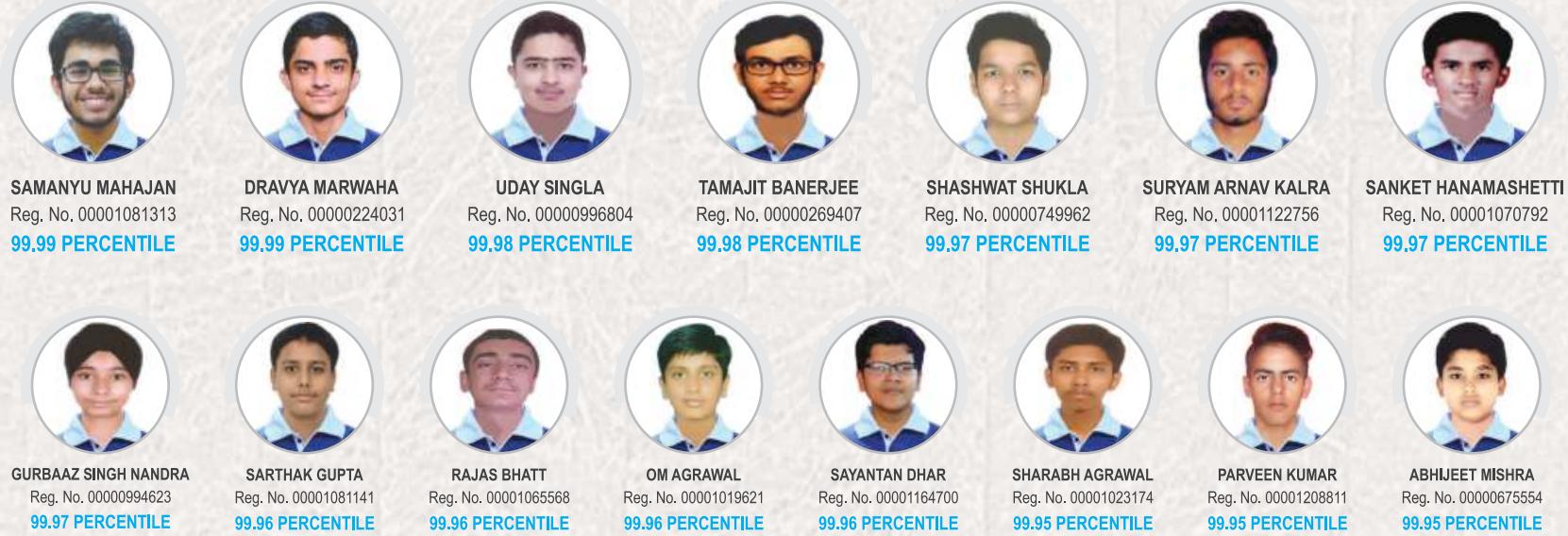
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OUR BRANCHES AT: Janak Puri (Medical Wing): 8800013110 Janak Puri (Engineering & Foundation Wing): 8800013017 South Extn., (Medical Wing): 8800013111 South Extn., (Engineering & Foundation Wing): 8800013016 Dwarka (Sec-11): 8800013019 Raja Garden: 8800013121 Noida (Sector-18): 8800013021 Greater Noida: 8800013024 Faridabad: 8800013022 Ambala: 8800012946 Bhawanipur: 8800012950 Hisar: 8800013035 Kaithal: 8800012949 Karnal: 8800012947 Kurukshetra: 8800013036 Narnaul: 8800013042 Palwal: 8800013038 Panchkula: 8800013039 Panipat: 8800013040 Rohtak: 8800013037 Sirsa: 8800012948 Yamuna Nagar: 8800012945 Amritsar: 8800013076 Bathinda: 8800013078 Chandigarh: 8800013079 Jalandhar: 8800013080 Ludhiana: 8800013081 Patiala: 8800013082 Agra: 8800013089 Allahabad: 8800013099 Prayagraj: 8800013100 Gorakhpur: 8800013101 Jhansi: 88000206063 Kannur (Kakade): 8800013102 Kannur (Phoolbagh): 8800013103 Meerut: 8800013105 Saharanpur: 8800013106 Haridwar: 8800013109 Dehradun (Ballupur Chowk): 8800013108 Dehradun (Rajpur Road): 8800013107 Jaipur (Surya Nagar): 8800013083 Jaipur (Subhash Nagar): 8800013084 Jaipur (Vaishali Nagar): 8800013085 Jodhpur: 8800013088 Kota: 8800013087 Ajmer: 8800013118 Bhopal: 8800013060 Gwalior: 8800013064 Jabalpur: 8800013063 Indore (Geeta Bhawan): 8800013061 Indore (Ranjeet Hanuman): 8800013062 Ujjain: 8800013119 OUR CENTRES AT: Pusa Road: (011) 25810444 / 777 / 888 / 999 Pitam Pura: (011) 47513001, 47020406 Model Town-II: (011) 47514036 / 7 / 8 / 9 Punjabi Bagh: (011) 45600263 / 4 / 5, Rohini (Sector-4) Foundation Wing: 9812396801 / 2 Rohini (Sector-15) Foundation Wing: 9821396805 / 6 Preet Vihar: (011) 42444811 / 12 Vasant Kunj: 9711786886 Dilshad Garden: 9350395559 Bareilly: 9997690099 Ghaziabad: (0120) 3996160 / 61 / 64 Gurugram (Sector-14): (0124) 4967050, 09717508555 (Golf Course Road): (0124) 2357050 Rewari: 9416151460 Bilaspur: (07752) 22440 Raipur: 7611110511 Bhiilai: 7611110531-35 Vindhyanagar: 777102515 Udaipur: 9716016831 / 32 Bikner: (0151) 2203333 Haldwani: 0997699977 Kashipur: 9997690011 Pathankot: 9115220000 Jammu (Gandhi Nagar): (0191) 2430779 (Kachi Chawni): (0191) 2520974 / 75 Udhampur: 9419607066 Srinagar (Raj Bagh): (0194) 2454540 (Nigene): 9107926842.



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THE HINDU

WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 23, 2019

DELHI METRO

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Fewer firms in job fairs

Govt's "mega job fairs" have seen fewer companies due to the effect of note ban, says Minister [Page 2](#)


Accidental shooting

A man accidentally shot himself dead while showing off his pistol to a friend, say police [Page 3](#)


An inner look

How author Rukmini Varma channelled the words and memories of her ancestor, to tell his story [Page 5](#)


Geared up for the future

CES 2019 revealed some revolutionary concepts and ideas to hit the world of automobiles [Page 6](#)

IN BRIEF

Court takes cognisance of plaint by Doval's son

NEW DELHI
A Delhi court on Tuesday took cognisance of a criminal defamation complaint against senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, *The Caravan* and its staffer Kaushal Shroff filed by NSA Ajit Doval's son Vivek Doval.

[CITY ▶ PAGE 3](#)

High Court unhappy with probe in AI pilot case

NEW DELHI
The Delhi HC on Tuesday asked the police to file a detailed report after conducting a proper probe in a case against AI pilot Arvind Kathpalia, accused of violating aircraft rules.

Bail granted to man held with bullet at CM's house

NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court has granted bail to a man who was arrested on November 26 for allegedly carrying a bullet in his wallet while visiting the residence of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	104	Gurugram	98
Ghaziabad	104	Faridabad	87
Noida	95	Greater Noida	95

■ Good 0-50 ■ Satisfactory 51-100 ■ Moderate 101-200
■ Poor 201-300 ■ Very poor 301-400 ■ Severe 401+
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) [SOURCE: CPCB]

Capital breathes easy as rain helps improve air quality

Commuters complain of waterlogging, traffic jams; downpour likely today: Met

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Heavy rain accompanied by gusty winds washed away the pollutants, bringing down the Air Quality Index to "moderate" category on Tuesday.

However, the relief from pollution was coupled with troubles as several areas reported waterlogging that left commuters stranded for hours. The Central Pollution Control Board data stated that the overall AQI in the city was 104, down from 346 on Monday.

The dip is likely to be short-lived, with air quality expected to deteriorate by Thursday, said the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), adding that it may reach the "poor" category. Other parts of NCR—Noida, Greater Noida, Gurugram and Faridabad—were in the "satisfactory" category, while Ghaziabad recorded "moderate" level.

AQI between 100 and 200 comes under "moderate" category; 201 and 300 is considered "poor"; 301 and 400 "very poor"; and 401 and 500 is "severe".

The city received 14.8 mm of rainfall in the past 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday, and 27.2 mm of rainfall between 8.30 a.m.



Vehicles make their way through a waterlogged underpass in the city on Tuesday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

and 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday.

The rain brought the maximum temperature down to 19.4 degrees Celsius, two degrees below normal, while the minimum temperature rose to 12.5 degrees Celsius, five degrees above normal.

Roads cave-in

Heavy rain led to caving in of roads at two stretches, which paved the way for traffic congestion across the city. A small portion of a road caved in near JLN Stadium, which led to a traffic jam on Barapullah elevated road. Another cave-in was reported on Mathura Road. The civic agencies concerned have been informed about

the incidents.

The traffic police said they received numerous calls complaining of congestion during morning hours. Traffic was reported on various stretches, including Maulana Azad Road towards Janpath, Swaroop Nagar underpass from NH-1 towards Singhu Border and Mangolpuri towards Janakpuri on Peeragarhi.

The police kept updating the traffic situation on social media throughout the day.

The North Delhi body reported waterlogging at various places, including Minto Road, a market in Roop Nagar, Tilak Gali in Kashmere Gate, Sadar Bazaar, Sector 15

Rohini, Inder Enclave in Khar, New Rohtak Road in Kari Bagh, Arya Nagar and LIC DDA flats in Paharganj, Roop Nagar and Rana Pratap Bagh.

Building collapse

A building reportedly collapsed in Prayas Wali Gali in Jahangirpuri.

The Met Department has forecast a partly cloudy sky with the possibility of very light/ light rain/ thunderstorms on Wednesday.

The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to hover between 19 and 10 degrees Celsius.

[SEE ALSO ▶ PAGE 2](#)

Face recognition cameras to make debut on Republic Day

Security measures tightened; full dress rehearsal today

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Ahead of Republic Day celebrations, face recognition cameras, multilayer security, anti-aircraft guns and light machine guns have been positioned at key points in view of intelligence inputs of terror threats, the police said on Tuesday.

A full dress rehearsal is scheduled on Wednesday. It will take the same route as that of the Parade on Republic Day.

The Parade rehearsal will start at 9.50 a.m. from Vijay Chowk and proceed to the Red Fort. There will be elaborate traffic arrangements and restrictions in place for smooth conduct of the Parade, said a senior officer.

"We have installed 30 face recognition cameras at specific locations on Rajpath. For the first time, we are using such cameras to detect any suspicious movement. The cameras will

identify faces in the crowd and match them to available photographs of terrorists and criminal elements in the Delhi Police database," said a senior officer.

Over 25,000 security personnel have been deployed for the event from Delhi Police, Central Armed Forces and other agencies.



Braving the elements: Cyclists ride through a waterlogged road near the Red Fort on Tuesday morning. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

with Central forces and other intelligence agencies regarding security arrangements. We have also alerted all district DCPs to be vigilant and increase patrolling on roads.

Over 25,000 security personnel have been deployed for the event from Delhi Police, Central Armed Forces and other agencies.

Patrolling intensified

"We are using counter-drone technology to thwart any attack or identify any suspicious flying objects," said another officer. The police said patrolling in public places has been intensified along with checking and frisking at metro and railway stations, and bus terminals.

Buildings falling on either side of the Parade route will be sealed and snipers deployed on them.

"We are coordinating

to identify faces in the crowd and match them to available photographs of terrorists and criminal elements in the Delhi Police database," said a senior officer.

Joint CP (Traffic) Alok Kumar said traffic movement will be restricted on certain roads that lead to the route of the Parade.

"Commuters are advised to avoid movement in New Delhi area on Wednesday... They can follow social media accounts of Delhi Traffic Police for updates

[ALOK KUMAR](#)
Joint CP (Traffic)

Early morning rain turns Millennium City into a slippery mess

Traffic jams and waterlogged roads inconvenience office-goers and schoolchildren in Gurugram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Mild rain during the rush hour on Tuesday morning led to minor traffic jams and waterlogging in different parts of the Millennium City causing inconvenience mostly to office-goers and schoolchildren.

Though it rained intermittently all through the day, keeping the traffic police on their toes till late, heavy showers around 7 a.m. led to waterlogging at several major roads and intersections, including National Highway-48, Golf Course Road, Old Delhi-



Traffic movement in Gurugram was monitored in real time on Tuesday morning, said senior traffic officer. ■ MANOJ KUMAR

Gurugram Road, Jwala Mill Road, IFFCO Chowk, AIT Chowk, Netaji Subhash Chowk and Hero Honda Chowk.

Road. Traffic jams were also reported on Old Delhi-Gurugram Road and Golf Course Road for an hour but were cleared soon. However, traffic remained heavy on Old Delhi-Gurugram Road till late afternoon due to waterlogging at several points. Mr. Garg said traffic movement was being monitored in real time since early morning through Google Maps and other means in view of the rain forecast.

Reinforcements were despatched to different locations as soon as traffic started to build-up. He said no major traffic jams were reported

due to "timely and intelligent" deployment of staff.

Though around 1,200 traffic police personnel are deployed on rotational basis on routine days, the entire staff remained on the roads managing traffic all through the day, he added.

Mr. Garg said the Meteorological Department has forecast light showers on Wednesday as well. The maximum rainfall (20 mm) was recorded in Gurugram, followed by Farrukhnagar (7 mm) and Pataudi (3 mm).

While a few took to Twitter to praise the traffic police

personnel for their efforts

saying: "Today Gurgaon traffic police was standing in rain, bare foot, in dirty water, not all demented in raincoat, in the month of January, managing traffic [sic]," the others welcomed the drop in pollution levels.

"Gurgaon Rain brings relief from pollution, mercury dips to 22°C in Gurugram. Light rain was witnessed in many parts of Delhi and NCR on Tuesday bringing down the maximum temperature to 22 degree Celsius and minimum to 11 degree Celsius in the city [sic]," read a tweet.

Parents' consent needed for measles vaccination, High Court tells govt

Authorities have to inform them about the risks involved

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court told the city government on Tuesday that express consent of a parent is necessary before administering the measles and rubella vaccine during vaccination drive to be held in schools here.

Justice Vibhu Bakhu also said the parents need to be told about the risk of administering the vaccine.

The court's remark came after the Delhi government said there was no need to indicate risks of the vaccine as it could discourage people. Additionally, it said the vaccine would be administered to only those children whose parents give express permission.



illness."

On January 15, the court had deferred the vaccination drive till further orders.

The parents counsel told the court that "there can be nothing like opt-out consent. There has to be express consent. It is a matter of bodily integrity. You cannot touch someone's body without their consent".

Opt-out consent
The city government said that opt-out consent was necessary as a target of 95% coverage is necessary under the policy and added that the Union government has launched the vaccination drive across the country to eliminate the measles and rubella disease from India.

The court said instead of tentative dates, the DoE will have to give fixed dates as to when the vaccination will be carried out in each school and forms can be circulated for obtaining consent of parents.

Further, the court said it will pass a detailed order in the case.

Instead of tentative dates, the DoE will have to give fixed dates as to when the vaccination will be carried out in each school

Wife found dead; man booked for torture

'Victim was physically assaulted for years'

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

A 25-year-old woman was found dead on January 18 at her residence in outer-north Delhi's Bhalswa Daini, the police said on Tuesday.

The victim died by suicide after being allegedly physically assaulted by her husband for years, they said. The husband, who works in a factory, was arrested on Monday on charges of abetment to suicide.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer-North) Gaurav Sharma said a case has been registered. A senior police officer said the accused found his wife hanging in the evening on January 18 after he returned home from work.

The victim, who belonged to Bihar, left a note in which she blamed her husband for torturing her physically over the years. The duo got married six years ago in Bihar and shifted to Delhi two months later, the officer said. They have two children — a

daughter aged 4 years and a son aged 3 years.

Demand for money

The officer said the accused would torture the woman and demand money from her parents since he is not financially sound.

On the day of the incident, he allegedly thrashed her over a monetary issue and left home. Their children were at home when he left for the day.

Family informed

Her family reached Delhi on Sunday, after which the post-mortem was conducted.

A senior police officer said the accused found his wife hanging in the evening on January 18 after he returned home from work.

The police have registered a case under Sections 306 (abetment of suicide) and 498A (husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty) of IPC.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, Telephone:

011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.

Lokayukta urged to act against petitioner who sought asset details of AAP MLAs

Petition should have been thrown out at initial stage: Speaker

STAFF REPORTER

NOIDA/GHAZIABAD

As rain lashed Noida on Tuesday, commuters complained of waterlogging in the basements of multiple sectors, including Sector 60, 62 underpass, Sector 27 and Sector 18.

In Nimbus Hyde Park project in Sector 78, a portion of the ceiling fell on cars parked on the ground floor, damaging two of them.

A road cave-in was reported at Sector 62 B block and another one in Sector 121. The city grappled with power cuts from small hours that

lasted till 1 p.m. in some sectors.

Incessant rain threw life out of gear in neighbouring Ghaziabad too.

More than half-a-dozen cases of buses stuck in waterlogged roads in Indirapuram were reported during the day. Parts of the township also witnessed load-shedding. The electricity department attributed the fault to waterlogging. Traffic jams were reported in Mohan Nagar, Meerut Road, Hapur, Chungi and more. The air quality saw improvement after the rain.

IN BRIEF

**Campaign to educate youth about Constitution**

NEW DELHI To celebrate 70 years of the Constitution, the Delhi government will launch an 11-month campaign titled 'Constitution at 70' to "connect young citizens with the values enshrined in the document". In a letter to the Director of Education, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said the campaign will be launched on January 25 and will end on November 26. Students from Classes VI-XII, in both public and private schools, will be educated about the Constitution and the Preamble. STAFF REPORTER

No new taxes in east Delhi

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI No new taxes will be introduced by the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC), the chairperson of the civic body's Standing Committee clarified on Tuesday – the first day of discussion on the budget in the House.

In December, then EDMC Commissioner Punit Goel had proposed three new taxes to help increase revenue in the cash-strapped municipality. These included an education cess of 5% as part of the property tax; a betterment tax of 15%, meant to be in lieu of improvement in the value of the land as a consequence of various developmental of the corporation; and a professional tax, charged on incomes of residents.

The betterment tax and professional tax was also proposed by the commissioner of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation, and have been recommended by various finance commissions to improve the financial position of the corporations.

After note ban, fewer firms coming to job fairs, says Rai

Will fill up vacancies in government once Delhi has power over 'services': Minister

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government's "mega job fairs" have seen fewer participating companies and candidates due to the effect of demonetisation, Labour Minister Gopal Rai said on Tuesday.

The Minister also said that various departments of the Delhi government were severely understaffed and running with just 20-30% of their total sanctioned strength as no new recruitments were taking place because the State did not have powers to decide on matters of 'services'.

Subject of services

"We will carry out a massive recruitment drive once the subject of 'services' is restored to us. It is common knowledge that the Delhi government cannot even ap-



Gopal Rai
point a peon on its own, if required," Mr. Rai told reporters.

Jurisdiction over 'services', that is whether the subject lies within the ambit of the elected government or with the office of the Lieutenant-Governor, is yet to be decided by the Supreme Court. Currently, the LG exercises authority over the subject.

Mr. Rai said the Centre

needed to take steps to provide jobs in both the public and private sectors.

Meanwhile, a two-day mega job fair organised by the government concluded at Thyagaraj Stadium on Tuesday. The fair was attended by 79 companies, which screened 14,000 candidates – out of whom 5,000 were shortlisted for recruitment, said the Minister.

The first mega job fair was organised in 2015 in which 100 companies participated and shortlisted 12,000 candidates. In 2017, the number of participating companies came to 92, which shortlisted 9,000 candidates.

Last year, the job fair was attended by 89 companies and 6,000 candidates were shortlisted, said Mr. Rai, attributing the gradual dip to the after-effects of demonetisation.

This drop in numbers is because of demonetisation, which has destroyed businesses. The Modi government should take steps to provide jobs to the youth because its getting known as a job-snatcher government," he said.

Minimum wage

Mr. Rai said that firms hiring candidates for placement in Delhi would need to pay minimum wages.

The Minimum Wages Advisory Board of the government is examining suggestions with regard to revised minimum wages prescribed by a committee, he said.

The next meeting of the Board is on January 28, following which the Delhi government will file its reply in the Supreme Court, which is hearing a petition challenging the revision, said Mr. Rai.

Why is BJP afraid of ballot box, asks AAP

EVMs can be tampered with, says party

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Reiterating its allegation that Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) can be tampered with, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday questioned the Centre for sticking with EVMs instead of opting for paper ballots to conduct elections.

Referring to a press conference in London on Monday where a self-proclaimed cyber expert said EVMs had been rigged for the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj said that his party had raised the issue first, after which "almost all other political parties" followed.

While the Election Commission has maintained that EVMs cannot be hacked, the AAP has alleged that it can be done.

"Why is the BJP afraid of using ballot papers to conduct elections? If any politi-

Ready for the big day



All decked up: An illuminated Parliament House ahead of Republic Day, on Tuesday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

As mercury dips, rise in cases of breathing difficulties

Change in season can lead to upper respiratory tract infections or aggravate arthritis, warn doctors

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

City doctors have reported a rise in the number of patients suffering from breathing difficulties and upper respiratory tract infections, after a recent drop in temperature and spell of rain.

"Winter is critical for patients with heart, lung or kidney issues as the change in season can lead to bacterial or viral infections," said Vikramjeet Singh, senior consultant, Internal Medicine, Aakash Healthcare: Super Speciality Hospital.

"Change in weather can lead to increased risk of heart attacks, symptoms of asthma can be aggravated, and people suffering from arthritis can experience joint pain and inflammation or



Doctors have advised people with asthma to keep an inhaler with them at all times. • PRADEEP KUMAR

swelling. There could also be breathing issues, migraine attacks and flu incidences," said Dr. Singh.

Managing asthma
"As temperatures drop, managing asthma can become a challenge... cold air causes airways to tighten making

mouths. As a result, cold and dry air enters the lungs and causes inflammation of the airways. It is advised that those with asthma should keep an inhaler nearby at all times during this period," advised Dr. Manchanda.

Doctors said that a dip in mercury also causes arthritis to flair up as the cold weather makes the joints feel stiffer than usual, which leads to sever knee pain.

"The change in temperature can cause swelling around inflamed joints, causing more irritation to the surrounding nerves, which in turn increases the amount of pain felt and stiffness," said Ramneek Mahajan, director of Orthopaedics and Joint Replacement, Max Smart Super Speciality Hospital.

Doctors have advised people to keep warm during the winter months.

"Cooling of body parts may result in several cooling injuries... Hypothermia is considered the most severe cold injury, which occurs from excessive drop in body heat and the consequent lowering of the inner core temperature. It can be fatal," said Dr. Singh.

"Sick and diabetic people must avoid going out and watch out for cold and cough. One must stay hydrated, eat nutritious food, and keep warm. Wash your hands and take Omega-3 capsules to develop better immunity," said Anuja Lakra, consultant, Internal Medicines, Manipal Hospitals Dwarka.

AAP govt betraying Delhiites: BJP

Delhi Metro Phase IV being delayed by Kejriwal, says Tiwari

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP on Tuesday accused the Delhi government of "betraying" the people of the city by "hindering" approval for Phase IV of the Delhi Metro.

Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari attacked Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for approving the project to garner "cheap publicity" and adding conditions that will "hinder its materialisation on the ground".

"This time, the Delhi go-

vernment has raised objection to the repayment of the loan from the Japanese Bank for this project. The Centre's stand is that if the Delhi Metro defaults in the repayment, then both the Centre and the Delhi government will have to share the burden. But the Delhi government has not agreed to this proposal," Mr. Tiwari said.

The Centre had said that it had forwarded the project for appraisal but the Delhi government's "conditions are creating a hindrance", the North-East Delhi MP said.

which makes Mr. Kejriwal's "intentions and motives", in relation to serving the people, suspect, said Mr. Tiwari.

"It is not clear whether he [Mr. Kejriwal] wants to work in the interest of the people or he wants to mislead them... Firstly, he announces the approval of Delhi Metro Phase IV for cheap popularity and after that he adds such conditions that the people of rural areas of Delhi may not get the benefit of extended metro service," the North-East Delhi MP said.

Saraswati Samman presented to poet Sitanshu Yashaschandra

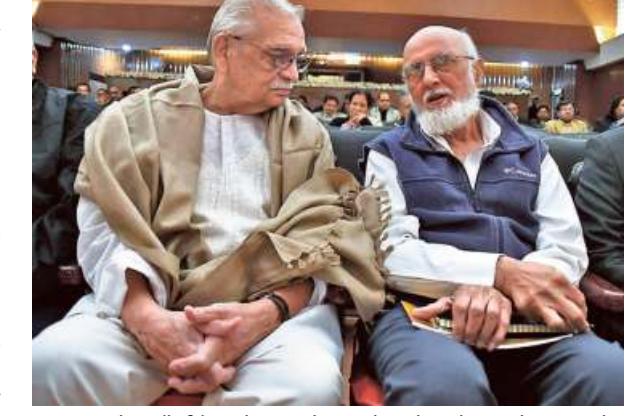
For his poetry collection 'Vakhar'; Gulzar presents award

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The 2017 Saraswati Samman was presented to Gujarati poet Sitanshu Yashaschandra on Tuesday by the K.K. Birla Foundation during an event at the National Museum here.

Mr. Yashaschandra won the award for his poetry collection, *Vakhar*, published in 2009. The poet was also given a citation along with ₹15 lakh. The Saraswati Samman was constituted in 1991 and is given to an author for outstanding literary work published in the last 10 years in any of the languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Apoorvanand, professor at Delhi University, said: "The present government is destroying all the democratic institutions... this must, and should, be stopped. Just like the alliance of the parties nationally, we need alliance of students-youth movement across the country."



Poets Gulzar (left) and Sitanshu Yashaschandra at the award function in New Delhi on Tuesday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

poems at the event.
Chairperson and Editorial Director of HT Media Limited Shobhana Bhartia, who is also the president of the foundation – named after her late father – said the process of selection was rigorous and involved sifting through thousands of book by a 13-member committee.

Ms. Bhartia said that her father's ideals would be realised if the award helps create greater interest in Indian languages.

"To hear the voice of the voiceless, we need to turn to the languages our people speak," she said.

Youth to come together on Feb 7 to protest govt's policies

Professors, activists and lawyers lend support to planned march from Red Fort to Parliament Street

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Young India Adhikar March on February 7, the Young India National Coordination Committee organised a public meeting on Tuesday at which several professors, activists and lawyers expressed their support.

The march, which will be along the lines of the Kisan March held in November 2018, seeks to bring together youth from across the country, who have "fought against the divisive anti-education, anti-youth policies of the Modi-led government in last five years", to the Capital to run a campaign against the BJP-led Centre.

Lending his support to the students and jobseekers, se-



From left: Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani, advocate Prashant Bhushan, DU Professor Ratan Lal and scientist Gauhar Raza at a public meeting on Tuesday. • PRADEEP KUMAR

nior advocate Prashant Bhushan said: "We were made many promises like jobs, end to corruption and promise of better days by the Modi government but what we got instead was fewer jobs, historic unemploy-

ment rate and no employment guarantee."

He also said that there was huge inequality of wealth in the country and suggested that by imposing a wealth tax, inheritance tax and gift tax on people who have high

income, the right to employment could be introduced.

Universities under attack

Several of the panellists, including Nivedita Menon and Jayati Ghosh, both professors at JNU, said that universities were under attack as they were thinking spaces and the government did not want any of its policies questioned and hence was branding those who were asking questions as "anti-national".

"The battles the students

have been fighting against the Modi government is true patriotism towards their country as they are demanding jobs, education, gender and social justice and implementation of constitutional mandates reservations," said Prof. Menon.

Apoorvanand, professor at Delhi University, said: "The present government is destroying all the democratic institutions... this must, and should, be stopped. Just like the alliance of the parties nationally, we need alliance of students-youth movement across the country."

Quality work

Lyricist and film director Gulzar presented the award to the poet and praised him for the quality of his various works. He also read out one of Mr. Yashaschandra's

IN BRIEF



CISF tableau at R-Day Parade after 11 years

NEW DELHI
After a gap of 11 years, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) tableau will again showcase the multidimensional functioning of the force at the Republic Day Parade on January 26. CISF spokesperson Hemendra Singh on Tuesday said the tableau is a reflection of the aspirations, commitment and dedication of the force towards its mandate. It showcases the various domains of its professional conduct. The force is also celebrating its golden jubilee year. STAFF REPORTER

Rly official accused of misbehaving with staff

NEW DELHI
A major ruckus broke out at the New Delhi Railway Station when the chairman of the Passenger Services Committee visited the station for an inspection. The station staff accused the chairman, Ramesh Chandra Ratan, of misbehaving with them. Mr. Ratan entered the station director's room and allegedly threatened him, sources said. However, there is no clarity on the issue that triggered the chaos. PTI

Businessman arrested for faking ₹1.2 cr robbery

He hatched a plan with his employee to call the police and narrate the fake story

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
A fake call on Tuesday afternoon to convince his business partner about a robbery of ₹1.2 crore landed a Paharganj businessman in jail after the police failed to be convinced by his narrative.

The man, Amit Jain would be charged under sections of providing fake information to the police.

The incident came to fore when the police received a call about a robbery near Hanuman temple near Jhandewalan on Tuesday morning. The call, just ahead of the Republic Day, sent the police into a tizzy. Teams from the

Man accidentally shoots self in inebriated state

Victim was showing off his weapon to friend, say police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 32-year-old man is suspected to have accidentally shot himself while showing off his pistol to a friend in south Delhi's Sangam Vihar on Monday night, the police said on Tuesday. The victim was drunk at the time of the incident, the police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Vijay Kumar said the deceased has been identified as Amit Kumar, a resident of Sangam Vihar. He was showing his pistol to a friend Rajnish when he pressed the trigger which injured him fatally, Mr. Kumar said. "The PCR call was received around 1.30 a.m. A medico-legal certificate was received from a private hospital regarding admission of a person with gunshot injury in the head who was later referred to AIIMS Trauma Centre," the officer said adding that the person was then identified after the police reached.

During enquiry, the police said that it was revealed that Amit had gone to meet his friend Bablu late night in Gandhi Camp where the two had drinks and left for Amit's



Amit Kumar

house. On the way, the two stopped at their friend Rajnish's house who saw a pistol concealed in Amit's clothes.

"Rajnish asked Amit about the pistol and he said he keeps it for protection. He [Amit] took the pistol in his hand, removed the magazine, and put the pistol on his temple. Rajnish tried to stop him. Bablu also shouted to stop, but he pressed the trigger and a shot was fired.

Amit was rushed to the hospital on a scooter by two persons identified as Sumit and Rahul who were on the street nearby. Meanwhile,

C He [Amit] took the pistol in his hand, removed the magazine, and put the pistol on his temple. Rajnish tried to stop him. Bablu also shouted to stop, but he pressed the trigger and a shot was fired.

VIJAY KUMAR
Deputy Commissioner of Police (South)

Bablu took the weapon and rushed to Amit's house to inform the family. He allegedly handed over the weapon to Amit's brother.

Post-mortem report
The police said that Amit died while being taken to AIIMS Trauma Centre and was declared dead at the hospital.

The police have registered a case under Section 304 (punishment for culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the Indian Penal Code and under relevant sections of the Arms Act. The post-mortem report will make the case clearer, the police said.

Court takes cognisance of defamation case

NSA Doval's son had filed a case against Jairam Ramesh, news magazine and its staff

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Taking cognisance of a criminal defamation case against senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, *The Caravan* and its staffer Kaushal Shroff filed by National Security Adviser Ajit Doval's son Vivek Doval, a Delhi court on Tuesday posted the matter to January 30.

Mr. Vivek Doval had filed the case on Monday charging the accused persons with linking his Cayman Islands-based hedge fund GNY Asia to demonetisation and money laundering.

In his complaint, Mr. Vivek Doval said that he was constrained to file the complaint as the accused persons had deliberately maligned and defamed him, seemingly to settle scores with his father.

The accused persons levelled serious allegations of money laundering against the fund which is his legitimate and ethical business venture, the complaint alleged.

The controversy started with the publication of an article authored by Mr. Shroff in the magazine titled "The D-Companies" on January 16. The author of the article insinuated various wrongdoings and unlawful actions on the part of the complainant, the complaint stated.



NSA Ajit Doval's son Vivek Doval arrives at Patiala House Courts in the Capital on Tuesday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

ings and unlawful actions on the part of the complainant, the complaint stated.

Not only the complainant, his elder brother and his companies were also maligned. The article had been written in a manner that it raised apprehensions on the ventures of the complainant and related it to the demonetisation, the complaint stated.

The article authored by Mr. Shroff and published by the magazine was not substantiated by any documents and backed by any due diligence, the complaint said.

On the basis of the article, Mr. Ramesh had been holding a press conferences and making irresponsible statements further maligning the reputation and goodwill of the complainant as well as the entire Doval family, the complaint further stated.

"The sudden rush to the press conference on the facts derived from an article of a magazine and the undue haste shown to do so without verifying the facts, does indicate mala fide intention of Mr. Ramesh abusing the platform of the Indian National Congress. It becomes clear from the tone and tenor of the accused," the complaint stated.

Plea in HC seeks guidelines for disposing of unidentified bodies

City govt, police asked to reply; next hearing on April 24

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought response from the city government and the police on a petition seeking framing of guidelines on disposing of abandoned or unidentified bodies.

A Bench of Justice S. Ravindra Bhat and Justice Prateek Jalan also sought response from the government on the petition seeking for carrying out complete videography and photography of the last rites of the abandoned bodies in the presence of senior police officers.

The High Court has posted the case for further hearing on April 24.

FIR to prove claims

They also agreed to share the loss together, but his partner asked for an FIR to prove the claims. Following this, he hatched a plan with his employee to call the police and narrate the story about a robbery.

The police say that actions under appropriate sections of the IPC would be taken against the businessman.



C Despite informing the local police station at Jaitpur in south Delhi on December 6, 2017, that my son was missing, I was not given any information till January 28, 2018

RAMANUJ PURSOTAM
Petitioner

ing the clothes and valuable belongings of the bodies for a reasonable period of time for handing over the same to families of the deceased.

Father's petition

The court was hearing a plea filed by Ramanuj Pursotam, whose son had gone missing on December 4, 2017, and later his body was recovered on December 8 the same year by the police, which disposed the body two days later after carrying out post-mortem.

"The apathy of the respondents [police] led to the death of the petitioner's son. So much so, the petitioner came to know about the death of his son after a while which he found a picture of his son's body.

The plea sought direction to the police to adopt a procedure to dispose off the abandoned bodies.

The police said some parts of the body were stuffed in a sack, while others, including the head, were lying scattered in the isolated area. Prima facie, it seems to be the body of a woman, they said, adding that the remains have been sent for an autopsy.

The police said a passer-by informed them about a sack lying in the plot around 6 p.m. on Monday. Personnel from Alipur police station reached the spot and recovered the remains, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Gaurav Sharma.

There were injury marks on some body parts and the police suspect that these have been mauled by stray dogs.

A case has been registered and the matter is being probed, Mr. Sharma said.

The police said they were scanning profiles of missing persons registered at various police stations to identify the victim.

Bengal man held for supplying fake currency notes

Police claim to have recovered notes with face value of ₹10 lakh from him

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 32-year-old resident of West Bengal has been arrested for allegedly supplying fake Indian currency notes (FICN) in the Capital and other States on Monday. The police claim to have recovered notes worth ₹10 lakh.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said that the accused has been identified as Khalik Sheikh, a resident of Malda.

High-quality notes

"The recovered FICN appear to have been printed in a so-



The accused, Khalik Sheikh; (right) fake notes recovered from his possession. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"High-quality FICN in the denomination of ₹2,000 notes to a total of ₹10 lakh was recovered from his possession at the spot," Mr. Yadav said.

During interrogation, he revealed that he has been transporting and circulating fake notes in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and adjoining areas for the last three years and has delivered consignments amounting to ₹2 lakh. "Khalik Sheikh used to buy fake notes from Ashfaq, a resident of Bangladesh, by paying ₹40 per ₹100 FICN and further supply it to his contacts for ₹50-₹60 per ₹100 of FICN," the officer said.

that a member of the syndicate would come near Anand Vihar railway station to deliver the consignment to a Delhi-based contact after which a trap was laid and the accused was arrested.

with gunshot injury in her abdomen. A case on charges of attempt to murder was registered.

On Monday, the police claimed to have received a tip-off that persons involved in the firing incident would come from Barapullah flyover and go towards Moolchand Hospital.

A trap was laid and the accused was arrested, Mr. Biswal said.

During interrogation, Sagar allegedly told the police that he and his accomplice Chandra gave lift to the transgender who pretended to be a woman. "When they reached near the flyover, the woman was taken to AIIMS Trauma Centre by a passer-by. At the hospital, the person was admitted

they got into an altercation. Sagar whipped out a pistol and shot at her in the abdomen. They threw the transgender out of the car and fled," the officer said.

Mr. Biswal said the accused also tried to destroy evidence by parking his bloodstained car at a mall in Gurugram as he allegedly thought that "keeping the car would be risky around Republic Day".

The police claimed to have recovered the car, two pistols and five live cartridges from his possession. The cops are looking for the other accused who has been absconding since the incident.

The police said that a PCR call was received around 2 p.m. regarding the incident. When the police reached the spot, they were in

formed that the girl was alone at home. The accused allegedly came to the house and sexually assaulted the girl. "The mother, who was away to buy vegetables, returned and saw the accused. She called the other neighbours who nabbed the man," the officer said.

The police were then informed and the accused was arrested. The girl was taken to the hospital for treatment and medical examination, the officer said. A case has been registered.

The accused was produced before the court on Tuesday after which he was sent to judicial custody.

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Book discussion on "Poverty, Chronic Poverty and Poverty Dynamics: Policy Imperatives", edited by Aasha Kapur Mehta, Shashanka Bhade, Anand Kumar and Amita Shah. Discussants: Prof. Abhijit Sen, former Member, Planning Commission; Prof. Ravi Srivastava, Professor, Institute for Human Development; and Dr. Rinku Murgai, The World Bank. Chair: Prof. S.R. Hashmi, Chairman, Institute for Human Development at Conference Room - I, India International Centre (IIC), 6:30 p.m.

Exhibition: "Amara" - a solo painting exhibition by Asha Gandhi at Convention Centre Foyer, IIC, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Exhibition: 17th All India Water Colour, 18th All India Traditional Art, and 10th All India Portrait Exhibition at All India Fine Arts & Craft Society (AIFACS), 1 Rafi Marg, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

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

Man held for shooting at transgender near Barapullah flyover

Accused is an alleged member of Sunder Bhati gang; weapons recovered; manhunt on for accomplice

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 24-year-old man, an alleged member of Sunder Bhati gang, has been arrested for allegedly shooting at a transgender on January 20, the police said on Tuesday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-East) Chinmoy Biswal said the accused has been identified as Sagar alias Lampak, a resident of Trilokpuri, who joined the gang about one and a half years ago after being beaten up by local boys.

The police said that they received a call at Hazrat Nizamuddin police station on January 20 at 12:38 a.m. stating



• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

that a woman has been shot at near Barapullah flyover. When the police reached the spot, they were informed

that the woman was taken to AIIMS Trauma Centre by a passer-by. At the hospital, the person was admitted

Neighbour rapes minor, sent to judicial custody

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A four-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her 25-year-old neighbour in Outer Delhi's Mundka on Monday afternoon, the police said on Tuesday.

A senior police officer privy to the case said that the accused, a supervisor in a shoe factory, resides on the top floor of the building where the minor resides with her parents in a rented accommodation.

The police said that a PCR call was received around 2 p.m. regarding the incident. When the police reached the spot, they were in

formed that the girl was alone at home. The accused allegedly came to the house and sexually assaulted the girl. "The mother, who was away to buy vegetables, returned and saw the accused. She called the other neighbours who nabbed the man," the officer said.

The police were then informed and the accused was arrested. The girl was taken to the hospital for treatment and medical examination, the officer said. A case has been registered.

The accused was produced before the court on Tuesday after which he was sent to judicial custody.

SHORT TAKE



Set in a metro

Filmmaker Anurag Basu's next has four different stories set in a metro. Abhishek Bachchan and Rajkumar Rao will star in the dark comic anthology. The multi-starrer shows unavoidable jeopardies of life. It is a slice of life film with stories intersecting each other amid drama and emotion.

Anurag had shot major sequences with Abhishek in Mumbai and Kolkata in 2018. The director has been busy shooting with Rajkumar and Fatima Sana Shaikh in Bhopal. Produced by Bhushan Kumar, Anurag, Tari Somarita Basu and Krishan Kumar, actors Aditya Roy Kapur, Sanya Malhotra and Pankaj Tripathi are also part of it.

"I am happy to have found this new generation cast, though I will trust my old friend Pritam for music as always," he added.

"Anurag is a master storyteller and brings magic to celluloid in his films. I am happy we are working together. The characters and story is compelling yet the treatment will entertain the audience."

"We have tried to bring on board a terrific cast who perfectly fit the roles that are written," he added.



An inner look at Raja Ravi Varma

How artist and author Rukmini Varma channelled the words and memories of her ancestor, to tell his story

GOWRI S

When Rukmini Varma chanced upon two books in the early 1960s, during the division of the Kilimanoor palace in then-Travancore, she did not anticipate what they would lead her to. The author and artist of the erstwhile royal family of Travancore, who is also the fourth-generation descendant of the prolific 19th-Cen-

tury artist Raja Ravi Varma, could see the latter's own squiggles and notes on them. A few sparse words, sprinkled across the length and breadth of the books, written by the legendary Indian painter himself.

"The moment I saw the words, something kept telling me that this is important. I mulled over them for a long time and realised that Raja Ravi

Varma was on a quest – to make his works come alive – which I have called the 'art of actualisation,' she said. Thus, the author penned *Hidden Truth*, a work that encompasses the life of Raja Ravi Varma in a series of anecdotes, that are replete with both fascinating personal details, and a look at his role in the Indian artistic tradition. By picturing these words with the sto-

ries she had heard from her grandmother Maharani Sethu Lakshmi Bayi, the author traced Raja Ravi Varma's journey from a little boy holding a piece of charcoal, waiting eagerly to scribble on the wall, to a pioneer of classical realism in India.

New colour palette

The author, an artist herself, was in the city for a talk, 'The Timeless Art of Ravi Varma', hosted by the Government Museum and The Raja Ravi Varma Heritage Foundation. Here, she was met with a packed hall of artists and admirers alike. 150 years after her ancestor passed on, his techniques and usage of colours – which laid the foundation of clas-

Notes from the past: Rukmini Varma's (left) *Hidden Truth* is replete with personal anecdotes from the artist's life • R RAVINDRAN

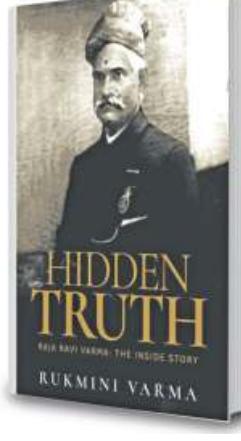
sical realism – are still discussed.

To a question of Ravi Varma's connect to the city, Varma was quick to respond with a bit of trivia: "The first precious box of paints he bought was from Madras," she said to a laughing audience, adding, "Shakuntala's Letter was exhibited in 1876, here."

"Colours are what led to the realism in his works. They gave them definition and precision," she said. She also wrote about his preoccupation with colours in the book, which discusses 'hidden oranges in the teakwood' and 'transparent blue veins' at length.

His sense of colours has always inspired the author. Rukmini had once come across a note in one of his paintings, which simply said the words 'note: leaf'. It did not strike a chord immediately. But soon enough, she walked out to the garden to a moment of revelation.

Parts of the book are written in first person – as if by the painter himself – while the rest follows the author's perspective



tion. "A ray of sunlight hit a leaf revealing an array of colours : lemon yellow, blue, shades of green, violet, scarlet and so on. This is exactly what he meant."

This formula of colours, she said, also lead her to paint a portrait of him, which she did after studying a number of his black and white photographs. "Nobody knew what his skin texture was. The more I looked at the pictures, the clearer it became. I was trying to use his own technique of actualisation to arrive at that texture."

The artist and his subjects

For Rukmini, writing about the artist and his work did not seem very challenging. "It came naturally to me. It was almost as if Raja Ravi Varma was dictating the words to me," she said. Her narrative style, too, agrees with this notion. While parts of her book are written in first person – as if by the painter himself – the rest follows the perspective of the author.

Raja Ravi Varma's subjects have often been as representative of the country and its culture, making him a seminal figure in the Indian art movement of the times. According to Rukmini, "His subjects gave an identity to India. He portrayed people from different walks of life, caste and creed no bar."

Through the book, she has also dwelt on the artist's less-discussed role as a patriot, who expressed through his works. "The feeling of *swadesh* was imbibed through his paintings. By and large, during colonisation, India did not have a collective identity. Ravi Varma definitely redefined it," said Rukmini.

As relatives and admirers flocked around her, she concluded by saying, "Ever since the 'leaf' incident, I have started observing more, and realising that every colour in the cosmos is reflected in everyone I meet. But certain colours will stand out, and that forms the figure."

In search of a few good men

Vibha Bakshi's "Son Rise" shows a ray of hope in the fight for gender equality in Haryana

+ ANUJ KUMAR

"Son Rise" starts with disturbing visuals that capture how deep patriarchy is rooted in Haryana, how illegal sex-selective abortions are still prevalent in parts of the State, described as *kudimaar* (girl-killing) districts by a courageous government doctor in the film. But before you could ask, what's new, director Vibha Bakshi introduces us to a few good men who are working for gender equality and are helping women to overcome the trauma of violence. Jitender Chhatar, Sunil Jaglan, and Baljit Singh Malik are ordinary sons of the soil who are working for a new dawn in the State which is infamous for its skewed sex ratio. Supported by the UN Women as part of its #he4she campaign under which people of all gender stand in solidarity with women, the film was premiered at the India Habitat Centre recently to a full house.

The catalyst

Vibha says after *Daughters of Mother India* (DMI), her National Award winning film made in the aftermath of 2012 Delhi gang rape, she wanted to go deeper to find out the root of the issue. "Where are these men coming from? Where are things going wrong? Unless we are going to do it together, we aren't going to win this social battle."

Two years back, when DMI was



I will make sure that the film is screened in every khap to tell them that you have the social power – use it judiciously and responsibly

VIBHA BAKSHI

being screened in Haryana, a social activist told her that there is a farmer who has married a gang rape survivor and is fighting her case in court. "In no time, I reached there and found that his immediate society made fun of him. They would derisively ask, woh aadmi! We got a feeling that he was not getting support. So I was not going to speak what was his reason to do this. During our conversations, his wife used to come and sit with us. For the first

three-four meetings, I didn't go with the camera. Slowly, they started trusting us and one day the girl took off the veil and said that she had no reason to feel ashamed. It is the rapists who should be ashamed. She is an incredibly strong woman."

Gradually, Vibha discovered that the girl's mother-in-law was also a big support. "She is as rural as rural can get but she is standing by her daughter-in-law." When Vibha started spending time with the family, she felt there must be more such men. And she was not wrong. Soon she came across Sunil Jaglaan, the popular Pradhan of Bibipur village who was taking pathbreaking steps to make women part of the decision making process in the gram panchayat. A father of two daughters, Jaglaan tells Vibha that he realised the mistakes of the past and changed. "He said: 'mujhe ehsas hua, main badla. And so can others,'" recounts the director.

In the most touching sequence of the film, men in Bibipur agree to put the turban, a symbol of male pride, on young girls' head. "It happened for the first time. I cried when the ceremony was in progress as I could relate to their feelings. What is lacking in me is that I don't have those rights? I am competent but I still feel the bias," remembers Vibha.

Visuals that enrich the narrative include Jaglaan giving his hand to pull her daughter up on a

slide. Vibha doesn't underline it with background music but it almost becomes a metaphor for what the film stands for. "You can't force love; you can't create love. When we went to meet him, he was not home. We started chatting up with his daughters. They were apparently waiting for him. So when he came, they jumped with joy and we followed them in the park."

Meaningful conversation

Along the way, she also reached out to Baljit Singh Malik, an influential khap chief who is leading a drive to end the tradition of wearing a veil by women and has asked the people to end female foeticide. Access was not easy, and Vibha had to be com-

pletely non-judgemental to understand the situation. "It was particularly difficult with the khap chief. Initially, he didn't want to make eye contact with a woman and I didn't approve of his views on gender. It was only when I stopped judging him that a meaningful conversation could begin," recalls Vibha. She feels khaps continues play a very important role in Haryana society. "You can't do it without them. They are not going anywhere for a long time. If the guy, who happens to be one of the most influential figures, is willing to change, why can't others? I will make sure that the film is screened in every khap to tell them that you have the social power – use it judiciously and responsibly."

As is usually the case, the film took shape on the editing table.

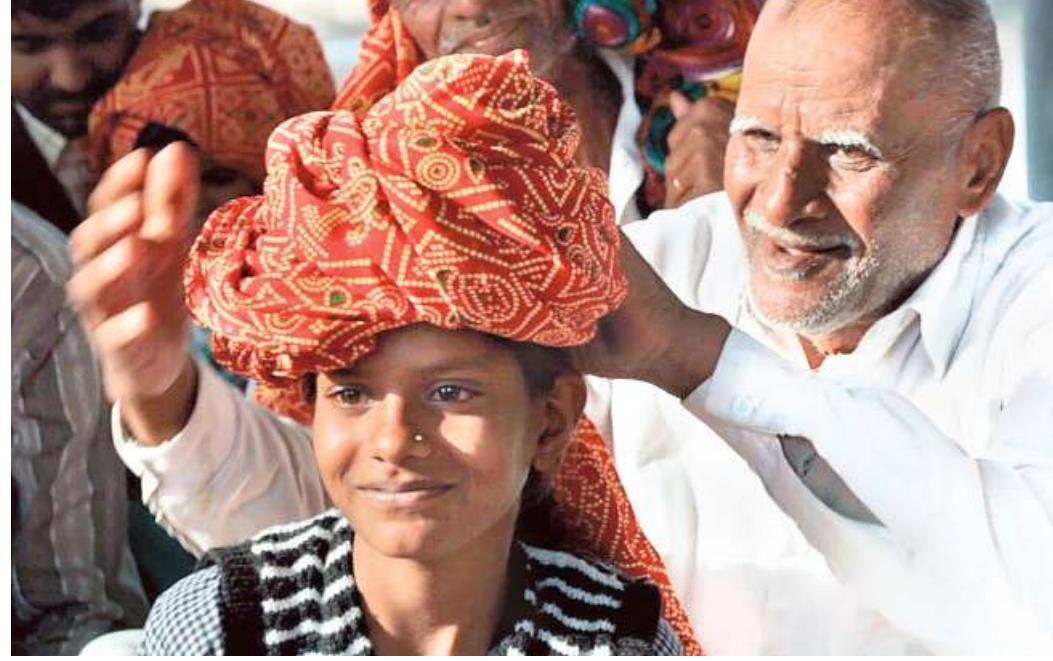
"It took my editor Hemanti Sarkar two months to edit *Stree*, but *Son Rise* kept her engaged for eight months. I had so much material and it was not easy for me to let go. There were a lot of deliberations on the form of the narrative."

The link

Interestingly, Vibha has kept the most poignant story of Jitender in the second half. "I wanted to establish the link. I wanted to show that you decided to play god by altering the sex ratio. Now you are in a mess. This mess has resulted in frustration which is leading to brides being bought from

West Bengal and Jharkhand and an increase in the number of brutal gang rapes."

The film is also laced with tragicomic situations such as the scene where a mother-in-law and her Bengali daughter-in-law are sitting on the same cot. The latter talks of how she was trapped and the old lady look into nothingness. "Hemanti asked me what I was thinking. I said it was an encounter, an encounter with reality. Actually, they both are trapped." With both Jitender and Jaglan facing long legal battles and threats, the film doesn't show that the sunshine is round the corner. "That's the reality. But as these men are standing their ground, there is a ray of hope," sums up Vibha.



The way forward: An old man putting the pagdi on a girl's head in a still from the documentary

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

5 EVENTS WORTH-YOUR-WHILE



EXHIBITION

The ongoing art show, 'The Art of Printing', curated by Nyva Art Gallerie and presented by Ina Puri, is showcasing the work of three renowned artists - Anant Sivaji Desai, Vasudeo H Pandya and Raja Ravi Verma. The show will take you back to that golden era and enjoy these unique, old and popular prints.

VENUE: Pullman New Delhi Aerocity

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



PARTY

Girls night out
The Irish House, a chain of casual dining resto-pubs, is offering a variety of brews and cocktails. It is now all set to host 'Girls Night Out' every Wednesday, to beat mid-week blues. Apart from American and Continental food menu, the pub is also organising live performances and the DJ Nights.

VENUE: The Irish House, Connaught Place

TIME: 8 p.m. onwards



BEVERAGE

Tea treats
Enjoy a range of seasonal tea treats in the new winter menu offered by Cha Bar. Their special menu comprises of varieties of tea such as gud chai, saunf chai, mulethi cha, hari mirch cha, ginger honey cha and masala milk to name a few. Cha Bar was created as an integral part of Oxford Bookstore, offers wide choice of tea.

VENUE: Cha Bar, Satya Niketan, South Moti Bagh

TIME: 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.



MUSIC

Midlife with Lost Radio Duo
Saint N Sinners hosting Lost Radio Duo, with the mix of special food at Gurugram this evening. The duo, Sushant Thakur and Diyatom Deb perform all-acoustic acts featuring blues, country, and classic rock-retro covers. They also play in the famed band, Big Bang Blues.

VENUE: Saints N Sinners, GF-21 Global Foyer, Golf Course Road, Sector 43, Gurugram

TIME: 8:30 p.m. - 11 p.m.

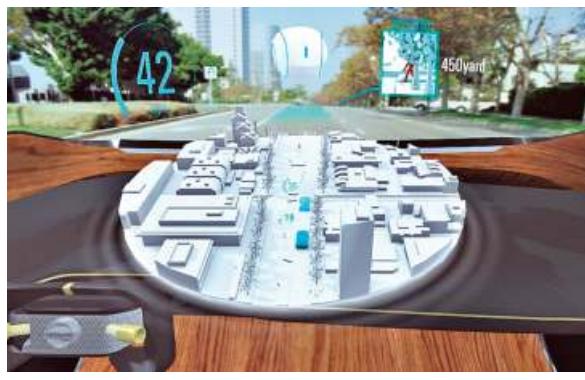


EXHIBITION

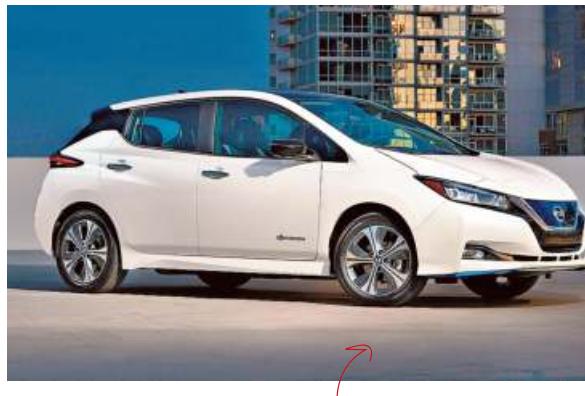
A tryst with art
Kiran Soni Gupta, an artist and photographer, has shared her creativities in a painting exhibition titled, "A Tryst With Art". It showcases various styles of paintings with different ideas, philosophies, thoughts. It is an exhibition of large perspectives and different perceptions, representing diversity in art.

VENUE: Lalit Kala Akademi, Rabindra Bhavan

TIME: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Nissan i2V technology**

Nissan showcased its latest developments in connected-car technologies in the form of the i2V or 'Invisible to Visible' system. The i2V system uses sensors both inside and outside the car, along with connected cloud technology to project not just the surrounding of the car onto the windshield but also track approaching vehicles. Another interesting feature of i2V is that it can also connect occupants to the Metaverse – which encompasses the virtual world, augmented reality and the internet. This makes it possible for family, friends or others to appear inside the car as three-dimensional, augmented-reality avatars to provide company or assistance.

**Harley-Davidson LiveWire and EV concepts**

Harley-Davidson might be renowned for its big, burly bikes and that legendary 'potato-potato' exhaust note, but it took a huge step into the future with the unveiling of the LiveWire, its first-ever electric bike. The first in a range of EVs from the iconic bike maker, the LiveWire offers a range of 177km on a single charge and a claimed 0.96kph time in under 3.5sec. Also showcased were two unnamed EV concepts that are pointers to what's in store from Harley-Davidson.



CES 2019, the big tech show, revealed some revolutionary concepts and ideas to hit the world of automobiles

JAIVEER MEHRA

Nissan Leaf e+
While Nissan's i2V technology was undoubtedly a highlight for the manufacturer, it also brought along an extended range version of the Leaf. The Leaf e+ employs a larger 60kWh battery pack, which the manufacturer claims gives it a range of 458km – up from 322km (WLTC Japan cycle). Along with the upgraded powerpack, Nissan has also introduced an upgraded Quick Charging system. The Leaf e+ also gets a host of autonomous tech.



A bag full of surprises
From self-driving motorcycles to walking cars, CES 2019 had it all

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Blackberry, Tata Elxsi digital cockpit**

Blackberry, in conjunction with Tata Elxsi, showcased a new digital cockpit solution that is said to be the first to offer a safe, secure and reliable digital instrument cluster and infotainment system, capable of working on a single ECU. Based on Blackberry's QNX platform, the system runs the company's ISO 26262 safety-certified hypervisor that makes sure multiple applications running across the digital cockpit system do not interfere with each other. This comes in handy, as a single app crashing on any of the systems does not affect the working of the infotainment or digital cockpit.

**Byton M-Byte EV SUV**

Chinese EV startup Byton brought its near-production electric SUV, the M-Byte, to the show. The all-electric SUV melds a sleek design with a traditional upright SUV stance, but the real talking point is its digital-heavy cabin. The dashboard comprises, wait for it – a 48-inch curved display! That's not all. There's a smaller central touchscreen to control in-car functions and a second unit at the centre of the steering wheel too. Byton claims a range of up to 520km and a power output of up to 475hp in all-wheel-drive model.

AUTO SNIPPETS**2019 Toyota Supra unveiled at Detroit motor show**

Toyota has revealed the new fifth-generation GR Supra at the Detroit motor show 2019, reviving the 'Supra' nameplate after a 17-year hiatus. It has been developed by Toyota's Gazoo Racing (GR) performance division, alongside BMW's new Z4. However, Toyota claims that they have achieved a ratio of 1.55 between the wheelbase length and the tread, which is claimed to provide the model with excellent dynamics. The Supra has a wheelbase length of 2,470mm – which is shorter than the GT86's 2,570mm – and a tread width of 1,594mm at the front and 1,589mm at the rear. Overall width is 1,854mm. On the inside, there is a three-spoke leather steering wheel, racing-inspired Alcantara seats and an 8.8-inch digital driver instrument display.

**Ford reveals the Mustang Shelby GT500 at Detroit**

Ford revealed the Mustang Shelby GT500 at the Detroit motor show, reviving the model the company stopped selling in 2015. The GT500 sports the iconic tuning firm's famous Cobra logo and uses a further developed, supercharged version of the Mustang GT350's 5.2-litre V8, which delivers more than 710hp. Power is delivered to the rear wheels through a carbon-fibre driveshaft and a 7-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission, which was developed with insight from the team that worked on the GT supercar. Acceleration from 0-100kph is promised to be in around 3.5sec and the car should run the quarter-mile in under 11sec.

**Jeep adds new Longitude(O) petrol-AT trim to Compass line-up**

Jeep has introduced a new mid-spec, petrol-powered Compass variant – the Longitude (O) – priced at ₹18.90 lakh. The Longitude(O) trim was previously only available with a diesel engine. Costing about ₹3.5 lakh more than the base Compass Sport, the Longitude (O) variant comes with features such as 17-inch alloy wheels, roof rails, halogen projector headlamps, front and rear fog lamps, power folding and adjustable wing mirrors, push-button start, a 7.0-inch touchscreen infotainment system with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay compatibility and an automatic climate control system. It comes with dual front airbags, ABS with EBD, stability control, traction control and four-wheel disc brakes as standard.

(All prices, ex-showroom, Delhi)

MY FIRST WHEELS

'Bikes are cool, but cars are cooler'

Actor Arunoday Singh on how his Mahindra Scorpio has always been close to his heart

The first car I had ever purchased was a Mahindra Scorpio, the old model. It was a second-hand Scorpio, and as soon as I got it, I took it to get painted in a very bright salsa red – I love that colour.

It was a wonderful feeling. I also changed the music system, as music is my favourite thing in a car. I cannot drive a car that doesn't have a good sound system. So I got a nice Kenwood fitted. I always have a nice selection of songs in my car. For my first ride, I went somewhere far with my father and we had a very nice time together.

I am a car man. I know bikes are cool, but I think cars are way cooler.



It was the car that was with me when I started out in the (film) industry. I drove it to my first audition and practised in it.

I cannot drive a car that doesn't have a good sound system

I have cried in that car when I was rejected for a role. I slammed its leather on steering in frustration. It was always there for me.

I wish that I could have kept that car. I now have my father's Land Rover, which he gave me as a wedding gift. I like it a lot as it is a big car; I choose big cars because they have more space.

I have a problem with low and sleek cars as well as convertibles.

However, my favourite car will always be the Classic Mustang. I love that iconic pony badge that makes it different from others.

I also prefer other variants of four-wheel drives, but muscle cars such as the 1970 Dodge Challenger will be my pick, if not the Mustang. I hope to own one someday.

(As told to Atif Khan)

