



Amit Shah to hold meetings on Citizenship Bill
page 12



Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA government to face floor test today
page 13

RAMKUMAR & NAGAL give India a 2-0 lead against Pakistan in Davis Cup
page 19



NEARBY

Swiss firm to develop J ewar airport

NOIDA
Zurich Airport International AG will develop the J ewar airport on the outskirts of Delhi, officials said after the Swiss company on Friday outbid competitors like Adani and DIAL for what is billed to be the biggest airport in the country. The airport in Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddha Nagar district will be the third in the National Capital Region.

BUSINESS ▶ PAGE 15

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New Delhi announces \$450 mn to Colombo

Sri Lanka to get \$50 million to fight terror threats

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

India and Sri Lanka agreed to cooperate on counter-terrorism during talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting President Gotabaya Rajapaksa here on Friday. As part of this common strategy, India announced a special Line of Credit of \$50 million for strengthening Sri Lanka's abilities to counter terror threats.

This was in addition to the \$400 million Line of Credit that India announced for infrastructure development in

the island nation.

"On the occasion of Easter this year, terrorists in Sri Lanka launched brutal attacks on the diversity of mankind and the valuable heritage of symbiosis. I went to Sri Lanka immediately after the elections in India to express India's unwavering support in the Sri Lankan fight against terrorist and extremist forces. Sri Lankan police officers in major Indian institutions are already receiving the benefit of counter terrorist training," said Prime Minister Modi.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12



PM Narendra Modi with Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in New Delhi on Friday. ■ V.V. KRISHNAN

On safe shores



Perilous journey: Nine Indian fishermen who escaped from Yemen following 'inhuman treatment' by their sponsor, being escorted by the Coast Guard at Fort Kochi on Friday. They set sail on November 19 after stocking up on supplies. ■ THULASI KAKKAT

Kejriwal appoints panel for lawyers' welfare scheme

In 10 days, the committee will suggest ways to utilise ₹50-crore fund

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday announced the formation of a 13-member committee tasked with submitting recommendations for the utilisation of the ₹50-crore Chief Minister's Advocates' Welfare Scheme. The committee, headed by Rakesh Kumar Khanna, senior advocate and president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, will submit the recommendations within 10 days, he said.

"This is good news for the community of advocates in



quested by various advocates' organisations," said Mr. Kejriwal.

Poll promise
The Chief Minister said that the Delhi government recognises the invaluable contributions of advocates to society and that an exclusive scheme for their welfare was a long-standing demand of various lawyers' organisations. "Advocates' bodies had approached us before the last elections. It was one of the poll promises we had made. It has been materialised now," he said.

Delhi. The committee will submit its report within 10 days. We had allocated ₹50 crore under the scheme for the welfare of advocates in the current budget, as re-

The scheme, Mr. Kejriwal claimed, is unique as no such scheme for the welfare of advocates has been initiated so far in the country. "The Delhi government has made another model initiative in this regard," he said.

The Khanna-led panel would identify specific areas of welfare for the amount to be spent.

According to the order issued on Friday, Bar Council of Delhi chairman K.C. Mittal and Delhi High Court Bar Association president Mohit Mathur are among other members of the committee.

Earlier, all lanes, except one on each side, at all NHAI toll plazas were to be declared as dedicated FASTag lanes from December 1.

The National Highways Authority of India, in a statement, said many citizens had not enabled their vehicles with FASTags due to which the decision was deferred till December 15.

It was earlier decided that any motorist entering the dedicated FASTag lane without the tag would be charged double the toll fee from December 1, but the NHAI made it clear that the "charging of double fee will start from December 15".

Ms. Thakur read out from a written statement following an uproar over her first apology in which she hit out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for calling her a "terrorist" in a tweet.

The scheme, Mr. Kejriwal claimed, is unique as no such scheme for the welfare of advocates has been initiated so far in the country. "The Delhi government has made another model initiative in this regard," he said.

Meanwhile, Manish ushers the procession into the banquet hall with Jaanewalon Zara Hoshiyar, Yahan Ke Hum Hain Raj Kumar from the 1964 Shammi Kapoor-starrer Rajkumar.

Critic Ajay Brahmatmaj says songs also endure



A wedding procession in Anupshahr. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

learning a new tune and then being stopped midway by a baarat because he could not relate to it," says Anil Kumar, the proprietor of the band.

Tough times for bands Anil says these are tough times for small bands spread across the region. "More than 20 weddings are

solemnised on any given day during the short wedding season but we could not take more than one booking. Pandits should spread it through the season," he laughs. DJs are also cutting into their business, he says, though the Allahabad High Court order barring them from playing songs above prescribed decibel and time limits is music to his ears.

Waseem Ahmed of Popular Band in Muzaffarnagar tells a similar story. "Earlier we used to bring trained artists from Allahabad and Jaipur. It is hard to find and retain good percussionists nowadays," he rues.

Critic Ajay Brahmatmaj says songs also endure



London police shoot one suspect dead after 'terrorist stabbings'
page 14

Ramkumar & Nagal give India a 2-0 lead against Pakistan in Davis Cup
page 19



GDP growth plunges to 4.5%, lowest since 2012

Official says fundamentals are strong, numbers will pick up

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Growth in the gross domestic product (GDP) in the July-September quarter hit a 25-quarter low of 4.5%, the government announced on Friday.

The lowest GDP growth in six years and three months comes as Parliament has been holding day-long discussions on the economic slowdown, with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman assuring the Rajya Sabha that the country is not in a recession and may not ever be in one.

GVA dips to 4.3%

Growth in gross value added (GVA) also dipped to 4.3% in Q2 of 2019-20 from 4.9% in Q1, and 6.9% in the Q2 of last year.

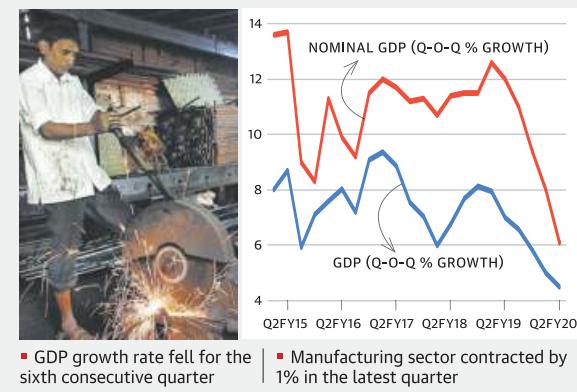
According to the data released on Friday, the manufacturing sector contracted 1% in the second quarter of the current financial year, compared with a robust growth of 6.9% in the same quarter of the previous year.

The manufacturing sector saw an overall contraction of 0.2% in the first half (April to September) of the current financial year compared to a growth of 9.4% in the first half of last year.

"We take note of announcement of the rate of GDP

In slump mode

In the July to September 2019 quarter, both the nominal GDP (which includes inflation) and the real GDP grew at the slowest-ever pace since 2014



Unacceptable, says Manmohan

Reacting to the GDP growth rate for the July-September quarter at 4.5%, a six-year low, announced on Friday, former Prime Minister

Manmohan Singh said the figures were "completely unacceptable", and pointed to a "palpable

climate of fear" leading to this state of the economy.

He was delivering the valedictory address at National Economy Conclave, organised by the Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies.

■ PAGE 12

growth," Economic Affairs Secretary Atanu Chakraborty told the media following the data release. "The fundamentals of the Indian economy remain strong and GDP growth is expected to pick up from the third quarter of FY 2019-20."

He further highlighted the fact that the International Monetary Fund has projected India's GDP growth at 6.1% in financial year 2019-20 and 7% in 2020-21 in its October 2019 report.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Four arrested for vet's rape and murder in Hyderabad

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

A woman veterinarian, whose charred body was found in Hyderabad on Thursday, was raped and killed, the police said.

A truck driver and three cleaners have been arrested. They planned to sexually assault her when they saw her parking her two-wheeler at Tondupally toll plaza on Wednesday evening. When she left for Gachibowli in a cab, they deflated a tyre of her scooter.

When she returned at 9.18 p.m., she noticed the flat tyre. Minutes later, driver Mohammed alias Areef, 26, offered to get the vehicle repaired and sent cleaner Jollu Shiva, 20, with it, Cyberabad Commissioner of Police V.C. Sajjanar said here on Friday.

Shiva returned without fixing the bike and said the shop was closed. Minutes later, he again took the vehicle away. "As she was waiting for the scooter, Areef and other cleaners Jollu Naveen, 20, and Chintakunta Chennakeshavulu, 20, dragged her to a plot and raped her," he said.

Meanwhile, an unidentified woman, aged around 30, was found burnt to death in Cyberabad on Friday.

(With PTI inputs)

DIED OF SUCCIONATE ▶ PAGE 8

Godse remark: Pragya offers apology twice

She read out from a written statement following an uproar

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

The government on Friday extended till December 15 the deadline for making FASTag mandatory for toll payments on national highways.

Earlier, all lanes, except one on each side, at all NHAI toll plazas were to be declared as dedicated FASTag lanes from December 1.

The National Highways Authority of India, in a statement, said many citizens had not enabled their vehicles with FASTags due to which the decision was deferred till December 15.

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Pragya Singh Thakur

The statement was prepared at Speaker Om Birla's chamber after a meeting of floor leaders to end the impasse in the Lower House.

Mr. Birla was forced to call the meeting after the BJP MP's initial regret created a fresh logjam. "On November 27, during discussion on SPG (Amendment) Bill, I did not call Nathuram Godse a patriot (desh bhakt), I did not even take his name. Still if someone is hurt, I express my regret and apologise," said the Bhopal MP around 3 p.m., after the Speaker asked her to stick to the prepared statement.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

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At these wedding processions, it's yesterday once more

Old gems score over new-age Bollywood songs among revellers in western Uttar Pradesh

ANUJ KUMAR
GAZIABAD

On a dark stretch in Anupshahr, a quiet town on the banks of Ganges in western Uttar Pradesh, Manish Kumar, the 25-year-old lead vocalist of Anil Band, is making a group of young wedding revellers dance to *Pallu Latke*. The all-male procession swaying to the Kishore Kumar-Asha Bhosle song from *Naukar* (1979) had no clue it was picturised on Sanjeev Kumar-Jaya Bhaduri, but they all agree it is meant for the "occasion".

New-age Bollywood is yet to make it to wedding procession playlists in this part of the world. They are still swooning to *Barhao Phool Barsao* (*Suraj*, 1966)



A wedding procession in Anupshahr. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

learning a new tune and then being stopped midway by a baarat because he could not relate to it," says Anil Kumar, the proprietor of the band.

Tough times for bands Anil says these are tough times for small bands spread across the region. "More than 20 weddings are

solemnised on any given day during the short wedding season but we could not take more than one booking. Pandits should spread it through the season," he laughs. DJs are also cutting into their business, he says, though the Allahabad High Court order barring them from playing songs above prescribed decibel and time limits is music to his ears.

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Critic Ajay Brahmatmaj says songs also endure



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aadi mahotsav
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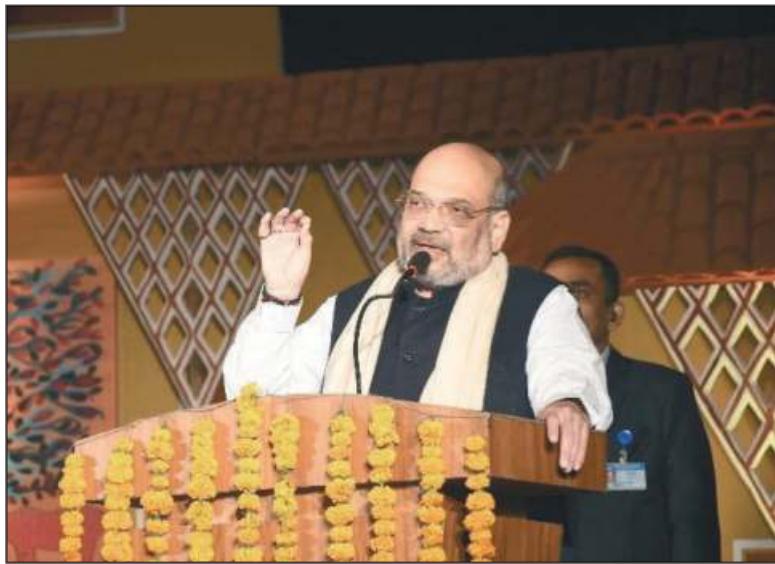
HIGHLIGHTS

7. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Minister of Steel Sh.Dharmendra Pradhan & Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Minister of Rural Development Sh. Narendra Singh Tomar at Aadi Mahotsav at Dilli Haat, INA.



Lamp lighting by Sh. Amit Shah, Hon'ble Home Minister

1. Union Home Minister Sh. Amit Shah inaugurated the Aadi Mahotsav at Dilli Haat, INA on 16 November 2019



Inaugural speech Sh. Amit Shah, Hon'ble Minister for Home Affairs

2. The tribes of India have a wide range of handicrafts. These include handwoven cotton, wool and silk fabrics, woodcrafts, metal craft, terracotta, bead-work, masques and other objects. They also produce compelling paintings.

3. Sh. Om Birla Hon'ble Speaker Loka Sabha was Chief Guest at Aadi Mahotsav at Dilli Haat, INA



Arrival of the Chief Guest Sh. Om Birla, Hon'ble Speaker Loka Sabha

4. Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Sh. Arjun Munda at Aadi Mahotsav & Minister of State of Ministry of Tribal Affairs Smt. Renuka Singh at Dilli Haat, INA



Sh. Om Birla, Hon'ble Speaker Loka Sabha at Stalls

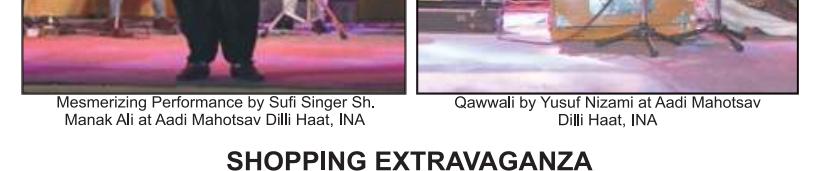
5. The need is to put two and two together for a win-win result. Events such as this Aadi Mahotsav are very important in this regard. The Government has formed the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) for achieving this. TRIFED is doing significant work in this direction and have now embraced e-commerce and digital platforms to take the business forward.

6. Cultural Performance by Padma Shri Awardee Malini Awasthi at Aadi Mahotsav, Dilli Haat, INA



Speaking at Aadi Mahotsav Sh. Arjun Munda, Hon'ble Union Minister for Tribal Affairs

Speaking at Aadi Mahotsav Smt. Renuka Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State of Ministry of Tribal Affairs



Mesmerizing Performance by Sufi Singer Sh. Manak Ali at Aadi Mahotsav Dilli Haat, INA

13. The tribal textiles manufactured by Master tribal Craftsmen from Jammu & Kashmir in the North to Tamil Nadu in the South and from Gujarat in the West to Nagaland/Sikkim in the East will win your heart.
14. The Traditional tribal jewellery, bamboo cane also promise to be the items of attraction.
15. The Tribal handicrafts would be sold through 100 Stalls under the Tribes Banner by tribalArtisans.

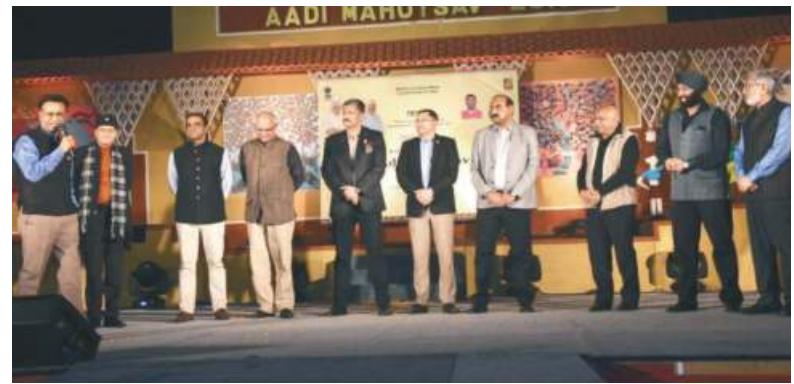
SHOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA

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16. M.C. Mary Kom, Hon'ble M.P., Sh. Chetan Sharma & Surinder Khanna was Chief Guest at Aadi Mahotsav at Dilli Haat, INA



17. Sh. Zafar Iqbal, a former Indian field hockey player and captained the national team with Chanchal Bharti at Aadi Mahotsav, Dilli Haat, INA



Present on stage: Sh. Pravir Krishna (MD TRIFED), Sh. A.B. Subhalakshmi, Sh. Anupam Gulati, Sh. Jagbir Singh, Sh. Arvind Chabbar, Sh. Manser Singh, Sh. Sanjay Bisht, Sh. Zafar Iqbal

18. The Traditional tribal jewellery, bamboo cane also promise to be the items of attraction.
19. The Tribal handicrafts would be sold through 100 Stalls under the Tribes Banner by tribalArtisans.
20. Eminent Fashion Personalities were chief guest at Aadi Mahotsav at Dilli Haat, INA



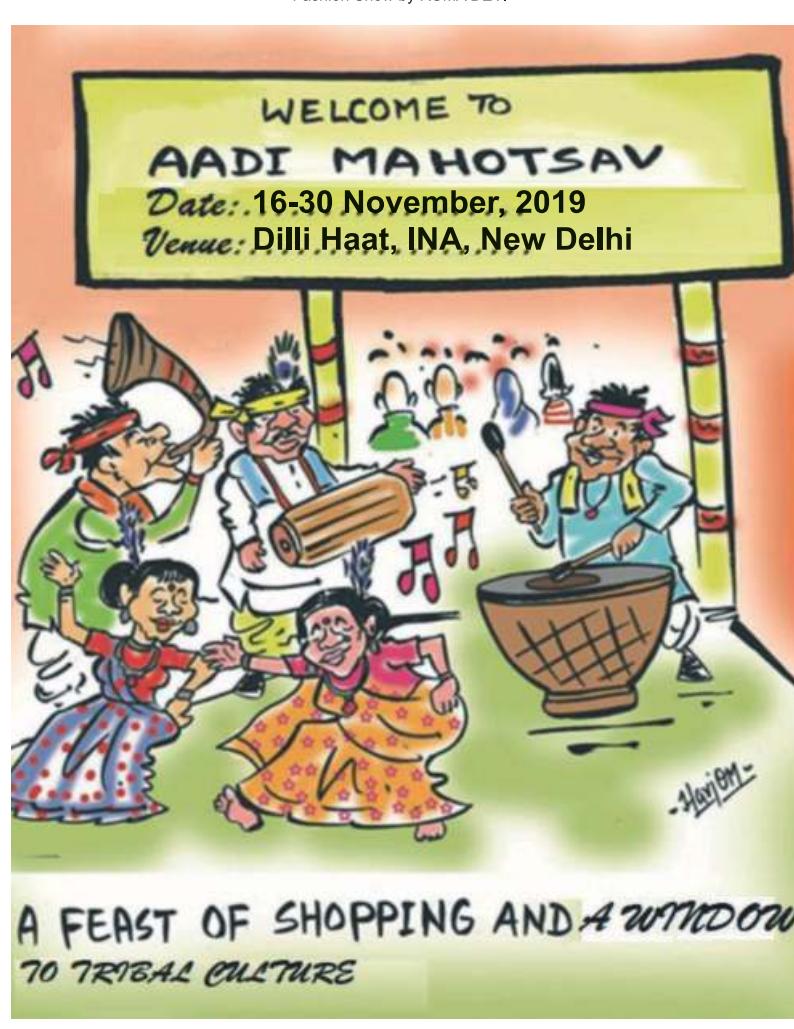
Present at the event : Sh. Pravir Krishna (MD TRIFED), Smt. Ruma Devi, Sh. Rohit Bal, Sh. Jatin Kochhar, Ms. Meagan Olliar, Ms. Liz Hartman, Sh. Praful Bakshi



Fashion Show by SADHNA



Fashion Show by RUMA DEVI



IN BRIEF

DUTA calls for indefinite strike starting Dec. 4

NEW DELHI
Delhi University Teacher's Association (DUTA) called for an indefinite strike starting December 4, following reports of the Delhi University Principal's Association (DUPA) deciding to put on hold the joining of ad-hoc teachers, it said on Friday. The DUPA's decision would put at risk the employment of up to 4,500 teachers working with the university for several years, the teachers' association said.

Tender invited to process RDF from landfill

NEW DELHI
To dispose of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) collected after the biomining of the Bhalswa landfill, the North Delhi Municipal Corporation will be employing a third party agency for which a notice inviting tenders has been issued. A senior north corporation official said that only those companies that are eligible or have tie-ups with cement manufacturing and waste-to-energy plants will be allowed in the current tender.

Bar polls at Karkardooma, Tis Hazari courts on Dec. 13

NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court on Friday allowed elections of the bar associations at Tis Hazari and Karkardooma district courts here to be held on December 13. The elections of the bar associations at Tis Hazari and Karkardooma courts were earlier scheduled to be held on November 5 and 7 respectively. However, they were stayed by the High Court following the November 2 clash between lawyers and the police here.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Congress on Friday said that the passing of the Bill in the Lok Sabha to regularise 1,731 unauthorised colonies in the Capital was an "election gimmick"

and that the BJP with an eye on the upcoming Assembly elections was trying to "cheat" the people of Delhi.

It was not practically possible to complete the entire process in 180 days and the promise was being

made only to attract voters, it said

Congress leader Arvinder Singh Lovely alleged that nearly 40-45% of the colonies would not be regularised as they are located close to the reserved forest

areas, the Yamuna floodplain or located near ASI protected monuments and that the regularisation of these colonies was barred according to a notification issued by the Centre on October 29.

DELHI TODAY

MUSIC: The second day of Uttaradhyak 2019 music festival will feature Dhrupad recital by Ashutosh Bhattacharya, followed by a Bharatanatyam dance recital by Sneha Chakradhar at C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre (IIC), 6 p.m.

Exhibition: "Feminine Divine", a solo show of contemporary Madhubani art that celebrates feminine energy by Neelkanth Choudhary at Gallerie Ganesh, E-557, Greater Kailash-II, 11 a.m.- 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Old Delhi", an exhibition of charcoal works by Yuvraj Patil at Delhi 'o' Delhi, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m.- 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Live Unbound", an art exhibition curated by Sugandha Chagti at Modern Art Gallery, Chanakyapuri, 11 a.m.- 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Interpreting Temples: Lingaraj and Puri Temples", a photography show by Main Art Gallery, Kamaladevi Complex, India International Centre (IIC), 11 a.m.- 7 p.m.

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

Residents of illegal colonies want registries, not a law: CM

Centre's move is eyewash till such documents are handed out, says Kejriwal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The people of Delhi want registries and not a Bill or a law, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Friday as he attacked the BJP over the issue of unauthorised colonies.

A day after the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Unauthorised Colonies), Bill, 2019, was passed by the Lok Sabha, the CM said that lakhs of residents of unauthorised colonies need registries of their properties and till such documents are in their hands, everything else is "an eyewash".

"People are not concerned with laws, rules, and regulations. They are only concerned whether they are provided with proper registry papers. It is in the news that the registry process of regularisation of unauthorised colonies will start six months after the Assembly polls. The BJP leaders will give registry papers to 100 owners at a huge event to be held at Ramlila Maidan just for the photos. But I want to ask, why should this preferential treatment be given to some people? The registry should be provided to all," Mr. Kejriwal added.

Reminds of betrayal
Terming the move "just an election gimmick", the CM said that the BJP would end up betraying the people of Delhi just as the Congress had done prior to the previous Assembly elections.

Former CM Sheila Dikshit had also promised that her government would provide registry to the people during the Assembly poll but "did nothing" in this regard after coming to power, he said.

"People have been betrayed before, they should not be betrayed again... We had sent the detailed proposal to regularise the unauthorised colonies to the Centre on November 12, 2015, immediately after the formation of our government. Why did they [the Centre] not take any action? They should have started the registry process six months ago

ARVIND KEJRIWAL,
Delhi Chief Minister

"The should have started the process six months ago

"The work of passing the Bill has been done to provide happiness to the people of Delhi but Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has been doing politics on it since 2013... registration of unauthorised colonies will start on December 16, after which people living in unauthorised colonies will get ownership rights," Mr. Tiwari announced.

"As many as 1,731 colonies will be regularised in the first phase, the remaining colonies will be regularised in the second phase," he added.

Bill an election gimmick, claims Congress

Party says it is not practically possible to complete the entire process in 180 days

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

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and that the BJP with an eye on the upcoming Assembly elections was trying to "cheat" the people of Delhi.

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areas, the Yamuna floodplain or located near ASI protected monuments and that the regularisation of these colonies was barred according to a notification issued by the Centre on October 29.

'Constitutional duty needed to combat violations of rights of women workers'

SC's 1997 judgment led to Vishaka guidelines: Upendra Baxi

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Constitutional duty and discipline are required so that recurrent violations of fundamental rights of women workers can be combated through guidelines, noted legal scholar Prof. Upendra Baxi said on Friday, referring to the landmark judgment of the Supreme Court in the Vishaka case.

Speaking at the 25th Justice Sunanda Bhambhani Memorial Lecture here in the Capital, Mr. Baxi said the apex court had acknowledged that the primary responsibility for ensuring such safety and dignity, through suitable legislation and creation of a mechanism for its enforcement, lie with the le-

gislation and the executive.

"Since they [executive and legislature] had manifestly failed to act, the apex court was duty bound under Article 32 to intervene..."

UPENDRA BAXI
Legal scholar

gislature and the executive.

"Since they [executive and legislature] had manifestly failed to act, the apex court was duty bound under Article 32 to intervene in fulfilment of its Constitutional obligations to enforce the right to Constitutional remedies," Mr. Baxi said.

"Recognising sexual harassment at workplace as a

'recurring phenomenon' and the importance of availability of safe working environment," Mr. Baxi said, the Supreme Court's 1997 judgment led to the Vishaka guidelines against sexual harassment at workplace.

Mr. Baxi was delivering this year's memorial lecture on "How to Engender the Basic Structure Doctrine: The Elusive Future of Women's Rights as Human Rights", which was presided over by K.K. Venugopal, Attorney General of India.

Each year, Justice Sunanda Bhambhani Foundation organises a memorial lecture on a theme relating to empowerment of women, child rights and the rights of differently abled people.

Nancy murder case: car, pistol recovered

All three accused sent to judicial custody: police

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The police on Friday said they have recovered a car and a pistol used in the murder of Nancy. She was allegedly killed by her 21-year-old husband over "petty fights".

The accused had dumped her body in Haryana's Panipat, the police said. On Wednesday, they had recovered her body 17 days after she went missing from her husband Sahil Chopra's house in west Delhi's Janakpuri.

The police said they recovered the car from Dabri and a pistol was found on the dashboard.

"We found blood in the back seat and in the boot of the car. A team from the forensic department scanned the car and have taken samples for further investigation. We have also visited the lodge where Sahil checked in after he came to Delhi from Panipat," said an officer.



The pistol used for committing the crime.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

When Shubham was put under sustained interrogation, he confessed to parking the car in Dabri. The police took him to the location after which the vehicle was recovered.

A POLICE OFFICER

parking the car in Dabri near Janakpuri. The police took him to the location after which the vehicle was recovered," added the officer.

"We have enough evidence against Sahil and his two associates to prove their involvement in the case. We have also seized Sahil's mobile phone," said the officer.

The third accused in the case, Badal (26), a cousin of Shubham, along with the other two accused were sent to judicial custody on Friday.

"A team went to Muzaffarnagar but could not find the car. Later when Shubham was put under sustained interrogation, he confessed to

Report questions AAP govt. on its achievements

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The AAP failed to fulfil 67 of the 70 promises made in its election manifesto five years ago, made a mockery of the RTI and took credit for development-related work not done by it, according to a report prepared by the Public Policy Research Centre (PPRC), which was released by Union Minister Prakash Javadekar here on Friday.

The RTI-based report titled 'Empty Vessels Make More Noise' by the think tank, which has ties with the BJP, also claimed that the fiscal deficit of the Delhi government had increased by 55 times in the past two years. "Uski top apne sar (their feather on my cap) is Arvind Kejriwal's style," Mr. Javadekar alleged.

Focus on debates, present true picture, Naidu urges media

V-P presents TVR Shenoy Award to senior scribe Vinod Sharma

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The tendency to sensationalise reporting makes journalism senseless at times, Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu said on Friday, urging journalists to "present the true picture that can lead to informed decisions by public," he said.

Pointing out that media debates are an extension of parliamentary debates, Mr. Naidu urged journalists to not mix news and views. "Views should in the pages meant for them," he said.

Mr. Naidu was speaking after presenting the first 'TVR Shenoy Award for Excellence in Parliamentary Journalism', constituted by Prof. K.V Thomas Vidhyadhanam Trust, to senior journalist Vinod Sharma.

"People have a right to know what is being debated in Parliament and what elected representatives are

doing. People form their opinions based on such reporting.

It is the media's duty to present the true picture that can lead to informed decisions by public," he said.

He said it is often the unparliamentary actions that get more media attention, incentivising such behaviour by members.

"Please focus on debates," the V-P said, citing the well-prepared Zero Hour submissions that MPs made this week in the Rajya Sabha.

In his acceptance speech, Mr. Sharma said that in his four decades of journalism, he learns much from parliamentary debates. "Contrary to perception, we have scholarly parliamentarians who come prepared for debates," he added.

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ARROW raymond PARK AVENUE LOUIS PHILIPPE

- PUNCHKUAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.)
- WAZIPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
- JANAKPUR B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543 UP
- NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

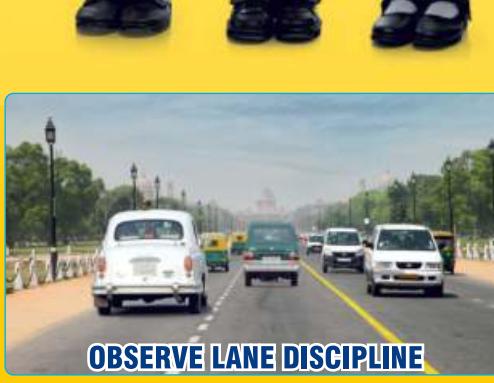


SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

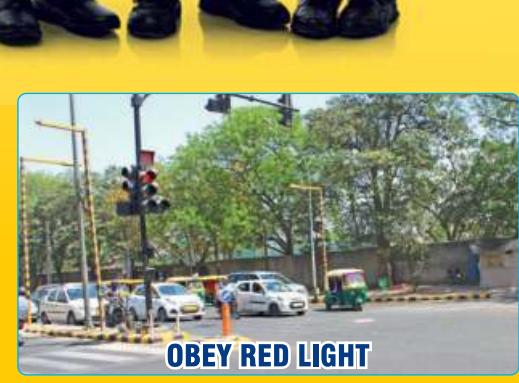
Always In Hurry?



Trying To Save Minutes
Can Cost Precious Lives



OBSERVE LANE DISCIPLINE



OBEY RED LIGHT

- Avoid wrong side driving.
- Red light jumping can cause serious accident.
- Zig Zag driving is Dangerous for you and others.

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Nursery admission process begins

Dec. 27 is the last date to submit forms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Nursery admissions to private schools in Delhi began on Friday with the institutions putting up admission criteria for the 2020-21 session on their respective websites. The last date for submitting application forms is December 27.

The admission process has started almost a fortnight early this year.

Important dates

The Directorate of Education (DoE), in a circular releasing the schedule, said the first and second lists will be out on January 24 and February 12, respectively.

It also said the entire process will be completed by March 16.

The schools have been given the freedom to develop and adopt their own criteria for admission, which shall be "fair, reasonable, well-defined, equitable, non-discriminatory, unambiguous and transparent".

The schools have been advised to stay away from a list of 62 criteria that were adopted by private schools during the admission process for the 2016-17 academic session as they were "un-

fair, unreasonable and non-transparent".

The schools have been told to ensure that application forms are made available to all applicants till the last date of submission, and that only ₹25 (non-refundable) should be charged from the parents as admission registration fee. The purchase of school prospectus shall be optional.

All private unaided recognised schools admitting children in pre-school, pre-primary and/or Class I shall reserve 25% seats for EWS/DG category students and child with disability," the circular read.

For admission in to pre-school (nursery), pre-primary (KG) and Class I, the minimum age shall be three years, four years and five years respectively by March 31 of the year in which admission is sought.

The upper age limit for pre-school (nursery) is less than four years as on March 31 of the year in which the admission is sought.

For pre-primary (KG), less than five years is needed and for Class I, less than six years as on March 31 of the year in which the admission is sought.

A Bench, led by the then

fair, unreasonable and non-transparent".

SC accepts SIT report on 1984 anti-Sikh riots

The team was constituted by the court in January last year

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday took on record a confidential probe report filed by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) on 186 cases of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.

The SIT, chaired by former Delhi High Court judge S.N. Dhinra, was set up by the court in January last year to investigate these cases, which were closed by an earlier probe team.

On Friday, a three-judge Bench, led by Chief Justice S.A. Bobde, also repatriated one of the SIT members, Abhishek Dular, to the CBI, even as it posted the main petitions from the families of the victims for hearing after two weeks.

Along with Justice Dhinra and Mr. Dular, the third member of the SIT was Rajdeep Singh, a retired IPS officer.

Over 180 cases

At a hearing in January last year, the court decided to set up its own SIT, headed by a former High Court judge, to independently probe 186 cases.

A Bench, led by the then



On Friday, a three-judge Bench repatriated one of the SIT members to the CBI.

Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra, had reasoned in its order that "regard being had to the nature of the cases, we think it appropriate that a fresh SIT be constituted for carrying on further investigation".

The court had wanted all the three members of the SIT to be based in the national capital.

The decision to form the new SIT was based on a confidential report placed on record on December 11, 2017, by a court-appointed supervisory committee of K.S. Radhakrishnan and J.M. Panchal, both former judges of the Supreme Court. This committee was tasked with vetting the investigation into 241 anti-

Sikh riots cases closed by the government's SIT.

These 186 cases are part of the 241 cases.

On August 16 last year, the Supreme Court decided to independently examine the investigation records of the 241 cases and confirm there was nothing more to do on them.

A total of 3,325 people were killed in the riots. Delhi alone accounted for 2,733 deaths and the rest occurred in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and other States. The government SIT was set up on February 12, 2015, on the recommendation of the Home Ministry-appointed panel, led by Justice G.P. Mathur (retired).

Man killed in road accident in west Delhi; truck driver arrested

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 30-year-old man was killed after his two-wheeler was hit by a truck in west Delhi's Punjabi Bagh, the police said on Friday.

The truck driver has

been arrested and the vehicle has also been seized, they added.

Hemant Kumar from Raghuvin Nagar, who was working with an e-commerce firm, was on his way for an appointment on

Thursday when he got into an accident.

A PCR call was received at 3 p.m. after which a team reached the spot and found the man lying in a pool of blood, the police said.

He was rushed to a near-

by hospital where doctors declared him brought dead.

An eyewitness said the truck involved in the accident was being driven recklessly. The driver had fled the spot.

"The truck driver, who

has been identified as Jitender Singh from Mainpuri in Uttar Pradesh, was later nabbed. He has been released on bail," said an officer.

A case of rash and negligent driving causing death has been registered.

Man kills college friend over money, arrested

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 28-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly killing his friend in north-east Delhi's Khajuri Khas, the police said on Friday.

DCP (North East) Ved Prakash Surya said Pranjal Deka from Assam's Sarbari, a BTech graduate, killed his friend Amit with a brick and wooden plank.

On October 25, the police said they received information that a body was lying in a rented accommodation in Tukmirpur.

A team reached the spot and broke open the door.

"Amit was lying in a pool of blood. Spot inquiry revealed that he had not been in office for the last two days and was not in touch with his colleagues and relatives," said Mr. Surya. The two articles used in the commission of the

murder were found in the room.

During investigation, Amit's call detail records were analysed and CCTV footage was examined.

It was found that his friend, Pranjal, who studied BTech with him at North-Eastern Hill University in Shillong, used to visit him regularly.

Following several raids in Assam and Delhi, Pranjal was nabbed from a train near Ghazipur railway station on November 8. During interrogation, Pranjal said he had come to Delhi in search of a job and was staying with Amit. He had taken a loan of a couple of thousand from Amit.

"On October 23, he had an altercation with Amit over the money after which he hit him with a brick and a wooden plank and fled the spot. He also withdrew ₹2,500 from his account," Mr. Surya said.

Truck driver arrested for chemical spill that killed three men

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 45-year-old truck driver has been arrested for allegedly kidnapping a two-year-old girl from south-east Delhi's Palam, the police said on Friday.

The accused has been identified as Mahender Bhil from Rajasthan.

The chemical substance, suspected to be phenol – a highly volatile substance, leaked from a truck onto the road near Mori Gate on November 23.

The victims – Monu Sharma (22) and Mahesh Chand (23) – died after their bike slipped due to the spill.

Another victim, Shivam (21), succumbed to injuries later.

The truck was on its way to Haryana's Jagadri to deliver the chemical to a plywood unit but had stopped in Delhi for a delivery. The chemical was being transported from Gujarat.

When the vehicle was in Delhi, there was a leakage, the police said.

During interrogation, Bhil said he did not know anything about the leak.

When he got to know about it, he took the truck to Rajasthan after unloading the chemical in a godown in Shahbad Dairy, a senior officer said.

The driver said he checked the leaking chemical with his finger but nothing happened to him, said source.

The road accident victims allegedly had chemical burns. The policemen who handled the bodies also allegedly suffered burn injuries. Bhil has been sent to judicial custody.

Two men arrested for kidnapping minor

Two-year-old girl rescued; accused made fake certificate of child adoption

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Two persons have been arrested for allegedly kidnapping a two-year-old girl from south-east Delhi's Palam, the police said on Friday.

The victim has been rescued, they added.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-West) Devennder Arya said Virender Kumar Dutt (36) and Nikhil Chaudhary alias Satyam (21) allegedly kidnapped the girl because Virender did not have a child.

During investigation, the police scanned CCTV footage of the area. The route taken by the accused led to the identification of the registrants.

POCSO Act rules displayed in Gurugram police stations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Flow charts containing details of legal provisions under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and Juvenile Justice Act have been put up in the police stations of Gurugram. Police to create awareness among the staff and the victims about the laws concerning children.

Entrusted with the job,

CAMPUS 'FEE'VER | JNU students on why fee hike should be rolled back

I would have to give more tuitions to pay the fees



PRITI BARNAWAL
MA student,
International Relations

I am currently pursuing my master's in international relations. I did my graduation in Korean language and literature from JNU only. During higher secondary school, I wanted to study engineering and also cleared IIT with good ranking. My family could not afford even the subsidised fees of IIT and I failed to get admission in the premier institution.

I had to take one-year gap during which I started preparing for competitive exams. Soon I realised it was not something I wanted to do in life. I wanted to study more and learn as much as I could. I got to know about JNU where I could best education for minimal fees. During these three years in JNU, I have learnt so much that now I know five foreign languages, including English, and two Indian languages, excluding Hindi.

After graduation I got a good job but I wanted to study more and go abroad to do my PhD. I left my job and joined the master's programme at JNU. I never took money from my family for studies as I have a younger sister and two younger brothers whose education cost my parents are already bearing. I give tuitions to support myself and my family.

If the hostel fee is hiked, I won't be able to continue my studies because I would have to take more tuitions to pay the fees. I won't get enough time to concentrate on my studies and eventually I would have to give up my dream of pursuing PhD. This fee hike will kill the dreams of many scholars like me.

I can see my dream of pursuing higher studies and research crashing



NIVASH PRAKASH
MA student,
Political Science

I belong to Nalanda district of Bihar where my father is a farmer. I came to Delhi in 2016 with a dream to pursue higher studies. I am the first person from my village to do master's from a reputed university like JNU. I completed my graduation in very difficult circumstances. I have five siblings and I don't know how my father with an annual income of ₹60,000 to ₹80,000 managed to send me here.

My professors and friends told me about affordable education at JNU, and I worked really hard to clear the entrance exam. Now when the JNU administration is planning such massive fee hike through its new hostel manual, I can see my dream to pursue higher studies and research crashing.

I fear for my future but I have not informed my parents because it will dishearten them more than me. They felt so much stable when I got into this university. They are hoping that after completing my studies, I will be in a position to take the responsibility of my siblings. This fee hike would dislodge me from this university because my father can't send me more money.

The situation is similar for many students of JNU who are fighting against this anti-student manual which clearly shows the intention of the BJP-led government to make education a commodity. This fee hike is a part of this government's agenda to privatise education through different schemes like National Education Policy.

As told to Kallol Bhattacharjee | NEXT • NANDINI SHARMA, HARSHITA ARYA

Make HRD committee report public, demand JNU students

They also seek V-C's suspension, extension of winter semester

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) students on Friday protested outside the Ministry of Human Resource Development demanding that the report submitted by the three-member panel constituted by the Ministry to bring back normalcy in the university be made public.

The students have been on strike for over a month now demanding a complete rollback of the hostel fee hike. The JNU Students' Union said they met with the senior Ministry officials, who informed them that the report would not be made public as of now.

The students said they managed to submit a list of demands, which included rollback of the fee hike, suspension of JNU Vice-Chancellor M. Jagadesh Kumar, withdrawal of all inquiries against JNU students initiated by the administration, and extension of the winter semester.



JNU students protest outside the Ministry of Human Resource Development on Friday. • SANDEEP SAXENA

The panel was appointed on November 17 following several weeks of agitation by the students

The committee, which included former University Grants Commission (UGC) chairperson V.S. Chauhan, UGC secretary Rajnish Jain and All India Council for Technical Education chairperson Anil Sahasrabudhe, was given the mandate to initiate "dialogue with all stakeholders and advise

the university administration for resolution of the issues".

The panel had submitted its report on November 26.

50% rollback

The JNU administration had formed its own "high-level" committee that submitted its findings to the Executive Council.

It suggested offering a 50% rollback in the service and utility charges.

him get a job. "With Nikhil's help, the location of Virender was traced to Nilothi Extension after which a raid was conducted in the small hours and he was nabbed," Mr. Arya said.

Virender said he was married for six years and did not have a child.

"To fulfill his wife and mother's desire, he decided to kidnap the child. He even made a fake certificate of child adoption in the name of Geeta Ashram in Gurugram. He also disclosed that he had purchased the stolen bike from a relative in Panipat," Mr. Arya added.

During interrogation, he allegedly told police that Virender, who had met a month ago, was the mastermind behind the crime. Nikhil said Virender had helped

policemen lack knowledge about the various acts related to the children. "In an interaction with the Juvenile Welfare Officers deployed in police stations and the investigation officers, it was felt that they lacked knowledge about the provisions in the laws related to the children. Later, it was decided in a meeting with DCP, Headquarters, Shashank Kumar, earlier this month that charts should be fixed in all police stations about this," said Mr. Kumar. It would also help the victims visiting the police stations to know their rights under the law, he added.

Mr. Kumar said beat constables would also be told about the law on children. Also, the street children are made to visit the police stations to familiarise them with

DELHI Timings

SATURDAY, NOV. 30
RISE 06:55 SET 17:24
RISE 10:15 SET 20:51
SUNDAY, DEC. 01
RISE 06:56 SET 17:24
RISE 11:03 SET 21:48
MONDAY, DEC. 02
RISE 06:57 SET 17:24
RISE 11:45 SET 22:42

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 25 13
Safdarjung 25 13
Palam 24 12

Delhi Palam Today
24°C Shallow fog/mist during cool morning. Day will be sunny and comfortable. Air quality may become poor.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
23°C Drop in night temperature likely. Shallow fog will prevail. Dry sunny day with moderate winds.

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THE HINDU

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Gehlot dares RSS to become a political party and fight polls

'RSS had no role in the Independence movement and framing of Constitution'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JAIPUR



CM Ashok Gehlot leading a march to protest withdrawal of SPG cover to Gandhi family, in Jaipur on Friday. ■ ROHIT JAIN PARAS

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday dared the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to convert itself into a political party and fight elections, instead of controlling its political front from behind the curtain and acting like an "extra-constitutional authority". He said the RSS had no role in the Independence movement and framing of the Constitution.

Mr. Gehlot made the remarks on the second day of a special session of the State Assembly convened here to mark 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution.

The two-day session turned into a political slugfest between the ruling Congress and the Opposition BJP, with both the parties accusing each other of under-

mining constitutional values.

Replying to the debate as the Leader of the House, Mr. Gehlot said the RSS was enjoying power without any responsibility, as no Minister or Chief Minister was appointed without its consent.

"The RSS and the BJP have no faith in the Constitution. They only pay lip service to constitutional norms be-

cause they want to win elections in democracy," he said.

'BJP exposed'

Mr. Gehlot took a dig at the recent political developments in Maharashtra, while affirming that the BJP had been exposed by the way

President's Rule was revoked early in the morning and the

Chief Minister and Deputy CM were sworn in.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi lost no time in congratulating them. Does it prove the dictum *Modi Hai to Mumkin Hai?*" he asked.

Amid interruptions by the BJP MLAs, Mr. Gehlot targeted Mr. Modi for his working style and decisions like demonetisation and the GST implementation.

The Chief Minister said BJP's dream of making a Congress-free India would never succeed, as parliamentary democracy had taken firm roots in the country only because of the consistent efforts and prolonged struggle of the Congress.

The House witnessed noisy scenes when Leader of the Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria made a reference to the Ram temple and accused the Congress of not making efforts to resolve the long-pending Ayodhya dispute.

One litre of milk for 81 students in U.P.

Midday meal stock mixed with water

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SONBHDRA

A litre of milk was allegedly diluted with a bucket of water so that 81 children could be served during their midday meal at a government school in Uttar Pradesh's Chopan block, following which a teacher was suspended, officials said on Friday.

■

AMID

INTERRUPTIONS

BY

BJP

MLAS

MR.

GEHLOT

TARGETED

MR.

MODI

FOR HIS

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AND

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AMID

Gujarat Congress releases footage of exam 'irregularities'

'Candidates with BJP links favoured'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

AHMEDABAD
The opposition Congress on Friday demanded the cancellation of a written test conducted recently by the Gujarat government for recruitment of non-secretariat clerks and office assistants.

It alleged large-scale irregularities to favour candidates having links with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, and released CCTV camera footage of two different exam centres in Wadhwan in Surendranagar district to prove its claim.

Chits, phonesat centre
The exam was conducted by the Gujarat Subordinate Service Selection Board (GSSSB) on November 17. In one video clip, a candidate can be seen copying from a chit, which he apparently acquired when he was outside the exam hall for over 30 minutes. In another video, a candidate can be seen checking his mobile phone, which is prohibited.

The person in the second video is seen clicking a photograph of his paper in the presence of the exam supervisor as well.

Gujarat Congress president Amit Chavda claimed such irregularities took place at many other centres to help those who were as-

sociated with the ruling party. "Though we do not have videos of other centres, we are sure such irregularities took place at many exam centres. We recently made a representation on it to the Governor also," he said.

Bigger than Vyapam'

"This recruitment scam is larger than the Vyapam scam of Madhya Pradesh.

The BJP government has

played with the future of over 10 lakh candidates who

appeared for this exam," Mr. Chavda told reporters.

"This is not the first time such a scam has emerged. The Gujarat government has failed to bring transparency in any exam it has conducted in recent times. Transparency is intentionally compromised to help those candidates who are linked to the BJP. Many party workers were given government jobs using such malpractice," he alleged. Apart from scrapping the exam, the Congress leader demanded a judicial inquiry into all 11 recruitment tests conducted by the government in recent times.

Asit Vora, chairperson of GSSSB, refused to comment on the CCTV footage, and said the government will issue a statement soon after going through the allegations made by Congress.

Cong. yet to reach consensus on candidate for Speaker's post

After initial hesitation to take up post, party to submit three names today

ALOK DESHPANDE

MUMBAI

A day before the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi government faces a floor test in the Assembly, the State Cabinet on Friday recommended changing the pro tem Speaker from the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Kalidas Kolarkar to Dilip Walse-Patil of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP).

Meanwhile, through the day, the Congress and NCP were still carrying out deliberations over who will eventually get the post of Speaker, after the Congress initially decided to give up the post. A senior Congress leader said that instead of the Speaker's post, the party had expressed interest in the Deputy CM's post.

By evening, however, State Congress president Balasaheb Thorat met NCP chief Sharad Pawar, and the allies decided to stick to the initial formula of Congress getting the Speaker's post and NCP getting that of the Deputy CM.

The Congress will now submit a list of three candidates for the Speaker's post till 10 a.m. on Saturday, as the deadline to file nominations is 12 p.m.

The names being discussed within party circles for the post include former chief minister Prithviraj Chavan, and senior MLAs K.C. Padvi and Varsha Gaikwad.



First hurdle: The newly sworn-in MVA government, led by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, faces a trust vote in the Assembly on Saturday. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

However, till the time of going to press, no consensus had been reached on any names.

A senior party leader said, "None of the Congress MLAs are actually willing to take up the Speaker's post. It is seen as the end of the road by many. However, the party will have to finalise a name at the earliest. We are confident that we will reach consensus by Saturday morning."

On Saturday, as per the schedule released by the State Legislature, the new pro tem Speaker will be an-

nounced in the House. He will then introduce the ministers to the Assembly.

Trust vote

Sena MLA Sunil Prabhu, NCP MLA Dhananjaney Munde, and Congress MLAs Ashok Chavan and Prithviraj Chavan will put forward the resolution seeking majority for the government through a vote.

According to sources, the pro tem Speaker is likely to announce Devendra Fadnavis as the new Leader of Opposition in the Assembly.

Mr. Walse-Patil said, "We have sent the programme to

the Governor, and as per the schedule, the trust vote will take place tomorrow (on Saturday)."

Mr. Walse-Patil will monitor the floor test, which will be carried out via open voting and will be telecast live to ensure transparency.

The BJP, meanwhile, has criticised the move to change the pro tem Speaker ahead of the floor test.

BJP MLA Ashish Shelar said, "If the new government has a majority, what is the reason to change the pro tem Speaker? Why are they not trusting their own MLAs?"

Goa lifeguards threaten to intensify strike

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PANAJI

Lifeguards on Goa beaches, who have struck work demanding regular salaries with benefits from a State-appointed agency, on Friday threatened to intensify their agitation.

At a press conference, the All Goa Marine Life Saving Guards' Union warned the State government and Drishti Marine, the agency which employs them, to meet their demands within eight days. Lifeguards are demanding that their salaries be paid regularly along with benefits like provident fund and medical allowances, union leader Swati Kerkar said.

The lifeguards also want the State to hire them directly, instead of outsourcing the work to private agencies like Drishti Marine, she said.

Hidden treasures



Uncovered: An official examines one of the two British-era cannons found by the Nagpur Municipal Corporation during work to develop a jogging track at Kasturchand Park in Nagpur. ■ S. SUDARSHAN

Residents demand scrapping of tender for HCMTR project

Citizens' group says Pune's topography has changed since 1987 DP, alleges discrepancy in estimated costs

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

PUNE

A number of city-based NGOs under the umbrella of Nagrik Kriti Samiti (NKS) have demanded that the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) scrap the tender floated earlier this year for the controversial 36-km High Capacity Mass Transit Route (HCMTR) project.

The NKS has alleged that the bids for the project were grossly inflated and that the lowest bid received by the PMC on this project was 44% higher than the estimated project cost.

"There is a significant discrepancy in the estimated project cost and the bid quotation, which raises questions on the financial feasibility of the project and merits a re-evaluation of the costing by third party. The lowest bid for the HCMTR tender was ₹7,535 crore, 44% higher than the estimated project cost of ₹5,192 crore," the NKS said a recent statement.

Members of the NKS have further contended that the tender, floated in February, could not be considered valid as 40% of the project alignment was through private land and that the land acquisition process had not started.



Activists have said the initial objective to improve access to public transport has ended up facilitating private vehicles. ■ FILE PHOTO

The project, as proposed in the city's 1987 Development Plan (DP), was a rail and bus public transport solution to bypass the city as it was more than 30 years ago. However, the city has dramatically changed since.

A number of noted activists have pointed out that the initial objective of the project, meant to improve access-controlled public transport, has ended up facilitating private vehicles.

Gen. (retd.) S.N. Jatar of the Nagrik Chetana Manch told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Jatar said the PMC must not be permitted to acquire land on a piecemeal basis until a detailed project report (DPR) is prepared to study the project's viability.

Vivek Velankar of the Sajag Nagrik Manch said, "When the DPR is yet to be completed, how did the HCMTR project come up for tendering? The new DPR would certainly bring out the manifold flaws in this project. Further, on what grounds has the PMC arrived at the ₹5,000 crore project estimation cost without any fresh preliminary study in more than 35 years? The face of the city has changed completely since 1987."

Road activist Sujit Patwardhan, founder of the NGO Parivar, said the basic objective of the HCMTR project – as proposed in the draft DP of 1982 and sanctioned in the final DP in 1987 – was to substantially enhance the level of public transport in the city and give public transport a dedicated route to connect with the congested parts of the city and its newly developing localities.

Large sections of areas in the HCMTR plan, which was based on the 1987 DP, will now have to be elevated as the city's topography has changed

MAJOR GEN. (RETD.) S.N. JATAR

Nagrik Chetana Manch

While saying the concept was sound, Mr. Patwardhan has demanded a "complete relook" by the municipal and State administrations on how they proposed to execute big projects like these.

"In contrast to the project in the original development plan, the HCMTR as being currently envisioned has only two lanes for Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) with the remaining six being left for private vehicles. This will only encourage more cars instead of improving Pune's public transport system, which is in a shambles," Mr. Patwardhan said.

In July, Pune residents started an online campaign clamouring for the project to be scrapped. The petition contended that the project was a misguided attempt by the PMC at development that would destroy the city's green spots.

'Modi's responsibility to help younger brother Uddhav'

Saamana says Centre must chip in

TANVI DESHPANDE

MUMBAI

The Shiv Sena on Friday criticised the previous State government led by the Bharatiya Janata Party's Devendra Fadnavis, but on the other hand said it hoped Prime Minister Narendra Modi would continue to help the State and his "younger brother", Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

EDITORIAL IN SAAMANA

to step in. Even though there may be differences in Maharashtra, Prime Minister Modi and Uddhav Thackeray's relationship is that of brothers. That is why it is Mr. Modi's responsibility to help his younger brother."

The editorial goes on to say that the Prime Minister is not of a particular party, but of the entire country and so should not hold a grudge against anyone.

"The Central government should respect the decision of the people of Maharashtra and not do anything that disturbs stability."

The editorial equated the change in power in the State to a movement and said,

"The Fadnavis government has left behind a debt of ₹5 lakh crore, so the new CM will have to push for his projects quickly, yet carefully. Narendra Modi has wished our government, but for the development of Maharashtra, the Centre's help and cooperation are needed. In order to pull the farmers of Maharashtra out of the crisis of wet drought and crop losses, the Centre will have

16 seismometers defunct in earthquake-prone zones

Only one of 13 accelerographs working across State

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

AURANGABAD

At least 20 out of 35 seismometers in Maharashtra are lying in a state of disrepair, and 16 of these are located in seismic zones III and IV, an official said here on Friday.

At least four seismometers in seismic zone III and 12 in zone IV are defunct, and they fall under moderate and strong earthquake categories, respectively, he said. The procedure to install new instruments is under way, the official from the Nashik-based Maharashtra Engineering Research Institute (MERI) said.

A seismometer is an instrument used to measure and record earthquakes. "Seismometers have been installed at 35 locations

We are planning to induct new instruments to measure intensity of earthquake

YESHWANT BHADANE
Superintendent engineer (dam safety)

tor of MERI to finalise the specifications for new seismometers, he said. "We have followed the norms of the Central Water Commission and are planning to induct new instruments to measure intensity of earthquake," Mr. Bhadane said.

Two new machines will be commissioned in the earthquake-prone Palghar district, he said.

Meanwhile, accelerographs that print the intensity of earthquakes are in a similar condition. Of the 13 machines in the State, the instrument in Koynanagar in Satara is the only one functioning, Mr. Bhadane said. "As many as 13 accelerographs were installed from 1984 to 2018, and of these, only one in Koynanagar is in a working condition."

TAMIL NADU STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD

Tender Notice No. T.21/DO/1157/2019/Dated.29.11.2019.

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, sealed tenders will be received for the work by the Superintending Engineer, Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board, Guindy, Chennai-32, from the PWD Registered Contractors Class I (above Rs. 75.00 lakhs) at 3.00 p.m. on 31.12.2019 in the presence of the tenderer present at that time.

Two Cover System Lumpsum Contract Name of Work

Augmentation of Marketing Infrastructure facilities at the following RM's 1)Sankarapuram 2)Thiyangalur and Kallakurichi 3)Vellore 4)Paravur 5)Mannargudi and Thiruvanur 7)Panapams and Kumbakonam 8)Jirumboopatti and Thiruvur 9)Ramanathapuram 10)Sathur and Anupukottai 11)Villupuram 12)Pochampalli and Uhangai. 13)Construction of Chillies Processing plant at Ethiyal in Ramanathapuram District.

Note : 1.The Tender Schedules will be available during Office hours upto 10.12.2019 after remitting cost of tender schedule of Rs.16,800/- including GST in the shape of D.D. in favour of CEO, TNAMB, Chennai-32, Payable at Chennai (or) The tender schedules can also be downloaded from the websites www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tnamb.gov.in & www.tnsamb.gov.in free of cost.

2.Further particulars obtained from the office of the Superintending Engineer, Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board, CIPET Road, Guindy, Chennai-32 during office hours i.e., 10.00 am to 5.45 pm on all working days.

3.The tender documents will be available for download from the website www.tnsamb.gov.in free of cost.

4.Valeo put to Tender Rs. in lakhs : 12.97 22.58 31.62 42.25 52.78 61.29 71.20 81.75 91.10 113.07 121.32 139.80

5.EMD Rs. in lakhs : 12.97 22.58 31.62 42.25 52.78 61.29 71.20 81.75 91.10 113.07 121.32 139.80

6.Period of completion 9 months for S.No.1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12 and 12 months for S.No.3 & 13.

DIPR/4659/TENDER/2019

Superintending Engineer, TNAMB, Chennai - 32

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Superintending Engineer, WRD, Upper Cauvery Basin Circle, Salem-7
PRE QUALIFICATION APPLICATION AND PRICE TENDER
FORM OF CONTRACT - LUMPSUM (Two Cover System)

Tender Notice No. 07 / DB/ DO/1/Rajavaikal/2019 / Dated : 28.11.2019.

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, sealed tenders are invited for the following works at the office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD, WRD, Upper Cauvery Basin Circle, Salem-7 upto 3.00 P.M. on 10.01.2020. The received tenders will be opened on the same day at 3.30 P.M.

SI. No. Name of Work Approximate Work value (Rs in lakhs)

IN BRIEF



HC dismisses plea; Kerala Bank comes into being

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

With the court dismissing a set of petitions filed against the formation of the Kerala Bank, the new entity has come into being, Kerala Minister for Cooperation Kadakkampally Surendran has said. On October 7, the RBI had cleared the proposal for forming the bank by merging 13 district cooperative banks.

FIR registered against Mysuru Bishop

MYSURU

The police has registered an FIR against Mysuru Bishop K.A. Williams on charges of misconduct and impropriety. The complainant Robert Rosario has accused the Bishop of "kidnapping, threatening and outraging the modesty of a woman".

Dileep can inspect memory card, but can't have copy: SC

Court upholds view that electronic evidence is a 'document'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday allowed Malayalam actor Dileep, an accused in the kidnap of an actress and sexual assault on her two years ago, to either personally inspect the contents of a memory card containing visuals of the attack, in the court or seek a second opinion about its genuineness from an independent agency like the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL).

A Bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and Dinesh Mawshewari, however, did not allow the actor's request for

7 injured as sample explodes at Bengaluru forensic laboratory

A can of tri-acetone tri-peroxide found in Raichur in 2018, was being tested

STAFF REPORTER

BENGALURU

An accidental explosion on Friday afternoon at the Forensic Science Laboratory in Madiwala, during the testing of a sample, left seven persons injured.

While three persons suffered major injuries and are undergoing surgery, four others have sustained minor injuries. "All seven patients are out of danger, and their condition is stable," said Chief of Medical Services, St. John's Medical College Hospital Sanjiv Lewin.

The explosion occurred in the chemistry lab at around 2.45 p.m. when Scientific Officer Sridhar was testing a sample of an explosive substance, suspected to be tri-acetone tri-peroxide (TATP). In the explosion, Mr. Srid-



Big blow: A scene at the Forensic Science Laboratory at Madiwala in Bengaluru. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

har's fingers on his left hand were severely damaged. Ms. Navya, a probationer suffered an eye injury, and Mr. Anthony Prabhu, a lab attendant, helping Mr. Sridhar, sustained a head injury.

The sample was a semi-liquid substance that reportedly exploded immediately after Mr. Sridhar poured it

into a flask for the test. The explosive material was unstable, sources said. The same substance had led to the death of a person in a similar accident in Raichur more than a year ago.

The sample pertained to a case from October 2018 in Raichur, where a waste picker Anantamma, 32, died when a can containing this

chemical exploded when she picked it up. The explosion left her husband and son injured.

It was established that a factory in the area, which manufactured decorative plastic figurines, had abandoned the can in an open plot and the Raichur police had arrested two persons.

"As the glass flask that contained the explosive liquid exploded, the shards turned into potent splinters lodging into the bodies of the lab staff," Dr. Lewin said. Three other scientific officers Vishwavalabha, Vishwanath, and Basava Prabhu and another lab attendant Netravathi, suffered injuries due to splinters from the explosion. All seven of them have puncture wounds on the face, chest, and abdomen.

Jnanpith for Malayalam poet Akkitham

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Eminent Malayalam poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri, popularly known as Akkitham, has been chosen for the 55th Jnanpith Award, according to an announcement by the Jnanpith Selection Board on Friday.

Born in 1926, Mr. Akkitham is one of the revered names in Malayalam poetry. His literary excellence has footprints in genres like drama, reminiscence, critical essays, children literature, short stories and translations.

"A poet of rare integrity, a creator of many works, all considered as classics, Mr.



Akkitham has made a mark in various spheres of literature.

Akkitham's poetry reflects unfathomable compassion, imprints of Indian philosophical and moral values and a bridge between tradition and modernity, delves deep into human emotions in a fast changing social space," the statement said.

Killers burnt veterinarian's body at an underpass

The woman died of suffocation while being raped

STAFF REPORTER

HYDERABAD

A woman veterinarian, who was raped and killed on Wednesday, called up her sister when the lorry driver offered help and told her that she was scared by the presence of some drivers.

She died of asphyxiation while being raped as the killers gagged and smothered her. "Shiva, a cleaner who took the scooter for repair, returned and raped her," Cyberabad Commissioner of Police V.C. Sajjanar said here on Friday.



Police officers inspecting the site where they found the body of a veterinary doctor on the outskirts of Hyderabad. ■ AP

police around 11 p.m. and filed a complaint.

On Thursday, the charred body was found at the underpass on the Hyderabad-Bengaluru national highway.

Statement triggers row

Telangana Home Minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali stoked a controversy by saying that the woman should have called the police rather than her sister. However, sources close to Mr. Ali, who visited the parents of the veterinarian, said he was only

trying to say that the police intervention could have helped her.

In another incident, a body of an unidentified woman was spotted at Siddulagutta in Cyberabad on Friday night. The body, engulfed in flames, was lying behind a compound wall of a temple. A Telugu film shoot was on nearby. Some people of the locality saw flames and tried to douse them. "But by then the woman was charred to death," Shamshabadi ACP Ashok Goud said.

Coast Guard brings home 9 fishermen who fled Yemen

They set sail for Kochi on a stolen vessel on November 19

STAFF REPORTER

KOCCHI

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) escorted a Yemeni vessel with nine Indian fishermen to the Customs jetty at Fort Kochi on Friday.

The fishermen – seven from Tamil Nadu and two from Kerala – were forced to undertake a dangerous expedition across the seas on a vessel stolen from their Yemeni sponsor following in-

human living and working conditions. They set sail for Kochi on November 19.

The South Asian Fishermen Fraternity (SAFF) had appealed to the Centre, the Kerala and Tamil Nadu governments and the Indian Coast Guard for assistance to locate the fishermen. "They were employed in December 2018, but their sponsor refused to give them a share of the revenue earned from the

catch. They were not provided with anything essential for a decent living. They informed their families about their plight before drawing up a plan to flee," said John Churchill Bas, general secretary of SAFF.

Coast Guard ship Aryaman shepherded the vessel till the fairway buoy from where it was escorted by two interceptor boats to the jetty.

निवादा सुचना हेतु शब्द पत्र

केंद्रीय विद्यालय आई एन ए कॉलेजों, नई दिल्ली में आउट -सीरिंग (बाहरी ठेका दाना) द्वारा निवादा आमंत्रित करने के लिए विज्ञापन 20.11.2019 को "द हिन्दू" दानों समाचार में प्रकाशित किया गया था।

इस विषय पर प्रकाशनिक कारणों से स्पष्टीकरण प्रदान करते हुए मोहवंड निवादा प्राप्त करने की अनिमं लिखि (पैरोफैट डाक के द्वारा मारा) को दिनांक 30.11.2019 अपराह्न 01:00 बजे से बढ़ाकर 10.12.2019 अपराह्न 01:00 बजे तक कर दी गई।

निवादा प्रप्त दस्तावेजों से सम्बन्धित सभी स्पष्टीकरण के लिए विद्यालय वेबसाइट <https://inacolony.kvs.ac.in/> को देखें एवं भविष्य में भी इस निवादा सम्बन्धी सभी सूचनाएं एवं टेटर कार्फॉम से शुद्धिया विद्यालय वेबसाइट पर ही उपलब्ध होंगी।

प्राचार्य

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT "CORRIGENDUM"

The on-line tender for the following work invited vide this office N.I.T. No. PWD/BWD/T.A/NT/2019-20/3920-80 dated 30.10.2019 published vide R.O.No.2670/2019-2020 (Classified) dated 31/10/2019 is hereby postponed due to technical reasons. All other Terms & conditions shall be remained unchanged.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Starting Date for downloading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	C/O Newly Up-Graded 50 Bedded Hospital at Bhawana Distt. Kangra H.P. SW; C/o Main Building i/c Water supply Sanitary, Septic tank and Rain water Harvesting System	8,19,48,691/-	13/12/2019	5,00,000/-	28/12/2019

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hplenders.gov.in.

Sd/-Executive Engineer
HPPW Division Bhawana
Pin-176083, Tel:01894-247777
e-mail: eepwd-bhaw-hp@gov.in
on behalf of Governor of H.P.

HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

HOME DEPARTMENT (PORTS & TRANSPORT) MAHARASHTRA MARITIME BOARD

Indian Mercantile Chambers, 3rd Floor, 14 Ramjhbai Kamani Marg, Ballard Estate, Mumbai- 400 001.

Tel.: 022-22514331, Website: <https://mahammb.maharashtra.gov.in>, Email: ceommb@gmail.com

Forth E-Tender Notice- (Year 2019-2020)

Main Portal: <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

Departmental Portal: [www.mahammb.maharashtra.gov.in](https://mahammb.maharashtra.gov.in)

Digitally signed E-Tender for following work is invited by Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra Maritime Board, Mumbai, from Registered with Government of Maharashtra in appropriate class and having experience in execution of Marine related civil works, for following work in BI Tender Form.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Tender in Rs.	Earnest Money Amount in Rs.	Blank Tender form amount in Rs.	Time limit for Completion of Work
1	Construction of Light House at Uttran Port, Tal. Dist. Thane.	62,47,900/-	63,000/-	1,180/-	9 Months (Including Monsoon)

The details can be viewed online and downloaded directly from the Government of Maharashtra E-Tendering Portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in> on sub Portal of Home Department [www.mahammb.maharashtra.gov.in](https://mahammb.maharashtra.gov.in) from 27.11.2019 at 10:01 hours (IST) onwards.

The right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason is reserved.

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
Maharashtra Maritime Board,
Mumbai

DGIPR - 2019/2020/3866



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IN BRIEF



Mukesh Ambani is the 9th richest person

NEW DELHI
With a net worth of \$60 billion, Reliance Industries chief Mukesh Ambani has been ranked the 9th richest person globally, according to 'The Real-Time Billionaires List' of Forbes, that was topped by Amazon Founder and CEO Jeff Bezos. Reliance Industries saw a significant jump in share prices. PTI

AIIMS loses over ₹12 cr. in bank fraud

NEW DELHI
India's premier medical institute AIIMS fell prey to a banking fraud as over ₹12 crore has been stolen from its two bank accounts with the SBI by allegedly using "cloned cheques" over the past one month. The money has been siphoned off from the bank accounts the AIIMS has with the SBI from its non-home branches in other cities, sources said. PTI

11 convicted in police station attack case

CHENNAI
A special court in Poomalai in T.N. on Friday convicted 11 members of a banned outfit called 'Tamilnadu Liberation Army' (TNLA), including 'Radio' Venkatesan and Senguttuvan alias Maran, for their role in attacking the Andimadam police station, in 1997 and looting arms and ammunition. They were sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment.

Uddhav stays work on Aarey metro shed

Controversial project saw the axing of 2,500 trees in Mumbai's green lung

SHARAD VYAS
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has ordered a stay on the construction of the metro car shed project inside Mumbai's green lung, the Aarey forest.

"I have ordered to stop the work of Aarey metro car shed project today. Metro work will not start until any further decision, not a single leaf of Aarey will be cut," Mr. Thackeray said following a meeting with officials on Friday.

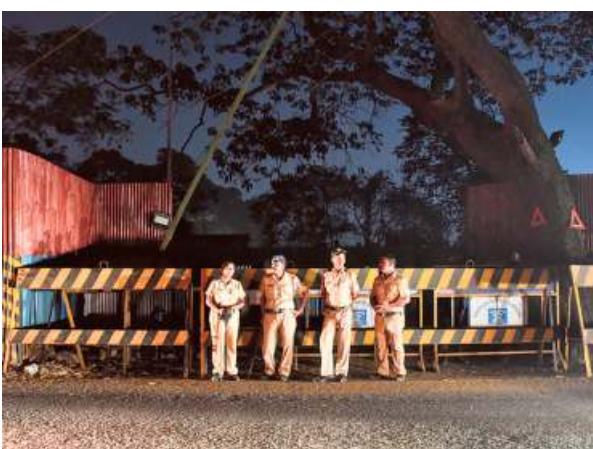
Project reviewed
Barely a day after being sworn in as Chief Minister, Mr. Thackeray on Friday reviewed the controversial project that saw the overnight cutting down of over

2,000 trees on October 4. The hacking had triggered widespread protests across the city and arrest of hundreds of activists.

Mr. Thackeray clarified he was not against any infrastructure works and would not discontinue other projects of the Mumbai metro. However, the government will fully review the ongoing construction of the car shed inside the green lung in the next two days.

Aditya Thackeray, the Chief Minister's son and Sena MLA from Worli, who had taken a tough stand against the chopping of the trees despite his party being an ally of the ruling BJP, welcomed the decision.

The decision however, evoked sharp criticism from



On the watch: Security has been increased outside the Mumbai metro car shed site at Aarey colony. ■ AADESH CHAUDHARY

the BJP and former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, who called the move 'unfortunate' and a real disincentive for investors who want to infuse capital into Mumbai's infrastructure.

He added that decision is also a setback for the investors who had put their trust in the Maharashtra government's works. Japan's JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) had lent ₹15,000 crore for this Metro project at nominal interest rates. Such decisions will demotivate investors to come

warmer than 50 years ago. Rising temperatures lead to warmer than average ground temperatures and consequently a rise in minimum temperatures.

Overall, winter temperatures are on the rise. The IMD started issuing winter forecasts in 2016 and, except for 2017, had forecast warm winters for all years since then. Warm winters, experts say, are a sign of global warming. India on an average is 0.5 degree Celsius

warmer than 50 years ago. Rising temperatures lead to warmer than average ground temperatures and consequently a rise in minimum temperatures.

Overall global temperatures are on the rise, with several studies indicating an increase by 1 degree Celsius over pre-industrial levels. At current projections, the global temperature is expected to rise 3.2 degrees Celsius by the end of the century and intensify severe weather events.

forward in future and all infra projects will get stalled which were already delayed for so long in previous 15 year rule," Mr. Fadnavis said.

The decision was however, welcomed by other parties, who said the Chief Minister should now declare the entire area as a forest and nothing less.

"Grateful to our Chief Minister @OfficeofUT for staying the work on the Metro Car Shed in Aarey. Will eagerly await the declaration of Aarey as a forest and an end to the Metro Bhawan, zoo and other misadventures once and for all," said Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Preeti Sharma Menon.

The Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) too welcomed the decision, saying the government and the Maha Vikas Aghadi stands for clean and green development.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Saturday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning very likely over Kerala, Mahe, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...31...	16.3		Kozhikode	...35...	26.4	
Ahmedabad	...31...	18.8		Kurnool	...33...	21.8	
Aizawl	...23...	12.0		Lucknow	...21...	17.8	
Allahabad	...29...	16.5		Madurai	...22...	29.6	24.3
Bengaluru	...28...	19.4		Mangalore	...38...	24.5	
Bhopal	...30...	15.6		Mumbai	...34...	22.6	
Bhubaneswar	...29...	18.2		Mysoor	...27...	20.2	
Chandigarh	...22...	13.0		New Delhi	...24...	12.5	
Chennai	14.2...	30.6...	25.4	Patna	...29...	16.0	
Coimbatore	10.1...	28.7...	22.6	Port Blair	...32...	27.1	
Dehradun	0.1...	9.3		Puducherry	12.2...	30.6...	22.8
Gangtok	...16...	9.7		Pune	...30...	17.8	
Goa	...34...	24.4		Raipur	...29...	18.2	
Guwahati	...29...	16.2		Ranchi	...28...	13.4	
Hubballi	...30...	20.0		Shillong	...22...	9.7	
Hyderabad	...30...	21.5		Shimla	...15...	4.8	
Imphal	...23...	9.4		Srinagar	...—	—	
Jaipur	...22...	15.6		Thiruvananthapuram	...33...	26.0	
Kochi	...32...	25.4		Tiruchi	...13...	28.7...	23.8
Kohima	...24...	9.8		Vijayawada	...31...	24.0	
Kolkata	...30...	19.9		Visakhapatnam	...31...	24.0	

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

CITIES	SO	NO	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	—	155	43	.80	.91	■
Bengaluru	—	44	53	.61	.83	■
Chennai	10	.7	12	.53	.58	■
Delhi	12	136	62	.80	.88	■
Hyderabad	2	62	47	.143	.118	■
Lucknow	6	37	82	.192	.192	■
Mumbai	6	58	46	.194	.157	■
Pune	83	16	53	.175	.123	■
Visakhapatnam	11	42	42	.95	.89	■

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Patna, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 377

Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 28

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

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

NO: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

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

Respond to CBI plea: SC to Rajeev Kumar

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked former Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar to respond to a plea made by the CBI for his arrest and custodial interrogation in connection with the Saradha scam.

The CBI wants the court to set aside the anticipatory bail granted to Mr. Kumar on October 1.

"We have issued notice because there is something about this person [Kumar] absconding for a long time... But you have to convince us his arrest is necessary, otherwise he is a high-ranking officer," Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde addressed Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the CBI.

Mr. Mehta responded that Mr. Kumar's arrest and custodial interrogation was necessary as he needed to be questioned about crucial evidence which he seemed to have either concealed or even destroyed.

Mr. Kumar has denied the allegations that he conspired with the accused persons in the scam to suppress crucial evidence. He was the functional head of the SIT probing the case.

Sl. No.	Categories	No. of Awards
1	Best Manufacturer Exporter (Large)	1
2	Best Manufacturer Exporter (Medium)	1
3	Best Manufacturer Exporter (Small)	1
4	Best Manufacturer Exporter (Micro)	1
5	Best Merchant Exporter	1
6	Best Woman Manufacturer Exporter	1
7	Best Woman Merchant Exporter	1
8	Best Innovative Exporter	1
9	Best Farmer Producer Organization Exporter	1

The award consists of prize money of Rupees One lakh, a citation and memento for all categories. Exporters registered with the Board are requested to submit applications complete in all respects. The application should be submitted online by 10th December 2019 and the hard copies should reach the Head Office of CDB by 16th December 2019. Applications received after these dates are liable to be rejected. For application format and more details, please visit at www.coconutboard.gov.in

Deputy Director

TAMILNADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION

HEAD OFFICE, NO.12, THAMBUSAMY ROAD, KILPAUK, CHENNAI-10.

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION

REFERENCE NO: Com8/53320/2019

Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation invites sealed tenders in two cover system for the supply of 2,05,26,000 Nos. of bags size Breadth -12 inch x Length-14.5 inch from the eligible bidders.

1)	Tendered Quantity & Place of Supply	2,05,26,000 Nos. of bags size B-12 inch x L-14.5 inch to be supplied in all godowns of TNSC in Tamil Nadu.
2)	Cost of tender form	Rs.2360/- (including GST) to obtain in person and Rs.2460/- to get by post. Tender document can also be downloaded from www.tnsc.tn.gov.in/ or www.tenders.tn.gov.in/ at free of cost.
3)	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.25,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs only)
4)	Sale of tender form	On all working days upto 10.30 A.M. on 05.12.2019.
5)	Due date for submission of filled tender document & opening of tender.	Date of tender 05.12.2019 Closing Time Upto 11.00 A.M. Opening Time At 11.30 A.M.

MANAGING DIRECTOR,

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala



Changing the stripes

Maharashtra has a strange mix of parties in power, but that need not derail governance

The Common Minimum Programme (CMP) announced by the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), the new ruling coalition in Maharashtra of the Shiv Sena, the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), foregrounds development and pledges fidelity to secularism. Taking over as Chief Minister, Uddhav Thackeray's primary challenge is not to live up to, but to undo and outgrow, the legacy of Bal Thackeray, his father, who founded the Sena 53 years ago. The late Thackeray was the fomenter of a chauvinistic politics that targeted religious and linguistic minority groups in Maharashtra. Mr. Thackeray's statement as CM was unambiguous that "nothing would be allowed that makes the common man feel terrorised". He also has a haunting history of words and deeds, but the pressures of the new alliance might make him adopt a more sober approach to governance. Parties and leaders evolve over time depending upon changed circumstances and new social realities. The burden of proof is on the Sena, but it is only fair that Mr. Thackeray be given a chance to remake the street politics of the party organisation. The Sena's estranged ally in the Hindutva tent, the BJP, is licking its wounds and waiting in ambush. The Sena has a reputation to lose and a reputation to make. For Mr. Thackeray, who would not be remote controlling the government as his father did, being the CM would be more difficult than leading the party.

The CMP seeks to bridge the ideological and temperamental gulf between the Congress and the Sena by focusing on some pressing issues faced by the commoners, particularly farmers. Mr. Thackeray has promised to address the crisis in the agriculture sector in a comprehensive manner. Provisions to improve health care, education, tourism and a range of issues are also part of the CMP. The new government is likely to halt the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project whose financial viability is doubtful and ecological impact is significant. The MVA must focus on raising rural incomes and demands, which will have a positive effect on the economy in general. Regional pride and cultural assertion are not necessarily divisive. The announcement of a special development grant for Raigad, associated with the history of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and the promise of reservation of 80% of jobs to domiciles of the State indicate a thrust towards regionalism. As Congress president Sonia Gandhi said in her letter to the new CM, this unlikely alliance is the outcome of extraordinary circumstances. There is potential, however, for it to outgrow that status and aspire to become a new template for pro-people, non-sectarian politics and governance.

Bringing back treasures

India needs to plug loopholes in legislation and enforcement to protect its cultural artefacts

When Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison visits India in January 2020, he will not only bring with him the goodwill of his country, but also three priceless cultural artefacts. The sculptures, including a pair of *dwarapalas* or door guardians from Tamil Nadu and one *nagaraja* or serpent king from either Rajasthan or Madhya Pradesh, will come back to their place of origin after the National Gallery of Australia (NGA) voluntarily deaccessioned and returned them to India after establishing that they were, in fact, stolen. This 'cultural repatriation' comes in the wake of a similar, if more extensive return of idols in 2016, when Washington handed over around 200 sculpture pieces valued at \$100 million to India during Prime Minister Modi's U.S. visit. Increasingly, it has become evident that India's historical artefacts, a treasure-trove of a rich cultural legacy and religious significance, are strewn across far-flung lands, the result of decades of trafficking. At the heart of the most extensive and ruthless of smuggling rings is one man, Subhash Kapoor, who allegedly has taken the illicit trade in antiquities to a truly global scale. The NGA, like many U.S. museums and art galleries, had obtained artefacts from Kapoor in good faith, yet rigorous provenance research had proved that their acquisition was a mistake.

Today, Kapoor sits in a Tamil Nadu jail, awaiting prosecution and a full trial. Yet, how much progress have authorities made, first, to crack down on the continued operations of idol thieves who are looting ancient temples, and second, to advocate for foreign institutions collecting art to conduct a far greater degree of due diligence before acquiring any Indian idols? In part, the problem is complicated by the fact that even among Indian institutions, the inventory documentation of idols is poor. Southern Tamil Nadu, for instance, has many ancient temples, most situated in small, abandoned premises of a village, where even local residents have no recollection of what idol was originally within the temple, leave alone questions of safeguarding the structure. Further, investigative reports, including by *The Hindu*, have revealed the extent to which certain sections of law enforcement have tacitly abetted the loot. Major institutional reforms are therefore required to end the operations of smugglers. Meanwhile in the global arena, India would do well to leverage the power of the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. Most major western nations are signatories and Mr. Modi would be well within his rights to demand that they institute stricter vetting protocols for international trade in historical artefacts. Unless such multi-pronged action is taken by the government, targeting loopholes in domestic legislation and enforcement, idol trafficking will continue to erode India's invaluable cultural heritage.

A political turning point or a pause?

The BJP's Maharashtra fiasco must not be interpreted as a setback to the Modi government's stealthy ways of operation



VIDYA SUBRAMANIAM

The Maharashtra coup that saw an abridged government being sworn in under cover of darkness unbeknown to the rest of the country, has deservedly ended in ignominy and shame for the actors who included two high constitutional figures and the Prime Minister.

The usurper Chief Minister, Devendra Fadnavis from the Bharatiya Janata Party, and his fly-by-night deputy, Ajit Pawar, a rebel from the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), were pushed back mainly by the vigilance of the Supreme Court of India which ordered them to prove their majority forthwith and in a manner transparent to the average citizen – that is via a live telecast that would have inescapably captured the truth of who voted whom.

Shadowy moves

Those who sneaked into government covertly, in the shadowy hours before dawn, would hardly have been willing to prove their legitimacy by daylight with everyone watching and clearly without the numbers required to stay on in power. But while it is a matter of satisfaction that the denouement in Mumbai came in the backdrop of Constitution Day, the day India's Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution, it would be premature to see the fitting climax as a return to constitutional norms – not given how events have unfolded over the past six years.

Indeed, it must be remembered

that the brazen overreach that saw Mr. Fadnavis and Mr. Ajit Pawar installed as Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister, respectively, was not a one-off affair, a misstep so to speak by the Narendra Modi government. As should be clear by now, stealth and fait accompli have been the signature style of governance under Mr. Modi, who, in his second term, has been joined by Amit Shah, previously the BJP chief and now the Home Minister. Mr. Shah has built up a formidable reputation for secrecy, deception and pulling off the impossible; in the narration of the Delhi commentator, he is an updated Chanakya with the same genius for foresight and lightning action.

It is this talent that presumably accounts for what happened in the intervening hours between November 22 and November 23, 2019. The headline across morning newspapers on November 23 was that Maharashtra was set to see the Shiv Sena's Uddhav Thackeray form an alliance government with the NCP and the Indian National Congress. At the same time, television studios were announcing that the State had got a new government led, not by Mr. Thackeray, but by Mr. Fadnavis, who along with Mr. Ajit Pawar, had been administered the oath of office and secrecy early in the morning, with no witnesses present.

Undoubtedly, those who had planned the furtive strike had their own understanding of the term "oath of office and secrecy"; that power was to be seized in secrecy. Among those who aided this clandestine operation were men of the highest standing: The President of India Ramnath Kovind, who awoke from his sleep to endorse the revocation of President's rule (imposed after the BJP, the Shiv Sena and the NCP, each by

itself, failed to form a government), State Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, who administered the oath of office to Mr. Fadnavis and Mr. Pawar and most incredibly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who persuaded himself to invoke a special power to enable the revocation of President's rule overriding the Cabinet. All three men acted as if they were dealing with an emergency that could not wait for the sun to rise.

Supreme Court's intervention

The derring-do carried the stamp of Mr. Shah, and the TV media was naturally ecstatic. Their Chanakya had lived up to his name. It is worth pausing here to reflect on how often the Modi government has shown precisely this kind of audacity. The Maharashtra stunt would likely have passed off without any consequence, indeed even been treated as a new normal in the Modi-Shah era of constant surprises, but for two things. The Supreme Court's intervention to make the floor test transparent which ruled out victory through chicanery. Second, the stout determination displayed by a 79-year-old political warhorse called Sharad Pawar. Uncle to Ajit Pawar and head of the NCP, Pawar Senior showed that on a good day he could outfox the BJP's Chanakya. His side stayed united through all the blandishments offered to it. By the time the drama ended, no one quite knew what had happened. It

was even speculated that Mr. Pawar had sent nephew Ajit Pawar as a Trojan horse into the BJP camp.

Will Maharashtra pump fresh energy into the national Opposition? Not necessarily, considering the obverse of the BJP's immorality is not the Opposition's morality but another immorality witnessed in the union of the Shiv Sena, the NCP and the Congress. The Sena and the Congress are ideological opposites. The Sena is to the right of the BJP and even the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. In the season of Nathuram Godse Bhakti, it must be recalled that the Sena once venerated Gandhi's assassin. How long can the Congress pretend this does not matter? How long before the BJP traps the Sena on its Hindutva roots?

The Supreme Court's intervention and Mr. Sharad Pawar apart, there is a third factor that tripped up the BJP in Maharashtra. The national attention in the State was focused so much on the BJP's strong-arm tactics that the party simply could not work up passions around Hindutva, nor claim national interest, its stock-in-trade in all previous instances of unilateralism.

For 'national interest'

A single common feature marks all the major decisions of the BJP government. From demonetisation through electoral bonds, banning of the triple talaq, surgical strikes on Pakistan, to the moves in Jammu and Kashmir, every single act of grave national import has been presented by this government either as a fait accompli or steamrolled through unilaterally. The justification was always national interest which effectively silenced the Opposition. Mr. Shah's announcement that the National Register of Citizens, which has serious implications for Muslims,

will be extended across the country is also of a piece with this am-bush-style nationalism.

Campaigning in Jharkhand recently, the Prime Minister took credit for facilitating a solution to the dispute around "the land of Lord Ram's birth", which, he said, had remained hostage to the Congress's vote-bank politics. There is a troubling suggestion here: that the temple verdict was perhaps a fait accompli. That aside, it is clear that the BJP intends to fully use the Ram temple victory, projecting it as another nationalistic milestone in the journey of the Modi government.

The Modi government's announcement of demonetisation had been preceded by utmost secrecy. It caught unawares not just the Opposition but Mr. Modi's own Cabinet. But the government bought the country's acquiescence in what is now acknowledged as a major disaster by citing nationalism. The Modi government presented another fait accompli when it bombed across the Line of Control to avenge the Pulwama terror attack. Again it was national interest with no questions allowed. One more cloak and dagger operation, passed off as a national imperative, saw Jammu and Kashmir stripped of its special status, downgraded and its politicians sent to jail. Electoral bonds were rammed through as a money bill in the national cause and triple talaq became a gender issue whose prohibition no one could oppose.

Is Maharashtra a turning point for the Opposition? Or is it merely a pause in the BJP's Hindu nationalism project? Most likely, the latter.

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Getting organ donation to tick again

Addressing the trust gap and inequality that are impacting family consent for organ donation is crucial



J. AMALORPAVANATHAN &
C.E. KARUNAKARAN

Organ donation day is observed with the primary objective of promoting organ donation and transplantation so that a number of persons suffering from organ failure, such as the kidneys and liver, can get a new lease of life using organs gifted by others who have lost their lives (such as in road accidents or other reasons).

Undermining altruism

As the country honours the donation process, and distributes awards to donor families – Indian Organ Donation Day is observed by the Government of India on November 30 – it also needs to reflect on certain negative perceptions that appear to be growing and undermining the altruistic donation mindset of donor families. A classic example of this is the steep drop seen in Kerala – from 76 deceased donors in 2015 to eight in 2018 – due to a perceived, however unfounded, scandal that private

hospitals were declaring persons brain dead when they were not really so, in order to harvest their organs and profit from them.

The underlying factor is the highly privatised health-care system in India and the growing trust gap between patients and doctors trapped in the profit-seeking business of tertiary care; seeking second and third opinion on patient treatment is commonplace today. While an organ comes free, as donated to society, transplanting it to another person costs anywhere between ₹5 lakh and ₹25 lakh, including profit to the hospital. Hence the unavoidable suspicion that unethical practices may take place – as highlighted in a recently published book, *Healers or Predators? Healthcare Corruption in India*. There is one more factor. The reality that a majority of accident victims who become donors are lower middle class and below, while the majority of organ recipients are from the small number of persons who can afford transplant surgery and costly lifetime medication thereafter. The cost factor is the key reason why more than three quarters of donated hearts and lungs do not get taken.

Public hospitals cannot help

A common solution to this, advocated by many, is that public hos-

pitals should chip in and help the poor. Very few public hospitals in the country do kidney transplants and less than five do liver and heart transplants. Should they get involved much more? The answer is, no. In a country where public spend on health care remains an abysmal 1.2% of GDP – less than a third of what even some developing countries spend – priority should be on spending the limited allocation on areas that would benefit the greatest number of persons. Which is why a World Health Organisation Consultative Group in its 2014 report points to a study in Thailand which finds that money spent on dialysis can save 300 times more healthy life years if spent on tuberculosis control. It considers expansion of low- and medium-priority services before near-universal coverage of high priority services as an "unacceptable trade-off" and does not include dialysis or organ transplan-

tation even in the low-priority category. A given amount, if spent on organ failure prevention will save many more lives than if spent on organ transplant.

Faultlines and solutions

Are there any solutions to these issues of trust gap and inequality? Only steps to moderate are possible in these deep-rooted societal fault lines. One usual approach is to regulate hospitals through acts and rules. In the 25th year of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994, it is time to revisit its effectiveness. Substitution of bureaucratic procedures for hospital and transplant approval by self-declaration and mandatory sample verification involving civil society will improve compliance – as proved in other countries – and will also help get more hospitals involved. Further amendment is needed to ensure full State autonomy in this area, avoiding the Central government's interference in organ distribution, which is now demotivating many hospitals. Apart from this, all State organ distribution agencies need to make their operations fully transparent. Steps such as making online organ distribution norms and the full details on every organ donation will help build public confidence in the system.

Dr. J. Amalorpavanathan is former Member Secretary, Transplant Authority Government Of Tamil Nadu (TRANSTAN) and C.E. Karunakaran is Trustee, National Network for Organ Sharing (NNOS) Foundation, Chennai

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.

MP's remarks

With friends such as Pragya Singh Thakur, the Lok Sabha MP from Bhopal, in its fold, the Bharatiya Janata Party no longer needs enemies (Page 1, "BJP acts against Pragya as fire rocks House" and "We don't back Pragya's ideology, says Nadda", both November 29). The party should have shown the grace and the courage of conviction to expel its MP for her now expunged remarks on Nathuram Godse in the Lok Sabha. Forms of punishment such as removing her from the consultative committee of defence and not allowing her to participate in parliamentary party meetings are only perfunctory. If the party has got any meaningful respect towards Mahatma Gandhi, there should be no place for people such as her in its ranks. However, it has got reasons to take refuge in

the saying "blood is thicker than water".

C.G. KURIAKOSE,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

■ The MP's crass, crude and chilling words make one wonder whether she is aware of the cardinal importance of the father of the nation and the name and fame the Mahatma earned. The BJP must be complimented for some of its steps against the MP, but will this suffice? Not at all. The Prime Minister has to do much more.

MANI NATARAJAN,
Chennai

■ The Pragya Singh Thakur-like sadhus and sadhvins in present-day Indian politics, particularly in the BJP, have nothing to prove; nor is there any one in their flock who can claim contribution to the freedom struggle. Their sole aim appears to be causing fissures in society in order to remain politically relevant. The world is keeping watch over the government which

appears to be following a vote bank-only agenda without caring for the secular values of this diverse country. The nation's slowing economic growth and unemployment do not seem to be affecting such politicians. The intelligentsia of the country and a vigilant media must assert themselves and speak out against the communal hate agenda.

BRIJ BHUSHAN GOYAL,
Ludhiana, Punjab

■ Any misanthropic person who calls Nathuram Godse, Mahatma Gandhi's assassin a patriot, as Pragya Singh Thakur has reportedly done, without doubt, has gravely hurt the deep and respectful feelings all Indians have for the father of the nation. Such people who speak so outrageously by no means deserve to be members of any political party. Moreover those, if any, who unscrupulously and blatantly insult any of our great

patriotic national leaders and freedom fighters need to be socially boycotted by all until such time they sincerely realise their mistake and publicly apologise to the nation for their hurtful and noxious statements.

A. MOHAN,
Chennai

■ It is an open secret that the MP in question has the blessings of the BJP leadership and this is the reason why she is so brazen. How could the BJP, which claims to be a party with a difference and which bats for "purity in politics", justify making her an MP when she faces grave charges? I view the present action against the MP as an eye wash.

T. ANAND RAJ,
Chennai

■ Some in the Opposition are demonstrating their opposition and hostility, and unnecessarily, against the MP concerned. When Congress leader Rahul

Gandhi and the Congress president Sonia Gandhi say that they have excused those who killed Rajiv Gandhi, why don't they extend the same courtesy to the MP who also has some opinion about Godse? It is ridiculous for Congressmen to claim to have exclusive rights over patriotism.

B.S. JAYARAMAN,
Coimbatore

Forging ahead
The three political partners in Maharashtra, the Shiv Sena, the NCP and the Congress, should ignore the taunts being thrown at them and settle down quickly into the task of running a clean and responsive government.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:
In the story titled "Global warming alters rainfall rhythm, finds study" (Nov. 28, 2019, Life page) the paragraph that read: "Global warming has been expanding the size of the warm pool on average by 2,300 sq. km. annually from 1900-2018 and at an accelerated average rate of 4,000 sq. km. per year during 1981-2018" should be recast to say: "Global warming... warm pool on average by 230,000 sq. km. annually... at an accelerated average rate of 400,000 sq. km. ... during 1981-2018."

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This is a god-sent opportunity to change the tide of caustic national politics that has overwhelmed the country in these few years. It needs to return to calmer times to catch up with the heavily missed growth opportunities. This government has, therefore, the potential of being the face of a new order. The Sena should quietly bury its Hindutva lineage and become a left of centre mainstream regional party.

M. BALAKRISHNAN,
Bengaluru

CM YK

A ND-NDE

Shifting sands in Andhra Pradesh

Scrapping the free sand policy of the previous government, which is said to have boosted the mining mafia, the Jaganmohan Reddy government is attempting to regulate sand mining with a new policy. While industry and environmental activists have largely welcomed it, there are some concerns, reports **Appaji Reddem**

It's 3.30 p.m. on a Sunday in November and there is hectic activity on the dry river bed of Nagavali. Labourers working for the Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation, or APMDC, toil under the afternoon sun in Killipalem, Srikantham district, to load long lines of tractors stationed there with sand. They arrive at 10 a.m. and wrap up at 5.30 pm, taking only an hour's break for lunch. Konda, a daily wager, says he gets a decent pay for this job, "anywhere between ₹350 and ₹500 a day." But lifting heaps of sand, enough to fill up 15 tractors a day, is back-breaking work.

Each worker fills a tractor with up to two tonnes of sand on an average every day. From the river bed, the sand is transported to a strictly monitored stock point about 600 metres away. The stock point, which abuts the main road, is managed by officials of the revenue department, officials of APMDC, and other government functionaries. Stock points are equipped with mobile phones and other gadgets. Orders for sand are placed online, delivery of stock is monitored online, and bills to customers are also issued online. Real estate firms form the bulk of the clientele for mined sand.

When the truck or tractor is loaded, the driver is given a receipt by the official at the site. This receipt is collected by the contractor, who is paid by the APMDC once he provides proof that the sand has been delivered to the buyer. Apart from the purchase orders, which are processed through an online website of the government, a separate ledger is maintained at every stock point to register details such as amount of sand extracted, volume of delivery, the identity and details of the purchasing entity, and so on. A similar scene plays out in the Vizianagaram, Krishna, East Godavari, and West Godavari districts as well as other places where sand is extracted from different river beds by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

This careful procedure was designed by the YSR Congress government that came to power in the State in May 2019. Scrapping the free sand policy of the previous government, which is said to have boosted the mining mafia, the Jaganmohan Reddy government is attempting to regulate the mining of sand in the State with a new policy. However, environmentalists caution that this sand mining policy still has a long way to go from being "legal" and "scientific", as the government claims.

Attacks by the sand mafia

In the free sand years of the previous Telugu Desam Party government, the price of sand had escalated to as high as ₹1 lakh per lorry. Anyone, whether a government official, activist or social worker, who protested against illegal mining of sand was attacked. In June 2015, for instance, D. Vanajakshi, Musunuru Mandal Revenue Officer, was attacked by the sand mafia. Speaking to the media about the attack, Vanajakshi claimed that Denduluru MLA Chintamani Prabhakar had come with 50 people, including gunmen, and attacked her for stopping illegal sand quarrying on the Krishna-West Godavari border. "I was attacked on the neck. There were injuries on my whole body. Later, some women who claimed to be part of a self-help group also tried to attack me. The police and revenue staff came to my rescue. I reported the incident to the Collector immediately. The local Revenue Divisional Officer was sent to the spot. While all this was happening, about 25 tractors of illegal sand passed in front of our eyes," she said.

A similar incident was reported a few months later. A couple of Village Revenue Officers were attacked by the local sand mafia when they tried to stop lorries transporting illegal sand in Srikantham district. Villagers and NGO workers have also been attacked.

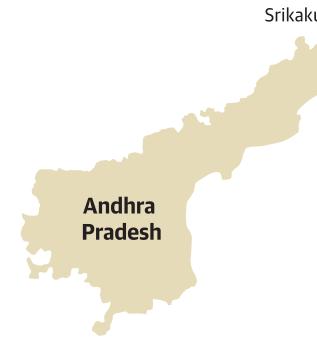
Indiscriminate sand mining using excavators and tractors from riverbeds and environmentally sensitive zones also invited the attention – and wrath – of the National Green Tribunal (NGT). In April 2019, a ₹100 crore fine was imposed by the NGT on the State government for failing to prevent illegal sand mining.

New sand mining policy

When the YSR Congress government assumed power, it appointed a committee to recommend modalities for affordable pricing of sand while ensuring stable revenue for the State government. The committee, which comprised a Group of Ministers, drafted regulations, some of which were implemented as part of the new policy. The policy came into effect from September 5, 2019. It curbs the hoarding, black marketing and illegal mining of sand, and brings down the price of mined sand. Under the new system, sand stockyards are managed by the APMDC, and all mining is done by the government. The price of sand is now ₹370 a tonne at government-run



Sand mining at a sand reach in Killipalem village of Srikantham district, Andhra Pradesh, on November 26, 2019. ■ C.V. SUBRAHMANYAM



Things are running smoothly as far as extraction and supply are concerned. The revenue, police and APMDC teams are closely watching to arrest any possible leakage. We will also be fixing GPS tags to the transport vehicles and arrange CCTV cameras in and around the sand reaches.

J. NIVAS
Srikantham District Collector

stockyards. In addition, ₹4.90 is charged per km as transport charges.

The policy says that the State intends to regulate sand extraction and consumption in a scientific manner by prescribing operational guidelines to APMDC and District Collectors. Some of the key guidelines are as follows: The APMDC will extract sand on behalf of the government and comply with environmental regulations while ensuring affordable prices. It will also work on raising public revenues to the state exchequer.

Sand excavation in river streams of I, II, III order will be regulated by the district administration, and excavation will be done manually, not through mechanical means. The stream order is a "bottom-up" hierarchy that allocates number I to the river with its mouth at the sea; number I or II to tributaries depending on the river or stream into which they discharge; and so on.

Sand excavation in river streams of IV, V and higher order (bigger river streams) is permitted subject to the Andhra Pradesh Mineral Concession Rules of 1966; the Environmental Protection Act of 1986; the Environment Impact Assessment Notification of 2006; and all the applicable rules.

The irrigation department is to take up desilting of dams, reservoirs, barrages and large lakes directly or through the APMDC.

Above all, the APMDC will put in place an online system for registration of end consumers and transporters; receipt of orders directly from end consumers; collection of payments and remittance to the treasury account of the State government; and maintenance of stockyards, disposal of sand from the stockyards, and real-time tracking of sand-carrying vehicles. The policy also seeks the installation of weighbridges at stockyards and CCTV cameras at sand reaches and stockyards to monitor sand operations and vehicular movement.

For those in the construction industry, this is a welcome move as anyone can book sand through the APMDC.

website by paying the specified price online or through Mee seva (translated as 'at your service') centres and get it delivered. The Confederation of Real Estate Developers Association of India says the policy ends uncertainty over price and supply to a large extent.

Each sand reach and stock point works under a team of APMDC officials who monitor the extraction, stocking, and loading of sand for supply. A contractor is engaged for two or more sand reaches for the purpose. "We are paid ₹120 per tonne for extracting and transporting sand to the stock point nearby. This is decent pay," says P.R. Kumar, the contractor working on the site in Killipalem.

While the Nagavali and Vamsadhara riverbeds are the major sources of sand, there are other smaller ones too. In the Srikantham and Vizianagaram districts, there are about 90 reaches that have been identified by the State government. The other major sources of sand are the reaches along the Godavari and Krishna rivers.

Srikantham District Collector J. Nivas says the new system has made life easy for everyone. "Things are running smoothly as far as extraction and supply are concerned. The revenue, police and APMDC teams are closely watching to arrest any possible leakage. We will also be fixing GPS tags to the transport vehicles and arrange CCTV cameras in and around the sand reaches," he said.

Sand scarcity
The genesis of legal sand mining in the State lies in the crisis that the construction industry faced in the State a few months after the new government assumed power. Availability of sand was less than one-fourth of demand, which was close to one lakh tonnes. As a result, the price of sand shot up.

The State government attributed the crisis to heavy rains and abundant wa-

ter in rivers and rivulets which had halted extraction of sand. For instance, the Sriram Dam gates had to be lifted during the rainy season (June-September) to release floodwater eight times, which is very rare. Such a shortage of sand was not seen during the Telugu Desam Party government's rule as rainfall was sparse then and sand could be mined from riverbeds at any time of the year. This led to rampant illegal mining of sand.

However, TDP president N. Chandrababu Naidu holds the YSR Congress responsible for the scarcity and illegal transport of sand in the State. "The police have arrested our party workers for exposing the illegal transport [of sand]. Sand is a commodity that is available for free and it is unethical to fix a price on that. We demand that the government bring in a free sand policy. The government should also pay ₹10,000 compensation for building workers who have lost their livelihoods. The problem was created by the government and it's also their responsibility to fix it," he stated.

Scarcity of sand has always been an issue for governments in the State. In 2014 and 2015, the TDP government too felt the acute scarcity of sand, especially when Chief Minister Naidu was planning to build Amaravati with nine themed cities within it. According to a top government functionary, the shortfall was so acute that there was a plan to import sand from Vietnam and Myanmar through the Krishnapatnam Port to meet the requirements. The idea was to elevate the entire Amaravati region, which predominantly has black cotton soil, with imported sand. Black cotton soil is reportedly not suitable for high-rise buildings. But the plan was temporarily shelved and the government's focus shifted to designing the city.

Environmental concerns
Not all is not well with the new policy, though. While appreciating the move,

environmental activists point out that there needs to be a scientific study on the availability of sand in different river beds, which will determine the extent to which sand can be mined and the impact of such mining on rivers. They say the current policy violates the Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines of 2016.

Quoting the violations by thousands of contractors in the river bed of Krishna, former Union Power Secretary and environmental activist E.A.S. Sarma says the State government needs to conduct a scientific study of how much sand is deposited in each river and how much can be mined. "The contractors made thousands of crores of rupees through illegal sand mining, and the YSR Congress had protested the same when it was in the Opposition. The previous government had filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court against the ₹100 crore penalty imposed by the NGT. We expected the new government to change the clauses of the affidavit. In the affidavit, the previous government dubbed the illegal sand mining as desilting and dredging of the Prakasam Barrage, which is not true. But to our surprise, the government officials have approached Supreme Court with the same argument," Sarma told *The Hindu*.

Water rights activist Rajendra Singh, along with activists Vikram Soni, Anumolu Gandhi and Bolisetty Satyanarayana, wrote to the NGT and the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change about the illegal mining and violations in the Krishna riverbed in April 2019. The NGT learnt that illegal mechanical sand mining was happening in a big way near the residence of former Chief Minister Naidu as well as in other places in the capital of the State. The NGT later ordered the Pollution Control Board and the then Chief Secretary to take steps to stop the mining. It also found fault with the free sand policy of



the previous government.

According to the NGT report, 34,650 tonnes of sand were mechanically excavated from river Krishna's eight locations per day. At three locations, sand was being loaded into 400 lorries and 100 tractors by using mechanical excavators and proclan machines. Each lorry had nine tonnes of sand.

According to Sravan Kumar, an advocate representing Rajendra Singh and other NGO members of the petition, under the pretext of desilting and dredging, large-scale illegal mining was being carried out.

The NGT also emphasised the 'polluter pays' principle. Accordingly, it directed the Chief Secretary of the State to prohibit all sand mining that did not follow the procedure prescribed in the Supreme Court judgment in *Deepak Kumar v. State of Haryana* (2012), and judgments of the tribunal. The Chief Secretary was also asked to evolve a mechanism to assess and recover the cost of sand mining already incurred in the last three years and initiate steps to recover compensation to meet the cost of restoration of the environment.

Further, the Chief Secretary was asked to initiate prosecution against the persons responsible, including officers, apart from any other action. The tribunal further directed the constitution of a committee comprising the Central Pollution Control Board; the Environment Ministry; IIT Roorkee; the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad; and the Madras School of Economics to undertake environment damage assessment within three months and furnish a report to the tribunal. Pending further consideration in the light of reports from the Central Pollution Control Board and the Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh, the NGT directed the State to deposit an interim amount of ₹100 crore with the Board within one month.

Nagavali is among the river beds in the State which meet the full requirement of the industry and people as of now. Yet, to claim that sand is being mined legally, the State government has a long way to go, say activists. Only a scientific study on the actual availability of sand in river beds, specifying the volume which can be mined and from which parts of the riverbeds, can help the government counter allegations of violations.



FROM PAGE ONE

GDP growth plunges to 4.5%, lowest since 2012

The agriculture sector saw growth coming in at 2.1% in second quarter of this year compared with 4.9% in Q2 of last year. The sector grew just 2.1% over the first six months of the year compared with 5% in the first half of the previous year.

Among the services sectors measured, only the 'Public Administration, Defense & Other Services' category saw growth quicken in the second quarter of this year, to 11.6%, compared with 8.6% in the same quarter of the previous year. The 'Financial, Real Estate & Professional Services' category saw growth slow to 5.8% in Q2 of 2019-20, compared with 7% in Q2 of the previous year.

Private final consumption expenditure, the closest

proxy in the data to a measure of consumption demand, grew 5.06% in the second quarter of this financial year, compared with a growth of 3.14% in the first quarter. However, the growth in the second quarter this year is still significantly lower than the growth of 9.79% recorded in the second quarter of the previous year.

Gross fixed capital formation, which is a measure of the level of investment in the country by both the government and the private sector, grew only 1.02% in the second quarter of this financial year, compared with a growth of 4.04% in the first quarter, and drastically lower than the growth of 11.8% seen in the Q2 of last year.

India offers \$450 mn to Sri Lanka to fight terror

The April 21 Easter bombings, blamed on IS-inspired Sri Lankans, left at least 259 dead and hundreds of others injured.

Mr. Rajapaksa thanked India for inviting him soon after being elected to the office of the President in the latest election.

Issues discussed
"PM Modi and I discussed several important issues this morning. Among these, security of our two countries took priority. India has always assisted Sri Lanka to enhance our capabilities in intelligence and counter terrorism and we look forward to continued support (from India) in this regard," he said.

In 2009 Sri Lanka waged a controversial war against the Tamil rebels in the east and the north of the country that ended decades of ethnic insurgency.

Following the Easter bombings Sri Lanka had to 'rethink' its national security strategy, said the visiting dignitary urging for both sides to continue cooperation, saying, "The Prime Minister's assurances are most encouraging."

He also said that both sides want to maintain the Indian Ocean region as a "zone of peace." The Sri Lankan leader addressed the issue of the fishing community and said that Colombo will take steps to

release the boats of Indian fishermen that are in Sri Lankan custody.

Following the discussions between the two leaders, Mr. Rajapaksa said in a social media post "mutual respect and shared values" will strengthen bilateral ties between Colombo and New Delhi.

Housing projects
Mr. Modi pointed out that India has been building housing units in the Northern and Eastern parts of Sri Lanka to assist the people who were displaced during the war of 2009. "We are delighted that under the Indian Housing Project, 46,000 houses have been constructed for the internally displaced in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. There is good progress in the construction of 14,000 houses for Tamils of Indian origin in the Up-Country region," said the Indian leader.

Mr. Rajapaksa extended an invite to Mr. Modi to visit Sri Lanka as the first foreign head of government to be hosted by the new presidency.

Mr. Rajapaksa's visit to India is being viewed as a significant step for the new leader especially since the Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar took up the cause of the Sri Lankan Tamils when he met him on November 19.

Godse remark: Pragya offers apology twice

"If my comments have hurt in anyway, I regret and seek apology. But, my comments in the House have been twisted and misrepresented," she said and added that she respects the contribution made by Mahatma Gandhi.

Then Ms. Thakur, who continues to be an accused in the 2008 Malegaon case, attacked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi without naming him.

"One member has publicly termed me as a terrorist, though I have not been convicted by the court ... it is an insult to a woman and a sadhu," she said.

'Worse than murder'
"Calling a woman and Member of Parliament, a terrorist is even worse than the murder of Mahatma Gandhi," said Nishikant Dubey, BJP MP from Jharkhand, who wanted a privilege motion against Mr. Gandhi.

The Jharkhand MP also attacked the Congress for its double standards as its ally Shiv Sena's mouthpiece *Saamna* had described Godse as a true patriot.

Ms. Thakur reportedly has moved a notice against Mr. Gandhi but the Congress leader stood by his comments. "Let them do it. I have made my stand clear. What Pragya Thakur says is

what she believes in. I don't agree with her, but she believes in it," Mr. Gandhi told reporters.

On Thursday, Mr. Gandhi had tweeted, "Terrorist Pragya calls terrorist Godse, a patriot. A sad day, in the history of India's Parliament."

However, inside the Lok Sabha, Opposition members insisted that the House should take note of only what was said inside. Terming Ms. Thakur's apology as a conditional apology, Opposition MPs started shouting slogans such as "Godse party down down" and "Mahatma Gandhi ki jai."

Resignation sought
Congress members stormed into the well of the House to demand the resignation of the BJP member.

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said Mahatma Gandhi was not only the father of the nation but a global icon and demanded an unqualified apology.

While BSP MP Kunwar Danish Ali demanded that Ms. Thakur's reference to court proceedings should be expunged, Biju Janata Dal leader B. Mahtab suggested that the Chair refer to video recordings of proceedings to end the 'confusion' about whether or not Godse's name was taken.

Economy hit by climate of fear'

Manmohan Singh warns of disastrous effects of a sharp slowdown in growth

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Shooting down messengers of bad news or shutting off economic reports and data is juvenile and does not behove a rising global economic powerhouse

MANMOHAN SINGH,
FORMER PRIME MINISTER



eroded, Dr. Singh said. "This toxic combination of deep distrust, pervasive fear and a sense of hopelessness in our society is stifling economic activity and hence economic growth," he added.

Proof of recession

Reacting to the latest GDP numbers, the Congress said the numbers proved that India was going through a recession. "The economy has been pushed into coma by the BJP, the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister. They owe an explanation to the nation, whether GDP for them means Gross Domestic Product or for them it means 'Godse Divisive Politics'; everything cannot be settled by dividing the people of India," Congress's chief spokesperson Randeep Singh Jatwala said.

"4.5%! Some ppl who made a career by mocking Dr. Manmohan Singh ji are now struggling to oversee the economy," tweeted senior leader Ahmed Patel.

The former RBI Governor blamed the downward slide on a "palpable climate of fear".

"Many industrialists tell me they live in fear of harassment by government authorities. Bankers are reluctant to make new loans, for fear of retribution. Entrepreneurs are hesitant to put up fresh projects, for fear of failure attributed to ulterior motives," Dr. Singh said.

Start-ups are living under a shadow of "constant surveillance," he said.

"Policy makers in government and other institutions are scared to speak the truth

or engage in intellectually honest policy discussions. There is profound fear and distrust among various economic participants," he said.

Alluding to the government's efforts to disown data on unemployment, household consumer expenditure and sanitation, Dr. Singh said,

"Shooting down messengers of bad news or shutting off economic reports and data is juvenile and does not behove a rising global economic powerhouse."

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SC dismisses plea against new alliance

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday rejected a petition filed by Pramod Pandit Joshi of the Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha to declare the post-poll alliance of the Shiv Sena, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress in Maharashtra "unconstitutional, null and void".

"In a democracy, we cannot stop a political party from allying with another political party," Justice N.V. Ramana addressed Mr. Joshi's counsel, Barun Kumar Sinha.

Justice Ashok Bhushan asked Mr. Sinha why the Court should intervene in matters which were quintessentially political in nature.

"Post-poll and pre-poll alliances... this is all political. Why should the Supreme Court enter into all these issues?" Justice Bhushan said.

Justice Sanjiv Khanna, the third judge on the Bench, pointed out that Schedule 10 (anti-defection law) extensively covered these aspects.

The Bench said Mr. Joshi should not ask the court to go into areas outside judicial review. "Constitutional morality is different from political party," Justice Ramana said. This same Bench's order on November 26, giving BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis 24 hours to prove a majority in the House, led to his resignation within hours and culminated in the formation of the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress government with Uddhav Thackeray as Chief Minister.

Floor test in Maharashtra today

Dilip Walse-Patil of the NCP appointed pro tem Speaker, joint session tomorrow

SHARAD VYAS

MUMBAI

The ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi in Maharashtra, an alliance of the Shiva Sena, the Congress and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), will face a floor test in the Assembly on Saturday.

The floor test will be conducted by the pro tem Speaker at a special Assembly session to be convened at 2 p.m., sources in the Raj Bhawan and the Legislature Secretariat said.

Dilip Walse-Patil of the NCP will be the pro tem Speaker.

In a dramatic turn of events on Friday, the State Cabinet recommended changing Kalidas Kolamkar of the BJP as pro tem Speaker. Mr. Walse-Patil was sworn in by Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyar and he will monitor the floor test.

Elections to choose a



Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray at a press conference after taking charge on Friday. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

Speaker will be held on Sunday.

The nomination form for the election will have to be filed by Saturday noon, senior leaders said.

As leader of the alliance, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has submitted letters of support from over 162 MLAs, though the eventual number will be over 170, the alliance leaders said.

Mr. Koshyari had asked the alliance to prove its majority by December 3.

Alliance confident

"Our strength is eventually going to cross over 170 with support of Independents and MLAs of smaller parties. The coalition is confident of passing the floor test with a majority," a senior leader of the alliance said.

Former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis accused the government of changing the rules for a floor test.

"If this government has a majority, then why are they secretly calling the House? Why efforts to change the pro tem Speaker, going against the rules? Why still doubt your own MLAs so much? Why are they still hindering them," he said adding that at its first meeting on Thursday, the new Cabinet chose to discuss how to prove a majority secretly instead of discussing assistance and relief for farmers suffering from unseasonal rains.

A special joint session of the two Houses will be called on Sunday to choose the Speaker and Governor Koshyari will address the session.

(With inputs from Alok Deshpande)

Shiv Sena in talks to form a front with GFP, MGP in Goa

STAFF REPORTER

MUMBAI

The Shiv Sena has signalled a new political front in Goa with the Goa Forward Party (GFP). It has also hinted at some MLAs of the ruling BJP joining it.

The BJP won 13 seats and the Congress 17 in the Goa Assembly election held in 2017. However, political equations in the State changed earlier this year after 10 Congress MLAs joined the BJP.

The Goa Forward Party and the Maharashtra Gomantak Party have three

MLAs each in the Assembly. The NCP has one. There are three Independents. The Shiv Sena does not have a presence in the Assembly.

"We want to build an opposition alliance in Goa," Sena MP Sanjay Raut said on Friday. "I met Vijai Sardesai [of the Goa Forward Party] today. We are forming an alliance with his three MLAs and some MLAs in the government are also supporting us. I just spoke to Dhalikar [Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party]. Soon you will see a miracle in Goa."

28 militant supporters arrested in J&K: police

'6 terror modules busted in a month'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir police on Friday said 28 overground workers, a term used for those who give logistics support to militants, had been arrested in the Valley in the past month.

"Six terror modules were busted in the past one month. The coordinated efforts by the forces have mounted tremendous pressure on the terrorists... leading to the arrest of 28 overground workers," the

police said. "Three arrested overground workers from Ladoo were behind the threat posters of the Hizbul Mujahideen and the Lashkar-e-Taiba. Six other overground workers of the Lashkar-e-Taiba were involved in arson and posters in north Kashmir," it added.

The police said one militant had surrendered in Pulwama and another overground worker of the Jaish-e-Mohammed was arrested in Srinagar in the same period.

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Veteran BJP rebel dares Raghubar Das on his turf

Saryu Rai to contest CM for the Jamshedpur (East) seat

NISTULA HEBBAR

JAMSHEDPUR

In the Jharkhand Assembly election, one seat that has captured the attention of the entire State is Jamshedpur (East), where Chief Minister Raghubar Das is facing a challenge from his former ministerial colleague and rebel BJP veteran Saryu Rai.

Mr. Rai, 68, considered an anti-corruption crusader credited with exposing scams that led to the conviction of at least three Chief Ministers, Jagannath Mishra, Lal Prasad and Madhu Koda, says he waited for ticket till the BJP released its fourth list of candidates, before challenging the party and Mr. Das.

A special joint session of the two Houses will be called on Sunday to choose the Speaker and Governor Koshyari will address the session.

(With inputs from Alok Deshpande)



Saryu Rai is taking on Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das after a bitter parting of ways. ■ NISTULA HEBBAR

and asked me to share my concerns with the party organisation. Party president Amit Shah did try to patch things up between me and Raghubar Das, but it didn't last long. After waiting and being "rewarded" with the humiliation of having been denied ticket, I walked out.

As Mahatma Gandhi said, a time comes when disobedience to the law becomes a duty," he said.

JMM support

Mr. Rai has gained the support of the Janata Dal(U) and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), with the latter leaving Gourav Vallabh, candidate of its ally Congress, high and dry.

He is receiving major support in his campaign from what is euphemistically called the "old BJP" or those in the State unit who felt slighted by Mr. Das's new dispensation that has led to the sidelining of several old leaders and dropping of 13 of the 37 sitting MLAs from the BJP list. Both men and mo-

ney are being provided by the disgruntled party men in the city.

Jamshedpur (East) is a cosmopolitan constituency, with Mr. Das considered the local boy who made it big (his father was a conductor with the Tata Group, which is considered the patron saint of the city).

His record on security and providing a stable government are points in his favour. Jharkhand saw eight Chief Ministers in 14 years of its formation, before Mr. Das's tenure of a full five years.

His rise to the Chief Minister's post, however, has also raised concerns over the involvement of his immediate family in the affairs of the constituency. Mr. Modi, who remains popular in the State, will address a campaign rally in Jamshedpur on December 3.

"Whatever the issues against Raghubar Das, after Modi ji's rally, he will win," says Rajesh Singh, a vegetable vendor in Bistupur.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), Bhubaneswar
INVITATION FOR BIDS (FB)

No. 49619 **Dtd. 26.11.2019**

1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. CE-WBP(O)-06/2019-20 dtg 14.11.2019.

1. The Bid documents will be available in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in from 10.00 AM of 03.12.2019 to 5.00 PM of 24.12.2019 for online bidding.
2. Bids shall be received only on "on line" or before 5.00 PM of 24.12.2019.
3. Bids received on line shall be opened at 11.30 Hours on 26.12.2019 in the office of the Engineer-in-Chief (Civil), Nirman Seuda, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged

Sdi-A. K. Tripathy
Chief Engineer, World Bank Projects, Odisha

34003/11/0009/1920

ANNA UNIVERSITY
CHENNAI - 600 025

TENDER NOTICE : Tender Ref No. 12112/PPA/ET&MSS/Elect/MIT/2019

On-line Tenders in Two Bid Systems are invited for Supply and Installation of following equipment for the Professor and Head, Department of Electronics Engineering, MIT campus, Anna University, Chennai - 600 044.

Sl. No.	Tender Ref. No.	Name of the Equipment	Qty.	Approx. cost
1	12112_1/PPA/ET&MSS/Elect/MIT/2019	"REAL TIME TEST BED"	20 Nodes	₹ 30,00,000/-
2	12112_2/PPA/ET&MSS/Elect/MIT/2019	"MEDIA SERVER SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT PLATFORM"	1	₹ 19,00,000/-

The tender documents can be downloaded by registering in the website <https://intenders.gov.in> using Digital Signature Certificate and E-Token from 05.30 p.m. on 30.11.2019. The filled-in tender documents can be submitted by uploading in the website up to 03.00 p.m. on 16.12.2019 and will be opened at 03.00 p.m. on 17.12.2019. EMD is to be submitted through the website <https://intenders.gov.in> BY ONLINE MODE ONLY. Other detailed tender conditions, future corrigenda etc., please visit the website (<https://intenders.gov.in>) and any press advertisement will not be published in this regard.

REGISTRAR i/c

DELHI JAL BOARD GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (EAST)
M 16 MAYUR VIHAR PKT E PHASE II NEW DELHI-110091

PRESS NOTICE TENDER
NIT No.4/3/East-I/(2019-20)

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV)/Amount put to tender	Earliest Money (EMD)	Tender Fees	Date of release of tender in E-Procurement Solution & Tender ID No.	Last Date of receipt of tender E-Procurement Solution
01	Construction of SPS near 8A DDA Janta Flat Trilokpuri for Trapping of drain of 2-block JJC Trilokpuri (Indra Camp) in AC-55 EE(East)-I	14,54,04,805.00	2,90,100.00	1000.00	28.11.2019 2019-DJB_18_4648_1	23.12.2019 at 03:15 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
ADVT. NO. J.S.V. 598/2019-20

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (EAST)-I

THE ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY
(A Central University established by an Act of Parliament)
HYDERABAD – 500007

INVITES

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

The Public Sector Undertakings, having experience in Civil and Electrical works are requested to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) by 09/12/2019 to the Registrar, The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad for Renovation and Repair Works on the basis of LUMP SUM SERVICE CHARGES on Project Management Criteria at its University Campus in Hyderabad as detailed in University Website www.flu.ac.in. The total estimated cost is Rs.307.43 lakhs (approx).

Sd/- REGISTRAR I/C

BHARAT COKING COAL LIMITED
'A Mini Ratna Company'
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

Corrigendum

Sub :- Open Tender (GLOBAL) Cum Reverse auction Notice No.-48

Online bids are invited from prospective bidders against Open Tender (Global) Cum Reverse Auction Tender No. BCCL/PUR/419074/28KL Water Sprinkler/19-20/48 followed with corrigendum having estimated value of Rs.1912.05 LAKH (Approx). Change of Tender Notice no.-46. Initial Bid Submission end date 09-12-2019 & New Bid submission end date 19-12-2019, initial Bid/Tender Opening date is 20-12-2019 & new Bid/Tender opening date 20-12-2019. Full details of above tender is available on website coordinatetenders.nic.in, [www.bccweb.in](http://bccweb.in) & [https://e-procure.gov.in](http://e-procure.gov.in). Prospective bidder are advised to visit the aforesaid websites to participation against above tenders and to note time to time the any corrigendum, clarifications etc. (if any). Domestic tender with Reverse Auction was published inadvertently before of Global Tender with Reverse Auction.

**Sd/-
Dy. Manager (MM)**

CSTEP

CENTER FOR STUDY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND POLICY

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Director, Center for Study of Science, Technology & Policy (CSTEP), invites sealed tenders in a two-bid system, from interested parties, for aerial survey of cities for developing a web-based solar rooftop tool for Bihar and Madhya Pradesh state governments.

Detailed tender document will be available for download from <http://cstep.in/tenders/aerial-survey-bihar-mp.html>. Due date for receipt of tender is 31st December, 2019.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

Tender Notice No.TBM-SG-CN-2019-2020-17-RT-OT Dated: 27.11.2019

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Tambaran invites e-tenders for the following works:

Item No.	Name of the work
(i)	Provision of Telecommunication arrangement in Thiruthurai poondi to Agasthipalli Station in connection with Karaikudi-Tiruvarur gauge conversion work.

Item No. Cash Value in (₹) Earnest Money Deposit (₹) Last Date and Time of Submission of e-Tender through IRPES site Cost of Tender Document (₹) Period of Completion in Month(s)

(1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6)

1. 2,28,96,124.40 2,64,500/- 19.12.2019 upto 14.00 Hrs. 10,000/- FOUR

Tenderers can view full details of tender and submit their offer at the e-tender portal irpes.gov.in of Indian Railways.

Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Document Cost (TDC) shall be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only.

The supply /work is subject to GST rules applicable from time to time.

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer / Construction / Tambaran, Chennai - 600 045.

Office of the Project Director
Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project
AVS Building, Jawahar Circle, JLN Marg, Jaipur-302017
Tel No.: +91 141 2721966, 2548404 Fax No.: +91 141 2721919
Email: ruidp@gmail.com; mail.ruidp@rajasthan.gov.in website: www.ruidp.rajasthan.gov.in

Invitation for Bids No: RUSDP/NCB/12

ADB Loan No. and Title: 3183-ND, Rajasthan Urban Sector Development Program
1. Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project (RUIDP) invites online bids on e-proc website from eligible bidders for the Works of House sewer connections in Sriranganager Town under contract packages mentioned in table below. Online bidding is invited under National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedure of ADB which is open to all bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.

No.	Package No.	Name of Work	Bid Security Amount
1.	RUSDP/HSC/Sriranganager/04	House Sewer Connection works at Sriranganager Town (Rajasthan)	INR 30 Lacs

2. Bid documents would be available at e-proc website: www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in starting from 20th November, 2019 and ends on 03rd January, 2020.

3. Pre-Bid Meeting for all the packages will be held at 15.00 hours on 11th December, 2019. All the prospective bidders are advised to participate in the Pre-bid meeting.

4. Any publication, clarification to the queries etc. will be published on the e proc website and will be available in newspapers.

5. Bidders may contact Additional Project Director, RUIDP (0141-2548404), Jaipur for any information on bidding process.

Project Director
UDPR/WSB/00020

</div

ELSEWHERE



Global climate protests kick off in Sydney

SYDNEY Protesters across Asia kicked off a fresh round of global demonstrations against climate change on Friday, with bushfire-ravaged Australia taking the lead. Protesters in several Asian cities, including Delhi, heeded the call to action from 16-year-old climate activist Greta Thunberg. The protests have taken on extra urgency in Australia – the country's southeast has been devastated by bushfires in recent weeks. AFP

K-pop star jailed for gang rape, spycam crimes

SEOUL South Korean singer-songwriter Jung Joon-young was convicted on Friday of gang rape and distributing videos of the assaults and other sexual encounters, and was jailed for six years in a scandal that has rocked K-pop. Mr. Jung and Choi Jong-hoon, a former member of boy band FT Island, were found guilty of gang-rapeing two different victims on two occasions in 2016. AFP

Hong Kong set for fresh protests, university siege ends

Agitators gather at British consulate; other rallies planned

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

Hong Kong police on Friday ended their two-week siege of a university campus that became a battleground between pro-democracy protesters and security officials. Activists vowed to hold fresh rallies and strikes in the coming days.

Renewed calls to hit the streets came after Beijing and city leader Carrie Lam refused further political concessions despite a landslide victory for pro-democracy parties in local elections last weekend.

Favourable poll results Sunday's district council polls delivered a stinging rebuke to the financial hub's pro-Beijing establishment and undermined their argument that a silent majority were tired of the nearly six months of increasingly violent protests.

Online forums used to organise the mass movement have filled with calls for a major rally on Sunday and a strike on Monday targeting the morning commute.

"If the communist Hong Kong government ignores public opinion, we will blossom everywhere for five or six days straight... We have to set a deadline," read one post on the Reddit-like

Trump visits Afghanistan, says U.S.-Taliban talks back on track

He celebrated Thanksgiving holiday with troops during a surprise visit to Kabul

REUTERS
KABUL

President Donald Trump made a surprise Thanksgiving visit to U.S. troops in Afghanistan on Thursday and said talks with Taliban are back on track. The President also said that he believed the radical group would agree to a ceasefire.

Mr. Trump's surprise Thanksgiving Day visit was his first to Afghanistan since becoming President and came a week after a prisoner swap between Washington and Kabul that raised hopes for a long elusive peace deal to end the 18-year war.

"The Taliban wants to make a deal and we are meeting with them," Mr. Trump told reporters after arriving in Afghanistan on Thursday.

Ceasefire key to talks "We say it has to be a ceasefire and they didn't want to do a ceasefire and now they want to do a ceasefire, I believe. It will probably work out that way," he said.



Unexpected guest: Donald Trump making a gesture at 'Thanksgiving' dinner with troops in Kabul on Thursday. • AP

Mr. Trump cancelled peace negotiations in September after the militant group claimed responsibility for an attack in Kabul that killed 12 people, including an American soldier.

Zabihullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the hardline Islamist insurgent group, said on Friday they were "ready to restart the talks".

"Our stance is still the same. If peace talks start, it will be resumed from the stage where it had stopped,"

Mr. Mujahid told Reuters. Taliban leaders have told Reuters that the group has been holding meetings with senior U.S. officials in Doha since last weekend, adding they could soon resume formal peace talks.

"We are hoping that Trump's visit to Afghanistan will prove that he is serious to start talks again. We don't think he has much of a choice," said a senior Taliban commander on conditions of anonymity.

Mr. Trump did not answer reporters' questions when he returned on Friday morning to Florida, where he is spending the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday weekend away from Washington.

There are currently about 13,000 U.S. forces as well as thousands of other NATO troops in Afghanistan, 18 years after a U.S.-led coalition invaded the country following the September 11, 2001, al-Qaeda attacks on the United States.

About 2,400 U.S. service members have been killed in the course of the Afghan conflict.

A draft accord agreed in September would have thousands of American troops withdrawn in exchange for guarantees that Afghanistan would not be used as a base for militant attacks on the United States or its allies.

Still, many U.S. officials doubt the Taliban could be relied upon to prevent al Qaeda from again plotting attacks against the United States from Afghan soil.

London police shoot suspect dead after 'terrorist' stabbings

Bystanders wrestle man to the ground and grab his knife

REUTERS
LONDON

British police on Friday shot dead a man who strapped a fake bomb to his body and stabbed a number of people in what they said was a terrorist incident in the London Bridge area of the capital.

Police said they were alerted at just before 2 p.m. (1400 GMT) about a stabbing incident near London Bridge. Half a dozen bystanders wrestled the suspect to the ground and grabbed his knife. A video posted on Twitter shows police dragging one man off the suspect before an officer takes careful aim. Two shots ring out. The man stops moving.

"A male suspect was shot by specialist armed officers from the City of London police and I can confirm that this suspect died at the scene," the U.K.'s top counter-terrorism officer, Neil Basu, told reporters.

"A number of other people received injuries during this incident," Mr. Basu said. "We believe a device that



London in panic: Police vehicles and buses near the London Bridge on Friday. • AP

was strapped to the body of the suspect was a hoax explosive device."

A video posted on Twitter showed a group of about half a dozen men wrestling with someone on the ground on the sidewalk of the bridge.

One of them backs away from the scene carrying a knife. People in buildings around the scene were evacuated to the north side of the River Thames.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the incident appeared to have been contained. "I want to thank the emergency services and members of the public for their immense bravery".

Iraq's PM set to resign after violent protests

Adel Abdel Mahdi's announcement comes after top cleric called on Parliament to replace the Cabinet

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BAGHDAD

Iraq's embattled premier announced on Friday he will resign in keeping with the wishes of the country's top Shiite cleric, after nearly two months of anti-government protests that have cost more than 400 lives.

Adel Abdel Mahdi's written statement was greeted with cheers and blaring music across Baghdad's iconic Tahrir (Liberation) Square, where crowds have amassed since early October against a ruling class deemed corrupt and inefficient.

"I will submit to the esteemed Parliament a formal letter requesting my resignation from the premiership,"

Mr. Abdel Mahdi wrote, just hours after Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani called in his weekly sermon on Parliament to replace the Cabinet.

The sermon set off an avalanche of statements from political figures in support of a no-confidence vote on the government, before the Prime Minister's announcement.

Celebrations erupt

Celebrations broke out in Tahrir, where young protesters dropped the stones they were preparing to throw at riot police and began dancing, an AFP photographer said.

"It's our first victory, and we're hoping for many



Adel Abdel Mahdi

decades but also the deadliest, with more than 400 people dead and 15,000 wounded in the capital and Shiite-majority south, according to an AFP tally.

For weeks, Mr. Sistani had called for restraint in dealing with demonstrators and urged political parties to get "serious" about reform, but he ramped up demands on Friday.

"The Parliament, from which this current government is drawn, is asked to reconsider its choice in this regard," he said in Friday's sermon delivered by a representative.

Within minutes, MP and former premier Haider al-Abadi called on lawmakers

to convene on Saturday a "special session for a vote of no-confidence and to form a new independent government".

The bloodshed resumed on Friday, with two protesters shot dead in the flashpoint city of Nasiriyah and another killed in the shrine city of Najaf.

The unrest in Iraq's south was unleashed after protesters stormed the Iranian consulate in Najaf late on Wednesday, accusing the neighbouring country of propping up Iraq's government.

Tehran demanded Iraq take decisive action against the protesters, saying it was "disgusted" by the developments.

Pak. students demand end of ban on unions

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LAHORE

Pakistani students on Friday staged rallies across the country in a rare show of strength to urge Prime Minister Imran Khan to lift a decades-long ban on peaceful political activities at education institutions.

Hundreds of students attended rallies in Lahore, Islamabad, Karachi and elsewhere.

Sudan overturns moral policing law

The transitional government dissolves al-Bashir's former ruling party

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CAIRO

Sudan's government on Friday overturned a moral policing law that criminalised wearing revealing clothing and drinking alcohol, and dissolved the country's former ruling party, fulfilling the two key demands of pro-democracy protesters.

This law is notorious for being used as a tool of exploitation. They chanted "We are all Simon", referring to a former consulate employee, Simon Cheng, who said Chinese police manhandled him, seeking information about activists behind the protests. A rally is also planned for December 8 by Civil Human Rights Front. (With Reuters inputs)

"I pay tribute to the women and youth of my country who have endured the atrocities that resulted from the implementation of this law."

The Public Order Act was first passed in 1992 by al-Bashir's Islamist government and enforced only in the



The law criminalised wearing revealing clothing and drinking alcohol. • AFP

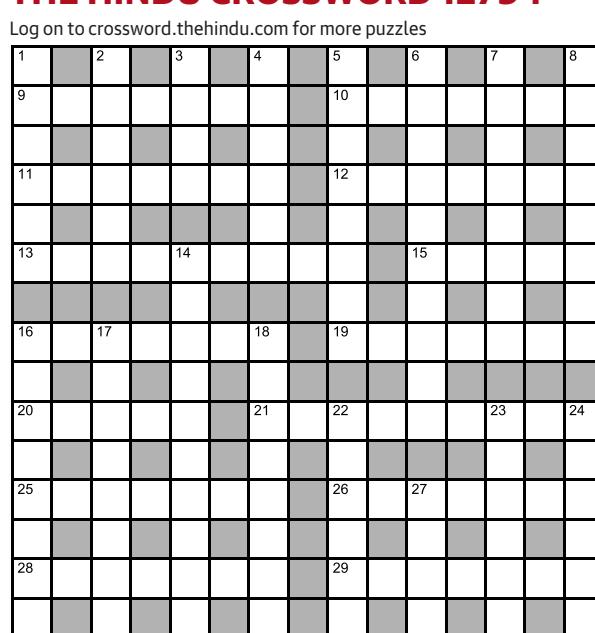
capital, Khartoum, before being applied nationwide four years later. The law criminalised a wide range of in-

dividual behaviour, including revealing clothing and drinking alcohol. Those convicted of violating the act could face prison sentences, fines, lashing and confiscation of property.

Sudan's sovereign council and Cabinet announced both decisions after a four-hour long meeting that ended shortly after midnight on Thursday. It said the law would also require confiscation of al-Bashir's National Congress Party's assets and funds.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12794

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



ACROSS

- 9 Dressing the group on time (7)
- 10 State, according to a President, once lacked nothing (7)
- 11 On money, European Union rejects, they follow (7)
- 12 Caul starts with minute thrust (7)
- 13 Overrun links following areas of growth (9)

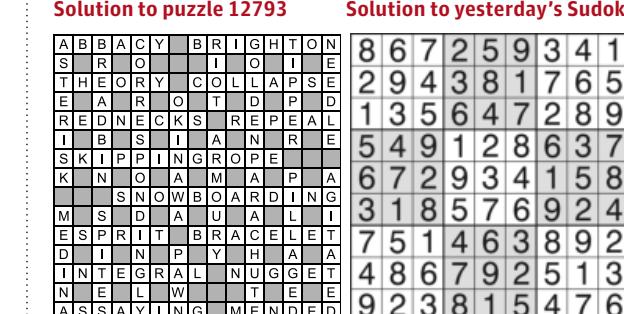
DOWN

- 1 Order boy to carry the King of fairies (6)
- 2 Exotic strain – a stage in the development of an insect (6)
- 3 French bread could give you bellyache, perhaps (4)
- 4 Once you led soldiers, independence followed for this subject (6)
- 5 Line to cut what you own into two (5)
- 6 Choice to have a drink outside club (7)
- 19 Animal less protected, no one goes back inside (7)
- 20 In France it's good, for America it's a bounty (5)
- 21 One outlet – with yen you get gas (9)
- 25 After time out, becomes angry and taut, say (7)
- 26 Badly niggled horse (7)
- 28 A genuine short built African (7)
- 29 Ardent runner, regularly participates in Asia (7)

(set by Arden)



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆



Solution to puzzle 12793

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



FAITH

His endless glories

None can fathom the greatness of the Supreme Brahman, say the Vedas, and yet they try to speak of His glories. In the seventh, eighth, and ninth chapters of the Gita, the Lord has indicated briefly about His greatness to Arjuna. In the tenth chapter, He describes in greater detail many aspects of His innumerable glories which can never be exhausted. It is this knowledge of His greatness that can open the eye of jnana and this goes hand in hand with devotion to lead to salvation, pointed out Srimati Rukmini Ramamurthy in a discourse. Once one is aware of His greatness, the import of the Lord's words in the famous verse at the end of the ninth chapter, 'Manmanabhabava Mathbhaktu' about how by fixing one's mind in Him, and remaining devoted to Him, and training oneself to seek Him as the only goal, one can surely reach Him, automatically becomes a practical reality to the ardent devotee.

Arjuna has already had a taste of the Lord's greatness. Naturally, he is filled with wonder and amazement and is so overwhelmed that he begins to praise Krishna as the Supreme Brahman, the Highest Abode and the Absolute Essence of Purity, Everlasting Divine One, the First among Gods. Moreover, he is also familiar with the devotional experience of sages and rishis such as Narada and other celestial beings. He knows that none can reveal more of His glories better than Krishna and so requests Him to explain the secret embedded in creation. The Lord provides a sample list from which one gets an idea of how to meditate on Him. He is the source of all creation, pervades each and every aspect of it and sustains it most admirably. The experience of this truth is the essence of Brahma Jnana, the ability to perceive the entire universe in all its detail as His manifestation.

MARKET WATCH

	29-11-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	40,794	-0.82
US Dollar	71.74	-0.17
Gold	38,695	0.37
Brent oil	62.57	-1.34

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	382.05	9.45
Asian Paints	1706.15	-8.45
Axis Bank	739.05	-11.55
Bajaj Auto	3176.00	-20.40
Bajaj Finance	9110.25	-129.85
Bharti Airtel	442.45	5.80
BPLC	511.55	1.55
Britannia Ind	3057.70	-40.55
Cipla	466.70	-1.65
Coal India	205.25	-0.60
Dr Reddy's Lab	2913.85	-62.90
Eicher Motors	22881.40	-210.20
GAIL (India)	126.05	0.25
Grasim Ind	787.05	-13.10
HCL Tech	1127.65	-5.00
HDFC	2297.25	-12.50
HDFC Bank	1274.95	9.65
Hero MotoCorp	2433.55	-32.75
Hindalco	200.15	-3.95
Hind Unilever	2035.30	-51.85
ICICI Bank	512.60	-6.55
IndusInd Bank	1569.10	0.85
Bharti Infratel	276.30	19.70
Infosys	696.35	-5.50
Indian Oil Corp	131.40	-1.15
ITC	246.40	-0.30
JSW Steel	261.55	-2.40
Kotak Bank	1615.20	-0.20
L&T	1330.55	-19.35
M&M	530.55	-11.40
Maruti Suzuki	724.85	-15.40
Nestle India Ltd.	14453.95	-205.60
NTPC	116.35	0.80
ONGC	131.75	-1.40
PowerGrid Corp	193.30	-2.85
Reliance Ind	1551.15	-29.15
State Bank	341.85	-7.45
Sun Pharma	449.85	-7.50
Tata Motors	161.50	-3.30
Tata Steel	427.50	-4.60
TCS	2053.25	-24.10
Tech Mahindra	761.45	-4.80
Titan	1159.70	-9.80
UltraTech Cement	4259.10	-35.60
UPL	573.25	-6.65
Vedanta	144.60	-2.80
Wipro	237.70	-2.10
YES Bank	68.30	-1.75
Zee Entertainment	293.05	-17.95

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.54	71.86
Euro	78.66	79.02
British Pound	92.31	92.73
Japanese Yen (100)	65.30	65.60
Chinese Yuan	10.18	10.24
Swiss Franc	71.53	71.85
Singapore Dollar	52.35	52.58
Canadian Dollar	53.82	54.06
Malaysian Ringgit	17.12	17.21

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

November 29 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses		
Retail Silver (1g)	47.90	(47.9)
22 ct gold (1g)	3626	(3614)

Source: Indian Bank

'Recognise real fiscal deficit, put cash in people's hands'

Non-government sector in a tailspin, govt. needs to realise problem is on demand side and conduct expenditures to prop it up, say economists

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI

The government needs to acknowledge its true fiscal deficit so that it can increase its expenditure and put money in people's hands in order to stimulate demand and investments in the economy, economists said in reaction to the 25-quarter low GDP growth figure.

The government on Friday announced that GDP growth for the second quarter of the 2019-20 financial year was at a dismal 4.5%.

"There is scope for lower growth than even this," Pronab Sen, former Chief Statistician of India told *The Hindu*. "At the end of the day, the non-government sector is in a tailspin. It's not going to correct by itself. The government has to step in."

"This was pointed out by the CAG for 2017-18 and it has only become worse subsequently," he said. "The first step is to recognise this problem so that you can start paying your bills and making the expenditures that you have committed to make. The moment you recognise the fiscal deficit, you can tell

A steep decline

The manufacturing sector contracted 1% in Q2 of the current fiscal, compared with a robust growth of 6.9% a year earlier. The sector contracted 0.2% in the first half of this fiscal compared with a 9.4% growth in H1 of last year

Sector	Q2 FY20	Q1 FY20	Q4 FY19	Q3 FY19
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	2.1	2	2.9	2.7
Manufacturing	(1.0)	0.6	6.9	6.7
Electricity, gas & other utilities	3.6	8.6	7	8.2
Construction	3.3	5.7	8.7	9.6
Trade, hotels, transport, etc	4.8	7.1	6.9	6.9
Financial, real estate, etc	5.8	5.9	7.4	7.3

(ALL FIGURES IN %)



SOURCE: MOSPI DATA

has been the smaller companies that have been able to secure credit from the banks and invest. "But that is not happening this time around because the banks have not been lending to anyone and the smaller players do not have the cash to invest," Dr. Abhijit Sen added. "If there is more cash in the economy, they will kick-start something."

"India is not facing a slowdown, but is in recession," Arun Kumar, a noted economist and Malcolm S. Adiseshiah Chair Professor at the Institute of Social Sciences said earlier on Friday before the release of the latest GDP figures. "If one includes the unorganised sector, India's GDP is negative." Anubhuti Sahay, economist with Standard Chartered Bank, said,

"Which ever way you dissect the data, there is board based slowdown. Whether you look at services or industry, or government versus private, slowdown is pretty evident. In fact the number would have been even worse had the net exports not contributed."

India is a trade deficit economy; whenever it is wider, it takes away a few percentage points from our GDP. But this time, because the trade deficit reduced on the back of lower import and weaker demand, it actually contributed to GDP growth."

While there is consensus among market participants that growth may have bottomed out, the recovery is expected to be prolonged.

(With inputs from Manojit Saha from Mumbai)

SEBI asked to review ban on Karvy using client PoAs

SAT order an interim relief for brokerage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) on Friday directed SEBI to reconsider its order restraining Karvy Stock Broking from using its clients' power of attorney (PoAs).

The regulator's decision to bar the brokerage from using PoAs was part of an ex parte order issued last Friday barring the brokerage from taking new broking clients as it has misused the clients' securities for its own benefits.

Karvy had moved SAT on Thursday challenging the curbs using the PoAs, and Friday's order by the two-member SAT bench comes as an interim relief for the



crippled brokerage.

SAT also directed SEBI to consider Karvy's request made in three letters to the regulator since the order was passed, and gave SEBI time till December 2 on the same. At the hearing, Karvy said not being able to use the PoAs was creating problems in settling trades with the clearing house.

First instance of IBC applied against a financial services firm

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has filed an insolvency application against troubled mortgage lender Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited under Section 227 read with clause (2k) of sub-section (2) of Section 239 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016 read with Rules 5 and 6 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Insolvency and Liquidation Proceedings of Financial Service Providers and Application to Adjudication Authority) Rules, 2019, the RBI said.

This will be the first instance of bankruptcy proceedings against a financial services company, after the government issued a notification earlier this month specifying the categories of financial service providers that can be taken up for resolution under the generic framework of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

mission or rejection.

Earlier, RBI had superseded the board of DHFL and said bankruptcy proceedings would be initiated against the company.

R. Subramanian, former MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank, was appointed as the administrator and a three-member committee was formed to assist him.

The mortgage lender, which has been facing a cash crunch over the past one year after banks choked lending, has an overall debt of more than ₹80,000 crore.

According to the rules, an interim moratorium will start from the date of filing of the application till its ad-

Ex-RBI chief Rangarajan favours cash recap of banks

Cash will have more profound effect than issue of bonds, he says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

Former Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) C. Rangarajan on Friday said it was time to consider a switch over from bonds to cash for recapitalisation of banks.

"One of the answers to the problems faced by the banking system is to ensure recapitalisation is done properly. The mode of recapitalisation now is through issue of bonds. Infusion of funds into the banks will have a much more profound effect than issuing the bonds," he said at a seminar on NPAs and resolution organised by ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education here.

The Centre has estimated the fiscal deficit for the current financial year at ₹7.03 lakh crore, aiming to restrict the deficit to 3.3% of the GDP. In September, the government decided to lower tax rate for corporates, a move that will have a ₹1.45 lakh crore impact on revenue mobilisation.

The Centre has estimated the fiscal deficit for the current financial year at ₹7.03 lakh crore, aiming to restrict the deficit to 3.3% of the GDP. In September, the government decided to lower tax rate for corporates, a move that will have a ₹1.45 lakh crore impact on revenue mobilisation.

His suggestion comes in the backdrop of ₹2 lakh crore worth of recapitalisation of banks over the past three years and the govern-



C. Rangarajan

ment announcing plans for a ₹70,000 crore capital infusion for public sector banks a few months ago.

"What the banks really gain [from bonds] is the interest income. I plead guilty to the charge as we initiated this in early 1990s," he said, adding that those were, however, different times.

Besides the mode of recapitalisation, other mea-

sures Mr. Rangarajan suggested for addressing the NPA issue were adequate attention to be paid at all levels to risk management, including strengthening of early warning systems.

8 more years to \$5 tn

Hoping economic growth may pick up next year onwards, the former Chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council said it would take another eight years for India to become \$5-trillion economy as opposed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's target of 2025, due to the muted growth now.

"Growth may pick up next year. [It] may not be substantial, but it may pick up next year. It takes 2-3 years to get back the growth of higher than 7%," he said.

(With PTI inputs)

Yes Bank gets \$2 bn funding proposals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Private sector lender Yes Bank has

The misunderstood Ms Huppert

She speaks her mind and people often confuse her with the 'scary women' she plays on-screen. But there's another side to the veteran French actor, as we find out in Goa

KENNETH ROSARIO

Even off-screen, Isabelle Huppert generates a divided house. All those who've seen her speak live, have a strong opinion of the notoriously unpredictable French actor. "She's so arrogant," puffed a journalist, right after exiting her masterclass with film critic Anupama Chopra in Goa. "Is she, though?" retorted another. "Maybe she just doesn't want to share her acting secrets," came a third opinion.

From the press room to a casual dinner the following evening, Huppert was still being deconstructed by all those who'd heard her speak at the 50th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa.

The previous day, Huppert, 66, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the festival's opulent opening ceremony in a Panaji stadium, where she was overshadowed by the fandom of Amitabh Bachchan and Rajinikanth. "Maybe she was still pissed at that," remarks someone casually, before Huppert was about to interact with four journalists – after walking the red carpet of *Elle*, which was screened in her tribute. Her role as a rape victim in the provocative 2016 psychodrama had won her a Golden Globe and an Oscar nomination.

Role play

Through a small group of towering IFFI organisers, who refer to her as 'madame', a modestly-sized Huppert emerges. A weather-appropriate white floral dress, a white clutch and

glamorously large shades lend her the air of a French movie star, who has won the best actress award at Cannes twice (for *Violette Nozière* and *The Piano Teacher*).

She takes off her glasses, drags her bulky sofa chair closer and looks straight at me, expecting the first question. Oh boy, I think, with memories resurfacing of a stoic and reserved Huppert at the 2018 Berlinale première of *Eva*. In the Benoît Jacquot directorial, she plays an enigmatic prostitute, in tandem with the 'scary women' characters that she's known to play.

But, as the interview proceeds, she takes me by surprise. She not only grins and nods, but at one point, giggles at her own joke. "The other day I read a funny statistic, that you will have to wait 250 years for women and men to become completely equal, in all fields. Good luck!" she claps and falls back with uproarious laughter. Is this a trap? Seemingly not. She's perhaps just in a mood to indulge us, without really letting her guard down.

The actor can somehow manage to do that. Even when you think she's being open, she's really holding something back. Huppert believes that she is rather misunderstood and is often confused with her characters. Over the

years, she has played an eclectic range of roles including that of a masochist and voyeur in *The Piano Teacher*, a bitter and jealous postmaster in *La Cérémonie* (1995), a murderous prostitute in *Violette Nozière* (1978), and recently, a crazy handbag lady in *Greta* (2018). "People aren't bad, it is the situations around them that are," she says.

Character central

Since her début in 1972, Huppert has appeared in over 120 films and has a record-holding 16 nominations for the César Award. "It is nice to get awards," she says. "Cinema is a collective effort, first of all. So you take it for yourself, but you also take it for everybody around."

At this year's Cannes, all eyes were on the actor's latest release, *Frankie*. Directed by noted American independent director, Ira Sachs, her role as a dying family matriarch organising a vacation for her extended family garnered positive reviews.

Extremely vocal during the film's promotion, Sachs also commented that the film was written for Huppert. The demand for the actor is understandable, as she makes her

complex (and often de-ranged) characters appear effortless. But when it comes to talking about her craft, she describes her acting process in rather vague terms like "requires concentration", "I value my freedom" and "you must have curiosity".

If there is one aspect of

her job Huppert speaks about excitedly and has consistently kept in high regard, it is the relationship with her directors. In her nearly five-decade-long career, she has collaborated with names like Claude Chabrol, Benoît Jacquot, Werner Schroeter, Otto Preminger, Jean-Luc Godard, Claire Denis, Claude Goretta, and Mia Hansen-Løve. Anyone else

on her list? "I wished to work with Alfred Hitchcock. But maybe I wasn't blonde enough for him," says the actor, who made her début (1971) five years prior to Hitchcock's last directorial venture, *Family Plot*.

Mind the similes

Huppert takes a long time to accept a role, especially if it is a first-time filmmaker. She reads the script multiple times, so much so that she never has to read it again, once she is on-board. So, what are the criteria? "The dialogues are important because it helps the audience relate to me," she reveals. "And the complexities and ambiguities of a character; I don't like it if it is too sentimental."



(Left) The actor at a Cannes photocall for *Frankie*, and a still from *Violette Nozière*

There's a certain detachment with which she speaks about her roles. For her, acting is like wearing a raincoat – the emotions roll off like raindrops once she is out of it. "I feel nothing," she smirks. "Making a movie is like going to summer camp, and I don't identify enough with the characters to feel like an orphan once it is over." But Huppert is quite a patron of the art form she enjoys the most: cinema. Back in Paris, she owns two cinemas, Christine 21 and Ecoles 21. She runs them with her husband, Ronald Chammah, and 33-year-old son, Lorenzo, and the focus is on classics. "Initially, [they] were mainly dedicated to American classics from the '50s but now we are trying to make it broader, having partnerships with film festivals, and, hopefully, one day have Indian films," she says, with a glint in her eyes.

Just doing her job

Even if the big screen takes all her time, she always makes space for the stage. "I just finished a tour in Europe of *Mary Said What She Said*, a monologue of Mary, Queen of Scotland. And my next work will be in theatre again, a Tennessee Williams play," she informs.

Theatre, Huppert had once said, is like climbing a mountain, but doing a movie is like going for a nice ride. "I still stand by that," she laughs, yet again. "Being in a play is a very weird situation; you are a living person in front of living people."

For her, the only responsibility as an actor is to do good work. "I don't think you send messages through films," she says. "Like what Michael Haneke said, 'If you want to send a message, you go to the post office'." In that regard, Huppert prefers to live light, and not read too much into what she does. Perhaps her laissez-faire attitude towards interviews stems from that. "Acting is like driving a car," she uses yet another simile. "When you are a good driver, you don't even think about the gear."

If Huppert had a mic, she'd perhaps drop it and walk off. But for now, she gets up rather politely, bids us goodbye, and asks for a Darjeeling tea.

Now that all the talking at the festival is over, she can enjoy her first visit to India, with a long holiday in sunny Goa.



Red riding in the hood

The Rouges Hermès travelling exhibition makes a stop in India, with equestrian-inspired heritage pieces, including saddles, paintings and robes



(Clockwise from top) The ceremonial horse saddle, the Opera silk gown, Ménéholde de Bazelaire du Chatelle, the preserved Émile Hermès office with his collection

■ GUY LUCAS DE PELOUSAN, HERMÈS 2019, FABIEN CHARUAU, VALÉRIE ARCHENO

SUNALINI MATHEW

When Hermès opened their store at The Chanakya in Delhi two years ago, plans were afoot in the Paris headquarters to start a Hermès Heritage travelling exhibition. It would show the world what the brand was all about: one that has stayed relevant far beyond its harness-crafting origins in 1837.

The pieces were selected by Ménéholde de Bazelaire du Chatelle, artistic director of cultural patrimony, along with independent curator Bruno Gaudichon and set designer Laurence Fontaine. They drew from the collections of the third-generation president of the brand, Émile Hermès, and archives.

the mall's central atrium, with five rooms showcasing 81 pieces, all in various shades of red – which explains the name of the exhibit. The crimson of the brand stemmed from the design of the original store in Faubourg Saint-Honoré, Paris. It later found resonance in luggage boxes in the early 1920s.

While the first two exhibitions – Harnessing the Roots and In Motion – have been showed abroad, the newest, Rouges Hermès, is in India starting today, following shows in Jakarta and Bangkok. The exhibit features a white, box-like structure in

In what way was the spirit of Émile Hermès retained in every object?

Among the founding expressions of the Hermès adventure, the colour red has had a special and rich story, with almost 40 hues. We proposed that Bruno Gaudichon visit the Émile Hermès collection of antiques, our archives, the conservatory of vintage creations and our recent collections. With his fresh eyes, we hoped to discover the variety of this colour on different materials like leather, silk, crystal, wood, earth, even straw, paper or mica.

What were the challenges?

To make drastic choices from the abundance of pieces.

Your pick of some of the most iconic pieces.

I would draw attention to the 19th century ceremonial

military saddle made of fine Morocco leather covered with quilted silk velvet. It was crafted for a general of the French cavalry.

A more modest [exhibit] is the wood painting of the Hermès house in the late 19th century, with its red roof – a rather moving memory of the first steps of our company.

Then there is an Opera silk gown, inspired by the traditional dress for riding sidesaddle. Its deep and vibrant red suggests the curtain that veils the opera stage.

How do you continue to innovate?

By finding creative possibilities to nourish the designers' imagination. For instance, the Sac à dépêches, originally designed around 1930 as a classic briefcase for men, was inspired by the late 18th century leather portfolio.

We revisited this in 2017 as a lighter variant. The Cabacity bag was imagined in 2015 to offer two bags in one – which can also be carried in two different ways.

Do you have any interesting stories around the exhibition?

Both in Jakarta and Bangkok, Rouges Hermès had a wonderful reception, as it uncovered some secrets of our maison's long memory and inspiration. From my own experience, the series of bags and luggage made me realise that red has something to do with the desire for movement.

Again, the painting of the Hermès house in Paris is like a beacon from the past, inspiring our creations today.

At The Chanakya, Yashwant Place, Until December 8

PEOPLE

The Tandoncy to laugh

Stand-up comedian Amit Tandon, on his work and the times we live in

Known as "The Married Guy", stand-up comedian Amit Tandon talks of his new Netflix solo, his decision to pursue comedy as a profession and how he stays relevant. Edited excerpts from a chat:

You have a new Netflix solo coming up...

The Netflix show is called *Family Tandoncies*. The show is about experiences that one has when one's marriage starts coming of age, after having children. It's out on December 9th.

Your stand-ups are mostly about marriage and children. Other than these, what are your areas of interest?

I had a show called *Tandon Talkies*, where I spoke about 100 years of cinema. I'm a huge movie buff and read a lot of books on Indian cinema. The show talked about the evolution of the industry and has many untold stories. I'm planning to revive it. There's another series that I'm writing, about Partition. It's about people who move from Pakistan to India.

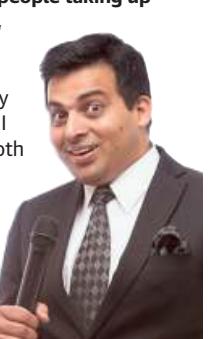
How did audiences react to the popular Singapore show *Fight Comic* in India?

I participated in 'Fight Comic' in Singapore in 2013 and I loved the format. So, I bought the rights to do the show in India and it was very well received. Now, we are bringing it back, in digital format, wherein not just one, but five comedians give their own perspectives on one particular issue, all very informative, yet humorous.

With so many young people taking up standup as a profession, what do you do to stay relevant?

What I think makes my comedy different is that I can relate and narrate both sides of a story, that of a child and of a parent as well.

Amit will perform at The Pacific Mall, Subhash Nagar, on December 1, 8 p.m. onwards; ₹599 and 799, on In.BookMyShow.com



S. MANGALA RAMYA

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



CARNIVAL

Christmas market
The Indo-German Chamber of Commerce is back with its 22nd edition of the German Christmas Market. This two-day show, which begins today, will see over 90 exhibitors showcasing a collection of Christmas decorations and other festive goodies, German food products, handicrafts, garments, gift articles, and more.

VENUE: Sunder Nursery, Nizamuddin

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



CONCERT

Vocal recital
IHC presents Baithak, a Hindustani classical music concert, this evening. The event will feature a vocal recital by Prof. Harwinder Singh, a disciple of Ustad Yunus Hussain Khan and Pt. Yash Paul of the Agra Gharana. He will be accompanied by Ustad Akhtar Hasan on the tabla and Paromita Mukherjee on the harmonium.

VENUE: Amalts Hall, India Habitat Centre

TIME: 7 p.m.



WORKSHOP

Wellness
IIC is conducting Mind Body Healing 2019, a seminar on yoga and depression, conceptualised by yoga expert Bijoylaxmi Hota, this Sunday. In addition, the event will feature workshops on music by Katherine Martin, psychotherapy by Dr. Rachna Bhargava, and an Ayurveda consultation with Dr. G. Prabhakara Rao.

VENUE: Kamaladevi Complex, IIC

TIME: 3 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.



GIG

Jazz
Alliance Française de Delhi is hosting the transatlantic band Thiefs this evening. The band featuring Christophe Panzani (saxophone), Edgar Sekloka (MC), Benoît Lugué (bass), will be performing with Delhi-based vocalist Pavithra Chari. They promise various music genres including jazz, hip-hop, and electronic.

VENUE: M.L. Bhartia Auditorium, Lodi Estate

TIME: 6:30 p.m.



FAIR

Charity mela
The Australian High Commission is hosting its 19th edition of the annual charity mela, the Oz Haat. A range of hand-made products made by NGO communities will be showcased including tribal art, pottery, textiles, jewellery, Christmas decorations. All proceeds from the sales will go directly to the charities represented.

VENUE: 1/50-G, Panchsheel Marg, Shantipath

TIME: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

FILM REVIEWS

A finely flavoured cocktail of genres

Knives Out, an Agatha Christie-like whodunnit, gets updated to include cheeky asides on contemporary issues



Modern take A scene from the film • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

NAMRATA JOSHI

Rian Johnson's *Knives Out* is a finely flavoured cocktail of genres. On the one hand, it's an old-fashioned, classic murder mystery of the Agatha Christie kind, relocated to America (with a nod to Angela Lansbury and the *Murder, She Wrote* TV series). At another it's a hugely enjoyable comedy and then also a razor sharp satire on the tunnel vision of the elite, how they can't look beyond their own privileged nose.

Mystery writer Harlan Thrombey (Christopher Plummer) calls his highly dysfunctional family home for his 85th birthday celebration and is murdered that very night. Detective Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig) arrives at the scene of crime and has a ready set of suspects to kick off his investigation. Is it Thrombey's daughter Linda (Jamie Lee Curtis) and her husband Richard (Don Johnson) who have a real estate business or is it his publisher son Walt (Michael Shannon) or the widowed daughter-in-law Joani (Toni Colette)? Then, there is also Thrombey's trusted nurse Marta (Ana de Armas) who has a serious aversion towards lying. Each

Knives Out

DIRECTOR: Rian Johnson
CAST: Daniel Craig, Chris Evans, Jamie Lee Curtis, Toni Colette, Christopher Plummer, Ana de Armas, Don Johnson, Michael Shannon

RUN TIME: 130 minutes
STORYLINE: The patriarch of Thrombey family is murdered on the night of his 85th birthday celebrations and all those present at the party turn suspects

has some secrets hidden away and a motive to bump off the old man. There is cheating and deceptions galore, both on the personal and professional fronts, some morphine on the side, a ransom note, Thrombey's collection of knives and his signature coffee cup that states, "My House, My Rules, My Coffee". And, of course, certainly not to forget, the proverbial pot of gold – Thrombey's will.

All the expected whodunnit tropes are nicely and tightly knit together with a stately mansion and its hounds providing just the right backdrop. Mild twists and turns keep the audience guessing and lead up to a re-

solution that is at best satisfying than truly edge-of-the-seat or shocking. The stellar, starry ensemble is in good form and also seems to be having fun, as though they were all on an outing than on the sets. It holds especially true of the deliberately over-the-top and seemingly non-serious Daniel Craig whose detective is as much about wit and wisdom as frivolity and is forever debonair. Not only does he sport an obviously worked-at Southern accent, he also gets to mouth the most hysterical lines, be they to do with the hole in the doughnut or the dumbest car chase.

Most distinctive, however, is a very contemporary irreverence that informs the plot, casually so, whether it's to do with Internet trolling, online influencers or, most significantly, immigrant politics. It's hard to imagine that refugee culture and lives in exile could be turned into fodder for a cheeky, laugh-out-loud, running joke through the film, at the expense of the bubble of a life of the upper crust and the ignoramus of the Donald Trump ilk. Now giving away any more of that would be the real spoiler.

The film makes no efforts to steer away from the problem with *The Good Liar* is not that it's too predictable as a thriller. But in its predictability, there is still some charm, and that is mostly to do with veterans, Helen Mirren and Ian McKellen. The two have to pretend like they

Hate speech in the garb of peace talk

Commando 3 is yet another shameful film that plays on the good Muslim-bad Muslim divide

NAMRATA JOSHI

I don't think I have seen a more vile start to a Bollywood film in recent times than in *Commando 3*. If the global Islamic terrorism trope wasn't enough in itself, the opening scene seems bent on inciting even more hatred against the Muslims than already exists. It insinuates their possible involvement in beef politics and lynchings; utterly mischievous, more so given the current tenuous state of affairs. Is exercising restraint and responsibility too much to ask of Bollywood these days?

Here's yet another shamefully opportunistic film that plays on the bad Muslim-good Muslim divide. Skullcaps, jihad, *imaan*, conversion and brainwashing the youth rests on one side. On the other hand are the "good" Muslims reduced to going on the back foot, getting defensive and going



Malicious insinuations? Vidyut Jamwal in the film

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

through the *agni pariksha* (trial by fire) to prove their loyalty to India, even as the commando hero Karanveer Singh Dogra (Vidyut Jamwal) very righteously goes about spouting homilies about how no religion is essentially bad. You know who will have the upper hand in the discourse and the accompanying right to patronise.

Commando 3

DIRECTOR: Aditya Datt
CAST: Vidyut Jamwal, Adah Sharma, Gulshan Devaiah, Angira Dhar
STORYLINE: Commando Karan has to travel to London to nab terrorist Burqa Ansari who is hell bent on doing worse than 9/11 to India
RUN TIME: 134 minutes

It's what peace talk has become in the times of hate speeches and it's most unfortunate that Bollywood is bending over backwards to not just buy into it, but also furthering the agenda.

So the wisp of a plot and done to death story is just a pretext for this vicious cause. Our hero has to nab the villain Burqa Ansari (Gulshan Devaiah) in London who threatens to do worse than 9/11 to India. Reason: the perceived wrongs done to Muslims in Kashmir, Gujarat and Ayodhya. He isn't just misguiding

the youth of his own community but even managing to convert others to Islam and being brutal as hell to his own son.

While the villain talks of *Bharat ki babadi*, the commando sings hosannas for soldiers and talks about being a *Bharatvadi*. And in the midst of this ideological mayhem the British intelligence agency, MI, and the cops end up looking like the real bunch of idiots.

Jamwal has to look good, grind his teeth, display his buff bod and some quicksilver action chops. Devaiah plays the villain in a deliberately, and desperately, over the top manner.

As for the two (rather three) women on the margins, well they are as good as not being there. Ultimately, everyone is subservient to and in the service of the larger sinister design and tenor of the film even as shrill jingoism continues to overstay its welcome in Bollywood.

The Helen Mirren and Ian McKellen show

Not so much a thriller, *The Good Liar*, despite its stellar cast — stays predictable

KENNETH ROSARIO

Bill Condon's *The Good Liar* opens with all ingredients of an adorable romcom – two old people, chatting on, what they call, a "computer service", sharing their life stories of dead or estranged children, and finally asking each other out on a date. But the film is not about finding love in the twilight of your life, but the opposite. It's about using 'love' as a trap to extort money and wealth, which is what you'd expect people in their youth to do. This is where the film has a captivating premise, to begin with - why would you use companionship as a booby trap to acquire wealth, when you know you are going to closer to mortality?

There is a very obvious graph to this cat-and-mouse chase, which the film makes no efforts to steer away from. The problem with *The Good Liar* is not that it's too predictable as a thriller. But in its predictability, there is still some charm, and that is mostly to do with veterans, Helen Mirren and Ian McKellen. The two have to pretend like they



Charming to an extent A scene from the film • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

are in love, yet take a step back when needed. Then they have those moments when they are using their old-age as a crunch, and at times, defying their age. Both Mirren and McKellen are seemingly aware of how performance-oriented this film is, which at times, could be more suited for stage, as an adaptation of Nicholas Searle's novel of the same name. With that awareness, the two actors are measured yet unafraid to have their big moments. What helps them is the natural, dramatic and crisp dialogues, which could equally suit a

grandma and a con artist.

It's always heartening to see senior actors take centre stage in a cinema hall, and not confined to a demographically-conscious Netflix universe. What Mirren and McKellen bring to the table as actors, filmmaker Bill Condon fritters away with his lazy visuals. When the film enters Berlin, the images offered are as rudimentary as photographs clicked by a transiting tourist. The German connect to the film is quite thought-provoking but given the riveting history of the city, and the possibility that lies therein, the us-

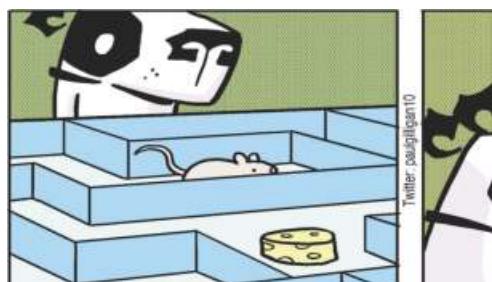
The Good Liar

DIRECTOR: Bill Condon
CAST: Helen Mirren, Ian McKellen, Russell Tovey, Jim Carter
STORYLINE: Two senior citizens meet on an online dating platform but one of them is out to scam the other.

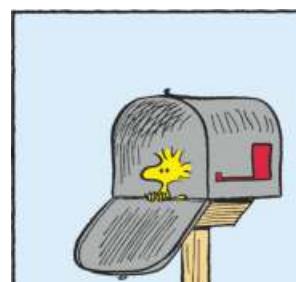
age of Nazi times and war in the narrative is too straightforward.

The film also has a 'by the way' approach of storytelling, especially in the climax. Elements that find a fleeting mention in some parts of the film are explained as 'oh, and remember that?'. More than the spoon-feeding, it's the lack of layering or insight into the characters that bother me. You have perfectly laid out answers for why they did, what they did, at the end of the film, but it's hardly satisfying because you are never given the scope to question or interpret. If only the storytelling matched up to the finesse, sophistication and efforts put in by the two main actors, we could have ended up with a thriller to grow old with.

POOCH CAFE



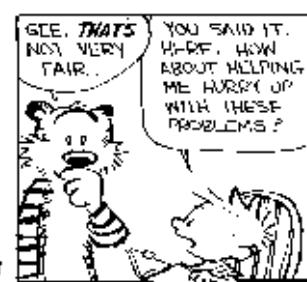
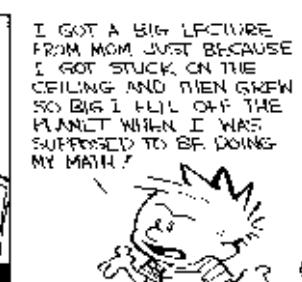
PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBES



TIGER



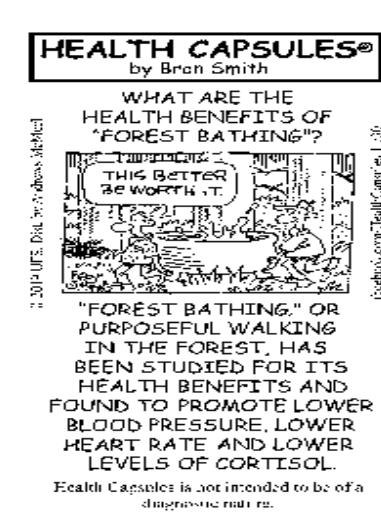
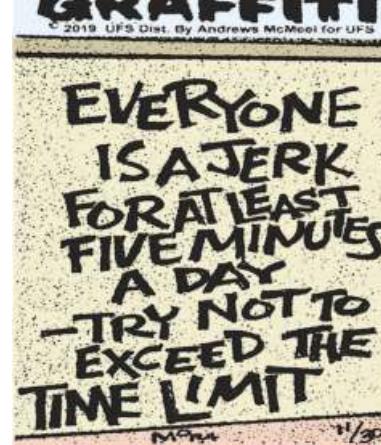
WUMO



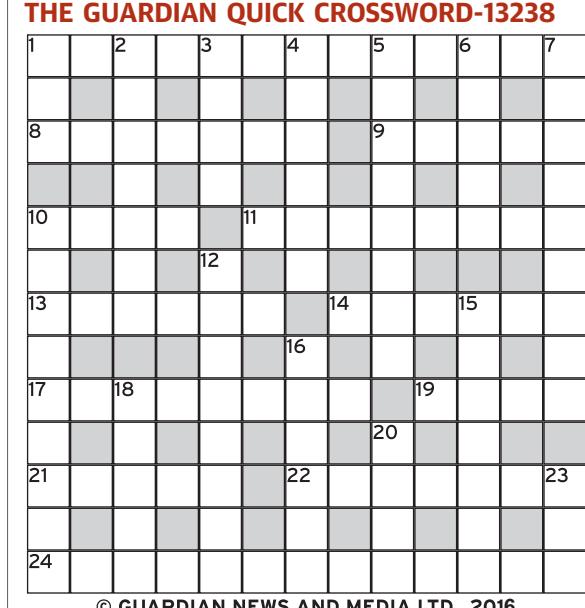
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



GRAFFITI



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13238



- 5 Meddler (8)
6 On no occasion (5)
7 Volatile situation (9)
10 Rugby player – March's flu (anag) (5,4)
12 Seasoned smoked beef, served in thin slices (8)
15 Gradual wearing away (7)
16 Disconnect (kettle or toaster?) (6)
18 Loop in a rope made with a slip knot (5)
20 Food thickening agent obtained from seaweed (4)
23 Man (3)

Solution will appear in *The Hindu* dated December 2, 2019.

Solution No. 13237

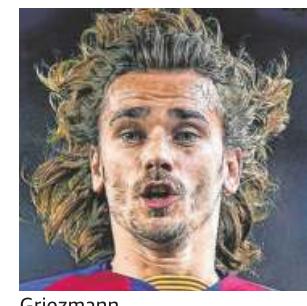


Blunt Atleti, drab Barca seek revival

Simeone's side has struggled to score while Valverde's team hasn't turned on the style its fans expect. Both clubs will aim to get back to their best in Sunday's high-stakes clash

It has been a strange old season in LaLiga. If the Spanish press is to be believed, the three title contenders – Barcelona, Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid – have lurched from one setback to another. While it's true that they have all dropped points in a spotty start to the season, they still find themselves at or near the top.

Atletico hosts Barcelona in this weekend's main-event – a big game that doesn't have the Clasico's historical heft or the Madrid derby's emotion, but one that is expected to have a significant influence on the title race.



Griezmann

Atletico has lost just once, but has drawn seven of 14 league games, including six of the last nine, and can do with a win. Victory will bring it level with Barcelona on 28 points, although the Catalan club has a game in hand (the December 18 Clasico). Given that Real (28 points) or Barcelona, or both, will shed points in that fixture, Sunday's game is Atletico's opportunity to regain ground.

Diego Simeone's men were expected to challenge strongly, especially after recruiting young prodigy Joao Felix in the summer, but they have struggled to score. Only one other club in the top ten has fewer than their 16 league goals. Some of this has to do with Antoine Griezmann's departure to Barcelona. And with Diego Costa out injured and Felix needing time to settle, the resurgent Alvaro Morata hasn't had support.

Simeone, however, thinks his side has begun to turn things around. "This was our best performance away from home and also possibly [this season]," he said after last weekend's draw against Granada.

Griezmann's return to Madrid will be watched with

interest. Still adjusting to life in Barcelona, the French star hasn't hit the levels he did at Atletico over five seasons. "I still don't understand [Lionel] Messi, [Luis] Suarez and [Ousmane] Dembele's movements," he told *Radio Monte Carlo*.

Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde doesn't appear to have figured out how to best deploy the forward. He started Griezmann (left), Messi (centre) and Dembele (right) behind Suarez in a 4-2-3-1 against Leganes, but they created just one chance in the first half. There were more positive signs in mid-week European action, however, with Messi, Griezmann and Suarez looking as if they were beginning to click.

The midfield has seen churn as well, with the impressive Frenkie de Jong starting all but one of Barcelona's league games but performing different roles depending on whom he plays alongside. Given the unfamiliarity in both attack and midfield, it's no surprise that Barcelona hasn't always put together slick football.

"Obviously we know what we can improve on," said de Jong. "We can get better, but we're not playing as bad as people think either."

The one thing Barcelona has going for it, that Atletico doesn't so far this season, is the ability to find goals – a league-leading 35 in 13 games. That may prove the difference at the Wanda Metropolitano.

SPORTS BUREAU,
REUTERS & AFP

PREVIEW PACK						
H2H (Last 6 games; all competitions)						
OVERALL: Atletico 0 Barcelona 3 Draws 3						
AT ATLETICO'S HOME: Atletico 1 Barcelona 3 Draws 2						
FORM GUIDE						
Atletico DWDDWD Barcelona WWWLWW						
LIGA SEASON STATS						
Most goals						
Atletico: Morata 5 Costa 2 Vitolo 2						
Barcelona: Messi 8 Suarez 7 Vidal 4						
Most assists						
Atletico: Correa 3 Costa 2 Koke 1						
Barcelona: Messi 5 Arthur 3 Griezmann 3						

Roberto Soriano

SPORTS BUREAU,
REUTERS & AFP

PREVIEW PACK

H2H (Last 6 games; all competitions)

OVERALL: Atletico 0 |

Barcelona 3 | Draws 3

AT ATLETICO'S HOME:

Atletico 1 | Barcelona 3 |

Draws 2

FORM GUIDE

Atletico DWDDWD |

Barcelona WWWLWW

LIGA SEASON STATS

Most goals

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Most assists

Atletico: Correa 3 |

Costa 2 | Koke 1

Barcelona: Messi 5 |

Arthur 3 | Griezmann 3

Roberto Soriano

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PREVIEW PACK

Roberto Soriano

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SPORTS BUREAU,
REUTERS & AFP

PREVIEW PACK

Roberto Soriano

India shows Pakistan no mercy

Ramkumar begins proceedings with a double bagel; Nagal wraps it up with another easy win

DAVIS CUP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN)

Ruthless India raced to a 2-0 lead in the Davis Cup tie for the loss of just two games as Ramkumar Ramanathan and Sumit Nagal toyed with their teen rivals from Pakistan here on Friday.

he stretched Ramkumar to two deuce points.

Nagal then earned his first-ever Davis Cup win, beating Hufaiza Mohammed Rehman 6-0, 6-2 in the second singles which lasted 64 minutes.

Pakistan badly missed its top players who pulled out, protesting against shifting of the matches to a neutral venue.

"I gave my best on every point. We are happy with 2-0 on the first day. Now we are looking forward to see Jee (Jeevan) and Leander fire some bombs tomorrow. Let's get the job done," said Ramkumar, who also thanked fans who had gathered to support them.

While the first match was not even a contest, promising youngster Hufaiza resisted Nagal as much as possible by engaging the Indian in long rallies. Twice he pushed Nagal to deuce in the second game of the second set and finally put Pakistan on board by holding the third game after squandering four game-points.

He returned and held again, staying close to Nagal.

In a total mismatch, Ramkumar double-bagged 17-year-old Muhammed Shoaib in just 42 minutes in the opening singles. The only time Shoaib made it look like a match was in the sixth game of the second set when



Day to remember: Sumit Nagal defeated Hufaiza Mohammed Rehman for his first-ever Davis Cup win. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

However, it just delayed the inevitable as Nagal wrapped up the match in the eighth game.

"I started decent and finished it pretty strong. Both of us had a lot of fire today."

"We did not want to lose. They are juniors but they played well and did whatever they could."

"The guy I played came up with some really good shots."

"He played to his potential

but has a long way to go," said Nagal.

India's non-playing captain Rohit Rajpal was also pleased with the performance. "It is a fantastic day for India. Ram gave us a nice

start, winning in quick time. The second match was a little tighter and tough, though it looked simple. Sumit kept the level high and came through with flying colours," he said.

Veteran Leander Paes and debutant Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan will now look to seal the tie when they clash with Hufaiza and Shoaib in the doubles on Saturday.

Paes' record

India has never lost a tie to Pakistan in six meetings.

A win on Saturday will stretch Paes' record for most number of doubles wins in Davis Cup history. He is leading the chart with 43 wins.

"It will be interesting to see how the Pakistan youngsters cope with our world class players."

"Let's see how it goes," said Rajpal.

The winner of the tie will travel to Croatia for the World Group qualifiers, to be held on March 6-7.

The results: India leads Pakistan 2-0 [Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Muhammed Shoaib 6-0, 6-0; Sumit Nagal bt Hufaiza Mohammed Rehman 6-0, 6-2].

Sathiyan in last-16



Moving up: G. Sathiyan made the knockouts with an all-win record in his group ■ COURTESY: ITTF WEBSITE

ITTF WORLD CUP

SPORTS BUREAU
CHENGDU

India's G. Sathiyan progressed to the knockout stages of the 2019 International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) men's World Cup, after winning all his group matches, here on Friday.

To face Boll next
Sathiyan will now face fifth seed Timo Boll in the round-of-16. Boll, a two-time World Cup champion and former World No. 1, is appearing in the tournament for the 16th time.

Speaking to *Sportstar*, Sathiyan said: "The name is enough. I am a huge fan of him, but pressure is on him to deliver. I will be playing against him in an international tournament for the first time and I'm looking forward to putting up a great show."

Sathiyan, who had lost to the 12th seed in three previous meetings, dropped the first two games. He, however, clinched four of the next five games to complete a successful turnaround.

Later in the day, he po-

Karnataka thrashes Haryana, enters final

Sensational Mithun takes four wickets off four balls and five in a brilliant last over

MUSHTAQ ALI

S. DIPAK RAGAV
SURAT

Haryana was 192 for three in 19 overs after being asked to bat by Karnataka in the first semifinal of the Mushtaq Ali Trophy here on Friday.

What followed was something sensational. Abhimanyu Mithun, who had given away 37 in his first three overs, came up with a brilliant over, picking up five wickets, four off the first four deliveries. He gave away only two runs, finishing with 5/39.

One-way traffic

From there, it was one-way traffic as Devdutt Padikkal and K.L. Rahul thrashed the Haryana bowlers all over the park and the team crossed the finish line in 15 overs with eight wickets to spare.

The India opener slammed 66 (3lb, 4x4, 6x6) while Padikkal made a brilliant 87 (42b, 11x4, 4x6), the duo adding 125 in just 9.3 overs.



Incredible: Mithun will forever remember his final over against Haryana. ■ VIJAY SONEJI

I knew we had to pull it back in the last over and I backed myself to deliver

MITHUN
fiddle to Rahul before launching an onslaught.

Earlier, Haryana rode on the shoulders of Himanshu

Rana (61) and Chaitanya Bishnoi (55) before Mithun muzzled them in that final over.

The scores: Haryana 194/8 in 20 overs (Himanshu Rana 61, Chaitanya Bishnoi 55, Harshal Patel 34, Rahul Tewatia 32, Abhimanyu Mithun 5/39) lost to Karnataka 195/2 in 15 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 87, K.L. Rahul 66).

Mithun in the news, for good and bad

SPORTS REPORTER
SURAT

Within a span of 24 hours, Abhimanyu Mithun found himself in the news for two contrasting reasons. On Thursday, he was summoned by the Bengaluru police for questioning in connection with match-fixing allegations in the Karnataka Premier League.

But on Friday evening, the former India pacer found himself in the record books after taking five wickets, including a hat-trick, in one over.

Mithun had picked up a hat-trick in the Hazare Trophy final against Tamil Nadu last month.

He has now become the first bowler to have a hat-trick in all three formats in domestic cricket.

About the final over, Mithun said, "I just needed to keep it one side of the wicket because there was a long boundary and I bowled a lot of slower deliveries."

Clinical TN routs Rajasthan

S. DIPAK RAGAV
SURAT

Everything went right for Tamil Nadu, right from the toss, as it produced a clinical all-round performance to beat Rajasthan by seven wickets in the second semifinal of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy at the Lalbhai Contractor Stadium here on Friday.

TN will meet Karnataka in a summit clash for the second time this year after the two Southern powerhouses had met in the final of the Vijay Hazare Trophy last month. Karnataka had outplayed Tamil Nadu then.

Choosing to field, the Tamil Nadu bowlers restricted Rajasthan to 112 for nine.

Sai gets Chahar early

Deepak Chahar, who slammed an unbeaten 55 in the previous match, chose to open the batting but perished cheaply. He was castled by left-arm spinner R. Sai Kishore after hitting the bowler for a six earlier.

Rajasthan never strung together any meaningful partnership, the highest being

the 30-run eighth-wicket stand between Chandrapal Singh and Ravi Bishnoi. Vijay Shankar scalped two wickets in the middle overs to tighten the screws, while M. Siddarth, T. Natarajan and R. Ashwin picked up one each.

Ashwin, promoted as opener, lost partner C. Hari Nishanth who was bowled by Chahar for a duck. The In-



In the zone: Washington Sundar continued his good form with the bat. ■ VIJAY SONEJI

Warner, Labuschagne at it again

Hammer back-to-back hundreds to frustrate Pakistan

PAK IN AUSTRALIA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ADELAIDE

David Warner and Marnus Labuschagne both plundered back-to-back centuries as Australia stamped its authority on the opening day of the day-night second Test on Friday.

At close on a rain-interrupted day, the home team was a dominant 302 for one with the pair building an ominous 294-run partnership, leaving Pakistan with a huge battle to stay in touch.

Warner was unbeaten on 166 and Labuschagne on 126 at stumps. The two had scored 154 and 185 in the first Test at Brisbane. Their Adelaide stand was the highest ever in a day-night Test.

"It's a bit surreal at the moment. It was just amazing to be out there with Davey and to just put on a really big partnership," said Labuschagne. "Really happy. We were running hard. I love the intensity of the crease."

Warner paid tribute to the maturity of his partner, who is playing in only his 11th Test. "Credit to Marnus for the way he came out and took the bowlers on again, he picked up where he left off at the Gabba," he said.

Veteran seamer Mohammad Abbasi, who tormented Australia when he took 17 wickets in two Tests in the UAE last October, returned



On the double: Labuschagne and Warner were unstoppable. ■ AP

in place of Imran Khan while 16-year-old pace sensation Naseem Shah was rested.

That handed a debut to 19-year-old medium-fast right-arterner Muhammad Mu-

West Indies cruises to victory

SPORTS BUREAU
LUCKNOW

It took West Indies a little more than an hour to seal a nine-wicket win over Afghanistan in the one-off Test at the Ekana Stadium on Friday.

SCOREBOARD

Afghanistan — 1st innings: 187.

West Indies — 1st innings: 277.

Afghanistan — 2nd innings: Ibrahim Zadran lbw b Cornwall 23, Javed Ahmad c Cornwall b Chase 62, Ihsanullah run out 1,

Rahmat Shah c Brooks b Cornwall 0, Asghar Afghan c Brooks b Cornwall 0, Nasir Jamal b Chase 15, Amir Hamza c Cornwall b Chase 1, Afzal Zazai c Dowrich b Holder 7,

Rashid Khan c Dowrich b Holder 1, Yamin Ahmadzai b Holder 1, Zahir Khan (not out) 0, Extras (b-4, lb-4, nb-1) 0, Total (in 43.1 overs): 120.

Fall of wickets: 1-53, 2-55, 3-

55, 4-59, 5-96, 6-98, 7-109,

8-111, 9-119.

West Indies bowling: Roach 4-2-5-0, Holder 6-1-2-20-3,

Warrican 12-3-31-0, Cornwall 18-3-46-3, Chase 3-1-10-3.

West Indies — 2nd innings: K.

Brathwaite c Afzal b Amir 8,

J. Campbell (not out) 19, S. Hope (not out) 6; Total (for one wkt. in 6.2 overs): 33.

Fall of wicket: 1-22.

Afghanistan bowling: Yamin 1-0-8-0, Javed 1-0-9-0, Amir 2-2-1-5-1, Rashid 2-0-11-0.

Man-of-the-Match: Rahkeem Cornwall.

(West Indies won by nine wickets)

Robin saves Hyderabad's blushes

His injury-time strike cancels out Chhetri's second-minute goal

ISL

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

Hyderabad FC, down to 10 for most part of the second half, salvaged a draw against defending champion Bengaluru FC, thanks to an injury-time goal from substitute Robin Singh, in their Hero ISL match at the GMC Balayogi Stadium here on Friday.

It was the visitors who shot into the lead in the second minute through their star striker Sunil Chhetri.

Brilliant effort

Latching on to a lovely through-ball in the midfield, Chhetri sprinted down the centre. Though he was closely marked by Gurjeet Singh, Chhetri hoodwinked the Hyderabad defender before showing great control to tap the ball past a diving goalkeeper Kamaljit Singh.

As the first half was nearing its end, there were too many rough tackles from both sides. Bengaluru had an opportunity to make it 2-0 when Chhetri sent a superb backpass to the waiting Raphael Augusto.

However, the latter's shot was well anticipated and blocked by Kamaljit who was solid under the bar this day.

After the break, Hyderabad showed more enterprise and went on the attack, most of its moves initiated by the classy striker Marcelo Perei-



In the nick of time: Robin Singh stunned Bengaluru FC with an opportunistic goal. ■ K.V.S. GIRI

ra. But he lacked support from his teammates.

Sahil sees red

Soon, Hyderabad was down a player after defender Sahil Panwar was sent off in the 57th minute for a dangerous tackle on Udanta, making things tougher for the hosts.

Just when it looked like Hyderabad was heading for another defeat, it scored the

TV PICKS

New Zealand vs England: 2nd Test, SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 a.m.

NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.

Australia vs Pakistan: 2nd Test, Sony Six (SD & HD), 9 a.m.

Syed Modi badminton: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 2 p.m.

Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 6 p.m., 8 p.m. & 11 p.m.

F1: Abu Dhabi GP (Qualifying), SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 6.30 p.m.

ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

Serie A: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

Euro 2020 draw: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 10.30 p.m.

Bundesliga: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 11 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Arsenal sacks Emery after Frankfurt loss

LONDON

Unai Emery was sacked as Arsenal manager on Friday following the 2-1 home defeat to Eintracht Frankfurt in Thursday's Europa League match.

The results: Group A: Sevilla 2 (G1 61, Dabu 90+2) bt Qarabag O. Group E: Lazio 1 (Correa 24) bt CFR Cluj O.

Group F: Arsenal 1 (Aubameyang 45+1) lost to Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Kamada 55, 64). **Group L:** Astana 2 (Shomko 55, Bernhard 62-og) bt Manchester United 1 (Lingard 10). AFP

Abhay downs Downer, enters semifinal

LONDON Abhay Singh, the seventh seed, made it to the semifinal with a come-from-behind 10-12, 9-11, 11-8, 11-5, 11-7 win over fourth seed Robert Downer of England in the Aston and Finchers Sutton Coldfield International squash tournament, a PSA Challenger event here on Thursday.

It's Aizawl vs Bagan in I-League opener

AIZAWL Two former champions, Aizawl FC and Mohun Bagan, will square off in the opening match of the 13th edition of the I-League, which has been reduced to a second tier domestic competition this season. A total of 110 games are scheduled to be played on home-and-away basis among the 11 participating clubs. The AIFF has said that all the 110 matches will be telecast live on DSPTV. PTI

Dev Javia stages a fine comeback

NEW DELHI Top seed Dev Javia gave ample proof of his fighting qualities as he battled his way past Ekansh Kumar of the US 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 in the boys' semifinals of the ITF grade-4 junior tennis tournament at the DLTA Complex on Friday.

The results: Under-18: Boys' Semifinals: Dev Javia bt Ekansh Kumar (US) 3-6, 6-4, 6-3; Rostislav Galfinger (Kaz) bt Daisuke Inagawa (Jpn) 6-7(0), 6-4, 6-0.

Doubles: Final: Samir Banerjee & Ekansh bt Jack Loutit (Nzl) & Jaishivin Sidana 6-3, 6-3.

Girls: Semifinals: Larlana Tararudee (Tha) bt Mei Hasegawa (Jpn) 6-3, 6-4; Sanjana Sirimalla bt Salakthip Ounmuang (Tha) 6-1, 3-6, 6-1.

Doubles: Final: Zijun Jiang & Xiaoyan Xue (Chn) bt Kirara Morioka (Jpn) & Maria Sholokhova (Rus) 6-1, 3-6, [10-7].

Son packs off Srikanth

Sourabh Verma and Rituparna Das enter the semifinals

SYED MODI

RAKESH RAO
LUCKNOW

Appearing increasingly exasperated, third seed K. Srikanth continues to fall short of playing to his seeding.

Srikanth's straight-game exit left Sourabh Verma and qualifier Rituparna Das keeping alive the home interest in the \$150,000 Syed Modi International badminton tournament here on Friday.

Champion here in 2016, but searching to end the title-drought following the 2017 French Open, Srikanth was hoping to make the most of a depleted field. However, in the quarterfinal involving two former World No. 1 players, Son Wan Ho outwitted Srikanth 21-19, 21-18.

Following a third straight loss, Srikanth now trails the Korean 4-7 in head-to-head clashes.

Earlier, a more resolute Sourabh did not disappoint. Ranked 36, five places above Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn, Sourabh won 21-19, 21-16. He needed five game-points to close the first game and later converted his third match-point.

Runner-up to Taufik Hidayat in the 2011 edition here, Sourabh has continually battled injuries in the past few years.

He will be eyeing another shot at the title when he takes on Korea's Heo Kwang Hee in Saturday's semifinal.



Bouncing back: Rituparna Das rallied to beat fellow-qualifier Shruti Mundada in the quarterfinals on Friday. ■ FILE PHOTO: NAGARA GOPAL

Son Wan Ho seldom trailed in the 45-minute encounter and rode on the confidence drawn from his past matches against a struggling Srikanth.

The match saw several long rallies, with the players looking to control the net. This was where Son Wan Ho won the battle.

His dabbles and flicks proved more effective. Even from the back of the court, the Korean's well-directed drops and half-smashes added to Srikanth's exasperation.

After a close first game, Srikanth rallied from 12-17 to draw level and again made it 18-all. But Son Wan Ho kept

calm and cashed in on the second match-point with a supremely-measured drop, close to the net, to the left of a stunned Srikanth.

In women's singles, Rituparna defeated fellow-qualifier Shruti Mundada 24-26, 21-10, 21-19.

This was a repeat result of last year's clash here between these players, ranked a distant 165 and 200!

Rituparna now faces Phitayaporn Chaiwan who, too, beat two compatriot Thais on the way. Chaiwan raced past China's Wang Zhiyi 21-17, 21-12.

Important results (quarterfinals): Men: Wang Tzu Wei (Tpe) bt Soo Tech Zhi (Mas) 21-19, 21-12.

Son Wan Ho (Kor) bt K. Srikanth 21-18, 21-19; Sourabh Verma bt Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Tha) 21-19, 21-16; Heo Kwang Hee (Kor) bt Zhao Junpeng (Chn) 21-14, 21-21, 21-14.

Women: Kim Ga Eun (Kor) bt Kim Hyo Min (Kor) 21-18, 21-14; Carolina Marin (Esp) bt Evgeniya Kosetskaya (Rus) 21-13, 21-16; Phitayaporn Chaiwan (Tha) bt Wang Zhiyi (Chn) 21-17, 21-12; Rituparna Das bt Shruti Mundada 24-26, 21-10, 21-19.

Doubles: Lina Efeler & Isabel Herrtrich (Ger) bt Simran Singh & Ritika Thaker 21-7, 21-16.

Ng Wing Yung & Yeung Ng Ting (Hkg) bt Kuhoo Garg & Anoushka Parika 21-15, 21-9.

Angad pips Mairaj for the gold

SHOOTING

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI



Skeet podium finishers: Mairaj Ahmad Khan, Angad Vir Singh Bajwa and Gurjoat Singh with Baljit Singh Sethi and Amarjeet Singh, in Delhi on Friday. ■ KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Angad Vir Singh Bajwa and Mairaj Ahmad Khan lit up the proceedings yet again with a world-class fare as they won gold and silver in men's skeet in the 63rd National Shotgun championship on Friday.

Olympian Mairaj Ahmad Khan shot a world record score of 125 out of 125 over three days, but Asian champion Angad Bajwa repeated his world record score of 60 out of 60 in a spectacular final to clinch the gold.

The two world records will not be ratified as the international federation considers only a select bunch of international competitions for that purpose.

Mairaj dropped two birds in the later part of the final, after three of the six had been eliminated.

"Mairaj is a tough nut crack as it his home range. I knew I will get my chance once I got into the final. He pushed me to shoot best," said Angad.

The women's gold was

won by former champion Saniya Sheikh who pipped Areeba Khan 10-9 in the shoot-off after the two were tied on 55 in the final.

It was a dramatic climax for Saniya after she made the

final in the sixth place, beating defending champion M. Heshwari Chauhan in the shoot-off after the two were tied on 112.

The results: Skeet: Men: 1. Angad Vir Singh Bajwa 60 (123); 2. Mairaj Ahmad Khan 58 (125); 3. Gurjoat Singh 46 (123). **Team:** 1. Punjab 364; 2. Uttar Pradesh 361; 3. Haryana 339.

Junior men: 1. Abhay Singh Sekhon 58 (122); 2. Rajveer Singh Gill 52 (121); 3. Gurnihal Singh Garcha 44 (117). **Team:** 1. Punjab 360; 2. Madhya Pradesh 328; 3. Rajasthan 302.

Women: 1. Saniya Sheikh 55 (10) 112; 2. Areeba Khan 55 (9) 117; 3. Darshna Rathore 45 (117). **Team:** 1. Punjab 338; 2. Rajasthan 334; 3. Telangana 312.

Junior women: 1. Parinaaz Dhaliwal 54 (111); 2. Ganem Sekhon 53 (119); 3. Darshna Rathore 44 (117). **Team:** 1. Punjab 331; 2. Rajasthan 310; 3. Telangana 291.

Veterans: 1. Rajah Rajagopal Tondaiman 113; 2. Gusti Noria 105; 3. D.P. Savya Sach 103.

Areca Legend on top in feature event

BENGALURU: Prasanna Kumar-trained Areca Legend (I. Chisty) up won the Bangalore Turf Club Trophy, the feature event of the races held here on Friday (Nov. 29). The winner is owned by Mr. Ronak J. Kimmane & Mr. Jairam G. Kimmane.

3 rated 30 to 50: ROMAN SENATOR (David Allan) 1, Alexandre Dumas (Trevor) 2, Cuban Pete (Zervan) 3 and Schafenauer (R. Marshall) 4. Not run: Mohican. 2-1/4, Sink and 2-1/2, Im, 25.30s. 27 (w), 13, 12 and 18 (p), SHP, 43, THP, 48, FP, 37, Q, 27; Trinella: 166 and 112, Trinella: 629 and 369. Favourite: Alexandre Dumas. Owner: Mr. M.A.M.R. Muthiah. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

4 CHIKKABALLAPUR PLATE (I.400m), rated 30 to 55: RORITO (David Allan) 1, Ozark (Zervan) 2, Mighty Red (I. Chisty) 3 and Cosmic Feel-

ing (Chetan G) 4. 1-1/4, 1-2 and 2-1/4. Im, 38.21s, 240 (w), 14, 26 and 12 (p), SHP, 79, THP, 60; FP, 18; 17, 19; Trinella: 339 and 173, Exacta: 2,479 and 2,347. Favourite: Mighty Red. Owner: Mr. Kishore M. Dingra. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

5 BANGALORE TURF CLUB TROPHY (I.200m), 3-yo & over, (Terms): ARECA LEGEND (I. Chisty) 1, Lady Legend (Trevor) 2, Dream Catcher (Zervan) 3 and Diamond Roy (Neeraj) 4. Shd, Shd and Nose. Im, 11.89s. 212 (w), 14 and 17 (p), SHP, 29; THP, 32; FP, 38; Q, 23; Trinella: 214 and 112, Exacta: 265 and 58. Favourite: Areca Legend. Owners: Mr. Ronak J. Kimmane & Mr. Jairam G. Kimmane. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

6 HYDERABAD SILVER VASE (I.400m), rated 75 & above: AEISIR (Darshan) 1, Rafa (Zervan) 2,

Wings Of Desire (Zervan) 4. 3, 2-1/4 and 2-1/2, Im, 12.80s. 19 (w), 11, 12 and 27 (p), SHP, 317, THP, 53, FP, 1,499, Q, 1,232, Trinella: 18,093 and 2,115, Exacta: 51,053 and 10,940. Favourite: Mega Ikon. Owners: Mr. B.M. Rajashankar, Mr. V. Khanna & Mr. S. Inayathulla. Trainer: S. Inayathulla.

7 CHIKKABALLAPUR PLATE (DIV. I), (I.200m), rated 45 to 65: MULTIFACETED (Zervan) 1, Depth Charge (K. Raghu) 2, Angelino (David Allan) 3 and Spanish Beauty (I. Chisty) 4. 9-1/2, 2-1/2 and 2-1/4, Im, 11.4s. 16 (w), 12, 33 and 12 (p), SHP: 100, THP: 51, FP: 204, Q: 131, Trinella: 363 and 105, Exacta: 1,988 and 1,424. Favourite: Multifaceted. Owners: Mr. Rienzie M.K. Edwards & Mrs. P.P.M. Edwards. Trainer: Darius.

8 HORNAUD PLATE (DIV. I), (I.400m), rated 15 to 35, 4-y-o & over, 5-15: 1. High Admiral (I2) Arshad 60, 2. Power of Shambhala (8) Chetan G 59.5, 3. Royal Resolution (N. Rajesh) 59.5, 4. Halfsies (-) 55.5, 5. King of Shadows (D. Arshad) 58, 6. Red Indian (I) P. Surya 56.5, 7. Whizago (4) S. Shareef 56.5, 8. Perfectgoldenera (2) M. Kumar 56.9, 9. Simply Magical (7) S. Hussain 56.10, 10. She's Super (I) S. Shiva Kumar 55.5, 11. Indian Democ (2) Sandesh 55.5, 12. Sun Splash (8) Vaibhav 55.5, 13. Adela (4) Nazeril 55 and 14. Sky Moon (9) Jagadeesh 55.

9 BANGALORE 1000 GUINEAS (I.600m), 3-yo fillies, (Terms): ANGELA (I. Chisty) 1, Dream Catcher (Zervan) 2, Crack Off Dawn (2) Sandesh 57.3, Gift Of Grace (5) David Egan 57, 4. Glorious Dancer (4) Darshan 57.5, Harbour Sunrise (1) I. Chisty 57, 6. Queen Regnant (3) Colm O'Donoghue 57 and 7. Well Connected (7) David Allan 57.

10 WELL CONNECTED, 2. GIFT OF GRACE, 3. ANJEZE, 4. BERNARDINI, 5. KIMERA, 3. INDIAN DEMOCRAT, 2. INVICTA, 3. SUN SPLASH

11 MOUNT JOY PLATE (DIV. I), (I.400m), rated 15 to 35, 4-y-o & over, 5-15: 1. High Admiral (I2) Arshad 60, 2. Power of Shambhala (8) Chetan G 59.5, 3. Royal Resolution (N. Rajesh) 59.5, 4. Halfsies (-) 55.5, 5. King of Shadows (D. Arshad) 58, 6. Red Indian (I) P. Surya 56.5, 7. Whizago (4) S. Shareef 56.5, 8. Perfectgoldenera (2) M. Kumar 56.9, 9. Simply Magical (7) S. Hussain 56.10, 10. She's Super (I) S. Shiva Kumar 55.5, 11. Adela (10) B. Harish 55 and 12. Nostradamus (3) A. Ramu 54.5.

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