

IAS MOCK INTERVIEW PROGRAMME

26TH FEBRUARY ONWARDS

Prepare for IAS Interview
with EXPERTS at



PERSONAL GUIDANCE PROGRAMME | INTENSIVE MOCK SESSION

One to One Session With A Panel of Serving Civil Servants

ONE-TO-ONE Session on
Personal Profile and DAF

ONE-TO-ONE Session on Home State
by Respective IAS/IPS Officers

ONE-TO-ONE Session on Hobbies &
Personality Development

OFFICE : 1-B, 3rd Floor, Pusa Road, Near Karol Bagh
Metro Station Gate #8, Delhi

For Free Registration, Call, SMS or Whatsapp < Mock_Name > to 9709849803

BOARD MEMBERS FOR MOCK INTERVIEW

Dr. Pushpesh Pant

C. Uday Bhaskar

A K Puri

C N S Nair

(Ex. Dean, SIS,
JNU, Delhi)

(IPS Retd., Former DGP,
Himachal Pradesh)

(IAS Retd., Former
Sec. to Govt. of India)

Pradeep Kumar

(IFS Retd., Ex. PCCF, Wildlife, Jharkhand)

(IAS Retd., Former Chief Secretary, Maharashtra)

Other distinguished Bureaucrats, Ex. Servicemen and Professors of JNU and Delhi University.

NEARBY



'No objection to CM's presence at school'

NEW DELHI
On the eve of U.S. President Donald Trump and Melania Trump's arrival in the Capital, the U.S. Embassy said it had "no objection" to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's presence at a Delhi government school, which the First Lady is scheduled to visit on Tuesday.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

'Police barricaded roads with no link to protest'

NEW DELHI
The police have barricaded a number of roads with no connection to the peaceful protests at Shaheen Bagh against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, former CIC Wajahat Habibullah has said in his report to the Supreme Court.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 13

Geography
MODULE Neetu Singh
GS India/World
29th FEB @ 9.30 am
PH : 011- 25719872 - 862

EDUCATIONPLUS ▶ PAGES 18 & 19

Ahmedabad joint rally with Trump will be historic: Modi

U.S. President to visit Sabarmati Ashram ahead of 'Namaste Trump' event

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Hours before the arrival of U.S. President Donald Trump for his first visit to India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said their joint rally in Ahmedabad's Motera Stadium will be a "historic" event.

Mr. Trump will arrive in Ahmedabad just before noon on Monday at the start of a 36-hour visit that is expected to see the signing of several defence agreements and MoUs on homeland security, space and medical cooperation.

American officials have said Mr. Trump will raise the situation in Kashmir and the on-going protests over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act during talks.

"India looks forward to welcoming President Donald Trump. It is an honour that he will be with us tomorrow, starting with the historic programme in Ahmedabad," said Mr. Modi in a tweet on Sunday.

The message echoed the earlier comment by Gujarat

The Trump tour

FEBRUARY 24

11.30 a.m.: Arrival in Ahmedabad, visit to Sabarmati Ashram

1.05 p.m.: 'Namaste Trump' event with Prime Minister Narendra Modi

5.15 p.m.: Arrival in Agra for Taj Mahal visit

7.30 p.m.: Arrival in New Delhi



Curtain raiser: Roadside decorations in Ahmedabad on the eve of President Donald Trump's visit. ■ VIJAY SONEJI

Chief Minister Vijay Rupani who also sent out a social media message welcoming the American head of state.

U.S. Ambassador Ken Juster also made a formal announcement on the visit, saying, "Big week coming up for the U.S.-India partnership. Tomorrow, President @realDonaldTrump & @PLOTUS will be wheels down in #India for events & meetings that will further strengthen the enduring bonds between the American & Indian people. #NamasteTrump."

Officials also said that negotiations on the trade deal are on track.

"This is the first time any U.S. President will connect with the Indian people at large, an acknowledgement of the important space that people-to-people ties have played," a senior official involved in the planning of the visit told *The Hindu*.

The Ministry of External Affairs brushed off suggestions that the U.S. government statements on Kashmir and CAA will have an impact on the visit.

Officials also said that negotiations on the trade deal are on track.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

MORE REPORTS ON ▶ PAGE 13

FEBRUARY 25

10.30 a.m.: Wreath laying at the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat

11 a.m.: Meeting with PM Modi at the front lawns of Hyderabad House

Discussion is expected to cover military and security cooperation, including defence agreements

An official said despite comments from a senior administration official that Mr. Trump would particularly raise "religious freedom" issues, as well as the trouble in trade ties, the important message was that "Mr. Trump is coming to India".

"It is one of the very few visits he will make in election year, accompanied by his closest family members, and reflects how strong India-U.S. ties are," he added.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

MORE REPORTS ON ▶ PAGE 13

'Regional integration pegged to SAARC revival'

Ranil Wickremesinghe urges India, Pak. to resolve issues

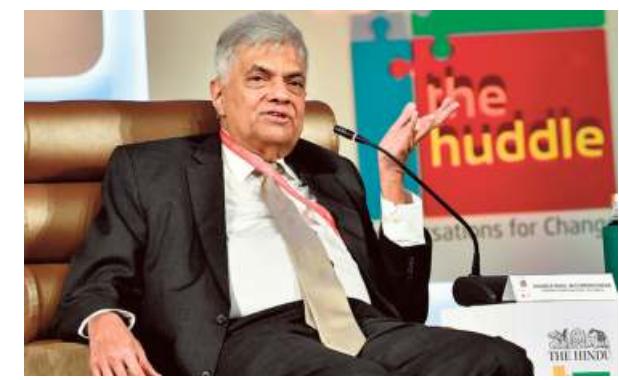
MEERA SRINIVASAN
BENGALURU

Successful regional integration – both economic and security – depends on the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) becoming fully functional at the highest levels. Sri Lanka's former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said on Sunday.

Emphasising the need for countries in the region to link up both strategically and economically, Mr. Wickremesinghe said the postponement of the Kathmandu SAARC Summit in 2017 due to heightened tensions between India and Pakistan had brought the regional grouping "to a standstill".

Urging the neighbours to iron out differences – including on cross-border terrorism – he said, "Otherwise you may find outsiders coming and telling [you] sort it out... not us in South Asia."

"SAARC is deadlocked. While BIMSTEC is not a substitute for SAARC, it is, nevertheless, a starting point for integration," he said, in his keynote address at The



Ranil Wickremesinghe, former Sri Lankan PM, delivering the keynote address at The Huddle on Sunday. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

Huddle, a two-day thought conclave organised by *The Hindu* in Bengaluru.

Creating a sub-region

Proposing an 'Economic Integration Road Map (EIRM)',

Mr. Wickremesinghe said it was important to conceptualise a "sub-region", consisting of the five southern States of India, and Sri Lanka, to tap the total population of 300 million people and a combined GDP of over \$500 billion.

Addressing para-tariffs and non-tariff barriers for successful regional integra-

tion, tapping e-commerce and enhancing tourism were crucial to such a road map, Mr. Wickremesinghe said.

"The Bay of Bengal is the largest bay in the world, dotted with famous cities and scenic beaches, including the Andaman Islands and Phuket. Cruise tourism catering to millions of the emerging Asian middle classes, is a new commercial opening for the region," he said.

'WON'T BE A LAUNCH-PAD FOR ANTI-INDIA ACTION' ▶ PAGE 14

MORE REPORTS ON ▶ PAGES 14 & 15

Ijaz-ul-Haq's 'explosive' allegations

MEHMAL SARFRAZ
LAHORE

In an exclusive interview with a foreign publication, former President and Army Chief General Zia-ul-Haq's son Muhammad Ijaz-ul-Haq said the "suspicious" role of former Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg and former National

Security Adviser General Mahmood Ali Durrani points towards their involvement in his father's plane crash in August 1988, while also claiming involvement of Indian and Israeli spy agencies "based on the evidence he has collected".

According to Mr. Haq's

interview, "the plane came down due to spraying of nerve gas in the cockpit that maimed pilots.

He also confirmed the presence of explosives in the mango crates, besides claiming that a projectile had also hit the plane."

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 16

VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE

India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS

MOCK INTERVIEW CSE-2019

Under the guidance of Ex-UPSC Board members, experienced Civil servants

Date : 28, 29 February & 1, 4, 5 March 2020

Venue : Hotel J.P. Siddharth, 3 Rajendra Place, Delhi.

For Registration : Visit : www.vajiraoinstitute.com Call : 81266-44440

Whatsapp DAF to : 8126655550, E-mail : vajiraoreddy19@gmail.com

Our Panelist for Mock Interview

Shri M.C. Gupta (Retd. IAS)

* Former Chief Secretary Govt. of Haryana
* Former Director of IIPA

Ranjiv Singh Dalal (Retd. IPS)

* Former Director General of Police, Haryana

Shri Anil K. Sinha (Retd. IAS)

* Executive Director National Institute of Disaster Management Govt. of India

Shri Skand Ranjan Tayal (Retd. IFS)

Former Ambassador to South Korea, Uzbekistan

Shri A.K. Upadhyay (Retd. IPS)

* Ex-member Secretary 12th Finance Commission

* Vice Chairman Central Administrative Tribunal

Shri B.B. Srivastava (Retd. IAS)

Former Secretary to the Govt. of India Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development)

Prof. Rajveer Sharma (Retd. Prof. of Political Science D.U.)

Prof. V. Gautam (Retd. Prof. of Environmental Science & Biotech D.U.)

Salient Features

- * Personality analysis by Ex-UPSC Board members & our Senior Mock Interview Experts.
- * One to One Discussion on DAF.
- * Performance evaluation & Feedback.
- * The five members interview panel which consist of Retd. Civil Servants, Ex-UPSC Board members, psychologists and subject matter experts.
- * Two mock interviews and one personal sitting with our mock interview experts.
- * Each mock interview will be video recorded and the same will be made available to the candidate for self analysis.

Our Super Achievers



19/1A Shakti Nagar, Near Nagia Park Delhi. Call : 011-42547314, 81266-55550

A 692 km road through the Pakke Reserve has been cleared

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

Even as work is under way since 2013 to lay a two-lane, 156 km road through the Namdapha National Park, India's easternmost tiger reserve, a new highway project has been cleared through yet another big cat reserve in Arunachal Pradesh.

Documents received in response to an RTI inquiry by Sejiosa-based green activist Tana Jorjo Tara reveal that the BJP government in the State plans to build a 692.7 km highway through the 862 sq km Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR) in East Kameng district. The administrative office of the PTR is in Sejiosa, a sub-divisional headquarters situated by the Pakhui or Pakke River.

Named the East-West Industrial Corridor, the highway aims to connect Bhairabkhunda in West Kameng

district and Manmiao in Changlang district along Arunachal Pradesh's border with Assam.

The project makes no mention of compensation for people likely to be displaced.

What has set alarm bells ringing for environmentalists is a 40 km elevated stretch through the heart of the PTR as advised by a Gujarat-based firm. A high-powered committee, headed by State Assembly Speaker P.D. Soni, had on February 5 approved the project report for the elevated section, estimated to cost ₹2,550 crore. "Elevation is no guarantee against felling of trees and disturbing wildlife in the sensitive PTR. This corridor will be a threat to the adjoining Nameri Tiger Reserve in Assam too," Mr. Tara told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

Mr. Tara said the proposed highway had been realigned to bisect PTR after the NHPC turned down the original proposal to let the corridor pass near its hydroelectric project on the Subansiri River. "I have survived seven attacks for fighting cases against illegal logging since 2016. I won't give up until the government finds an acceptable alternative [route]," he said.

"Like other schools, we

Valley schools to reopen today

PEERZAASHI ASHISH
SRINAGAR

More than 10 lakh students of the Kashmir Valley will don

Exam centre closed doors ahead of time'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Over a hundred candidates for a Delhi government recruitment examination on Sunday alleged they were not allowed to take the exam at a centre here as it closed its doors before the scheduled time.

The students had arrived at the centre in Sector 62 here for the Lower Division Clerk recruitment exam conducted by the Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board. The police said the students' allegation was incorrect and the gates were closed at 8 a.m. as scheduled and not at 7.55 a.m., as claimed by the candidates. In a complaint to the Sector 58 police station, the candidates said, "The staff at the exam centre closed the entry gates five minutes ahead of the schedule because of which around 150 people could not take up the exam."

Air quality of Delhi-NCR					
Delhi	225	Gurugram	220		
Ghaziabad	248	Faridabad	224		
Noida	232	Greater Noida	234		
■ Good	■ Satisfactory	■ Moderate			
0-50	51-100	101-200			
■ Poor	■ Very poor	■ Severe			
201-300	301-400	>401			
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) [SOURCE: CPCB]					

Airport Line commuters can use QR code passes from today

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Sunday said commuters travelling on the Airport Express Line will be able to use QR code-based Trip Passes from Monday.

The facility which was earlier available on the corridor for single journeys will now be extended for trip-based passes used by the regular commuters. "The commuters on the line will be able to use the QR code generated on their smartphones instead of purchasing or recharging their Trip Passes. The passengers now do not need to have a physical pass separately and can avoid queues at stations to get them recharged," the DMRC said.

Passes purchased for 10 trips will have a 15-day validity while those with 30 or 45 trips will be valid for a month, officials said.

"All six metro stations of the Airport Express Line have been provided with a set of two AFC gates each for entry and exit through QR enabled system. Once a journey is concluded, one trip would be deducted from the QR code ticket," the DMRC said.

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Discussion on the book "Morari Desai: A Profile in Courage" written by Arvinder Singh. The author will discuss with Prof. Apoorvanand, Faculty of Arts, University of Delhi; Pawani Varma, former Member of Parliament; and Rahul Singh, senior journalist at Seminar Rooms - II & III, Kamaladevi Complex, India International Centre (IIC), 6:30 p.m.

Talk: Social Change Golden Jubilee Lecture 2020: Uma Chakravarti, eminent historian, feminist scholar and filmmaker will deliver a lecture on the topic "Home to the Borders: Violence Against Women, Impunity and Resistance" at Multipurpose Hall, India International Centre (IIC), 6:30 p.m.

Dance talk: A reading of excerpts from the writings of eminent educationist Dr. S. Anandalakshmy. This will be followed by performances by Leela Samson (Bharatanatyam) and Madhvi Mudgal (Odissi), at The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Banaras Temples", a solo painting exhibition by Balu Sadale at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Shining Brightly", a group exhibition of mixed media by artists from Israel, and other international artists by Bruno Gallery at Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

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

Women protesters at Shaheen Bagh not willing to vacate site

They plan to keep the 150-metre stretch blocked till CAA is revoked

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

With the hearing pertaining to Shaheen Bagh likely to come up before the Supreme Court on Monday, women protesters who have been on a sit-in since December 16 maintained that they were not willing to vacate the site till the Citizenship (Amendment) Act is revoked by the Centre.

The apex court had earlier appointed advocates – Sanjay Hegde and Sadhana Ramachandran – as interlocutors to speak to the protesters about shifting to an alternative site while observing that the road blockade was depriving other citizens of their rights.

While one of the several routes blocked was opened by authorities on Saturday for traffic, after several rounds of meetings between the demonstrators and mediators, the former said the route was never barricaded by them.

"People are saying that Shaheen Bagh protesters have opened the road towards Kalindi Kunj but we never blocked it in the first place. The barricades were



One of the several blocked routes opened to traffic by the authorities. ■ BIBEK CHETTRI

put by the police just like they have blocked other roads. We have only been blocking one stretch which is where the women are sitting. So how can we open a road which we did not close?" said a protester, Prakash Devi.

She added: "When the interlocutors had come for a meeting, we had told them that it is only a 150-metre stretch which was blocked by the protesters. They again came

and went to inspect the site when they saw that the barricades were not put by us. In fact, we are ensuring that ambulances and school buses pass through this particular stretch so that no hindrance is caused to them."

A housewife, Aleena, said: "We hope that these facts are put before the Supreme Court. While there has been a lot of talk on inconvenience being caused to others, our

concerns should also be brought up. The government has not made any attempt to reach out to us. Why should we even think of shifting the protest elsewhere? Will anyone even listen to us then?"

The protest against the CAA-NRC-NPR regime has entered its 71st day with hundreds of people gathering at Shaheen Bagh on a daily basis.

AIIMS seeks explanation from RDA president on 'political' tweet

He later deleted post from the official site, apologised

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The Central government-run All India Institute Of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has issued a memorandum to the president of Resident Doctors' Association, asking him to "explain his tweet" posted on February 12 which the institute said "was political in nature".

In its letter addressed to the president of RDA, AIIMS read: "The content of this tweet was political in nature on the Delhi State Assembly Elections. It has also been brought to notice that this tweet was posted by the RDA president. An explanation should be given." The tweet was posted on the RDA's handle.

AIIMS RDA president Adarsh Pratap Singh, who

is alleged to have written the posts, did not respond to *The Hindu* on Sunday.

However, his colleagues noted that the quote – "congratulated the people of Delhi for showing the whole country how democratic power can prevail over fascist forces & how people of a nation can decide on the kind of leadership they deserve! Congrats to @arvinkejriwal & @AamAadmiParty for such a great victory! #DelhiElections [SIC]" – is "under review".

The letter also stated that the tweet has been viewed seriously by the Competent Authority. "RDA presidents required to give his explanation regarding the above tweet within 48 hours from the date of issue of this memorandum."

The letter has been marked to the Director and the Dean of AIIMS, Delhi. Sources at the hospital said the tweet was taken down after objection was raised by doctors at AIIMS and other institutes.

"Dr. Singh also sent a message on WhatsApp group after deletion of the tweet, which reads 'Dear Residents, The tweet regarding winning of AAP yesterday was my personal opinion. I apologise for posting it on the official RDA Twitter handle since it represents the entire AIIMS Residents community and it caused inconvenience to the ones who do not think alike [SIC]'," the source added. A senior AIIMS official said hospital/institute platforms should not be used to propagate personal political views.

Locals clean trash trail at Surajkund Mela venue

The 3-hour-long drive was carried out in parking, stall areas of the fair a week later

ASHOK KUMAR
FARIDABAD

Around a hundred volunteers carried out a drive – picking up litter, mostly plastic items, – at the venue for Surajkund International Crafts Mela here on Sunday.

The 16-day-long fair, inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind, had concluded a week ago. In a three-hour-long drive under the aegis of Save Aravali Trust, a non-government organisation working towards protecting the Aravali mountain range, the participants picked up the waste left behind by visitors, stuffed it into big plastic bags to be segregated and transported to Bandhwari landfill site.

Ecogreen Energy, the agency entrusted with the collection and disposal of solid municipal waste in Gurugram and Faridabad, also contributed towards the drive.

The Trust's founder, Jitender Bhadana, said the drive was carried out in the parking and stall areas of the fair and the volunteers were shocked to see plastic bottles, glasses, spoons, wrappers and packaging material scattered all around even a week after the event.

Donning T-shirts with "Save Aravali" written on them, gloves and masks, the volunteers lifted the waste and stuffed them into the bags. Speaking to Mr. Bhadana,



The volunteers said they mostly found caps of water bottles, wrappers of different brands of chewing tobacco, glasses, and plastic teacups at the venue in Faridabad. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

na, who streamed the drive live on the Trust's Facebook page, the participants said they mostly found the caps of water and carbonated drinks bottles, wrappers of different brands of chewing tobacco, broken glasses, plastic tea-cups and plastic spoons.

"When the companies selling the carbonated drinks, juices and water to the visitors make profits from them, they should also ensure not to leave behind heaps of garbage to be later cleaned by the people," said a woman volunteer.

An aged man, also part of the drive, said the administration must take the responsibility to clean the venue after the event. "The entire political leadership of the state came to the event but the administration is least bothered about cleaning it. They made crores out of it, but do not interest in clearing the litter," he said.

"Since most of us are in jobs, we chose the weekend after the mela for the drive.

Waste segregation
A 44-year-old teacher, Shuchita Khanna, said the trust had worked in tandem with the administration during the fair to create awareness among the visitors on waste segregation and disposal. She added that the use of plastic was also banned in the mela but the stall owners managed to sneak in plastic material.

"I got up early to reach the venue in Faridabad with my parents. When I returned and told my friends about it, they said they would accompany me for any such campaign in the future. We take so much from nature, this is one way we can pay it back," said 15-year-old Sunaina from Gurugram.

When I returned from the drive, I told my friends about it, they said they would accompany me for any such campaign in the future. We take so much from nature, this is one way we can pay it back

SUNAINA CHAUHAN DUTTA
15-year-old volunteer

The trust's waste management wing head Arun Gupta even sustained a cut on his hand during the drive," said Ms. Khanna.

Several residents from the neighbouring group housing societies and some college students playing in the ground also volunteered to help.

Seemingly excited to be part of the drive, Sunaina Chauhan Dutta, a Class X student of Lotus Valley School, said wildlife and environment issues were close to her heart and it was a very "satisfying" for her to be part of the drive.

The move comes days after the Delhi High Court rebuked the Housing Ministry for permitting over 550 accommodation units to be illegally occupied by retired officials and ordered the Centre to get them vacated within two weeks.

BJP leader gives 3-day ultimatum to Delhi Police to clear roads

DMRC shuts entry, exit of 2 stations as precautionary measure

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Before a clash broke out between pro and anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act groups near Jaffrabad on Sunday evening, Delhi BJP leader Kapil Mishra at a demonstration said he has given a three-day ultimatum to the police to clear blocked roads.

Addressing a pro-CAA crowd at Majipur Chowk, Mr. Mishra, a former MLA from Karol Nagar, said if the police fail to clear roads, he would "not listen to them and remove anti-CAA protesters".

With DCP (North-East) Ved Prakash Surya standing next to him, Mr. Mishra during his speech alleged that the roads were being blocked by anti-CAA protesters.

"We also have our household work but have come to protest because it's our right. We will not move from here unless the amended Citizenship Act is taken back," said Neda, a protester. Joint CP (Eastern Range) Alok Kumar said the anti-CAA protesters have blocked road number 66 that connects Seelampur to Majipur while another carriage is open for traffic. "We are managing traffic at another carriage. The blockage has caused congestion in the



A large group of anti-CAA protesters near the Jaffrabad metro station on Sunday. ■ BIBEK CHETTRI

area. We have deployed additional security personnel in the area," said Mr. Kumar. He added that late on Saturday, a group of protesters had blocked the road outside Jaffrabad metro station and when the police persuaded them to clear it, they agreed.

However, on Sunday morning, a large group of protesters again blocked the road, the officer said. "We had called an Imam from the local mosque to request protesters to clear the road but they refused to listen to him," said an officer. The police had requested locals not to get involved or believe in any rumour regarding any violence.

The police had requested locals not to get involved or believe in any rumour regarding any violence.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Sunday

closed the entry and exit points of two stations for several hours as a precautionary measure following the clash between the two groups. The Jaffrabad and Majipur-Babarpur stations on the Pink Line connecting Majlis Park and Shiv Vihar were closed after clashes erupted between protesters in the area.

The Jaffrabad metro station was closed for commuters at 8.30 a.m. and remained shut throughout the day as thousands of people gathered near it. The Majipur-Babarpur station was shut by authorities at 5 p.m. and remained closed till late in the evening. During the period, trains did not halt at these stations.

Vintage run



Participants at India Gate during the 21 Gun Salute International Vintage Car Rally. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

PWD orders survey of flats to check illegal occupancy

Officials told to submit report by today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Cracking the whip on illegal occupants of government flats, the Delhi Public Works Department has ordered a door-to-door survey of all the housing units and asked senior officials to submit a report by Monday.

The PWD of the government has recently communicated to its senior officials concerned, including executive engineers and assistant engineers, to carry out the survey of government-owned flats in their respective jurisdiction.

High Court order
The move comes days after the Delhi High Court rebuked the Housing Ministry for permitting over 550 accommodation units to be illegally occupied by retired officials and ordered the Centre to get them vacated within two weeks.

In its written communication dated February 19, the PWD said the High Court passed a judgment on February 5 and issued a notice to the government to provide the details of all officials who are illegally occupying government accommoda-

tion even after retirement.

"All executive engineers, assistant engineers and junior engineers are directed to carry out a door-to-door survey of all housing units under their jurisdiction and furnish a consolidated report by February 24," the PWD said.

According to the PWD, officials will have to give details of unauthorised occupants such as their names, department and designation, date of allotment of flat and date of retirement.

'Connivance, conspiracy'
On February 5, the court had also said that allowing illegal occupation of government accommodation for several years amounts to "connivance and conspiracy".

Waiting to exhale

After the outbreak of COVID-19, imports from China have stopped. Traders say the impact will depend on whether an alternative supply chain is set up quickly

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI

From mobile phones, toys, pharmaceuticals to kitchen goods, traders in several sectors here say that the slowdown in trade activity with China, as a consequence of COVID-19, will soon start to affect business.

India's trade and industry are highly dependent on China, says Praveen Khandelwal, general secretary of the Confederation of All India Traders, a body that has petitioned the Central government to bring in a special package to ease supply chain constraints arising out of the current issue.

Among three major reasons for this dependence, Mr. Khandelwal highlighted that India imports finished goods for re-distribution, raw material for production purposes and spare parts used in assembling goods.

"Since COVID-19 broke out in January, the trade and industry in China have been hampered and there is no manufacturing or supply of goods. Because of the deadly virus, traders here have stopped importing goods from China and have cancelled their visits to China or other countries where there has been an outbreak of the virus," said Mr. Khandelwal. While most importers tend to keep buffer stocks of about two months to tide over periods of low supply, a situation



has now arisen where the supply chain will get badly affected, he added.

Mobile trade

The retail mobile trade, for instance, is almost entirely dependent on China, said Arvinder Khurana, president of the All India Mobile Traders Association. While every month, old models of mobile phones would see a drop in prices as new models are supplied, in the current month, no such drop in prices has taken place and the supply of goods is being rationed by companies,

CITY MATTERS

said Mr. Khurana. "The market is on a bit of a wait-and-watch situation...we are hoping for things to improve by March 10," he added.

Pharmaceuticals

In Pharmaceuticals, Ashish Grover, general secretary of the Delhi Drugs Traders Association, explained that a lot of raw materials used in the manufacturing of

drugs, such as amoxy or para, were supplied from China. "With trade from China at halt, raw materials are not being supplied," he said.

As a consequence of this, there had been an upward correction in prices of goods, Mr. Grover said and added that there was no shortage in supply of medicines. "After all it's not like medicines from here are being sent to China or there is any emergency situation here," he said. Currently, it is unclear as to how much goods traders have stocked up and the impact of the slowdown would

depend on whether any alternative source of supply chain is set up quickly, he said.

In Sadar Bazar, where a wide range of items are sold, traders representative Devraj Baveja said that the prices of most of the goods had already seen an upward correction, and in some cases it is as much as 50%. "Many items like belt buckles, Christmas lights and specific parts of gas stoves are only made in China," said Mr. Baveja. In most of these cases, sourcing the material from any alternative location would mean much higher pricing. With



Scene at Chandni Chowk and Khari Baoli (left) in New Delhi as business is effected due to medical crises in China. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

various parts having stopped arriving from China, Mr. Baveja said, it would soon become hard to sustain. As a consequence of this, workers involved in assembling as well as loading and unloading activities would not be able to continue, he said.

Toy market

The toy market sees nearly 80% of its demand met by products made in China, while only 20% is met by Indian manufacturers, said Ajay Agarwal, representative of toy manufacturers. With business activity with China having

stopped, Mr. Agarwal said, Indian manufacturers are trying to ramp up production to meet the demand. "The main problem is that we don't have as many designs as they have in China," he said, adding that for this purpose R&D centres need to be set up.

However, Mr. Agarwal said that the effect on business had not been seen as of now as most traders have kept stocks for two months at least. Like other sectors there is no clarity on how long the impasse would last and traders are also waiting and watching, he said.

Melania visit: 'no objection to CM's presence'

+ U.S. Embassy clarifies on First Lady's visit to a Delhi government school on Tuesday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

On the eve of U.S. President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump's arrival in the Capital, the U.S. Embassy said it had "no objection" to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's presence at a Delhi government school, which the First Lady is scheduled to visit here on Tuesday.

A U.S. Embassy spokesperson said it appreciated their "recognition" that it was "not a political event," with a specific focus on children. Sources in the PMO said no Chief Minister is part of the Trump visit.

The Delhi government, in



Melania Trump ■

regarding the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister accompanying her.

"While the U.S. embassy had no objection to the presence of the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister, we appreciate their recognition that this is not a political event and that it is best to ensure the focus is on education, the school, and the students," a U.S. Embassy spokesperson here said.

An official response issued on Sunday evening, termed the First Lady's visit to a Delhi government school a matter of "big appreciation" and said it respected "concerns" expressed by the U.S. Embassy

Saturday only to be told that neither the Chief Minister nor the Deputy Chief Minister would be part of the delegation receiving her.

Mr. Kejriwal and Mr. Sisodia, in his capacity as the Education Minister, were to be part of the event and scheduled to make a presentation on the initiative, which was launched by the Dalai Lama in July 2018, to the First Lady.

"It is a matter of great pride for the Delhi government, Delhi government teachers and students that honourable first lady Mrs. Melania Trump is visiting a Delhi Government school. It is a big appreciation for us that the work of AAP govern-

ment in education sector, especially Happiness classes, is being recognised in the world," Mr. Sisodia said in an official statement.

The Chief Minister and the Education Minister, the statement said further, "would have loved to personally receive" the First Lady at the Delhi government school. "However, certain concerns were expressed by the U.S. Embassy regarding Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister accompanying the honourable First Lady during the school visit. We respect the same. We welcome honourable first lady wholeheartedly and will do our best to facilitate the tour," the statement added.

Foreign national held for using fake U.K. visa in 2014

He used forged papers to obtain it

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

An Afghan national has been arrested for using a fake U.K. visa in 2014 on his Indian passport which he had obtained in 2013 by using "forged" voter ID and other documents, the police here said on Sunday.

On February 20, the District Investigation Unit attached to the IGI Airport arrested one Charan Singh Sachdeva (48), also known as Karan Singh, six years after an FIR was lodged in connection with use of fake U.K. visa, they added.

The police said that in June 2014, 11 people, consisting of two families, had flown from the IGI Airport to Moscow, Russia, where they procured U.K. visa from an agent and tried to travel to U.K. via Turkey. However, in Turkey, the Immigration authorities got suspicious and in July 2014, they were deported back to India.

On being questioned by Immigration authorities here, they revealed that they had procured the visa from

an agent in Moscow, the police said. Thereafter, their passports were seized and were sent to the British High Commission for verification. The High Commission, in its report, said the visas were forged. An FIR was subsequently registered on July 22, 2014 against the passengers for cheating and impersonation.

During investigation,

passport verification reports

from Regional Passport Offices in Jalandhar, Punjab and R.K. Puram here, where the passengers supposedly resided, and ticket details were obtained.

However, the passengers

could not be traced, as none of them actually lived in the addresses given in their passports.

The police also found out that all were Afghan nationals who had got Indian passports using forged documents. A team was constituted and Mr. Sachdeva was arrested. He said he had obtained the Indian passport in 2013 by paying ₹5 lakh to an agent for fake papers.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT INDORE

Prabandh Shikhar, Rau-Pithampur Road, Indore - 453 556, Madhya Pradesh, India

FIVE YEAR INTEGRATED PROGRAMME IN MANAGEMENT 2020-25 BATCH

Indian Institute of Management Indore is established as an Institution of Excellence by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. IIM Indore has the Triple Crown of prestigious international accreditations from the following organisations:

- AMBA : Association of MBAs (UK) for 4th and 5th year of IPM.
- AACSB : The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (USA).
- EQUIS : European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD) Quality Improvement System (EQUIS), Belgium.

The five-year Integrated Programme in Management (IPM) of IIM Indore seeks to attract young candidates and mould them as outstanding leaders, through world-class education.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Age:** Candidate should have been born on or after August 01, 2000 (5 years of relaxation to the candidates from SC/ST/PwD category is given i.e. born on or after August 01, 1995).
- Qualifying Exam:** Candidate should have passed Standard XII/HSC or equivalent examination in 2018, 2019 or appearing in 2020.
- Minimum Percentage (%) of marks:** Candidate should have Minimum 60% in standard X/SSC and standard XII/ HSC or equivalent examinations (55 % for the candidates from SC/ST/PwD category).

Note:

- Candidates who are likely to complete standard XII/ HSC or equivalent by the end of June 30, 2020 can also apply, subject to meeting the eligibility criteria as mentioned above.

Registration for the Test: February 17, 2020 to March 30, 2020

Date of Computer-Based Test: April 30, 2020

Test Cities: 34 cities in the country

For more details, please visit www.iimindr.ac.in



**TO ADVERTISE
PLEASE CONTACT**
Mr. N SELVAKUMAR
PH: 9820350726
selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in
Mr. MANOJ KUMAR KUSHWAHA
PH: 9999490055
manoj.kushaha@thehindu.co.in
THE HINDU
India's National Newspaper

Quick Heal
TOTAL SECURITY
WEBCAM SECURITY
Helps in blocking spying agents and malicious apps from accessing webcam
INDIA'S ANTIVIRUS #1 | info@quickheal.co.in | www.quickheal.co.in

SANKARA NETRALAYA FAMILY
wishes its beloved Guru, Guide & Founder
DR. S. S. BADRINATH

A happy, healthy and memorable
80th Birthday (24-02-2020)

To commemorate 80th Birthday of
our beloved Chief activities done:

Tackling Cataract blindness: 100 Free cataract surgeries for indigent patients of Tamilnadu at VG Appukutty Campus, St. Thomas Mount, Community Service Wing, Chennai on 23rd Feb 2020.

Tackling Diabetes Related Blindness: Free Eye check up for Diabetic Retinopathy on 28th Feb 2020 from 9.00 a.m. onwards at JKCN, No.21, Pycrofts Garden Road, Chennai.

No.41 (old 18), College Road, Chennai 600 006, Phone: 2827 1616

Can AAP go national?

The victory in Delhi elections has renewed the party's national dream. From 'nation building campaign' to fighting local body polls, the party is treading carefully. But it remains to be seen whether Kejriwal will be able to take AAP beyond the Capital

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

On the morning of February 11, even before the Delhi Assembly election results were out, huge flex boards were put up inside and outside the Aam Aadmi Party headquarters in Delhi which has party chief Arvind Kejriwal's face with a message "join AAP to build the nation". It also had a mobile number in which people can call to be a part of it.

The party was riding on the confidence from exit polls as almost all of them had predicted a sweep by AAP in Delhi.

Around 3.30 p.m., just before Mr. Kejriwal addressed hundreds of volunteers gathered at the AAP office to celebrate the party's win, senior party leader and Delhi convenor Gopal Rai said from a stage set up on the terrace of the headquarters: "The fight has only begun. I want to tell you and volunteers across the country, you gear up, not just in Delhi, the whole country needs change... To people in each corner of India, I request you, what Delhi can do, the whole country can do it, do prepare for it."

These were the first signs of AAP's renewed national dreams.

Since then, through multiple statements the party has made it clear that they will be expanding beyond Delhi and fight local body elections in all States where they have a unit and Assembly elections in selected States.

AAP has tried to go national in the past but failed badly,

except for Punjab Assembly election in 2017, where they are the main Opposition party.

Senior AAP leaders told *The Hindu* that they are confident and the party has learnt from its mistakes. They said that AAP is no longer a new party and they will project the 'Delhi model of governance' in other States too.

Political experts also said that AAP was moving more carefully and it is the right time as the huge mandate in Delhi where it won 62 out of the 70 seats, has given them another chance of going national.

Why local elections?

"The advantage of fighting local body elections is that in the process of building the organisation, you can fight the elections also. But in Assembly elections, if you want to show your presence, you have to be a challenger and you need organisation till the last booth. Also you have to campaign for at least six months to one year," Durgesh Pathak, in-charge of AAP's 'National Organisation Building Team' told *The Hindu*.

"We are already working to build the organisation across the country and fighting local body elections fit in this process," Mr. Pathak, who is also the youngest member of AAP's Political Affairs Committee (PAC), the highest decision making body of the party, said.

Even political analysts feel it is a smart move from the party to fight local elections. "If you are fighting the local body elections everywhere, it is a good way to go. And they don't threaten the big guns of



Deputy Chief Minister and AAP leader Manish Sisodia waves a flag as he celebrates party's victory in the Delhi Assembly polls along with his supporters on February 11. ■ FILE PHOTO: PTI

try and posters with the phone number -9871010101—released on February 11 will be put up in 20 States across the country. From February 23 to March 23, the party aims to join one crore people.

"We do not need a lot of resources for the local body elections. Local candidates will focus on it and top leadership from Delhi will not go for the campaigning. We want the local leadership to grow and Assembly elections need more effort," Mr. Rai told *The Hindu*, explaining the reason behind the decision.

Its defeat in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections in which it contested over 400 seats across the country but could not win more than four seats in Punjab was followed by a brief lull in relation to its na-

ional politics by doing it," said political analyst Neerja Chowdhury.

What went wrong?

"The party was formed in November 2012, with an intent to contest the 2013 Delhi Assembly elections. After we won, we decided to contest the 2014 Lok Sabha elections," a party insider said.

"AAP is not a structured political party like the BJP or the Congress. Since it is relatively new, it's strategy and plans are more dynamic and subject to changing political realities and circumstances," the insider said further.

The period from February 2015 to April, 2017, was the only time when AAP did not contest any elections. This was followed by the party's decision to contest each and every elections across the country," the insider said.

The AAP contested the Punjab, Goa, and Gujarat Assembly elections in 2017 in addition to the civic elections in Delhi. In 2018, it fought the Meghalaya, Nagaland, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Odisha

and Telangana Assembly elections.

Later, the party debuted in Haryana, Maharashtra, and Jharkhand Assembly elections following its defeat in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections which, in 2020, preceded the Delhi Assembly polls that it successfully contested for the third time.

"Beginning with the Uttar Pradesh local body elections in 2017, where the party won 44 seats across various segments, AAP has gradually been working towards the creation of a cadre base across the country and there is no better approach to that than starting from the bottom," the party source argued.

Both Mr. Rai and Mr. Pathak said that the party has learnt one lesson from its failures outside Delhi: they

need to strengthen the organisation in other States.

"I think they went too fast. They thought the country was ready, little realising they did not have the organisation and come a cropper. One of the main criticism against Kejriwal was that he is a 'my way or highway' man. All leaders are like this, whether Modi-Shah duo or Congress high command," Ms. Chowdhury said.

What next?

In the run-up to the Delhi elections, AAP was concentrating heavily on Delhi and none of the top AAP leaders went to campaign even in the 2019 Assembly elections in neighbouring Haryana and said that their "full focus" is on Delhi. The win have given them confidence, but they are treading carefully so as to not throw away the huge mandate in Delhi.

Mr. Pathak said that the party will form district and Assembly units where it is not there currently or are defunct. "We will also look at which units are not working properly and from where we get less missed calls [nation building campaign] and then we will focus on these areas. From this election there is an energy across the country."

Mr. Rai said that a PAC meeting will be called in March to decide on which States the party will be fighting the Assembly elections. "We will review after the first phase of organisation building campaign and we will go on now," he added.

"We will tell people about the Delhi model of governance and compare it with the existing governments in those States. We will also focus on local issues and give solutions for it," Mr. Pathak said.

But both AAP leaders did not say which States they will fight the Assembly elections.

A source pointed out that AAP is "more serious" this

time around as it works on an unfolding plan to deploy popular party leaders such as Atishi, its Kalkaji MLA, as election in-charges for States such as Goa and Punjab where the Assembly elections are due.

According to sources, Ms. Atishi's name is understood to be in the process of being finalised as the party's Goa in-charge.

Will it work?

"The government will focus on Delhi and we are creating a mechanism so that our focus will be here and we will be able to balance both. In Punjab, people considered us a new party. Now, we have worked for five years and across the country there is a confidence on AAP's model of governance and this will favour us," he said.

He said that win in Delhi is not just limited to Delhi as it is a "mini India". "In Delhi, the politics of work and positive nationalism has work and it has the participation of people from across the country. It is a sign that people from other parts of the country want such politics to work," the AAP Minister said, exuding confidence.

"There is a political space here and Congress is abandoning its space. They have to go slow and go to the people, put in the hard work. I don't know whether it will work out for them. Fighting local body polls is a good attempt and they are going much more cautiously this time. Currently, there is a space in Indian politics for AAP to occupy," Ms. Chowdhury said.

"The party was formed to change the political system of the country. So, it is necessary for the country that AAP spread its wings across," Mr. Rai said. "For that purpose, the party will have to grow out of Delhi and for this, people have to stand up for the party."

(With inputs from Jatin Anand)

For Cong., it's back to basics

Senior leaders admit that Central leadership will have to plan an overhaul as there is a need to build a strong Opposition

JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ
SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

Is there a future for the Congress in Delhi? This is a question several persons in the party have been trying to answer after the party's dismal performance in the February 8 Delhi Assembly elections in which only three out of the 66 candidates managed to retain their deposits. Almost immediately after the results were declared, not only did senior leaders speak out but also many State-level leaders also wondered if they have a future.

Several senior congress leaders associated with the Delhi unit of the party refused to comment in their personal capacity on the way forward for the party but admitted that the Central leadership will have to plan a major overhaul as there was a need to build a strong Opposition not only in Delhi but also across the country.

"I'm not sure what I can do personally but there is definitely a need for some drastic changes that will have to be made at the top level. Several leaders within the party have already called for this overhaul to revive the party but we will have to see how the senior leadership reacts to these suggestions," a senior leader said.

Confusion over tie-up

Some of the unsuccessful Congress candidates maintained that the attempts by central leadership to forge an alliance with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections not only created a lot of confusion among voters but further weakened the party in Delhi. "I focused mainly on AAP and Kejriwal but most of the people who campaigned were not willing to do that," said a Congress candidate who preferred to be anonymous.

Arbind Singh, the Congress candidate from Karawal Nagar, however said that organisational weakness cost



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra campaigning for the Delhi Assembly polls. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

the party. "Despite getting a meagre vote, there is hope. I found out that we have many Congress supporters but couldn't convert them into votes," Mr. Singh told *The Hindu*.

Consolidation of votes
A three-time MLA who contested the recent election said that until the first week of February, the Congress campaign was going well and while campaigning, there was no person who came up with any issue that they had with the party. However, after certain speeches given by BJP leaders, the election got polarised and minority voters and other non-BJP voters decided to consolidate and vote for AAP and not the Congress to defeat the BJP from carrying out its Hindutva agenda.

Twitter war
Immediately after the party failing to win a single seat and receiving only 4.8% of the vote share, there was a war of words on Twitter.

In a tweet former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram said: "AAP won, bluff and bluster lost. The people of Delhi, who are from all parts of India, have defeated the polarising, divisive and dangerous agenda of the BJP."

Replies to the tweet, AICC spokesperson Sharmista Mukherjee said: "With due respect sir, just want to know- has @INCIndia outsourced the task of defeating BJP to State parties? If not, then why are we gloating over AAP victory rather than being concerned about our drubbing? And if 'yes', then we [PCCs] might as well close shop! (sic!)."

Every day there are thousands of people from other States coming to Delhi in search of jobs. The city needs to develop the infrastructure to handle this influx. The Congress over the

Newly elected MLAs to take oath today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A three-day session of the Delhi Assembly will begin on Monday, during which newly elected MLAs will take oath and the Speaker will be chosen.

According to the schedule, Lt Governor Anil Baijal will address the House on February 25. Sources said Ram Niwas Goel, who was the Speaker in the previous Assembly, is likely to retain the post.

Once the newly elected legislators take oath, an election to choose the Speaker will take place in the House on Monday.

The 7th Delhi Legislative Assembly was recently constituted after the Aam Aadmi Party won 62 seats in the 70-member House.

This will be the first session of the newly-constituted Delhi Assembly.

The BJP won eight seats while the Congress drew a blank in the city polls.

ABVP holds discussion on issues 'plaguing' State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The ABVP at its Delhi State conference on Sunday discussed multiple problems "plaguing" the State that included Delhi Police's "failure", drug addiction among the youth, women's safety, problems associated with internal migration and the sporadic instances of anti-national activities on certain college campuses.

The state of school education in Delhi and the need for special measure to facilitate the education of students from the LGBTQ+ community were also discussed.

Three resolutions
The ABVP also talked about its "three major resolutions" that it would be working towards.

Sidharth Yadav, State Se-

cretary, ABVP, Delhi, said: "In our resolution, we have tried to incorporate every significant issue touching the lives of Delhi's students' community. Students represent a massive repository of energy that must be channelised constructively towards national resurgence. We hope to undertake immediate and effective action to fulfil our promises with the aim of building a better Delhi and securing a better future for Delhi's youth."

The ABVP said that it would "expose the hollowness" of the Delhi government's claims on educational reforms and emphasised on the need for more work to be done on the ground.

4 kg heroin
The women said they picked the contraband from Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, and were supposed to hand it over to a receiver in Greater

NCB arrests 3 foreign nationals with heroin worth ₹60 crore

Two women held at IGI; man held at their instance

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has arrested three foreign nationals with heroin worth ₹60 crore, officials said on Sunday.

NCB Delhi Zone Director K.P.S. Malhotra said that two women from Mozambique were nabbed after they landed at Indira Gandhi International Airport here allegedly with 10 kg heroin.

Another man from Ivory Coast, who lives in Greater Noida, was arrested under the NDPS Act at the instance of the women, Mr. Malhotra said.

4 kg heroin
The women said they picked the contraband from Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, and were supposed to hand it over to a receiver in Greater

Noida Sector 106. The man from Ivory Coast was held after raids at his Greater Noida house and over 4 kg heroin was recovered from his place, the NCB director said. "In this case, the heroin was smuggled to India from Mozambique," Mr. Malhotra said.

4 kg heroin
The women said they picked the contraband from Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, and were supposed to hand it over to a receiver in Greater

Noida Sector 106. The man from Ivory Coast was held after raids at his Greater Noida house and over 4 kg heroin was recovered from his place, the NCB director said. "In this case, the heroin was smuggled to India from Mozambique," Mr. Malhotra said.

4 kg heroin
The women said they picked the contraband from Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, and were supposed to hand it over to a receiver in Greater

Noida Sector 106. The man from Ivory Coast was held after raids at his Greater Noida house and over 4 kg heroin was recovered from his place, the NCB director said. "In this case, the heroin was smuggled to India from Mozambique," Mr. Malhotra said.

Timings
DELHI

MONDAY, FEB. 24
RISE 06:52 SET 18:17
RISE 07:27 SET 18:57
TUESDAY, FEB. 25
RISE 06:51 SET 18:18
RISE 07:59 SET 19:49
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26
RISE 06:50 SET 18:19
RISE 08:30 SET 20:40

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 27 13
Safdarjung 27 13
Palam 26 14

Delhi Palam Today
27°C Mist/shallow fog in the morning is likely. A warm day with partly cloudy sky is expected.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
27°C A cool morning with shallow fog is expected. A warm afternoon and a partly cloudy sky will prevail.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU

DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate inquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, shall not be held responsible for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products or services. The Publisher & Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/ company shall be held responsible/liable for any mistake whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

'Centre changing way citizenship is granted'

Precedence to ancestors' birth over one's own: Ambedkar

SIDHARTH YADAV
Bhopal



Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi chief Prakash Ambedkar on Sunday said it didn't matter if the National Population Register (NPR) update was being planned as per the Citizenship Rules, 2003, as the Centre was attempting to "fundamentally change" the way citizenship was granted by giving precedence to the ancestors' birthplace over one's own.

"Even for the Assam exercise, the same rules were used which proved disastrous," said Mr. Ambedkar in Bhopal, at a meeting where participants pledged against not partaking in the NPR update exercise.

"Whether you go by old or the new rules, which are yet to be notified, the information the Centre will seek is not just relating to living persons but also of those who're dead. It is changing the way citizenship is defined by the Constitution, which grants it to anyone born in the country."

Mr. Ambedkar, three-time MP, was responding to a query on Chief Minister Kamal Nath's recent clarification on the December 9 NPR update notification that it was issued under the 2003 Rules of the Citizenship Act, 1955, and not the CAA. "The NPR

will not be implemented in the State at present," Mr. Nath had said.

Today, the political system has paralysed," said Mr. Ambedkar, grandson of B.R. Ambedkar, the Constitution's architect. "When Baba Saheb was asked who should take the lead when political parties fail, he pointed to 'We the People' in the Preamble on the first page of the Constitution, saying he'd hoped they'd come out to save it and protect rights."

False sense of hope'

Stating that the Centre was trying to generate a false sense of hope among all communities of remaining unaffected by the law, he said, "It will not only affect Muslims, as roughly 40% of Hindus too don't have documents. In Assam's case, around 14.3 lakh Hindus were robbed of citizenship."

'Haryana excise policy a recipe for disaster'

New policy will push the youth of the State into addiction, says Hooda

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH



Haryana Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda addressing a rally in Hisar's Petwar village on Sunday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Terming Haryana's new excise policy "a recipe for disaster", former Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Sunday demanded that the BJP-JJP alliance government to immediately withdraw the new policy.

At a rally in Hisar's Petwar village, Mr. Hooda said the excise policy announced by the government would push scores of youth into addiction.

"Our (Congress) policy was aimed at encouraging sports and making our youth world champions on the sports field. Their (BJP-JJP)

ers have not yet been able to work out a Common Minimum Programme.

Mr. Hooda said the performance of the government is evaluated on the basis of the steps it takes to fulfil its pre-poll promises. "Based on what we have seen, we can say that this government has not taken one single step to fulfil the promises it has made in the election manifesto," he said.

"Farmers are being pushed into debt as the government has increased rates on agricultural inputs and has increased taxes on them, on the other hand the increase in the prices of wheat and paddy has been minimal," he said, adding that the irregularities in paddy procurement has demonstrated that the government has not given the farmers their due rights.

Former Rohtak Member of Parliament Deepender Singh Hooda said the people of Haryana had voted for change but the JJP has disregarded the mood of the people and deceived them to form a government in alliance with the BJP.

"They need to tell the people if they were given votes to fight the BJP and change the government or join hands with them. The message of this unholy and unprincipled alliance is reverberating all across the country," he said.

'Bigger failure'

The MP said the second term of the government would be a bigger failure than the first one.

"They have derailed the development process in the State and have watched silently as projects approved for Haryana during the Congress rule have been shifted to other States. This includes the airport at Hisar, Meham or the rail coach factory at Sonipat," he alleged.

Chandigarh fire: PG owner arrested

Three students died in the blaze; 'fire broke out due to short circuit'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Chandigarh police on Sunday said the man running the paying guest accommodation in a building that caught fire here, resulting in the death of three young women, has been arrested.

"We arrested Nitish Bansal, who was running the PG facility at the premises. The owner of the house had sublet it to Mr. Bansal to run the PG," Inspector Baldev Kumar, Station House Officer of Sector 34 Police Station, told *The Hindu*.

The police have registered a case under Sections 304, 188, 34 and 336 of the Indian Penal Code against Mr. Bansal and the house owner. The preliminary enquiry has revealed that the fire broke out due to a short circuit.

The three girl's who died in the incident were all students and their bodies were handed over to their families after post-mortem, said Mr.



The PG hostel in Chandigarh where the fire broke out on Saturday. ■ FILE PHOTO: PTI

Baldev.

Official sources said authorities were planning to launch a big drive to check such PGs violating rules and those that are functioning without registering themselves with the authorities concerned.

The fire claimed the lives of Pakshi (from Kotkapura, Punjab), Riya (Kapurthala, Punjab) and Muskan (Hisar, Haryana), all aged between 19-22, police had earlier said.

One of the survivors of the horrific incident, Jasmeen Kaur, 18, from Moga in Punjab, saved herself by jumping from the first floor of the house.

Statements recorded
Jasmeen, her relatives and some other girls staying at the PG recorded their statements before the police regarding the accommodation where they were staying.

Recalling the ordeal while

speaking to the media on Sunday, Jasmeen said she was sleeping when her friend Pakshi did not care about her own safety and first went to wake her up telling her that a fire had broken out probably because of an electrical short-circuit.

As smoke filled up the congested floor which was partitioned by combustible material, Jasmeen told her to run towards the only narrow exit. Soon, the fire grew bigger and Jasmeen somehow managed to grab a chair to climb a nearly seven-feet high wall, jumped off and fell on a shed below and then subsequently onto the floor.

"When I came out, Pakshi was still inside. I was injured and waited for her. Later, we could hear Pakshi calling out to us and a friend of ours tried to rescue those trapped inside, but there were flames all over," said an inconsolable Jasmeen.

(With PTI inputs)

Clearing the way



Snow clearing operation under way at Rohtang in Himachal Pradesh on Sunday. ■ ANI

Dalits assaulted in Rajasthan, 5 held

Accused of stealing donkeys in Jaisalmer district

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAISALMER

Three Dalit youths were assaulted after being accused of stealing donkeys in Jaisalmer district, the third such incident to come to light in Rajasthan in recent days.

Five persons have been arrested and three detained after a video of the incident surfaced, police said on Sunday.

The incident occurred on February 15 in Rama village of Fatehgarh tehsil of the district.

The youths were thrashed with sticks and kicked by nearly a dozen people for stealing donkeys. They were later handed over to Sangarh police.

"Five persons have been

arrested and three minors have been detained so far. A case has been registered in the matter under sections of SC/ST Act and further investigation in the matter is on," Station House Officer of Sangarh police station Ugam Raj Soni said.

Similar incidents had come to light in Nagaur and Barmer.

Video gone viral
A chilling video of a man being beaten up brutally in Barmer allegedly for committing a theft had gone viral here, prompting the police to arrest a man and detain another on Friday for their alleged roles in the crime.

Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal has alleged that the Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government is unable to rein in crime in Rajasthan.

The video surfaced on Thursday close on the heels

Those flagging economy decline looking backward: Jayant Sinha

All indicators, international agencies point towards its revival

STAFF REPORTER
BHOPAL

Bharatiya Janata Party MP and former Union Minister Jayant Sinha on Sunday said those claiming the economy was in decline were looking backward.

Speaking to reporters in Bhopal, he said, "All indicators and international agencies point towards the revival of the economy which had faced a temporary slump."

Stating reasons for the "transient" decline, he said, "The trade war between the United States and China had affected economies across the world. Moreover, credit shock had prompted banks

to hold back lending."

Furthermore, Mr. Sinha termed Chief Minister Kamal Nath's claim that Madhya Pradesh had received a cut of ₹4,500 crore in the recent Union Budget a "political statement" not representing the "true picture".

Funds not utilised
In reality, he alleged, the State government was not fully utilising funds earmarked for its various schemes, and not providing utilisation certificates to the Centre.

"Funds are available with the Centre on demand, but Madhya Pradesh is not tak-

ing initiative to further any welfare schemes," he claimed.

"The Budget has something in store for every section of society," he said. "Besides, the Prime Minister has set the target of making the country a USD 5-trillion economy, and the Budget is a policy road map to achieve it. Moreover, it has given a leg up to startups and investments."

In the Budget, he said, the government had aimed at providing drinking water to every house. "We have already ensured a pucca house to every poor. This is the next logical step," he said.

Road blockades, dharnas during Bihar bandh

Called by Bhim Army over quota issue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA

Bandh supporters on Sunday staged dharnas and put up road blockades in many districts of Bihar during the shutdown called by the Bhim Army.

Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad had given a call for a nationwide shutdown to protest against a Supreme Court ruling that says States were not bound to provide reservation in government jobs and quota in promotions.

Opposition parties such as the RJD, the Rashtriya Lok Samata Party, the Hindustani Awami Morcha (Secular), former the Jan Adhikar Party (Loktantrik) and CPI had extended their support to the Bhim Army's bandh call.

The bandh supporters belonging to the Bhim Army staged dharnas and blocked national highways and roads at some places in Muzaffarpur, Begusarai, Nawada and Bhagalpur districts for some time during the day-long shutdown.

They also blocked NH 28 near Gobarsahi in Muzaffarpur town, while the movement of Begusarai-Patna Raia-Rani train was hampered for some time in Begusarai.

Leaders or workers of the RJD, the principal opposition party in Bihar, did not actively participate in the bandh.

The State capital remained, by and large, unaffected by the bandh with shops remaining open, traffic remaining unaffected except the Dak Bungalow roundabout, which is in the heart of city, where bandh supporters belonging to the Bhim Army, RLSP, HAM(S) and Tejaswi Prasad Yadav's Berojgari Hatao Yatra.

RJD Bihar unit spokesman Mrityunjay Tiwary said, "the party has supported the issues raised by the Bhim Army but could not actively participate in the bandh due to a major programme in the State capital for the launch of Tejaswi Prasad Yadav's Berojgari Hatao Yatra."

Woman S-I alleges rape by police inspector

'Accused had promised to marry her'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUZAFFARNAGAR (U.P.)

A woman sub-inspector has lodged a complaint in a town here that she was raped by a police inspector on the pretext of marriage.

She has been taken for a medical examination and a case was registered against Inspector Sandeep Chouhan on Saturday, SHO H.N. Singh said, adding that an inquiry is under way.

According to the FIR, it is alleged that the woman was raped by the accused policeman who also extorted ₹5

lakh cash as 'engagement gift' from her.

The woman has also alleged that she went to his residence in a village of Ghaziabad district in March last year where he raped her on two occasions. Their marriage was supposed to take place on April 21, 2019, the complaint stated.

The accused has been demanding more dowry including ₹10 lakh and a car, it stated.

Later, the accused refused to marry her and threatened her as well.

holly city.

The survey found a temple dating back to the 5th century through 8th century, potteries which are 4,000-year-old and walls which are 2,000-year-old, said Professor A.K. Dubey of the BHU department.

"On the basis of the surface materials we can say the structure is anywhere between 3,500 to 4,000 years old," said Mr. Dubey, who is part of the team which will start excavation at the site from February 23.

He said the site gains significance because of its proximity to Varanasi, which is

said to be 5,000 years old, though modern scholars believe it to be around 3,000 years old.

"The site at Babhniyav could be a small sub-centre of Varanasi which grew as an urban town," said Mr. Dubey.

Satellite town'

The findings are important as Babhniyav could have been a satellite town and feeding centre for Varanasi-Sarnath region, said B.R. Mani, a former additional director general of Archaeological Survey of India.

Mr. Mani was invited by the BHU during its initial sur-

vey, and said the team unearthed a 5-metre cultural deposit like the ones found in Sarnath.

Kushan-Brahmi script

Parties, ex-rebels add to Bodoland poll suspense amid violence

A citizens' forum has said three of the four NDFB factions would support the BPF

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Political parties and extremist groups have heightened the suspense over alignments as blood has begun spilling ahead of the elections to the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) in Assam.

After State Bharatiya Janata Party president Ranjeet K. Dass said his party has kept the alliance options open, the factions of disbanded extremist group National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) appears to be caught between aligning with the Bodoland People's Front (BPF) and its rival United People's Party Liberal (UPPL).

The BPF, led by Hagrama Mohilary, has been ruling BTC since 2003. The BPF also runs the Assam government in alliance with the BJP and

Asom Gana Parishad.

Less than a week ago, the NDFB factions – they signed the third Bodo Peace Accord along with the All Bodo Students' Union in January – were expected to either float a new party or join the UPPL. The scenario appears to have changed now.

On Saturday, an influential citizens' forum said three of the four NDFB factions would support the BPF. Ranjan Daimary, B. Saoraigwra and Dharendra Boro lead these factions. The fourth faction, led by Gobinda Basumatary, is likely to support UPPL, which has been upbeat after the joining of former ABSU president Pramod Boro.

A UPPL leader, however, said there was no certainty of the NDFB factions joining or backing the BPF. "These are still early stages," he said.

Assam Minister Pramila Rani Brahma, a senior BPF leader, said she was unaware of the NDFB factions throwing their weight behind her party. But she was "unhappy" with the BJP. "It is unfortunate that they are weighing options despite being a long-time ally of BPF," she said.

Key role
Former extremists have played a key role in the elections to the BTC, many of whose leaders were members of the Bodo Liberation Tigers, an erstwhile outlawed group. In the past elections, the UPPL was alleged to have received support from the BPF.

A third entity, that of a conglomerate of non-Bodo communities, is led by Naba Kumar Sarania. A former leader of the United Liberation Front of Assam, he represents the Kokrajhar Lok Sabha seat.

The intensity of the Bodoland poll campaign involving former extremists has often led to violence in the past. The run-up to the council polls scheduled in April has been no different. On Friday night, a BPF member identified as Khairul Haque was gunned down at Bhutichang in northern Assam's Udaguri district. This happened less than 24 hours after miscreants had attacked the car of BPF chief Mr. Mohilary's wife.

The BPF accused Mr. Sarania's non-Bodo front for the killing of Mr. Haque. The latter said the charges were baseless.

A third entity, that of a conglomerate of non-Bodo communities, is led by Naba

to unite against the CAA for a stronger voice. Various groups are trying to take credit for the movement against the law. We need to stand together for the common goal of having the CAA withdrawn," Mr. Nath said.

Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has come down heavily on the protests in the State.

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI**
A new regional political party in Assam on Sunday launched a helpline against the "anti-people" Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA).
The Anti-CAA Movement Missed Call Service at 9999726880 was activated by Biju Stafford, the father of

17-year-old Sam Stafford, who was among the four persons killed in police firing during the protests against the law in December 2019.

"This helpline is for every right-thinking Assamese in the country and beyond to register their protests against the law that threatens the democratic, social fabric of Assam. Others are welcome

CLASSIFIEDS MART
TO ADVERTISE:
www.thehinduads.com
011-43579738 • 43579797

EDUCATIONAL

भूमि IAS
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
The Best optional of decades among other optionals
(Bilingual Batch at Mukherjee Nagar Center)
by
25 Feb. 8 AM Abhay Kumar

सामान्य अध्ययन-IV
एथिक्स (UPPCS)
(MAINS)
by अभय कुमार

2 मार्च
सायं: 6:00 बजे

राजनीति विज्ञान
वेस्टर्न थिंकर्स के साथ बैच प्रारम्भ...
by अभय कुमार

25 फरवरी
प्रातः 10:15 बजे

B-18, 1st Floor, Aggarwal Sweets, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-9
9870309939

Failed in Prelims?
IAS
Clear Prelims Easily
84 Ques in Prelims 2019
From Our Notes
Read our Concise Notes
Boost Score in Few Days
Everything is Covered
All-India Free Delivery
BestCurrentAffairs.com
PHONE: 9463737373

CHAHAL ACADEMY
CSE MOCK INTERVIEW
Feb-26, 27, 29, Mar-1, 4, 8, 9.
Minimum 2/3 Former
UPSC Board Members
in Each Mock Interview
Call/WhatsApp DAF
8287776460 or
Email Your DAF - chahalacademy@gmail.com
B-7, Apsara Arcade, Karol Bagh, New Delhi.

BEFORE THE PRINCIPAL SUB-ORDINATE JUDGE, MADURAI
Succession O.P. No. 12 of 2020
(In the matter of Succession of the estate of Late V.E. Parasuram, Petchiammal)
1) M.Rajareeswari
2) B. Pandiarani Petitioners
VS-
Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority,
JeevanVihar Buildings, 3, Sansad, Marg, New Delhi – 110 001.
..... 4th Respondent

Notice is hereby informed that the petitioners filed a Succession Original Petition against the Respondents is posted on 03-04-2020 for the appearance of the above 4th Respondent. If the 4th Respondent having any objections, you should appear on that date at 10-30 A.M., before this Honourable Court. Failing which the case will be decided in your absence.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Quick Process Loan for Business people: loan against property, Secured loan, unsecured loan, SME&Corporate, npa releases & cheque basis. Min 2 Crore & Above 8939517777/8939043777

BEFORE THE PRINCIPAL SUB-ORDINATE JUDGE, MADURAI
Succession O.P. No. 12 of 2020
(In the matter of Succession of the estate of Late V.E. Parasuram, Petchiammal)
1) M.Rajareeswari
2) B. Pandiarani Petitioners
VS-
Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority,
JeevanVihar Buildings, 3, Sansad, Marg, New Delhi – 110 001.
..... 4th Respondent

Notice is hereby informed that the petitioners filed a Succession Original Petition against the Respondents is posted on 03-04-2020 for the appearance of the above 4th Respondent. If the 4th Respondent having any objections, you should appear on that date at 10-30 A.M., before this Honourable Court. Failing which the case will be decided in your absence.

DATE OF ADJOURNMENT :
26/02/2020, AT 10.30 AM

YSV PRATAP, SPR KUMAR
Advocates, Rao & Rao Associates, Door No.24-28-6/5, FF-1, Nagendra Towers, Edupuguntla, Lakshmana Rao Street, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, 500 003, India. Ph: 85000 14509

EDUCATIONAL

VEDANGA
INSTITUTE FOR CIVIL SERVICES
Geography Optional by Virender Sir
General Studies (Hindi / English Med.)
Public Admin. Optional by Sameer Sir
Starting Fresh Batches from 25 Feb. 2020
History Optional by Sandeep Sir 09718054084
U-135, Baba Complex, Shakarpur, Laxmi Nagar, 92 New Delhi

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

GS MENTORS

An Institute of Top IAS Trainers

URGENTLY REQUIRES

1. CONTENT DEVELOPERS

Preferably candidates who have appeared in UPSC Civil Services Main Examination & Interview.

2. ACADEMIC ASSOCIATES

For Indian Economy.

FULL TIME

Send your CV: hr@gsmmentors.com

LEGAL NOTICE

COURT NOTICE

In The Court of The Honourable Additional District Judge at Hosur

O. S. No. 150/2019

I.A. No. 01/2019

Sonnenpallyappa, S/o Late Amarappa,

Kallakurukk Village, Dorjalipalli Post,

Shoolagiri Taluk, Krishnagiri District.

.....Plaintiff

VS/

RD Roofing and Trading Private Limited, Registered Office, At No. 21,

Shivaji Marg, 1st Floor, Najaqarg Road, New Delhi 110015.

....3rd Defendant

NOTICE

The above named Plaintiff has filed the Original Suit against you. The case is

posted on 07.04.2020 for your

appearance. You are here by directed

to appear person or through pleader

on 07.04.2020 at 10-30 A.M. before the

above Court failing which the above

Appeal will be allowed in your absence.

BY COURT ORDER

N. Sureka, M.L.

Advocate for Plaintiff

NOTICE

In The Court of The Honourable

Additional Senior Civil Judge at Vijayawada,

Andhra Pradesh.

O.S. No: 355/2018.

Between:

M. International Health Care Limited, Represented by its

GPA Holder Areppalli Siva Suresh Babu Plaintiff

And

M/S. RM LAYER FARM, Rep-

resented by its Proprietor Sri

RABIBI MALIK Defendant

DEFENDANT ADDRESS:

M/S. R M LAYER FARM, Rep-

resented by its Proprietor Sri

RABIBI MALIK, S/o Bhartu

Ram, VILL, SEENK, Tehsil

Israna, Panipat, Haryana.

The above Suit is filed by Plaintiff

before the Hon'ble Court against

Defendant. The Suit is posted for

your appearance 26/02/2020 at

10.30 AM. Defendant is advised to

appear in person or with his Advocate

failing which the Hon'ble Court may

pass appropriate order against

you. This notice is issued according

to the Orders of this Hon'ble Court.

DATE OF ADJOURNMENT :

26/02/2020, AT 10.30 AM

SPORTSTAR

Before the Principal Sub-Ordinate Judge, Madurai

Succession O.P. No. 12 of 2020

(In the matter of Succession of the estate of Late V.E. Parasuram, Petchiammal)

1) M.Rajareeswari

2) B. Pandiarani Petitioners

VS-

Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority,

JeevanVihar Buildings, 3, Sansad, Marg, New Delhi – 110 001.

..... 4th Respondent

Notice is hereby informed that the petitioners filed a Succession Original

Petition against the Respondents is

posted on 03-04-2020 for the

appearance of the above 4th

Respondent. If the 4th Respondent

having any objections, you should

appear on that date at 10-30 A.M.,

before this Honourable Court. Failing

which the case will be decided in

your absence.

R.Kanan, M. Marimuthu, A. Karmegam

Advocates, Madurai-625014

9844229904 &

9844229906

9844229907

9844229908

रोजाना सुबह कोई न्यूज पेपर. पीडीएफ में डाउनलोड
करने के लिए www.DailyEpaper.in को विजिट करें।
या फिर आप  [Click Here](#)

ENGLISH

The Hindu
The Indian Exp
Business Standard
Hindustan Times
The Telegraph
Deccan Chronicle
Business Line
The Pioneer
The Financial Exp
The Times Of India
The Economic Times
Mint

HINDI

Dainik Jagran
Dainik Bhaskar
Jansatta
Amar Ujala
Pioneer
Hindustan
Prabhat Khabar
Rajasthan Patrika
Business Standard

GUJRATI

Sandesh

TELEGU

Eenadu
Sakshi
Nava Telangana

MARATHI

Loksatta
Sakal
Lokmat

Weekly News

Employment News
Karmasangsthan
Karmakshetra

Daily Update All Indian Newspaper in PDF

For Download Daily Newspaper in PDF, Please Visit DailyEpaper.in

[Click Here](#)  www.DailyEpaper.in

or

IF You Are Preparing For IAS, PCS, SSC Exam Then Just Download UPSC IAS All in One App From PlayStore. You will get here UPSC Complete Solution Free (All Study Material, Video Lecture, Magazines, Newspaper & The Hindu Analysis Video



UPSC IAS All in One - Mission 2020
Web360 Education  98

3+
You don't have any devices.
 Add to Wishlist

[Download](#)

[Click Here](#)



IN BRIEF



3 construction workers die in freak accident

ADILABAD Three construction labourers died and five others were injured in an accident around midnight on Saturday at the Sirpur Paper Mills in Telangana's Kumam Bhoom Asifabad district. The accident occurred when loose soil fell on the labourers working at the bottom of a pit dug up to erect a boiler. The deceased, identified as Raghunath Ram, 38, Chotu Bahniya, 25 and Ranjit, 25, hailed from Chatarpur in Jharkhand.

Two minor boys accused of raping minor

ADILABAD A minor girl was raped allegedly by two minor boys at Gudihatnoor mandal headquarters village here in Telangana on Saturday, sending shock waves in the rural community. The victim had gone to the fields to answer the call of nature when the duo, one of them her relative, chased her and committed the crime, the police said. The two were arrested on Sunday. A case was booked under sections 376 (D), 506 read with sections 344 IPC and Section 6 of POCSO.

ATM with ₹2.27 lakh stolen in Telangana

SANGAREDDY Unidentified persons carried away an ATM machine with ₹2,27,000 in it from Rudraram in Telangana's Patancheru mandal in the early hours of Sunday. There was no security at the ATM centre, the police said. There were two ATM machines in the IndiCash ATM centre. It is suspected that five to six persons might have brought a vehicle and taken away the machine. The police are checking the footage from a nearby CCTV camera.

Panel on power staff ends sittings

A.P.-Telangana row over allocation

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

The Justice Dharmadhikari Committee, tasked with ensuring fairness in the allocation of power sector employees between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, concluded its sittings on Sunday, keeping the urgency of the situation in view.

It will be communicating its supplementary directions at the earliest.

Andhra Pradesh power utilities strongly objected to the recommendation of the one-man committee on the reallocation of 655 employees to the State, arguing that it would impose a significant financial burden on them, A.P.-Transco Joint Managing Director K.V.N. Chakradhar Babu said.

The Andhra Pradesh utilities stated that the orders of the committee were against

PSC coaching centres in Kerala on radar of Vigilance Bureau

Institutes may have helped students to cheat in exams with govt. officials' help

Insider links to be probed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB) on Sunday targeted at least three 'Public Service Commission (PSC) coaching centres' on the suspicion that their managements had aided students on their rolls to cheat in the examinations for government jobs.

Investigators said they suspected that the managements used a WhatsApp group created for their trainees to indicate the questions and topics likely to figure in PSC tests, including the Kerala Administrative Service (KAS) examinations held on Saturday.

More than 3.82 lakh students had appeared for the KAS exams. The alleged scam came to

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The VACB will verify whether any insider had dropped hints about questions likely to figure in PSC tests to managers of private coaching centres. Investigators are verifying whether the government officials who moonlighted

light when a set of candidates informed PSC chairman M.K. Sakeer that they suspected a bid by the private centres to rig PSC tests. Mr. Sakeer informed the government, which ordered the VACB enquiry.

Investigators said the scandal was likely to bring several government Secretariat staff under the scanner. The complainants had alleged that the officials operated the coaching centres in other people's names. They alleged that the officials had access to those who prepared probable questions for PSC tests. A secret cell at

as teachers for such centres had any contact with those in the classified section of the PSC, responsible for framing questions papers and setting answer keys.

The agency had caught a Fire and Rescue Services Department official for taking classes after allegedly bunking work.

several government Secretariat staff under the scanner.

The PSC's credibility had taken a beating last year when two Students Federation of India (SFI) leaders duped their way into the police constable rank list by cheating in the examination.

the PSC finalised the question paper from a set of drafts sourced from experts.

Centre inspected

The VACB inspected the office of 'Lakshya and Vito' PSC coaching centres in Thampanoor. Investigators said the centres had branches across the State and Lakshya was headquartered in Venjaramoodu. It has two other PSC coaching institutions on its radar.

The VACB is verifying whether the set of suspect officers had any stakes in these institutions.

The PSC's credibility had taken a beating last year when two Students Federation of India (SFI) leaders duped their way into the police constable rank list by cheating in the examination.

Warrant sought to open locker of ex-Kerala Minister

Congress MLA V.S. Sivakumar under lens in wealth case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB) will approach the Vigilance Special Court here on Monday for a search warrant to open the bank locker of former Health Minister and Congress legislator V.S. Sivakumar who is facing prosecution for "illegal amassment of wealth".

The VACB team has already asked the bank authorities to not allow Mr. Sivakumar to open the bank locker.

The investigating team will be placing a formal request in writing to this effect to the bank authorities on Monday, even as they move the court for a search warrant to open the locker.

The VACB move comes in the wake of Mr. Sivakumar informing the VACB sleuths



V.S. Sivakumar

that the key to the locker is not in his possession and that the locker had not been used by him for several years.

House raided

Details pertaining to the locker were unearthed by the VACB during a 13-hour raid on the former Minister's residence at Sasthamangalam, on Wednesday. The

VACB, which had seized 56 documents during the raid, will be submitting a detailed report on the raid and the remaining documents to the Special Court on Monday.

Some of the documents seized in the raid from the residence of three other persons, including Mr. Sivakumar's personal chauffeur, and a lawyer, had already been submitted in the court. The VACB had simultaneously raided the residences of the other three persons named as accused, along with Mr. Sivakumar.

The agency also decided to have a close look into Mr. Sivakumar's bank accounts in State Bank of India and Canara Bank.

The VACB also expanded the investigating team by including an account audit officer and more policemen.

M.M. Hills sanctuary to be a tiger reserve soon

Rare distinction for Chamarajanagar

R. KRISHNA KUMAR
MYSURU

The decks have been cleared to notify the Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka's Chamarajanagar district as a tiger reserve. The approval from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is expected any time now.

A presentation of the final proposal was made before the NTCA early this month and the final notification will be made by the State government once the NTCA gives its formal approval.

Once notified, Chamarajanagar district will have the rare distinction in the coun-

try of having three tiger reserves. It already has Bandipur and Biligiri Ranganatha Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve within its territorial limits. Also, with this, Karnataka will have six tiger reserves, the others being Nagarhole, Bhadra, and Anshi-Dandeli, apart from Bandipur and BRT Tiger Reserves.

The sanctuary will be renamed Malai Mahadeshwara Hill Tiger Reserve with a core area of 670.95 sq km spread across Malai Mahadeshwara Reserve Forest, Hanur Reserve Forest and Yediayahalli Reserve Forest. The sanctuary presently has about 20 tigers.

The live bullets wrapped in a newspaper were found abandoned near Muppattadipalam on Saturday and it was civilians who spotted the

package and alerted the police. Reportedly, the bullets have the initials POF (Pakistan Ordnance Factories) inscribed on them hinting at the possibility of their Pakistani origin.

Since POF is Pakistan's largest arms and ammunition supplier headquartered in Wah Cantonment, the case has been handed over to the ATS and ATS Deputy Inspector General of Police Anoop Kuruvila will be in charge of the probe.

According to ballistics experts, the 7.62x51 mm bullets are not used by any forces in India and their specifications show that they were made in 1980-81. "None of the bullets are made in India, though they can be used to feed machine guns like AK47. Indian

Military intelligence officials inspecting the site in Kollam where the bullets were found. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Armed Forces do not use such bullets," said an official.

Meanwhile, Crime Branch officials who inspected the bullets confirmed that they have no connection with the ones missing from the Special Armed Police camp.

Major Mukesh from the

Military Intelligence and officials Vinod Kumar and Ashok from the NIA Kochi unit visited the spot on Sunday and collected details.

The detailed statement of Joshy, a lorry driver, who found the bullets and alerted the police, was also recorded

by the different teams.

Reportedly, the police retrieved a receipt in Tamil from the location which is also very near to the border. "In this case we require assistance from other States. We have already started coordinating with them. Central agencies were contacted after we found the markings and preliminary investigation revealed that the bullets were of foreign make," said Director General of Police Lokanath Behera.

The bullets are currently kept at Kulathupuzha police station while the police and forest officials have been put on a high alert.

Forest officials conducted an extensive search in the area on Saturday night with the help of bomb squad.

Wait continues



The stalled twin-tube tunnel project at Kuthiran hills in Thrissur district of Kerala. Work on the tunnel on the Mannuthy-Vadakkanchery stretch of National Highway 544, was stopped in 2018 following heavy rain and financial woes of the contract company. Once completed, it will ease traffic congestion and reduce the travel time to Tamil Nadu. ■ K.K. MUSTAFAH

PG medical fees in Karnataka's private colleges may rise by 15%

Govt. hiked fees last year too; students threaten strike

TANU KULKARNI
BENGALURU

Students enrolling in post-graduate courses in private medical colleges in Karnataka may have to cough up a higher fee from the coming academic year as the government is likely to increase the fees by about 15%.

The hike is expected to be applicable to the government quota as well as the institutional quota seats in private medical colleges.

Medical Education Minister Sudhakar K. said senior officials of the Medical Education Department had formed a committee and had conducted several meetings with different

medical college associations and recommended a hike. "The State government will, however, take a call on the matter. I will take a call after studying the recommendations of the committee's report," he said. He would meet with Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa and seek his advice, he said.

But students say that the hike has been steep year after year, making it difficult for those from middle class families.

Last academic year too, the State government had hiked the fees by 15% and it was applicable to private medical colleges as well as minority institutions. For

2019-20 academic year, the fee structure was in the range of ₹27,737 to ₹51 lakh for government quota medical seats, while institutional quota seats were priced between ₹1.09 lakh and ₹8.72 lakh.

Subhashini S., a PG seat aspirant said: "If the fees are hiked then we will take up a Statewide agitation till the government rolls it back."

Another MBBS student, Anand S. said students will be unable to bear the cost as the stipends provided to postgraduates was 'meagre'.

The admission process for PG seats for students who have written the NEET is likely to begin in March.

Dial 100 comes to the rescue of devotees stranded in forest

STAFF REPORTER
CHITTOR

The police personnel with the rescued group of devotees atop Veeranna Hill in Chittor district of Andhra Pradesh.

One of them, Haritha, 18, made a distress call on Dial 100. The information was promptly passed on to Valmikipuram Sub-Inspector Venkateswarlu, who turned up at the station to search for the missing personnel. About half a dozen personnel trekked the hilllock, leading the search in four directions.

A rescue party located the devotees at a valley point towards Madanapalle. They were brought to the police station and later handed over to their family members late in the evening.

Move to drop ivory case against actor comes under cloud

'It can be done only with court's nod'

K.S. SUDHI
KOCHI

The Kerala government, which issued a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for withdrawing the wildlife crime case booked against actor Mohanlal, will have a lot of explaining to do, considering the public interest involved in the decision.

The Hindu had on Friday reported that the State government had issued an NOC for withdrawing the case against the actor. Mr. Mohanlal was arraigned as first accused in the case for procuring and keeping elephant tusks.

Convincing court The withdrawal of prosecution in a case by invoking Section 321 of the Criminal Procedure Code is the discretion of the public prosecutor. However, the prosecutor needs to convince the court that the withdrawal is in the interest of the administration of justice. The court should also appreciate the reasons and convince itself that the application was not made under pressure or any other extraneous considerations, said a former public prosecutor.

Cases should be withdrawn with the court's consent, and only if the prosecutor felt that it would serve the larger public interest, he said.

While considering the application for withdrawal, the court also had to find out whether the prosecutor had applied his mind in deciding to withdraw the case and he was not merely carrying out the decision of the government. The Supreme Court had recently pointed out that public prosecutors should act as independent persons and should not be guided by the instructions

of the government. The court also suggested that public prosecutors should not act like post offices, a senior lawyer said.

The judicial officer can reject the application for withdrawal of the case if he was not convinced about the public interest involved in the decision. Recently, the Special Court trying cases against MLAs and MPs had rejected the State government's plea to withdraw a case booked against MLA V.K.C. Mammad Koya, sources said.

Earlier cases

Earlier, the Vigilance Special Court, Thrissur, had rejected the United Democratic Fund government's decision to withdraw the palmolein import case against former Chief Minister K. Karunakaran, judicial sources said. While considering the application for withdrawal, the court may send notices to the petitioners in the case. It can even permit public-spirited persons to implore themselves in cases, sources said.

CPI(M) leader V.S. Achuthanandan had thus successfully challenged a decision of the UDF government to withdraw a case booked against Kerala Congress (B) leader R. Balakrishna Pillai, legal sources said.

IN BRIEF



BSNL employee unions call for hunger strike

NEW DELHI

Employee unions of the State-run telecom firm BSNL have called for a nationwide hunger strike on Monday, to protest against the delay in execution of the ₹69,000 crore revival package announced by the government. PTI

NHAI collects ₹20 cr. fine from FASTag defaulters

NEW DELHI

The NHAI on Sunday said it had collected ₹20 crore from 18 lakh defaulters who entered FASTag lanes at electronic toll plazas on National Highways without the tag. Over 1.55 crore FASTags have been issued so far. Under the programme, double the toll charge would be collected from the vehicles entering FASTag lanes without the tag. PTI

Navy's MiG-29K aircraft crashes off Goa coast

PANAJI

A MiG-29K aircraft of the Navy crashed into the Arabian Sea off the Goa coast on Sunday morning, the Navy said. The pilot ejected safely, a spokesman said, adding that an inquiry has been ordered into the incident. The aircraft, which had flown from the INS Hansa base at Vasco was on a routine training sortie when it crashed around 10.30 a.m. after developing a technical snag, he added. PTI

Maoist dies in custody of Bihar police

JAMMU

Siddhu Koda, a 40-year-old CPI (Maoist) zonal commander, who was carrying a reward of ₹1 lakh on his head, died in the custody of Bihar police, hours after he was brought from Jharkhand and interrogated, a senior police officer said on Sunday. Koda was hospitalised on Saturday after he complained of pain in chest and abdomen, said Manu Maharaj, DIG. He did not divulge the details of the post-mortem report. PTI

COVID-19 scare likely to divert air travellers to Europe, West Asia

They will benefit from discounts as airlines are redeploying capacity withdrawn from routes to China, say experts

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

Those planning international trips in the immediate future are likely to benefit from discounts for travel to European and West Asian destinations, as airlines redeploy capacity withdrawn from routes to China due to the COVID-19 outbreak there, according to airlines and aviation experts.

Air India and IndiGo have announced that they were extending the suspension of their flights to Shanghai, Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Chengdu into June. SpiceJet's suspension of service to Hong Kong is in place until February 27. This means airlines have surplus aircraft that need to be redeployed on other routes.

"Whatever aircraft get freed up will be deployed elsewhere. These will be mostly on domestic routes but we are also trying to put them on international routes such as Abu Dhabi, but are yet to start selling them," said a senior Air India official.

Slump in demand

When asked whether there was a spurt in demand for destinations in the Middle East, he said there was a general slump in demand for international travel.

Another airline executive said: "While we will gain in destinations in West Asia and Europe, that will not be enough to make up for weakness on routes to South East Asia."

He added that routes to China were doing very well before airlines had to suspend them. This is despite the fact the China accounts for less than 2% of international seat capacity for Indian airlines.

This shifting of airline capacity in a season that traditionally sees poor demand means passengers may benefit from discounts for destinations such as Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Turkey.

"We have seen a 20-25% year-on-year increase in search queries to travel to Amsterdam, London, Zurich, Rome, Prague and Budapest from Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad this year," said Alok Bajpai, co-founder of ixigo.



Under strain: Key markets like Thailand and Singapore may face further capacity cuts if COVID-19 is not curtailed. ■ AFP

"Capacity to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates is up. Seats to Saudi Arabia have grown 35% in Q4 of the current fiscal, as compared to the same period last financial year. Overall, the international market has grown capacity by 3%. However, the real test will be to

see the passenger numbers for January once they are available", said Lewis Burroughs, analyst at aviation consultancy ICF.

If the spread of COVID-19 is not curtailed, key markets such as Thailand and Singapore may see further capacity cuts, at which point airlines will see a much severe impact on revenue as they will struggle to redeploy capacity, cautioned Mr. Burroughs.

Traffic demand into India may also see a fall.

SARS experience

"There will be a drastic drop in Chinese outbound tourists to European and other Asian tourist hot spots. There is a high possibility of European travellers changing their vacation destinations from Asia to Europe. This trend was observed by European car-

riers during past outbreaks such as SARS and bird flu", said Abhilash Varkey Abraham, research analyst, Aerospace & Defense Practice, Frost & Sullivan.

Apart from the hit on passenger revenue, airlines could also be impacted by delay in aircraft deliveries, as China is a key supplier of aircraft components used across Airbus family of aircraft, explains Mr. Abraham.

Airbus' completion center for its A320 and A330 models in Tianjin was closed briefly.

IndiGo is the biggest customer globally of Airbus A320 neo family of aircraft. French aviation giant Safran, which supplies engines, avionics, safety and landing systems has also closed all of its manufacturing facilities across more than 20 Chinese cities.

Four dead as elephant runs amok

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

Panic gripped Delanga and adjoining areas in Odisha's Puri district following the death of four persons after they were attacked by a tusker on Sunday morning. Five persons sustained serious injuries.

The tusker had reportedly sneaked into Delanga area in search of paddy on Saturday morning.

The victims have been identified as Jugalkishore Bhatt, 60, Chaitan Sahu, 45, and Makar Palei, 65. The fourth person, who succumbed to injuries in the evening, was Ajay Kumar Nayak, 40.

A team has been formed to try to drive away the tusker to the nearest forest.

According to Wildlife Society of Orissa, there have been 195 encounters between humans and elephants this year that resulted in 113 deaths and 122 injuries.

A reptilian problem



Safe rescue: A six-feet-long crocodile was caught by forest officials and volunteers of two NGOs at a construction site in Mulund area of Mumbai on Sunday. It was later returned to its natural habitat. ■ VIBHAV BIRWATKAR

Gangster Ravi Pujari held in South Africa

The don, facing over 200 cases, is being brought to India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU

Fugitive gangster Ravi Pujari has been arrested in South Africa and was being brought to India by a team of officials, including senior IPS officers from Karnataka, a top police official said on Sunday.

Pujari is wanted in many cases in different parts of the country, including Karnataka. He had been on the run for over 15 years, and was deported to Senegal in West Africa following his arrest, and later extradited. He jumped bail in Senegal last year after being arrested there.

"[We are] coming with him from Senegal. Now in Paris. [We are] coming by Air France and [would be] there [in India] by midnight," the police official,

who is a part of the team, told PTI.

Pujari, who hails from Karnataka, is likely to be brought here by Monday morning, police sources said.

The National Investigation Agency, the Central Bureau of Investigation, and the Research and Analysis Wing would join the investigation, sources said.

According to police, the

gangster, facing over 200 cases, including charges of murder and extortion, was arrested in January last year by the Senegal authorities after remaining elusive.

Despite the efforts of Indian officials to get him extradited then, a local court had granted him bail and Pujari later fled to South Africa.

Joint operation
Police sources on Sunday said the gangster was nabbed from a village in a joint operation by the South African and the Senegalese police. After he was brought to Senegal, the Indian team completed extradition formalities, they added.

Pujari was initially associated with gangster Chhota Rajan, but he has also worked for fugitive underworld don Dawood Ibrahim.

According to police, the

No country is doing enough to protect children's health, finds study

India ranks 131 among 180 countries in terms of best chance at survival for its children, states a WHO-UNICEF-Lancet report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

No single country is adequately protecting children's health, their environment and their future, according to a recently released report by a Commission of more than 40 child and adolescent health experts from around the world. The Commission was convened by the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and *The Lancet*.

The report, titled *A Future for the World's Children?*,

finds that the health and future of every child and adolescent worldwide is under immediate threat from ecological degradation, climate change and exploitative marketing practices that push heavily processed fast food, sugary drinks, alcohol and tobacco at them.

The index shows that children in Norway, the Republic of Korea and the Netherlands have the best chance at survival and well-being, while children in the Central Afri-

can Republic, Chad, Somalia, Niger and Mali face the worst odds.

In the report assessing the capacity of 180 countries, India stands 77th (sustainability index) and is at 131st position on a ranking that measures the best chance at survival and well-being for children.

The report says although India has improved in health and sanitation, it has to increase its spending on health. It also cautions that

globally, the number of children and adolescents who are obese has increased from 11 million in 1975 to 124 million in 2016 – an 11-fold increase.

The only countries on track to beat the CO₂ emission targets by 2030, while also performing fairly (within the top 70) on child flourishing measures are: Albania, Armenia, Grenada, Jordan, Moldova, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Uruguay and Vietnam.

"Despite improve-

ments in child and adolescent health over the past 20 years, progress has stalled and is set to reverse," said Helen Clark, co-chair of the Commission, adding that an estimated 250 million children under five in low- and middle-income countries are at risk of not reaching their developmental potential.

Moreover, every child worldwide now faces existential threats from climate change and commercial pressures. While the poorest coun-

tries need to do more to ensure healthy lives for children, carbon emissions – disproportionately from wealthier countries – threaten the future of all children, states the report. "This report shows that the world's decision makers are, too often, failing today's children and youth: failing to protect their health, failing to protect their rights and failing to protect their planet," said Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, WHO.

Kafeel Khan's maternal uncle shot dead

Family seeks protection for doctor in jail

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

The maternal uncle of Gorakhpur-based doctor Kafeel Khan was shot dead in the east Uttar Pradesh city late on Saturday, police said.

Dr. Khan is lodged in Mathura jail. He was booked under the National Security Act for allegedly delivering a provocative speech at the Aligarh Muslim University.

Identified as Nusratullah Warsi, the businessman was shot at around 10:35 p.m. on Saturday, said Gorakhpur SP (city) Dr. Kaustubh. On the basis of a complaint filed by the victim's family, an FIR was lodged at the Rajghat police station against two persons, Anil Sonkar and Imamuddin Siddiqui. The family alleged that the two persons shared an animosity with Mr. Warsi over money and property.

"Prima facie, the two persons suspected by his family had a money and land dispute with him," said the officer. A case for murder and criminal conspiracy was lodged against the two.

Adeel Khan, brother of Dr.



Kafeel Khan

Khan, said he was worried about the safety of other family members. After meeting Dr. Kafeel in Mathura jail on Sunday, Mr. Adeel said the suspended doctor had expressed concerns about his family's security. "He was very disturbed to hear about his mamu's [maternal uncle] murder," said Mr. Adeel. "Our family should get security. Dr. Kafeel should get better security in jail," he said.

In an earlier incident, Dr. Kafeel's younger brother Kashif Jameel was grievously wounded after being shot at thrice in June 2018.



National Informatics Centre

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

A-Block, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003

INVITES APPLICATION FOR THE FOLLOWING POSTS

Advt No. NIELIT/NIC/2020/1

SI No	POST	TOTAL VACANCY	ELIGIBILITY
			Degree & Field / Specialization [Single or in combination amongst the below only]
1.	SCIENTIST - 'B' Group 'A' (S&T) Level - 10 ; (Rs.56100 - Rs.177500)	288	B.E. / B.Tech / DOEACC B-level OR AMIE/ GIETE OR M.Sc. OR MCA OR ME / M.Tech OR M.Phil Electronics, Electronics and Communication, Computer Sciences, Communication, Computer and Networking Security, Computer Application, Software System, Information Technology Management, Informatics, Computer Management, Cyber law, Electronics and Instrumentation
2.	Scientific/Technical Assistant - 'A' Group 'B' (S&T) Level - 6 ; (Rs. 35400 - Rs.112400)	207	B.E. / B.Tech / M.Sc. / MS / MCA Electronics, Electronics and Communication, Electronics & Telecommunications, Computer Sciences, Computer and Networking Security, Software System, Information Technology, Informatics.

Candidates are advised to apply through the portal at <https://www.calicut.nielit.in/nic> for further information including Eligibility, Age Limit, Reservations, mode of recruitment etc. Detailed advertisement is also available at :

a) nielit.gov.in (b) meity.gov.in (c) recruitment.nic.in (d) ccdisabilities.nic.in

Applications for the above posts will be received only in online mode.

Application portal will be opened from 26/2/2020 10:00 A.M

CLOSING DATE OF APPLICATION IS 26/03/2020 5:00 P.M.



Keep up the pressure

The international community must continue to hold Pakistan to account on terrorism

The decision by global watchdog, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), at its plenary in Paris last week, to keep Pakistan on its "greylist" for monitoring its record against terror financing was no surprise. While the Pakistan government has yet to complete the 27-point action plan it was given in June 2018, it has, according to the FATF, made some progress. As a result, the 39-member group that includes India decided to extend Pakistan's September 2019 deadline until June 2020. Actions Pakistan still needs to carry out include tightening security and banking restrictions to block loopholes through which designated groups including the Taliban, al-Qaeda, Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad access funding. It also calls on Pakistan to begin prosecutions against terrorists and sanction entities that are flouting the UNSC's rules for designated terror organisations. The FATF Chairman's final comment says Pakistan must comply with all 27-action points – it has cleared about 14 – in the next four months or face financial strictures by being placed on the "blacklist". Pakistan is one of 18 countries on the greylist; Iran and North Korea are on the blacklist.

The FATF's sharp language is significant, yet according to the force's consensus rules, Pakistan believes it might be able to slip through the deadlines if it is able to ensure that three countries, China, Turkey and Malaysia, which have pledged support, veto any move to blacklist it. Pakistan also appears to have benefited from playing a role in U.S.-Taliban talks as it seems the U.S. and its allies are not enforcing the deadline to complete the action plan as before. A senior U.S. official's statement in January welcoming Pakistan's progress in its FATF commitments may have set the stage for the final plenary decision. While the FATF's Chairman's wording was strong, it was a repetition of the threat he served Pakistan last year, and there is a danger that Pakistan, a country that has not sustained punitive action against thousands of designated terrorists and entities, will feel immunity from the process. The Pakistani court's hurried conviction of LeT chief Hafiz Saeed on terror financing charges just before the Paris meet appeared to be a command performance, and its shocking submission to the FATF that it cannot trace Masood Azhar must be scrutinised further by the international body. Among other issues on the agenda during U.S. President Trump's India visit, it is necessary that India raises the need to continue to hold Pakistan to account on terror, and not flag in attention just when the FATF process has begun to extract results from Islamabad.

Limits of funding

Private sector research funding is boosted mostly by partnerships among companies

That research and development in India is inadequate, in terms of money, personnel and ambition, isn't news. The founders of independent India sought to base its development on science and technology. To this end, even at the expense of universal, free primary education, the country privileged esoteric research such as atomic energy and space over industrial technology, and tertiary research institutions – the IITs – over the spread of technical education in local languages. As a strategy with successes and setbacks, this also saw, as historians have noted, Indian R&D remain beholden to the government. Publicly-funded research has always been encouraged to reinvent the wheel and customise technology to Indian realities, whereas private companies and industrial firms have rarely been incentivised to develop their own intellectual property. It is only after the turn of the millennium that policymakers have pondered on coaxing the private sector to invest more in R&D. Public institutions contribute the lion's share of R&D investment. In 2004-05, the private sector accounted for 28% of research spend; it was 40% in 2016-17. In most advanced economies, private R&D accounts for the bulk of investment in R&D. Moreover, relative to its income, India underspends on R&D compared to what the U.S. and China did when it had income levels comparable to India's now. Given this history, the Department of Science and Technology is mootting a fund that will match the private contributions in R&D. A ₹40-crore target is on the anvil and the idea is that the private sector – Indian firms and foreign companies with Indian subsidiaries – would fund scientists in key academic institutions.

This is not the first time that the government has tried to get private sector money into R&D. When 'Startup India' and 'Make in India' were the buzzwords in the early years of the Modi government, there were attempts to have venture capitalists and government departments involved in scientific research, to pool money and invest in technology start-ups. But, unfortunately, this has not resulted in investment in creating intellectual property. Too much of India's research investment is expended on a small pool of scientists in a limited number of institutions. The private sector has extremely limited capacity to absorb scientists and a limited risk-appetite to invest in futuristic technology. Private research funding is also boosted more by partnerships among companies rather than by centrally-funded research programmes. While private funding is increasing, it still has not reached a level where major central funding can make a significant impact. Many CSIR laboratories have had a long history of collaborating with companies to develop and transfer technology to industry, but here too, restrictions on how intellectual property and licence fees can be shared abound. Unless there is greater participation and cooperation at smaller levels among companies and government, central schemes may not be fruitful.

Youth can be a clear advantage for India

Its close to five decade-long demographic opportunity can be leveraged only with suitable policies and programmes



MEENAKSHI DATTA GHOSH

India's population is among the youngest in an ageing world. By 2022, the median age in India will be 28 years; in comparison, it will be 37 in China and the United States, 45 in western Europe, and 49 in Japan. India's working-age population has numerically outstripped its non-working age population. A demographic dividend, said to have commenced around 2004-05, is available for close to five decades. This is an extraordinary opportunity. There are however, two caveats.

Key caveats

First, India's population heterogeneity ensures that this window of demographic dividend becomes available at different times in different States. While Kerala's population is already ageing, in Bihar the working age cohort is predicted to continue increasing till 2051. By 2031, the overall size of our vast working age population would have declined in 11 of the 22 major States. Second, harnessing the demographic dividend will depend upon the employability of the working age population, their health, education, vocational training and skills, besides appropriate land and labour policies, as well as good governance. India will gain from its demographic opportunity only if policies and programmes are aligned to this demograph-

graphic shift. Demography is not destiny.

There is consensus now that among other factors, it was the demographic dividend that powered respectively the Asian economies of Japan, China, and South Korea to spectacular growth. More significantly, in each case, the underlying pattern was fairly similar i.e. countries will benefit from the economic potential of their youth bulge when and where they succeed in providing good health, quality education, and decent employment to their entire population; and not to segments defined by socio-economic status, geography, or historical legacy.

Need for skills

The Economic Survey 2019 calls for additional jobs to keep pace with the projected annual increases in working age population. We need a workforce that is well educated, and appropriately skilled. UNICEF 2019 reports that at least 47% of Indian youth are not on track to have the education and skills necessary for employment in 2030. The projected demographic dividend would turn into a demographic disaster if an unskilled, under-utilised, and frustrated young population undermines social harmony and economic growth. While over 95% of India's children attend primary school, the National Family Health Surveys (completed up to 2015-16) confirm that poor infrastructure in government schools, malnutrition, and scarcity of trained teachers have ensured poor learning outcomes.

Even while India aspires to become a knowledge economy, mil-

GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

lions of young people are getting left behind. The national capital has now demonstrated that when meticulous attention is paid to equity and quality across government schools, huge numbers benefit, with encouraging learning outcomes. High quality education achieves gender parity and propels people forward into more productive lives. A coordinated incentive structure prompting States to adopt a broadly uniform public school system focusing on equity and quality will yield a knowledge society faster than privatising school education can accomplish.

Most districts now have excellent broadband connectivity. Irrespective of rural or urban setting, the public school system must ensure that every child completes high school education, and is pushed into appropriate skilling, training and vocational education in line with market demand. Let geography not trump demography. Modernise school curricula, systematically invest in teacher training so that they grow in their jobs to assume leadership roles, while moving beyond the tyranny of the syllabus. Deploy new technology to accelerate the pace of building human capital by putting in place virtual classrooms together with massive open online courses (MOOCs) to help prepare this huge work force for next-generation jobs. Investing in open digital universities would further help

yield a higher educated workforce.

Helping women

Growing female literacy is not translating into relevant and marketable skills. A comprehensive approach is needed to improve their prospects vis-à-vis gainful employment. Flexible entry and exit policies for women into virtual classrooms, and into modules for open digital training, and vocational education would help them access contemporary vocations. A mushrooming of job portals and organisations are providing employment for trained women, even from home. Equal pay for women will make it worth their while to stay longer in the workforce. Economist Yogendra Alagh has written that the significance of this "deferred bonus" (women entering the workforce), could be higher than the immediate benefits of the dividend from shifts in population age structure.

The recent massive job losses across the automobile, real estate, and IT sectors, as well as in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises is leading to an alarming fall in private consumption. And if prolonged, these could begin to jeopardise India's demographic dividend. Policies to restore the ailing economy would bring back the mojo on employment.

On health care

In India, population health is caught between the rising demand for health services and competition for scarce resources. The National Sample Survey Office data on health (75th round, 2018), shows that a deep-rooted down-

turn in the rural economy is making quality health care unaffordable. People are availing of private hospitals less than they used to, and are moving towards public health systems. That is all very well except for the fact that the central budget 2020-21 lays emphasis on private provisioning of health care which will necessarily divert public investment away from public health infrastructure. The Ayushman Bharat Yojana links demand to tertiary in-patient care. This promotes earnings of underutilised private hospitals, instead of modernising and up-grading public health systems in each district. We need to assign 70% of health sector budgets to integrate and strengthen primary and integrated public health-care services and systems up to district hospital levels, include out-patient department and diagnostic services in every health insurance model adopted, and implement in 'mission mode' the Report of the High Level Group, 2019, submitted to the XV Finance Commission.

The elderly population in India is projected to double from 8.6% in 2011, to 16% in 2040. This will sharply reduce the per capita availability of hospital beds in India across all major States, unless investments in health systems address these infirmities.

The policies that we adopt, and their effective implementation will ensure that the our demographic dividend, a time-limited opportunity, becomes a boon for India.

Meenakshi Datta Ghosh is Principal Author, National Population Policy, 2000, and former Secretary, Government of India

Batting for the downtrodden

With the sorry state of Dalits still evident in data, the judiciary needs to continue to uphold their rights



SUKHADEO THORAT

The Supreme Court has ruled that quotas and reservations for promotions for government jobs are not a fundamental right, setting aside an Uttarakhand High Court order of 2012. The top court has also said that States could not be forced to make such provisions without data showing imbalance in representation of certain communities in public service.

While the legality of the ruling could be contended by legal experts, the top court's advice on quantifiable data on under-representation exhibits lack of a broader perspective on the status of Dalits. The Court should have been more prudent than to leave the entire decision to Uttarakhand which has a high rank in the country in terms of the practice of untouchability.

According to a recent survey by academician Amit Thorat, up to 47% of respondents in the hill State admitted to practising untouchability. More than half the forward caste people confessed to practising untouchability. Further, nearly 68% Brahmins in rural and 77% Brahmins in urban areas of the State admitted to the practice. With such widespread discrimination prevalent in the State, an honest response on representation in terms of the practice of untouchability.

In 2015, the enrolment rate in higher education was 20% for SCs compared to 43% for higher castes. Besides the massive backlog in government services, these are spheres where SCs are grossly

under-represented. They are overrepresented in wage labour, poverty and malnutrition. In 2014-15, almost half of Dalits depended on casual wage labour when compared to 11% of high castes. In 2012 about a third were poor, compared to 11% for high castes. Most importantly, caste discrimination and untouchability continue to be practised widely despite anti-discriminatory laws. Between 2001 and 2013, SCs had registered about 54,257 cases of atrocities or 4,174 cases annually. This is just the proverbial tip of the iceberg.

Primary studies show extensive discrimination in employment, farming, enterprise/business against SCs. Based on NSS data, these studies indicate that in 2017-18, of the differences in access to employment between SCs and high caste, about 71% was due to discrimination in hiring. Findings of another primary survey in 2013 in rural India show that SC entrepreneurs in grocery, eatery, and transport services faced discrimination, with the high castes reluctant to avail of their goods and services. Many SC farmers admit that they face discrimination in the buying of inputs and sale of outputs.

A lesser known fact shown in recent studies such as that of P. Sanal



under-represented. They are overrepresented in wage labour, poverty and malnutrition. In 2014-15, almost half of Dalits depended on casual wage labour when compared to 11% of high castes. In 2012 about a third were poor, compared to 11% for high castes. Most importantly, caste discrimination and untouchability continue to be practised widely despite anti-discriminatory laws. Between 2001 and 2013, SCs had registered about 54,257 cases of atrocities or 4,174 cases annually. This is just the proverbial tip of the iceberg.

A statement often found in all slave transaction documents, "Kill you may kill, sell you may sell", bears testimony to the power of upper-caste Hindu and Christian landlords. In fact the entire agrarian economy was based on the exploitative slave labour of untouchables. Slavery is long gone but its legacy persists in the form of bonded, attached and forced labour of Dalits in many parts of the country.

Unaccountability and caste slavery have completely crippled Dalits. They remain asset-less, illiterate and socially isolated with overt

Mohan in *Modernity of Slavery: Struggles Against Caste Inequality in Colonial Kerala* is that about untouchables being a slave caste. Hindu slavery goes back to at least 600 BC. Manu recognised slavery in 200 BC; it continued to be practised for about 2,500 years before it was banned by the British in 1843. A significant fact is that untouchables were recognised as slave caste wholly in the service of high caste.

Empirical evidence from Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala suggests that Hindu kings implemented the Brahminical theory of untouchables as slave caste for thousands of years.

Prof. Mohan while describing the plight of slaves observes: In Kerala the untouchable slaves generally go without clothing, barely cover their nakedness with a string of leaves propped around their loins. They eat all the refuse... were paid the lowest wages – that would keep them barely alive.

A statement often found in all slave transaction documents, "Kill you may kill, sell you may sell", bears testimony to the power of upper-caste Hindu and Christian landlords. In fact the entire agrarian economy was based on the exploitative slave labour of untouchables. Slavery is long gone but its legacy persists in the form of bonded, attached and forced labour of Dalits in many parts of the country.

Since the high castes have benefited at the cost of the former untouchables, there is legal and moral justification that they compensate for the losses they have inflicted on the latter for centuries. With such a massive backlog in the condition of SCs, the top court should have been more sensitive in its observations. The Court and the judiciary is the last resort for Dalits who continue to face oppression under the pretext of divine ordination.

Residential segregation in rural areas, and subtly in urban areas. Therefore, the reservation policy is necessary as a safeguard against discrimination and to secure their fair share.

Need for compensation

But it is not enough. What the SCs require most is "adequate compensation or reparation" for traditional denial of rights to property and education, and slave labour. The affirmative action policies similar to reservation mainly provide protection against discrimination and ensure a fair share of benefits in the "present", but this is a weak remedy to deal with the consequences of "past" exclusion.

Dalits need to be given adequate land, enterprises, and funds for education as compensation. The rationale behind ensuring compensation is the enrichment of the higher castes at the cost of the impoverishment of Dalits through under-payment of wages to slave labour and denial of rights to land, enterprises, and education.

Since the high castes have benefited at the cost of the former untouchables, there is legal and moral justification that they compensate for the losses they have inflicted on the latter for centuries. With such a massive backlog in the condition of SCs, the top court should have been more sensitive in its observations. The Court and the judiciary is the last resort for Dalits who continue to face oppression under the pretext of divine ordination.

Sukhadao Thorat is Professor Emeritus, Jawaharlal Nehru University

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.

Huddle heterogeneity
The nation's emotionally surcharged political climate seems predisposed to exaggerate fears, amplify mistrust, deepen suspicions, and widen differences. The void in cross-political exchanges has exacerbated political acrimony and recrimination. Civil political commentators fear reading the social media where abusers and trolls rush in spew vitriol on perceived adversaries. *The Hindu's* 'The Huddle', has filled the vacuum by offering a venue where people can share opinions and articulate beliefs in an atmosphere of fearlessness, mutual respect, and understanding. Sites such as 'The Huddle' train debaters to negotiate disagreements agreeably and prod them to exit their

cocoons of reflexive self-righteousness. Democracy can only thrive when people talk, not to convince but to convey; and listen, not to retaliate but to understand. One wishes *The Hindu's* print edition replicates the conclave's heterogeneity of thought and its ideologically inclusive and judgmentally agnostic ecosystem.

V.N. MUKUNDRAJAN,
Thiruvananthapuram

Mishra's musings
It was unbecoming of Supreme Court judge Arun Mishra to have showered encomiums on Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the International Judicial Conference (Front page, "PM Modi a versatile genius, says Justice Arun Mishra," Feb. 23). By doing so, the judge seems to have not only erred but also

demeaned the exalted position that he holds. It was of particular significance that he extolled Mr. Modi at a conference where a galaxy of judges from 20 countries was in attendance. What conclusion those who heard him might have drawn is not difficult to fathom. Justice Mishra seems to have done incalculable harm and unpardonable injustice to the country's judicial ethos and its cherished values by his indiscreet and inappropriate words.

C.G. KURIAKOSE,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

■ What confidence will the people have in the judiciary when a sitting Supreme Court Justice praises sky-high Prime Minister Modi, calling him a "versatile genius" who "thinks globally but acts

locally"? These remarks come at a time when critical issues like the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and dilution of Article 370 are pending before the apex court and constitutional values like democracy, secularism and the like are to test. Our boasts of having a robust and independent judiciary have received a severe jolt. The least the Justice can do is to gracefully step down. The Supreme Court Bar Association and other associations have to act immediately to preserve the glory of the Constitution.

N.G.R. PRASAD,
K.K. RAM SIDDHARTH,
Chennai

In black and white
The retention of Pakistan on the 'grey list' by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) reaffirms that the incomplete and half-hearted actions of

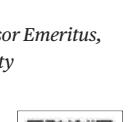
Pakistan in the fight against terror financing couldn't convince the global watchdog, and quite rightly so. I am reminded of what Abraham Lincoln said: "You can fool all people some of the time and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time". The writing was on the wall with the lame submissions of Islamabad like that Masood Azhar being "missing", and unanswered questions on matters like why terrorist financiers were imprisoned for only a few days. Pakistan would now do well to comply with the action plan of the FATF not only for ensuring peace and security in the subcontinent but also in its own interest, given its oft-repeated claim that it is a victim of terrorism itself.

B. HARISH,
Mavelikara, Kerala

Unethical diplomacy
The 'Namaste Trump' extravaganza is likely to be nothing more than an image-boosting exercise for two leaders facing multipronged criticism in their respective countries. Optics like the number of people at an event are rarely an accurate reflection of the diplomatic strength of bilateral ties. Moreover, it is unfair and improper to accord a high-profile welcome to a U.S. President at the cost of poor people of Ahmedabad. Further, the attendance of people at such mega-shows is often secured through coercion. It is high time the Indian media discloses the unethical diplomacy underlying such events.

ANTHONY JOHNSON,
Thrissur, Kerala

To read more letters online, scan the QR code



Making the super-rich pay their fair share

Reducing financial opacity requires more than exchange of tax information with other jurisdictions



JAYATI GHOSH

Transparency seems to have become taboo in India. As the country remains mired in an economic slowdown, with evidence of falling employment and consumption, the government is persistent in its denial. Instead of actually addressing the problem, it seeks to suppress or manipulate official data to somehow provide a more optimistic picture. We saw this once again recently as the Union Budget was presented, based on numbers for revised estimates for the current year and Budget estimates for the coming year that the Finance Ministry itself knows are unlikely.

The opacity of data also extends to cross-border movement of funds generated through a range of activities, including tax evasion, misappropriation of state assets, laundering of the proceeds of crime, and bribery. Even here, India still has a lot to do, as confirmed by the recent publication of the Financial Secrecy Index by the Tax Justice Network, a U.K.-based financial advocacy group. On the surface, India has managed to reduce its contribution to global financial secrecy, with its rank falling from 32 on the 2018 index to 47 in 2020, but this is partly because the new edition of the index covers more countries than it did two years ago.

Arrangement with Switzerland
It is true that the government has adopted and supported a few transparency reforms, such as the automatic exchange of tax and financial information with other jurisdictions, like Switzerland. Thanks to that, for example, if an Indian citizen has an account with a Swiss bank, and has a balance over a certain threshold, this information will be sent to the Indian tax authorities automatically.

But stopping the financial haemorrhage and making multinationals and the super-rich pay their fair share of taxes requires much more. Capital flight out of India by Indian elites and foreigners alike has been undermining our country's development for



decades. An important part of these flows is the result of artificial profit shifting by multinational companies taking advantage of an outdated international tax system.

These multinationals may be making profits in India but can easily declare those profits in a low tax jurisdiction like Hong Kong and justify that transaction as a payment for the use of a patent. According to one estimate, this strategy represented a loss of \$27.5 billion in 2014 for the Indian government, up from \$142 million in 2000.

The government did create a beneficial ownership register – which would allow the identification of the beneficial owner of an asset regardless of whose name the title of the property is in – but the law is weak, since it exempts a lot of people at the discretion of the authorities. Also,

this register is not accessible to the public.

Onshore financial services

That's not all. Three years ago, the government took the paradoxical decision to set up onshore international financial services in the country. This is how the International Financial Services Centre in the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT-City), Gandhinagar, emerged, modelled after offshore financial centres such as Hong Kong, Singapore, the City of London and Dubai. While this has not created much employment, it has led to growing possibilities for regulatory arbitrage by financial firms, with potentially very problematic consequences.

Meanwhile, the government keeps granting tax incentives on a discretionary basis, even though there is

little evidence that these incentives attract investment. Instead, as shown recently in International Monetary Fund research, factors such as quality of infrastructure, a healthy and skilled workforce, market access and political stability matter much more. The massive reduction in corporate tax rates has thus far not led to any increase in private investment – but it has meant a significant reduction in tax revenues, with devastating consequences. It translates into a lack of resources for education, healthcare, food and nutrition and infrastructure. India is already an outlier among similarly placed developing countries with its low tax-GDP ratio of 18%. The government budget is also highly dependent on indirect taxes like the Goods and Services Tax which are regressive and hit ordinary citizens harder.

Increasing public spending

It is now beyond obvious that India cannot revive its economy without increasing public spending, and so increasing its fiscal resources is essential. Among other measures, this requires urgent adoption of legislation and institutional reforms to end financial opacity – including, for example, opening the beneficial ownership register to the public and stopping the creation of onshore tax havens.

In addition, the Government of India must also assume a more vocal role in the international debate about how to make multinationals pay their fair share of taxes. This means continuing to appeal for a United Nations tax body, which is much more legitimate than the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the arena where tomorrow's global tax system is being decided. The OECD's proposals, published at the end of 2019, are neither ambitious nor fair enough, as the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation (of which I am a member) explained in a recent report. If the organisation continues to remain deaf to the demands of developing countries, India must be prepared to go it alone, thinking unilaterally about how to make multinationals pay what they owe.

Jayati Ghosh is a professor of economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University

FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

The difference between a listening post and a hammer

Dialogues, discussions and debates are crucial in a democracy



A.S. PANNEERSELVAN

At 'The Huddle', The Hindu Group of Publications' annual thought conclave, participants invariably convert interactions on the sidelines into open house sessions. They compare how the topics that were discussed at The Huddle were covered by the newspaper in its pages. Some of them thought that the newspaper and The Huddle were a perfect fit as both share the idea of dialogue, debate and discussion. One them said that my definition of my role "where I begin from a position that all complaints are made in good faith and that no journalist comes to work to mislead readers" was limiting. He thought my columns worked well when I found fault with the reporters or the newspaper, but read defensive when they explained journalistic terms and theories. He was delighted with my column, "Journalism in the time of an epidemic" (February 10), and felt let down by the subsequent column, "Strident nationalism and rigorous journalism" (February 17).

Over a cup of coffee, I explained to him that as an internal news ombudsman, I always remember the saying, "To a man with a hammer, everything looks like a nail." Many instances of overreach happen because of this attitude where there is little space for critical evaluation. My job is to critically evaluate complaints using journalistic yardsticks and examine whether or not the newspaper did a fair job of addressing them. It is neither about vindicating the newspaper's writings nor about rejecting them.

Exchange of views

The session on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) gave me an opportunity to explain the newspaper's approach to contentious issues. I drew the attention of this reader to a study by Meltwater India that pointed out to the fact that "NDTV, [The] Hindu, Dainik Jagran [are] the biggest drivers for online conversation on CAA". This study put The Hindu on top in the print category as it led the mScore based on editorial mentions, reach, and tonality for CAA-related stories.

When Yamini Aiyar, President of the Centre for Policy Research, pointed out that the CAA fundamentally upended the Constitu-

tution by creating two very distinct pathways of citizenship on the basis of religion, and how problematic it is to decouple the CAA from the proposed National Population Register and National Register of Citizens, as both are intrinsically intertwined, the reader who raised questions earlier acknowledged that there is a clear method in this newspaper's approach to both reporting as well as debating issues. On the question of citizenship, he was able to see why I mentioned the case of the plantation Tamils of Sri Lanka and their statelessness in an earlier column, "The enemies of writing" (January 27, 2020). It was an exchange of views where a reader who did not agree with the editorial stand on some crucial contentious issues accepted later that there was a clear thinking behind the editorial judgment and that it was not guided by narrow partisan considerations.

Listening to diverse voices

The question of the "other" came up through the discussions. There were two panels in which the theme of "othering" came up for intense scrutiny. The first panel was on the Kashmiri conundrum and the second one was on the age of the strongman and the rise of illiberal democracies. The participants realised that there is a need to listen to diverse voices rather than seeking confirmation bias. They realised that critical voices against muscular nationalism are the ones that keep the space for plural society intact. The role for the media in this task, despite a lot of external pressures, is immense.

If the newspaper has to remain the site for a democratic mediation of ideas and to hold those in power accountable, the fundamental requirement is empathy. President Ram Nath Kovind said that The Hindu sticks to the five basic principles of journalism: truth-telling, freedom and independence, justice, humanness, and contributing to the social good. These five pillars are raised on the foundation called empathy.

At the end of the conclave, the reader said that though his heart is with what BJP MP Rajeev Chandrasekhar said about the CAA, and what BJP national general secretary Ram Madhav's said on Kashmir, he also realised that the opposing viewpoints had some rationale. He said that the government should be open for dialogue rather than implementing decisions without seeking people's opinions. He said, "Please remain a listening post and never become a hammer."

readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Payyanur's Gandhi connection

During a visit to the Kerala town in 1934, the Mahatma planted a mango tree that still survives

RAJMOHAN UNNITHAN

Payyanur taluk, situated on the banks of the Perumba river in Kerala's Kannur district, played a significant role in India's struggle for independence and also has a historical engagement with Gandhian thought and action.

In the early days, the Simon Commission protest in 1928 was the first major movement that ushered Payyanur to the forefront of the freedom struggle. Moyarath Sankaran, A. Lakshmana Shenoy and Subrahmanyam Thirumunpu were the leaders of 'Simon Go Back'. The same year witnessed the All Kerala Political Conference at Payyanur, which was presided over by Jawaharlal Nehru. During that conference, resolutions were passed demanding *poorna swaraj* (complete independence) for India and permanent tenancy for land tillers.

The Salt Satyagraha in 1930 was another landmark in Payyanur's history. 'Kerala Gandhi' K. Kelappan led a procession of 33 satyagrahis from Kozhikode to Payyanur, the southern tip of the North Malabar. Pooch Beach of Ramanthali village, on the outskirts of Payyanur, was the arena for the ritual of disobeying the notorious salt law of the British Raj. S.A. Barelli, in his newspaper the *Bombay Chronicle*, described Payyanur as the "Second Bardoli," honouring its valour and sacrifice during the Salt Satyagraha.

Anti-untouchability movement
Payyanur was also an epicentre of the anti-untouchability movement. Great leaders of the movement at Payyanur – A.K. Gopalan, K.A. Keraiyan and Vishnu Bharatiyan – ushered boys from the oppressed Pulaya community into the southern corridor of the Kandothi Sree Kurumba Bhagavathi Temple.

Feudal elements tried to evoke communal friction between the Ezavas, who ran the temple, and the Dalits. The leaders were brutally tortured by the caste supremacists, but this did not dent the enthusiasm of

the movement.

One of the first crusaders against casteism in Payyanur was Swami Anandatheertha. A second-rank holder in Physics from the Madras University, Ananda Shenoy, a Konkani Brahmin by birth, should have otherwise got a respectable job under the British. But choosing a different and more adventurous path, he jumped into the freedom struggle and joined Sabari Ashram in 1926. Following Gandhiji's advice to take up the task of uplifting the oppressed classes, he went to Sivagiri in 1928; he was consecrated as 'Swami Anandatheertha' by Narayana Guru in the same year and raised the banner of revolt against casteism.

Rights of Dalits
Payyanur, which was at that time a morass of rampant casteism, and a town with which the Swami had close contact since 1920, eventually became his *karmabhoomi*. At the time, lower-caste people were being systematically de-humanised there. The Swami understood that the rights of the oppressed cannot be gained without imparting a proper education to them; so in 1931 he started a school for the oppressed. He later staged numerous dharnas before barber shops where Dalits were not admitted. He also led a march to Guruvayur, where free meals were being given to Brahmins only, although many of those who were excluded from this handout were starving.

Gandhiji visited Kerala several times, but his visit to Payyanur in January 1934 was special – it was a private visit to call on Swami Anandatheertha. Gandhiji spent a whole day at the ashram and planted a mango tree there, which still thrives at that site. An urn containing ashes from the funeral pyre of Gandhiji is still preserved in the ashram.

The government of Kerala plans to set up a Mahatma Gandhi Smriti Museum. This is fitting tribute both to Gandhiji's legacy and to Payyanur.

Rajmohan Unnithan is an MP



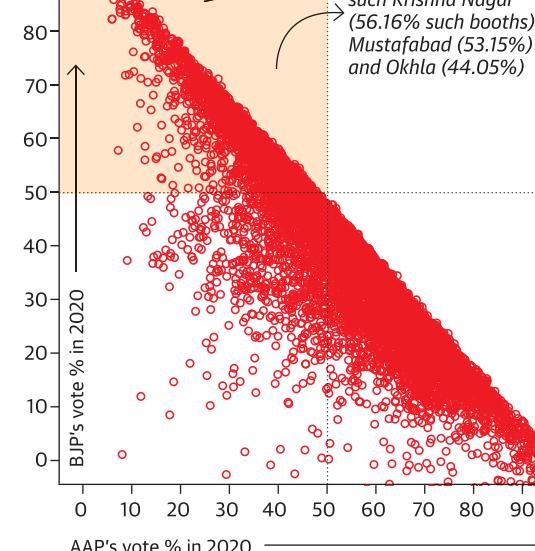
DATA POINT

Locality variations

Within pockets | This graph plots the vote % for the AAP and the BJP across 12,297 polling booths in the 62 seats won by the AAP. Each circle represents a polling booth

The booths in the shaded part, though situated in seats won by the AAP, recorded >50% votes for the BJP. Close to 29% of the 12,297 booths recorded such a trend

Most of these booths were located in seats such as Krishna Nagar (56.16% such booths), Mustafabad (53.15%) and Okhla (44.05%)



Intra-constituency variation | This graph is a filtered down version of the first. Only booths from Matia Mahal and Okhla were included. Within each seat, while booths in some localities recorded >85% votes for the BJP, many others recorded >95% vote for the AAP

Booth 190 in Madanpur Kadar locality (Okhla) recorded 89% votes for the BJP

Booth 107 in Mahalaxmi enclave locality (Mustafabad) recorded 88% votes for the BJP

Booth 31 in Sitaram Bazaar locality (Matia Mahal) recorded 74% votes for the BJP

Booth 223 in Rajiv Gandhi Nagar locality (Mustafabad) recorded 58.5% votes for the AAP

Booth 76 in Turkman Gate locality (Matia Mahal) recorded 98.5% votes for the AAP

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 24, 1970

'Beyond the pale of civilised cricket'

The British Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Wilson, said yesterday [February 22] that South Africa, by its refusal to admit coloured players, had put itself beyond the pale of civilised cricket. Mr. Wilson was being asked, in a British Broadcasting Corporation interview, to comment on the coming controversial South African tour of Britain. Whether the tour should have been allowed by the M.C.C. is another matter, he said, but once the South Africans had said they were not taking a player we wanted to send. "I would have thought that put them beyond the pale of civilised cricket". Mr. Wilson was referring to the 1968 South African ban on the coloured British player B. D'Olivera, who was refused permission to play there for the M.C.C. Mr. Wilson said he believed in the right of others to demonstrate peacefully. Told that Mr. Edward Heath, Leader of the Conservative Opposition, had said he would attend some of the matches during the coming South African tour, Mr. Wilson retorted, "I shall not watch them". The Greater London Council of the Labour Party called on its one million supporters to join in a series of peaceful anti-apartheid demonstrations when the Springboks team arrives here [London] from South Africa.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEB. 24, 1920

Indians in Africa.

Mr. Khaparde moved that the Governor-General in Council may be pleased to obtain the permission of His Majesty's Government to empower the Hon'ble Sir Benjamin Robertson to study the states and condition of Indians settled in British Africa and to instruct him to report to the Government of India the measures necessary to check the anti-Indian agitation in those regions, and to place the said Indian settlers in a position of equality with the white settlers there. Proceeding, Mr. Khaparde took objection to the presence of two members on the Commission who, he said, were believed by Indians to be antagonistic to the interests of Indians and explained that his object was that the Commission should control and if possible check anti-Indian agitation that had been set on foot in the colony by the white settlers there. He knew that the Government of India had no direct power over the Government of British East Africa, but it was their duty to induce the British Government to see that the Indians got the same rights and privileges as were enjoyed by the white settlers.

C M Y K

A ND-NDE

FROM PAGE ONE

Ahmedabad joint rally will be historic: PM

President Trump will reach Ahmedabad and will begin his trip with a visit to the Sabarmati Ashram. He will then address the "Namaste Trump" event at the Motera stadium, accompanied by Prime Minister Modi.

Thereafter, the U.S. leader will leave for Agra's Taj Mahal, where he is expected to be greeted by U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Mr. Trump will then fly to Delhi later in the evening.

Mr. Modi will meet President Trump in the front lawns of the Hyderabad House on Tuesday morning. This will be a continuation of a tradition that Mr. Modi had attempted during President Barack Obama's visit in January 2015.

Both sides are expected to fast track the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA), to be discussed during the defence talks in March.

Once sealed, BECA, the third logistic agreement between the militaries, will en-

sure smooth flow of high end technology from the U.S. to India.

From the strategic and military aspects, both sides are expected to take up trade relationship especially since President Trump himself has announced that he will seal a big trade deal with India later this year. There are Indian concerns about the agriculture and dairy sectors in such a scenario that are yet to be clarified by the officials.

Reflecting the trade interests, Director General of the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) Chandrasekharan emphasised on the "future growth sectors" and said, "We must build upon and consider new frontiers for business and trade."

President Trump will be hosted for a state banquet at the Rashtrapati Bhavan where he will also hold a meeting with President Ram Nath Kovind, before leaving India on Tuesday evening.

Pro and anti-CAA groups clash in Delhi

"We used tear gas to disperse the crowd," added the police officer. A few people suffered injuries in the stone pelting. They had been rushed to a hospital, said the police.

Similar protests, which mirrored the Shaheen Bagh sit-in, started in Khureji Khas in Karawal Nagar and Chandbagh in northeast Delhi, and Hauz Khas in South Delhi on Sunday, prompting police to step up security.

For security reasons, the entry and exit gates of Jaffrabad and Maujpur-Babarpur Metro were closed. The 400-metre-stretch between Maujpur traffic signal, where a temple is located, to Babarpur station, was strewn with bricks and stones after the clashes.

Blame game
The two groups blamed each other for starting the violence.

Sources said clashes began soon after a gathering called by BJP leader Kapil Mishra who demanded that the police remove anti-CAA protesters within three days. Taking to Twitter, Mr. Mishra said, "We have given a three-day ultimatum to the Delhi Police to get the road cleared. Get the Jaffrabad and Chandbagh road cleared."

Delhi police personnel later stopped the pro-CAA protesters when they tried to march towards Kardampuri where another anti-CAA protest was underway. The security personnel formed a human-chain to separate the groups and defuse tension.

"We are trying to identify the people behind the incident," Joint Commissioner of Police (Eastern Range) Alok Kumar told reporters, adding that the situation was under control.

A large number of anti-CAA protesters in Jaffrabad blocked one side of the carriageway outside the Jaffrabad Metro Station.

"We are not going to move from here unless our demands are fulfilled... unless the government takes back CAA and NRC. I have not been able to attend college because of this. How will I focus on making my career when our government is trying to snatch our right to live here peacefully?" said Mahi Khan, a protester.

"We are speaking to local leaders so that peace prevails in the area. We are also requesting protesters to clear the main road," said Mr. Kumar. He said police had been deployed at the Maujpur area to prevent untoward incidents.

Kashmir students to be back in uniforms

People busy shopping at the Sunday market in Srinagar. ■
NISSAR AHMAD

From organising smart classes to alerting parents of students in closed WhatsApp groups to posting assignments on Facebook pages, the lack of full access to Internet will hamper teaching tools as well as the teacher-parent link," she added. All social media platforms, fast emerging as a major tool for school administrations across the world, remain banned in J&K.

Kashmir has 11,633 educational institutes, including 810 middle schools, 247 high schools and 37 higher secondary schools. Students enrolled up to the higher secondary level number 10.03 lakh, com-

prising 5.29 lakh male students and 4.74 lakh female students, according to official figures.

Arrangements made
"All arrangements have been put in place to restart the session. Teachers have been directed to work with dedication for building capacities of students for the betterment of their future. Last year, the students proved their mettle and now it is our responsibility to extend our support to them and redouble efforts to get their syllabus completed well in time," Mohammad Younis Malik, Director, School Education Kashmir, said.

The Congress, with 46 members constituting 19% of the strength, got 345 opportunities, which comes to 24% share of the total. The 10 recognised parties in the House with five members and above each with a total of 190 members – accounting for 80% of the strength of the Council – got about 81% of the total opportunities.

Others, including regional parties and Independents coming to 20% of the membership of the House, got a 19% share of participation indicating broad correspondence between the strength and share of opportunities.

'SC proactive and progressive'

With its verdicts, the court has led a social transformation: President Kovind

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Sunday praised the judiciary for pursuing the "cherished goal of gender justice", and appreciated the Supreme Court for being always "pro-active and progressive".

Delivering the valedictory address at the International Judicial Conference 2020—"Judiciary and the Changing World", he noted that the Supreme Court had led a "progressive social transformation". In pursuing the cherished goal of gender justice, to mention one example, the Supreme Court of India has always been pro-active and progressive."

"From issuing guidelines for preventing sexual harassment at the workplace two decades ago to providing directives for granting equal status to women in the Army this month, the Supreme Court of India has led a progressive social transformation," he said.

The President expressed satisfaction with the court's "extraordinary effort" to make its judgments more accessible to the common man by making them available in nine vernacular languages, keeping in mind the nation's linguistic diversity.

Mr. Kovind referred to the judiciary's role in harmonising environmental protection and sustainable development, as well as the challenges arising from the evolution of information



From issuing guidelines for preventing sexual harassment at the workplace two decades ago to providing directives for granting equal status to women in the Army this month, the Supreme Court of India has led a progressive social transformation

RAM NATH KOVIND, President

technology and the emergence of such issues as data protection and right to privacy.

Intellectual wisdom

Besides landmark verdicts to strengthen the legal and constitutional framework, the Supreme Court's Bench and Bar were known for their legal scholarship and intellectual wisdom, he said.

"The recent move towards an alternative dispute resolution mechanism is expected to reduce the burden on the court to a considera-

ble extent," he said. Indian courts were adopting new technologies, including artificial intelligence, to speed up justice delivery.

"I am sure that the deliberations of the conference will help to strengthen the judicial system not only in India but also in other countries," he said.

Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde referred to the positive outcome of the deliberations and pointed out that the common thread binding judges of various jurisdictions was "a commitment to dispensation of justice".

He said the Supreme Court's judgments were cited by courts of other countries and had served as a "beacon of hope" to independent and developing nations.

He said the judiciary's task was not only to check those in power but also to empower the deprived citizens.

Mishra draws flak for praising PM

Concern over judicial impartiality

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Several retired judges, senior lawyers and politicians have been sharply critical of Supreme Court Judge Arun Mishra for his remarks at an event on Saturday, describing Prime Minister Narendra Modi as an "internationally acclaimed visionary" and a "versatile genius". Terming his remarks sycophantic, atrocious and a threat to the independence of the Supreme Court, some even called upon him to recuse himself from all cases against the government.



After this comment he should recuse himself from all cases against the government as the petitioner stands no chance of justice from him
DIGVIJAYA SINGH
Congress leader

protecting your rights?" Activist-musician T.M. Krishna echoed his concerns, tweeting: "Such public display of sycophancy and we still expect the Supreme Court to be fair and untainted! We are all fools."

Congress leader Digvijaya Singh also worried about the judge's impartiality. "Sorry to hear this comment from a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court. After this comment he should recuse himself from all cases against the government as the petitioner stands no chance of Justice from him. Sad. I never expected him to make such a comment as a sitting Judge of SC," he tweeted. Former Navy chief Admiral Arun Prakash noted that Justice Mishra's comments went against what is expected of the judiciary.

Cong. for seat sharing with Left in civic polls

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Candidates would be nominated on the "basis of who is strong where" formula.

While in the 2016 Assembly polls the Left and the Congress entered into a seat-sharing pact, in the Lok Sabha elections, they fought separately, resulting in the dismal performance of both.

Mr. Mitra said his party would not form an alliance but enter into a seat-sharing arrangement with the Left.

Mr. Mitra said he was not against use of electronic voting machines (EVMs) in the civic polls.

Cherish our biodiversity, says PM

He quoted the discovery of a new species of fish in Meghalaya to stress the point

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's biodiversity was a "unique treasure" for the entire humankind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday in his monthly *Mann ki Baat* radio address. He referred to Tamil poetess Avvaiyar to underscore his point.

"What we know is just a handful of sand. What we do not know is like a universe in itself," he said quoting her.

Similar was the case with the biodiversity of this country, Mr. Modi said pointing out the recent discovery of new species of fish in the caves of Meghalaya.

The fish, believed to be the largest among aquatic species found under the surface of caves, is blind and lives in deep dark underground caves.

"It is a matter of joy that our India, and especially Meghalaya is home to a rare species. It lends a new facet to India's biodiversity. We are surrounded by many such mysteries, which are still undiscovered. To discov-

er such a phenomenal enigma calls for fierce detective passion," Mr. Modi said.

COP mentioned

He mentioned the recently concluded Conference of Parties of the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. It was a matter of pride that India would chair the COP Convention on migratory birds for the next three years.

He encouraged schools and parents to take students to avail of the newly introduced facility in Sriharikota to see first hand the launch of rockets and satellites by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

He also exhorted the students to enrol in ISRO's Yuvaika programme that arranged visits to different ISRO centres and held workshops on astronomy.

Mr. Modi hailed the take-off of Indian Air Force's AN 32 aircraft from Leh's Kush-

ok Bakula Rimpoché Airport. The aircraft for the first time ever used a mixture of 10% Indian bio-jet fuel.

"These efforts will not only reduce carbon emissions but may also reduce India's dependence on crude oil imports. I congratulate all the people involved in this significant mission, especially the scientists of the CSIR and Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun, who made it possible to develop the technology to fly an aircraft with bio-fuel. Their efforts also empower the 'Make in India' mission," Mr. Modi said.

He also mentioned his surprise trip to Hunar Haat in Delhi and urged others to visit the exhibition organised by the Minority Affairs Ministry.

The Delhi edition of the exhibition ends on Sunday, but it will be held in other cities in coming months. "I witnessed hues of our country's diverse expanse, cultures, traditions, cuisines and the warmth of emotions," he said about his visit.

Parties got proportional share of time to raise issues in RS

House Secretariat readies MPs' performance report

SOBHANA K. NAIR

At the end of each Parliament session, a performance report detailing participation of all members should be prepared, Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu has told the House Secretariat, according to sources.

The first edition of the report analysing the MPs' performance on party lines reportedly shows that each political party got a proportional share of time, with the Opposition getting a little more.

The BJP, with 82 members accounting for 34% of the strength of 239 of the House, got 480 opportunities amounting to 33% of the total.

The Congress, with 46 members constituting 19% of the strength, got 345 opportunities, which comes to 24% share of the total. The 10 recognised parties in the House with five members and above each with a total of 190 members – accounting for 80% of the strength of the Council – got about 81% of the total opportunities.

Others, including regional parties and Independents coming to 20% of the membership of the House, got a 19% share of participation indicating broad correspondence between the strength and share of opportunities.

It was the only platform available for them to voice people's issues and concerns. It cannot be a government-run House even if they are in a majority. "It's fair that we have had an opportunity to participate in debate and articulate our view, at the same time the House belongs to the Opposition in a democracy," Mr. Sharma told *The Hindu*.

Not an indicator

Rajya Sabha leader of the Trinamool Derek O'Brien said alone could not be the criterion of success of a session.

"It's not about the time, it's about the quality of the issues discussed. Parliament cannot be measured in minutes and hours, it has to be measured in the quality of subjects we take up. How many of the issues raised by the Opposition were allowed to be discussed by this government in Parliament," Mr. O'Brien asked.

The Opposition is none too impressed with the numbers. Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Congress MP Anand Sharma said Parliament in a democracy belongs to the Opposition. The House Secretariat has

come up with this analysis against the backdrop of the recently concluded Parliament session that was marked by an acrimonious exchange between the Opposition parties and the Rajya Sabha Chairman. The Opposition parties had held a press conference decrying the Chairman's decision not to allow a debate on the ongoing nationwide protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

The analysis shows that among the Opposition and non-NDA parties, the Congress, the Trinamool Congress and the AIADMK got proportionally higher opportunities, while the BJD, the DMK, the TRS and the CPI(M) got their due share. Only the SP got a less share.

The Opposition is none too impressed with the numbers. Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Congress MP Anand Sharma said Parliament in a democracy belongs to the Opposition. The House Secretariat has

come up with this analysis against the backdrop of the recently concluded Parliament session that was marked by an acrimonious exchange between the Opposition parties and the Rajya Sabha Chairman. The Opposition parties had held a press conference decrying the Chairman's decision not to allow a debate on the ongoing nationwide protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

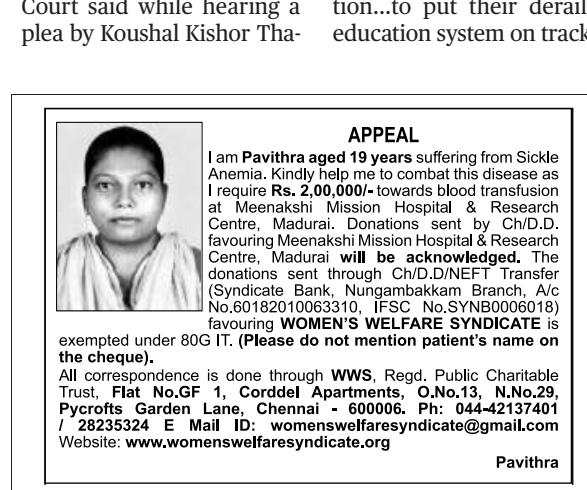
The analysis shows that among the Opposition and non-NDA parties, the Congress, the Trinamool Congress and the AIADMK got proportionally higher opportunities, while the BJD, the DMK, the TRS and the CPI(M) got their due share. Only the SP got a less share.

The Opposition is none too impressed with the numbers. Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Congress MP Anand Sharma said Parliament in a democracy belongs to the Opposition. The House Secretariat has

come up with this analysis against the backdrop of the recently concluded Parliament session that was marked by an acrimonious exchange between the Opposition parties and the Rajya Sabha Chairman. The Opposition parties had held a press conference decrying the Chairman's decision not to allow a debate on the ongoing nationwide protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

The analysis shows that among the Opposition and non-NDA parties, the Congress, the Trinamool Congress and the AIADMK got proportionally higher opportunities, while the BJD, the DMK, the TRS and the CPI(M) got their due share. Only the SP got a less share.

The Opposition is none too impressed with the numbers. Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Congress MP Anand Sharma said Parliament in a democracy belongs to the Opposition. The House Secretariat has



Education system in the State has gone from bad to worse and no one is serious about the problem
PATNA HIGH COURT

Cracking down on the agitating teachers, the Education Department secretary R.K. Mahajan instructed officials to lodge an FIR against teachers "who don't respect their duty by February 25". The government also terminated the services of some teachers and lodged an FIR against others protesting the sacking of their colleagues.

"The manner in which petitioners have been terminated shows that in the State of Bihar, rule of law is only a slogan not to be acted upon," Justice Anil Kumar Upadhyay said. "The system cannot be improved, so long as the officials are allowed to educate their wards outside the State," he added.

"During the last few years, media have highlighted the kind of education imparted in government run institutions in Bihar, but they have fallen on deaf ears...somebody in the system has to take responsibility," the court said in its oral order.

It asked the State Chief Secretary to "file a personal affidavit to salvage the situation...to put their derailed education system on track."

kur and others on the educational system in the State.

"It appears that education system in the State has gone from bad to worse and no one is serious about the problem... It appears that the system is only spo

Ahmedabad glitters to welcome Trump

U.S. President to make brief halt at Sabarmati Ashram, attend roadshow from airport to stadium

MAHESH LANGA
AHMEDABAD

With massive decorations and elaborate security arrangements, Ahmedabad is ready to welcome U.S. President Donald Trump, who will be attending 'Namaste Trump', a mega event at the cricket stadium.

He will make a brief halt at the Sabarmati Ashram and attend a roadshow from the airport to the stadium.

Playing host, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani tweeted a video in which people from all languages spoke excitedly about the Trump visit, drawing a parallel between Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Make in India' and Mr. Trump's 'Make America Great Again' slogans. The video was aimed at showcasing India's rich diversity.

Mr. Rupani said: "Entire Gujarat speaks in one voice—#NamasteTrump!"

President Trump will arrive in Ahmedabad on Monday where he will deliver a speech at the Sardar Patel Stadium with Mr. Modi addressing a crowd of over one lakh people to be brought from across Gujarat.

Amit Shah's review

Ahead of Mr. Trump's visit, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday arrived in Ahmedabad to take stock of security arrangements. A security mock drill for the roadshow between the airport and the Motera stadium was carried out on Sunday.

At the newly built 'world's largest cricket stadium', there will be a three-hour programme, including public interaction and cultural programmes, before and af-



Final touch:

Black commandos at the main VVIP entry point in Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad; and (left) artists performing at a rehearsal on Sunday ahead of a roadshow on Monday.

*VIJAY SONEJI

ter the President and the Prime Minister's speeches. Among the cultural programmes will be music performances by top Bollywood singer Kailash Kher and other leading Gujarati singers and performers.

According to the schedule

shared by the authorities, Air Force One carrying the U.S. President will touch down at Ahmedabad airport at 11.55 a.m. where Mr. Modi will receive the President and his delegation. From there, after the ceremonial welcome, they will move to the Sabar-

mati Ashram for a brief halt. Visit to the Ashram was confirmed only on Sunday and apparently after a sustained effort. U.S. authorities agreed to have a stopover at the Ashram. It was not originally in the schedule prepared by the U.S. agencies.

At the ashram, authorities have organised a high tea for President Trump and First Lady Melania. The famous Gujarati delicacy *khaman* has made its way into the menu of the high tea.

Apart from *khaman*, the VVIPs from the U.S. and their delegation will be offered broccoli and corn samosa, apple pie, *kaju katli* and a variety of teas to choose from, said chef Suresh Khanra of Ahmedabad's Fortune Landmark Hotel, who has prepared the menu. Along the route, the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation has organised a roadshow in which cultural performances by artists and cultural groups from all States and Union Territories will be showcased from specially erected stages.

3,000 artists to line Agra roads to honour U.S. President

Along his route, they will perform traditional dances

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AGRA

U.S. President Donald Trump will be welcomed by Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on his arrival at the airport in Agra where hundreds of artists will perform, a top official said on Sunday.

The city has been decked up to welcome the U.S. President.

He will visit the Taj Mahal on Monday evening after arriving here from Ahmedabad, before leaving for Delhi.

"The Uttar Pradesh Governor and the Chief Minister will welcome Mr. Trump at the Kheria airport. However, they will not accompany him to the Taj Mahal. The Governor and the Chief Minister will be at the airport to send him off," District Magistrate Prabhu N. Singh said.

Along the 13-km convoy route from the airport to the Taj Mahal, thousands of artists will welcome Mr. Trump with special performances.

"At the airport, about 250 artists will do special performances reflecting the beauty and culture of Uttar Pradesh. Along the route to the Taj, a total of 3,000 artists spread over 21 designated areas will present dance forms of Brij, Awadh and other regions, like Krishna Leela, dances themed on Radha, and other cultural forms of the regions," Mr. Singh said.

Massive billboards greeting the U.S. President ahead



Keeping watch: Security forces patrolling the premises of the Taj Mahal in Agra on Sunday. ■PTI

Delhi hotel out of bounds for other guests

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

ITC Maurya, where Donald Trump will check in on Monday, will be out of bounds for other guests for the duration of the U.S. President's stay.

The Delhi police said they were working in close coordination with the U.S. Secret Service and making all arrangements that it suggested.

A three-tier security system is in place around the hotel.

Anti-sabotage teams that include the Army and the paramilitary forces are checking the routes the visiting dignitary will take," said a police officer.

The anti-drone detachment of the National Security Guard, elite SWAT commandos, kite catchers, canine units, sharp shooters on high-rise buildings and Parakram vans have been deployed along the routes and areas in and around the hotel, they said.

of his India visit and reflecting the bonhomie between him and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have been put up in Agra. "Entire route has been spruced up aesthetically and U.S. and India flags have been put up at roundabouts to give the

area a festive look. We have done our best to welcome the American leader to Agra," he said.

Huge billboards bearing images of Mr. Trump shaking hands with Mr. Modi have also been put up across the city.

Will PM seek clarification on H1-B visas, asks Cong.

+ U.S. immigration policies hit H-1B visas'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Hours before U.S. President Donald Trump is scheduled to land in India, the Congress on Sunday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi if he will seek a clarification on the restrictive H-1B visa policy of the American government and question the U.S. decision to sign a deal with Taliban.

Posing a series of questions on Twitter and a video message, Congress's communication-in-charge Randeep Surjewala asked why Mr. Modi was silent about "India First" even as Mr. Trump continues to talk about "America First."

Mr. Surjewala pointed out that the Trump govern-

ment's restrictive immigration policies have hit H-1B visas. Indians usually get 70% of 85,000 H-1B visas. Now, the rejection rate for India has increased from 6% in 2015 to 24% in 2019, especially for IT professionals. "Will PM Modi ask for easing of H-1B visas?" he asked.

The Congress also questioned the Centre's mute response to U.S.-Taliban deal scheduled to be signed on February 29. "What about India's red lines. Have we forgotten the IC 814 hijacking and release of terrorist Masood Azhar. Azhar led Jaish-e-Mohammad then attacked Parliament and Pulwama? Will Modi ji raise our security concerns?" he asked.

Mr. Surjewala pointed out that the Trump govern-

Police barricaded roads with no link to Shaheen Bagh stir'

Focus should be on who is the power behind it, SC told

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The police have barricaded a number of roads with no connection to the peaceful protests at Shaheen Bagh against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, former Central Information Commissioner and former Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities Wajahat Habibullah said in his ground report to the Supreme Court.

"Shaheen Bagh stands tall as a firm example of a peaceful, dignified dissent, more so, in the face of various instances of State-sponsored violence on similar dissenters across India. We have been sad and mute witnesses to police brutality and negative typecasting of a particular community across the country. Crushing dissent instead of entering into a dialogue is the new norm, but it is alien to our Constitution," Mr. Habibullah said in an affidavit.

Mr. Habibullah said focus should be on who was the



Wajahat Habibullah

power behind blocking these arterial and parallel roads.

Chaotic situation

It is these unnecessary blockades of thoroughfares by the police which has led to a chaotic situation. Why does the police block roads in and around Shaheen Bagh, rather than regulate traffic to avert chaos?

Thousands of accesses in Delhi are blocked by residents of various colonies and by the privileged and the powerful, but the police

take no action against them. The Supreme Court had recently reached out to the protesters, asking them if they could move their agitation to an alternative site to free traffic flow.

The court had upheld their right to protest but said it should not inconvenience public movement. It had appointed interlocutors, senior advocate Sanjay Hegde and advocate Sadhana Ramachandran, to talk with the protesters.

Mr. Habibullah's affidavit, filed in the Supreme Court, details what he saw at the protest site during his visit on February 19.

Mr. Habibullah said the protesters are a strongly bonded community of people from all faiths. They are composed of children, women, middle-aged and the old who have faced "blatant threats" to their lives, been shot at and abused as "anti-national and Pakistanis" for expressing their dissent against the CAA-NPR-NRC.

Many injured in Aligarh as police remove protesters

Women against the CAA had occupied the Kotwali area

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GAZIABAD

At least one person received bullet injuries and several others were injured in clashes between anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act protesters and the police in the Upperkot area of Aligarh.

"Five persons were brought to the hospital after reports of clashes emerged. One person is seriously injured and one has lost his left eye," Prof Haris Khan, Medical Superintendent, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and Hospital told *The Hindu*. "The others seem to have suffered injuries because of falls and rubber bullets and are out of danger," he added.

According to sources, clashes broke out after the police tried to remove women sitting on a dharna near the Kotwali in the Upperkot area on Sunday evening. The Kotwali is in front of the Jama Masjid. Sources say the situation was tense since Friday when a large number of women had shifted from



Enforcing peace: RAF personnel in the Upperkot area of Aligarh after clashes broke out on Sunday. ■PTI

Shahjalal Idgah ground, where they have been protesting for 25 days, blocking the road near Kotwali.

Unconfirmed reports said when the police detained four persons, the women tried to stop them by pelting stones. Some make-shift shops were also set on fire. The police eventually resorted to firing tear gas shells and a baton-charge.

Additional District Magistrate Rakesh Malpani, however, denied any firing by

the police and till late in the night, district authorities did not issue any statement on the number of injured persons or the exact sequence of events.

Later in the evening, hundreds of AMU students blocked the Aligarh-Moradabad Highway near the Chunji Gate of AMU protesting against the police action.

The incident comes just a day ahead of U.S. President Donald Trump's scheduled visit to neighbouring Agra.

'Ceasefire violations on the rise'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAMMU

Ceasefire violations by Pakistan has increased manifold to push armed terrorists into Jammu and Kashmir and sabotage peace, DGP Dilbag Singh said on Sunday.

He, however, asserted that the security grid was strong to foil the neighbouring nation's designs.

The DGP said a few successful infiltration bids were made by terrorists, but they were neutralised in the Kashmir Valley during counter-insurgency operations.

ics – has been long under discussion, with questions being raised over its necessity given the steep cost and also the operational requirement in the Indian context. With a vast ocean space to monitor and increasing profile in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), the Navy has been the one pushing for High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) drones to beef up surveillance.

Defence push: India and the U.S. are expected to announce deals for 24 MH-60R Multi-Role Helicopters. ■FILE PHOTO

fleet rationalisation" "There is a drive towards fleet rationalisation," a Navy source said, adding that they are at a point where in place of manned platforms they should look at unmanned ones.

"As we look at unmanned platforms, the number of mi-

nutesweepers has been reduced from 12 to eight and requirement for additional P-8Is has been reduced from 10 to six, the Navy source explained.

The HALE drones can conduct surveillance, while the P-8Is will be for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) role, the source stated, adding that the Navy is looking for Seaguardian drones armed with missile and radars for maritime reconnaissance.

"If the process goes as per plan, then we expect to issue the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) by first half of this year," another source said.

The U.S. has in principle approved the sale of these armed drones to India following which the P&A data was made available.

Offer for 'expression of interest' Expression of Interest (EOI) to prepare Basic Design and Engineering Package (BDEP) & Technology Licensing for production of Furfural Alcohol (FA) from Furfural by hydrogenation at Numaligarh, Assam, India Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) intends to invite Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested Domestic/International consultants/engineering companies/manufacturers for basic design & engineering of a process unit along with technology licensing for production of Furfural Alcohol (FA) by hydrogenation using Furfural as feed which will be produced from bio refinery plant being developed by Assam Bio Refinery Private Limited (ABRPL) at Numaligarh, Assam, India. Please visit website (tender room): www.nrl.co.in For any clarification(s), please contact: Mobile no: 9435152027/ 9435152811, E-mail : raju.changkakati@nrl.co.in / girindra.n.deka@nrl.co.in Website: www.nrl.co.in

LET US KNOW YOU BETTER

Your feedback is valuable to us. Please scan the QR code or visit www.thehindu.com/feedback

You may call us at toll free 1800 102 1878 or write to us at customercare@thehindu.co.in



'Sri Lanka will not be launch pad for anti-India action'

MEERA SRINIVASAN

Former Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said on Sunday that the island nation would not allow "its soil to be used for any action that is deemed to be hostile to India".

Mr. Wickremesinghe was speaking at a discussion moderated by The Hindu Group Publishing Chairman N. Ram at The Huddle, a two-day thought conclave organised by *The Hindu* in Bengaluru.

Debt options

Asked about Sri Lanka leasing out its southern Hambantota Port to China for 99 years, the former Prime Minister spoke of his government then mulling options to deal with the debt on the project. Mr. Wickremesinghe's government, which rose to power in 2015, tried renegotiating the deal [that former President Mahinda Rajapaksa had originally signed] with China, and President Xi Jinping "didn't take a hard-line stand".

In turn, the Sri Lankan government ensured that all security aspects were under its control. "We won't allow our soil to be used for any action that is deemed to be hostile to India," he told the audience, invoking instant applause.

"I feel that the Chinese at the moment cannot bring their big ships [to our region]. It is basically very strong economic diplomacy that they are into, and it is a question of how to respond," Mr. Wickremesinghe said.

India cannot respond unless it opens up, he observed. "If you want a deep pocket like China, you have to carry out these changes."

Sub-regional group

Earlier, in his keynote address to the conclave, Mr. Wickremesinghe proposed a sub-regional grouping of five southern Indian States and Sri Lanka. Outlining the 'Economic Integration Road Map (EIRM)', he said it must not only be market-driven but also be able to provide a deeper integration than the ASEAN-led RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) agreement, Mr. Wickremesinghe said.

"I would suggest that the negotiations for such an agreement be concluded in two years," he added.

From the wings



Black and white

Responding to concerns raised by a member of the audience on Sri Lanka's close ties with and dependence on China, the former Sri Lankan Prime Minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe, pointed to the geographic proximity and strong trade ties between India and Sri Lanka, and quipped: "The black-market trade between Chennai and Sri Lanka is bigger than our trade with many countries. That has been going on for thousands of years." "If you all want money transferred to any part of South Asia, Colombo is a better destination than Dubai," he further remarked, as the audience roared in laughter.



Easter bombings and voter psyche

While the session with the former Sri Lankan Prime Minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe, was almost entirely focused on economic and diplomatic matters, a member of the audience asked him about the defeat of his party candidate (Sajith Premadasa) in the November presidential election and if the Easter terror attacks of April 2019 had affected his chances. "Yes, the Easter bombings had a very adverse impact...we slowly stabilised economy and started pumping money after that, but maybe voters were looking for someone from outside the system," he said, referring to Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the former Defence Secretary-turned-President.



Wide and out

When Anil Kumble was en route to taking all 10 wickets in an innings against Pakistan, Javagal Srinath bowled wide not to scuttle his quest. Kumble recollected his own role in a similar scene. "It was the fourth day of the Test in Bangalore and Sri Lanka had just two wickets left and Kapil Dev was, I think, on 430 wickets. The record was 432. I had to bowl wide. But the batsman went after a wide delivery, inside-edged and bowled! Sri followed instructions, I followed. Maybe, I was destined to get the record that day."



J&K parties can start political process'

BJP leader Ram Madhav gives example of Indira Gandhi calling for elections at the end of the Emergency period

NISTULA HEBBAR

BJP general secretary Ram Madhav says the party is in favour of early restoration of political activity in Jammu and Kashmir and that despite the continued incarceration of top political leaders, including three former Chief Ministers, political parties can start the process.

He was speaking at a session entitled 'India's political future: looking at 2024 and beyond', moderated by Narayan Lakshman, Associate Editor, *The Hindu*, on Sunday.

Mr. Madhav said the release of the "remaining six or seven" top political leaders would only be possible after a security assessment favoured such an action, but said political activity could be restarted by other leaders of parties such as the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). The NC had at least taken the decision (pending release of the top leaders) to start political activity at the district level. Significantly, he gave the example of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi calling for election at the end of the Emergency, when almost the entire Opposition was in jail.

Temporary step

"At that time too, people said how could the Opposition hope to fight elections when the leaders had been jailed, but the Opposition went on to win the polls," he said. He said the Union Territory status for Jammu and Kashmir was a temporary measure, and statehood would be restored at some point.

Answering a question from N. Ram, Chairman of *The Hindu*



On politics: Ram Madhav at a session with Narayan Lakshman, Associate Editor, *The Hindu*. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

Group Publishing Private Ltd., on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and its linkages with the National Population Register (NPR) and an eventual National Register of Citizenship (NRC), Mr. Madhav said the NPR was a routine exercise agreed upon by all States. "No State government has the constitutional right to refuse to carry it out," he said, adding, however, that States with specific issues with the questionnaire for the NPR could take it up with the Home Ministry.

A countrywide NRC, he said, has not been discussed at any level in the government, and discussing it in the context of the

C A countrywide NRC has not been discussed at any level in the government and discussing it in the context of the CAA is not needed

He said the BJP's defeat in the Delhi Assembly election, its fifth after the thumping victory in the 2019 Lok Sabha election, was a reflection that the electorate was looking at performance and confidence in leadership, something that was a challenge for current political parties. Citing the example of Odisha where the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections were held simultaneously, he said it was most clearly demonstrated by the voting pattern that the BJP, which won eight Lok Sabha seats, had lost many of the Assembly seats within those very constituencies to the Biju Janata Dal (BJD). "This demon-

strates the agility and vibrancy of Indian democracy and that it is safe, secure and vibrant," he said.

Ram temple

To questions about the Ayodhya verdict, Mr. Madhav said all parties, including the Babri Masjid Action Committee, had accepted the verdict and were ready to move on. He said Lord Ram and the Ramayana are "an integral part of the cultural ethos of not just India but entire South-east Asia".

The BJP leader said that while enough efforts had been made to resolve the issue through mediation during the Chandra Shekhar and P.V. Narasimha Rao governments, the verdict from the Supreme Court was accepted by all and there was "no need to reinvent the issue".

On the eve of U.S. President Donald Trump's visit, Mr. Madhav answered questions on foreign policy and the eye-catching events planned, including a civic reception at the Motera stadium in Gujarat.

Unique contribution

"While by and large foreign policy is a continuum, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's unique contribution has been his ability to strike good relationships with world leaders," he said.

"As for the civic reception for Mr. Trump in Gujarat, [Prime Minister] Vajpayee called India and the U.S. natural allies, and Gujaratis in particular have a special connect with the U.S. and a civic reception of this kind by the people of Ahmedabad is an expression of that," Mr. Madhav said.



Big challenge: Nirupama Rao, former Foreign Secretary, Maria Abi-Habib, South Asia Correspondent, *The New York Times*, Max Rodenbeck, South Asia Bureau Chief, *The Economist*, N. Ravi, Publisher, *The Hindu* Group of Newspapers, in conversation with Suhasini Haider, Diplomatic Editor, *The Hindu*. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

Rise of strongmen leaders and the challenge to domestic institutions

Several populous democracies are going through this phase

ANANTH KRISHNAN

The rise of strongmen leaders in democracies not only challenges their domestic institutions but is also changing the way nations conduct foreign policy, former Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao says.

Speaking at The Huddle, the annual thought conclave of *The Hindu* in Bengaluru on Sunday, Ms. Rao said: "In foreign policy, muscularity has a certain premium today. What is happening is you are creating this 'other' that you somehow need to consolidate public sentiment against, and you see this happening in the foreign policy of many countries ruled today by so-called strongmen."

The former Ambassador to the U.S. and China cited the example of American politics and the "othering" of Mexicans, for instance, by President Donald Trump, who, as a presidential candidate in June 2015, famously referred to some Mexican immigrants as "rapists".

Fear among majority

"What strongmen try to do is create 'otherisation' and create fear among the majority," she said, noting it was creating a whole [new] concept of how threat is being defined and how you deal with that threat."

The session discussing the "Age of the Strongman" also included South Asia correspondent of *The New York Times* Maria Abi-Habib, South Asia bureau

C An independent media and citizen journalists are an important check on strongmen leaders

MARIA ABI-HABIB
South Asia correspondent,
The New York Times

chief of *The Economist* Max Rodenbeck, and Publisher of The Hindu Group of newspapers N. Ravi.

The discussion looked at the specific challenges that the institutions in democratic countries faced in dealing with the rise of strongmen leaders. Suhasini Haider, Diplomatic Editor, *The Hindu*, who moderated the session, noted that it was a phenomenon seen in several populous democracies today, including India, the U.S., Brazil and the Philippines.

That institutions even in the U.S., the world's oldest democracy, were coming under strain despite some of the most robust checks and balances underlined the challenge other countries faced in protecting their institutions when they come under stress, noted Ms. Rao.

Vilification of past

The trends that democracies with strongmen rulers were seeing included majoritarianism and pushing affirmative action for the majority which was "somehow being portrayed as being short-changed by history", a 'mythification' of history, and an accompanying vilification of a country's past leadership, even those who played key roles in

founding it, the former diplomat said.

The simultaneous rise of strongmen across the world did not have a singular explanation and was in some ways a coincidence, Mr. Rodenbeck said. "Sometimes we look too much on personalities and less on the specific conditions that made [their rise] possible, whether it was a vacuum, public anger, or technological change," he said. The best balance, he suggested, was maintaining strong institutions.

Constitutional checks, however, work only to a limited degree, Mr. Ravi argued.

"Beyond that, you also need democratic norms to be followed, recognition of the opposition as equally legitimate, and restraint in using instruments of power. The best balance is to follow these unwritten rules and safeguards, as well as to have a diversity of States and political parties so that the writ of no one party runs across the country."

An independent media and citizen journalists were an important check on strongmen leaders who seek to restrain opposing voices, according to Ms. Abi-Habib. "That is why one of the first things you see is [strongmen rulers] going after the media," she said.

"Ultimately," Ms. Rao said, "we have to create checks and balances in a democracy. Ultimately, you cannot appeal to the angels in us, because we are not angels."

What do the youth want? Politics of religion or jobs?

Heated arguments over 'civilisational problems' and concern over education, employment and development

K.V. ADITYA BHARADWAJ

BJP MP Tejaswi Surya said the sedition law is "a hangover of Victorian morality", similar to blasphemy and adultery laws, and acknowledged it was being abused at the local police station level.

He called for a rethink "at both the police station and Parliament" regarding the use of law. He was speaking at The Huddle session 'Tomorrow's leaders: youth as a force in politics'.

On the question of the government engaging with youth protesting against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019, he said Indian youth were not a monolith and those protesting made up "a microscopic minority", while a majority of youth had voted the BJP in to do exactly what they were doing.

He also said today's youth were a "problem-solving generation" that had given political capital to "fix civilisational problems" such as Article 370 and the CAA, which were key issues. However, this was countered by Ritesh Pandey, BSP MP, and Congress leader Nivedith Alva, who argued young leaders should look ahead and raise issues concerning youth such as education, jobs and development.

Changing prism

Mr. Alva said at least the young must "move beyond looking at politics from the prism of religion and caste".

Mr. Pandey said there was a need for the youth to unite and launch a mass movement to hold the government accountable over jobs. Mr. Surya suggested that the

C The youth are not necessarily voting the young. While a large chunk of the electorate is young, only 12% of the members of the Lok Sabha are younger than 40 years

RITESH PANDEY
BSP MP

youth were probably not taking to the streets as there was "employment generation happening", even as moderator Palki Sharma, Executive Editor, WION, pointed out that unemployment levels were at the highest in 45 years.

But are youngsters more successful today?

Dynasty politics

"The youth are not necessarily voting the young. While a large chunk of the electorate is young, only 12% of the members of the Lok Sabha are younger than 40 years. For instance, Kanhaiya Kumar was defeated. With her worship and caste loyalties not going away, dynasty politics cannot be wished away," Mr. Pandey said.

Mr. Surya said elections becoming "a very expensive affair" was also one of the entry barriers for youngsters to win, and said introduction of electoral bonds was a step in the "right direction", though this was objected to by others on the panel.

Mr. Pandey suggested state funding of elections. But Mr. Alva argued that more youth, particularly at the panchayat level, were entering politics today. "Not everyone needs to become MP or MLAs," he said.



Youth view: Young politicians Ritesh Pandey, Tejaswi Surya and Nivedith Alva in conversation with Palki Sharma, Executive Editor, WION. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

A personal yet engaging act that evoked empathetic smile

PRAVEEN SUDEVAN

There were phases in Papa CJ's stand-up act, which concluded The Huddle on Sunday, that evoked an empathetic smile from the audience as opposed to shrieks of laughter.

In these bittersweet interludes punctuated with guffaws, the comedian recounted his heartbreak, read out a poem he wrote about his beloved, narrated his life's biggest slump – when he was clinically depressed – and the rise after – when he became a stand-up comedian and renamed himself, Papa CJ.

The name itself is a matter of intrigue. When the comedian let his audience ask him questions, the first one was "What is your actual name?"

"You can find the answer if you buy my book," he replied with an impish grin. The book, *Naked* (by Westland), is an autobiographical account that traverses through the streets of Kolkata, stages of Edinburgh, and many bizarre episodes (like performing at gunpoint in South Africa).

Papa CJ's act, for the most part, was deeply personal yet relatable and engaging. When he spoke about how an 80-year-old, bed-ridden lady sent him pictures of her smiling every day as 'fees' for his *pro bono* performance for her, the audience collectively exclaimed 'aww'.

All this isn't to suggest that he was just making many handkerchiefs wet throughout the evening. The laughs, of course, burst like firecrackers on a festival. And, there were jibes at the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, Kunal Kamra's flight ban and Donald Trump, among other things. But what stood out in the stand-up act were the aforementioned moments that caused one to smile amidst bouts of laughter.



A stand-up act by Papa CJ was deeply personal yet relatable. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

Tweets

A weekend well spent with some very insightful conversations as I attended the @thehuddle yesterday. Some very powerful and thought-provoking sessions on economy, politics, and diversity by illustrious panelists

ROSHNI DAS
@ROSH_DAS

Kudos @.... Amazing homework by panelists resulted in in-depth conversation

BALAJI VENKATARAMAN
@BALAJIVENKATA

4 day Test, bad idea. Test cricket performance wise in great health. Just that stadiums have to draw more crowds. That's the challenge

HARISH RAO
@SIMPLERHARISH

Govt must also remove all encroachment on DAL Lake in Kashmir to restore it to its original/natural size

RAJIV PRAKASH SAXENA
@ENGSAKENAR

The Muftis & Abdullahs looted J&K under Art370, cornered large swathes of Govt land, patronised insurgency in Valley fr decades. Ppl of J&K are slowly realising the same.

P.V.SIVAKUMAR
@PVSIVAKUMAR1

By revoking Art370 for Kashmiri Pundits BJP has given clear mandate on Hindutva and Upper Caste ideology.

SOLO SOUL
@SOLOSSOUL

Superb event! Congratulations! The event reflects the ethos of @the_hindu

SRINIVAS ALAVILLI
@SRINUALAVILLI



Unshackled by the many orthodoxies

'Leg spinner with an off-spinner's grip', Kumble straddled the cricket pitch with immense self-belief

N. SUDARSHAN

Anil Kumble has always left a mark; as a bowler, captain, administrator, coach, sports entrepreneur and wildlife photographer. On a crisp winter morning on Sunday, the cricketing legend, in conversation with K.C. Vijaya Kumar, Sports Editor, *The Hindu*, seamlessly straddled across all these areas. By the end of the hour-long session, he had left his mark on the audience too.

What has stood out, apart from his meticulousness, is his immense self-belief and ability not to be shackled by the various orthodoxies. "There were a lot of doubts from the time I walked into the team," Kumble said. "When you see someone bowling leg break with an off-spinner's grip ... reports suggested that at best I could just restrict a batsman and I needed doctored pitches. In fact, the first question after my final match in Delhi was 'how does it feel to retire after taking 600-plus wickets without actually spinning the ball?'"

Sticking to USP

"But I always went back to someone who I idolised and looked up to, B.S. Chandrasekhar. He would just tell me 'as long as your nip is there.. the pace at which the ball goes in at the batsman after pitching, don't worry. That was my USP and I stuck to it."

With the advent of T20 cricket, such non-conformity has been mainstreamed, Kumble felt. "I was glad that there were not too many coaches who looked to change the style that I bowled. Now, with [Jasprit] Bumrah, if he had to conform to



Line and length: Anil Kumble in conversation with K.C. Vijaya Kumar, Sports Editor, *The Hindu*. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

what we believe is the way a fast bowler should bowl, then I don't think he would have emerged as a leading fast bowler."

Four-day match

For today's generation, the five-day Test match too seems like an anachronism that needs to be shed, but Kumble, who is the Chairman of the ICC Cricket Committee, said he was not keen on the idea.

"The players don't want a four-day match. It's a Test only if it is five days, not four. I am very clear on that. It was discussed a couple of years ago. The experi-

ment was done with South Africa and Zimbabwe, I think and maybe some boards have that idea. But I don't think in the committee or within the ICC there is immediate thinking on having a four-day Test that is mandatory."

If there is one trait that has defined Kumble right through, it is his ability to put the game and the institutions above individu-

duals; be it during the infamous 'Monkeygate' incident during the 2007-08 tour of Australia, or when he stepped down as India coach in mid-2017 following a hugely successful one-year stint.

Bedi's suggestion

"If you keep the institution and the sport in the larger interest then I think you tend to take the right decision. In Australia, one of our former captains sent me a message saying 'Son, take a decision as to how history will look at you.' It was a very great suggestion from Bishen Singh Bedi. Yes, we had to take Harbhajan

Singh, the player affected the most, into confidence. But the stance of continuing with the tour helped."

"And if I could walk away from being captain of India and retire from the sport, I think anything after that is easy. [Resigning as coach] was the right decision that needed to be done in the interest of the team. Coaches are there to enable the players, to create an environment where the team could be successful. I was really glad that we were able to achieve that over a period of one year. I don't regret stepping away."



In new age: Manisha Koirala, Mithila Palkar, Srishti Arya, Director for International Film, India, Netflix, and Priyanshu Painyuli in conversation with Rosella Stephen, Associate Editor, *The Hindu*. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

Little Things, Upstarts and the rise of the digital stars

OTT platforms have democratised opportunities for storytellers

NAMRATA JOSHI

For Manisha Koirala, an actor who ruled Bollywood in the 1990s, getting back to the showbiz after a sabbatical, specially on an OTT (over-the-top media service) platform like Netflix, was all about reinventing herself. "I studied what was working in the market, what the young generation was liking, the new directors to work with..." It was a new setting. I was trying a short film [*Lust Stories*]... I was apprehensive about how people will perceive and accept me," she said in 'The Netflix Session' on the second day of The Huddle.

Digital stardom

Ms. Koirala, along with actors Mithila Palkar and Priyanshu Painyuli, and Srishti Arya, Netflix's director for international film, India, was in conversation with Rosella Stephen, Associate Editor, *The Hindu*, on creating stars in the digital age.

The "Internet sensation" that she is often called, Ms. Palkar spoke about how her Web series, *Little Things*, got propelled in an unfathomable way when it was acquired by Netflix. "With the click of a button, we could reach 190 countries and millions of subscribers. There were so many watching and liking it," she said.

For someone who wanted to be an actor but didn't know how to go about it, the Internet was one of the many experiments she dabbled in. She feels her growth in it happened organically: "It was emerging as a legitimate medium of entertainment and I was part of that change."

I studied what was working in the market, what young generation was liking, the new directors to work with...

MANISHA KOIRALA
Actor

names but the platform has also been about new female and male voices. *Maska*, *Chopsticks*, *Upstarts* have come from new people. It's a healthy mix," Ms. Arya stressed.

According to Ms. Palkar, Netflix has democratised opportunities for stories and storytellers.

"Different content and narratives would not have been possible if it had not happened," she said. Ms. Koirala spoke of how it had liberated film professionals from the fear of the market and ticket sales: "It's about excelling, not missing a chance... It's very precious, makes us put our best foot forward."

Right-sizing budgets'

In response to an audience question, Ms. Arya said that the doors of Netflix were never closed to ideas and makers. On the question of whether the budgets are equivalent to those of the big screen films, she said: "We right-size all our budgets...what [amount] the material needs to be effective."

Mr. Painyuli spoke about the change in stardom in the times of social media. "People connect with you more intimately," he said. For Ms. Palkar, it was about instant gratification and interconnectedness, as it happens backstage after a theatre performance. "People watch the video and respond immediately," she said.

Ms. Koirala spoke about the limited time she spends on social media, and of being on a learning curve there. "Time is precious to me and I focus on my craft," she said, also underlining the importance of occasional digital detox.

Comparing Kambala athlete with Bolt is unfair: Ashwini

'Social media-driven zeal is disservice to both'

N. SUDARSHAN

Asian Games medallist Ashwini Nachappa termed the social media-driven zeal to equate Kambala athlete Srinivasa Gowda's performance to that of Usain Bolt a disservice to both. In conversation with *The Hindu*'s Sports Editor K.C. Vijaya Kumar at The Huddle, the Arjuna Awardee and Olympian said: "Both are about sprinting and speed, but to compare is not fair. As a Kambala sport, he needs to be recognised and commended for the remarkable achievement. But to call for an athletics trial is just unfair. Suppose he had gone in and failed to perform, everyone would have put him down. Athletes have been training for just to shave off 0.01 seconds. It's an unfair comparison."

It's perhaps a reflection of the desire of the populace to have more sporting heroes to look up to. This lack of sporting achievement can only be bettered if sports federations clean up their acts and money is invested in the right areas, she said.

"It's time we revisit and relook how we run sport," she said. "Except cricket, no other sport has created pathways for its athletes. It requires the will of the government to hold the federations accountable. The amount of money spent is enormous. But at the grassroots, it's zero. So the real change is to be seen in the federations. Their mandate is not to become event managers."

Investment in technology

Investment in technology and improving sports science were the need of the hour, she felt. "Between the 10.3 seconds Jessie Owens took to run 100 m in 1936 to Bolt's 9.58 seconds, what has changed? We have

As a Kambala sport, he needs to be recognised and commended for the remarkable achievement. But to call for an athletics trial is just unfair

not become super-humans. It's science and technology."

"The synthetic surfaces of today are way better than the cinder tracks that Jessie ran on. Spikes are customised to your weight and the way you run. The science of performance is something India needs to invest in."

Doping problem

Also high on her list of focus areas was India's mammoth doping problem. "It's alarming. We are high up in the WADA list [of offenders]. Look, there is enough education today about doping. I don't agree when athletes [after getting caught] say they didn't know. And, it's not just the athlete. There is a nexus; the coach and the federation should also be accountable."

As a woman athlete, Ashwini felt strongly about the need for more gender sensitisation, especially in light of what happened to Santhi Soundarajan, who was stripped of her 2006 Asian Games gold after failing a gender test, and South Africa's Caster Semenya.

"There needs to be more education on that. There are medical conditions that can be addressed. Nobody is looking at it in a manner that is sensitive to the athlete. In Santhi's case, it was very unfortunate. She had to undergo such trauma and the federation just washed its hands of it. For Semenya, both her federation and the government fought for her. That sensitivity is key."



Equal pitch: Ashwini Nachappa presses for more gender sensitisation. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

In show of might, Sanders wins Nevada

His triumph, after strong performances in Iowa & New Hampshire, makes him a front-runner in the race

JONATHAN MARTIN
ALEXANDER BURNS
LAS VEGAS

Senator Bernie Sanders claimed a major victory in the Nevada caucuses on Saturday that demonstrated his broad appeal in the first racially diverse State in the presidential primary race and established him as the clear front-runner for the Democratic nomination.

In a significant show of force, Mr. Sanders, a liberal from Vermont, had a large lead over his nearest rivals in early tallies, and The Associated Press named him the winner on Saturday evening.

His triumph in Nevada, after strong performances in Iowa and New Hampshire, will propel him into next Saturday's primary in South Carolina, and the Super Tuesday contests immediately thereafter, with a burst of momentum that may make it difficult for the still-fractured moderate wing of the party to slow his march.

Mr. Sanders, speaking to jubilant supporters in San Antonio, trumpeted what early results suggested would be a landslide victory.

"We have just put together a multigenerational, multirac-



Consistent lead: Democratic presidential candidate Senator Bernie Sanders, right, with his wife Jane, during a campaign event in San Antonio on Saturday. ■AP

cial coalition, which is not only going to win in Nevada but it's going to sweep the country," he said, predicting another victory in Texas next month.

While Mr. Sanders boasted that "no campaign has a grassroots movement like we do," and was bathed in "Bernie, Bernie!" chants, he otherwise ignored his Democratic opponents.

Mr. Sanders' success, and the continued uncertainty over who is his strongest would-be rival, makes it less clear than ever how centrist forces in the party can or-

ganise themselves for a potentially months-long nomination fight. The moderate wing is still grappling with an unusually crowded field for this late in the race, the lack of an obvious single alternative to Mr. Sanders and no sign that any of those vying for that role will soon drop out to hasten a coalescence.

As results were being counted on Saturday night, former Vice-President Joe Biden, former Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana, Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, billionaire investor Tom Steyer and Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota were all competing for what would clearly be a distant second-place finish.

With the full order of finish still in doubt, Mr. Buttigieg used his caucus-night speech to deliver a stern warning about the implications of nominating Mr. Sanders, urging Democrats not to "rush" into anointing him as their candidate.

"Sen. Sanders believes in an inflexible, ideological revolution that leaves out most Democrats, not to mention most Americans," Buttigieg said, adding that Sanders

wanted to "reorder the economy in ways most Democrats, not to mention most Americans, don't support."

Mr. Biden appeared at a Las Vegas union hall while most votes were still uncounted to claim a comeback and vowed victory in South Carolina. "Y'all did it for me," he told supporters, trying out a new line aimed at his rivals. "I ain't a socialist, I ain't a plutocrat, I'm a Democrat."

Mr. Biden's campaign asserted that he would finish in second place here, a claim challenged by Mr. Buttigieg's aides.

Time is running out

The apparent scale of Mr. Sanders' victory margin presented an immediate challenge to the rest of the candidates, many of whom have been counting on a drawn-out nomination fight to give them time to catch up. But time is plainly running short, and few of Mr. Sanders' rivals have a clear path to closing his advantage. Among them, only Mr. Biden has a realistic chance of winning South Carolina next week, the sole remaining contest before Super Tuesday on March 3. ■NY TIMES

China faces its biggest health emergency since 1949: Xi

Authorities warn against gatherings, complacency

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SEOUL/SHANGHAI

The COVID-19 epidemic that has killed over 2,400 people is communist China's "largest public health emergency" since its founding in 1949, President Xi Jinping said on Sunday.

It is necessary to learn from "obvious shortcomings exposed" during China's response,

Mr. Xi added at an official meeting to coordinate the virus fight – a rare acknowledgment by a Chinese leader.

In comments reported by state broadcaster CCTV on Sunday, Mr. Xi said the epidemic "has the fastest transmission, widest range of infection and has been the most difficult to prevent and control".

"This is a crisis for us and it is a big test," he said.

Mr. Xi's comments come as the number of virus infections hit almost 77,000 in mainland China.

Mr. Xi acknowledged that the epidemic will "inevitably have a large impact on the economy and society", but he stressed the effects will be "short-term" and controllable.



Workers spraying disinfectant as a precaution against the coronavirus in a market in Daegu, South Korea. ■AP

4 more Indians on cruise ship test positive

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RIYADH

The deadly COVID-19 outbreak could put the recovery of an already fragile global economy at risk, the IMF warned on Sunday, as G20 financial chiefs met here to discuss ways to contain its economic ripple effects.

"The COVID-19 – a global health emergency – has disrupted economic activity in China and could put the recovery at risk," IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA TOKYO

Four more Indian crew members on board a cruise ship moored off the Japan coast have tested positive for the coronavirus, taking the total number of Indians infected with the virus on the vessel to 12, the Indian Embassy said on Sunday.

Passengers showing no signs of the deadly disease started deboarding the ship, Diamond Princess.

9 dead in Turkey after quake near Iran border



Tragic jolt: Houses reduced to rubble in Baskale, Turkey, after an earthquake hit northwestern Iran on Saturday. ■AFP

More than 1,000 buildings collapse; 3 children among dead

REUTERS
ISTANBUL

Nine people died and hundreds of buildings collapsed in southeastern Turkey on Sunday after a magnitude-5.7 earthquake struck near the border with Iran, injuring dozens in villages and towns in both countries, government officials said.

Three of those killed were children and 37 Turks were

injured, including nine critically, Turkey's Health Ministry said.

The shallow tremor caused more than 1,000 buildings to collapse in Turkey, prompting a brief rescue effort to find those trapped under rubble.

The quake damaged buildings some 90 km to the west in the Turkish city of Van, and to the east in do-

zens of villages in Iran, where state TV said 75 people were injured.

Crisscrossed by major fault lines, Iran and Turkey are among the most earthquake-prone countries.

Turkish TV footage showed people digging with shovels and their hands in the rubble, as well as furniture and belongings strewn on cracked and snowy roads.

worse, I think we'll need to take more measures," said Song Gi-young, 53, wearing a face mask at church.

In Italy, the number of cases jumped to above 130 from just three before Friday. Authorities sealed off the worst affected towns and banned public gatherings in much of the north, including halting the carnival in Venice, where there were two cases, to try to contain the biggest outbreak in Europe.

Catholic churches in Daegu and Gwangju have suspended services and other gatherings, while churches elsewhere saw declines in attendance on Sunday, especially among the elderly.

"If the situation gets

then it means the virus is even more ubiquitous than we thought," said Luca Zaia, the regional governor of the wealthy Veneto region.

Iran, which announced its first two cases on Wednesday, said it had confirmed 43 cases and eight deaths, with most of the infections in the Shi'ite Muslim holy city of Qom.

In Japan, where the government is facing questions about whether it is doing enough to counter the virus, authorities had confirmed 773 cases.

(With Reuters inputs)

A case of exploding mangoes and nerve gas that 'brought down' Zia's plane

Former President's son points to 'suspicious' role of ex-Pak. General and ex-NSA, while also blaming Indian and Israeli intelligence agencies

MEHMAL SARFRAZ
LAHORE

In an exclusive interview with a foreign publication, former President and Army chief General Zia-ul-Haq's son Muhammad Ijaz-ul-Haq pointed towards the "suspicious" role of former Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg and former National Security Adviser General Mahmood Ali Durrani in his father's plane crash in August 1988, while also claiming involvement of Indian and Israeli spy agencies "based on the evidence he has collected".

According to Mr. Haq's interview, "the plane came down due to spraying of nerve gas in the cockpit that

maimed pilots. He also confirmed the presence of explosives in mango crates, besides claiming that a projectile had also hit the plane."

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Haq said he believes that Generals Beg and Durrani were somehow involved because "some of the doctors who were working in CMH Multan informed us [Gen. Zia's family] probably a month or two after the incident that they received orders from higher-ups not to do the autopsy of the body parts retrieved after the crash. Later, some of them told us that they were transferred from Multan, which was obviously done to cov-

er it up. When the autopsies were done on U.S. military attaché Brigadier General Herbert M. Wassom, then why not the Pakistanis? I asked Gen. Beg directly and indirectly but he never responded. The orders to transfer the doctors to farflung places didn't come from their immediate bosses; only the GHQ could have done it."

Mr. Haq said that Air Commodore Zaheer Zaidi carried out an investigation. Mr. Haq also mentioned about an Air Force officer Akram Awan, "who was arrested by Pakistani intelligence agency for espionage and kept in safe custody."

"He revealed that he had brought the nerve gas. Ac-

cording to his confession, there were two other officers, one from Mossad who was using the U.S. passport and another one from the Indian intelligence agency".

A team of Brigadier, a Major and a Colonel were inves-

tigating him. The report was handed over to the GHQ, but it was never released at the orders of Gen. Beg, who said this could lead to uncertainty. Gen. Beg kept the original report with himself. These three officers were then transferred out of the agency."

'Criminal act of sabotage'

Mr. Haq said that he has gathered all this information through different sources – some directly and some indirectly. "These are the things that lead to suspicion. A joint U.S.-Pakistan investigation said that it was a criminal act of sabotage. The U.S. tried to cover it up, but had to give a conclusion as one of their

own was involved. Also, there was late Justice Shafiqur-Rehman Commission report, which said that there was negligence on part of the government and the Army. The report recommended that there should be a criminal investigation into the incident. Unfortunately, the report was never released by the government."

Defence analyst General (retd) Amjad Shoaib says that Mr. Ijaz-ul-Haq has always blamed Gen. Beg and Gen. Durrani for his father's plane crash but he doesn't think they had any role in Gen. Zia's plane crash.

"I think it was their decisions around that time, which led to this suspicion.

Gen. Durrani, with permission from Gen. Zia, decided not to travel to the tank trial while Gen. Beg, instead of travelling with Gen. Zia, preferred to fly back in a separate plane after Gen. Zia's plane had taken off. It was also reported that Gen. Beg did see Gen. Zia's plane crashing but instead of supervising the evacuation, he decided to rush back to Rawalpindi. Even at that time Gen. Beg's action was criticised by many senior officers in the Army. In my opinion there is no reason to doubt Gen. Beg's action. It is said that Gen. Beg saw the plane and very rightly assumed that the chances of having any survivors were almost negligible..."

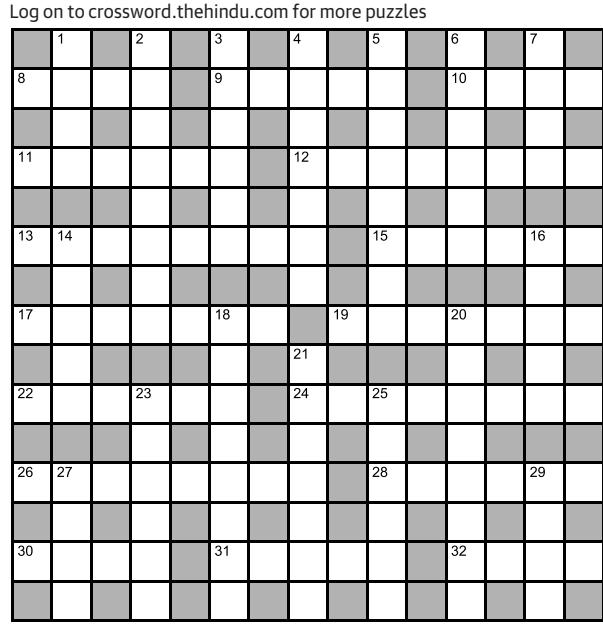


'Not sure if EU-U.K. deal possible by year-end'

PARIS French President Emmanuel Macron on Saturday said he was "not sure" it would be possible for the EU and Britain to reach a trade deal by the end of the year. Britain and the EU are about to embark on negotiations aiming to hammer out a trade agreement by the time the post-Brexit transition period shuts at the end of December. But France has made clear it thinks the negotiations will be particularly difficult, especially in such a tight timeframe. AFP

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12866

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



ACROSS

- 8 Rejects order after order for south Asian dumpling (4)
- 9 North European covers clubs' disco, for example (5)
- 10 Right in Goa, rocking ship (4)
- 11 Animal crawling with nest can be nauseating (6)
- 12 Ivan and Carl pirouette at celebratory event (8)

- 13 Bail arranged with directions for some Indonesians (8)
- 15 Artist in coffee shop gets flask (6)
- 17 Arrive around ten at first, wearing special uniform clothing (7)
- 19 Moulding irons having carbon with one cutting tooth (7)
- 22 Mummy, Cain returned for lunatic (6)
- 24 Arranging oil paints for sources of fuel (8)
- 26 Distributor's pupils damaged in front of emergency room (8)
- 28 Soldier's German march (6)
- 30 Royal captivated by munchkin girl (4)
- 31 Amount returned by in-charge for some entertaining notes (5)
- 32 Gave money some time before Easter (4)

DOWN

- 1 Boy meets girl in air (4)
- 2 He may study bonsai mutation around end of August using tweezers at first (8)
- 3 Time Washington Engineers' promotional program (6)
- 4 Passed groggy cat during destruction of Eden (7)
- 5 Tom's partner's tin fuel container (8)
- 6 Vehicle crossed road for expensive foodstuff (6)
- 7 City's fragrant part (4)
- 14 A Gypsy's smell (5)
- 16 Look in lard for buoy (5)
- 18 Scotsman and his mother, to some extent, show aggressive masculinity (8)
- 20 Scamp riles badly and endangers (8)
- 21 Auditor returns with hair for female performer (7)
- 23 Call into question one military policeman with damaged gun (6)
- 25 Camelid found in Tegucigalpa cathedral (6)
- 27 United Nations' information technology establishment (4)
- 29 Have food and pass away around mid-morning (4)

(set by Incognito)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 12865

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

L	P	A	T	A	F	A		
NERO	DRAW	BRI						

ASK US

AARATI KRISHNAN

Q. My dad is retiring this month from service. He will get a substantial lump sum in the form of gratuity, provident fund and other dues. How should he invest this money?

PRAKASH KUMAR

A. We assume a key goal, post-retirement, will be to earn regular cash flows to either meet his living expenses or supplement the pension he's receiving from his employer.

Apart from this, even after retirement, it is important to have a growth component to one's portfolio that can grow one's capital to keep up with inflation. Without this, the capital investments may lose value with time, given the bite of inflation. Presently, after sharp cuts in interest rates by the Monetary Policy Committee, fixed deposits from leading banks offer interest rates of 6.1-6.5% (taxable) for 1- to 5-year terms which are quite unattractive. We can suggest three other regular income options that offer a better combination of safety with returns.

Your father can park the first ₹15 lakh of his retirement proceeds in the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme offered by the post office and also available at leading banks. This is a government-backed small savings scheme on which the Centre resets interest rates each quarter. For the current January to March 31 2020 quarter, the rate offered is 8.6% per annum, which is far higher than the rates on bank deposits. Investments are locked in for five years, with extension of the maturity date allowed after five years. Interest is paid out on a quarterly basis to the investor.

A second scheme is the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana from LIC which allows an upfront investment of up to ₹15 lakh per individual. The scheme pays out guaranteed pensions on a monthly, quarterly, half-yearly or yearly basis at rates of 8%, 8.05%, 8.13% or 8.3% respectively on initial investment. The scheme carries a 10-year lock-in period. If the policy purchaser doesn't survive the term, the purchase price is refunded to the nominee.

A third option is to invest in GOI Savings Bonds that offer 7.75% interest per annum. The bonds, available on tap from banks, lock in the investor's money for 7 years and allow you to earn either regular interest payouts or a cumulative value at maturity. The bonds need to be held to maturity and are unlisted and non-transferable. The interest on all of the above options is taxable and the post-tax interest, depending on your father's tax slab, may be lower than the rates mentioned above. However, these schemes still score for their high interest rates compared with bank deposits despite their high safety as central government-backed schemes.

After deploying 75% of his retirement proceeds in the above three options, your father should invest about 25% of his capital in a multi-cap equity fund with a good track record. This investment should be in the growth option so that it can deliver capital appreciation that will boost his portfolio returns to keep up with inflation.

Apart from these options, your father should also have some money, equal to nine months' living expenses, parked in a deposit with a leading bank that can be withdrawn at any time for emergencies. It would be wise to get a health insurance cover to protect his finances from medical emergencies.

Q. I'm 22 and earn ₹3 lakh a year. I don't have any expenses as I am staying with my parents. I want to know where to invest the money so that it will give me good returns.

RISHITA BANSAL

A. Your choice of investment options will depend on what you want to save up towards. It would be a good idea to map out your financial goals over the next one year, 3-5 years and longer time frames. Once you have such goals in place, you'll need to quantify the target corpus for each.

For 1-year goals, we suggest you use a recurring deposit with a leading bank to invest. For 1-3 year goals, fixed deposits or SIPs in short-duration debt mutual funds would be ideal. For 3-5 year terms, the post office time deposit or corporate bond mutual funds that invest mainly in safe instruments would be good options. Towards more-than-5-year goals, you can invest in SIPs in multi-cap equity funds. When choosing funds, be sure to select those with a good 10-year record of outperforming their benchmarks and category, or take the help of a qualified adviser.

Readers can send in queries on personal finance and investing to moneywise@thehindu.co.in. Our experts who write on personal finance will answer these queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

On the tax path less trodden

With the Centre offering two tax regimes, it's time to invest in cost- and tax-efficient options carrying superior returns

VIDYA BALA

Earlier this month, I watched a video of Idina Menzel take the stage at the Oscars to sing "Into the Unknown" – the song from Frozen 2.

Little over a week before the Oscars, when the Finance Minister announced two tax regimes, one with tax exemptions and the other without, there were many questions asked on what would happen now. 'Everything seems uncertain!' My response: yes, you will be stepping into lesser known territory, but it might throw newer and better opportunities.

This article is not in defence of or against the Budget proposals. It is more to embrace changes and look for newer opportunities, by stepping into the unknown. I am just taking recent Budget proposals to enumerate my thoughts.

Over the past few years, changes through the Budget and outside of it have been in the following direction: one, the country is set to give you more tax-efficient routes to investing. Whether it is more equity / bond ETFs / sovereign gold bonds, or NPS or InvITs, or REITs, the nation is set to have more regulated, efficient investing in financial instruments across asset classes.

Two, the government has also been signalling that you need

to save in your own interest and not merely to get the carrots (read tax benefits). For example, by reducing the high interest deduction and claiming set-off on loss on house property a few years ago, the government signalled that you cannot use tax benefit to invest in any number of properties.

The message overall appears to be: the government will provide you with more regulated, efficient options to invest. You may move to those for your own benefit and not for tax benefit alone.

These options will be tax-efficient, not tax-free. By being tax-efficient, I mean, those that are taxed low (either due to indexation or lower rates) at the time of your exiting.

Yes, at present, you have the option of continuing with the old tax regime and claiming all deductions and exemptions, with status quo being maintained.

But what if tomorrow, this is slowly phased out? Importantly, what should the younger generation coming into the workforce adopt?

Embrace it now

What are the things you can do to ensure your investment path is not troubled by extraneous factors such as tax changes? First, know that not all your in-



vestments will turn unattractive when you lose benefits. You must weigh them relatively for their returns.

Will PPF and EPF still provide you with better net returns than a bank FD?

If they do, you may not need to stop investing in them. Similarly, when it comes to covering your life or your medical expenses, tax breaks or not, they are a must.

If you had been paying high-premium, low-yielding money-back policies in the name of investment, then this may be a good time for you to do a spot of spring cleaning of your investment portfolio.

Get a financial planner (for a fee) to do this one-time work and eliminate poor products in your basket.

Second, know that the only way to make up for lost tax benefits is to invest in cost-efficient, tax-efficient options that will generate superior long-term returns.

That means you have little choice but to start exploring options such as mutual funds, ETFs and bonds to ensure you

tax benefits. You can't do that under the new regime where no such benefits will be available.

Third, if you are making any major decisions (be it an insurance policy or investing in more properties or upping your NPS) in the future, do not be entirely led by tax benefits that are promised.

They may not be available tomorrow. In other words, the overriding factor influencing your investment decision must be the benefit of the investment itself and not the tax break. Also, do not tell your children (stepping into careers) to do the usual tax-saving options that you did. You can't be sure what will fit them. Let them start investing in contemporary products, not just driven by taxes.

Lastly, if you have always made decisions based on taxes and invested in products with no uncertainty, think again.

Uncertainty is not new

The gold investments you may have made had little certainty or tax benefit about it. The land or property you bought did not promise you with any fixed returns.

You didn't even realise you made money out of them. And yet, you embraced the uncertainty of those. Now, it may be time to embrace the uncertainty of good, regulated products that simply need you to be patient and disciplined.

In other words, it is better that you step into the unknown now before you are forced to, later.

(The author is co-founder, Primeinvestor.in)

HEALTH INSURANCE: POLICY FOR PARENTS

Buying health cover for elderly parents is a must

With lifestyle diseases on the rise, it makes sense to take such a policy

AMIT CHHABRA

Healthcare continues to remain a crucial lifeline for elderly citizens who need healthcare as they age. However, as per a recent study, over the next two decades, out-of-pocket medical costs for older adults are likely to rise significantly.

Considering the current rate of medical inflation in India, adequate health insurance has become a must-have for each and every individual, and if the individual happens to be your parents, the need for buying a senior citizen health insurance plan becomes all the more important.

We all must accept the fact of life that as we age, it's not just our experience that increases, the list of medical ailments also witness a substantial increase.

Many studies suggest a majority of senior citizens in India are exposed to one or the other lifestyle diseases, including diabetes, high blood pressure, heart problems, etc. This eventually increases their chances of facing medical contingencies. Considering the given scenario, buying an individual cov-

er for your elderly parents is a sensible thing to do.

In the event of your parents requiring hospitalisation, the major part of the medical expenses will be taken care of by your parents' medical cover plan, without burning a hole in your pocket. Most important, even if your parents are adequately covered under a corporate health insurance policy by your employer, the cover provided by your employer would cease to exist post-retirement.

This makes it important for you as caring and responsible children to purchase a separate senior citizen health insurance plan.

Choice of plans

For people looking forward to buy a health insurance plan for their parents, a family floater healthcare plan can be a good option provided the age of parents is not much and they do not have any pre-existing diseases. Such plans are specifically designed to offer insurance coverage to the entire family, including dependent parents. While some of these health in-



Ballooning costs: Over the next 2 decades, out-of-pocket medical expenses for older adults may rise significantly. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

surance covers impose a limit on parents' age, other insurers charge a high premium.

Fortunately, the Indian insurance market is crammed with numerous health insurance plans that specifically target senior citizens and even those with pre-existing diseases. It is strongly suggested to go for an independent policy rather than group policy as a group cover

does not always include pre-existing diseases.

However, in an independent policy, most pre-existing diseases get covered and the chances of claims getting approved are the highest. You can even avail a tax benefit of up to ₹25,000 under Sec. 80D on health insurance premium paid for self, spouse, children and parents. And, in the case of el-

derly parents (above 60 years of age), the benefit goes up to ₹50,000 with the latest amendment to tax slabs. There are some crucial factors you must consider when planning to buy health insurance for your elderly parents.

Criterion for age at entry

In India, most insurance companies have entry age criteria that must be fulfilled by the individual to be eligible for buying a health insurance cover. However, the entry age guidelines vary from one insurer to another and it is always advised to compare different policies offered by different providers.

It is important to consider the age of the policy-seeker before taking the policy as it plays an important role in deciding the premium. While a particular health insurance cover may look attractive for different factors and features, if the entry age is not matched; it is worth less buying the policy.

Extent of coverage

While buying health insurance cover, do make sure to select a

plan that offers extensive coverage.

Pick a plan that promises adequate coverage against various critical illnesses, particularly pre-existing diseases. Though most insurers provide coverage against these diseases after a waiting period, which is typically 2-3 years, it is always advised to review the policy document to understand the conditions carefully.

Sum insured

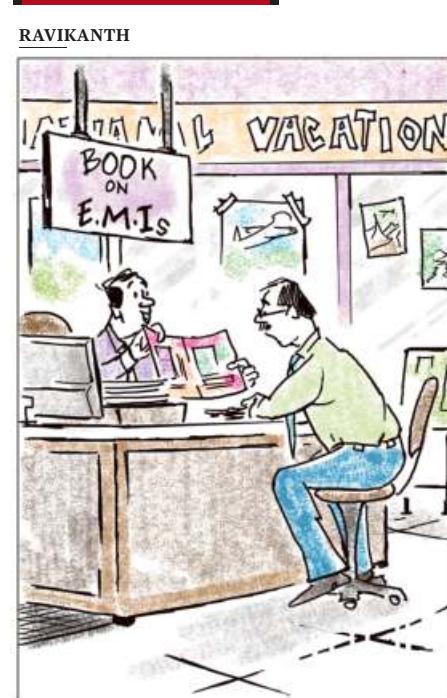
The total sum insured plays a very important role in any health insurance policy. This is typically the amount that the insurer will reimburse against the expenses incurred for medical treatment.

However, the incurred expenses must be within the total sum insured. While buying a health insurance policy for your elderly parents, it is always advised to go in for a higher sum insured, as you will receive a larger amount for medical emergencies.

(The author is Business Head, Health Insurance, Policybazaar.com)

LOOSE CHANGE

RAVIKANTH



"People found it a very memorable holiday! One might go there for one summer, but the loan lasts till the end of two more summers!"

PERSONAL LOAN - RATES AND CHARGES

Name of Lender	Interest rate (%)	EMI (Rs 5 lakh)	EMI (Rs 1 lakh)	Processing fee (% of loan amount)
State Bank of India	10.45-14.85	10,735-11,856	2,147-2,371	Upto 1%
Citi Bank	10.5-18.99	10,747-12,968	2,149-2,594	Upto 3%
HDFC Bank	10.75-21.3	10,809-13,611	2,162-2,722	Upto 2.5%
Indian Bank	10.35-14.8	10,710-11,843	2,142-2,369	Upto 0.512%
Punjab & Sind Bank	12.25	11,185	2,237	1%
Bank of Baroda	11.4-16.4	10,971-12,266	2,194-2,453	Upto Rs 10,000
Axis Bank	12-24	11,122-14,384	2,224-2,877	Upto 2%
ICICI Bank	11.25-22	10,934-13,809	2,187-2,762	Upto 2.25%
Union Bank of India	10.1-14.2	10,648-11,686	2,130-2,337	Upto 0.5%
Canara Bank	11.35-15.05	10,959-11,908	2,192-2,382	Upto 0.5%
Karnataka Bank	12.97	11,369	2,274	Upto 3%
Punjab National Bank	10.75-14.5	10,809-11,764	2,162-2,353	Upto 1.8%
UCO Bank	10.95-11.35	10,859-10,959	2,172-2,192	Upto 1%
South Indian Bank	11.15-14.25	10,909-11,699	2,182-2,340	2%
Central Bank of India	10-11.25	10,624-10,934	2,125-2,187	Rs 500

Rates as on 18 February 2020

NEW CAR LOAN-RATES AND CHARGES

Name of Bank	Interest rate (%)	EMI (Rs 5 lakh)	Processing fee (% of loan amount)
Oriental Bank of Commerce	7.95-8.50	10,126-10,258	Rs 2,500-7,500

STEM education in the classroom is the need of the hour as the nation transitions from being an user of technology to one that creates innovators

■ ANURAG GUPTA AND RAJEEV TIWARI

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths, collectively known as STEM, are the four primary academic disciplines currently responsible for driving the entire world's economy and maintaining our general well-being. STEM education is the need of the hour to help students make the leap from users of technology to innovators.

As a result, it has found application in a wide variety of industries and job roles including aerospace engineering, astrophysics, biochemistry, chemical and civil engineering, computer science, nanotechnology, robotics, and more.

A robust STEM education creates critical thinkers, problem-solvers, and next generation innovators. Taking into consideration that India is one of the countries that produces the highest number of scientists and engineers, the growth of STEM has picked up significantly over the last few years.

Today, India needs education systems that help prepare the next generation of talent in India. Currently, there is a growing demand for STEM education in India which is putting a lot of pressure on the academic institutions to churn out highly skilled graduates.



According to the National Science Foundation, 80% of the jobs created in the next decade will require more of math and science skills. A robust STEM education creates critical thinkers, problem-solvers, and next generation innovators. Over the few years, the growth of STEM has picked up significantly in India. It has reached a stage, where the number of STEM jobs is outpacing the number of STEM graduates.

Research shows that children develop interest in STEM fields at an average age of eight. This is due to the fact that technology, gadgets and gizmos fascinate them. But, the leap from being a user of technology to an innovator rarely happens and, if at all, it is a very slow transition. The link between engineering, technology, and entrepreneurship is evidently missing in India.

Many STEM companies are working with schools to help them set up STEM centres, Tinkering and Innovation labs with upcoming technologies like artificial intelligence, virtual reality and augmented reality.

The government is looking to help educational institutions to upgrade their library infrastructures with more engaging learning assets and management tools, and implementing Learning Management Systems, assessment systems, language labs, library management system, gamification, and so on.

New 'entry level' coding devices are coming into the market that provide schools with the ability to teach simple coding and bring STEM to life in the classroom.

Challenges

One of the biggest challenges involved in the implementation of STEM education is designing infrastructure, curriculum and equipping children with the best guidance, pedagogy and support. Another challenge could be funding. Schools require money for construction of Maker spaces, DIY (Do it Yourself) tools, and best computers, which are some of the basic aspects of the STEM education.

Countries around the world are adopting this methodology by introducing national curricula that set frameworks and projects which apply the STEM methodology.

Several countries, upon realising the potential of a STEM-incorporated programme, have risen to the occasion and persuaded their respective governments, districts and schools to make the transition.

Being the second most populated country with unmatched talent and culture, India needs a combined support from government and other education societies to avail of the opportunity and benefits of STEM education.

Now, with the Government of India also focussing on projects such as Atal Tinkering Labs, focus on quality in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the soon-to-be unveiled New Policy of Education(NPE), there is a greater focus on developing innovation and manufacturing right from schools. This will be the right time for India to rise to the challenge and develop a culture of application-based STEM-focussed learning and innovation among academic institutions, students and teachers.

The writer is Founder, STEMROBO Technologies.

MENTAL HEALTH



VALUE ADD

Innovation is the key

St. Mira's College, Pune, has initiated a programme to normalise the talk around mental health, making it easier for students to seek help

■ ARCHANA SUBRAMANIAN

The Asian Journal of Psychiatry recently reported that 37.7% of students suffer from moderate depression in Indian universities. India also has one of the highest student suicide rates in the world, and according to the National Crime Records Bureau, on an average, a student commits suicide every hour. Students undergo a range of emotions such as stress, anger, anxiety induced by factors including peer pressure, academics, phone addiction, body image issues, relationship issues, and loneliness, thus triggering thoughts about suicide and self-harm.

This is exactly what St. Mira's College, Pune, has done. The college's Department of Psychology has initiated a programme for students that is run by trained counsellors and clinical psychologists to support and nurture their wellbeing.

Inclusive

It all started with a survey that was conducted to explore existing beliefs, help-seeking behaviours and mental wellbeing concerns faced by its students. "As many as 860 students participated in an online survey which reflected that a majority of them were facing several mental health concerns and they stated that they would access services if the college provided it," explains Prof. Gidwani, Principal.

The curriculum of the programme was developed keeping the survey results in mind. It features a three-tier approach of awareness sessions, group therapy and individual counselling. The programme has been integrated into the existing curriculum, across streams and classes.

The awareness sessions are primarily designed to make students aware of what they are experiencing and critical signs of distress to be noted so that they know when to seek help. Students are active participants in organising sessions and are encouraged to create a supportive environment and create safer class-

rooms which are free of judgement and stigma.

Prof. Jaya Rajgopalan, head of the psychology department, asserts that a healthy college is where students feel empowered to take control of their daily routine, feel involved and are able to work towards personal wellbeing and growth. This requires teachers and staff with the right knowledge, skills and resources. "Sessions are conducted for teachers to ensure that they have the necessary information and knowledge to identify students and reduce stigma and discrimination in classrooms. And that is the reason why this programme is a major component of the entire academic year for our college," she says.

Having full-time counsellors and psychologists on campus, readily accessible to students, has helped in breaking the stigma around mental health and seeking help. Today, the programme is well-integrated into the college's system with corridor talks, small conversations in the canteen, and so on, making it more student-centric and helping them normalise the idea of mental wellbeing.

Those who want to reach out for help related to stress, mental wellbeing and even exam tips can contact the Fortis Exam Helpline +918376804102.

For more helplines, visit <https://www.youthkia-waaz.com/2015/10/mental-health-helpline/>

Important three

There are three major arms to the mental wellbeing programme: Promotion, Prevention and Intervention.

Mental health **promotion** is any action taken to maximise mental health and wellbeing among students. College platforms such as notice boards and classroom discussions are used to promote the need and importance of mental wellbeing. The need of the hour is programmes that support and strengthen coping strategies, that promote awareness and acceptance of cultural diversity.

Prevention refers to interventions that occur before the initial onset of a disorder to prevent its development. The focused group therapy sessions and workshops aim at identifying risk factors for a student's mental health and enhancing protective factors such as peer support, sense of trust, and so on, that promote mental wellbeing.

Early intervention are appropriate and specifically target people displaying early signs and symptoms of a mental health issue to enable timely, effective and appropriate treatment.

Part 1 : Preparation before the viva voce

- Always re-read your report carefully, the day before the viva voce, to familiarise yourself with the contents.
- Based on the contents, frame some likely questions that the examiners can possibly ask. They will question you mainly on the different sections of your report.
- Now, read around the topic of the report. Catch the latest research papers and go through them to be more thoroughly prepared. Next, frame a few more questions based on the latest findings.

After the supervisor has read through the seminar report, the student is asked to present a seminar. A panel of examiners is arranged. Generally, one or two examiners are from the student's department and the third will be the external examiner. The panel together evaluates the student's overall performance.

Answering questions is one of the most intimidating aspects of a seminar presentation. The examiners, especially those other than the supervisor, can ask anything from the report, but if students prepare systematically, they can easily swim through the challenge.

latest research papers and go through them to be more thoroughly prepared. Next, frame a few more questions based on the latest findings.

- Plan the answers to each question and write them down precisely but completely. Writing gives you clarity. The advantage is that if you can answer a few questions confidently, you will be able to answer unexpected ones as well.
- Some examiners like to provoke students. Keep calm, listen carefully without becoming emotional, and answer them in a matter-of-fact manner. Some examiners tend to be long-winded. Listen attentively and then answer. Often, their question lies in the last sentence; the rest is their opinion. Don't get perturbed.

3. If you don't know the answer, you can tell the examiner honestly but make sure not to say 'I don't know' more than once. In some cases, a question could be asked in a twisted manner.

Just concentrate, request them for time to think the answer through before replying. The key is to not get nervous, and you will not, if you have prepared in-depth.

4. Open defences are the norm these days. So, expect students and faculty from your department/other departments to attend. Stay cool and answer questions to the best of your ability.

Last, thank the examiners and the audience before leaving.

If you prepare well and answer questions satisfactorily, you are likely to make an impression and earn good marks.

The writer is former professor of English, IIT Bombay. vineykirpal@gmail.com

SCHOLARSHIPS

■ UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School MSc Scholarships

UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, Dublin, is inviting applications from high achieving students for their Graduate Business School MSc 2020 scholarships. The programme is open for M.Sc applicants.

ELIGIBILITY: Students who hold an offer of admission in an MSc pro-

gramme in the Smurfit School, with a GMAT score of 650 or more, can apply.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Selected students will get 50% of the tuition fee reduction in the M.Sc programme.

DEADLINE: March 31
APPLICATION: Online www.b4s.in/edge/OTSI

■ Orange Tulip Scholarship India 2020-21

Nuffic's Netherlands Education Support Office, India, has announced this scholarship for students who

are admitted to one of the universities in the Netherlands, or currently undergoing admission process.

ELIGIBILITY: Indian students who are not studying or working in the Netherlands, and have secured admission in one of the universities in the Netherlands, or currently undergoing admission process, can apply.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Candidates can get up to 100% tuition fee waiver.

However, the exact award details will vary depending on the university the student is getting enrolled.

DEADLINE: March 01
APPLICATION: Online www.b4s.in/edge/OTS7

■ Faculty of Engineering Memorial Scholarship

Girl students, who have just got enrolled in the first year of an engineering programme (except computer engineering) can get benefited from this scholarship. This scholarship aims to recognise the outstanding newly admitted female students at the Faculty of Engineering.

ELIGIBILITY: Girl students who have registered full-time, and for the first time, in an undergraduate programme at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Ottawa, are eligible to apply for this scholarship.

PRIZES AND REWARDS: Selected students will get financial award of CAD 2,000.

DEADLINE: March 31
APPLICATION: Online www.b4s.in/edge/FMMI

Courtesy: www.buddy4study.com

SUNALINI MATHEW

Sahil Balmiki's poem talks about how it isn't easy to stand up for oneself, especially if you have to fight your own shadows. It goes on to say that other people feel he's nothing, but he can't believe them, and so is on a journey to find himself.

Balmiki, 18, is a student of Ashoka University on a full scholarship. He moved with his family from Kolkata to Delhi for his education and for better prospects. His parents, both unwell, are unable to work, and his brother, who works in a shop in Chandni Chowk, is the sole earning member. "I had a lot of problems. Academically, I didn't do well. I come from a different background and culture [compared to the others in the university], and I didn't participate in class," he says.

Balmiki and eight other students from diverse income groups, genders, and nationality in Ashoka, were a part of a residential project of self-exploration and inner work across five days, led by Arvinder Singh, a psychotherapist. The workshop was initiated by Red Balloon that does creatively-led immersive leadership programmes with students.

As a culmination to the workshop, the students designed an installation titled Moving Out to Go Within that was pieced together by Suman Jayakrishnan, a designer who works with scenography and installations, and who is a mentor in Red Balloon.

The work, designed as a circular structure, about 28 feet in



diameter and 12 feet tall, has an outer shell of acrylic, wood and glass, held together by metal. Printed on the outer panels are writings by students that they did towards the end of the workshop. A viewer can enter the structure, the centre of which is a sort of totem pole topped with a brass eagle and rainbow-hued strings flowing out from it.

Around the pole are nine inner panels, each of which moves on its individual axis. The panels are framed outlines that the students drew of one other. The students then took their own bodymaps

OPENING DIALOGUE

Organisations and individuals come together to facilitate a workshop around students' mental health, culminating in a piece of art

and did self-portraits, filling them with little bits and baubles, a representation of how they saw their inner worlds and their aspirational selves. Balmiki's was the most colourful. Another student, grappling with body image issues, depicted herself with a crop top to show her aspiration of wearing one, and the sense of freedom she'd have from doing so.

"We weren't looking for skills or creativity," says Samar Singh Jodha, the founder of Red Balloon. The hope was to help the young adults look past drawing and painting, and get into a "space where they could present

their own voices."

The process of how the piece of interactive art came about is set out in an album beside the installation. When the students saw the completed work that they'd conceptualised, they were delighted. "I felt it [the installation] was mine. It had been a beautiful journey – a life-changing one," says Balmiki.

The journey itself came about as a chain of communication, with Jodha reaching out to Jayakrishnan, who in turn spoke to Singh. She had been his therapist when he'd suffered depression and anxiety, and he'd benefited



Of mind and art (Clockwise from extreme left) Amit Gupta of STIR (left), Samar Singh Jodha of Red Balloon, artist Suman Jayakrishnan and psychotherapist Arvinder Singh; the students; and views of the installation and parts of the process

■ V.V KRISHNAN



with choices.

"Restoring your story to restore your empowered self," is the way she sees it. One reflective exercise involved the students asking themselves: 'How are you?' Balmiki says he broke down at this and cried for a while.

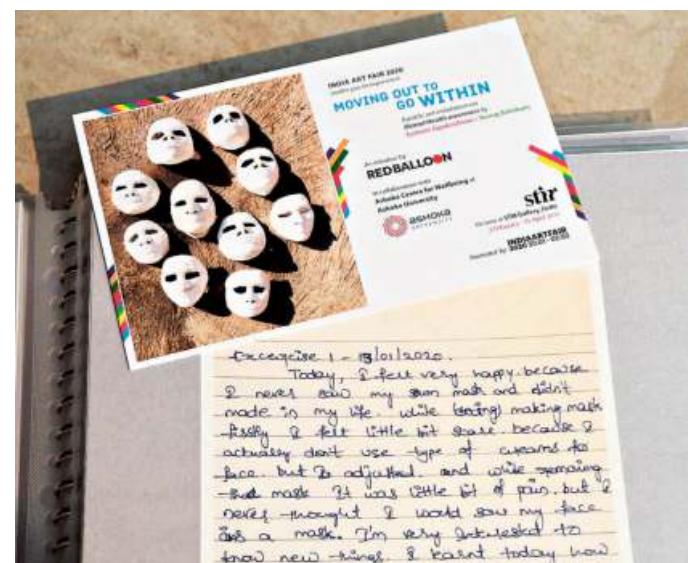
Jayakrishnan, who was involved in some parts of the process, had conversations through sessions with the students to understand their ideas for the installation. He helped weave the ideas together, with some being put into a vote.

"The core idea came from them," he says, recalling that they went through several before they settled on this, as they held each other in a tightly knit circle. "Ideas ranged from the petals of a flower to fire and

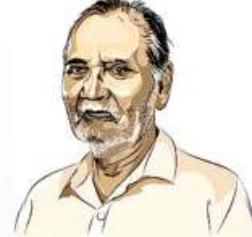
an eagle, which made it to the final design, and actually holds it all together," he says, adding that a number of the students' stories resonated with him.

The installation that will be taken to Ashoka University in April, is a symbol of acknowledging mental health and its significance in building leaders who will show the way through self-awareness and empathy. There'll be a week long mental health awareness week in the university, where these nine students will lead the discussion. Balmiki says he is now able to participate in class without feeling the pressure of being 'different'.

At Stir gallery, DLF Chhattarpur Farms; on view until April 15th



DOWN MEMORY LANE



R. V. SMITH

Nai-ka-Kot or barber's fortress, on the outskirts of Delhi, is in ruins now and few find the time to visit it, for they are not conversant with the history of the place. How could a barber have built a fortress? Barbers were generally poor in the olden days and did not find much work, as few at that time went about with a clean chin. The hair was usually short-cropped or worn long, reaching right up to the neck, though some preferred to keep it ear-length.

There is a tale of a jobless barber who was so troubled at home that one day he decided to go into the jungle so that he could fall prey to some wild animal and thus be rid of his earthly woes. But things did not happen the way he had thought they would, and getting scared at nightfall, the poor man climbed a tree. He saw some robbers distributing their booty. Shaking with fear he fell on them, causing them to run away in confusion. The barber was able to collect all the wealth and live happily ever after.

But this is just a fairytale and the plight of the barbers was indeed a pitiable one. However, the barbers did occupy a position of some importance at social func-

The fortress of the barber

This crumbling structure, built in the time of Muhammad bin Tughlak, leaves more questions than answers

In gratitude, Muhammad Tughlak built a fortress to house his informant. But this tale has some loose ends (like the one which says that it was constructed by his Wazir), because Nai-ka-Kot is also known as Dhobi (washerman's) Kot and Mehtar Kot (how did a sweeper come to be associated with this medieval fortress?). Did the king honour a washerman and sweeper also the way he did the barber? If so, what were the services rendered by the man who washed the royal robes and the one who swept the royal apartments?

Did they also unearth a conspiracy and save the king's life? In the absence of records, it is difficult to come to a conclusion.

However, one thing is certain: Nai-ka-Kot was the private apartment of Mohammad bin Tughlak, where he retired when he had had enough of the affairs of state. A plausible explanation could be that the barber, the washerman, and the sweeper were among the few allowed into the apartment, for without them a fastidious king was unable to lead his personal life in comfort, in an age when washing machines and flush toilets were hundreds of years away.

Courtiers who made fun of the king behind his back probably got a kick out of calling the retreat Nai-ka-Kot and the name stuck for posterity.

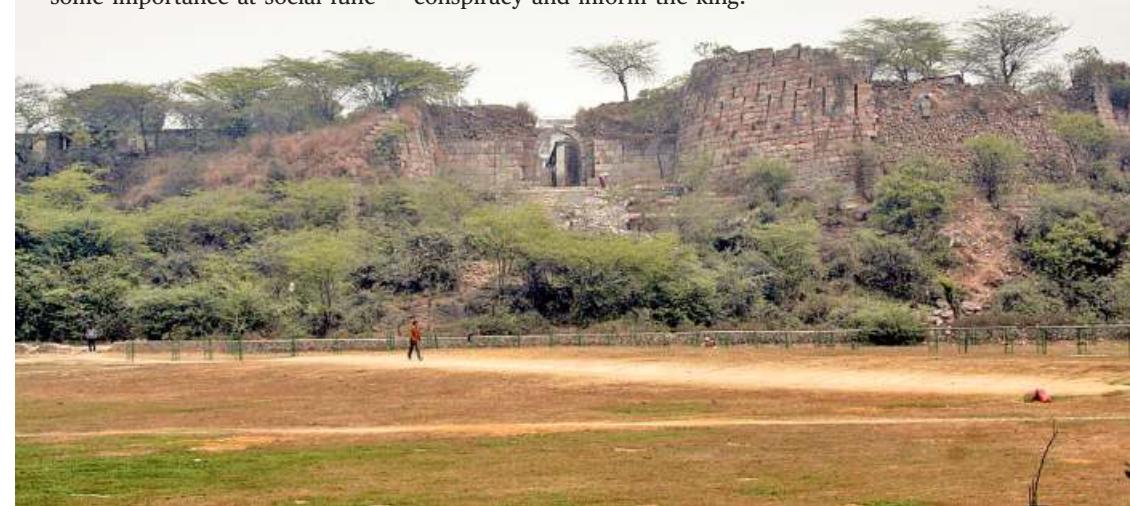
The writer is a veteran chronicler of Delhi

Repository of history A view of Nai-ka-Kot • COURTESY RAMESH LALWANI/ WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

tions, like marriages and ceremonies associated with child-birth. The royal barber enjoyed a high status because of his closeness to the king. Nai-ka-Kot could be the story of one such barber who was attached to Muhammad bin Tughlak (1290-1351).

The king had a philosophical bent of mind, which was compounded by his suspicious nature. The barber who came to trim the royal beard was the source of much news, peppered with rumor and hearsay. Perhaps one day he did manage to hear of a conspiracy and inform the king.

But this is just a fairytale and the plight of the barbers was indeed a pitiable one. However, the barbers did occupy a position of some importance at social func-



His upside-down WORLD

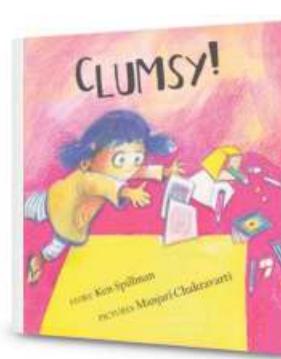
Throughout his years of writing, children's author Ken Spillman has watched books for little ones change by leaps and bounds

GOWRI S

Ken Spillman has been to India over 25 times. But it was not until 2008, when the Australian writer (based in Perth) was at a residency at Sanskriti Kendra, that the germ of an idea for his first children's book based in India took form. His short chat over a car window with Ruskin Bond was nothing short of an inspiration for him then. And so, *Adwaita the Writer* started taking shape, as a story based on the real-life account of a young writer he had met at the fellowship. Since then, the children's writer's love for Indian fiction, and his numerous interactions with children here,

have only pulled him more towards exploring Indian settings and characters.

In town for a few workshop sessions with children for Tulika Books, Spillman sits down with MetroPlus to chart his journey with words and dis-



cuss the power of imagination, while giving away the names of some of his personal favourites in children's literature.

Spillman's love for stories has gone through several phases. "I liked stories even before I could read. When my mother used to read to me as a child, I would have the story playing out in my head." At the age of eight, when Spillman started writing, it became a game. "I realised I could be a character, an animal or anything I wanted to be. I had the power to move the story forward," says the author renowned for his Jake series, who has more than 70 books to his credit till date. As a shy teenager, writing slowly transformed into his tool for expression. With a teacher who loved his writing by his side, Spillman never

Dipped in humour Ken Spillman's (left) stories are mostly character-driven

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

looked back. This is also when the author, who is also an educator himself, discovered the importance of a child's unadulterated imagination. The 60-year-old now teaches children to be confident in their own creativity. "I need them to have fun, while realising that humans have always told stories," says Spillman.

His stories are often character-driven. "I need to have a character who is really well-defined in my head. I need to know exactly how they would react in any situation. And the situation also needs to drive the characters to do something. This creates the plotline." But while writing for children, does he have specific pointers in mind? No, for him all that matters is the story. The minute the story starts becoming work for Spillman, he realises that it has lost its charm. "Stories should never lag," he says. The creator of *Clumsy!* also refrains from being preachy in his fiction for children. "Having said that, any message, across my body of work, is about being strong and imaginative. I think there's a message of hope in my fiction and the story arc itself leads to some form of resolution, even if it's not complete resolution," continues Spillman.

Over the course of his writing, what seems to have changed more than the habit of reading in children, is the kind of books that are being published. "Typically today, a child wouldn't read the book that I used to read, which was just black, dense text. Now, they want to see more colour, white spaces, illustrations and so on," says the author, who works with illustrators and artists quite frequently.

In a couple of months' time, Spillman's new picture book will be out – *My Upside Down World* published by Pickle Yolk, and later in the year, his *The Absolutely True Adventures of Daydreamer Dev* will get its second volume after much demand from Indian readers.



tastases and symptomatic brain metastases.

During my radiation treatment, I received five booster doses. What is a booster dose?

- Whenever the lump is removed in a breast cancer patient, the rest of the breast has a risk of having another lump (recurrence) in the same breast, which is higher in the area of removal of the lump. So the entire breast is irradiated to prevent such recurrences and a higher dose (boost) is given to the area where the lump was removed.

What are the significant risks related to radiation therapy?

- The risks depend on the region of treatment and the dose received by the adjacent normal tissues. The recent advances in radiotherapy are primarily intended to reduce the dose to normal tissues while delivering full dose to the tumour. For example, the Gating technique avoids a dose to the heart while treating left-sided breast cancers, which in turn reduces the risk of heart attacks in the future. The dose to the rectum can be reduced by techniques like IMRT (intensity-modulated radiation therapy) or volumetric modulated arc therapy (VMAT) while treating prostate cancers, which otherwise might result in long-term bleeding with stools. Usually, the side effects are temporary and reversible once the treatment is over.

Is it a myth that radiation turns normal cells into cancer stem cells, while killing cancer cells?

- This is not a myth. Of course, radiation is a known carcinogenic factor. When a tissue is exposed to a low dose of radiation that does not kill them, the DNA mutations caused by it can become cancerous, though the incidence is very low. That is why we don't al-

ways advise unnecessary X-ray-based investigation unless the benefits outweigh the risks.

When treating a patient with radiotherapy, we consider the benefit of treating a patient with present cancer to be far more important than the very low (<10%) possibility of developing a cancer 20 years later. Also, during radiotherapy treatment, the tissues are exposed to high doses and high-energy radiation as low dose radiation is usually carcinogenic.

Are there instances when radiation therapy is excluded from being a part of breast cancer treatment?

- Yes. Patients who are diagnosed with very early stages and breast-limited disease (no nodes), with the entire breast removed by mastectomy, may benefit only minimally from radiotherapy. In such cases, a doctor may advise a person to avoid it.

In recent years, radiation therapy has been used as a standalone treatment for early-stage cancer. Why?

- After years of thorough clinical research, in certain cancers like cancer of the vocal cords and anal canal cancers, for instance, the tumours have been found to be extremely sensitive to radiation therapy and can be managed without surgery. Additionally, surgery could be psychologically demoralising in such situations.

What is your message for the readers regarding cancer?

- Treating any disease at an early stage will always have better long-term cure rates. Every treatment – surgery/chemotherapy/radiotherapy has its own role and is not interchangeable. Radiotherapy once started should be completed as per the prescribed protocol and timing. It cannot be stopped in between and done after a period of unnecessary breaks – it definitely reduces the efficiency.

This is the last in a three-part series, in which the author, a breast cancer survivor, speaks to oncologists about navigating the cancer care system



Radiating positivity

A cancer survivor, in conversation with her radiation oncologist, on doubts, fears, and the clearing of misconceptions

KAMALDEEP PETER

"Kamal, take a deep breath and hold it," a voice says, as I lie on a radiotherapy table, with the machine moving to image the cancerous part and place it in the field to receive the rays. To me it seems ironical, as I had always been camera shy! Now I had to let the lens capture me for 33 days. Yes, my treatment protocol had 33 radiations, five days a week, after a lumpectomy in my left breast, followed by eight cycles of chemotherapy. This was in 2013, and when I look back, radiotherapy was the easier, friendlier part of the treatment.

I was amazed by the precision in the calculations made by Dr Mathangi Padmanabhan, Senior consultant and Incharge, Department of Radiation Oncology at BGS Global Hospital, to work out the number of fractions to be administered, the intensity of each, and the markings made on my chest. I followed the dos and don'ts during the treatment, mingled with other patients in the waiting lounge and combined my radiation schedule with official duties.

Here is the professional perspective, from Dr Padmanabhan.

What is radiation therapy and how does it work?

- Radiotherapy is treatment with ionising radiation, most commonly with high-energy X-rays directed at the site of the tumour. It works by damaging the DNA of the cancer cells. The normal cells have the capacity to repair the damage. But for tumour cells, the damage accumulates and kills them.

Is radiation therapy a cure for cancer or a short-term option for treating cancer?

- The role of radiotherapy is generally classified into curative and palliative. Curative/radical is when radiotherapy can cure the disease by itself. This is usually given for areas such as head and neck cancer, anal canal cancer where organ preservation is a priority. It can also play a curative role in cervical, vaginal, vulval, prostate and skin cancers. Radiation therapy is used as an adjuvant/neoadjuvant treatment when it is given before or after a main treatment like surgery or chemotherapy. This modality of treatment is useful for breast cancers, cancers of the gastrointestinal tract like oesophagus, stomach, colorectum, pancreas; brain tumours, and genitourinary cancers like uterine and penile cancers.

Palliative treatment is offered only to relieve some symptoms like pain, bleeding, obstruction, to improve the quality of life, such as in painful bony me-



Dr Mathangi Padmanabhan

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

COULD IT BE THAT...



Brands are fooling us out of exercising?



SUNALINI MATHEW

like the elusive algebraic letter that never knew its own value – has had it rough. We didn't have role models who played sport for its enjoyment, with the result that we now have a generation of competitive people who are so busy registering for runs and positioning themselves next to the photographer so they can post a sweaty pic on social media. The corporate world – we were the first generation introduced to MNCs, remember – has linked it to goals, which means we must either look at weight-loss or some sort of landmark (30 marathons in 30 days).

For women, most of our mums didn't exercise, spending a lot of time in the kitchen (even when they were menstruating, so you know what they're going to be in their next life, if you believe a particular Swami). As children, many of us girls simply stood on the sidelines of the field feeling awkward in our skirts, hoping the games period would end soon.

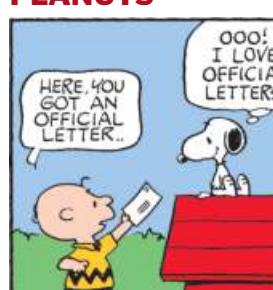
It's no wonder we find exercise boring, scary, tiring. We look terrible in tights, and we're in awe of the few kitted-out folks running with ease in the park. Better to hide in the house and go with a "detox in a box" or a "subscription menu".

The truth is, we do need to exercise, but we don't need to join a gym, run a marathon, swim in the sea. We simply need to walk at least 30 minutes a day, breaking a sweat, in comfortable clothes. And ignore the false messaging that marketers perpetuate.

POOCH CAFE



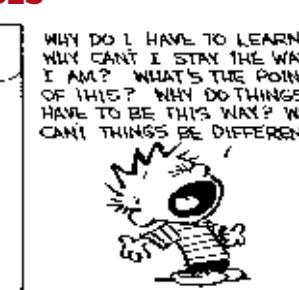
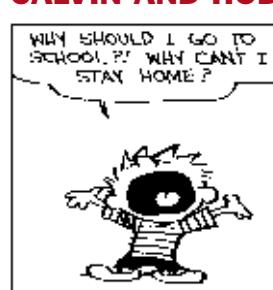
PEANUTS



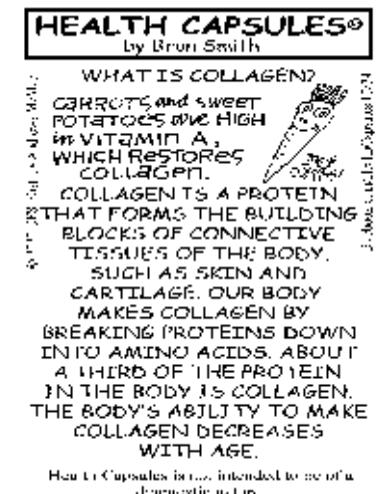
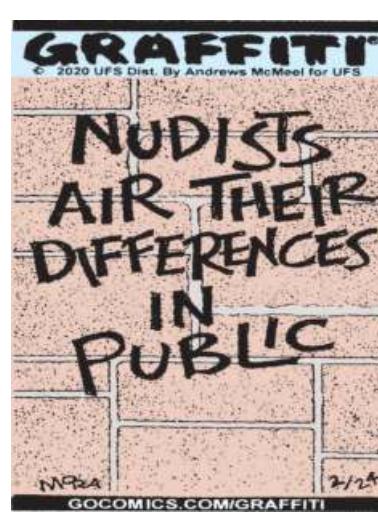
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



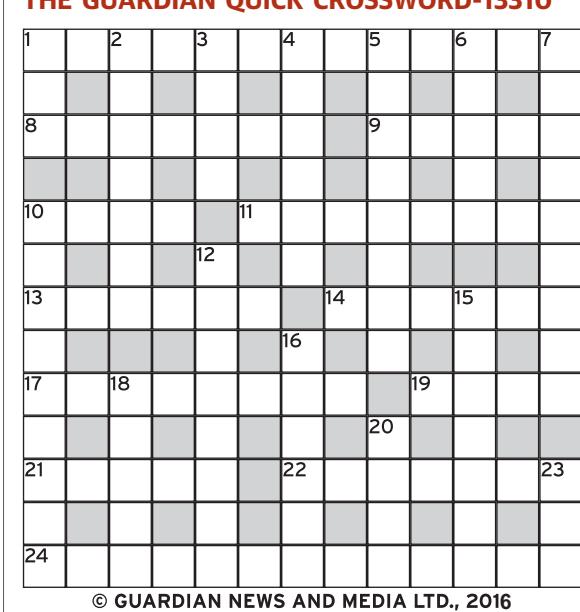
CALVIN AND HOBBES



TIGER



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13310



© GUARDIAN NEWS AND MEDIA LTD., 2016

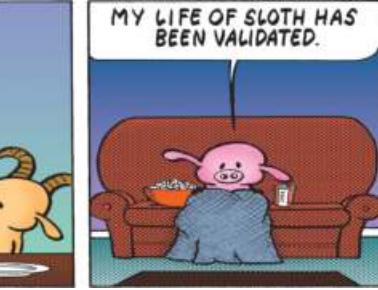
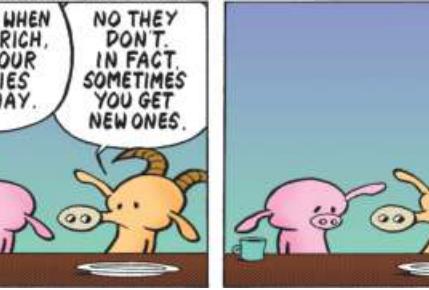
To play The Guardian Quick Crossword, The Hindu Cryptic crossword, Sudoku & other puzzles online, scan the QR code.

- 6 Gomorrah's partner in evil by the Dead Sea (5)
- 7 Gloomy – depressing (9)
- 10 Win (4,5)
- 12 Went to bed (6,2)
- 15 Formal speech (7)
- 16 Rantzen, TV presenter, b. 1940 (6)
- 18 Smelled disgusting (5)
- 20 Slow (anag) – bird of prey (4)
- 23 That woman (3)

The solution will appear on February 25, 2020.
Solution No. I3309



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



- Across
- 1 Confronted the unpleasant consequences of one's actions (5,3)
- 8 Recover from illness (3,4)
- 9 Push gently against (5)
- 10 Bloke (4)
- 11 Musical instrument – lime curd (anag) (8)
- 12 Reduction in expenditure (7)
- 13 Cosmetics for self-beautification (4-2)
- 14 Reduce in status (6)
- 17 Strongly fortified (8)

defensive place (8)
19 Fingerprints (slang) (4)

21 A single shot (5)

22 Favouring force rather than diplomacy (7)

24 Captured (5,8)

■ Down

1 Bafflement (3)

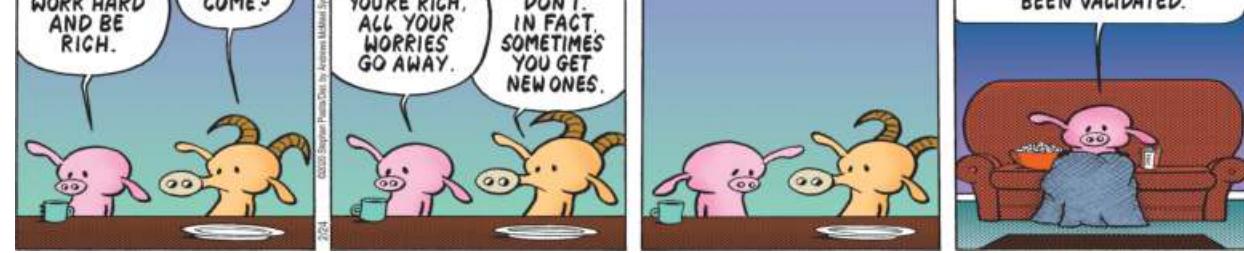
2 Reduction in expenditure (7)

3 Eat sparingly (4)

4 Inert gas (6)

5 Shackles (8)

WUMO



CM YK

India in a bind as Boult puts a spanner in the works

After a fine cameo with the bat, he strikes down three; Mayank does well again, Rahane digs in

INDIA IN NZ

S. DINAKAR
WELLINGTON

In the morning, coming in as the last man, he danced around the crease to whip up a delightful cameo of innovation and unorthodoxy.

The edge

Trent Boult's enterprising 38 extended New Zealand's lead to 183, giving the hosts a psychological edge as they entered the Basin Reserve ground again on the third day of the first Test here on Sunday.

Then the left-arm swing bowler, rediscovering his rhythm, bowled a compelling spell, varying his pace, harnessing the angles and the wind, and controlling his movement on a pitch that had eased out.

He prised out Prithvi Shaw with a lifting delivery from round the wicket – a backward square-leg was precisely placed to pluck the fended ball – and then brought the sphere back into Cheteshwar Pujara, who shouldered arms and heard the sound of death.

Boult was not finished yet. Big fish Virat Kohli was just getting into his stride when he attempted to pull a quicker short ball from Boult and only succeeding in nicking to



Making merry: Trent Boult used the long handle to good effect as he frustrated the Indian bowlers and extended New Zealand's lead. • AP

'keeper B-J. Watling.

India was 144 for four with a fighting Ajinkya Rahane (25), who essayed a couple of scorching cuts but was struck on the helmet by a Tim Southee lifter, battling on with a determined Hanuma Vihari (15).

In the morning, India let

the initiative slip, unable to blow away the tail; from 225 for seven, New Zealand recovered to 348 all out, a sizeable lead of 183.

This was the critical phase of the match when Colin de Grandhomme, Kyle Jamieson and Boult took the game away from India.

Mayank is an organised batsman with temperament and strokes. Even as he keeps the scoreboard mov-

ing without getting into a defensive rut, the opener offers stability.

He has a trigger-move-

ment forward but does not commit himself. Mayank can shift his weight to the back foot with ease.

A cover-drive off Southee was all about timing; so was

the off-drive off Trent Boult.

Mayank then whipped out a

back-foot punch off Southee.

There was further sting in New Zealand's tail with Boult assuming centrestage with his brand of strokeplay.

Ishant, who fired out Boult with a short-pitched one for his fifth wicket, was easily the pick with his consistency, off-stump line and bounce.

Judicious mix

In the morning, Grandhomme (43) held the Kiwi innings together.

There is a grace to de Grandhomme's batting that is hard to miss.

A big-built man, he has a relaxed stance where the bat is held aloft and his movement, either front or back, is decisive.

Between periods of defence, he blasted Ishant to the long-off fence, whipped Bumrah and flicked Ashwin fine.

Importantly, he built partnerships.

He cleverly played second fiddle to Jamieson as the debutant launched into the Indian bowling during the whirlwind 71-run eighth-wicket stand.

Jamieson, all of 6'8", is a natural striker who uses his reach. He twice pulled Shami for the maximum, one of them was a top-edge.

And Jamieson (44)

clubbed Ashwin for two 6s, both between long-on and mid-wicket.

The off-spinner continued to flight and the dip in his

bowling produced the fatal mis-hit from Jamieson.

There was further sting in

New Zealand's tail with Boult assuming centrestage with his brand of strokeplay.

Ishant, who fired out Boult with a short-pitched one for his fifth wicket, was easily the pick with his consistency, off-stump line and bounce.

Turn and bounce

Ashwin also bowled well. He spun one from middle to leg to have Grandhomme – the

SCOREBOARD

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS: 165.

New Zealand – 1st INNINGS

Tom Latham c Pant b Ishant 11 (30b); Tom Blundell b Ishant 30 (80b, 4x4), Kane Williamson c sub b Shami 89 (153b, 11x4), Ross Taylor c Pujara b Ishant 44 (71b, 6x4, 1x6), Henry Nicholls c Kohli b Ashwin 17 (62b, 2x4), B-J. Watling c Pant b Bumrah 14 (30b, 1x4), Colin de Grandhomme c Pant b Ashwin 43 (74b, 5x4), Tim Southee c Shami b Ishant 6 (13b, 1x4), Kyle Jamieson c Vihari b Ashwin 44 (45b, 1x4, 4x6), Ajaz Patel (not out) 4 (20b, 1x4), Trent Boult c Pant b Ishant 38 (24b, 5x4, 1x6); Extras (w-2): 8. Total (in 100.2 overs): 348.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-27 (Shaw, 7.4), 2-78 (Pu-

jara, 31.6), 3-96 (Mayank, 38.4),

4-113 (Kohli, 45.2).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING

Southee 15-5-41-1, Boult 16-

6-27-3, Grandhomme 14-5-

25-0, Jamieson 17-7-33-0, Ajaz

3-0-18-0.

(Jamieson, 90.2), 9-310

(Grandhomme, 94.2).

INDIA BOWLING

Bumrah 26-5-88-1, Ishant

22-2-6-68-5, Shami 23-2-91-1,

Ashwin 29-1-99-3.

INDIA – 2ND INNINGS

Prithvi Shaw c Latham b

Boult 14 (30b, 2x4), Mayank

Agarwal c Watling b Southee 58

(99b, 74.4, 1x6), Cheteshwar Pu-

jara b Boult 11 (81b), Virat Kohli

c Watling b Boult 19 (43b, 3x4),

Ajinkya Rahane (batting) 25

(67b, 4x4), Hanuma Vihari (bat-

ting) 15 (70b, 2x4); Extras

(w-2): 2. Total (for 4 wkts. in 65

overs): 144.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-27 (Shaw, 7.4), 2-78 (Pu-

jara, 31.6), 3-96 (Mayank, 38.4),

4-113 (Kohli, 45.2).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING

Southee 15-5-41-1, Boult 16-

6-27-3, Grandhomme 14-5-

25-0, Jamieson 17-7-33-0, Ajaz

3-0-18-0.

'Getting Kohli to err was nice'

Flexible gameplan is Boult's success mantra

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
WELLINGTON

Trent Boult is a smooth operator. The left-arm is not just a Sultan of swing, he's a lot more than that. He can bowl at varying lengths and angles, employ the short-pitched stuff effectively.

A beaming Boult said after the third day's play on Sunday, "It's turning into a pretty good wicket. My accuracy was probably better and coming around the wicket was a good option."

Bowling at the Basin
Talking about the dynamics of bowling at the Basin Reserve, Boult said, "Generally the wind is the biggest thing to deal with."

"But if I can chop and change those angles and not let a batsman get familiar with what I am trying to do, I

I enjoy my batting, it looks like I'm laughing and mucking around...

can succeed."

He said, "The red balls here in New Zealand haven't been swinging as much as they have in the past and if that's not happening for me then it comes down to changing angles and using different parts of the crease."

The last few weeks have been tough for Boult; he's had to grapple with fitness concerns. He said, "I'm just happy to be back out there. I've been pretty light on Test cricket and it's been a little frustrating on the sidelines."

Queried about his creative batting – his thrill-a-minute 38 was among the high points of the day – Boult

said, "I enjoy my batting, it looks like I'm laughing and mucking around but nice to make contact with a couple today."

On bowling short and round the wicket – a line Neil Wagner specialises in – Boult said, "Indian batsmen like to feel the bat on ball and free their hands... I'm not giving you all my secrets, but I'm going to bowl around the wicket to change that angle."

On his short-ball ploy against Virat Kohli, Boult said, "When he hits it well and gets boundaries. From our point of view we were trying to dry that up and for me personally using the wicket and the shorter ball was a good plan to try and control his run rate."

"It was nice to draw the error out of him."

The off-spinner added,

Ashwin – battling and taming the breeze

India spinner hopes to have a say in the fourth innings

S. DINAKAR
WELLINGTON

The breeze almost blew him away, says R. Ashwin, but he continued bowling even as icy winds swept across the Basin Reserve.

"Look, I am not the lightest, but it [the wind] was pushing me across, so it must have been of some significance," Ashwin said.

Taming the wind

However, he operated well in the tough conditions, invariably bowling against the wind, striving to gain control.

Ashwin said, "On both days, I've had to bowl from ends where the breeze was coming against me. And the wind was such that a spinner couldn't really take any benefit from it."

The off-spinner added,

balance between offence and defence, Ashwin said: "It's an individual's game-plan and it's hard to say that one needs to play in this way in terms of attack and defence. It's a fine line."

Plan for Williamson

About having a deep extra-cover for Kane Williamson, Ashwin said, "If you look at Williamson's wagon wheel, I would have put it right up if it was up to me because Kane, against the off-spinner, always looks to hit through covers. He doesn't cut or step out much either."

The Kiwis, he said, comprehended the conditions well. "They hit with the wind."

At the cold and blustery Basin Reserve, Ashwin has some unfinished business left.

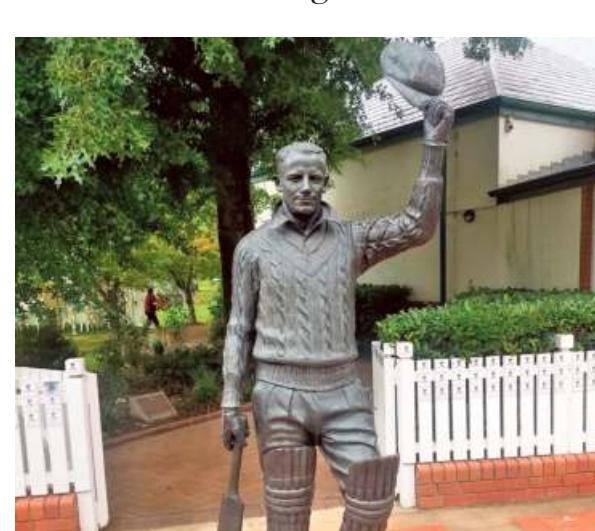


Hard work rewarded: R. Ashwin has Colin de Grandhomme caught behind. • AP

SA snatches thrilling win

A wonderful shrine for 'The Don'

The Bradman Museum showcases the legend's memorabilia



Hello, mate! A life-size statue of Don Bradman is a popular photo spot at the Bradman Museum in the legend's hometown of Bowral. • ASHWIN ACHAL

Confident India takes on plucky Bangladesh

A victory will take the former closer to the knockout rounds

WOMEN'S T20 WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PERTH

High on confidence after the impressive win over title holder Australia, India will look to carry forward the momentum against a plucky Bangladesh in its second Group A match of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup here on Monday.

More required
Jemimah Rodrigues and Shafali Verma, who hit a typically aggressive 29 off 15 balls against Australia, will need to come good against Bangladesh. In the last five meetings between the two sides, India is ahead 3-2 on head-

to-head record and a win on Monday will take it closer to the knock-out rounds from the five-team group.

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur and opener Smriti Mandhana contributed little with the bat in the previous match and both will need to fire and put up a big total or chase down a target.

In another match, Australia plays Sri Lanka.

The teams (from):
India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepa Sharma,

Shafali Verma, Poonam Yadav, Radha Yadav, Taniya Bhatia (wk), Harleen Deol, Rakeshwar Gayakwad, Richa Ghosh, Veda Krishnamurthy, Shikha Pandey, Arundhati Reddy and Pooja Vastrakar.

Bangladesh: Salma Khatun (Capt.), Rumana Ahmed, Aysha Rahman, Fahima Khatun, Farhana Hoque, Jahanara Alam, Khadija Tu Kubra, Sobhana Moshtary, Mursida Khatun, Nahida Ak

TV PICKS

New Zealand v India: 1st Test, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 4 a.m.
NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 a.m.
Khelo India University Games: Star Sports (SD & HD), 11.30 a.m.
Bangladesh v Zimbabwe: Only Test, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.

ICC Women's World T20: India v Bangladesh, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 4.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 1 a.m. (Tuesday)
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

IN BRIEF



Heat crushes Cavaliers; Honours Wade

LOS ANGELES Miami broke the franchise record for points in the first half en route to a 124-105 rout of the Cleveland Cavaliers on a night when the Heat retired the jersey of guard Dwyane Wade, in pic. At halftime, the Heat honoured the 38-year-old Wade whose No. 3 jersey was retired and raised to the rafters at AmericanAirlines Arena.

The results: LA Clippers 103 lost to Sacramento Kings 112; Charlotte Hornets 86 lost to Brooklyn Nets 115; Atlanta Hawks 111 bt Dallas Mavericks 107; Miami Heat 124 bt Cleveland Cavaliers 105; Chicago Bulls 104 lost to Phoenix Suns 112; Milwaukee Bucks 119 bt Philadelphia 76ers 98; Utah Jazz 110 lost to Houston Rockets 120.

Bangladesh dominates Zimbabwe

DHAKA Najmul Hossain and skipper Monimul Haque hit half-centuries as Bangladesh replied strongly to Zimbabwe in the one-off cricket Test here on Sunday.

The scores: Zimbabwe 265 in 106.3 overs (P. Masvaure 64, C. Ervine 107, Jayed 4/71, Nayem 4/70) vs Bangladesh 240/3 in 71 overs (M. Haque 79 batting, N. Hossain 71, T. Iqbal 41). AFP

Ankita bags singles title

JODHPUR Top seeded Ankita Raina sailed past Berfu Cengiz of Turkey 7-5, 6-1 to clinch the singles title in the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament at the Sardar Club, Ratanada, on Sunday. It was the second singles title this season for the 27-year-old Ankita, who had also won a double crown in Nonthaburi, Thailand.

Odisha FC draws with Kerala Blasters

BHUBANESWAR Odisha FC and Kerala Blasters played out an entertaining 4-4 draw in the Indian Super League (ISL) here on Sunday. Manuel Onwu scored a hat-trick for the hosts, while Bartholomew Ogbeche netted twice to lead the Golden Boot standings with 15 to his name.

The result: Odisha FC 4 (Manuel Onwu 1, 35, 51, Martin Perez Guedes 44+pen) drew with Kerala Blasters 4 (Narayan Das 6-og, Raphael Messi Bouli 28, Bartholomew Ogbeche 82-pen, 90+4+pen).

Mackenzie stars for Golden Globe Hotels

NEW DELHI Three goals including two in the last chukker by Chris Mackenzie helped Golden Globe Hotels to a 12-11 victory over Garcha Hotels in the final of the Northern India 16-goal polo championship at the Jaipur Polo ground here on Sunday. Padmanabh Singh and Satinder Garcha were adjudged the 'most valuable players' of the tournament. Mare Luhano, owned by Karan Thapar, and ridden by Manuel Llorente, was declared the 'best polo pony'. Meanwhile, in the Army polo championship Cavalry 'A' beat Cavalry 'B' goals to 6 1/2 in the final at the Army Equestrian Centre, Delhi Cantonment, thanks to the goals from Vishal Chauhan (4), Aman Singh (2) and Mritunjay Singh (2).

The results (final): Golden Globe Hotels 12 (Padmanabh Singh 5, Basheer Ali 4, Chris Mackenzie 3) bt Garcha Hotels 11 (Manuel Llorente 6, Satinder Garcha 2, Vicky Nihalani, handicap 3).

Bengal bats Odisha out of contention

The visitors push the overall lead to 443



Good hand: Shreevats Goswami scored 78 to stretch Bengal's advantage. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

Y.B. SARANGI
TANGI

Bengal virtually elbowed Odisha out of contention for a Ranji Trophy semifinal berth on Sunday.

At close on the fourth day's play of their quarterfinal at the DRIEMS ground here, Bengal rode on Shreevats Goswami, Abhishek Raman and Shahbaz Ahmed's half-centuries to score 361 for seven in its second innings and built a massive lead of 443 runs.

In the eventuality of Bengal getting all out or declaring its innings on the final day, Odisha will not have enough time to chase down the target.

Bengal, beginning from 79 for two, consolidated its lead of 443 runs.

Flicker of hope

Odisha had a flicker of hope after Debabrata Pradhan trapped Manoj Tiwary in front and Govinda Poddar had Anuputrap Majumder

caught in the first slip. Bengal was 115 for four.

However, Abhishek and Goswami went through the grind to put up 102 runs for the fifth wicket in about 34 overs.

Even as he picked up boundaries on both sides, Abhishek (67, 189b, 8x4) – trying to overcome a lean patch – looked to spend time in the middle.

Goswami, who hit four fours off a Poddar over, caught and drove spectacularly to provide some spark in a dull day's action.

After the departure of Abhishek, who was caught behind off Poddar, Goswami (78, 134b, 11x4) added 54 runs with Shahbaz (52 batting, 93b, 3x4, 1x6). Goswami was lbw off Preet Chohan soon after tea.

Shahbaz, who got his second half-century of the match, and Arnab Nandi (45, 75b, 5x4, 1x6) showed patience. They gathered 78 runs to pile on the agony of

Odisha, which dropped catches and could not capitalise on stumping and run out chances.

Part-timers Poddar and Anurag Sarangi accounted for five wickets as the host missed the services of a full-time spinner.

The scores:

Bengal – 1st innings: 332.

Odisha – 1st innings: 250.

Bengal – 2nd innings: Koushik Ghosh b Sarangi 41, Abhimanyu Easwaran c sub b Poddar 30, Abhishek Raman c Dhuper b Poddar 67, Manoj Tiwary lbw b Debabrata 6, Anuputrap Majumder shantnu b Poddar 10, Shreevats Goswami lbw b Chohan 78, Shahbaz Ahmed (batting) 52, Arnab Nandi b Sarangi 45, Mukesh Kumar (batting) 6; Extras (b-14, lb-9, nb-2, w-1): 26; Total (for seven wkts in 132 overs): 361.

Fall of wickets: 1-60, 2-76, 3-74, 4-115, 5-217, 6-273, 7-351.

Odisha bowling: Surakant 24-4-61-0, Basant 16-7-21-0, Debabrata 25-6-63-1, Chohan 22-0-70-1, Poddar 31-6-95-3, Sarangi 13-2-26-2, Shantanu 1-0-2-0.

Rashpal and Jyoti retain titles

Tendulkar enthused by athletes' discipline & determination



A special salute: Sachin Tendulkar with specially-abled athletes at the IDBI Marathon in New Delhi on Sunday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

DELHI MARATHON

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

Elite Indian runners Rashpal Singh and Jyoti Gawte overcame a strong field to retain their titles at the IDBI Federal Life Insurance New Delhi Marathon here on Sunday.

Rashpal, from Army Sports Institute (Pune), was the favourite and finished the Full Marathon (42.2k) with an impressive time of 2:23:29s, while Maharashtra girl Jyoti won in 2:50:37s, with almost 8 minutes to spare.

Great progress

Sachin Tendulkar, who was marathon brand ambassador to support the event conceptualised by former Mumbai and Rajasthan fast bowler Vignesh Shahane, said: "I remember in the first year there were hardly 3,000 runners and today we had 22,000 athletes participating. I am told 2,500 took part in the full marathons

and there were elite athletes trying for qualification for Tokyo Olympics."

Welcoming the runners, Tendulkar noted, "The pleasing thing about today's marathon is 25% were women athletes, which clearly shows that there is more awareness, more discipline and more determination."

"There were also 85 specially-abled athletes who were in wheelchairs, great example for everyone to follow. I hope they (organisers) continue to do this. It is an ongoing journey about fit and young India."

The athletes braved the early morning chill to line up in four different categories – Full Marathon (42.2k), Half Marathon (21.1k), 10K Timed Run and 5K Swachch Bharat Run.

Rashpal maintained a steady pace to stay ahead and increased his speed only in the final phase. Arjun Pradhan from Army claimed the runner-up position after he took 2:24:18 to finish

while his teammate Sanviro Yadav ended with a time of 2:25:34 to win the bronze.

The women's competition turned out to be a lop-sided contest with Jyoti consolidating her position as one of the top marathoners of India. Swati Gadhav won the silver medal with a time of 2:58:10 while Jigmet Dolma had to be content with bronze in 3:03:10.

Tough fight

In the 21.1k Half Marathon, Brimin Kipruro Komen bagged the top prize in the men's category clocking 01:10:34.

In the women's category, Tashi Lodol stole the lime-light to win the gold by clocking 1:28:28 followed by Stanzin Chondol (01:31:13) and Stanzin Dolkar (01:31:43).

Ranji scores: quarterfinals



At Tangi: Bengal 332 & 361/7 in 132 overs (Koushik Ghosh 41, Abhishek Raman 67, Shreevats Goswami 78, Shahbaz Ahmed 52 batting, Arnab Nandi 45) vs Odisha 250.

Jammu: Karnataka 206 & 245/4 in 67 overs (R. Samarth 74, K.V. Siddharth 75 batting) vs Jammu & Kashmir 192 in 62.4 overs (Shubham Khajuria 62, Abdul Samad 43, Prasidh Krishna 4/42) vs Andhra 136.

Ongole: Saurashtra 419 & 375/9 in 123 overs (Avi Barot 54, Vishvavajishn Jadeja 46, Arpit Vasavada 48, Prakar Mankad 85, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 60, Jyoti Saikrishna 4/47) vs Andhra 136.

Valsad: Gujarat 602/8 decl. & 199/6 decl. in 64.2 overs (Md. Aslam 59, 6. Symbol Of Star's (2) Afroz Khan 59, 7. Recumbentibus (7) Irvan Singh 58.5, 8. Vijays Maestro (13) Aneel 58.5, 9. Asgard (5) Santosh Raj 45 (Cat. III), 1.0: 1. Heaven Can Wait (9) Afroz Khan 62, 2. Gorgeous Lady (7) Kiran Naidu 61, 3. Kimberly Cruise (11) Santosh 8 Md. Ismail 59, 4. Buzz Light Year (8) Md. Ismail 59, 5. Mahira (4) Dashrath Singh 59, 6. On The Fire (1) Mukesh Kumar 57, 7. Sea Wolf (13) Irvan Singh 56, 8. Spice Up (6) Nakhat Singh 55.5, 9. Star-walker (3) Koushik 55.5, 10. Ashwa (5) Surya Prakash 53.5, 11. Tough Lady (10) Ajeth Kumar 53.5, 12. Sweetie (5) Surya Prakash 53.5, 13. Turf Treasure (2) Ajith Singh 53.5, 14. Golden Adara (8) Ajit Singh 50.

1. HUNDRED ECHOES: 2. LONDON BRIDGE, 3. RASISKA

2. K.R. ARVIND REDDY ME-

MORIAL CUP (Div. I), (1,100m), 4-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 2:10: 1. City of Blossom (4) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. Ayur Shakti (8) Irvan Singh 57, 3. Lockhart (9) Ajeth Kumar 56.5, 4. Mahashakti (2) Ashhad Asbar 56, 5. Top Contender (11) Afroz Khan 56, 6. Star Of Tiara (1) L. Chisty 54.5, 7. Explosive (5) C.P. Bopanna 52.5, 8. Alliston (10) Jitendra Singh 52, 9. Red Snaper (3) Santosh Raj 52, 10. Platinum Claess (6) Md. Ismail 51.5 and II. Tiger Of The Sea (7) Surya Prakash 51.5.

1. MAHASHAKTI, 2. STAR OF TIARA, 3. LOCKHART

5. MIRZA ZUNNUR AHMED ME-

MORIAL CUP (1,600m), 4-y-o &

over, rated 20 to 25 (Cat. III), 2:40: 1. Rasika (12) Abhay Singh 61.5, 2. Withrosemakeup (10) Surya Prakash 61.5, 3. A Hundred Echoes (3) Mukesh Kumar 60.5, 5. Yogya (9) Ajeth Kumar 60, 6. Symbol Of Star's (2) Afroz Khan 59, 7. Recumbentibus (7) Irvan Singh 58.5, 8. Vijays Maestro (13) Aneel 58.5, 9. Asgard (5) Santosh Raj 45 (Cat. III), 1.0: 1. Heaven Can Wait (9) Afroz Khan 62, 2. Gorgeous Lady (7) Kiran Naidu 61, 3. Kimberly Cruise (11) Santosh 8 Md. Ismail 59, 4. Buzz Light Year (8) Md. Ismail 59, 5. Mahira (4) Dashrath Singh 59, 6. On The Fire (1) Mukesh Kumar 57, 7. Sea Wolf (13) Irvan Singh 56, 8. Spice Up (6) Nakhat Singh 55.5, 9. Star-walker (3) Koushik 55.5, 10. Ashwa (5) Surya Prakash 53.5, 11. Tough Lady (10) Ajeth Kumar 53.5, 12. Sweetie (5) Surya Prakash 53.5, 13. Turf Treasure (2) Ajith Singh 53.5, 14. Golden Adara (8) Ajit Singh 50.

1. RENOG STAR, 2. ARTISTRY, 3. NOVA SCOTIA

7 BEACON PLATE (Div. I), (1,400m), 5-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3:45: 1. Golden Hope (9) A.A. Vikram 61.5, 2. Ashwa Arjuna (13) Abhay Singh 61, 3. Vashista (12) B.R. Kumar 59.5, 4. Avantika (3) Irvan Singh 59, 5. Super Act (5) Md. Ismail 59, 6. Beautiful Luv (2) Ajith Singh 53, 7. Blink Of An Eye (2) Jitendra Singh 53.5, 8. Bulls Ace (10) N. Rawal 53.5, 9. Country's Force (11) B.R. Kumar 53.5, 10. Fleur (3) Md. Ismail 53.5, 11. Hip Hop (5) Nakhat Singh 53.5, 12. Royal Romance (7) Kiran Naidu 53.5 and 13. Turf Treasure (4) I. Chisty 53.5.

1. PROMISEOFHAPPINESS, 2. RHINE, 3. BOMBASTIC

Double: SOUTHERN PRINCESS - ASHWA BRAVO

Jkt (1): 2, 3, 4 & 5; (ii): 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10; Minjkt (1): 3, 4, 5 & 6; (ii): 7, 8 & 10; Tr (1): 2, 3 & 4; (ii): 5, 6, 7 & 8; (iii): 8, 9 & 10; Tla: all races.

CCFC lets match slip out of grasp

CCFC's next home match is on March 29.

The result: Chennai City FC 1 (Katsumi Yusa 40) drew with Aizawl FC 1 (Rochharzela 52).

Ashwa Bravo has an edge over rivals

HYDERABAD: Ashwa Bravo has an edge over his rivals in the Alcock Arabian Million (1,400m), the star attraction of the 10-race card framed for the concluding day's races here on Monday (Feb.

Jitender provides the silver lining

Punia and Aware clinch bronze medals

ASIAN WRESTLING

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

Jitender Kumar was the silver lining for India on the final day of competition at the senior Asian wrestling championships amidst below-par display from some of the big names on Sunday.

India managed to add a lone silver and just two more bronze to its tally. The performances itself, however, left a lot to be desired from all the five Indians in action.

The only Indian to reach the final, Jitender failed to find a way past reigning champion Daniyar Kaisanov of Kazakhstan, losing 1-3 in the 74kg but salvaging some pride after World championships silver medallist Deepak Punia (86kg) and World and Asian championships bronze medallist Rahul Aware (61kg) disappointed.

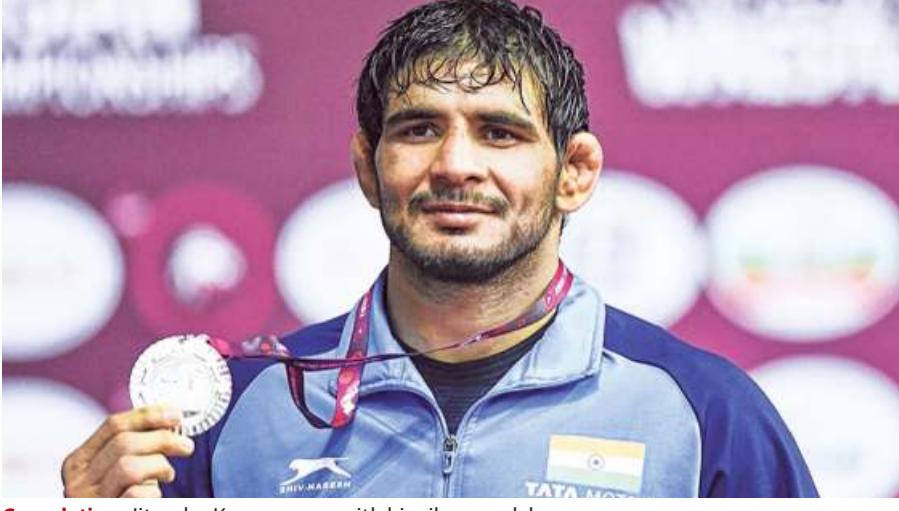
Edging past

Having won his qualifying round easily, Jitender managed to edge past Iranian Mostafa Mohabbati Hosseinkhani on criteria after being tied 2-2 on points in the quarterfinal before winning the semifinal against Sumiyabazar Zandanbudi of Mongolia 21, all three points coming through passivity penalties for the opponent.

It was, however, a disappointing outing for Punia who appeared completely off-colour in both his morning bouts, losing 1-4 to Shutaro Yamada of Japan in the semifinals.

Punia, already qualified for the Olympics, hardly seemed to put in any effort before eventually winning a consolation bronze against Issa Abdulsalam Abdulwahab Al Obaidi of Iraq 10-0 in under three minutes.

Aware, though, would be ruing the decision to challenge the referee's decision at a crucial juncture in his



Consolation: Jitender Kumar poses with his silver medal. •PTI

semifinal bout against Ulukbek Zholdoshbekov of Kyrgyzstan.

Trailing 0-2 with his opponent under caution for passivity, Aware sought points for what he thought was a scoring exposure move with 45 seconds left on the clock.

He lost the challenge to concede a 3-point lead and even though he scored a take-down immediately after to narrow the margin, it was enough to make him lose focus and go down 3-5 and miss out on a spot in the final

and settle for a bronze, winning 5-2 against Iran's Majid Almas Dastan.

In the 125kg, Satender Malik failed to impress, going down 1-2 in the repechage round to crash out of the competition. Satender had replaced original qualifier Sumit Malik in the draw after the latter tore his MCL before the event but appeared out of depth on the mat.

Somveer was outclassed 10-0 by Ajinayaz Saparniyazov in the 92kg quarterfinal.

The medallists: **61kg:** 1. Uluk-

bek Zholdoshbekov (Kg), 2. Muhamad Ikramov (Tjk), 3. Rahul Aware, Ryuto Sakaki (Jpn).

74kg: 1. Daniyar Kaisanov (Kaz), Jitender. 3. Mostafa Mohabbati Hosseinkhani (IRI), Daichi Takanishi (Jpn). **86kg:** 1. Shutaro Yamada (Jpn), 2. Ahmad Yousef Bazirghaleh (IRI), 3. Deepak Punia, Isa Shapiev (Uzb). **92kg:** 1. Mohammad Javad Mohammadi-Brahim Ebrahimizadeh (IRI), 2. Tatsuya Otsu (Jpn), 3. Ilkhan Chilayer (Kaz), Tsogtgerel Munkhbaatar (Mgl). **125kg:** 1. Yusup Batirmurzaev (Kaz), 2. Khuderbulga Dorjkhund (Mgl), 3. Parviz Khodavirdi Hadibasmanji (IRI), Koungjin Nam (Kor).

No trials for Bishkek qualifiers: WFI

No trials for Bishkek qualifiers: WFI

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has confirmed that there will be no trials to select the Indian entry for the 74kg freestyle category at the Asian Olympic qualifiers next month in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

The qualifiers are to be held from March 27-29 and the WFI had announced that the team selected for the Rome ranking tournament in January and the ongoing Asian

championships would be retained, subject to the athletes' performances. Jitender had lost in the repechage round and finished 10th in Rome.

"We had decided that a medal in either or both tournaments would be considered a satisfactory performance and we will stick to that. Since Jitender has reached the final in the 74kg, there will be no trials and he will go for the qualifier," WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh confirmed.

The decision means twice-Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar will not get a chance to stake his claim for a fourth Olympic appearance. If Jitender manages to book a Tokyo spot in Bishkek – he needs to reach the final – it may well be the end of the road for Sushil.

However, in case he doesn't, there will be a second chance during the World Olympic qualifiers in April (Sofia). The WFI hasn't yet decided on holding trials for that.

Sharath & Sathiyan duo claims silver

TABLE TENNIS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BUDAPEST

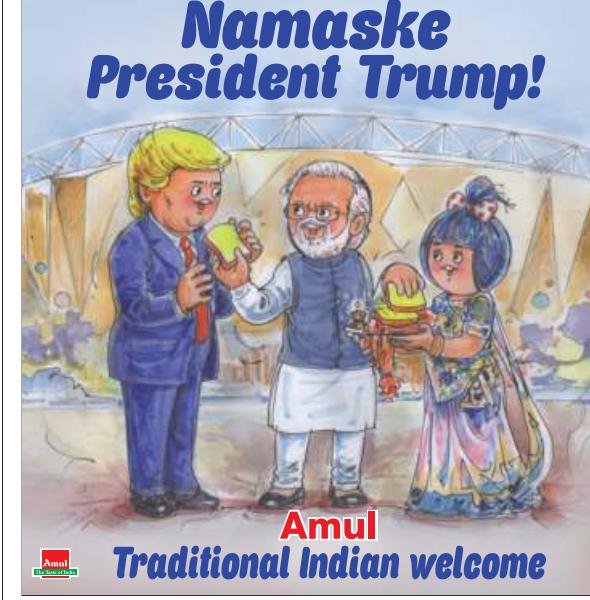
A. Sharath Kamal and G. Sathiyan took the men's doubles silver at the ITTF World Tour Hungarian Open after losing the summit clash to Germany's Benedikt Duda and Patrick Franziska 11-5, 11-9, 8-11, 11-9 on Saturday.

It was Sharath's second medal of the tournament

after his mixed doubles bronze with Manika Batra.

Meanwhile, M.R. Hansini bagged the mini-cadet girls' singles bronze at the Swedish Junior and Cadet Open at Orebro.

The 10-year-old fifth standard student started her main draw challenge after a couple of wins in the group stages before going down to Russia's Iuliia Pugovkina 12-10, 9-11, 5-11, 8-11 in the last-four stage.



Stojanovic,
Barbara
triumph

S. PRASANNA VENKATESAN
CHENNAI

Ognjen Stojanovic (Serbia) and Barbara Riveros (Chile) emerged the men's and women's champions of the Chennai NTT ASTC Triathlon Asian Cup here on Sunday.

The initial swimming in the outside area of the INS Adyar Naval establishment was skipped due to rough sea conditions and a 5 km road running was instead. Adarsh Muralidharan Nair and Sarojini Devi Thoudamwon the men's and women's titles in the senior National meet.

The results: **Asian Cup: Men:** 1. Ognjen Stojanovic (Ser)

01.48.47s; 2. Oscar Coggins (Hkg) 01.49.3s; 3. Jan Celustka (Cze) 01.49.24s. **Women:** 1. Barbara Riveros (Chile) 02.01.07s; 2. Antoanelia Manac (Romania) 02.01.25s; 3. Arina Shulgina (ITU) 02.01.36s.

National championship: **Men:** 1. Adarsh Muralidharan Nair (SSCB) 01.58.01; 2. Bishwajit Saikhom (SSCB) 01.58.42; 3. Mali Raghunath (SSCB) 02.02.15. **Women:** 1. Sarojini Devi Thoudam (Man) 02.21.20; 2. Monika Mukeshbhai Nagpure (Guj) 02.22.56; 3. Pragnya Mohan (Guj) 02.24.41.

Manchester United climbs to fifth

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Bruno Fernandes opened his goalscoring account at Manchester United on Sunday as Ole Gunnar Solskjær's side climbed to fifth place in the Premier League table with a 3-0 win against lowly Watford. Victory at Old Trafford lifts it to 41 points, just three behind fourth-placed Chelsea. Midfielder Fernandes scored from the penalty spot shortly before half-time and Anthony Martial and Mason Greenwood also found the net.

As it stands, fifth place could be enough to earn a Champions League spot because second-placed Manchester City has been banned from Europe's elite competition for two seasons, pending an appeal.

On Saturday, Gabriel Jesus struck late to give City a 1-0 win at Leicester, strengthening its hold on second place despite more woe from the penalty spot – Sergio Aguero had failed to convert a penalty before Jesus replaced him in the second half.

The results: **Premier League:** Manchester United 3 (Fernandes 42-pen, Martial 58, Greenwood 75) bt Watford 0; Wolves 3 (Jota 19, 30, Jimenez 50) bt Norwich 0; Arsenal 3 (Nketiah 27, Aubameyang 33, 46) bt Everton 2 (Calvert-Lewin 1, Richardson 45+4).

LaLiga: Real Valladolid 2 (Ramires 77, Guardiola 83) bt Espanyol 1 (Embarba 90+3-pen).

Serie A: Genoa 2 (Cassata 57, Criscito 89-pen) lost to Lazio 3 (Marusic 2, Immobile 51, Cataldi 71).

Bundesliga: Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Diaby 25, Amiri 59) bt Augsburg 0.

Saturday: Premier League: Leicester 0 lost to Manchester City 1 (Jesus 80).

LaLiga: Real Sociedad 3 (Merino 12, Monreal 45+1, Januzaj 48) bt Valencia 0; Levante 1 (Moreno 79) bt Real Madrid 0.



Firing it in: Mason Greenwood caps off a fine United performance with its third goal against Watford. •REUTERS

Serie A: SPAL 1 (Petagna 69-pen) lost to Juventus 2 (Ronaldo 39, Ramsey 60); Bologna 1 (Palacio 90+2) drew with Udinese 1 (Okaka 33); Fiorentina 1 (Pulgar 85-pen) drew with AC Milan 1 (Rebic 56).

Bundesliga: Bor. Monchengladbach 1 (Ginter 11) drew with Hoffenheim 1 (Lucas Ribeiro 49+2); Werder Bremen 0 lost to Borussia Dortmund 2 (Zagadou 52, Haaland 66); Hertha Berlin 0 lost to Cologne 5 (Cordoba 4, 22, Kainz 62, 38, Uth 70); Freiburg 0 lost to Fortuna Dusseldorf 2 (Hoffmann 37, Thommy 61); Schalke 0 lost to RB Leipzig 5 (Sabitzer 1, Werner 61, Halstenberg 68, Angelino 81, Forsberg 89).

સ્પાર્ટ કરી દેંની સ્પાર્ટ

HONDA
The Power of Dreams

Activa^{5G}

LOVE IS GROWING



LIMITED
PERIOD OFFER

Savings up to ₹ 10000*. Valid till BS-IV stock lasts.

ALWAYS WEAR
A HELMET WHILE
RIDING

Also available:
Annual Maintenance Contract**
Road Side Assistance***
Engine Health Assistance**

Follow us on
Facebook Twitter YouTube

HDFC BANK
We understand your world

IDFC FIRST
Bank

IndusInd Bank

ICICI Bank
Two Wheeler Loans

LST Financial Services
Consumer Finance

Chola

TATA CAPITAL

Honda is HONDA

Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India Pvt. Ltd., Registered Office: Commercial Complex II, Sector - 49-50, Golf Course Extension Road, Gurugram - 122018 [Haryana], India; Website: www.honda2wheelersindia.com; Customer Care: customercare@honda2wheelersindia.com

*Rs 10000 Savings has been calculated against general finance scheme and depends on specific loan amount & tenure. Finance scheme available with select financier at their sole discretion. Product shown in the picture may vary from the actual product available in the market. Accessories shown in the picture are not a part of the standard fitment. **Conditions apply.

Honda Exclusive Authorized Dealerships: **DELHI - SOUTH DELHI:** Malwa Honda (Lajpat Nagar) - 011-29840621/2, 9266802219; (Khanpur) - 011-29963627/28, 9266802219; (Saheen Bagh Jamia) - 011-26950016/17, 9266802220; (Sangam Vihar) - 011-26043443/46, 9266802219; (Pehlajpur Badarpur) - 011-26366952, 9650028777; (Jaipur) - 981855693; (Absolute Honda (Mahipalpur) NH-8) - 011-40470000, 9871600730, 9811625338, 9152462887; (RK Puram Sector 1) - 011-26713841, 9871600734, 9871500735, 9069145268; (Uday Honda (Addhini)) - 011-2619381/82/83, 9212355512, 9212355515; (Ay Nagar) - 011-41026278, 9266135550; (West Delhi) - 9266155517; **WEST DELHI:** One Honda (Meenakshi Garden) - 9212010040; (Shuban Sai Honda (Najafgarh) - 9212385581/82, 850699934/35; (Vikaspuri) - 9212385537, 8130889568, 850699939/39; (Kakra Mod) - 9212385537, 8130889568, 850699939/39; (Delhi Sector 1) - 9555007307, 9871080111; (Ghastali Nagar) - 8827719494, 9999786767; **EAST DELHI:** Rajendra Honda (Shahdara) - 011-22832996/97/98, 931008240; (Dilshad Garden) - 011-22121025/06, 9818372386; (Bhajpura) - 9126702929, (Dabri) - 9126702911, 011-65000237/39; (Bijwasan) - 9599442118; **CENTRAL DELHI:** Smooth Honda (Daryaganj) - 011-48119998, 8010209992; (J.B. Honda (Jhande Walan) - 9717099729; (Pandey Nagar) - 9717099723; (Celebrate Honda (Jagatpura) - 011-45644444, 9821398522; (Jheel) - 8448131114, 011-22000123; **NORTH DELHI:** Globus Honda (Azadpur) - 011-45561171, 8226993152, 8226993150; (Rani Bagh) - 011-45091549, 8226993152, 8226993157; (Ptampura) - 011-43028981, 88236993162 (Zakira) - 95104620; 951044222; (Rohini Honda) - 011-2761322, 8826993156; (Rohini Honda (Sector 3) - 8822010040; (Rithala) - 8527747900; (Buoh Vihar) - 8527724000; (Santosh Honda (Narela) - 84670857312, 8882493100; (Yamuna Honda) - 9510894233, 9810894235; **GURUGRAM:** Kabir Honda - 9132655454; **GAUNCHI:** Ballabgarh: Kabir Honda - 9811716667, 9312655454; **DHAIRUHERA:** Shri Krishna Honda - 9416174941; **FARIADBAD:** Pick Up Honda - 9818066610, 987387550; (Regent Honda) - 0129-4006142, 8899913146; **RAJENDRA:** Yume Honda - 9410894235, Yume Honda - 9810894235; **MUNIRAH:** Honda (Noida) - 0124-222501, 7827041254, 9205814517; **BADSHAHPUR GURUGRAM:** 9205814517; 82289403089; **PAATUDI:** Yume Honda - 0124-2672444, 82289403089; **GAUTAM**