



Must convince people we'll ensure a stable govt., says Deve Gowda
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President Erdogan loses ground in Turkey's big cities in local polls
page 12



Sensex starts fiscal on a high, pares gains after breaching 39,000-level
page 14



India wins ICC Test Championship mace for third successive time
page 15

NEARBY



Hardik moves SC for stay on conviction

NEW DELHI

Congress leader Hardik Patel on Monday moved the Supreme Court for an ex parte stay on his conviction in the 2015 Vizpur rioting case. On March 29, the Gujarat High Court declined his plea to suspend his conviction. On July 25, 2018, the Sessions Court at Visnagar in Mehsana district sentenced Mr. Patel to two years in jail.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 10

We are not waiting for alliance, says Gopal Rai

NEW DELHI

With speculation of an alliance between the Aam Aadmi Party and the Congress refusing to die down, AAP moved its campaign for the Lok Sabha election in Delhi up a gear on Monday, holding nine public meetings in a day. Having announced candidates for all seven LS seats of Delhi last month, AAP has been campaigning across the city for weeks now.

DELHI METRO ▶ PAGE 1

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by G.Rajput

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DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

Why manifestos of TDP and YSRCP are a 'secret'

Fearing a copycat response, each is waiting for the other to go first

G.V.R. SUBRA RAO

VIJAYAWADA

Typically, political parties scramble to complete their manifestos on time so they can use them to woo voters. But it would appear that nothing is typical about the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), both of whom are holding to their manifestos for dear life even as the elections are barely 10 days away.

Both the TDP and the YSRCP have their manifestos ready, but each is waiting for the other to release their document first.

This 'wait-and-respond' approach seems to have been prompted by the fear that their rival might 'copy' their ideas.

Even before the election schedule was announced, the TDP government had hiked pensions to ₹2,000.

The YSR Congress Party then claimed that the TDP had stolen the idea of a pension hike from its 'Navaratnalu', a document released at the party's annual meeting.

Telangana suspense In neighbouring Telangana, too, there was a suspense for days, and finally, when they released their respective manifestos, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) and the Congress accused each other of copying their 'offers.'

But for the TDP and the

SC questions Assam govt. over untraced foreign immigrants

'Where are those who have not been deported and are not in detention centres?'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday questioned the Assam government's efforts to trace over 70,000 illegal immigrants, who have already mixed with the local population in the State.

A Ministry of Home Affairs affidavit shows that 91,609 persons were declared 'illegal foreigners' by the Foreigners Tribunals in Assam till March 2018. Of these, 72,486 are absconding. "This is quite a large number," a worried Home Minister told the court.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi said there might even be "undeclared foreigners" who had succeeded in "merging with the local population" in the State. "What is the number of these undeclared foreigners?" The CJI's question drew a blank from the Assam government.

The Home Ministry explained that persons declared 'illegal foreigners' by the tribunals either abscond immediately or are already untraceable. Now, 829 persons declared 'foreigners' by the tribunals and 115 foreigners, who have completed their jail term, are lodged in the six jail-cum-detention centres in Assam.

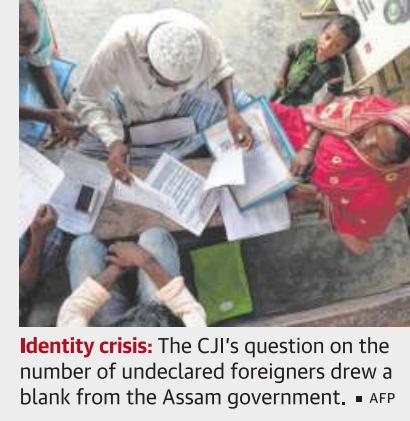
Reining in 'foreigners'

Key points in the Home Ministry affidavit in the Supreme Court

- 91,609 persons were declared by Foreigners Tribunals in Assam as 'illegal foreigners' till March 2018
- Of this, 72,486 are absconding, as per the Home Ministry

- Presently, 829 persons declared 'foreigners' by the tribunals and 115 foreigners, who have completed their jail term, are lodged in the six jail-cum-detention centres in Assam

- To a question by the Supreme Court to the Assam government on the number of undeclared foreigners in the State, the Home Ministry submitted that 'illegal foreigners' either abscond immediately or are untraceable
- Finding out the country of origin of illegal foreigners is necessary to deport them, the Home Ministry said in the Supreme Court



Identity crisis: The CJI's question on the number of undeclared foreigners drew a blank from the Assam government. ■ AFP

"But where are those illegals who have neither been deported nor are lodged in the detention centres? Where are they? How will you track them? What have you done in the past five years?" Chief Justice Gogoi asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing Assam. Mr. Mehta initially requested the Bench to defer the case.

Many obstacles
The hearing saw the court criticise the policy of "pushing back" illegal foreigners to Bangladesh without enquiring about their country of origin.

This was in the backdrop of the Home Ministry spelling out obstacles in the nationality verification process for illegal foreigners.

Wrong information
They provide wrong information. Details of the country of origin depend completely upon information provided by the persons," the affidavit said. Though as a sovereign nation, India has the absolute right to deport illegal immigrants, it cannot do so randomly, the affidavit said, agreeing with the court's point of view.

Mr. Mehta said the "push-back" policy was dropped in

2013, and now diplomatic channels were employed to determine the nationality of an illegal foreigner and deport the person.

The Ministry's affidavit said the Assistant High Commissioner of Bangladesh visits detention centres to talk to detainees. If their information is proved correct, they are expeditiously issued travel documents. "You have been pushing them back without knowing their country of origin. Now, suddenly you have grown wise and are resorting to diplomatic channels," the CJI said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Former vice-chairman of IL&FS arrested

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The former vice-chairman and managing director of the beleaguered financial services firm Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS), Hari Sankaran, was arrested here by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office on Monday. He was sent to police custody till April 4.

An official spokesperson said he was arrested on the grounds that he abused his powers in IL&FS through his fraudulent conduct and in granting loans to entities which were not creditworthy or have been declared non-performing assets (NPAs).

Mr. Sankaran had caused wrongful loss to the company and its creditors.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

which were not creditworthy or have been declared non-performing assets, and caused wrongful loss to the company and its creditors."

SFIO counsel Hiten Venegaykar sought his custody for five days.

The spokesperson said that in "granting loans to entities which were not creditworthy or have been declared non-performing assets (NPAs)", Sankaran had caused wrongful loss to the company and its creditors.

"Taking cognisance of the issue, the State CEO has asked for a report from the District Election Officer [the

Poll official seeks report on Yogi's 'Modi's sena' remarks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Uttar Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) has sought a report from the Ghaziabad District Magistrate on Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's remarks, describing the armed forces as "Modiji ki sena" at a rally in Ghaziabad on Sunday.

The remarks drew condemnation from the Opposition parties.

"Taking cognisance of the issue, the State CEO has asked for a report from the District Election Officer [the



District Magistrate] by Tuesday noon," the Election Commission said.

In his speech, Mr. Adityanath said the Congress served "biriyani" to terrorists, while Mr. Modi's forces treated them with bullets and bombs.

He said Congress leaders used "ji" for terrorists like Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar, but under the Prime Minister's leadership, the BJP-led government was destroying their camps.

Reacting sharply to Mr. Adityanath's comments, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed shock on Twitter, saying it was an insult to the armed forces.

(With agency inputs)

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

GST revenue hits a record high in March

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections clocked ₹1.06 lakh crore in March 2019. This is the highest in the history of the tax in India, and the fourth time monthly collections have crossed ₹1 lakh crore this year, according to official data released on Monday. Average monthly collections for the year stand at ₹98,114 crore, 9.2% higher than the average for 2017-18.

DETAILED REPORT ON ▶ PAGE 14

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'Won't budge on citizenship Bill'

Only the NPP can unite the voice of the Northeast, says Meghalaya CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
TURA



National People's Party supremo and Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma on Monday said the party will continue to oppose the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill.

"Meghalaya was the first State to oppose the Bill and raise objection. We took the initiative to unite different political parties of the Northeast and made our voice heard in Delhi and ensured that the Bill was not introduced in Rajya Sabha," Mr. Sangma said while campaigning for the party candidate in the Lok Sabha poll in Tura constituency.

He claimed that the NPP is the only party that can unite the voice of the region and make it heard in Delhi.

Mr. Sangma asked the pe-

ople to vote for his party as "NPP is the party of the Northeast."

Three rallies

The NPP chief on Monday flew to three different locations in the North Garo Hills and the East Garo Hills (Rongrong Abema, Mangsang and Chibonga) to campaign for his sister Agatha, the NPP

candidate for the Tura Lok Sabha seat.

Former CM Mukul Sangma is the Congress candidate for the seat while the BJP has fielded Rikman G. Momin.

'Wrong notion'

The NPP chief alleged that the Congress is propagating a wrong notion that his party will partner with the BJP and ensure that the Bill is passed in the Lok Sabha.

He added, "We will remain true to our commitment to the people of the Northeast and will never allow any Bill that would hamper the interest of our people."

Mr. Sangma also claimed that the NPP has "fulfilled" its promise made in the 2018 election with education as its top priority.

"We had promised an

education policy and we brought out the policy well before the completion of one year. For over four decades, the education department had to work without any policy or direction, we have scripted a direction to move forward to ensure better educational facilities in Meghalaya," he said.

The NPP chief said that based on the education policy, the Meghalaya government approached the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs and was accorded II Ekavaya Residential Model Schools, out of 50 such schools across India.

He said that if Ms. Agatha was elected as an MP, she will add to the initiative started by the Meghalaya Democratic Alliance government and will voice its concerns in the Parliament.

Kuki militants to cast vote by postal ballots

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
IMPHAL

The Election Commission on Monday notified that the cadres of the Kuki militant groups, who signed the Suspension of Operations agreement with both the Centre and the Manipur government, will cast their votes in postal ballots.

To exercise their franchise, the cadres also must reside in their designated camps and their names feature in the voters' list, the office of the State Chief Electoral Officer said in a statement here. They would have to collect the postal ballots from assistant nodal officers or nodal officers.

The agreement was first signed by the State and the Centre with two militant groups of the community in 2008.

Call for poll boycott in Mizoram

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AIZAWL

An umbrella organisation of major civil societies and students' associations in Mizoram on Monday decided to boycott the April 11 election to the lone Mizoram Lok Sabha seat and organise a State-wide indefinite bandh from April 8, sources said.

The NGO Coordination Committee said that a decision was taken earlier to boycott the parliamentary poll if special polling booths were established at the Mizoram-Tripura border.

"The NGOCC opposed the special polling stations for Bru refugees at Kanhmun," an NGOCC statement said.

Rejects the PM's claim made in New Delhi on Sunday



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister and Biju Janata Dal president Naveen Patnaik on Monday rejected Prime Minister Narendra Modi's claim that the BJP will repeat Tripura-like result in Odisha in the upcoming elections.

"We will do very well, as I have said before," said Mr. Patnaik, while responding to a query about Mr. Modi's remarks during his interaction as part of his *Main Bhi Chowkidar* programme via video-conferencing from Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi on Sunday.

Responding to a question

from a fisherman of Mahakalapada area of Odisha's Kendrapara district, Mr. Modi had said that Odisha will spring a surprise this time.

"Odisha will surprise the country. Odisha will become a second Tripura this time," he had said.

Observing that people did not consider the BJP strong enough in Odisha in the past, Mr. Modi had said that he was quite impressed by the enthusiasm during his recent visit to the State to campaign for his party.

PM's rallies

Mr. Modi, who addressed an election rally at Jeypore in the Koraput district on March 29, is scheduled to address a rally in Kalahandi district on Tuesday. He is also

scheduled to address another rally in Sundargarh district on April 6.

On the other hand, Mr. Patnaik is scheduled to start campaigning for his party nominees for the first phase of poll from April 3.

The elections for the 21 Lok Sabha seats and 147 Assembly constituencies are being held in Odisha simultaneously in four phases – April 11, 18, 23 and 29.

While BJP national president Amit Shah had earlier claimed that his party will win 120 of the 147 Assembly seats in the State, Mr. Patnaik had recently claimed that the BJD will win all the 21 Lok Sabha seats in the upcoming polls. The BJD had won 117 Assembly seats and 20 LS seats in 2014 elections.

BJP blames SKM for backing out of pre-poll alliance in Sikkim

'Were ready to accommodate most of their demands'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GANGTOK

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Monday hit out at the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha for backing out of the alliance between the two parties for inexplicable reasons a few days after making a firm commitment on the issue.

"We were ready to accommodate most of the demands by the SKM leadership to sew up an alliance for the Sikkim Assembly and Lok Sabha polls, but the P.S. Golay-led party chickened out at the last minute without giving any reasons," a senior BJP leader, who was involved in talks with the SKM leadership, said.

He added that the with-

drawal has embarrassed the BJP as it had gone public about it on a commitment given by Mr. Golay himself following a meeting with BJP's Northeast and Sikkim in-charge Ram Madhav in Delhi in the first week of March this year.

Ruing at the missed opportunity to oust the 25-year-old Sikkim Democratic

Front government from power, he said that the SKM will be held "squarely responsible" if Pawan Kumar Chamling returns to power for a sixth term in Sikkim.

The BJP leader said that his party was undaunted by the setback.

He said that the BJP has put candidates on 12 Assembly seats and the lone Lok Sabha seat with an aim to open its account at the hustings.

Elections to the 32-Assembly seat as well as the Lok Sabha constituency in Sikkim will be held simultaneously on April 11.

The SKM and the SDF are contesting on all the 32 Assembly seats.

Forest fires threatening Odisha's flora and fauna

March has alone registered 4495 fire spots



Flames are seen at Kasma Hills near Amapalli village in the Kalahandi district of Odisha. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

to be gutted. Given the vastness of forest areas and gigantic task, number of fire watchers engaged in fire-fighting appears to be too little.

"Apart from causing a huge loss to the timber and other fruit and leaf bearing trees and creepers of the forest, fires also destroy wildlife and their habitat. Nests and eggs of ground dwelling birds are lost. Reptiles also lose their young ones due to forest fires," said Biswajit Mohanty, former member of National Board for Wildlife.

Fire could only be tamed at the initial stage before it became a conflagration preventing anybody from even approaching it due to the intense heat generated, Mr. Mohanty said demanding it should be monitored from the office of Principal Chief Conservator of Forest.

Forest divisions mapped

Though forest department claimed to have mapped the forest divisions prone to fire

and maintained more than 6,000-km long fire line in different forests ahead of the fire season, forests continue

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RISE 04:30 SET 16:04	
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 03	
RISE 06:10 SET 18:40	
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Delhi Palam Tomorrow
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IN BRIEF



Congress in shock, says Himachal Chief Minister
NAHAN (H.P.) Chief Minister Jairam Thakur has said that the Congress was in shock after the BJP announced candidates for the four Lok Sabha seats in Himachal. Speaking at a poll rally on Sunday he said Congress leaders who were earlier seeking tickets were now shying away from contest. PTI

Woman killed as truck hits motorcycle

MUZAFFARNAGAR (U.P.) A 35-year-old woman was killed and her nephew critically injured after the motorcycle on which they were travelling was hit by a speeding truck here, police said on Monday. The accident occurred on Meerut-Karnal highway near Loyi village, they said. PTI

JD(U) frowns upon Dadri rally incident

'Not a good signal for the masses'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI
BJP ally Janata Dal (United) on Monday said politicians sitting in high offices should not be seen in the vicinity of those facing serious criminal charges, and that the ruling NDA must seek votes for the work of the Modi government in last five years.

Reacting to reports about the presence of some of the Dadri lynching case accused in the front row of a public meeting addressed by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at Bishahra village on Sunday, JD(U) spokesperson K.C. Tyagi said it was not a good signal to the masses.

"People watch the association of those in public life. Politicians sitting in

Rajnath pitches PM's 'graft-free' record at Uttarakhand rallies

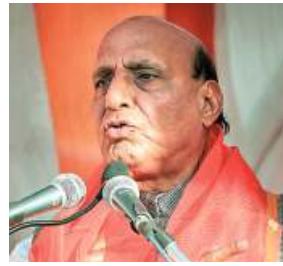
Congress should learn how to run a government from BJP, says Home Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PITHORAGARH/GOPESHWAR/KOTDWAR

The BJP has given a corruption-free government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, besides setting the country on the path of becoming one of the largest economies of the world, Union Minister Rajnath Singh said at a series of rallies in Uttarakhand.

Addressing poll rallies in Pithoragarh, Gopeshwar, Kotdwara and Jhabua, he said Mr. Modi has piloted the country steadily on the path of development.

In Pithoragarh, canvassing for BJP MP Ajay Tamta, who has been renominated from Almora (reserved) Lok Sabha constituency, Mr. Singh said the Congress should learn from the BJP how a government should be run and accused the grand old party of always doing politics over the issue of



Home Minister Rajnath Singh. ■ FILE PHOTO

development.

"India, which ranked 11th in the list of world economies in 2013, has jumped to the sixth position and will stand 5th in the list over the next six months. If the pace of development continues, India will be the third largest economy in the world by 2028," the Home Minister said at the rally at the D.S. Bishu ground in Pithoragarh.

"How a government is run is something the Congress should learn from the BJP. There has not been a single

charge of corruption against any Minister in the Modi Cabinet in the last five years," he said.

In the Almora (reserved) Lok Sabha constituency, BJP's Ajay Tamta is pitted against arch rival Congress' Raja Sabha MP Pradeep Tamta.

Referring to Congress president Rahul Gandhi's proposed minimum income guarantee scheme aiming to lift five crore families out of poverty, Mr. Singh said, "The poverty alleviation slogan was first given by Jawaharlal Nehru and carried forward by Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. It is being repeated by Rahul Gandhi who is promising to put ₹72,000 into the account of every poor person."

"It is a fake promise like the slogan of poverty alleviation," he said.

He also attacked the Congress president for being

"abusive" towards the Prime Minister, saying it was not just a post but an institution.

The Union Home Minister praised Trivendra Singh Rawat, saying the Uttarakhand Chief Minister was the only one to envision a universal health scheme much before the Centre launched Ayushman Bharat.

'Courtroom pledge'
At a rally in Gopeshwar, Mr. Singh began his speech in the manner of a courtroom pledge to state only the truth. "I will state only the truth and nothing but the truth," he said.

"Those who came before us (Congress governments) left without keeping their promises. We believe in looking straight into the eyes and talking. If we continue to grow at the current pace we will be among the three biggest economies in the world by 2028," Mr. Singh said.

The party has so far announced the names of five candidates. Out of a total 13 Lok Sabha seats in Punjab, the Akali Dal will contest on 10 seats and BJP three.

The party had earlier cleared the names of Bibi Jagir Kaur and Charanjit Singh Atwal from Khadoor Sahib

SAD announces three more candidates for Lok Sabha poll

Senior leader Chandumajra fielded from Anandpur Sahib

ELECTION 2019



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Shiromani Akali Dal on Monday announced the names of three more candidates for the single phase Lok Sabha election in Punjab on May 19.

SAD president Sukhbir Badal said Prem Singh Chandumajra has been fielded from Anandpur Sahib, Surjit Singh Rakha from Patiala and former bureaucrat Darbara Singh Guru from the Fategarh Sahib parliamentary seat.

The party has so far announced the names of five candidates. Out of a total 13 Lok Sabha seats in Punjab, the Akali Dal will contest on 10 seats and BJP three.

The party had earlier cleared the names of Bibi Jagir Kaur and Charanjit Singh Atwal from Khadoor Sahib

and Jalandhar seats respectively.

Addressing a rally in Khanna, Mr. Badal hit out at the ruling Congress government and said: "Capt. Amarinder Singh had taken oath in the name of sacred icons of Sikh religion while promising farm loan waiver, jobs for youth, drug eradication etc. People now feel cheated as he has gone back on his promises."

The party was keen to teach the Congress government a lesson by defeating it in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

Probe sought into 'hawala money'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

The Shiromani Akali Dal on Monday urged the Punjab chief electoral officer to order a probe into the allegations of a church priest who had accused the police of misappropriation of seized hawala money.

"The SAD asked Punjab's CEO to order an independent probe into the misappropriation of ₹6.6 crore from a priest. This seemed to have happened with the connivance of the Congress party and its leaders and could be used to influence voters," a delegation of Akali Dal leaders alleged after meeting Chief Electoral Officer S. Karuna Raju here.

Azad to hit the campaign trail in Jammu from today

Will address a series of rallies in the LS constituency

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAMMU



Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad. ■

Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad will hit the campaign trail in Jammu parliamentary constituency from Tuesday by addressing a series of rallies in Jammu, Rajouri and Poonch districts, a senior Congress leader said.

The Congress has nominated its State unit senior vice-president and former Minister Raman Bhalla for the Lok Sabha constituency, where he is supported by the National Conference while the PDP has not fielded any candidate for the seat.

"Ghulam Nabi Azad will tour Rajouri and Poonch districts tomorrow, to take stock of situation on the border. He will also campaign

"More than five crore families will be benefited by this. This announcement will be implemented with full commitment as we did earlier in the case of farm loan waiver in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh," he said.

'Serving the poor'
Claiming that during the 10 years of UPA rule 140 million people were pulled out of poverty, Mr. Sharma said the Congress believes that India's strength lies in its unity in diversity and wants people from all parts of the country to live happily.

"While the BJP serves the interests of the rich, the Congress serves the interests of the farmers, poor and downtrodden sections of the society," he added.

The Congress president Rahul Gandhi's proposed minimum income guarantee scheme aimed at lifting five crore families out of poverty will bring a revolution in the country.

Mr. Sharma said Congress president Rahul Gandhi's proposed minimum income guarantee scheme aimed at lifting five crore families out of poverty will bring a revolution in the country.

"While the BJP serves the interests of the rich, the Congress serves the interests of the farmers, poor and downtrodden sections of the society," he added.

The court of Justice Rajbir Sehrawat issued notices to both of them for April 25, said senior advocate Chetan Mittal, the counsel for Income Tax Department.

The Income Tax Department had moved the High Court against the November 2018 order of the court of Additional Sessions Judge Ludhiana, quashing the summoning order passed against Amarinder Singh and his son in this case.

The trial court had earlier

issued summons to both of them to appear personally for the hearing.

Both were facing accusations of making false statements, and willful omission in providing required information to the Income Tax Department.

Heavyweight in the ring



Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh on his way to file nomination for the Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat on Monday. His son and party chief Akhilesh Yadav is also seen. ■ PTI

SIT to probe Neha Shorie murder case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab police on Monday set up a Special Investigation Team to probe the murder of the 36-year-old woman officer who was shot dead at her office last week in Kharar.

Neha Shorie, posted as zonal licensing authority with the Drug and Food Chemical Laboratory in Kharar, was shot dead by a man who later killed himself as well.

The five-member SIT, which will be headed by Inspector General of Police (Rupnagar Range) V. Neeraj, will probe into all the facts and circumstances leading to the incident, said an official statement here.

The incident occurred af-

Inmates, deputy jailor hurt in brawl at Jaipur Central Jail

Prisoners include four accused in 2008 Jaipur blasts case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

After an alleged brawl in the Jaipur Central Jail, the police have registered a first information report against seven inmates on charges of attacking the jail guards and a deputy jailor when they were inspecting a cell in a high-security ward of the prison on Saturday. The jail inmates include four accused in the 2008 Jaipur blasts case.

The incident occurred after the accused, facing trial in the blasts case, wrote an application to the Special

Judge seeking a direction to the jail administration to install a complaint box and ensure the visit of a judicial officer to their ward as per the guidelines of the jail manual.

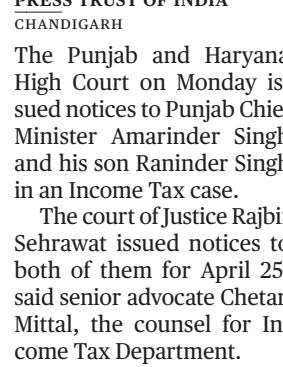
After the court issued notice to the jail authorities, the jail guards allegedly gave life threats to the accused.

FIR registered
In a brawl that followed, several prisoners were injured and deputy jailor Raj Mahendra reportedly fractured his finger. The inmates were taken to the jail dispensary for first aid. FIR against them

was not separate from the RJD and pointed towards photographs of his parents besides younger brother Tejashwi, who has in the recent past emerged as the party's de facto leader.

"Saran is the seat of my father Lalaji and mother Rabri ji. I urge my mother, with folded hands, that she herself enter the fray from there. If this does not happen I will contest as an Independent and make my best efforts to win it," a furious Mr. Yadav told reporters earlier.

The maverick MLA and former Minister spoke while announcing the formation of a parallel outfit Lalu Rabri Morcha which he insisted



Tej Pratap Yadav. ■

Chandrika Rai, the party's MLA from Parsa seat falling under Saran, was announced as the candidate from the Lok Sabha seat last week. BJP has named sitting MP Rajiv Pratap Rudy as its

nominee on the seat.

Mr. Rai's daughter Aishwarya had tied the knot with Mr. Yadav in May last year though the latter moved a divorce petition within less than six months of the marriage.

Mr. Yadav, who has been

pressing the candidature of two of his loyalists Chandra Prakash from Jahanabad and Angesh from Sheohar, announced that the duo would be fielded by his Morcha from the respective seats.

Replying to a query, he

shot back, "What action can

the party take against me? The RJD leadership has to realise that there is widespread resentment against the NDA government in Bihar which we have to harness. We must not end up angering the people."

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The RJD leadership has to

realise that there is wide-

spread resentment against

the NDA government in

Bihar which we have to

harness. We must not end

4 WEST

THE HINDU
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2019

Modi targets Sharad Pawar; NCP hits back with Advani jibe

PM says Pawar knows situation not in his favour, decided to not contest polls

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WARDHA
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday targeted NCP chief Sharad Pawar, saying there was infighting in his party, which was slipping from his control.

Launching the BJP-Shiv Sena alliance's poll campaign in Maharashtra, Mr. Modi said Pawar decided not to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha polls after realising that the situation was not in his favour.

"There was a time when he (Pawar) would think he too can be the prime minister. He had also declared he would contest the poll. But suddenly, one day, he said he was happy in the Rajya Sabha, and that he would not contest," Mr. Modi said.

"Sharad Pawar ji is also



Rally scene: A BJP supporter wears a Modi mask at the Prime Minister's rally in Wardha on Monday. ■ SUDARSHAN

aware which way the wind is blowing. This time, the people of the country have forced big guns to run, leaving the (election) ground," Mr. Modi said.

"Today Pawar sahab has

been bowed by people. His false promises have been exposed and he has been hit-wicket by his nephew," he said. Mr. Modi also accused Pawar of encouraging dynastic rule.

Responding to Mr. Modi's remarks, NCP spokesperson Nawab Malik said the party knew how to respect elders in its fold unlike the BJP which unceremoniously dropped someone as senior as party patriarch L.K. Advani.

Mr. Modi's attack on Mr. Pawar was out of frustration on seeing what he claimed was an empty rally ground at Wardha, he said.

Mr. Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule termed the criticism as "unfortunate". Ms. Sule, who is seeking re-election from Baramati said, "It was unexpected of the prime minister to have said so...It is unfortunate for one whose party doesn't respect the elderly to have said so...He was expected to speak on the core issues and development," Ms. Sule said.

Campaign heat



Congress party workers, street children rushing to collect water bottles at a rally by Congress candidate Suresh Zambad (not in pic) in Aurangabad on Monday. The severe heatwave in Marathwada and Vidarbha regions has resulted in average temperatures crossing 40 degrees Celsius. ■ YOGESH LONDHE

Bhide 'Guruji' supporter meets Ambedkar

Triggers speculation on VBA's choice for Sangli Lok Sabha seat

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

PUNE
Influential Dhanger (shepherd) community leader Gopichand Padalkar, who recently announced his decision to contest as an Independent candidate from Sangli, met with Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) leader Prakash Ambedkar on Monday.

According to sources, Mr. Ambedkar, who is eyeing the sizeable Dhanger vote bank, is thinking of fielding Mr. Padalkar from Sangli which is in the sugar heartland of western Maharashtra.

The meeting has caused



Gopichand Padalkar

ripples as Mr. Padalkar, who campaigned energetically for the BJP in the last Lok Sabha elections, is reported to have congenial ties with octogenarian radical Hindut-

va leader Sambhaji Bhide 'Guruji', prime accused in orchestrating the Bhima-Koregaon clashes last year.

Given that Bhide 'Guruji' – who heads the Sangli-based fringe right wing outfit 'Shiv Pratishthan Hindustan' – is Mr. Ambedkar's bitterest adversary, Mr. Padalkar's probable induction into the VBA is expected to court controversy.

The VBA, which is contesting the polls in alliance with Asaduddin Owaisi's All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM), had earlier said it would field Jaisingh Shendge, another

Dhangar leader who allegedly is not too keen on contesting.

Mr. Padalkar's entry into the electoral battle is likely to spoil the pitch for Sanjay Patil, the sitting BJP MP, and the Swabhiman Paksha candidate Vishal Patil, a grandson of former Chief Minister Vasantdada Patil.

Mr. Padalkar, who campaigned zealously for the BJP in 2014, fell out with the saffron party after being allegedly disillusioned with the Devendra Fadnavis government for not fulfilling its pre-poll promises made to the Dhangar community.

BJP targets Ajit Pawar on irrigation scam, says HC verdict imminent

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

PUNE

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar would soon face a reckoning for his 'role' in the alleged multi-crore irrigation scam, senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Chandrakant Patil said on Monday.

"The case against Ajit Pawar is currently on at Bombay High Court. We [the BJP government] have submitted all documents pertaining to the case. The court is expected to announce its verdict any moment now," Mr. Patil, the cabinet Minis-

ter for Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation said in Solapur district.

While this is not the first time the BJP has attempted to exert pressure on Mr. Pawar by bringing up his name in connection with the alleged irrigation scam, senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Chandrakant Patil said on Monday.

"Our country runs on the basis of the Constitution. The BJP has faith in it. And our government has taken action against all offenders within the legal and constitutional framework. [NCP leader] Chhagan Bhujbal,

too, went to jail for two years in connection with the various corruption cases lodged against him," said Mr. Patil.

In November last year, the BJP's Maharashtra unit president Raosaheb Danve had made a statement about Mr. Pawar's imminent "arrest" in connection with the case.

A little more than three weeks after Mr. Danve's statement, a 26-page affidavit filed by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court spelled out Mr. Pawar's alleged role in the scam.

HC extends protection to Navlakha

SONAM SAIGAL

MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday extended protection from arrest of activist Gautam Navlakha till April 15, 2019 in the Bhima Koregaon violence case.

A division bench of Justices Ranjit More and Bharati Dangre was hearing a plea filed by Mr. Navlakha urging the court to quash the FIR registered against him by Pune police.

Mr. Navlakha has been charged under various sections of IPC and UAPA. The matter will now be heard on April 15.

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

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DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

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- Naks family

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IN BRIEF



Karnataka Speaker accepts Jadhav's resignation

BENGALURU
Putting an end to uncertainty that lasted nearly a month, Karnataka Speaker Ramesh Kumar on Monday accepted the resignation of Umesh Jadhav (in photo) from the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Jadhav had quit the MLA seat from Chincholi, won on Congress ticket, to join the BJP, which has now declared him its candidate for the Lok Sabha election from Kalaburagi. He will take on veteran Congress leader M. Malikarjun Kharge.

Report sought on forced starvation of woman

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The State Women's Commission (SWC) has taken suo motu case in the suspected dowry killing of a young mother by enforced starvation, at her husband's house at Oyur in Kollam district last week. The SWC has sought a report on the woman's death from the Kollam Rural district police chief. The panel viewed seriously the reports that superstition and the practice of occult could have been the reasons behind the death. The SWC would take action after receiving the report from the police.

T.N. man held in Kerala for peddling ganja

KOTTAYAM
The district police here have nabbed a Tamil Nadu native who used to traffic huge quantities of ganja to Kerala from Andhra Pradesh via the Cumbum-Kumily route. The arrested has been identified as Rasanga, 45, of Cumbum. He used to purchase the contraband from Andhra Pradesh and Odisha and sell it in the southern States, including Kerala. Rasanga was produced before a magistrate and remanded in custody.

As campaign hots up in Telugu-speaking States, BJP and Cong. spar with each other

Modi taunts Opposition on 'Kashmir PM' plea

'Congress is quiet on such demands'

V. GEETANATH
HYDERABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday asked the Congress and other Opposition parties of the Grand Alliance to respond to National Conference (NC) leader Omar Abdullah's assertion that Kashmir needed to have a separate Prime Minister and the State should revert back to the pre-1950 position.

"The Congress has to answer to this demand by its alliance partner. I demand former PM Deve Gowda, former Defence Minister Sharad Pawar, Mamata Didi, 'U Turn' Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu to tell the people of the nation whether they support it," he asked at a public meeting at L.B. Stadium, his second in Telangana in four days.

The Prime Minister accused the Congress of "keeping quiet" whenever such statements were made and even when an NC MP had raised pro-Pakistan slogans. "This kind of mindset, because of vote bank politics, has made the country weak," he said.

There are two family "political shops" in the form of the NC and the PDP in Kashmir and these parties have been holding "Delhi to ransom" but "as long as Modi is there, he will not allow it to happen. This Modi will be a wall of protection between the enemies of the nation and the citizens of the country," he said.

Narendra Modi

Rahul promises 6% of GDP for education

'NYAY will be surgical strike on poverty'

R. AVADHANI
R. RAVIKANTH REDDY
B. PRADEEP
ZAHEERABAD/HUZURNAGAR

The Congress will spend 6% of the GDP on education if voted to power, party president Rahul Gandhi said at an election rally on Monday.

"The poor of this country need to dream big and their children will get the best of education as the government will be committed to increasing the national share for education," Mr. Gandhi said, addressing a series of campaign meetings for Congress candidates in Zaheerabad, Nagarkurnool and Nalgonda parliamentary constituencies in Telangana.

Mr. Gandhi faulted Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his alleged backing of big businessmen. Targeting the Prime Minister, he said Mr. Modi was busy with surgical strikes on the poor, but the Congress

would be interested in surgical strikes on poverty. That thought had given birth to the Nyuntam Aay Yojana (NYAY), he said, adding that every family that earns less than ₹12,000 will get ₹72,000 per year in their bank accounts.

"I am not here to cheat you with slogans of transferring ₹15 lakh into your accounts like Mr. Modi did, but I assure you that ₹3.6 lakh per annum will be in the accounts of 5 crore families in the country," Mr. Gandhi said.

The appeals have run into continuous adjournments in the past several months. In its appeal, the CBI has contended that Pinarayi Vijayan should face trial. The investigation agency said Mr. Vijayan had travelled to Canada as a "guest" of Lavalin in 1997, when he was the State's Power Minister.

Mr. Mohanachandran is a former Principal Secretary, Department of Power, and Mr. Francis was the Joint Secretary. However, three other accused – M. Kashuriranga Iyer, G. Rajasekharan Nair and R. Sivadasan – were asked to stand trial. Mr. Nair was then Member (Accounts) of the KSEB, and Mr. Iyer was Chief Engineer (Generation). The accused who were ordered to stand trial have also appealed to the Supreme Court for parity of treatment. Their appeals were also listed on Friday along with the CBI's appeal.



SNC Lavalin case to be heard only after polls

SC judge N.V. Ramana says the hearing will take time

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A month ago, the Supreme Court accused the CBI of "dragging on" the appeals against the discharge of Kerala Chief Minister in the SNC Lavalin corruption case. On Monday, the court itself decided to adjourn the case until after the summer vacation and the Lok Sabha election during April-May.

This time, the CBI said it was "ready" to argue its case but a Bench, led by Justice N.V. Ramana, decided to defer the case, saying hearing it would take time.

At the previous hearing on February 22, the Bench expressed its displeasure when Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the CBI, sought an adjournment.

He had asked the court to list the case on a non-miscellaneous day when fresh cases would not be heard. The case was finally posted for the first week of April, days before the first phase of the general election beginning on April 11.

The appeals have run into

continuous adjournments in the past several months. In its appeal, the CBI has contended that Pinarayi Vijayan should face trial. The investigation agency said Mr. Vijayan had travelled to Canada as a "guest" of Lavalin in 1997, when he was the State's Power Minister.

'Crucial decision'

It was there that he had made the "crucial" decision to promote Lavalin, a consultancy firm retained on a fixed-rate basis, from consultants to suppliers.

The corruption case concerns the loss of ₹86.25 crore

in the Kerala State Electricity Board's contract with Lavalin for the renovation and modernisation of the Pallivasal, Sengulam and Panniar hydroelectric projects in Idukki district. The CBI said the Kerala High Court's decision to discharge the Chief Minister was "not correct."

On August 23 last year, the High Court discharged Mr. Vijayan and former KSEB officers K. Mohanachandran and A. Francis.

Mr. Mohanachandran is a former Principal Secretary, Department of Power, and Mr. Francis was the Joint Secretary. However, three other accused – M. Kashuriranga Iyer, G. Rajasekharan Nair and R. Sivadasan – were asked to stand trial. Mr. Nair was then Member (Accounts) of the KSEB, and Mr. Iyer was Chief Engineer (Generation). The accused who were ordered to stand trial have also appealed to the Supreme Court for parity of treatment. Their appeals were also listed on Friday along with the CBI's appeal.

Argos helped the police scour encrypted messaging groups created to furtively swap child porn, comb through the hidden matrix of the Darknet, and eavesdrop on secret chat rooms.

dome facility at the Technopark here to identify persons who obsessively uploaded, swapped and traded child sexual abuse content on instant messaging platforms, restricted chat rooms and Internet websites.

Argos helped the police scour encrypted messaging groups created to furtively swap child porn, comb through the hidden matrix of the Darknet, and eavesdrop on secret chat rooms.

Additional Director General of Police, South-Zone, Manoj Abraham, who heads the anti-Child Sexual Ex-

Cong. chief may file papers on Thursday

STAFF REPORTER
KALPETTA

G. ANAND
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
A covert cyber surveillance and infiltration operation initiated by the Kerala police with the help of the Interpol in January to crack down on child pornography culminated on Monday with the arrest of 20 persons from different parts of the State.

Police investigators and resource persons drawn from Kerala's vast pool of IT experts hunched for nearly three months at the Cyber-

ploitation Unit, told *The Hindu* that the police had registered 25 cases in connection with the arrests that unfolded across Kerala early on Sunday.

The investigators used a special software provided by the Interpol, Argos, to launch the secret operation code-named P-Hunt.

Additional Director General of Police, South-Zone, Manoj Abraham, who heads the anti-Child Sexual Ex-

Thushar to contest against Rahul

The BDJS leader was shifted from Thrissur to Wayanad

N.J. NAIR
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The dramatic entry of Congress president Rahul Gandhi into the Wayanad Lok Sabha segment and the National Democratic Alliance's decision to field Bharath Dharma Jana Sena (BDJS) president Thushar Vellappally against him have propelled the fledgling party into national politics and enhanced its scope for bargaining within the alliance.

Though the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national leadership had offered him Thrissur, listed as one of the probable segments where the party could register an impressive performance, Mr. Thushar initially shied away from joining the race, citing various reasons.

BJD's grouse

The main reason was reported to be the grouse the BDJS nursed against the BJP leadership for failing to honour the commitments made to it while joining the

alliance. The decision to field Mr. Thushar in Wayanad was also aimed at perplexing the Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam leadership that had lent support to the Left Democratic Front's initiatives for conserving renaissance values post the Sabarimala agitation led by the Sangh Parivar.

Mr. Thushar is reported to have wrested some concrete assurances from the BJP leadership before taking the plunge.

Officer moved out of Mandya constituency

Bountiful grain



A worker is gathering corn at Itavaram in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. The introduction of new high yield hybrid seeds that can survive winter conditions and off-season diseases has made it a profitable alternative for small farmers in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. ■ V.RAJU

+ Stars shine all over Mandya as electioneering picks up steam

Darshan campaigns for Sumalatha, Nikhil for himself

M.T. SHIVA KUMAR
MANDYA

Electioneering in Mandya, which has seen the most heat among all the Lok Sabha segments in Karnataka, got a celebrity touch on Monday with film personalities campaigning all over the constituency.

Kannada actor Darshan began campaigning for the Bharatiya Janata Party-supported Independent candidate Sumalatha, wife of the late actor-politician M.H. Ambareesh and a film personality herself. Hundreds of his fans followed his vehicle, fitted with loudspeakers blaring film songs, mainly from films of Ambareesh and those of Mr. Darshan himself.

According to sources close to Ms. Sumalatha, Mr. Darshan and Yash, another popular actor, will campaign



Celebrity appeal: Actor Darshan campaigning for Sumalatha in Mandya district on Monday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

across the constituency for the next 13 days.

Actor-director Upendra, who floated his Uttama Prajakeeya Party last year, campaigned for party candidate Diwakar C.P. Gowda in Madur and Mandya on Monday. Hundreds of youngsters took selfies with him, raised slogans for his party, and followed his car on motorcy-

cles on the Mandya-Maddur main road.

Actor Nikhil K., the Janata Dal (Secular) candidate from Mandya and son of Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, sought the support of voters in different parts of K.R. Pet taluk and Mandya town. His party blared songs from his films *Jaguar* and *Seetharama Kalyana*.

Incidentally, BJP-backed Independent candidate Sumalatha had alleged that her opponent and JD(S) candidate Nikhil Kumaraswamy's camp had been violating the model code.

Sources said that K. Yalakkigowda was in charge of all the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation activities of the EC in the district, and more importantly, was the head of the model code of conduct committee, which monitors the violations of the model code.

Incidentally, BJP-backed Independent candidate Sumalatha had alleged that her opponent and JD(S) candidate Nikhil Kumaraswamy's camp had been violating the model code.

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IN BRIEF



'Create an ecosystem for rural entrepreneurship'

BHUBANESWAR

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Monday advocated for creating an ecosystem for entrepreneurship to thrive in rural India. "The possible way to address unemployment is to create the right ecosystem for youngsters to become entrepreneurs and set up their own businesses," Mr. Naidu said addressing a summit here on "Empowering Young Grampreneurs to Create Jobs". PTI

2 brothers on motorbike mowed down in U.P.

PRATAPGARH (U.P.)

Two brothers were killed when their motorbike was hit by an unidentified vehicle in Hathigawan area of the district, the police said on Monday. The incident happened on Friday. The men who died on the spot were identified as Amit Yadav (21) and Ankit Yadav (23). PTI

Renowned dramatist Kartik Rath dies at 70

CUTTACK

Eminent theatre organiser, playwright and economics teacher Kartik Chandra Rath passed away at his residence in Cuttack on Monday. He was 70. Rath is survived by his wife and three children. Family sources said Rath was unwell for the past few days. A recipient of Kendra Sangeet Natak Akademi award, Rath had penned over 100 plays and directed over 500 plays.

Couple, daughter-in-law run over by train in Bihar

GAYA

An elderly couple and their 21-year-old daughter-in-law were run over by a train here following which angry locals squatted on the tracks and disrupted rail traffic for a couple of hours on Monday morning, the police said. The mishap happened at Ismailpur railway station. PTI

Bihar Class XII topper a champion of challenges

Son of a driver and an Anganwadi worker, 17-year-old Pawan Kumar has scored 94.6% in science stream

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

There was a time when Pawan Kumar, a resident of Kinjar-Ujjainpatti village in Arwal district, was not sure if he would be able to pursue his studies any more. His unemployed father was not well and his mother's income as an Anganwadi worker was not enough to even feed a family of nine members.

But his fortune turned for the better and his father got a job as a driver with the police department in Jharkhand. Two years later, Pawan has topped the Bihar Intermediate examination (Class XII) in science stream with 94.6% marks.

When his father was able to earn a steady income, Pa-

wan took a room on rent in the neighbouring district of Jehanabad to focus on his studies. "I used to study 10 hours daily, apart from attending coaching classes," he told *The Hindu* over phone.

Mathematics is his favourite subject. "I got 98 out of 100 in it," he said.

"I thought I could be among the top 10 students but when the results were announced, it was a real surprise for me. I owe my success to my parents and the teachers in my school and the coaching institute," said the student of the Government High School in Kinjar. Another student, Rohini Prakash from Nalanda district, has also scored 473 out of 500 and shares the top posi-



Pawan Kumar outside his home in Kinjar-Ujjainpatti village. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tion in the science stream with Pawan.

Pawan, who is 17 years old, has three elder sisters, a younger brother, and ageing

grandparents at home. His sisters, too, are good in studies and preparing for competitive examinations.

"Toppers in all three streams – arts, science and commerce – will receive a cash prize of ₹1 lakh each, while students on the second and third positions will be given ₹75,000 and ₹50,000 respectively, apart from a laptop and a Kindle E-reader," Bihar School Examination Board chairman Anand Kishore said.

Pawan's father Sunil Kumar said he is proud of his son's achievement. "We come from a small village and have meagre income. Despite all odds, Pawan has done topped the exam. It is all because of his sustained

hard work," he said.

Army goal

Pawan's mother Madhuri Singh said her son would become an officer. His father wants Pawan join the Indian Administrative Service or Indian Police Service. When asked what he wants, Pawan said: "Since childhood, a soldier's life has been my passion. I want to become an Army officer. I would soon start preparation for the entrance examination of National Defence Academy."

A total of 13.15 lakh students appeared in the Intermediate exam this year, of whom 10.19 lakh passed. The pass percentage this year has improved significantly from 52.71 of last year to 79.76.

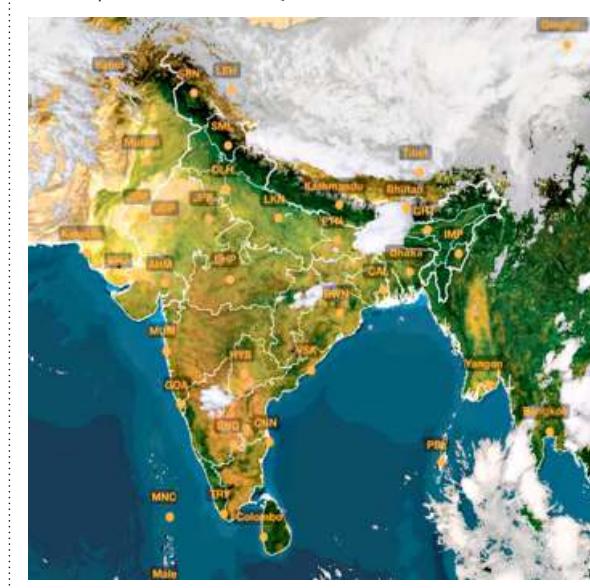
Testing times



Thumb rules: Election officials demonstrating the functioning of an electronic voting machine and a VVPAT for workers of a tea garden in Jorhat district of Assam on Monday. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Tuesday: Heat wave likely at some/isolated places over Marathwada, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Rayalseema and Tamil Nadu. Thunderstorm accompanied with gusty winds & lightning likely at isolated places over West Bengal, Sikkim, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	72.2...	30.2...	17.4	Kozhikode	35.5...	26.8
Ahmedabad	41.3...	23.2	Kurnool	41.2...	28.8
Aizawl	29.2...	17.6	Lucknow	35.6...	16.6
Allahabad	38.7...	20.7	Madurai	40.0...	24.4
Bengaluru	36.0...	22.9	Mangaluru	35.2...	25.6
Bhopal	38.4...	22.0	Mumbai	32.0...	21.8
Bhubaneswar	36.2...	23.2	Myssuru	36.5...	21.6
Chandigarh	31.5...	17.4	New Delhi	33.7...	17.6
Chennai	37.0...	26.7	Patna	33.4...	21.2
Coimbatore	39.0...	24.6	Port Blair	32.4...	23.4
Dehradun	32.1...	15.1	Puducherry	35.8...	26.2
Gangtok	6.8...	16.8...	9.9	Pune	39.3...	19.0
Goa	33.5...	25.0	Raipur	39.4...	25.2
Guwahati	32.4...	27.2...	17.6	Ranchi	36.7...	22.0
Hubballi	35.0...	23.0	Shillong	21.4...	14.2
Hyderabad	0.3...	40.2...	26.7	Shimla	22.0...	11.6
Imphal	28.8...	14.7	Srinagar	23.1...	5.3
Jaipur	37.3...	20.7

CITIES SO NO CO PM2.5 PM10 CODE In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 230 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Guwahati recorded a healthy AQI score of 51

Ahmedabad	20	.99	34
Bengaluru	..201
Chennai	..178
Delhi	208
Hyderabad	200	.277
Kolkata	93	.138
Lucknow	..5973
Mumbai	141-
Pune	32	.88
Visakhapatnam	16	.47	39
.....	124

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor □ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues

■ Desilting of covered S.W. drains from 30 mtr. along 20 mtr. and 30 mtr. Right of way in Sector-17, Sector-23(b) and along extension of Master Plan Road No.-209, 224 & 226 at Dwarka.

Estimated cost: ₹ 7,91,668/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 15,833/-, **Time Allowed:** 90 Days.

2. NIT No. 22/EE/WD-3/DDA/2018-19, Name of work: -Do- SH: Desilting of covered S.W. drain from 30 mtr. along 20 mtr. & 30 mtr. Right of way in Sector-26 at Dwarka. **Estimated cost:** ₹ 7,17,295/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 14,346/-, **Time Allowed:** 90 Days.

3. NIT No. 20/EE/WD-9/DDA/2018-19 (Short Tender Notice), Name of work: -Do- SH: Running contract for maintenance work on the covered Palam drain. **Estimated cost:** ₹ 19,43,709/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 38,874/-, **Time Allowed:** 180 Days.

4. NIT No. 15/EE/WD-10/DDA/2018-19, Name of work: -Do- SH: Annual Maintenance of Sector-9, 10 and 19A, Dwarka for the year 2019-20 (running contract). **Estimated cost:** ₹ 19,01,514/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 38,030/-, **Period of Completion:** 365 (Three hundred sixty five) Days.

5. NIT No. 09/EE/SWD-8/DDA/2018-19, Name of work: -Do- SH: Providing and applying retro reflective thermoplastic road marking paint on road and synthetic enamel paint on kerb stones including repair of footpath & service lane etc. at MP Road no. 221, Dwarka. **Estimated cost:** ₹ 18,28,606/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 36,572/-, **Period of Completion:** 90 Days.

6. NIT No. 117/EE/WD-2/DDA/2018-19, Name of work: M/o Completed scheme of N/Ac-II under SWZ. SH: Upgradation of Shaheed Udham Singh Park (TankiWala Park) at Hari Nagar, **Estimated cost:** ₹ 21,36,658/-, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 42,733/-, **Period of Completion:** Three (03)Months.

For details please visit the website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. For any assistance please contact M/s NIC over help line No. 0120-4001005 or send mail to coppnic@nic.in.

Please give your feedback on DDA Apps at [Google play](https://play.google.com)

Please visit DDA's website at www.dda.org.in or Dial Toll Free No. 1800110332

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of female **Age:** Approx 25 years, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5', **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Thin, was wearing Black colour T-Shirt and Blue colour Jeans Pant, was found at Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi. In this regard a **FIR No. 75/2019, dated 24.02.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi.** Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi
DP/6162/CD/19 Ph.: 011-28726870, 8750870430

EASTERN RAILWAY

Open e-Tender Notice No. : 205-MLDT-18-19, dated 26.03.2019. Open e-tender notice is invited by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Malda for the following work : Tender No. : 205-MLDT-18-19. Name of Work with its Location : Open e-tender for CTR(P) by PORS and manual method and TTR(P) in Bhagalpur-Kul section (total=15.75 kms) with other ancillary works under the jurisdiction of DEN/Spl/Malda. **Tender Value :** Rs. 2,88,21,593.87. **Earnest Money :** Rs. 2,94,100/-, **Tender Closing Date and Time :** 26.04.2019 at 15.30 hrs. **Website particulars and Notice Board :** www.reps.gov.in / DRM Office, Malda. **Expression** MLD-87/2018-19
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.indianrailways.gov.in / www.reps.gov.in

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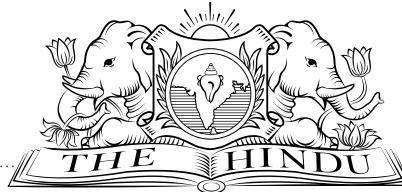
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Foggy in Wayanad

Rahul Gandhi's decision to contest from Kerala opens up fault-lines in the anti-BJP front

Rahul Gandhi's decision to choose Wayanad in Kerala, in addition to Amethi in Uttar Pradesh, to contest, could well be a defining moment in this election. Though Wayanad was under consideration for at least two weeks, the decision was nonetheless surprising as his principal opponent would be, not his national-level ideological rival the BJP, but a party of the Left, which is in the forefront of the fight for a secular alternative to the ruling formation. This paradox could turn out to be a central challenge in the emergence of a national coalition against the BJP because many parties that are opposed to the BJP are also opposed to one another. Mr. Gandhi's gambit amplifies that contradiction and marks a rupture between the Congress and the Left Front – fierce opponents in Kerala, but natural partners at the Centre. The national leadership of the Congress had kept an arm's length from the highly competitive politics in Kerala, where its State unit and the Left are face to face. The exigencies of national politics shape their cooperation elsewhere. Only recently, on Mr. Gandhi's watch, the Congress was in seat-sharing talks with the Left in West Bengal. Though the Congress has said Mr. Gandhi's candidature is not against the Left, the latter has been brutal in its reaction. The Congress claimed the faray signalled Mr. Gandhi's commitment to all regions. But the choice of Kerala, rather than Karnataka, where the Congress is locked in a direct battle with the BJP, is difficult to explain. If the Left frontal-ally attacked the Congress, the BJP was disparaging. Amit Shah remarked Mr. Gandhi feared he would be held accountable by Amethi's voters; and Narendra Modi, in a statement with communal overtones, said Mr. Gandhi chose the seat because Hindus were in a minority there.

By fielding Mr. Gandhi from Wayanad, the Congress has taken a view that considerations of alliances are now secondary to its push to maximise its individuality. The Congress has strong alliances in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Bihar but a shaky one in Karnataka. Its U.P. ambitions were rejected by the SP-BSP axis; and differences persist within the party on aligning with the AAP in Delhi. After the 2004 elections, the Congress became the fulcrum of a national coalition, which was bound by a broad commitment to a pluralist India, as opposed to Hindutva's exclusivist and majoritarian politics. The Left had a significant role in its formation but ended the experiment in 2008 over differences with the Congress on the nuclear deal. State-level compulsions have led regional parties to cross from the BJP to the Congress and vice versa, but the primary fault-line is political mobilisation along religious lines. Without clarity of concept on addressing this fault-line, there can be no effective cooperation among non-BJP parties. Though it is unfair to put the entire onus of aggregating non-BJP politics on Mr. Gandhi, his candidacy in Wayanad can do nothing for the larger secular cause.

Space for campaign

EC went by rule book on ASAT issue, but PM should have upheld the spirit of Model Code

In a ruling that Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not violate the Model Code of Conduct by announcing through a nationally televised address the demonstration of India's capability to bring down an operational satellite, the Election Commission has taken a possibly correct view of the Code's provisions. However, it remains a narrow technical view as it is a thin line that divides the idea of making a high-level declaration of a defence capability from using it for electoral advantage. Opposition parties had accused the Prime Minister of violating the Model Code by touting the demonstration of the anti-satellite (ASAT) missile test as a significant achievement of the ruling BJP. CPI(M) general secretary Saram Yechury had formally complained to the EC. There were questions about the timing of the test as well as the manner of announcement as the country is in election mode. A five-member committee formed by the EC concluded that the relevant provision was not attracted in this case. Part VII of the Code covering the "party in power" says that "...the misuse of official mass media during the election period for partisan coverage of political news and publicity regarding achievements with a view to furthering the prospects of the party in power shall be scrupulously avoided." The committee's finding that there was no "misuse of official mass media" as Doordarshan and AIR took the feed from a news agency, and more than 60 channels did the same, is rooted in the letter of the code, not its spirit.

It is possible to come to an equally valid conclusion that Mr. Modi's action in making the announcement himself, rather than letting the DRDO, the agency involved, do so violates the bar on "furthering the prospects" of the ruling party by the nature of the publicity given to the achievement. The practice of using a private agency to record the announcement and asking it to share the feed, obliquely serves the purpose of generating publicity through the official media. As the legal maxim goes, what cannot be done directly cannot be done indirectly either. Given that Mr. Modi gave advance publicity to the announcement, there is really no virtue in claiming that DD and AIR were not used for the purpose. As a landmark achievement in defence research, it deserved a public pronouncement at a high level. Even then, letting the DRDO explain the achievement first would have served the purpose. That the motive was to proclaim the ASAT demonstration as an achievement of the regime in the field of national security became obvious when it was propagated by the ruling party that its predecessor did not have the political will to approve such a test. The BJP must demonstrate it will not use such achievements for partisan advantage.

Ensuring access to justice

The Supreme Court must set up more Benches, and disciplinary jurisdiction over lawyers must go back to the judiciary



RUMA PAL

The justice system in any democracy is set up, under the Constitution to serve the public without "fear or favour, affection or ill-will" as far as judges are concerned. Yet the protagonists, as far as India is concerned, in operating the system have stopped that very access – judges through lack of prescience, and many lawyers through their dishonesty in many forms.

Revisiting judges' advice

At an informal meeting, all of the then sitting judges of the Supreme Court (including myself) advised the then Chief Justice of India to decide against the request of the then Central government to sit in other places in the country under Article 130 of the Constitution. The reason we (judges) decided against it was because we felt that the authority of the Supreme Court would get diluted. The reasoning, in retrospect, was fallacious. Many High Courts in this country have different Benches for meting out justice without 'justice' being 'diluted'. For example, the Bombay High Court has four Benches – in Mumbai, Aurangabad, Nagpur and Panaji (Goa) – and the quality of its decisions or status have certainly not been diluted thereby.

The number of Benches depends on the size of the State, the idea being to facilitate easier access to justice. The direct consequence of the wrong decision has been three-fold. First, the Su-

preme Court sitting only in Delhi has resulted in excellent lawyers from other High Courts not appearing before the Supreme Court, possibly because it casts too large a monetary burden on their clients, many of whom are impoverished. Second, all lawyers, whatever their calibre or competence, who happen to be in Delhi now appear in the Supreme Court. Some of the good lawyers who were able to leave lucrative practices in the High Courts have settled down in Delhi, but they have established a monopoly, and, as a result, charge unconscionable fees even from charitable concerns – sometimes even when they do not appear at the hearing. This is also true of litigating lawyers at all levels of the judicial system. The third fallout of the failure to act under Article 130 is that the Supreme Court in Delhi has been flooded with work and been reduced to a District Court instead of a Court of Final Appeal and Constitutional Court as envisaged under the Constitution.

Unethical lawyers

But the fault in actually denying access to justice to citizens is the fault of unethical lawyers alone. That lawyers are generally dishonest is a well-known fact. Lawyers are (frequently) humorously called liars, and because they are the middle-men between judges and the litigating public, they act like dishonest brokers. That is why William Shakespeare said, "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers" (Henry VI). This is a somewhat unfair condemnation of those lawyers who are persons of high principles.

Some of the lawyers specialising in victim compensation cases do not charge any fees for their ser-



vices and render services free of cost. They generally obtain a blank cheque from the victim which is filled in after credit of the compensation to the bank account of the victim. Victims who open bank accounts for the purpose of victim compensation are being duped by some of the lawyers who link their or their assistant's mobile number to the account so that they can have access to all the information of the transactions in the bank account. Some of the lawyers specialising in victim compensation cases thus take huge money as a percentage of compensation amount awarded towards victim compensation. Such a practice is frustrating the whole purpose of victim compensation. The procedure is similar to that adopted by some advocates dealing with Motor Accident Claim Cases under Section 166 (application for compensation) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. They agree to conduct the cases without a fee, but in the event of compensation being granted by the court, the advocates get a certain percentage. This is illegal, being a chameleons agreement.

In some cases, as soon as an award of victim compensation is

made by any Legal Services Authority (LSA), a statutory body to render free legal services to the impoverished all over India, the lawyer gets in touch with the victim and somehow convinces him/her to file a writ petition before the High Court to show that without such writ petition the compensation will not be disbursed by the State LSA (SLSA). Ultimately when the amount of compensation is finally disbursed by the SLSA, the lawyer takes credit and shows that it was because of his noble initiative that the victim got the relief, and in exchange claims a hefty share in the compensation. Such lawyers effectively create a perception of rendering a benevolent service by not charging any fees so the victim could never suspect him/her of any malpractice. Incidentally, according to a study carried out by a research organisation, Vidhi, in the Delhi High Court, more than 70% of the delays in the disposal of cases are attributable to lawyers, a major reason being sometimes unjust pleas for adjournments.

The litigating public and lawyers (including women and students) – either because they do not trust the judicial system or they distrust lawyers in particular, or for whatever reason – write hundreds of letters to the Chief Justice of India and the Chief Justices and Justices of each High Court for relief. Some issues raised in these letters are administrative or statutory in nature. Apart from these letters, hundreds of letters are written to Chief Justices for relief on the judicial side. Given the huge workload before all judges, it is not possible to deal with all letters simultaneously on the statutory, administrative or judicial side, unless they are drawn

specifically to the Justices' attention. Unfortunately the disciplinary powers available to Bar Councils both in Delhi and in States are more often than not ineffective. Some are politically motivated and some States do not have disciplinary committees at all. The disciplinary jurisdiction over lawyers was originally with the courts. As far as the older High Courts are concerned, this is clear from the respective Letters Patents under which the courts were set up. This continued till the power was taken away by the Advocates Act, 1961. Significantly, the Law Minister at that time was Ashoke Sen, a well-known lawyer. The solution to the present situation is to give the disciplinary jurisdiction back to the courts and to repeal the Advocates Act, 1961.

The way forward

Therefore, to hound out the corrupt lawyers from the system at all levels so that justice may be truly rendered to the public, I have a few suggestions. First, the Supreme Court should reconsider setting up Benches in different States in keeping with the recommendations of the Law Commissions (125th Report and 229th Report). Second, the Bar Council of India should exercise its powers under the Advocates Act, 1961 more effectively. If not, the disciplinary jurisdiction must be returned to the judiciary as was the position prior to the Advocates Act, 1961 by repealing the 1961 Act. Third, lawyers should be made irrelevant by referring more cases to trained mediators, as the Supreme Court has done in the Ayodhya dispute.

Ruma Pal is a former Judge, Supreme Court of India (2000-2006)

Deepening insecurity

The buzz around 'Mission Shakti' should be an opportunity to review India's defence strategy



RAJNI BAKSHI

After 'Mission Shakti' – India's anti-satellite test – there is a feeling that India needs this form of deterrence for its security. To be visibly strong in order to deter any enemy from attacking is a concern that goes back to pre-historic times. But when this ancient urge is exerted by nations with nuclear weapons, it must be an occasion to revisit the arms race, the Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) doctrine and their long-term implications.

The doctrine emerged during the Cold War in the mid-20th century when the U.S. and the erstwhile U.S.S.R. had stockpiled so many nuclear weapons that if launched, the weapons could destroy both nations many times over.

Since there was eventually a 'détente', or a relaxation of hostilities between the two, it is tempting to think that MAD is a valid doctrine that should continue to be applied by all countries with nuclear weapons capability. What

is the basis of this belief? And does it actually work?

For more than 100 years now, scientists and writers of science fiction alike have fostered the illusion that some day humankind will have a weapon so terrible that the fear of its impact will end war for all times.

Deterrence and violence

Having invented dynamite and unleashed it upon the world in 1867, Alfred Nobel believed that "the day when two army corps can annihilate each other in one second, all civilized nations, it is to be hoped, will recoil from war and discharge their troops".

Since then incalculably more destructive weapons, including nuclear bombs and chemical weapons, have been deployed but this has not ended war. On the contrary, the invention of increasingly deadly weapons has fuelled a global arms race.

Globally, the annual spend on armaments is now estimated to stand at about \$1.7 trillion. Estimates of the total number of nuclear weapons in the world range from 15,000 to 20,000, with each one of these weapons being far more powerful than the bombs dropped by the U.S. on Japan in 1945. The U.S. and Russia still

maintain about 1,800 nuclear weapons in a state of high alert, ready for launch within minutes.

According to the Global Peace Index, in 2017, the economic impact of violence globally was estimated at about \$14.76 trillion, which was 12.4% of global GDP. Since 2012, there has been a 16% increase in the economic impact of violence largely due to the conflicts in Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq.

It is vital to note that having competing weapons, in terms of quality and quantity, has not acted as a deterrent either in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or in the Syrian war or the prolonged conflict in Colombia. What did finally end the conflict in Colombia, after almost 50 years, was protracted process of negotiation between all parties of the conflict.

The Global Peace Index also shows that over the last 70 years the per capita GDP growth has

been three times higher in more peaceful countries. This is partly why, compared to 10 years ago, 102 nations are spending less on military as a percentage of their GDP.

But that is a thin silver lining to a grim reality. Ban Ki-moon, while he was UN Secretary General, said in 2009, "The world is overarmed and peace is under-funded... The end of the Cold War has led the world to expect a massive peace dividend. Yet, there are over 20,000 nuclear weapons around the world. Many of them are still on hair-trigger alert, threatening our own survival."

According to the website of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), the failure of the nuclear powers to disarm has heightened the risk that other countries will acquire nuclear weapons. In 2017, the ICAN was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Double-edged sword

Theoretically, MAD is supposed to eliminate the incentive for starting a conflict but it also makes disarming almost impossible. This is partly why, long after the Cold War ended, the U.S. is poised to spend enormous amounts of money over the next 10 years in updating and

modernising its nuclear arsenal.

The tragic irony of this trend is that nuclear defence, particularly with warheads riding on rockets of supersonic speed, actually deepens insecurity in both countries by causing millions of lives to perpetually be at the risk of instantaneous annihilation.

All through the Cold War and even now, the MAD doctrine has been opposed on both moral and practical grounds by a variety of disarmament and peace groups. The most prominent of these, War Resisters' International (WR), which will turn 100 in 2021, has 90 affiliated groups in 40 countries. Such groups ceaselessly serve as a counter to all those who glamourise or justify war or an arms race. Above all, they constantly draw attention to the fact that the only true security lies in dissolving enmity by going to the roots of any conflict.

Once the joy about India's technological achievements, in the realm of missiles, has settled down, perhaps attention can shift to the much bigger challenge of seeking answers to a key question: what really makes us, the world a whole, more secure?

Rajni Bakshi is the author of 'Bapu Kuti: Journeys in Rediscovery of Gandhi'

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.

Rahul from Wayanad

That the complexity of political alliances varies from State to State has always been an acceptable norm but the candidature of Congress president Rahul Gandhi for the Wayanad constituency in Kerala has kicked up a controversy and given the ammunition-starved BJP something to deride the Opposition about. While the barbed criticism of the Left is justifiable, the Congress should not allow things to go out of control as the BJP is always on the lookout for a fallout amongst the Opposition parties (Page 1, "Left unhappy as Congress says Rahul will contest Wayanad too", April 1). It is imperative that the Congress and the Left sort out their differences and concentrate on the task at hand – to stop the BJP's from getting another term. G.B. SIVANANDAM, Coimbatore

■ Opportunism and politics go hand in hand and it is no

surprise that Mr. Gandhi is looking at another seat. However, one is surprised by the indignation expressed by rival politicians. When the Prime Minister chose to contest from Vadodara and Varanasi in 2014, it was hailed as a masterstroke. But when Mr. Gandhi does it now, it is called desperation. Finally, the Election Commission must explore the possibility of recovering the cost of the second election in either one of the constituencies in the event of the candidate winning in both. It does impose a wasteful expenditure of public funds. ANAND ARAVAMUDHAN, Chennai

■ The move is a blunder as it sends the message that the Congress is not secular. The point is that in north India, the Congress follows the same Hindutva agenda that the BJP does. The way the Congress is campaigning in Uttar Pradesh is an indication of this. Contesting from Wayanad will result in a contest with the LDF, which

is a supporter of a secular dispensation at the Centre. The Kerala PCC's enthusiasm after the announcement is to hide or end the groupism with the State Congress unit. B. PRABHA, Varkala, Kerala

■ The decision is a clear indication of the fear of defeat in the Congress party. There can be no comparison with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's move to contest from two seats in 2014. He was a first-timer with no traditional Lok Sabha seat. Only time will tell whether the Left in Kerala will play a friendly match. The move does also raise interest about the electoral fortunes of the dynasty. D.R. JAI PRAKASH GUPTA, Ambala Cantt., Haryana

■ The Congress party, which failed in its attempt to form a Mahagathbandhan before the elections, has made sure that political disunity and acrimony will continue even after the elections. The party should have shown some political expediency by

keeping out of Kerala and exhibiting the same grace and maturity shown by the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Samajwadi Party (by not fielding candidates in Rae Bareli and Amethi in U.P.). Perhaps the Congress might have anticipated a similar gesture from the Left in Kerala. The electorate will wonder whether it is worth exercising their franchise in favour of a hotchpotch of parties that do not want to see eye to eye with each other. Despite being perceived to be on a sticky wicket due to its mediocre performance, the NDA suddenly finds itself at an advantage due to egoistic and unrelenting Opposition leaders. V. SUBRAMANIAN, Chennai

■ The stringent opposition, especially from the Left, primarily stems from that desperate realisation of the rich electoral dividends that the Congress would stand to reap/gain, which could have far-reaching ramifications in all constituencies of the

State. There are examples from the past of political leaders who have contested from two parliamentary seats and emerging victorious in both. Elections are to be fought on bread and butter issues instead of personality politics and sectarian issues. B. SURESH KUMAR, Coimbatore

■ Water distress As water sources in south India begin to show signs of severe distress and exploitation, the focus should move to environmentalists who have been struggling to point out that dwindling green cover and shrinking water bodies are issues within our control. Rampant real estate development and concretisation are also why

we are faced with such a miserable situation. Studies have shown that buildings, roads and other hard surfaces absorb and store heat whereas vegetation reflects heat. China has realised rather late in the day. Its vertical forests – buildings that are designed to incorporate lush greenery along their facades, with trees and hedging sprouting from external gardens – are now being seen as solutions to tackle its deadly smog and pollution. The key issue is the availability of water; the best time to prepare and plan for water conservation is before the monsoon. Rainwater harvesting has been partly successful.

NAGARAJAMANI M.V., Hyderabad

MORE LETTERS ONLINE: www.hindu.com/opinion/letters/

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS: The headline of a story (April 1, 2019, some editions) regarding the PSLV mission read: "PSLV to launch military's eye in the sky." It should have said "military's monitor."

In "Dramatic win for Hamilton" (Sport, April 1, 2019

The politics of enmity

We must reject the idea that membership in a group comes with an enemy to be fought



RAJEEV BHARGAVA



"The strain of exclusionary nationalism has permeated South Asian cultures, an example being the expulsion of the Rohingya from Myanmar." A Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. ■ GETTY IMAGES

Indian elections have become less violent over the last three decades. The credit for this must go not only to institutions such as the Election Commission but also to the political class. Yet there is another disturbing tendency, potentially replete with violence, that has been growing during the same period: to view political opponents as enemies to be annihilated. One gets a flavour of this in slogans such as 'Congress-mukt Bharat', but more than in statements, it is present in the tone of some speakers, in their body language and in the ferocity in their eyes.

Friends and enemies

The pro-Nazi, but important legal and political theorist, Carl Schmitt, made the friend-enemy distinction as constitutive of politics itself. To be political was necessarily to work with a distinction between an extreme version of us and them, friends and enemies. Not only was this distinction the decisive criterion of the political but even within this relationship, enmity had priority over friendship: Those not on our side, or disloyal to us, are automatically, irredeemably, enemies. In doing so, Schmitt reduced all politics to war. At least war is an ever-present possibility in politics, he claimed, and therefore a political person must conduct himself as if surrounded by enemies. Schmitt was exploiting a distinction perfected by some strands within Abrahamic religions that invented the idea of an 'extra-systemic other', a radical other with whom no conversation is possible, one who is outside one's semantic universe. Those who do not adhere to the doctrine defining the system are enemies to be fought. Internal dissent too is anathema, akin to betrayal, of joining the camp of the enemy, signifying treachery. Felt as existential threats, both outsiders and deviant insiders must be 'converted', brought in line or altogether expunged.

This horrendous resource within these traditions, when deployed under certain conditions, has played havoc in large parts of Europe lead-

ing to crusades, the inquisition, the expulsions of Jews, and to the final solution of the concentration camps; and outside Europe, in the liquidation, for example, of native Americans. Some detect the same ideological underpinning even in the neoconservative war on Iraq. Perhaps, its most recent expression is in the violence exhibited by Islamist organisations such as the Islamic State. However, this mindset is no longer confined to strands of Abrahamic theology; it has crept into other religions and even been secularised. It is found in the 20th century in both fascism and Stalinism and more pervasively in a host of ultra-nationalisms that have led to ethnic cleansing and genocide in several parts of the world, including Indonesia, Cambodia and Rwanda. This strain of exclusionary nationalism has permeated China where undercurrents of Han nationalism have virtually turned Tibetan Buddhists and Uighur Muslims into extra-systemic others or enemies. It has infected South Asian cultures too, causing the partition of the 'subcontinent', ethnic cleaning of Tamils in Sri Lanka and the expulsion of the Rohingya from Myanmar. In India, the frequent use of the term 'anti-national' for those critical of the current dispensation smells of the same fatal disease. How to deal ideologically with this seems to me one of the great challenges of our times.

Enemies and adversaries

Obviously, a mentality inebriated

with the friend-enemy syndrome is fundamentally undemocratic. Knowing the difference between an enemy and an adversary is absolutely critical in a functioning democracy. An adversary is someone one wishes to defeat in a temporary contest such as a legal combat or a game of cricket. To wish to trounce an opponent in an election is entirely legitimate. On the other hand, an enemy is someone to be destroyed permanently. Adversaries can be won over, turned into allies, but enemies cannot. A compromise with an adversary is acceptable, even praiseworthy. On the other hand, with an enemy, a compromise spells defeat, an unacceptable concession, a betrayal. The world of adversaries in a democracy does not involve a zero-sum game; no one loses everything or forever. There are no permanent losers or victors; each competitor wins some and loses some in a fair contest. But all rules of fairness can be abandoned in a fight with an enemy. In this hostile scenario, all politics is nothing but war.

It is often heard that in politics there are no permanent friends or enemies. This may well appear to be opportunistic in some contexts but it is the very stuff of democratic politics where everyone hopes that today's losers can be tomorrow's victors and vice versa. Everyone, not only active political agents but also ordinary citizens, is assured that no matter which party wins, the fundamental interests and liberties of all, the majority as well as the minority, are secure,

and despite deep differences on many matters, everyone also shares something in common. This 'common' can be our humanity, national ethos, Constitution, or shared civilisational values, nurtured through history. For example, in India, the value of pluralism, acceptance and accommodation, of refusing to view the world in terms of simple binaries has faced challenges from time to time by narrow-minded, rigid, hierarchy-ridden, upper caste practices (often termed Brahminism because it was legitimised by scholarly Brahmins), by close-minded religious orders which accompanied Afghan and Turk invaders and marauders, and by ruthlessly exploitative colonialists. More recently, heartless multinational corporations have also damaged this ethos by mindlessly turning everything into a commodity to be bought and sold in the capitalist market. But exclusionary ultra-nationalists (as distinct from inclusive, moderate nationalists) must not be left out of this nefarious list. They too are hell bent on throttling our civilisational values and democratic ethos.

Protecting our civilisation

As groups grow in size, they invent rules to regulate behaviour, formulate authoritative norms, install a structure of authority and, above all, evolve some criteria of who is in and who is out, of insiders and outsiders. Let us even agree that there is no 'self' without an 'other'. But rules can be rigid or flexible, a challenge to norms can be tolerated or punished severely, and the 'other' can be viewed as a temporary adversary in a healthy contest, someone with who one can also have a fruitful dialogue, or one with who conversation is impossible, a permanent enemy. This idea that membership in a group comes with an enemy to be fought was a powerful resource in the doctrines of some religions has slowly taken root in Asian religions, including modern Hinduism. It has now entered our democratic politics. If it stays there, it will utterly destroy the *atman* of our civilisation and the *asatva* of democracy. Everyone across religious differences must strive to fight it. All democrats, if they wish to save their cherished system, must defang it before it is too late.

Rajeev Bhargava is Professor, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi

Chowkidars are those who protect the rich

Why the BJP campaign is on the mark



KANCHI ILAIAH SHEPHERD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi calls himself a chowkidar. What he has done is tell the nation and the world the truth. Chowkidars exist mostly in Asian countries where poor men work as protectors of the rich. In India, only about 0.5% of the population have watchmen, who are called chowkidars. Only poor, lower caste people – Dalits, Other Backward Classes and Adivasis – take up this job, and that too when no other work for survival is available. That the job is tied to caste was evident in Rajya Sabha MP Subramanian Swamy's statement. Mr. Swamy recently said that he cannot join the BJP's 'Main Bhi Chowkidar' (I am also a watchman) campaign as he is a Brahmin. Being a chowkidar is a low-paying job with little job satisfaction – after all, a chowkidar has to stand at the gate of a rich man or woman's house all day and protect it. No chowkidar serves the poor. The poor do not have anything that needs protection.



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK PHOTO

However, after Emergency, its credibility began to erode. When Rajiv Gandhi became Prime Minister, a slow pace of privatisation started. Once the P.V. Narasimha Rao government was ushered in, the privatisation process picked up, without giving up the idea of a mixed economy. Through all these phases, the RSS and Jan Sangh opposed state capital; they opposed a mixed economy. It was only after Indira Gandhi imposed Emergency that they gained some credibility among the poor, and this was because they joined hands with the socialist leader Jayaprakash Narayan. Otherwise they never moved away from the rich. They never moved away from serving capitalist and feudal interests.

Disintegration of feudalism

Luckily for them, by the 2014 Lok Sabha election, feudalism got disintegrated. The crony capitalists were impatient with the Congress culture of slow privatisation. They found in the BJP those who could protect them.

Of course, some pro-poor policies are taken by the government too – for poor farmers and labourers. This is only because if this is not done, a revolution could break out. And if a revolution does occur, leave alone the chowkidars, even the police cannot protect their economy.

The 2019 elections will decide what the masters do. If the chowkidars come to power with their full backing, more decisions will be taken to increase the gap between the masses and the rich.

Kancha Ilaiah Shepherd is a political theorist, social activist and author

SINGLE FILE

Taking a cue from Japan

How India can bridge the Belt and Road divide with China

ATUL ANEJA

 As the countdown begins for the second edition of the Belt and Road Forum (BRF) later this month, Beijing is jubilant. Last month, China demonstrated that President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) had steamed into the heart of Europe. Late last month, during President Xi's Europe visit, Italy became the first G7 country to formally subscribe to the Chinese-led BRI. The Chinese have interpreted Rome's decision as a historic event that revives ties between the European and Chinese civilisations. During his visit, President Xi also spoke about joint venture prospects in other countries, including in Africa. That apparently tickled a nostalgic nerve in European capitals, where it has been difficult to separate the guilt of colonisation from a whiff of romance. The geopolitical subtext of the visit is also fairly obvious. With its ties with the U.S. souring, China is making a bold move to chip away at the real or contrived fault-lines of the Trans-Atlantic Alliance. As in 2017, when there were plenty of red faces in China when India did not grace the BRF, there is once again a fear in Beijing that New Delhi may repeat the embarrassment. India had stayed out because of sovereignty concerns as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the flagship of the BRI, passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The question then arises whether there is third way out of the problem that would allow India to hold on to its position against official participation, but yet convey to the Chinese that New Delhi has no ingrained ill-will towards the BRI.

Perhaps, New Delhi can pull a leaf out of Japan's play book. In 2017, after Tokyo had decided that it needed to rebuild bridges that had collapsed following a maritime dispute over a few East China Sea islands, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe decided to send his trusted party ally, Toshihiro Nikai, to China. Mr. Nikai, the secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, though an established heavyweight, was technically not a part of government. His presence signalled that Tokyo continued to have reservations about the BRI, but was nevertheless open to an engagement with the enterprise, provided a course correction was carried out in the future. Significantly, Mr. Nikai's delegation included the head of Keidanren, Japan's Business Federation lobby – a pointer that its current misgivings apart, Japan could be open to business within the ambit of the BRI.

Taking the cue from Japan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi can also tap an influential party heavyweight to lead an Indian non-official delegation to the BRF, along with business leaders and reputed scholars. A mature and pragmatic Indian response, which keeps the door open for a future partnership with the BRI, may help keep afloat the reset achieved last year following the informal summit between Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi in Wuhan.

Atul Aneja is The Hindu's China correspondent



DATA POINT

The winning habit

The late CPI leader Indrajit Gupta had the distinction of being a member of 11 Lok Sabhas, beginning in 1957. The CPI(M) has the highest proportion of MPs who have been part of five or more Lok Sabhas. Among States, Meghalaya has the highest proportion. By Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Veteran line-up

The graph shows MPs who were part of 9 Lok Sabhas or more. Labels show the MP's name, the latest party he was affiliated to and the number of Lok Sabhas he was part of

Indrajit Gupta CPI 11	Basudeb Acharya CPI(M) 9	Kamal Nath INC 9	Purno Agitok-Sangma NPP 9
Somnath Chatterjee CPI(M) 10	George Fernandes JD(U) 9	Ram Vilas Paswan LJP 9	Madhavrao Scindia INC 9
P.M. Sayeed INC 10	Giridhar Gamang INC 9	Khagappa Pradhani INC 9	
Atal Bihari Vajpayee BJP 10	Manikrao Hodlya Gavit INC 9		

Experience counts

The CPI(M) has the highest proportion of veterans among parties which have sent at least 50 MPs and that are no longer defunct.

Table 1 shows the % of one-time MPs (1), % of two to four-time MPs (2 to 4) and % of MPs who completed five or more terms (>5) among various parties.

Table 2

Table 2

State	1	2 to 4	>5
Meghalaya	50	33	17
Uttarakhand	35	53	12
Jharkhand	57	32	11
West Bengal	52	39	9
M.P.	60	31	9
Kerala	47	45	8
Karnataka	52	40	8
Goa	58	33	8
Tripura	50	43	7
Gujarat	51	42	7
Himachal	52	42	6
Maharashtra	55	39	6
Assam	59	35	6
Bihar	59	35	6
Odisha	59	35	6
A.P.	52	43	5
Rajasthan	63	32	5
Telangana	63	32	5
Tamil Nadu	64	31	5
Chhattisgarh	52	45	3
U.P.	60	37	3
Haryana	50	49	1
Punjab	60	39	1
Mizoram	50	50	0
Delhi	58	42	0
J&K	59	41	0
Arunachal	64	36	0
Nagaland	64	36	0
Manipur	67	33	0
Sikkim	67	33	0

Table 1

Party	1	2 to 4	>5
CPI(M)	41	50	9
BJP	52	41	7
SP	56	38	6
INC	52	43	5
AITC	61	35	4
DMK	64	33	3
Ind.	80	17	3
TDP	74	25	1
AIADMK	84	15	1
BSP	80	20	0

FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 2, 1969

Wrong Air-India folder to be withdrawn

The Union Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Dr. Karan Singh, expressed regret in the Lok Sabha to-day [April 1, New Delhi] that a folder produced by Air India in collaboration with the BOAC and Thomas Cooks to attract foreign tourists had indicated that India, Kashmir and Nepal were separate countries. The Minister was earlier taken by surprise when Mr. Indrajit Gupta flourished the pamphlet and asked whether there was any kind of check to stop this kind of giving wrong information that India, Kashmir and Nepal were three separate countries whereas Kashmir was an integral part of India. Mr. Gupta demanded to know who authorised this production, whether anybody in Government had seen the text and what action would Government take to see that such a piece was not put out. Dr. Karan Singh said that he was distressed to learn that Air India had produced such a pamphlet. It had not come to his notice so far.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 2, 1919

A Farewell in Madras

FROM PAGE ONE

SC questions Assam over untraced immigrants

The hearing saw the court ask questions on a series of connected issues. "What percentage of illegal migrants have you proceeded against? What are you doing to improve the conditions of those detained in the detention centres? How long will they remain," the Chief Justice asked.

The absence of the Assam Chief Secretary in court to personally answer these questions irked the Bench.

"Where is the Chief Secretary?" the CJJ asked Mr. Mehta. "He was here the last time. Who exempted him from personal appearance this time? Does he get to decide that he need not come?" The Chief Justice said the "Government of Assam is playing around with the court." "Your affidavits are an exercise in futility," the CJJ remarked.

INTERVIEW | KANHAIYA KUMAR

'My fight is against the politics of polarisation'

Student leader says Begusarai's voters will back him for their voice to be heard in Delhi

AMARNATH TEWARY

Former JNU Students' Union president and CPI candidate Kanhaiya Kumar is pitted against BJP leader and Union Minister Giriraj Singh in Begusarai, known as the 'Leningrad of Bihar' for the sizeable number of communist party supporters across caste lines. Both Mr. Kumar and Mr. Singh are from the dominant upper caste Bhumihar community but their politics represent two poles. Talking over several cups of tea outside his concrete-and-thatched single-storey house at Bihat-Maslanpur village, Mr. Kumar portrayed the contest as one between truth and falsehood and a battle to protect the Constitution and democratic institutions. Excerpts:

Whom do you consider as your contender? BJP candidate Giriraj Singh or grand alliance (RJD) candidate Tanveer Hassan?

■ I do not consider either of them as my contender. My fight is not against any individual but an ideology: against that ideology which talks about politics of polarisation, divisiveness, attacking the Constitution and slamming democratic institutions. It's a contest between *haq aur loot; saach aur jhoot* (rights and loot; truth and lies).

How do you see BJP's development, patriotism, Pulwama and Balakot air strike issues in the campaign?

■ We all know about BJP's propaganda politics. Divisive politics. If they were so sure about all these things to reap electoral dividend, then why did they go for alliances with the Shiv Sena and the JD(U) on these parties' terms? Patriotism and our soldiers'

bravery should not come into politics. It is always there for every Indian to salute but politicising it, I think, must be condemned. The BJP's slander campaign of "anti-national" and "fake news" cannot be approved by any

C It's a contest between *haq aur loot; saach aur jhoot* (rights and loot; truth and lies)

right thinking Indian. By raising Pulwama terror strike and Balakot air strike they have hatched a conspiracy to hide their failures... the promises they made during the last election to the people of the country.

But why should the people of Begusarai vote for you?

■ Because I'm the son of the soil and, unlike the BJP candidate, I'm not being imported. You can well understand why Giriraj Singh was reluctant to contest from Begusarai for over a week... he must

be feeling threatened. People of Begusarai would vote for me, for their voice to be heard in Delhi against all the hate politics, politics of intimidation, oppression; for participatory democracy and social cohesion, inclusiveness.

Why did the *mahagathbandhan* refuse to field you as candidate, despite a grand welcome accorded to you, by both RJD chief Lalu Prasad and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, earlier?

■ I've no idea at all. But, I've no grudges against anyone. I'm here to contest the election with an open mind and clear agenda. The people of Begusarai are politically so mature that they know and understand everything. They're ready to break all myths in this election: about caste, chemistry, calculations and propaganda. Begusarai has never been a BJP stronghold... only in 2014, the BJP candidate had won the seat. But, it's been a traditional stronghold of communists, Left ideologies... there has never been a caste massacre here as was earlier happening in districts of central Bihar.

■ Why? Because, people here are well aware and politically educated... it's not that only the lower caste people are Left supporters in Begusarai, but most of them come from upper caste Bhumihar community.

Do you think coming from the Bhumihar community will help you in the election?

■ Not really, why to single out the Bhumihar caste only. I'm getting support from everyone, every caste and community. It's my constituency, they all are my people, whether Muslims or Hindus. But, how can I discard this social fact, that I was born in a Bhumihar family?

How different is it from contesting the JNU Students' Union election?

■ JNU is beyond an academic institution. It gives you space to learn freely from social movements, consciousness and even from your own life. It was there that my activism flourished and it changed my life's ambition. When I was contesting for students' union president, I had no idea that I would get such an overwhelming response and win the poll. Contesting Lok Sabha poll also is not very different from it... I'm meeting people here every day and hope to get that "overwhelming" response from them to win this poll as well.

Were you to win, what would be your priorities?

■ I will keep raising my voice against politics of hatred and intimidation; to take politics out of the pockets of the rich and powerful and give it to those common people who pay taxes so that the governments run. People should be the master. We'll speak for the state of public equality, education, healthcare and infrastructure. We'll vouch for alternative politics to be accountable and transparent.

How much money have you collected through crowdfunding?

■ In three days, the initiative had collected over ₹30 lakh but suddenly a cyberattack took place and the website stopped opening... The target is to collect ₹70 lakh as per EC guidelines.



In battle for Begusarai, the charge of the young gun

But BJP firebrand Giriraj Singh is not sparing any corner

AMARNATH TEWARY
BEGUSARAI

"This time, we will vote for local boy Kanhaiya Kumar," Dilip Sharma, 45, says.

Mr. Sharma lives in Bihat-Maslanpur village of Begusarai, the Lok Sabha constituency where the CPI has fielded the former JNU Students' Union president against firebrand BJP leader and Union Minister Giriraj Singh.

Mr. Singh was reluctant to contest after the BJP swapped his Nawada seat with the Lok Janshakti Party.

Mr. Kumar and Mr. Singh come from the upper caste Bhumihar community which, with a 4.5 lakh population, is a dominant caste in the constituency. There is a sizeable number of Muslim (2.5 lakh), Yadav (80,000) and Extremely Backward Caste (about 1 lakh) voters.

In 2014, BJP candidate Bholu Prasad Singh won here, defeating RJD candidate Tanveer Hassan by over 60,000 votes. Mr. Hassan, again in the poll ring on RJD ticket, hopes to win the seat with the possible split of the Bhumihar votes between his two rivals.

Begusarai is known as the 'Leningrad of Bihar' as it has a sizeable number of CPI supporters across caste lines. In 2014, the BJP got 39.73% of the votes, RJD 34.32% and CPI candidate Rajendra Prasad 17.87%. Yogenra Sharma, a farmer at Teghra, had won the seat in 1967.



In new territory: BJP candidate Giriraj Singh during his election campaign in Begusarai on Monday. ■ PTI

After being denied ticket for Nawada, Mr. Singh had been sulking in Delhi, saying, "I fail to understand why among all Union Ministers from Bihar only my constituency was changed."

However, after party chief Amit Shah assuaged his "hurt feelings," Mr. Singh landed in Patna and rushed to meet Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. The next day he was in Begusarai and kicked off his campaign in his inimitable style.

"My fight is against anti-nationals... those leaders who are asking the Centre for proof of India's air strike against Pakistan are not connected with ground realities... I am sure the people of Begusarai will give them a befitting reply," he said.

A group of JNU alumni and independent MLA from Vadgam (Gujarat) Jignesh Mevani, along with popular YouTuber Wali Rahmani, are camping in Begusarai and canvassing for Mr. Kumar.

POLL POURRI



A gola for a goli: Shah

PARALAKHEMUNDI

The BJP believes in the policy of answering a *goli* (bullet) of terrorists with a *gola* (bomb), party national president Amit Shah said on Monday, speaking at an election rally on the outskirts of Paralakhemundi in Gajapati district under the Berhampur Lok Sabha constituency. Reiterating his campaign theme that the country was safe in the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr. Shah said the martyrs of the Pulwama terror attack had been avenged. Referring to the retaliatory air strikes on terror bases in Pakistan, Mr. Shah in a pejorative reference said Mr. Modi was unlike 'mauni baba' Manmohan Singh.

BSP releases second list

LUCKNOW

The Bahujan Samaj Party on Monday released its second list of six candidates for the Lok Sabha poll for Uttar Pradesh, including three reserved constituencies. Those fielded are fresh names. In Shahjahanpur, the BSP has fielded Amar Chand Jauhar, who is associated with education business, in place of Umed Singh Kashyap, who stood second in 2014 with 2.89 lakh votes. Neelu Satyarthi, who stood second in the Balamau Assembly seat in Hardoi in the 2017 election, will be the party's candidate in Misrikh. In Farukhababad, known as a potato hub, the BSP has fielded former MLC Manoj Agarwal. In Akbarpur, which comprises rural Kanpur, the party has fielded a Kurmi (OBC), Nisha Sachan. In Jalana, also reserved for Dalits, it has fielded former MLC Ajay Singh Pankaj, who won from Konch in 2007. In Hamirpur, the BSP's candidate is Dilip Kumar Singh.



POCKET | SATWIK GADE



Dhimsa time



In demand: Folk artistes performing the Dhimsa dance at a rally taken out by the Telugu Desam Party at Araku in Visakhapatnam district. The artistes, who struggle for a livelihood, are much sought-after during election season, especially in rural areas. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

In abode of the clouds, coal sparks livelihood versus ecology debate

Election in Meghalaya's two Lok Sabha seats is taking place in the backdrop of the worst mining tragedies

RAHUL KARMAKAR
SHILLONG

Jostina Dkhar, 40, fears the day the interim relief she received for her dead son Dimonme gets exhausted. Her elder son Melambok lies buried deep inside a flooded rat-hole coal mine at Ksan, about 21 km from her village Lumthari in Meghalaya's East Jaintia Hills district.

The 20-year-old Dimonme's decomposed body was one of the two retrieved from the Ksan mine, where at least 15 miners have been trapped since December 31. Multiple agencies have since been extracting water from a network of coal pits in a bid to retrieve the bodies, but the water level has hardly changed.

Ksan, or Khloog Ryngksan,

and Lumthari are within Sutenga-Saipung, one of the 36 Assembly segment of the mineral-rich Shillong Lok Sabha constituency, from where Congress MP Vincent Pala is seeking a victory for the third straight term.

The ailing Ms. Dkhar, whose husband abandoned her 10 years ago, wishes she knew a trade to sustain and educate her two minor daughters. Her family has been too dependent on coal – almost an illicit commodity in the region since April 2014 when the National Green Tribunal (NGT) banned rat-hole mining – while effluents from the mines poisoned the farmlands around.

She is unaware that the plight of families like hers has



Jostina Dkhar lost her sons in the mine mishap. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

become an issue for debate ahead of the election to Meghalaya's two Lok Sabha seats.

The other seat is Tura, which is witnessing the battle of the Sangmas – National People's Party (NPP) candidate and former Union Minister Agatha Sangma versus former Chief Minister Mukul Sangma

of the Congress.

"This election is happening in the backdrop of one of the worst mining tragedies," said Jemino Mawthoh, a former MLA and the United Democratic Party (UDP) candidate for Shillong. "People in Meghalaya have been mining coal for ages but thousands of

them suddenly are without a source of livelihood. Something needs to be done but at the same time, we need a mechanism that ensures protection of the environment," he added.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate for Shillong, Sanbor Shullai, too has sought a "fine balance" between livelihood and ecology. The BJP had in the manifesto for the Assembly poll in February 2018 promised to find a solution to the issue within 180 days.

Mr. Pala, who owns 24 sq km of coal mines and has banned for regulated mining, finds the NGT ban unfair to Meghalaya. "The type of mining here is dictated by the terrain."

Chief Minister and NPP president Conrad K. Sangma be-

lieves that the ban is not the solution. "I want the ban to be lifted, but the system has to change to ensure safety of miners and protect the environment," he said.

"It is not only about coal," said green activist Brian Kharpan Daly. "Indiscriminate limestone mining too is killing the land and rivers of Meghalaya... The hills have suffered a lot, and there is no political will to stem the rot, let alone undo the damage," he added.

A case in point is the Meghalaya Environment Protection and Restoration Fund set up, as per the NGT's direction, with contributions from coal miners, traders and transporters. The State government has collected ₹433 crore so far, but is yet to put it to use.

POCKET | SATWIK GADE



**Russian aviation tycoon killed in plane crash**

One of Russia's richest women died on Sunday when a private plane on which she was travelling crashed near an airport in Germany. Natalia Fileva, 55, a co-owner of a conglomerate behind the Russian company S7 Airlines, was among three people killed when the six-seater plane crashed into an asparagus field south of Frankfurt, German agency DPA reported. NY TIMES

Pak. clerics condemn forced conversion

ISLAMABAD
Pakistan's senior Muslim clerics and representatives from different religions on Sunday condemned forced conversion of people from minority communities. The remarks were made during a joint meeting of two religious bodies amid the nationwide outrage over the alleged forced conversions of Hindu girls in Sindh province. PTI

Ethiopian Airlines crash preliminary report ready

ADDIS ABABA
A preliminary report into the crash of a Boeing 737 Max in which 157 people died will be ready on Monday and issued this week, the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry said. Foreign Ministry spokesman Nebiat Getachew said the Transport Ministry would release the preliminary report. AFP

China to crack down on fentanyl-like substances

BEIJING
China announced on Monday that it will launch a crackdown on all fentanyl-like substances from May 1 following U.S. pleas for Beijing to control a drug fuelling a deadly opioid crisis. The issue has figured in bilateral trade talks. AFP

Erdogan loses ground in Turkey's big cities in local polls

Opposition wins Ankara mayoral race and takes a narrow lead in Istanbul

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISTANBUL

Turkey's Opposition dealt President Recep Tayyip Erdogan a symbolic blow by gaining ground in key cities in the country's local elections.

The Opposition won the capital, Ankara, a ruling party stronghold for decades, and was leading a tight race for Mayor in Istanbul, according to unofficial figures on Monday. The leader, who has dominated Turkish politics for 16 years, declared victory despite the Opposition gains.

Sunday's local elections were widely seen as a gauge of support for Mr. Erdogan as the nation of 81 million faces a daunting economic recession with double-digit inflation, rising food prices and high unemployment. It was also a first test for Mr. Erdogan, who has been accused of increasingly authoritarian tendencies since stepping last year into a new presidential role with widely expanded powers.

Behlul Ozkan, an associate professor at Marmara



AKP defeated: Supporters of Opposition Republican People's Party celebrating in Ankara on Monday. ■ AFP

University, said Mr. Erdogan's loss of ground in Ankara and Istanbul indicated that his socially conservative and construction-driven policies no longer resonated in the cosmopolitan cities.

'Hegemony over'
Political Islam's quarter-century old hegemony in Turkey's two largest cities is over," he said. "The basic problem is that Mr. Erdogan is not able to get votes from middle-income earners who believe that the economy, education and urban administration are not run well."

More than 57 million people were eligible to vote for the Mayors of 30 major cities, 51 provincial capitals and 922 districts in Turkey. The election was marred by sporadic violence, with five dead and scores injured across Turkey.

Even with 99% of the votes counted, ballot counts were still under way on Monday in the tight race for Istanbul, Turkey's largest city and commercial hub.

Unofficial results reported by the state-run Anadolu news agency showed the Opposition at 48.8% support to

the ruling party's 48.5% support. Ekrem Imamoglu, the Opposition candidate in an alliance led by the secular Republican People's Party, or CHP, declared that he won Istanbul but his rival, former Prime Minister Binali Yildirim of the ruling party, said it was still too early to call.

Mr. Yildirim accepted that his rival was leading by some 25,000 votes but said his party would file an objection, suggesting a recount of the 3,19,500 votes declared valid in Istanbul.

"Whoever receives the mandate from the electoral board will be Mayor," said Mr. Yildirim.

Both Ankara and Istanbul have been held by Mr. Erdogan's Justice and Development Party and its Islamic-oriented predecessor for 25 years. Mr. Erdogan's own ascent to power began as Istanbul Mayor in 1994.

Unofficial results showed Mansur Yavas, the candidate of the CHP-led alliance, winning the top post in Ankara with 50.9% support. The AKP still holds a majority of Ankara's 25 districts.

China locks horns with U.S. over Masood Azhar

Says it is making 'positive progress' on listing JeM chief

ATUL ANEJA

BEIJING

China on Monday said it was making "some positive progress" to resolve differences on listing Masood Azhar as a global terrorist, and rejected Washington's alternative move to ban the head of the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) through a resolution at the UN Security Council.



Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang

along with France and the U.K., piloted a resolution in the I267 committee for listing Azhar, following the February attack in Pulwama in which more than 40 CRPF personnel were killed.

Technical hold

China placed a "technical hold" on the listing despite Pakistan based JeM, which Azhar heads, taking responsibility for the attack. Following China's move in the I267 committee, the U.S. sponsored a resolution in the Security Council seeking Azhar's ban.

"As I said, we have been working with various parties and (our efforts) have made some positive progress. The U.S. knows that very well."

The friction between China and the U.S. has sharpened after Washington,

tive move and is setting a bad example," Mr. Geng said.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry pointed out that the U.S. was failing in its bid to muster majority support in the UNSC, and urged Washington to return to the I267 committee to resolve the issue.

"We hope various parties will meet each other halfway and continue to properly solve the issues under the I267 UN committee framework. Last Friday, the UN Security Council members exchanged views on the U.S.-proposed draft resolution and the majority believes that efforts should be made under the framework of I267 committee and solve the issue through dialogue and consultations," Mr. Geng said.

"As I said, we have been working with various parties and (our efforts) have made some positive progress. The U.S. knows that very well."

"We believe that in the current circumstances, forcing a resolution at the Security Council is not a construc-

Sri Lanka police destroy nearly 800 kg of cocaine

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

COLOMBO

Sri Lankan police on Monday destroyed nearly 800 kg of cocaine in the presence of President Maithripala Sirisena, who has called for the death penalty for traffickers. The drugs were seized in four raids between June 2016 and June 2018.

Mr. Sirisena vowed to step up his drug war and

promised to import high-tech equipment to detect narcotics at ports and airports, his office said. Mr. Sirisena "reiterated his desire to carry out capital punishment for repeat drug offenders", the statement added.

In February, police seized nearly 300 kg of heroin worth \$17 million, the island's biggest haul, while in transit at a Colombo mall.

27 killed as storm hits south Nepal

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

KATHMANDU

A freak storm tore down houses and overturned cars and trucks as it swept across southern Nepal, killing at least 27 people and leaving more than 600 injured, officials said on Monday as a major rescue operation gathered pace.

The rare spring storm battered the rural district of Bara and adjoining areas late on Sunday with high winds.

Five children were among the dead, the Home Ministry said, as rescuers battled to get relief supplies to the region and evacuate the injured.

Injured victims flocked to local hospitals, who were unable to cope and at least seven people were airlifted to Kathmandu for treatment.

dropped and on Monday, prosecutors withdrew the charge against the second accused, Doan Thi Huong from Vietnam, and replaced it with a lesser one.

She pleaded guilty to "causing injury" and was handed a three year and four month jail term, with her lawyers saying she would be freed next month due to sentence reductions.

reputation, nepotism, mismanagement and the prolonged grip on power of elderly veterans of the 1954-62 war of independence against France.

Mr. Bouteflika's hesitation further enraged protesters, spurring the powerful Army Chief of Staff to step in by proposing last week to implement a provision of Algeria's Constitution that calls for a constitutional council to determine whether Mr. Bouteflika was still fit to govern or allow him to resign.

An estimated million protesters had filled the capital Algiers on Friday demanding the ruling elite and ageing leaders of the struggle against French colonialism step aside as a movement that is reminiscent of the Arab Spring grows.

Protests seeking his ouster have rocked the country

take over as caretaker President for 90 days until elections are held.

In a move to defuse the unrest, Mr. Bouteflika said on March 11 he was dropping plans to run for a fifth term. But he had stopped short of leaving immediately in favour of waiting for a national conference on reforms to address discontent over cor-

Never acted inappropriately: Biden

An ex-lawmaker had said he made inappropriate contact with her in 2014

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

WASHINGTON

Former U.S. Vice-President Joseph R. Biden directly responded on Sunday to Friday's accusations from former Nevada lawmaker Lucy Flores that he had made inappropriate physical contact with her in 2014, making her feel "uneasy, gross, and confused".

"In my many years on the campaign trail and in public life, I have offered countless handshakes, hugs, expressions of affection, support and comfort," Mr. Biden said via a statement.

"And not once – never – did I believe I acted inappropriately. If it is suggested I did so, I will listen respectfully. But it was never my intention."

Ms. Flores told CNN that Mr. Biden's personal statement was "certainly better" than his spokesperson's prior statement on Mr. Biden's behalf, which, while acknowledging that he or his staffers had any recollection of the event or knowledge of

Ms. Flores's discomfort, acknowledged her right to share her recollections.

However, Ms. Flores added: "Frankly, my point was never about his intentions, and they shouldn't be about his intentions. It should be about the women on the receiving end of that behaviour."

"I may not recall these moments the same way, and I may be surprised at what I hear. But we have arrived at an important time when women feel they can and should relate their experiences, and men should pay attention. And I will," Mr. Biden's statement read.

Advocate for women

The former Vice-President, who is expected to announce a 2020 bid for the White House in a few weeks, said he would continue to "remain the strongest advocate" for women and will work with women who challenge him to see perspectives different from his own.

Asked about the timing of



U.S. former Vice-President Joe Biden. ■ AP

her accusation, Ms. Flores, who had endorsed Mr. Sanders in 2016 and was a Board member at a Sanders-affiliated advocacy group, told CNN Mr. Biden's conduct was "something that we should consider when we are talking about the background of a person who is considering running for President."

A number of memes and montages of Mr. Biden's interactions and physical approach with women had emerged online. One such image was of Mr. Biden's in-

teraction with Stephanie Carter, wife of former Defense Secretary Ash Carter, at Mr. Carter's swearing in ceremony in 2015, which resembled Mr. Biden's alleged interaction with Ms. Flores, from Ms. Flores's description of the interaction.

'Not my story'

Ms. Carter wrote a blog post on Medium.com, saying the photo had been misinterpreted. She also said she was for Ms. Flores's "right to speak her truth" and that Ms. Flores and "all women" should be believed but that "her [Ms. Flores's] story is not mine..."

Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, who is making a bid for the White House next year, said he had no reason to not believe Ms. Flores, but did not say the allegations disqualified Mr. Biden from running for office.

"I think that's a decision for the Vice-President to make. I'm not sure that one incident alone disqualifies anybody."

Military courts in Pakistan close down

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's special military courts, which were set up in 2015 to try civilians on terrorism charges, have ceased to exist after the government failed to get the support of the Opposition to extend their tenure, according to a media report.

The courts were set up weeks after the Peshawar school attack on December 16, 2014, for speedy trial of hardcore militants.

The Express Tribune reported that the courts ceased to exist on Sunday as the government failed to get the support of the Opposition to extend their tenure.

Defence Minister Pervez Khattak had told the National Assembly last year that a total of 478 cases had been decided by these courts. He said a total of 284 convicts had been awarded death sentences.

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e-TENDER NOTICE (Running Contract)

Online bids are invited for the supply and installation of the following equipment for various Government healthcare institutions across Kerala

Sl. No	Tender No.	Description	Date of Bid Meeting at KMSCL Head Office	Last date of Online submission
1.	T 321/2019	Platelet Agitator Incubator, Deep freezer -40 Degree, HbA1c Analyzer, Binocular Microscope Type III, Fully automated Biochemistry analyzer, Hematology Analyzer(5 part), ESR Analyzer, Transcutaneous Bilirubinometer, Centrifuge - 16 wells Brushless, Electrolyte Analyzer, Urine Analyzer	08.04.19 11.00 a.m.	29.04.19 05.00 p.m.
2.	T 322/2019	Video Laryngoscope Model B, Fumigation Dispenser, Examination Table, Oxygen Cylinder(B)with trolley, Pulse oximeter Model Multiparameter monitor with capnogram -IBG & AGM, Hollow Fiber Dialyzer 1.3 M ² & 1.6 M ² , Fire Extinguisher-CO ₂ Type, Ultrasonic Cleaner, Portable Dental Chair with Accessories, Traction Unit, Pacemaker, Ultrasound- Single Chamber, Defibrillator with Cardiac Monitor	09.04.19 11.00 a.m.	29.04.19 05.00 p.m.
3.	T 323/2019	Electro Surgical Unit with Vessel Sealing System for General Surgery – Urology - Gynecology, Labour suit, OT Table Gynaec, OT Table Electro hydraulic, Mobile Spot Light LED Model B, OT Table Orthopedics Manual Hydraulic, Arthroscopy Camera & instruments and shaver system, Nasal endoscopes with camera, light source & less instruments, Coblation Unit for ENT, Fiber Optic Bronchoscope, Two Channel Clinical Audiometer, RO Water 100 LPM for Autoclaves, etc	11.04.19 11.00 a.m.	30.04.19 05.00 p.m.
4.	T 324(R) / 2019	Foot Operated Suction, Sample Mixer, Cleaning and Dressing Table, Hand Compression Sprayer, Flit Pump, CRP Analyzer, Liquid Chromatography, Intra Oral Digital Radiography System with Accessories, Transcutaneous Monitor for the Measurement of PO ₂ with 1 Channel, Operating Head Light with Camera, PMR Items- Materials for Manufacturing Artificial Limbs, Transport Ventilator, Shower		

Maruti, Hyundai car sales fall in March

'Consumer spending lower ahead of polls'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI/CHENNAI

Carmakers continued to witness subdued demand with most manufacturers posting a decline or low single-digit growth in domestic sales during March. However, for the 2018-19 financial year, Maruti Suzuki and Hyundai posted their best-ever sales numbers.

Market leader Maruti Suzuki saw a marginal decline of 0.7% in sales to over 1.47 lakh units as against sales of more than 1.48 lakh passenger vehicles in March 2018.

The company said sales of mini and compact segment cars (Alto, WagonR, Ignis, Celerio, Swift, Baleno and Dzire) fell 6.6% to 99,358 units, while sales of Ciaz were down 15% to 3,672 units. However, sales of utility vehicles – Gypsy, Ertiga, Vitara Brezza, S-Cross – were up 12.3% to 25,563 units and those of vans (Omni, Echo) were up 20% to 16,438 units. The sales of its LCV Super Carry stood at 2,582 units, up 82.9%.

However, for the full year 2018-19, the company posted the highest annual domestic sales of over 17.53 lakh units, a growth of 6.1% over the previous year.

Likewise, for Hyundai Motor India, March domestic sales declined 7.6% to 44,350 units. However, for the full year, it posted its highest ever domestic volume of over 5.45 lakh units, a growth of 1.7%.

Tata Motors' domestic sales dropped by 1% to 68,709 units in March 2019 "as weak consumer sentiment continued," while for the full year, sales were up 16% at 6.7 lakh units. Domestic passenger vehicle sales fell 12% in March to 17,810 units, while full-year sales were highest in the last six years at over 2.1 lakh, a growth of 12% over the previous year.

In the commercial vehicles segment, the firm witnessed a 4% growth to 50,917 units in March, and full year sales growing 17% to more than 4.68 lakh units.

The market however, continues to exhibit subdued demand on the back of lingering effects of the liquidity crisis, lag-effect of the implementation of revised axle load norms, slowing economy and weak IIP growth," the company said.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor said



Sales of Maruti's Ciaz declined 15% to 3,672 units in the month of March.

It sold 2% more vehicles in India in March at 12,818 units. N. Raja, deputy managing director, said: "We are happy to have clocked a growth of 7% in domestic sales in FY19 as compared to FY18...However, consumer spending has weakened in the pre-election phase and the business sentiment has dampened temporarily."

Mahindra & Mahindra reported 1% increase in domestic sales at 59,012 units in March.

However, the growth stood at 9% for the entire year with over 5.7 lakh units sold. In March 2019, the company sold 27,646 passenger vehicles, a growth of 4% as opposed to a decline of 4% in sales of commercial vehicles to 24,423 units.

Amaze drives sales

Honda Cars India said it sold 17,202 units in March 2019 as compared to 13,574 units in the same month last year, a growth of 27%. In 2018-19, sales were up 8% to over 1.83 lakh units against over 1.7 lakh units in FY18. Rajesh Goel, senior vice-president and director, sales and marketing, Honda Cars India, said: "Strong sales efforts from the dealers and company during the prevailing tough market scenario resulted in this growth rate, which is ahead of the industry. One of our growth drivers was the All New Amaze..."

Truck major Ashok Leyland Ltd. reported a decline of 7% in its March sales figures in the domestic market for trucks and buses.

The firm sold 15,235 units against 16,315 units in the year-earlier period. The sales of medium and heavy commercial vehicle trucks were down by 8% to 13,134, buses grew by 5% to 2,101. Light commercial vehicles grew by 1% to 5,286 units.

+ The market however, continues to exhibit subdued demand on the back of lingering effects of the liquidity crisis, lag-effect of the implementation of revised axle load norms, slowing economy and weak IIP growth," the company said.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor said

Hyundai unveils BlueLink connectivity in India

SUV Venue to feature voice recognition

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

NEW DELHI

South Korean carmaker Hyundai will soon roll out the 'BlueLink' connectivity feature in India that will allow users to interact with their cars using voice, while enabling them to remotely switch on/off the car or its AC.

This feature will be first introduced in its upcoming compact SUV Venue.

"BlueLink is Hyundai's global technology which will be introduced in the Indian market with 33 features, of which 10 would be India-specific features such as a panic button, for most practical and holistic connectivity. This will herald a new era of smart connected cars in India," Ji Hong Baek, managing director, Hyundai Motor India Engineering, told *The Hindu*.

The feature is powered by an "inbuilt and tamper-proof device" with a Vodafone-Idea eSim and a cloud-based voice recognition platform. "The 'interactive voice recognition' has been developed specifically for customers from different regions in India. It currently supports 'Indian English' language," Mr. Baek said.

Hyundai is also planning to introduce these connectivity features in future models in the country.

Challenges

Asked about challenges faced, Mr. Baek said: "We faced some strong challenges because of network conditions. Connected cars work on networks. We



have experience in connected cars of over 10 years, mainly in developed markets. So it was a little difficult. But now we have made our systems better."

He added the company started working on bringing the technology to India about two years back, pointing out that high number of regional languages in India and different accents also difficult.

He, however, stressed that all features have been tested several times to fine-tune them.

For example, in case BlueLink is unable to find a 4G network, it will automatically look for 3G or 2G networks, whichever is available.

Mr. Baek added that the data of Indian users would be stored in India. While the company would at present use public cloud services providers it might also look at setting up their own server in India.

Stating that the feature was available only in developed markets till now, the "good exposure" in India would help the company to take BlueLink to other developing markets such as Indonesia and Brazil.

OYO raises funding from Airbnb, to collaborate on multiple projects

Airbnb's access to local communities expected to open up 'new opportunities' for OYO Hotels & Homes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

OYO Hotels & Homes said on Monday it had raised funding from U.S.-based accommodation platform Airbnb.

While the financial details of the deal were not disclosed, a source pegged the investment by Airbnb to be between \$100 and \$200 million.

As part of this 'strategic

investment', both parties are exploring opportunities to collaborate on a range of projects, including making OYO's accommodations available on Airbnb's platform, the source added.

"As the sixth-largest hotel chain operator in the world, we, at OYO Hotels & Homes, are committed to offering our guests and travellers around the world, great quality living spaces. We are

happy to have Airbnb as our partner in this vision," Maninder Gulati, global chief strategy officer at OYO Hotels & Homes, said in a statement.

Mr. Gulati added that

Airbnb's strong global footprint and access to local communities were expected to open up new opportunities for OYO Hotels & Homes to strengthen and grow.

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RAIL VIKAS NIGAM LIMITED

Our Company was incorporated in Delhi as a public limited company on January 24, 2003 as Rail Vikas Nigam Limited with the Registrar of Companies, National Capital Territory of Delhi & Haryana under the Companies Act, 1956. For further details in connection with change in name and registered office of our Company, see "History and Certain Corporate Matters" on page 130 of the red herring prospectus dated March 22, 2019 ("RHP" or "Red Herring Prospectus").

Registered and Corporate Office: Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, 1st floor, August Kranti Bhawan, Bhikaji Cama Place, R. K. Puram, New Delhi 110 066; Contact Person: Kalpana Dubey, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer; Telephone: +91 11 2673 8299; Facsimile: +91 11 2618 2957; E-mail: investors@rvnl.org; Website: www.rvnl.org; Corporate Identification Number: U74999DL2003GOI118633

OUR PROMOTER: THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, ACTING THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING OF 253,457,280 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹10 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF RAIL VIKAS NIGAM LIMITED (OUR "COMPANY" OR THE "ISSUER") THROUGH AN OFFER FOR SALE BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, ACTING THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (THE "SELLING SHAREHOLDER"), FOR CASH AT A PRICE* OF ₹ [•] PER EQUITY SHARE INCLUDING A SHARE PREMIUM OF ₹ [•] PER EQUITY SHARE (THE "OFFER PRICE"), AGGRAGATING TO ₹ [•] MILLION (THE "OFFER"). OUR COMPANY HAS RESERVED 657,280 EQUITY SHARES FOR ALLOCATION AND ALLOTMENT TO ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES ("EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION"). THE OFFER LESS EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION, IS REFERRED TO AS THE NET OFFER. THE OFFER WILL COMprise OF A NET OFFER OF 252,800,000 EQUITY SHARES AND THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION OF 657,280 EQUITY SHARES. THE OFFER AND NET OFFER SHALL CONSTITUTE 12.16% AND 12.12% OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY RESPECTIVELY.

*A discount of ₹ 0.50 per Equity Share to the Offer Price is being offered to Retail Individual Bidders ("Retail Discount") and a discount of ₹ 0.50 per Equity Share to the Offer Price is being offered to Eligible Employees bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion ("Employee Discount").

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- The average cost of acquisition per Equity Share for our Promoter and Selling Shareholder is ₹ 10 per Equity Share. The Offer Price at the upper end of the Price Band is ₹ 19.

BID/OFFER PROGRAMME

BID/OFFER OPEN

BID/OFFER CLOSING DATE: APRIL 3, 2019

In case of any revision in the Price Band or in case of force majeure, banking strike or similar circumstances, the Bid/Offer Period shall be extended for at least three (3) Working Days after such revision of the Price Band, subject to the total Bid/Offer Period not exceeding ten (10) Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band and the revised Bid/Offer Period, if applicable, shall be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges by issuing a press release and also by indicating the change on the websites of the BRLMs and at the terminals of the Syndicate Member and by intimation to Self-Certified Syndicate Banks ("SCSBs"), the Sponsor Bank and other Designated Intermediaries, as applicable.

The Offer is being made in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, as amended ("SCR"), and by intimation to Self-Certified Syndicate Banks ("SCSBs"), the Sponsor Bank and other Designated Intermediaries, as applicable, in accordance with Regulation 26(1) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2009, as amended ("SEBI ICDR Regulations"), wherein 50% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("QIB Portion"), 5% of the QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Mutual Funds only. The remainder of the QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to All QIBs, including Mutual Funds, subject to valid bids being received from them at or above the Offer Price. However, if the aggregate demand from Mutual Funds is less than 5% of the QIB Portion, the balance Equity Shares available for allocation in the Mutual Fund Portion will be added to the remaining QIB Portion for proportionate allocation to QIBs. Further, not less than 15% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Non-Institutional Bidders and not less than 35% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to Retail Individual Bidders in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid bids being received from them at or above the Offer Price. All Bidders shall participate in the Offer mandatorily through the Applications Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA") process by providing the details of their respective ASBA Accounts (including UPI ID, if applicable) in which the corresponding Bid Amount will be blocked by the SCSBs. For details, see "Offer Procedure" on page 446 of the RHP.

Bidders/Applicants should ensure that DP ID, PAN and the Client ID (if applicable, in case RIBs are correctly filled in the Bid cum Application Form. The DP ID, PAN and Client ID provided in the Bid cum Application Form should match with the DP ID, PAN, Client ID available in the Depository database, otherwise, the Bid cum Application Form is liable to be rejected. Bidders/Applicants should ensure that the beneficiary account provided in the Bid cum Application Form is active. Bidders/Applicants should note that on the basis of the PAN, DP ID and Client ID as provided in the Bid cum Application Form, the Bidder/Applicant may be deemed to have authorized the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Offer, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidder/Applicant as available on the records of the depositories. These Demographic Details may be used, among other things, for giving Allotment Advice or unblocking of ASBA Account or for other correspondence(s) related to the Offer. Bidders/Applicants are advised to update any changes to their Demographic Details as available in the records of the Depository Participant to ensure accuracy of records. Any delay resulting from failure to update the Demographic Details would be at the Bidders/Applicants' sole risk.

CONTENTS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF OUR COMPANY AS REGARDS ITS OBJECTS: For information on the main objects of our Company, investors are requested to see "History and Certain Corporate Matters" on page 130 of the RHP and Clause III of the Memorandum of Association of our Company. The Memorandum of Association of our Company is a material document for inspection in relation to the Offer. For further details, see "Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection" on page 516 of the RHP.

Note to Investors: The tenure of our independent directors namely, Mr. Shiv Kumar Gupta (DIN: 07391077) and Mr. Vinayak Bhalachandra Karanjikar (DIN: 06518026) has expired on March 31, 2019. The Company had submitted letters to the Railway Board, Ministry of Railways, Government of India, bearing no. RVNL/SECY/RB/CORR/13 dated June 12, 2018 and January 31, 2019 seeking approval for extension of their tenure by another three years and the response for the same is awaited.

LIABILITY OF THE MEMBERS OF OUR COMPANY:

Limited by shares.

AMOUNT OF SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY AND CAPITAL STRUCTURE: As on the date of the RHP, the authorised share capital of our Company is ₹ 30,00,00,000 divided into 3,00,00,000 Equity Shares of ₹ 10 each. The issued, subscribed and paid-up share capital of our Company is ₹ 20,850,201,000 divided into 2,085,020,100 Equity Shares of ₹ 10 each. For details of the capital structure, see "Capital Structure" on page 82 of the RHP.

<b

MARKET WATCH

	01-04-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	38,872	0.51
Gold	32,820	0.25
Brent oil	68.65	0.40

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	383.05	+4.90
Asian Paints	1492.75	+0.05
Axis Bank	765.60	-11.65
Bajaj Auto	2915.65	+4.55
Bajaj Finserv	7158.80	+121.75
Bajaj Finance	3001.45	-23.55
Bharti Airtel	340.80	+7.70
BPLC	391.90	-5.65
Britannia Ind	3049.85	-35.65
Cipla	525.65	-3.25
Coal India	236.40	-0.80
Dr Reddy's Lab	2794.80	+14.55
Eicher Motors	20048.40	+499.30
GAIL (India)	354.70	+7.05
Grafin Ind	857.35	-0.60
HCL Tech	1110.75	+23.30
HDFC	1959.65	+8.60
HDFC Bank	2311.80	+7.10
Hero MotoCorp	2558.50	+5.35
Hindalco	215.90	+10.40
Hind Unilever	1690.00	+16.80
Indiabulls HFL	847.20	-11.05
ICICI Bank	398.25	+2.25
IndusInd Bank	1743.05	+36.95
Bharti InfraNet	314.25	+0.85
Infosys	755.10	+11.25
Indian Oil Corp	158.70	+4.15
ITC	297.25	+0.00
JSW Steel	292.30	+0.75
Kotak Bank	1339.40	+4.90
L&T	1412.20	+26.90
M&M	660.90	+13.00
Maruti Suzuki	6840.70	+168.15
NTPC	135.10	+0.40
ONGC	157.25	+2.50
PowerGrid Corp	195.55	+2.35
Reliance Ind	1391.85	+28.60
State Bank	322.75	+2.00
Sun Pharma	478.85	+0.00
Tata Motors	187.35	+13.10
Tata Steel	535.15	+14.15
TCS	2031.65	+30.00
Tech Mahindra	785.50	+9.60
Titan	1120.35	+21.50
UltraTech Cement	4053.50	+55.15
UPL	934.30	+24.55
Vedanta	188.90	+4.45
Wipro	261.65	+6.85
YES Bank	275.90	+0.80
Zee Entertainment	431.70	+13.80

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

	April 01 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses
Retail Silver (1g)	40.5... (40.3)
22 ct gold (1g)	3034... (3025)

IN BRIEF



Kotak Bank promoters told to file affidavit

MUMBAI The Bombay High Court has sought an affidavit from the promoters of Kotak Mahindra Bank that they had complied with the RBI's direction on promoter-holding norms. The private sector lender had filed a writ petition in the Bombay High Court on the issue of shareholding norms. According to RBI's direction, the bank was supposed to reduce promoter's stake to 30% by December 31, 2019 and to 15% by March 31, 2020.

Coal India output rises 7% to 607 MT in FY19

KOLKATA Coal India Ltd.(CIL) breached the 600-million tonne output mark by closing the current fiscal with producing 607 million tonnes (MT), 7% higher than the last fiscal. Coal supplies stood at 608 million tonnes, an increase of 4.8% in a year against the targeted 610 MT, the figures show. Power sector supplies, at 488 MT, rose by 7.4% with improved synergies between the Railways and the Coal and Power Ministries, CIL said.

Citibank pays ₹4.5 cr., settles case with SEBI

NEW DELHI Citibank N.A. has settled a case with the SEBI regarding the bank's alleged failure to adequately supervise an employee who carried out an unregistered portfolio investment scheme. The case was settled after the bank paid ₹4.5 crore towards settlement charges, a SEBI order said. In April 2015, the SEBI issued a notice to the bank for alleged violation of portfolio managers norms with respect to one relationship manager. PTI

Embassy Office Parks REIT up 4.7% on debut

MUMBAI The country's first Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) – Embassy Office Parks REIT – made its debut on the bourses on Monday, gaining nearly 5% over its issue price. On the BSE, the REIT units opened flat at its issue price of ₹300, before touching an intra-day high of ₹324.50. The units settled the day at ₹314.10, a gain of 4.70% over its issue price. On the NSE, the REIT units closed at ₹314.00.

CM YK

GST collections at ₹1.06 lakh cr. in March, clock the highest-ever

Centre says revenue growth picking up despite rate rationalisation measures

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Goods and Services Tax collections in March 2019 hit ₹1.06 lakh crore, the highest in the history of the tax in India, and the fourth time monthly collections have crossed ₹1 lakh crore this year, according to an official data release on Monday.

Average collections in the year stand at ₹98,114 crore, up 9.2% from the average in 2017-18. GST collections had previously crossed the ₹1 lakh crore mark in April, October, and January this fiscal.

"Total gross GST revenue collected in March 2019 is ₹1,06,577 crore, of which CGST is ₹20,353 crore, SGST is ₹27,520 crore, IGST is



Plugging the leaks: One reason for the rise in collections could be tax leakage detections. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

₹50,418 crore (including ₹23,521 crore collected on imports) and cess is ₹8,286 crore," the government said in a release. "The total number of GSTR 3B Returns filed for February up to March 31,

2019 is 75.95 lakh."

"The steep increase in GST collections is quite welcome for the economy," Abhishek Jain, tax partner, EY India, said. "Major reasons for the growth could be

reconciliations by businesses of outward and inward supplies, intelligent data analytics-related tax leakage detections and consequent GST payment by businesses."

The government said the March 2019 revenue was 15.6% higher than a year earlier.

"The revenue for the last quarter in 2018-19 is 14.3% higher than a year earlier," it added. "The monthly average of GST revenue during 2018-19 is ₹98,114 crore which is 9.2% higher than [the average for] FY 2017-18. These figures indicate that the revenue growth has been picking up in recent months, despite various rate rationalisation measures."

J&J baby shampoo samples fail quality test

Firm rejects drug watchdog's findings

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

Johnson & Johnson's baby shampoo samples failed quality tests conducted by the State of Rajasthan, according to a public notice from the State's drugs watchdog, findings that were rejected by the U.S. drugmaker.

The Rajasthan Drugs Control Organisation's notice dated March 5 said that the samples of J&J's baby shampoo taken from two batches had failed the quality test as they contained "harmful ingredients." A J&J spokeswoman said that the results it received from the watchdog indicated that formaldehyde had been discovered



Photo for representational purpose. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

in the samples. Formaldehyde, used in making building materials, is a known carcinogen. "We do not accept the interim results given to us, which mentioned samples to contain harmful ingredients-identification positive for formaldehyde," she told Reuters.

What are the medium-term vision and targets for the merged entity?

■ At a broader level, this amalgamation is giving us both depth and breadth. Breadth from the extended distribution network we got – the 9,500 branches.

The second thing is that we now have a deeper team – the number of general managers and so on... So, it is now possible for us to focus on the segments much better than we have done be-

fore. Combination of depth and breadth will give us the revenue growth we want to accomplish. The position remains the same that we set for ourselves in BoB, which is continuous CAGR of 15%, return on equity of 15%, a book value of greater than 2 and very high employee and customer satisfaction levels.

We will also have more products for customers. Also, our employees will emerge as better managers.

What issues do you want to address in Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank?

■ With Vijaya Bank, I do not see any overwhelming issues. It is a well-run bank; it has shown strong growth; it has been a profitable and a dividend-declaring bank.

Within Vijaya Bank, I do not see any overwhelming issues. It is a well-run bank; it has shown strong growth; it has been a profitable and a dividend-declaring bank.

What is the loan growth target for the current financial year?

■ In the last five quarters we have been



dia and Reliance Industries among the top gainers. The broader Nifty of the NSE setted the day at 11,669.15, up 45.25 points, or 0.39%.

Elsewhere, benchmark indices like Hang Seng, Nikkei and Kossi all ended the day with gains. Back in India, the broader market breadth was also strong with nearly 1,700 gainers on BSE, up 25 points away from its all-time closing high of 38,896.63 of August 28, 2018. Further, record flows have been seen from foreign investors who have invested nearly ₹34,000 crore in March – the highest ever.

The Sensex is now less than 25 points away from its all-time closing high of 38,896.63 of August 28, 2018. Further, record flows have been seen from foreign investors who have invested nearly ₹34,000 crore in March – the highest ever.

The only other instance of foreign investments crossing ₹30,000 crore in one month was in March 2017 when the net investment was pegged at ₹30,906 crore.

Debt killing Jet, balance sheet clean-up crucial for survival'

Airline authorities not in favour of a 'quick-fix' solution

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

With the cleaning up of Jet Airways' balance sheet seen crucial for its long-term viability and survival, banks are believed to be working on another plan for recapitalisation of the airline.

With more than \$2 billion debt, including bank borrowings and dues to vendors, Jet Airways cannot be turned around without a large-scale capital infusion and debt reduction, company executives said.

"What is killing Jet Airways is the debt. The balance sheet has to be cleared up. See the contrast, IndiGo is sitting over \$2 billion cash in its balance sheet and Jet has a debt of over \$2 billion. How can it compete?" asked an airline official not wanting



to be named.

"Most of our money was going towards debt repayment and finance costs. Otherwise, on an operational stand point, we are not terribly bad," the official said.

"After cleaning up of the balance sheet, we are reasonably confident of achieving a turnaround. Otherwise, it will be a quick-fix

solution that may not last long," another senior official said. Realising this, lenders are believed to be working on an alternative plan.

Lenders led by the State Bank of India (SBI) have reportedly come up with a new plan to mobilise ₹9,535 crore funding for the airline. This includes ₹3,800 crore as equity infusion by two new investors.

As per the plan, a rights issue will mobilise additional capital and there will be complete exit of promoter Naresh Goyal and strategic investor Etihad Airways, whose shares will be transferred to a trust to be managed by the lenders.

More details and confirmation on this were not available till the time of going to press.

RBI tweaks NPA divergence disclosure rules

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The RBI on Monday asked banks to disclose bad loan divergences in their financial statements if the additional provisioning exceeds 10% of profit before provision and contingencies.

Earlier, banks were to make suitable disclosures if the additional provisioning requirements assessed by RBI exceeded 15% of the published net profits after tax for the reference period.

Separately, the Reserve Bank of India said it will inject long-term liquidity worth \$5 billion into the banking system through a dollar-rupee buy-sell swap for a 3-year tenure on April 23. On March 26, the central bank had bought \$5 billion through a similar swap auction in a bid to ease liquidity ahead of the elections.

Core sector growth quickens to 2.1% in Feb.

Snaps three-month slowing trend

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Core sector growth accelerated in February to 2.11% from the 1.5% in January, snapping a three-month slowing trend, according to official data released on Monday. Growth had come in at 4.74% for October 2018, 3.38% for November and 2.64% for December.

Within the Index of Eight Core Industries, the crude oil sector contracted sharply in February, by 6.16%, compared with a contraction of 2.58% in January. The fertilizer sector also saw growth slowing drastically in February to 2.54% from 10.5% in January.

The natural gas sector saw growth slowing to 3.7% from 6.21% over the same period.

"After recording a high single-digit growth of 7.3% in July 2018, core sector has consistently recorded a growth of low single-digit indicating weakness in the in-

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Delhi capitulates from a position of strength

Curran and Shami help Kings XI Punjab defend a below-par total and make it two-out-of-two at home



UTHRA GANESAN
MOHALI

Kings XI Punjab stuttered and faltered with the bat but its bowlers made up for it, managing to defend a below-par total to make it two-in-two at home with a 14-run victory over Delhi Capitals in IPL-12 at the PCA Stadium here on Monday.

Delhi lost the plot chasing a tricky 167 for victory when it lost Prithvi Shaw the first ball, R. Ashwin inducing the faintest of edges to K.L. Rahul behind the stumps.

Batting collapse

But, unlike its previous game when Delhi managed to stumble past the finish line after dominating the chase, it suffered a batting collapse here towards the end.

Shaw's dismissal meant it was up to Shikhar Dhawan and Shreyas Iyer to settle the nerves and they managed for a while, adding 61, before the Delhi captain dragged Hardus Viljoen's length delivery onto his stumps.

Delhi, which was in a position of strength at 137 for three at one stage, imploded and lost its last seven wickets for just eight runs.

Rishabh Pant and Colin Ingram, added 62 for the



Pulling it off: The Kings XI Punjab players are delighted after Sam Curran's hat-trick helped them turn the tables on Delhi Capitals. ■ AKHILESH KUMAR

fourth wicket and looked set to take Delhi home comfortably. But once Pant was cleaned up by Mohammed Shami, going for one big hit too many, the plot changed.

The icing for Kings XI was Sam Curran registering the first hat-trick of the season to wrap up Delhi's innings.

Earlier, Punjab received its first blow even before the game began, with Chris Gayle pulling out owing to injury. Ashwin then lost the

toss followed by losing wickets at crucial moments.

David Miller, Sarfaraz Khan and Mandeep Singh, who remained unbeaten on 29, were the chief contributors to the team's score. Miller's dismissal in the 17th over triggered a collapse.

Expensive

Delhi dropped Amit Mishra and added Avesh Khan but he proved to be the most expensive even as the other

frontline bowlers – Kagiso Rabada, Chris Morris and Sandeep Lamichhane – shared the spoils.

It was Lamichhane who ended the only fruitful period of play for the host. Sarfaraz and Miller put on 62 for the fourth wicket, but just as the team looked set to change gears, Sarfaraz poked at a harmless delivery from Lamichhane that hardly turned, edging to Pant.

The momentum was lost

briefly, but Mandeep's heroes made the difference for the host in the end.

Innings scan

KXIP	DC
43	Dots
17	Fours
5	Sixes
54/2	PP
8.30	RR
	7.86

Hat-tricks in IPL

2008: L. Balaji (CSK), Amit Mishra (DD) and Makhaya Ntini (CSK)
2009: Yuvraj Singh (KKR), twice and Rohit Sharma (Deccan Chargers)
2010: Praveen Kumar (RCB)
2011: Amit Mishra (DC)
2012: Ajit Chandila (RR)
2013: Sunil Narine (KKR) and Amit Mishra (SRH)

SCOREBOARD

KINGS XI PUNJAB VS DELHI CAPITALS

KINGS XI PUNJAB

K.L. Rahul lbw b Morris 15 (11b, 2x4, 1x6), Sam Curran lbw b Lamichhane 20 (10b, 3x4, 1x6), Mayank Agarwal run out 6 (9b), Sarfaraz Khan c Pant b Lamichhane 39 (29b, 6x4), David Miller c Pant b Morris 43 (30b, 4x4, 2x6), Mandeep Singh (not out) 29 (21b, 2x4, 1x6), Hardus Viljoen c Morris b Rabada 1 (3b), R. Ashwin b Morris 3 (4b), M. Ashwin c Avesh b Rabada 1 (2b), Mohammed Shami run out 0 (7b), Mujeeb Ur Rahaman (not out) 0 (0b); Extras (w-8, b-1); 9; Total (for nine wktls. in 20 overs): 166.

Prithvi Shaw c Rahul b R. Ashwin 0 (1b), Shikhar Dhawan lbw b R. Ashwin 30 (25b, 4x4), Shreyas Iyer b Viljoen 28 (22b, 5x4), Rishabh Pant c Shami 39 (26b, 3x4, 2x6), Colin Ingram c sub b Curran 38 (29b, 4x4, 1x6), Chris Morris run out 0 (1b), Hanuma Vihari b Shami 2 (5b), Harshal Patel c Rahul b Curran 0 (2b), Kagiso Rabada b Curran 0 (1b), Avesh Khan (not out) 4 (3b, 1x4), Sandeep Lamichhane b Curran 0 (7b); Extras (w-5, lb-6): 11; Total (in 19.2 overs): 152.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-15 (Rahul, 1.5 overs), 2-36 (Curran, 3.5) 3-58 (Mayank, 7.1), 4-120 (Sarfaraz, 13.5), 5-137 (Miller, 16.2), 6-146 (Viljoen, 17.3), 7-152 (R. Ashwin, 18.5), 8-153 (M. Ashwin, 19.1), 9-156 (Shami, 19.4).

DELHI CAPITALS BOWLING

Rabada 4-0-32-2, Morris 4-0-30-3, Avesh 3-0-30-0, Lamichhane 4-0-27-2, Harshal 4-0-37-0, Vihari 1-0-9-0.

DELHI CAPITALS

R. Ashwin 4-0-31-2, Curran 2-0-11-4, Shami 4-0-22-7, Viljoen 3-0-22-1, Mujeeb 4-0-36-0, M. Ashwin 2-0-19-0.

Toss: Delhi Capitals.

Man-of-the-Match: Curran.

KXIP won by 14 runs.

2019: SAM CURRAN (KXIP)

SAM'S SCALPS

17.6 Harshal Patel (caught by Rahul)

19.1 Kagiso Rabada (bowled)

19.2 Sandeep Lamichhane (bowled)

Just came out here

trying to impress.

Hope we keep winning

CURRAN

A typical Dhoni innings

Tahir was the other standout performer for CSK



Helping hand: Dhoni was well supported by Bravo, who shone with bat and ball. ■ R. RAGU

While there is a lot of attention on players who can surprise the opposition with their innovation, be it mystery spinners or batsmen who can swing on both sides of the wicket, M.S. Dhoni showed on Sunday that sometimes even if your play-book is known to the opponent, it might be just as effective.

The Chennai Super Kings skipper played a typical Dhoni innings, first by nudging around and playing the percentages against the likes of Jofra Archer and Ben Stokes before unleashing on a hapless Jaydev Unadkat to take his side to its third win in as many games while Royals slumped to a third straight defeat.

Royals' all-rounder Ben Stokes said: "When he comes in early, every team knows what he's going to try and do to start with. He just takes it deep as he possibly can. He's one of the greatest finishers to have ever graced the game of cricket."

"Sometimes you have to hold your hand up and say the best players in the world

can do that. He certainly showed that tonight," Stokes, who could have dismissed Dhoni on 28 if K. Gowtham had held on to a catch at covers, said.

Speaking about his efforts, Tahir – who now leads the wicket-takers chart – said, "I am feeling very good, very proud. I tried to use my experience but the ball was really wet."

"We have to prepare ourselves, we were not expecting that much dew. We have to practice with the wet ball going forward in the games."

He's one of the greatest finishers to have ever graced the game of cricket

BEN STOKES

when they were getting the Royals' chase back on track after being reduced to 14 for three.

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The heavy dew on Sunday meant bowlers struggled to grip the ball and the South African brought all his experience into play, taking the two crucial wickets of Steve Smith and Rahul Tripathi

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When they were getting the Royals' chase back on track after being reduced to 14 for three.

Speaking about his efforts, Tahir – who now leads the wicket-takers chart – said, "I am feeling very good, very proud. I tried to use my experience but the ball was really

Another golden sweep by India

Yash Vardhan and Shreya triumph in style

SHOOTING

SPORTS BUREAU

TAIWAN (CHINESE TAIPEI)

Shreya Agrawal won the junior women's air rifle gold with a world record final score of 252.5 in the 12th Asian Airgun championship here on Monday.

It was another golden sweep for India, as Yash Vardhan won the junior men's title, apart from the team golds. With individual silver and bronze medals for Keval Prajapati and Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar, apart from Mehuli Ghosh's junior women's individual bronze, India took its tally to 14 gold, five silver and four bronze medals.

Shreya's effort in the final, which helped her beat Park Hyejin of Korea by 1.9 point, bettered Zhao Ruozhu's world junior record of 252.4 set last year. Incidentally, the women's record stands against Apurvi Chandela at 252.9, set in the World Cup recently in Delhi.

The trio of Shreya, Mehuli and Kavi Rakshna put together a total of 1882.2, which bettered the previous world junior record of 1880.7 set by Shreya, Elavenil Valarivan and Manini Kaushik in the World Championship last September.



Winning team: Mehuli Ghosh, Shreya Agrawal & Kavi Rakshna, in the top row, and Shakun Bhugra, Keval Prajapati, Yash Vardhan, Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar and coach Suma Shirur pose with their spoils. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Yash Vardhan, Prajapati and Tomar dominated the boys' event by sweeping the individual and team medals.

Yash Vardhan beat Prajapati by 2.2 points for the gold, as the Indian trio pushed qualification topper Kang Jungi (628.2) of Korea to fourth place.

Shreya and Yash Vardhan had earlier won the mixed ri-

fle junior team gold, while Mehuli and Prajapati took silver.

Coach Suma Shirur lauded the junior air rifle shooters for winning nine of the 10 possible medals, with two world records.

The results: 10m air rifle: Junior Men: 1. Yash Vardhan 249.5 (626.0); 2. Keval Prajapati 2473 (624.2); 3. Aishwarya

Pratap Singh Tomar 226.1 (624.6).

Team: 1. India 1874.8; 2. Chinese Taipei 1834.7; 3. Singapore 1802.2.

Junior women: 1. Shreya Agrawal 252.5 WRJ (628.7); 2. Park Hyejin (Kor) 250.6 (618.5); 3. Mehuli Ghosh 228.3 (628.8); 4. Kavi Rakshna 205.9 (624.7).

Team: 1. India 1882.2 WRJ; 2. Korea 1858.5; 3. Chinese Taipei 1840.4.

ATK moves past Real Kashmir

AICAPC gets BCCI recognition

Can field team in World Cricket Series in the UK in August

SPORTS BUREAU

BHUBANESWAR

ISL side ATK reached the Hero Super Cup quarterfinals with a 3-1 win over Real Kashmir at the Kalinga Stadium on Monday.

Goals from Manuel Lanzarote and Everton Santos in the second half gave ATK victory after the teams went into the breather locked 1-1. Steve Coppell's side will meet Delhi Dynamos on April 5.

The result: ATK 3 (Balwant Singh 26, Manuel Lanzarote 79, Everton Santos 83) bt Real Kashmir 1 (Mason Robertson 31).

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The BCCI has allowed the All India Cricket Association for the Physically Challenged (AICAPC) to field the official Indian team for the Physical Disability World Cricket Series in the UK in August this year.

"We have given recognition to AICAPC," said Saba Karim, GM, Cricket Operations, BCCI. The AICAPC will not receive any funding from the national cricket body, though.

The AICAPC was founded

■ AICAPC was founded by Wadekar whose 78th birth anniversary was celebrated on Monday

by Ajit Wadekar whose 78th birth anniversary on Monday was celebrated as "Ajit Wadekar Memorial Day" at a Mumbai Cricket Association facility at the Wankhede Stadium.

The AICAPC has also named the Indian team as "Wadekar Warriors" with a catchline "One Team, One Dream."

"We have at least made a start. The BCCI has given AICAPC recognition. It has taken 30-odd years to get recognition from the BCCI. We have to choose our apparel and cap," said Umesh Kulkarni, former India Test player and a selection committee member of the AICAPC.

Former India captain Dilip Vengsarkar applauded the work done by Wadekar who passed away last August. "It was his dream to see the AICAPC being recognised by the BCCI," said Vengsarkar.

It is learnt that they might depose ahead of the April 11 clash between the two teams in Mumbai.

"Both are playing in the IPL and the itinerary is packed with back-to-back matches and a gruelling travel schedule," a BCCI official said.

The Ombudsman, who is also the BCCI's ad-hoc Ethics Officer, made it clear that for the matter to reach its logical conclusion, the duo needs to depose.

"As per principles of natural justice, I need to hear their side. It's up to them now to decide when they want to appear," Justice Jain said.



K.L. Rahul. ■ AKILESH KUMAR



Hardik Pandya. ■ AP

Ombudsman sends notices to Pandya, Rahul

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court-appointed BCCI Ombudsman Justice (Retd) D.K. Jain has issued notices to India players Hardik Pandya and K.L. Rahul to appear for deposition for their comments on a TV chat show.

"I had issued notices last week to Hardik Pandya and Rahul asking them to appear for deposition," Justice Jain said on Monday.

However, it is not clear how the BCCI will co-ordinate with Pandya and Ra-

hul's respective franchises – Mumbai Indians and Kings XI Punjab – for their deposition during the ongoing IPL.

"It's a tough one but what I do feel sometimes is that on the outside courts, more than just preferential treatment to the top guys, they are tougher on the rules," said Federer.

"You do something – bang, warning. It's like there is no messing about."

"But with the top guys on the main courts, I think the umpires know them, they know their problems, they know how they behave and how they will react, so they know what acting stupid or silly means and what normal is."

"So because we know each other very well, I think it's easier for an umpire to handle a top player who they know over an up-and-coming guy like Tsitsipas or a young guy and that sometimes gets lost in translation and maybe bad mistakes can happen."

"But I don't see preferential treatment, there shouldn't be," Federer said.

"If I get warnings – I got

one recently – it's normal. So they should just, based on what happens, take those decisions and I really feel the umpires do that."

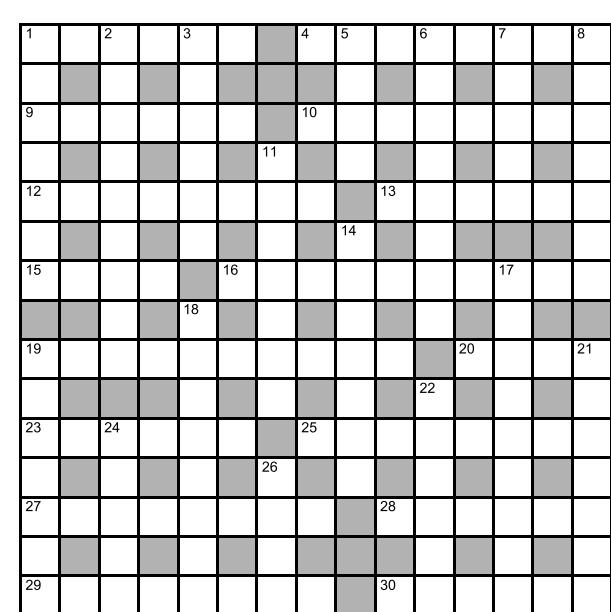
"I am sorry that Stefanos feels that way."

Protected
Tsitsipas elaborated on Twitter in response to a question from a Twitter follower, saying that despite Federer being his "favourite" the 20-

time Grand Slam champion, along with the likes of top players like Rafa Nadal and Novak Djokovic, are protected by umpires.

"I think players that have been doing really well over the years, players that are generally much respected in the tennis world have privileges when it comes to certain rules and umpire decisions," the World No. 10 wrote.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12589



ACROSS

- 1 Silence is so valuable (6)
- 4 Save government, harp about informative statistical chart (3,5)
- 9 Letter from doctor boy's about to receive (6)
- 10 Blank cheque for a fettered being? (4,4)
- 12 Cast lacking in talent for Doctor Strange? (8)

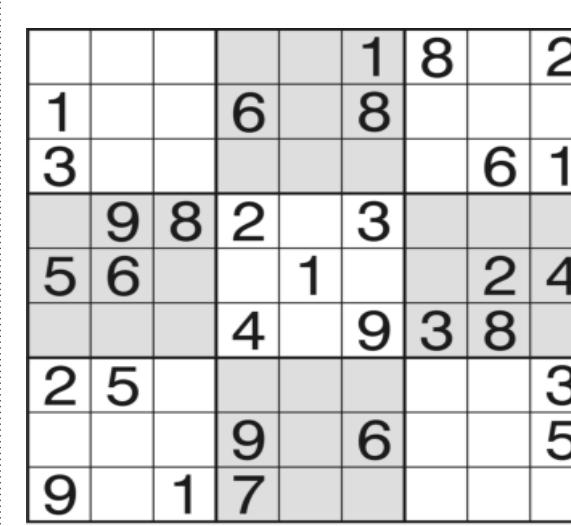
(set by Scintillator)

- 13 Pressure maintained along this is excluding old punctures (6)
- 15 Food burning? Maid gives out a chime (4)
- 16 Peace organizations overseeing onset of peace – one cast away going scot-free (10)
- 19 From being in good spirits, fell off with hue and cry (10)
- 20 Incognito, a colleague of mine (4)
- 23 Forsaken woman with a weapon advanced near husband (6)
- 25 Remarkable scenery surrounding river in county (8)
- 27 Behind bars; June eighth: he escaped mysteriously (2,3,3)
- 28 Indian brain and heart suffering outside India? That's not new (6)
- 29 In concert – on time, got here after a struggle (8)
- 30 One is terrible, not just at making omelette (3,3)
- 31 Trouble in the Middle East to overwhelm intelligence agency, in retrospect (4,3)
- 32 Cast lacking in talent for Doctor Strange? (8)

DOWN

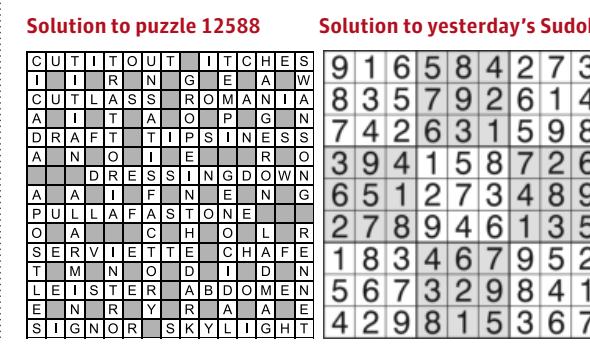
- 1 Trouble in the Middle East to overwhelm intelligence agency, in retrospect (4,3)
- 2 I'm unclean, getting cleaned gives brightness (9)
- 3 Last? Last, definitely not first! (6)
- 5 Milieu in the interior of the restaurant (4)
- 6 Northbound engineer is somewhat mortified like a rock (8)
- 7 Reporters can find Djokovic possibly bitter (5)
- 8 Under extremely hard conditions, for ten decades (7)
- 11 Expel from assembly (7)
- 14 First person transferred to second, it's said, thousands in valuable metal (7)
- 15 Pressure maintained along this is excluding old punctures (6)
- 16 Peace organizations overseeing onset of peace – one cast away going scot-free (10)
- 17 Behind bars; June eighth: he escaped mysteriously (2,3,3)
- 18 Trinket of gold – quote a bid (8)
- 19 Burn up paper during Yatra ride (7)
- 21 Getting trimmer? Cannot hinge on squat (7)
- 22 It signals on seeing faulty train blocking terminal in Pune (6)
- 24 Take the label off junta government (5)
- 26 Dash for control (4)

SUDOKU

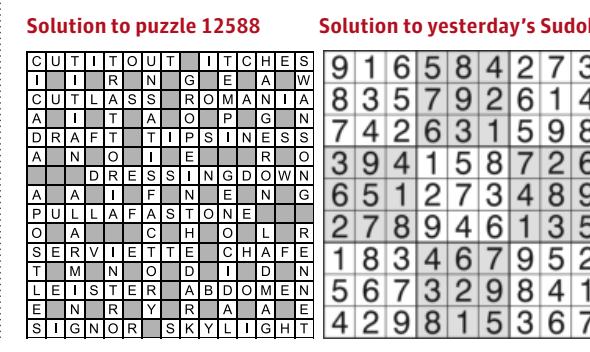


Solution to puzzle 12588

CUT IT OUT, IT CHESSES, CUT LAS ROMANIA, AITA OPEN, DRAFT TIPSINESS, AN OIL RODE, DRESSING DOWN, AIAIFEN, PULLAFASTONE, OALCHOLE, SERVIETTE CHAFFE, TMINOIDID, LEISTERABDOMEN, ENRUYRAA, SIGNORSKYLIGHT



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



FAITH

Unconventional bhakti

Bhakti is explained as the expression of love towards God in one's heart that naturally flows in the form of actions. For instance, the extent and intensity of love to the Lord that springs in Kannappan translates itself into a spontaneous act of worship that does not conform to the traditional modes adopted by devotees. Yet his devotion meets the highest standards and hence is accepted by the Lord. It only shows that the Lord looks into the heart of the devotee and acknowledges the love surging in it, pointed out Sri B. Damodara Dixithar in a discourse. Kannappan is born in a family of hunters. He is proficient in hunting animals. He is basically simple and unlearned. Once when he goes hunting with his companions, he kills a boar. They start cooking it and he goes in search of water.

As he nears a mountain range, where he is told abides a God who removes all human failings, he is moved by some strange feeling within him. Sekkizhar describes the inner transformation in him when he goes up the hill and sees the God. It is as if a great burden has been lifted off his shoulders. He embraces the linga form and is unwilling to leave the Lord alone. Who will give Him food, he wonders. He promises the Lord that he will quickly bring the tasty meat for Him. He selects the best pieces of the cooked meat after testing it for taste. He plucks the wild flowers and takes water from the river in his mouth and worships the Lord thus.

Though this way of worship is totally shocking and opposed to tradition, the Lord is pleased, thereby endorsing the fact that selfless love is the most essential element in Bhakti. It is no wonder that Adi Sankara and a host of devotees such as Manikkavachagar are inspired by Kannappan's unique display of devotion.

Saurav Ghosal scales a new peak

Becomes first Indian male to break into the top-10

M. HARI KISHORE
CHENNAI

India's top-ranked squash player Saurav Ghosal stormed into the record books on Monday when he became the first Indian male to enter the top-10 list in the world. He moved two places above from his earlier ranking of 12 to and is currently the only Asian in the top-10.

Two Indian women – Joshua Chinappa and Dipika Pallikal – had earlier reached the top-10 in the world rankings but failed to consolidate further.

A quarterfinal finish in the 2018-2019 PSA World Championships in Chicago for the first time in his career and the same stage finish at the prestigious Grasshopper Cup in Zurich, Switzerland, in March were instrumental in lifting Ghosal's rankings.

His previous highest was No. 11, which he achieved in October 2018. He slipped a place after the Qatar Classic and Hong Kong Open tournaments when he made the third and second rounds.

Training with David Palmer, who has produced many top-10 players, since June 2018 turned out to be a masterstroke for Ghosal. "It all started last summer when I started training with David. I felt my game was more secure, especially with him at



Reaping the benefits: Saurav Ghosal says that his current status is the result of years of hard work. ■ PTI

the helm. I started backing up and reproducing a lot more of what I learnt in training. I got mentally stronger and secure. Throughout the season, wherever I was playing, I felt

a lot of hard work and more importantly a lot of things that have come together and it was teamwork," he added.

The 32-year-old feels training out of India is the best way to reach greater heights in the sport.

"I think Indians have to move out to reach greater heights in the sport. We don't have top-10 players playing in India. Even in terms of coaching, the level of expertise isn't there in the country. Experience is something that you cannot substitute and we get that abroad," he said.

The squash player is hun-

dry for more. "Reaching the top-10 was a goal this year. I am happy to have realised that goal. Every player wants to be World No. 1 and I am no different. I am not taking any timelines to get there but I want to take it as it comes.

"The cue is to get better and improve. If I need to change a few things to be there, I will," he said.

GHOSE
On training with David Palmer

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TV PICKS

Serie A: Sony Ten 2, 10.30 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)
Premier League: SS Select 1 & 2, 12.15 a.m. (Wednesday)
La Liga: Sony Ten 1, 12.15 a.m. (Wednesday)
NBA: Sony ESPN, 7.30 a.m.
Super Cup: Star Sports 3, 8.15 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Praful set to be first Indian on FIFA executive panel
 NEW DELHI
 All India Football Federation president Praful Patel is set to become the first Indian to be elected member of the FIFA executive council. According to AIFF sources, Patel is all but sure to be one of the five council members from the Asian Football Confederation when the regional body holds its elections in Kuala Lumpur on April 6. The term will run from 2019 to 2023. PTI



Hawks beat Bucks on the buzzer
 LOS ANGELES
 Rookie Trae Young (in pic) drained a buzzer-beating basket to give Atlanta Hawks a 136-135 NBA overtime victory on Sunday over a depleted Milwaukee Bucks. Justin Anderson led Hawks with 24 points and 12 rebounds.
The results: Denver Nuggets 90 lost to Washington Wizards 95; San Antonio Spurs 106 lost to Sacramento Kings 113; Golden State Warriors 137 bt Charlotte Hornets 90; New Orleans Pelicans 102 lost to LA Lakers 130; Oklahoma City Thunder 103 lost to Dallas Mavericks 106; Atlanta Hawks 136 bt Milwaukee Bucks 135; LA Clippers 113 bt Memphis Grizzlies 96. AFP



Mbappe fan sneaks on-pitch selfie
 PARIS
 A cheeky Paris Saint-Germain fan ran onto the pitch at Toulouse on Sunday and snapped a sneaky selfie of himself with Kylian Mbappe before being nabbed by security staff. The supporter, wearing a PSG jacket, clambered out of the stands during the Ligue 1 contest and ran slowly up behind the 20-year-old World Cup winner, who jumped with surprise when he saw the fan brandishing his telephone. The young man was then wrestled to the floor by security, although Mbappe shook his hand and exchanged a few words with him before he was led away. AFP

McIlroy climbs to World No. 3; Johnson stays top
 PARIS
 Rory McIlroy continued his rise up the world rankings on Monday as the four-time Major champion jumped one spot to third, while Dustin Johnson retained his narrow lead at the top. Tiger Woods climbed two spots to 12th, while Match Play winner Kevin Kisner rose from 50th to 25th. AFP



Rookie Norris still can't believe it!
 SAKHIR (BAHRAIN)
 Teenage rookie Lando Norris says he has no idea how he managed to finish an impressive sixth to score his first Formula One points in Sunday's Bahrain GP. "I don't know where it came from," the 19-year-old said. "... It was fun. I could have passed Kimi Raikkonen a couple of laps earlier, but I was trying to be sensible and not take risks. I just used my own initiative." AFP

CMYK

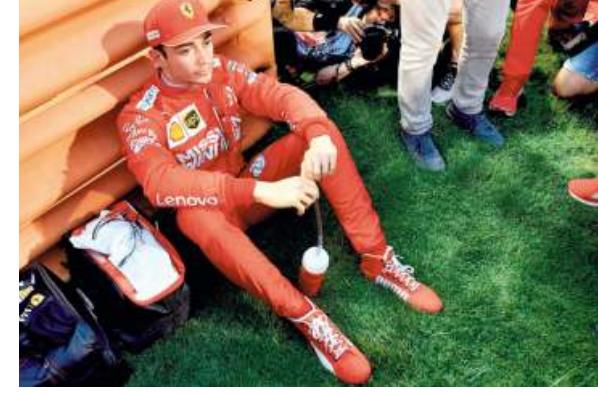
Benzema's last-minute winner saves Real's blushes



Winning strike: Real Madrid's Karim Benzema celebrates with Dani Ceballos and Gareth Bale. ■ REUTERS

Leclerc takes positives from Bahrain heartbreak

Terms 2017 Formula Two setback in Monaco as the worst



One for the future: Charles Leclerc's driving in the Bahrain GP has caught the eye of many, including rival teams, and all agree on great things for him. ■ AFP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SAKHIR

Charles Leclerc focused on the positives on Monday after his heartbreaking bid for a maiden F1 win was foiled by engine problems in Sunday's Bahrain Grand Prix.

The 21-year-old Monegasque, who emerged as the sport's rising star as the youngest pole-sitter in Ferrari's history, had victory in his sights with 10 laps remaining when he suffered a power loss that saw him drop to third as Mercedes pair Lewis Hamilton and Valtteri Bottas finished first and second.

His misfortune was caused by a single cylinder failure, Ferrari said, quashing suggestions of a problem with the turbo-charger.

"To be honest, how I felt in the car, I thought that everything would blow up a few laps later," said Leclerc. "But, that was not the case and we still finished third."

Finding pace
 "From the whole weekend, there are a lot of positives to take. After Australia, we were quite far off. Now, I think we have found some pace. We came here with a good car, which was very positive for the team and

shows they have done an amazing job. To lose the lead this way is always a shame and a disappointment."

He said it was not the cruellest setback of his racing career. "No, it was not that extreme," he explained. "Formula Two, in Monaco, in 2017, was probably the worst me and the worst I've had."

In that race, he dominated the contest on home soil in front of his family and friends before safety car confusion and a suspension breakage conspired to wreck his hopes.

"This is not so bad. It's still a podium and it's my first in F1 so I want to enjoy it. It was not the weekend we wanted, but we should be happy with third despite the problems."

Ferrari team chief Mattia Binotto said: "The engine will go back to Maranello for careful checks because when something like this happens you need to take your time. But the engine was running at the end of the race so it is still able to run. We will use it certainly in China when we have an entire Friday to assess its behaviour, functionality and performance."

Dimuth Karunaratne, 30, was taken to a magistrate who suspended his driving licence and fixed a trial for May 2. The cricket star was also asked to take a medical test.

Police told the court that while driving under the influence of liquor, Karunaratne went through a red light and hit a taxi whose driver was hospitalised for minor injuries after the pre-dawn crash on Sunday.

"My actions were utterly unbecoming of a Sri Lankan national cricketer and I do apologise to all of you for this incident," Karunaratne said in a statement.

The incident came as Sri Lanka decides who will be captain for the national team at the World Cup in England.

Karunaratne, who led Sri Lanka to a stunning Test series victory against South Africa last month, had been one of the favourites.

Sri Lanka's cricket board said in a statement it would investigate the incident "in order to take necessary action."



Dimuth Karunaratne.
 ■ TOM DULAT/GETTY IMAGES

Malaysia tour will help us improve in key areas: Savita

HOCKEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU

India hockey team skipper Savita on Monday said the Malaysia tour will help the team improve on key areas ahead of the Olympic qualifiers, slated to be held later this year. An 18-member women's hockey team will play a five-match series against Malaysia, starting April 4.

Confidence'
 "Earlier this year, we played in Spain where we did well against the hosts and Ireland. We will carry the same confidence into Malaysia

I think we have good depth in the team now with quite a few talented youngsters

and look to improve on key areas which we felt needed to be worked on after analysing our performance in Spain," Savita said.

"Whatever we are doing now is all part of the preparations for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics qualifying event later this year and we are looking to improve as a team as well as our individual performance," explained Savita.

"This will be a good tour for them to show their capabilities so that they will stand a chance to make the team for the all important 2020 Tokyo Olympics Qualifying event this year," she said.

Breaks Huesca hearts with his 14th league goal of the season

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

Karim Benzema stopped Real Madrid's underwhelming La Liga season going from bad to worse on Sunday after firing a last-minute winner to hand it a barely deserved 3-2 winner over bottom club Huesca.

Humbled by Ajax in the Champions League and dumped out of the Copa Del Rey by Barcelona, third-placed Real showed little signs of improvement in Zinedine Zidane's second game in charge but Benzema, subject to rumours he may leave Madrid in the summer for Manchester United, struck with a fine curling finish to snatch the three points.

Zidane's son Luca was given his second ever start between the sticks for Real but got off to the worst possible

start, picking the ball out of his own net within three minutes after Cucho Hernandez lashed home Ezequiel Avila low cross.

Huesca pounced on that awful miss to draw level when Xabier Etxeita powered home Moi Gomez's cross from a short corner.

However, Benzema was on hand to break Huesca hearts with his 14th league goal of the season.

The results:

Premier League: Liverpool 2 (Firmino 16, Alderweireld 90+og) bt Tottenham 1 (Lucas 70).

La Liga: Real Madrid 3 (Isco 25, Dani Ceballos 62, Benzema 89) bt Huesca 2 (Cucho Hernandez 3, Etxeita 74); Valladolid 1 (Keko Gontan 9) drew with Real Sociedad 1 (Oyarzabal 79); Sevilla 0 lost to Valencia 1 (Parejo 45+pen).

Serie A: Bologna 2 (Pulgar 68+pen, Destro 90+6) bt Sassuolo 1 (Boga 90+2); Inter Milan 0 lost to Lazio 1 (Milinkovic-Savic 13).

Bundesliga: Eintracht Frankfurt 3 (Kostic 45, 64, Jovic 84) bt Stuttgart 0.

Kevin Kisner is Match Play champion

Molinari beats Bjerregaard to finish third

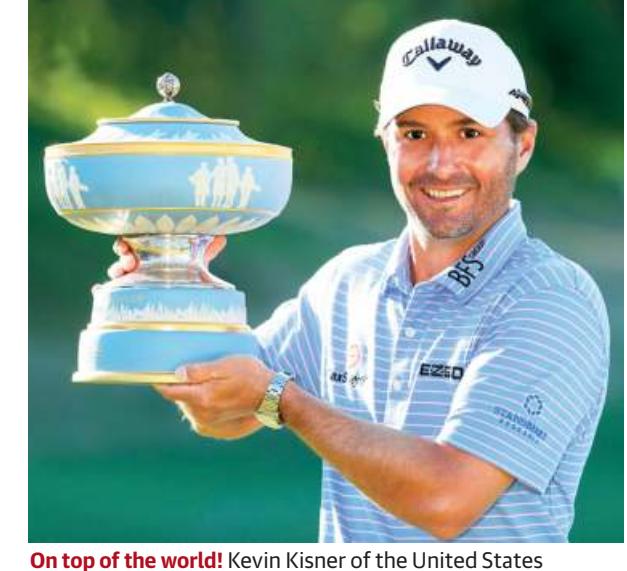
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

48th seed but became the lowest-seeded winner since Australian Geoff Ogilvy.

In the morning semifinals, Kisner edged Italy's Francesco Molinari 1-up and Kuchar dispatched Danish 50th seed Lucas Bjerregaard 1-up.

At 40, Kuchar would have been the oldest champion in tournament history and the first player to win three titles in a PGA season since Steve Stricker in 2009. In the consolation match, Molinari defeated Bjerregaard 4&2.

The results: Final: Kevin Kisner (USA) bt Matt Kuchar (USA) 3&2; Third place: Francesco Molinari (ITA) bt Lucas Bjerregaard (Den) 4&2. Semifinals: Kisner bt Molinari 1-up; Kuchar bt Bjerregaard 1-up.



On top of the world! Kevin Kisner of the United States with the Walter Hagen Cup. ■ AFP

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IN BRIEF



U.S. rapper Nipsey Hussle shot dead

LOS ANGELES
Grammy-nominated rapper Nipsey Hussle was shot dead in Los Angeles on Sunday, sparking an outpouring of grief from fellow celebrities as the city's mayor blamed "senseless gun violence." Mr. Hussle, 33, was shot in front of his own clothing store at close range, by a man who fled in a getaway car. Two other people were wounded, according to police. AFP



With 1.5 billion users a month, Gmail turns 15

SAN FRANCISCO
Google's email service Gmail that has nearly 1.5 billion monthly active users turned 15 on Monday. Google is reportedly testing a set of new inbox features like pinned messages, reminders and category bundles for the new Gmail for Android. Gmail started with an initial storage capacity of one gigabyte per user on April 1, 2004. IANS



Scientists trace likely methane source on Mars

PARIS
Scientists on Monday confirmed the presence of the life-indicating gas on the Red Planet as well as where it might have come from. Two independent investigations pointed to an ice sheet east of Gale Crater as the likely source for the gas. AFP

Vantage point

Wooden ball: A view of the *Erlebnisholzkugel*, a spherical wooden observation tower, during its inauguration in Steinberg am See, southern Germany, on Monday. AFP

Cashmere cardigans, gold dummy: luxury befitting a royal baby

High-end brands are seeking to capitalise on affluent parents' demand for costly items

REUTERS

LONDON
From a \$112,000 diamond-and-gold dummy to a \$1,320 Gucci baby tracksuit, you can never be too young to enjoy a little luxury.

As Britain's Prince Harry and his American wife Meghan Markle prepare to welcome their first child, there is no shortage of high-end brands they can turn to for nursery furniture, baby clothing and plenty of toys.

Personalised cots, cashmere cardigans and traditional rocking horses are among luxury items on offer for youngsters, with an array of brands seeking to capitalise on affluent parents' demand for such costly items.

"It's grown into a huge market. It's been hugely

Reiwa: a new imperial era name for Japan

It signals the new emperor's reign when he ascends the Chrysanthemum Throne next month



New beginning: Girls taking a selfie as the 'Reiwa' era is announced on TV, in Tokyo. AFP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

TOKYO

Japan on Monday revealed the name of the era that will define the new emperor's reign when he ascends the Chrysanthemum Throne next month following the first abdication in around 200 years.

The new imperial name consists of two characters: "Rei", which can mean "order" but also "auspicious" and "Wa", usually translated as "peace" or "harmony."

After weeks of speculation

and top-secret discussions, the two "kanji" characters were unveiled to reveal a name that will last as long as new emperor Naruhito's rule.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said the term "Reiwa" came from the "Manyoshu", an anthology of Japanese poems dating back 1,200 years that "symbolises our nation's profound public culture and long tradition".

"Just like amazing plum flowers in full bloom that signal the arrival of spring after

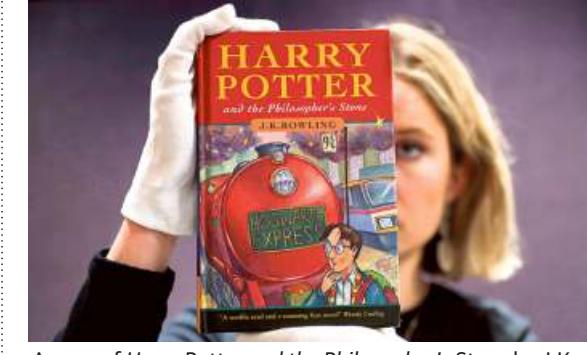
bitter cold, each and every Japanese person can hope for the future and make their own flowers blossom," added the Prime Minister.

"It is the first time it comes from a Japanese text" rather than Chinese, noted Mr. Abe.

The 85-year-old Emperor Akihito will step down on April 30 in favour of Crown Prince Naruhito, who will take the throne the next day.

Crowds gathered around Japan to watch live broadcasts of the announcement.

In Poland, Catholic priests burn Harry Potter books



A copy of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J.K. Rowling. REUTERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WARSAW

Catholic priests in Poland burned books they say are sacrilegious this weekend, including tomes from British author J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series of fantasy novels. "We obey the Word," priests said in a Facebook post.

One passage exhorting believers to destroy the enemies of God includes the command to "burn their idols in the fire".

The post, on a page run by the Catholic "SMS from Heaven" evangelical group, stirred controversy.

Priests are seen saying prayers over the fire pit where other items.

The Polish Episcopate and local bishop acknowledged the incident but declined to comment. The local parish did not answer calls.

The book burning took place "after the 10:00 a.m. mass on Sunday, at 11:00 a.m." an unnamed parishioner at the church in the northern Polish city of Gdansk told the TVN24 commercial news channel.

"And these offerings, which were brought (to the church) during the week, were taken in front of the church and there was a bonfire," one person posted.

Parishioners were asked to bring items linked to "negative energy" and superstition.

tious beliefs, including good luck charms, the parishioner added.

Going backwards

"I'd like to believe this is a joke... Seriously? Are people burning fantasy literature in the 21st century in some kind of sick ritual?" one Facebook user said in a comment underneath the post.

"It's hard for me to believe that we're so backward!" the user added.

Other Facebook users, however, backed the book burning. "Get rid of everything that does not please God and see how your life will change," one person posted.

The Harry Potter series of books focusses on the adventures of young wizard Harry Potter as he struggles against the dark wizard Lord Voldemort. It has sometimes drawn criticism from conservative circles for what they say is its focus on witchcraft.

This incident comes as Poland's influential Roman Catholic church struggles to deal with the fallout of revelations about paedophilia among priests that are unprecedented in this overwhelmingly Catholic country. Last month, the Polish episcopate admitted for the first time that nearly 400 of its clergy had sexually abused children and minors over the last three decades.

22 kg of plastic found in dead whale's belly

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MILAN

An eight-metre sperm whale was found dead off Sardinia with 22 kg of plastic in its belly, prompting the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) to sound an alarm on Monday over the dangers of plastic waste in the Mediterranean Sea.

The environmental group said the garbage recovered from the sperm whale's stomach included a corrugated tube for electrical works, plastic plates, shopping bags, tangled fishing lines and a washing detergent package with its bar code still legible.

The female whale beached off the northern coast of Sardinia last week, within the vast Pelagos marine sanctuary that was created as a haven for dolphins, whales and other sea life.

WWF said plastic is one of the greatest threats to marine life and has killed at least five other whales over the last two years from Europe to Asia.

gle contends it is in compliance.

The feature recommends plumbers and other local home service providers without disclosing that the results draw from a curated database mainly composed of companies that joined its marketing programme.

"It's not a completely clean recommendation," said Michelle Cohen, an attorney. "If there's a financial commitment, you're supposed to disclose it."

Conversing with assistants is routine for millions of people globally, whether on bedside alarm clocks, car audio systems or even high-end headphones. More than 1 billion such devices have Google Assistant, 100 million Amazon.com Inc's Alexa and at least 1 billion Apple Inc's Siri, according to the companies and estimates.

The Federal Trade Commission, which regulates deceptive business practices in



Till now, consumers are getting ad-free answers from virtual assistants. ISTOCKPHOTO

holds the world's biggest search advertising business.

So far, consumers get answer from virtual assistants without ads. And tech firms have not shown how they would include the "sponsored" or "ad" disclaimers that regulators require.

Curated output

One Google Assistant feature already is close to violating disclosure rules, according to five advertising attorneys contacted by Reuters. Goo-

In Norway, electric cars outsell others

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COPENHAGEN

In a symbolic first, electric cars outsold fossil fuel-powered ones in Norway last month.

Christina Bu, the Norwegian Electric Vehicle Association's general secretary, said that sales figures show 58.4% of new cars sold in the country in March were battery-powered, calling it "historically high."

Bu added Monday that electric cars' share of the market in the first three months of 2019 was 48.4% and is expected to hover around 50% for the whole year.

Norway has waived hefty vehicle import duties and registration and sales taxes for buyers of electric cars to boost sales. Owners don't pay road tolls. The aim is to have all new cars in the Scandinavian country be electric by 2025.

John Lennon and Yoko Ono footage resurfaces after 50 years

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

THE HAGUE

Fifty years after Beatles member John Lennon and Yoko Ono famously staged a honeymoon "bed-in" for peace in an Amsterdam hotel, a Dutchman has unearthed 30 minutes of colour footage of the event from his cellar.

The couple spent a week mostly under the sheets at the Hilton hotel to spread a pacifist message – smoking, eating, singing and playing guitar while receiving journalists for interviews.



John Lennon and his wife Yoko Ono. AFP

The European leg of their honeymoon, which includ-

ed an unusual press conference in Vienna with the glamour pair obscured inside a giant "bag", was a huge media event – each step captured by photographers and videographers.

This included a Dutch team shooting footage for a two-part, 84-minute documentary, a kind of video diary filmed at the pair's request. It was broadcast only once and shown at the Edinburgh Film Festival the same year before disappearing into the archives of broadcasters KRO.

UNIVERSITY DAY

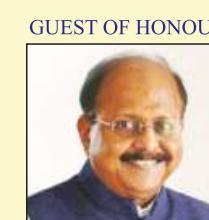
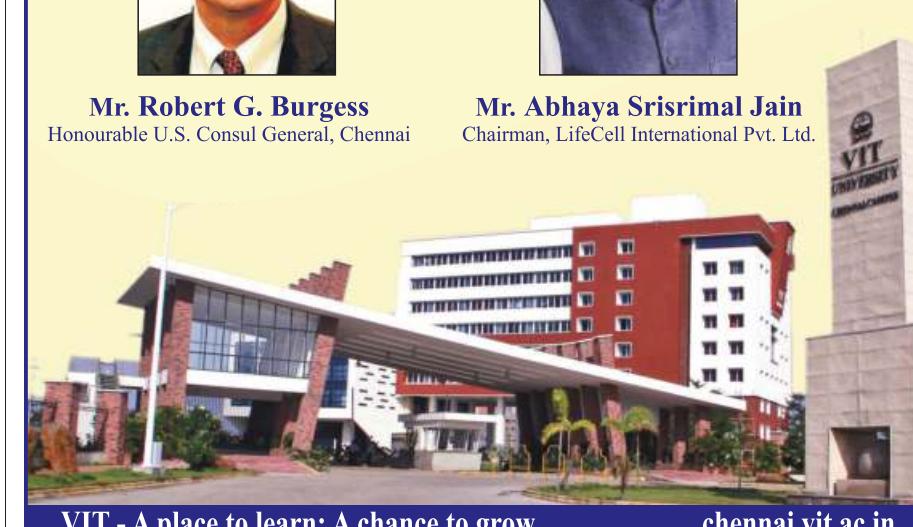
2nd April 2019 | 11:00 AM | VIT Chennai

HEARTY WELCOME TO THE

CHIEF GUEST

Mr. Robert G. Burgess
Honourable U.S. Consul General, Chennai

GUEST OF HONOUR

Mr. Abhay Srivastava Jain
Chairman, LifeCell International Pvt. Ltd.

VIT - A place to learn; A chance to grow

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Royal customers: Canadian envoy to the U.K. Janice Charette presents Prince Harry and Duchess Meghan baby gifts. AP

Spanish company Suommo whose Dodo diamond and pure gold dummy is priced at \$1,12,240. An 18-carat gold plated cot costs €60,000 euros. Other firms offer bespoke mattresses, gold high chairs or silver rattles.

Harry and Meghan, known as the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, have revealed little during the pregnancy. The Duchess of Sussex told well-wishers in January she was six months pregnant but the couple did not know the baby's gender.

British media have reported they have picked neutral colours for the nursery at their new Frogmore Cottage home in Windsor and published a picture of a car with pram maker iCandy's logo arriving at their gates.

You can be looking at anything from a simple cot-

ton baby grow that's £90 pounds (\$117) ... to a Burberry changing bag which is £850, and beyond. Some of the prices are really eye-watering but parents are prepared to pay it."

Among those providing luxury baby products is

helped by the royals because it gives a lot of these brands an international platform," said Kate Freud, editor at large of luxury parenting magazine Baby and Little London.

You can be looking at anything from a simple cot-

**Kant Enclave demolition**

Authorities pull down 10 structures in Kant Enclave in Faridabad amid protest by residents **Page 2**

**Missing youths found dead**

Mystery shrouds death of two youths, earlier reported missing, whose bodies were found in a canal **Page 3**

**Stories from the chawl**

Madhuri Dixit-Nene and her husband on the set of a production and why they chose to release 15 August online **Page 5**

**Let's talk old school**

With 'vintage' being a buzzword for 2019, there is an air of collectibility exuded from these throwback gadgets **Page 6**

IN BRIEF**Murder of judge's kin: 5 witnesses examined**

GURUGRAM

Five witnesses were examined in connection with the murder of the wife and son of an Additional District and Sessions Judge in October last year, at a local court here on Monday.

CITY ▶ PAGE 4**Cancel FIR against us, appeals Bhondsi family**

GURUGRAM

The Muslim family in Bhondsi who was attacked on March 21 by a group of men, on Monday made an appeal to the district administration to cancel the FIR registered against them and threatened to migrate to a safer place if their demand was not met.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	Gurugram	Ghaziabad	Faridabad
151	124	169	171
Good	Satisfactory	Moderate	Poor
0-50	51-100	101-200	201-300
■ Poor	■ Very poor	■ Severe	■ Severe
301-400	401-400	>401	>401
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M., YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) SOURCE: CPCB			

We are not waiting for an alliance, says AAP

Party campaign gains momentum, 9 meetings held in a day

DAMINI NATH

NEW DELHI

With speculation of an alliance between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress refusing to die down, AAP moved its campaign for the Lok Sabha election in Delhi up a gear on Monday, holding nine public meetings in a day.

Having announced candidates for all seven Lok Sabha seats of Delhi last month, AAP has been campaigning across the city for weeks now.

But, AAP leaders as well as some in the Congress have kept the possibility of an alliance open.

Responding to a question about recent reports of the Congress offering a 4-3 seat-sharing arrangement in Delhi, AAP Delhi convener Gopal Rai said, "Which formula? The one that is running on TV? TV channels are reporting that the Congress has offered 3-3-1 or 4-3 in Delhi, three seats in Haryana and zero seats in Punjab. If they are giving zero seats,



how is that an offer? There is no point in joking."

'Cong said no to tie-up'

Mr. Rai said the Congress had already "said no" to an alliance, referring to a meeting of Opposition leaders at Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar's residence in February, where, according to AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal, Congress president Rahul Gandhi had declined the offer.

He said the Congress had neither publicly nor privately said it would be ready for alliance, despite remarks from some leaders of the party in support of the idea.

"We are holding nine pu-

blic meetings today to campaign for seven MPs. We are not waiting. We are fully committed to our campaign in support of full statehood for Delhi," he said, referring to the AAP's central theme for the Lok Sabha campaign in Delhi.

He added that it appeared the Congress was in a state of "maha confusion" and was weakening the Opposition parties in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Kerala, by contesting and splitting the anti-BJP votes, and eventually "strengthening the BJP".

"Maybe we won't have to

point in joking"

GOPAL RAI

AAP Delhi convener

In a first, NSA invoked against gangster in UP

He had fired at a foreign firm's guard

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NOIDA

The Gautam Buddha Nagar administration on Monday invoked the stringent National Security Act against a gangster for allegedly firing at a security guard at the construction site of a Chinese smartphone firm.

Senior officials said slapping the NSA against Robin for firing at a foreign firm's guard was the first-of-its-kind action in Uttar Pradesh as such an act could jeopardise international trade and ties and violate investment climate in the region.

On January 31, a few Sun-dar Bhati gang members had opened fire on the security guard deployed at the construction site of Oppo smartphone factory in Greater Noida.

To secure contracts

Later, it had emerged that it was done at the behest of local people who wanted to secure contracts for the firm's civil works like those for water supply and trans-

sportation, they said.

"It was not just an act of firing, District Magistrate Brajesh Narain Singh said as he briefed reporters along with Senior Superintendent of Police Vaibhav Krishna.

A security guard of an international company was fired at, this could have impacted foreign relations.

A lot of points are to be considered before invoking the NSA. It is a serious act, Mr. Singh said.

Announcing the invocation of NSA against Robin, whose bail plea is to be heard by a court here on Tuesday, Mr. Singh said, "If foreign companies don't find the atmosphere safe and conducive, if they feel unsafe, it would have an overall adverse effect in the region. Investments and thereby employment opportunities would be affected, leading to a public order situation."

Mr. Krishna said the other gang members involved in the attack have been arrested and booked under the Gangsters Act.

Bus driver shot dead in front of 5-year-old son

Family suspects involvement of relatives of his younger brother's wife

HEMAMI BHANDARI

NEW DELHI

A 40-year-old cluster bus driver was shot dead while he was holding his five-year-old son on Sunday night in north-east Delhi's New Usmanpur. The family suspects the murder to be a case of honour killing and an outcome of revenge.

The crime scene was about 500 metres from a post police as well as from New Usmanpur police station respectively.

Recalling the incident, victim Hakimuddin's wife Shahana, 30, said that the couple and two of their children including five-year-old Umar had gone for dinner at their family house in Seelampur and were on their way home to the rented accommodation when the incident happened at 10.30 p.m.

Bike-borne assailants

"When we reached our home, my husband asked me to go inside and he went to a nearby store with Umar because the boy wanted to buy some snacks. He was walking to the store when four persons on two bikes came and started firing in his



The victim, Hakimuddin.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

direction," said the wife.

According to Shahana, the boy told his father "Papa wo tumhe goli maar rahe hain [They are shooting at you]" and in a fraction of a second, they shot about eight rounds at my husband. He fell on the ground with my son. Thankfully, they didn't shoot my son or the bullet didn't hit him," she said.

Leaving his father on the road, the five-year-old rushed home to inform his mother. "Ammi, papa mar gaye... papa ko goli maar di [Mother, father is dead... he has been shot]," he told the mother, she claimed.

As the accused fled the spot, Hakimuddin was rushed to Jag Pravesh Chandra Hospital where he was

declared brought dead. Hakimuddin's family said they suspect involvement of the family of his younger brother's wife as the two families have been at loggerheads for nearly a year since the couple ran away and got married against the wishes of the woman's family.

When we reached our home, my husband asked me to go inside and he went to a nearby store with Umar because the boy wanted to buy some snacks

SHAHANA

Victim's wife

The family said that about eight months ago, the two families engaged in a clash on the same issue in which a neighbour, who was trying to pacify the situation, was stabbed to death allegedly by Hakimuddin's brothers Shahzad and Mahumuddin. The police said that both the brothers are lodged in jail on murder charge.

"When we were leaving from the Seelampur house on Sunday night, we saw Uzma's family members watching us. I told my husband the same but he asked me to ignore it," Shahana said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North-East) Atul Thakur said that the police have taken note of the suspicion raised by the family but the murderer is under investigation.

"Some suspects are being interrogated. The motive of murder will be ascertained once arrests are made," Shahana said.

"When we were leaving from the Seelampur house on Sunday night, we saw Uzma's family members watching us. I told my husband the same but he asked me to ignore it," Shahana said.

Hakimuddin is survived by his wife and six children.

SEE ALSO ▶ PAGE 3

calorie intake but from dependence on a carbohydrate-based diet low in protein and fat. Another factor triggering malnutrition is inadequate sanitation which triggers and increases infection rates," she added.

"In Delhi, children from urban slums are at a particular risk, especially newborns and infants [0-36 months] whose health entirely depends on the availability of the mother to breastfeed, the ability of the caretaker and household to provide nutritious meals, the quality of the public healthcare system and overall community support," said Pooja Mahajan, Nutritionist, BLK Super Speciality Hospital.

Undernutrition which includes childhood stunting, anaemia in women of reproductive age and overweight adult women.

"In India, malnutrition problem results not from

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"In India, malnutrition problem results not from

malnutrition claimed 244 lives in 4 years'

Reveals RTI query as city sees cases of nutrition deficiency, obesity-related diseases

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

NEW DELHI

The Capital, from 2013 to 2016, recorded 244 deaths due to malnutrition in city hospitals, reveals an RTI reply from the Delhi government's Directorate of Economic and Statistics and Office of the Chief Registrar (births and deaths).

"In Delhi, the population most vulnerable to deaths due to malnutrition includes children, elderly, socio-economically disadvantaged uninsured, low-income group children, the homeless, patients with HIV and other chronic health conditions, including mental illness," explained senior Dietician Mansi Chaudhary at Fortis Hospital, Shalimar Bagh.

According to Ms.

Chaudhary, Delhi too as the rest of the country faces a serious burden

of deaths due to malnutrition.

Sorry state of affairs

Deaths due to malnutrition

2013 2014 2015 2016

64 70 44 66

SOURCE: DELHI GOVERNMENT

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</div

IN BRIEF



'Delhi BJP misleading people, will go to EC'

NEW DELHI
The Aam Aadmi Party will approach the Election Commission of India to complain against Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari for "misleading" Delhiites about the possibility of granting full statehood to Delhi, AAP Delhi convener Gopal Rai said on Monday. STAFF REPORTER

'6 dengue cases reported in Delhi this year so far'

NEW DELHI
At least six dengue cases have been reported in Delhi this year so far, four of which were in March, stated a municipal report released on Monday. The vector-borne disease is usually reported between July and November. Last year, 2,798 dengue cases and four deaths were recorded by the south civic body, which tabulates data on vector-borne diseases in the city. STAFF REPORTER

HC refuses to hear plea on generic drugs

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday declined to entertain a petition seeking directions to the Centre and the Medical Council of India (MCI) to ensure that doctors prescribe generic medicines.

The plea by advocate Amit Sahni said that the MCI had on January 21, 2013, issued a circular addressed to the deans of all medical colleges, director of all hospitals, president of all State medical councils, whereby the doctors practising medicines were called upon to prescribe drugs with generic name as far as possible.

'Same benefits, low price'
But, the authorities have failed to ensure that doctors write only generic medicines in their prescription despite clear statutory directions, Mr. Sahni had said in his plea. He said that generic medicine works and provides the same clinical benefit as brand-name versions, and added that generic medicine cost between 5% to 60% less than their branded counterparts.

Mr. Sahni had argued that citizens belonging to the lower-middle class and economically backward may not be in a position to approach the court due to lack of awareness, and would benefit from a court direction to doctors to prescribe generic medicines.

Ten structures demolished at Kant Enclave amid protests

Residents call it 'Black Day', raise slogans against authorities; drive to continue today

ASHOK KUMAR
FARIDABAD

"It is a Black Day", this is how Vishisht Seva Medal awardee Brigadier (retd.) M.B. Anand described the demolition of houses at Kant Enclave in Sector 40 here on Monday. The 400-acre township houses bungalows of retired Army officers, former bureaucrats, senior advocates and entrepreneurs.

Mr. Anand, along with several other residents, had gathered at the entrance of the township wearing black bands and carrying black flags and banners to protest against the demolition drive.

Total 14 structures

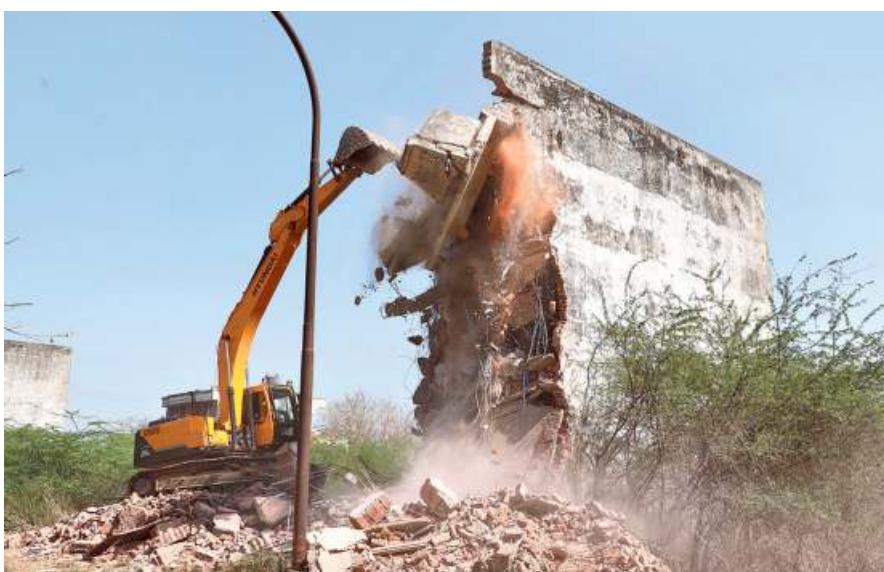
Of the total 14 structures to be pulled down, ten were razed, including two houses belonging to former Chief Justice of India A.M. Ahmadi, and two were partially demolished during the day-long drive by four squads comprising the Department of Town and Country Planning, Municipal Corporation of Faridabad and Sub-Divisional Magistrate (Badkhal).

The two partially demolished structure include a film studio belonging to the developer. The residents, most of them senior citizens, said they were left "stunned" by what had happened and questioned as to why they were being singled out for the demolition.

The drive was carried out in adherence to the Supreme Court order in September last year saying that the

C We bought the land legally, got it registered, had the building plans approved by the authorities concerned before constructing the houses. We are paying all taxes, water and power tariff. This sector is part of the Master Plan-2031. What wrong have we done?

BHARAT SETH
IIT-Mumbai Professor (retd.)



Demolition of structures under way at Kant Enclave, Faridabad; (right) residents protest against the drive.

MANOJ KUMAR

houses were built illegally in the protected forests of the Aravalis and the developers had caused irreversible ecological damage to the ancient hills.

The residents, most of them senior citizens, said they were left "stunned" by what had happened and questioned as to why they were being singled out for the demolition.

"As per the Supreme Court order, all construction, which includes a private university, a police station, a fire station and some HUDA sectors in Faridabad, have been constructed in violation of the Punjab Land Preservation Act, 1900. Then why single out Kant Enclave for the demolition? We are not saying that those structures be also demolished, but everyone should be treated at par," said Rahul Juneja, a garments exporters, who had bought a plot in the township in 1994.

He said that he had come to express solidarity with those whose houses were be-



ing demolished.

IIT-Mumbai Professor (retd.) Bharat Seth sought to know what was the fault of the residents.

"We bought the land legally, got it registered, had the building plans approved by the authorities concerned before constructing the houses. We are paying all taxes, water and power tariff. This sector is part of the Master Plan-2031. What wrong have we done?" asked Mr. Seth. The residents argued that it would be the first such instance in the country when the houses in a legally approved colony were demolished.

No proper hearing

Some of them rued that they did not get proper hearing in the court and were not satisfied with the order.

The drive will continue on Tuesday as well.

As many as 31 residents have given an undertaking in the court to vacate their houses by July 31 and these will be taken up for demolition after the deadline.

Bibhuti Bhushan, 76, an IIT-Kharagpur graduate, said that he had invested his life's savings in building his house and there could not be anything like "valuation" for him for his home.

Mr. Bhushan is among those who have given the affidavits, but he said that even July 31 was not far off.

He fears the same fate as his fellow residents met on Monday. The residents could be seen hugging and consoling each other as the demolition squads went ahead with the drive pulling down the structures.

The drive will continue on Tuesday as well.

HC refuses to interfere with release of Modi biopic

Petitioner had contended that the film could have an impact on voters

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday declined to entertain a plea seeking to defer the release of the film *PM Narendra Modi* until the results of the 2019 Lok Sabha election are declared.

A Bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice Anup J. Bhamhani refused to entertain the petition filed by Advocate Sujeet Kumar Singh, which had also sought action against the

makers of the film for violating the Model Code of Conduct (MCC).

The film is set to hit the theatres on April 5.

During the brief proceeding, the Election Commission was represented by advocate Siddhant Kumar.

In violation of model code

The petition contended that the model code had come into force when the election schedule was announced by the poll panel on March 10.

The petition claimed that on January 7, 2019, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra launched the official poster of the film "in a grand occasion in Mumbai".

"The film, if released for public during the period the Model Code of Conduct is in operation... could have a great impact on voters... it can be seen as campaign material to be used before voting when the official publicity is banned," the petition stated.

The Bombay High Court on Monday also refused to interfere with the release of the film.

Opposition parties, including the Congress, the CPI(M) and the CPI, have approached the poll panel seeking postponement of the release of the film until the last phase of voting on May 19 is over.

The Delhi Chief Electoral Officer has sought response from the film producers on the issue.

The Bombay High Court on Monday also refused to interfere with the release of the film.

HC stays CIC order to disclose JAG advice

In Army clash case of 2012; challenge plea was moved by the Ministry of Defence

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday stayed a Central Information Commission order directing the Centre to disclose the pre-trial advice given by the Army's Judge Advocate General (JAG) branch in connection with a 2012 clash between 100-odd soldiers of Ladakh-based 226 Field Regiment and their superiors.

A Bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice Anup J. Bhamhani also sought a reply of the RTI ap-

plicant, who is one of the soldiers involved in the clash. The Bench has posted the case for further hearing on August 13.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has challenged the January 2017 direction of the CIC to provide the information sought by the RTI applicant, Gunner Bikramjit Singh. The CIC order was initially challenged by the MoD before a single judge who in May 2018 had dismissed the plea on the grounds that it was filed after a considerable delay.

The Bench agreed to hear the appeal against the single judge's decision after it was told that the documents had to be sent from Kargil leading to a delay in challenging the CIC order.

The petition has claimed that the CIC completely misinterpreted the Right to Information (RTI) law by directing the MoD to provide certified copies of the JAG's pre-trial advice as the same was confidential and exempted from the purview of the Act.

According to the MoD

plea, the incident had taken place on May 11-12, 2012, at Leh in Jammu and Kashmir after the soldiers heard a rumour that one of them had died after being badly beaten up by three officers for allegedly molesting an officer's wife.

Mr. Singh, who was dismissed from service in 2015 after a Summary General Court Martial (SGCM) for his participation in the clash, had in December 2015 sought information regarding the advice given by the JAG in the matter.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said: "If any steps are required to be taken for making the Wetland Authority fully functional, such steps may be taken by the Delhi Chief Secretary. Even if it is found that the area in question is not technically a wetland, the lake is required to be preserved as a water body."

Adding that the authority can co-opt the Delhi Development Authority as a member under relevant rules, the Bench stated: "Effective joint decision can be taken to resolve the dispute whether the area falls within the jurisdiction of the DDA

Plea in NGT seeks permission to operate brick kilns

Judicial member Justice Raghuvendra S. Rathore directed the CPCB to take up the plea moved by the Ghaziabad-based brick manufacturer.

We direct the CPCB to look into, and expeditiously decide, the issue in respect of the technology suggested by the applicant herein and in case it is found technically appropriate, approval of the

Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, be taken at the earliest," the Bench stated.

Environment friendly'
The NGT's orders came on a plea moved by Zila Ghaziabad Nirmita Samiti, which sought directions to permit their brick kilns to operate as they were equipped with environment friendly tech-

nology. The plea contended that the Chimney Bull's Trench Kiln technology uses mustard husk as fuel and that it does not have adverse effects on public health.

In 2017, the NGT had issued directions that all brick kilns operating without permission and requisite consent from State pollution control boards be closed with immediate effect.

Is Tikri Khurd lake in Narela a wetland, NGT asks authorities

Gives Wetlands Authority of Delhi one month to decide

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Wetlands Authority of Delhi to convene a meeting and take a decision on whether the Tikri Khurd lake in Narela is a wetland. The authority has been asked to decide on the issue within a month.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said: "If any steps are required to be taken for making the Wetland Authority fully functional, such steps may be taken by the Delhi Chief Secretary. Even if it is found that the area in question is not technically a wetland, the lake is required to be preserved as a water body."

Adding that the authority can co-opt the Delhi Development Authority as a member under relevant rules, the Bench stated: "Effective joint decision can be taken to resolve the dispute whether the area falls within the jurisdiction of the DDA

or the Delhi government."

Wetlands authority

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has also been directed to ascertain whether the National Wetlands Authority is functioning at the central and State level. ■ FILE: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA



The NGT also asked the CPCB to ascertain whether the National Wetlands Authority is functioning at the central and State level. ■ FILE: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

in the matter may be furnished before the next step," the Bench said.

The green panel also came down heavily on the DDA after it informed the Bench that the lake does not exist in the records.

The stand of the DDA does not show commitment for conserving water body and merely focuses on technicalities and shifting responsibility, which is an attitude not expected from a public body," the green tribunal noted.

Plea in NGT claims plastic units behind air pollution

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A plea accusing plastic-manufacturing factories in northwest Delhi's Sultanpur Majra village of spreading pollution, has prompted the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to order the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) to look into the matter and take appropriate action.

Action report

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said: "Let the DPCC and the jurisdictional SDM look into the matter, take appropriate action in accordance with law and furnish an action taken report within a month."

The green panel added that the DPCC will be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance. The directions came when a plea alleged that "hundreds of plastic factories at Sultanpur Majra village", were creating pollution.

AAP MLAs accused of 'using' CCTV project to woo voters

Letter to EC says field inspections by MLAs against model code

DAMINI NATH
JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI

The ongoing installation of CCTV cameras as part of a Delhi government project has become the latest flashpoint in the run-up to the Lok Sabha election, with Aam Aadmi Party MLAs being accused of using the project to seek votes.

On Monday, the Delhi Assembly Secretariat wrote to all MLAs about a "complaint against political functionaries/MLAs etc. for violation of Model Code of Conduct" by trying to lure voters "in the garb of field inspections" as part of installation of CCTV cameras in residential colonies and markets.

Letter from Delhi CEO
The Assembly told the MLAs that it had received a letter from the Chief Electoral Officer on March 26 regarding a complaint sent to the CEO on March 20.

Forwarding the CEO's letter, which says the MLAs' conduct appears to be in violation of the MCC, the Assembly also shared the Election Commission of India's "Dos and Don'ts". According to the document, the commissioning of government works should be done by "civil authority" and not political representatives while the MCC is in force.

AAP spokesperson and Greater Kailash MLA Saubhab Bharadwaj said he had not received the letter as of Monday evening.

"The AAP tried to stop the project, first through the



Lieutenant-Governor, then through the police, then they got together with the Congress and tried to raise irregularities. When all that failed, they are now trying to derail the installation of the cameras. This is an ongoing project. For the field inspections, the area MLA and RWA members are required to sign off," he said, referring to the modalities laid down by the government.

Reacting to the AAP's allegations, Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta said statements such as these were symptoms of the party's "frustration" fearing defeat in the Lok Sabha elections.

"The AAP is scared because it has realised there is no way to save itself from losing the elections; if the Election Commission of India has reiterated its stand on such activities, the party should accept them and change course in accordance with the law instead of levelling wild allegations," Mr. Gupta said.

Tiwari on Sunday evening. A similar meeting between Ms. Chaudhary and Mr. Tiwari last week had triggered speculation about her joining the BJP to contest in the upcoming general election.

Tiwari to call on Vishwas

Mr. Tiwari is expected to call on Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) rebel leader Kumar Vishwas on Monday evening, said sources.

Manifesto for Delhi
Party insiders also said that Mr. Tiwari, who is among the 40 star campaigners chosen to canvass for the BJP, will be part of as many as 34 public events, scheduled between April 3 and April 9, across the country.

"Mr. Tiwari and Ms. Chaudhary met on Sunday evening to discuss the party's campaign for the LS election in the Capital. She will not be joining the party at the moment, but she is more likely to be a star campaigner for the party in Parliamentary segments where she enjoys immense popularity," the source said.

"Ms. Chaudhary is not joining the party as of now... there will be clarity on this

issue in a day or two," said another party source.

IN BRIEF

Vegetable vendors
stabbed, robbed; 1 held

A 23-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly stabbing a vegetable vendor along with his accomplices after robbing him of ₹13,000 in Delhi's Captain Gaur Marg, the police said on Monday. The accused, identified as Akif, a resident of Nehru Nagar, was arrested from near his house on March 29, they said. The incident took place on March 28 around 5.30 a.m. when the 40-year-old vendor was going to purchase vegetables from Okhla Sabzi Mandi, the police further said. PTI

Woman dragged by
snatcher, injured

NEW DELHI A 50-year-old woman sustained injuries after a biker, who tried to snatch her bag, dragged her, in Yojna Vihar in Shahdara on Monday afternoon, the police said. The woman was trying to resist the accused's bid to snatch her bag. Meghna Yadav, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara), confirmed the incident and said that a case under charges of attempt to robbery has been registered.

STAFF REPORTER

Bodies of missing youths found in canal, families allege murder

Police rule out foul play, say autopsy reports suggest they died of drowning

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Mystery shrouds the disappearance of two youths after their bodies were recovered from a canal in east Delhi's New Ashok Nagar. The families of the deceased have alleged that their children were murdered, but the police said they were investigating the case from multiple angles.

The police said that on March 24, Sooraj (23) and Rohit (24), who lived in Kalyanpuri, were reported missing, adding that they had received two separate missing complaints. "We tried to locate them by tracking their mobile phones. We found that Rohit had left his phone at home. Sooraj was traced at some distance, but his phone was switched off. We questioned many of their friends but everyone was clueless," said a police officer.

On March 27, the police control room received a call



Sooraj and (right) Rohit. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

around 6.30 p.m. regarding a body floating in a canal. A police team rushed to the location and the body was taken out. The police team checked the canal thoroughly and found another body around 20 minutes later a few meters away from where the first body was recovered.

The body was sent to the Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital mortuary and the families, who had reported them missing, were asked to visit the mortuary for identification.

Sooraj's family identified

him with the help of three different tattoos on his body, while Rohit was identified with the help of a chain he was wearing on his neck. The bodies were handed over to the respective families after post-mortem examination.

Strangled?

Sooraj's elder brother Devendra Singh said, "My brother's eyes and tongue were bulging out. It seems that he was strangulated. Even his mobile phone is un-

traceable. We approached the police suspecting he had been murdered, but they are trying to convince us that he accidentally fell into the canal and drowned."

Renu, Rohit's mother, said that her son used to work with a caterer and on March 24 night, Sooraj came to their house and asked Rohit to accompany him for some work.

"Both of them have been murdered and the police are hiding their incompetence by calling it suicide," said Ms. Renu.

Jasmeet Singh, Deputy Commissioner of Police (East), said that the preliminary autopsy reports of Sooraj and Rohit have stated that they died of drowning. "There were no injury marks on their bodies. No foul play is suspected," said Mr. Singh.

Mr. Singh also said that an inquest proceeding under Section 174 of the Code of Criminal Procedure has been initiated.

'Scared for our lives, we moved to rented house three months ago'

Murdered driver's wife says they tried to stay out of the feud

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

The wife of the 40-year-old cluster bus driver, who was shot dead on Sunday night, said that they had shifted to a rented accommodation from their own house about three months ago as they were scared for their lives.

Victim Hakimuddin's wife Shahana said, "We had been living with other family members in Seelampur but since we did not want to get involved in the feud with my sister-in-law's family and were scared due to the threats, we moved out."

Ms. Shahana said Hakimuddin's brother Shahzad had married their neighbour Uzma against the wish of Uzma's family. The two had eloped, she said. The two families then developed enmity over the issue and had even clashed with each other about eight months ago. During the clash, she said, a neighbour had died after by Hakimuddin's brothers Shahzad and Mahumuddin.

Hakimuddin's wife Shahana. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

edly stabbed him. The two are currently lodged in jail.

"What I feared for the most has happened. Now I am scared for my children's and my own life. We are witnesses in the incident. What if they harm us as well?" she wondered as she suspected involvement of her sister-in-law's family.

The police, meanwhile, said they are investigating the case of Hakimuddin's murder and that the motive will be ascertained once the accused are held.

Talking about her husband, Ms. Shahana said he had big plans for his eldest daughter Eram (14). "He wanted to provide her the best education. He wanted her to join the police force and our daughter wanted the same," she said. Worried for her future, the 30-year-old

wondered how she would take care of her children all by herself. "All my daughters go to school and I have six children to feed. How will I manage everything alone?" she said.

Former driver of cab aggregator robs another, three arrested

Accused was fired by the company, wanted to take revenge

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Three persons, including a former driver, who worked with a cab aggregator, have been arrested for allegedly robbing another driver working with the same company, the police said on Monday.

DCP (Dwarka) Anto Alphonse said that the accused have been identified as Gurpreet Singh (19), Aakash (22), and Jasveer Singh (24).

They said that the police control room was informed in the early hours of Saturday that a cab driver had been robbed. "The driver said that he was robbed of his valuables on gunpoint by four unidentified youths while he was taking them on

a booked ride," the officer said, adding that a case has been registered.

During investigation, with the help of human and technical intelligence, the police found out on Wednesday that three persons involved in the incident were in Bindapur, after which a trap was laid and three suspects who were coming on a motorcycle were detained. The police also said that the two-wheeler was found to be stolen and the accused were also in possession of illegal arms. The three were then arrested, the police said.

During interrogation, it was found that Jasveer had briefly worked with the same cab aggregator as the driver but was thrown out

for his inappropriate activities and frequent complaints from passengers. He wanted to take a revenge and thus planned to rob the company's taxi, the police claimed.

The police said Jasveer had planned to celebrate his girlfriend's birthday was facing a shortage of money. He then hatched the plan of robbery and roped in his friends. "They used an old SIM card to book the ride. They boarded the cab and robbed the driver of ₹3,000, his mobile phone, wallet and a bluetooth speaker. They also tried to flee with the car but failed as the key broke," Mr. Alphonse said.

Gurpreet was earlier arrested in a murder case, the police said.

2 burglars held, jewellery worth ₹4 lakh recovered

Accused include a juvenile who was apprehended at his father's instance

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Two persons, including a juvenile have been held for their involvement in an incident of burglary reported in Wazirabad in north district, the police said on Monday.

Two cases solved

They said that two cases of burglary have been thus worked out and jewellery worth ₹4 lakh were recovered from the possession of the accused.

The police said that on March 3, an incident of burglary was reported at a house in Hardev Nagar in

Wazirabad. On March 26, photographs of the suspect were developed and beat staff started searching for the suspect," said Nupur Prasad, DCP (North).

During investigation, it was found that both the burglars were committed in a similar manner. There were no CCTV cameras near the places where the incidents took place. However, a dedicated team was deputed to look for footage from CCTV cameras installed, if any, at all the possible routes that the burglars could have taken to flee.

"We got a lead after a teenager of the same stature was seen in the footage from CCTV cameras installed near

the location of the houses in both the cases. Photographs of the suspect were developed and beat staff started searching for the suspect," said Nupur Prasad, DCP (North).

During investigation, it was found that both the burglars were committed in a similar manner. There were no CCTV cameras near the places where the incidents took place. However, a dedicated team was deputed to look for footage from CCTV cameras installed, if any, at all the possible routes that the burglars could have taken to flee.

"We got a lead after a teenager of the same stature was seen in the footage from CCTV cameras installed near

further revealed that the jewellery stolen from Bangla Colony had been kept with one Pawan, a resident of Sant Nagar.

"We went to Pawan's house but were told that he had gone to Balaji in Rajasthan and would be returning in the afternoon. As soon as he returned from Balaji he was apprehended and the stolen jewellery was recovered from him," said Ms. Prasad.

The juvenile also disclosed that other articles stolen from a house in Hardev Nagar had been given to one Deepak. Efforts are being made to trace Deepak.

Florist shot dead following argument, two apprehended

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 40-year-old florist was shot dead in north-east Delhi's Welcome on Sunday night, the police said on Monday. The police have apprehended the accused. The accused and his accomplice were identified as Nawazish and Salman.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North-East) Atul Kumar Thakur said that the victim has been identified as Mehtab who was shot dead in Kabir Nagar.

"A PCR call was received around 11 p.m. regarding a firing incident. Enquiry revealed that one Mehtab who is a florist was declared brought dead at Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital," Mr. Thakur said.

Monetary issue

During investigation, the police were informed that Mehtab was allegedly stabbed by one Nawazish with whom he had a quarrel in the morning.

"There was an argument between the two in the morning over a monetary issue. The argument turned violent which was resolved by the locals. However, the accused returned with his accomplices and fired at Mehtab," Mr. Thakur said.

Case registered

The police have registered a case under Section 302 (punishment for murder) and teams were formed to nab the accused.

A weapon was also recovered from the accused's possession. They confessed that the motive behind the crime was revenge over the quarrel.

₹70 lakh cash seized from six persons

Victim tried to catch him red-handed

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Just days before the Lok Sabha election, cash amounting to ₹70 lakh was seized from six persons during vehicle checking exercise in north-west Delhi's Keshavpuri on Monday evening, said the police.

The police were checking vehicles at a check post near Prembari Pul Underpass around 5 p.m. The six persons were held carrying cash in their respective vehicles, including cars and two-wheelers, Vijayanta Arya, Deputy Commissioner of Police (North-west), said. Revenue agency, the IT Department and ED has been informed about the seizures.

Pickpocket attacks guard on moving bus

Victim tried to catch him red-handed

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A security guard's arm was slashed when a pickpocket attacked him in a moving bus near Gol Dak Khana on Monday, the police said.

They said that Rajinder Prasad (55), who works as a private security guard, sustained injury on his arm. Madhur Verma, DCP (New Delhi), said that the incident happened around 4 p.m. when Mr. Prasad spotted a man trying to steal from a man's pocket in the moving bus. He tried to catch him red-handed. "The pickpocket took out a knife and slashed on his arm with it. He then jumped off the moving bus and fled," Mr. Verma said.

The driver stopped the bus after the passengers raised an alarm. Some of them also tried to chase the accused but in vain. One of them then informed the police about the incident. The police reached the spot and the injured was taken to Lok Nayak Hospital and was discharged after treatment.

Manhunt on "We are examining CCTV footage to identify the accused. He will be arrested soon," the DCP said. A case under charges of voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapon has been filed.

Prickly heat



A woman works in a field of roses on the Yamuna floodplain near Seelampur in Delhi. ■ ANUJ ARORA

DCW rescues 12 trafficked victims

The women from Nepal were being taken to Dubai from Delhi

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) has rescued 12 Nepali women who were allegedly being trafficked to Dubai from different locations across north-west Delhi, officials said on Monday.

Following a complaint made to NGO KI Nepal, two DCW teams rescued the girls from two places in Noida, the women's commission said.

Promise of jobs

"The women said that an agent, Uday, had lured them to Delhi on the pretext of getting them decent jobs in Dubai and other Gulf coun-

Anandi (name changed), who made the initial complaint to the NGO, said that she had been trafficked to Iraq by the same agent. She escaped from Iraq and on reaching India came to know about the other girls who were kept captive.

Maliwal on trafficking DCW chairperson Swati Maliwal said, "Large-scale human trafficking continues unabated and hundreds of Nepali women are being trafficked via Delhi regularly... The need of the hour is for the Delhi and the Nepal police forces to bust these international trafficking gangs."



DCW chairperson
Swati Maliwal.

tries. Though the agent could not be traced, the girls said that they had paid up to ₹2 lakh to him for getting the jobs," a DCW official said.

Cancel FIR against us, appeals Bhondsi family

Threatens to migrate to a safer place if the demand is not met, requests security

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

The Muslim family in Bhondsi who was attacked on March 21 by a group of men, on Monday made an appeal to the district administration to cancel the first information report registered against them and threatened to migrate to a safer place if their demand was not met.

False case'

In a memorandum to Sohna Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Mohammad Sajid, the owner of the house, said that his family members feared for their life and that a false case was registered against them.

to create pressure to reach a compromise.

SHO, IO biased

He also requested security for his family and demanded that the case registered against them be withdrawn or he would be forced to move to a safer place. He also accused the Station House Officer, Bhondsi and the Investigation Officer in the case of being biased and demanded that the latter be changed.

The family also had a press conference on the issue and expressed fear for their life. Muslim Ekta Manch chairman Hazi Shahzad Khan said the allegations that the family had started the fight.

SDM, Sohna, Chinar Chahal, said the matter was under investigation and the civil administration could not interfere in it, but the police were directed to be impartial. Ms. Chahal also said that the administration would write to Haryana Education Board to conduct special examination for the boy in the family who had missed his Class X exam due to the injury.

4 CITY

Murder of judge's wife, son: five witnesses examined in court

27 of 81 prosecution witnesses have deposed so far; victims were shot by guard

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GURUGRAM

Five witnesses were examined in connection with the murder of the wife and son of an Additional District and Sessions Judge in October last year, at a local court here on Monday.

Of the total 81 prosecution witnesses, 27 have deposed so far.

Anil Antil, a material witness in the case, told the court of Sessions Judge Ravi Kumar Sondhi that he happened to pass through the road in front of Arcadia Market in South City-II on the fateful day when he noticed a huge crowd.

He cut through the crowd to find a teenager and a woman lying on the ground in a pool of blood.

Mr. Antil, who hails from Murtial in Sonipat, further said that he asked people in the crowd to make some arrangement to shift the injured persons to the hospital, but no one came forward.



Cthe prosecution had enough evidence to prove its case to the hilt and the rest of the witnesses would also be examined soon to wrap up the case speedily.

Medanta Hospital doctor Atma Ram, who had declared Dhruv brain-dead on October 22, was also examined.

Public prosecutor Anurag Hooda said that the prosecution had enough evidence to prove its case to the hilt and the rest of the witnesses would also be examined soon to wrap up the case speedily.

Mr. Kant's wife Ritu (37) and son Dhruv, were getting into their car after shopping on the day of the incident, when constable Mahipal shot them point-blank. He was arrested two hours after he attacked them on Gurugram-Faridabad Road. Ritu, who was shot in the abdomen and chest, had died a few hours after the attack. The boy was shot twice in the head and once near the shoulder. He succumbed to injuries ten days later.

The next hearing in the case has been fixed for April 24.

Bloodstains on clothes

Medical Officer at Gurugram Civil Hospital, Nitu, also deposed before the court, saying that clothes of the accused, Mahipal, had bloodstains on them and all his vitals were stable at the time of arrest.

She had conducted the medico-legal examination of the accused after the arrest. Dr. Nitu told the court that the accused behaved normally and had no psychological issues.

Perintendent, had handed over the bloodstained clothes of the victims to the police in a sealed parcel.

AAP govt seeks clarity on Metro phase IV funding

Objects to Centre approving only three of 6 corridors, change in funding pattern

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI
The Delhi government has raised objection with the Centre over the latter's approval of only three of the six metro phase IV corridors and change in the ambitious project's funding pattern, an official said on Monday.

"The government has sought clarification over the number of corridors approved by the Centre. The Delhi government had approved all the six corridors of phase IV, while the Centre gave clearance to only three of them," a senior government official said.



The Centre has approved three corridors of phase IV at an estimated cost of ₹24,948 crore.

and why the number of approved corridors were reduced and funding pattern was changed," he said.

The Aam Aadmi Party government has also sought clarity over the compensation to be paid for land acquisition, the official said.

The Centre had approved three corridors of phase IV at an estimated cost of ₹24,948 crore. The share of the Centre and the Delhi government in it was pegged at ₹4,154 crore each, while the rest of the funding is to be done through support from lending agencies. The Delhi government paid ₹200 crore

as balance amount of its share this year for the project and has sought clarification on the above points, the official said.

The AAP government had approved six corridors of the project last December.

The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry had objected to two conditions imposed by the Delhi government while clearing the project at its end.

It had asked for sharing of operational losses with Centre at 50:50 basis, while refusing to have any commitment regarding loan to be taken for the project.

POOCH CAFE

THAT STUPID LITTLE DOG IS GRABBING LEFTOVER PICNIC FOOD BEFORE I GET A CHANCE TO...

BUT FROM UP HERE I'LL BE ABLE TO SNOOP DOWN AND GRAB ANY SCRAPS FIRST!

THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD GET THERE BEFORE--

AW, COME ON!!

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

DON'T BE MAD AT ME! I COULDN'T STOP HAGAR FROM GRABBING WHAT HE WANTED!

YIP YIP YIP YAP YAP
I HEARD YOU BEG HAGAR TO TAKE FIFI WITH HIM!

OH NO, HOW CAN THIS BE HAPPENING?? I'VE BEEN SENT TO SEE THE PRINCIPAL! THIS IS ALL CALVIN'S FAULT! HE'S THE ONE WHO GOT ME IN ALL THIS TROUBLE!

I'M SO SCARED! WHAT AM I GOING TO DO??

TIGER

WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT IF THIS WAS A REAL MAGIC LAMP WITH A GENIE INSIDE?
THERE'S NOT MUCH ROOM FOR A GENIE INSIDE
HE'D HAVE TO BE A TEENIE WEENIE GENIE!

YIP YIP YIP YAP YAP
I HEARD YOU BEG HAGAR TO TAKE FIFI WITH HIM!

OH NO, HOW CAN THIS BE HAPPENING?? I'VE BEEN SENT TO SEE THE PRINCIPAL! THIS IS ALL CALVIN'S FAULT! HE'S THE ONE WHO GOT ME IN ALL THIS TROUBLE!

I THINK THEY MAKE THE HALL TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE THIS BIG ON PURPOSE...

WUMO

Joe never shadowboxed again

I'LL CALL YOU RAT WITH BIG SCHNOZZ.
WE DON'T KICK CUSTOMERS IN THE NETHER REGIONS.

CAN I HELP YOU?
YEAH, GIMME A DECAF AMERICANO.
CAN I GET A NAME?

THE AVERAGE PERSON DRINKS THREE CUPS OF COFFEE PER DAY. THAT'S AN ASTOUNDING 800 CUPS OVER AN 80-YEAR LIFETIME. ENOUGH TO FILL 125 BATHTUBS! ONLY TWO OUT OF 100 PEOPLE DRINK DECAF COFFEE.

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

CAN I HELP YOU?
YEAH, GIMME A DECAF AMERICANO.
CAN I GET A NAME?

I'LL CALL YOU RAT WITH BIG SCHNOZZ.
WE DON'T KICK CUSTOMERS IN THE NETHER REGIONS.

CAN I HELP YOU?
YEAH, GIMME A DECAF AMERICANO.
CAN I GET A NAME?

THE AVERAGE PERSON DRINKS THREE CUPS OF COFFEE PER DAY. THAT'S AN ASTOUNDING 800 CUPS OVER AN 80-YEAR LIFETIME. ENOUGH TO FILL 125 BATHTUBS! ONLY TWO OUT OF 100 PEOPLE DRINK DECAF COFFEE.

Field day



Children play cricket near the Yamuna on a hot afternoon in Delhi on Monday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Robert Vadra gets bail in money laundering case

Court tells him to join investigation

NIRNIMESH KUMAR

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday granted bail to Robert Vadra, son-in-law of former Congress president Sonia Gandhi, in a money laundering case.



Robert Vadra

"In the event of arrest, the applicant shall be released on bail on his furnishing a personal bond of ₹5 lakh with one surety of a like amount to the satisfaction of IO (investigating officer)," said Special Judge Arvind Kumar. The Judge also directed Mr. Vadra to join the investigation and not to leave India without the permission of the court during the bail period.

The Judge noted that Mr. Vadra joined the probe on nine occasions and answered all the queries put to him during his 58 hours of interrogation. Also, there was no allegation that he

Plea in HC accuses firm of illegal lending practice

Notice issued to PNB Housing Finance

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday issued a notice to the National Housing Bank (NHB) on a plea alleging that PNB Housing Finance Limited was introducing schemes allowing upfront disbursal of sanctioned individual housing loans to the builders without linking the disbursals to various stages of construction of the housing project.

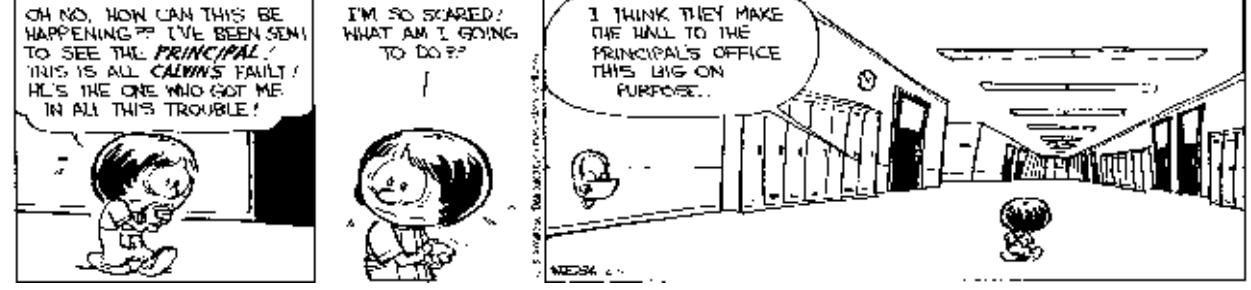
Exposed to risks'
"Such malicious and illegal predatory lending practice by the PNB Housing Finance Limited has not only exposed the financial institutions as well as their home loan borrowers to additional risks," it contended.

"There are several disputes on subject such as interest/EMI on the housing loan availed of by the individual borrower that not being serviced by the builders during the construction period/ specified period," the petition stated, adding: "In such instances, the borrower becomes the victim of the charade".

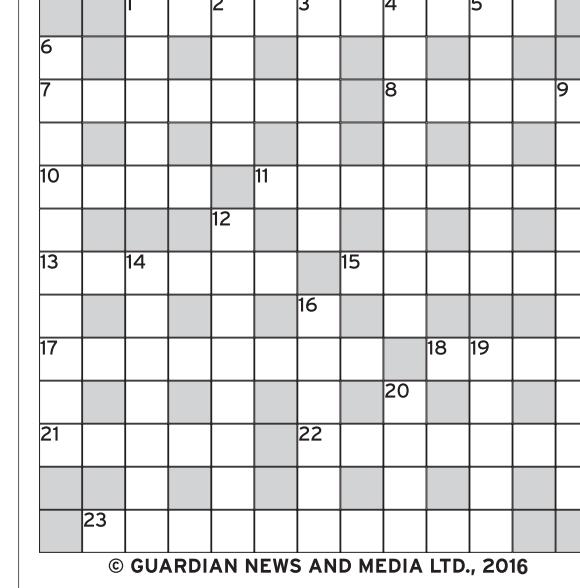
PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13033



- 4 Billboard (8)
- 5 Candidate (7)
- 6 Et cetera (3,2,5)
- 9 Razored to the ground (10)
- 12 Be resentful of (8)
- 14 Cortège (7)
- 16 Hurting (2,4)
- 19 Sharp-tipped missile (5)
- 20 River running through Bath (4)

Solution will appear in Delhi Metro dated April 3, 2019.
Solution No. 13032

- 1 Earlier (10)
- 2 Skinflint (7)
- 3 Sharpened with a stone (5)
- 4 In an opposing direction (7)
- 5 Tincture of opium (8)
- 6 Counterfeiter (6)
- 7 Fake (5)
- 8 Skin alive (4)
- 9 Member of the military police (6)
- 10 Band worn round the waist (4)
- 11 Counterfeiter (6)
- 12 At this time (4,3,3)
- 13 Counterfeiter (6)
- 14 Counterfeiter (6)
- 15 Lacking material form (6)

S	I	M	P	L	I	C	I	T	Y
C	A	E	O	R	H				
P	R	O	C	L	A	I	M	A	D
A	H	P	M	I	A				
P	E	K	B	A	G	L	A	D	Y
T	D	N							
C	H	E	M	I	N	D	F	E	R
A	L	O	E						
A	L	B	A	N	I	G	A	M	P
L	R	G	A	T	J				
Z	E	R	O	E	F	L	U	E	N
R	S	N	A	R	E				
B	E	S	T	F	R	I	E	N	D

Health Capsules is not intended to be the ultimate guide.

CMYK

Stories from the chawl

Actor Madhuri Dixit-Nene and her husband, on turning producers and why they chose to release *15 August* online

ANAHITA PANICKER

Newly-turned producers Madhuri Dixit-Nene and her husband Dr Shriram Nene are holding a series of interviews in Mumbai, answering questions about their first production, the recent Netflix release, *15 August*.

Directed by Swapna Jayakar, the two-hour-long, heart-warming Marathi film is about the dwellers of Gandhi *chawl*. Being lauded for its real, believable characters, the film follows the events that unfold during Independence Day celebrations.

Script hunt

The couple's company, RnM (that stands for Ram and Madhuri) Moving Pictures was launched in 2012 and has been focussing on health and lifestyle digital content. Shriram says that the "logical sequel" was to produce films by tapping into his business acumen and Madhuri's experience of 35 years in front of the camera. And for Shriram, the transition from being a physician to partnering with his wife felt like a natural



progression. "In that avatar you can cure one patient at a time," he explains. "This is no different. If you make someone laugh, it's often the best medicine."

Madhuri took control of sifting through scripts and, after about four years of seeking the right one, she found one that clicked. The star says, "[It was] the whole *chawl* set-up. I had relatives who lived in *chawls*, and I [have] stayed with them. So I felt like I know all these earthy, everyday characters. And it's a layered comedy, so I thought it'd be ideal to make."

Women central

Madhuri's transition comes at a time when there seems to be a wave of female actors taking the reins behind the camera. Anushka Sharma has her production company Clean Slate Films; Deepika Padukone, who is both the lead and co-producer for the upcoming *Chhapaak*, and Priyanka Chopra whose Purple Pebble Pictures is known to promote regional talent and cinema. While they certainly aren't the first (even actors like Juhi Chawla and Hema Malini forayed into the field over a decade ago) the rise of female actors in the production space seems to indicate a thirst to



Producer's hat: (left) Madhuri and Shriram Nene; Stills from the film

■ PRASHANT WAYDANDE

create and diversify the narratives in Indian films.

"How come heroes become producers and nobody asks why? I think when you have worked for 10 to 15 years, you're equipped to go behind the camera and produce movies," says the Padma Shri awardee known for 1990s hits such as *Hum Apke Hain Koun*, *Khalnayak* and *Beta*. But is the climate more conducive for this shift? "It was very disorganized before, and that is changing now."

Web battles

The tricky part was having to pick between a release in theatres or going online. "This film could've done well in theatres," says Shriram, "because it's a basic story: a love triangle with different themes. [But] there are 9,000 theatres in India, of which 400 will play Marathi films for a few weeks."

While he elaborates that the Netflix release enables reach to its 139 million paid subscribers across 190

countries, Madhuri adds, "The content is amazing. You see Spanish and French movies, and diverse cultures. For the Indian diaspora abroad, they get to see a Marathi film and it stays on forever!"

The conversation shifts towards films the couple wish they could have produced. "We have two teenage boys," says Shriram, before sheepishly adding "So I see a lot of Marvel films, unfortunately. But *Black Panther* (2018) stood out."

Madhuri admits she's more of a whodunit aficionado and, while she enjoyed last year's *Andhadhun*, the actor has barely had time to catch recent releases. "I'm just looking at the future and asking, 'What kind of films do we want to make?'" Shriram agrees, "I think our films should always make people happy, and maybe teach a lesson in the process. But more than anything else, entertain."

The year ahead

The star's plate is full with Karan Johar's multi-starrer production *Ka-lank*, and Tahira Kashyap's directorial debut *Sharmaji Ki Beti*. On how she has been balancing her acting and new role as a producer, she says, "It's been adventurous. *15 August* was going on, and then I was simultaneously working on *Ka-lank*. And then I had these two teenagers in the house which is another production! And [there's also] a little puppy now! It couldn't be busier, right?" concludes Madhuri, with her characteristically infectious laugh.

PREVIEW**Heal yourself**

Ahead of World Health Day, a workshop on preventing and even reversing disease



Against a clinical white background is a plate, and on it a pilaf; steel fork and knife set on either side. "People are fed by the food industry, which pays no attention to health, and are treated by the health industry, which pays no attention to food," reads the meme-style caption on it.

This is one of Rachna Chhachhi, nutrition therapist and certified cancer coach's tweets, which she hashtags with #foodismedicine and #refusetoallill. In line with this, her organisation RachnaRestores, is holding a "Health Over Hospital" workshop on April 5 in Mumbai, focusing on preventive care, and reversing or remission of lifestyle and chronic diseases like hypertension, type II diabetes, ALS, and certain types of cancers.

The event brings together 11 women, former patients, from all over the world, as well as a scientist, an immunologist, and workshop participants.

Chhachhi — whose clients include actor Manisha Koirala who successfully battled late-stage ovarian cancer — is also making sure to livestream the event via her Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. This taps into her already-existing audience base of 2 lakh followers.

"These 2 lakh followers aren't just curious about weight loss. It's a serious audience that has suffered something specific." Chhachhi was one such person herself. Having suffered from debilitating rheumatoid arthritis 13 years ago, and finding no cure in medical science, she turned to food, yoga and meditation. "I did this through unimaginable levels of pain. But later, I quit my job, studied nutrition therapy, and began my practice," she recalls.

One of the key risk factors for non-communicable diseases (such as cardiovascular disease, hypertension, diabetes) is inflammation within the body. This can be caused by stressors such as pollution, junk food, the lack of exercise, and other lifestyle habits. Combined with obesity and consistently high levels of erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), this is "a welcoming environment for diseases" like cancer, she says.

The workshop will outline nutrition, exercise, and other suggestions that help lead to an anti-inflammatory lifestyle. Chhachhi is currently working on a book about the prevention and management of cancer. She aims to highlight the side effects of cancer medication and the importance of nutrition in recovery.

On 5th April, from 1:30pm - 5:30pm, Taj Land's End, Bandra West. Register on racharestores.com or +91 9833710731. Follow live on @racharestores on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

PURPOSE**Zooming in on talent**

What: The Nature inFocus Photography Awards honours photographers who document natural history and conservation issues.

Where: The 2019 edition, part of the Nature inFocus Festival, will happen in July in Bengaluru

Who: The contest welcomes entries from adults (above 17) and young photographers (under 17). Adults can enter into the categories of: animal portraits, animal behaviour, conservation issues, creative nature photography, and wildlife and animals in habitat.

What else: The Young Photographer Award will put the spotlight on young talent. Category winners will win ₹50,000 and a guided safari tour to a national park of choice (Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Ranthambore, Tadoba, and Corbett). The 'NIF Photographer of the Year' will get an additional cash prize of ₹50,000 and a trip to the Maasai Mara National Park in Kenya.

How: Submit your entries by May 31 on awards.natureinfocus.in. The jury comprises of filmmaker Jyothi Karat, environmental photographer Arati Kumar-Rao, Chief Conservator Of Forests Vijay Mohan Raj, wildlife photographer Sudhir Shivaram, and wildlife filmmaker and photojournalist Sandesh Kadur.

Meet the Green Brigade, a team of students who have created QR codes for over 1,900 plants and trees on Nitte University campus

M RAGHURAM

Environmentalists have often wondered how to connect with young people. Apparently, all we need to do is pick the right medium. Researchers at Nitte University, Mangaluru, have created QR (Quick Reading) codes of over 1,900 plants and trees. Now with just a smart phone, people can access information about plant life around them.

Why QR code? "This generation has little time to read print; hopefully a QR digital code will not only draw their attention, but also give them instant information, scientific names, common names, place of origin and more, right on their phones," says Dr Smitha Hegde, leader of the project titled, 'Tree Coding Project'.

"This, in turn, will also help them identify trees on campus and sensitise them to local flora and fauna, besides giving them experiential inputs that will help them identify varied species," she added.

QR coding of trees is not new and such studies are usually funded. However, the students of this university did it on their own. "We have a 50-acre campus," says Dr Sathish Bhandary, Vice Chancellor of Nitte University. "Our students,

Troopers for trees



Going digital: Students from all streams pitched in for the project ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



from all streams – medicine, engineering, communication humanities and science take an interest in greenery around them. The QR code also links to related websites, images, and text."

The Conservator of Forests, from the State Forest Department, Praakash Natalkar, is also pleased with this initiative. "We must start a project like this in the forest department too. I am sure as every student, teacher and researcher log QR codes, trees will come closer to every person."

If your organisation would like to perform a similar exercise, you can reach out for help to smitha.hegde@nitte.edu.in

**5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE****CONCERT**

The Maestro and his Music, is an event to pay tribute to Rudra Veena maestro Ustad Asad Ali Khan. Hindustani classical vocalist Madhumi Ray will render compositions in rare ragas, elaborating on gayaki inspired by Ustad Asad Ali Khan. She will be accompanied by Utpal Ghoshal on tabla, and Damodar Ghosh on harmonium.

VENUE: Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre

TIME: 7 p.m.

**EXHIBITION****Paintings**

Existence is an ongoing duet exhibition of paintings. It showcases recent works by Reba Mandal and Purnendu Mandal. Reba's paintings are an ode to the beauty of Benares ghats and Ganga ghats, while Purnendu's work zooms in on monsoon like rain drops, and reflections in water, and shades of dampness.

VENUE: AIFACS, 1, Rafi Marg

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

**CUISINE****Seafood festival**

Shang Palace, a Chinese speciality restaurant at Shangri-La's Eros Hotel, is hosting a week-long crab special menu called Crablicious Affair. This five course menu offers items such as king prawn broth, baked crab and chilly, jumbo mud crab, and Szechuan chilly crab along with some dessert options.

VENUE: Shang Palace, Shangri-La's-Eros Hotel

TIME: 12:30 p.m.-3 p.m. and 7 p.m.-11:45 p.m.

**DANCE****Bharatanatyam**

Dancer Padmashri Geeta Chandran will inaugurate Spicmacay's festival of dance and music, Virasat, with a Bharatanatyam performance. She will be accompanied by Guru S. Shankar on nattuvangam, K. Venkateshwaran on vocal, Manohar Balachandiran on mridangam, G. Raghavendra Prasath on violin.

VENUE: Maulana Azad Medical College

TIME: 3:45 p.m.

**PERFORMANCE****Flute and guitar**

The Piano Man Jazz Club will host Boom and Nat Live. The gig will be a unique combination of two flute and classical guitar. Mexican flautist Nathalia Ramirez, interprets different genres such as classical Western, Latin-American, and Hindustani music. She will perform with Shaymant Behal, a guitarist trained in France.

VENUE: The Piano Man Jazz Club

TIME: 9 p.m. - 11:55 p.m.

SHOWCASE 5

Intense spends: Costing upwards of the crores, these devices are beyond a mere investment
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Video Games

The video game industry in the last four decades has grown from focused markets to a mainstream economic behemoth. This meteoric rise has also resulted in an ever-growing collectors' market for rare video-game consoles, peripherals and some of the most historically popular games. Back in 2010, an original Nintendo gaming console, along with one controller and five original Nintendo games, was sold for \$13,000 (₹9,02,720) on eBay. While the console itself was not the item that was highly in demand, it was the original cardboard the console came in which was believed to be worth \$10,000 alone.

Recently, a mint condition original copy of Super Mario Bros. for the NES (Nintendo Entertainment System) created history by selling for \$100,150 (₹69,54,416) at an auction, making it one of the most expensive games ever sold. Not only is a game cartridge that was auctioned a rare copy from Nintendo's test launch but is also unopened and well preserved, further escalating its sale price. It broke the record previously held by a copy of the ultra-rare Nintendo World Championships cartridge which sold for \$100,088 (₹69,50,111) on eBay in 2014. Back in 2011, a Nintendo DS system signed by none other than Shigeru Miyamoto, Satoru Iwata (two of Nintendo's top men), and the voice of Mario, Charles Martinet, was auctioned for \$3,550 (₹2,46,512) as a part charity auction to raise money for relief efforts for the Japanese earthquake and tsunami victims.



Let's talk old school

With 'vintage' being a buzzword for 2019, in the realm of tech, there is an air of collectibility exuded from these throwback gadgets



DHIRAM SHAH

With auction prices hitting fresh highs, even beating the sale records of some of the highly collectible classic cars, collecting gadgets is no more restricted to just nerds. It has become one of the most lucrative investment opportunities, with the hammer price even crossing the million-dollar mark on some of these coveted gadgets.

From extremely rare video games and computers preserved in mint condition to vintage camera gear, gadgets are quickly becoming an ideal choice for collectors. Some recent gadget auctions have also witnessed collectors pool their funds to acquire these rare items, which has sent the prices soaring higher than ever before. Given *Bandersnatch* and *Captain Marvel* have familiarised us with the tech we used to know and still love, why not take a look at the pricier ones which will have our wallets feeling a little weak?

Apple Products

There is no surprise that some of the earliest and rarest Apple products sell for top dollar, considering the company and its co-founder Steve Jobs has such a massive fan following around the globe. Last year, one of the less than 70 remaining original Apple-1 computers was sold at auction for \$375,000 (₹2,60,40,000). The computer was made in the mid-1970s by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak and sold for \$666.66 at the Byte Shop in Mountain View, California. It was owned by a single owner for over 40 years and received a massive 56.00% return on the original investment.

The Lisa-1 computer, which had a staggering \$10,000 price-tag in the early 1980s, was one of Apple's biggest commercial failures. However, a working model was sold at an auction in 2017 for a whopping \$50,000 (₹34,72,000). While both of them are products from Apple's early days, the first-generation Apple iPhone, which is relatively newer in comparison, is also quickly becoming a favourite with gadget collectors. A mint-condition, first-generation iPhone with only 4GB of storage, inside its original box was put on eBay for sale in 2014 for \$15,000 (₹10,41,600). The device was originally priced at \$599 (₹41,595) when it came out in 2007. We bet you're digging around your closet for your first iPhone right now.



Cameras

Amongst all gadgets, cameras have always been one of the top-most coveted items for collectors. The most expensive camera ever sold at an auction is an extremely rare and historically important Leica camera that fetched a whopping \$2.96 million. Auctioned at the 32nd Westlicht camera auction in Vienna, Austria, last year, it created a new world record. The camera in question is a 1923 Leica O series camera, which had a starting price of €400,000 (roughly US\$492,672) and ended up breaking the world record previously set by another Leica O series camera that was sold for \$2.79 million in 2012... let's not even try to convert that into rupees. The Leica O series prototype cameras are the most coveted ones, with only 12 examples out of the original 25 produced believed to still survive, and only three are preserved in pristine condition. However, along with Leica, there are also some other historic cameras that are highly coveted amongst collectors and rarely cross the auction block. One such shooter is the earliest known Nikon camera that was sold for about \$407,900 (₹2,83,24,576) in 2016 at the Westlicht auction, fetching more than twice the estimated value. The Nikon One camera auctioned was the 11th actual camera built by the Japanese manufacturer somewhere in 1948.

MICRO-CHIPS
Telemedicine, roboticised doctors?

Doctors using video-chat robotics to discuss sensitive and confidential health issues gives a whole new meaning to 'clinical'

AKILA KANNADASAN

"I don't know if he's going to get home," said a robot to a dying man in a California hospital last month. Seventy-eight-year-old Ernest Quintana was admitted to Kaiser Permanente Hospital for chronic lung disease. On the day he was told that he was going to die, he was alone in the hospital room with his granddaughter. The machine rolled in minutes before a nurse popped in and told them that a doctor, who was on his rounds, will be present. The doctor did indeed show up, but in the robot's monitor, while he was really seated hundreds of kilometres away. The incident, as predicted, sparked global outrage.

The question on everyone's mind was: 'How can a machine be used for a situation as delicate as this one?' The hospital received a lot of flak, but it defended its use of telemedicine. Unfortunately that is, this incident has brought the focus on telemedicine. The World Health Organization defines telemedicine as: 'The delivery of health care services, where distance is a critical factor, by all health care professionals using information and communication technologies....' Anything, right

from using a mobile phone to communicate with a doctor to a video conference call between the patient and the doctor, falls into the category.

For developing nations like ours, that's also among the fastest to be digitised, this technology is a blessing. People from interior rural areas, where healthcare is a luxury, may not find the act of simply opening an app on their phone to connect with a doctor, as overwhelming as say, changing two buses to reach the nearest Government hospital. There are several

Anything from using a mobile phone to a video conference call falls into the category

mobile apps that connect doctors and patients for the purpose. RingMD, for instance, provides services to people in rural, urban, as well as conflict-prone areas. Using the mobile app, users can connect to healthcare professionals through online video consultations from anywhere.

In its recently-released report titled 'Digital India: Technology to transform a connected nation', the

McKinsey Global Institute says, "If telemedicine replaced 30 to 40% of in-person outpatient consultations, coupled with digitisation in the overall healthcare industry, India could save up to \$10 billion in 2025."

However, it can be argued that not everyone owns a smartphone, and not everyone will be able to explain his/her symptoms to a doctor over a call. But despite it all, this technology is among the fastest growing today.

In one of Tamil writer Sujatha's popular short-stories, an old man brings his sick grandson to a Government hospital in the city. They are intimidated by the loud nurses and curt doctors. After a long day of running from pillar to post to no avail, they go back home, without consulting a doctor. However, a doctor who briefly interacted with them that day, frantically asks his assistant where the two of them were. "That boy is dying!" says the doctor. But it is too late. There is no way they can reach him.

The aforementioned story was written decades ago, but portions of it are scarcely relevant. However, with telemedicine, the ending, may have been different today.

Byte-sized play-by-plays of tech concepts

JUST IN

Smarter living

Autonomy is the new black, in part thanks to these new additions

Toreto's Bloom smartwatch

₹3,499

Toreto Bloom is equipped with Corning Gorilla Glass 5, and has an alloyed metallic finish which adds on to your everyday style. The IP68 waterproof feature keeps the watch safe up to 1.5 metres for half an hour. Combined with an advanced chipset, the band boasts of lower battery consumption that ensures long-term performance. Equipped with Bluetooth 4.4, you can stay connected as you get alerts for the messages, calls on your wrist. Simply pair with the WearHealth App on your Android or iOS smartphone to access all its features. Toreto Bloom measures the number of calories burnt, tests blood pressure, tracks heart rate, while keeping a count of the steps taken, in order to improve the users' fitness.



Moleskine's Pen+ Ellipse

\$179

Whether your focus is note-taking, sketching or planning, you can choose from a range of compatible paper formats and layouts to build your own Smart Writing System around the Pen+ Ellipse. The Smart Writing System works thanks to Ncoded paper technology that allows the Pen+ Ellipse to recognise individual pages, different Paper Tablets, and specific times and dates in the Smart Diary/Planner. Each pen stroke is captured in real time and immediately transferred to your device and connected apps and services via the Moleskine Notes app.

Moleskine's Paper Tablet

\$29.95

Together with the Pen+ smart pen and Moleskine Notes App, the Paper Tablet bridges the analogue-digital divide. This XL version of the Paper Tablet has plenty of distraction-free space on each page for even the biggest projects. Each page of the Paper Tablet contains Ncoded technology that allows the Pen+ to recognise where it is within the notebook and to immediately transfer all your freehand notes to your preferred device via Bluetooth. The XL format and resistant 100 g/m² ruled paper provide the perfect structured surface for your ideas to thrive.



Tile's Tile Pro tracker

\$35 per tile

Tile calls their latest little tracker, 'Pro', their most powerful. At 15.5g, this Bluetooth tracker is a must-have for those who tend to forget where they've left their important items. But don't let the small size fool you, the Tile Pro has undergone rigorous tests for durability. Tile Pro has a 300ft / 90m range and a one-year replaceable CR2032 battery. Pair with the Tile app for that on-the-go and seamless tracking experience or integrate Tile Pro with Alexa or Google Assistant.

