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NEARBY



Haryana legislators lobby for berths

CHANDIGARH
After the formation of the BJP-Janayak Janta Party coalition government in Haryana, the newly elected MLAs are lobbying for berths in the ministries. A BJP source said the Council of Ministers was likely to be finalised within this week.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 12



The Hindu's iconic crossword now playable online

The Hindu's iconic Cryptic Crossword is now available online in a playable, interactive form. It is the prime offering on Crossword+, The Hindu Group's website for interactive games. The website also has crosswords from The Guardian and Sportstar, along with Sudokus and puzzles for children. To subscribe: www.crossword. thehindu.com

Editor,
The Hindu

Govt. signals shift in stand, allows EU MPs to visit Srinagar

Embassy in Delhi says parliamentarians are in India in their 'personal capacity'

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Nearly three months after its decision on Article 370, the Union government has allowed a delegation comprising 27 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) from Italy, Britain, France, Germany, Czech Republic and Poland to travel to Srinagar on Tuesday to see the situation there. The European Union (EU) Embassy in Delhi has clarified that the MEPs were in India in their "personal capacity".

This is the first time the government has allowed such a visit to the Kashmir Valley since August 5, when hundreds of leaders were taken into custody and communication lines cut.

Meet PM, Vice-President
On Monday, the MEPs met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu. At a lunch hosted by National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval, they met few mainstream Kashmiri leaders, including former Minister Muazzafar Beigh from the PDP and winners of the Block Development Council polls held in J&K last week.



Members of the European Parliament meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Monday. ■ ANI

They also met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar for dinner. PDP leader Altaf Bukhari and Usman Majeed of the Congress too interacted with the EU members.

"Urgent action must be taken against all those who support or sponsor terrorists or support such activities and organisations or use terrorism as a state policy," the Prime Minister told the delegation in a reference to Pakistan, and hoped their visit to Srinagar would acquaint them with the development priorities of the region.

The delegation's visit to Jammu & Kashmir was being coordinated with the NSA's office, said officials there, as Mr. Doval has been the government's point person on the move to dilute Article 370 and bifurcate the State into Union Territories.

To visit schools

While in Srinagar, the MEPs are expected to visit schools, where Class 10 exams begin on Tuesday, and receive briefings on the security situation. Significantly, the majority of MEPs belong to far-right, anti-immigration parties in the European Union,

Outright insult of Parliament, says Congress

Political parties expressed outrage at the Centre's decision to take an EU delegation to Jammu and Kashmir, while no Indian MP has so far been allowed to visit. Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh called it an "outright insult" of Parliament. ▶ PAGE 13

including Italy's Forza Italia, France's Rassemblement National, Poland's Justice and Law party, Germany's Alternative Fur Deutschland (AFD) and UK's Brexit Party.

However, a Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) official, who said other foreign groups may also be allowed to visit J&K, ruled out any political bias in the invitations, adding that they were "identified on the basis of their convenience to visit".

(With inputs from
Vijaita Singh)

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

IS chief Baghdadi killed in U.S. raid

Cornered terrorist set off suicide vest

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Sunday that the Islamic State (IS) group's elusive leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi had been killed, dying "like a dog" in a night raid by U.S. special forces in northwest Syria.

Mr. Trump told the nation in a televised White House address that a "large number" of IS militants were killed during the raid. Cornered in a tunnel, Baghdadi detonated a suicide vest. "He died after running into a dead-end tunnel, whimpering and crying and screaming all the way," Mr. Trump said, adding that three of Baghdadi's children were also killed in the blast.

Mr. Trump said the raid – involving eight helicopters flying more than an hour from an undisclosed base – was carried out with the cooperation of Russia, Syria, Turkey and Iraq. He also thanked the Syrian Kurds "for a certain support they were able to give us."

Mr. Trump's National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien described the dramatic message the President and his advisers received as they monitored the raid from the White House Situation Room. "The commander of the mission called and said, '100 per cent confidence, Jackpot' – meaning Baghdadi was dead – Mr. O'Brien said on NBC.



Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi

tion Room. "The commander of the mission called and said, '100 per cent confidence, Jackpot' – meaning Baghdadi was dead – Mr. O'Brien said on NBC.

Identity confirmed
Baghdadi, an Iraqi native, was believed to be 48 years old. His death has been reported several times over the years. Mr. Trump said there was no doubt this time, with a DNA field test confirming his identity.

At its height, IS controlled a swath of Iraq and Syria in a self-declared caliphate, brutally imposing a puritanical version of Islam and planning terror attacks. It took years of war before its final slice of territory in Syria was seized this March.

MORE REPORTS ▶ PAGE 14
EDITORIAL ▶ PAGE 10

European Union grants Brexit delay

REUTERS
BRUSSELS

The European Union (EU) on Monday agreed to a three-month flexible delay to Britain's departure from the bloc as Prime Minister Boris Johnson pushes for an election after opponents forced him to request an extension.

Just days before the U.K. is formally due to leave the EU on October 31, Brexit is hanging in the balance as British politicians are no closer to reaching a consensus on how, when or even if the divorce should take place. "The EU27 has agreed that it will accept the U.K.'s request for a Brexit 'flexitension' until 31 January 2020," European Council president Donald Tusk said in a tweet, referring to the idea of a "flexible extension".

EU member-states will need Britain to formally reply to the offer of a three-month delay before launching a "written procedure", whereby governments will have 24 hours to accept or reject. Mr. Johnson will respond to the EU's delay offer once he has reviewed the details, his spokesman said.

EXTENSION COMES WITH
CONDITIONS ▶ PAGE 14

Police in gunbattle with Maoists in Kerala

Patrol engages group in Palakkad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The Kerala police said they had either injured or killed at least three suspected Maoists in a gunbattle between the armed irregulars and Thunderbolt commandos in the Agali forests of Palakkad district early on Monday.

Top officials told The Hindu that the Maoist casualties could include a woman. The men were later identified as Karthi and Suresh. The police are yet to recover the bodies.

Commandos safe
The commandos suffered no casualties in the firefight that unfolded sporadically in the dense Manjakandi forests in the Attappady range

of the Mannarkkad forest division. Officials privy to the operation said the Thunderbolt commandos had the area under their control.

The Agali police were on their way to the spot to secure the bodies, collect evidence, map the crime scene, recover the weapons used by the commandos and the insurgents, and send them for forensic ballistic examination.

According to initial reports, the Thunderbolt commandos were on an area domination patrol and holding high ground when they sighted the "heavily armed" irregulars.

(With inputs from Palakkad)

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Fast and furious



Men of the armed Sikh order Nihang show their horse-riding skills during a religious procession on 'Fateh Divas', or 'Victory Day', in Amritsar on Monday. ■ PTI

Capital's air quality dips to season's worst

'Very poor' to 'severe' AQI, but post-Deepavali air cleaner compared with previous years

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi's air quality nosedived to the season's worst on Monday, reaching the higher end of 'very poor' category on Monday.

While it was due to a mix of factors including bursting of firecrackers on Deepavali night that went beyond the Supreme Court-prescribed time slot of 8-10 p.m., the Capital experienced cleaner post-Deepavali air compared with previous years.

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) said peak values of PM2.5 – the deadly respirable particles – were lower than last year's.

The average Air Quality Index of the past 24 hours at 4 p.m. on Monday was 368, 'very poor', according to the Central Pollution Control

Board (CPCB) that functions under the Environment Ministry. But another government-run entity, the Earth Sciences Ministry's System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), put the AQI in the 'severe' category at 506 around 4 p.m. Though both

CPCB's and SAFAR's AQI is an average of the past 24 hours, the former considers 37 monitoring stations and the latter 10.

Both also use different methodologies to arrive at their AQI figure.

The city's AQI at 9.30 p.m. on Monday stood at

'Pollution lowest in last 5 years on Deepavali night'

NEW DELHI

Air pollution post-Deepavali celebrations was the lowest in the last five years, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal claimed on Monday. "After 8.30 p.m., I could hear the sound of crackers bursting. I was very happy that compared to the last few years, there was less bursting of crackers this year," said Mr. Kejriwal.

▶ PAGE 5

corded around midnight at 1,070 ug/m³, which was less than the peak level of 1,560 ug/m³ recorded at the same time in 2018, according to the DPCC. The peak value thus shows a reduction of about 31%.

SEE ALSO ▶ PAGE 5

Second round of Smart Cities, AMRUT may roll out in 2020

Those who were left out will be covered, says Minister

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

The second round of the Centre's flagship urban development schemes – the Smart Cities Mission and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) – were being considered and could be rolled out in 2020, Union Minister of State (independent charge) Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri told The Hindu.

The first round of the Smart Cities Mission that covers 100 cities would be 50% complete, that is 50 cities, by December, Mr. Puri said.

"I need to be careful, I

scheme," he said, adding that the government was already working on it.

Mr. Puri said AMRUT, a five-year scheme, started in June 2015. Many of its water and sewage management projects would get completed towards the end of the scheme – June 2020. "People are talking about AMRUT 2. Because there are 500 cities and the criteria was a population of 1,00,000, which gave a coverage of something like 65% of urban population. So what about the remaining 35%? We'll need to come up with an AMRUT 2 scheme," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12



can't start talking about Smart Cities two because for too many people, their desire is to get another smart city. And this is a project till 2022. I think sometime around next year the pressures will begin to build, like it has in the AMRUT

AN-NDNE

IN BRIEF

SDMC distributes steel utensils to fight plastic

NEW DELHI

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation distributed steel utensils at a "bhanda" held in Subhash Nagar on Monday as part of a new initiative to help reduce single-use plastic. Through the scheme, the civic body takes a deposit of ₹2,000 from the organiser and distributes the plates on first come, first served basis.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	368	Gurugram	372
Ghaziabad	396	Faridabad	358
Noida	397	Greater Noida	375
Good	51-100	Satisfactory	101-200
0-50	51-100	Moderate	101-200
Poor	201-300	Very poor	301-400
Severe	>401		

(AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) SOURCE: CPCB

DELHI TODAY

Exhibition: "End of the Road", a solo Heritage photography exhibition by Arya Arora at Delhi's Delhi Foyer, IHC, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Festive Celebration", a solo painting exhibition by Ranjit Sarkar at Convention Centre Foyer, IHC, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Shrinathji Swaroopam", a solo contemporary pichwais on silk and paper by Jai Khanna at Art Centrix Space, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Exhibition: "Explore in the Tradition" a solo exhibition of paintings by Megha Sharma at Triveni Gallery, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

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

HC notice to govt. over plea on encroachments

Petition raises water scarcity issues

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has issued notice to the city government on a petition seeking the removal of encroachments from government lands, which were used for water reservoirs and their replenishments.

Devender Singh said he studied the revenue records of village Asola and found that there was once a waterbody in the area but with steady encroachments, it has completely dried leading to the lowering of water level in the village.

Used as waterbodies' The petition has sought the removal of all illegal encroachment on the lands which were used as waterbodies in Asola, Shashpur, Satbari, Chatterpur, Dera Mandi, Gaidarpur, Fatehpurberi, Chandanhulla and Rajpukhurd.

The petition, filed through advocate Vardhaman Kaushik, claimed that the residents of these villages are facing acute shortage of water for irrigation

and agriculture, as the water level has gone down by 250 feet and the waterbodies such as johads/talabs/pokhars in the area have either dried up or are encroached for illegal constructions of residential complex.

Mr. Singh said he studied the revenue records of village Asola and found that there was once a waterbody in the area but with steady encroachments, it has completely dried leading to the lowering of water level in the village.

He said for any efforts for revival of the waterbodies at the said location to take effect, the first and foremost step has to be the identification and subsequent removal of all the encroachments.

Water table in Delhi The depletion of the water table in Delhi has reached a grave stage where the state of Delhi could run out of water entirely by 2020," the plea said.

Students 'stop ambulance' from taking prof. to hospital

V-C lashes out at protesters; JNUSU calls for strike today

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), M. Jagadesh Kumar, lashed out at students for allegedly stopping the Dean of Students from being taken to a hospital when he fell ill during a meeting of the institute's committee on Inter Hostel Administration (IHA).

The students were protesting as they were not invited to the meeting, which was held to discuss the renewal of the "hostel manual", the JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) said, adding that the students are part of the panel.

New rules

The union stands against the introduction of a draft IHA policy, which seeks to introduce a hike in hostel fees, curfew timings and fines and punishments for protesting.

It appealed for the withdrawal of the policy and sought to discuss the issue

Students turned aggressive and began sloganising. They then approached the Dean of Students, Professor Umesh Kadam. After this, Professor Kadam fell sick due to high blood pressure

JNU ADMINISTRATION

with the administration.

JNU administration said students who were not members of the committee attempted to forcibly enter the venue of the meeting.

"They turned aggressive and began sloganising and approached the Dean of Students. Following this, Professor Umesh Kadam fell sick due to high blood pressure," the administration said.

The students then stopped an ambulance from taking Prof. Kadam to a hospital and instead forced the vehicle towards the university's health

center.

The professor's wife and children pleaded with the students and the university's security officials to have him shifted but he remained confined to the doctor's office, the administration alleged.

For its part, the JNUSU said the students had gathered around the health center asking the professor to receive the application submitted by them.

Dangerous, shameful'

The Vice-Chancellor said action of the students was "unbecoming, dangerous and shameful" and warned of severe action.

"The university shall not be held hostage to the whims of a small section of these agitating students and brook no indiscipline in the campus," the administration added.

Meanwhile, the JNU Students' Union has called for a 'complete university strike' on Tuesday over the draft hostel policy.

Court upholds discharge of brother-in-law in dowry case

'No specific allegations against him'

NIRNIMESH KUMAR

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has refused to entertain a revision petition by the prosecution challenging the discharge of a person in a dowry harassment case.

Additional Sessions Judge Vidya Prakash dismissed said there were no specific allegations against the accused in the complaint lodged in 2015 is silent that any kind of valuable gift was given to respondent either before or at the time of marriage of complainant. Likewise, there is no allegation that any article was entrusted to respondent, which was misappropriated by him," the Judge added.

In the complaint, the woman alleged that her brother-in-law quarrelled with and abused her in 2012 and later sent a text on WhatsApp that she should not take interest in her husband. Public Prosecutor argued before the court that there were specific allegations of dowry demand, harassment and misappropriation of the pricey articles of the complainant.

The Judge said: "If the allegations are taken to be true on their face value,

same would not be sufficient to bring those allegations within the sweep of offences under Section 498-A/406 IPC as there is nothing on record to show as to for what reason, respondent had quarrelled or abused the complainant."

"There is no allegation regarding demand of dowry by or at the instance of respondent. The complaint lodged in 2015 is silent that any kind of valuable gift was given to respondent either before or at the time of marriage of complainant. Likewise, there is no allegation that any article was entrusted to respondent, which was misappropriated by him," the Judge added.

On the charge of the accused sending texts to the complainant, the Judge said: "No investigation is shown to have been done on these aspects and there is absolutely no iota of evidence to support the allegations. Resultantly, the present revision petition is found to be without any merit. Consequently, the same is hereby dismissed."

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused **Sanjay Chawla**, S/o Manohar Lal R/o H.No. 3, Pocket- B/9, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 127/13, u/s 406/120-B/34 IPC, P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi and it has been returned to warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person **Sanjay Chawla**, cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sanjay Chawla**, has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Sanjay Chawla**, Under the FIR No. 127/13, u/s 406/120-B/34 IPC, P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi is required to appear before the court on or before 30.11.2019.

By order
Sh. Fahad Uddin
Metropolitan Magistrate
Room No.180, Tis Hazari Court,
Delhi

DP/6685/CD/19

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DDA plea challenging compensation dismissed

Urban body failed to point out any miscarriage of justice, says consumer panel

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) has dismissed a petition moved by the Delhi Development Authority challenging a district forum order that directed the urban body to compensate a complainant by paying ₹2 lakh over a land dispute.

The directions came when the apex consumer forum was hearing a com-

plaint that alleged that the urban body had cancelled the allotment to a plot despite the petitioner depositing a registration fee of ₹1,500.

Letter not served

While the DDA contended that the complainant had failed to make the subsequent payments, the latter maintained that the letter of demand was not served upon the complainant.

However, the NCDRC

said, "It is apparent that there is a concurrent finding of the fact of the forum below based on evidence that the demand-cum-allotment letter and the notices were never served upon the allottee and thus the allottee had no knowledge of the allotment and the demand by the DDA."

The Bench said, "The cause of action, therefore, could not be said to have started for the date of issuance of an allotment

Hero Honda Chowk flyover to remain closed for over a month

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GURUGRAM

The Jaipur-Delhi carriageway of Hero Honda Chowk will remain closed from October 31 to December 1 due to repair work. The traffic police have issued an advisory for the motorists in this connection.

Constructed at the cost of ₹197 crore, the 1.4-km-long flyover has twice suffered damages after it was opened to the traffic in July 2017. While those traveling towards Delhi from Jaipur need to take the service lane, those going towards Jaipur can continue to use the flyover, said the traffic advisory.

Similarly, those travelling from Umang Bhardwaj Chowk on Pataudi Road to Jaipur or towards the Chowk coming from Delhi need to take the underpass under the Hero Honda Chowk.

A large chunk of the concrete had fallen off the surface of the flyover on Jaipur-Delhi side in May this year. Two of the four lanes of the flyover are closed to traffic since and heavy vehicles disallowed.

On April 23 last, a hole had appeared in the same concrete span of the flyover.

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Mrs. Athena Energy Ventures Private Limited & Others ..Defendants

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Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence as per law.

[BY ORDER OF THE HONBLE REGISTRAR:- DRT-2 : HYDERABAD]

M.V. Ramana, D. Brahma Reddy, Counsel For Applicant.

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3. Cobalt Power Private Limited, Rep by its Managing Director, Office At No. 7-22/14, Door No. 15, Pingle Bagh, Venkateshwara Colony, Begumpet, Hyderabad-500016.

5. The Federal Bank Ltd., Corporate Banking Branch, Off B-13-29, Harsa Bhawan, Ground Floor, Middle Circle, Chancery Place, New Delhi-110006.

6. Indian Bank, Corporate Branch, D.No.1-5-972/2 B & C, Lower Tank Bund, Domluga, Hyderabad, Represented by its Chief Manager.

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IN BRIEF

AAP failed to implement 'Poshan Abhiyan': BJP

NEW DELHI
The BJP on Monday accused the AAP government of "miserably failing" to implement the Centre-sponsored "Poshan Abhiyan", which is aimed at the holistic nourishment of young children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta alleged that funds provided to the Delhi government for the implementation of the scheme were lying unspent to the tune of 65%.

Chhath Puja organisers call on Manoj Tiwari

NEW DELHI
Representatives of several Chhath Puja committees from across the city on Monday called on Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari at his residence to apprise him about various issues being faced by them. Delhi BJP said in a statement that Mr. Tiwari assured them that the issues being faced by them in regard to organisation of celebrations would be solved.

Govt. to deploy 13,000 marshals in DTC buses for women's safety

With new recruits on board, govt. to implement free bus ride scheme from today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
The Capital will see deployment of as many as 13,000 marshals for strengthening women's safety aboard State-run buses, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced on the eve of the roll-out of free bus rides for women commuters here on Monday.



Number of marshals on buses to be increased by nearly 10,000 on Tuesday.

* FILE PHOTO: V. V. KRISHNAN

13,000...We are committed to boost security of women in Delhi. And I don't think the level at which we have scaled up the strength of bus marshals, it has been done in any city in the world," he said further.

He said that the two crore people of Delhi were like a close-knit family and he, as Chief Minister, was "like an elder son of this family."

The 3,400 bus marshals, currently deployed on public buses in the Capital, had served their duties with "full responsibility and excellence" because of which the people of Delhi had supported the government and demanded marshals in all buses in all shifts.

"As the elder son of this family, it is my duty to ensure a safe and secure environment

for all the women. It is now your [marshals'] responsibility to ensure that all my mothers, sisters and daughters who travel on the buses feel safe and secure and feel the safety they feel at home in buses," he said, adding that he hoped that these officials would "serve their duty with sincerity and determination."

The safety of women is most important for us and women should feel safe at all times. Because we are a family, we have to ensure a safe place for each other. On the occasion of *Bhai Dooj*, the Delhi government will implement a free bus ride scheme. The new marshals have to also work on par with the 3,400 marshals so that the people of Delhi can feel proud of us," he added.

SC allows AAP govt. to revise minimum wages

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has allowed the Delhi government to take to "logical conclusion" a draft notification revising the minimum wages of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled categories of workers, supervisory and clerical staff in accordance with the Minimum Wages Act.

A Bench of Justices U.U. Lalit and Aniruddha Bose, in an order passed on October 14, permitted the Delhi government to bring into effect its draft proposal to revise minimum wages of unskilled labourers to ₹14,842, ₹16,341 for semi-skilled, ₹17,991 for skilled workers, ₹16,341 for non-matriculates, ₹17,991 for matriculates who are not graduates and ₹19,572 for graduates and above.

Capital has the highest minimum wages: CM

Policy will benefit 55 lakh workers'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Capital has become the State with the highest minimum wages in the country, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said.

This was after the approval of the Supreme Court on the higher minimum wage policy of the Delhi government, which, Mr. Kejriwal said, was a reward of a "five-year struggle. The policy will benefit 55 lakh beneficiaries and labourers in the city," he said.

"This is an important step to tackle recession and poverty in the city. We have worked hard in the last five years to increase the minimum wages for the labourers working in the city. The Supreme Court verdict on our minimum wage policy is the result of our five-year struggle. The policy will benefit 55 lakh beneficiaries and labourers in the city," he said.

₹14,842 per month

"We fought for the rights of the poor. The national-level minimum wage is ₹4,628 per month and in Delhi it is ₹14,842 per month, at least three times higher than the national level minimum wages," he said further.

According to Mr. Kejriwal, the step was the "most efficient and the most effective" in "these times of economic slowdown" in the country.

Man dies after falling from roof in west Delhi

He was celebrating Deepavali with friends

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 24-year-old man died after falling from a building in west Delhi's Rajouri Garden on Monday morning, the police said. It appears to be a case of accidental fall in a drunken state.

DCP (West) Deepak Purohit said Sanjay from Uttar Pradesh had come to Delhi about 10 months ago. He was working as a helper in a restaurant. The police said they received a PCR call about a man lying dead on the street in Tagore Garden. He was taken to DDU Hospital where his body has been

preserved for post-mortem.

'May have been drunk'

A crime and a forensic team were called to the spot for inspection. Investigation revealed that Sanjay was celebrating Deepavali with a group of friends on the rooftop of the building and they were consuming alcohol. Subsequently, all of them went to sleep after dinner, a senior officer said.

"Later in the night, Sanjay woke up to relieve himself but a tap he was holding for support, broke and he fell from the rooftop," the officer said.

Man held for kidnapping, killing 15-year-old boy

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A man was arrested for allegedly kidnapping and killing a 15-year-old boy in west Delhi's Khyala as he wanted to take revenge on his family, the police said on Monday.

DCP (West) Deepak Purohit said Sanat alias Sanju from Raghbir Nagar was in love with the victim's sister but hatched the plot to commit the crime when the family got her married to another man. On October 25, the boy's family approached the police stating that they were unable to find their son, who had gone out to play with his friends. Following this, a kidnapping case was registered.

The accused said he was in love with the victim's sister but when the family found out, they got the woman married to another man.

The accused had kidnapped the boy after which he slit his throat and dumped the body, they added.

Foreigner cheated by men posing as police

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

DCP (Central) Mandeep Singh Randhawa said that the victim has been identified as Yousef, who had come to Delhi last week for wedding shopping. "On Sunday evening, while he was on his way back to hotel on Channa Market Road, three persons came

in a car and claimed themselves to be police officers. They said that they wanted to check whether he is carrying drugs or not," the officer said.

During the "search" and "frisking", they checked Mr. Yousef's passport and wallet after which they took out

47,000 Euros from his purse and escaped in their car.

Mr. Randhawa said that a case under Section 419 (punishment for cheating by personation), 420 (cheating) and 34 (common intention) of IPC has been registered at Karol Bagh police station.

Man stabbed to death over money dispute

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 45-year-old French national was allegedly cheated of 47,000 Euros by three persons posing as police officers in central Delhi's Karol Bagh, the police said on Monday.

Blupender has been arrested for the crime, they said. An officer said the victim, Ram Singh, had given

his farmland on rent to Bhupender, who gave it to someone else for farming. However, Bhupender took ₹90, 00 and two sacks of wheat as rent from the man but only gave ₹7, 000 and two sacks of grain to Ram.

When the victim got to know this, he started taunting Bhupender over the money.

On the day of the incident, a quarrel broke out between Ram and Bhupender, who was "drunk", and the latter stabbed the former, the police said, adding that a murder case has been registered and probe is on.

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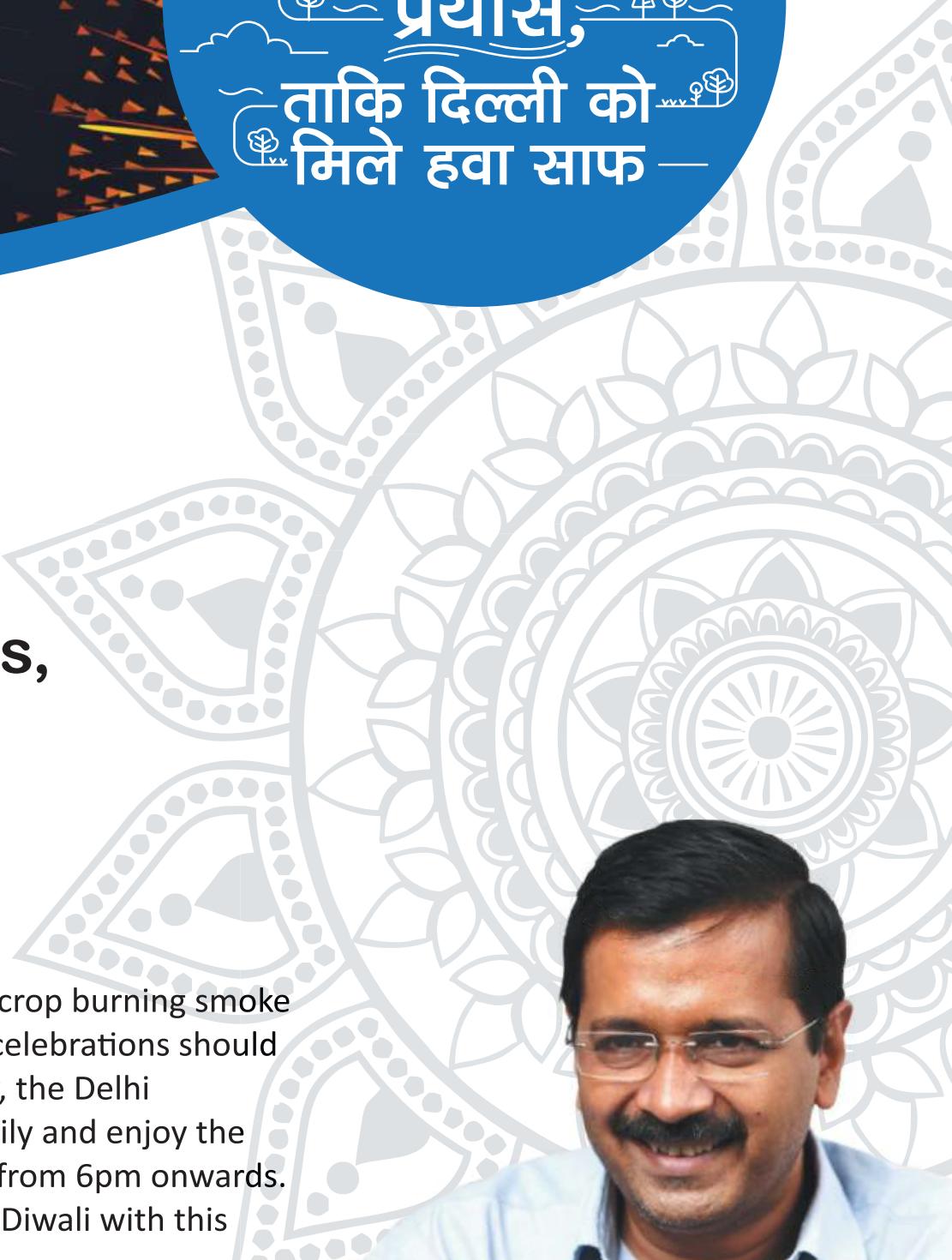
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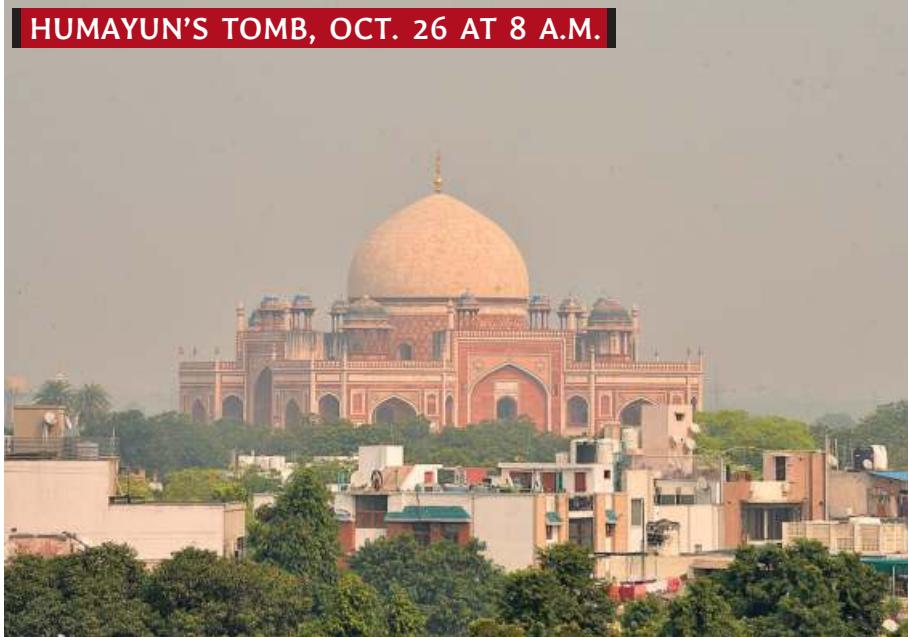


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Deepavali drift

HUMAYUN'S TOMB, OCT. 26 AT 8 A.M.



HUMAYUN'S TOMB, OCT. 28 AT 8 A.M.



RAJPATH, OCT. 26 AT 4 P.M.



RAJPATH, OCT. 28 AT 4 P.M.



A cocktail of emissions from fireworks, stubble burning and vehicles hung over the national capital a day after Deepavali on Monday when the air quality index plummeted to 'very poor', the worst-recorded level this season. ■ R.V. MOORTHY, SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA, SANDEEP SAXENA, SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Post-Deepavali AQI least toxic since 2015: CPCB

'Air quality in Ghaziabad, Noida, Gurugram also better'

JACOB P KOSHY

NEW DELHI

Air quality in the city immediately after Deepavali was the least bad since 2015, and in the satellite cities of Ghaziabad, Noida and Gurugram, it was the least toxic since 2017, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

"Overall, this year, Deepavali had seen less pollution in terms of both gaseous and particulate matter. This may be attributed to cumulative effects of ground level actions and introduction of green crackers in the market and favourable meteorological conditions," the CPCB said in a statement on Monday.

The CPCB's evening report, which records the average pollution over the previous 24 hours, said that the air quality index on Monday was 368. This is better than 390 a day after Deepavali in 2018, 403 in 2017 and 445 in 2016. The number notwithstanding, the air quality was classified as 'very poor' like last year. When the index crosses 400, as it did in 2017 and 2016, it is recorded as 'severe,' or a State that warrants emergency action under the Graded Response Action Plan.

The average air quality reported by the CPCB hides the large variation in air quality during the day. For instance, at the air quality monitoring station in Rohini, the index had soared to 500 after 12.30 a.m. on Monday. According to the 2018 Supreme Court order, crackers were legally permitted only from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Deepavali night.

More than the quantity of crackers burnt, it is the unfavourable meteorology that has a disproportionately higher influence on the air quality on the day following Deepavali. In 2017, for instance, the index classified Delhi's air as "severe" at 403 even though the CPCB said that the concentration of pollutants was lower than in 2016, when too, after Deepavali the AQI was in the 'severe' category at 445. Both these years, early morning moisture and stalled winds retarded the flushing out of pollutants.

Stubble burning on rise' CPCB officials said that the contribution of stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana in the pollutant mix in Delhi was increasing. Coupled with slowing down of wind speed, it would see the air quality

gradually dip in the next few days.

"If 50% of the total load of firecrackers as compared to last year is added, the air quality index (AQI) may plunge to 'severe' category but for a shorter period of time unlike 2018, it persisted for several days and with relatively much less magnitude [half] than 2018 Deepavali period," as per a forecast by meteorological agency SAFAR on October 26. The CPCB consults SAFAR forecasts.

On Monday, SAFAR said, while the air quality had dipped to 'severe', the concentrations were "much less than that of the last three years. The main factors contributing to this was high boundary layer wind speed. It helped to flush out and disperse high firecracker emissions." In its post-Deepavali report, the CPCB said that the city's average particulate matter (PM2.5) was 284 ug/m³. Anand Vihar station recorded highest 24 hourly average at 415 ug/m³. "The PM2.5 average of 37 stations on Deepavali was found lower by 40 ug/m³ and PM10 was also found lower by 41 ug/m³ in 2019 as compared to 2018 Deepavali day," the agency noted.

The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) on Monday said that weekly trends in PM 2.5 (deadly respirable particles) levels in 2019 was much cleaner before Diwali compared to that in 2018 and this shows the overwhelming role of firecrackers in building the severe peak on Diwali night.

The CSE made the comments after analysis of Delhi-NCR's air from September 15 till Diwali. "From a very clean afternoon, the change to severe pollution levels after 10 p.m. on Sunday was drastic. There was a 10-fold jump in PM2.5 concentrations between 5 p.m. and 1 a.m. due to bursting of firecrackers," the CSE said.

Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director, CSE, said that air quality data indicate that the concentrated bursting of crackers after 10 p.m. caused air quality level to spiral to the same severe level that was observed during the previous Diwali.

In 2018, the CSE said, the region had already experienced a couple of days of severe pollution ahead of Diwali, with many more days in the 'very poor' category.

"This year, only Ghaziabad experienced the season's first 24-hour average severe pollution on Diwali day."

"Overall pollution levels are comparatively lower in Delhi and NCR towns since September 15. While favourable weather conditions have contributed to this trend, the role of ongoing action and emergency interventions have also been important," she said, adding that action needs to be stepped up to ensure that Delhi-NCR does not plunge into a prolonged smog episode this winter.

Emergency action on industrial pollution, waste burning and dust generators must be enforced across Delhi and NCR," she said.

Most arrests were made from North East Delhi district with 52 persons being held on Diwali; followed by West Delhi where 30 persons were arrested.

Over 400 cases lodged Most cases, at 58, were registered in West Delhi. "A total of 433 cases have been registered under the Explosives Act and under Section 188 (Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) of the IPC; out of which 371 were registered on Diwali," said a Delhi Police spokesperson.

The police said that the most quantity of firecrackers were seized from Outer North Delhi – where 2,653 kg of crackers were recovered – and North West Delhi, where 1,806 kg were recovered. The least quantity was recovered from Central Delhi at 41.8 kg.

"In addition to the recovery of 9,758 kg of fireworks, 54,000 packets containing crackers and a few bombs and shots were recovered," the officer said.

In 2018, the Supreme Court had banned bursting firecrackers and ordered that only green crackers, which are said to cause 30% less pollution, can be manufactured and sold. Crackers can also be burst only between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

DFS claims to have received 250 calls on Deepavali

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The fire department claimed to have received 245 calls on Deepavali, said officials on Monday. In 2018, on Deepavali, the department received 271 calls, states data shared by Delhi Fire Service (DFS).

Also, fire-related incidents reduced by approximately 10% this year as compared to 2018, the data stated.

"Fire calls were mainly from open areas in outer Delhi. The particular areas from where most calls were made is yet to be analysed," said DFS Chief Fire Officer Atul Garg.

The data also shows that the maximum number of calls were made from 10 p.m.-11 p.m. as 35 calls were made during the time while 30 were made from 9

p.m.-10 p.m. Till 9 p.m., 149 calls were made, the data stated.

Talking about the deployment of officials on Deepavali, Mr. Garg said about 2,000 officials, including senior and junior staff, were on duty on Sunday. "This year, the number of locations at which fire tenders were deployed had also increased. This year, we had deployed vehicles at 38 locations in addition to our existing 63 fire stations," he said.

Fire in shop In a related incident, a major fire broke out at a shop in Sadar Bazar market. "The fire broke out in a shop, which is located on the fourth and fifth floors of the building. The shop housed packaging materials and plastic toys, which were gut

ted in the blaze," a fire official said.

The call about the blaze was received at 3 p.m. after which 12 fire tenders were rushed and the blaze was brought under control by 4.25 p.m., he said.

Another fire also broke out at a sanitary shop in north-east Delhi's Jagatpuri, the official said. The call about the fire was received at 2.51 p.m. after which six fire tenders were pressed into service. The fire was brought under control within an hour, the fire department said. On Monday morning, another major fire broke out at a godown in Kharai's Inder Enclave at 7 a.m. after which 10 fire tenders were pressed into service. The godown housed plastic material, officials said adding that no injuries were reported in the incident.

Take action against illegal industrial activities: NGT

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Following a plea alleging illegal operation of hazardous industrial activities in the Wazirabad and Karol Bagh areas, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) to take appropriate action and furnish an action taken report within one month.

A Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said: "Let the DPCC look into the matter and take appropriate action in accordance with law and furnish a factual

and action taken report in the matter within one month."

The directions came when the green panel was hearing a plea moved by petitioner Mukesh Chauhan seeking remedial action against the units. The petitioner had alleged that certain industrial units in Wazirabad and Karol Bagh were involved in hazardous activity which was causing air and water pollution.

While directing authorities to take action, the Bench warned of coercive steps in case of non-compliance of orders.

Fire-related incidents reduced by 10% this year, says fire department

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Pollution lowest in last 5 years on Deepavali night'

Hope T-20 matches won't be hit: CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Air pollution post-Deepavali celebrations was the lowest in the last five years, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal claimed on Monday. This was despite the use of firecrackers in the Capital during the festival, he added.

"After 8.30 p.m. on Deepavali evening, I could hear the sound of crackers bursting. I was very happy that as compared to the last few years, there was less bursting of crackers this year. The figures obtained have revealed that pollution has been the lowest in the last five years on Deepavali night," Mr. Kejriwal said at a press conference.

"But our aim is to eliminate pollution from Delhi," he said further.

Satellite towns

The CM said he hoped that air pollution would not affect any T-20 matches scheduled in the Capital even as he argued that the use of firecrackers was unchecked in satellite towns bordering the Capital.

"Crackers were used in nearby locations such as Ghaziabad, Noida and Gurugram. I want to appeal to the BJP leaders to stop mocking the people of Delhi...who

have worked really hard to reduce pollution...it was the lowest this time in the last five years. Cracker bursting was also the lowest in the last five years," he said.

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari accused the AAP government of having "completely failed" in controlling pollution in the Capital.

"Today, the level of pollution has crossed 750 points, which is a very dangerous situation for Delhi... more than two crore people are suffering... the Mayors of the three Municipal Corporations have been asked to take steps to prevent pollution, including sprinkling water through machines and ensure cleanliness at places where the dust is increasing," he said.

BJP urged people to burst crackers, claims AAP

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Monday criticised the BJP for allegedly urging people to burst crackers and increase pollution in Delhi.

AP MP Sanjay Singh said, "People of Delhi are ready to reduce pollution and not burst crackers and celebrate laser Diwali. At this time, BJP leaders were bursting crackers and talked about increasing pollution and even twitted about it. This is condemnable. This shows the polluted mindset with which BJP wants to work against Mr. Kejriwal."

He added that it was shameful to see BJP leaders bursting crackers but children participating in the laser show. The Aam Aadmi Party said many leaders of Delhi Pradesh Congress – Pankaj Tiwari, Aslam, Salauddin, among others – joined the party on Monday.

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Statue of mob violence victim installed in U.P.'s Bulandshahr

Father threatens to convert if demand for CBI probe not met

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

A statue has been installed to honour Sumit Dalal, the young resident of Syana in Bulandshahr, who lost his life in the mob violence at Chirangvathi police station following rumours of cow slaughter in the neighbouring Mahav village in December last year. Subodh Kumar Singh, an inspector of the Uttar Pradesh police, had also lost his life in the incident.

With Gau Rakshak Vir Shaheen Sumit inscribed on the arch of the temple-like structure, the family of Sumit installed his statue within their residential premises in Chirangvathi village on



Statue of Sumit Dalal in his village in Bulandshahr.
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sunday.

His father Amarjeet Singh threatened to leave Hinduism if his demand for a

CBI inquiry in the case was not met.

Mr Amarjeet said that police was holding his son responsible for the killing of Singh when the fact was that his son died before the mob killed the police inspector. In a video that went viral on Monday, he could be heard saying that he was being punished by the Hindus.

Violence accused

Like Singh, Dalal also died of a gunshot wound on December 3. Though CM Yogi Adityanath awarded a compensation of ₹10 lakh to his family, the 20-year-old remained accused number 16 in the FIR registered by the police after the violence.

Rajasthan govt. shelves civic poll changes

Senior party leaders had called for a review of the decision to conduct indirect mayoral elections

MOHAMMED IQBAL
JAIPUR

The resolution of a rift over a new model for the upcoming municipal elections in Rajasthan, to which Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot took exception, has saved the ruling Congress from embarrassment. The State government has reversed its earlier decision to allow any citizen to contest the polls for mayor and chairperson of a civic body without first getting elected as a municipal councillor.

The change not only attracted criticism from within the Congress, but the Opposition BJP also tried to make an issue out of it. BJP State president Satish Poonia said the Congress was bending the rules as per its convenience because it was not

confident of winning the elections.

The State government had recently decided to conduct indirect election for the post of mayor and chairperson in corporations and municipalities with the contention that the civic body heads directly elected by public often ignored the councillors and neglected the development works.

In the "hybrid model" introduced through an amendment to Section 78 of the Rajasthan Municipalities (Election) Rules, 1994, a non-councillor candidate could contest for the post of mayor and chairperson. Such a candidate was still to be elected by the municipal councillors to the top posts.

A section of the party leaders and Mr. Pilot, who is



Deputy CM Sachin Pilot

also the Pradesh Congress Committee president, opposed the gazette notification issued in this regard on October 16, while affirming that the decision would weaken democracy and encourage back door entry of candidates in the municipal bodies. The elections to 49 urban local bodies across the State will take place on November 16.

Other senior party leaders who called for a review of

the decision included Food and Civil Supplies Minister Ramesh Chand Meena and Transport Minister Pratap Singh Khachariwala. The Congress workers also gave a negative feedback with the plea that the decision was not discussed in the Cabinet meeting or the party organisation.

The matter was resolved before the Diwali festival apparently following the intervention of senior party leaders from Delhi. AICC general secretary Avinash Pandey, in charge of Rajasthan, was tasked with resolving the differences and evolving a compromise formula.

State Urban Development and Local Self Government Minister Shanti Dhariwal announced that the mayors and chairpersons would be

elected only from among those already elected as councillors. "In exceptional cases, if there is no councilor in the party getting the majority belonging to a caste group or gender for which the mayor/chairperson post has been reserved, then only an outsider will be allowed to step in."

Pilot welcomes decision

Welcoming the latest decision, Mr. Pilot said the move to have unelected people run for the post of mayor and chairman was "against the ethos of democracy".

The BJP has claimed that the Congress government was forced to take back its decision because of pressure put by the Opposition, the people and its own Ministers.

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RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF THE NAGAS

Naga students staging a protest in New Delhi, demanding a solution to the peace talks. ■ FILE PHOTO

Photo: PTI

clear. It also asked the three Members of Parliament from the State, all 60 legislators and the political parties to come together to protect the territorial integrity of Arunachal Pradesh.

Vision of Nagaland

The AAPSU's message to Delhi is based on the NSCN-IM's vision of Nagaland or Greater Nagaland that would entail redrawing of boundaries to bring all Naga-inhabited areas in the Northeast under one administrative umbrella.

The NSCN-IM's map of Nagaland spreads over 1,03,473 sq km beyond the 16,527 sq km area of Nagaland. It includes much of eastern Arunachal Pradesh.

The outfit, as well as rival factions, claim these areas, primarily Changlang, Longding and Tirap districts are dominated by Nagas.

Awards for dedicated doctors, staff in Odisha

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday announced a series of awards and special incentives for dedicated doctors, paramedical staff and other healthcare workers will be presented with Chief Minister Award, which includes cash prizes of ₹10 lakh and ₹5 lakh respectively. Government healthcare institutions providing quality service will also be rewarded, he added.

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a male namely Mayur S/o Deepak Shantaram Shringarkar, R/o H.NO. KPK Matl Marg, Loknagar, Maharashtra, has been missing since 11.10.2019 at about 1.30 PM from Shop No. 421, Main Bazar, Phar Ganj, Delhi in the area of PS Pahar Ganj, Phar Ganj New Delhi.

The description of missing male is as under:
Name : Mayur Father's Name : Deepak Shantaram Shringarkar, Age : 36 years, Height : 5'11", Face : Round, Complexion : Shallow, Built : Medium, Wearing : Blue T-Shirt & Jeans Pant and Black Shoes in feet.

If anyone having any clue/information, about this missing person may kindly inform the undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.gov.in>
e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax : 011-24368639
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/6679/CD/19

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Ranjit Singh @ Billa S/o Sardar Hazara Singh R/o A-73, Abchal Nagar, Chander Vihar, Delhi and also at 36-A, Vikaspuri Extn., Nilothi Extn., Nangloi, Delhi has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence under FIR No. 411/15, u/s 392/411/34 IPC registered at PS. Karol Bagh, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Ranjit Singh @ Billa cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Ranjit Singh @ Billa has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Ranjit Singh @ Billa of FIR No. 411/15, u/s 392/411/34 IPC has been registered at PS. Karol Bagh, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.11.2019.

By order
Sh. Fahad Uddin
Metropolitan Magistrate, Room No. 180,
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

Dr. KUNHUKKUTTY (96)

D/o Late Vadavannur Vadakkepatt Narayanan Nair,

Krishna Colony, Trichy Road, Coimbatore,

Died at "Prasadam",

Speak truth on 50:50 formula, Raut tells BJP

Nothing political in our party meeting Governor: Shiv Sena MP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

The Shiv Sena on Monday reiterated its demand for an equal share of power in Maharashtra and asked the BJP to "speak the truth on the 50:50 power-sharing formula" agreed between Amit Shah and Uddhav Thackeray.

The demand by Sena MP Sanjay Raut came shortly after Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and senior Shiv Sena leader Diwakar Raote met Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari separately.

Mr. Raut told a news channel there was "nothing political" in Mr. Raote's meeting with the Governor.

Asked what would happen if the BJP were to renege on the 50:50 formula agreed between a meeting of Mr. Shah, Mr. Uddhav and Mr. Fadnavis ahead of this year's Lok Sabha polls, Mr. Raut



Sanjay Raut

said: "The BJP evokes the name of Ram. You [BJP] are going to build the Ram temple. Ram was 'satyavachani' (embodiment of truth), so they should speak the truth on this (formula)."

"You can tear up paper but you can't delete the record (of the power-sharing agreement between BJP and Sena)," Mr. Raut said.

Earlier on Monday, the Sena, in an editorial in the party's mouthpiece 'Saamana', targeted the Centre over the economic slowdown, seek-

Training at Tent City.

"I will encourage probationers and discuss with them additional ways to develop India," an official release quoted Mr. Malpass.

Along with training and seminars by experts, the government has also launched a new initiative under which each official will guide a local youth from villages near the Statue of Unity, which is located in a tribal area along the Narmada river.

"Under the mentorship programme *Nurture the Future*, close to 500 civil service officials will be divided into teams to visit villages near Kevadia and each official will take a youth under

his wing and provide career and professional guidance," said K. Srinivas, additional secretary in the Personnel and Training Ministry.

The probationer officials met local youth from 11 tribal villages in Bharuch and Chhota Udepur districts.

Government officials said the initiative will ensure a better and brighter future for the youth living in remote and rural areas.

Over the next five years, the initiative is expected to cover nearly one lakh youth throughout the country as part of the foundation course of probationers who have just passed the civil services exam and joined the

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and other top functionaries of the centre will be at the event on October 31.

country's elite bureaucracy.

The new initiative is being launched from Gujarat as the first common foundation course for civil servants is being held in the State for the first time.

"Aarambh" will conclude on October 31, being a fit tribute to the Iron Man of India on his birth anniversary, fondly celebrated as 'Rashtriya Ekta Divas'. It will be the first-event event recognising the commitment, character and conduct of Sardar Patel," Mr. Srinivas said.

Sumaira Abdulali of the NGO Awaaz Foundation said the lower decibels may be a result of greater awareness among people about noise

pollution and the ills of bursting firecrackers.

"This Diwali has been the quietest in 15 years since Awaaz Foundation began recording decibel levels in the city. Till about 2010, 100% of firecrackers exceeded the maximum permissible decibel levels. In some cases,

they were as high as 145dB," she said.

"This year, the maximum level was 112.3dB. Fewer crackers, including noisy ones, were burst. Mostly sparklers, chakris and anaars [mainly light-emitting crackers] were used. I thank Mumbai for this. This is truly a Happy Diwali for me," she said.

Ms. Abdulali said the noisiest locations in the metro-polis were Marine Drive and the gymkhana along it in south Mumbai.

She added that the bursting of firecrackers continued till 10.45 p.m. across the metropolis, though the intensity waned after 10.15 p.m.

Much to offer



A priest arranges sweets and fruits, kept as offerings by devotees as part of a ritual to mark 'Annakut' festival during Diwali celebrations, at a temple in Ahmedabad on Monday. PTI

Civil service probationers train at Statue of Unity

500 newly recruited bureaucrats participating in a six-day foundation course

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

AHMEDABAD

The Centre's first-ever common foundation course *Aarambh* (Beginning) for 2019 batch probationer civil servants has begun at the Statue of Unity in Kevadia, Gujarat, where around 500 newly recruited bureaucrats are undergoing six-day training.

On Monday, World Bank president David Malpass addressed the probationers on the topic of "capacity building for civil servants" at Tent City, near the statue.

Around 500 IAS/IPS/IRS/IFS probationers are participating in the foundation course of the Centre's Department of Personnel and

Mumbai sees quietest Diwali in 15 years

It is a result of greater awareness, says NGO monitoring decibel levels in the city

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

Mumbai just celebrated its quietest Diwali in 15 years, perhaps indicating rising awareness against the use of noisy firecrackers.

Sunday's Diwali celebrations in Mumbai generated a decibel level of 112.3, recorded just after the 10 p.m. deadline for bursting of firecrackers, down from 117.8 dB posted at the same time in 2017, an NGO fighting against noise pollution said on Monday.

Sumaira Abdulali of the NGO Awaaz Foundation said the lower decibels may be a result of greater awareness among people about noise



People mainly burst light-emitting crackers during Diwali on Sunday, said NGO Awaaz Foundation. PTI

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IN BRIEF

**Gannavaram MLA quits Telugu Desam Party**

VIJAYAWADA
Two days after meeting A.P. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Telugu Desam Party MLA from the Gannavaram Assembly constituency, Vallabhaneni Vamsi, resigned from the party and reportedly tendered his resignation as a legislator on Sunday.

SIT arrests Jolly Shaju in third case

KOZHIKODE
The SIT probing the Koodathayi serial murder case arrested Jolly Shaju on charge of murdering Alphine, the daughter of Sily and Shaju Zacharias. This is the third case in which Jolly Shaju, the prime suspect in the suspicious deaths of six relatives between 2002 and 2016, is being arraigned.

In Kerala Assembly, UDF demands a probe by CBI into Walayar case

A court acquitted 3 in the mysterious death, sexual exploitation of two siblings

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The 16th session of the 14th Kerala Legislative Assembly began on a stormy note on Monday with the Opposition UDF forcing adjournment of the House after the government refused to heed its demand for a CBI probe into the alleged lapses that led to the Palakkad POCSO court's recent acquittal of three accused in a case involving the sexual exploitation and mysterious deaths of two siblings at Attappalam, Walayar, in 2017.

Moving a notice seeking leave for an adjournment motion, Shafi Parambil (Congress) said the ruling CPI(M) had intervened to sabotage the investigation and help the accused.

"A proper investigation

**Seeking justice:** Mahila Congress workers staging a protest in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. ■ S. MAHINSHA

could have helped save the life of the second girl. The lawyer who represented the accused has been made the Chairperson of the Child Welfare Committee. The court has observed that the prosecution failed to prove the charges." Mr. Parambil

said intervention of the ruling party was clear, and only a CBI inquiry would solve the mystery.

CM's reply

In his reply, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the acquittal was shocking and the

government would look into the lapses and whether a reinvestigation or a CBI inquiry was needed.

The government would appeal against the verdict and seek the services of an experienced lawyer, Mr. Vijayan said.

UDF legislators were not satisfied with Mr. Vijayan's reply and trooped into the well of the House shouting slogans. As they stepped up their protest, Speaker P. Seeramakrishnan addressed the House.

The case relates to the mysterious death and sexual exploitation of two Dalit siblings at Walayar in 2017. On January 13, 2017, the elder girl, aged 13, allegedly committed suicide and her sibling, who was 9, took the extreme step 52 days later.

Telangana RTC conductor ends life

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KHAMMAM

A distressed woman conductor of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) allegedly ended her life at her residence here on Monday even as the indefinite strike by the RTC employees entered the 24th day.

The agitating RTC staff, who blamed the State government for the incident, took to the streets.

The deceased, identified as 31-year-old B. Neeraja, took the extreme step as she was worried about the looming spectre of job loss, sources close to her family said. However, the police are yet to establish the exact motive behind her "drastic step."

(There is always someone to listen at: +914066202000 at this Hyderabad suicide intervention centre, Roshni.)

**Taking no chances:** Police checking vehicles from Kerala at Anakkatti in Coimbatore on Monday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tamil Nadu steps up vigil on Kerala border

Move follows gunfight in Palakkad

WILSON THOMAS
COIMBATORE

The Naxalite Special Division (NSD) of the Tamil Nadu police has stepped up surveillance in Coimbatore and the Nilgiris in the wake of exchange of fire between suspected Maoists and

'Thunderbolt', the anti-Naxal commando wing of the Kerala police, in forests near Agali in Palakkad district on Monday in which three insurgents were either injured or shot dead.

Their photos have also been displayed on flex boards at the check posts.

Mr. Periaiah said Superintendents of Police of the two districts were briefed about the situation and the local police would check hospitals and lodges and step up surveillance in bus stands and other strategic locations.

Surveillance in hospitals

Surveillance in hospitals was to check persons with suspicious backgrounds seeking treatment for injuries. It is believed that some of the suspected Maoists were injured in the exchange of fire.

In Coimbatore, members of NSD teams were positioned along Kerala-Tamil Nadu border for around 250 km from Velliangiri hills to Mulli. Special Task Force teams in the western districts were also alerted.

Jacobites thwart Orthodox group's bid at Cheriyapalli

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCCHI

Hundreds of members of the Jacobite faction of the Malankara Church defied a large posse of police personnel and conciliatory talks by officials to thwart an effort by Orthodox faction members to offer prayers at Mar Thoma Cheriyapalli at Kothamangalam on Monday.

The Orthodox group, led by Thomas Paul Ramban, came to Cheriyapalli to offer prayers under police protection around 9 a.m.

The Orthodox group has been given control of Malankara Church parishes by the Supreme Court through a verdict in July 2017.

**Defying court orders:** Jacobites stayed inside the church as members of the Orthodox faction came to pray. ■ H. VIBHU

The Jacobite group, however, defied the police demand to allow the Orthodox group to enter the church and hundreds of group members entered the church and premises and locked themselves inside the compound. As the Jacobites prevented their counterparts from entering the church, a stand-off ensued.

Panel to submit report on A.P. boat tragedy

It will recommend safety steps

RAJULAPUDI SRINIVAS
RAJAHMENDRARAM

The six-member committee appointed by the government to study the reasons for the recent Godavari boat accident and to suggest ways for safe water transport will submit its report soon.

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, who conducted a review meeting on September 16 after the accident at Kachuluru, constituted the committee to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

The Vasista Purnami Royal Boat carrying 77 persons including 69 tourists from A.P. and Telangana, capsized at Kachuluru village in Devipatnam mandal of East Godavari district killing about 51 persons on September 15.

Rescue teams and swimmers have so far retrieved

45 bodies. The locals saved 26 tourists.

Special Chief Secretary (Irrigation) Aditya Nath Das is the chairman of the committee and East Godavari Collector D. Muralidhar Reddy is acting as its convenor. Members of the committee include Special Chief Secretary (Revenue), Principal Secretary (Tourism), Addl. DGP (Law and Order) and Director (Ports).

The committee has been directed to submit its report in 45 days. It will examine the reasons for the accident and find out the lacunae, if any. It will fix the responsibility for it.

Restraining unregistered, unlicensed and unfit vessels and suspending boating during floods and other safety measures will be examined. It will also focus on fitness of boats and sarangs (drivers).

Striking a balance

**Women making baskets in front of the Kerala Secretariat, in celebration of those who work from home, in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. ■ S. MAHINSHA**

Weavers will soon sell products directly online

Andhra Pradesh government facilitates tie-ups with major websites

THARUN BODA
VIJAYAWADA

Handloom weavers in Andhra Pradesh are going to get the much-needed impetus as the Department of Handloom and Textiles is all set to launch three initiatives that directly connect weavers to customers via popular online and offline garment business platforms.

The initiatives are aimed at ending the middlemen system that has been depriving weavers of basic earnings and sustainability, and passing on the benefit from the sale of the product to the weaver, officials say.

Department of Handlooms and Textiles (H&T) Director Himanshu Shukla told *The Hindu* the three major initiatives were going to be tentatively launched on



A screenshot of a website selling Uppada saris.

November 15.

"A weaver makes a sari per day. While he earns only a couple of hundred rupees out of it, the sari is sold for thousands of rupees and no profit is shared with the weaver. The idea behind the new initiatives is to reduce the role of middlemen who enjoy a large share of the profits," Mr. Shukla said.

"We have already tied up with e-commerce site Yes Po-

ho which is selling Uppada and Kalamkari saris. Yes Po-ho talks to weavers directly and middlemen and, even the AP State Handloom Weavers Cooperative Society (APCOC) have no role to play here. However, an officer has been designated to oversee and facilitate this process of talks between weavers and the site in every district," Mr. Shukla said.

For sale of saris and fabric

through showrooms other than APCOC's stores, the H&T Department is going to tie up with Fab India which through another agency procures cloth as per its requirement from weavers directly and sells the garments made out of it in their stores across the country and abroad, he added.

"The sample material has been already sent and the pact will be signed soon. By November-end weavers who are working for a daily wage will start supplying cloth to Fab India and turn entrepreneurs," Mr. Shukla added.

The APCOC has also entered into an agreement with e-commerce giants Amazon and Flipkart for sale of 400 types of handloom products like saris, towels and blankets on their platforms.

Amrit Mahal cows stood in mud slurry for days

Conservation centre in Karnataka doesn't have regular staff to take care of animals

SATHISH G.T.
HASSAN

As many as 230 cattle of a rare breed stood in a pool of slurry for days, with no care and maintenance. They had no space to lie down. Worse, recently a cow died and the carcass was not cleared.

This was the scene at the Amrit Mahal Breed Conservation Centre at Rayasamudra in Karnataka on Sunday morning. The centre spread over 1,524 acres is meant to rear and conserve the Amrit Mahal, a native breed of cattle facing extinction.

Pathetic condition

"It was a heart-wrenching scene," said Raghavendra Bekka, a progressive farmer in the taluk. The cattle-shed had not been cleaned for

**Cause for concern:** Cattle in a shed full of slurry at the breed conservation centre at Rayasamudra. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

months. All animals were in a pool of slurry. The recent rains had made the situation worse for the animals, he said. The villagers nearby blamed the officials of the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences for the state of affairs.

Following a news report

to Bidare Kaval in Arasikere taluk the same day.

Except for a livestock inspector, there is no regular staff to look after the centre. The veterinary doctor posted at the veterinary hospital at Nugehalli has been given additional charge of the centre.

He hardly visits the centre as he has other responsibilities including the vaccination drive.

The department has taken the services of seven people through an outsourcing agency to take care of the animals.

"They do not know how to handle cattle. And, to handle Amrit Mahal breed, one needs training. As there are no senior officers to monitor them, they hardly work", pointed out an officer.

IN BRIEF



Two dead as floods hit Nagaland, Assam

GUWAHATI
Floods and landslips due to incessant rain last week have affected life in parts of Nagaland and Assam, claiming two lives and disrupting road and railway communication. Officials of the Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority (NSDMA) said a high volume of rainfall caused landslips in Phek district and flood in the lowland Dimapur district. In Assam, parts of Karbi Anglong district bordering Nagaland and some north-central areas were affected.

72 hours on, T.N. boy remains stuck in borewell

TIRUCHI
Nearly 72 hours after non-stop operations began on Friday evening to rescue two-year-old Sujith Wilson, who fell into an abandoned borewell at Nadukkattupatti near Manapparai, the efforts to dig a passage to reach the child made slow progress even after the deployment of high-power rigs. "The task is challenging as we have to race against time. But we have not lost hope," said Health Minister C. Vijayabaskar.

Two found dead in U.P. cremation ground

GAZIABAD
Two persons were found dead in a cremation ground in the Thakurwara area of Moradabad district of Uttar Pradesh. One of the deceased, local sources claimed, was a priest who indulged in occult practices to cure people and could have attempted a ritual on the night of Deepavali. "Rajendra Giri and an unidentified person were found dead in the cremation ground on Monday morning. Their heads were found to be crushed with a small LPG cylinder," said Vishal Yadav, circle officer, Thakurwara.

"Fingerprint experts have taken samples and a dog squad has been pressed into service," the official said.

'Unintended pregnancy endangers mother, child'

WHO study highlights need for high-quality family planning

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

A study conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 36 countries found that two-thirds of sexually active women who wished to delay or limit childbearing stopped using contraception for the fear of side effects, health concerns and underestimation of the likelihood of conception. This led to one in four pregnancies being unintended.

Globally, 74 million women living in low and middle-income countries have unintended pregnancies annually. This leads to 25 million unsafe abortions and 47,000 maternal deaths every year. WHO warned that unwanted pregnancies may lead to a wide range of health risks for the mother and child. The risks include malnutrition, illness, abuse and neglect, and even death.

"In India the abortion rate was 47 per 1,000 women aged 15-49 years. 3.4 million abortions (22%) were obtained in health facilities, 11.5 million (73%) abortions were medication abortions done outside of health facilities, and 0.8 million (5%) abortions were done outside of health facilities using methods other than medication abortion," the study had said.

In India, abortions accounted for one-third of all pregnancies, and nearly half



The risks include malnutrition, illness, abuse and neglect, and even death.

Published by *Lancet* last year on the incidence of abortion and unintended pregnancy in India, it is estimated that 15.6 million abortions occurred in India in 2015.

"The study's findings highlighted the need for services that "take a shared decision-making approach to selecting and using effective methods of contraception that most fit the needs and preferences of clients, identify early when women and girls are having concerns about the method they are using and enable women and girls to change modern methods while remaining protected through effective counselling and respect of their rights and dignity."

As per the figures pu-

of the pregnancies were unintended.

The WHO report stated that modern methods of contraception had a vital role in preventing unintended pregnancies.

Mari Nagai, former medical officer for Reproductive and Maternal Health at WHO and an author of the report, said that high-quality family planning offered a range of potential benefits that encompassed not only improved maternal and child health, but also social and economic development, education, and women's empowerment.

The study's findings highlighted the need for services that "take a shared decision-making approach to selecting and using effective methods of contraception that most fit the needs and preferences of clients, identify early when women and girls are having concerns about the method they are using and enable women and girls to change modern methods while remaining protected through effective counselling and respect of their rights and dignity."

As per the figures pu-

AIUDF chief Ajmal rejects Assam two-child policy

The rule cannot stop Muslims from producing children, he says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

Lok Sabha member and president of the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) Badruddin Ajmal said the Assam government's two-child policy for job eligibility will not stop Muslims from producing children.

The State's junior Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Pijush Hazarika, termed his view "provocative" and "insensitive" to the hardships poor people undergo to even raise two children.

The State Cabinet had on October 21 approved going ahead with the policy of making government jobs out of bounds for people with more than two children.

The Population and Women Empowerment Policy of Assam will come into effect from January 1, 2021.

"The government has brought this law to stop Muslims from having jobs, but the Sachar Committee report says less than 2% Muslims get government jobs. Muslims will continue to produce children and will



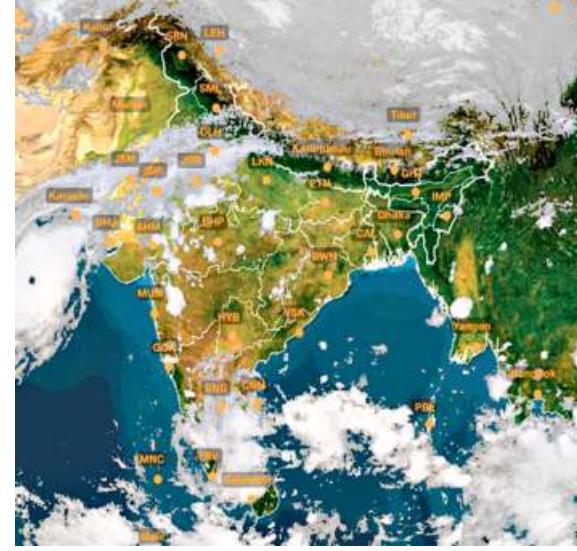
Badruddin Ajmal

not listen to anyone," said Mr. Ajmal. "No one can stop those who want to come to this world. Islam believes in not tampering with nature," he said on Saturday. He advised the BJP-led government to first decide if it should go ahead with the two-child policy or heed the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh that wants Hindus to produce 10 children.

Mr. Hazarika said the AIUDF chief was being irresponsible. "The two-child policy is not anti-Muslim, as has been interpreted. There are many Muslims in Assam who believe in small families, which is desirable in a world where resources are shrinking due to immense population pressure on land. Mr. Ajmal is speaking for himself and rich Muslims who can afford to have large families and not bother about their children getting jobs," he said on Monday.

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: Heavy to very heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Rayalseema, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikal, Kerala & Mahe, Lakshadweep and South Interior Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	... -30.5...	22.8	-	Kozhikode	20.8...	33.4...	23.6
Ahmedabad	... -32.3...	22.8	-	Kurnool	... -33.2...	24.2	-
Aizawl	... -24.2...	22.8	-	Lucknow	... -28.6...	18.4	-
Allahabad	... -31.9...	21.2	-	Madurai	1.6...	29.7...	24.6
Bengaluru	... -27.6...	19.4	-	Mangaluru	... -31.2...	22.8	-
Bhopal	... -30.6...	20.4	-	Mumbai	... -33.5...	24.4	-
Bhubaneswar	... -30.7...	22.9	-	Mysuru	... -27.6...	20.0	-
Chandigarh	... -30.3...	15.0	-	New Delhi	... -30.2...	17.7	-
Chennai	... -30.8...	26.6	-	Patna	... -30.4...	20.6	-
Coimbatore	... -30.1...	22.4	-	Port Blair	0.2...	31.6...	26.2
Dehradun	... -29.3...	15.6	-	Puducherry	12.6...	29.0...	22.8
Gangtok	... -19.9...	12.7	-	Pune	... -31.9...	19.3	-
Goa	... -33.0...	22.5	-	Raipur	... -31.5...	23.1	-
Guwahati	... -30.2...	20.0	-	Ranchi	... -27.6...	16.9	-
Hubballi	... -28.0...	19.0	-	Shillong	... -21.2...	11.1	-
Hyderabad	... -30.8...	23.8	-	Shimla	... -21.0...	11.4	-
Imphal	7.8...	28.6...	-	Srinagar	... -	-	-
Jaipur	... -29.3...	18.3	-	Thiruvananthapuram	0.1...	29.0...	24.5
Kochi	... -32.0...	14.2	-	Tiruchi	0.2...	30...	24.5
Kohima	27.8...	24.2...	13.5	Vijayawada	... -33.6...	25.2	-
Kolkata	... -30.9...	22.2	-	Visakhapatnam	12.2...	32.0...	25.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	99	.89	13	.145	.141	■■■
Bengaluru	04	.46	56	.106	.80	■■■
Chennai	24	.30	51	.152	.157	■■■
Delhi	133	1.31	51	.418	.379	■■■
Hyderabad	15	.34	33	.219	.217	■■■
Kolkata	07	.31	17	.196	.173	■■■
Lucknow	31	.38	32	.353	.353	■■■
Mumbai	06	.11	33	.159	.103	■■■
Pune	82	.08	64	.122	.112	■■■
Visakhapatnam	29	.34	26	.139	.102	■■■

In observation made at 4 p.m., Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh, recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 426, indicating a severe level of pollution. In contrast, Yadgir, Karnataka, recorded a healthy AQI score of 38

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

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

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

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

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

Sengar attends brother's cremation in Unnao

UNNAO

Expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Sengar here on Monday attended the funeral of his younger brother Manoj Sengar. Kuldeep and his brother Atul Sengar were granted a 3-day parole. The MLA is in Tihar jail for allegedly raping a woman when she was a minor. PTI

Air India paints 'Ek Onkar' symbol on Boeing 787



The Boeing 787 aircraft sporting the 'Ek Onkar' or 'God is One' symbol. ■ TWITTER

The airline is celebrating the 550th anniversary of Guru Nanak

The 256-seater aircraft will operate on Monday, Thursday and Saturday.

'Looking at full flights'
An airline official said London Stansted was designated as Air India's third point of call due to the unavailability of slots at Heathrow airport. The distance between the two airports is nearly 105 km.

"Though we launched the flight on a month's notice, the loads are very good. I

look at full flights in the near future," Air India chairman and managing director Ashwani Lohani told *The Hindu* about the response from travellers. The menu on these flights will reflect the flavours of Punjab and will include items like Amritsari Kulche, Rajma and rice, among other options.

The Golden Temple, the crown jewel of Sikhism, is located in Amritsar and houses the holy book Guru Granth Sahib. The Golden Temple, the crown jewel of Sikhism, is located in Amritsar and houses the holy book Guru Granth Sahib. The

Supercyclone 'Kyarr' moves away from Indian coast

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
Supercyclone 'Kyarr' in the Arabian Sea has moved westwards and away from India's coast, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

'Kyarr' lay 830 km west-southwest of Mumbai and 1,160 km east-northeast of Salalah (Oman). It is "very likely" to move west-north-

wards till October 30 to recure west-south-westwards thereafter and move towards the Gulf of Aden off south Oman-Yemen coasts in the next three days. "It is very likely to maintain the intensity of a Super Cyclonic Storm till 28th October evening and weaken gradually thereafter," the IMD said in a press statement.

Gales reaching 230-240

kmph and gusting to 265 kmph, were prevailing around the cyclone's centre over the central Arabian Sea and it was very likely to reduce gradually to 130 kmph by November 1.

Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the east-central Arabian Sea till Wednesday and into west-central Arabian Sea till November 2.

The Boeing 787 aircraft, which will bring thousands of Sikhs to their most important pilgrimage city, will also sport an important religious symbol 'Ek Onkar' or 'God is One' to mark



Limits of hype

While retaining power via a post-poll tie-up, BJP will have to recognise the mandate's nature

By winning the support of the JJP to form a government in Haryana, the BJP has surmounted its failure in the recent Assembly election to win a clear majority from the people directly for a second term. All non-BJP parties in the State, and most independents, campaigned on an anti-BJP plank and it would be reasonable to assume that the BJP that won 40 of the 90 seats in the State did not get a clear mandate. As the single largest party, its claim to form a government was legitimate, and also reinforced by the support of the JJP that has 10 MLAs. All seven independents and Haryana Lokhit Party's Gopal Kanda have also offered support to the government, which could be a stable one. The BJP's numerical advantage allows it to forge the support of Mr. Kanda, a controversial politician accused of abetting the suicide of a woman. The JJP and the BJP stridently campaigned against each other, but with their alliance, the BJP got a foothold among the Jat community that overwhelmingly voted against the party. As for the JJP, it could now claim a share of power for the community which is its core base.

The results and the nature of the coalition mark an interruption in the BJP's winning streak since the 2014 Parliament election, save its defeats in a few States to the Congress in 2017-18. The BJP's Hindutva plank combined with the rhetoric of development has paid it dividends, emboldening it to sidestep or even trample over regional allies. By falling back on a largely caste-based regional outfit for retaining power in a heartland State, Hindutva has exposed its limits, at least in the electoral field. The combination of religious sentiments and anti-Pakistan diatribe may still mobilise its core constituency, but that alone cannot guarantee victory all the time. It would be premature to conclude that people voted entirely on material issues or development, but those factors that the BJP desperately tried to shut out of the public discourse did matter. Particular identities of regional pride and caste dynamics that the Prime Minister's politics had largely rendered ineffective also appear to have made a comeback. The BJP's new alliance also blunts the party's claims about being the champion of probity. It may have rescued itself from the ignominy of taking Mr. Kanda's support, but the JJP's legacy is far from being unblemished. Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala's father and grandfather are serving sentences as convicts in a case of appointing teachers in exchange for bribes. That his father got a furlough from jail soon after the BJP-JJP agreement is too much of a coincidence. The opportunism of the JJP and the BJP, however, does not wipe out the issues that have come to the fore in the Assembly election. And therein lies a glimmer of hope for the country's democracy, as a demonstration of the limits of hype.

Death of a terrorist

Baghdadi is dead, but the conditions that gave rise to the Islamic State still remain

The death of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the founder-leader of the Islamic State, is a major setback to the dreaded terrorist organisation. Baghdadi, who rose to international notoriety in July 2014 when he appeared in the pulpit of Mosul's grand al-Nuri mosque as the leader of the new 'Caliphate' announced by his group, "died like a dog", according to U.S. President Donald Trump. He was hiding in a village in Idlib, the Syrian province controlled by al-Qaeda-linked jihadists and pro-Turkey rebels, when U.S. Special Forces launched an operation on Saturday. Mr. Trump says Baghdadi blew himself up in a tunnel while he was surrounded, killing himself and three of his sons. At the height of its power in 2014, the Caliphate established by Baghdadi controlled territories as large as Great Britain straddling the Iraqi-Syria border. Spread from Deir Ezor in eastern Syria to Mosul in northern Iraq and with Raqqa its de facto capital, the Caliphate drew in radicalised young Muslims world-wide into its fold, fought the Syrian and Iraqi national armies as well as rebel groups in Syria, and unleashed violence against anyone who disagreed with its version of Islam and against minority groups in Islam and non-Muslims. Baghdadi presided over the rise of his group as a death cult, bringing back memories of medieval religious conflicts.

But the Caliphate was a short-lived phenomenon. The cities the IS once ruled were liberated. Its jihadis are on the run. Now that Baghdadi is also gone, the IS is at the weakest point of its short history. But it does not mean the group is defeated. The IS, like its peers in global jihadism such as al-Qaeda, is not a completely leader-dependent organisation. It is fundamentally an insurgency comprising ideologically linked autonomous cells and loyal to one leadership. So Baghdadi's death, while a blow to the organisation and its propaganda, does not mean that IS operations are over. Second, the geopolitical conditions that led to the IS's creation have not changed much. When Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was killed by the U.S. in 2006, it was a setback to the al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), the organisation that he led. After his death, Sunnis in northern Iraq rose against the AQI, which, along with a surge in U.S. troops in Iraq, pushed the group to retreat from the cities and towns. But it did not finish the AQI off. When Syria began plunging into chaos in the early days of the civil war in 2011, the AQI, under Baghdadi's leadership, morphed into a bigger, more powerful terrorist machinery – the IS. What happened to the IS now is similar to what happened to the AQI then. With the IS's double loss, the focus should now be on stabilising Iraq and Syria and ending the conditions that led to the rise of the AQI and the IS. Otherwise, Baghdadi's death would not mean much for the global fight against terrorism.

Settling the Ayodhya case once and for all

There must be an understanding that in the outcome, there is neither victor nor vanquished



K. KANNAN

The Ayodhya issue is tantalisingly poised and there are only guesses about how the case could pan out – the Supreme Court of India had allowed arguments before the court and mediation talks to proceed simultaneously. It has been an unusual step. The dichotomy of this approach could perhaps be explained by the fact that the Court had marked August 15 as the deadline for turning in the settlement. Then, in July the pace of mediation was stepped up and the court wanted a report by August 1. Since there was no settlement by then, it commenced hearing. Down the line some parties made requests for a resumption of talks. It looked as if the court was unwilling to stop the hearing but also reluctant to let go of the possibility of a compromise.

Parties to appeals, settlement

The appeals pending before the court – as many as 14 – arose out of five original suits filed in Allahabad. Out of the said five suits, four were filed between January 1950 and 1962. The first two were filed by individuals in their capacity as worshippers. The second suit was allowed to be withdrawn on September 18, 1990. The third suit was filed by the Nirmohi Akhara of the Ramanandi Sect through its Mantah in 1959. The fourth was filed in 1961 by the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board and eight Muslim residents of Ayodhya and the general secretary (by name) of the Jamiat Ulema Hind, U.P. branch. In this suit many Hindu parties were arrayed as defendants. Representative status was given by the court

to the plaintiffs and defendants in this suit to represent their two communities respectively. The fifth suit was filed in 1989 by Bhagwan Sri Rama Virajman (the deity is regarded by law as a perpetual minor requiring representation through human agency) and Ashtan Sri Rama Janma Bhumi Ayodhya (the place of birth) through Sri Deoki Nandan Agrawal, who incidentally was a former High Court judge and resident of Allahabad and sought to be treated as the friend of the deity.

Going by media reports, it appears that some of the significant parties in the case, but not all, are parties to the settlement. It is believed the Vishwa Hindu Parishad in the form of the Ram Janambhumi Nyas and its supporter T.N. Pandey as the current friend of deity on the extreme side, and the Jamiat Ulema Hind on the other extreme side are opposed to the settlement. If that be so, it means there is a broad spectrum in between, of the Sankaracharyas backed Punaruddhar Samiti, the Nirvanis and Nirmohi Akhara bodies and the Hindu Mahasabha which are pro-settlement.

And most important of all, the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board, the statutory custodian of the disputed site under the Waqf Act, is reported to be a signatory. If these reports are anything to go by, the board is willing to acquiesce in the acquisition of the disputed site and give up its claim to it if other places of worship are protected and the Muslim community gets a fair number of additional mosques, in Ayodhya and elsewhere, where prayers can be held. So, what does a court do under these circumstances where a number of parties come forth with a settlement which they can subscribe to and which could cease the conflict, but which other parties oppose?

The Code of Civil Procedure al-



SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

lows one or more of community of persons, with the permission of the court, to sue or be sued, or may defend such suit, on behalf of or for the benefit of all persons so interested. The court shall, in every case where permission or direction is given, at the plaintiff's expense, give notice of the institution of the suit to all persons so interested, either by personal service, or, where, by reason of the number of persons or any other cause, such service is not reasonably practicable, by public advertisement, as the court in each case may direct.

Independent of the power to represent the general body, any person on whose behalf, or for whose benefit a suit is instituted or defended may apply to the court to be made a party to such suit. The only restriction for a settlement so brought about to bind all persons is that no suit could be withdrawn, or compromise made, without the leave of court. The Sunni Waqf Board having been given representative character and which claimed ownership to the site and the mosque literally excludes any scope for any other person among the Muslim community to lay claim to the property contrary to the concessions and agreement which it is prepared to enter into. The Hindu parties that have not come on board will have to tell the

court why they are resisting a settlement in which they are getting the land for which they have been fighting for so long and raised such large funds, when the site is being effectively given up by the Muslim parties, and where the Ram temple can now be a reality. A lack of bona fides may result in some strict action from the court. Where it is alleged by one party and denied by the other that an adjustment or satisfaction has been arrived at, as per the dictum in the Code of Civil Procedure, the court shall decide the question; but no adjournment shall be granted for the purpose of deciding the question, unless the court, for reasons to be recorded, thinks fit to grant such adjournment.

Width of court jurisdiction

There is another larger aspect here and that is the overarching power given only to the Supreme Court under Article 142 of the Constitution, the power to do complete justice in cases before it. This rare and almost awesome power permits the court to work through legalistic objections and climb above procedural difficulties to bring about the best possible result for the parties – and in this case, the country. In the words of the Supreme Court itself in *State of Punjab v Rafiq Masih* (2014), "Article 142 of the Constitution of India is supplementary in nature and cannot supplant the substantive provisions, though they are not limited by the substantive provisions in the statute.

It is a power that gives preference to equity over law. It is a justice-oriented approach as against the strict rigours of the law. The directions issued by the Court can normally be categorised into one, in the nature of moulding of relief and the other, as the declaration of law." Given the fact that "justice" itself is susceptible to a plurality of meanings, the court could mesh

the wisdom of parties' efforts in putting together an agreed formulation, aided by suave handling by the mediators and the counsel's lubrication that played out in court for 40 days of marathon hearings. It can come out with a humble offering on a platter of how the collective wisdom of all parties yielded to a denouement that douses mutual bickering among the communities and cement a lasting peace that will do India proud.

Need for a strong message

The majority community owes to its Muslim brethren an assurance that the ugly incidents of December 6, 1992 shall never be repeated in any other place, neither in Kashi nor in Mathura. And that in the outcome, there is neither victor nor vanquished. Restoration of dented prestige, enhancement of social standing and durability are the motivations for the nature of final outcome.

On August 15, 1947, Gandhi marked the day with a 24-hour fast, prayer and spinning yarn. When C. Rajagopalachari visited and congratulated Gandhi for restoring peace in the city of Calcutta, Gandhi said he will not be satisfied "until Hindus and Muslims felt safe in one another's company and returned to their own homes to life as before". His hope remained but a dream. On the day when the judgment of the Supreme Court is given, let the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh appear along with other parties to the litigation to hear the judgment of the Supreme Court as it is read in open court. This act will instil confidence that even if they had failed in the past, they shall begin yet again an era of goodwill and trust among all sections of the community.

K. Kannan is a former judge of the High Court of Punjab and Haryana, and an accredited mediator

Election takeaways for the Congress

Though encouraging, the Haryana and Maharashtra results are no firm sign that the party is on the comeback trail



SMITA GUPTA

For the Indian National Congress that was anticipating a wipe-out in Maharashtra and Haryana, the Assembly elections that just concluded in these two States have revived hope in an organisation that has been in a comatose state since the general election earlier this year.

In Maharashtra, the party, in partnership with the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) led by the re-doubtable Sharad Pawar, has limited the extent of the Bharatiya Janata Party-Shiv Sena's victory, making the process of government formation difficult. And in Haryana, along with other Opposition parties, it has managed to force the BJP to seek post-poll partners to form a government.

Reality versus polarisation

These results, however, cannot be read as a sign that the Congress is on the comeback trail. Even its victories in the Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh Assembly elections, that were held towards the end of 2018, saw the party biting the dust in these States a few months later in the Lok Sabha election. But they do demonstrate that the Narendra Modi-Amit Shah duo is not invincible, and that local issues do mat-

ter. They show that playing the politics of polarisation cannot always trump issues of rising unemployment, growing rural distress and an economy facing a downturn.

Therefore, for the Congress to remain politically relevant, its organisation must become battle-ready, so that when an opportunity arises, it can take advantage of its opponents' shortcomings. A former Congress functionary went so far as to say that these results demonstrated that the party had been "defeated organisationally, not politically". Of course, the Congress needs to do more to become a winner: it must have a convincing counter-narrative and a leader who can sell its own message of hope. But these State elections do reveal the chink in the BJP's armour.

Party in a churn

Ever since the Congress faced its second successive rout in a Lok Sabha election, the party leadership has appeared to give up, weakening an already damaged organisation. Rahul Gandhi resigned as party president on May 25. And for three months thereafter, the party remained headless till his mother, Sonia Gandhi, became interim party president on August 10 in an old guard-driven coup, barely weeks before elections were due in Maharashtra and Haryana. No effort was made to introspect on why the Congress had fared so poorly in the Lok Sabha election nor was there any attempt to rebuild the organisation. In fact,



even for these two State elections, a high-level coordination committee was set up barely 10 days ahead of polling day.

The fact that the party won a respectable number of seats in these elections – State heavyweights took the lead while the Gandhi family took a back seat – therefore, sends out a message to the party as a whole. Rahul Gandhi was absent for much of the campaigning period, confining himself to a handful of rallies. Mrs Gandhi, who has been doing a holding job, did not address any rally; neither did her daughter and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

In Maharashtra, party State chief Balasaheb Thorat and Congress legislative party (CLP) leader K.C. Padavi, who were appointed only in July, have little clout. At any other time, these appointments could have been read as an attempt to build a new leadership, but not months short of State elections. Meanwhile, the Mumbai Regional Congress Committee (MRCC) remained headless between July and September even as

Mr. Gandhi did little to check acolyte and former MRCC chief Sanjay Nirupam from attacking the party leadership publicly.

The old guard still matters

In Haryana, the party had to wait till September for Mrs Gandhi – after being nudged on by party veterans Ghulam Nabi Azad and Ahmed Patel – to name former State Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda as Congress Legislature Party leader, and replace Ashok Tanwar, a favourite of Mr. Gandhi, with former Union Minister Kumari Selja, as State chief. A miffed Mr. Tanwar subsequently quit the party.

The changes in Haryana clearly made a difference. It helped create a social coalition of Jats, Dalits and Muslims on the ground. The dominant Jat community, unhappy with Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar's anti-Jat politics, turned out in Mr. Hooda's strongholds to vote for Congress candidates (just as they voted for the Dushyant Chautala-led Jannayak Janta Party's nominees in his core areas). The goodwill that Ms. Selja enjoys pulled in Dalit votes. In the process, the Congress tally went from 15 to 31 MLAs. Clearly, if this team had been created after the Lok Sabha election, the party might just have wrested the State from Madhya Pradesh.

The Congress needs to take a cue from Mr. Pawar – at a few months shy of 79, afflicted with health issues, hounded by the government's investigative agencies, and leading a party demoralised by enforcement raids on its members, he is still leading from the front. The striking image of the Maratha强人, addressing an election rally in blinding rain in Satara says it all: fight back.

Smita Gupta is a Delhi-based journalist

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.

Maharashtra politics

In the "Sound of Music", nuns pray in agony: "Oh, how do you solve a problem like Maria?" The BJP may already be thinking of the line: "Oh, how do you solve a problem like the Shiv Sena?" The conditions the Shiv Sena is laying down despite its claim that it is not greedy for power are strange ("Senas" MLAs-elect seek BJP's written promise", October 27). The pressure being put, in the form of posters, demanding that Aditya Thackeray be made Chief Minister is mischievous and violates the spirit of cooperation. If some in the Sena have attacked the BJP time and again, why are they still

keen to be a part of the BJP-led government? Of course, in politics nothing is sacrosanct.

J.S. Acharya,
Hyderabad

Having sought votes in alliance with the BJP, it is unbecoming of the Shiv Sena to now adopt a strident stand and set terms. If the two parties continue to indulge in brinkmanship, it tantamounts to a breach of trust reposed in them by the electorate. The Sena should now direct its attention towards addressing the grievances of various sections of society in right earnest.

V. SUBRAMANIAN,
Chennai

The Sena seems to have forgotten the nature of the electoral mandate in Maharashtra. It should graciously honour this and allow its coalition partner to form the government without any problem. It would be too much to even ask for the CM's post by suggesting an inexperienced and first-time elected candidate, and also insisting on an equal deal.

V.S. GANESHAN,
Bengaluru

Borewells as traps
News that children continue to get trapped in borewells across India is sad to read (Page 1, "NDRF joins operation to pull boy out of borewell", October 27). If it is

difficult to ensure that disused borewells are closed, why cannot there be provision to put in thick PVC pipes across the diagonal of the borewell and one at every 10 m depth? Will this not prevent someone falling in from sinking in deeper?

RAMANI S.,
Chennai

Borewell rescue operations are clearly a great challenge especially as there is no modern equipment that is still available with rescue forces. State governments should take immediate action in identifying abandoned borewells across Tamil Nadu and issue directions to District Collectors to seal all disused

borewells with immediate effect. There need to be awareness campaigns at regular intervals.

V. DHARMALINGAM,
Gudalur, The Nilgiris

A person sinking a borewell should report to the authorities the status of the borewell after it has been dug. Once it falls into disuse, it must be closed according to norms, with proof submitted to the authorities. Failure to do so should result in stringent action such as suspension of civic amenities which include water and electricity connections. As a last resort, legal action against negligent individuals may be considered. The borewell operator should

also be made a stakeholder, collaterally, in this process.

DAVID APOLLO D.,
Chennai

Vacate accommodation
It is unfortunate that even a former Prime Minister has to be told to vacate his guest accommodation which he has been occupying for several years ("Deve Gowda told to vacate guest house", October 27). That 25 former MPs are yet to vacate too despite dissolution of the previous Lok Sabha is a shame. When will lawmakers show the inclination to abide by the extant rules?

C.G. KURIAKOSE,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

The power of ordinary people

Gandhi's weekend retreat at Oxford in 1931 generated insights that are still relevant today



RAJEEV BHARGAVA



Gandhi leaves the steamer 'Biarritz' in Folkestone in 1931. He was on his way to London to attend the Second Round Table Conference. ■ THE HINDU ARCHIVES

When Gandhi went to England in 1931 to attend the Second Round Table Conference, one of his close aides suggested that he retreat for the weekend to Oxford in order to reflect on the "big questions of principle involved in negotiations". It would also afford an opportunity to have informal, relaxed conversations with some British statesmen. The philosopher, A.D. Lindsay, Master of Balliol College, extended an invitation which Gandhi accepted. He reached on October 26 with his secretary Mahadev Desai, son Devdas, his English disciple Mira Behn, and his friend C.F. Andrews. To ensure his safety, he was escorted by a large detective, who seemed even larger in contrast to the diminutive Gandhi. Whether or not he performed his other duties, I do not know, but he sure brought a goat from a nearby hill when the master was unexpectedly asked if the college served goat's milk. The goat, tied to a tree in the college's main quad, came in very handy. Gandhi was spared from going out of the college and allowed to sit on the floor in his room to have his usual diet of milk and fruits.

Addressing Indians

The Mahatma found time to address all of Oxford's 50 Indian undergraduates, most of whom turned up in Indian clothes, including some women who sat spellbound in resplendent sarees. A few who came in Western attire made sure they wore an Indian turban. "Among students, I always feel at home because I am a student," Gandhi opened his address. "If you begin by cross-examining me, we shall know each other better. Will you please make yourself thoroughly at home with me? I am not a geological specimen."

The first question to him was on the future of women in India. "The future of the women in India is that they will be equal in every respect to men, if not superior," he said. He answered questions about separate electorates for Muslims and the 'untouchables'. He was asked about his

views on the creative power of socialism. Without batting an eyelid, Gandhi replied that "it might be a creative power if it did not depend on force". An Englishman asked if he believed in the good faith of England. Gandhi answered that he had good faith in England to the extent that he believed in the good faith of the human race. He went on: "I have definitely come to the conclusion that the total sum of human energy must be directed for the good, otherwise the world would have been destroyed long since. As a consequence, I trust England, although I have been bitten so often, not once but many times. I expect that the English nature will be converted one day and will respond".

Religiosity and ethics

The *Oxford Mail* reported that Gandhi was struck by the beauty of the little town and on his way to the poet Edward John Thompson's house, he got off the car several times to admire its towers, spires, bridges and college quadrangles. Later, Gandhi met visitors at the Master's lodgings (Lindsay's home) at Balliol that included Madan Mohan Malaviya, Sarojini Naidu and several British parliamentarians. Also among the visitors was Lindsay's son, a tutor in Wales, who ventured to ask with some hesitation: "People want to know, how far are you a Christian?" This clearly meant how far Gandhi had travelled from Hinduism towards Christianity.

Gandhi, always quick-witted, even clever but also wise and truthful, adroitly sidestepped this question. He deliberately took it to mean something quite different: How far had he, Gandhi, followed the teachings of Christ? How deep had he dug and how much higher had he gone by following the example of Christ? Just then the senior Lindsay himself entered the room. "Well, here is your father, could he tell how far he is a Christian. He will not be able to tell you and neither am I," Gandhi said.

For Gandhi, each of us must truthfully answer how far we have achieved spiritual growth or self-perfection. In saying this, Gandhi communicated two central points of his ethical and religious thinking. First, the futility of conversion, an act which assumes that a person belongs exclusively to one or another religion, never to both, and that he should belong to a religion superior to all others. Gandhi rejected the idea of intrinsic superiority of one religion over another and the imperative of constricted, exclusive belonging. Second, the importance of multiple attachments. If, as he believed, the whole point is to dig deeper and go higher, then why can't a Hindu follow the teachings of Christ? Why would that be inconsistent with the true teachings of Rama, Krishna, Buddha, Nanak or Kabir? Why should anyone be restricted to a single source of inspiration?

To his Christian friends he seemed

to suggest that men and women can find the resources of self-realisation, to work out salvation from within their own tradition, that no need exists to change mere labels. To people more generally, but particularly to fellow Hindus, he seemed to say that no religion can bind him absolutely. Indeed, on some issues, his own views were too closely interwoven with Christianity to be entirely Hindu and too deeply infused with Hindu and Jain ideas to be called Christian. Although Gandhi died a Hindu and remained unflinchingly so while alive, he probably exemplified the spirit of Christ more than any other man of his times. One might say, as the philosopher Margaret Chatterjee reminds us, that he responded to the teachings of Christ because he found confirmation in them of what he received from his own multiple traditions.

Collective action

A friend of Lindsay told him that he should not think of Gandhi as a saint trying to be a politician but rather as a politician trying to be a saint. But both he and his wife were convinced that having Gandhi as their guest was like having a saint in their house. The one facet of Gandhi that utterly impressed Lindsay was his conviction that nothing could be God's will if it was not understood by ordinary, unlettered people. It is often thought that for Gandhi, social transformation can be brought about only by a change in the moral character of every individual person. While Gandhi undoubtedly stressed the need for self-transformation, it is absurd to conclude that for him collective action was relatively unimportant. One of Gandhi's great contributions to social and political thought is that an enormous creative power is released when ordinary people of good will – without the trappings of power, wealth or fame – come together. Such solidarity can offer the most effective resistance to unjust exploitative social practices and political tyranny. The power to transform the world flows from the collective non-violent energies of ordinary men and women, a lesson that the high and mighty, steeped in social orthodoxy or propelled by authoritarian instincts, ignore at their peril.

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

The many gaps in NCRB data

Without methodological clarity, policymaking is a challenge



PREETI PRATISHRUTI DASH & SHREYA RASTOGI

While the 2017 reports released last week by the National Crime Records Bureau present numbers on different aspects of the criminal justice system, there are crucial gaps in the data collected. Further, the opacity surrounding the methodology for collection and compilation makes the data obscure and renders them ineffective for policymaking.

Basis for classification

Offences under crime have been categorised outside the provisions of the Indian Penal Code and other special and local laws. While the report states that "socio-economic causative factors or reasons of crimes" have not been captured, the non-legislative parameters for classifying some offences have not been adequately explained. This raises questions about the basis for classification. For instance, while reporting the offence of murder, NCRB has segregated the numbers based on the different motives for murder (honour killing and dowry, for instance). But the purpose of such classification would be achieved only if a more detailed description of the categories was provided (for motives such as "gain" or "class conflict").

In contrast to crime statistics, prison statistics do not provide any such offence-wise data on undertrials and convicts. This prevents cross-referencing and examination of the numbers in both reports. Further, while prison statistics provide information on the different kinds of sentences being served by convicts, these numbers have not been categorised on the basis of offences. Thus it is impossible to gain insights into the sentencing trends for various offences and in various States or formulate policy on sentencing.

Then there are concerns about the methods of computation and presentation of data. For instance, the crime statistics report, while recording rates of recidivism, collates State-wise information on the number of juveniles and adults who were arrested earlier but not convicted, and those who were previously convicted. However, the reliability of this data is questionable, given the understanding of recidivism as arrests of people who may not have been convicted earlier for crimes they were suspected or accused of committing, and who may not be convicted again. This is especially problematic given that socio-economically marginalised people are known to repeatedly come in conflict with the law, and are routinely arrested and

released on mere suspicion. Even for those who were arrested and convicted previously, the data do not speak of the nature of crimes involving their prior conviction, and the crimes leading to their arrest now.

Similarly, there are methodological concerns about the rate of calculating charge-sheeting, which has been measured based on the total number of cases disposed of by the police, and not the total number of cases for investigation. For example, in cases of murder, the overall charge-sheeting rate is shown to be 85.5%, when the total number of cases charge-sheeted (25,995) is measured against the 30,391 cases of murder disposed of by the police in 2017. However, if measured against the total 51,279 murder cases received for investigation in 2017, this figure drops to 50.7%. The explanation for this computation is further warranted since the crime snapshot at the beginning of the report places the rate of charge-sheeting beside the total number of cases received for investigation. There are similar concerns about the presentation of data on arrests, convictions and acquittals. For instance, it is unclear if the number of persons acquitted, discharged and convicted is calculated in reference to the number of persons arrested in 2017, or those charged and arrested in previous years. The statistics in this section do not speak to the total number of cases disposed of by courts in 2017.

Reformation and rehabilitation

Further, in order to effectuate cogent policies which do justice to the goals of reformation and rehabilitation, it is important to critically understand existing programmes. While current prison statistics provide some information on the kind of facilities available for reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners, they do not go beyond the enrolment rate to evaluate their efficacy. In the absence of information on the quality and impact of these programmes, robust policies cannot be formulated which would ensure successful reintegration of prisoners and provide those serving life-term imprisonment (52.6% of all convicts) an opportunity to reform. These policies are especially important since 94.4% of those entering the criminal justice system were arrested for the first time.

A political system that pays little attention to those in conflict with the law, the importance of these statistics is undeniable. However, in order to explore more precise and effective solutions to criminal justice issues, NCRB must first take steps towards ensuring the accuracy, reliability and comprehensiveness of these reports.

Preeti Pratishruti Dash and Shreya Rastogi are researchers with Project 39A, National Law University, Delhi. Views expressed are personal

Vaping is injurious to health

Measures being taken against e-cigarette companies in the U.S. could result in a dip in sales

R. PRASAD

The absence of vaping-related illnesses in the last 10 years that have seen increased use has often been cited to silence the critics of electronic cigarettes. But that is changing today. As of October 22, the number of patients with a mystery lung injury associated with the use of e-cigarettes was 1,604 from 49 States in the U.S. There have also been 34 deaths from 24 States.

The mysterious lung injury in e-cigarette users started in April, when 53 victims with a median age of 19 years in Illinois and Wisconsin were hospitalised, many under intensive care. The victims experienced coughing, shortness of breath and other symptoms. Their health had deteriorated so much that they needed to be hospitalised. While the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are yet to identify the cause of the lung injuries, the only commonality among all the patients is that they were e-cigarette users.

Time-tested machinations
The dramatic rise in e-cigarettes use by children is not at all surprising. After all, e-cigarette makers have been following the time-tested machinations of big tobacco companies to a tee. Like in the case of cigarettes, constant exposure to e-cigarette advertisements on social media, print and TV contributed to higher rates of experimentation and use, studies found. Advertisements depicting e-cigarettes as glamorous, cool, attractive, liked by celebrities and as a symbol of freedom together with celebrity endorsements hearken back to the banned ploys employed by tobacco companies decades ago. The same is true of health claims that e-cigarettes are safer than tobacco cigarettes, and their endorsement by doctors as a tool to stop smoking, even in the absence of hard data.

Flavoured products
In 2009, the FDA banned all flavours except menthol in cigarettes as it was convinced that they lured children and teenagers into the practice of smoking. According to a 2016 paper, internal documents from the tobacco industry revealed that flavours were used to target potential customers who were young. Despite overwhelming evidence of the youth largely favouring flavoured vape devices, it is unclear why the FDA did not act on these. It waited till September 11 for U.S. President Donald Trump to call for a ban on flavoured e-cigarettes before announcing its plan to remove all these devices from the market, at least temporarily.

On October 17, JUUL Labs suspended retail sale of flavoured e-cigarette devices (mango, creme, fruit, and cucumber) and cartridges pending a review by the FDA. The company's deceit was not lost as the mint and menthol flavours, which an overwhelming majority of high school students prefer, are still available.

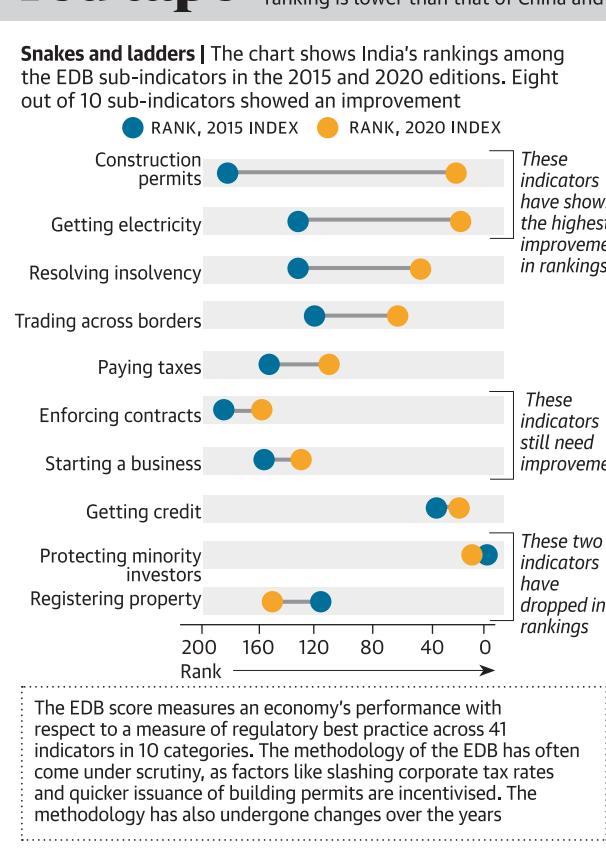
According to the National Youth Tobacco Survey, the percentage of schoolchildren who reported using



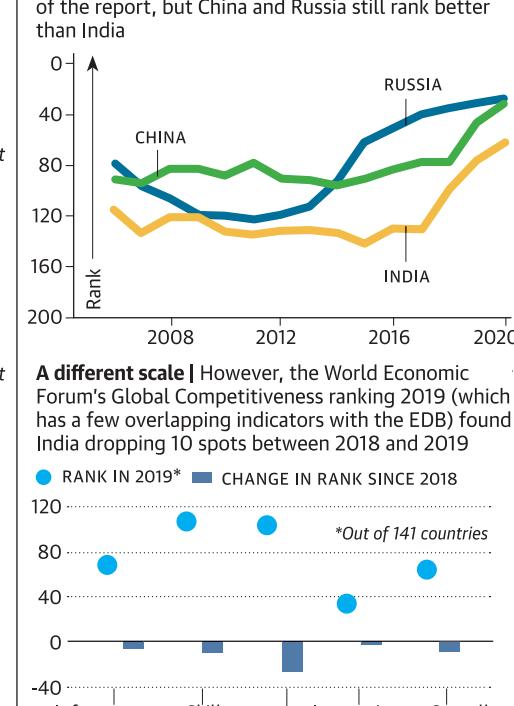
DATA POINT

Cutting red tape

India has been consistently climbing the table in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business (EDB) Index. In the 2020 edition of the report, of 190 economies India is among the top 10 which saw the biggest leaps from their 2019 rankings. However, among BRICS nations India's ranking is lower than that of China and Russia. By Varun B. Krishnan



Among peers | India, like China, saw massive improvement in its ranking, in the last two editions of the report, but China and Russia still rank better than India



FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 29, 1969

Hartal to mourn Pheruman

Hartal was observed throughout Punjab today [October 28] in memory of Mr. Darshan Singh Pheruman, who died in Amritsar yesterday on the 74th day of his fast for the inclusion of Chandigarh in Punjab. The offices of the Punjab Government also remained closed. The last rites of Mr. Pheruman were performed this evening at his home village of Pheruman. The hartal was generally peaceful except for an incident at Ludhiana in which some members of a mourning procession ransacked a post office. Some processionists also shouted anti-Prime Minister and anti-Sant Fateh Singh slogans and burnt an effigy of the Prime Minister. The call for hartal was given by the Akali leader Sant Fateh Singh and the State Jan Sangh President, Dr. Baldev Prakash. The State Government had declared the day as a closed day. The Punjab police and Border Security Force guarded the State and Central Government offices, railway stations and other vital installations. According to a Punjab Government spokesman, Army has also been alerted as "a routine precautionary measure." In the Union Territory of Chandigarh, several shops, business and commercial establishments observed hartal to-day.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCT. 29, 1919.

India and the Imperial Navy.
(From an Editorial)

India's Entry as an equal partner into the Commonwealth of the Empire has been signalled by heavy obligations being thrown on her, without, so far, any rights of her own being recognised and allowed. She has accepted direct liabilities in regard to Imperial war expenditure, to an extent which has left her seriously poorer, entailing increased taxation, and this has only followed most generous contributions on her part in men and material. Of the claim of India to self-government, there has been much talk and even before the first hesitating step in the 'progressive realisation of responsible Government' is definitely taken, proposals are being made to saddle this country with fresh burdens in the shape of contribution to Imperial naval expenditure. It is indeed a remarkable commentary on the sincerity of the nations which are promoting the League of Nations that while this grand conception is yet being given a shape, the war lords should be devising larger and more elaborate schemes for the military defence of the Empire.

FROM PAGE ONE

Govt. allows EU MPs to visit Srinagar

MEA sources said the Ministry was not involved in planning or funding the visit, and that the delegation had been invited by an NGO called WESTT, which is hosting them.

The decision to allow the MEPs to visit J&K marks a significant turnaround in the government's policy after it faced considerable criticism in the EU and in the U.S. over the Article 370 move. The government has thus far refused permission to any foreign journalist to cover the situation in J&K post August 5, and turned down requests from diplomats based in Delhi to visit as well. On October 3, it declined a request by visiting U.S. Congressman Chris Van Hollen to visit Srinagar, and it was brought up by the State Department at a special hearing of the U.S. Congress subcommittee on Human Rights that looked into concerns over Kashmir. U.N. Special Rapporteurs at the Human Rights Council have also issued statements protesting the denial of applica-

tions to visit. The MEPs' visit, which comes just a few days before the Presidential ordinance on reorganisation of J&K goes into place on October 31, follows concerns expressed by the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs that held a rare discussion on Kashmir in Brussels. In September, the European Parliament at Strasbourg held a debate, and MEPs met the "Friends of Kashmir group". However, the Parliament refused to pass any resolution against India.

In a speech, delivered on her behalf, EU Foreign Minister Federica Mogherini said the EU had taken up its concerns over "the situation on the ground, with its restrictions on fundamental freedoms," directly with Mr. Jaishankar when he visited Brussels prior to the meeting.

"It is crucial that freedom of movement and means of communication are fully restored as well as access to all essential services," the speech added.

BJP, Sena teams meet Governor separately

"I have been meeting the Governor to extend Diwali greetings for many years now. This was just a courtesy visit," Mr. Raote clarified. His party maintained it was not responsible for delay in government formation. It was the BJP's primary responsibility, Sena leaders said.

"We are not responsible for the situation in Maharashtra, where no government has been formed. We all know what the formula (sharing) is and our party will follow the coalition dharma," Sena leader Sanjay Raut said.

The independent candidates who extended support to the BJP and the Shiv Sena included Meera Bhayandar's Geeta Jain, Solapur candidate Rajendra Raut and Ravi Rana from the Badnera constituency. Others who have already extended support include Melghat legislator Rajkumar Patel and Achalpur legislator Bacchu Kadu. Earlier,

saffron alliance partner and Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment and Revolutionary Party of India (RPI) leader Ramdas Athawale advised the Sena to drop the idea of sharing power for 2.5 years with the BJP. The party must instead accept the post of Deputy Chief Minister for Aaditya Thackeray for five years, he said.

"I don't think the BJP will agree for a rotational Chief Minister, but the position of Deputy CM can be given to Shiv Sena for 5 years. I think the Shiv Sena should accept the Deputy Chief Minister's position for Aaditya Thackeray and Devendra Fadnavis should be Chief Minister," said Mr. Athawale.

BJP State president Chandrakant Patil has called for a meeting of newly elected legislators on October 30. The meeting is to elect the legislature party leader. The two alliance partners had won 161 seats, including 105 for the BJP and 56 for the Sena.

Police in gunbattle with Maoists in Kerala

The commandos reportedly called out to the group to surrender. However, they encountered heavy fire from the thick undergrowth.

Officials said the commandos fanned out in battle order, established a skirmish line, and returned fire. They tried to pin down the insurgents in a bid to force the Maoists to surrender.

The shoot-out occurred in poor visibility conditions.

Officials said some Maoists could have broken out of the encirclement and moved to contiguous forests in Karnataka or Tamil Nadu.

The Kerala police have alerted their counterparts in both the States. The Thunderbolts were in pursuit. They were proceeding with caution so as not to get ambushed by possible booby-traps laid by the retreating Maoists.

Meanwhile, the police are scouring tribal settlements and hospitals and clinics in Palakkad and Wayanad for wounded Maoists.

Police sources quoting Adivasis of Manjankandi said gunshots were heard from the forest around 11.30 a.m. and that Adivasis saw two bodies in the forest after the shooting.

The sources said the police encountered a seven-member Maoist group.

Police prevented media from going beyond Padavel. Manjankandi was cordoned off by the police.

A police team led by the district police chief had visited Kuttiyarkandi a couple of weeks ago and created awareness among Adivasis about Maoists.

Attappady hills has become a regular haunt of Maoists from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Second round of Smart Cities may roll out in 2020

He said the exact number of cities to be covered — whether 50 or all the remaining 35% — would have to be decided.

Another option, he said, would be to include the projects under the newly formed Jal Shakti Ministry's mandate.

"In some respects we

have been overtaken by events. Because now you have the Jal Shakti Ministry, which is working on water taps in every home so it may get subsumed in that."

The Smart Cities Mission covers 100 cities with a total population of 9,96,30,069 with projects worth a ₹2,05,018 crore.

"In some respects we

Haryana MLAs lobby for berths

Two Independents, two MLAs from JJP are likely to be inducted as Ministers

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

After the formation of the Bharatiya Janata Party-Janayak Janta Party coalition government in Haryana, the newly elected MLAs are lobbying for berths in the Ministry.

Manohar Lal Khattar of the BJP was sworn in as the Chief Minister on Sunday for the second time.

Dushyant Chautala of the JJP took oath as the Deputy Chief Minister.

No Ministers were sworn in, though it was expected that a few MLAs would be inducted into the Council of Ministers, along with the Chief Minister and his deputy.

Fair representation

The parties are still discussing names to be inducted in the Cabinet. BJP and JJP sources said giving a fair representation to various castes, communities and regions would be kept in mind while finalising the candidates.

A BJP source said the Council of Ministers was likely to be finalised within this week.

At least two Independents, two MLAs from the JJP and the rest from the BJP could be inducted.



Tete-a-tete: Haryana Governor Satyadev Narayan Arya speaking to Deputy CM Dushyant Singh Chautala while CM Manohar Lal Khattar looks on in Chandigarh on Sunday. ■ AKHILESH KUMAR

The BJP shortlist is expected to be sent to party president Amit Shah and working president J.P. Nadda for final approval, the source said.

Among the frontrunners from the BJP include six-time MLA and former Health Minister Anil Viji, former Speaker Kanwar Pal Gujjar and former Minister Banwari Lal from Bawali.

The names of Kamal Gupta, Subhash Sudha, Seema Trikha, Mahaipal Dhanda,

Deepak Mangla and Ghanashyam Saraf too are doing the rounds.

From the JJP, Ram Kumar Gautam from Narnaund and Ishwar Singh from Gulha Cheeka are among the probables.

Independents in race

Independent MLAs Ranjit Chautala from Rania and Balraj Kundu, who won from Meham after being denied BJP candidature, are prominent among those in the race.

The BJP emerged as the single largest party by winning 40 seats in the Assembly election but fell short of six seats to form the government on its own.

In the 90-member Haryana House, the majority mark is 46.

The BJP and the JJP, which secured 10 seats, came together to form an alliance government in the State.

Cong. to face polls with 'lessons learnt'

The party will focus on local issues

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

The Congress's fighting numbers in the recent Assembly elections have prompted its leaders to talk about "lessons learnt" for elections in Jharkhand and Haryana in the next few months.

In the party's post-mortem on the Assembly results in Haryana, the delay in appointing a new leadership, including former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, to steer the party was identified as a key reason.

Shashi Tharoor, MP, in a recent interview, admitted that the party was "stunned into negligence" after the Lok Sabha election rout, and the delay in making organisational changes hurt it in Haryana.

Former Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee chief Ajay Maken said, "Going ahead, I think in Delhi, we should declare our candidates almost. This way we can compensate for the delay in announcing a new PCC chief." After the death of former Delhi unit chief Sheila Dikshit, the party took three months to name veteran Subhash Chopra as her replacement last week.

But in Jharkhand, it was quick in naming Rameshwar Oraon as State party chief after Ajay Kumar quit to join the Aam Aadmi Party. Starting early will not only give the Opposition time to focus on the campaign against the incumbent State government but also help it identify issues that voters relate to. "Voters don't always want to hear what is wrong but also how a party can effectively address it," said Naresh Arora, who handled the Congress campaign in Haryana.

The Congress's Rafale-centric campaign in this year Lok Sabha election that created slogans such as *Chowkidar chor hain* did not click with the voters and was privately questioned by

Meet to plan protests on slowdown

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi has convened a meeting of general secretaries and heads of the frontal organisations on November 2.

The meeting is likely to discuss the party's agitational programmes between November 5 and 15 on issues relating to the economic slowdown.

The party has decided to oppose the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

many within the party. That is why the party sought to keep its campaign mostly on local issues such as high power tariff, law and order, especially women's security, and steep increase in fines for traffic offences. "The party must believe in its own capabilities and be able to control the narrative," said Mr. Arora, who barely got a month to devise the Haryana campaign.

Though the BJP raised national issues such as the withdrawal of the special status to J&K under Article 370, the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and Pakistan, they had limited appeal among voters.

The Assembly elections also reinforced the importance of focusing on local issues and local leadership.

If it was Mr. Hooda who led from the front in Haryana, in Maharashtra, the image of NCP chief Sharad Pawar addressing a rally in Pune while getting soaked in rain was a defining image of the elections.

In several former Congress-ruled States, the absence of a popular mass leader to take on the incumbents has been a concern.

Cong. gains a clear edge in M.P. House

With Jhabua bypoll win, the party is just one short of the majority mark of 116

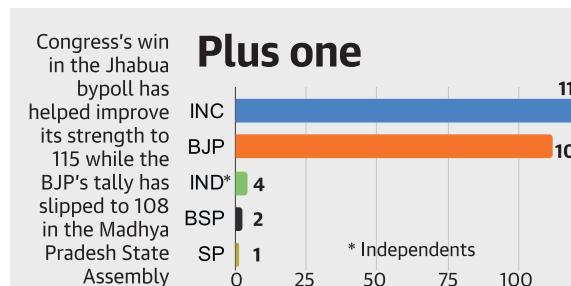
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The recent Jhabua byelection win has given a clear edge to the Congress in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly.

The party, which has been dependent on the support of four Independent MLAs for a majority, is now just one short of the majority mark (116) on its own in the 230-member House.

The BJP, on the other hand, now has 108 MLAs.

Congress candidate Kanti



Lal Bhuria won the Jhabua seat by over 27,000 votes. He polled almost 56% of the

votes defeating his nearest rival, Bhanu Bhuria, of the BJP.

After losing the Karnataka government to defections by party MLAs, the Congress has been alert to any possible attempt of poaching.

Yechury, Panda to debate Kashmir at Oxford Union

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

The Oxford Union Society will be holding a debate "Jammu & Kashmir: Should Special Status Have Been Revoked?" this Wednesday with CPI (M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury speaking against the motion and BJP leader Bajrang Pandit arguing in favour.

Mr. Yechury was the only Indian politician who managed to enter Kashmir during its more than 60-day shutdown.

He tried entering the State twice. Once, with others

er Left party colleagues and again as part of the joint delegation of Opposition leaders. On both occasions the politicians were turned away.

The last outing of an Indian politician at the Oxford Union was Salman Kurshid speaking in favour of partition of the Indian sub-continent. In 2015, Shashi Tharoor's speech on the topic "Britain owes reparations to her former colonies" at the same platform went viral and is still one of the top three debates held at the society in recent years.

He landed and soon started talking about democracy.

"We realised that Mr. Prasad was aware that a team on ground, headed by Abhijit Banerjee, was filming him, so he started talking about his days in MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) and Oxford, where he had gone to give lectures," said Ranu Ghosh, a cinematographer, who now shuttles between Germany and India.

She and Mr. Banerjee, who received the Nobel Prize in Economics earlier this month, jointly directed

a film, *Magnificent Journey: Times and Tales of Democracy*. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

entertainment in the village. So we come to hear him for entertainment, but we may or may not vote for him," said Ms. Ghosh on phone from Hamburg.

The voters in India, according to her, have another "insightful" habit.

The filmmakers now plan to make a series of shorts from the footage, and also screen the film in festivals, universities and in civil society forums in India and abroad.

Chidambaram discharged from AIIMS

The Cong. leader was admitted to the hospital after he complained of uneasiness

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, who is currently in the custody of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the INX Media case, was taken to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on Monday after he complained of uneasiness. He was later discharged.

Mr. Chidambaram was brought to the AIIMS around 5.30 p.m. and shifted to a VIP private room for a thorough medical examination



P. Chidambaram arriving at the Enforcement Directorate office after a medical check up at AIIMS on Monday. ■ ANI

by a team of doctors, said a hospital official.

It is learnt that on Monday

Rajnath to attend SCO meet in Uzbekistan

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh would represent India at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) heads of state meeting in Uzbekistan later this week, defence sources said.

On the bilateral front, the first Army exercise between India and Uzbekistan is scheduled to begin next week.

"Mr. Singh will travel to

Uzbekistan on a three-day visit from November 1 to 3. He will represent Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the SCO heads of state meeting on November 2, and on November 3, he will hold a bilateral meeting with his Uzbek counterpart," a defence source said on Monday.

The two countries are discussing agreements on military education and military medicine and two MoUs "could be signed".

IN BRIEF



Nagas from outside not indigenous: Jamir

GUWAHATI
Former Nagaland Chief Minister S.C. Jamir has said that being a Naga by blood does not mean a person is indigenous to Nagaland. Only those born and brought up in Nagaland were indigenous, he said at the launch of the Nagaland Indigenous People's Forum in Dimapur on Sunday. Similar is the case with the non-Naga Kacharis, he said.

Prince Charles to visit India in November

LONDON
Prince Charles of the U.K. will make an official visit to India next month with a focus on sustainable markets, climate change and social finance, his office said on Monday. The Prince, 70, will arrive in New Delhi for the two-day visit on November 13. It will be his 10th official visit to India. His last was as part of a tour of various nations with his wife Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, in November 2017. REUTERS

Countdown begins for J&K's transition

Process of formation of two Union Territories will begin with the swearing-in of Lieutenant-Governors

VIJAYA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The State of Jammu and Kashmir will transition into two Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh on October 31, and the process will begin with the swearing-in of the two newly appointed Lieutenant-Governors in Srinagar and Leh, respectively. The bifurcation and downgrade of the State into Union Territories will be a "low-key" affair, a senior official said.

Gita Mittal, Chief Justice of the J&K High Court, will administer the oath to G.C. Murmu in Srinagar and then fly to Leh for the swearing-in of Radha Krishna Mahur.

Under the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019 passed by Parliament on August 6, the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of J&K has been increased from 107 to 114. Ladakh will not have an Assembly

Kashmir in transition

Just a few days are left for the State of Jammu & Kashmir to cease to exist and the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh to come into existence

August 6: Parliament passes the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019

October 31: The Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh will come into existence

■ The number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of J&K has been increased from 107 to 114. Ladakh will not have an Assembly



On alert: Security personnel keeping vigil on the Jammu-Srinagar highway during the 'Darbar Move' from Srinagar to Jammu on Monday. This is the first seasonal shifting of the capital after the revocation of the special status of J&K. ■ PTI

rules to govern under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 are yet to be notified though.

After October 31, 106 Central laws will be applicable to J&K, along with 166 State Acts, including the Governor's Act. The reorganisation Act says 153 State laws will be repealed.

October 31 coincides with the birth anniversary of Saradar Vallabhji Patel. An official said Prime Minister Narendra Modi would visit the Statue of Unity at Kevadia in Gujarat to mark the occasion and Home Minister Amit Shah would flag off a "Run for Unity" in Delhi the same day.

The official said the two events were not linked to the reorganisation of J&K. "The UTs of J&K and Ladakh will come into existence as other newly carved out States have come up in the past. The most recent example is Telangana – the Act was passed in March 2014 and the appointed day was June 2,

Earlier, the Home Ministry appointed a three-member committee to apportion the assets and liabilities of the State of J&K between the two UTs.

The committee is yet to submit its report.

Bank takes 'possession' of MLA's flat over dues

NCP leader has not repaid coop loan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PUNE

A Pune-based bank has taken "symbolic possession" of a flat owned by newly elected NCP MLA Dhananjay Munde here for alleged non-payment of a loan of ₹70 lakh.

The NCP leader defeated his cousin Pankaja Munde in the just-concluded Maharashtra Assembly election from Parli in Beed district of central Maharashtra.

The Pune-headquartered Shivajirao Bhosale Cooperative Bank Ltd. had published an advertisement/notice related to the flat in a newspaper on October 25, the day after election results were declared.

'Symbolic takeover'

"Since the respondent has failed to repay the loan amount, the bank has taken symbolic possession of the property," the notice said.

In symbolic possession, the property remains in the possession of the owner.

The flat in question is lo-



Dhananjay Munde

cated at 'Yugai Greens' project in Model Colony in Shrivijanagar here.

A bank official said if the borrower fails to repay the outstanding amount, the bank will send a proposal to the Collector to take physical possession of the property.

Due to "serious irregularities" in the functioning of the cooperative lender, its board was dismissed earlier this month by the RBI, which subsequently appointed an administrator to run the bank, promoted by NCP MLC Anil Shivajirao Bhosale.

Another truck driver killed in Kashmir

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Unidentified gunmen killed a truck driver in Anantnag on Monday evening.

The police said Narayan Dutt from Udhampur in Jammu was shot from a close range in the Kanliwan area of Bijbehara. He died in hospital. This is the sixth such casualty this month. Gunmen killed one driver on October 7, two on October 16 and two on October 24. All were from outside the State.

Nineteen civilians were injured in a grenade explosion near a bus stand in the Sopore area of Baramulla district on Monday afternoon. One of the four women injured is in a critical condition.

Opposition questions invite to MEPs to visit Kashmir

Disrespect to sovereignty of Indian Parliament: Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Leaders from across the political spectrum expressed outrage at the government's decision to take a delegation of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to Jammu and Kashmir, while no Indian MP has been allowed to visit.

The Congress questioned the move asking whether this is a "new version of Indian nationalism". "Government rolling out the red carpet to EU MPs, briefing them and inviting them to visit Jammu and Kashmir is a disrespect to the sovereignty of Indian Parliament and violation of the privileges of Indian MPs," Anand Sharma,



Anand Sharma
the party's Deputy Leader in the Rajya Sabha, said.

Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Jairam Ramesh called it an "outright insult" of Indian Parliament. Shashi Tharoor, party MP, expressed similar views.

BJP's Rajya Sabha member Subramanian Swamy

called the surprise visit of the EU parliamentarians a "perversion of national policy".

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said on Twitter, "I was allowed to enter Srinagar only when the Supreme Court permitted me over my *habeas corpus* petition. Even today, Indian MPs are not allowed while Modi welcomes MEPs! #Kashmir."

Ittija Mufti, who tweets on behalf of her mother, former J&K CM Mehbooba Mufti, said: "...a group of far right & fascist leaning EU MPs is allowed by GOI. Your ticket to Kashmir is possible only if you're a fascist with a visceral hatred for Muslims."

The council will be led by Mr. Modi and King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. Both sides are expected to seal several other agreements during Mr. Modi's visit.

Formation of the Council has been under discussion for some time and found mention during Crown Prince Mohammed bin Sal-

India, Saudi to form strategic council

Kashmir unlikely to get any attention from Saudi rulers, says ex-envoy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India and Saudi Arabia are set to sign an agreement for creating a bilateral strategic partnership council on Tuesday during the official visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Riyadh. The council will include multiple sections involving the External Affairs Ministry and NITI Aayog and counterpart organisations from Saudi Ara-

bia.

The council will be led by Mr. Modi and King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. Both sides are expected to seal several other agreements during Mr. Modi's visit.

Formation of the Council has been under discussion for some time and found mention during Crown Prince Mohammed bin Sal-

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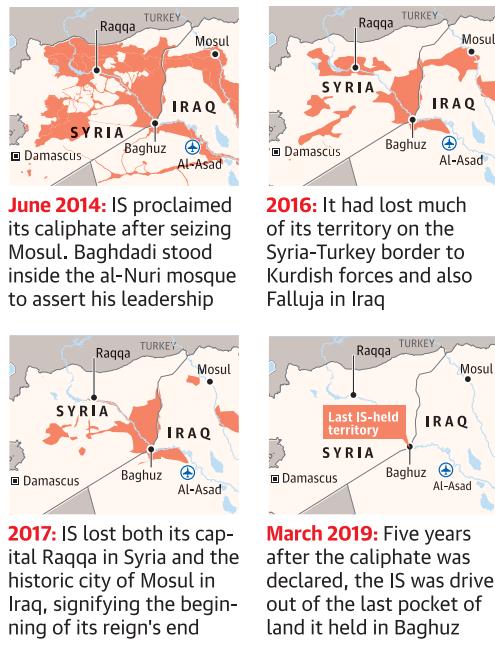
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5-year reign of terror ends

Islamic State (IS) leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi left behind a horrific trail of beheadings, mass executions, rapes, abductions and ethnic cleansing in his five years as the self-proclaimed 'caliph'. A look at the somewhat-reclusive jihadist leader and his cult-like status among his followers:

RISE AND FALL OF THE 'CALIPHATE'

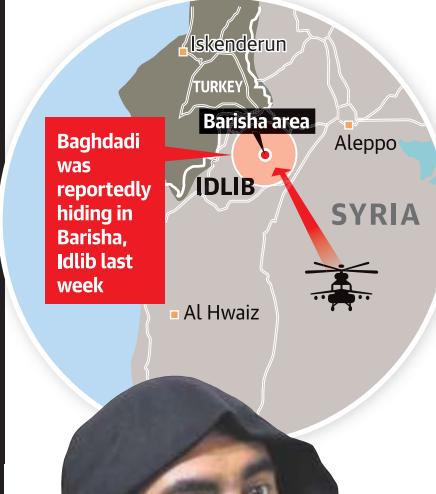


C He spent his last moments in utter fear, in total panic and dread, terrified of the American forces bearing down on him

DONALD TRUMP, U.S. President on Baghdadi

BAGHDADI'S TRAIL

- 1971: Born Ibrahim Awad Ibrahim al-Badri. Grows up in a religious family in Jallam; later moves to Samarra
- 1991: Enrolls in the Shariah college of Baghdad University. Later obtains doctorate from Saddam University
- 2003: Joins Al-Qaeda in Iraq following the U.S.-led invasion, later becomes the leader of Islamic State in Iraq (ISI)
- 2005: Captured by U.S. forces in the Iraqi city of Fallujah and held at Abu Ghraib and Camp Bucca detention facilities. Released after 10 months
- 2010: Emerges as leader of Islamic State in Iraq
- 2011-2013: U.S. places \$10 million bounty on Baghdadi's head after a series of bomb attacks in Iraq
- June 2014: Declares himself Caliph
- Nov. 3, 2016: Baghdadi cites Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and other countries where the IS has established affiliates
- Aug. 23, 2018: Downplays the importance of the group's territorial losses in a recording
- April 29, 2019: Baghdadi re-emerges in an 18-minute video, claims that the Easter Sunday attacks in Sri Lanka were acts of revenge for the defeat in Baghouz, Syria
- Oct. 27: President Donald Trump claims Baghdadi is dead after a U.S. raid in Idlib
- March 2019: Five years after the caliphate was declared, the IS was driven out of the last pocket of land it held in Baghouz
- 2017: IS lost both its capital Raqa in Syria and the historic city of Mosul in Iraq, signifying the beginning of its reign's end



KEY NUMBERS

1,00,000 sq km

Territory controlled by the IS when it declared its caliphate in mid-2014

30,000-35,000

Number of foreign fighters once in the group from more than 80 countries

\$2 billion

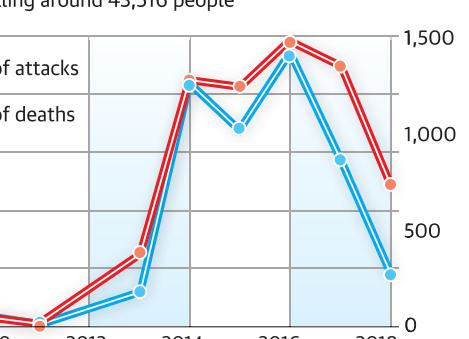
Value of assets once in control of the group due to its hold over natural resources, taxation, criminal activities

11 million

Number of people once under its occupation

DEALING IN DEATHS

The IS carried out about 6,600 attacks in the 2007-2018 period, killing around 43,516 people



The years 2014 and 2016 saw the maximum number of fatalities

1,570 people were killed in the first battle of Tikrit, Iraq

400+ fatalities were recorded when the IS re-took Palmyra in Syria

CORNED AND CRUSHED

Here is how the operation to capture and kill Baghdadi unfolded in the last few days:

May 2019: Joint U.S., Turkish and Iraqi operation captures senior IS leaders. Fighters reveal that Baghdadi is present in Idlib

Oct. 26, 5 p.m.: Trump enters Situation Room to watch raid in real time. Delta Force commandos in eight helicopters – mostly CH-47 Chinooks – take off from Al-Asad airbase in Iraq

Oct. 24: White House learns there is "high probability" that Baghdadi is at a compound near Idlib's Barisha village

Oct. 25: Military options are given to Trump

Oct. 26, 5 p.m.: Trump enters Situation Room to watch raid in real time. Delta Force commandos in eight helicopters – mostly CH-47 Chinooks – take off from Al-Asad airbase in Iraq

Oct. 27, 1,000 a.m.: Troops dig through debris to recover body parts. Technicians conduct onsite DNA tests and positively identify Baghdadi

Troops remain in compound for two hours and recover material about the IS group

3:00 a.m.: Troops leave, U.S. fighter jets fire six rockets at compound, levelling it (left)

Source: Wilson Center, Center for International Security and Cooperation, AP, Graphic News, Global Terrorism Database | GRAPHIC: A. GANESAN

U.S. could release part of Baghdadi raid video, says Trump

Believed to have aerial footage of operation

REUTERS
WASHINGTON/MOSCOW

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday that he may declassify and release part of the video taken on Saturday of the raid in Syria in which Islamic State (IS) leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed. The video is believed to include aerial footage and possibly footage from cameras mounted on the soldiers who stormed Baghdadi's compound.

"We're thinking about it. We may," Mr. Trump told reporters before flying to Chi-



In the situation room of the White House, U.S. President Donald Trump watched as Special Operations forces closed in on Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. ■ AP

cago. "We may take certain parts of it and release it."

World leaders welcomed Baghdadi's death, but said the campaign against the Islamic State (IS) was not over, with so-called lone wolves

likely to seek revenge.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov declined to say if the U.S. had told Russia about the operation in advance. But he added: "If this information is confirmed, we

can talk about a serious contribution by the President of the United States to the fight against international terrorism."

Fight goes on

French President Emmanuel Macron said Baghdadi's death was a major blow against the IS but "the fight continues to finally defeat this terrorist organisation". British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: "We will work with our coalition partners to bring an end to the murderous, barbaric activities of Daesh (Islamic State) once and for all."

In Southeast Asia, an important focus for IS, officials said security forces were preparing for a long battle to

thwart the group's ideology.

The Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia, home to some of Asia's most organised Islamist militants, said they were braced for retaliation by Islamic State loyalists, including "lone wolf" attacks by radicalised locals.

U.S. foe Iran, which accuses the U.S. and its allies of creating Islamic State, was dismissive. Information Minister Mohammad Javad Azari-Jahromi, tweeted: "Not a big deal, You just killed your creature".

The group has claimed responsibility for or inspired attacks in cities including Paris, Nice, Orlando, Manchester, London and Berlin, and in Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

Who could be the next IS leader?

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIRUT

The U.S. declaration of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's death opens the question of his succession at the helm of the Islamic State (IS) and analysts say the list looks short.

It was limited further on Sunday night after Kurdish fighters in Syria said they had killed IS spokesman Abu Hassan al-Muhajir – another prominent figure – in a joint operation with U.S. forces.

IS social media channels have not confirmed President Donald Trump's announcement on Sunday that Baghdadi had been killed in a U.S. raid in Syria, nor al-

luded to potential successors.

But Hisham al-Hashemi, an Iraqi expert on IS, said two potential candidates stand out: Abu Othman al-Tunsi and Abu Saleh al-Juzzawi, who is also known as Hajj Abdullah. The first – a Tunisian national – heads the IS's Shura Council, a legislative and consultative body, Mr. Hashemi said. The second – a Saudi – runs the jihadist group's so-called Delegated Committee, an executive body, he added.

These "possible options" would nonetheless be controversial, according to the IS expert, because neither is

a Syrian or Iraqi national, who make up the bulk of IS's guerrilla force. "This could lead to defections," he said.

Aymenn Jawad Tamimi, an academic and expert on jihadis, also identified the elusive Hajj Abdullah as a potential successor. "He turns up in leaked IS documents as a deputy of Baghdadi and to my knowledge, he is not dead," he said.

Whoever gets the job will inherit the difficult task of leading a frayed organisation that has been reduced to scattered sleeper cells after continuous offensives stripped it of its territory in Iraq and Syria.

Refrain from giving opinions, Pak. regulator tells TV anchors

Hosts should not appear as subject matter experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's electronic media regulator has barred television anchors from giving "opinions" during talk shows and has limited their role of being a "moderator", a report said on Monday.

In an order issued on Sunday, the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) also directed anchors hosting regular shows

"not to appear as experts" in talk shows in their own or other channels, the Dawn newspaper reported. As per the PEMRA code of conduct, the role of anchors is to moderate the programmes in an objective, unbiased and impartial manner, excluding themselves from their personal biases on any issue. "Therefore, anchors hosting exclusive regular shows should not appear in

talk shows, whether own or other channels," as subject matter experts," the report said, citing the order.

The order comes following a ruling by the Islamabad High Court last week in the matter of Shahbaz Sharif vs. the state that took cognizance of various TV talk shows in which anchors, in violation of the code of conduct, tried to malign the judiciary, the report said.

The source stressed that the third Brexit delay would come with conditions, in-

cluding a refusal to renegotiate the divorce agreement and giving a green light to other EU countries to meet without Britain to discuss the bloc's future.

Britain's departure has already been delayed twice – from March 29 and April 12 – after Mr. Johnson's predecessor, Theresa May, failed three times to get her deal ratified by Parliament.

With British politics still paralysed over carrying out Brexit three-and-a-half years after a 52%-48% referendum

Third Brexit delay comes with conditions

European Union won't renegotiate divorce agreement, says official

REUTERS
LONDON/BRUSSELS

French President Emmanuel Macron had been the main hurdle to giving Britain a Brexit extension, arguing there had to be a good reason for a delay and that the British needed to break their own political deadlock. But a source close to Mr. Macron said the prospect of an election in Britain had strengthened significantly.

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With British politics still paralysed over carrying out Brexit three-and-a-half years after a 52%-48% referendum

vote in favour of leaving the EU, Mr. Johnson is demanding that Parliament approve an election on December 12 in return for more time to adopt his deal. But he needs

the support of two-thirds, or 434, of the 650 lawmakers for a new election.

The EU is fatigued by Britain's Brexit crisis but keen not to be held responsible for an economically tumultuous "no-deal" rupture.

An EU diplomat said the hope was that the British would use the postponement wisely. Even though the United Kingdom is set to leave, it will have a legal obligation to nominate a new commissioner for the EU's powerful executive body.

ELSEWHERE



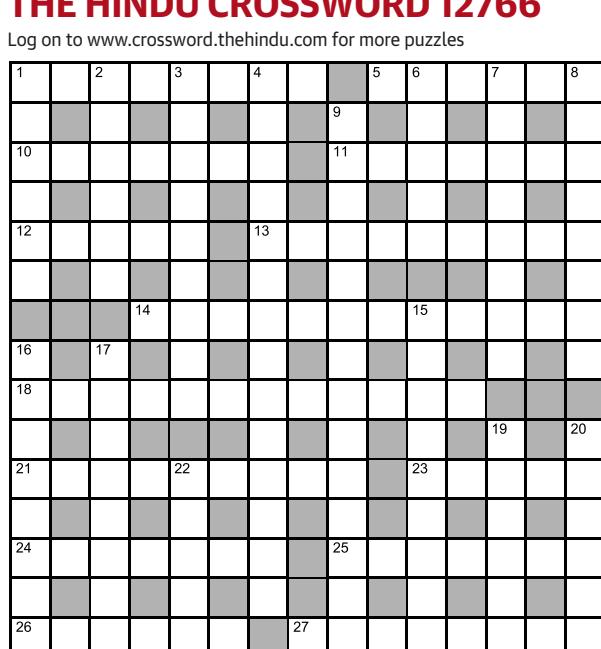
Truck driver remanded over death of 39 migrants

LONDON

A U.K. court on Monday remanded in custody truck driver Maurice Robinson over the deaths of 39 Asian migrants he had been smuggling. Robinson was charged on Saturday with 39 counts of manslaughter, money laundering and conspiracy to assist unlawful immigration. REUTERS

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12766

Log on to www.crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



ACROSS

- 1 Dogs hide and step back (8)
- 5 Service provided over a palm (6)
- 10 Arrays of exotic carpets (7)
- 11 Beginning now, a side can enter nine times (7)
- 12 30's music is child's play (5)
- 13 One on a visit, greets his fan (9)
- 14 It's providing fun – participate, incomes twice in game (12)
- 18 Entertainment creates unnecessary fuss (4,3,5)
- 21 Flyer to fill out/fill in flock (9)
- 23 He loves to carry cattle fodder on the way back (5)
- 24 Inside plant an alternate shrub (7)
- 25 After song have rest... (3,4)
- 26 ...had some time to add fizz (6)
- 27 For support take for example your pupil (8)

DOWN

- 1 The most learned is checking direction (6)
- 19 Strip and have run-in with mob (6)
- 20 Relax with one in tow regularly (6)

SUDOKU

5	7	9						
9	7	4	8					2
3			9					6

SC order: Mittal knocks on govt. doors

Telecom firms owe billions of dollars in statutory dues that they have not fully provisioned for

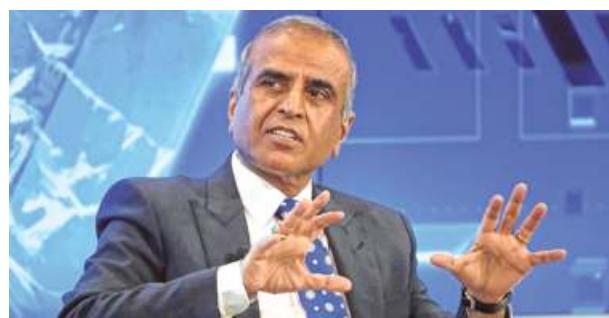
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Telecom tycoon Sunil Bharti Mittal on Monday came knocking on the doors of top government officials, including Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, over billions of dollars in statutory dues such as spectrum and licence fee liability that his and other telcos had not fully provisioned for in their accounts.

Sources said Mr. Mittal first met Mr. Prasad and then Telecom Secretary Anshu Prakash, apparently over the liability arising from the Supreme Court upholding the government's view on how revenue should be calculated for sharing of statutory dues.

Kumar Mangalam Birla, head of Vodafone-Idea Ltd.,



Ringing in trouble: Sunil Bharti Mittal-run Bharti Airtel faces a liability of about ₹42,000 crore. ■REUTERS

which has also been severely hit by the ruling, was expected to come for the meeting but has now sought a different time slot, they said.

Delivering its verdict, the Supreme Court had, on October 24, upheld the government's contention that non-

core revenue in telecom groups should be included in adjusted gross revenue – the figure on which statutory levies are charged.

Sources said telecom operators are looking to the government for a possible relief, such as waiver of

penalties and interest though the Supreme Court had categorically stated that companies must pay many years' worth of charges, plus interest and penalties.

Ideally, companies are required to make provisions in their books for any potential liability that may arise from a legal dispute.

While e-mails sent to Bharti Airtel and Vodafone-Idea on the impact of the Supreme Court judgment and provisioning remained unanswered, industry sources said provisioning for the full amount has not been made.

The companies also did not respond to a separate e-mail on their meeting with government representatives.

Also, there is no sight of

promoters willing to infuse more equity into the companies to clear the liabilities.

According to the DoT's calculations, Bharti Airtel faces a liability of about ₹42,000 crore after including licence fee and spectrum usage charges while Vodafone-Idea may have to pay about ₹40,000 crore.

No money to pay

After the judgment, the telcos had stated that they didn't have the money to pay the government.

Government officials, however, feel both companies have enough capacity and capability to raise funds through means such as equity from promoters and monetising some of their assets.

'Ambiguity in policy to be blamed for SC order on AGR'

The Supreme Court has only gone by the rule of law'

SANJAY VIJAYAKUMAR

CHENNAI

Policymakers are to be blamed for the Supreme Court's order on adjusted gross revenue (AGR) and they have to step in now to correct the situation, according to T.V. Ramachandran, president, Broadband India Forum.

According to the DoT's calculations, Bharti Airtel faces a liability of about ₹42,000 crore after including licence fee and spectrum usage charges while Vodafone-Idea may have to pay about ₹40,000 crore.

"[The] Supreme Court has gone by the rule of law.

In my opinion, it has looked at the contract, words of the contract and said 'okay'; strictly speaking, as per the definition of AGR given by Department of Telecommunications (DoT), they are right and operators are wrong," Mr. Ramachandran said.

the government has to step in to correct the situation.

He also said that the verdict was one more challenge with regards to the implementation of 5G. However, Mr. Ramachandran said, the 5G trials must get going.

"I am not saying that we have to make massive investments right now. You must make suitable investment to facilitate the trials. Otherwise, we will lose further time," he said.

Mr. Ramachandran urged the government to start work on 6G, into which countries such as China, Korea and Finland have already started research.

L&T bets on big defence orders to sustain growth

Engineering major keen to participate in submarine project

PIYUSH PANDEY

MUMBAI

Engineering and construction major Larsen and Toubro (L&T) is betting on big orders from the defence segment in the second half of this fiscal to boost its order book and sustain growth momentum.

L&T's MD and CEO S.N. Subrahmanyam told *The Hindu*, "In defence shipbuilding, after a long time, the government has come out with 9-10 requests for quotation (RFQs). If we are even lucky in getting one or two, our shipbuilding yard will be occupied. I am optimistic and it should happen in the next 3-4 months."

In June, the Defence Ministry issued four shipbuilding requests for proposal

(RFP) amounting to ₹15,000 crore for the acquisition of various ships and craft for the Navy and Coast Guard.

The government is considering a mega ₹60,000 crore 'Make in India' project named P75I for the construction of six conventional submarines with advanced abilities to stay underwater for extended periods. L&T is keen to participate in the project and has opposed the idea that submarine projects should be given to public sector shipbuilders on a nomination basis.

Mr. Subrahmanyam said, "Submarine is a strategic issue. The government is talking about Indian make of P74I; they [government] will have to decide the foreign partner first for the technol-

ogy and then it will be made in India with local partners."

'Policy inaction'

According to L&T, the sector continues to be plagued with policy inaction on allowing the private sector to participate in defence manufacturing and fabrication.

With a ₹573-crore in orders during Q2, L&T's order book in the defence arena stood at ₹10,603 crore as on September 30, 2019, with the international order book constituting 16% of the total.

"The execution of tracked artillery gun order continues to drive revenue growth and margins in the segment. The current policy continues to inhibit private sector participation," said L&T Group CFO R. Shankar Raman.

'Deep discounts by e-com firms hitting GST revenue'

They sell well below market price: CAIT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has written to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman alleging loss of GST revenue to the government due to deep discounting by e-commerce firms, particularly Amazon and Flipkart.

Seeking investigation into the business model of both the players, CAIT said e-commerce companies sell goods much below their market value, thereby denying the government the legitimate GST revenue.

"E-commerce portals, particularly Amazon and Flipkart, where deep discounts ranging from 10-80% are being given... is quite abnormal and generally not available in offline market...[online] sales are made on

a much lower price than the market value of the product and as such the GST is charged by them on the sale price," CAIT secretary general Praveen Khandelwal said in the letter.

Actual value

Stating that under the GST Act, the government has the power to determine actual market value of the products if it appears to be underbilled, CAIT said it had sent similar letters to Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal as well as the Finance Ministers of all the States.

"By lowering the price artificially in order to capture market, these e-commerce companies are causing huge loss of GST revenue to the government and violating the FDI policy of the government," it alleged.

Amazon India's e-com arm narrows loss to ₹5,685 crore

Rival Flipkart logs loss of ₹3,837 crore in 2018-19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Amazon Seller Services, the online marketplace arm of the e-commerce giant in India, has narrowed its loss to ₹5,685 crore for 2018-19.

This is a 9.5% decrease from the last financial year, when the company had posted a loss of ₹6,287.9 crore, as per documents sourced by business intelligence platform Tofler.

Amazon Seller Services saw revenues growing 55% to ₹7,778 crore in 2018-19 over the previous fiscal, it added. Coupled with its other entities in India, Amazon's losses in India in FY2018-19 were over ₹7,000 crore.

Amazon Wholesale India, the B2B arm of the American e-commerce giant, reported its revenues for financial



Services reported 31% rise in revenues at ₹2,079 crore, while its net loss was at ₹27.5 crore in 2018-19. Emails sent to Amazon India did not elicit a response.

Flipkart India, the B2B arm of Walmart-owned Flipkart, has registered a higher loss of ₹3,836.8 crore during 2018-19 as compared to the previous financial year, according to regulatory documents.

The unit had posted a loss of ₹2,063.8 crore for the financial year ended March 31, 2018, documents filed by Flipkart India with the Corporate Affairs Ministry showed. Flipkart India's revenue from operations, however, saw a 42.82% jump to ₹30,931 crore in 2018-19 from ₹21,657.7 crore in the previous financial year.

Amazon Pay India, its payments arm, recorded a manifold rise in losses. Its loss widened to ₹1,160.8 crore in FY19 from ₹334.20 crore in FY18, as per Tofler.

Amazon Transportation



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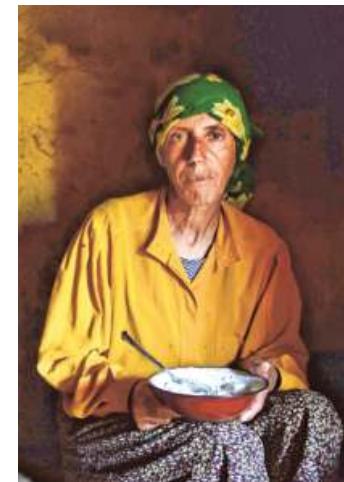
YK

A ND-NDE



We chose not to intervene because we were not there as humanitarians, but documentarians

TAMARA KOTEVSKA



mentary filmmakers and journalists often grapple with – whether to step in at a moment of crisis or chronicle it at a distance. For instance, how a toddler being hounded by bees is filmed without intrusion. "We chose not to intervene because we were not there as humanitarians, but documentarians," says Kotevska. "Even if we got involved, it would only be momentary and we would eventually leave."

Power battles

This sense of distance is also palpable in Oliver Laxe's *Fire Will Come*, which won the jury prize in the Un Certain Regard section at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival. The film starts with a bulldozer razing a thick forest in pitch darkness, and ends with a forest fire. "This is where my grandparents grew up, and there is a rage that this world is disappearing and their (grandparents') values are dying. For me, telling that in a poetic way, is political," says Laxe.

And *Bacurau*, which won the Jury Prize at Cannes this year, showcases a violent takedown of infiltrators in a secluded Brazilian village. The Kleber Mendonça Filho and Juliano Dornelles film could read as an allegorical statement in support of indigenous communities claiming their rightful resources.

Changing climate narratives

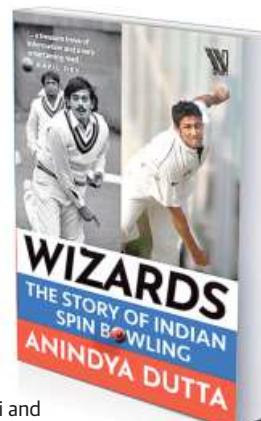
The discourse around the environment and sustainability in cinema is not just finding validation at film festivals in 2019, but is also drawing new voices.

Brazilian filmmaker Fernando Meirelles, director of *Two Popes*, announced at MAMI that his next film will explore climate change. "I try to be hopeful but due to this climate crisis our future is in danger."

The attempt with cinema, for Meirelles, as with other environmentally-conscious filmmakers, is to advocate for introspection, and show the global audience where humanity is headed.

PEOPLE Slowly does it

In his new book, Anindya Dutta pays tribute to people he calls the wizards of spin



Anindya Dutta, today a Singapore-based banker, was seven years old when he watched the Indian spinners dismantle the West Indies batting line up at the Eden Gardens in 1974-75. The trio of B.S. Bedi, E.A.S. Prasanna and B.S. Chandrasekhar, assisted by seamer Madan Lal, set up a famous Indian victory against the formidable opposition led by Clive Lloyd. Madan, in his first international season, claimed five wickets, and Bedi and Chandrasekhar excelled, while Prasanna went wicketless. However, all left their mark on Dutta, who thought the best tribute to them was to write the story of the glorious slow men of Indian cricket.

The 454-page effort, dedicated to a special breed of bowlers and titled *Wizards: The Story of Indian Spin Bowling* (Westland Sport), recounts some of the best performances in India's cricket history, beginning with P. Baloo and Yuzvendra Chahal to Kuldeep Yadav. "It was an absolute honour and thrill for me to speak to and meet my cricketing idols," says Dutta.

"At a very personal level spin bowling has always had a special place in my heart and my life. My first memories of a cricket match are that of watching Bedi and Chandrasekhar bowl at the Eden Gardens. The contrast of Bedi's smooth silky action and the beautiful loop of the red ball with Chandra's feverish action and the extreme unpredictability of what he would bowl next, was a heady combination that hooked me for life. When he was on song, the young me often wanted Chandra to bowl from both ends! I firmly believe that Indian cricket is what it is today because of the heritage of spin," says Dutta.

The book is not merely the history of spin. "In Wizards..., I have told the story of Indian spin through the lives and deeds of the bowlers, their triumphs and travails," he says, adding that just records were inadequate.

The book, easy to follow for non-cricket enthusiasts too, chronicles the progress of spin in India, through deep, long conversations. "I was simply staggered by the humility of these great bowlers who not only gave me time generously, but also spent a long time talking about their craft and the technicalities involved in spin bowling," Dutta adds.

This is Dutta's second book on cricket, after *Spell Binding Spells* written two years ago.

Available at bookstores and on Amazon.in; ₹599

VIJAY LOKAPALLY

PRODUCTS

Bits of Bidri



Paro by Good Earth has a range of Bidri home décor pieces. The metal craft, once patronised by the Bahmani Sultans, is essentially made of a blackened alloy of zinc and copper, and is inlaid with pure silver. The Brahmani Bull is a piece that's inspired by the Harappan Bull, which was excavated at an Indus Valley site, while the Bidri bowl incorporates a whimsical stars-and-moon pattern.

Parogodearth.com; upwards of ₹10,000

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

KENNETH ROSARIO

A month after Europe experienced the hottest June in history, a train full of children travelled from Berlin to Oranienburg, taking the Fridays for Future cause (started by Greta Thunberg, 16, in Sweden last year) across towns.

As the school strike for the climate snowballed into a global movement recently, critics pitted them against indigenous communities. The accusation was that the natives have been fighting climate change away from media attention.

But a few films in 2019 – and the line-up at the recently-concluded

21st Mumbai Film Festival (MAMI) – have not just highlighted indigenous communities, but also moved beyond traditional disaster narratives and didactic documentaries.

The sting in Honeyland

The North Macedonian entry to the 92nd Academy Awards, *Honeyland*, is one such film. Bagging the World Cinema Grand Jury Prize: Documentary at the 2019 Sundance film festival, Tamara Kotevska and Ljubomir Stefanov's feature, opens with an imposing aerial shot of green pastures.

Hatidze Muratova, the last in a

long line of Macedonian wild beekeepers, a woman in her mid-50s, cuts through the frame, occupying a minuscule presence in the landscape. The shot conveys her inconsequentiality in the grand scheme of things, but as the film proceeds, her life and efforts emerge as parabolic of what's happening globally.

Living in isolation with an ageing mother, she collects honey for sustenance. "Half for you, half for me," she says to the bees affectionately, as she fills her jars with the golden liquid and heads to the city to sell them. Until, one day, a nomadic family of seven rambunctious chil-

ren and a herd of cattle settles near her hut.

Initially, she welcomes their arrival but soon there's conflict as the family's patriarch takes more honey than can be sustainably replenished. "The story tells you how greediness works on a very simple level; how it provokes more greediness, leading to damage," observes Stefanov. "All the environmental problems we have today are because of that kind of greediness on a different level."

Shot over three years, the documentary was initially commissioned to be a short environmental film on traditional wild beekeepers. But as the duo spent a couple of months with Muratova, they discovered a potential for a feature that finds relevance in the ongoing global discourse on sustainability.

But *Honeyland* is more than an environmental lesson. Shot over three years, it captures a haunting sense of isolation of natives, where Muratova imagines the rest of her life in solitude with her dying mother. Contained in a candle-lit hut, the directors are privy to Muratova's moment of grief when that moment finally arrives. "It was the hardest to shoot but she called us when her mother was dying and we shot for 10 minutes and walked away," says Stefanov.

It is an ethical dilemma docu-

#DELHIMOVES

India's first Ultraman format event will soon take place in Delhi

GAGAN DHILLON KULLAR

Amateur athletes usually train for just a few events every year. The whole year has been a training season for Manisha Srivastava, a 47-year-old former HR professional, and mother of two daughters. When she ran the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon a few weeks ago, it was a cakewalk.

This year has been physically demanding for Manisha. "In February, I completed a full Ironman distance at the Delhi International Triathlon. Then, in April I finished the Boston Marathon," she says. In June, she stood third in the women's category at South Africa's Comrades Marathon, an ultra-race where runners take on 86.83 km. Last month, she finished the Khar-



Ultra (wo)man Manisha trains near her Gurugram home

• MANOJ KUMAR

rance. Manisha will be swimming, cycling and running against athletes and even some naval officers. "My main concern for the ultra in November is Delhi-NCR's traffic and my cycle (Giant SCR). I hope my cycle keeps me steady," she says.

To stay in the competition, on day one, participants must swim 10K within six hours and then cycle 145 k.m. within seven hours. On day two, with no time built in for fatigue, athletes cycle 276 k.m. within 13 hours. The third day will have an 84 k.m. run to be completed within 13 hours.

In the days leading up to the Ultraman, Manisha divides her time between strength training (for 1-2 hours), running and swimming (for an hour or more). She has been cycling indoors for about 2-3 hours but plans to head out into the traffic soon. "I have the endurance factor covered. I am now looking at instructional videos to perfect (swim, run, cycle) my technique," she says.

Manisha is supported by her husband and two daughters, 23 and 19, all three of whom are also runners.

From November 23-25; register at Ultraman India 2019 by DIT on in.explara.com or Facebook; ₹25,000

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



Laposz Julesi's Band

MUSIC

Hungarian folk music

IIC is hosting Laposz Julesi's Band from Hungary that will perform folk music and dance from the country. The band consists of Laposz Julesi (vocals and violin), Pál Havasréti (cello and hurdy-gurdy), Károly Horváth (vocals and alto), and Zolán Szabó (bagpipe and flute), along with dancers Fanni Sosovszica and Dániel Bodnár.

VENUE: C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC

TIME: 6:30 p.m.



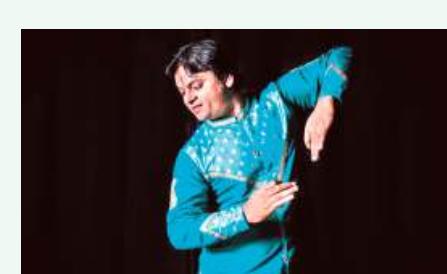
FOOD

Chaat special

Imla, a restaurant that specialises in street food has introduced a specially curated chaat menu for this winter. Dishes on offer include a fusion of popular items: jalebi chaat, samosa taco chaat, ghoogni chaat, fried momo chaat, monaco sev puri bhalla papadi, and gol gappas with mint chutney, to name a few.

VENUE: All outlets in Delhi/NCR

TIME: 10 a.m. - 11 p.m.



PERFORMANCE

Kirana Gharana

IHC will host a Kirana Gharana Gayaki and Kathak dance recital this evening. The event will feature a sarangi performance by Ahsan Ali, and Hindustani classical vocals by Mohsin Ali Khan and Azmat Ali Khan. The event will conclude with a solo Kathak dance recital by renowned artiste Abhimanyu Lal.

VENUE: Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre

TIME: 7 p.m.



FOOD

Festive menu

Masala Gully, a restaurant based in Gurugram has added a new menu for this festive season. In addition to its regular platters, dishes on offer include Til Methi Malai Seekh, Pepper Chicken Ghee Roast, Paneer Tikka Shashlik, Makai Tikki Kebab, Tawa Mutton Chaap, Noorani Seekh Kebab, and Tawa Macchi among others.

VENUE: Sector 53, Golf Course Road

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



GIG

Stand-up comedy

Playground Comedy Studio is hosting a stand-up comic act in Hinglish by Vikramjit Singh this evening. After garnering millions of views online for his many bits, Vikramjit has a collection of funny tales to tell, touching upon topics like friendship, love, money, happiness, and the travails of day-to-day life.

VENUE: Champa Gali, Westend Marg, Saket

TIME: 8 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.

REVIEW

A go-getter for a deluxe

Despite some roadblocks, the OnePlus 7T offers users a budget-friendly entry into the realm of a Fluid AMOLED 90 Hz display

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

Regardless of the ups and downs of my experience with the device over a period of six days, I know for certain that the OnePlus 7T, is great value for money. At under ₹40,000, the device wins on responsiveness, visuals, thanks to the Qualcomm Snapdragon 855+ along with the Fluid AMOLED 90 Hz display.

Not only is it fast to touch, it is also much more sensitive than the iPhone 8 Plus. The colours on streamed videos were richer, and the brightness of the screen felt vivid without being harsh. Its sound quality is great with Dolby Atmos support. A few hours on this device, and my old iPhone 8 Plus felt a little... dated.

The device itself was much lighter, too. Its matte-frosted back felt less like a hazard to use without a cover when compared to the iPhone 8 Plus' glass back, though some users of the older OnePlus models thought the 7T was heavier in comparison to its predecessors and worse off in terms of grip. The same set also complained about the 7T's screen height, but I



Handheld ease The OnePlus 7T
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

thought it was ideal – the 6.55-inch screen, with an effective use of the almost-no-bezel experience, gave me a clear big-phone experience, while still allowing me to reach both ends of my keyboard without effort (or having to split the keyboard virtually).

Currently, as people are gung-ho about the Dark Mode on screens, the 7T's 'Reading mode' is an interesting choice to have – the phone dips into a comfortable medium between the inky jet-black and the standard light. The mode comes with two options: 'chromatic' for a sort of faded Eastman colour experience, which is better on the eye than the 'mono', which is a watery black-and-white. This, unlike Dark Mode, applies to all apps, making OnePlus Oxygen OS on Android 10 truly unique.

To long life with refills
The 7T's battery life too, which my old iPhone 8 Plus isn't known for, was a great new lifeline for me, as I spent a whole afternoon video-calling with no immediate need to plug in. This started at noon, with about 85% battery, with the phone reassuring me that

SPECIFICATIONS

DIMENSIONS & WEIGHT:

160.94x74.44x8.13mm ;

190g

DISPLAY: 90 Hz Fluid Display HDR10+

PROCESSOR: Qualcomm Snapdragon 855 Plus8 GB + 256 GB UFS 3.0

BATTERY: Warp Charge 30T ; 3800 mAh Battery

GPU: Adreno 640

(usage unchanged, perhaps) I'm good to go till 8.30 pm. Around 4 hours later however, I was down to 33%. A quick warp charge for about 15 minutes though brought me up to 90%. At 6 pm, it tells me this can hold till 5 am tomorrow.

I like the intentionality behind the Zen mode, the equivalent of which on the Apple ecosystem is Screen Time. The latter is more of a 'control', while the Zen Mode endears itself by virtue of it being a choice you seek out and commit to.

That being said...

I must admit that the first few days with the device were not without its drawbacks. As someone who is taking the plunge into a whole new ecosystem, the OnePlus 7T's first boot-up suggestions were a big turn-off. It had asked me to use the OnePlus Switch route, which involves downloading an app of the same name onto the

iPhone, which should guide you through the rest of the process.

Unfortunately, it didn't show up on the AppStore, nor did its QR code, as displayed on the 7T, work. I put the device away for a few days after this experience. The second time around, however, it asked me to do a Google Drive back-up and make the switch – simpler and more straightforward, this experience was a breeze.

During the initial two days, the 7T's display would flicker when I moved indoors from a sunny balcony. But it eased off entirely by the fifth day. App crashes, especially when setting up Gmail accounts on the native Google mail app, were also a problem, but it ran fine once we got over that hump.

Another point of concern is with the much-talked-about wide-angle lens in the phone's horizontal triple-camera set-up. I feel like the wide-angle pictures would distort around the edges, like I've adjusted the picture's X-skew a little. However, the macro mode was impressive – letting me see details in leaves and in my couch's texture my eye couldn't. If in the next couple of years, OnePlus is able to truly master its own unique ecosystem – a field it has stepped into with the TVs launched last month – the brand will be in competition with Google and Apple in the lifestyle-tech space.

OnePlus 7T can be purchased at major online and offline retailers: 8GB/128GB at ₹37,999 and 8GB/256GB at ₹39,999



TECH-A-BYTE



After the hype of Gradient...

Unless you were in the midst of a digital detox for the past couple of weeks, you cannot be excused for not knowing the wild ripple effect of Gradient.

At its core, the app, claims to be a photo editor boasting its abilities to change the skin tone in your photos, add textures and filters and other Artificial Intelligence-powered features.

However, the app's most fun feature is the bizarre comparison of your own face into that of a celebrity, by displaying panels of the morphing stages. It uses

Most photo editing apps ask you right away for access to your gallery before uploading a photo, but Gradient doesn't; instead only after you've done the celebrity comparison or edited a photo, does it actually ask you for access.

If you're not too excited about this but are instead upon using this feature, best to take a screenshot of what you've saved if you haven't done heavy-duty editing. Otherwise, your typical apps such as Snapseed, Photoshop Lightroom or your phone's built-in editor will do pretty much the same.

Another brow-raising fact is that Gradient's developer Ticket To The Moon Inc has not released any other app and there doesn't seem to be an official website for the developers either, which is quite rare.

Gradient -You Look Like is available on Google Play store for Android 5.0 and upwards; and has been installed more than 5,000,000 times. On Apple's App Store it's called Gradient Photo Editor. However most people have opted for the free three day trial or they'd have been charged. People who have forgotten to cancel their subscriptions have not been happy and have voiced their anger on social media.

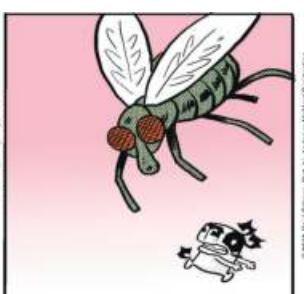
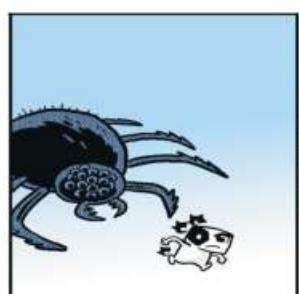
To provide some perspective, Gradient has grossed more than \$1.1 million in the App Store and Google Play, according to Sensor Tower, a mobile app store marketing intelligence firm.

The adventure still waits...

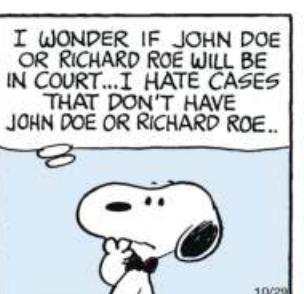
Gaming aficionados let out a collective gasp with the announcement that the much-anticipated action-adventure survival horror video game The Last Of Us Part 2's release date has been pushed to May 29, 2020. According to an October 24 blog post on PlayStation penned by the game's director Neil Druckmann, "it was during the last few weeks, as we were closing out sections of the game, that we realised we simply didn't have enough time to bring the entire game up to a level of polish we would call Naughty Dog (the game's developer) quality. At this point, we were faced with two options: compromise parts of the game or get more time. We went with the latter."

While The Last Of Us follows Joel guiding a young girl, Ellie, through a post-apocalyptic realm, the sequel has an adult Ellie fighting new battles.

POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



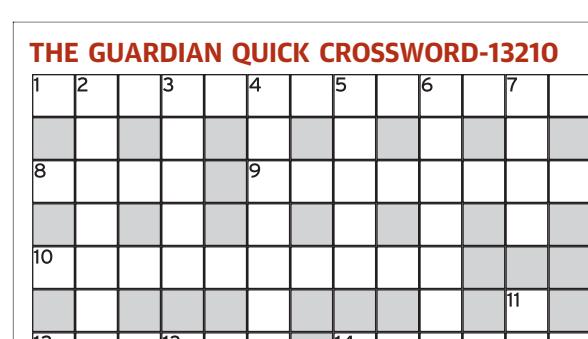
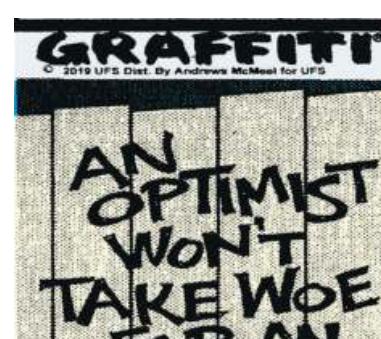
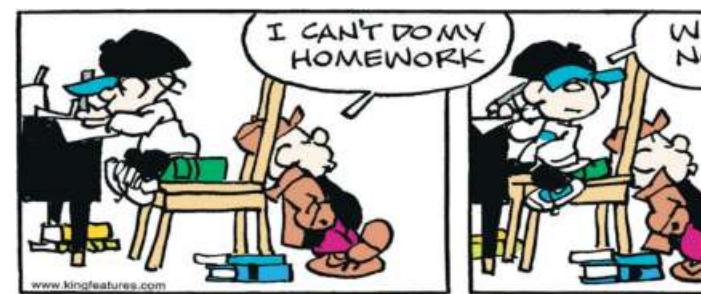
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBES



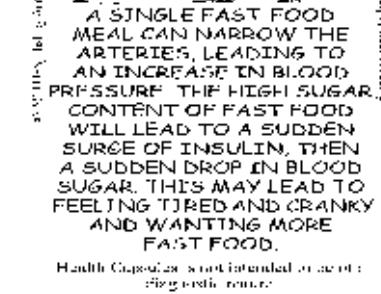
TIGER



WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



heroine of the 1745 Jacobite rising (5)
6 Old school desk feature (7)
7 Attila's people (4)
11 Waylaid (8)
13 Not working (3,4)
14 Bind tight with clothes (7)
16 Sign of the scales (5)
17 Likeness (5)
18 Palindromic girl's name (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated October 30, 2019.

Solution No. 13209

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AND-NDE

Woods equals Snead's 'crazy' 54-year-old record

Holds off Matsuyama to win the Zozo Championship, his 82nd PGA Tour triumph

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
INZAI (JAPAN)

Tiger Woods made golf history on Monday when he won the Zozo Championship for his 82nd US PGA Tour victory — equaling Sam Snead's 54-year-old record and adding to his long list of achievements.

The 15-time Major winner held off the challenge of home favourite Hideki Matsuyama to win by three shots at the weather-delayed tournament, his first outing since arthroscopic left knee surgery in August.

Woods broke into a huge smile after he birdied the 18th to complete a three-under final round of 67 and finish 19-under.

Crazy

"It's just crazy. It's a lot," the 43-year-old Woods said of his 82nd official PGA Tour victory. His first came 23 years ago this month in Las Vegas, when he was 20.

"It's been a long week, five days at the top of the board is a long time. It was definitely stressful," said Woods, who pocketed a cheque for \$1.755 million.

Woods led from gun to tape in the inaugural US PGA Tour event in Japan, which saw Friday's play washed out by the fringes of a typhoon that dumped almost 25cm of rain on the course 80km from Tokyo, forcing play into an extra day.

"It's about consistency and doing it for a long period of time," Woods said of tying Snead, who died in 2002 four days before his 90th

birthday.

"Sam did it into his fifties and I'm in my early to mid-forties. I've been very fortunate to have had the career I've had so far."

Woods said it was "cool" that, with the addition of his latest title in Japan, he had now won US PGA Tour events in seven different countries.

Global player

"I've always been a global player, I've always played all around the world and to tie the record outside the United States is pretty cool," Woods told reporters.

"This was big," said a smiling Woods. "Hideki made it tight. It was a lot closer than what people probably thought."

Woods' playing partner Gary Woodland said he had been privileged to have a front-row seat for the last two rounds.

"Obviously, the Majors speak for themselves, but 82 is just a crazy number," said the 35-year-old US Open champion, who himself has won four times on the PGA Tour.

"You look at the guys that have won 10 times and it's pretty special, let alone to come out here and win 82 times."

McIlroy joint third

World No. 2 Rory McIlroy finished birdie-birdie for a 67 and a share of third place on 13-under with South Korea's PGA Tour Rookie-of-the-Year Im Sung-jae who had a 65.

Tale of the Tiger

Tiger Woods on Monday clinched his second title of the year, equaling Sam Snead's record of 82 PGA Tour wins

359

82

15 → 5

4

3

3

PGA Tour events played

Number of Majors won

Masters (1997, 2001, 2002, 2005, 2019)

PGA Championships (1999, 2000, 2006, 2007)

U.S. Open (2000, 2002, 2008)

The Open (2000, 2005, 2006)

\$120,459,468
Career earnings (most all-time)

683
Weeks at No. 1 in the rankings

10
PGA Tour Money leader (1997, 1999-2002, 2005-2007, 2009, 2013)



It's about consistency and doing it for a long period of time. Sam did it into his fifties and I'm in my early to mid-forties. I've been very fortunate to have had the career I've had so far

IT HASN'T ALL BEEN PEACHY FOR THE LEGEND, THOUGH

5 Knee operations
4 Back surgeries

TITLES BY AGE

Sam Snead	Victory No.	Tiger Woods
25	5	21
26	10	23
28	20	24
32	30	26
34	40	28
37	50	30
38	60	31
41	70	33
47	79	37
47	80	42
52	82	43

TRIBUTES



Incredibly happy for @TigerWoods and for the game of golf - on his 82nd @PGATOUR win

Jack Nicklaus, who holds the record with 18 Majors



It's just one of those 'wow' moments. When you see something happen in sport that you didn't think was possible, it's just a really historic and special moment for our sport

Jay Monahan, PGA Tour boss



Obviously the Majors speak for themselves, but 82 is just a crazy number. You look at the guys that have won 10 times and it's pretty special

Gary Woodland, US Open champion

Corominas saves Goa

His penalty cancels out Udanta's strike

ISL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MARGAO

The first meeting of the season between the two Hero Indian Super League heavyweights finished all square after FC Goa and Bengaluru FC shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw here on Monday.

In what was a fiercely contested game in midfield, the teams struggled to carve out clear-cut chances but the visitors, who produced the better output in the final third, found the breakthrough through Udanta Singh in the 62nd minute.

However, in a dramatic fashion, Goa's Ferran Corominas won a penalty in injury time and converted it himself to salvage a point for his team at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

The result saw FC Goa join Mumbai City and NorthEast United at the top of the table with four points from two games while Bengaluru has now been involved in a second consecutive draw.

Goa couldn't score during the period it was on top

and Bengaluru handed out the punishment in the 62nd minute. Udanta collected a simple flick from Manuel Onwu at the edge of the box, outfoxed Mourtada Fall with a sublime touch and slotted the ball past Nawaz.

With Bengaluru on the verge of victory, a clumsy challenge by Ashique Kurianiyan on Corominas after the youngster lost the ball resulted in the referee pointing to the spot.

Corominas converted coolly from 12 yards to send the home supporters into delirium and earn a point for his team.

On Sunday, host Chennaiyin FC and Mumbai City FC were wasteful upfront, squandering chances aplenty and sharing the spoils in a goalless draw.

The results: **Monday:** FC Goa 1 (Corominas 90+3) drew with Bengaluru FC 1 (Udanta 62); **Sunday:** Chennaiyin FC 0 drew with Mumbai City 0.

Tuesday's match

■ Jamshedpur FC vs Hyderabad FC, 7.30 p.m.



No stopping that! Udanta Singh's perfect finish gave Bengaluru FC the lead. ■ SPORTSPICS/ISL

Red-letter day for Papua New Guinea as it qualifies for T20 WC

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DUBAI

Papua New Guinea (PNG) will make its first-ever appearance at a mega event after beating Kenya here on Sunday to book its place at next year's T20 World Cup.

PNG hammered Kenya by 45 runs at the Dubai International Stadium but had to wait for the result of Netherlands' game against Scotland before it could celebrate an automatic qualification for the tournament in Australia.

The Dutch beat Scotland by four wickets but failed to knock off the 131 they needed for victory in 12.3 overs which meant that PNG topped the group with a higher net run-rate.

"I am feeling a little emotional," PNG's Australian coach Joe Dawes told the ICC. "It's been a pretty big two years, for them to achieve this is pretty special."



Dance of delight: Papua New Guinea players celebrate the fall of a Kenyan wicket.

■ COURTESY: ICC-CRICKET.COM

PNG was facing disaster as it slipped to 19 for six in four overs but Norman Vanuau led the recovery, clubbing 54 from 48 balls and sharing a seventh-wicket partnership of 77 with Sese Bau.

Kenya needed to reach the target of 118 in 12 overs to

have any chance of qualifying for the playoffs but the batsmen were unable to get out of first gear.

Ireland also booked a ticket to Australia, thanks to results elsewhere going in its favour, with Jersey defeating Oman on the final day of

group-stage action.

As well as reaching next year's showpiece, both PNG and Ireland will also progress to the semifinals of the ongoing qualifying tournament, where they will play the winners of the two semifinal play-offs.

Ganguly to meet NCA head Dravid

The duo to discuss roadmap for the academy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Longtime teammates Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid will reconnect in Bengaluru on Wednesday as BCCI president and head of National Cricket Academy respectively to discuss the roadmap of Indian cricket's feeder line.

Dravid, who took charge as NCA chief in July, has already drawn a roadmap for the institution and Ganguly is expected to give his inputs when the two former captains meet.

The meeting will be attended by all the newly elected BCCI office-bearers who took charge on October 23. NCA CEO Tufan Ghosh will also be part of the discussion.

For the past few years, NCA, which was supposed to be the supply line of Indian cricket, has actually become a rehabilitation centre, which even Ganguly acknowledged after taking over.

Ganguly is expected to be updated on the new NCA project, which is being developed. "Ganguly and Dravid will be discussing the way forward for NCA and the issues it faces," said a BCCI official.



Talking heads: Ganguly and Dravid will exchange ideas on the functioning of the NCA. ■ FILE PHOTO: VIVEK BENDRE

BCB to consult players on D/N Test at Eden

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Bangladesh Cricket Board on Sunday confirmed that the BCCI had communicated a few days back. "They have proposed and we will let them know after thinking a while. We received the letter two or three days (ago) and we will take a decision in this regard," Khan said.

Federer picks up a 10th title in his hometown

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BASEL

Roger Federer won his 10th Basel title on Sunday, smothering young Australian Alex de Minaur 6-2, 6-2 to secure what the Swiss legend described as "an unbelievable" success at the hometown tournament where he used to work as a ball-boy.

The 38-year-old had to control his emotions as he drew a loud and heartfelt standing ovation from his home crowd during the presentation of his 103rd career trophy.

At Connors' heels
He is now just six short of



Remembering the beginning: Federer, who began his career as a ball-boy in Basel, has a treat for the ball-kids. ■ AFP

the record 109 ATP titles won by American Jimmy Connors.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion said it was as a ball-boy at the St. Jakobshalle more than two decades ago that he got his first taste of tennis.

"Being a ball-boy really inspired me," he said. "But I cannot believe that I've won here 10 times. I never even thought I would win it once."

Later on Monday, Federer announced he was withdrawing from this week's Paris Masters in order to "pace" himself for the next year.

At Connors' heels
He is now just six short of

Svetolina tames Pliskova



Doing it again: Elina Svitolina posted a fourth straight victory over a misfiring Karolina Pliskova. ■ GETTY IMAGES

WTA FINALS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SHENZHEN (CHINA)

Defending champion Elina Svitolina continued her dominance over World No. 2 Karolina Pliskova with a straight-set victory at the WTA Finals here on Monday.

Opening Purple Group, the eighth seed started her title defence impressively with a 7-6(12), 6-4 win in one hour and 53 minutes.

It was Svitolina's fourth straight victory over a misfiring Pliskova who had 42 unforced errors.

It was a disappointing result for Pliskova who started well and captured a break in the first game. But Svitolina slowly clawed her way back

into the match and broke in the fourth game as Pliskova's radar went awry.

It was a tense contest extending into a nerve-jangling tie-breaker with Pliskova's bold approach saving six set-points, but she miscued on the seventh as the Ukrainian finally drew first blood.

TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Six (SD & HD), 5.30 a.m.
T20I WC qualifiers: Star Sports 3, 3.40 and 9 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
FIFA U-17 WC: Sony Ten 1 & Six (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday).
Serie A: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday).

IN BRIEF



Minna Atherton breaks World record

BUDAPEST Australia's Minna Atherton set a new short-course World record in the 100m backstroke at the International Swimming League meet here on Sunday, becoming the first woman to dip below 55 seconds. The 19-year-old clocked 54.89s to break the previous mark of 55.03s set by Hungarian golden girl Katinka Hosszu at the 2014 World championships. "I'm really happy with that, especially since I just missed it in the relay," said Atherton. AFP



Thiem wins 16th career title

VIENNA Top seed Dominic Thiem claimed his 16th career title and the fifth of 2019 on Sunday with a 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 comeback win over Argentina's Diego Schwartzman in the Vienna ATP final. The 26-year-old Austrian delighted a packed home crowd in a victory stretched over two hours and 25 minutes. Thiem improved to 9-0 in his home country this year, having also lifted the Kitzbuhel trophy in August without dropping a set. World No. 5 Thiem is the first player to lift five Tour-level trophies in 2019, breaking a five-way tie with Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer and Daniil Medvedev. The Roland Garros runner-up added Vienna to Kitzbuhel, Beijing, Barcelona and Indian Wells. AFP



Thunder has the measure of Warriors

LOS ANGELES Golden State Warriors suffered its second mauling of the season on Sunday, crashing to a 120-92 defeat against a rampant Oklahoma City Thunder. Dennis Schroder led the scoring for Thunder, finishing with 22 points. Warriors had been routed emphatically 141-122 by the Los Angeles Clippers in their season opener on Thursday.

The results: LA Lakers 120 bt Charlotte Hornets 101; Dallas Mavericks 119 lost to Portland Trail Blazers 121; Minnesota Timberwolves 116 bt Miami Heat 109; Oklahoma City Thunder 120 bt Golden State Warriors 92. AFP

RACING

Smashing Blue claims Dodla Pratap Chander Reddy Memorial Million

HYDERABAD: R.H. Sequeira-trained Smashing Blue (Akshay Kumar astride) claimed the Dodla Pratap Chander Reddy Memorial Million, the chief of the concluding day's races held here on Monday (Oct. 28). The winner is owned by Mr. P. Prabhakar Reddy & Dr. Peddi Reddy Prabhakar Reddy.

1 BELLE DANCER PLATE (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III); **NEW COMER** (Nakhat Singh) 1, Et Voici (Ajeeth Kumar) 2, Diesis Dream (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Royal Avenger (Neeraj) 4. 3/4, hd and 3/4. Im, 28.3s. ₹68 (w), 20 and 7 (p), SHP: 412, Q: 122, Tla: 664. Favourite: Et Voice. Owner: M.A.M. Ramaswamy. Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust rep. by Mr. A.C. Muthiah. Trainer: Satheesh.

3 ANGLER PLATE (1,400m), 4-5 y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III); **ONCE MORE** (Jitendra Singh) 1, Crimson Fire (Rohit Kumar) 2, Brush The Sky (Zervan) 3 and Story Teller (Nakhat Singh) 4, 3/4 and 1/4. Im, 26.65s. ₹31 (w), 9, 14 and 8 (p), SHP: 47, FP: 547, Q: 248, Tla: 3,629. Favourite: Barnabas. Owner: Mr. A.C. Muthiah. Trainer: Satheesh.

2 CAMINO PLATE (1,400m), 3-4 y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II); **LIGHTNING BOLT** (Zervan) 1, Victory Parade (Akshay Kumar) 2, Exclusive Blue (Gopal Singh) 3 and Ashwa Raftar (Ashhad Asbar) 4. Not run: Meritocracy and Indian Dreams. I-3/4, 2-1/2 and 6. Im, 24.44s. ₹9 (w), 5

Rao. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

5 DODLA PRATAP CHANDER MILLION (1,100m), maiden 2-y-o only (Terms): **SMASHING BLUE** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Ashwa Virrat (Suraj Narredu) 2, Akshama (Zervan) 3 and The Makeup Artist (Umesh) 4. 1/2, 6-1/4 and 1. Im, 6.37s. ₹19 (w), 8, 6 and 8 (p), SHP: 20, FP: 39, Q: 18, Tla: 132. Favourite: Ashwa Virrat. Owners: Mr. P. Prabhakar Reddy & Dr. Peddi Reddy Prabhakar Reddy. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

6 VEMULAVADA PLATE (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III); **TOP CONTESTER** (Gaddam) 1, Vijay's Empress (Ajit Singh) 2, Ong The Fire (Ajeeth Kumar) 3 and Patron Saint (Jitendra Singh) 4. 1/2, hd and 1/2. Im, 14.56s. ₹136 (w), 29, 53 and 14 (p), SHP: 140, FP: 3,927, Q: 1,860, Tla: 37,563. Favourite: Freedom Fire. Owner: Mr. Mir Safqat Ali Khan. Trainer: S. Abbas.

Jackpot: ₹36,050 (15 tkts.), Runner-up: ₹457 (507 tkts.), Mini Jkt: 20,871 (for tkts.), Tr 0: 3,010 (16 tkts.), ii: 2,121 (55 tkts.).

Rao. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

4 TELANGANA RACE HORSE PLATE (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III); **STAR ENVY** (Suraj Narredu) 1, City of Blossom (Akshay Kumar) 2, Angel Tesoro (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Guiding Force (Santosh Raj) 4. 1/4-1, 3-1/4 and 3-3/4. Im, 13.06s. ₹18 (w), 6, 6 and 10 (p), SHP: 18, FP: 37, Q: 10, Tla: 11. Favourite: City of Blossom. Owners: Dr. K. Hemachandrudu, Mr. G. Krishnamoorthy.

2 SMT. C. MOHANA KUMARI SATYANARAYANA MEMORIAL CUP (Div. II), (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III); **AYUR SHAKTI** (Suraj Narredu) 1, Giethorn (A.A. Vikrant) 2, Wah Ms Zara (Gaurav Singh) 3 and Maxwell (Gaddam) 4. 5-3/4, 1-3/4 and hd. Im, 13.56s. ₹10 (w), 5, 11 and 7 (p), SHP: 28, FP: 85, Q: 59, Tla: 219. Favourite: Ayur Shakti. Owners: M/S. Premanand Sugandhi, G. Rajagunandan Charly & Mr. Syed Shah Faesal Hassan. Trainer: Faisal Hassan.

4 NAWAB ARSHAD ALI KHAN MEMORIAL PLATE (2,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II); **CALL OF THE BLUE** (Koushik) 1, Roll Call (Afroz Khan) 1, Cape Kidnappers (Suraj Narredu) 3 and Cincia Azzurra (Akshay Kumar) 4. 1-1/2, 1-1/4 and 1/2, 2-3-3/5s. ₹24 (w), 9, 8 and 6 (p), SHP: 16, FP: 96, Q: 39, Tla: 153. Favourite: Roll Call. Owners: Mr. P. Peddy Reddy Prabhakar Reddy & Mr. P. Prabhakar Reddy. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

5 ALLURI SEETHARAMARAJU MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III); **STAR OF TIARA** (Suraj Narredu) 1, Unstoppable (A.A. Vikrant) 2, Green Turf (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Gazebo (Nakhat Singh) 4. 3-3/4, 1 and 1. Im, 40.22s. ₹10

hao Rao & Mr. K. Ram Gopal Rao. Trainer: D. Netto.

3 SMT. C. MOHANA KUMARI SATYANARAYANA MEMORIAL CUP (Div. I), (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III); **AYUR SHAKTI** (Suraj Narredu) 1, Best Friend (Jitendra Singh) 2, Blazing Speed (Irvan Singh) 3 and Snow Castle (B.R. Kumar) 4. 2, 3 and 3-1/4. Im, 14.25s. ₹12 (w), 5, 7 and 9 (p), SHP: 16, FP: 40, Q: 22, Tla: 200. Favourite: Country's Gift. Owners: Mr. Govind Kumar Gupta, Dr. Teegala Vijender Reddy & Mr. Sudheer Prabhakar Reddy. Trainer: Prasad Rao.

7 MAHABUNAGAR PLATE (Div. I), (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III); **COUNTRY'S GIFT** (Suraj Narredu) 1, Best Friend (Jitendra Singh) 2, Blazing Speed (Irvan Singh) 3 and Snow Castle (B.R. Kumar) 4. 2, 3 and 3-1/4. Im, 14.25s. ₹12 (w), 5, 7 and 9 (p), SHP: 16, FP: 40, Q: 22, Tla: 200. Favourite: Country's Gift. Owners: Mr. Govind Kumar Gupta, Dr. Teegala Vijender Reddy & Mr. Sudheer Prabhakar Reddy. Trainer: Prasad Rao.

5 ALLURI SEETHARAMARAJU MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III); **STAR OF TIARA** (Suraj Narredu) 1, Unstoppable (A.A. Vikrant) 2, Green Turf (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Gazebo (Nakhat Singh) 4. 3-3/4, 1 and 1. Im, 40.22s. ₹10

Satwik-Chirag pair is runner-up

Puts up a stiff fight against World No. 1 Indonesian pair

FRENCH OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PARIS Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty's best efforts went in vain as they lost to top seeds Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo of Indonesia in the final of the French Open Super 750 here.

The duo lost 21-18, 21-16 to Marcus and Kevin, who are enjoying their 12th week as World No. 1. Satwik and Chirag had come into the match with a 0-6 head-to-head record against the Indonesian pair.

Satwik and Chirag, who had won their maiden Super 500 title at the Thailand Open in August, looked a bit nervy in the 35-minute final.

Despite the loss, the duo's effort is commendable as this is the first time an Indian men's doubles pair has



Commendable effort: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, left, and Chirag Shetty became the first Indian men's doubles pair to reach a World Tour 750 final. ■ COURTESY TWITTER

reached a World Tour 750 final.

Open in 1983.

Satwik and Chirag showed the stomach for a fight, clawing their way back from 7-1 down to 17-17. However, the

Indonesians soon grabbed three game-points. The Indians saved one but lost the next.

In the second game, the

Indians fell back a bit before levelling at 6-6 with Satwik winning a video referral.

The pairs moved neck-and-neck till 10-10 before the Indians netted one. Marcus and Kevin returned from the break to gather some quick points to move to 18-13.

The Indonesians soon grabbed four match-points and sealed the seventh title of the year when Satwik hit out. Meanwhile, Rio Olympics champion fifth seed Chinese Chen Long grabbed the men's singles trophy with a 21-19, 21-12 win over Indonesia's Jonathan Christie.

Long became the second shuttler in French Open history to retain the title since India's Vimal Kumar in 1983-84.

In the women's section, Korean teen sensation An Se Young stunned reigning Olympic champion Carolina Marin 16-21, 21-18, 21-5.

Payas and team bags gold

TABLE TENNIS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Indian paddler Payas Jain teamed up with South Korea's Seongil Jang and Japan's Sora Matsushima to win the gold medal at the ITTF World Cadet Challenge played in Wladyslawo-w, Poland on Monday.

The trio, representing Team Asia, was in great form and blanked the Hopes, which is a part of the ITTF developmental programme, 3-0 to win the title.

Sora increases lead

Jang started the proceeding for Asia, beating Yong Izaac Quek of Singapore 3-1, while Sora increased the lead further with an identical 3-1 win over Julian Chirita of Romania.

With a 2-0 lead, it came down to Payas to deliver in



Payas Jain. ■ FILE PHOTO

the third rubber and bring an early end to the tie.

The Indian did not fail to deliver and prevailed 3-1 over Daniel Berzosa of Spain to help Asia retain the crown.

Earlier, Asia recorded a comfortable 3-0 victory over Team Europe comprising of Darius Movileanu of Romania, Louis Laffineur of Belgium and Simon Belik of Czech Republic.

In the girls' team event, Yashaswini Ghorpade led the Asian challenge to help them earn a bronze medal with a 3-0 win over Poland.

Liverpool battles back to beat Spurs

Arsenal squanders a lead; United wins away from home

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

LONDON

Liverpool came from behind to beat Tottenham 2-1 on Sunday and restore its six-point lead at the top of the Premier League as Manchester United finally remembered how to win on the road.

Elsewhere on Sunday, Arsenal squandered a 2-0 lead at home to Crystal Palace to draw 2-2 while 10-man Newcastle held on to draw 1-1 with Wolves.

The results:

Premier League: Arsenal 2 (Sokratis 7, Luiz 9) drew with Crystal Palace 2 (Milivojevic 32-pen, Ayew 52); Liverpool 2 (Henderson 52, Salah 75-pen) bt Tottenham 1 (Kane 1); Newcastle 1 (Lascelles 37) drew with Wolves 1 (Jonny 73); Nor-



Heroes: Liverpool's owed its back-to-the-wall win over Tottenham thanks to strikes from Jordan Henderson and Mohamed Salah. ■ REUTERS

wich 1 (Hernandez 88) lost to Manchester United 3 (McTomney 21, Rashford 30, Martial 73).

La Liga: Celta Vigo 0 lost to Real Sociedad 1 (Isak 82); Granada 1 (Vadillo 61) bt Real Betis 0; Levante 0 lost to Espanyol 1 (Bernardo 38); Sevilla 2 (Her-

nandez 69, Ocampos 78) bt Getafe 0; Osasuna 3 (Sanjurio 34, Ruben Garcia 48, Estupinan 80) bt Valencia 1 (Rodriguez 14).

Serie A: Bologna 2 (Palacio 48, Kouame 75) bt Sampdoria 1 (Gabbiadini 64); Atalanta 7 (Ilicic 21, 43, Muriel 35-pen, 48, 75-pen, Pasalic 52, Traore 83) bt Ud-

iense 1 (Okaka 12); SPAL 1 (Kurtic 16) drew with Napoli 1 (Milik 9); Torino 1 (Zaza 69) drew with Cagliari 1 (Nandez 40); Roma 2 (Dzeko 38, Zaniolo 59) bt AC Milan 1 (Hernandez 55); Fiorentina 1 (Chiesa 27) lost to Lazio 2 (Correa 22, Immobile 89).

Bundesliga: VfL Wolfsburg 0 drew with Augsburg 0; Borussia Monchengladbach 4 (Thuram 28, Wendt 45+2, Elvedi 75, Zakaria 85) bt Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (da Costa 59, Hinteregger 79).

Saturday: La Liga: Leganes 1 (Braithwaite 31) bt Real Mallorca 0; Valladolid 2 (Guardiola Navarro 10, Salisu 39) bt Eibar 0; Atletico Madrid 2 (Saul 28, Morata 64) bt Athletic Bilbao 0.

Serie A: Genoa 3 (Agudelo 66,

Kouame 75, Pandev 79) bt Brescia 1 (Tonali 34).

Bundesliga: Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Toprak 4-og, Alario 58) drew with Werder Bremen 2 (Rashica 40, Klaassen

Thakkar gunning for second crown

Top Indian paddlers continue to skip the national circuit

WEST ZONE TT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THANE

The last time the city of lakes on the outskirts of the metro-polis hosted a table tennis zonal tournament two years ago, it was marred by mediocre playing conditions.

As the UTT West Zone National-ranking table tennis championship returns to the city, the local organisers have ensured the cream of Indian players is offered the best of the conditions.

The venue has been shifted from the conventional Dadoji Konddev Stadium to the Indoor Sports Arena of Smt. Sulochanadevi Singhani School, one of the most renowned schools. Despite the best of the conditions on offer, the event will see top Indian paddlers continuing to



Favourite: India's Manav Thakkar stands a good chance to win the men's title. ■FILE PHOTO

skip the national circuit.

With an eye on qualifying for Tokyo 2020, the triumvirate of veteran A. Sharath Kamal, in-form G. Sathiyan and golden girl Manika Batra

have refrained from making a maiden appearance on the domestic circuit this season.

Add to that the absence of A. Amalraj and Harmeet Desai, it makes Manav Thakkar

a rank favourite in the men's draw.

Teenaged Thakkar won his maiden men's title of the season in the East Zone ranking tournament last week

Reigning National champion Archana Kamath would be looking forward to bounce back from an early exit in Howrah last week.

Indians gear up for World wrestling

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BUDAPEST
Junior Asian Championship gold medallist Sharvan received the second seeding in 65kg as he starts India's campaign at the UWW Under-23 World Championships here on Monday.

Sharvan, who remains one of India's key medal hopes, will take on top seed Rifat Saibatalov of Kazakhstan for a place in the quarterfinals.

Besides him, Akash Antil is the only other Indian wrestler who starts in the pre-quarterfinals after having been seeded ninth in 97kg. For a last-eight berth, he will have to get the better of 10th seed Xu Li of China.

Three more Indians will be in action in the qualifiers on the first day of the cham-

pionships. In 57kg, 15th seeded Naveen meets the 16th seeded Ahmet Duman of Turkey while his namesake in 70kg also seeded 15th, takes on Russia's 16th seed Chermen Valiev. Former World Junior World Championships bronze medallist Veer Dev Gulia, seeded 18th, has Hungary's 17th seed Bodon Lukacs first up.

India will be looking to improve their performance from the last edition where Ravi Kumar Dahiya won the silver medal in 57kg after the men's team and the women's team underwent 15 days of rigorous training at Sonipat and Lucknow respectively before leaving for Budapest.

More than 60 teams and 600 U-23 wrestlers will be seen in action from across the world.

An Army soldier, who lost his left leg in a mine blast near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir in 2008, bagged three gold medals at the recently-concluded Military World Games in China.

The soldier, Anandan Gunasekaran (32), a blade runner, won gold for India in the 100m, 200m and 400m sprint events for para-athletes.

Upon his return from Wuhan, Gunasekaran told IANS on Monday that his next aim is to compete in the Tokyo Paralympics in 2020.

"My final trial for selection in 200m for the Tokyo Paralympics will be held in May next year. That is the only obstacle left before me now for getting selected for the Tokyo Games," he said.

Earlier in August, Gunasekaran had won the gold in 200m at the World Para Ath-

letics Grand Prix held in Paris. In the previous edition of the Military World Games held in South Korea in October 2015, Gunasekaran had won the gold in 200m apart from winning the silver in 100m.

An avid sportsman

and the bespectacled paddle has the opportunity to make it two crowns in as many weeks here.

Madhurika's form

In the women's section, it would be interesting to see if seasoned Madhurika Patkar and Pooja Sahasrabudhe can find form on their home turf. Both the girls have failed to make a mark in the three zones so far.

It would be interesting to see if they can challenge the gen next of India's female paddlers, led by Sutirtha Mukherjee, Krittika Sinha Roy and Sreeja Akula, each of whom have a title in their kitty this season.

Reigning National champion Archana Kamath would be looking forward to bounce back from an early exit in Howrah last week.

JFC's philosophy draws praise from new coach

Iriondo feels youth development is the right way forward

ISL

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
JAMSHEDPUR

Two seasons in the Indian Super League has fetched it limited success, but Jamshedpur FC's new coach Antonio Iriondo felt that the developmental work done by his franchise is going to bear fruit soon.

Hailed as the club with the best football infrastructure in the country, with its own stadium, academy and a well-established youth development system, Jamshedpur is looking to make the most of it in its third season.

"The club's philosophy regarding the grassroots and youth development is the

right way forward.

"I am sure we can give the supporters some special moments by developing on these aspects," Iriondo said.

Jamshedpur has started with a 1-1 draw over Odisha FC at home – a first for the side as it had registered draws in its opening match at home in the previous two seasons. Iriondo called it a "positive development" and hoped the team will keep improving with every match.

Keep improving'

"We still have to keep improving to reach a level of consistency. From the experience of the last match, I can say that we did not have ball-control but had match-

control, which is not always the case when you have control of the ball," said the 65-year-old who has a reputation for helping sides earn promotion during his stints with Spanish second and third division clubs.

Changes proposed

The Spanish coach proposed a few changes aimed at making the team more result-oriented.

"This is a new season and I am trying to make the players understand the new ideas."

"What I am trying to teach the players is not easy but I am sure with time the players will learn and adjust themselves to the new philosophy," Iriondo said.

'FIFA not doing enough to stamp out racism'

Toure calls on players to take action

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SHANGHAI

Yaya Toure says FIFA is not doing enough to stamp out racism and that England should have walked off the pitch in the face of monkey chants during its Euro 2020 qualifier in Bulgaria.

England's 6-0 victory in Sofia earlier this month was marred by racist chants and Nazi salutes from a section of Bulgarian fans.

The game was halted twice during the first half, but England players opted to complete the match instead of walking off the pitch.

"They have to be serious about it, players need to make serious moves about it otherwise they (the racists) will continue to do that," he said. "They have to get the players out of the field."

sion. "They are always talking, 'Blah, blah, blah', and what? Nothing changes."

Turning his real fire on football's decision-makers, the four-time African player of the year said: "People from FIFA don't care anyway because we've been talking about this, but it's still continuing."

"I don't want to say that I'm not concerned, I'm concerned," said the former Ivory Coast international.

Toure believes it is time the players took more decisive action.

"These have to be serious about it, players need to make serious moves about it otherwise they (the racists) will continue to do that," he said. "They have to get the players out of the field."

Army blade runner eyes 2020 Tokyo Paralympics

IANS
NEW DELHI



Anandan Gunasekaran.
■ GETTY IMAGES

My final trial for selection in 200m for the Tokyo Paralympics will be held in May next year. That is the only obstacle left before me now for getting selected for the Tokyo Games.

throughout his career, Gunasekaran, who was inducted into the Madras Sappers of the Indian Army in September 2005, took to competitive running only after the mine blast left him permanently disabled.

He still vividly remembers the events of June 4, 2008.

"I was descending a slope along with three other soldiers after completing a check on a wire fence along the LoC. The three colleagues were walking ahead of me. I was the last one in the group to descend the

slope when my left foot fell on a hidden landmine. I was unlucky, as the area was not a minefield," Gunasekaran said.

He was rushed to a government hospital in Srinagar where his disfigured limb was amputated. He was shifted to the Army hospital in Pune after over one month of treatment in Srinagar, where another amputation was conducted upon him to remove the entire portion of the left leg below the knee.

"I didn't reveal the amputation to my family members for six months. I reached my family home in Kumbakonam with a wooden prosthetic leg.

"I just told them that my leg had to be amputated because it developed an infection. My mother was strictly against my rejoining duty. However, I ran away from home and rejoined my unit," he said.

INVITING NOMINATIONS FOR 18th CAVINKARE ABILITY AWARDS



2020

for ACHIEVERS WITH DISABILITY

LAST DATE FOR RECEIVING NOMINATIONS: 12 NOVEMBER 2019

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- Ensure nomination is updated
- Update – Residential address/Phone/ Mobile number & Email-id in policy details
- Buy Policy / Pay Premium Online (visit www.licindia.in for details)
- If making payments by cheque, draw cheque favouring "Life Insurance Corporation of India"
- Download LIC APP "MyLIC" (FREE) from Google Playstore and pay your premiums without standing in queues
- Original Policy Bonds not to be handed over to unauthorized persons. LIC does not authorize any person to collect original policy bonds from Policyholders
- LIC does not contact Policyholders over phone regarding bonus accrued and payments thereof
- Be vigilant about fake phone calls purporting to be on behalf of LIC. In case you receive such fake calls, please file an FIR with the Police with details of the phone number from where you got the call and also report it to us with the copy of Police FIR at spuriouscalls@licindia.com
- All payments made by LIC are through NEFT only. Ensure that your correct bank details are updated in LIC records
- Avail our Call Center Services on (022) 6827 6827 anytime

Beware of spurious phone calls and fictitious/fraudulent offers. IRDAI clarifies to public that:

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