



Gift your kid a fun online world of interactive quizzes, puzzles, contests and more.

Visit www.youngworldclub.com for a free trial



NEARBY

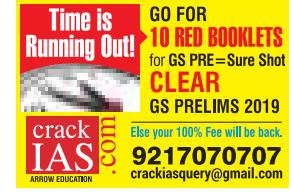


Challenge to Ayodhya Act posted before SC Bench

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday referred to the Ayodhya Bench a plea challenging the validity of the Ayodhya Act, 1993, under which the Centre acquired 67,703 acres of land, including the disputed Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid premises and adjacent areas.

NORTH ▶ PAGE 2



Ground Zero

On the Silk Route trail

The Silk Route was an unhampered stream of trade that built bridges between cultures, until it was broken up by the rise of national borders. A Russian plumber and a German nurse capture its romance by retracing the steps.

OP-ED PAGE

DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

India revokes Pak's MFN status day after terrorist strike in J&K

PM says a 'befitting reply' will be given to those behind attack on a CRPF convoy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India on Friday revoked the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status of Pakistan and warned of more measures in response to its support for terrorist groups targeting India.

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted that those responsible for Thursday's terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir would be given a "befitting reply," the Opposition rallied behind the government in a show of solemn unity. The government has convened an all-party meeting at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

The suicide car bombing in Pulwama district killed 40 paramilitary personnel, making it one of the worst incidents of violence in the history of the State's insurgency.

School dropout
The attacker – a school dropout who had gone missing last year amid heightened volatility in the State – rammed a vehicle loaded with explosives into a convoy of the Central Reserve



Last salute: The flag-draped coffins of the slain CRPF soldiers kept at Budgam for the wreath-laying ceremony on Friday. ■ PTI

Police Force (CRPF).

As countries around the world shared India's outrage and condemned the incident, the U.S. put Pakistan in the dock by asking it to "immediately end" all support to terrorist groups. The Pakistan-based terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) has claimed responsibility for the attack.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

NO CHANGE IN STAND ▶ PAGE 8

A HUGE CACHE OF ▶ RDX PAGE 9

TERRIBLE THURSDAY ▶ EDITORIAL

We stand by govt.: Rahul

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A day after the attack in Kashmir killed 40 CRPF men, Congress president Rahul Gandhi said it was not the time to ask the government questions, but to stand by it. "I want to make it clear that the aim of terrorism is to divide this country and we are not going to be divided for one

second. No matter how hard people try, this country and the entire Opposition are going to stand together, we are going to stand with our jawans and we are going to stand with the government," he said. He said the forces behind the attack should remember that India does not forget such things.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Jawan's family photo wish remains unfulfilled

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

Maneswar Basumatari (48) had survived tough postings in Kashmir thrice. Six months into his fourth stint, he left home in western Assam's Baksa district on February 4 after a truncated break.

He promised his daughter Didwmshree, a college graduate, to return for something that had always eluded him for one reason or the other – a photo of all members of his family.

This time, almost every member of his extended family had converged at his house in Kalbari village – about 110 km north-west of Guwahati – for the "big moment". But his son Dhananjay could not come because of a college project in Kokrajhar town, about 140 km west of Kalbari.

"God did not let him keep his promise," said Didwmshree, breaking down.

"Not God, but a bunch of people who kill in the name of God," corrected Kamal Boro, the nephew of the slain CRPF head constable.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

CJI blames lawyers for delay in listing Rafale petitions

Errors in documents yet to be set right

Objections raised

The main contentions raised in separate review petitions against the Supreme Court's December 14 order

Review petition of Yashwant Sinha, Arun Shourie and Prashant Bhushan:

- SC should not just review but even recall its "erroneous" judgment, which had relied on a then "non-existent" CAG report to uphold the deal
- The deal lacks sovereign guarantee clause

Review petition by AAP leader Sanjay Singh:

- SC judgment relies upon "patently incorrect claims" made by the government in an unsigned note given in a sealed cover to the court without being shown to the petitioner, which is a violation of principles of natural justice
- The court was "purposefully misled"

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi on Friday revealed in court that the government's application to modify the Rafale judgment and separate review pleas by petitioners to reconsider the December 14 verdict of the Supreme Court are lying in the court registry, waiting for lawyers to correct defects in the documents filed.

The Chief Justice made it clear that the delay in listing the case is not the court's

doing but that of the lawyers concerned. It has been over a month since the pleas were filed.

The occasion for the Chief Justice to clear the air came during the oral mentioning of an unrelated case by a lawyer.

Recently, the court had recused its guidelines to avoid the situation of lawyers crowding courtrooms to orally mention their cases for an early hearing.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Sedition charge a conspiracy: AMUSU

Students continue protest; demand withdrawal of charge, rustication of BJP MLA's grandson

JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ

ALIGARH

Students of Aligarh Muslim University on Friday alleged that the institution has been constantly under a series of attacks to create communal hatred and the recent sedition charge against 14 students is a part of a well-orchestrated conspiracy.

At a public meeting on campus, AMUSU leaders said they would continue to boycott classes and protest peacefully until the charges levelled against the students in an FIR are withdrawn and Ajay Singh, a student and grandson of Dalveer Singh, BJP MLA from Barauli in Aligarh, is rusticated for allegedly spoiling communal harmony on campus.

Mr. Ajay had recently given the university authorities a 15-day deadline to build a temple on the campus.

"It must be known that we



Security has been beefed up at AMU.

if they use the name of AMU, the issues that they bring up would come into the national limelight," he claimed.

Akash Kulhari, SSP, Aligarh, said that although preliminary investigation shows no evidence of "sedition", the police cannot give in to the students' demand to withdraw the FIR until the investigation is complete. "We have informed the university about all matters regarding the case and have asked them to conduct a probe," Mr. Kulhari said.

Committee constituted

Responding to the demands of the students, the university said that it has constituted a fact-finding committee, comprising Deputy Proctor Rashid Umar, Assistant Proctor Mohd Mohsin and Assistant Proctor Rashid Ali, to inquire into the February 12 fracas on campus for which

are not fighting a small enemy. Our enemy is well organised and has a backing of the government of the day. We have to fight back with equal power," AMUSU president M. Salman Imtiaz told the protesting students.

A senior university official, who wished to remain anonymous, said the university over the past few months was being used as a punching bag by local leaders to create polarisation for their own benefit.

"These leaders know that

they are not fighting a small enemy. Our enemy is well organised and has a backing of the government of the day. We have to fight back with equal power," AMUSU president M. Salman Imtiaz told the protesting students.

A senior university official, who wished to remain anonymous, said the university over the past few months was being used as a punching bag by local leaders to create polarisation for their own benefit.

"These leaders know that

they are not fighting a small enemy. Our enemy is well organised and has a backing of the government of the day. We have to fight back with equal power," AMUSU president M. Salman Imtiaz told the protesting students.

A senior university official, who wished to remain anonymous, said the university over the past few months was being used as a punching bag by local leaders to create polarisation for their own benefit.

"These leaders know that

they are not fighting a small enemy. Our enemy is well organised and has a backing of the government of the day. We have to fight back with equal power," AMUSU president M. Salman Imtiaz told the protesting students.

A senior university official, who wished to remain anonymous, said the university over the past few months was being used as a punching bag by local leaders to create polarisation for their own benefit.

"These leaders know that

they are not fighting a small enemy. Our enemy is well organised and has a backing of the government of the day. We have to fight back with equal power," AMUSU president M. Salman Imtiaz told the protesting students.

A senior university official, who wished to remain anonymous, said the university over the past few months was being used as a punching bag by local leaders to create polarisation for their own benefit.

"These leaders know that

they are not fighting a small enemy. Our enemy is well organised and has a backing of the government of the day. We have to fight back with equal power," AMUSU president M. Salman Imtiaz told the protesting students.

A senior university official, who wished to remain anonymous, said the university over the past few months was being used as a punching bag by local leaders to create polarisation for their own benefit.

"These leaders know that

they are not fighting a small enemy. Our enemy is well organised and has a backing of the government of the day. We have to fight back with equal power," AMUSU president M. Salman Imtiaz told the protesting students.

A senior university official, who wished to remain anonymous, said the university over the past few months was being used as a punching bag by local leaders to create polarisation for their own benefit.

"These leaders know that

they are not fighting a small enemy. Our enemy is well organised and has a backing of the government of the day. We have to fight back with equal power," AMUSU president M. Salman Imtiaz told the protesting students.

A senior university official, who wished to remain anonymous, said the university over the past few months was being used as a punching bag by local leaders to create polarisation for their own benefit.

"These leaders know that

they are not fighting a small enemy. Our enemy is well organised and has a backing of the government of the day. We have to fight back with equal power," AMUSU president M. Salman Imtiaz told the protesting students.

A senior university official, who wished to remain anonymous, said the university over the past few months was being used as a punching bag by local leaders to create polarisation for their own benefit.

"These leaders know that

they are not fighting a small enemy. Our enemy is well organised and has a backing of the government of the day. We have to fight back with equal power," AMUSU president M. Salman Imtiaz told the protesting students.

A senior university official, who wished to remain anonymous, said the university over the past few months was being used as a punching bag by local leaders to create polarisation for their own benefit.

"These leaders know that

they are not fighting a small enemy. Our enemy is well organised and has a backing of the government of the day. We have to fight back with equal power," AMUSU president M. Salman Imtiaz told the protesting students.

A senior university official, who wished to remain anonymous, said the university over the past few months was being used as a punching bag by local leaders to create polarisation for their own benefit.

"These leaders know that

they are not fighting a small enemy. Our enemy is well organised and has a backing of the government of the day. We have to fight back with equal power," AMUSU president M. Salman Imtiaz told the protesting students.

A senior university official, who wished to remain anonymous, said the university over the past few months was being used as a punching bag by local leaders to create polarisation for their own benefit.

"These leaders know that

they are not fighting a small enemy. Our enemy is well organised and has a backing of the government of the day. We have to fight back with equal power," AMUSU president M. Salman Imtiaz told the protesting students.

A senior university official, who wished to remain anonymous, said the university over the past few months was being used as a punching bag by local leaders to create polarisation for their own benefit.

"These leaders know that

they are not fighting a small enemy. Our enemy is well organised and has a backing of the government of the day. We have to fight back with equal power," AMUSU president M. Salman Imtiaz told the protesting students.

A senior university official, who wished to remain anonymous, said the university over the past few months was being used as a punching bag by local leaders to create polarisation for their own benefit.

"These leaders know that

they are not fighting a small enemy. Our enemy is well organised and has a backing of the government of the day. We have to fight back with equal power," AMUSU president M. Salman Imtiaz told the protesting students.

A senior university official, who wished to remain anonymous, said the university over the past few months was being used as a punching bag by local leaders to create polarisation for their own benefit.

"These leaders know that

they are not fighting a small enemy. Our enemy is well organised and has a backing of the government of the day. We have to fight back with equal power," AMUSU president M. Salman Imtiaz told the protesting students.

A senior university official, who wished to remain anonymous, said the university over the past few months was being used as a punching bag by local leaders to create polarisation for their own benefit.

DELHI Timings

RISE 06:59	SET 18:12
RISE 14:37	SET 03:49
SUNDAY, FEB. 17	
RISE 06:58	SET 18:12
RISE 15:41	SET 04:50
MONDAY, FEB. 18	
RISE 06:57	SET 18:13
RISE 16:49	SET 05:48

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 22 12
Safdarjung 22 12
Palam 21 13

Delhi Palam Today
21°C A cold morning with shallow fog lies ahead. Day will be sunny. Pollution level to remain poor.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
21°C A very cool morning with moderate fog is likely. Day will be pleasant. Cloudy sky is likely.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2018
All rights reserved.

SC stays death warrant against M.P. teacher

Convicted of brutally raping a child

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday stayed the execution of death penalty against a school teacher, who was convicted for raping a four-year-old girl in Satna district of Madhya Pradesh in June last year.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices L. Nageswara Rao and Sanjiv Khanna stayed the execution of the death sentence of convict Mahendra Singh Gond, which was scheduled for March 2 in a Jabalpur jail.

"There shall be stay of execution of the death sentence of the petitioner," the

Bench said.

According to the prosecution, the girl was so brutally assaulted that she had to spend months in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi to get her intestines realigned.

Dumped for dead

After raping her, the convict had dumped her in a jungle, thinking she was dead, and her family members had found her in the wee hours when she was barely alive, the prosecution had said.

The Madhya Pradesh High Court had, on January 25, confirmed the death sentence awarded to the convict by the trial court.

"We shall be stay of execution of the death sentence of the petitioner," the

Bench said.

According to the prosecution,

the girl was so brutally

assaulted that she had to

spend months in the All

India Institute of Medical

Sciences, Delhi to get her

intestines realigned.

Challenge to Ayodhya Act posted before SC Bench

The petition challenges the legislative competence of Parliament to acquire religious land

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday referred to the Ayodhya Bench a plea challenging the validity of the Ayodhya Act, 1993, under which the Centre acquired 67.703 acres of land, including the disputed Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid premises and adjacent areas.

Act's validity

The present petition has been filed despite the fact that the Constitution Bench, in its 1994 judgment in the Ismail Faruqui case, had upheld the validity of the Ayodhya Act, except for sub-section (3) of Section 4 which mandates the abatement of "all pending suits and legal proceedings without providing for an alterna-

been decided by a Constitution Bench in the 1994 Ismail Faruqui verdict.

"We cannot have a review now, 27 years later," Mr. Dhavan said.

"We are sending it to that Bench; let it come there," Justice Gogoi replied.



the legislative competence of Parliament to acquire religious land.

Right to religion

The petitioners claimed that the 1993 Act infringed on the right to religion of Hindus guaranteed and protected under Article 25 (freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion) of the Constitution.

The plea sought the court's direction restraining the Centre and the Uttar Pradesh government from interfering in "puja, darshan and performance of rituals at the places of worship situated within the land measuring 67.703

acres acquired under the Act, particularly the land belonging to Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Nyas, Manas Bhavan, Sankat Mochan Mandir, Ram Janmasthan Temple, Janki Mahal and Katha Mandap."

Excess land

Recently, the Centre had moved an application seeking leave to return the superfluous excess land acquired adjacent to the disputed area to its rightful owners after mapping the extent of acreage required to provide easy access and enjoyment of the RJD area to the ultimate winner of the title dispute appeals pending in the apex court.

A lifetime of finding genes to counter heart disease

Helen Hobbs dwells on genetic mutations and diseases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

"Cholesterol in your blood is akin to smoking, and dietary choices can significantly increase the risk of cardiovascular disease," said geneticist Helen Hobbs, who delivered a public lecture here on Friday.

Dr. Hobbs, who works at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre, has been in India for most of this month and discussed her research on genetic mutations and their influence on heart disease as well as fatty liver disease. Her work has led to the development of a new class of drugs for the treatment of excessive cholesterol buildup and the prevention of coronary atherosclerosis (hardening and narrowing of arteries).

Dr. Hobbs, who won the 2016 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences, discovered a mutation in a gene called PCSK9, which particularly protects African-Americans against heart disease, and has this past month delivered public lectures explaining her work at Hyderabad and Bengaluru as part of the TNQ Distinguished Lectures in the Life Sciences.

The TNQ series has been bringing internationally renowned scientists face-to-face with the Indian scientific community since 2008.

The PCSK9 discoveries led to the development of PCSK9 inhibitors, said to be the most effective drugs to lower cholesterol – or low density lipoprotein (LDL) –



Dr. Helen Hobbs during the TNQ Distinguished Lectures in the Life Sciences in New Delhi on Friday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

since statins.

While most of her peers were focussed on genome-wide association studies, Dr. Hobbs underlined that drugs were of limited utility if people had indulged in a lifetime of fatty food. "It is very important to start a healthy diet early," she noted.

Medical survey

She organised the Dallas Heart Study cohort that saw 6,000 residents of Dallas County, Texas, United States, aged 18 to 65 years, complete a detailed medical survey. A total of 3,500 participants over age 30 were invited to provide blood

in the PCSK9 gene.

While the PCSK9 may be critical for a category of heart disease patients, Dr. Hobbs underlined that drugs were of limited utility if people had indulged in a lifetime of fatty food. "It is very important to start a healthy diet early," she noted.

More recently, Dr. Hobbs' team has identified genetic signatures that are associated with the full spectrum of alcoholic and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, including steatosis, steatohepatitis, cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma.

Dr. Hobbs and her team found that mutations in the protein PNPLA3 were strongly linked to this condition. Yet another screen showed that a mutation in TM6SF2 led to an increase in fat content. Dr. Hobbs' team has shown that this protein helps the liver secrete fat into the blood to triglyceride-rich lipoproteins.

Activists call for enactment of law on right to health care

It was one of the major poll promises of Cong. in Rajasthan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Public health activists in Rajasthan have called for enactment of a law on the right to health care for fulfilling one of the significant promises made in the election manifesto of the ruling Congress. The State government has included the right to health as a policy commitment after being elected to power.

C State government should make a commitment for ensuring right to health care, rather than health, as the latter included social and economic determinants.

NARENDRA GUPTA

State convener, Jan Swasthya Abhiyan medical establishments, but the patients are also spending money in the State health institutions," Dr. Gupta said.

The JSA made a presentation on the draft Bill before Additional Chief Secretary (Medical & Health) Rohit Kumar Singh earlier this week.

Dr. Gupta said the State government should make a commitment for ensuring the right to "health care", rather than health, as the latter included social and economic determinants such as food, housing, water and sanitation.

Since the social determinants were outside the pur-

view of the Medical & Health Department, it would be prudent to initially give statutory recognition to the right to health care in order to guarantee quality health care to all citizens in the State. Dr. Gupta said this was important for Rajasthan, which experienced a high morbidity burden.

"Though the State's epidemiological profile is changing and 49.3% of all premature deaths are owing to non-communicable diseases, 39.9% deaths are still taking place because of communicable, maternal, neonatal and nutritional disease and 10.8% because of accidents and injuries," Dr. Gupta said.

According to 71st round of the National Sample Survey Office, 66.3% of the out-patients and 36.4% of the in-patients seek care from private health facilities in the State.

The draft Bill has laid down collective and individual rights of users and health care providers in general and in health establish-

APPLICATION FORMAT

**APPLICATION FOR JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
(CHEMISTRY/MECHANICAL ENGINEERING/CHEMICAL ENGINEERING)**

(Strike out which is not applicable)

Affix your passport size photograph

- Name of the applicant:
(CAPITAL LETTERS)
- Father's/Husband's Name:
- Date of Birth:
- District/State in which belong:
- Permanent Address:
- Correspondence Address:
- e-mail:
- Whether belongs to SC/ST/OBC category:
- Whether Married/Unmarried:
- Religion:
- Academic Qualification:

Mobile:

Nationality:

Examination Passed	Board/Institution/University	Year of Passing	Subjects	Division/Percentage
i. High School/Matriculation/Equivalent				
ii. Intermediate/Equivalent				
iii. B.Sc.				
iv. B.Tech.				
v. M. Sc./M. Tech.				
vi. Ph. D.				

12. Experience:

13. NET/GATE qualified: Yes/No

14. If Yes, give detail:

15. Knowledge of computers:

- (i) Course undertaken
- (ii) Skill acquired
- (iii) Knowledge of research tools/softwares

16. UNDERTAKING: I hereby certify that the information furnished above is true to the best of my knowledge and in the event of any information furnished above is found to be false or it is found that I have suppressed/concealed any material/information, my candidature is liable to be cancelled and government may take such other action as it may deem fit.

Date:

DAVP/10301/11/0193/1819

Signature of Applicant

EC urged to prevent misuse of govt. machinery during electioneering

Allegations of huge sums of money parked with some functionaries, says EC

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

The Opposition parties in Odisha have urged the Election Commission of India to prevent the misuse of government machinery and schemes during electioneering.

Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa on Friday said there were allegations of huge sums of money being parked with preferred government functionaries before the EC observers move in. Some parties also complained about the use of police vans and ambulances for transporting money for political use, he said.



Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa in Bhubaneswar on Friday. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

It was also alleged that inducements were being passed to self-help groups through newly started schemes. Instances of party publicity in the garb of go-

vernment schemes were also cited. KALIA scheme was also mentioned," Mr. Lavasa said at a press conference here.

The EC team led by Mr. Lavasa has met political parties and held discussions with the stakeholders to conduct free and fair elections.

For the first time, a mobile application – cVigil app will be activated in the State once the poll dates are notified. "If a citizen comes across any violation of the code of conduct, he or she can take pictures or make a video and upload it. The information will reach the control room along with the latitude and longitude which will enable it to ascertain where the picture or video was taken," said Mr. Lavasa.

"The enforcement machinery has to respond and upload the action taken report within 100 minutes. This application was tried in five State elections. We got about 20,000 complaints and 70% of them were found to be true. And prompt action was taken," he said.

The EC will be using 100% VVPAT machines in all the booths for the first time in Odisha. As many as 16 districts of Odisha have been identified to be affected by Left-Wing Extremism.

2 lynched in Meghalaya, another critically injured

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHILLONG
Two persons were lynched by a mob in Meghalaya's West Garo Hills district and another was critically injured, the police said on Friday.

The incident took place at Chanangpara village after the locals were alerted about the suspicious movement of the trio in their car,

they said.

A mob of over 1,000 people stopped the car and when they found weapons – a dagger and rods – in the car trunk, the occupants of the car were attacked, according to eyewitnesses. One Mokibul Akond died on the spot while Mikseng Marak was declared brought dead at the Hospital, district SP M.G.R. Kumar said.

SC refuses to withdraw work from Meghalaya HC judge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Friday refused to withdraw judicial work from Meghalaya High Court judge Justice Sudip Ranjan Sen who had created a controversy by his remarks that India should have been declared a Hindu country at the time of partition in 1947.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Sanjiv Khanna asked the petitioner, who has sought withdrawal of judicial work from Justice Sen, to amend the prayer and seek expunction of the controversial remarks in the judgment.

Justice Sen had written in his judgment, "Pakistan declared themselves an Islamic country and India since was divided on the basis of religion should have also been declared a Hindu country but it remained a secular country. Even today, in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, the Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Christians, Parsis, Khasis, Jaintias and Garos are tortured and they have no place to go and those Hindus who entered India during partition are still considered as foreigners, which in my understanding is highly illogical, illegal and against the principle of natural justice."

AIU meet begins today

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

The three-day annual meet of the Association of Indian Universities will get under way at the Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (Deemed to be University) here on Saturday with 200 Vice-Chancellors and academic leaders slated to participate in the event.

According to the AIU, autonomy, considered an essential prerequisite for universities to flourish, will be the focus of deliberations.

**TO ADVERTISE
PLEASE CONTACT**
Mr. N SELVA KUMAR
PH: 98203 50726
selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in
Mr. GAURAV SEHGAL
PH: 98110 06590
gaurav.sehgal@thehindu.co.in
THE HINDU

LIC HFL
LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD
Building homes. Nurturing relationships.

ONLINE HOME LOAN BONANZA
**GET GIFT VOUCHER
WORTH ₹ 7000/-***
(on disbursement)
HOME LOAN @ 8.80% P.A. ONWARDS
Apply online at www.lichousing.com

*Limited period offer. valid for online application. Loan at sole discretion of LIC HFL

JOTTER LONDON

CAPTURE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH A CLICK.

PARKER
EST. 1888



brought in India / Nepal by
LUXOTTICA

For Business Enquiries: Corporate 9810326200 | Trade 9810226661

Buy online @ www.luxottica.com | [amazon](http://amazon.in) | [flipkart](http://flipkart.com)

Follow us on: [Facebook](https://facebook.com/parkersindia) [Twitter](https://twitter.com/parkersindia) parkerindia.in

Available at: [CROSSWORD](http://crossword.com) [OM BOOK SHOP](http://ombookshop.com) & All Leading Stationery & Gift Outlets.

VISIONIAS
INSPIRING INNOVATION

YOU CAN BE NEXT

FOUNDATION COURSE GENERAL STUDIES Prelims Cum Mains 2020

DELHI
Regular Batch 12 Feb 9 AM
Weekend Batch 13 April

LUCKNOW
12 March

Batches also @
HYDERABAD | JAIPUR | PUNE | AHMEDABAD

फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन 2020

DELHI: 18 Feb **LUCKNOW: 9 Apr**
Batches also @
JAIPUR | AHMEDABAD

- प्रारंभिक, मुख्य परीक्षा और निबंध के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सभी टॉपिक का विस्तृत कवरेज
- एनीमेशन, पॉवर प्लाइट, वीडियो जैसी तकनीकी सुविधाओं का प्रयोग
- मौलिक अवधारणाओं की समझ के विकास एवं विश्लेषणात्मक क्षमता निर्माण पर विशेष ध्यान
- अंतर - विषयक समझ विकसित करने का प्रयास ► मुख्य परीक्षा, निबंध, PT, सीरीज टेस्ट सीरीज
- निबंध लेखन - शैली, PT 365, Mains 365, सीरीज कक्षाएं ► कॉम्प्राइमेंसिव स्टडी मटेरियल

OPEN SESSION

SIDDHARTH JAIN
AIR 13 | CSE 2015

How to succeed in
CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION 2020

17 Feb **1 PM**

LIVE Broadcast at www.visionias.in

VisionIAS Classroom, 19, Pusa Road, 3rd floor, Near Karol Bagh Metro Station Pillar No-94, Delhi

ONE YEAR CURRENT AFFAIRS
for GS PRELIMS 2019
in 60 Hours

Complete coverage of The Hindu, Indian Express, PIB, Economic Times, Yojana, Economic Survey, Budget, India Year Book, RSTV, etc from May 2018 to April 2019

ENGLISH Medium 19 Mar 5 PM **हिन्दी माध्यम** 3 Apr 5 PM

ALTERNATIVE CLASSROOM PROGRAMME
GENERAL STUDIES
Prelims and Mains 2021 and 2022

Starts: 12 Feb | 9 AM

Includes comprehensive coverage of all the topics for all the four papers of GS Mains, GS Prelims and Essay

PHILOSOPHY
by Anoop Kumar Singh
@ JAIPUR | PUNE | AHMEDABAD

Registration Open / Limited Seats

Includes comprehensive and updated study material

PERSONALITY TEST PROGRAMME

- Mock Interviews Sessions with Ex-Bureaucrats/ Educationists
- Interactive Sessions with previous year toppers and bureaucrats

ALL INDIA PRELIMS TEST SERIES
» General Studies » CSAT

Starts: 17th February

ALL INDIA MAINS TEST SERIES
» General Studies » Sociology
» Anthropology » Geography
» Essay

Starts: 17th February

SELECTIONS IN CSE 2017

AIR 3 SACHIN GUPTA AIR 4 ATUL PRAKASH AIR 5 PRATHAM KAUSHIK
YOU CAN BE NEXT

8 in Top 10 | 38 in Top 50

Scan the QR CODE to download VISION IAS app

JAI
PARKER
EST. 1888

DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or of any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Editor, Director, Employees of this newspaper or company be held responsible liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

• 635, Opp. Signature View Apartments, Banda Bahadur Marg, Mukherjee Nagar
DEHLI • 2nd Floor, Apsara Arcade, Near Metro Gate 6/1/8 B, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh

• Contact : 8468022022, 9019066066, 9650617807
JAI 9001949244 9799974032 **PUNE** 8007500096 020-40040015 **HYDERABAD** 900104133 9494374078 **AHMEDABAD** 9909447040 7575007040 **LUCKNOW** 8468022022 7042413943

[f/visionias.upsc](http://visionias.upsc) c/VisionIASdelhi

AND-NDE

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE:

www.thehinduads.com
011-43579738 • 43579797**EDUCATIONAL****REUNION IAS
IAS V.K.TRIPATHI PCS**सामान्य अध्ययन GS-II (मुख्य परीक्षा)
अभिशासन से 18 | 1:00PM
GOVERNANCE कक्षा 3:00PM
प्रारम्भ... FEB. 2019राजनीति विज्ञान 18 FEB.
(Optional) 2019
द्वितीय प्रश्न पत्र से कक्षा प्राप्ति...सामान्य अध्ययन (प्रारम्भिक परीक्षा)
राजव्यवस्था 18 FEB.
POLITY (PT) (सत्र का अंतिम बैच) 10:30 AM TO
303, TOP FLOOR, SATIJA HOUSE, MUKHERJEE NAGAR, DELHI-9
9999421659-58

ALS Alternative Learning Systems IAS 2020-21 DR. MUKHERJEE NAGAR

सामान्य अध्ययनEXTENSIVE
Main Paper-I, II, III, IV + ESSAY + PRELIMS + CSAT**FOUNDATION 2020-21****निःशुल्क कार्यशाला**

के साथ बैच प्रारंभ | आप सादर आमंत्रित हैं

FEB 20 11:30 AM Venue: ALS,
Vardhman Plaza,
Nehru Vihar

9999343999, 9999975666, 27651110

MOCK INTERVIEW CSE 2018

Learn to Score 200+ From Renowned Civil Servants & Secretaries Under GOI

Chaired by: Former UPSC Interview Board Member

Panel Members**Rengaraj Viswanathan - Rtd. IFS**

(Former Indian Diplomat / Ambassador Under GOI)

Ram Kumar Verma - Rtd. IPS

(President's Police Medal / UN Peace Keeping Mission)

Suresh Chandra Garg - Chairman

(Education Council of India / Director @ Commonwealth, London)

Praveen Aggarwal - Director-HR

(Indian Oil Corporation Ltd / Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas)

And Other Experts

→ Video recording of Mock Interview will be provided

→ More Mocks on demand → DAF Analysis

Date: Feb- 17, Feb- 19 & Feb- 21

YMCA Tourist Hostel, 1-Jai Singh Road, New Delhi - 110001
(Near by Patel Chowk Metro Station)

Register at - 98215-53677 / 011-41417741

Email Your Daf at: upscda2019@gmail.com

Rank - 3 / 12 / 83 / 218...and many more Previous Selections in UPSC-CE

IAS GURUKUL CHAHAL ACADEMY

GS SCORE
An Institute for Civil Services**CSE 2018
INTERVIEW
GUIDANCE**Interview board
consists of
Senior Civil Servants
& Academicians011-47058253
8448496262

www.iasscore.in

OFF NO. 6, 1ST FLOOR, APSARA ARCADE, KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI-110005
(KAROL BAGH METRO GATE NO. 5)

CM YK

A N D U D A S

THE HINDU CLASSIFIEDS

www.thehinduads.com

011-43579738 • 43579797

THE HINDU CLASSIFIEDS

www.thehinduads.com

IN BRIEF



Arun Jaitley takes charge as Finance Minister

NEW DELHI
Arun Jaitley on Friday resumed charge as the Finance Minister after a gap of over a month, the second break within a year that he had to take to undergo medical treatment abroad. Mr. Jaitley tweeted on Friday, "Thankful to Shri Piyush Goyal who discharged the responsibility diligently & competently."

Assam seeks cooperation as NRC hearing begins

GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal sought people's cooperation in ensuring smooth update of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) as the hearing on claims of those left out of the draft began on Friday. About 40.07 lakh out of the 3.29 crore applicants were left out of the complete draft published on July 30 last year.

Section 66A: SC asks States to sensitise cops

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed all States to sensitise their police personnel about its March 24, 2015, verdict which had scrapped Section 66A of Information Technology Act, so that people are not unnecessarily arrested under the struck down provision. It also asked all High Courts to send the verdict copy to all trial courts. PTI

Draft pact prepared to end Gujarat agitation

JAIPUR

A draft agreement was prepared on Friday to pacify Gujjars in Rajasthan agitating for reservation in government jobs and education and end the deadlock, as their protest entered eighth day. Gujjars continued to occupy the Delhi-Mumbai railway track in Sawai Madhopur district and several major highways, throwing traffic out of gear. Tourism Minister Vishvendra Singh said all misgivings would be addressed and the matter resolved.

Fast forward

The semi-high speed Train 18, which has been recently rechristened Vande Bharat Express, can run up to a maximum speed of 160 kmph. A look at Indian Railways' new showpiece train

16
air-conditioned coaches, including two executive class

1,128
total passenger capacity

I am grateful to designers and engineers behind Vande Bharat Express which will take its first trip from Delhi to Varanasi today. With our sincerity and hard work in the last 4.5 years we have tried to improve railways
— NARENDRA MODI, PM



TRAVEL PLANNER
■ The bookings have begun and it will run commercially from February 17 from Delhi to Varanasi five days a week. The train is expected to complete the journey in 8 hours
■ From Delhi to Varanasi, an air-conditioned

chair car ticket will cost ₹1,760, while the executive class fare will be ₹3,310. The fares are inclusive of catering charges

MADE IN INDIA
Train 18 was designed and built by Integral Coach Factory, Chennai under the government's Make in India initiative

MORE SUCH TRAINS
Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said tendering process has started for 30 such trains and P.M.'s nod has been sought to operate 100 of them
■ Dual mode lighting, personalised for each seat
■ Regenerative braking system to save power



A game-changer express: Goyal

Major systems of Vande Bharat Express have been designed and built in India

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
ON BOARD THE VANDÉ BHARAT EXPRESS

The brainwave:

The shell of 'Train 18' being worked upon at the Integral Coach Factory in Chennai ■ V. GANESAN

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday told reporters that the tendering process for the manufacture of 30 more semi-high speed trains like Vande Bharat Express, has already begun. Additionally, the Prime Minister's approval has been sought for 100 more such train sets.

"The major systems of this train have been designed and built in India. It meets global standards of performance, safety and passenger comfort at half the global costs. It therefore has the potential to be a game-changer in the global rail business," said an official, adding,

ding, "This is only the first train of its kind. Based on customer feedback, further improvements can be made."

Built at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, the Vande Bharat Express has a total seating capacity of 1,128 passengers. All the coaches are equipped with automatic doors, a GPS-based passenger information system, and free WiFi. But the WiFi can only be used to access select entertainment content pro-

vided by the Railways. The toilets are bio-vacuum type, similar to those on airplanes. On the downside, the chair car seats are not very comfortable, though the leg space is adequate. In contrast, the executive class seats are plush and can rotate 180 degrees. Every coach has a pantry with facilities to serve hot meals, and hot or cold beverages. The coaches are also well insulated from outside noise.

The train which left New Delhi railway station at 11.20 a.m. reached its terminus, Varanasi at 9.37 p.m. after a 40-minute halt at Kanpur and a 90-minute halt at Allahabad. The train did not stick to its scheduled timings as it was its inaugural run.

Inter-State frictions are back in the Northeast

Clashes break out between police and villagers in Meghalaya; stone pelting and arson reported

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

Inter-State frictions have resurfaced in the northeast after a show of unity by the region's constituent States over the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

On Thursday, less than 24 hours after the Centre's failure in getting the Bill passed in Rajya Sabha triggered celebrations across the north-eastern States, several people, including women, were injured during a clash between the Assam police and people of Umwali village in Meghalaya.

The village is near Langpih, a disputed place on the



Assam police commandos at the Republic Day parade, 2019 in Guwahati. ■ AP

for the Meghalaya villagers assaulted.

On the eastern edge of Assam, almost horizontally across the point where Langpih is situated, economic blockades by Assam-based ethnic bodies less than a fortnight ago began haunting the tribes of Arunachal Pradesh again.

For ST status
Organisations of six communities – Adivasi, Deori, Gorkha, Moran, Mising, and Sonowal Kachari – mostly inhabiting eastern Assam, have been demanding Scheduled Tribe status for their brethren living in pockets of

Arunachal Pradesh. The demand gathered steam after Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu and Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein made an assurance last year.

While these organisations have threatened to relaunch their agitation after a brief lull, the indigenous communities in Arunachal Pradesh want the State government to "forget the plan". Tribe and district-specific constituents of All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union (AAPSU) have also gone against their parent organisation for "keeping quiet" on the issue.

Call for probe into RTI activist's death

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

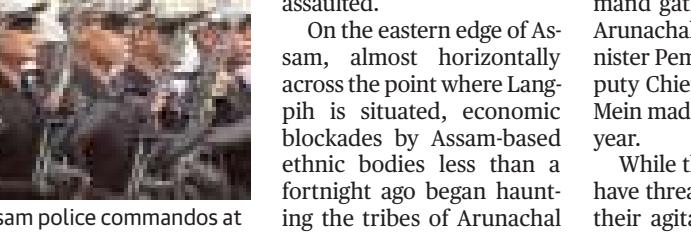
NEW DELHI

Condemning the alleged murder of RTI activist Vinayak Shirasath in Pune, the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) has urged the State government to ensure a time-bound and effective probe to prosecute those involved.

The Pune Police found the 32-year-old activist's decomposed body on Tuesday.

The CHRI, in a statement, said Mr. Shirasath had filed several applications seeking details of illegal construction in Pune.

"His family had approached the police with a complaint after he went missing a few days ago," the statement said.



An ISRO launch in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. ■ B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

The committee will also be briefed on March 6 on the lunar lander and rover mission, Chandrayaan-2, which may take place around April.

Back in November 2004, ISRO had first brainstormed a crewed mission at a similar gathering of nearly 100 experts in Bengaluru. Agreements and programmes

planned with the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will start taking shape from now on, Dr. Sivan told *The Hindu*. "Gaganyaan-related activities are in the full swing," he said, under the newly formed Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) and a dedicated team.

Gaganyaan was announced on August 15, 2018 as a marquee mission for the 75th year of Independence. It is slated to take place at a 'near-Earth' distance of 400 km.

Before that, two unmanned trial flights with human-friendly capsules are to be flown in 2020, carrying a few micro-gravity experiments.

Dr. Sivan said ISRO recently submitted to the IAF a set of requirements on selecting and training prospective Indian space travellers. The IAF would come back with details of its facilities. "In order to have three flight-ready finalists as crew, we need to give astronaut training to at least ten [eligible] persons," he said.

The astronauts will be mainly trained at the IAF's Institute of Aerospace Medicine in Bengaluru.

Bikaner land scam: ED attaches assets of Vadra

Properties worth ₹4.62 cr. include that of Skylight Hospitality

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday provisionally attached assets worth ₹4.62 crore of Robert Vadra's company Sky Light Hospitality (P) Limited and others in the Bikaner land scam case, according to the agency.

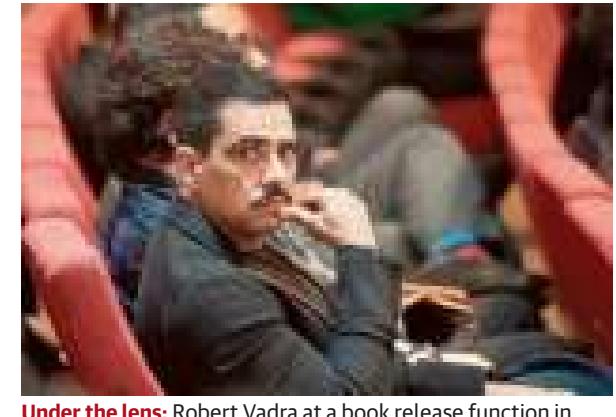
The properties include movable assets of four individuals, amounting to ₹18.59 lakh, and a building at Delhi's Sukhdev Vihar, which is in the name of Mr. Vadra's company. The attachments have been made under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Earlier this week, the agency had quizzed Mr. Vadra and his mother Maureen Vadra, as company directors, at its Jaipur office in connection with the case.

Refuting the charges, Mr. Vadra had earlier accused the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government at the Centre for its " vindictive action" by sending summons to his 75-year-old mother. "If there was any issue or any illegality which was found by the government, why did it take them four years and eight months to call me a month before campaigning begins for the general elections?" he said in a Facebook post.

The ED probe is based on 18 FIRs registered, and multiple charge-sheets filed by the Rajasthan Police against main accused Jai Prakash Bagrwa and 10 others.

ED sources said the investigations pertain to the alleged fraudulent allotment of land that was made available by the State government for relocation of people in 34 villages of Bikaner district, whose land had been acquired by the Centre to set up the Mahajan Field Firing Range.

"Fraudster Jai Prakash Bagrwa and others, in collusion with State government officials, got 1,422 bigha of government land illegally allotted to fictitious persons under the State government's scheme meant for the displaced people. They illegally sold 1,372 bigha of land to various persons and companies. On detection of



Under the lens: Robert Vadra at a book release function in New Delhi last week. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

fraud, the impugned land was taken back by the State government," said an agency official.

The land parcels were further sold for profits that, the ED alleges, are proceeds of alleged crime.

"Mr. Vadra's company Sky Light Hospitality (P) Limited had purchased 69.55 hectares land for ₹72 lakh and sold the same for ₹5.15 crore to Allegeny Finlease (P) Limited and illegally generated profit of ₹4.43 crore. Four other individuals had also generated profit of ₹18.59 lakh in sale of impugned fraudulent land," said the agency. The Directorate had earlier issued two attachment orders involving assets worth ₹1.82 crore and filed a prosecution complaint against nine accused persons.

ED attaches assets worth ₹904 cr. of realty developers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has attached assets worth ₹904 crore of D.S. Kulkarni Developers Limited (DSKDL) and others for allegedly cheating about 35,000 investors in Maharashtra between 2006 and 2017.

The land, buildings, LIC policies and bank balance of the accused companies and persons have been attached under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The attached immovable properties worth ₹895 crore are located in different parts of Maharashtra, Bengaluru and the United States.

The ED probe is based on the FIR and chargesheet filed by the Economic Offences Wing, alleging that Deepak S. Kulkarni, CMD of DSK Group, his wife and son, and others had 'cheated people' by fraudulently collecting deposits to the tune of ₹1,084 crore, on the pretext of phenomenal returns.

TNPL, a well known Paper Manufacturing Company with a turnover of over ₹ 3100 Crore requires the following personnel for its various Offsites in Tamil Nadu:-

Sl. No.	Name of the post	No. of posts	Reservation	Scale of Pay ₹	Monthly CTC at the minimum of Pay Scale as of 01.02.2019 ₹
1	Officer (Lab) / Assistant Manager (Lab) / Deputy Manager (Lab)	4	GT-1 BC-2 ST-1	19200-480-24000 23400-590-29300 28200-710-35300	77,210/- 92,965/- 1,12,440/-

* Pay Scales are under revision
For details relating to age, qualification, experience, etc., please visit TNPL's website: www.tnpl.com. Bio-data format is available in our website.
Candidates who conform to the job requirements as given in the website may apply in the prescribed format by post in strict confidence superscribing the name of the post within 15 days from the date of release of this advertisement to:-

CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER-HR
TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
KAGTHAPURAM-639136, KARUR DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU.

giving full details of age, qualification, experience, community, salary drawn and position being held along with copies of testimonials towards proof for the same.

Separate application is to be submitted for each post.

Applicants should enclose documentary proof for Date of Birth, Community, Educational Qualifications, Class & Percentage of Marks, Experience, Salary drawn, etc., along with the Bio-data form. Bio-data form with insufficient documentary proof will be summarily rejected.

DIPR/199/Display/2019
TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE
(A statutory Authority of Government of India under Architects Act, 1972)
India Habitat Centre, Core 6A, 1st Floor, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
www.coa.gov.in, www.nata.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

REVISED ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO ARCHITECTURE COURSE

Attention: Students, Parents, Architectural Institutions, Admission Authorities & General Public.

The Council with approval of the Central Government has revised the eligibility criteria for admission to Architecture Course as under:

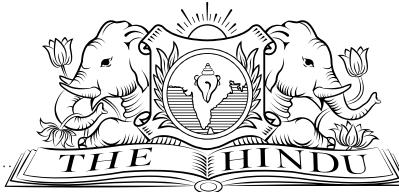
"No candidate shall be admitted to architecture course unless she/ he has passed an examination at the end of the 10+2 scheme of examination with at least 50% aggregate marks in Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics and also at least 50% marks in aggregate of the 10+2 level examination or passed 10+3 Diploma Examination with Mathematics as compulsory subject with at least 50% marks in aggregate."

The above eligibility shall be effective from the academic session 2019-2020.

The Council is conducting NATA 2019 Examination (twice a year) for admission to Architecture Course for the academic session 2019-2020. The last date for registration for the First Test is 11.03.2019 and for the Second Test is 12.06.2019. Students desirous of seeking admission in Architecture Degree Course may apply on NATA website www.nata.in.

New Delhi
Dated: 14.02.2019

Registrar



Terrible Thursday

As investigations into the Pulwama attack begin, Pakistan must act against the Jaish

As India mourns the death of 40 CRPF personnel in Thursday's terrorist strike in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district, it is clear that the attack was meant to provoke. The Jaish-e-Mohammed, the Pakistan-based terrorist organisation which has orchestrated numerous strikes in the Kashmir Valley, has taken responsibility for what is now the highest toll of security forces in any attack in the State. Investigations should yield a better picture, but it is a matter of extreme concern that a suicide bomber could time his attack to hit a security convoy. There is no question that Pakistan bears the onus to explain why Masood Azhar, the leader of the Jaish-e-Mohammed, enjoys such freedoms on its territory, if not outright support from the establishment. Certainly, diplomatic backing by Pakistan and China has been crucial in defeating efforts at the United Nations to put Azhar on the list of banned terrorists. Early details indicate that a sports utility vehicle laden with a huge quantity of explosives targeted the convoy of 78 buses carrying about 2,500 soldiers from Jammu to Kashmir. The video of the presumed suicide bomber too hints at an altered standard operating procedure meant to provoke and escalate tensions. Forensics teams have already begun work and answers to the disturbing questions the attack has raised on intelligence gathering, dissemination and coordination in the Valley must be pieced together.

However, if the terrorists have acted from an updated playbook, New Delhi's response must not play into their plans with reflexive and precipitate official action. India has withdrawn the Most Favoured Nation status to Pakistan in a signal that it will not wait for preliminaries in the effort to isolate Pakistan. Coercive diplomacy is likely to continue, but to be effective the effort needs a wider net, especially at a time when the U.S. is seeking Pakistan's help in firming up a deal with the Afghan Taliban. Beijing too must not, and cannot, evade questions about its previous blocking of action at the UN, specifically against Azhar. Post-Uri, after terrorist attacks the air is always thick with calls for retributive cross-border strikes. The past history of limited, if any, returns from such precipitate action must serve as a cautionary check. Instead, the effort must be to isolate Pakistan for its support to the Jaish and seek substantive action, to effectively upgrade intelligence and plug security gaps, and to win the confidence of the local population in the Valley. Thursday's attack was meant to provoke and polarise the country. New Delhi's response must, instead, be to isolate the perpetrators and keep the peace on Indian territory.

Forever president

Sisi stands to extend his reign if Egypt's draft constitutional changes go through

E

Egypt had begun nominal attempts at ushering in a multi-party system in 2005, when Mr. Mubarak got himself elected for a fifth term. But within a few months, he declared himself President for life. Attempts to switch to a popular representative government in the latter part of his tenure were merely cosmetic. Within years, in 2011, followed the mass protests that demanded the overthrow of the Mubarak regime and formed the epicentre of the 'Arab Spring'. Today, events have turned a full circle under Mr. Sisi's firm grip on the levers of power. The military has been never so powerful since the rule of Gamal Abdel Nasser. As with several autocrats today, the Egyptian leader has leveraged the American and the Russian governments effectively, while they seem indifferent to the military's excesses. Egypt similarly benefits from the strategic partnership it signed with China, bringing trade flows and investment. But above all, China's politically hands-off approach is a win-win for both regimes. While such diversification may be smart diplomacy, it begs the question about Cairo's long-standing position as the leader of the Arab world. There is a simmering anger among sections of the youth contending with unemployment and the absence of avenues for dissent. The Arab Spring is nearly a decade behind, but the conditions that brought the multitudes to Tahrir Square still prevail.

Hindutva 2.0 is in crisis

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's winning formula of 2014 is under severe stress; can he refresh it?



VARGHESE K. GEORGE

A month ago, on January 18, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) general secretary Bhaiyyaji Joshi said in Nagpur: "When the temple will be constructed on Ram Janmabhoomi in 2025, this progress (of India) will gather further momentum... Once the Ayodhya temple is built, the country will gain the capital required for the next 150 years."

The idea that the construction of a controversial temple at the site of a demolished mosque can lead to the formation of capital in the country could be intriguing for the uninitiated. For the proponents of Hindutva, however, this notion is integral to their idea of development and progress. The proposition is that an aggressive assertion of the collective Hindu identity is an essential precondition for India's development. This is a point that pro-market supporters of Prime Minister Narendra Modi self-deceptively overlooked ahead of the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, though he himself had made his position clear. Asked whether he was "pro-business" or a "Hindu nationalist," he said in 2013: "There's no contradiction between the two. It's one and the same image."

Three contradictions

While this has been a core component of Hindutva thought for decades, it was Mr. Modi's reign in Gujarat that made it acceptable, and popular. If enough people still thought Mr. Modi's 2014 campaign was jettisoning Hindutva for deve-

lopment, it was convenient for him.

Hindutva politics over the years had suffered from three inherent contradictions that stunted its growth: friction between pro-market segments and Hindu traditionalists in the Indian right wing; contradictory requirements of the centralised, disciplinarian, ideologically rigid core of the RSS and building a mass mobilisation through a political wing; and consolidating a Hindu vote bank among a people hierarchically and oppressively divided by the caste system.

Mr. Modi's innovation to Hindutva politics since 2002 has been in reconciling these three contradictions in a sufficient measure, initially in Gujarat and then in other parts of the country to win a Lok Sabha majority in 2014. That is Hindutva 2.0 – where material progress is married to a religious social agenda; disciplined organisation and mass mobilisation are balanced; and the lower rungs in the caste hierarchy are enlisted as part of an omnibus Hindu identity in which they are offered social acceptance and political representation. All these factors that worked in Mr. Modi's favour are now unravelling, and Hindutva 2.0 is in crisis.

The circle that admiringly described Mr. Modi as pro-market has shrunk very fast, and most of those who still call him so do it derisively, often accusing him of having promoted crony capitalism, and failing to deliver on job creation. Those who spoke of his managerial skills, many as a cover to mask their own bigotry, are now disappointed over the government's handling of the economy, especially demonetisation and poor implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). They may



NARENDRA MODI / SANDEESH SAXENA

not be cheering for anyone else, but they are no longer saying Mr. Modi is the saviour.

On the other hand, the religious right is happy. They have pushed the temple agenda to the back-burner with a new deadline of 2025, giving Mr. Modi breathing space, and have begun to rally forces behind his 2019 campaign. Yet, the marriage of material prosperity and religious nationalism is not exactly made in heaven, and is teetering.

Caste break-up

Enrolment of a critical mass of Dalits and backward caste populations into the Hindutva politics that is widely perceived as a project for the nourishment of upper caste dominance was Hindutva 2.0's second success. Mr. Modi presented himself as a lower caste leader and sought to appropriate Dalit and backward caste figures ranging from B.R. Ambedkar, Sree Narayana Guru to Ayyankali and even Mata Amritanandamayi into his politics. The idea of Hindutva is based on the premise that there is a collective interest for the community common to all caste groups. Given the social, economic, linguistic, cultural diversities within Hindus, a common thread that could unite them all is the image of a common enemy. Cow protection has been the convenient

tool here. In the 2015 Bihar elections, Mr. Modi urged Yadavs to not vote for Lalu Prasad, who he said was insulting the cow-worshipping community by supporting beef eating. In his home State of Gujarat it was "white revolution" and cow protection, while in Bihar it was pink revolution, or a proliferation of slaughter houses, he said.

But the same cow protection that helped Hindu unity soon enough fractured it as Dalits became targets of vigilantes. "If you want to attack, attack me, not the Dalits. If you want to shoot, shoot me, not the Dalits," Mr. Modi said in August 2016, as instances of cow vigilante attacks on Dalits increased. Moreover, the gravest impact of the collapse of livestock economy is in States where the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) did well in 2014, and within them, on backward castes and Dalits.

While Hindutva 2.0 offered a lot of rousing rhetoric for Dalits and backwards as quoted above, it also demonstrated an unprecedented hostility towards autonomous lower caste mobilisations. Brazenly partisan police action and the continuing police oppression of Dalit groups which organised protests, such as at Bhima Koregaon in January 2018, are signs of this intolerance of lower caste mobilisation against the Hindu right. The BJP governments in power also emboldened sections of the upper castes to seek to recapture the space lost to lower caste politics in earlier years.

The policy impact of the Modi government, ranging from the overall underperformance of welfare schemes for the Dalits, and the recently announced reservation for economically backward upper castes, is yet another source of friction. Pursuit of unity without

questioning caste hierarchy is vintage RSS, but is not very attractive to the majority among the Hindus. These contradictions are showing in regions where the BJP did well in 2014.

The iron grip of the RSS on the BJP, and the former's search for ideological purity have not only contributed to constant friction between the two, but historically also limited the electoral successes of Hindutva. For instance, while the RSS did not entirely trust Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who was often accused of being a closet Nehruvian, the more ideologically pure BJP leaders did not have any significant mass appeal. With Mr. Modi at the helm, Hindutva 2.0 overcame this dilemma, combining mass appeal and uncompromising Hindutva credentials in his persona. The synergy between the RSS and the BJP has never been stronger than it is today. But this disciplined march towards the goal of a Hindu Rashtra under the command of a 'strong leader' has created a new friction within. BJP legislators, Ministers and leaders who feel suffocated and powerless, despite being technically part of the ruling dispensation, now have a limited stake in Mr. Modi's continuation in power. A large number of sitting members of the Lok Sabha are likely to be denied tickets in 2019, if Mr. Modi continues on the 'Gujarat model' for beating anti-incumbency.

None of this is hidden from Mr. Modi and his tactician, BJP president Amit Shah, and they are bound to seek measures to reverse these trends. The extent of their success remains an open question. What is, however, clear is that the three critical components of Hindutva 2.0 are under severe stress.

vargheese.g@thehindu.co.in

Heralding a new dawn

India and Saudi Arabia are poised to dramatically deepen the bilateral relationship



SAUD AL-SATI

In April 2016, under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia gave itself a goal and a promise in the form of Vision 2030. The Saudi citizen has become the focal point for sustainable development with massive projects directed towards building a vibrant society, a thriving economy and an ambitious nation. The entire foundation of our Kingdom's economy is being transformed towards a post-oil age with the aim of attracting \$427 billion in private investments over the next decade to diversify the economy and create 1.6 million new jobs through the National Industrial Development and Logistics Programme.

Powered by reforms

According to World Bank's 'Doing Business 2018' report, Saudi Arabia has instituted the largest number of business reforms among countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region as of July 2017. With its platform Meras, starting a business in the Kingdom now requires only one step and one day! The single-window platform Fasah has also been

launched for customs clearance and import and export procedures. The 'Doing Business 2019' report has ranked Saudi Arabia as the fourth-largest reformer within the G20. In 2018, Saudi Arabia saw foreign direct investment rise by 127% year-on-year. Global confidence in Saudi Arabia's ascent has further solidified with the International Monetary Fund forecasting increased growth for Saudi Arabia in July 2018.

The Kingdom's construction market is set to touch \$96.52 billion in 2025, up from \$45.33 billion in 2016. There are three major projects underway – smart city project Neom, Qiddiya entertainment city and the Red Sea Tourism Project. In 2018, we also launched FekraTech, a national initiative for digital ideas, aimed at making Saudi Arabia a global innovation hub. The Saudi Intellectual Property Authority is also working towards transforming Saudi Arabia into an advanced knowledge-based economy built on innovation and entrepreneurship.

A \$100 billion planned investment in transport projects will also occur over the next decade as we expand the railway system and introduce new light rail mass transit projects in Riyadh, Jeddah, Makkah and Madinah. The grand expansions of the Holy Mosque in Makkah and the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah have increased their capacity for accommodating millions of worshippers. One of the most important goals of the Vision 2030 is to increase our capacity to welcome 30 million Umrah per-



formers every year by 2030, improve their experience and enrich it further.

Since a majority of the Kingdom's population is below the age of 30, education is a key component of Vision 2030. Over the decades, Saudi Arabia's education system has gone through an astonishing transformation. Due to generous scholarships from the Kingdom, a large number of Saudi students study overseas. By 2030, the Kingdom intends to have at least five Saudi universities among the top 200 in international rankings. Education reforms have also led to an increase in women's literacy and participation in the workforce.

With the Kingdom at the heart of the Arab and Islamic world, the changes taking place on the Saudi soil are creating positive influences for the entire Arab region. Saudi Arabia remains committed to the social, economic and political stability of the region and will continue playing a leading role in countering terrorism and establishing peace as demonstrated by the Kingdom's contribution towards

the historic peace accord signed between Ethiopia and Eritrea in Riyadh in 2018. We continue to stand by our Yemeni brothers and support the Palestinian cause. Our dream is of a peaceful, progressive and a prosperous world.

In our common pursuit for development and stability, Saudi Arabia sees India as an important partner. Our ties trace their roots to the third millennium BC. Trade, science, arts, literature, languages – the exchanges between our civilisations have indeed been profound. India holds a special place for us. Nearly 3 million Indians form the largest expatriate community in the Kingdom. India has also seen its Haj quota of 1,36,020 increase consecutively during the last two years to a record 1,75,025.

India and Saudi Arabia have more opportunities today to tap into than ever before. The bilateral trade for 2017-18, in excess of \$27 billion, will accelerate as Saudi Arabia and India engage in a host of new areas such as information and communications technology (ICT), health care, defence, biotechnology, education and infrastructure among others. India is one of the top countries on the Kingdom's preferred list with great potential for investment in organic and food processing industries.

Expanding cooperation
The energy partnership between the two countries is also finding new grounds. As of October 2018, Saudi Aramco has nearly \$2 billion in material-service sourcing with Indian companies, and investing

in India's value chain from oil supply, marketing and refining to petrochemicals and lubricants is a key part of its global downstream strategy. The \$44 billion integrated refinery and petrochemicals complex at Ratnagiri in Maharashtra, being jointly developed by Saudi Aramco, Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and a consortium of Indian public sector units (PSUs) consisting of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), is yet another milestone.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November 2018 on the sidelines of the G20 summit and both sides agreed to set up a high-level mechanism to boost concrete actions in terms of investment, technology and manufacturing across various sectors.

As formidable economies of MENA and Asia, Saudi Arabia and India have a historic opportunity to collaborate in shaping the future of our regions, for a better tomorrow full of prosperity and promise. Combining our respective strengths will pave the way for endless possibilities and accomplishments for the benefit of our two peoples and the region. The forthcoming state visit of the Crown Prince to India presents another historic opportunity to expand collaboration between our two friendly nations.

Saud Al-Sati is Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to India

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.

Carnage in Kashmir

It is saddening that paramilitary personnel were caught unawares despite surveillance and close monitoring (Page 1, "37 CRPF men killed in J&K suicide attack," February 15). Neither Governor's rule nor President's rule appear to have resulted in any significant change in the State of Jammu and Kashmir as far as curbing terrorism is concerned. The people in the State seem to have no hope of peace. Eliminating terrorists is going to be difficult as terror elements appear to be working in isolation.

N. VISVESWARAN,
Chennai

Evidence points to security and intelligence lapses. Where were the explosives

sourced from? It is time the international community came together and pledged to root out terror or act against terror centres.

SACHIN V.K. JADHAV,
Lakhala, Washim, Maharashtra

If there is incontrovertible proof of terror outfits being involved, India should step up its efforts to have in place a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. This must be at the level of the United Nations. Reports of Kashmiri youth now being a part of terror are deeply disturbing. Sincere efforts should be made to bring them back to the mainstream.

P. ALARMEMLANGAI,
Palani, Tamil Nadu

It is unfortunate that even after being admonished

publicly and warned of surgical strikes for any form of outrageous aggression, the forces backing terror have not mended their ways. The incident has also brought to light the vulnerabilities in India's counter-terrorism defences against fidayeen attacks. Lawmakers must address the lack of an institutional arrangement for the management of India's counter-terrorism response.

The country can ill-afford a loss of precious lives at the hands of a few extremist forces.

SHREYANS JAIN,
New Delhi

One is at a loss for words and one's heart goes to the families of all those who have lost their lives. Defence officials must now ensure a calibrated response so that

anti-India elements do not dare to touch Indian soil.

DEBASISH BARUAH,
Kohora, Kaziranga, Assam

One fears that people in the Valley will suffer for a terrible crime perpetrated by a few. Of course passions are high and cries of "blood for blood" are heard. Yet we still hope that even now there will be officials at the senior levels who will have their heads on their shoulders and proceed with patience and caution. Before furious retaliation is unleashed, there must be a dispassionate inquiry.

INDERJIT SINGH JAISWAL,
Chandigarh

It is unfortunate that there are some people donating their own blood for

pecuniary considerations, perhaps to make both ends meet. This practice, on the face of it, is morally and ethically incongruous, defeating the noble cause of blood donation (Editorial page, "Every drop matters," February 15). The panacea is to involve the community at large. If blood collection booths are accessible across the country, people may voluntarily opt for donation. There needs to be greater awareness of "blood donation day".

DEEPAK SINGHAL,
Noida

On the Silk Route trail

The Silk Route was an unhindered stream of trade that built bridges between cultures, until it was broken up by the rise of national borders. A Russian plumber and a German nurse capture its romance by retracing the route. **Peerzada Ashiq** reports

Mored to the banks of the Dal lake in Srinagar, 'New Shahen-shah' is not a fancy houseboat. An immersion rod hisses in a makeshift washroom set up on a wooden plank outside the houseboat. Tourists Roman, 47, a Russian plumber, and Anne, 31, a German nurse, are looking forward to their mid-day bath, and understandably so. Following heavy snow and landslides, they had been stranded for two weeks on the Zoji La, a pass which connects Kargil in Ladakh with Srinagar, their final stop.

When Roman and Anne met for the first time three summers ago in Tibet, they decided to do a special trip in 2018: retracing the famous Silk Route. They would explore the overland route that once connected Central Asia, Asia and Europe via the high mountain passes of the Pamir, Tian Shan, Hindu Kush, Karakoram and Kunlun mountain ranges.

Says Roman, "It was our dream to travel along the Silk Route, which was once an unhindered flow of different streams of cultures. Today it's a series of watertight chambers due to national borders."

On a military truck

It was in the late 18th and early 19th century that British archaeologist Sir Aurel Stein organised the first major expeditions to explore what German geographer Baron Ferdinand von Richthofen had in 1877 named the 'Silk Road'. Stein undertook eight expeditions along the ancient trade route that links China and the Mediterranean. On at least one expedition, Kashmir was Stein's starting point for a journey to explore a second century Buddhist site in China's Xinjiang province. The excavations made by Stein between 1900 and 1915 helped throw some historical light on this part of Xinjiang, which was once a part of the mysterious Kraina kingdom.

But in the post-colonial era, the consolidation of borders and hostility between neighbouring countries snapped the last remnant linkages of the Silk Route in the Kashmir region. The incorporation of Xinjiang into China in 1949 sealed it. But Roman and Anne managed to break through the 'sealed route' after 71 years, as they navigated through some of the world's toughest border posts.

In July 2018, Anne hired a military truck fitted with a modular kitchen and a two-bed arrangement in the back. It was a vehicle that could withstand temperatures as low as minus 50°C. It was what helped Roman and Anne survive when they were stranded in Ladakh for 15 days. Recalls Roman, "Even the vehicle's fuel got frozen many times at the Zoji La Pass. If you stepped out, there was a good chance you'd freeze to death."

It was his idea to hire a military truck, preferably a World War II-era vehicle. He says, "Anne managed to find one with a 5,200 cc engine in Germany. We wanted a vehicle that could negotiate mountains of this height and magnitude and withstand its vagaries. Thankfully, it did."

Anne drove the vehicle all the way from Germany to Romania across many states of Europe, and finally to Ukraine. "It was a memorable journey. One could see the stark contrast between two kinds of lifestyles. On the one hand were people pinned down by the modern idea of life, and on the other, a whole set of communities untouched by modernity, living a comparatively primitive life on the mountainside," says Anne.

Roman had once travelled overland from India to Russia via Tibet. Now he was all set to drive down from Russia to Kashmir along the Silk Route. Commencing the Silk Route leg of their journey from St Petersburg, they took the traditional land route through Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan, halting at the Silk Route's famous stopovers of Bukhara, Samarkand, and Badakhshan. From Kyrgyzstan, the vehicle made its entry into China.

Getting into Xinjiang

He adds, "This time, travelling to China was not easy. Our entry into Xinjiang took around 28 hours at the customs, where all the data from our phones and laptops was downloaded." Anne was unlucky. The Chinese customs officials spotted her pet cat – foreign animals are not allowed into China – and refused her entry.

However, this did not deter Roman from continuing his journey along the Silk Route in China. He drove the truck alone through the famous marketplaces of Urumqi and Kashgar of Xinjiang, before taking the arduous mountain stretches towards Karakoram in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). His road journey took him close to the famous Pangong Lake that straddles India and China in Ladakh.

Entering the Karakoram mountains through the Khunjerab Pass at an elevation of 16,010 ft, Roman steered his vehicle into Gilgit-Baltistan's Hunza valley in present-day PoK. Explains Roman,



Self-drive: "We wanted a vehicle that could negotiate mountains of this height and magnitude and withstand its vagaries. Thankfully, it did." Roman (left) and Anne in Srinagar after completing their journey along the Silk Route. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



"At the Balti Fort, I saw an 18th century Russian samovar (copper tea pot). Variants of it are used in Afghanistan and Kashmir." He decided to pick up a 100-year-old antique Afghani 'samovar' (a word of Russian origin) from Pakistan's Peshawar. "Sam" means 'self' in Russian and 'Var' means 'cook,' he explains.

Samovar is a copper teapot with a chimney at the centre for charcoal. While the Russian samovar has a knob at the bottom, the Kashmiri one has a teapot-like nose at the top. Roman adds, "This is a living example of how much we still have in common despite the borders that have come up."

Roman and Anne met up in Pakistan for the onward journey to India through the Wagah border at Amritsar, and from there to Ladakh via Manali in Himachal Pradesh. The Silk Route journey would have remained incomplete unless they covered Ladakh's Leh and Kargil towns, which were once bustling stopovers for silk-carrying merchants from China. Despite inclement weather in November (snow had already covered the passes connecting China with Gilgit-Baltistan and Himachal Pradesh with Ladakh, while the day temperature hovered below freezing point), Roman was determined to carry the antique samovar for the Central Asian Museum in Leh.

Says Roman, "I feel elated to have brought a samovar for the Leh museum. It would highlight the broken link. In Leh, I realised that the Russian word 'aksakal', which means 'white-beard' and 'wise man', had become the designation for the customs officer who used to check the caravans on the Silk Route in the past. The words and the utensils used here make one feel as if it was only yesterday that the region was open for trade."

A spark in the cold desert

The timing of Roman's offering of an antique samovar to the museum in Leh could not have been more opportune. Ladakh is sparsely populated. Its twin districts of Leh and Kargil have a combined population of just 2.74 lakh people (as in Census 2011) spread across a vast cold desert. Yet the region is astir with people's movements demanding a revival of the old trade routes. The setting up of the Central Asian Museum in Leh, in 2016, on the premises of a 17th

century mosque, stands testimony to the people's attempt to reclaim the past, with an eye on the future.

Back in 2004, in Kargil town, around 200 km from Leh, two brothers, Gulzar Hussain Munshi, 48, and Ajaz Hussain Munshi, 42, decided to sort out the artefacts hidden in their grandfather's inn. The inn had been set up in 1920 and was then known as the Aziz Bhat Sarai. The three-storey building also doubled as a depot for goods, with the ground floor accommodating a stable for traders' horses. The Munshi brothers converted the only surviving inn of the Silk Route in Ladakh into a museum. Gulzar became its director, while Ajaz is its curator.

Named the Munshi Aziz Bhat Museum of Central Asia and Kargil Trade Artefacts, the house of the Munshis has become a major attraction for tourists interested in learning more about the Silk Route. It houses over 30,000 artefacts from the 19th and the early 20th centuries. These include turquoise-studded silver necklaces and engravings from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Khotan and Kashgar, and 17th century carpets from the weavers of Yarkand and Kashgar in Xinjiang. There is also a 17th century gold-plated saddle strap from Yarkand. Early 20th century artefacts include western toiletries such as soap, toothbrushes, and shaving brushes dating back to 1903, 1905, 1926, and 1939 – all imported from England, Germany and the U.S.

Says Ajaz, "After reaching the Mumbai coast, these toiletries travelled all the way to Central Asia through Yarkand, the cold desert of Khotan, and Hunderman village, the nearest Silk Route point to Kargil town, still bears a great deal of resemblance to Kashgar bazaar in China's Xinjiang. It connects Kargil to Baltistan's Skardu area in PoK, which is less than 5 km from Kargil's main market. For the families here, retelling old tales and legends about trade and travel is a popular pastime on dark winter evenings. These stories, frequently told and retold, have also played a role in sparking the current political movement seeking a renewal of the Silk Route's old linkages."

I am the first Balti woman to take up singing, as it is strongly discouraged by our conservative culture. One day I would like to meet my fans across the LoC.

SHERINE FATIMA BALTI,
Bogdang, Leh



A Kashmiri Samovar, at the Dal lake. • GETTY IMAGES

Kashgar. From the other side, silk and carpets would reach Indian and Western markets." His grandfather, Munshi Aziz Bhat (1880-1950), was a prominent owner of a Silk Route enterprise, Munshi Aziz Bhat And Sons. He adds, "It traded in a number of goods, including silk, rubies, gold, and spices, with its business extending 'in all the four directions'."

Says Ajaz, "I do not see my private museum as a mausoleum of the Silk Route. I see it as heralding a fresh start. The time has come for Kargil to open itself up to Baltistan and Xinjiang again. If travellers like Roman and Anne can make the travel happen again, why can't we, who were to the Silk Route what blood is to a body?"

Says Ajaz, "I do not see my private museum as a mausoleum of the Silk Route. I see it as heralding a fresh start. The time has come for Kargil to open itself up to Baltistan and Xinjiang again. If travellers like Roman and Anne can make the travel happen again, why can't we, who were to the Silk Route what blood is to a body?"

Hajira Begum, the 104-year-old grandmother of the Munshi brothers, still has letters from 1933 containing details about the stocks of gold, rubies, and silk carried by the horses arriving from different directions. Says Begum, "One horse would carry 40 kg of gold dust. It used to cost ₹12 per kg. I can still smell the spices that criss-crossed these mountains."

The Munshis have already been approached by the Chinese Embassy in India for help in establishing a museum dedicated to the Silk Route. Says Ajaz, "China seems equally interested in reviving the links. They are in touch with us for the museum."

Hunderman village, the nearest Silk Route point to Kargil town, still bears a great deal of resemblance to Kashgar bazaar in China's Xinjiang. It connects Kargil to Baltistan's Skardu area in PoK, which is less than 5 km from Kargil's main market. For the families here, retelling old tales and legends about trade and travel is a popular pastime on dark winter evenings. These stories, frequently told and retold, have also played a role in sparking the current political movement seeking a renewal of the Silk Route's old linkages.

Sherine Nazir Mehdi Mohammadi, president of the Anjuman Jamiat Ull-

The time has come for Kargil to open itself up to Baltistan and Xinjiang again. If travellers like Roman and Anne can make the travel happen again, why can't we, who were to the Silk Route what blood is to a body?"

AJAZ HUSSAIN MUNSHI,
Kargil

ma Kargil, a local socio-religious group, is spearheading a campaign to reopen the Kargil-Skardu and Turtuk-Khapola routes. He says the people of Kargil are being denied their due. Says Mohammad, "People would be compelled to march towards the Line of Control (LoC) if the Kargil-Skardu and the Turtuk-Khapola roads are not reopened."

With each passing day, the movement is gaining momentum and support. Feroz Ahmad Khan, chairman of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Kargil, a body set up to administer the region locally, says the time has come to take the battle to the doors of power in New Delhi.

WhatsApp at the border

The advent of Internet and social media platforms such as Facebook and WhatsApp have further strengthened the yearning of the local population to connect with their roots. For instance, the language, Balti, a Tibetan language, is on the wane on the Indian side of the LoC, with only about 9,000 speakers in five villages of the Nubra Valley. But Sherine Fatima Balti, 23, a resident of Leh's Bogdang, a far-off village in the Nubra Valley, has emerged as a singing sensation for the 2.5 lakh Balti-speaking population of Baltistan on the other side of the LoC.

Says Sherine's father and a contractor, Ahmad Shah, 52, "My daughter is followed by 57,000 people on Facebook. Over 90% of her followers are from Baltistan." A comment from Manzoor Hussain Balghari and Ehsan Ali Danish, two well-known lyricists from Baltistan, on Sherine's Facebook page started an unusual musical jugalbandi (union) online. Says Shah, "Balghari and Danish now share their lyrics online with Sherine. She sings them and uploads the videos, which then go viral in Baltistan. Her songs are even aired on the local radio stations there." In January this year, Sherine was conferred the Jammu and Kashmir State Award for Performing Arts.

Adds Shah, "Other Baltistan-based lyricists have also started sharing their lyrics for Sherine to sing." One popular song written by Balghari and sung by Sherine is about the yearning to meet a dear one. "At the end of the day, the sky meets the earth; why can't we too," go the lyrics.

Sherine's songs, 'Grifhat Sula Beik' and 'Tsertragi Jusay Jusay', are runaway hits in PoK. Sherine says, "I am the first Balti woman to take up singing, as it is strongly discouraged by our conservative culture. One day I would like to meet my fans across the LoC."

Balti woman to take up singing, as it is strongly discouraged by our conservative culture. One day I would like to meet my fans across the LoC."

Sherine's family, like the 12,000 other families that got divided into Jammu and Kashmir and PoK after Independence, saw the boundary redrawn after the 1971 war. And families again got divided. Says Shah, "Baltistan is just 4 km from Bogdang village. In 1971, we were part of Pakistan for six months during the war before India won us back. It took many divided families 47 years to cover this 4 km distance. Our past is painful. Opening the Turtuk-Khapula road will go a long way in healing the wounds of war here."

Today, WhatsApp helps the divided families exchange videos and see each other by cell phone. It also heightens the longing for a real reunion.

For instance, the family of Ghulam Hussain, 42, a social activist, belongs to Thiyakhi village in the Nubra Valley. They became residents of India only in 1971, when the Indian Army annexed 804 sq km of territory from Gilgit-Baltistan. Ghulam Qadir, Hussain's uncle, got separated from his family in 1971 and stayed back in Ghanche district on the other side of the LoC, while his wife remained stranded here. Says Hussain, "It took over 12 years to secure a meeting between husband and wife. Now we rely on online video conferencing to see my uncle and aunt, which is not enough." For people in nearby Bogdang village, Hussain's Thiyakhi village remained a "mini-Pakistan" for many years.

Locals want tourism to pick up at Turtuk too, like it has at the Wagah border. Says Hussain, "Opening the roads will liberate us. During the winter, it is easier to ferry vegetables from Baltistan than from Leh town."

Ironically, the twin routes of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawla-kote that were opened in 2005 for the divided families of Jammu and Kashmir were of no use for those in Ladakh. Pakistan treats PoK and Gilgit-Baltistan as two separate entities. Says Hussain, "The bus service was limited to the divided families of PoK. So we could not avail it to reach Gilgit-Baltistan."

Kargil saw another shutdown on February 8. Since the announcement of the decision last November to open the Kartarpur Corridor between India and Pakistan, there have been three major rallies in Kargil town, with the protesters pressing for similar arrangements in this region.

Meanwhile, Anne and Roman, having successfully concluded their Silk Route adventure, have already shipped their military truck back to Germany from a Mumbai port. Says Roman reflectively, "Traditions live longer than regimes. Culturally, it will mean a great deal if people are allowed to move freely. I'm sure it will happen sooner or later."

FROM PAGE ONE

India revokes
Pakistan's MFN status

There is "incontrovertible evidence" of Pakistan's "direct" involvement in the attack, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said after a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security that deliberated on India's response. Pakistan has denied any involvement and termed the attack "a matter of grave concern."

"The terrorists... they have made a big mistake," Mr. Modi said at an event in Delhi. "You will have to pay a very heavy price... I assure everyone that the forces behind the attack... we will bring them to justice."

India has asked its High Commissioner to Pakistan Ajay Bisaria to return to New Delhi for consultations.

"Those who committed this heinous act or supported it will be made to pay a heavy cost," Mr. Jaitley said in a statement.

Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale summoned Pakistan's High Commissioner Sohail Mahmood and issued

We stand by the government: Rahul

He was accompanied by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and former Defence Minister A.K. Antony. The Congress Core Committee met at UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi's residence to discuss the party's strategy on the attack. The Congress will send a delegation of senior leaders to Jammu and Kashmir in coming days. Former J&K Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad is likely to leave for Pulwama on Saturday to take stock of the situation.

Calling it an attack on India's soul, Mr. Gandhi said the forces behind the attack should not feel that India would forget the deaths of its men. "No force, no amount of hatred, no amount of anger can harm the love and affection that our country is built on," he said.

Mr. Gandhi refused to answer a question on the comments by many Minis-

ters blaming the Opposition and peaceniks. "I don't want to get into these comments. I am very clear, I am hurt and every single Indian is hurt," he said.

Dr. Singh also reiterated the need to stand by the government in this tough time and not to raise "contentious issues". "...Today is a day of mourning, our country has lost 40 jawans. Our foremost duty is to convey to the families that we are with them. In condemning the act of terror, I also want to say that we will never compromise with terrorism," he said.

Mr. Gandhi later went to the Palam airport when the mortal remains of the CRPF personnel were flown in.

The CPI(M) Polit Bureau headed by party general secretary Sitaram Yechury said violence was not the answer to resolve issues that required the engagement of all stakeholders in the State.

CJI blames lawyers for delay in listing petitions

The court under the CJI has devised a mechanism by which cases are listed the very same week they are filed. However, this particular lawyer began to complain that the registry was not listing his case.

To this, the Chief Justice replied that the registry might not be at fault. The lapse in some cases lies with the lawyers, too. They do not cure defects in their petitions on time for an early hearing. It was in this context, he mentioned the state of the Rafale case. "The other side [lawyers] are not so innocent," he said.

In connection with the Rafale case, the Chief Justice said that instead of correcting the defects, these petitioners "go to the media and claim wide publicity."

There is no word about the government application filed on December 15, 2018, for a correction in the Rafale judgment.

The silence that shrouds the application belies the urgency with which the government had returned to the court on December 15,

Jawan's family photo wish remains unfulfilled

Basumatari was one of the 40 CRPF personnel killed in the attack at Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday. He had come home in January on a month-long leave. "An emergency call made him cut his holiday short. We did not imagine they would cut his life short too," Kamal said, adding that his uncle was the lone breadwinner of

the family and his death has put a question mark on the sustenance of each member.

"My aunt [Basumatari's widow Sanmati] has stopped eating and is not talking to anybody," the 20-year-old said.

Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Friday announced ₹20 lakh to Basumatari's family.

No change in China's stance

India seeks support to designate Jaish chief Masood Azhar a global terrorist

ATUL ANEJA
BEIJING

China on Friday reiterated that it stood by a UN ban on the Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), but stopped short of reversing its stance against sanctioning its chief, Masood Azhar, as a global terrorist.

Asked to comment on China's stand on listing Azhar as a global terrorist by the UN Security Council, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said: "As for the issue of listing, I could tell you that the 1267 Committee of Security Council has a clear stipulation on the listing and procedure of the terrorist organisations."

He added: "JeM has been included in the Security



Elusive peace: Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang called for regional cooperation to tackle terror. ■ AP

Council terrorism sanctions list. China will continue to handle the relevant sanctions issue in a constructive and responsible manner."

In a statement in New Del-

Azhar, as a designated terrorist under the 1267 Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council and to ban terrorist organisations operating from territories controlled by Pakistan."

Mr. Geng signalled that China was looking for a solution to terrorism based on "regional" engagement. "We hope relevant regional countries will cooperate to cope with the threat of terrorism and jointly uphold regional peace and stability."

Mr. Geng said, "China has noted the reports of suicide terrorist attack." "We are deeply shocked by this attack. We express deep condolences and sympathy to the injured and bereaved families."

U.S., UN condemn heinous attack

U.S. asks Pak. to end support and safe haven provided to terror groups

SIRRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

The United States has reacted strongly to the terrorist attack on the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) convoy in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir.

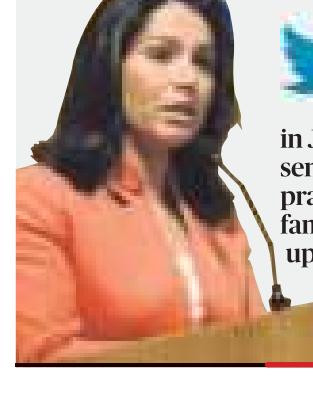
"The United States condemns in the strongest terms the heinous terrorist attack by a Pakistan-based terrorist group that killed over 40 Indian paramilitary forces and wounded at least 44 others. We express our deep condolences to the victims' families, the Indian government, and the Indian people for the loss of life in this brutal attack," a statement from the White House said on Thursday evening.

Counter-terrorism steps

"The United States calls on Pakistan to end immediately the support and safe haven provided to all terrorist groups operating on its soil, whose only goal is to sow chaos, violence, and terror in the region. This attack only strengthens our resolve to bolster counter-terrorism cooperation and coordination between the United States and India," the statement said.

Bring to justice

In New York, the United Nations Secretary-General's office has also strongly condemned the attack and offered condolences. "We call for those behind the at-



We stand with the people of India in condemning the terrorist attack in Jammu & Kashmir, and send our condolences and prayers to the victims' families. We must all stand up against these jihadists and their ideology

— TULSI GABBARD, Democrat and U.S. Presidential candidate

attack to be brought to jus-

tice," a UN Spokesperson for Secretary-General António Guterres said.

Several U.S. lawmakers condemned the attack that killed over 40 CRPF personnel.

Stand with India

"We stand with the people of India in condemning the terrorist attack in Jammu & Kashmir, and send our condolences and prayers to the victims [sic] families. We must all stand up against these jihadists and their ideology," Democratic Congresswoman and presidential candidate Tulsi Gabbard said on Twitter.

"Countries must not allow terrorist groups like Jaish-e-

Mohammed to operate with impunity," House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Eliot Engel said, condemning the attack.

"The United States stands strongly with India and I send my condolences to the families of the victims," said Congressman Tom Suozzi, whose Congressional district in New York City (Queens) has a significant Indian population.

Collective effort

Congressman George Holding, co-chair of the Congressional Caucus for India and Indian Americans, also offered his condolences. "The United States stands with the good people of India and the Indian government in our collective effort to end violent extremism and terrorism," Mr. Holding wrote on Twitter.

Indian-American Members of Congress also conveyed their condolences with Democratic Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal calling the attack "heartbreaking" and her colleague, Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi saying, "We must all stand united against terrorism."

Mallya launches effort to halt extradition

Decision on appeal in next 2-4 weeks

VIDYA RAM
LONDON

Businessman Vijay Mallya has launched his attempt to halt extradition proceedings against him this week, as he lodged his application to appeal against the extradition order with the administrative court of the High Court in London.

He had been widely ex-

pected to do so after British Home Secretary Sajid Javid on February 3 signed the extradition order against him, giving him a two-week window to launch appeal proceedings. An official at the administrative court confirmed to *The Hindu* that the application had been made on Thursday.

These petitions allege that the judgment is riddled with fault lines. They want the court to re-consider its "erroneous" judgment, which relies on a "non-existent" CAG report to uphold the Rafale deal.

The petitioners contend the judgment, based on a hypothetical CAG report, was not merely a "clerical or arithmetical slip" but a substantial error. They want a "recall" of the verdict.

A decision on whether to allow the appeal will be made by a judge — via paper submissions — within the next two to four weeks.

Should that attempt not be successful, Mr. Mallya would be able to ask for an oral hearing on the application to appeal. Should he gain the right to appeal, proceedings would then take place at the High Court in the coming months. It means that Mr. Mallya will remain on bail on the extradition warrant.

Mr. Mallya had indicated his intention to appeal the decision following the December 10 judgment at Westminster Magistrates Court but had to wait to the formal signing of the order by Mr. Javid before he could launch the process. Last week, the Home Office said



that the order had been signed after careful consideration of all matters.

Further opportunities

Should the appeal to the High Court fail, Mr. Mallya would still have further opportunities to attempt to overturn the extradition order, by seeking permission to appeal to the Supreme Court, though that could only take place if the High Court certified that the appeal involved a "point of law of general public importance, and either the High Court or the Supreme Court gives leave for the appeal to be made."

He could also, as a last resort, attempt an appeal to the European Court of Human Rights, though such appeals are only allowed very rarely.

This week, Mr. Mallya reiterated his settlement offer. "I respectfully ask why the Prime Minister is not instructing his banks to take the money I have put on the table so he can at least claim credit for full recovery of public funds lent to Kingfisher," he wrote on Twitter.

The 2005 law was enacted to ensure accountability in governance. The Commiss-

Why only bureaucrats on information panels, asks SC

Appoint professionals from all walks of life, court tells govt.

RTI integral, says SC but refuses to come under it

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Information Commission (CIC) and State Information Commissions, the country's apex bodies entrusted to uphold the citizen's fundamental right to information, have been basing of government employees and their retired counterparts.

This "strange phenomenon" was exposed in a 52-page judgment pronounced by a Supreme Court Bench of Justices A.K. Sikri and S. Abdul Nazeer on Friday.

The apex court found that "official bias" in favour of bureaucrats and government employees was evident from the very beginning of the process for appointment of Chief Information Commissioners and Information Commissioners.

In fact, the selection committee, which shortlists candidates for appointment, is itself composed of government employees.

What RTI Act says

The court said it could not quite fathom how government employees or retired ones had consistently been found "more competent and more suitable" than eminent persons from other walks of life.

The Right to Information Act of 2005 itself requires people from varied domains to man the Commissions.

The 2005 law was enacted to ensure accountability in governance. The Commiss-

ions are meant to be the law's eyes and hands to provide information to ordinary people.

The apex court directed the government to look beyond bureaucrats and appoint professionals from "all walks of life," including eminent persons with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism as Information Commissioners.

Parliament intended that persons of eminence in public life should be taken as Chief Information Commissioner as well Information Commissioners.

Now, the Supreme Court has, for the first time, put the government on a deadline as far as filling vacancies in the Commissions.

The court directed that the process of appointment should commence at least one or two months before the retirement is due.

Foreign Secretary briefs 25 envoys

Wants immediate action against JeM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Kicking off a global diplomatic campaign, India on Friday briefed envoys of 25 countries about the security situation following the terror attack in Pulwama. Sources said the move came after a "very strong demarche" was issued to the Pakistan High Commissioner Sohail Mahmood.

The External Affairs Ministry said that Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale briefed envoys of Japan, South Korea, the U.S., the U.K., Germany, Israel and countries from the Central Asian region and the Gulf. Diplomats of South Asian countries were among those Mr. Gokhale briefed.

"All the HoMs (Heads of Missions) were left in no doubt about the role played

by the Pakistan-based and supported Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) in the terrorist attack and our demand that Pakistan cease forthwith all support and financing to terror groups operating from areas under their control," a source said.

The Ministry highlighted that Pakistan was responsible for the attack on the CRPF convoy. Mr. Gokhale highlighted that Pakistan had used terrorism as an instrument of state power.

India has also rejected Pakistan Foreign Ministry's statement which had described India's accusation as media-driven insinuation. Hours after Pakistan briefed Ambassadors of the P5 countries of the UN Security Council, India said Islamabad's demand for an investigation was "preposterous".

The lowdown on the MFN status

What does revoking MFN mean?

Revoking it means India can levy whatever import tariffs it wants. India can now make it very expensive for Pakistan to export its goods or services to India.

Will this hurt Pakistan?

So far, India has only revoked the MFN status. It has not altered the import duties on Pakistan. However, if it does hike them, then this will likely have an impact on that country.

That said, the scale of that impact is questionable. India's total trade with Pakistan stood at \$2.4 billion in 2017-18, with just \$488.56 million of this being imports from Pakistan, according to Commerce Ministry data.

Revoking Pakistan's MFN status seems to be more of a symbolic move.

■ BACKGROUNDER

EC officials may defer visit to J&K

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission's visit to Jammu and Kashmir to review the preparedness for the coming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections may get delayed owing to the Pulwama attack.

An internal security meeting on Monday, which is to be attended by representatives of the Home Ministry, EC officials are likely to discuss the situation in the State and decide the next step. The Assembly election in J&K may also be conducted simultaneously with the Lok Sabha poll.

Income norm relaxed for judge posts

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium, led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, has removed the need for lawyers to have a minimum income limit of ₹7 lakh in order to be considered for appointment as High Court judges. The threshold has been relaxed for government lawyers and judicial officers who belong to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Communities.

The Collegium brought to light its decision in its February 12 resolution while recommending some names for judges of the Allahabad High Court.

A ND-NDE

Suicide bomber set off a huge cache of RDX

100-150 kg of the explosive was used, shows probe

VIJAYA SINGH
NEW DELHI

A post-blast analysis conducted by the National Security Guard at the scene of attack in Pulwama has established that the SUV driven by the suicide bomber was packed with RDX. A senior government official told *The Hindu* that preliminary investigations suggested that 100-150 kg of RDX was used in the attack on the CRPF convoy on Thursday. The official said samples had been collected for further forensic analysis.

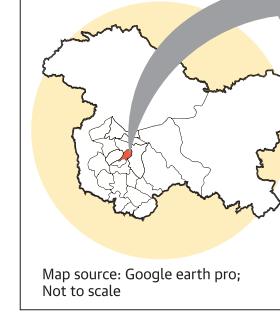
Adil Ahmed Dar, the Jaish-e-Mohammed suicide bomber, rammed a bus in the convoy, killing 40 personnel near Pulwama, 30 km from Srinagar. The CRPF had been moving such convoys, comprising more than 2,500 personnel each, on the Srinagar-Jammu highway. In the past fortnight, two such convoys had moved from Jammu to

Terror target

40 CRPF personnel were killed on Thursday when a car carrying explosives rammed a convoy on the Srinagar-Jammu highway near Pulwama. A look at the route and timeline

1 3.30 a.m.:

A 78-vehicle convoy started from Jammu



2 2.15 p.m.: 14 vehicles stopped at Qazigund, where a security component of another 16 vehicles was added. Road opening parties cleared the route after sanitising it for IEDs

3 3.30-3.33 p.m.:

An explosive-laden SUV entered the highway from a slip road (Kakpora-Lelhar side) and was on the left side of the road. The moment the CRPF bus passed by, the SUV rammed it. The bus was the fifth in the convoy. The attack happened near milestone no. 272 on the highway



After effect: Security personnel stand guard near charred vehicles after a violent protest over the killing of CRPF personnel in the Pulwama terror attack, in Jammu, on Friday. ■ PTI

Srinagar. The latest was on February 4 with a convoy of 91 vehicles and 2,871 personnel.

The militant entered the highway from a slip road (from the Kakpora-Lelhar side), hitting the CRPF bus,

the fifth in the convoy, from the left side and then triggered the explosives, preliminary investigations show. The road was open for movement of civilian vehicles, and an hour back, the route had been sanitised for the presence of improvised explosive devices. More than 2,000 men were deployed for road security, an official said.

Most men killed were returning from their annual holiday. A senior govern-

ment official said the convoys ran smoothly during summers but were irregular during winters and the monsoon because of snowfall and landslides. Hence, CRPF personnel get stranded in Jammu for days. "As the transit

official said the con-



Honouring the dead: Home Minister Rajnath Singh shoulders a coffin of a CRPF jawan during a wreath-laying ceremony in Budgam on Friday. ■ PTI

IN BRIEF

Pak. summons Deputy High Commissioner

ISLAMABAD

In a fit-for-tat move, Pakistan on Friday summoned Indian Deputy High Commissioner here and lodged a protest against New Delhi linking Islamabad to the brutal Pulwama terrorist attack. Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed has claimed responsibility for the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on Thursday that left 40 CRPF soldiers dead. Earlier in the day India summoned Pakistan High Commissioner Sohail Mahmood and issued a very strong demarche over the killing of the CRPF personnel. ■ PTI

AMU student booked for objectionable tweet

LUCKNOW

A student of Aligarh Muslim University was on Friday booked for allegedly posting an objectionable tweet on the CRPF men who died in the Pulwama suicide attack. He has also been suspended from the university. Basim Hilal, a mathematics student, allegedly posted on Twitter, "How's the Jaish? Great Sir," in apparent reference to a dialogue from the Bollywood film *Uri*, which is based on the surgical strikes conducted by the Army in 2016. A case was registered against the student, who hails from Jammu & Kashmir.

J&K Governor Malik blames regional parties

SRINAGAR

Governor Satya Pal Malik has blamed the regional parties for "vitiating atmosphere in Jammu and Kashmir" ahead of the attack. "The kind of statements issued by mainstream leaders like 'New Delhi playing with fire' had created an atmosphere. There is a trend where a mainstream leader reaches a militant's house for solidarity. They should stop doing it," said Mr. Malik, in an oblique reference to PDP president Mehbooba Mufti. "J&K is under the Governor's rule so he can't abdicate responsibility," said Ms. Mufti in her response.

Will not tolerate ISI-backed terror, says Rajnath Singh

Says the sacrifice of the CRPF men will not go in vain

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Reflecting the tone of the CRPF's early-morning tweet, "We will not forget and forgive," Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh talked tough in Srinagar, pledging "to eliminate terror from J&K soon".

"New Delhi will eliminate terror soon. We will not tolerate the terror backed by Pakistan and ISI. We are happy the people of J&K are with us in our fight," said Mr. Singh, who arrived in Srinagar on Friday morning. "The nation will not forget them; the sacrifice will not go in vain."

The Minister, accompanied by Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba, J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik, Adviser K. Vijay Kumar and Chief Secretary B.V.R. Subramanyam, visited the Army's 92 Base Hospital to enquire about the injured.

In an oblique reference to the separatists, the Home Minister said there were some elements in Kashmir who were "hand in glove

New Delhi will eliminate terror soon. We are happy the people of J&K are with us

RAJNATH SINGH
Home Minister

and paid agents" of Pakistan's ISI.

"Such elements will be dealt sternly. I have asked officers to review the security of those people who take money from Pakistan," Mr. Singh said.

After chairing a security review meeting, Mr. Singh revised the standard operating procedure (SoP) for convoy movement. "Civilian vehicles will be halted till a convoy passes. Civilians will have to cooperate," Mr. Singh said.

National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah suggested that government instead consider using chartered trains.

Commenting on the violence in Jammu, where 12 civilians were injured and scores of vehicles burnt by protesters, Mr. Singh said

the State administration would take stern action against those trying to disrupt peace.

Curfew in Jammu

Jammu's District Magistrate on Friday ordered the imposition of a curfew in Jammu city.

The move came after protesters, mainly right-wing groups in Jammu, first held a protest rally in the locality in the old city that is predominantly populated by a particular community and later allegedly clashed with residents and set fire to several vehicles.

Mr. Abdullah and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti sought Mr. Singh's intervention to help ensure that the tense situation in Jammu was defused.

Jammu witnessed a shutdown following a call from the Jammu Chambers of Commerce and Jammu Bar Association to protest the killing of the 40 CRPF jawans in the Pulwama attack.

Governor's Adviser says explosives could have been smuggled across the border

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

There was no specific intelligence input on the dastardly terror attack on the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) convoy, which killed over 40 paramilitary personnel near Awantipora along the Srinagar-Jammu highway in Pulwama district on Thursday, K. Vijay Kumar, Adviser to the Governor, Jammu & Kashmir, told *The Hindu*.

Talking over the phone from Srinagar, Mr. Kumar on Friday said there was an input of a possible Jaish-e-Mohammed (JEM) terror module in Srinagar during the Republic Day celebrations.

Security arrangements, vehicle checks and other anti-sabotage operations were intensified to prevent any attack.

"We did not know when and where the attack was planned then. But armed forces were put on high alert to follow standard security protocol. As regards Thursday's attack on the CRPF convoy, there was no intelligence giving any precise details...had there been any such information we would have taken steps to pre-empt it," he said.

Asked why the CRPF personnel were not airlifted considering the threat perceptions in the State, he said airlifting security forces was not a solution to the problem. Even if aircraft were to be deployed between Jammu and Srinagar, the men would have to anyway depend on the roads to travel from the Srinagar airport to other locations.

"We did not know when and where the attack was planned then. But armed forces were put on high alert to follow standard security protocol. After one of the prime suspects was shot dead in an encounter, there was no other follow-up information. As regards Thursday's attack on the CRPF convoy, there was no intelligence giving any precise details...had there been any such information we would have taken steps to pre-empt it," he said.

Asked how the explosives-laden vehicle managed to reach the convoy without being intercepted on the highway, Mr. Kumar said that it was impossible to sanitise the

We did not know when and where the attack was planned then. But armed forces were put on high alert to follow standard security protocol. As regards Thursday's attack on the CRPF convoy, there was no intelligence giving any precise details...had there been any such information we would have taken steps to pre-empt it

K. VIJAY KUMAR
Adviser to the Jammu & Kashmir Governor

giving any precise details...had there been any such information we would have taken steps to pre-empt it," he said.

road since there were at least 70 intersections, 35 on each side.

Moreover, the density of vehicles was very high and clamping restrictions such as vehicle checks would lead to congestion and inconvenience to the civilian people.

"There are dozens of intersections connecting villages along the highway. Vehicles can come through these intersections and join the highway..."

Forensic experts from the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the National Security Guard (NSG) were conducting a preliminary investigation on the nature and source of the explosives used by the suicide bomber. It is possible that the explosives could have been smuggled across the border over a

period of time and stashed in the Valley for use later.

No firing

Mr. Kumar said the attack on the CRPF convoy was carried out by a lone suicide bomber. There was no firing after the explosion as reported by a section of the media. "But we have to investigate aspects like who masterminded the attack, whether they conducted any recce, was there anybody tracking the movement of the vehicles from Jammu, etc."

The movement of security forces in convoy would continue in the State with some restrictions. Police pickets had been put up at vantage points. However, the focus would not be fully on vehicle movements since the attack could be an attempt to divert attention and target elsewhere.

There was no travel advisory and tourists were safe to enter the State. "There is no threat to tourism in the Valley. People are free to come and travel," Mr. Kumar said after attending a meeting in which Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh reviewed the situation.

Jaish picked up a new recruit for deadly car bomb attack

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

The Jaish-e-Mohammed had picked up a new recruit for the deadly attack in Pulwama. The suicide bomber has been identified as Adil Ahmed Dar, alias "Waqas Commando", a resident of Gundibagh village in Pulwama.

In police records, Dar is a 'C' category militant, which means very few cases of militancy were filed against him compared with those against an 'A plus plus' category militant.

"I will remember my son as obedient, helpful and sensitive. He worked as a cloth seller and as a mason. We least suspected what he had become," said his father, Ghulam Hassan Dar, in the two-storey house of another son.

Local people have been trickling

into Dar's house. In a video, he is seen warning of more such attacks, while referring to the hijacking of IC814 and the Pathankot attack.

Dar, who has three brothers, did a course in Islamic studies after his Class 11 examination, his family said. Relatives said the killing of Burhan Wani in 2016 changed the course of his life. "Dar was hit by a bullet in the leg in street protests. In 2016, his cousin was killed in an encounter. Of late, he would talk about Kashmir and rights violations a lot," a relative said.

Dar went missing in March 2018 and resurfaced on social media in April, with a display of weapons.

The police are investigating his links with Faridne Khanda from Tral who participated in a suicide attack on a CRPF camp in Lethpora on December 30, 2017.

DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(SOUTH)-I OPPOSITE J-BLOCK MARKET, SAKET, NEW DELHI-110017 NIT NO. 62/(S-I)/(2018-19)					PH. 011-29552688
S. NO.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution	
1	Replacement of different dia's damaged pipe rising main & peripheral main in Mehrab constituency under EE(South)-I	33,69,191/-	2019_DJB_168424_1 13.02.2019	04.03.2019 upto 3.00PM	
NIT NO. 63/(S-I)/(2018-19)					
S. NO.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution	
1	Improvement of sewage system by replacement of badly silted up and damaged sewer line on main road along Nellah in B-II & C-II block Madangir under EE(South)-I. (Re-invited)	43,12,120/-	2019_DJB_168479_1 13.02.2019	06.03.2019 upto 3:00PM	
2	Improvement of sewerage system by replacement of badly silted up and damaged sewer line in Jataw Mohalla and near H.No. 2/13, 14 and 15 in Khanpur Village under EE(South)-I	26,10,119/-	2019_DJB_168479_2 13.02.2019	06.03.2019 upto 3:00PM	
3	Improvement of sewerage system by replacement of badly silted up and damaged sewer line for H.No. C-151 to C-685 in C-block Dakshinpur under EE(South)-I	29,36,793/-	2019_DJB_168479_3 13.02.2019	06.03.2019 upto 3:00PM	
4	Improvement of sewerage system by replacement of badly silted up and damaged sewer line in B-1 block Mandangir under EE(South)-I	41,20,908/-	2019_DJB_168479_4 13.02.2019	06.03.2019 upto 3:00PM	
NIT along with all the terms & conditions is available on website https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in					
ISSUED BY P.R.O.(WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 814/2018-19					EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH)-I

Officials struggle to identify bodies

Caskets brought to Delhi first

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Officials struggled to identify the CRPF personnel killed in the Pulwama terror attack on Thursday afternoon, as most bodies were disfigured beyond recognition.



<p

Trump declares emergency to build border wall

The announcement transforms a highly charged policy dispute into a fundamental confrontation over separation of powers

PETER BAKER
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump formally declared a national emergency at the border on Friday to access billions of dollars to build a border wall that Congress refused to give him, transforming a highly charged policy dispute into a fundamental confrontation over separation of powers.

In a televised announcement in the Rose Garden, Mr. Trump said he was signing the declaration to protect the country from the flow of drugs, criminals and illegal immigrants coming across the southwestern border from Mexico, which he characterised as a profound threat to national security.

"We're going to confront the national security crisis on our southern border and we're going to do it one way or the other," he said. "It's an invasion," he added. "We have an invasion of drugs



Walled off: A section of reinforced U.S.-Mexico border fence seen from Tijuana, Mexico. • AFP

and criminals coming into our country."

Pooling funds

The declaration will enable Mr. Trump to divert \$3.6 billion budgeted for military

construction projects to the border wall, White House officials said.

Mr. Trump will also use more traditional presidential budgetary discretion to tap \$2.5 billion from counternarc

cotics programmes and \$600 million from a Treasury Department asset forfeiture fund.

Combined with the \$1.375 billion authorised for fencing in a spending package

passed by Congress on Thursday night, Mr. Trump would then have about \$8 billion in all to advance construction of new barriers and repairs or replacement of existing barriers along the border this year, significantly more than the \$5.7 billion that Congress refused to give him.

Abuse of power

The President's decision, previewed on Thursday, triggered instant condemnation from Democrats and some Republicans, who called it an abuse of power. House Democrats plan to introduce legislation to block the president's move, which could pass both houses if it wins the votes of the half-dozen Republican senators who have criticised the declaration. That would put the President in the position of issuing the first veto of his presidency.

The spending package passed by Congress on Thursday after a two-month showdown with the President included none of the \$5.7 billion that Mr. Trump demanded for 234 miles of steel wall. Instead, it provided \$1.375 billion for about 55 miles of fencing.

Mr. Trump agreed to sign the package into law anyway to avoid a second government shutdown.

White House officials said Mr. Trump would sign that spending package later on Friday or on Saturday. *NY TIMES*

U.S. fund manager held in Moscow

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MOSCOW

A veteran U.S. investment fund manager was detained in Moscow on Friday and faces fraud charges in a case that's likely to rattle the Russian business community.

Michael Calvey, founder and senior partner at Baring Vostok equity firm, was detained alongside two other fund managers, and a Moscow court is expected to rule on their arrest later on Friday.

The Basmanniy court said Mr. Calvey, who has been working in Russia since 1994, and five other people, including two Baring Vostok

managers, face charges of fraud. The Interfax news agency cited an investigator telling the court on Friday that Mr. Calvey is suspected of embezzling 2.5 billion rubles (\$37 million) from Vostochny Bank, where Baring Vostok has a controlling stake.

Mr. Calvey has long worked in Russia and invested heavily in the country's technology sector, including in the web search giant Yandex.

Baring Vostok said in a statement that the arrests are related to the dispute over Vostochny and have no effect on its core activities.

'Brexit defeat in Parliament a hiccup'

The setback may affect the ongoing talks with the European Union, says Minister

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

The British government on Friday dismissed as a "hiccup" its latest parliamentary defeat over Brexit, saying it would keep trying to renegotiate its EU divorce deal just six weeks before exit day.

But senior Minister Andrea Leadsom, the leader of the House of Commons, conceded that the setback might affect the ongoing talks with the EU. "Yesterday was more of a hiccup than the disaster," she said.

She added: "The one problem with last night's vote is that it allows the EU to continue with this pretence that

they don't know what we want. And they do know what we want."

Irish 'backstop'

MPs on Thursday night rejected by 303 votes to 258 a motion expressing support for Prime Minister Theresa May as she seeks changes to the Irish "backstop" in her Brexit deal.

It was intended to repeat the mandate given to Ms. May on January 29, when MPs voted to find "alternative arrangements" to keeping the border with Ireland free-flowing after Brexit.

But it also took into account another vote on Janu-

ay 29, saying Britain should not leave the EU without a deal.

Hardline Brexit supporters in Ms. May's Conservative party believe this "no deal" scenario should remain an option, and so they abstained on Thursday evening.

If such a legislative strategy failed to stop Mr. Trump, the issue would likely be taken to court, either by congressional Democrats, liberal advocacy groups or both.

White House officials rejected critics who said Mr. Trump was creating a precedent that future Presidents could use to ignore the will of Congress.

The spending package

Pakistan gets ready to woo Saudi Crown Prince

He will begin his two-day visit today



Grand welcome: Commuters ride past billboards of Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Imran Khan in Islamabad. • AFP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan was rescheduling flights, blocking-off luxury hotels, and – according to one report on Friday – collecting 3,500 pigeons and colourful balloons to release during a welcome ceremony for Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

House and the Presidency, was to be sealed off, while civil aviation authorities have been told to reschedule flights during the Prince's arrival and departure.

Authorities in the capital said two five-star hotels had been ordered to cancel all advance bookings as the rooms will be reserved for the Prince's entourage.

Islamabad is hoping to sign a raft of investment deals and other agreements during the two-day visit, which begins on Saturday and will include talks with Prime Minister Imran Khan and the powerful Army chief, General Qamar Javed Bajwa.

Earlier in the week, local media reported that the Crown Prince's personal belongings – including luxury vehicles and his own gym – were flown to Pakistan in two C130 airplanes.

Kashmir attack
The visit came as regional tensions spiked after Islamabad was accused of harbouring militants behind a deadly attack in Kashmir.

At least 41 paramilitary troops were killed in a suicide blast on Thursday.

The Crown Prince, who is due to visit India after Pakistan, also continues to be tarnished by his alleged links to the brutal murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Saudi Arabia is reportedly preparing to sign a record investment package with Pakistan, including a \$10-billion refinery and oil complex for the strategic Gwadar Port on the Arabian Sea.

+ U.S. may extend March 1 tariff deadline, says Trump

American negotiator briefs Chinese President of the progress

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump said that "there's a possibility" he would extend a March 1 deadline in trade talks with China if the two countries are closing in on a deal.

Mr. Trump made the remarks on Friday after two days of high-level negotiations in Beijing. The two countries announced plans to resume talks next week in Washington.

The world's two biggest economies are locked in a dispute over China's aggressive push to challenge American technological dominance.



Dialogue would continue in Washington next week, White House said. • AP

The U.S. is scheduled to hike import taxes on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods on March 2. But Mr. Trump told reporters that he might extend the deadline "if I see that we're close to a

deal or the deal is going in the right direction." He had made similar comments on Tuesday.

Earlier on Friday, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, who led the U.S. side, told Chinese President Xi Jinping that while there was more work to do, they had made progress.

"I hope you will continue to work hard to promote a mutually beneficial and win-win agreement," the Chinese President told Mr. Lighthizer in a meeting after the negotiations ended.

The decision to hold more talks suggested they were making progress.

U.S. charges 2 ex-executives of Cognizant

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of Justice has announced criminal charges against two former Cognizant Technology Solutions Corp executives over corruption, and said the company will pay \$25 million to settle a related civil case.

Prosecutors said the former president Gordon Coburn and the former chief legal officer Steven Schwartz allegedly authorised an unlawful payment of \$2 million to authorities in India to obtain a permit to build a campus in the country. In a related case, the company agreed to pay \$25 million to settle charges with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

READ
SPORTSTAR
EVERY FORTNIGHT

NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM

Tender Notice no. 23AC/393/Parking/Tender/Quotation/2018-II was published in various Newspapers on 16/01/2019 for allotment of Cycle/Scooter/Motor Cycle-Car-Bus-Truck-Tempo parking contracts at various locations as per NIT, to be opened on 18/02/2019 in which following amendments have been made: E-tenders of two parking sites of Okhla Railway Station mentioned at SN 2 and 3 i.e. notice no. Parking 02-2019 & Parking 03-2019, have been withdrawn due to administrative reasons. Rest contents of the NIT will remain same. Bid No. 23AC/393/Parking/Tender/Quotation/2018-II

482/19
Serving Customers With A Smile

Office of
Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle.
Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department, Mandi-175001
Ph. 01905-224129, Fax: 01905-221576, E-mail: hp-man1@nic.in

"Notice Inviting Tender"

The Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, HP.PWD, Mandi on behalf of Governor of H.P. the item rate bids were invited in 1st call vide letter No. PW-SE-I-Tender-107-PMGSY-MD-I-B-II-16-17-1" Call/Publication/18- 19657-19705 dated 29-10-2018 & corrigendum No. PW-SE-I-Tender-107-PMGSY-B-II-16-17-1" call/2018- 21263-21320 dated 27-11-2018 and opened on 19-12-2018 but no bid received for this work. Item rate bids were invited in 2nd call vide letter No. PW-SE-I-Tender-107-PMGSY-MD-I-B-II-16-17-1" Call/Publication/18- 23386-23435 dated 20-12-2018 and opened on 09-01-2019 and cancelled vide this office letter No PW-SE-I-Tender-107-PMGSY-MD-I-2" Call/Publication/17- 28730-31 dated 13-02-2019. Now the item rate bids for this work are re-invited in 3rd call and may be read as under:-

Sr. No	District	Package No.	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (Rs. Lakh)		Total Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Period of Completion (In Days)	Bid security (Rs. Lakh) (2% of Total Cost)	Eligible Class of Contractor/Firm
				Constr-uction	Mainte-nance				
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1.	Mandi	HP-08-257A	Construction of 19.75 mtr. span R.C.C. T-beam Bridge over Sakaray Khad at R.D. 6/320 on Amreha Bunga Khar. Km. 0/0 to 9/090 under PMGSY (Batch-II, 2016-17) Stage-I, Distr. Mandi (H.P.) (Sub Head-Construction of Sub Structure, Super Structure and approaches) Package No. HP-08-257A	67.49	-	67.49	365	1.35	Class-C & B

Note:- The rates to be quoted shall be exclusive of GST and GST on prevalent rates will be added to the value offered by the bidder separately.

2. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 16-02-2019

3. Cost of Bid Form: Rs. 200/- only (non-refundable) in form of Demand Draft in favour of the Executive Engineer, Mandi Division No. HP.PWD, Mandi.

4. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website www.pmgstenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: www.pmgstenders.gov.in. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

* Non-registered bidders may submit bids; however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

5. Submission of Original Documents: The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4B(a) (ii) of ITB with Superintendenting Engineer, 1st Circle, HP.PWD., Mandi (address and details of office where to be submitted), on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand.

6. Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering: 07-03-2019 up-to 1030 Hours.

7. The site for the work is available.

8. Only online submission of bids is permitted; therefore, bids must be submitted online on website www.pmgstenders.gov.in. The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at 1100 hours on 07-03-2019 by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time.

9. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than ninety days after the deadline date for bid submission.

10. Bidders may bid for any one or more of the works mentioned in the Table above. To qualify for a package of contracts made up of this and other contracts for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.

11. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the bids without declaring any reasons thereof.

Sd/-
Superintendent Engineer,
1st Circle, HP.PWD, Mandi.
Telephone No.: 01905-224129,
For Chief Engineer (M2),
HP.PWD., Mandi.

MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	35,015	-0.19
US Dollar	71.23	-0.08
Gold	33,310	0.93
Brent oil	65.64	2.77

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	350.15	1.05
Asian Paints	1393.60	-5.60
Axis Bank	686.60	-8.40
Bajaj Auto	2825.95	2.85
Bajaj FinServ	6025.45	-10.15
Bajaj Finance	2561.10	-48.10
Bharti Airtel	304.60	3.80
BPCL	327.85	12.20
Cipla	540.55	-2.35
Coal India	219.95	2.75
Dr Reddy's Lab	2563.35	-103.90
Eicher Motors	20234.10	217.70
GAIL (India)	317.75	9.80
Grasim Ind	706.75	-12.15
HCL Tech.	1057.25	-4.05
HDFC	1874.90	-25.80
HDFC Bank	2100.65	-9.55
Hero MotoCorp	2696.45	-79.75
Hindalco	186.60	-5.15
HPLC	216.35	-4.35
Hind Unilever	1772.80	-12.25
Indiabulls HFL	639.35	-17.25
ICICI Bank	342.15	-1.80
IndusInd Bank	1509.50	-8.00
Bharti Infra	306.90	9.70
Infosys	741.95	1.90
Indian Oil Corp	125.45	0.80
ITC	280.10	2.20
JSW Steel	266.90	-13.75
Kotak Bank	1283.65	-3.15
L&T	1243.10	15.50
M&M	627.55	-6.85
Maurti Suzuki	6930.05	-87.45
NTPC	136.25	5.00
ONGC	135.00	2.85
PowerGrid Corp	181.50	6.55
Reliance Ind	1244.45	20.25
State Bank	262.95	-4.15
Sun Pharma	422.90	-18.00
Tata Motors	161.65	1.80
Tata Steel	467.50	-15.05
TCS	2029.70	-14.90
Tech Mahindra	799.65	-6.25
Titan	1039.00	-3.25
UltraTech Cement	3439.45	-55.45
UPL	818.35	-2.70
Vedanta	147.30	-4.45
Wipro	376.10	1.00
YES Bank	219.00	-2.25
Zee Entertainment	431.35	-2.10

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.02	71.34
Euro	80.08	80.44
British Pound	91.07	91.49
Japanese Yen (100)	64.30	64.59
Chinese Yuan	10.49	10.54
Swiss Franc	70.60	70.92
Singapore Dollar	52.30	52.54
Canadian Dollar	53.43	53.70
Malaysian Ringgit	17.38	17.47

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

February 15 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses		
Retail Silver (1g)	43.1	(42.8)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3173	(3145)

IN BRIEF

SEBI waiver for Wipro's buy-back offer	
MUMBAI	The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has granted an exemption to Wipro to enable the firm to launch a buy-back offer. The exemption was necessary as the firm is in the midst of a scheme of amalgamation wherein four wholly owned subsidiaries are being merged with the technology major. SEBI rules state that a firm cannot go ahead with a buy-back offer if any scheme of amalgamation is pending.

Rationalising ATR	
The past few months saw the airline withdraw some of its domestic and international routes and redeploy capacity on more profitable routes. This included "rationalisation of loss-making ATR network, moving short-haul international opera-	tions from wide-body capacity to more profitable 737 flying, concentration of capacity, enhancing density and hub connectivity," the CEO explained.

The withdrawal of these routes led to the airline witnessing 6.9% fewer passengers in the third quarter (Q3) of financial year 2019 compared with the year-earlier period. The airline reported a loss of ₹732 crore during Q3. The airline, however, did not provide details of the bank-led provisional resolution plan.	
Vinay Dube	

Capacity growth to resume, says Jet Airways	
'Current liquidity challenges addressed'	

JAGRITI CHANDRA	
NEW DELHI	A day after the Jet Airways' board approved a resolution plan for the beleaguered airline, its top brass said on Friday that the carrier would resume capacity growth.

As the transition to a fully restructured network is complete, current liquidity challenges addressed, deployed capacity will resume its growth track. This will include long-haul wide-body routes as well as increasing the utilisation of Boeing 737 fleet to previous levels," said Jet Airways CEO, Vinay Dube, during a conference call with analysts.	
Vinay Dube	

tions from wide-body capacity to more profitable 737 flying, concentration of capacity, enhancing density and hub connectivity," the CEO explained.	
Vinay Dube	

Rationalising ATR	
The past few months saw the airline withdraw some of its domestic and international routes and redeploy capacity on more profitable routes. This included "rationalisation of loss-making ATR network, moving short-haul international opera-	tions from wide-body capacity to more profitable 737 flying, concentration of capacity, enhancing density and hub connectivity," the CEO explained.

The withdrawal of these routes led to the airline witnessing 6.9% fewer passengers in the third quarter (Q3) of financial year 2019 compared with the year-earlier period. The airline reported a loss of ₹732 crore during Q3. The airline, however, did not provide details of the bank-led provisional resolution plan.	
Vinay Dube	

Auto parts maker Minda to merge with Harita Seating	
Move will enable firms to leverage each other's resources	

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI	
Auto components manufacturer Minda Industries Ltd. (MIL) will merge Harita Seating Systems Ltd. (HSSL) and four other companies with itself, according to a regulatory filing.	

As per the scheme, Harita Ltd., Harita Venu Pvt. Ltd., Harita Cheema Pvt. Ltd. Harita Financial Services Ltd. and HSSL will merge with the BSE-listed Minda Industries.	
Yesteryear movies to be run on giant screens, says CEO	

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA	
Future Group will convert its 'Central' store, housed in Metro Cinema property, into a thematic store that will showcase chartbuster golden era movies, besides retailing high-end apparel and lifestyle merchandise, according to Vishnu Prasad, CEO, Future Lifestyle Fashions Ltd. (FLF).	

"This is the only thematic store of Central. We plan to deliver an experience by celebrating and showing movies that had run to packed	
houses at this iconic movie hall," he said at an informal interaction with the media. Yesteryear movies would be shown on giant screens within the mall and at times, the actors would be invited during the screenings. A calendar of the movies to be shown is being readied.	

Apparel brands	
Central is a large format store between 50,000 and 3.3 lakh square feet. It offers 500 brands with apparel having a larger share of the business pie over lifestyle goods. The 50,000 square feet, taken on lease by the Future Group, is housed in the iconic heritage structure which was taken by Metro Goldwyn Mayer nearly seven decades ago. Located in the central business district, it is Future Group's second such store in West Bengal after Rajarhat. It took two years and ₹20 crore to develop the interiors of the building. The art deco facade with waterfall-style columns and the grand staircase have been retained during the renovation.	

Jet Airways may raise ₹6,000 cr. from aircraft sale, investors

IN BRIEF



Ashwani Lohani takes charge as Air India CMD

NEW DELHI
Retired technocrat Ashwani Lohani took charge as the chairman and managing director (CMD) of Air India on Friday. Mr. Lohani took charge in presence of recently appointed Civil Aviation Secretary Pradeep Singh Khrola and senior officials of the national carrier. This is Mr. Lohani's second tenure as Air India chief. PTI

5 of 55 mines auctioned are operational: Minister

NEW DELHI
The government on Friday said of the 55 mines that were auctioned in the last three years, five mineral blocks had become operational and two to three more mines would start operations by next month-end. "In the last three years, we have auctioned around 55 mines. Around five (mineral blocks) have been operational. Next fiscal, another 15 mines are going to be operational," Mines Secretary Anil Gopishankar Mukim told reporters. PTI

Alemic gets nod for ophthalmic solution

NEW DELHI
Drug firm Alemic Pharmaceuticals said on Friday it had received approval from the USFDA for Moxifloxacin Ophthalmic Solution, used for treatment of bacterial conjunctivitis caused by susceptible strains of certain organisms. The approved product is therapeutically equivalent to the reference listed drug product Vigamox Ophthalmic Solution USP, 0.5%, of ovatis Pharmaceuticals Corporation. PTI

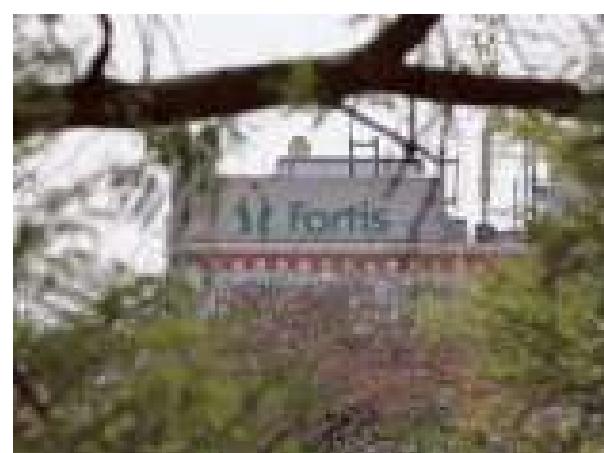
Whistle-blower makes fresh charges in Fortis matter

Claims in letter to SEBI that real beneficiaries of funds transfer were top officials managing businesses of Religare Group

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR
MUMBAI

The Fortis Hospitals matter, in which the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) ordered the company to refund over ₹400 crore in December 2018, has taken a new turn, with the regulator receiving a complaint alleging that the real beneficiaries of the money were some of the top officials managing different businesses of the Religare Group. Initially, the money was believed to have moved from the listed entity to a subsidiary and thereafter to three borrower entities.

In a letter submitted to SEBI on January 17, a whistleblower has named brothers Gurpreet Singh Dhillon and Gurkirat Singh Dhillon, along with Sunil Godhwani and Sanjay Godhwani, among others, as the main benefici-



Shady cuts: It was alleged that the ₹155 cr. advance received by Best Healthcare went to the Dhillon brothers. ■REUTERS

aries of the fund transfer.

Mr. Sanjay Godhwani is the brother of Mr. Sunil Godhwani, the former chairman of Religare Enterprises.

Mr. Gurpreet Singh Dhillon is the CEO of Singapore-based Religare Health Trusts. Both,

Mr. Gurpreet Singh Dhillon and Mr. Gurkirat Singh Dhillon are sons of Shabnam Dhillon and Gurinder Singh,

the head of Radha Soami Satsang Beas.

Loans to entities

This assumes significance as the SEBI probe that was initiated in February 2018 was based on reports that the promoters of Fortis Healthcare took out ₹500 crore from the company.

The SEBI probe further found that Fortis Hospitals had given loans to three borrower entities - Best Healthcare, Fern Healthcare and Modland Wears. The ultimate beneficiaries of the three entities, as per the SEBI probe, were RHC Holding and Religare Finvest, with the former being controlled by Malvinder Singh and Shivinder Singh, the original

promoters of Fortis Healthcare. It is also alleged to have transferred ₹133.36 crore to a few people, including the Dhillon brothers. Meanwhile, Fern Healthcare, which received ₹114 crore from Fortis, transferred the money to the Mr. Godhwani brothers and Dhillon brothers, among others.

The Hindu has reviewed a copy of the whistle-blower's letter to SEBI.

An email query sent to Religare Health Trust on Thursday remained unanswered till the time of going to press, while attempts to contact Mr. Sunil Godhwani proved futile. "While one cannot deny sensationalism through anonymous or whistle-blower complaints route, in some cases, SEBI in the past was able to identify possible fraud and other violations only because of information submitted by third parties," said Sumit Agrawal, founder,

RegStreet Law, who had earlier served as a law officer with SEBI. "SEBI usually wants these complaints to run it past by audit committees of listed companies as a first-check," added Mr. Agrawal.

"Unfortunately, SEBI investigation has conveniently forgotten and overlooked to collect and put out information about the dealings of well-connected Satsang Beas and moneys flowing from the Singh Brothers to the Dhillon family via an assortment of mysterious financial instruments," the whistle-blower's letter stated.

"To the best of my information, around ₹488 crore has been extended to the Dhillon family as loans whereas around ₹70 crore has been extended to the Godhwani family," the letter stated.

Kirloskar Oil to expand globally

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Kirloskar Oil Engines Ltd. (KOEL) has drawn up plans to expand its global footprint by 50% in two years, said a top official.

"Currently, we are present in 40 countries and our target is to reach 60 countries soon," said Sanjeev M. Nimkar, chief operating officer, Kirloskar Oil Engines Ltd. "All our efforts are directed at increasing the market share in select few markets to top 10."

As part of its plans for 2021, KOEL had set itself a revenue target of ₹5,500 crore. "Last year, we reported ₹2,800 crore and this year, it would hit ₹3,800 crore. We would be investing ₹200 crore toward strengthening back-end processes," he said.

Daimler India achieves break-even in trucks

Cost reduction, increase in sales help company cross the milestone

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV), the Indian arm of Daimler AG, has achieved, for the first time last year, a break-even in the trucks business, said a top executive.

"It was a 10-year challenge. We have come a long way from being a greenfield project to full blown unit," said Satyakam Arya, CEO and MD, DICV.

"We have achieved the break-even in trucks business within six years after the market launch of BharatBenz. For the first time, an automotive OEM has done it in India. The break-even was achieved due to cost reduction and increase in sales last



In for long haul: The company attributes growth to the strength of BharatBenz product portfolio. ■BIJOY GHOSH

year," he said.

DICV sales grew 35% in 2018 by selling 22,532 trucks against 16,717 units in 2017. The growth was attributed to the strength of BharatBenz product portfolio and expansion of pan-India sales and service network to over

180 touch points from 130.

Doubling network

Over the next two-three years, DICV plans to almost double its distribution network to 350 outlets and would digitise its entire customer interface, he said.

Asked about the prospects for 2019, he said: "In second quarter, we have elections in the country. And this normally leads to slow down of demand because buyers will postpone their decisions. We expect the first half of the year to be slower than 2018. In the second half, we expect pre-buying effect of BS-VI. In our terms, the year will be mostly flat or little amount of growth."

Last year, DICV exported 7,054 trucks against 6,553 trucks to 50 countries, marking an increase of 8%. Since 2013, more than 20,000 vehicles have been exported. Last year, DICV's Chennai plant crossed one lakh units in production, he said.

Gujarat facility
Chiron Behring has a 15-million doses a year rabies vac-

Bharat Biotech to buy Chiron Behring Vaccines from GSK

Purchase to make firm 'largest' rabies vaccine maker

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Vaccine maker Bharat Biotech is acquiring Chiron Behring Vaccines Pvt. Ltd. from GlaxoSmithKline for an undisclosed amount.

An agreement was signed today, Krishna Ella, CMD, Bharat Biotech, told the media here on Friday. He said following the acquisition, Bharat Biotech, which has a capacity to make 10 million doses, will emerge as the world's largest rabies vaccine manufacturer.

Gujarat facility
Chiron Behring has a 15-million doses a year rabies vac-



der a new brand name in 3-4 months.

Chiron Behring Vaccines is a WHO pre-qualified manufacturer of rabies vaccines, eligible for supplies to UN agencies and has product registrations in more than 20 countries, according to a statement.

Bharat Biotech, Mr. Ella said, would be reorienting the strategy of Chiron Behring to focus on the India market first where there is a shortage of rabies vaccine, of about 10 million doses a year. The country's requirement is 35 million and on an average, the price per dose was ₹200.

NAVA CHHATTISGARH

HISTORY IN THE MAKING



2008

4400 acre agricultural land acquired from 1700 farmers and tribals of 10 villages in Bastar by the state govt for TATA to setup a plant.

2016

TATA writes to the state govt informing about its inability and goes back on the commitment to setup the plant.

2018

Shri Bhupesh Baghel is sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh

2018-19

Within 10 days of assuming office, the new govt decides to return this acquired land back to its rightful owners

'Lohandiguda has led the way and set an example for the country'



BHUPESH BAGHEL
Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh



ProActive
ProPeople

Selectors name virtual World Cup squad for Australia series

All the top guns, including Kohli and Bumrah, will turn out for India in the build-up to the quadrennial extravaganza

AUS IN INDIA

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

The senior National selection committee on Friday virtually named India's World Cup squad for the five-match ODI series against Australia from March 2 to 13.

Over the last 15 months, the selection committee, chaired by M.S.K. Prasad and more significantly skipper Virat Kohli and coach Ravi Shastri, gave themselves the opportunity to try out some fringe players in South Africa, England, Australia and New Zealand. Notable among these is left-arm seamer Khaleel Ahmed.

But, from the 15-member squad announced for the ODI series against Australia, it is evident that Khaleel, who started his India stint in the Asia Cup in Dubai, is not in the scheme of things for the quadrennial event in England.

Not ready to tinker

The other indication from the squad announced is that the men who matter are not ready to tinker with the squad for what is an important series before the World



Back in action: India skipper Virat Kohli and fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah return for the limited-over series against Australia after a well-deserved rest. •REUTERS

Cup which begins in May.

India's top guns in the batting and bowling department will be seen in action in full strength against the Aaron Finch-led Australians.

The only change that will

be seen in the ODI series is Bhuvneshwar Kumar replacing seamer Siddharth Kaul in the last three matches. "It's good to keep the nucleus around because there is not much international cricket

for the team before the World Cup," said Prasad.

Another development in the ODI squad is Tamil Nadu's wicketkeeper-batsman Dinesh Karthik making way for Delhi's Rishabh Pant.

The squads

T20Is: Virat Kohli (Capt.), Rohit Sharma (vice-capt.), Shikhar Dhawan, K.L. Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Dinesh Karthik, M.S. Dhoni (wk), Hardik Pandya, Krunal Pandya, Vijay Shankar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Jasprit Bumrah, Umesh Yadav, Siddharth Kaul, and Mayank Markande

THE DATES

February 24: Visakhapatnam

February 27: Bengaluru

Both matches begin at 7 p.m.

ODIs: Virat Kohli (Capt.), Rohit Sharma (vice-capt.), Shikhar Dhawan, Ambati Rayudu, Kedar Jadhav, M.S. Dhoni (wk), Hardik Pandya, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Vijay Shankar, Rishabh Pant, Siddharth Kaul, and K.L. Rahul.

Note: Siddharth Kaul will be replaced by Bhuvneshwar Kumar for the final three ODIs.

THE DATES



March 2: Hyderabad
March 5: Nagpur
March 8: Ranchi
March 10: Mohali
March 13: New Delhi

All matches start at 1.30 p.m.

tional talent, played three ODIs against the West Indies last October.

Prasad stressed that Pant is a left-hander and that his best batting position would be ascertained after discussions with the team management. Sunil Gavaskar feels that Pant is a must for India's World Cup campaign.

Prasad said that Kaul has done well in the opportunities given to him and the committee is comfortable with this. "We have seen Khaleel in the last two series against Australia and New Zealand. We would like to watch Kaul now. Also Vijay Shankar's performance in the recent series has changed a bit of the dynamics."

A new face in the Twenty20 squad is leg-spinner Mayank Markande.

The 21-year-old Punjab cricketer has played seven First Class matches, 22 limited-over matches and 18 T20 matches and picked up 99 wickets.

Considering the recent workload, the selection committee has decided to rest Kuldeep Yadav for the T20I series while Bhuvneshwar Kumar has been rested for the T20I series and the first two ODIs.

that Karthik has been given opportunities and that Pant has to be given his due.

Exceptional talent

The Delhi left-hander, who has proved to be an excep-

I always expect big things from myself: Pant

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Rishabh Pant was one of the success stories of the Australian series, as the dependable wicket-keeper and swashbuckling left-hander contributed big time.

The 21-year-old Delhi Capitals player is looking forward to delivering the first IPL trophy for home fans this season and gave an insight into his thoughts in a free-wheeling chat here on Friday.

Do you see a bright future for yourself, considering you were second only to Cheteshwar Pujara in runs scored and were exemplary as a wicket-keeper?

I am focused on the present and not thinking much about the future right now. I want to keep improving every day. That is what I am looking to achieve. Every day when I get on to the field, I am learning from everyone in the team.

Did you expect to be this good in Australia?
I always expect big things



Rishabh Pant... packing a punch. •KAMESH SRINIVASAN

from myself. The main thing that I do is focus on the process. That is what is helping me in every situation.

Who cultivated this habit?

My coach Tarak Sinha has always told me to focus on the process, rather than the results.

Personal achievements are good, but it is more important if you can see how well you can contribute to the team to make it better.

The secret to how you revel in all formats of the game?

My coach has always maintained that good basics are important, irrespective of you playing a T20, one-day or Test match. The most interesting thing is to play for India. Any format is fine. I like every form of cricket.

What about the influence of Virat Kohli?

Kohli is influencing cricketers all over the world. His work ethic, to be at the gym, even on an off-day; if he can do that as a legend, for me he is a legend, why can't we do that?

What does Virat tell you?

One thing he always says is that you don't have to play 100 matches to gain experience. You can watch others play in two matches and learn from their experience. He is very friendly, loves to be happy.

The way Kohli leads is inspiring, says Warne



Proud moment: Kohli with the Sportstar Aces award presented to him by Warne earlier this week. •EMMANUEL YOGINI

SHAYAN ACHARYA
MUMBAI

Spin legend Shane Warne was full of praise for India captain Virat Kohli who won the Sportsman of the Year (Cricket) Sportstar Aces Award.

"The way he leads the team is inspiring," Warne said.

His love for Test cricket is something near to my heart. I love all forms of the game but Test cricket is very important because of its history and tradition.

"I can't think anyone else better than (him) as the sportsman of the year," said Warne, the brand ambassador of Rajasthan Royals.

A surprise for Markande

RAYAN ROZARIO
MYSURU

Everything seems to be going well for Mayank Markande. The 21-year-old came up with a five-for against England Lions and that probably set the ball rolling in his favour.

"Hard work always pays," he said after the match. And it paid big time for the Punjab youngster in the form of a maiden call up to the Indian T20 squad. It certainly must have come as a huge surprise for Markande, who made his First Class debut this season.

"It has been a great journey for me," he said. "I never really thought the past year would turn things around for me. I learnt something from Shabbaz (Na-deem) and Jalaj (Saxena) in this match," he said.

"Rahul Dravid has also played a big role. He is a legend and a huge motivator in my stint with the emerging team. He does not allow anybody to think negative and it has helped me a great deal," he added.



Mayank Markande.
•SUDHAKARA JAIN

"It gives me a lot of satisfaction especially after this five-wicket haul. If given the chance to perform, I would give my best further," said Markande on his call up.

Markande also recalled his experience with former India leg-spinner Narendra Hirwani. "It was a great experience to be coached by Hirwani and W.V. Raman. Hirwani shared his experience in length and also exchanged a few ideas on how to bowl on unresponsive pitches."

I am focused on the present and not thinking much about the future right now. I want to keep improving every day. That is what I am looking to achieve. Every day when I get on to the field, I am learning from everyone in the team.

Did you expect to be this good in Australia?

I always expect big things

from myself. The main thing that I do is focus on the process. That is what is helping me in every situation.

Who cultivated this habit?

My coach Tarak Sinha has al-

ways told me to focus on the

process, rather than the

results.

What do you do to stay ahead of your competition?

I do expect to play for India

for the next 10 or 15 years.

But, as I said, I just focus on

the process, fitness and

work ethics, to ensure that I

stay in the race for a long pe-

riod of time. The key is to

perform well for the team.

Lions dance to Markande's tune

Leg-spinner's five-wicket haul helps India-A to an innings victory

LIONS IN INDIA

RAYAN ROZARIO
MYSURU

The pitch had demons in it and leg-spinner Mayank Markande (five for 31) maintained a tight line to bowl India-A to an innings-and-68-runs win over England Lions on the penultimate day of the second 'Test' at the SDNRW grounds here on Friday.

Seventeen wickets fell on Thursday and the home team was confident of wrapping up the series 1-0 as it had three spinners — Shabbaz Na-deem, Markande and Jalaj Saxena to back the batsmen, who had laid a solid foundation.

The trio spun the ball viciously and the England Lions batsmen, barring opener Ben Duckett (50, 61b, 4x4, 2x6) and Lewis Gregory (44, 49b, 6x4, 1x6), were all at sea.

The slide begins
Saxena started the slide when he trapped Max Holden plumb in front. But he also came in for some stick from Duckett, who hammered him for 16 runs in an over. However, Saxena had his revenge by trapping Duckett leg-before later in a similar fashion.



Happy bunch: India-A won the second 'Test' against England Lions in Mysuru to clinch the series 1-0. •SUDHAKARA JAIN

ner mixed his pace well. He bowled a few slowly in the air and some a little faster, to finish with a deserving five-wicket haul.

The visitors required 224 for the day to make India-A bat again but failed to read the line and length of Markande and returned to the dressing room disappointed.

"They played like cubs and not like professionals. We did not come here for a no-show," said Neil Fish, an English spectator.

Top-class spin
Sam Billings, the Lions skipper, admitted that most of his guys had not played top-class spin before. "Markande bowled an impressive spell

and Nadeem proved his class as well. Also, Navdeep Saini showed us how to bowl reverse swing. The Indians are tough guys and truly top-class. They thoroughly deserved to win," he added.

Karun Nair, who took some brilliant catches, said the team bowled as a unit and that it was Markande's day. "It was a great experience for me and I was happy that the wicket turned out to be pretty helpful. I just bowled in the right areas and it clicked," said Markande.

But it was Abhinav Easwaran who walked away with the Man-of-the-Match award for his classy first-innings knock of 117. **The scores:**

IRANI CUP

M.R. PRAVEEN CHANDRAN
NAGPUR

HanumaVihari's monumental effort (180 not out) and his double century stand (229) for the third wicket with captain Ajinkya Rahane (87) enabled Rest of India set a challenging target for Ranji champion Vidarbha in the Irani Cup at the VCA stadium here on Friday.

Riding on Vihari's century and half-centuries from Rahane and Shreyas Iyer, Rest of India declared its second innings at 374 for three which meant Vidarbha needed 280 runs to defend its crown. At stumps on the penultimate day, the host had reached 37 for one.

On a challenging pitch which needed loads of patience and technical expertise to survive, it was an appropriate response from Vihari, who was willing to graft and systematically wear down the threat of Vidarbha spinners with elegant and adventurous shots.

For Vihari the sweep — both conventional and reverse — was the productive shot which he often essayed against the spinners and he wasn't averse either in coming down the track to play the inside out shots to pick up boundaries.

In the first session, during



Doing it again: Hanuma Vihari hammered his second century of the match to help Rest of India fight back. •S. SUDARSHAN

precious as in the previous three days, Vihari began positively with a boundary off Sarvate and played a few forcing shots to dominate the bowling.

Vihari lofted Whakare over long on to bring up his second century of the match and became only the second batsman after Shikhar Dhawan to score centuries in both innings in Irani Cup. He now has scored centuries in three consecutive innings in the competition, a rarefeat.

Captain Rahane was also assured in the middle but played second fiddle to Vihari.

Rahane's footwork against spinners was exemplary and he played a few pleasing shots on both sides of the wicket. Rahane looked set for a century but a rare wicket in 10 overs: 37. **Fall of wickets:** 1-25, 3-46, 3-275. **Vidarbha bowling:** Sarvate 39-7-141-2, Gurbani 8-36-0, Thakur 6-33-0, Wakhare 18-2-60-1, Karnewar 26-7-62-0, Sanjay 1-0-8-0, Taide 9-24-0. **Vidarbha — 2nd innings:** F. Faizal 6-33-0; Mayank Agarwal 2 Kalesh Wakhare 27, Anmolpreet Singh 6-33-0, Hanuma Vihari (not out) 180, A. Rahane

TV PICKS

New Zealand vs Bangladesh: 2nd ODI, SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 a.m.
NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 a.m.
Irani Cup: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.
South Africa vs Sri Lanka: 1st Test, Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 1.30 p.m.
I-League: Star Sports 3, 2 p.m.
Pro Volleyball League: Sony Six (SD & HD), 7 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Barcelona extends Valverde's contract

Spanish champion Barcelona announced on Friday it has extended the contract of coach Ernesto Valverde for another season with the option of one more. Valverde's previous contract would have expired at the end of this season. AFP



Sindhu and Saina set up a dream final

Lakshya stuns Kashyap, looks for revenge in men's final against Sourabh



Powering through: Saina Nehwal got past Vaishnavi Bhale in straight games. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

du Plessis and bowlers put SA in control

Sri Lanka's left-arm spinner Embuldeniya takes a five-for in maiden Test

LANKA IN SA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE DURBAN

South Africa took three Sri Lankan wickets in three overs to finish strongly on the third day of the first Test here on Friday.

Sri Lanka, needing 304 to win, was 83 for three at close. The tourists started promisingly with captain Dimuth Karunaratne and Lahiru Thirimanne putting on 42 for the first wicket but both were out in the space of five balls. Kul Mendis fell soon after.

The flurry of wickets negated Sri Lanka's turnaround after it took the last five South African wickets for just eight runs. Left-arm spinner Lasith Embuldeniya, 22, playing in his first Test, took five for 66 as South Africa was bowled

out for 259 in the second innings. South Africa was on course for a more challenging target with captain du Plessis and Philander looking solid

in a sixth-wicket partnership of 60. But Embuldeniya, who bowled with impressive control, took Philander's wicket to trigger a collapse.

SCOREBOARD SOUTH AFRICA VS SRI LANKA, FIRST TEST

South Africa — 1st innings: 235. **Sri Lanka — 1st innings:** 191.

South Africa — 2nd innings: D. Elgar c & b Embuldeniya 35, A. Markram c Mendis b Rajitha 28, H. Amla c Thirumanne b V. Fernando 16, T. Bavuma lbw b Embuldeniya 3, F. du Plessis lbw b V. Fernando 90, Q. de Kock lbw b Embuldeniya 55, V. Philander b Embuldeniya 18, K. Maharaj b V. Fernando 4, K. Rabada c Dickwella b Embuldeniya 0, D. Steyn b V. Fernando 1, D. Olivier (not out) 2; Extras (lb-2); Total (for three wkt. in 28 overs): 83.

Fall of wickets: 1-42, 2-42, 3-52.

South Africa bowling: Steyn 4-0-19, 0-19, Philander 8-3-13-1, Maharaj 4-0-14-0, Rabada 7-1-28-1, Olivier 4-3-3-1, Markram 1-0-4-0.

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-70, 3-77, 4-95, 5-191, 6-251, 7-255, 8-256, 9-256.

Sri Lanka bowling: Lakmal 20-5-52-0, V. Fernando 17-2-71-4, Rajitha 13-1-54-1, Embuldeniya 26-3-66-5, Dhananjaya de Silva 2-0-8-0, O. Fernando 1-0-6-0.

Sri Lanka — 2nd innings: D. Karunaratne lbw b Philander 20, L. Thirimanne c du Plessis b Rabada 21, O. Fernando (batting) 28, K. Mendis c de Kock b Olivier 0, K. Perera (batting) 12; Extras (lb-2); Total (for three wkt. in 28 overs): 83.

Fall of wickets: 1-42, 2-42, 3-52.

South Africa bowling: Steyn 4-0-19, 0-19, Philander 8-3-13-1, Maharaj 4-0-14-0, Rabada 7-1-28-1, Olivier 4-3-3-1, Markram 1-0-4-0.

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-70, 3-77, 4-95, 5-191, 6-251, 7-255, 8-256, 9-256.

Sri Lanka bowling: Lakmal 20-5-52-0, V. Fernando 17-2-71-4, Rajitha 13-1-54-1, Embuldeniya 26-3-66-5, Dhananjaya de Silva 2-0-8-0, O. Fernando 1-0-6-0.

Sri Lanka — 2nd innings: D. Karunaratne lbw b Philander 20, L. Thirimanne c du Plessis b Rabada 21, O. Fernando (batting) 28, K. Mendis c de Kock b Olivier 0, K. Perera (batting) 12; Extras (lb-2); Total (for three wkt. in 28 overs): 83.

Fall of wickets: 1-42, 2-42, 3-52.

South Africa bowling: Steyn 4-0-19, 0-19, Philander 8-3-13-1, Maharaj 4-0-14-0, Rabada 7-1-28-1, Olivier 4-3-3-1, Markram 1-0-4-0.

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-70, 3-77, 4-95, 5-191, 6-251, 7-255, 8-256, 9-256.

Sri Lanka bowling: Lakmal 20-5-52-0, V. Fernando 17-2-71-4, Rajitha 13-1-54-1, Embuldeniya 26-3-66-5, Dhananjaya de Silva 2-0-8-0, O. Fernando 1-0-6-0.

Sri Lanka — 2nd innings: D. Karunaratne lbw b Philander 20, L. Thirimanne c du Plessis b Rabada 21, O. Fernando (batting) 28, K. Mendis c de Kock b Olivier 0, K. Perera (batting) 12; Extras (lb-2); Total (for three wkt. in 28 overs): 83.

Fall of wickets: 1-42, 2-42, 3-52.

South Africa bowling: Steyn 4-0-19, 0-19, Philander 8-3-13-1, Maharaj 4-0-14-0, Rabada 7-1-28-1, Olivier 4-3-3-1, Markram 1-0-4-0.

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-70, 3-77, 4-95, 5-191, 6-251, 7-255, 8-256, 9-256.

Sri Lanka bowling: Lakmal 20-5-52-0, V. Fernando 17-2-71-4, Rajitha 13-1-54-1, Embuldeniya 26-3-66-5, Dhananjaya de Silva 2-0-8-0, O. Fernando 1-0-6-0.

Sri Lanka — 2nd innings: D. Karunaratne lbw b Philander 20, L. Thirimanne c du Plessis b Rabada 21, O. Fernando (batting) 28, K. Mendis c de Kock b Olivier 0, K. Perera (batting) 12; Extras (lb-2); Total (for three wkt. in 28 overs): 83.

Fall of wickets: 1-42, 2-42, 3-52.

South Africa bowling: Steyn 4-0-19, 0-19, Philander 8-3-13-1, Maharaj 4-0-14-0, Rabada 7-1-28-1, Olivier 4-3-3-1, Markram 1-0-4-0.

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-70, 3-77, 4-95, 5-191, 6-251, 7-255, 8-256, 9-256.

Sri Lanka bowling: Lakmal 20-5-52-0, V. Fernando 17-2-71-4, Rajitha 13-1-54-1, Embuldeniya 26-3-66-5, Dhananjaya de Silva 2-0-8-0, O. Fernando 1-0-6-0.

Sri Lanka — 2nd innings: D. Karunaratne lbw b Philander 20, L. Thirimanne c du Plessis b Rabada 21, O. Fernando (batting) 28, K. Mendis c de Kock b Olivier 0, K. Perera (batting) 12; Extras (lb-2); Total (for three wkt. in 28 overs): 83.

Fall of wickets: 1-42, 2-42, 3-52.

South Africa bowling: Steyn 4-0-19, 0-19, Philander 8-3-13-1, Maharaj 4-0-14-0, Rabada 7-1-28-1, Olivier 4-3-3-1, Markram 1-0-4-0.

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-70, 3-77, 4-95, 5-191, 6-251, 7-255, 8-256, 9-256.

Sri Lanka bowling: Lakmal 20-5-52-0, V. Fernando 17-2-71-4, Rajitha 13-1-54-1, Embuldeniya 26-3-66-5, Dhananjaya de Silva 2-0-8-0, O. Fernando 1-0-6-0.

Sri Lanka — 2nd innings: D. Karunaratne lbw b Philander 20, L. Thirimanne c du Plessis b Rabada 21, O. Fernando (batting) 28, K. Mendis c de Kock b Olivier 0, K. Perera (batting) 12; Extras (lb-2); Total (for three wkt. in 28 overs): 83.

Fall of wickets: 1-42, 2-42, 3-52.

South Africa bowling: Steyn 4-0-19, 0-19, Philander 8-3-13-1, Maharaj 4-0-14-0, Rabada 7-1-28-1, Olivier 4-3-3-1, Markram 1-0-4-0.

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-70, 3-77, 4-95, 5-191, 6-251, 7-255, 8-256, 9-256.

Sri Lanka bowling: Lakmal 20-5-52-0, V. Fernando 17-2-71-4, Rajitha 13-1-54-1, Embuldeniya 26-3-66-5, Dhananjaya de Silva 2-0-8-0, O. Fernando 1-0-6-0.

Sri Lanka — 2nd innings: D. Karunaratne lbw b Philander 20, L. Thirimanne c du Plessis b Rabada 21, O. Fernando (batting) 28, K. Mendis c de Kock b Olivier 0, K. Perera (batting) 12; Extras (lb-2); Total (for three wkt. in 28 overs): 83.

Fall of wickets: 1-42, 2-42, 3-52.

South Africa bowling: Steyn 4-0-19, 0-19, Philander 8-3-13-1, Maharaj 4-0-14-0, Rabada 7-1-28-1, Olivier 4-3-3-1, Markram 1-0-4-0.

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-70, 3-77, 4-95, 5-191, 6-251, 7-255, 8-256, 9-256.

Sri Lanka bowling: Lakmal 20-5-52-0, V. Fernando 17-2-71-4, Rajitha 13-1-54-1, Embuldeniya 26-3-66-5, Dhananjaya de Silva 2-0-8-0, O. Fernando 1-0-6-0.

Sri Lanka — 2nd innings: D. Karunaratne lbw b Philander 20, L. Thirimanne c du Plessis b Rabada 21, O. Fernando (batting) 28, K. Mendis c de Kock b Olivier 0, K. Perera (batting) 12; Extras (lb-2); Total (for three wkt. in 28 overs): 83.

Fall of wickets: 1-42, 2-42, 3-52.

South Africa bowling: Steyn 4-0-19, 0-19, Philander 8-3-13-1, Maharaj 4-0-14-0, Rabada 7-1-28-1, Olivier 4-3-3-1, Markram 1-0-4-0.

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-70, 3-77, 4-95, 5-191, 6-251, 7-255, 8-256, 9-256.

Sri Lanka bowling: Lakmal 20-5-52-0, V. Fernando 17-2-71-4, Rajitha 13-1-54-1, Embuldeniya 26-3-66-5, Dhananjaya de Silva 2-0-8-0, O. Fernando 1-0-6-0.

Sri Lanka — 2nd innings: D. Karunaratne lbw b Philander 20, L. Thirimanne c du Plessis b Rabada 21, O. Fernando (batting) 28, K. Mendis c de Kock b Olivier 0, K. Perera (batting) 12; Extras (lb-2); Total (for three wkt. in 28 overs): 83.

Fall of wickets: 1-42, 2-42, 3-52.

South Africa bowling: Steyn 4-0-19, 0-19, Philander 8-3-13-1, Maharaj 4-0-14-0, Rabada 7-1-28-1, Olivier 4-3-3-1, Markram 1-0-4-0.

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-70, 3-77, 4-95, 5-191, 6-251, 7-255, 8-256, 9-256.

Sri Lanka bowling: Lakmal 20-5-52-0, V. Fernando 17-2-71-4, Rajitha 13-1-54-1, Embuldeniya 26-3-66-5, Dhananjaya de Silva 2-0-8-0, O. Fernando 1-0-6-0.

Sri Lanka — 2nd innings: D. Karunaratne lbw b Philander 20, L. Thirimanne c du Plessis b Rabada 21, O. Fernando (batting) 28, K. Mendis c de Kock b Olivier 0, K. Perera (batting) 12; Extras (lb-2); Total (for three wkt. in 28 overs): 83.

Fall of wickets: 1-42, 2-42, 3-52.

South Africa bowling: Steyn 4-0-19, 0-19, Philander 8-3-13-1, Maharaj 4-0-14-0, Rabada 7-1-28-1, Olivier 4-3-3-1, Markram 1-0-4-0.

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-70, 3-77, 4-95, 5-191, 6-251, 7-255, 8-256, 9-256.

Sri Lanka bowling: Lakmal 20-5-52-0, V. Fernando 17-2-71-4, Rajitha 13-1-54-1, Embuldeniya 26-3-66-5, Dhananjaya de Silva 2-0-8-0, O. Fernando 1-0-6-0.

Sri Lanka — 2nd innings: D. Karunaratne lbw b Philander 20, L. Thirimanne c du Plessis b Rabada 21, O. Fernando (batting) 28, K. Mendis c de Kock b Olivier 0, K. Perera (batting) 12; Extras (lb-2); Total (for three wkt. in 28 overs): 83.

Fall of wickets: 1-42, 2-42, 3-52.

<p

Spain to face champion Croatia in Davis Cup finals

Serbia's Novak Djokovic and Britain's Andy Murray to miss the tournament

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MADRID

Rafael Nadal's Spain will host defending champion Croatia in the Davis Cup finals with the 17-time major winner set to be the only member of the sport's big four taking part in the controversially rebooted tournament.

Nadal, who has played in four Davis Cup-winning campaigns, has said he intends to take part in the new-look week-long event on home ground in Madrid from November 18-24.

However, long-time rivals Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray will be missing. Federer's Switzerland didn't qualify, Britain's Murray has virtually retired while Djokovic has said he intends to focus on the ATP World Team Cup. That is

- **Group A**
- France, Serbia, Japan
- **Group B**
- Croatia, Spain, Russia
- **Group C**
- Argentina, Germany, Chile
- **Group D**
- Belgium, Australia, Colombia
- **Group E**
- Great Britain, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands
- **Group F**
- United States, Italy, Canada

despite Serbia having qualified as one of the 18 nations for the 2019 Davis Cup finals.

Despite its troubled re-

vamp, Spanish football star Gerard Pique, whose Kosmos company is pouring \$3 billion into a 25-year deal with the 119-year-old tournament, insisted at Thursday's draw that the new Davis Cup will be a success.

"This means a lot, we have been working for more than a year, and we have created a great team to carry out this project," Pique insisted.

Nadal, a Davis Cup champion in 2004, 2008, 2009 and 2011, will likely face Marin Cilic, Croatia's top player who won both his singles in the 2018 Davis Cup final victory over France.

Russia, the two-time champion, makes up Group B. Ten-time champion France, 2010 winner Serbia and Japan contest Group A while 2016 victor Argentina,

Germany and Chile are in Group C.

Argentina will be sweating over the fitness of regularly-injured Juan Martin del Potro while Germany could be without World No. 3 Alexander Zverev.

The ATP World Tour Finals champion played in last weekend's qualifying round win against Hungary but has long insisted he has no interest in playing in the November finals, claiming he prefers to rest.

Group D sees Belgium and Colombia pooled with 28-time champions Australia while Britain, which has been champion on 10 occasions, Kazakhstan and Netherlands makes up Group E.

Group F sees record 32-time winners United States clash with Italy and Canada.

Halep, Kerber battle through to semifinals

QATAR OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

DOHA

World No. 3 Simona Halep and three-time Grand Slam champion Angelique Kerber came through tough tests on Thursday to reach the Qatar Open semifinals.

Halep won in straight sets but needed two tie-breaks – 7-6(1), 7-6(6) – to edge past Germany's Julia Goerges, despite racing to a 4-0 lead in the first set.

However, the match turned out to be anything but routine for the Romanian who was forced to save two set points and break Goerges' serve in the 10th game to stay in the second set.

"I am very happy, honestly," said Halep.

"It's been a really tough match and it is always tough



Unusual: Halep won in straight sets but needed two tie-breaks to edge past Germany's Julia Goerges. ■ AFP

to play against her."

The Romanian will play Elina Svitolina in the last four on Friday.

Halep has lost her three last matches against the Ukrainian, failing to win a single set in those matches, stretching back to 2017.

Svitolina was the first

player through to the semifinals, beating Czech qualifier Karolina Muchova by contrast in easy fashion 6-4, 6-2.

"I found a way to have to beat her," said Svitolina. "I was very happy I could do it in two sets."

She was followed on court by Kerber and the World No.

6 won 1-6, 6-2, 7-6(4) in a tough and feisty encounter against another Czech, Barbora Strycova, who was given a time violation in the final set.

"In the first set I did a lot mistakes," said Kerber. "She was playing good. She was pushing the ball. She hit the balls really fast."

"In the second set, I was just trying to come back, playing point by point and trying to make less mistakes."

It will be Kerber's first semifinal since she won at Wimbledon last year.

The results: **Quarterfinals:** 1-Simona Halep (Rom) bt 9-Julia Goerges (Ger) 7-6(1), 7-6(6); 4-Elena Svitolina (Ukr) bt Karolina Muchova (Cze) 6-4, 6-2; 3-Angelique Kerber (Ger) bt Barbora Strycova (Cze) 1-6, 6-2, 7-6(4); 5-Elsie Mertens (Bel) bt 5-Kiki Bertens (Ned) 6-4, 6-3.

Minerva to **AIFF**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Holder Minerva Punjab FC

has requested the All India

Football Federation to shift

its upcoming I-League

match against Real

Kashmir from Srinagar or

defer it in the wake of the

Pulwama terrorist attack,

saying the club is ready to

forfeit the game if it is not

rescheduled.

Minerva is scheduled to

play Real Kashmir on

February 18.

"We have written to the

AIFF requesting them to

shift the game from

Srinagar. My team jersey

has the line written 'We

Salute Indian Army'. A

game of football is nothing

compared to what has happened last evening,"

Minerva owner Ranjit Bajaj told PTI.

Willing to forfeit

He added, "We are willing to forfeit the game if it is not moved out. I am sure the people will stand by us and really three points don't matter under the circumstances."

When contacted, I-

League CEO Sunando Dhar

said, "We will see what the local authorities have to say. We will go ahead with the match if the local

authorities give us a positive feedback. As of now, it is on, and shifting remains the last resort."

Sonia and Lovlina enter quarterfinals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Former world silver-medalist Sonia Lather (57kg) was among the three Indian women boxers who advanced to the quarterfinals, but the men were off to a disappointing start at the 70th Strandja Memorial Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria.

World championships bronze-medallist Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) and Pwi-

lao Basumatari (64kg) also made the quarters of the prestigious European event on Thursday night.

Sonia, who is also a two-time Asian silver-medalist, defeated Serbia's Jelena Zekic 5-0.

Lovlina, a gold-medallist at the Indian Open last year, got the better of Australian

Jessica Messina.

Pwi-lao endured a stiffer challenge from Bulgarian Melis Yonuzova before prevailing 3-2.

However, there was disappointment for the men with former Commonwealth Games silver-medalist Mandeep Jangra (69kg) and rookie Harsh Lakra (81kg) bowing out following opening round losses.

Mandeep lost 5-0 to Ukraine's Viktor Petrov, while Harsh went down to Azerbaijan's Rauf Rahimov.

India's best-ever medal haul at the competition stands at 11, which came last year.

More than 300 boxers from over 40 nations are competing in the ongoing edition.

SAI's request to CBSE

Adjust exam dates to help shooters

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has written to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to allot fresh dates in two subjects each in the Class XII Board examinations for shooters, Youth Olympics gold medalist Manu Bhaker and World junior champion Vijayveer Sidhu.

The two shooters will be competing in the Asian Air Gun championship from March 25 to April 2, which coincides with two of their exams.

Manu is scheduled to have her history exam on March 25 and physical education exam on March 30.

Vijayveer has psychology

on March 29 and physical education on March 30.

SAI was approached by the parents of the two shooters to intervene and request the CBSE to allot fresh dates for the specific examinations for the two.

The SAI has written to the chairperson of CBSE, Anita Karwal, to allow both the shooters to take the exams on fresh dates.

Last year, CBSE had accepted the request to have fresh dates of exam for pistol shooter Anish Bhanwala, in a similar situation.

This initiative by SAI is part of the efforts to help young athletes balance their sporting career and academic education.

Chelsea edges out Malmo

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PARIS

Chelsea claimed a 2-1 victory at Malmo in the Europa League last-32 first-leg on Thursday to ease some of the pressure on beleaguered coach Maurizio Sarri, while Arsenal suffered a shock loss to BATE Borisov.

"I am happy because we played with confidence and it wasn't really very easy after the last match (the defeat by City)," said Sarri.

"I think I am always confident but sometimes we had the wrong approach with matches so we need to be careful in every match."

Arsenal faces an uphill battle to progress after a 1-0 defeat by BATE.

Important results (last-32, first-leg): BATE 1 (Dragan 45) bt Arsenal 0; Lazio 0 lost to Sevilla 1 (Ben Yedder 22).

Rapid Vienna 0 lost to Inter Milan 1 (Martinez 39+pen); Sporting 0 lost to Villarreal 1 (Alfonso 3); Celtic 0 lost to Valencia 2 (Cheryshev 42, Sobrino 49); Malmo 1 (Christiansen 80) lost to Chelsea 2 (Barkley 30, Giroud 58); FC Zurich 1 (Kololi 83+pen) lost to Napoli 3 (Insigne 12, Callejon 21, Zielinski 77).

Road to Wimbledon from March 11

NEW DELHI: The Road to Wimbledon under-14 tennis tournament for boys and girls under-14 will be held simultaneously on the grass courts of the Chandigarh Club and Delhi Gymkhana Club from March 11 to 16.

The tournament will feature the top-16 boys and girls of the country.

The top two boys and girls will qualify for the UK under-14 tennis championship to be held in Wimbleton in August.

The rankings as on January 28 will be taken into consideration in deciding the entries of boys and girls for the event.

PUDUCHERRY SMART CITY DEVELOPMENT LIMITED

No.2, Bussy Street, Old Court Building, Puducherry - 605 001.

e-Tender Notice

Puducherry Smart City Development Limited (PSCDL) invites tenders/bids from reputed firms/contractors/Agencies for **EOI for providing Water ATMs under Smart City Mission in Pondicherry on PPP mode** (Tender No.002/PMC/PSCDL/2019). The Notice Inviting Tender and BOQ can be viewed / downloaded from e-procurement portal of Govt. of Puducherry <https://pudutenders.gov.in>. Bids must be submitted online only at <https://pudutenders.gov.in>.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

PSCDL

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED

Krigapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu

Ph: 04324-277 001 (10 Lines)

Email: purchase.wood@tnpl.co.in / purchase.cont@tnpl.co.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

1. OPEN TENDER RFx No.2600003490 DT:11.02.2019

WORK: Technological upgradation of Convector shop floors and equipments in SMS

◆ Submit on dead date & time : 3:00PM on 14.03.2019

◆ Bid Opening date & time: After 3:30PM on 14.03.2019

Contact: Mr. K V Rama Rao, AGM (MC), Cell: 9969515144 Email: ramanarao@vzgsteel.com

2. OPEN TENDER RFx No.2600003490 DT:09.02.2019

WORK: Maintenance of process Automation systems In SMS, BF & SCADA

◆ Submission date & time : 3:00PM on 19.03.2019

16 WEEKEND SPORT

THE HINDU
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2019

HIGHEST RANKING ACHIEVED BY PLAYERS WHO REPRESENTED INDIA

**No. 27**Sania Mirza
Achieved on
August 27, 2007**No. 122**Shikha Uberoi
Achieved on
August 29, 2005**No. 134**Nirupama Sanjeev
(nee Vaidyanathan)
Achieved on
July 7, 1997**No. 144**Sunitha Rao
Achieved on
July 7, 2008**No. 164**Ankita Raina
Achieved on
February 11, 2019**No. 196**Karman Thandi
Achieved on
August 20, 2018

Marching to her own beat

Ankita Raina has walked a lonely road — she hasn't always been able to afford a coach or a hitting partner on tour — but India's top-ranked woman says it has made her the player she is

N. SUDARSHAN

For most promising tennis players in the millennial age group in India, the inevitable measuring stick is Sania Mirza. It is an incredibly tough standard to be judged against, for Sania reached a career-high singles ranking of 27 — no other Indian woman has even breached the top 100 — and later went on to become the world's best doubles player, winning six Majors.

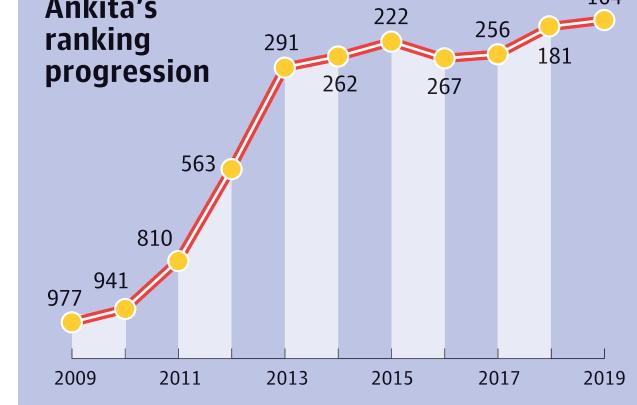
The latest to be put through this severest of examinations is Ankita Raina, the 26-year-old who is the country's best singles player. Ankita reached a career-high ranking of 164 on Monday on the back of her triumph in the \$25,000 Singapore event, where she beat three players in the top 150 back-to-back without the loss of a single set. Last April, she broke into the top 200, only the fifth Indian woman to do so. She also bagged the bronze at the Asian Games, another feat which clubbed her with Sania as India's only two women's singles medallists.

C When I used to play against players with a travelling coach, I could see how the coaching and moral support helped them. I overcame that as well

To be sure, their career trajectories bear little resemblance but for a small period in 2009-10 when Ankita, aged just 16, won the ADIDAS Nationals and the National grass-court championship and earned a call-up to the Indian Fed Cup squad. Ankita broke into the top 300 back in 2013, but it has taken her six long years to be where she is now. Sania's ascent from 300 to the top 50 took less than 12 months.

Yet, there is no denying Ankita's talent, however long-drawn her development may have been. In fact, it can even be argued that it is in tune with the times. Back in January 2017, data analyst Jeff Sackman pointed out in *The Economist* that in 1990 the average age of the women ranked in the top 100 was 22.8.

The equivalent age nearly three decades later was 25.9.



"Sports careers never go in a straight line," Ankita says. "It has taken years and years of hard work, from not just me but my whole team. Tennis is a sport where you need to be patient with results. If you stick to something and keep at it, things will eventually happen."

The trigger, Ankita feels, was the WTA Mumbai Open 2017, where she reached the quarterfinals. In March 2018, she won the \$25,000 tournament in Gwalior, her first singles success in four years, and added another four months later.

In between, in the Fed Cup in Delhi, she beat the then World No. 81 Yulia Putintseva (now No. 43) and World No. 120 Lin Zhu. At the Dubai Premier, she ran the 2011 U.S. Open champion Sam Stosur, whom she dubbed 'lady Nadal', close. The first-ever opportunity to play in the qualifying rounds of the French Open and Wimbledon was her reward.

Turning point

"You need that one match, one tournament which changes things for you," Ankita explains. "I remember just before Mumbai I wasn't feeling very good mentally. You are doing the things, but it is not always that you get results. At times I didn't believe in myself. But my family and coach believed in me."

"A couple of years back, when I would play a higher-ranked player, the mindset would have been different. But after Mumbai, I was relaxed. I had had a good block [3 to 4 weeks] of training. I came up with good perfor-

mances against top-100 and top-50 players. It built up my confidence. I had never seen a woman play with so much top-spin and give [the ball] so much air like Stosur. Putintseva plays a similar style. But the kind of depth I hit with troubled them."

It is this approach which perhaps separates her from other Indians. When young, she wasn't interested in playing percentage tennis. Even at the highest level, where it is easy to slip into safety-first mode when faced with quicker, craftier players, Ankita's methods are unwavering.

"It's her footwork," says Hemant Bendrey, Ankita's coach for more than a decade. "And when she gets into position, she has to be aggressive. The problem is we tell our players to seek consistency. Then you will never be aggressive. I have always told her, 'You will miss but you have to attack if you are to last at the world level.'

She is doing that and is focused on the top 100."

Ankita Bhambri, who has watched her from equally close quarters by virtue of being the Fed Cup coach, feels it is her relentless drive to excel which stands out. "Every time I see her during an important event there are certain positive changes in her game," Bhambri says. "She takes ideas and inputs you give her seriously. This time in the Fed Cup [2019], she lost against a Putintseva who was in the top 50, better prepared and someone who came up with the better point when it was needed... at deuce, break-point, etc. But

I expect Ankita to learn because her attitude and determination are such."

In a sense, Ankita's career is a lesson in the ideal of maximising opportunities. After all, she plays doubles — as successfully as singles — for the extra match-time to work on her game. The paucity of funds has meant that she cannot always afford a coach or a hitting partner on the road.

"When you lose early in singles but you are alive in doubles, you still feel a part of the tournament," she says. "You can always work on the little things while playing doubles. I played with Rushmi Chakravarthi very early [in my career] and won a couple of tournaments. Sharing the same court with a senior player helped and she gave me a lot of tips. Only after that did I win my first singles title."

The TOPS situation

The grant from the Sports Authority of Gujarat is just about enough to cover her travel expenses for 25 to 30 weeks in a year. It is ironic that the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), of which she was a part until the Asian Games, doesn't seem to have her on its radar, especially at a time when she is doing better than ever before. Ankita, though, isn't perturbed.

"The biggest challenge in all these years has been to be on my own. I have done that since 14. I feel after some stage it has even helped me be a different player.... to fight alone, all by myself."

"Many times when I used to play against players with a travelling coach, I could see how the coaching and moral support helped them. I overcame that as well. Now with or without TOPS, I know I have to go much higher and I will achieve my dream."

THE ANKITA RAINA FILE

BORN: January 11, 1993

PLAYS: Right-handed (two-handed backhand)

SINGLES TITLES:

8 (all ITF)

DOUBLES TITLES:

1 WTA 125K,
14 ITF

HIGHEST SINGLES RANKING:

No. 164

MEDAL RECORD:
Asian Games
bronze
(2018, singles)

CAREER SINGLES WIN-LOSS:

225-187

2019 SINGLES WIN-LOSS:

8-3

+



WORD PLAY

Goon

● **What is it?** Also known as an 'enforcer', a 'goon' is an ice hockey player whose role is to both deter and react to violent play by the opposition. 'Goons' are expected to respond forcefully, by 'fighting' or 'checking' the offender or the instigator of violence.

● **Wait, there's actual fighting?** As crazy as it sounds, yes. Ice hockey has a long, complicated relationship with 'fighting', especially in North America, where it's an established tradition. 'Fights' are governed by a complex honour system of unwritten rules known as 'the code'.

● **Why is it done?** 'Goons' usually pick fights for tactical reasons: to affect the game's momentum, draw 'reaction penalties', intimidate the opposition or protect star players. Sometimes, it gets personal between opposing 'goons'; bad blood and revenge enter the picture.

● **Has it changed?** With the accent on speed and scoring in the last 15 years, teams are less inclined to save a roster spot for a 'goon' — a heavy-hitter in a brawl but a liability during gameplay. This has led to a marginalisation of the role and a reduction in 'fighting'.

ON THE BOX

STACKING UP



ICC Test Rankings

# TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1 India	43	5,007	116
2 South Africa	39	4,280	110
3 New Zealand	30	3,213	107
4 Australia	44	4,566	104
5 England	53	5,490	104
6 Sri Lanka	48	4,256	89
7 Pakistan	32	2,803	88
8 West Indies	39	2,995	77
9 Bangladesh	25	1,727	69
10 Zimbabwe	11	138	13

ODI Rankings

# TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1 England	55	6,918	126
2 India	66	5,058	122
3 New Zealand	52	5,788	111
4 South Africa	50	5,545	111
5 Pakistan	48	4,872	102
6 Australia	43	4,290	100
7 Bangladesh	40	3,669	92
8 Sri Lanka	57	4,426	78
9 West Indies	40	2,899	72
10 Sri Lanka	30	2,580	86
11 Afghanistan	36	2,394	67

T20I Rankings

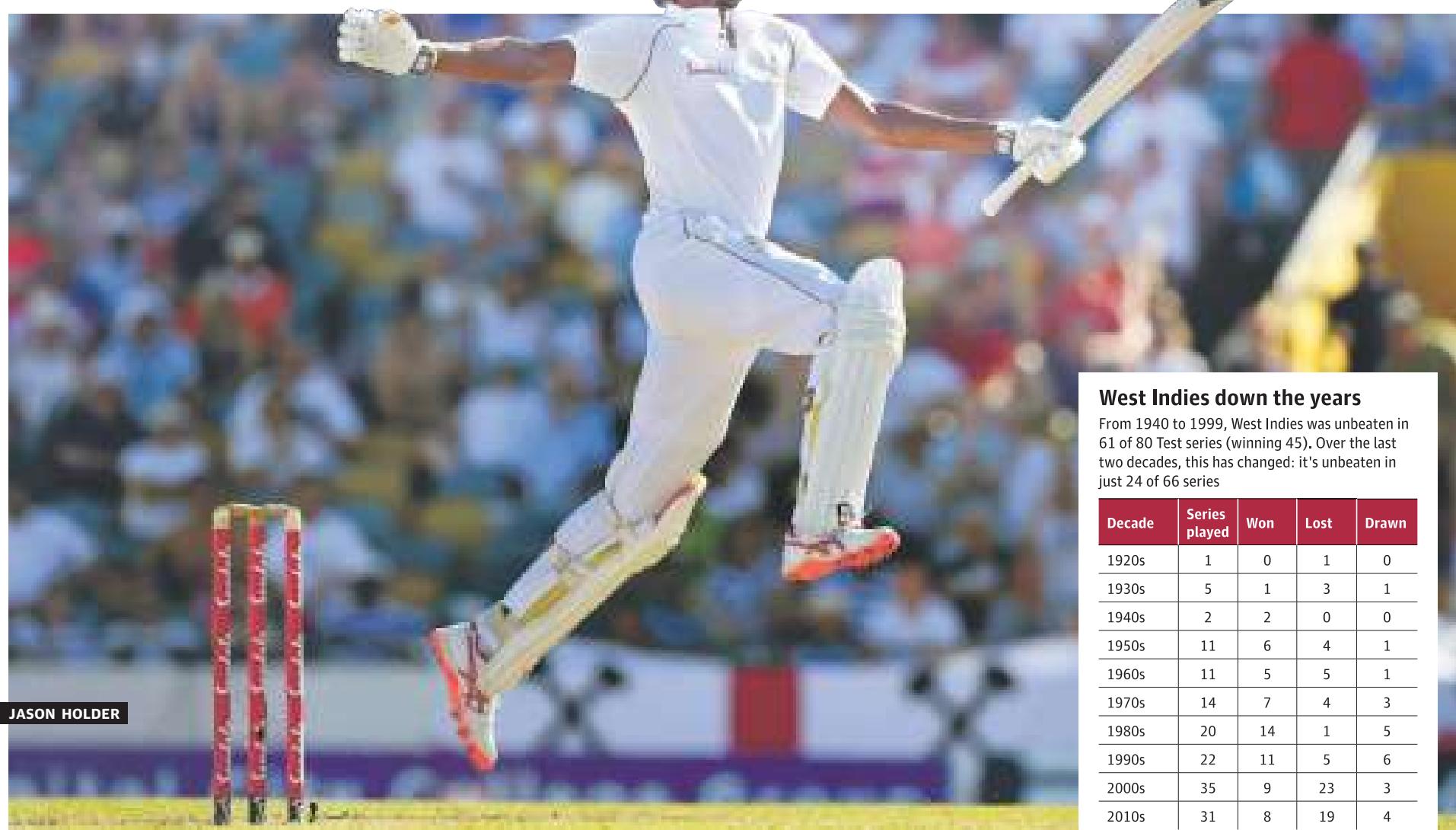
# TEAM	M	PTS	RATE
1 Pakistan	39	5,280	135
2 India	45	5,590	124
3 South Africa	25	2,960	118
4 England	22	2,586	118
5 Australia	28	3,266	117
6 New Zealand	29	3,367	116
7 West Indies	27	2,725	101
8 Afghanistan	27	2,490	92
9 Sri Lanka	30	2,321	77

Men's Top Five

# PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1 Novak Djokovic	31	10,955	18
2 Rafael Nadal	32	8,320	13
3 Alexander Zverev	21	6,475	21
4 Juan Martin del Potro	30	5,060	17
5 Kevin Anderson	32	4,845	20

Biggest Movers ▶

Juan Ignacio Londero (ARG)	Rank 69 ▲ 43 spots
Albert Ramos-Vinolas (ESP)</	



 We [can't] rest on our laurels. Our number one goal is to be the number one team in the world, so there is a lot to improve on. We have to be clinical and a lot more consistent

JASON HOLDER
WEST INDIES CAPTAIN

 There has always been talent in the West Indies. But that talent doesn't always make the transition to the next level since the facilities for training and the infrastructure isn't great. Now, things could be changing

RAHUL DRAVID
FORMER INDIA CAPTAIN

West Indies down the years

From 1940 to 1999, West Indies was unbeaten in 61 of 80 Test series (winning 45). Over the last two decades, this has changed: it's unbeaten in just 24 of 66 series

Decade	Series played	Won	Lost	Drawn
1920s	1	0	1	0
1930s	5	1	3	1
1940s	2	2	0	0
1950s	11	6	4	1
1960s	11	5	5	1
1970s	14	7	4	3
1980s	20	14	1	5
1990s	22	11	5	6
2000s	35	9	23	3
2010s	31	8	19	4

A new beginning? Or another false dawn?

West Indies looked a world-class team during its Test series victory over England – the batsmen were disciplined and the fast-bowlers hostile. But Caribbean cricket has flattered to deceive over the last two decades. Can it build on this breakthrough triumph?

S. DINAKAR

The rhythm and joy in their cricket was unmistakable, so was the determination and steel. Along with flair, there was a sense of resolve and more than a hint of the old-fashioned pride.

Yet, given West Indies' wild fluctuations in form, doubters remain. Is the Test series triumph over England at home another false dawn?

The chances are it is not. In the Barbados and Antigua Tests, where the Englishmen were comprehensively defeated, by 381 runs and 10 wickets, the West Indians were able to keep their concentration going for long periods.

And retaining their focus in Test cricket had been one of the biggest problems for West Indies' players.

It's true that the side came apart in the final Test at St. Lucia but then the dead rubber lacked intensity and the host was without inspirational skipper Jason Holder.

The signs are promising from the men in maroon. A 2-1 series victory which made a mockery of ICC's Test rankings – going into the series, England was third and the

West Indies eighth – could be the breakthrough conquest that the Caribbeans so desperately sought.

In a telling comment, former England batsman David Lloyd said, "The West Indies have sent postcards to the rest of the cricketing world with words, 'We are back'."

After a stormy phase, West Indies cricket appears to be settling down with a young team and a level-headed captain. Logically, this team can only get better.

Former Caribbean pace ace Ian Bishop, while appreciating Holder's man-management skills and willingness to learn from the past, said consistency in selection had enabled West Indies cricket take flight again.

With their places secure, the Caribbeans have played with increased confidence. When it mattered in the series, the batsmen applied themselves and the quicks took wickets.

In fact, the pacers have driven West Indies' rise. The four-pronged attack not only has hostility but also a fair amount of control.

The big and strong Shannon Gabriel regularly clocks the high 140 kmph, can breach the 150 mark and has



a mean short-pitched delivery. He bowls a heavy ball, pushes the batsmen back. For the batsmen, he is as much a psychological barrier as a physical force.

There is Kemar Roach, with the ability to get the ball to skid off the pitch. Not as quick as in his early days, he swings and seams the ball both ways and harnesses the angles capably.

He is particularly effective against southpaws; taking the ball away, getting it to straighten. Roach's consistency has been outstanding.

The young Alzarri Joseph moves the ball at sharp pace. He also has a good bumper.

Then there is the gangling Holder bowling the off-stump line, getting natural

bounce from just short of a good length and achieving two-way deviation. He gives little away, builds pressure and picks wickets.

And this pace attack seems to have the ability to carry the team through, even on days the batting fails.

During the India-Afghanistan Test, batting legend Sunil Gavaskar, back after commenting on the first West Indies-Sri Lanka Test, had said, "This is a very good West Indian pace attack. If Joseph [injured at that point] joins the eleven, it will be even better."

Gavaskar has an emotional connection with West Indies – it was in the Caribbean in 1971 that he made a sensational start to his Test

career – and he said after the West Indian victory over England, "It's great to see West Indians winning again."

West Indian triumphs, even at home, have been few and far between. The side defeated India in 2002 and then got the better of England in 2009, both in home Test series. But then, apart from the odd sparkling performance, West Indies, lacking spirit and cohesion, has largely disappointed.

Now, things are looking better for the Caribbeans.

Importantly, West Indies finally has a batting unit with both age and talent on its side. Kraigg Brathwaite is a calm and organised opening batsman. Left-handed opener John Campbell looks good even if he has not converted to the top order.

Shai Hope has loads of ability, with the potential to be the longstanding No. 3. The left-handed Darren Bravo, back in the side, lends experience to the side; his influential, grinding 216-ball 50 on a testing surface in Antigua reflected the new-found resilience in the side.

Roston Chase can not only get bounce with his off-spinners but is a strokeful No. 5 with innings-building skills. The Dowrich-Holder partnership can torment the opposition like in the Barbados Test where Dowrich (116 not out) and Holder (202 not out) flattened England.

As the No. 1 Test all-rounder in world cricket, Holder lends balance to his team.

An incisive pace attack and greater faith in its own batting resulted in West Indies preparing lively pitches for the England series.

There was pace, carry and movement, even if the bounce at Antigua was uneven. Backing its pacemen is the right way to go; slow, low wickets have hurt Caribbean cricket in the past.

The Caribbean Premier League, with the money and the infrastructure it has brought in, has got more youngsters interested in the game, too. The CPL and other global T20 leagues have allowed West Indians to test themselves against world-class talent in a high-stakes environment.

Looking back, there are parallels with Kerry Packer's World Series Cricket, which served as a crucible for the all-conquering West Indies side of the 1980s. Not only did it benefit from the professional approach of Australia's breakaway competition, but the side also met physio Dennis Waite, who played a huge role for many years in keeping the fast-bowlers fit and hungry.

Talk to Indian batting legend Rahul Dravid and he says, "There has always been talent in the West Indies. The West Indies were the under-19 world champions in Bangladesh [in 2016]."

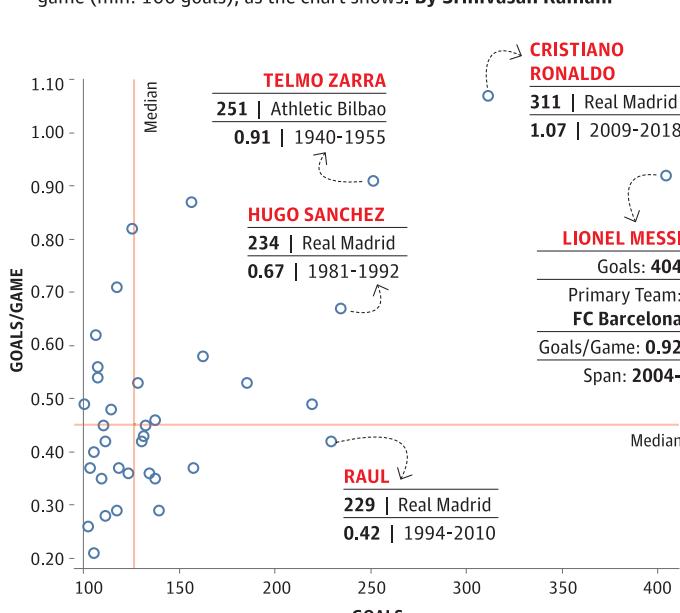
Dravid added, "But that talent doesn't always make the transition to the next level since the facilities for training and the infrastructure isn't great. Now, things could be changing."

"Even if this team is not able to reach the glory days of the 80s and 90s, a strong West Indies team will add depth to world cricket which is a good thing."

GAME THEORY

La Liga's top goal machine

Lionel Messi, who became the first player to score 400 La Liga goals earlier this year, is second only to Cristiano Ronaldo in terms of goals per game (min: 100 goals), as the chart shows. By Srinivasan Ramani



Teams that have suffered the most against Messi

Opponent	Goals	Games	Goals/Game
Sevilla	25	24	1.04
Valencia	24	26	0.92
Atletico Madrid	23	25	0.92
Osasuna	21	17	1.24
Deportivo La Coruna	20	17	1.18
Espanyol	20	24	0.83
Levante	19	16	1.19
Real Madrid	18	24	0.75

PICTURE THIS



Coast to coast

Since 1982, New Zealand has hosted a non-standard endurance race involving multiple sporting elements.

The Kathmandu Coast to Coast – the race is sponsored by a retail-store chain, not the capital of Nepal

– stretches from the Kumara beach on the west coast to Christchurch on the east coast every February.

The 243 km-long course involves running, cycling and kayaking – unlike in other endurance races, one discipline isn't completed before moving on to the next.

The race involves a mix of

multiple stretches of the three.

There are also two versions of the race – one-day athletes complete the entire course in a day. Most, however, spread it over two days, camping overnight after the end of the mountain run.

This year's race, held earlier this week, proved to be quite the thriller.

Dougal Allan and Simone Maier won the men's and women's one-dayers in the closest-fought race in the competition's 37-year history.

The Coast to Coast is also an official 'Leave no Trace' event, a global movement with a mission to protect the environment by enjoying it responsibly.

IN BRIEF



Roy to headline PEN World Voices festival

NEW YORK Writer and activist Arundhati Roy will deliver the PEN World Voices festival's flagship talk, the Arthur Miller Freedom to Write Lecture, which in the past has been delivered by luminaries including Justice Sonia Sotomayor and Salman Rushdie. The festival to be held in New York will include more than 60 events. **NY TIMES**

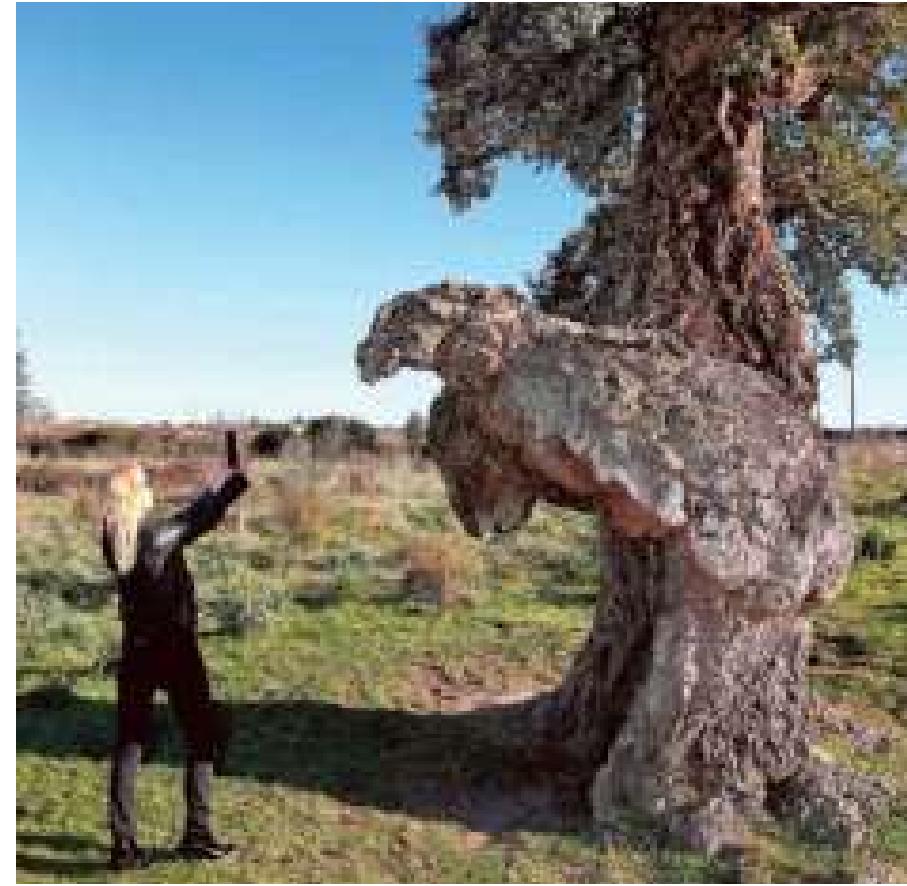


Clooney, Pitt protest against Academy move
LOS ANGELES George Clooney, Brad Pitt and Robert de Niro have joined a growing protest in Hollywood over plans by Oscars organisers to present cinematography, editing and some other awards during the telecast's commercial breaks at next week's Academy Awards ceremony. They have demanded that the decision be reversed. **REUTERS**



Rampling gets lifetime achievement award
BERLIN British actor Charlotte Rampling said she was moved to be awarded the Berlin Film Festival's Golden Bear for lifetime achievement. The 73-year-old, who started as a model, is best known for playing a concentration camp survivor in Liliana Cavani's *The Night Porter*. **REUTERS**

In good shape



Tree love: A woman clicking a picture of a cork oak, which has been elected the French Tree of the Year 2018, in Ghisonaccia on the French Mediterranean island of Corsica. The form of its trunk resembling a large bird has made it a favourite among viewers. **• AFP**

Antibiotic-resistant NDM-1 gene found in pristine Arctic

Scientists are surprised by the detection of the gene, first isolated in India, in one of the earth's most remote spots

RAMYA KANNAN
CHENNAI

The recent detection of the antibiotic resistant (AR) gene NDM-1, first isolated in India, in the Arctic region is a further indication of the globalisation of antimicrobial resistance, said a study.

The research was conducted in the High Arctic zone (Kongsfjorden region of Svalbard) and scientists were surprised to find a rather robust presence of NDM-1, according to Clare McCann, principal author of the study.

Answering questions from *The Hindu* over email, Dr. McCann said: "It was not a shock to find AR in the High Arctic. In essence, AR is a natural phenomenon. Most antibiotics are produced by soil microorganisms and over time they have evolved to become resistant to the compounds which they excrete to survive. However, finding NDM-1 in 2013 was a surprise."

Five clusters

Researchers noted in their paper, in the peer reviewed journal *Environment International*, that it was detected in five out of the eight clusters studied. NDM-1 was first reported in 2007 in a patient admitted to a hospital in New Delhi, but was reported to be present in Germany, the same year.

"The first finding of NDM-1 in the environment, rather than a clinic setting, was in surface waters of Delhi, in 2010. So finding NDM-1 in the High Arctic three years after the first report of its presence in the environment was very intriguing. The results show how far reaching and fast resistance can move around the globe," Dr. McCann said.



Safe no more: A beach at Svalbard in the Arctic. **• REUTERS**

"Our findings show that the NDM-1 gene is present in highest concentrations near fresh water sources where wildlife tend to congregate.

Additionally, we discovered levels of mobile genetic elements (MGEs), the mechanism by which bacteria 'trade' AR, to mirror NDM-1. MGEs

are noteworthy here because they are often associated with 'acquired' resistance and are found at higher levels in human, or animal waste-impacted environments," she said.

The findings point towards the involvement of migratory birds, who could carry the resistance in the gut and transfer it to the Arctic soil through faecal matter.

"However, it is also possible that it may have migrated with humans and spread via local wildlife, or it may be a combination of factors," the scientist explained.

Refugee wins top human rights prize

REUTERS
NAIROBI

A Sudanese refugee stuck in an Australian detention centre on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea for five years has been awarded an international human rights prize for revealing the harsh reality of Canberra's off-shore refugee policy.

Abdul Aziz Muhamat, 25, has been named the 2019 Martin Ennals Laureate for his advocacy in drawing global attention to the harassment and beatings faced by hundreds of asylum seekers.

+ Hong Kong officials seize rhino horn in record haul

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HONG KONG

Two men carrying at least 24 severed rhino horns were arrested in Hong Kong airport by customs officers who said it was their largest ever seizure of rhino contraband smuggled by air passengers.

The haul – worth \$1 million – was transported brazenly through the terminal in two cardboard boxes, the customs department said.

The pair had arrived from Johannesburg and was planning to transit to Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City, according to a statement from the department, which did not give their nationalities. An environmental group in Hong Kong said the 40 kg of horn was a

major bust – accounting for 20% of the total amount of rhino horn seizures in the city in the last five years.

Sophie le Clue, environment programme director of ADM Capital Foundation, said there was likely an organised network behind the trafficking.

Rhino horn can fetch up to \$60,000 per kg in Asia, stoking transnational crime networks that target the protected species.



SOME FASHION ICONS WALK THE RUNWAY. SOME, RUN ON THE STREETS.

PRESENTING THE ULTRA-STYLISH ŠKODA RAPID MONTE CARLO.

INDIA'S 1st 4 YEAR SERVICE CARE

MONTE CARLO BADGE ON B-PILLAR

LED DAY RUNNING LIGHTS

MONTE CARLO SCUFF PLATES

BLACK TAILGATE SPOILER & SPORTY DIFFUSER

DUAL TONE POLISHED ALLOY WHEELS

MONTE CARLO DESIGN LEATHERETTE SEAT UPHOLSTERY

FLAT BOTTOM STEERING WHEEL WITH RED STITCHING

Available in petrol and diesel | Download the MyŠKODA App for hassle-free ownership at your fingertips |  **• ŠKODA** | Toll-free 1800 2700 260 | www.skoda-auto.co.in

South Delhi: Jai Auto: 7574066633; **South Delhi:** Arya ŠKODA: 011 49300 000; **West Delhi:** Arya ŠKODA: 011 49300 000; **Gurgaon:** Jai Auto: 7574066633

Specifications given differ from model to model. Accessories shown may not be part of standard equipment. Always insist on genuine ŠKODA Auto parts and accessories available at authorized sales and service centres. Information relating to colours, prices, construction, technical details and equipment was valid at the time of issuance and these are subject to changes without any prior notice. All disputes are subject to the Courts in Aurangabad Jurisdiction only. Terms and conditions apply. **ŠKODA Warranty** - 4 years/100,000 Km; Promotional offer, additional warranty 3rd & 4th year. **ŠKODA Assist** - 4 years unlimited Km. **ŠKODA Maintenance Package** - 4 years/60,000 Km; Four periodic maintenance services at the interval of 15,000 Km or one year (whichever comes first from the date of delivery), available at an attractive price.



INDIA

DELHIMETRO



'CCTVs in 170 police stations'

Installation of CCTV cameras completed in 170 police stations, Delhi High Court informed [Page 2](#)



Waqf Board chairperson

SC seeks response on plea challenging the appointment of Amanatullah Khan as Waqf Board chairperson [Page 3](#)



A feel-good tale

Ranveer Singh leads from the front in a feel-good tale about turning imperfect reality into impossible fantasy [Page 5](#)



The catalyst named Feroze

Plans to activate an arts community are just the latest for this fashion icon and art patron [Page 6](#)

IN BRIEF



GMDA to relook into proposal for auto stands

GURUGRAM
Almost three years after a proposal to construct autorickshaw stands at 53 sites across the city was mooted and later dumped by the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram, the GMDA has now decided to relook into it giving hope to the autorickshaw drivers.

[CITY ▶ PAGE 4](#)

Nine injured in Bawana factory fire; owner held

NEW DELHI
Nine persons were injured after a fire broke out in a factory in outer north Delhi's Bawana in the small hours of Friday, the police said.

Factory owner Hemant Bhagwan has been arrested, they said. The victims are said to be out of danger. A fire official said they received a call around 3 a.m. regarding the incident. Twelve fire tenders took two hours to douse the blaze.

[CITY ▶ PAGE 3](#)

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	245	Gurugram	166
Ghaziabad	253	Faridabad	197
Noida	229	Greater Noida	258
Good	■	Satisfactory	■ Moderate
0-50	■	51-100	■ 101-200
Poor	■	Very poor	■ Severe
201-300	■	301-400	■ >401
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) SOURCE: CPCB			

Plea against standard-floor buses: SC seeks govt's reply

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Friday sought a response from the Delhi government on a plea filed by a disability rights activist against the purchase of standard-floor buses instead of low-floor ones, which now form a lion's share of the Capital's urban transport fleet.

A Bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Sanjeev Khanna, however, refused to stay an October 22, 2018 order of the Delhi High Court allowing AAP government to go ahead with the purchase of 500 standard-floor buses to ply the city's outskirts where the roads are in poor condition.

The activist, Nipun Malhotra, had contended that the High Court had erroneously interpreted the law.

He said that the move to purchase the high-floor buses would act as a handicap for the disabled and the elderly. Their right to access public transport would end, especially in the outskirts, he stated.

The petition said such a move would be in violation of the fundamental rights to equality, against discrimination, liberty, life and dignity. It would also be a violation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

In October, the High Court had laid down the condition that the standard-floor buses should have hydraulic lifts for the convenience of the differently abled. In its interim order on August 2, the Supreme Court had allowed the government to purchase 500 standard-floor buses, out of the 1,000 proposed, to improve public transport system in rural areas of the city.

Govt cancels fire safety licences of 30 hotels in Karol Bagh

Establishments found flouting norms; inspection drive by fire dept to continue: Jain

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Friday said the fire safety licences of 30 hotels in Central Delhi's Karol Bagh have been cancelled after they were found flouting norms.

Delhi Home Minister said the action was taken after a special drive to check fire safety violations in hotels in the area was carried out by the Delhi Fire Service (DFS) for over two days.

This comes after a massive fire broke out at Hotel Arpit Palace in Karol Bagh, claiming 17 lives on Tuesday.

As many as 45 hotels operating from the area had been inspected by DFS officials over the last two days, said Satyendra Jain.

The fire department during their inspection on Wednesday found that 13 out of 23 hotels were violating fire safety norms. The following day, 17 hotels out of 22 were found to be violating fire safety rules.

Thirty of them were found to be flouting fire safety norms in one way or another leading to the cancellation of their fire safety certification, he said.

Mr. Jain added that the said drive, to identify errant hotels across the Capital and take action against them, would intensify and continue to prevent the recurrence of similar fire incidents. "We have written to the municipal corporation and the police to take further action and seal the erring establishments," Mr. Jain said.

In its report the DFS stated that the hotel management in the case of the Hotel Arpit Palace tragedy was found using carpets and having walls covered with wooden material, which fuelled the flames, the Minister said.

A magisterial inquiry into the incident is ongoing, he said.



Hotel Arpit Palace, where a massive fire broke out on Tuesday morning killing 17 persons, in Karol Bagh. As many as 45 hotels operating from the area have been inspected by DFS officials in the last two days. ■ FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Parts of Hotel Arpit Palace demolished 11 times in 1993

Building booked for violations on at least five occasions

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI

Parts of Hotel Arpit Palace, which was gutted in a fire on Tuesday, were demolished by municipal corporation authorities on at least 11 occasions while it was being constructed in 1993, official records state.

The blaze at the hotel, located in north Delhi's Karol Bagh, claimed the lives of 17 people.

The building was booked for various violations on at least five occasions between June 1993 and January 1994, following which the demolition action was carried out by the then unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

Violations on each floor
According to official records submitted before the Standing Committee of the North Delhi Municipal Corpora-

tion on Friday, violations were found and fined on each floor of the building, including the basement.

The violations included unauthorised constructions such as basement in an open area, ground floor and additional alteration, columns on the first and third floor, roofs on the second, third, fourth and fifth floors, unauthorised coverage of the first and second floor, pillars and shuttering, reinforcement of the overhead tank and the lift room on the sixth floor, the records state.

The demolition work included removal of the wall and roof of the ground floor on multiple occasions, removal of partition walls and shuttering in the basement, demolition of columns and walls on the third floor.

Stay order was also

shown and the work was stopped on multiple occasions, records state.

Congress Councillor Mukesh Goel demanded to know why the building was allowed to come up despite being flagged on multiple occasions.

Aam Aadmi Party councillor Vikas Goel said nothing was being done by the corporation.

"The local junior engineer or the public health inspector will be suspended and nothing much will happen," said Mr. Vikas.

A senior corporation official informed the committee that an enquiry into the fire, which was under way, would be looking at lapses that led to the incident.

It will also look into measures that can be taken to avoid a similar situation, said the official.

Security guard foils robbery attempt at convenience store; two arrested

Accused used to target TwentyFour Seven outlets in small hours

HEMAMI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

Four masked men entered a TwentyFour Seven outlet in west Delhi's Tagore Garden on Wednesday with the intention of robbing it, but the security guard foiled it by attacking them, the police said on Friday.

DCP (South) Vijay Kumar said two persons, Rohit alias Chhotu and Sagar, have been arrested. "CCTV footage was scanned and their modus operandi was analysed after which the accused were identified and arrested with the help of local intelligence," he said.

The 47-year-old guard, Omkar Singh, employed with a private firm and deployed at the outlet, said he was taking a round inside the store when four masked men entered it.

Three of them were holding pistols and one was brandishing a knife, said Omkar, from Palam.

"The robbers came around 3 a.m. They proceeded towards the cash counter and I tried to stop them. But they dragged me and another staffer closer to the counter," he said.

The guard then tried to pull out his pistol but two of



The accused duo in custody. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

I ran behind them along with the outlet staff and fired two rounds in their direction but they fled in a black car that was parked on the main road

OMKAR SINGH
Security guard

committing robbery) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code at Rajouri Garden police station.

In the last week of January, three masked men entered a TwentyFour Seven outlet in south Delhi's Greater Kailash and robbed ₹47,000 from the cashier.

Modus operandi

The police said the accused targeted TwentyFour Seven outlets in GK, Paharganj, Akshardham, Subhash Place, Rajouri Garden, and also looted a pharmacy in Malihapur.

Their modus operandi is to target shops between 3 a.m. - 5 a.m. using firearms to overpower any resistance by the employees. After the robbery, they would abscond in high-speed cars," Mr. Kumar said.

The police registered a case under Sections 394 (voluntarily causing hurt in

Govt cancels events as mark of respect to martyrs

Chief Minister says ready for any cooperation to deal with the dastardly attack

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has cancelled all its official programmes on Friday as a mark of respect towards the 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel killed in the Pulwama attack.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal extended full support to the Centre and the armed forces in taking whatever action they deemed fit.

"The Delhi government and the people of Delhi are fully with the Central government at this hour and we support whatever action the Central government and our armed forces deemed fit," he said.

The State units of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress paid homage to the martyrs.

Terming the attack a "highly condemnable and cowardly" act, Aam Aadmi Party national convener, who also went to the IGI airport to pay his last respects to the slain paramilitary police personnel, condoled them at a gathering organised at the party's office on DDU Marg earlier during the day.

The Delhi Chief Minister further said the entire country was in grief and there was "tremendous anger" among the people on this "highly condemnable and cowardly"



People participate in a candlelight march to offer tributes to the CRPF jawans martyred in the Pulwama terror attack, at India Gate on Friday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

I am shocked. I cannot understand how I should stop my anger and tears. I pay my heartfelt homage to the martyrs

MANOJ TIWARI
Delhi BJP president

said a government statement.

Mr. Kejriwal cancelled the inauguration of a new office building of the District Magistrate (West) at Shivaji Palace. Other events where he was to participate at Hazrat Nizamuddin and Moti Nagar, were also cancelled, the statement added.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and other Ministers of the Kejriwal government also cancelled their events and public engagements of the day.

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari, terming the Pulwama terror attack co-

wardly, said the Centre would give a "befitting reply" to the terrorists involved in the incident.

"I am shocked. I cannot understand how I should stop my anger and tears. I pay my heartfelt homage to the martyrs," he said.

Observing that the "cowardly attack is very painful", he said his party expresses full sympathy with the family members of the brave jawans.

"I fully believe that our government will give a befitting reply to the terrorists responsible for it and eliminate them," Mr. Tiwari said.

Cong expresses sorrow

Delhi Congress president Sheila Dikshit expressed "deep sorrow" and extended her condolences to the families of the slain CRPF personnel in a letter to the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. A condolence meeting of Congress' Delhi unit also passed a resolution mourning the death of the security personnel.

We are anguished to learn about the tragedy in Jammu and Kashmir. We convey our heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased," the resolution stated.

SEE ALSO ▶ PAGE 3

Himachal Pradesh Irrigation & public Health Department				
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER				
Online bids on items rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, I&PH Division Nohradher on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned work from the contractors/firms of appropriate class enlisted with Himachal Pradesh I&PH Department.				
Sr. No.	Description	E/Cost	E/Money	Time & Cost of Form
1.	Providing LIS to village Rajana and group of villages on GP Rajana Bounal, Kakog Maina Charal Tehsil Sangra Distr. Sirour (HP) C/O intake chamber, sump well, pump house delivery tank, outlets, prov. and laying of MSERW pipe in R/ Main & distribution system supplying & erection of pumping machinery with allied accessories, prov. crate work, site development and retaining wall.)	2,74,85,461	5,00,00/-	6 Months 2500/-
1.	Tender documents and other instructions can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal http://htptenders.gov.in by the firms/individual registered on the website which is free of cost.			
2.	As the bids are to be submitted online are required to be encrypted and digitally signed, the bidders are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from suitable vendors or from any authorized agency at the earliest.			
3.	Key details will be as under:-			
1	Date of Online publication	31-01-2019 AT 5:00 PM		
2	Downloading of e-tender Documents	From 05/02/2019 at 5:00 PM up to 9:00 AM on 23/02/2019		
3	Date of submission of e-tendering	From 05/02/2019 at 5:00 PM up to 11:00 AM on 23/02/2019		
4	Physical submission of earnest money deposit and cost of tender documents	Up-to 11:00 AM on 23/02/2019		
5	Date of opening of Cover-1 (Eligibility criteria)	25/02/2019 at 11:00 AM		
6	Date of Opening of Financial Bids Cover-2	Shall be intimated separately.		
The Terms and Conditions may be read online in E-Procurement site. HP/4690/18-19 HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAPARK				

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH	
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES	
ITANAGAR	
No. DIR/FS/MT/1613(FT)/10/2018 Dated Itanagar, the 14 th Feb 2019	
TENDER NOTICE	
Sealed tenders on plain paper are invited by the Director of Fire & Emergency Services, Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar from the well established and reputed fabricators for fabrication of Advance Fire Tender and Foam Tender on 16 ton Cowl Chassis for Arunachal Pradesh Fire & Emergency Services during 2018-19. For details please visit website www.arunpol.nic.in	
Director Fire & Emergency Services, Arunachal Pradesh Itanagar.	
DIPR/ARN/7187-89/18	

NORTHERN RAILWAY OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE	
The Sr. Divisional Operations Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi invites E-Tender for the following work.	
1. Name of work with its location	
Round the clock Loading/Unloading and transportation of Loco Pilot and Guard Line Boxes from train to running room and vice-versa at Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station (HNZM) Station	
2. Approx. cost of work	
Rs. 40,46,955.75/- + GST as applicable for three years.	
3. Earnest Money	
Rs. 81,000/-	
4. Date and Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender.	
15.00 hrs. on 11.03.2019	
5. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen.	
www.ireps.gov.in	
No. : Optg-Line Box-03-2019 Date : 13.02.2019	
464/19 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE	

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OFFICE ORDER	
The online tender for the work OPBMC on 'Bhota jahar road km. 0/0 to 24/0' which was scheduled to be published online on dated 13.02.2019 vide this tender notice No. PW-SE-VII/WA-3/Tender OPBMC/2019-11947-11999 dated 16.01.2019 and published in various news papers vide RO No. 4237/2018-19 (Classified) dated 23.01.2019 and further corrigendum No. PW-SE-VII/VA-3/Tender-OPBMC/2019-12792-12841 dated 30.01.2019 published in various news papers vide RO No. 4377/2018-19 (Classified) dated 30.01.2019 is hereby cancelled due to administrative grounds till further order.	
Superintending Engineer, 8th Circle, HPPWD., Hamirpur.	
HP/4702/18-19	

NORTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION	
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M-II) CLZ 2ND FLOOR 16-RAJPUR ROAD, DELHI	
NIT NO. EE(M-II)/CLZ/2018-2019/47 Dated: 13.02.2019	
Date of Start for Sale of Tender Document :- 13.02.2019 at 17:00 PM	
Last Date of Download to Tender Document :- 22.02.2019 at 14:00 PM	
Last Date of Bid Submission :- 25.02.2019 at 12:00 PM	
Opening of Financial Bid :- 25.02.2019 at 12:00 PM	
FOR ONLINE TENDERING TIME TABLE PLEASE REFER http://www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDPMC/TENDER Sealed percentage rate for:- Tenders are invited for the execution of the following works by the MCD from approved and eligible contractor on the website http://www.tenderwizard.com/NORTHDPMC/TENDER . The registered contractors of MCD only are eligible to tender for the amount they have registered in their respective category subject to the conditions that they are neither black listed nor debarred at the time of purchase of tenders.	
Name of Work : Imp/Dev. of damaged road and drain by pdg. RMC from A-31 to A-26 in Gurunanak Marg in Kewal Park Extn. in C-18N/CLZ, Head of A/c: XL-VIII-S, Tender Amt. : ₹2882628/-, Earnest Money : ₹57700/-, Time of Completion : 5 Month, Rate Hold Good for : 5 Month, Tender Cost : ₹500/- RO No. 163/DPI/North/2018-19 Executive Engineer (M-II) CLZ	

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED	
3 RD FLOOR, PRAGATI SADAN, KUTCHERY ROAD, RANCHI 834 001, Jharkhand	
PH: +91 651 2225878, E-MAIL: juidco@juidco.com CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752	
CORRIGENDUM - 1	

NIT No.: JUIDCO/ NIT/ M PMP/ 2019/ 207	Tender ID: - 2019_UDD_35920_1
Ref PR No.: - 201013	
All the bidders for hereby intimated that Corrigendum - 1 for the tender "Construction of Museum and Multimedia Projection Mapping in Birsa Munda Jail Ranchi" has been published on the e-procurement website of Government of Jharkhand.	
It is requested to please refer the same before submission of bids.	
e-procurement website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in	

Sd/- Project Director (Tech.)

PR202259 (Urban Development)18-19'D JUIDCO Ltd, Ranchi

Annexure 1
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, SIMDEGA.

Very short Tender e-Procurement Notice

Double Bid System

Tender Reference No. WRD/MID SIMDEGA/SIMDEGA-02/2018-19 Date :- 13.02.2019

1. Name of the work.

Construction of Series of checkdam on Jograha Nala Block-Thethaitangar Dist-Simdega.

2. Estimated Cost (Rs.in lakh.)

311.16

3. Time of Completion.

335 days (11 Month)

4. Date of Publication of Tender on website

21-02-2019 (2:00PM.)

5. Last date/Time for submission of Bids

25-02-2019 (up to 5:00 PM.)

6. Date of opening of e-tender

27-02-2019

7. Name & address of office Inviting tender

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,MINOR IRRIGATION, SIMDEGA.

(b) E-mail of e-procurement Officer

9. Helpline number of e-Procurement cell.

0651-2491232

10. Last date for receipt of bids Fee, Security and other documents.

upto26-02-2019 (up to 5:00PM)

Note :- Only e-Tenders will be accepted.

Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer,

PR 202131 (Minor Irrigation) 18-19 (D) Minor Irrigation Division, Simdega.

CM YK

Annexure 1
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, SIMDEGA.

Very short Tender e-Procurement Notice

Double Bid System

Tender Reference No. WRD/MID SIMDEGA/SIMDEGA-02/2018-19 Date :- 13.02.2019

1. Name of the work.

Construction of Series of checkdam on Jograha Nala Block-Thethaitangar Dist-Simdega.

2. Estimated Cost (Rs.in lakh.)

311.16

3. Time of Completion.

335 days (11 Month)

4. Date of Publication of Tender on website

21-02-2019 (2:00PM.)

5. Last date/Time for submission of Bids

IN BRIEF



HC declines urgent hearing of plea

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday declined to give an urgent hearing to a plea seeking directions to the media to refer to the deaths of armed forces personnel as 'martyr' or 'shaheed' instead of terming the incident as killing. "This is not a plea seeking bail. Someone's liberty is not at stake. Not today. There is no urgency. It will be listed on Monday in normal course," the High Court said. PTI

Law graduate, 2 others held for duping shopkeepers of 700 TVs

510 TV sets worth ₹60 lakh recovered from their godown in Sonipat, say police

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Three persons, including a 35-year-old law graduate, were arrested on Thursday for allegedly cheating a number of shopkeepers in Old Lajpat Rai Market of more than 700 smart LED television sets, the police said on Friday.

The accused, identified as Vikas (35), Harendra (33) and Praveen (33) were arrested from Sonipat and 510 LED smart TV sets worth ₹60 lakh were recovered from

their possession, the police said.

In a complaint, Shasikant Gupta, a shopkeeper, alleged that 120 LED TV sets were reported to have been misappropriated, the police said.

After the police got a tip-off that the accused had escaped to Sonipat with the TV sets, a godown at Gohana Road was raided where the accused had kept those, Ravi Ranjan, Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime) said.

Subsequently, the ac-

cused were arrested and at their instance, 510 LED smart TV sets were recovered from the godown, he said.

'Lost money in betting'

During interrogation, Vikas said he had lost around ₹40 lakh in betting in cricket matches and was in dire need of money. He then planned to dupe shopkeepers who dealt with LED televisions at Old Lajpat Rai market. Harendra and Praveen joined him in his plan.

One Anil took a shop on rent at Old Lajpat Rai Market using fake documents. He also bought new SIM cards. Harendra also started using a fake name, Sunil. Anil started running the shop. They began selling and purchasing LED TV sets and the payments were made in cash. It took around two months for them to gain the trust of all the shopkeepers, after which, they managed to collect 700 TV sets and fled to Sonipat, the police further said.

Nine hurt in Bawana factory fire

Owner of unit arrested; victims out of danger now

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Nine persons sustained injuries after a fire broke out in a factory in outer north Delhi's Bawana in the early hours of Friday, the police said.

All the injured persons are now out of danger and the owner of the factory has been arrested, the police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Gaurav Sharma said that the injured persons have been identified as Kanhaiya (23), Ravi (25), Pappu (22), Chhotu (20), Babloo (20), Veer Pal (40), Jaggi (23), Gopi (28), Roop Singh (20). All of them are workers

The fire started from the basement and spread to the second floor of the factory. Police personnel and fire officials rescued the people who were trapped inside. The injured persons were then rushed to Maharishi Valmiki Hospital," said a senior police officer.

at the nail polish factory where the fire broke out, he said.

The arrested owner has been identified as Hemant Bhagwani, the police also said.

A fire official said that they received a call around 3 a.m. on Friday regarding a fire, which broke out at the three-storey factory. He said 12 fire tenders were pressed into service and the fire was doused in about two hours.

"The fire started from the basement and spread to the second floor of the factory. Police personnel and fire officials rescued the people who were trapped inside. The injured persons were then rushed to Maharishi Valmiki Hospital," said a senior police officer.

Enquiry revealed that the workers were on a night shift, when the fire broke out and that the fire started from an exhaust fan.

The police also said that efforts are being made to find out whether or not the factory was running legally or was in possession of a no objection certificate from the fire department.

Appointment of AAP MLA as Delhi Waqf Board chairperson challenged in SC

Apex court seeks Delhi government's response

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court (SC) on Friday sought response from the Delhi government on a petition challenging the appointment of controversial Okhla MLA Amanatullah Khan as the chairperson of Delhi Waqf Board on the grounds of alleged corruption and irregularities committed by him during his previous tenure.

The apex court was hearing an appeal filed against the November 16, 2018 order of the Delhi High Court (HC) which had said that any relief under the Delhi Waqf Rules could be sought by approaching the tribunal.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Sanjiv Khanna also issued notices to Mr. Khan and Delhi Waqf Board to respond



Amanatullah Khan.

to the petition challenging the HC order.

Khan, two board members tendered resignation to the L-G on October 5, 2016. The L-G later revoked the March 11, 2016 order by which the board was reconstituted.

Advocates Prashant Bhushan and Pranav Sachdeva submitted that the controversial AAP MLA was appointed as the member and chairperson of the Delhi Waqf Board in violation of the principle of 'impeccable integrity and institutional integrity' laid down by the SC.

The petitioner submitted that on the findings of a committee set up to review the legality and propriety of actions taken by Mr. Khan as the board's chairman, the CBI had registered a complaint against him under Prevention of Corruption Act and IPC Section 120B for conspiracy.

View from the top



Sparse traffic at Connaught Place early on Friday morning. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

Pulwama terror attack: residents of Noida, Greater Noida hold prayers

Some call for action, others light candles to pay homage



Memorial services and prayer meetings were held across the city on Friday.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

must boycott all relationships with Pakistan and isolate them out internationally."

Some voices demanded a ban on Chinese goods citing China's "abetment" of Pakistan.

Shops shut

In some areas in the district, traders shut shops in respect of martyrs. Noida-based Arymen protested by shouting slogans against Pakistan.

Over 5,000 candles were lit in Savitri market situated in Sector 18. Many residents too lit 3 candles at their houses.

Arymen gathered at Noida Shaheed Smarak in large numbers. Local residents and groups too gathered to pay their homage to the slain jawans.

Two minutes of silence was observed by all those present there before lighting candles at the entrance of the memorial.

The accused, the shopkeeper said, then pulled out his pistol, put it inside the victim's mouth and fired before fleeing.

Several surgeries

The victim survived after he underwent several surgeries, the police said.

The police had arrested one Mannu Bajaj in connection with the case, but

Man arrested for attempt to murder

Had put gun in victim's mouth and fired

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 28-year-old man, wanted in an attempt-to-murder case, was arrested on Thursday evening, the police said on Friday.

RAM GOPAL NAIK

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch)

when he was just 18 years old

Shakti had been

abscarding.

The Crime Branch mounted technical surveillance and also raided his possible hideouts in Krishna Nagar, Gokulpuri, Ashok Nagar, Noida, Muradabad and Sambhal.

Subsequently, he was arrested from near Indraprastha Park where he had allegedly gone to meet someone.

Mr. Naik also said that the police have learnt that Shakti spent most of his adolescence roaming with anti-social elements.

"His first crime was a murder in 2007 in Krishna Nagar, when he was just 18-year-old. Thereafter, he kept on committing several crimes one after the other," he said, adding that there are six criminal cases registered against Shakti that include cases of murder, extortion and robbery.

20-year-old man shot in west Delhi

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 20-year-old man was shot dead allegedly by unidentified men in northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri, the police said on Friday.

The deceased, identified as Kailash, a resident of Bhalswa, hailed from Uttar Pradesh.

The incident happened on Thursday around 10.30 p.m. Some unidentified men opened fire at the victim, who sustained bullet injuries on his head, the police said.

Kailash was rushed to Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital where he was declared dead by the doctors, a senior police officer said.

A case has been registered and the matter is being probed, Vijayanta Arya, DCP (North-West) said.

The police suspect the role of local boys in the matter and are questioning them in connection with the case, she said. Footage from CCTV installed in the area are being scanned to identify the accused and know the sequence of event, she also said. The police have ruled out the possibility of a robbery bid.

4 booked for blackmail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

GAZIABAD

The owner of a local TV news channel and three of his employees were booked and one of them was held for allegedly blackmailing a head clerk of the Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation, the police said on Friday.

Earlier during the day, a local court in Delhi had allowed the application of Mr. Chautala with several conditions to visit Lahore. He had

in which he was purportedly seen in a compromising position with a woman.

SP City, Shlok Kumar said that the head clerk had lodged a complaint against two persons, alleging that they had recorded his video with a woman. One of the accused has also confessed that the woman was hired to honey-trap the complainant.

"Pakistan didn't list India as most favoured nation (MFN) although India had given it due to international

obligations. Snatching MFN tag from Pakistan will not help to tackle terrorism. We need stringent action," said a retired Armyman Rakesh Kapoor.

Another resident Ram Kumar of sector 37 said "We

must boycott all relationships with Pakistan and isolate them out internationally."

Some voices demanded a ban on Chinese goods citing China's "abetment" of Pakistan.

In some areas in the district, traders shut shops in respect of martyrs. Noida-based Arymen protested by shouting slogans against Pakistan.

Over 5,000 candles were lit in Savitri market situated in Sector 18. Many residents too lit 3 candles at their houses.

Arymen gathered at Noida Shaheed Smarak in large numbers. Local residents and groups too gathered to pay their homage to the slain jawans.

Two minutes of silence was observed by all those present there before lighting candles at the entrance of the memorial.

The accused, the shopkeeper said, then pulled out his pistol, put it inside the victim's mouth and fired before fleeing.

Several surgeries

The victim survived after he underwent several surgeries, the police said.

The police had arrested one Mannu Bajaj in connection with the case, but

Dreaded gangster signs marriage agreement after getting nod from court

Dujana lodged in Maharajganj jail; facing trials in 35 cases

STAFF REPORTER

GREATER NOIDA

A district session court has permitted the marriage of dreaded gangster Anil Dujana during his appearance in court on Friday in Greater Noida's Surajpur.

The gangster is currently facing trial in more than a dozen cases of gang crimes and murders. His lawyer told the media that he sought permission on Friday to sign a marriage agreement with a Ghaziabad-based woman.

The police said Anil (34) is lodged in Maharajganj jail in Uttar Pradesh and has been facing trials in as many as 35 cases registered against him. Anil hails from Dujana village in Greater

Noida and is infamous for running a gang of dreaded criminals who are involved in extortion, murder, robbery, theft, and other gang crimes.

Surya Pratap Singh, a lawyer from the private law firm, who is looking after the cases against Anil, told the media that the court has granted his client permission to sign a legal agreement of marriage.

Mr. Singh also said that after getting an approval from the court, Anil married his girlfriend with whom he has been in a relationship for a year now. "After taking approval from the court, Anil went on to sign a marriage agreement with the 22-year-old woman and also submitted

an affidavit on their marriage. Following a two-hour-long proceeding, he was sent back to jail," Mr. Singh said.

When asked about Anil's

criminal history, Mr. Singh said that of the 35 cases, 13 are of murder and he has also been booked under the Gangster Act.

"He has been lodged in

Maharajganj jail since the last one-and-a-half years. He was shifted from Luksar jail in Greater Noida to Banda jail following gang wars between his gang and the Sunar Bhati gang," he said.

The police have denied

comment on the marriage,

saying they were not informed about the same as he is in judicial custody.

The police have denied

comment on the marriage,

saying they were not informed about the same as he is in judicial custody.

The police have denied

comment on the marriage,

saying they were not informed about the same as he is in judicial custody.

The police have denied

comment on the marriage,

saying they were not informed about the same as he is in judicial custody.

The police have denied

comment on the marriage,

saying they were not informed about the same as he is in judicial custody.

The police have denied

comment on the marriage,

</

4 CITY

2 held for bid
to 'honey-trap'
ex-UP Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

A local BSP functionary and a woman were arrested in Greater Noida on Friday for allegedly trying to "honey-trap" a former Uttar Pradesh Minister in the Mayawati government and malign his image, police said on Friday.

A complaint was lodged on January 26 by BSP leader and former UP Minister Kartar Nagar, alleging that an unknown woman has been insisting on meeting him and threatening to malign his image if he did not meet her, the police said.

"The woman would repeatedly use WhatsApp to call and text him. She wanted to meet him so that she could get their pictures clicked together and extort money from him," a police official said.

A case was lodged at the Badarpur police station and the phone number was tracked down to Usha (name changed). It emerged that she was working on instructions of Updesh Nagar, a local BSP functionary, the official said.

"Usha and Nagar were arrested on Friday from Badarpur police station limits," he added.

During interrogation, the woman admitted that she was working on instructions of Nagar, who wanted to settle a score with Kartar Nagar, the official said.

Gurugram civic body to relook at proposal to build 53 auto stands

The stands have been a long-pending demand of city's autorickshaw drivers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GURUGRAM



Almost three years after a proposal to construct autorickshaw stands at 53 sites across the city was mooted and later dumped by the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram, the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) has now decided to re-look into it giving hope to the autorickshaw drivers in the Millennium City.

•

Autorickshaw drivers said the stands would rid Gurugram of unwanted traffic jams caused due to illegal parking of vehicles. • MANOJ KUMAR

tos in the city and issued challans in large numbers.

"When we told the Commissioner that there were no designated parking spaces for the autos, he wrote to the then MCG Commissioner T.L. Satyaprakash to look into our demand," said Mr. Singh.

The union then submitted a list of 53 places across the city, including near the major metro stations and the hospitals, for designating them as autorickshaw stands. All the sites are located on the government land with most of them owned by the MCG and the Haryana Sahari Vikas Pradhikaran.

On April 21, 2016, the then MCG Commissioner wrote to Reikan Engineering Consulting asking them to conduct the survey of the proposed sites.

On May 30, 2016, the company submitted drawings of 43 autorickshaw sites to the MCG, but the project could not see the light of the day because of the transfer of Mr. Satyaprakash and Mr. Virk in quick succession.

Mr. Singh said the then Senior Town Planner, MCG, Sudhir Chauhan had verbally assured them to construct auto stands at a cost of ₹10-20 lakh per stand with facilities such as pre-paid booths, washrooms and drinking water.

He said that constructing auto stands was a win-win situation for all since it would rid the city of unwanted traffic jam caused due to illegal parking of autos on the roadsides and also provide a designated space for the auto drivers to park their vehicles and take rest.

THE agency had received the demand from the auto union for the stands and a proposal was being drafted for the perusal of the CEO to take the matter forward

J.S. SINDHU

GMDA, (Engineer, Traffic)

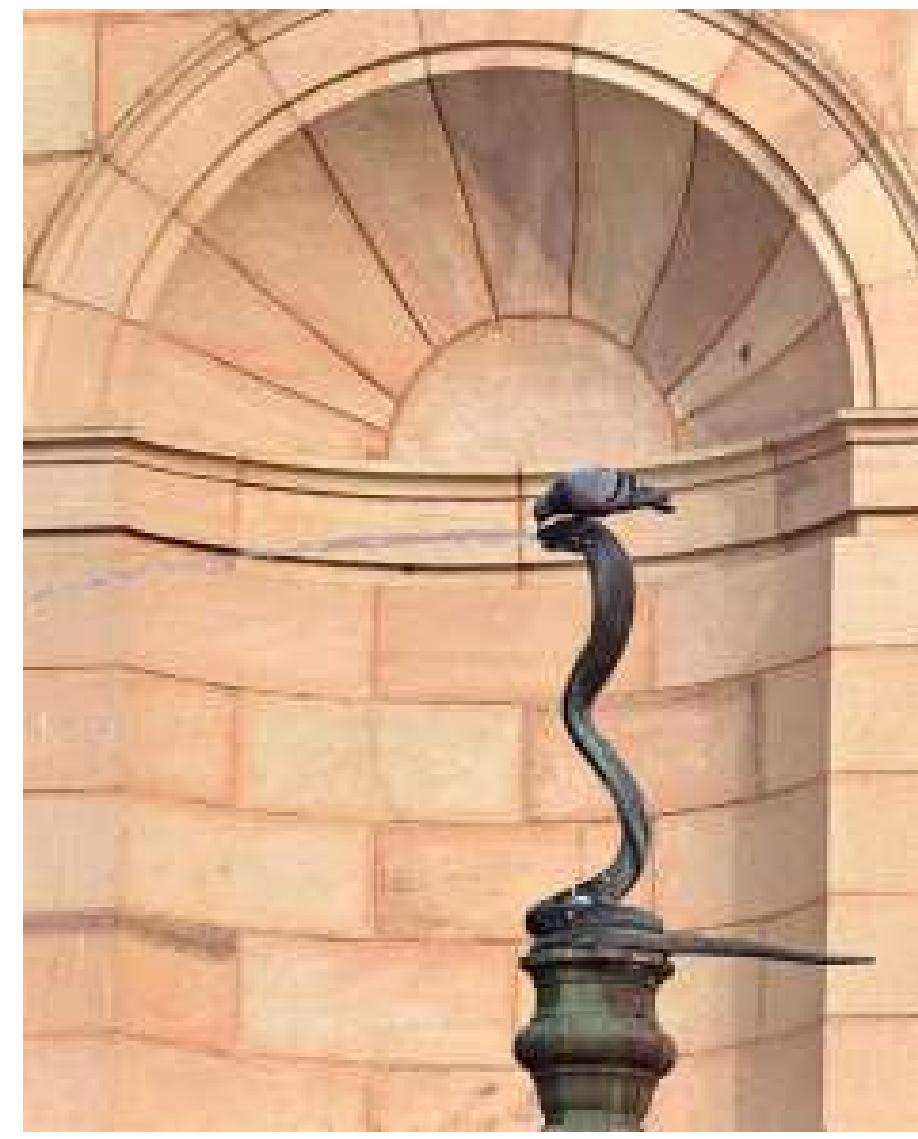
Vipin, an autorickshaw driver, said that he along with half-a-dozen more drivers had been parking their vehicle on the roadside near Rail Vihar in Sector 15 Part-II for the last five-six years. It often leads to traffic jams in the rush hours when the school buses come to pick and drop the children.

"The police often issue challans to us for parking on the roadsides, but the administration first needs to provide us designated spaces to park our vehicles," argued Vipin.

Though illegally parked autos are a common sight in the city, the situation is worse outside the metro stations, especially the HUDA City Centre.

Despite several special drives by the traffic police, the auto drivers return to park their vehicles illegally on the roadsides in the absence of any legal parking spaces.

Pigeon antics



A pigeon drinking water from a fountain at Rashtrapati Bhavan. • R.V. MOORTHY

North civic body passes household industry licence policy

Standing committee approves policy for online issuance and renewal of licences

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The standing committee of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation passed a policy for online issuance and renewal of licences for household industries at a meeting on Friday.

Licenses for household industries were not issued from April 2011, after the Citizen Service Bureau of the corporation started issuing licences only in case of conforming industrial areas and for local commercial areas.

The policy allows indus-

tries that come under the A and A1 categories of the master plan of Delhi 2021 to be run from residential areas. While polluting industries are prohibited and fire-prone material may not be stored, up to 112 types of activities may be carried out,

including making electronic items, sewing machines, typewriters, agarbattis and others. Apart from this, nine activities, including blacksmithy, production of ice cream and water cooling and others may be carried out in villages, the policy states.

Under the policy, the industry is allowed to hire a maximum of five workers and the working hours are limited to 8 a.m.- 6 p.m..

A similar policy had been approved by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation in December.

Air quality improves after rain: CPCB

'Showers washed out suspended particulate matter in the air'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The air quality in the national capital improved on Friday and was recorded in the "poor" category due to rain in various parts of the city that washed out suspended particulate matter (PM), authorities said.

According to data provided by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the overall air quality index (AQI) of Delhi was at 249.

The CPCB said 26 areas in the national capital recorded 'poor' air quality, while

only in one area it was 'severe'. The level of PM2.5 (particles in the air with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometres) was recorded at 107 and the PM10 level was at 167, it said.

In the National Capital Region (NCR), Ghaziabad, Greater Noida and Noida recorded 'poor' air quality while Gurugram had 'moderate' air quality.

To improve by Saturday
Authorities said the overall air quality is likely to improve to 'moderate' by Saturday.

"Rain scavenging of suspended particulate matter has contributed towards the improvement of the region's air quality. The slow improvement in 'AQI' despite good rain is mainly due to isolated rainfall in different pockets."

"Air quality will be in moderate to poor category till February 17," the Centre-run System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting said. It said the air quality is expected to slightly deteriorate from Monday onwards.

POOCHE CAFE



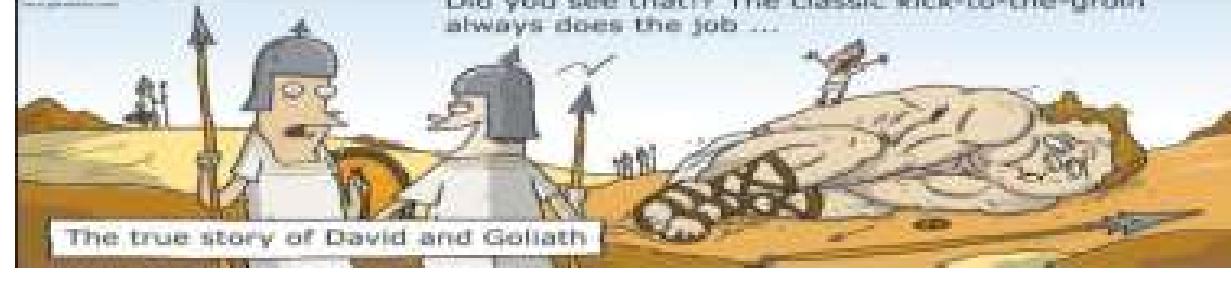
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



TIGER



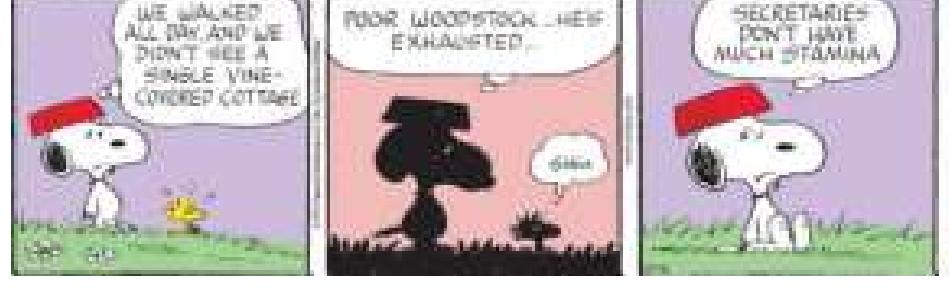
WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



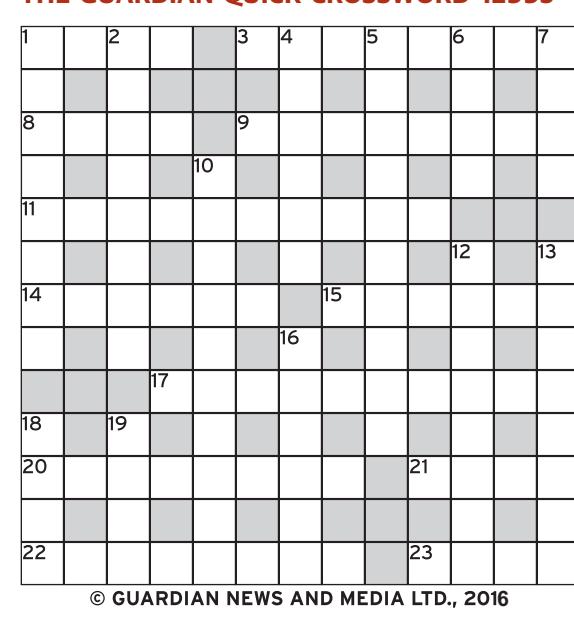
GRAFFITI



HEALTH CAPSULES



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-12995



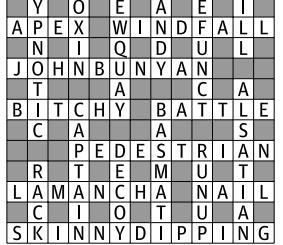
© GUARDIAN NEWS AND MEDIA LTD., 2016

- 7 Year (4)
- 10 Type of bed (4-6)
- 12 Forced – like baby food? (8)
- 13 Incessant reader (8)
- 16 Narks (6)
- 18 Jane Austen novel (4)
- 19 Badly behaved child (4)

Solution will appear in Delhi Metro dated February 18, 2019.

Solution No. 12994

- Across
 - 1 Influence (4)
 - 3 Yellow-flowered narcissus (8)
 - 8 Want (4)
 - 9 Gaping – very vulnerable (4,4)
 - 11 Unlike (10)
 - 14 Various (6)
 - 15 Indelible design on the skin (6)
 - 17 Charlatan (10)
 - 20 Olympic event (8)
- Down
 - 21 Cancel – annul – reverse (4)
 - 22 * (8)
 - 23 Father of Cain and Abel (4)
 - 4 Creature (6)
 - 5 One who gains from others' efforts (10)
 - 6 Dolt – drug (4)



N-D-NDE

FILM REVIEWS

Restive soliloquy to liberation

Ranveer Singh leads from the front in an empathetic, feel-good tale about turning your imperfect reality into a long-cherished and impossible fantasy

NAMRATA JOSHI

There is something incredibly nuanced about Ranveer Singh in *Gully Boy*. He is Murad Sheikh, trapped in a limited, limiting world. There is the physical space itself: a narrow lane leading in to a sprawling *basti* that ironically for him is like "*andha kuan*" (a slum cluster akin to a bottomless pit). There is his own hemmed-in persona, reconciled to the circumstances and restricted by a dysfunctional family and lack of choices. Singh does a powerful turn in conveying the persistent hurt and humiliation, the lack of confidence and the contained rebellion; all this through his vacant and pained eyes, the restive body language and the words that well up from within, to become purveyors of his concealed angst and simmering rage. Singh's is an internalised act, like a monologue or Murad's soliloquy.

"*Shabdhan ka jwala meri bediyen pighlayega* (The flame of my words shall melt away my fetters and unchain me)" raps Murad, and *Gully Boy* is born. The film charts out a perfect, often improbable and ideal arc of deliverance for its protagonist, found in songs. Singh lives out the transformation on screen,



Streetcred: Ranveer Singh and Alia Bhatt in a still from the movie ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

word by word, beat by beat, moving from discomfort to a confidence that rhythm gives him, sporting a hoodie on stage with as much ease as a skullcap during *namaaz*.

Even as there is Murad at the centre, there is the larger world around him, peopled by just as compelling actors as Singh himself. Alia Bhatt, likeable as always, as the sweet, vulnerable yet plucky girlf-

riend Safeena, prone to being on a short fuse and taking up cudgels for what she feels strongly about. She will wear the hijab but wrestle with her parents for her right to wear lipstick. Siddhant Chaturvedi in a standout debut as Murad's new-found friend MC Sher and Vijay Varma as the *basti* pal who can't rise above his destiny yet tries to make the most of what he has.

There's Vijay Raaz as the father from hell who is fighting his own demons and Amrutha Subhash as his wife berating him for not knowing how to touch her the right way.

Whether it draws from *8 Mile* or not, in the tradition of good mainstream Hindi cinema *Gully Boy* portrays the Mumbai social milieu in a simple, straightforward manner, laying bare the disparities

GULLY BOY

DIRECTOR: Zoya Akhtar
CAST: Ranveer Singh, Alia Bhatt, Siddhant Chaturvedi, Vijay Raaz, Amrutha Subhash, Kalki Koechlin, Vijay Varma
RUN TIME: 155.48 minutes
STORYLINE: Dharavi boy Murad Sheikh rises above his limited and limiting world to find deliverance in rap as MC Gully Boy

without getting into complications. There are young friends in a slum that span across the spectrum – from a carjacker to a would-be manager. Young, subaltern Mumbai is united across communal and religious divides – there is not much of a difference between the lives of a Muslim and a Marathi, read Hindu, rapper. There are wide class chasms (Murad measuring the bathroom of musician Sky-Kalki Koechlin – with his footsteps, perhaps it's bigger than his entire home) that appear to dissolve in a kiss only to get reiterated in other ways.

Then there are the powerful vignettes of the poor and the disempowered, almost like installations of inequities, within the song '*Door*'. *Gully Boy* embraces the quotidian, often layering it with humour. There are little throwaway moments, like Mumbai romance on a BEST bus ride with songs shared through one pair of earphones. The "slum tourist" asking for a picture on hearing Murad talk rap even as he covers his face, seizing his dignity and self respect from a spectator, intent on turning him into a curio of sorts.

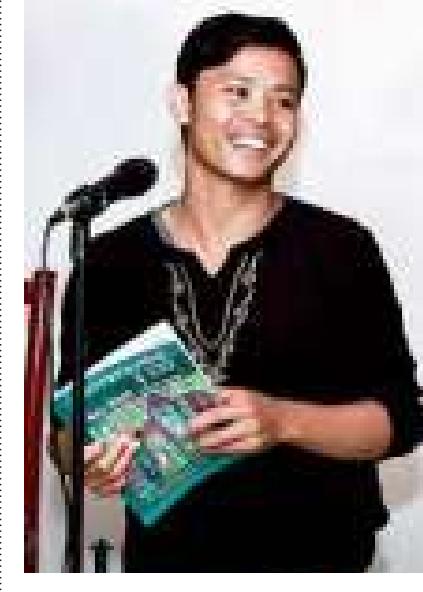
The overt statement making of the "brown and beautiful" kinds, the earnest cause-mongering, the protracted length and easy resolutions might throw a spanner in the works but Zoya Akhtar's story-telling skills hold unmistakable sway with the on-the-move camera conveying the essential urgency and energy.

The film questions "remixes" and "fake rap", posits rap as a way to deal with one's discomfort with self, society and the world. It gives us a ring-side view of the rough battle of rappers, takes it from the margins to the mainstream and is a "shout-out to the original Gully Boys", Bombay hip-hop artists – Naezy and Divine. But most of all, *Gully Boy* is a classic, empathetic underdog story with a crowd-pleasing, feel-good finale about turning your imperfect reality into a long-cherished and impossible fantasy. "*Awaaz uthaneka*" (raise your voice), says its protagonist and we listen. After all, there is an underdog of some sort in each one of us.

PEOPLE

Poets gather

After its 2017 edition with Indian poets, the Raza Foundation is back with its poetry biennale, featuring poets from all over Asia



Delhi is seeing an influx of 20 international poets, from 18 Asian countries this weekend. The Raza Biennale of Asian Poetry, which began in 2017 exclusively with Indian poets, now has eight poets from across the country. There will be panels and readings that will happen through tomorrow. The poets will all read their work and deliberate on issues such as the place of poetry in times of post-truth.

In the lead-up to this year's event, 31-year-old Cambodian poet Chheang Yeng, who was named Fellow of Cambodian Living Arts in 2016, spoke about his work and about what you can expect from attending. Here, edited excerpts.

Which of your poems do you plan to read out?

The poem is called Strobe Light. I'll be reading the original Khmer poem as well its English translation. I wrote the original poem in the seven-syllable-form. It's about the contrasting imagery inside and outside a club in Phnom Penh.

What are you expecting of your next two days here?

I sense that this literary festival will open my eyes to other poetry and voices from all over Asia. I haven't read anyone attending this festival yet, and I'm excited to hear them. As for audiences who attend my session, they will get to hear what poetry reading in Khmer is like. With the social themes and issues of poverty that that my poems explore, they'll be able to reflect on the inherent imbalances in life.

Tell us about the Magic Library that you run in Cambodia.

This is a mobile library that I run with volunteers. We started it back in 2015 and do this over the weekends. We put books inside a huge tin box and take it around to the villages in the Kandal province. We stop at different points, spread mats, and invite children to choose whatever book they want to read from the tin. For children who are too young to read, we also keep picture books and have story-telling sessions too.

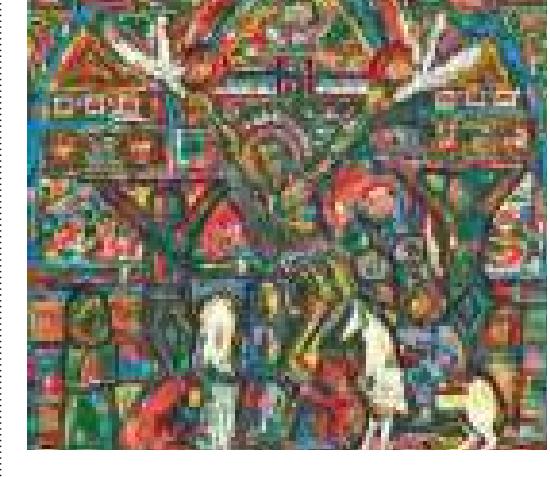
Do you already know any of the other poets attending the Raza Biennale?

Before coming here, I had attended the Brahmaputra Literary Festival in Assam, where I met some poets, who are also here. I do not know them personally, but am looking forward to hearing more from them.

VAK - The Raza Biennale of Asian Poetry 2019, 15-17 February at India International Centre, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi. For details: therazafoundation.org

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

PREVIEW

**Sotheby's serenades**

See some greats, consider catching an auction online, and begin to look at art as something personal

For an auction house that has a grand heritage dating back to 1744, Sotheby's is surprisingly agile, equipped as it is with an app and the facility of accessing any auction they conduct, and bidding from anywhere in the world. So while its Modern & Contemporary South Asian Art New York Sale is to take place on March 18 in America (the exhibition opens March 14), we get a preview in India, of what's in store. There are unseen works by M. F. Hussain, Anish Kapoor, Ram Kumar, Steve McCurry, Henri Cartier Bresson and more. The highlight is F.N. Souza's rare 'Golgatha in Goa', created in 1948, the year after Souza founded the Progressive Artists Group. It demonstrates the impact Catholicism had on his work.

New York-based Manjari Sihare-Sutin, who heads sales, in the Modern & Contemporary South Asian Art division tells us how Indian art has found its place in America. It's all about an emotional connect, a personal experience, not just an asset. "It's the best way to collect; you want to live with," she says. "That's what the post-2008 crash has done for the market. It has filtered it of the speculators, and kept those who really love art."

She sees three types of clients: Indians based here, NRIs who want a slice of their heritage, and international buyers who buy into this category because of a connection with the country. She tells the story of an American couple who celebrated their honeymoon in India, named their daughter after the country, and began collecting Indian art.

Sometimes, brief encounters can become collector moments. "The artist Raghubir Singh shot India through an Ambassador car. When a client visited, they travelled all around in an Ambassador taxi and that was their memory of India. They started collecting from there," she says. Visit the preview and let the art speak to you. And if you can't make it to NY, there's always the app.

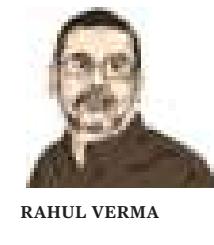
At: The Leela Palace, February 16, 12 noon to 3 p.m.

SUNALINI MATHEW

FOOD SPOT

Looking eastward

Inclement weather leads this author to discover Asian-Chinese cuisine in east Delhi



RAHUL VERMA

The evening Delhi was suddenly deluged by rain, and we'd had plans of going out for a hot Oriental meal. But the best laid plans get waylaid by the weather. However, to quote another cliché, where there is a will there is a way. Or where there is a delivery service, there is a solution to all your needs. I looked for Asian-Chinese restaurants in east Delhi and thought would try out a place called Asian Soi. It had got good reviews and a high rating.

Asian Soi is in east Delhi's IP Extension area (Phone: (0800023319). I was happy to see that the menu in-

cluded khao suey, which has been a favourite dish of mine ever since a professor friend first cooked it for us eons ago. I love the sauce of the khao suey, with its delicious flavour of coconut milk, and I really enjoy all the side dishes that it come with: noodles, boiled eggs, fried onions, green onions, fried garlic, coriander leaves et al.

So I asked for the chicken khao suey (₹349), along with congee crispy lamb (₹379), stir-fried vegetables in Thai basil sauce (₹259) and chicken in black pepper sauce (₹299). The best thing about neighbourhood delivery outlets is that it never takes long for the food to arrive. You don't sit twiddling your thumbs, like you do in a restaurant, wondering why everybody's food is on their table before yours, and, when your food finally arrives, you are left wondering why their dishes look more appetizing than yours.



(Clockwise from top) Vegetables in thai basil sauce; chicken in pepper sauce ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

This was smooth. By the time we had got the crockery out, the delivery boy was at the doorstep, carrying cartons of food. The rain had stopped by then, and the thought of eating hot Chinese (and Burmese) food as the temperature dipped was rather appetizing.

I tried out the veggies, and thought the basil flavour worked well. I had a bit of the lamb, too, for I

have nostalgic memories of the dish. There was a time when I couldn't pass Ginza in Connaught Place without stopping by to have their crispy lamb.

Asian Soi's lamb was rather nice – dry, hot and crispy. Its base was a chilli paste and it had been topped with sesame seeds. The

chicken in black pepper sauce wasn't bad either. It looked as if it had too much soy, but it tasted just right.

I was happy with my khao suey, too. Though the sauce was a bit too sweet, I liked the overall taste of the soft chicken dunked in coconut milk. I poured the sauce over a little hillock of noodles, added burnt garlic, peanuts, green chillies and chopped green coriander leaves over it, and then squeezed some lime juice on it. All in all, it was a nice dish, indeed.

Asian Soi's menu is interesting. It includes some dishes that

I would like to try out in the near future, such as the chicken aniseed (₹289), butter garlic prawn (₹379), steamed fish in chilli oyster sauce (₹369) and Thai water chestnut chicken salad (₹209). There is a food hub around me, and I am happily exploring it. As someone wisely said once, look East.

THE WRITER IS A SEASONED FOOD CRITIC

moments. "The artist Raghubir Singh shot India through an Ambassador car. When a client visited, they travelled all around in an Ambassador taxi and that was their memory of India. They started collecting from there," she says. Visit the preview and let the art speak to you. And if you can't make it to NY, there's always the app.

At: The Leela Palace, February 16, 12 noon to 3 p.m.

SUNALINI MATHEW

The catalyst named Feroze

Ten years of The Gujral Foundation and plans to activate an arts community are just the latest for this fashion icon and art patron



GEORGINA MADDOX

Feroze Gujral is in London when we get her on the phone, at the Tate Modern. Though we aren't privy to the why of her visit, as one of India's leading patrons of South Asian art, we are expecting interesting projects in the near future. She is, after all, the impetus behind initiatives like the *VS Gaitonde: Painting as Process, Painting as Life* exhibition at New York's Guggenheim (2014), and *My East is Your West* collateral event – a collaboration between India's Shilpa Gupta and Pakistan's Rashid Rana – at the 56th Venice Biennale (2015).

Currently, The Gujral Foundation – which has completed 10 years – is hosting Astha Butail's solo exhibition, *In the Absence of Writing*.

On firm footing

Feroze's life has been 'curated' with such serendipity that the feisty patron, philanthropist, businesswoman and media personality has never strayed far from the arts. Marrying architect Mohit Gujral, now vice-chairman and CEO of DLF India, at 18, and her subsequent

interactions with her father-in-law, painter, sculptor and muralist, Satish Gujral, she says, were life defining.

She recalls her formative years being "such a vibrant time, with constant conversations about literature, dance, cinema, politics and arts. I was lucky that I married into a family that was political and art-inclined; it makes for a heady mix". The former model, now 54, reminiscences how "celebrities, artists and world leaders were constantly at our home, which was fertile ground for a young person interested in India".

Admittedly, in the beginning, she was looking at art and culture from afar – the intervening years, after Feroze moved away from modelling, saw her run a boutique called Fizzarro, host a TV talk show, turn a tableware ceramics exporter and write columns – but it "wasn't long before I found myself immersed in the art scene".

Today she is a trustee for the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, on the international board of institutes such as the Guggenheim Museum and London's Serpentine Gallery, and spearheads The Gujral Foundation, which she

co-founded with her husband in 2008.

"At the Foundation and the Biennale, our endeavour is to usher in change, as India needs massive support to grow in the right direction, what with such little support from the government," she says. "Watching my father-in-law struggle over the years, it became apparent to us that there was not enough support for the fine arts, which is why the Foundation works mainly with young people who are starting out as artists, curators and writers."

Learning on the job

A polyglot, Feroze had a multicultural upbringing. Born to a Malayali father and Hyderabad-based mother, she grew up in Egypt, Algeria and France. In her teens, she cat-walked into fame at the Lady Sri Ram college festival, and soon became the face of brands like Lakmé, Palmolive and Raymond. But her lack of formal education in the arts has never been a deterrent.

As she told *Vogue* magazine, "The world over, gurus debate if curation should be taught or be left to instinct. I think it should be a mix of both. I spend

■ AMIT DEV

a lot of my time studying and learning because I don't know everything, and I think we have to keep ourselves informed and updated. I ask myself two simple questions: what are the gaps that need to be plugged? And what would I like to see out there? Between these two, I find the projects and artists I want to support."

Turning a large, semi-derelict house opposite Lodhi Gardens, into a thriving experimental art space was the first step. The Foundation has hosted several avant-garde exhibitions at 24 Jor Bagh, including the Raqs Media Collective's *House of Everything and Nothing* that wrapped the entire space up as an installation, Vishal Dhar's experiment with light, Sonia Khurram's *Oneiric House*, Israeli artist Achia Anzi's Heidegger-inspired installation, *The Silent Call of the Earth*.

"It's been 10 years and we've worked with over 150 artists and done close to 50 shows. We've received good response, but contemporary art is still not taken seriously in this country. We have to realise that today's contemporary artist is tomorrow's modernist, and the day after's antiquity," she says.

She has taken up projects under the aegis of the Foundation to Shanghai, the Berlin Biennale, and the Tate Modern.

"We are a massive sub-continent and we cannot be ignored. We need more philanthropy for the younger generation," says Feroze, who counts among her advisors Richard Armstrong of Guggenheim, Amin Jaffer of Christie's, gallerist Devika Dault-Singh, patron Anupam Pod-

dar, among others.

The Gujral stamp

A little over a year ago, she opened her newest venture, Studio G Spot, at Delhi's Meher Chand Market. Her first official headquarters (she laughingly states that the foundation was run from her dining table for years), it is an interdisciplinary space where art, design, architecture, crafts and fashion interact. In her role as catalyst and connector, she shares that the space will not just be a gallery, but will be instrumental in her plans to activate an art community, through regular workshops, round tables, lectures and performative talks.

Feroze is also one of the pioneers behind breaking the white cube gallery format in the country. From ensuring Aspinwall, the sprawling waterfront property in Fort Kochi (which belongs to DLF), is reserved as the primary exhibition site for the Kochi Muziris Biennale, to encouraging people to lend her their abandoned properties to host art projects, she is pushing the boundaries of presentation. There are reports that the Foundation is also planning to launch new art spaces in the National Capital Region, an abandoned house in Gurgaon and an unused factory in Okhla Industrial Area.

Her next project is a personalised exhibition featuring stamps from the Nizam of Hyderabad's Dominion. Titled *Property of a Gentleman*, it is slotted to open at Bikaner House on March 8. "Things just happen organically in our family. One day we were at Bi-

kaner for one of our Art Induct talks. Director Priya Pal and my brother, Hanut, who has a massive collection of stamps, got to discussing the forgotten and fading art of letter writing and the postal stamp. And we came up with the idea of hosting an exhibition of the Nizam of Hyderabad, a city that's close to my heart," she says, adding that the Foundation will also bring out artist books soon and an online publication to broader their base.

Paying it forward

It is no wonder that the 'art bug' has been passed down to her two children – Armaan, 27, who works in finance, and Alaiia, 25, who is with Canvas Chicago, an artists' collective. "My son is a techie, but he is also a collector. He makes long rides to see Dalí and Matisse," she says. Meanwhile, Alaiia has entered the art scene with her *Indigo Project*, which comprises art installations and performance art.

Besides her own work [a textile installation at the London Design Biennale that shows the tangible application of indigo], she also helped significantly with the 2018 Biennale, showcasing the foundation and the work we do. Her own project, *Activate*, in Chicago, works with art communities across the city using street art, plays and spoken word poetry. What is exciting about her art is that it's all inclusive and she is not intimidated by boundaries. She is more free-wheeling and experimental, and I learn a lot from her," concludes Feroze.



Heir apparent

Alaiia has always loved the colour blue. "I think that is what led me to the Indigo Project," she says, when we connect over an international call. "The whole idea of being covered in a pigment, especially blue, appealed to me and it became an obsession. It was only later that I began to look into its colonial underpinnings, like how the workers are exploited. That really opened up the project to a larger social context," she says.

The youngest of the Gujral clan, who studied Print Media and Fibers at School of the Art Institute of Chicago, is currently involved in a number of projects that look into community building, public art and city planning. Her approach is multi-disciplinary and cuts across mediums and genres. "My initial interest in indigo was spurred by watching [the family's 200-year-old Portuguese house in Goa] being painted post every monsoon," she adds. The paint – a mixture of natural Indigo pigment, eggshells and glue – is not purely decorative, but used for its cooling effect and insect repellent properties. "Indigo pigment is a living, breathing colour that has completely consumed my artistic life," she says.

Building community

The Indigo Project has taken many forms, from installations to garments, performance art, and digital media. It also extends to her new project, *Xenophilia*, which questions the global political climate characterised by fear, suspicion and aversion to the other. "The exhibition imagined a different reality in which fear is replaced by curiosity," says Alaiia, who co-curated and participated in the project that featured a dynamic selection of painting, sculpture, textile and photo-based work. Another project that she is currently working on is *Forward Thinking*, which brings art, fashion and technology together. It looks at transforming rough neighbourhoods with art and theatre.

While she admits her mother and she have distinct tastes in art – Feroze is drawn to conceptual art and Alaiia to the process – her mum is her constant support. But that doesn't mean she doesn't have a great art collection of her own. On her recent birthday, her father surprised her with one of her grandfather's early paintings, which he'd created when in Mexico with Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. "I love it and it's my prized possession," she signs off.



From sea to set

Olympic swimmer-turned-actor Ragga Ragnars on pulling off strong female characters on screen

LESLEY SIMEON

When it comes to talents, playing historical characters on screen may seem polar opposite to swimming freestyle at the Olympics. However, for swimmer-turned-actor Ragga Ragnars, there is a clear resonance. "Having a goal in mind and always being present in the moment are just two of the many similarities when it comes to preparing mentally and physically for both roles," she says. The Icelander, who made an entry as warrior queen Gunnhild in the period TV series, *Vikings*, talks about prepping for her role and why playing strong female characters is no biggie for her.

Career switch

Before taking the leap into acting, Ragnars swam professionally for Iceland and participated in numerous European Championships, World Championships and two Olympic Games



(2004 and 2008). It was when she became pregnant with her now five-year-old son, that she decided to take a

break and finally realise her acting ambitions. "I'd always planned to get into acting, but first I decided to keep swimming. I could act at any age, but not swim forever," she says. Soon after, she shifted base to Los Angeles to study acting.

According to the 34-year-old actor, sports gave her the grounding that she builds on for her work on set. "Having the discipline it takes to reach a certain level in sports is the same as reaching a level in acting. It's an advantage to have an athletic background since *Vikings* is physically demanding," she says. Landing a role on the show also proved serendipitous for the actor, who was a fan of the series since her acting school days. "Even now, working in the middle of it amidst hundreds of people, you don't see how magnificent it is, until you see it come together on screen. It still gives me goosebumps like when I first saw it five years ago," she adds.

Power roles

What may seem as an adrenaline-driven manifestation of feminist thought, her role is "normal" for the actor. "Growing up, I've viewed women as ones who rule, run a whole country. This is something that was taught to me in my culture," she stresses, adding that the strong, fierce female characters on the show are nothing but a reflection of women she has seen. "It comes very naturally to me since I've been raised to see women in that light."

Pursuing a career in acting, along with dabbling in a tonne of other things can get challenging for a single mother. But not when you make everyday worth it. "It's a struggle to be a mother, to be an actor and to have a hectic lifestyle, but at the end of day, my son's happy and it makes me a better mother!" explains Ragnars, who is also experimenting with writing her own content, along with upcoming film and television projects.

Season 5 of Vikings airs every Monday at 10 pm on AXN

Splurge files

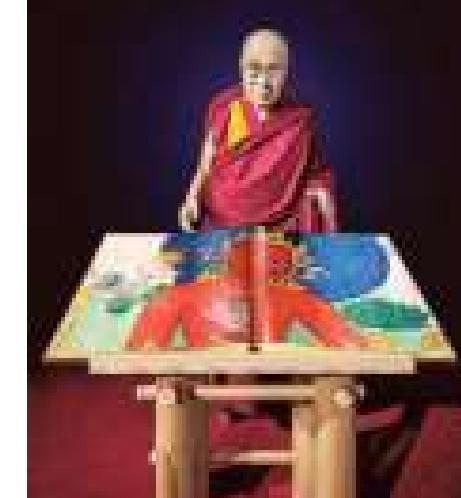
Objects that should be on your radar



ENDURA ROSES

Language of flowers

If you missed the memo on Valentine's Day and want to tone it down, UK-based Endura Roses (a preserved flower company) has you covered. That is, if you have approximately ₹18 lakh to shell out. The Cullinan Bouquet is inspired by the eponymous diamond that was discovered in South Africa, parts of which are mounted in Elizabeth II's crown. The bouquet includes a preserved rose immersed in 24-carat gold, two diamonds, a bed of hydrangeas, and a range of other roses from locations as far-flung as Ecuador. To top it all off, a small sprinkling of diamond dust. Details: enduraroses.com



Paint me like a Tibetan mural

If you are not as lucky as Richard Gere's newborn baby, who received blessings from the Dalai Lama, perhaps you can console yourself with this 'sumo-sized' collector's edition book signed by His Holiness. *Murals of Tibet* is a hardcover featuring photographs by Thomas Laird (whose work has appeared in *Time* and *National Geographic*). Consisting of murals that Laird has photographed since 1972, the 50 x 70 cm book comes with six fold-outs and even a bookstand designed by Japanese architect Shigeru Ban. Launched at the India Art Fair earlier this month, 998 copies, priced at approximately ₹8.6 lakh, are available on taschen.com



Honouring the north

The Toronto-based extreme weather apparel company's quarterly profits rose by 64%, and its signature winter jackets have become prime targets for robberies. The label unveiled its recent collection, Project Atigi, which consists of 14 one-of-a-kind jackets meant to promote the livelihood of Canada's indigenous populations, and to raise awareness about polar bear conservation (even as it continues to receive flak for using goose down in its jackets). The parkas are handcrafted by Inuit seamstresses ('atigi' means 'parka' in the Inuktitut language). The 14 women come from nine communities from the Inuit region, blending their traditional skills with modern materials. To purchase a jacket, write to projectatigi@canadagoose.com. Prices are on request, and are estimated to be higher than the signature Nikko parka (approximately ₹64,000). Details: canadagoose.com



Inside Sabya's home

Palm trees, layered paints and Osler chandeliers – these are a few of Sabyasachi's favourite things p4



Costume party

At the Chennai Photo Biennale, Chan-Hyo Bae's work explores immigrant identity and masculinity p7



Music and backstage

After 12 editions, music remains the heart of SulaFest, it's time to look around and improve the infrastructure p8

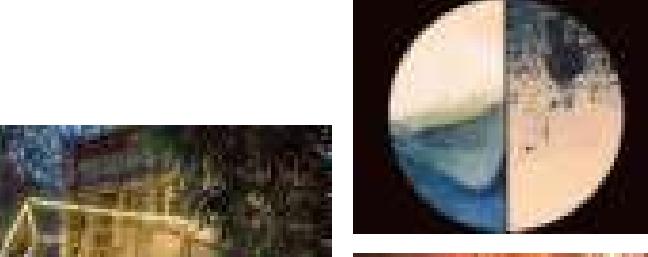


Imperfect women

Sophie Kinsella on why she celebrates the flaws in her heroines and writing rom-com ready books p3

The catalyst named Feroze

Ten years of The Gujral Foundation and plans to activate an arts community are just the latest for this fashion icon and art patron



(Clockwise from above)
My East is Your West,
 exhibits from *In the Absence of Writing*, an interactive installation by Inder Salim at 24 Jor Bagh, and *The State of Indigo*

• GEORGINA MADDOX

Feroze Gujral is in London when we get her on the phone, at the Tate Modern. Though we aren't privy to the why of her visit, as one of India's leading patrons of South Asian art, we are expecting interesting projects in the near future. She is, after all, the impetus behind initiatives like the *VS Gaitonde: Painting as Process, Painting as Life* exhibition at New York's Guggenheim (2014), and *My East is Your West* collateral event – a collaboration between India's Shilpa Gupta and Pakistan's Rashid Rana – at the 56th Venice Biennale (2015).

Currently, The Gujral Foundation – which has completed 10 years – is hosting Astha Butail's solo exhibition, *In the Absence of Writing*.

On firm footing

Feroze's life has been 'curated' with such serendipity that the feisty patron, philanthropist, businesswoman and media personality has never strayed far from the arts. Marrying architect Mohit Gujral, now vice-chairman and CEO of DLF India, at 18, and her subsequent interactions with her father-in-law, painter, sculptor and muralist, Satish Gujral, she says, were life defining. She recalls her formative years being "such a vi-

brant time, with constant conversations about literature, dance, cinema, politics and arts. I was lucky that I married into a family that was political and art inclined; it makes for a heady mix". The former model, now 54, reminisces how "celebrities, artists and world leaders were constantly at our home, which was fertile ground for a young person who was interested in India".

Admittedly, in the beginning, she was looking at art and culture from afar – the intervening years, after Feroze moved away from modelling, saw her run a boutique called Fizzarro, host a TV talk show, turn a tableware ceramics exporter and write columns – but it "wasn't long before I found myself immersed in the art scene". Today she is a trustee for the Kochi-Muziris Biennale, on the international board of institutes like the Guggenheim Museum and London's Serpentine Gallery, and spearheads The Gujral Foundation, which she co-founded with her husband in 2008.

"At the Foundation and the Biennale, our endeavour is to usher in change, as India needs massive support to grow in the right direction, what with such little support from the government," she says. "Watching my father-in-law struggle over the years, it became apparent to us that there was not enough support for the fine arts, which is why the Foundation works mainly with young people who are starting out as artists, curators and writers."

Learning on the job

A polyglot, Feroze had a multicultural upbringing. Born to a Malayali father and Hyderabadi mother, she was brought up in Egypt, Algeria and France.

Continued on page 6

+ +

Re think
STRIPE ON STRIPE

— with —
MARKS & SPENCER
LONDON

Now Open at: SARATH CITY CAPITAL MALL, GACHIBOWLI - MIYAPUR ROAD



Instapick

Lantana Elephants: Take a walk to South Beach in Fort Kochi to see elephants made of lantana vines. The Real Elephant Collective is using the material to highlight the fact that these invasive weeds are reducing the elephant's fodder in the Nilgiris. These life-size replicas will travel across three continents to spread the message of peaceful co-existence. Till February 28. Follow #lantanelephants



Talking point

Luxury Lifestyle Weekend: Head to Mumbai next Friday for an introduction to the world of collecting watches, discussions on trends reshaping luxury consumerism, an art installation by Lekha Washington, and bespoke brand experiences from the likes of Balmain, Christie's and more. The second edition of LLW is on from February 22 to 24, at JioGarden, BKC. Details on luxurylifestyleweekend.com



Unplugged

Sunburn Klassique: Vagator's reputation as Goa's party beach gets a boost next weekend, with artistes like Kshmr, Markus Schulz, Claptone and Art Department headlining this edition of Sunburn. EDM, Techno, Vinyl and Psychedelic have been given their own space, so grab a drink and pick your favourite stage. In between sets, shop at the flea market or try some adventure sports. From February 23 to 24, starting from ₹2,000 for a one-day early bird ticket on in.bookmyshow.com.



On the table

Purple pak choi: This salad staple gets a purple shade because of anthocyanins, which are said to improve memory, says Aditi Vasu. "The texture of both leaves and stalks is crisp, and the flavour is somewhere between mild cabbage and spinach," she says, adding that the colour contrasts well with vegetables. "It is best when briefly cooked, like stir-fries. For a salad, chop the pak choi and toss with half an English cucumber, sliced very thin, 2 tbsp each of soy sauce, seasoned rice vinegar and sesame oil, 1 tsp red chilli flakes and 1 tbsp toasted sesame seeds."

BUY IT RIGHT: Look for fresh, upright leaves and a bright, even colour.

ADITI VASU is the founder of Chennai-based specialty fruit and vegetable store, Green Goblin. Visit green-goblin.in.

SPIT TAKE

Amazonian blunder

Or how to lose half your possessions thanks to boredom and an excellent phone camera

■ KRISHNA SHASTRI DEVULAPALLI

"What do you think is going to happen to this Jeff Bezos fellow?" said Vishwam Babai, our neighbour, bursting in.

"With regard to what?" I said.

Vishwam Babai, his back to me, opened the door a crack and peeped out. "Just checking for Kanakam," he whispered. "With regard to *what?* You don't read the papers? This whole *National Enquirer* fiasco."

I didn't even read my own pathetic column. I shook my head.

"Well," he said. "He sent midnight *masala* pictures to some woman, *babu*. And that Pecker is blackmailing him."

"Babai, language!" I said. I hadn't even gone to the bathroom yet.

"Abba!" he said. "Pecker is his name."

"Oh, okay," I said. "Why do you care?"

Vishwam Babai came close. I could smell the Axe Deo spray guaranteed to make nubile women swoon at his feet.

"You remember Philomena

Auntie?" he said.

"You mean old Mrs Briggs? Our erstwhile neighbour?" I said.

"Yes, same Philo," he said. I wondered if I detected a blush.

"Isn't she in Ireland now?" I said.

"She is," he said. "And she may be in possession of... er... similar pics, if you know what I mean."

I didn't.

"Why on earth would Grandma Philo have... er... intimate pics of Jeff Bezos?" I said. "Is she a hacker or something?"

"How dense you are! Not Bezos' pics," hissed Babai coming really close. "Mine."

"Why in... (cough, splutter) ...

would she have such pictures of yours? More importantly, why would *you* have such pics of yours?" I said.

"It's not what you think," said Babai. "Philo and I have been in WhatsApp touch for a while. Kanakalli doesn't know, okay, so let's keep it that way..."

"And you thought it fit to send her... er... pics of your... er... more delicate areas?" I said.

"No, *babu*, god promise," he said. I believed him. "I wanted to send her photos of my granddaughter's birthday party. I sent



■ SREEJITH R KUMAR

these by accident. You think I'll get arrested? Will I lose half my apartment to Kanakam?"

"No, no," I said. "Grandma Briggs is a good sport. She'll probably be laughing her guts out. As will the Irish constabulary. Tell her it was a mistake."

"You think so?" he said. "That's a relief. Thanks, *babu*."

Vishwam Babai turned to leave.

"But tell me, *Babai*," I said. "Why would you take pics like that? That, too, of yourself?"

"Super camera, boy," he said. "30x zoom, bokeh effect, snazzy filters, I was testing it in various lights. You want to see the results?"

I shook my head vigorously.

"Plus," he said. "As you know, music season is over, Sankranti movies also have come and gone... We need to keep ourselves busy, no?"

"Who?" I said.

"Your Kanakavalli *Pinni* and I..." he said, eyes lowered, "we send such... er... romantic things to each other from time to time. She has a very good eye, by the way."

My phone pinged. It was our Apartment Residents' WhatsApp Group.

"She does," I said looking at my phone.

"Who does?" said Vishwam Babai.

"*Pinni*," I said, showing him the phone. "Very good eye."

It was a selfie of *Pinni* in a tasteful sarong, umbrella drink in her hand. A well-oiled surfer dude stood behind her sporting bikini briefs, a wide grin and nothing else. The location looked like Bali.

The accompanying text was brief: Tell *Babai* it's bye-bye.

Krishna Shastri Devulapalli is a satirist. He has written four books and edited an anthology.

Eating out



Kiki brunch @ Radisson

This one is for families with kids. At this fun Sunday Kiki Brunch, kids will get a chance to be a part of the joy, wonder, and creativity of a unique theatre workshop designed for children aged 6 to 12 years. Parents can relax and enjoy the scrumptious flavors of the brunch, while the little ones learn the nuances of drama – a way to nurture hungry young imaginations. Price ₹1475 onwards. Brunch and workshop are complimentary for participating kids. Spot registrations @ Cascade, Radisson Hotel, Gachibowli.



Flavours from East Coast @ Sheraton Hyderabad

Indulge in the rich flavours from the long east coast of the country as expert gastronomists put together authentic cuisines of Kolkata, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu straight from their kitchens to your plate. A 3 course à la carte meal will include signature dishes from each region. Rev up your taste buds with flavourful choices like *Machali Sharba*, *Puchkha*, *Idiyappam* and *Channa Chingudi* amongst others, culminating on a perfect note with a selection of decadent desserts. Price: ₹1750 (all inclusive). On till February 24, 7 pm to 11 pm @ Feast, Sheraton Hyderabad Hotel, Gachibowli.



Go Keto @ The Gallery Cafe

Ketofy, a workshop where you will learn new and interesting Keto recipes which are personally handcrafted by Madhavi Karra and Karishma Shah (celebrity Keto food planner in Mumbai). The keto essentials session includes tasty gourmet dishes, guidelines, a talk about Keto and yummy food tasting @ The Gallery Cafe on February 16, 6 pm to 9 pm.

ing around him. He drew mythological characters portrayed by folk artists, like Bheema and Anjaneya, and was later influenced by calendar art and cinema posters of yore that had large portraiture of actors. Once he began to study art in Hyderabad and later in Baroda, Vaikuntam explored a gamut of styles and techniques.

In the book *Bhaavanaatharanam - a retrospective* published by India Fine Art, Thota Vaikuntam is interviewed by his daughter Sowbhagya and by fellow master artist Surya Prakash in which he dwells on his early years as an artist. He states that 1979 proved to be a turning point when he travelled to his native village to attend to his ailing mother. He made sketches of people in the village and internalised a statement he had heard from the fraternity that art stems from an artist's roots. The few years saw him focus more deeply on rural folk and lifestyles, using primary colours of red, green, blue and browns. He emphasises how he used colours worn by people than go by the dictates of an artist's colour palette. Turmeric yellows and the large vermillion on the forehead also become his signature style.

The heavy distortions, including the heart-shaped faces, made an appearance in his early drawings.

"Thota Vaikuntam - exclusive drawings, charcoal and sculptures - circa 1981-86" will be on view at Kalakriti art gallery, Banjara Hills, till February 24.



Evolution of a master artist

After a warm reception at the India Art Fair, early works of Thota Vaikuntam are now on view in Hyderabad

■ SANGEETHA DEVI DUNDOO

At the India Art Fair (IAF) 2019 held in New Delhi in January, among the many things that drew attention were 99 art works of Thota Vaikuntam, presented by Kalakriti art gallery. The spectrum of exhibits at the IAF Kalakriti booth showcased charcoal drawings, paintings (still-life, abstracts, and portraiture) and sculptures by

Vaikuntam circa 1981 to 86. Some of these works have never been showcased in Hyderabad, until now.

At the request of the artist, the gallery is showcasing these exhibits in the city. "The exhibits are unique and were well received at the art fair. We will be displaying his sculptures cast at the Bronze Age Sculpture Casting Foundry, London. These have never been

Growing up in Burugupalli, a village known for folk arts and weaving, Thota Vaikuntam began drawing by observing all that was unfold-

displayed in Hyderabad," says Rekha Lahoti of Kalakriti. Though some of the 99 works were sold at IAF, the gallery convinced buyers to allow them to display the art works in Hyderabad.

The mention of Thota Vaikuntam conjure up images of men and women from rural Telangana, dressed in bright-hued clothes, along with traditional instruments, utility items, and jewellery that's characteristic of the region. However, before the master artist was widely hailed for these iconic images in deep colours, there was the early formative phase when his charcoal drawings were in monotonous of sombre browns.

At the request of the artist, the gallery is showcasing these exhibits in the city. "The exhibits are unique and were well received at the art fair. We will be displaying his sculptures cast at the Bronze Age Sculpture Casting Foundry, London. These have never been

Growing up in Burugupalli, a village known for folk arts and weaving, Thota Vaikuntam began drawing by observing all that was unfold-



Before time

Puducherry

FEBRUARY 19

If you have wondered how Auroville came to be, residents Richa and Riruvi have captured it in an *in situ* video art installation at Kala Kendra, Bharat Nivas. Titled 'Auroville Timelines: A tribute to the soiled hands and feet', the curators have gone through hours of tiny footage to weave together a glimpse of their life at the beginning. Till March 3, from 9 am to 7.30 pm. The project is supported by Auroville becoming 50.

If you have wondered how Auroville came to be, residents Richa and Riruvi have captured it in an *in situ* video art installation at Kala Kendra, Bharat Nivas. Titled 'Auroville Timelines: A tribute to the soiled hands and feet', the curators have gone through hours of tiny footage to weave together a glimpse of their life at the beginning. Till March 3, from 9 am to 7.30 pm. The project is supported by Auroville becoming 50.

Indian Kathak and American tap dance share parallel stories of struggle and perseverance, which come together in a collaboration of rhythm, poetry, storytelling, music and dance. Titled 'Speak - Rhythm In Feet', the show features dancers Rina Mehta, Rachna Nivas, Michelle Dorrance, and Dormeshia Sumbry-Edwards. At Royal Opera House Theatre, from 7 pm onwards. Tickets from ₹300 to ₹2,000 per head, available on in.bookmyshow.com.

Come watch a unique creation. A participatory opening to the exhibition 'The Threshold of Plunging' and Suminagashi (Japanese art of Marbling) workshop by Koeli Mukherjee Ghose unfolds with images embedded in a story and workshop guests painting on an empty canvas. Koeli weaves them together in a figurative abstract that is finally completed on February 21. @ Alliance Francaise, open till Feb 22, 9.30am to 8pm.

Kathak x Tap

Mumbai

FEBRUARY 20

Indian Kathak and American tap dance share parallel stories of struggle and perseverance, which come together in a collaboration of rhythm, poetry, storytelling, music and dance. Titled 'Speak - Rhythm In Feet', the show features dancers Rina Mehta, Rachna Nivas, Michelle Dorrance, and Dormeshia Sumbry-Edwards. At Royal Opera House Theatre, from 7 pm onwards. Tickets from ₹300 to ₹2,000 per head, available on in.bookmyshow.com.

Come watch a unique creation. A participatory opening to the exhibition 'The Threshold of Plunging' and Suminagashi (Japanese art of Marbling) workshop by Koeli Mukherjee Ghose unfolds with images embedded in a story and workshop guests painting on an empty canvas. Koeli weaves them together in a figurative abstract that is finally completed on February 21. @ Alliance Francaise, open till Feb 22, 9.30am to 8pm.

Come watch a unique creation. A participatory opening to the exhibition 'The Threshold of Plunging' and Suminagashi (Japanese art of Marbling) workshop by Koeli Mukherjee Ghose unfolds with images embedded in a story and workshop guests painting on an empty canvas. Koeli weaves them together in a figurative abstract that is finally completed on February 21. @ Alliance Francaise, open till Feb 22, 9.30am to 8pm.

Come watch a unique creation. A participatory opening to the exhibition 'The Threshold of Plunging' and Suminagashi (Japanese art of Marbling) workshop by Koeli Mukherjee Ghose unfolds with images embedded in a story and workshop guests painting on an empty canvas. Koeli weaves them together in a figurative abstract that is finally completed on February 21. @ Alliance Francaise, open till Feb 22, 9.30am to 8pm.

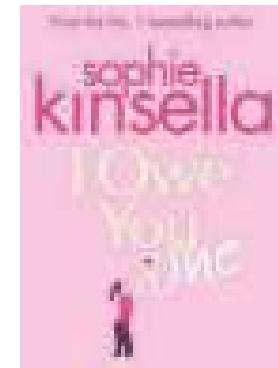
Come watch a unique creation. A participatory opening to the exhibition 'The Threshold of Plunging' and Suminagashi (Japanese art of Marbling) workshop by Koeli Mukherjee Ghose unfolds with images embedded in a story and workshop guests painting on an empty canvas. Koeli weaves them together in a figurative abstract that is finally completed on February 21. @ Alliance Francaise, open till Feb 22, 9.30am to 8pm.

Come watch a unique creation. A participatory opening to the exhibition 'The Threshold of Plunging' and Suminagashi (Japanese art of Marbling) workshop by Koeli Mukherjee Ghose unfolds with images embedded in a story and workshop guests painting on an empty canvas. Koeli weaves them together in a figurative abstract that is finally completed on February 21. @ Alliance Francaise, open till Feb 22, 9.30am to 8pm.

Come watch a unique creation. A participatory opening to the exhibition 'The Threshold of Plunging' and Suminagashi (Japanese art of Marbling) workshop by Koeli Mukherjee Ghose unfolds with images embedded in a story and workshop guests painting on an empty canvas. Koeli weaves them together in a figurative abstract that is finally completed on February 21. @ Alliance Francaise, open till Feb 22, 9.30am to 8pm.

Come watch a unique creation. A participatory opening to the exhibition 'The Threshold of Plunging' and Suminagashi (Japanese art of Marbling) workshop by Koeli Mukherjee Ghose unfolds with images embedded in a story and workshop guests painting on an empty canvas. Koeli weaves them together in a figurative abstract that is finally completed on February 21. @ Alliance Francaise, open till Feb 22, 9.30am to 8pm.

Come watch a

**JOKES ON SET**

Kinsella describes a recent trip to New York, to visit the sets of *Can You Keep a Secret*, as "utter joy". "The scenes were just so funny. In fact, my agent got told off because she kept laughing and it was being picked up on the sound." The film, starring Alexandra Daddario (pictured below) in a scene from the 2018 film, *When We First Met*) is based on Kinsella's 2003 novel about Emma Corrigan, a young woman who, on a turbulent flight, blurts out her biggest secrets to a handsome stranger, who turns out to be the CEO of her company. "I think the creators have made the film with the spirit of wanting to represent the book," says the author about the adaptation.

Sophie's flaws and foibles

The author of the *Shopaholic* series on why being less than perfect makes for great comedy

• SINDHURI NANDHAKUMAR

Like her name suggests, Fixie Farr is a "fixaholic" who puts other people – including her selfish and "gruesome" siblings (Sophie Kinsella's words) – ahead of herself. After her father's death, she tries to keep the family together while her mother (her confidante and ally) takes a break. Throw in a selfish childhood crush, a kind stranger whose life becomes intertwined with Fixie's, stressful Christmas meals, and a few embarrassing and hilarious moments, and you have a signature Sophie Kinsella novel.

For her most recent book book, *I Owe You One*, the UK-based writer – whose real name is Madeline Wickham and who I have to remind myself to address as Maddy – wanted to send her heroine on a "big journey". And family life seemed like the perfect setting. "I often think that our family dynamic is the hardest terrain for us to navigate," she says. "People who are perfectly competent in all aspects of life can start to go to pieces when it's their own family. I've really noticed this when people talk about going home at Christmas. When you go back, you're somebody's little brother – and people get stuck in their roles."

Heroines with hurdles
By her own admission, Kinsella likes to give her protagonists "massive obstacles". Fixie's challenge is finding her voice around her overbearing siblings. As the mother of five children (ranging in age from seven to 22), this is something the author feels strongly about. "When I was in university [at Oxford], I found it hard to voice my arguments and opinions. I would be too perfectionist," she explains. "In terms of my own children, I think they have to feel that there's a safe space. Which is why, when I feel like there's something they want to say, I start suggesting even wilder things. I ask, 'Do you want to run away from home?'" She laughs, admitting that this makes her children more comfortable about sharing their outlandish ideas.

Sink before rising
Kinsella, who turns 50 later this year, has been writing 'chick lit' for more than two decades now. Her most prominent series about the spendthrift Rebecca Bloomwood – a financial journalist who is very bad with money – was adapted into the 2009 film, *Confessions of a Shopaholic*, starring Isla Fisher. Her 2003 novel, *Can You Keep a Secret*, will also become a movie, with Alex-

andra Daddario playing the lead (see box).

The author confesses that her work is so compatible with film adaptations because she writes with cinematic vision. "I love a sweeping movie," she says. "It's just the way I see a story; I see it in scenes. I like writing dialogues and I love that sense of escapism that you get in a really great rom-com, and I try to recreate that in my books."

Even though the world that she writes about has changed (for example, when she started writing, social media didn't exist, but her 2017 novel, *My Not So Perfect Life*, is about a young woman's desire to match up to Instagram standards), Kinsella's reasons for becoming

Life's little vanities The author (above) is particular that her heroines go on 'big journeys' • JOHN SWANNELL AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



hard or be slightly obsessed about coffee stains. Her writing is gentle but sarcastic and there is always a light touch of gravitas. "I test the temperature of each book as I write it, and I think, 'how low do I want them to sink before they rise up?'"

And that's the thing with Sophie Kinsella. Her heroines always rise up. Life's little vanities, she says, lend themselves to comedy. "But it also means that my readers relate to my character. I like when people think 'oh yeah that's me,' or 'it's not me, it's my sister,'" says the author, who has just completed the next in her children's series (her first for young readers), *Mummy Fairy and Me*.

I Owe You One, published by Bantam Press (Penguin), will be available in India on February 26. It is priced at ₹599.

Streaming aloud

Two book-to-movie adaptations to watch



The Umbrella Academy, Netflix

This superhero series, which released yesterday, is an adaptation of Gerard Way and Gabriel Bá's comic book series of the same name. With a cast that includes Ellen Page, Tom Hopper and Mary J Blige, the show follows a group of estranged siblings who reunite at their father's funeral. The good vibes don't last for long, as the siblings are tasked with figuring out how to get along with each other while staving off a global apocalypse.



Good Omens,

Amazon Prime,

May 31

This much-awaited series, based on a 1990 fantasy novel by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman, recently announced that Benedict Cumberbatch will serve as the voice behind a "giant animated Satan". Michael Sheen, David Tennant and Frances McDormand will also star in this show, which is co-produced by the BBC. Also apocalyptic in nature, the series follows a demon and an angel who work together to prevent the coming of the antichrist. All six episodes will release on Amazon Prime on May 31.

The best Store for better homes!

PLASTIC WORLD
Home - Kitchen - Garden

Lal Bazar Road, Anantapur
C-23132816, 23732817
We're open on Sundays



Created in Cheriyal,
Elevated by Golkonda.



Telangana State Handicrafts Development Corp. Ltd.

www.golkondyhandicrafts.com

Call: +91 40 27611857, 27668178

Illustrations • Graphics • Paper Goods • Stationery • Books
• Metal Industry • Beech • Mango • Melon • Honey

VEEBA
Any Nya Khanga?

We've made it easier to
get to the bottom of things.



new
BOTTLE

78%
FAT FREE

VEEBA

OLIVE OIL
Mayonnaise



Now some of your favourite Veeba sauces and dressings come in an all-new top-down bottle, designed for you to enjoy the goodness of Veeba till the very last drop.



VEEBA FOOD SERVICE (PRIVATE) LIMITED
Office No. 302, 3rd Floor, Peppermint One (Phase 1B), Hotel Complex, Golf Course Road, Sector 53, Mohali, Punjab, 160062 | T: +91 171 42212222

Spicesip Refreshing Spice Tea

A dip of spice to refresh you in every sip

10% OFF

CLAIM YOUR AMAZON EXCLUSIVE COUPON SPICESIP10

Available at www.azistafoods.com amazon.in

100% NATURAL | RICH IN ANTHOCYANINS | BOOSTS IMMUNITY | IMPROVES METABOLISM

Love to talk 1800-182-0576

Azista Refreshing Natural Flavours

LUXE



Finding beauty in decay

Only Sabyasachi Mukherjee, India's biggest name in fashion, can fill his new home with precious antiques and textiles, then wait for the paint to peel off



There are palms everywhere, even on the walls. "That's a massive colonial hangover... but I like the exotic tropical vibe and that they are common in rural Bengal," he says. The garden, with more than 4,000 plants, lemon trees and marble pots, has been personally designed by Mukherjee. "I love a slightly wasted garden that is overgrown and overwhelming. There is a little art of beauty in decay and beauty in clutter."

Hand-painted trunks of palm trees. The tropical plants painted on the walls take inspiration from the work of French artist Jean Rousseau, art from King's Road, London and antique dealers across India, at the branch.

"If I ever had a dream job, I would like to build an ashram hotel and have an antique store, because I love antiques. I don't know if I can afford to have a proper hotel, but if I can't I will probably buy a properity in Calcutta and convert that into a luxury Ashram property. I feel so much of history is being obliterated from the city. It will be nice to build something where people from all over the world could come and enjoy Calcutta and its pure aesthetic."

ROSELLA STEPHEN

Sabyasachi Mukherjee doesn't do things by halves. If you need reminding, revisit the details of his bridal lehengas for actors Deepika Padukone and Priyanka Chopra on his Instagram account - custom red for Chopra, with hand-cut organza flowers and Swarovski crystals, taking 100 embroidery hours 3,720 hours to create. So when it comes in his new Jakkha house, a stately mansion in Alipore, there is the intimacy of nostalgia as one would expect from him. But there is also an impossible attention to detail - he has individually washed and layered his walls with rose petal, emerald and moss green paint to achieve just the right shade of vintage jade green.

Always on the move

While obsessing about details on all cylinders when it comes to styling details of his clothes, jewellery and collaborations, Mukherjee himself is a very private man. One hardly needs to be persuaded, therefore, to join a few fashion and magazine editors for brunch in his garden, that includes, surprise, several round of sambar. The designer, it appears is a past master at the game, and confesses to playing a lot of it in his childhood, together with bridge and mah-jong. There is a steady supply of champagne, grilled meat, mashed potatoe mushrooms with cornbread, and for some Bengali flavour, fried pumpkin flowers and beet. But no talk of business. This is Mukherjee's way of saying 'you're after 20 years in the fashion industry.'

When we speak later over the phone, the designer is in New York, two days away from his New York Fashion Week show. It is a Fashion for Peace initiative that involves Sabyasachi, Jagat Singh and also features Noma Kamak, Mara Hoffman and Nini Prober. The idea is to raise awareness on dying techniques in Indian textile, and when he meets with our textile pundit who has been working with

400 counts khadi, the most expensive kind, for years now and who has, in his home, used Varanasi brocade, Bangalore silk/kanchi and antique fabrics from the South of France to Afghanistan. "I am a textile person not a fashion designer," he often likes to correct. In his living room and elsewhere, in his cloth draped burlap sacks used to store grain, has been cut up and turned into cushions. They share space with pillows and carpets from Iran and Iraq, Persia and Afghanistan, and wedding blankets and cushions from Morocco.

Designed for Ashram?

Adithya, 45, had been living in an apartment for years before he decided on the big move. Last



Shining example

Be it the celebrity grooms Mukherjee has outfitted or his new ad campaign for men, jewellery plays a big role. "Men in India [in the past] wore the true dandies because they really liked their jewellery and clothing and I don't see that exuberance in men's clothing anymore. Somewhere down the line, a lot of that exuberance has evaporated into thin air. There's such a big revival of exuberant menswear around the world that in my own way I try to bring it within an Indian context," he says.

Always on the move

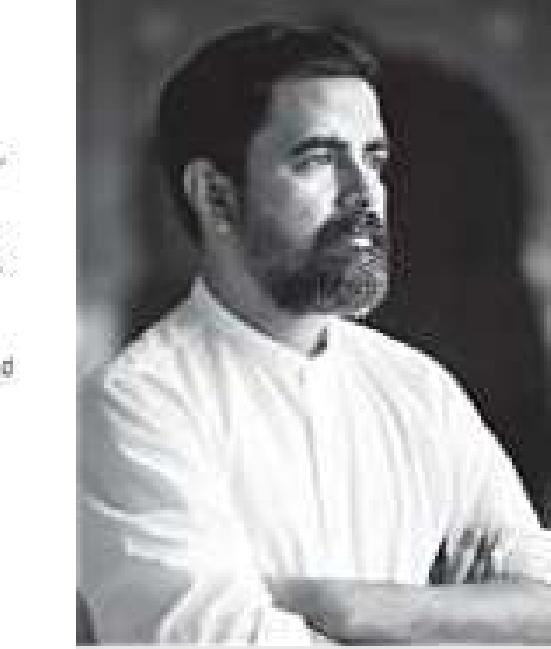
While obsessing about details on all cylinders when it comes to styling details of his clothes, jewellery and collaborations, Mukherjee himself is a very private man. One hardly needs to be persuaded, therefore, to join a few fashion and magazine editors for brunch in his garden, that includes, surprise, several round of sambar. The designer, it appears is a past master at the game, and confesses to playing a lot of it in his childhood, together with bridge and mah-jong. There is a steady supply of champagne, grilled meat, mashed potatoe mushrooms with cornbread, and for some Bengali flavour, fried pumpkin flowers and beet. But no talk of business. This is Mukherjee's way of saying 'you're after 20 years in the fashion industry.'

When we speak later over the phone, the designer is in New York, two days away from his New York Fashion Week show. It is a Fashion for Peace initiative that involves Sabyasachi, Jagat Singh and also features Noma Kamak, Mara Hoffman and Nini Prober. The idea is to raise awareness on dying techniques in Indian textile, and when he meets with our textile pundit who has been working with

400 counts khadi, the most expensive kind, for years now and who has, in his home, used Varanasi brocade, Bangalore silk/kanchi and antique fabrics from the South of France to Afghanistan. "I am a textile person not a fashion designer," he often likes to correct. In his living room and elsewhere, in his cloth draped burlap sacks used to store grain, has been cut up and turned into cushions. They share space with pillows and carpets from Iran and Iraq, Persia and Afghanistan, and wedding blankets and cushions from Morocco.

Designed for Ashram?

Adithya, 45, had been living in an apartment for years before he decided on the big move. Last



I am very hardworking, but I'm not very ambitious because I can't hustle. That's a Bengali trait. I don't think it is in the DNA of Bengalis to be able to hustle.

Clockwise from top left: Sabyasachi Mukherjee; the tall FICD chandelier; Swat Valley textiles and phulkars in the cushion; antique pottery handpainted by the perfector.

vers from Taherally's and miniatures in the garden too. Mukherjee says, he enjoys collecting old mirrors and the illusion of space they give. The old world Bengali aesthetic is also courtesy a steady diet of old Bengali films, Satyajit Ray's Charchita and Alighater being his favourites. It helped him his uncle was part of a film club and tiny Bengal literature too.

The painter jobs

As for the walls, he points out that his signature layering works everywhere, not just with clothing, surface treatment and interiors. "I like the patina of age because it gives so much character. It always give you this little feeling of things getting unrefined. He begins to explain over time, he says, a little bit of the top coat in the living rooms will fade away and the bottom coat will come out. Who would have thought of that? When you layer things with a hint of top coat, the inner layers will come out and it gives you many possibilities of depth. I have paint which are of such good quality that even at 15 years, they don't weather".

In his words, the house is a mish-mash of everything, brash colonial pottery, French pottery, Indian, Bengal. There are chandeliers everywhere, at FICD, one with one in the bath too. The piece de resistance towers over the "grand dame" oak staircase at the entrance, almost 25 feet high. "They don't make them like anymore. My dealer, a senior person in the business, said it was from one of the royal families. That the chandelier of buying serious art and a chandelier, I don't think I could have afforded the art. I really learned to buy, because I wanted a Jamini Roy or a FPM or a PPN painting," he says. I spot exquisite pichwai paintings and works by Mumtaz artist, Dibruri Acharya.

There are mirrors too, a four-paneled mirror in the living room, kintsugi-edged mir-



Attention to detail is key as is the focus on jewellery, seen in recent ad campaigns.

year. In an *Architectural Digest* feature on his new address, he was quoted saying that it was going to change the way he lived and worked. When I bring up at his branch, Mukherjee smiles and admits he hasn't lived in his mansion long enough. With his many projects lined up for the year - a jewellery flagship in Mumbai, an April 6 fashion show in Namrata with the designer and long-time collaborator, Caroline Louboutin, an exhibition by the Sabyasachi Art Foundation, and committed work with Romy Ban, Late Crawford and others - the doesn't seem likely to change. Mukherjee half-jokingly says Adithya Luxury Retreats might be an option, but then again, he says it's "such a private person", he adds. His parents might also have a say, as may his three sons, together with the designer's adorable cocker spaniels, George, Raghu and Richard.

In his words, the house is a mish-mash of everything, brash colonial pottery, French pottery, Indian, Bengal. There are chandeliers everywhere, at FICD, one with one in the bath too. The piece de resistance towers over the "grand dame" oak staircase at the entrance, almost 25 feet high. "They don't make them like anymore. My dealer, a senior person in the business, said it was from one of the royal families. That the chandelier of buying serious art and a chandelier, I don't think I could have afforded the art. I really learned to buy, because I wanted a Jamini Roy or a FPM or a PPN painting," he says. I spot exquisite pichwai paintings and works by Mumtaz artist, Dibruri Acharya.

There are mirrors too, a four-paneled mirror in the living room, kintsugi-edged mir-

Scouting for champions

Why the average Indian is a sports star in the making and where to find the best of 'em



EPIPHONY



MAGANDEEP SINGH is an unapologetic bon-vivant and a curator of refinement



GEYM



Alpinestars

Tech 1-Suit Gloves

A must-have for all racers, Emanuele's all-time favourites from the Italian motorcycle gear brand. The best-cut construction on the ready-to-wear design offers a seamless no-faultless design, making it automatically optimised for the certified cockpit. The silicon-jointed zones on the palm also provide enhanced grip. Available in black, bright red, and blue. ₹16,990, www.alpinestars.com



Zara

T-Suit with Contrast Stripes

The new picks from Zara. Loose-fitting with a round neckline, this one breaks his off-black aesthetic with a contrast front contrasted applique stripe. It's also a nod to going organic - the ecologically-grown cotton is "farmed using natural fertilizers" - and is best paired with the brand's white sneakers, with bands of red and black. ₹14,990, and size range, 12-16 years. www.zara.com

Lamborghini

Ultra-lightweight Down Jacket

When it comes to jackets, the 22-year-old gravitates towards the sporty Puma and the more rugged Lamborghini. This ultra-lightweight down jacket from the Italian luxury-car maker's 18-39 fall-winter collection features a ribbed-coated shell patch on the sides, which are inspired by the airducts of the Lamborghini supercar. ₹16,990, www.lamborghini.com

Lamborghini

18-39 Fall-Winter Collection

When it comes to jackets, the 22-year-old gravitates towards the sporty Puma and the more rugged Lamborghini. This ultra-lightweight down jacket from the Italian luxury-car maker's 18-39 fall-winter collection features a ribbed-coated shell patch on the sides, which are inspired by the airducts of the Lamborghini supercar. ₹16,990, www.lamborghini.com

Lamborghini

18-39 Fall-Winter Collection

When it comes to jackets, the 22-year-old gravitates towards the sporty Puma and the more rugged Lamborghini. This ultra-lightweight down jacket from the Italian luxury-car maker's 18-39 fall-winter collection features a ribbed-coated shell patch on the sides, which are inspired by the airducts of the Lamborghini supercar. ₹16,990, www.lamborghini.com

Lamborghini

18-39 Fall-Winter Collection

When it comes to jackets, the 22-year-old gravitates towards the sporty Puma and the more rugged Lamborghini. This ultra-lightweight down jacket from the Italian luxury-car maker's 18-39 fall-winter collection features a ribbed-coated shell patch on the sides, which are inspired by the airducts of the Lamborghini supercar. ₹16,990, www.lamborghini.com

Lamborghini

18-39 Fall-Winter Collection

When it comes to jackets, the 22-year-old gravitates towards the sporty Puma and the more rugged Lamborghini. This ultra-lightweight down jacket from the Italian luxury-car maker's 18-39 fall-winter collection features a ribbed-coated shell patch on the sides, which are inspired by the airducts of the Lamborghini supercar. ₹16,990, www.lamborghini.com

Lamborghini

18-39 Fall-Winter Collection

When it comes to jackets, the 22-year-old gravitates towards the sporty Puma and the more rugged Lamborghini. This ultra-lightweight down jacket from the Italian luxury-car maker's 18-39 fall-winter collection features a ribbed-coated shell patch on the sides, which are inspired by the airducts of the Lamborghini supercar. ₹16,990, www.lamborghini.com

Lamborghini

18-39 Fall-Winter Collection

When it comes to jackets, the 22-year-old gravitates towards the sporty Puma and the more rugged Lamborghini. This ultra-lightweight down jacket from the Italian luxury-car maker's 18-39 fall-winter collection features a ribbed-coated shell patch on the sides, which are inspired by the airducts of the Lamborghini supercar. ₹16,990, www.lamborghini.com

Lamborghini

18-39 Fall-Winter Collection

When it comes to jackets, the 22-year-old gravitates towards the sporty Puma and the more rugged Lamborghini. This ultra-lightweight down jacket from the Italian luxury-car maker's 18-39 fall-winter collection features a ribbed-coated shell patch on the sides, which are inspired by the airducts of the Lamborghini supercar. ₹16,990, www.lamborghini.com

Lamborghini

18-39 Fall-Winter Collection

When it comes to jackets, the 22-year-old gravitates towards the sporty Puma and the more rugged Lamborghini. This ultra-lightweight down jacket from the Italian luxury-car maker's 18-39 fall-winter collection features a ribbed-coated shell patch on the sides, which are inspired by the airducts of the Lamborghini supercar. ₹16,990, www.lamborghini.com

Lamborghini

18-39 Fall-Winter Collection

When it comes to jackets, the 22-year-old gravitates towards the sporty Puma and the more rugged Lamborghini. This ultra-lightweight down jacket from the Italian luxury-car maker's 18-39 fall-winter collection features a ribbed-coated shell patch on the sides, which are inspired by the airducts of the Lamborghini supercar. ₹16,990, www.lamborghini.com

Lamborghini

18-39 Fall-Winter Collection

When it comes to jackets, the 22-year-old gravitates towards the sporty Puma and the more rugged Lamborghini. This ultra-lightweight down jacket from the Italian luxury-car maker's 18-39 fall-winter collection features a ribbed-coated shell patch on the sides, which are inspired by the airducts of the Lamborghini supercar. ₹16,990, www.lamborghini.com

Lamborghini

18-39 Fall-Winter Collection

When it comes to jackets, the 22-year-old gravitates towards the sporty Puma and the more rugged Lamborghini. This ultra-lightweight down jacket from the Italian luxury-car maker's 18-39 fall-winter collection features a ribbed-coated shell patch on the sides, which are inspired by the airducts of the Lamborghini supercar. ₹16,990, www.lamborghini.com

Lamborghini

18-39 Fall-Winter Collection

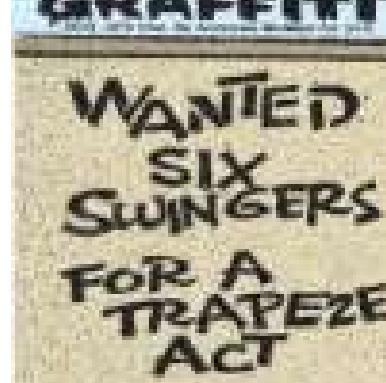
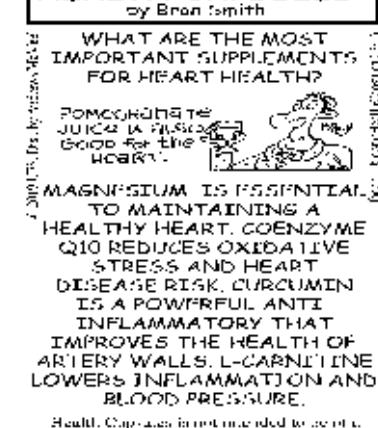
When it comes to jackets, the 22-year-old gravitates towards the sporty Puma and the more rugged Lamborghini. This ultra-lightweight down jacket from the Italian luxury-car maker's 18-39 fall-winter collection features a ribbed-coated shell patch on the sides, which are inspired by the airducts of the Lamborghini supercar. ₹16,990, www.lamborghini.com

Lamborghini

18-39 Fall-Winter Collection

When it comes to jackets, the 22-year-old

6 CARTOONS

HYDERABAD THE HINDU WEEKEND
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2019**POOCH CAFE****PEANUTS****HAGAR THE HORRIBLE****CALVIN AND HOBBES****TIGER****GRAFFITI****WUMO****HEALTH CAPSULES****THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-12995**

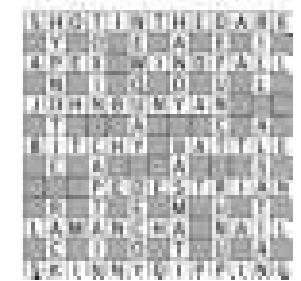
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8		9				
10						
11					12	13
14			15			
			16			
	17					
18	19				21	
20						
22					23	

© GUARDIAN NEWS AND MEDIA LTD., 2016

- 7 Year (4)
10 Type of bed (4-6)
12 Forced – like baby food? (8)
13 Incessant reader (8)
16 Narks (6)
18 Jane Austen novel (4)
19 Badly behaved child (4)

Solution will appear in MetroPlus dated February 18, 2019.

Solution No. 12994

**PEARLS BEFORE SWINE**

© GUARDIAN NEWS AND MEDIA LTD., 2016

Across

1 Influence (4)

3 Yellow-flowered (8)

narcissus (8)

8 Want (4)

9 Gaping – very (4,4)

11 Unlikely (10)

14 Various (6)

15 Indelible design on (6)

the skin (6)

17 Charlutan (10)

20 Olympic event (8)

21 Cancel – annul – reverse (4)

22 * (8)

23 Father of Cain and Abel (4)

■ Down

1 Most inane (8)

2 Notorious gangster, d. 1947 (2,6)

4 Creature (6)

5 One who gains from others' efforts (10)

6 Dolt – drug (4)

**Heir apparent**

Alaiia has always loved the colour blue. "I think that is what led me to the Indigo Project," she says, when we connect over an international call. "The whole idea of being covered in a pigment, especially blue, appealed to me and it became an obsession. It was only later that I began to look into its colonial underpinnings, like how the workers are exploited. That really opened up the project to a larger social context," she says.

The youngest of the Gujral clan, who studied Print Media and Fibers at School of the Art Institute of Chicago, is currently involved in a number of projects that look into community building, public art and city planning. Her approach is multidisciplinary and cuts across mediums and genres.

"My initial interest in indigo was spurred by watching [the family's 200-year-old Portuguese house in Goa] being painted post every monsoon," she adds. The paint – a mixture of natural Indigo pigment, eggshells and glue – is not purely decorative, but used for its cooling effect and insect repellent properties. "Indigo pigment is a living, breathing colour that has completely consumed my artistic life," she says.

Building community

The Indigo Project has taken many forms, from installations to garments, performance art, and digital media. It also extends to her new project, *Xenophilia*, which questions the global political climate characterised by fear, suspicion and aversion to the other. "The exhibition imagined a different reality in which fear is replaced by curiosity," says

Alaiia, who co-curated and participated in the project that featured a dynamic selection of painting, sculpture, textile and photo-based work.

Another project that she is currently working on is *Forward Thinking*, which brings art fashion and technology together. It looks at transforming rough neighbourhoods with art and theatre.

While she admits her mother and she have distinct tastes in art – Feroze is drawn to conceptual art and Alaiia to the process – her mum is her constant support. But that doesn't mean she doesn't have a great art collection of her own. On her recent birthday, her father surprised her with one of her grandfather's early paintings, which he'd created when in Mexico with Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. "I love it and it's my prized possession," she signs off.



We are a massive sub-continent and we cannot be ignored. We need more philanthropy for the younger generation. Contemporary art is still not taken seriously in this country. We have to realise that today's contemporary artist is tomorrow's modernist, and the day after's antiquity.

FEROZE GUJRAL

Continued from page 1

In her teens, she cat-walked into fame at the Lady Sri Ram college festival, and soon became the face of brands like Lakme, Palmolive and Raymond. But her lack of formal education in the arts has never been a deterrent. As she told *Vogue* magazine, "The world over, *gurus* debate if curation should be taught or be left to instinct. I think it should be a mix of both. I spend a lot of my time studying and learning because I don't know everything, and I think we have to keep ourselves informed and updated. I ask myself two simple questions: what are the gaps that need to be plugged? And what would I like to see out there? Between these two, I find the projects and artists I want to support."

Turning a large, semi-derelict house opposite Lodhi Gardens, into a thriving experimental art space was the first step. The Foundation has hosted several avant-garde exhibitions at 24 Jor Bagh, including the Raqs Media Collective's *House of Everything and Nothing*, that wrapped the entire space up as an installation, Vishal Dhar's experiment with light, Sonia Khurana's *Oneiric House*, and Israeli artist Achia Anzi's Heidegger-inspired installation, *The Silent Call of the Earth*. "It's been 10 years and we've worked with over 150 artists and done close to 50 shows. We've received good response, but contemporary art is still not taken seriously in this country. We have to realise that today's contemporary artist is tomorrow's modernist, and the day after's antiquity," she says.

She has taken up projects under the aegis of the Foundation to Shanghai, the Berlin Biennale, and the Tate Modern. "We are a massive sub-continent and we cannot be ignored. We need more philanthropy for the younger generation," says Feroze, who counts among her advisors Richard Armstrong of Guggenheim, Amin Jaffer of Christie's, gallerist Devika Daulet-Singh, patron Anupam Poddar, among others.

The Gujral stamp

A little over a year ago, she opened her newest venture, Studio G Spot, at Delhi's Meher Chand Market. Her first official headquarters (she laughingly states that the foundation was run from her dining table for years), it is an interdisciplinary space where art, design, architecture, crafts and fashion interact. In her role as catalyst and connector, she shares that the space will not just be a gallery, but will be instrumental in her plans to activate an

art community, through regular workshops, round tables, lectures and performative talks. Feroze is also one of the pioneers behind breaking the white cube gallery format in the country. From ensuring Aspinwall, the sprawling waterfront property in Fort Kochi (which belongs to DLF), is reserved as the primary exhibition site for the Kochi Muziris Biennale, to encouraging people to lend her their abandoned properties to host art projects, she is pushing the boundaries of presentation. Reports state that the Foundation is also planning to launch new art spaces in the National Capital Region, an abandoned house in Gurgaon and an unused factory in Okhla Industrial Area.

Her next project is a personal exhibition featuring stamps from the Nizam of Hyderabad's Dominion. Titled *Property of a Gentleman*, it is slotted to open at Bikaner House on March 8. "Things just happen organically in our family. One day we were at Bikaner for one of our Art Induct talks. Director Priya Pal and my brother, Hanut, who has a massive collection of stamps, got to discussing the forgotten and fading art of letter writing and the postal stamp. And we came up with the idea of hosting an exhibition of the Nizam of Hyderabad, a city that's close to my heart," she says, adding that the Foundation will also bring out artist books soon and an online publication to broader their base.

Paying it forward

It is no wonder that the 'art bug' has been passed down to her two children – Armaan, 27, who works in finance, and Alaiia, 25, who is with Canvas Chicago, an artists' collective. "My son is a techie, but he is also a collector. He makes long rides to see Dali and Matisse," she says. Meanwhile, Alaiia has entered the art scene with her *Indigo Project*, which comprises art installations and performance art. "Besides her own work [a textile installation at the London Design Biennale that shows the tangible application of indigo], she also helped significantly with the 2018 Biennale, showcasing the foundation and the work we do. Her own project, *Activate*, in Chicago, works with art communities across the city using street art, plays and spoken word poetry. What is exciting about her art is that it's all inclusive and she is not intimidated by boundaries. She is more free-wheeling and experimental, and I learn a lot from her," concludes Feroze.



Backstage at Sula

After 12 editions, music remains the heart of SulaFest, but there is room for improvement

ANURAG TAGAT

At the recently-concluded 12th edition of SulaFest in sunny Nashik, the prominent mood was alcohol-fuelled cheer. But this is not to say that's all there is to the two-day wine, music and gourmet food festival by Sula Vineyards.

The long-running event has, since 2008, drawn a crowd that's ready to party. What has changed is not just the scale, but also how it has to compete alongside other big-ticket music festivals, including the ongoing Vh1 Supersonic at Pune.

With a total of four visits to the festivals since 2013, I've seen an ebb and flow in their aims with each edition. Often, the afternoon acts are talented artists from India and abroad who are trying to get a crowd moving. They had even scaled up to third stage for electronic music fans a few years in between, so it's safe to say there's been no dearth of risks and experiments on the music programming front. If anything, the music – programmed by Ra Music's Jehan Johar, a seasoned music curator and DJ-producer – has well exceeded expectations many a times.



On stage (Above) Divine performing at this year's SulaFest and (top) the audience at an earlier edition of SulaFest • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Cat Empire, Parov Stelar, Jungle etc, the fest has pleasantly surprised me over the six editions I have attended. I definitely think that they are as relevant as ever." The line-up has also included dub, ska and reggae bands – even big brass sections come in and take the crowd by complete surprise. Vaswani also praises the festival's willingness to book "big bands", not being daunted by the idea of the logistics and costing of a 10-member outfit. This year, out of 12 artists performing at the amphitheatre stage, seven were international. Johar says there are no fixed ratios for international to Indian artists programmed. "In our effort to offer a wide range of music, it's important for us to bring in a healthy number of international acts." He adds that SulaFest will always include "a few strong Indian names, therefore we rely on a combination".

However, a Nashik native who has attended the festival seven times, says the festival has slowly let down on the Indian indie programming front. "I like discovering new music, especially in a live setting. I'm way more open. I love the fact that they're bringing great international

acts, but they're not pushing our scene," the attendee says.

Crunching numbers

SulaFest still holds clout simply because it's always guaranteed a crowd. In excess of at least 10,000 people across two days, the major area where the festival has to up its game is on the crowd control front. Year on year, women are made to feel unsafe and men come to blows with each other while their friends add fuel to the fire. The Nashik resident also rues the fact that some lessons are hardly learned for a festival 12 years in the running – like when bars say they're out of drinking water, or there are only four washrooms on site, and no portable loos, which means wait times can go up to 45 minutes. And when it's all done with, cars and buses are ready to scramble out of a two-lane exit from any direction possible, causing at least an hour's delay in just getting out of the main gate. Vaswani says the infrastructure around the venue is the only turn off for him. With the music always tight, it's time for SulaFest to take a look around at everything off-stage.



DAMRO

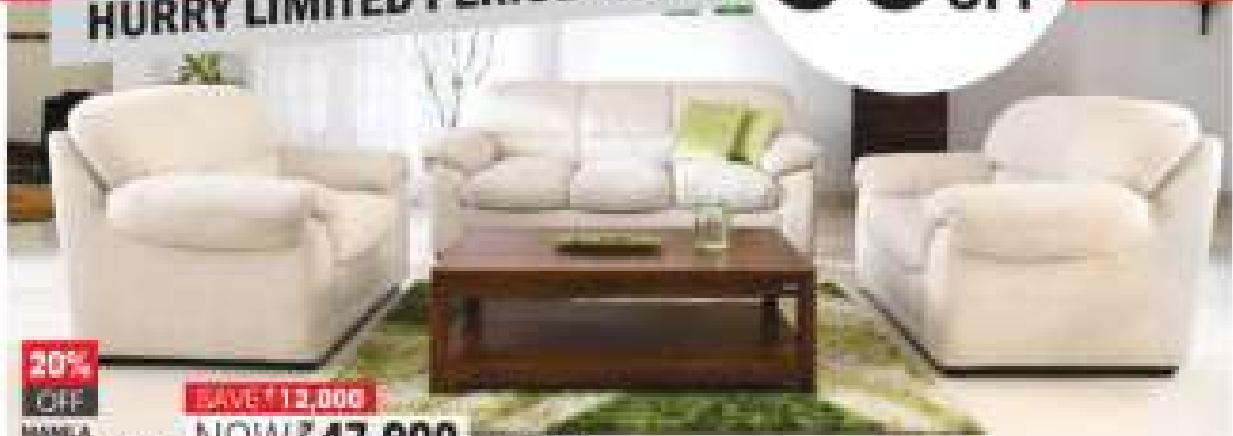
SOUTH ASIA'S LARGEST FURNITURE MANUFACTURER

PRICES

SLASHED

HURRY LIMITED PERIOD OFFER

UPTO
35%
OFF



GACHIBOWLI

Opp. My Home Bhojpuri
Tel: 25705964, 29705865. Tel: 4020 2706.

KHEVATHALY

Hyder Nagar
Tel: 4020 2706.

NAGOLE

New Alkapat X Road
Tel: TM29555893.

YANASTALUPURAM

Panama Godavari Road
Tel: 040 29882444, 7782723636.

A.B. RADHAKRISHNA

Mahesh Nagar, Kuppa
Tel: 48551438, 27135713. Tel: 0879 2444222, 2979111.

WANASAL

Beside Venkateswara Garden,
Tel: 0879 2444222, 2979111.

Buy Furniture & Get a Chance to Win

a trip and enjoy a luxury stay at

Marine Beach
HOTEL COLOMBO

