



Taj Mahal revenue has gone up 4 times in the past 5 years  
page 9



GST revenue collection crosses ₹1 lakh crore mark once again  
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Hong Kong police fire teargas as thousands launch fresh protest  
page 14



Champion Lewis Hamilton signs off with a win in Abu Dhabi GP  
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## NEARBY



### Three minors killed in road accident

NEW DELHI  
Three minors, who were speeding on a scooter without wearing helmets, were killed when their two-wheeler rammed a pole near Delhi Gate, the police said on Sunday. The boys were returning from a wedding near Turkman Gate, they added.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

### 'Pak's nefarious intent behind Kartarpur exposed'

CHANDIGARH  
Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Sunday said Pakistan's Railway Minister Sheikh Rashid's reported statement that the Kartarpur corridor was the brainchild of the country's Army chief, Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa, had exposed Islamabad's nefarious intent behind the initiative.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 11

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EDUCATIONPLUS ▶ PAGES 16 & 17

# Private telecom players hike rates, prepaid users to be hit

Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and Reliance Jio announce up to 40% increase

PIYUSH PANDEY

MUMBAI

The era of low tariffs for Indian consumers seems to have ended as major telcos – Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL), Bharti Airtel Limited and Reliance Jio – have increased tariffs by up to 40% for prepaid customers.

While VIL and Sunil Bharti Mittal-led Bharti Airtel have decided to hike the tariffs with effect from December 3, Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio has decided to implement the hike from December 6.

### 90% of market

The three telecommunication giants together account for over 90% of India's 1.18 billion mobile subscribers, with the market share of around 30% each split evenly among them. "New plans will be available across India starting 00:00 hours of December 3, 2019," a Vodafone Idea statement said.

Bharti Airtel's statement read: "Airtel's new plans represent tariff increases in the range of a mere 50 paise/day to ₹2.85/day and offer generous data and calling benefits."

Both Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel announced new



### Wake-up call

Mobile tariffs are set to get dearer for Jio, Airtel & Vodafone-Idea prepaid users. While Vodafone-Idea's hike ranges between 22% to 67%, Airtel has raised its tariffs in the range of 14% to 40%. Reliance Jio will introduce new 'all-in-one' plans with a hike of upto 40%



Plan	Old ₹	New ₹
28 days	179	299
84 days	569	699
365 days	1,699	2,399

Plan	Old ₹	New ₹
28 days	129	148
84 days	448	598
365 days	1,699	2,398

prepaid plans starting with options of 2 days, 28 days, 84 days and 365 days validity and prices starting from ₹19 and going upto ₹2,399. Reliance Jio is yet to announce its new plans.

Reliance Jio's new tariffs will be priced 40% higher, but the company promises to offer 300% more benefits to its customers. "Jio will be introducing new all-in-one plans with unlimited voice and data. These plans will have a fair usage policy for calls to other mobile networks. The new plans will be effective from 6th December 2019," the company said in a statement.

Both Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel announced new

The hike in tariffs comes after VIL and Bharti Airtel posted record quarterly losses of ₹50,922 crore and ₹23,045 crore respectively owing to an adverse Supreme Court ruling on the adjusted gross revenue (AGR).

### Outstanding debt

Both Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel also have an outstanding debt of over ₹1 lakh crore each.

According to government data, the liabilities in the case of Bharti Airtel add up to nearly ₹35,586 crore, of which ₹21,682 crore is the licence fee and another

₹13,904.01 crore is the spectrum usage charge (SUC) dues (excluding the dues of Telenor and Tata Teleservices). Vodafone Idea has an estimated liability of ₹44,150 crore post the Supreme Court order and made provisioning of ₹25,680 crore in the second quarter this fiscal.

Commenting on the hike, Chief Marketing Officer of Bharti Airtel Shashwat Sharma said the operator's new mobile plans offered "tremendous value" and "a superior network experience" it makes to the constitution.

The Supreme Court, by its order of August 9, 2018, had said that the BCCI shall not amend its constitution without its approval.

"We have brought to the notice of the court respectfully that certain things are difficult to implement, and

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

# BCCI puts on hold changes to 6 key rules, refers them to SC

Jay Shah to represent Board in ICC chief executive committee

G. VISWANATH  
MUMBAI

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Sunday, put on hold amendments to six important rules of its new constitution that were approved by the Supreme Court and registered with the Tamil Nadu Registrar of Societies in Chennai in August 2018.



Over to SC: BCCI president Sourav Ganguly, secretary Jay Shah and treasurer Arun Singh Dhumal at the meeting. ■ PTI

that certain things are required for better running of the administration. We have seen orders being amended in the past. Just as every citizen has got the right, we have stated that certain things could be done to get the administration to work better. It is a prayer," explained BCCI president Sourav Ganguly.

At its 88th AGM held at the Cricket Centre here, the BCCI, with 38 full members, nominated its secretary Jay Shah to the Chief Executive Committee (CEC) of the International Cricket Council (ICC). Mr. Jay, son of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, will replace BCCI CEO Rahul Johri in the ICC's CEC. The AGM has authorised its five-member office-bearers to

nominate the BCCI's representative on the decision-making ICC Board.

It was on the basis of the new constitution that the Committee of Administrators (CoA) and the electoral officer conducted the BCCI elections on October 23.

### Rise in subsidy

Among other things, the AGM favourably considered proposals to raise the infrastructure subsidy to associations and the match fee to the senior domestic players, to establish a support system for the new full members and put in place an umpire dedicated to adjudicate no-balls in the IPL.

BCCI TO PURSUE RELAXATION IN COI CLAUSE ▶ PAGE 20

## Congress's Patole elected + Maharashtra Speaker

Will present report on finances: CM

ALOK DESHPANDE

MUMBAI

Senior Congress MLA Nana Patole was elected unopposed as the Speaker of the Maharashtra Assembly on Sunday after the BJP withdrew its candidate Kisan Kathore.

At the special session of the Assembly, BJP legislature party leader and former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis was named Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly by Mr. Patole. Minister and NCP MLA Jayant Patil said he appreciated the spirit of understanding shown by the Opposition BJP in withdrawing its candidate and ensuring that Mr. Patole is elected unopposed.

At a press conference after the session, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said the government would review the fiscal health of the

CM, FADNAVIS SPAR ▶ PAGE 12



Speaker Nana Patole at the Vidhan Bhavan on Sunday. ■ PTI

State and bring out a report. Minister Chhagan Bhujbal, who also addressed the media, said a White Paper on the financial condition would be issued soon. The statement comes hours after Governor B.S. Koshyari in his address to the joint session of the legislature said a report on the financial condition would be presented to the people.

Mr. Patole said he appreciated the spirit of understanding shown by the Opposition BJP in withdrawing its candidate and ensuring that Mr. Patole is elected unopposed.

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## Delhi govt. rejects mercy petition in Nirbhaya case

Recommendation sent to Lt. Governor

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has recommended rejection of the mercy petition of one of the convicts in the Nirbhaya case, according to a senior official of the State Home Department.

The recommendation has been sent to Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal.

Vinay Sharma, one of the convicts facing the gallows in the gang rape-and-murder case of a 23-year-old paramedic student, had filed a mercy petition before President Ram Nath Kovind.

"It is the fittest case to reject the mercy petition, keeping in view the heinous and gravest crime of extreme brutality committed by the appellant," the note sent by the government to Mr. Baijal said.

Delhi Home Minister Sa-

tyendar Jain said: "There is no merit in mercy petition, strongly recommended for rejection."

### President to decide

The Lieutenant Governor will now send his recommendation on the mercy plea to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, the official said and added that a final call will be taken by the President of India.

The paramedic student was raped on the intervening night of December 16-17, 2012, inside a running bus in south Delhi by six persons before being thrown out on the road.

She died on December 29, 2012, at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore, where she was airlifted from Delhi for treatment.

SEE ALSO ▶ PAGE 2

## Fast-track court to try rape accused

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has ordered the immediate constitution of a fast-track court to try the four persons accused of raping and murdering a veterinarian at Shadnagar.

He gave the instructions to officials on Sunday while discussing measures to speed up the trial of the case and award a severe punishment to the accused.

He also asked them to start the process of setting up the fast-track court immediately, a release said.

Mr. Rao expressed the government's willingness to extend all assistance to the family of the veterinarian.

LEADERS STOPPED ▶ PAGE 8

## Search on for two accused in Tamil Nadu gang-rape case

Class XI girl sexually assaulted in park in Coimbatore

WILSON THOMAS

COIMBATORE

The Coimbatore City Police has formed three special teams to trace two of the six accused who escaped after allegedly gang-raping a Class XI girl.

City Police Commissioner Sumit Sharan told *The Hindu* on Sunday that the survivor, who had come to a public park with her friend to celebrate her birthday on November 26, had given a statement to the police that the two persons will be examined once they are arrested," he said.

Mr. Sharan said photos or

videos of the alleged crime were not found in the mobile phones of the four persons arrested on Saturday, namely T. Rahul, 21, R. Prakash, 22, S. Karthikeyan, 28, and S. Narayanan, 30, from Seeranaickpalayam.

"Three special teams are on the hunt for two more accused – Manikandan of Seeranaickpalayam and Karthik from Vadavalli. The mobile phones of the two persons will be examined once they are arrested," he said.

Going by the girl's state-

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

## Japan tracking J&K situation very carefully'

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

NEW DELHI

Japan is tracking the situation in the Kashmir Valley and hopes for a peaceful solution to the difficulties in the region, a representative of Tokyo said here on Sunday.

Atsushi Kaifu, Deputy Press Secretary of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, commented on Kashmir, while declaring that Tokyo remains focussed on connectivity projects in India, including in the northeastern region. "I can say we looked at the situation there very carefully. We are aware of the long-standing differences of views with regard to Kashmir. We hope a peaceful resolution will be found through dialogue," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12



ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Lakshmanan of Sevur in Tiruvannamalai district who wrote to the Public Information Officer/Additional Superintendent of Police on 03/12/2018, seeking to know under the RTI Act the case particulars and other circumstances that led to his name being

included in the dossier of history-sheeters.

He requested the public authority to share copies of the proposal of the Kalambur Sub-Inspector recommending his name for inclusion in the dossier and also the views of other police officers, including the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Arani.

## Rail Bhavan protest: court discharges CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has discharged Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, his deputy Manish Sisodia and AAP MLAs Somnath Bharti and Rakhi Birla in a case of allegedly violating prohibitory orders in the Capital and obstructing public servants during an agitation in 2014.

Additional Sessions Judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar passed the order on a plea by the Aam Aadmi Party legislators challenging a magisterial court's July 5 order by which charges were framed against them, paving the way for their trial. The sessions court said there was no sufficient evidence to put them on trial.

In their applications filed by advocate Mohd Irshad, AAP politicians had challenged the magisterial court's order saying that it had erred in framing charges against them. The trial court had on July 5 framed charges against the accused persons, saying there was sufficient evidence to conclude that a *prima facie* case and "grave suspicion" was made out against them.

In 2017, a total of 11,542 cases of CAW were reported in Delhi. The next on the list was Mumbai – 5,453 cases – followed by Bangalore (3,565) and Hyderabad (2,272).

When asked about the poor conviction rate in cases of CAW, a senior officer said the cases are dealt with high priority and the chargesheet is filed within 60 days but during the trial, either the witnesses turn hostile or lack of statement from eyewitness delays the process, thus affecting conviction. Except for 2017, the city has recorded

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi 250	Gurugram 170		
Ghaziabad 292	Faridabad 218		
Noida 241	Greater Noida 281		
Good 0-50	Satisfactory 51-100	Moderate 101-200	
Poor 201-300	Very poor 301-400	Severe >401	
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) [SOURCE: CPCB]			

## 7 years on, yet no punishment to culprits: Nirbhaya's mother

In the wake of Hyderabad rape case, she says nothing has changed in terms of women's safety since 2012

SAURABH TRIVEDI  
NEW DELHI

It has been seven years and my daughter's culprits are yet to be punished, said Nirbhaya's mother. She was speaking in the wake of an incident in Hyderabad where a 27-year-old veterinarian was gang-raped and murdered.

"I can understand the pain and anger of the family as I went through a similar pain in 2012. I request the government to not let any family go through similar

## '92.9% cases of crime against women pending in city courts'

NCRB data for 2017 reveal that convictions have taken place in 690 cases

SAURABH TRIVEDI  
NEW DELHI

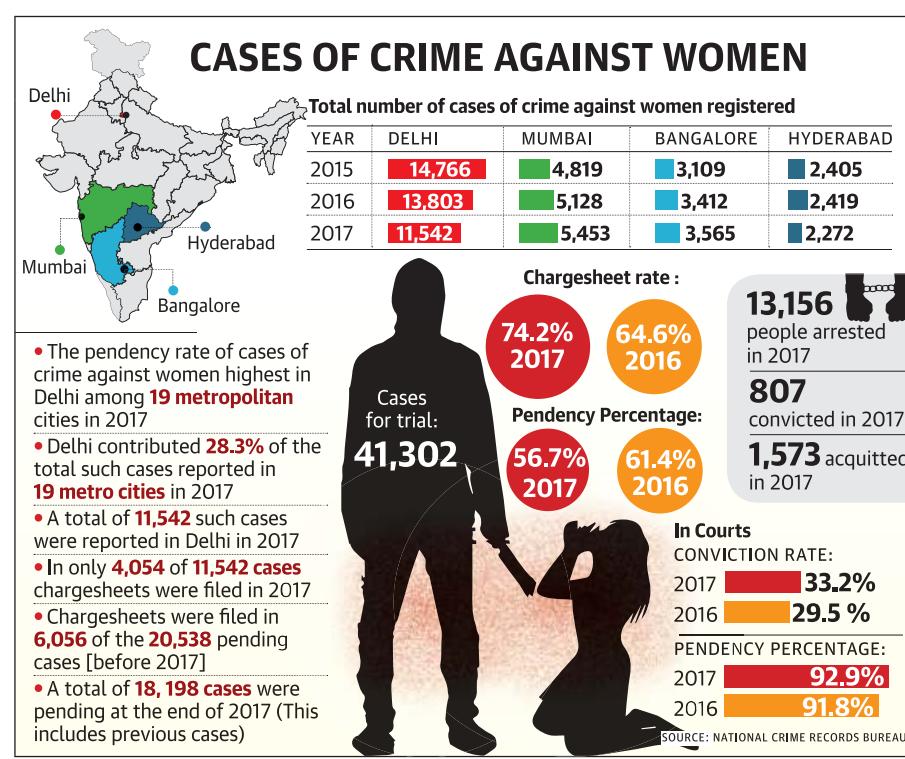
With a conviction rate of just 33.2%, the Capital recorded 92.9% cases of crime against women pending in various district courts, stated National Crime Records Bureau data for 2017.

A total of 41,302 cases, including 10,120 cases in 2017, are pending for trial in six district courts of Delhi. According to the data, convictions have taken place in 690 cases.

The report stated that a majority of cases under crime against women (CAW) was registered under "Cruelty by Husband or his Relatives" (27.9%), followed by "Assault on Women with Intent to Outrage her Modesty" (21.7%), "Kidnapping and Abduction of Women" (20.5%) and "Rape" (7.0%) in all 19 metropolitan cities.

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basis but those such as cruelty by husband or his relatives take time to investigate."

### Measures taken

The police said they have taken various measures to curb crime against women that include dynamic identification of crime-prone areas, deployment of police resources, dedicated women helpline no. 1091, exclusive women help desk at police stations, anti-stalking services for women, stationing all-woman PCR vans in vulnerable areas, concerted action against consuming alcohol in public places, informing civic agencies regarding dark patches for rectification, self-defence training for women/girls and special drives against tinted glasses in public transport vehicles. "The number of cases of CAW in Delhi is high because of registration. We have various channels for women to approach the police and any kind of complaint is dealt on priority basis and an FIR is registered immediately," said an officer.

Separate police teams "We have separate teams for investigation and law and order in all police stations. This was done for the speedy disposal of cases. Due to law and order duties, the investigation gets affected," said an officer, adding: "Cases of molestation, rape and other heinous crimes against women are treated on priority

courts are burdened with cases and therefore they tend to get delayed. "Hence, rape cases should be heard on a weekly basis if not day-to-day," she added.

Reason for delay She said investigation in rape cases should be done on a fast-track basis.

If the investigation is thorough, then the conviction will be on time," said Ms. Bhatia, adding that the

courts are burdened with cases and therefore they tend to get delayed. "Hence, rape cases should be heard on a weekly basis if not day-to-day," she added.

Delay in the adjudication of rape cases actually goes in favour of accused," said Ms. Bhatia.

In November, Nirbhaya's parents had filed a plea in a Delhi court seeking a direction to the jail authorities to expedite the execution of the convicts.

Advocate Meera Bhatia, who is amicus curiae in the case, said: "If things would have

changed after December 2012, then the Hyderabad incident would never have happened. I have been waiting for justice for the past seven years. A lot of effort has been made by governments for timely delivery of justice but nothing has improved on the ground. It is a kind of punishment for women or her family members but perpetrators remain safe in prison," she added.

Advocate Meera Bhatia, who is amicus curiae in the

case, said: "If things would have

## Air quality worsens to 'poor' category

Pollution likely to increase today

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The air quality of the city worsened on Sunday to "poor" category from "moderate" level on Saturday. The pollution is likely to increase on Monday and Tuesday, said government-run monitoring agency System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR).

On Sunday, the average level of PM 2.5 – deadly respirable particles which is a chief pollutant – was (105.6 ug/m<sup>3</sup>) more than the safe limit (60 ug/m<sup>3</sup>) as per Indian standards in Delhi and NCR at 6 p.m., said Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

On November 3, the PM2.5 level in Delhi and NCR had hit 625 ug/m<sup>3</sup> – 10 times more than the safe limit.

However, Sunday's level is still more than four times the safe limit (25 ug/m<sup>3</sup>) set

by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) on Sunday was 250, up from Saturday's 193, according to the 4 p.m. bulletin by the CPCB, which is the average of the past 24 hours. An AQI between 0-50 is considered "good" and 51-100 "satisfactory".

The contribution of stubble burning in neighbouring States to Delhi's pollution was 3% on Sunday and is likely to be 4% on Monday, which is very less compared to the high of 44% earlier this season, said SAFAR.

The SAFAR model forecast suggests AQI is likely to deteriorate marginally to the higher end of the poor category for tomorrow. Further deterioration to the very poor category is forecasted for December 3. Since fire count is low, no significant stubble impact is expected in Delhi for tomorrow," SAFAR said.

The mean minimum temperature during the month was 15.0°C against its normal value of 12.9 degrees Celsius, which is 2.1 degrees Celsius above the climatological mean for the month.

The lowest minimum temperature this November was 11.4 degrees Celsius recorded on November 20. The all-time record of minimum temperature for the month is 03.9 degrees Celsius recorded on November 28, 1938.

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The forecast shows that strong surface winds (speed 15-20 kmph) will continue on December 2 and 3 as well with clear skies. Delhiites can expect partly cloudy

sky with mist/shallow fog on December 4 morning and partly cloudy sky with shallow/moderate fog on December 5 morning.

Providing details for November, the Met department said the mean maximum temperature was 28.2 degrees Celsius which was equal to the climatological mean for the month.

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IN BRIEF

Man who killed police constable in 2007 held

GAZIABAD

A man, who allegedly killed a police constable in 2007, has been arrested after a gunfight here, officials said on Sunday. Nitoo was wanted in half dozen cases of heinous crimes and carried a reward of ₹25,000 for the information leading to his arrest. One countrymade pistol, two live cartridges and a stolen motorcycle were seized from his possession, the police said. The exchange of gunfire took place between a team of Kavi Nagar police station and two bike-borne men during which one of the suspects was shot in the leg while his accomplice fled, the police said. PTI

DELHI TODAY

**Music:** Celebrating Love - 2019, an evening of music celebrating the poetry of Kabir, Tulsiadas, Meera Bai and others. The event will feature a Hindustani classical vocal recital by Bhuvaneswi Komkali, a disciple of Vasundhara Komkali and Madhup Mudgal at The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Infinite Continuum", a group painting and sculpture exhibition by various artists at Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m.- 7 p.m.

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

**Exhibition:** "Grey", a group plastic sculptures exhibition by Eleni Stoelinga Tsipara, Pankaj Gurur and Priyanka Gupta at Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m.- 8 p.m.

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

# A body blow for patients

The Union Health Ministry's direction to review user charges in AIIMS has triggered widespread criticism

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN  
NEW DELHI

Narendra Nath from Uttar Pradesh is sitting with his five-year-old son on the pavement outside the country's premier All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in the Capital on a cold Saturday morning, sipping tea and munching glucose biscuits.

His son has been referred here for treatment and Nath, who works in a garment factory back home, has taken 15 days off his work to get his son – who has been detected with an abnormality in the heart – treated at the best hospital in the country. "For poor people like us, AIIMS is not just a medical centre, it's like a temple where our prayers are answered," says an emotional Nath.

Like a majority of the people waiting outside the hospital, mostly from outside Delhi, he is totally unaware of the recent direction by the Union Health Ministry to review the user charges for the six AIIMS centres across India. The move could make healthcare more expensive for patients.

In a country wherein 95% of ailments are treated by al-



Patients and their relatives waiting outside the AIIMS in the Capital. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

lopathy – as per the recently-released household social consumption in India: Health NSS 75th round (July, 2017 - June, 2018) – and where the average medical expenditure goes upward of ₹5,000 even at a government hospital, "the smallest hike would mean making healthcare inaccessible to several lakhs of patients.

"Doctors here have strongly opposed the move," said Dr. Harjitt Singh Bhatti, former president of the Resident Doctors Association at the AIIMS

A statement issued by the AIIMS RDA in the Capital on the issue noted thus: "Quality education and healthcare are the building blocks of our nation and we will not allow any person, organisation or the government to compromise on them in any aspect."

#### Stressed groups

Patients, mostly comprising economically stressed groups, who frequent the AIIMS, say that government hospitals should retain their "welfare nature".

"People rush to the AIIMS because quality treatment is unaffordable in the private sector for almost 90% of people in India. That is the ground reality. Now if the government starts turning these hospitals also into profit-making ventures where will the poor go? Should we die without treatment?" asks Mr. Dinesh (refusing to give his full name) from Bihar, a daily wager, who has come for treatment at the Urology Department here.

Others pitch in their sup-



port. "Check-up or admission in the hospital means not only hospital expenses but also the escalating cost of medicines, diagnostics, travel and nutrition. And many times, this is at the expense of pay-cuts because of leave from work. Even a marginal hike hits the poor hard. The government can't be making money out of the misery of people," says Neeti Pradhan from Ratnagiri, who is here with her husband for the treatment of their child with brain developmental issues.

As per the NSS, the average medical expenditure per hospitalisation case (excluding childbirth) is ₹16,676 in rural India and ₹26,475 in urban India. In

government/public hospitals, the expenditure is about ₹4,452 (about ₹4,290 in rural and ₹4,837 in urban areas) and in private hospitals, the expenditure is about ₹31,845 (about ₹27,347 in rural and ₹38,822 in urban areas).

#### Evaluation required

Senior Health Ministry officials state that an evaluation of the charges is required to bring the AIIMS up-to-date with current expenses and also to bring in uniformity. They dismiss allegations of the government trying to make it yet another "elite institute". "It is against the very nature of our country," an official explained.

He added: "This is not a

revenue-generation system. The Ministry had asked the administrators at AIIMS, Delhi, to review a user-fee structure for patients. This structure could then possibly be replicated in all AIIMS facilities throughout the country. Also, the Central Institute Body (CIB) of the six AIIMS headed by Health Minister Harsh Vardhan will review the student tuition fee."

Moreover, the CIB has directed its various departments and sections to submit details of charges, actual current cost and the reasons for setting user charges lower than the current costs. After receiving inputs, the CIB will decide on the revised fee structure. It cites the General Financial Rules, 2017, which state that while fixing the rates of user charges, ministries and departments must recover the current cost of providing services with a reasonable return on capital investment.

Meanwhile, experts argue that in India, where health expenditure coverage is still very low – NSS reports coverage of 14% of the rural population and 19% of the urban population – hikes have to be carefully evaluated.

## Three minors riding scooter without helmets killed in accident

Kin of deceased claim the boys were being chased by police van; police deny claim

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Three minors, who were speeding on a scooter without wearing helmets, died after their two-wheeler rammed a pole near Delhi Gate here, the police said on Sunday.

The deceased, identified as Mohammad Saad (14), Osama Malik (17) and Hamza Malik (15), all stayed near Turkman Gate with their families. Hamza and Saad were cousins and were studying in a private school in Nizamuddin, while their friend Osama was studying at a madrasa near Delhi Gate.

The boys were returning from a wedding near Turkman Gate, the police said.

The police said that the three juveniles were not wearing helmets and riding the scooter at a high speed when the accident took place on November 30 night.

The vehicle first hit the pavement and then a pole. All three of them had sustained head injuries. They were rushed to a nearby hospital where they were de-



The accident spot near Delhi Gate. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

clared brought dead, a senior police officer said.

Their scooter flung at least 25 feet away from the accident spot due to the impact of the accident. The victims were, however, found near the pole, the officer said.

"We were informed about the accident around 11.35 p.m. by a bystander. A police team immediately reached the spot and collected samples.

Skid marks of tyres will also be examined, Mr. Randhawa added.

The police suspect that the vehicle was being driven by Hamza. The scooter is registered under the name of Adil Malik, who is the grandfather of Hamza.

The families have claimed that the boys were being chased by a police van be-

cause they did not have helmets on and were not carrying a licence either.

However, the police have denied their claims and said that they have checked the CCTV footage from the area and did not find any police vehicle chasing the boys. The forensic team also probed the matter and confirmed that the scooter was not hit by any other vehicle. The CCTV footage was also shown to the family members of the deceased for clarification, the police added.

Mohammad Javed (44), Hamza's father, said they had gone to attend a wedding when Hamza arrived to tell them that he wanted to go out with his friends. He left the function around 10.45 p.m. and said that he would be back within half-an-hour.

"When I called him at 11.30 p.m., he did not answer. I was worried and called up Saad, whose phone was found to be switched off. Later, around midnight, I received a call about the incident and rushed to the hospital," the father said.

The matter first came to light on November 25, after a woman from south Delhi's Kotla Mubarakpur reported to the police that a man had been harassing her for a month by sending obscene messages and porn videos. The woman also alleged that the accused had been frequently calling and abusing her, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Atul Kumar Thakur.

When the police called on the phone number provided by the woman, the person on the other end introduced himself as an IPS officer, Mr. Thakur said.

The police later found that the man had procured the

## 'Fixing circle rate a policy decision to be taken by govt'

Panel working on rate finalisation: HC

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Fixing the circle rate is a policy decision which is to be taken by the government, the Delhi High Court has remarked while declining to entertain a petition seeking direction to the city government to fix the minimum circle rates for flats commensurate with the category of the colony.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar noted that the government has already constituted a committee of experts which is working for the finalisation of the circle rates.

Suraj Parkash Manchanda, in his petition filed in public interest, had sought direction to the Delhi government to rationalise circle rates of immovable properties or built-up flats and to fix minimum rates of flats commensurate with the category of the colony or area.

The petition by Ashok Kumar Jain and Nitish Bharadwaj pointed out that in 2011, while serving the National Law Institute University, Bhopal, as professor, Mr. Bajpai was accused of serious misconducts and subsequently removed.

"Fixing of the circle rate at the behest of the respondent ought to be done patiently," it added.

It alleged that in 2011-12, the V-C of NLUD appointed Mr. Bajpai as professor without following any process for

## High Court issues notice to National Law University

Plea seeks removal of Registrar

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has issued notice to the National Law University, Delhi (NLUD) on a petition seeking removal of Prof. G.S. Bajpai, Registrar of NLUD, alleging misconduct, abuse of public office and nepotism.

The court also sought response from Mr. Bajpai and the affidavit filed by the government, the university.

The petition by Ashok Kumar Jain and Nitish Bharadwaj pointed out that in 2011, while serving the National Law Institute University, Bhopal, as professor, Mr. Bajpai was accused of serious misconducts and subsequently removed.

"Fixing of the circle rate at the behest of the respondent ought to be done patiently," it added.

It alleged that in 2011-12, the V-C of NLUD appointed Mr. Bajpai as professor without following any process for

public appointment. It said neither any advertisement was issued, nor any selection committee was established. "In 2013 the professorship of Mr. Bajpai who does not hold any law degree and was ineligible to hold any post of law teacher in India was regularised by the Vice-Chancellor," the plea said.

Mr. Bajpai was appointed to the post of Registrar of NLUD next year. The statutory prescription for the post mandates that the appointee must be a Professor of Law.

"Respondent No. 2 [Mr. Bajpai], possessing Bachelor's in Science, Master's in Arts, and a Ph.D, is neither a Professor in Law nor possesses any law degree [LLM/PhD in Law] to hold the post of Registrar at the NLUD," the petitioners said. The appointment of Mr. Bajpai as Registrar is in violation of Section 21 of the National Law University Act, 2007, the plea said.

public appointment. It said neither any advertisement was issued, nor any selection committee was established. "In 2013 the professorship of Mr. Bajpai who does not hold any law degree and was ineligible to hold any post of law teacher in India was regularised by the Vice-Chancellor," the plea said.

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## Security guard impersonates IPS officer, harasses women; arrested

Charges levelled against him include stalking, molestation

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 38-year-old security guard, who allegedly posed as an IPS officer from Uttar Pradesh and harassed women by making phone calls and offering fake government jobs, has been arrested from a village in Gurugram on various charges including stalking and molestation, the Delhi police said on Sunday.

Gauri Shankar, a resident of Kushinagar district in Uttar Pradesh, was arrested from Mullaheri village, they said. He has also been booked for "having an intent to outrage the modesty of a woman", the police added.

Explaining the modus operandi, the police said that Shankar would introduce himself as an IPS officer when he made phone calls to women and lured them with fake government job offers.

He would also send the women "obscene content and messages" on WhatsApp, they said.

The matter first came to light on



Gauri Shankar. ■

woman from south Delhi's Kotla Mubarakpur reported to the police that a man had been harassing her for a month by sending obscene messages and porn videos. The woman also alleged that the accused had been frequently calling and abusing her, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Atul Kumar Thakur.

When the police called on the phone number provided by the woman, the person on the other end introduced himself as an IPS officer, Mr. Thakur said.

The police later found that

the man had procured the

number on a fake ID or was using somebody else's number as the real owner was traced to Anand district in Gujarat, the DCP also said.

Most of the targets of the accused were from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana and they said they were being harassed by the caller, the officer said.

After his arrest, Shankar told the police that he had the mobile phone numbers of several unknown people as he used to sell SIM cards in Kushinagar earlier.

He had to shut his shop after he had an accident about four years ago. He then started working in Delhi as a security guard and started making calls to women, posing as a senior police officer from Uttar Pradesh, the DCP said.

Shankar was previously involved in a 2010 case of rioting in Kushinagar.

The accused is married and has two children. The police said that they are trying to contact other women who might have been harassed by Shankar.

## Deputy CM inaugurates six-day Youth Festival

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Sunday inaugurated the ninth edition of the Youth Festival which will be held upto December 6 at Central Park in Connaught Place from 6 p.m.

The six-day event will have different programmes, including music, dance, and theatre.

Sahitya Kala Parishad and Art, Culture & Language Department of the Delhi government is conducting the event.

"Youth is the future of our country and we have always kept our faith in the development of the youth and children to make our nation better," the Deputy Chief Minister said.

"We also believe that culture is the best way to reach out to the people from any section of the society. We are determined to preserve the cultural heritage of the city. Our government hopes to create an environment of harmony and love through such programmes. Reaching out to a new audience is important in doing so. This festival will bring together people from different culture and language," Mr. Sisodia further said at the event.

## TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

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THE HINDU

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**NOT**

# Open season for closed campus

DU administration, principals and teachers support the idea of an 'integrated North Campus' as an under-construction high-rise threatens to change the landscape of the area permanently



SIDHARTH RAVI  
NEW DELHI

How would a closed North Campus of Delhi University look like? The area, flanked by the Naiyagruh drain on one side, the Kamla Nehru ridge on the other, the Ring Road in the North and Kamla Nagar in the south, is primarily dotted with university buildings, including various colleges, hostels, sports complexes and administrative blocks. And if the university authorities have their way, the campus will be closed off to the public.

Speaking at the 96th convocation of the university last month, Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Tyagi gave a fresh impetus to what has been a long-standing idea, saying he hoped the area will be turned into an "integrated campus with no thoroughfare" within one year.

While no concrete plan has taken

## CITY MATTERS

shape yet, Bipin Tiwari, a member of the task force set up by the university's Campus Development Committee, formed to look into the proposal, said that a closed campus could mean the setting up of entry and exit gates at certain key roads such as Chhatra Marg, Cavalry Road, University Enclave and GTB Road. Through this, the university hopes to restrict the movement of vehicles, not belonging to the staff or students, which currently pass through the area freely. It would also mean setting up alternative routes to divert the traffic. The task force has written to the Public Works Department (PWD) asking it to carry out a traffic survey of the area and determine what routes may be possible.

"As of now there are two major hurdles in the development of a closed campus – one,

a traffic survey needs to be done, and the other, the proposed construction of a high-rise building near the metro station," said Mr. Tiwari.

### Hurdles in plan

The construction in question has been widely opposed by university stakeholders, including the Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA), the Delhi University Students' Association (DUSU), various students' groups and the university administration as well. They claim that multiple rules were violated in granting permission to the construction, which is coming up on a plot said to have originally belonged to the Ministry of Defence, passed on to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation and finally sold to a private builder.

While the matter is before the Supreme Court, the impending construction also has a role to play in the university's renewed interest in a closed campus.

"It's an old demand that has been a part of the manifestos of students' groups since the '90s... but the threat of the building has expedited the process," said Rasal Singh, another member of the task force. "Once the building comes up, this area can never be made into an integrated campus," he said. "Removing jhuggis is so difficult, how will a high-rise building be removed once it comes up?" he asked. In fact, the zonal development plan for the area under the Delhi Master Plan 2021, which the Vice-Chancellor cited to make his case for the 'integrated campus', also states that

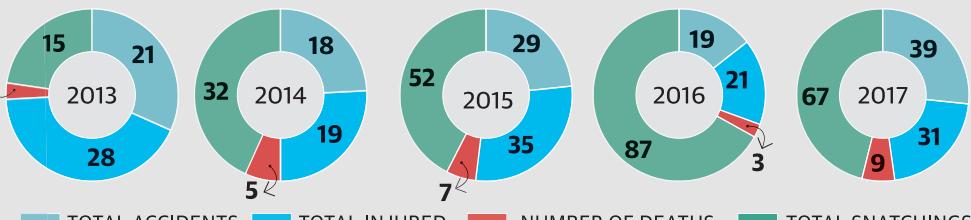
the area has been restricted for tall buildings.

### Call for larger campus

Heads of colleges in the area, whom *The Hindu* spoke to, have welcomed the proposal of closed campus. With increasing population, especially on account of expansions to accommodate OBC and EWS reservations, the North Campus area has become exceptionally crowded, said principal of Ramjas College, Manoj Khanna. The traffic in the area is bound to get worse if it is not closed off, he said, adding that safety of staff and students will also be at risk.

"The need for this [closed campus] wasn't felt when the university initially settled here," said Vibha Chauhan, principal of Kirori Mal College, but reiter-

## MAPPING THE MISHAPS



SOURCE: RTI FILED BY DU STUDENT RAJA CHOURHARY



The site behind Vishwavidyalaya metro station where construction of a high-rise building is being planned. It has met with opposition from university stakeholders. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

ated that with heavy traffic movement these days it had become imperative. She also pointed out that any security-related issues concerning the area were dealt with by the police and were out of the hands of the university. "These questions also determine the kind of curfew we put on our hostels. We would like our students to be able to come in and go out freely, they are adults after all," she said.

The move would bring greater mobility and a "sense of belongingness" to the area, suggested Anju Srivastava, the principal of Hindu College. She compared it to the current scenario where the students tend to hold a sense of boundary within their respective colleges. This could extend to the larger university complex and "create a feeling of one big family", she said. The change in physical infrastructure would also impact the academic lives of everyone on the campus, Ms. Srivastava added.

### Safety concerns

While safety of women students was offered as a reason for setting up a closed campus, at least one stakeholder was opposed to the idea. A representative of Pinjra Tod campaign told *The Hindu* that the group did not support the move as it would probably lead to "more surveillance, gates, locks and guards to monitor who can and cannot enter the university". A public university should be open to the public and the proposal of a closed campus reinforces the problematic notion of some imaginary "outsider" as the threat to women's security while the administration ignores their other demands, said the Pinjra Tod representative.

"We are demanding free movement, not a bigger cage to live in, which is what a closed campus will be," the representative said, adding that the university would use the pretext of a closed campus to clear out street vendors, rickshaws, tea stalls and other small traders.

Nitin Gupta of the Kamla Nagar Market Association said that while it would be too early to comment on any such proposal, the other stakeholders, including the residents in the area, would have to be taken into confidence for any such move

Akali MLA blackens signboard of Aurangzeb lane

## 'Centre not supplying onions to Delhi govt.'

Last time it gave the vegetable was on November 24, claims Manish Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Sunday said that the Central government is "intentionally not supplying" onion to the Delhi government and there is a "conspiracy" behind it. The last time the Centre supplied onion was on November 24, he said.

"Onion prices are increasing all over the country. The Central government has stopped supplying onion to the Delhi government. On September 5, the Central government had written a letter to the Delhi government saying that they have 56,000 metric tonnes of onion and we can take it from them," Mr. Sisodia said while addressing a press conference.

He added that the Delhi government said it will take 10 trucks of onion every day till December 9 and sell it at a cheaper rate to the public.

**Justifies action**  
"People need to be reminded of Aurangzeb's bloody past on this day of Guru Tegh Bahadur's martyrdom," Mr. Sisodia said justifying his action.

The DSGMC president said the Central government and States should ensure that no roads were named after Aurangzeb and he was not taught in school and colleges.

"It is surprising that Aurangzeb was glorified despite his atrocities on Sikh gurus. There should be a debate in Parliament over who is responsible for this," he said.

The Mughal emperor was "systematically" glorified after Independence, and not only roads were named after him, he is taught in school and colleges, Mr. Sisodia said.

He was accompanied by Akali Dal leader Harneet Singh Kalka, Kultwan Singh Baarh and Vicky Mann.

Notably, in 2015, the New Delhi Municipal Corporation had renamed Aurangzeb Road as APJ Abdul Kalam Road, but the lane's name remained the same.



Onions being sold at a roadside shop in the city on Sunday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

"Our trucks are ready to sell onions. Why have you stopped giving onions to the Delhi government? What happened to the stock of 56,000 metric tonnes? Why do you want to rot those onions?" the Deputy Chief Minister asked.

He said that it is being done either due to the negligence by the Union government or to benefit the inter-

ests of the hoarders.

The Minister also requested the Central government to give 10 trucks of onion to the Delhi government every day.

Meanwhile, Food and Civil Supplies Minister Imran Hussain said that the staff and mobile vans to deliver onion have no work and they are waiting for onion from the Central govern-

ment. "Not giving onion means that the Central government wants to increase the rates here," Mr. Hussain said.

When asked whether the government has any other plan to procure onion, Mr. Hussain said: "We hope he [Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan] will respond to our requests. Else, we will think about other ways."

In his address, he told the people to demand imme-

diate withdrawal of the "black notification" and explained that the notification had several exemptions due to which over 40% of Delhi's unauthorised colonies would not be regularised.

**RBI not spared**  
Speaking about the state of the economy, Mr. Chopra said that the extent of the country's economic ruin can be gauged from the fact that the BJP government has not spared even the Reserve Bank of India's Emergency Reserve Fund.

"The RBI reserve fund, which is drawn only on emergency situations like war or other calamity, has been drawn by the Modi government to cover up its massive failures on every front," Mr. Chopra alleged.

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diate withdrawal of the "black notification" and explained that the notification had several exemptions due to which over 40% of Delhi's unauthorised colonies would not be regularised.

**The only institution**  
meant to provide financial stability to India's currency and economic system is being brutally compromised to serve the political interests of the BJP," Mr. Chopra alleged.

Former Congress MLA Mukesh Sharma said that it had become a recurring feature that whenever the BJP comes to power, people living in unauthorised colonies have to bear the brunt. "The Modi and Kejriwal governments are playing with the lives of 40 lakh people by refusing to give them ownership right," Mr. Sharma alleged.

He also alleged that in August 2019, the RBI gave

## Auto sector workers stage dharna against layoffs

Agitators express solidarity with Honda contractual workers holding strike

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM

Workers of automobile companies staged a day-long dharna – *Majdoor Pratirodh Dharna* – outside mini-secretariat here on Sunday in protest against the large-scale layoffs due to economic slowdown.

The agitating workers also expressed solidarity with the Honda contractual workers holding strike for almost a month against their retrenchment.

### Key demands

Holding red flags, the workers sat on a dharna outside the mini-secretariat from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in support of their demands. Their major demands include roll back policies of liberalisation, globalisation and privatisation; abolish all indirect taxes, including Goods and Services Tax; abolish contract system; reduce the pay disparity between management and workers and make education and medical facilities free for all.

Led by Bellsonica Auto Components India Employees Union, the protest saw the participation of various unions, including Maruti Suzuki Kamgar Union, BHEL Mazdoor Trade Union, All-India Trade Union Con-

gress and Theka Majdoor Kalyan Samiti, among others.

The organisations working for domestic and garments sector workers such as Mahila Kamgar Sangathan and Shramik Kendra also supported the protest.

Anita Yadav of Mahila Kamgar Sangathan said, "Domestic and garments workers, especially women, are subjected to more exploitation than the automobile workers since they do not have unions to speak on their behalf."

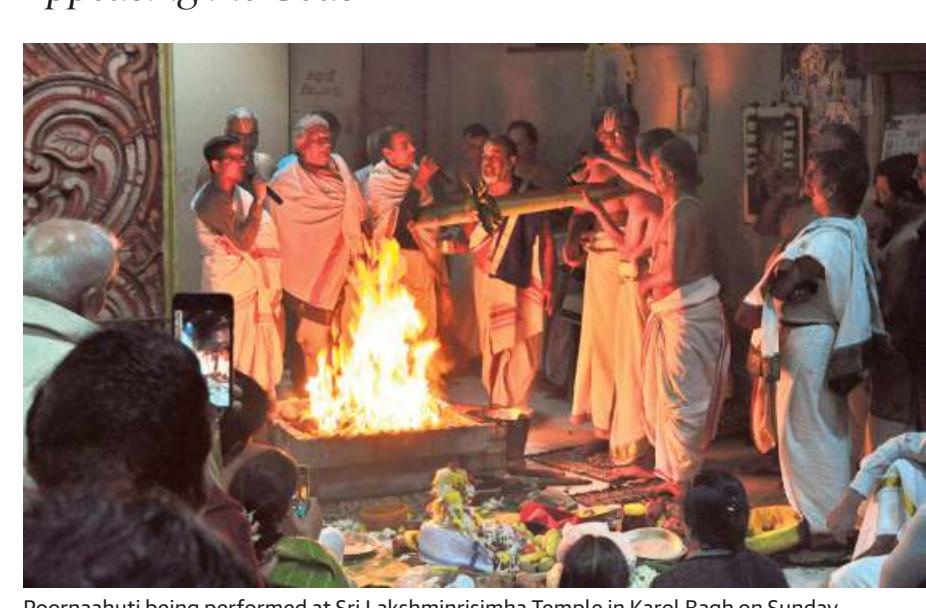
Jalauddin Ansari of Shramik Kendra said workers across the sectors were affected due to the slowdown.

Maruti Udyog Kamgar Union general-secretary Kuldeep Janghu addressed the workers and criticised the government for its alleged anti-labour policies.

### Rights diluted

Labour rights activist and lawyer Monu Kuhar said the workers rights were being diluted by the current regime in the name of labour reforms and the policies heavily favoured the industrialists. Bellsonica Auto Component India Employees Union vice-president Ajit Singh demanded that the industries making losses due to economic slowdown be nationalised.

## Appeasing the Gods



Poornahuti being performed at Sri Lakshminarayana Temple in Karol Bagh on Sunday.  
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**DELHI** Timings

MONDAY, DEC. 02
RISE 06:57 SET 17:24
RISE 11:45 SET 22:42
TUESDAY, DEC. 03
RISE 06:57 SET 17:24
RISE 12:22 SET 23:37
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 04
RISE 06:58 SET 17:24
RISE 12:57 SET 00:00

**Delhi Weather** max min  
Delhi City 23 09  
Safdarjung 23 09  
Palam 22 09

**Delhi Palam Today**  
23°C A slight fall in night temperatures is likely. Shallow mist will prevail during morning hours.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
23°C Day will be pleasant and sunny. Dry weather will prevail. Moderate fog and mist will prevail.

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**IN BRIEF**

**Four killed in Haryana road accident**

KAITHAL Four friends returning from a wedding were killed when their car collided with an unknown vehicle on the Hisar-Chandigarh Highway in Kaithal district, police said on Sunday.

# Mayawati holds meet to expand party base

'Observe death anniversary of Ambedkar on a large scale'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



BSP chief Mayawati

rence between the words and actions of the government. This is very dangerous for the public interest," the statement said.

**'Normal life hit'**

Referring to the GST and demonetisation, BSP chief Mayawati in the statement, said: "GST and demonetisation were imposed upon the country in a hurried and in an immature manner, and it is the result of this that there is economic recession and widespread unemployment in the country. This has affected normal life in the country."

She added: "The BJP, like the Congress, has made life of people of this country miserable in every way and it is extremely worrisome." The birthday of BSP chief Mayawati, which falls on January 15 will be celebrated as "Jankalyan Diwas", the party statement said.

At the meeting, deliberations were held and instructions issued to increase the party's voter base in the country, the statement said.

Discussions on the current political scenario in the country were also held.

Along with discussions on the recent political developments in Maharashtra, deliberations were also held on the Assembly elections in Jharkhand and the upcoming Assembly elections in Delhi. "There is a vast difference between the words and actions of the government. This is very dangerous for the public interest," the statement said.

Dr. Ambedkar's death anniversary falls on December 6.

"In the State capital Lucknow, people will pay their tributes at the historic Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Samajik Parivartan Sthal, which was built by the BSP, while people in other parts of the State will pay their tributes to Babasaheb in their respective areas," the BSP said in a

# Political motive behind NRC and CAB, says AMUTA

President Kovind urged to intervene in the matter

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GHAZIABAD

The Aligarh Muslim University Teachers' Association (AMUTA) has said that the proposal to apply National Register of Citizens (NRC) across the country and the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) are being foisted on society with a "political motive".

It has urged President Ram Nath Kovind, the Visitor of the university, to intervene in the matter.

At a general body meeting held on Saturday evening, the AMUTA resolved that there have been several discrepancies in the final draft of the NRC in Assam, and hence, this cannot be a unilateral decision and that other political parties and the country's citizens need to be consulted on this separately if it is applied across India.

Recent statements of the Home Minister have created this apprehension that the NRC is going to be applied across India. As the President is the first citizen of the country and our guardian, we have appealed to him to look into the matter," said Prof. Najmul Islam, Honorary Secretary, AMUTA.

A statement issued by the AMUTA said, the fear of the NRC targeting the largest minority community of the na-

tion has to be addressed, and resolved before the exercise is carried out – it cannot be left for later. Also, it said, the issue of how the poor and unlettered, and migrants will go around in proving their citizenship is a matter of serious concern.

Prof Islam told *The Hindu* the truth was that the Citizenship Amendment Bill was "an offshoot of the NRC exercise" that has caused much hardship to the people.

"We already have stringent laws such as the Foreigners Act, 1946, and Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, as well as tribunals to detect, detain and deport all illegal migrants residing in the country. Hence this definitely is not an issue that requires further legislation," he said.

The raids were conducted at Mr. Soni's office, saying it was aimed at "intimidating" the fourth pillar of democracy. Journalists

have registered four separate cases against Mr. Soni, Amit and their associates.

The local eveninger, of which Mr. Soni is the editor-in-chief, had reportedly pu-

# 67 women and seven children rescued in Indore

Businessman's night club and other premises raided by police in connection with honey-trap case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JAIPUR

A six-year-old girl was raped and murdered in Tonk district of Rajasthan, police said on Sunday.

The girl had gone to school on Saturday and did not return till late. Her family members started looking for her and found the body at an isolated place in Kheldi village of Aligarh town, police said.

Efforts are on to arrest the culprit, police said.

# Cold winds sweep northern India

Parts of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh shiver at sub-zero temperatures

PRES TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

North India was swept by chilly winds on Sunday, with many places in Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh witnessing sub-zero temperatures.

Leh town witnessed the coldest night of the season at minus 13.2 degrees Celsius, while Srinagar recorded a low of minus 0.9 degrees Celsius.

The famous ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir, which experienced several feet of snowfall last week, was the coldest place in the valley with a low of minus 8 degrees Celsius, the official said.

After witnessing snowfall for over five days, it was a sunny day in the valley.

A traffic department official said efforts are on to restore the 434-km Srinagar-



Tourists at Solang Valley in Manali after fresh snowfall on Sunday. ■ PTI

Leh National Highway, the only road linking Ladakh with Kashmir, and Mughal road.

In neighbouring Himachal Pradesh, Manali, Lahaul-Spiti and Kinnaur recorded freezing temperatures as chilly winds kept blowing in most parts of the hill State.

Lahaul-Spiti's administra-

blished some reports on the basis of audio-video clips purportedly involving some influential people in connection with the honey-trap racket.

**Raids condemned**  
The Indore Press Club and several other journalist organisations condemned the raid on the eveninger's office, saying it was aimed at "intimidating" the fourth pillar of democracy. Journalists

took to social media to denounce the action.

The raids were conducted on a complaint filed by Harbhajan Singh, suspended superintendent engineer of Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC), an official said. Mr. Singh is the complainant in the honey-trap case.

"Following the raids, four separate FIRs were registered in as many local police stations against Soni, his son Amit and people linked with them," Senior Superintendent of Police Ruchi Vardhan Misra said.

The official said that during the raid conducted at the night club run by Mr. Soni and his family at Geeta Bhawan square on Saturday night, 67 women and seven children were rescued.

Some of the rescued women belonged to West Bengal and Assam, who were allegedly kept in poor condition and made to work

as bar dancers.

An FIR was registered under IPC section 370 (prevention of human trafficking), the official said.

The rescued women have been given shelter and their statements were being recorded, the official added.

During the raid conducted at Mr. Soni's house, police recovered 36 bullets and six used cartridges. An FIR was registered under the Arms Act in this connection.

tive centre Keylong continued to be the coldest place in the State with the minimum temperature settling at minus 12.3 degrees Celsius.

Amritsar in Punjab experienced a cold night, recording a low of 7.8 degrees Celsius. The maximum temperature in the holy city was recorded at 22.2 degrees Celsius.

Ludhiana recorded a high of 22.5 degrees Celsius, two notches below the normal, while Patiala's maximum settled at 23.6 degrees Celsius, one notch below the normal.

**Fog forecast**

Hisar in Haryana too experienced a cold night at a low of 8.8 degrees Celsius. The Met department has forecast shallow to moderate fog at isolated places in Punjab and Haryana over the next two days.

# Hold JEE exam in Punjabi too, says Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Minister Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa on Sunday demanded that the joint engineering entrance examination (main) should be held in Punjabi and other regional languages too.

The Minister for the Punjab Higher Education and Languages made the demand in his letter to Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhrayan.

"On the demand by the different State governments, the Union Ministry has decided that from 2021 this entrance test would also be conducted in Assamese, Bengali, Tamil, Kannada, Urdu, Marathi, Oriya and Telugu," Mr. Bajwa has written to the Union Minister.

"His arrest was made on the information given by co-accused Daljit Singh of nearby Kharumpur village who was arrested on Friday," he said.

Surinder Singh, along with his co-accused Daljit Singh, duped 26 young men of Phagwara after promising them jobs in a firm in Russia at a monthly salary of ₹35,000 each, the officer said.

They gave him ₹1.32 lakh

# Kingpin of fake job racket arrested in Punjab's Phagwara

Duped 26 young men, 24 of whom are still stuck in Russia

**Accused Surinder Singh was arrested after a tip off**

GURMUKH SINGH  
Assistant Sub Inspector, Phagwara

each on a promise that they would be employed in the firm, he said.

But when they started working in the firm, the company gave each of them just ₹20,000 per month, he said.

The family members of the 24 young men stuck in Russia are planning to meet Union Minister Som Parkash on the issue.

According to police, Daljit Singh was arrested under Sections 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) and 406 (punishment for criminal breach of trust) of the IPC and other relevant provisions of the law.

The arrest was made following a complaint lodged by Jarnail Singh. His son Gurpreet (26) is also stuck in Russia, police said.

"My son is in depression. He had gone there to earn. I am waiting for his safe return," the complainant said.

# Body of girl found with throat slit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
AGRA (U.P.)

A teenage girl was found dead with her throat slit at a village in Agra district, police said.

Police are looking for the motive and criminal responsible for the crime. No marks of sexual assault have been found on the victim's body, Superintendent of Police (Rural West) Ravi Kumar said on Sunday.

According to the SP, the girl had gone to relieve herself early morning on Saturday in the fields near her house in Kheragarh town.

When she did not return home, her family searched for her and found the girl's body in a deserted structure next to a government primary school, he said.

The girl's body was in a pool of blood with her throat slit, the SP added.



Participants taking part in a mini marathon to highlight the need to save the environment, in Bhopal on Sunday. ■ A.M. FARUQUI

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Cost of Tender	1. Rs. 400/- + 5.0% GST, 2. Rs. 1600/- + 5.0% GST
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Date of issue and sale of tender	02.12.2019 from 11:00 Hrs
Last date & time for sale of tender and receipt of Bid Security Deposit	09.12.2019 upto 12:00 Hrs
Pre-Bid Meeting	- NA -
Submission of Packet A, B & Packet C (Online)	09.12.2019 upto 16:00 Hrs
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Opening of Packet C	12.12.2019 after 13:00 Hrs.
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# Solution to Naga issue likely soon, says CM

People of the State are set to witness history: Neiphiu Rio

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KOHIMA  
Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio on Sunday greeted people on the occasion of the 57th Statehood Day, contending that the long-awaited solution to the vexed Naga political issue might be in sight.



Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio.  
• FILE PHOTO

sue seems to be within grasp and that fills us with anticipation and happiness. This should also make the Nagas realise that huge responsibility lies on them to ensure that every step taken is in the right direction," he said.

He clarified that his "government was steadfast in its commitment to ensure progress and development of the people of the State in all spheres".

vi is also the Centre's interlocutor for Naga peace talks.

Among others present at Khouchieze were Deputy Chief Minister Y. Patton, Chief Secretary Temjen Toy and a host of Cabinet Ministers.

"We are filled with gratefulness today as we remember the visionary leaders who made sacrifices for Nagaland's statehood," Mr. Rio said.

The Chief Minister conveyed his appreciation to "all negotiating parties for their magnanimity, spirit of understanding and foresightedness" to achieve a breakthrough in the talks.

"The long-awaited solution to the Naga political is-

Maintaining that agriculture continues to be the main occupation of the Nagas, he said the government has been promoting organic farming in the State as it would "double the income of the farmers".

"More than 1,42,603 small and marginal farmers have been added to the list of PM-Kisan beneficiaries. An amount of about ₹54.60 crore has been directly deposited to the individual accounts of the farmers," he said. Mr. Rio called upon the people to work steadfastly towards making Nagaland one of the most admired and developed States of the country.

## Joining forces



CISF personnel participating in a cleanliness drive during the Swachhata Pakhwada 2019 at Dighalipukhuri in Guwahati on Sunday. • PTI

## Rape accused arrested after victim ends life in Odisha

STAFF REPORTER

BHUABANESWAR

The Odisha government on Sunday placed a police officer under suspension as he did not initiate investigation into an allegation of rape after which the victim reportedly committed suicide in Mayurbhanj district.

Three persons, including the prime accused, have been arrested.

The victim, a college lec-

turer, had submitted a complaint that she had been raped by a relative in Keonjhar district.

Though the complaint was lodged on October 30, neither any arrest had been made nor was any medical test conducted.

The woman's body was found hanging inside her hostel room on Saturday evening. Her family members alleged that she had been murdered.

Mayurbhanj police suspended P.K. Swain, an Assistant Sub-Inspector, who was the investigating officer in the case.

Inspector in-charge of Jharkhola police has been transferred to district police headquarters.

*Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini: Society for Mental Health.*

Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.

## Gauhati University offered unapproved courses: CAG

'Careers of 74,000 students jeopardised'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
GUWAHATI

The Gauhati University has jeopardised the career prospects of nearly 74,000 students and collected ₹39 crore as enrolment fees from them by offering 21 unapproved courses through its distance learning centre for seven years, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has said in a report.

### False affidavits

The findings of the CAG, tabled during the ongoing Winter Session of the Assam Assembly, also say that the oldest university of the Northeast had submitted multiple false affidavits to the University Grants Commission, assuring the Commission that it will not start any new distance course without approval.

The CAG said that the Indira Gandhi National Open University, with approval of the Distance Education Council, had recognised the Institute of Distance and Open Learning of the Gauhati University in August 2010 for offering eight courses for three years from 2010-11.

"It was specifically instructed that IDOL, GU, shall not offer any other course through distance mode other than the eight courses,"

the report said, adding that later the approval was extended by the UGC for five more years from 2013-14 to 2017-18.

"Audit observed that IDOL, GU, had offered 21 unapproved courses beyond the approved eight courses through Open and Distance Learning mode during the year 2010-11 to 2016-17," the CAG said.

It pointed out that the DEC and the IGNOU had clearly stated in July 2013 that courses offered by the GU through distance mode other than the eight approved courses were not recognised by the DEC and such degrees were not valid for jobs in central government services.

"Audit also observed that 73,912 students were enrolled in 19 courses out of 21 unapproved courses during the year 2010-11 to 2016-17 and the GU collected fees of ₹39.06 crore," the report highlighted.

## Braille booklet in Odia on HIV, AIDS

Over 1,000 copies printed

STAFF REPORTER

BERHAMPUR

An Odia Braille booklet to create awareness about HIV infection and AIDS among the visually impaired has been printed by the Red Cross Computerised Braille Press in Berhampur.

This Braille press is the only one in Odisha. It is also located in Ganjam, the most HIV infection prone region of the State. Ahead of the World AIDS Day, the Odisha AIDS Control Society had got this special booklet printed for the visually impaired.

According to press manager Prakash Chan-



A photo of the booklet in Braille. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.

dra Rath, they have already printed over 1,000 copies and handed them over to OSACS for distribution. "If needed we will print more copies," Mr Rath said.

The booklets will be distributed free among visually impaired students and organisations.

Mass wedding ceremony to promote communal harmony

STAFF REPORTER

BERHAMPUR

Fifteen couples tied the knot at a mass wedding ceremony organised by the Ganjam Muslim Cultural Association on Sunday in Odisha's Berhampur as a mark of communal harmony.

The newly married included 11 Muslim and four Hindu couples. The nikah and Hindu marriage rituals were conducted at the same pandal. Several dignitaries and top officials of Ganjam district, including Collector Vijay Amrutha Kulange, attended the ceremony.

As per the GMCA activists, they wanted to



Ganjam Collector Vijay Amrutha Kulange giving gifts to the brides at the ceremony. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.

help poor families and youth. "Religion, caste and creed are no bar for the marriages conducted at our ceremony," said Abdul Sattar, one of the organisers. CPI(M) State general secretary Ali Kishor Patnaik applauded the efforts.

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# Report on financial status to be placed before public: Governor

His speech also promises 80% quota for sons of the soil, One Rupee Clinic Scheme

ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI

From meals at ₹10 to 80% reservation in private sector jobs for sons of the soil, Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari's maiden address to the joint session of the State legislature on Sunday had the Shiv Sena's imprint all over it.

Mr. Koshyari promised that a factual report showing the financial status of the State will be placed before people. In a speech delivered in Marathi, Mr. Koshyari spelled out the new government's priorities based on the common minimum programme approved by the three parties – Sena, Nationalist Congress Party and Congress – while forming the Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi government.

"Growing unemployment is the prime concern of this government. We shall enact a law to ensure 80% reservation in private sector jobs for the sons of soil," the Governor said, adding the government recognises the need to impart skills to the youth to make them employable. "My government shall try to provide fellowships to the educated unemployed youth."

The government has also promised to extend all possible fiscal and non-fiscal concessions and simplify permission process to establish industries, he said. "My government shall take steps to provide meals at a reasonable



For the people: Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, and Speaker Nana Patole during the guard of honour outside the Assembly on Sunday. ■ PRASHANT NAKWE

ble rate of ₹10 each to ensure that citizens get fresh and nutritious food."

Mr. Koshyari also said the government shall strive to provide free college and higher education to girls belonging to economically weaker families. "Working women hostels will be set up in all district headquarters and major cities in a time-bound manner. Special funds will be made available to the comparatively backward blocks under a human development programme."

Addressing the increased cost of health services, Mr. Koshyari said costly patho-

logical tests are beyond the reach of the common man. "My government will start One Rupee Clinic Scheme at taluk level to carry out all pathological tests." The government, the Governor said, will try to combine various health insurance programmes to provide health insurance cover to all citizens.

Mr. Koshyari reiterated the government's commitment to preserve constitutional rights and privileges of Marathi-speaking people of 856 villages claimed by the State in relation to the Maharashtra-Karnataka border.

The speech guaranteed firm stand and steps to get justice in the matter pending in the apex court.

On the agrarian distress, Mr. Koshyari said the government is committed to providing immediate relief to the farmers affected by unseasonal rains, floods, and drought.

A special focus will be on cyber crimes with all police stations in the State being linked to the national cyber crime reporting portal. Special training to police officers will be given and citizen awareness programmes will be held, he said.

# Clear pendency of cases, improve training quality: RTI activists appeal to government

Transparency in appointments, display of queries, responses on website also sought

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE  
PUNE

As the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government assumes charge, Right to Information (RTI) activists have put forth a list of their demands to shore up the efficacy of the RTI Act.

While former Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) Shailesh Gandhi has written a letter to the Chief Minister regarding the massive pendency of RTI cases and the need to appoint more information officers to clear them, city-based RTI activist Vijay Kumbhar has expressed concern over the quality of training being imparted to officers.

In his letter, Mr. Gandhi sought appointment of six more information commissioners to overcome the pendency of more than 50,000 cases. "There are around 52,000 cases pending in the Maharashtra Information Commission which has only five information commissioners. There is an urgent need to appoint six more commissioners if the RTI Act is to remain relevant," he said, adding the administration should ensure that all RTI applications and responses are displayed on the website.

Mr. Gandhi stressed on the need to adopt a transparent process to select these information commissioners. "These [authorities appointed as Lokayuktas and infor-



In his letter to the CM, former CIC Shailesh Gandhi sought appointment of six more information commissioners to overcome the pendency of over 50,000 cases. ■ FILE PHOTO

mation commissioners] are selected with no criteria, and usually as a favour or reward. It must be ensured that proper criteria are laid down for the job requirements and a transparent process adopted for their selection."

The State at present has only five information commissioners, including current CIC Sumit Mullick.

Casting aspersions on the quality of training on the RTI Act which is imparted to officials and elected representatives at the city's Yashavantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration (YASHADA), Mr. Kumbhar said it is essential for the

government to disclose how many actually benefited from this training and how many cases were successfully disposed of by the officials being trained here.

"The idea behind YASHADA's RTI cell was to give officials and bureaucrats 'third-party training' on the fundamentals of the Act and its application. Former CIC Ratnakar Gaikwad, the man behind the RTI cell, had introduced this sound concept which was thereafter rapidly jettisoned. So now, instead of specialists on RTI, we find Pune civic body officials imparting training to corporators. This raises a big question mark on the quality of

training being given," Mr. Kumbhar said.

## Awareness of rights

Activist Vivek Velankar of Saajag Nagrik Manch said the training being imparted on the RTI Act should not be the exclusive province of bureaucrats, officials, and politicos, but should be extended to the common man to make them aware of their rights.

"Despite provisions in the RTI Act, the training is only given to government officials and not to the common man. Furthermore, there is no performance review of these ostensibly 'trained' officials. As a result, not only is their knowledge regarding the Act shallow, but their fundamental attitude of 'insensitivity' remains the same," Mr. Velankar said.

He urged the respective departments which are sending their officials to be trained to take a periodic performance review.

"These department heads must appraise their performance in dispensing cases and check whether these officials are indeed providing information or not. Else, this time and expenditure spent on their training [YASHADA] which is funded by the taxpayers' money will be wasted," Mr. Velankar said, urging the MVA government to allot some portion of the budget to ensure that the common man, too, would be trained in using the RTI.

7 members  
of gang held,  
131 mobile  
phones  
recovered

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SURAT

Seven members of a gang were arrested on Sunday and 131 mobile phones and an iPad, collectively worth over ₹11 lakh, were recovered from them. The phones were either stolen or snatched from people by the gang members in different parts of the city over the past three months, the police said.

The arrest was made by the Surat Crime Branch. "In the wake of rising incidents of mobile phones of autorickshaw passengers being stolen and other people's phones being snatched by motorcycle-borne criminals, the Surat police had formed a team," a Crime Branch official said.

Initially, four persons were arrested from an autorickshaw for their alleged involvement in stealing mobile phones of passengers.

"On interrogation, they named one Junaid Kapadiya, a second-hand mobile phone dealer. Based on their inputs, his house was raided and 131 mobile phones and an iPad, total worth ₹11.37 lakh, were recovered there. Besides, ₹12.9 lakh cash and a cash counting machine were recovered," he said, adding Mr. Kapadiya was arrested.

Mr. Kapadiya had roped in around 10 people to steal phones, which he would buy from them and then sell them to Kasim alias Mamu, another accused from Botad, a town around 260 km from Surat.

The mobile phones recovered from Mr. Kapadiya's house are those that were stolen or snatched in three months. With today's seizure, the police have cracked 16 cases registered across five police stations in the city," the official said.

Six other arrested accused were identified as Azharuddin Sheikh, Sadiq Sheikh, Kalim Sheikh, Hafiz Firoz Khan, Irfan Mansuri and Imran Mansuri.

## Enthusiasm runs high



Staying fit: Thousands taking part in a marathon in Pune on Sunday. ■ MANDAR TANNU

## Quest for new territory, mates? sub-adult tiger travels 1,300 km

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NAGPUR

A sub-adult tiger travelled more than 1,300 km spanning six districts in Maharashtra and Telangana before reaching Dnyanganga sanctuary in Buldhana district of the State, a forest official said on Sunday.

"In mid-July, C3 migrated to Telangana and went very close up to Adilabad town, but instead of settling down there, the tiger returned to Tipeshwar within about 10 days and settled now in Tipeshwar," said Ravikiran, field director, Pench Tiger Reserve.

He said the C1 tiger had entered Adilabad division through Ambidi ghat and Kinwat forests after crossing the Pandharkawda division. "It spent considerable time across inter-State forests of Adilabad and Nanded divisions during August and September."

C1 subsequently entered Painganga sanctuary for a brief period. Afterwards, in October C1 moved out and went to Pasudan sanctuary and then Isapur sanctuary. In the last week of October, C1 entered Hingoli district of

Marathwada. From Hingoli, C1 entered Washim district before reaching Buldhana late last month through Akola division.

"After reaching close to Chikhali and Khamgaon on December 1, the tiger has finally made its way into another well-managed Dnyanganga Sanctuary," per the release.

Field director, Melghat Tiger Reserve, M.S. Reddy, has confirmed that the satellite location obtained is inside Dnyanganga sanctuary, a well-managed wildlife area with the good prey base.

The tiger is just about 50 km from Melghat landscape, Reddy said. "It's worth noting that the tiger, while travelling more than 1,300 km and crossing hundreds of villages, agricultural fields and habitations in six districts in two States, never entered into any conflict with humans except the cathe kills that he made for survival."

"An isolated avoidable incidence occurred when villagers approached very close to the tiger in Hingoli district," said Mr. Ravikiran.

## Bus service to Ajanta Caves stopped due to bad road

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
AURANGABAD

The State-run bus service from Aurangabad city to the world famous Ajanta Caves has been stopped due to poor condition of the key connecting road, an official said on Sunday.

The pothole-ridden road has been posing problems to tourists to visit this popular UNESCO world heritage site comprising around 30 rock-cut Buddhist cave monuments. The incomplete widening work of the Aurangabad-Jalgaon highway and heavy rains during the monsoon this year have turned the commute between the two cities and the caves a nightmare.

"Buses are not plying to the Ajanta Caves due to poor condition of the road. We stopped this service on November 1," Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation official in Aurangabad S.A. Shinde said. The State transport department was till now running two buses to the heritage site.

"Buses are not plying to the Ajanta Caves due to poor condition of the road. We stopped this service on November 1," Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation official in Aurangabad S.A. Shinde said. The State transport department was till now running two buses to the heritage site.

## Fadnavis's haste to return to power sank BJP in State: Raut

Sena leader criticises ex-CM for 'childish remarks' on NCP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

Senior Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday said former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis's haste to attain power and "childish comments" sank the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Maharashtra and the latter became the Opposition leader.

With the coming together of Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) supremo Sharad Pawar and Congress president Sonia Gandhi, what has happened in Maharashtra is acceptable to the country as well, Mr. Raut claimed in his column *Rokhthok* in the Sena mouthpiece *Saamana*.

In a veiled attack on the Central BJP leaders without naming anyone, he said Maharashtra did not bow down to the "mob rule"-like functioning of Delhi.

What is significant is that Mr. Thackeray came to power by dethroning the powerful "Modi-Shah hold," remarked Mr. Raut, executive editor of *Saamana*. He also expressed confidence that "this government (of the Sena, NCP and Congress) will survive for five years."

"I find it amusing that the people who dubbed Ajit Pawar's tie-up with Mr. Fadnavis as a 'scripted' plan by Mr. Pawar, are bowing before the NCP chief after formation of the (Maha Vikas Aghadi) government," he said.

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Sanjay Raut in his column *Rokhthok* said Maharashtra did not bow down to the 'mob rule-like' functioning of Delhi. ■ FILE PHOTO

## Goa NCP MLA rejects Sena prediction on govt. change

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PANAJI

A couple of days after Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut said there would be a "big movement" in the political circles of Goa, similar to the coming together of non-BJP forces to form government in Maharashtra, the coastal State's lone NCP MLA Churchill Alemao rejected the prediction.

Incidentally, the NCP in Maharashtra under the leadership of Sharad Pawar was the prime mover in the political realignment in the neighbouring State which led to the formation of a coalition government, also involving the Sena and Congress, led by Uddhav Thackeray.

"I don't favour any change in government at this time. I have not got any communication from Mr. Pawar on this (realignment). If he contacts me, I will tell him what has to be told," Mr. Alemao said.

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ferring to the Centre) seems to have played a bigger role," Mr. Raut said.

Ajit's "desperate act" (to support the BJP) brought the Sena, NCP and Congress closer and cemented their alliance, he said.

It also created pressure on other NCP MLAs, who rebelled, and as everyone went back to Mr. Pawar, his nephew Ajit also returned, the Sena leader said.

"Had Mr. Pawar not taken the initiative, this alliance would not have materialised," Mr. Raut stated.

■ ND-NDE

## IN BRIEF



## India set to get its first missile tracking ship

VISAKHAPATNAM India's first missile tracking ship, which is being built at Hindustan Shipyard Ltd, is nearing completion. It is expected to be a New Year gift to the Indian Navy. The project was launched in 2014. The ship is fitted with primary X band and secondary S band active electrically scanned array radar. It will have facility for 300 personnel, a huge deck for landing of a helicopter and multiple missile tracking antennae.

## Retirement age of TSRTC employees increased

HYDERABAD An increase in the retirement age of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation staff from 58 to 60 and payment of their September salary and wages for the strike period from October 5 to November 28 in one instalment were among the several decisions announced by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao at a meeting with a cross-section of them at a luncheon on Sunday. He also allayed their apprehensions of privatisation of the RTC.

## Woman, daughters jump in front of train, killed

ANANTAPUR Vadde Polamma, 50, a daily wage earner along with her daughters Aarati, 17, and Deepa, 14, were found dead after they reportedly jumped in front of a running train at Mahadev Nagar here in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday. They resided at Jaigerutta in the city. Polamma is said to have pledged her entire gold with a bank and the repayment date was nearing. Since they could not repay, she and her husband are said to have argued over the issue at home on Saturday night.

## + SIT to probe attack on Naidu's convoy

It will also look into 'police negligence'

STAFF REPORTER  
VIJAYAWADA

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted to inquire into the cases booked against two persons who were allegedly caught throwing stones and slippers at the convoy of Leader of the Opposition and former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu during his visit to the capital region on November 28.

"The SIT will also inquire into the allegations of negligence of police officials," Guntur Range I-G Vineet Brijlal and Guntur Rural SP Ch. Vijaya Rao told presspersons in Guntur on Sunday.

**Report in a week**  
The SIT was constituted following the orders of DGP D. Gautam Sawang, they said.

## Neighbours confront politicians outside Hyderabad victim's home

We need action by police, not sympathy, say residents who lock entry gate

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao on Sunday described the rape and murder of a veterinarian at Shadnagar as "atrocious" and expressed his deep anguish over the incident.

He ordered the setting up of a fast track court for expeditious trial in the case and assured all necessary help to the victim's family, a release from his office said. Mr. Rao recalled in this context the constitution of the fast-track court that had delivered judgment in the murder of a minor girl in Warangal in 56 days. There was need for such verdict in the present case too, he said.

The incident also figured in the meeting of Mr. Rao with RTC workers from all over the State at his camp office on Sunday. The Chief Minister asked officials not to assign night duties to women as "human sharks" were all around.

Meanwhile, leaders of various political parties, who wanted to call on the family of the 27-year-old victim, had to turn back as the residents of the gated community did allow them to step in. They locked the gates and put up placards saying 'No Politician, No Media, No police, No outsiders'.

The residents maintained that the family did not need the sympathies of anyone. "Mild tension prevailed near the gated community after the residents did not allow any outsiders in. They locked the gates," the Cyberabad police said.

They also raised slogans demanding justice for the victim. "They (family) don't want any sympathy from anyone, but action from the



**Up in arms:** Members from various NGOs taking out a rally in Vijayawada on Sunday, demanding capital punishment for the rape-murder accused. ■ V. RAJU

## Telangana woman seeks gun licence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
WARANGAL

A woman in Telangana has sought a gun licence in view of the increased attacks on women in the State. N. Fathima recently emailed city police commissioner V. Ravinder requesting him to consider her plea.

Ms. Fathima, who works

at a college in Khammam,

said in her email that she was scared to go out of her home, after a girl from her locality was killed a few days ago. Terrified at the incidents, Ms. Fathima said she needed a licenced weapon to protect herself, particularly while returning home during the late hours.

When contacted, Mr. Ravinder said people need not panic as the police were alert round the clock. Referring to Ms. Fathima's apprehensions, the police official said, "It is an email request and may be genuine. But it is a long process. The city police are always on the vigil," he said.

Ranjith Reddy and several leaders of various political parties were allowed to visit the victim's family.

On Sunday, a resident of Saroornagar approached the Cyber Crime police demanding action against those who were posting distasteful posts on social media platforms. The police said a case will be registered after verifying the posts on Facebook pages.

(With PTI inputs)

the residents to go back, said he and his colleagues squatted at the gates for some time, expressing support to the family.

He demanded that the Chief Minister take steps to ensure quick police response to prevent crimes against women.

Later, Union Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy, Telangana Home Minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali, Chevella MP Dr. G.

## Worth the wait



People queuing up to buy onions at subsidised prices at the Rythu Bazar in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, on Sunday. Onions are being sold at ₹25/kg in these government-run markets, whereas their open market price is about ₹100/kg. ■ V. RAJU

## Shivamogga residents oppose monkey park plan

They fear it may result in spread of Kyasanur Forest Disease, which claimed 12 lives in 2018-19

P.M. VEERENDRA  
SHIVAMOGGA

Fearing that the establishment of a monkey park near human habitation may trigger diseases such as Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), the residents of the Nittur gram panchayat limits in Hosanagar taluk here in Karnataka have opposed the proposal.

The State government recently passed an order to establish a monkey park in Shivamogga district to address the monkey menace.

Following this, a team of officials from Revenue and Survey, Settlements and Land Records departments conducted a survey at Nagodi village for establishing the park there. The team found 150 acres of unused govern-



Close to 150 acres of unused government land near Nagodi in Shivamogga has been identified for the park. ■ VAIYODA

ment land at Survey Number 305 near Nagodi suitable for the proposed park.

The residents expressed apprehension about the park at a special gram sabha of the

village. As the villages here are in the forest fringe area, and are thereby vulnerable to KFD – a viral infection transmitted from monkeys to humans through tick bite – there is fear that such a monkey park will make them more susceptible to the disease. They also fear that apart from KFD, other infections may spread with the confinement of a large number of monkeys near human dwellings. In 2018-19, 12 persons died of KFD in Shivamogga district. As many as 341 KFD cases were reported there during this period.

Subrahmanyam Bhat, a farmer from Hosanagar, said the locals are not opposed to the idea of a monkey park as they themselves have suffered heavy crop losses as

primates raid their crops frequently. They only want the park to be set up away from human habitation. Moreover, prior to the survey, the residents were not consulted.

## 'Consult experts'

He said the State government should take a call after consulting medical and veterinary experts, virologists and entomologists. The impact of establishing a monkey park on the wild and domesticated animals in the vicinity should also be studied, he added.

Sridharanthy, tahsildar of Hosanagar, said the survey was conducted on the direction of the government. He said the government would be apprised of the opinion of the people.

## Ready to ally with JD(S) again after bypolls: Cong. leaders

'Yediyurappa will have to go once the results are out'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

The proposal by some Congress leaders for allying with the Janata Dal (S) again if the BJP fails to get the required number of seats in the bypolls got resonance, with veteran Congress leaders M. Mallikarjun Kharge and M. Veerappa Moily backing such an idea. AICC general secretary K.C. Venugopal too remarked that the Congress was open to a tie-up again.



Mallikarjun Kharge

clear picture would emerge only after the results, he said.

Mr. Venugopal told presspersons in Hubballi on Sunday that these bypolls would be the end of the BJP government in the State and Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa would have to resign on December 9, the day the results will be announced.

Mr. Kharge told a press conference in Bengaluru that the Congress was not averse to the proposal. But a

would be repeated in Karnataka too. Legislators who had benefited the most under the Siddaramaiah government defected to the BJP," Mr. Kharge said.

The bypolls in the State have attracted national attention as the BJP government needs to win at least eight seats to continue in power.

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru, Mr. Moily predicted a rout for the ruling BJP. He said he did not foresee the BJP winning more than two seats while the Congress will romp home in at least 12 seats, which will pave the way for the ouster of the Yediyurappa-led government.

Though JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy had initially said that he would not bring down the BJP government in the State, on Saturday, he emphasised the need to remove it.

## Kerala police crack down on pillion riders without helmets

Those who violate the rule to be fined ₹500

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala police, along with the Motor Vehicle Department, on Sunday intensified vehicle-checking and also wearing of helmets by pillion riders.

The High Court had recently asked the State government to make it mandatory for every person above four years of age to wear the helmet. All pillion riders who violate the rule would be fined ₹500 under the Act.

"Today, we are just warning the pillion riders without helmets. From Monday or perhaps during the week,

we will start imposing fine on them," a motor vehicle inspector told presspersons.

## HC disposes of appeal

The new Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act makes it mandatory for every person

staying rule 347A of the Kerala Motor Vehicles Act which exempted the pillion riders from wearing helmets.

The order evoked mixed response. "I would say Kerala is quite late in implementing this rule. Helmet for the pillion rider is a necessity as in case two people are riding, and an accident happens, both of them could get injured...Yes, it will be a bit difficult at the beginning, but people will get used to it," a person, who regularly rides a bike, said.

## Bengaluru airport to get second runway

Flights can operate in bad weather too

STAFF REPORTER  
BENGALURU

Two months after missing the deadline, the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) here is all set to commence operations of the new south parallel runway, measuring 4,000 m in length and 45 m in width, on Thursday. It was initially scheduled to be operational from October 1.

The second runway is part of the KIA's ₹13,000-crore expansion project which will see the city airport get a new terminal by 2021.

"With the aviation industry in India set for exponential growth, the two operational runways will provide the KIA the thrust to cater to the growth and further bolster the region's economy," a BIAL spokesperson said.

The south parallel run-

way will initially be operated as per CAT I specifications. "Once the operation stabilises, CAT I will progressively evolve to CAT III B specifications," the spokesperson said.

This means that the new runway will operate flights even in inclement weather, low visibility, and fog.

## Upgrade in 3 months

The existing runway will be upgraded in three months, once operations on the new runway stabilise. It will be powered with LED airfield lighting, making it India's first and only such runway.

Independent mixed mode operations, which will allow flights to take off and land from either runway, will be operational once the infrastructure and procedural improvements are done, said BIAL.

## Shivamogga residents oppose monkey park plan

They fear it may result in spread of Kyasanur Forest Disease, which claimed 12 lives in 2018-19

P.M. VEERENDRA  
SHIVAMOGGA

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Sridharanthy, tahsildar of Hosanagar, said the survey was conducted on the direction of the government. He said the government would be apprised of the opinion of the people.

## Kerala's affordable meal project a hit with masses

SAM PAUL A.  
ALAPPUZHA

The queue at the Alappuzha municipality's night shelter complex at Shakavottapalam started to get longer as the lunch time neared.

Functioning since August 2019, 'Subiksha', the first restaurant of the Kerala Food and Civil Supplies Department in the State meant to provide quality food to the public at a reasonable price, is turning out to be a major hit.

The department has set up the eatery as part of the State government's Hunger-free Kerala project. Buoyed by the public response, it is now planning to start such restaurants in Pathanamthitta, Kottayam and Thrissur.



Lunch being served at the 'Subiksha' restaurant, Alappuzha.

According to officials, on average, 350 people have midday meals from 'Subiksha' on a daily basis. "We are providing vegetarian meals at ₹20. But, if someone is low on cash, we serve them food free of cost," P. Muraleedharan Nair, district supply officer, said.

Five Star Kudumbashree, Kollam, a unit of the Kudumbashree Mission, cooks the rice and curries.

As part of the Hunger-free Kerala project, food packets are also delivered to bedridden patients, the elderly and needy





## Glimmer of hope

Fresh SIT report on 1984 riots may pave the way for reopening scuttled probes

A confidential report by a court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) may contain answers to the question of whether there will be any significant improvement in the country's poor record in securing justice for the victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh pogrom. It is a matter of shame that successful prosecutions have been few and far between, and each time a new probe is ordered or a fresh report submitted, it is seen as major progress. The SIT was formed by the Supreme Court a year ago to examine the record in 186 cases relating to the carnage that took place in the aftermath of Indira Gandhi's assassination. Another SIT had earlier scrutinised 293 cases, and closed 199 of them. A two-member team of retired apex court judges scrutinised these 199 cases, along with 42 other matters that had been closed earlier. The supervisory committee gave its views on these 241 cases and the Bench headed by the then Chief Justice of India, Dipak Misra, was informed that 186 cases merited further investigation. A fresh three-member team, headed by retired Delhi High Court judge, S.N. Dhingra, was asked to examine these 186 cases. Last week, the team submitted its report. Regardless of how many cases out of these result in prosecution, there is little doubt that the development offers a glimmer of hope to the victims of 1984. The country cannot forget that as many as 3,325 people from the Sikh community, including 2,733 in Delhi alone, were killed in the pogrom.

It is not easy to secure convictions in instances of communal riots and sectarian violence, especially those that involve thousands of offenders gripped by mob frenzy. Further, in 1984, there was little effort in the early days to bring to book the high political functionaries of the Congress who were suspected to have instigated the riots. However, in the last 12 months, there have been at least two rare instances of success. In November 2018, two men were convicted of murder in a case that was closed many years ago and resurrected by the government's erstwhile special probe team. One of them was sentenced to death, and the other to life. A month later, Congress leader Sajjan Kumar was sentenced to life by the Delhi High Court after being acquitted by the trial court five years earlier. Otherwise, the 35-year-long quest for justice is largely a story of failure due to political influence, scuttled investigation and shoddy prosecution. The country has seen other large-scale riots and pogroms after 1984, but has not been able to ensure substantive justice. The time may have come to consider the Delhi High Court's suggestion in its verdict on Sajjan Kumar that there could be separate legislation to deal with mass murders that amount to genocide or crimes against humanity.

## Time to act

The economy needs a meaningful policy response with steps to spur consumption

The latest estimates on economic output and growth, while not a surprise, reaffirm the fact that the ongoing six-quarter slump is still in search of a bottom. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) expanded by 4.5% from a year earlier in the July-September quarter, marking the slowest pace of expansion in six-and-a-half years. If one were to strip out government final consumption expenditure, which jumped by 15.6%, real GDP growth would have been an even more anaemic 3.1%. Of serious concern should be the stagnation in investment, reflected in the mere 1% growth in gross fixed capital formation. While the government's decision in September to cut the corporate tax rate was clearly aimed at spurring the private sector, the indications till now are far from encouraging. Clearly, with consumption spending, the mainstay of demand, yet to regain traction, companies are likely opting to retain any gains from a lower tax outgo as cash for a rainy day rather than raise capacity or make new investments. While the National Statistical Office's data on private final consumption expenditure suggests a slight pick-up to a 5.1% expansion, from the preceding quarter's 3.1%, it is still only about half the year-earlier period's 9.8% rate. Also, the sustainability of the uptick in consumption spending remains a moot point given that several other pointers, including tepid retail sales during the Deepavali festival season, offer little room for cheer.

An analysis of the Gross Value Added (GVA) reveals that six of the eight sectors posted decelerations from the fiscal first quarter. And even though agriculture, forestry and fishing grew by 2.1% in the second quarter, nudging up from 2% in the April-June period, the pace was underwhelming when seen both in the context of the 5.1% pace posted a year earlier and the above average monsoon rains in 2019. Significantly, manufacturing shrank by 1%, in marked contrast to the year-earlier period's 6.9% growth, again pointing to the widespread demand drought. A separate release from the government, showing output at the eight infrastructure industries that constitute the core sector contracted by 5.8% in October belies all the brave talk on the part of government officials that the momentum would revive in the third quarter. While six of the eight segments reported year-on-year declines, of particular worry is the 12.4% contraction in electricity output, hinting as it does at a lack of demand for power at the nation's factories. It is high time officials helming the economy put aside the bravado and bluster and acknowledge the seriousness of the structural elements behind the slowdown by initiating meaningful policy reforms, even while taking steps to spur consumption through innovative fiscal measures.

# Macron's wake-up call to EU

The French President has rightly said that the bloc needs to assert sovereignty over its political and security decisions



RAKESH SOOD

In November, French President Emmanuel Macron created a political stir with a far-reaching interview in which he declared that "Europe is on the edge of a precipice", unable to cope with the political challenges of the U.S. pursuing 'America first'; a resentful Russia on its border; and a China determined to emerge as the new global power. Coming after the European Union (EU) meet in October and prior to the upcoming North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) summit (scheduled to take place this week), Mr. Macron's interview gave a wake-up call to the EU and reminded it that the bloc can no longer be an economic giant and a political dwarf.

The EU's precursor, the European Economic Community (EEC), was established in 1957, following the Treaty of Rome. Consisting of a homogeneous group of six countries (Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands), it quickly formed a customs union. Five of these six nations were also founding members of NATO, which had been set up in 1949.

### Political disunity

The next stage was the Treaty of Maastricht, signed in 1992 to reflect the realities of a post-Cold War Europe and a unified Germany. It helped create the Euro and, later, also pushed the eastward expansion of the EU. The Treaty of Lisbon in 2007 marked another political evolution, giving the EU a stronger legal character by introducing a permanent President of

the European Council and strengthening the position of the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy.

These were steps towards a nascent European sovereignty but ended up exposing weaknesses in the project. Today, the EU's 28 member states are a heterogeneous lot, unlike the original six; and a key member, the U.K., is already sitting in the departure lounge. The idea of Europe with a "variable geometry", proposed during the hasty expansion during the 1990s to accommodate differences is now a clear sign of political disunity.

Meanwhile, NATO has 27 European member states (plus Canada and the U.S.) and most, but not all, are EU members. NATO's major expansion took place post-Cold War when the Baltic states and a number of East European countries joined. The Eurozone consists of 19 (out of the 28) EU members while the Schengen common visa area covers 26 European countries. And then, there is the 31-member European Economic Area, composed of the EU-28 and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The Council of Europe was set up in 1949 to promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law and currently has 47 member countries, including the 28 EU nations. Rounding up, there is the 57-member Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, established originally to promote confidence and security building measures, which now also has the mandate of free elections, open media and human rights.

Somewhere in this multiplicity, the EU lost its political moorings. Originally, it was a grouping of West European democracies committed to closer economic ties, with NATO as the security provider. Liberal democracy was integral



REUTERS

to EU membership. Greece joined the EEC in 1961 but was suspended in 1967 after the military coup. Spain's request in 1962, under General Francisco Franco, for membership was rejected. Eventually, Greece applied again in 1975 and was admitted in 1981, while Spain and Portugal joined in 1986. Today, Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary (who joined in 2004) proudly claims to represent an "illiberal democracy". Right-wing populist leaders in other European countries have also become more vocal and visible in recent years and many of them would like to retrieve sovereignty back from Brussels.

### NATO's diminishing role

Mr. Macron's blunt assessment was that the U.S., which guaranteed West European security during the Cold War, can no longer be relied upon to play the same role because its priorities are changing. He cited President Donald Trump's recent unilateral decision to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria as an example, since it was taken without consultation or coordination with NATO allies. Further, it gave another NATO member, Turkey, the licence to undertake military operations in Syria, creating tensions with NATO allies operating in the area. In Mr. Macron's words, Europe is seeing the "brain death" of NATO.

NATO was never a grouping of

equals. The U.S. always contributed the larger share and underwrote European security. Out of NATO's common budget of approx. \$2.5 billion, the U.S. contributes 22%, Germany around 15% and France and the U.K. more than 10% each. However, in terms of defence budgets, there is significant disparity, which makes NATO completely dependent on the U.S. for airlift and space-based assets.

The U.S. spends 3.6% of its GDP on defence, amounting to a whopping \$700 billion with most major European countries spending between 1% and 2%. In 2014, after considerable prodding by the U.S., members had agreed to bring up their budgets to 2% of GDP by 2024. At present, among major countries, only the U.K. spends 2% of its GDP on defence. France is at 1.8% and Germany at 1.2%.

These variations were accepted as long as the U.S. and Europe enjoyed political convergence but now rankle Mr. Trump, who has taken a transactional approach and, according to Mr. Macron, "does not share our idea of the European project". In any case, there are historical shifts under way, with the U.S. less engaged in West Asia on account of becoming self-sufficient in hydrocarbons, and focusing more on the Indo-Pacific. Consequently, the U.S.'s commitment to NATO is undergoing a change and the Europeans need to recognise it.

### The way ahead

Mr. Macron's words were called "drastic" by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, though she had echoed similar sentiments two years ago after a difficult G7 summit in Sicily when she urged Europeans "to take our fate into our own hands" because "the era in which we could fully rely on others is over to some extent".

Yet, the way ahead is not clear.

Mr. Macron's suggestion for a rapprochement with Russia to prevent it from getting closer to China makes Poland, Czech Republic and the Baltic countries nervous.

China has already driven a wedge in the EU with 14 EU countries, including Italy, now part of Belt & Road Initiative. In 2012, China began its dialogue with East European countries in the 16+1 format; out of the 16, 11 are EU states and 13 are NATO members. This has made it impossible for the EU to take a common approach on issues like 5G and Huawei, while allowing China to selectively increase investments in critical areas in European countries to which France and Germany are now waking up. Even after taking a unified stand to preserve the Iran nuclear deal following the U.S.'s unilateral exit more than 18 months ago, the EU failed to deliver on its assurances to provide concrete relief to Tehran against U.S. sanctions.

The problem is that NATO provided security on the cheap and now, when Mr. Trump questions the utility of NATO, it only exposes differences between Europeans who want to develop greater military and diplomatic heft and others (the Baltic nations and East Europeans) who fear this will loosen ties with the U.S.

In today's uncertain times, the EU stands for a rules-based order but as Mr. Macron rightly pointed out, the EU can only emerge as a strategic actor once it is able to assert sovereignty over its political, diplomatic and security decisions.

Perhaps, the time for it has come as the Anglo-Saxon influence over Europe recedes with Brexit and the rise of Mr. Trump.

Rakesh Sood is a former diplomat who served as Ambassador to France and is currently Distinguished Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation

# Making Air India's disinvestment work

The government needs to totally exit the carrier, allowing the acquirer full freedom to transform the embattled airline



JITENDER BHARGAVA

The once-iconic Air India has, in the last four decades, witnessed a calamitous fall. The diminution had been gradual when it operated in a near-monopoly environment but the pace of descent intensified when it faced competition. In the late 1990s, the government recognised the gradual decline in the airline's service standards and referred it to the newly set up Disinvestment Commission of India, which recommended dilution of government ownership to 40%. The effort of the then National Democratic Alliance government did not, however, succeed due to bureaucratic shenanigans and the role of a private airline promoter who saw in a resurgent Air India competition for his then-fledgling airline. Had the disinvestment efforts succeeded, Air India would have today been a professionally managed successful airline.

The period commencing 2004 hastened the airline's descent due to a series of reckless decisions, like acquisition of aircraft in numbers

far more than what it could afford or gainfully deploy; and the merger with Indian Airlines, which was scripted to fail from the word go. Competitively, the airline was also placed on a weaker wicket due to a liberal doling out of seats by the then administration to foreign airlines (the matter is under investigation by both the CBI and Enforcement Directorate), allowing them to dominate the Indian skies.

### Lack of strategic direction

Air India's precarious financial situation was first made public in June 2009 by the then-Chairman Arvind Jadhav. But the government, instead of tackling the core problem – the lack of a strategic and operational direction within the airline – decided to focus on a financial package. This was like applying a fresh coat of paint to a crumbling house. The bailout package of over ₹30,000 crore, which is being infused over an eight-year span ending 2021, has not helped Air India evolve into a robust carrier. The reality is that the airline's survival depends on several factors, most notably the induction of a professional management with an effective leadership, a sound financial package that does not come with political interference in its day-to-day operations, and unions allowing changes in work conditions and pay



REUTERS

further infusion of funds if the exercise is allowed to fail mustn't be overlooked. To evoke interest in a product that still commands a sizeable market share and has an extensive global network that no other Indian carrier can match, the government also needs marketing skills.

### Explaining it to stakeholders

Air India evokes emotions and a lot of people are averse to its sale. They cite its glorious past, the yeomen service it has provided to the nation by evacuating Indians stranded anywhere in the world, etc. It is therefore critical that an environment is created where in all major stakeholders are convinced that disinvestment is the best way forward. The unfortunate reality is that major stakeholders are being kept in the dark. Besides the Opposition political parties, unions, not necessarily all employees that they represent, are also opposed to disinvestment.

The threat of marginalisation can be the biggest and single most reason for convincing any naysayer. With only one in nine passengers currently patronising Air India, it will be only one in 12 in the next three years as capacity augmentation is undertaken at a frenetic pace by private airlines which cannot simply be matched by funds-starved Air India. Will

any well-wisher of Air India take pride in the airline if it becomes irrelevant and marginalised in the Indian aviation market?

Successive Chairpersons have claimed a turnaround in Air India's fortunes, which is now being cited as a reason by unions and politicians for opposing the disinvestment course. The stark truth of the airline's performance without government props needs to be effectively explained with facts and figures. The government also can't absolve itself of the blame. While not taking the other stakeholders on board, it is also not paying attention to the legitimate grievances. For example, it hasn't as yet firmed up as to how it will address the medical related concerns of serving and retired employees that have been in the works for three years now.

One sincerely hopes that the disinvestment exercise this time is thought of wisely, pursued with determination, and is successful, because with it is linked the prospect of transforming Air India into a robust carrier that we all can justifiably be proud of once again. The stakes are high because failure will mean doom through further marginalisation.

Jitender Bhargava is a former executive director of Air 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.

### Gotabaya in India

The statement of the newly elected Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa that he would be frank while communicating with New Delhi is welcome (Front page, "Will be frank with Delhi to avoid misunderstandings, says Gotabaya," Dec. 1). It is significant to note that despite the Mahinda Rajapaksa administration's proximity to China, the new President preferred to make India his first port of call, that too immediately after taking over his new assignment. Mr. Gotabaya is certain to bring to bear his rich fund of experience in India-Sri Lanka matters and this would enable him to iron out the differences between the two nations, if any. While China has a

definite edge over India when it comes to matters like trade and commerce, Mr. Gotabaya's invitation to our country to invest in his nation should be taken in the right spirit and India should encourage the business community to invest in projects in Sri Lanka. At a diplomatic level too, New Delhi can take the initiative and facilitate visits by Sri Lankan Ministers, especially those in charge of commerce and industry. C.V. ARAVIND, Chennai

**Making women feel safe**  
The shocking incident of rape and murder of a veterinary doctor in Hyderabad speaks volumes of both the lack of stringent laws dealing with sexual assault and the

unacceptable delay in getting justice for the victims ("Angry protesters lay siege to police station over vet murder," Dec. 1). The society looks askance at such women and goes to the extent of questioning the presence of the victim at odd hours outside. Not for a moment do we spare a thought for the safety of women in our country. The Father of the Nation – whose murderer is now getting glorified by an MP of the ruling party – said India will be truly free only when its women are able to walk freely on the country's roads at night without fear.

There is an urgent need for stricter laws, a time-frame to deal with such cases and the strictest punishment for rapists and murderers. Further, it is high time

patriarchal perceptions undergo a change for the betterment of women in our nation.

G.B. SIVANANDAM,

Cochin

### Economic troubles

Despite various efforts from Central government to improve GDP numbers, the growth hits six-year low of 4.5% in the second quarter. Measures such as cut to corporate tax and announcement to merge banks are yet to bear fruits ("GDP growth plummets to 4.5%, lowest since 2012," Nov. 30). The Union government cannot just paper over the cracks by increasing government spending to maintain GDP numbers which otherwise look much weaker. Agriculture, which is the

primary sector of the Indian economy, contributes the least to the GDP but employs the most number of people. Unfortunately, this sector seems to be left out in the cold because of the lack of scientific methods. The government needs to pay heed to the farmers' needs.

VINAYAKA M.,

Bangalore

### RFID for toll-gates

The decision mandating FASTag facility in vehicles passing through all toll plazas requires reconsideration ("FASTag deadline extended to Dec. 15," Nov. 30). The proclaimed purpose of such a decision is to avoid congestion at toll plazas where cash payment is time-consuming. But, what

is lost sight of is that Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology too takes time. There are longer queues in FASTag lanes already, since the majority of motorists have already opted for the facility. Long distance trucks will need to have a hefty balance, a burden on the owners. Taxis may find it difficult to fix the fares in advance. But the larger question is: what will happen should RFID technology develop glitches, allowing no vehicle to pass by. The best way is to have at least one cash payment lane to deal with emergency situations. V. LAKSHMANAN, Tirupur, Tamil Nadu



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# The fountainhead of India's economic vitality

The Modi government has restored the social fabric of trust that had eroded in the UPA years



JAYANT SINHA

A new India has risen from the ashes of old India. This new India is bold and forward-looking, an aspirational country soaring on the hopes and energy of 1.35 billion people. And as this new India rises, it leaves behind the corrupt, discredited practices that bedeviled old India.

The stunning rise of new India baffles those left behind. In a recent article, "The fountainhead of India's economic malaise" (November 18, *The Hindu*), former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh states that "The tearing of our social fabric of trust is the fountainhead of our current economic malaise." In fact, the reality of new India is quite the opposite: the restoration of our social fabric of trust by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the fountainhead of our current economic vitality. And while Dr. Singh writes about a climate of fear, he surely recognises that those living in fear are the wrongdoers who flourished during his time as Prime Minister.

## A rising superpower

I say this not as a member of the party in power, but as a citizen of the country and a student of business. Note that India is the fastest-growing large economy in the world – long-term trend GDP growth rate is steady at about 7%. Inflation, fiscal deficit, and current account deficit have finally been tamed. Primary employment has grown from 433 million to 457 million in the past five years. India's foreign exchange reserves are at record levels. The country has vaulted from 142 to 63 in the world in the Ease of Doing Business rankings; corporate tax rates have been slashed and are now among the lowest in the world; and India leads the world in new industries such as renewable energy, fintech, and affordable healthcare. The stock market is at a record high, doubling in the past five years, creating more than ₹50 trillion in investor wealth. Foreign Direct Investment is humming along at \$40-50 billion per year. Venture capital



"India is the fastest-growing large economy in the world." Labourers at a construction site on the outskirts of Kolkata. ■ REUTERS

and private equity are booming, with investments running at thrice the rate during the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) years. Our start-up ecosystem is now the third largest in the world. India has been churning out unicorn companies: there are 20 unicorns right now, and another 30 are expected in the next few years.

Growth has moderated recently. This may happen in an open \$3 trillion dollar market economy driven largely by private enterprise and buffered by geopolitical vicissitudes and creative destruction. However, pragmatic business people do not extrapolate from cyclical troughs; instead they build their businesses on the basis of long-term, durable trends. And the trend is clear – India is fast on its way to becoming a \$5 trillion economy and is well-positioned to becoming a \$10 trillion economy. We will soon be the world's third largest economy and, quite genuinely, a rising superpower.

## Billionaire Raj to People's Raj

All this has been achieved by Prime Minister Modi's government in the past five and half years. India has been transformed politically and economically, but most importantly, the social fabric of trust has been restored. During the UPA years, society had lost trust in government and the rule of law. We began to doubt India's future. Terrorists attacked the country again and again. Wide swathes of

the country were controlled by Left-wing extremists and brigands. Shadowy, extra-constitutional figures ran India. The national government was in a shambles with each Ministry pursuing its own agenda. Government permissions were handed out in hotel lobbies and massive loans granted through phone calls. Crony capitalists feasted on government largesse and there was rampant corruption. Economic growth plummeted while inflation and the fiscal deficit mounted. With India on sale, the UPA years have been labelled the Billionaire Raj. Who dare forget those tragic, desperate times?

Prime Minister Modi's government has restored the rule of law, trust in government has been rebuilt, and the country is moving forward with new-found confidence. Banks

have been forced to come clean on their bad loans. Ricketty business empires based on irresponsible lending are collapsing. Crony capitalists, unable to compete, are failing. Skeletons are tumbling out of the closet as investigations proceed, and the guilty are confronting jail sentences. Those who fled the country to avoid prosecution now face extradition. Note that all these investigations have been undertaken while following legal due process and are fully subject to judicial review. The Billionaire Raj has been dismantled and replaced by the People's Raj.

The wide-ranging reforms initiated

by Prime Minister Modi's government have transformed the Indian economy and made it more globally competitive. While much of their impact is still working through the economic system, and some disruptions are inevitable, these reforms have already profoundly reshaped economic behaviour. Reforms extend across every aspect of the economy but can be grouped into five major areas: (1) establishing a transparent, rules-based economy free from crony capitalism; (2) restoring and maintaining macro-economic stability; (3) building a robust social safety net; (4) improving infrastructure to world-class levels; and (5) strengthening the financial system. Capital is flowing to innovation-driven businesses and well-governed companies with real cash flows.

## Reaching growth targets

Our globally competitive, innovation-driven economy will easily reach its growth targets. With GDP at \$5 trillion, GDP per capita will be over \$3,600 and at \$10 trillion, GDP per capita will reach \$6,200 (population growth at 1.2% as per United Nations estimates). At these levels, India will be among other upper-middle income countries. The more prosperous States in south and west India will reach upper-middle income status sooner. India has seen an astonishing reduction in extreme poverty with the total number of such people declining rapidly. There are probably no more than 70 million people living in extreme poverty in India today. With GDP reaching \$5 trillion, India will eliminate extreme poverty

Prime Minister Modi's government is set to deliver one of humanity's most remarkable achievements. We will have brought peace and prosperity to India's 1.35 billion citizens, lifted everyone out of extreme poverty, resolved long-standing disputes that had cleaved the nation, and enabled Indians to live dignified lives. All criticism is welcome in our open democracy, but make no mistake: the Modi decade is enabling India to realise its full human potential and positioning it at the forefront of nations.

Jayant Sinha is the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Finance in Parliament and a Lok Sabha MP from Hazaribagh, Jharkhand. Views expressed are personal

## FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

# Sifting news from rumours

Creating digital tools and industry protocols will help journalists reach a wide audience for corrections and clarifications



A.S. PANNEERSELVAN

statement. Third, the MP herself has apologised for her statement, however weak her apology may be. Fourth, in this context, what is the relevance of a BJP spokesperson's attempt to cite Shiv Sena's skewed vision of Gandhi? Did the newspaper ever defend anyone's attempt to justify political violence and assassinations?

## Providing context

What is more disturbing is that Mr. Raghavan has failed to understand that this newspaper was one of the select few that got the Census figures correct. It was the subject of my column, "Making sense of metadata" (August 29, 2015). These were the questions I had addressed then: "Did *The Hindu* get its story on the population by religion, based on the census figures for 2011 released on August 25, 2015, wrong? Why is its report different from the reports in other publications? Is there a bias in its reporting? What is the need for talking about numbers in terms of religion?"

In order to debunk some of the systematic lies that are generated on social media, let me recollect what I had said in that column: "In *The Hindu*'s editorial judgment, the Census was primarily a demographic document and it decided to look at the findings through a demographic lens. It was a valuable source of over 60 years of historical data. It became imperative to provide a context, framework and milieu to the new findings to put it in a proper historical perspective. The historical context helps one understand the social transformations these numbers tend to capture. A systematic disaggregation enables us to understand the full implications of the individual strands – social, economic and regional among many others – that intertwine to form the complex metadata."

I explained in detail how *The Hindu*'s report thwarted attempts to polarise society by providing the full context for the demographics. This brings us to three important questions: How do we ensure that clarifications reach a broad readership in the digital age? How do we deal with disinformation that gets amplified through encrypted platforms like WhatsApp? And how do we spread media literacy across sections, which will help citizens sift news from rumours?

We need to create digital tools and news industry protocols to help journalists reach the widest possible audiences for corrections and clarifications when inaccurate information is promoted by vested interests.

readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

# Battling anti-microbial resistance

India must accelerate implementation of its National Action Plan on anti-microbial resistance

TOMIO SHICHIRI & RAJESH BHATIA

67% by 2030 from 2010 levels.

AMR has been recognised worldwide as an important public health challenge with serious impact on economy and development. The Sustainable Development Goals have articulated the importance of containing AMR. Similar articulations have been made by the UN general Assembly, G7, G20, EU, ASEAN and other such economic and political platforms. Earlier, the O'Neill report on AMR warned that inaction in containing AMR is likely to result in annual mortality reaching 10 million people and a 3.5% fall in global GDP by 2050.

Inter-country development agencies (WHO, FAO, and World Organisation for Animal Health) developed a Global Action Plan on AMR. India developed its National Action Plan on AMR (NAP) in 2017. It is based on the One Health approach, which means that human health, animal health and the environment sectors have equal responsibilities and strategic actions in combating AMR.

## A global movement

Implementation of India's NAP needs to be accelerated. The health of humans and animals falls in the domain of State authorities, and this adds complexity to the nationwide response. The magnitude of the problem in India remains unknown. Surveillance networks have been established in human health and animal health. The FAO has assisted India in forging the Indian Network for Fishery and Animals Antimicrobial Resistance for the generation of reliable data on the magnitude of the problem and monitoring trends in response to control activities. It is critical to expand and sustain such surveillance networks. There is an urgent need to augment capacity for regulatory mechanisms, infection control practices and diagnostics support, availability and use of guidelines for therapy, biosecurity in animal rearing practices and understanding the role of the environment and the engagement of communities. For this, the world must launch a global movement to contain AMR.

The pipeline for the discovery, development and dissemination of new antibiotics has virtually dried out. No new class of antibiotics has been discovered in the past three decades. The reason is simple. Availability of a new antibiotic takes 10-12 years and an investment of \$1 billion. Once it comes into the market, its indiscriminate use swiftly results in resistance, rendering it useless.

The resistance to antibiotics in germs is a man-made disaster. Irresponsible use of antibiotics is rampant in human health, animal health, fisheries, and agriculture. While in humans antibiotics are primarily used for treating patients, they are used as growth promoters in animals, often because they offer economic short-cuts that can replace hygienic practices. Globally, use of antibiotics in animals is expected to increase by

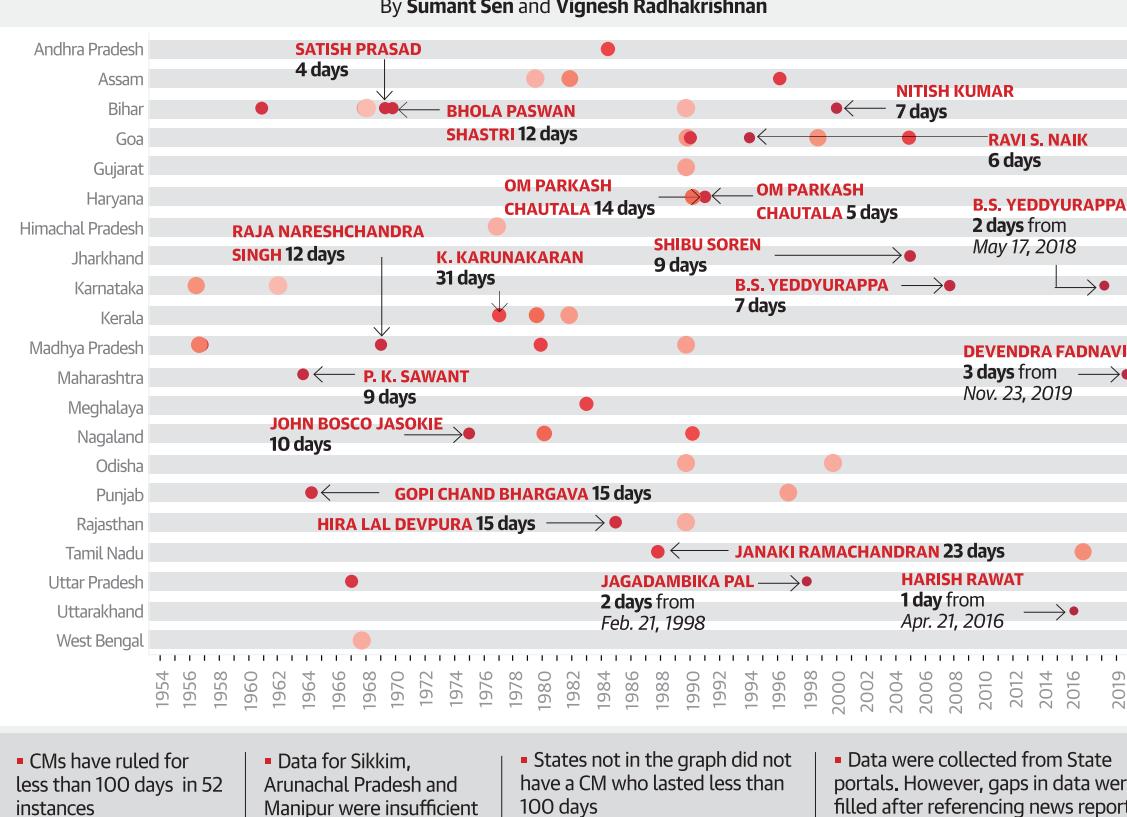


## DATA POINT

# The crown slips away

Devendra Fadnavis's latest stint as Chief Minister of Maharashtra, which lasted only three days, is the fourth shortest spell for a CM since Independence. The graph depicts all the CMs who lasted less than 100 days. The smaller and darker the circle, the shorter the tenure, marked in bold. The starting dates of the tenure have been mentioned for the four shortest stints.

By Suman Sen and Vignesh Radhakrishnan



## The Hindu

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 2, 1969

Next President of ruling Congress

The Union Food Minister, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, was for all practical purposes declared elected unanimously as the next President of the ruling Congress Party, since there were no other candidates in the field for this prestigious but challenging party post when the nominations were closed at 5 p.m. to-day.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and her senior Cabinet colleagues, Mr. Y.B. Chavan, Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, and Mr. Swaran Singh, and the Young Turks leaders like Mr. Chandra Shekhar, Mr. Mohan Dharia and Mr. Krishna Kant, were among the 62 delegates representing all the States who signed the five nomination papers filed on behalf of Mr. Jagjivan Ram.

The Returning Officer, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, one of the General Secretaries of the ruling Congress Party, will scrutinise the nomination papers tomorrow and formally declare Mr. Jagjivan Ram elected, although under the election schedule announced earlier, December 9 was fixed as the last date for withdrawal from the contest.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DEC. 2, 1919.

Mr. Tilak on Reforms.

In reply to the addresses presented to him by the Indian Home Rule League, the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee and the Bombay National Union and the Dada Home Rulers, on Thursday last, Mr. Tilak said he never had found himself in such a difficult position as on that night. He had not much succeeded in the object for which he had gone to England. But he would never give up his work and hope. He wished he had been in Bombay when Mr. Gandhi began Satyagraha. He would have borne the difficulties with him and undergone the hardships. He was angry with Mr. Gandhi for that. Another thing was that there had been unity between Hindus and Moslems and he had a concrete instance of that bond of friendship in the presence of Hindu and Moslem volunteers at the Mole that day.

He did not think they would be satisfied with the Reforms that had been given them by Mr. Montagu. What were the reforms for? In these peaceful times, for the attainment of which millions of Indians and Englishmen had fought and died in Europe, bombs had been dropped on unarmed people from aeroplanes, and hundreds had been killed! What can they say of such a Government which instead of righting their wrongs, was appointing a Committee of Enquiry?

FROM PAGE ONE

## Private telecom players hike prepaid tariffs

"This is just the beginning. The telecom tariffs need to almost double in the coming year to support a three-player market and a healthy telecom sector," Paras Bothra, President (Equities) for Angel Stock Broking told *The Hindu*.

VIL shares on BSE closed up 3.17% at ₹6,83 in a firm Mumbai market on Friday, valuing the company at ₹19,626.27 crore while Bharti Airtel shares closed up 1.28% at ₹442.30, valuing the company at ₹2,26,986.67 crore. RIL shares closed down 1.84% at ₹550.90 on Friday, valuing the company at ₹9,83,140.16 crore.

### Plea for relief

Industry bodies Confederation of India Industry (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (FICCI) have written to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman seeking relief for telecom companies over the ₹1.47 lakh crore statutory dues.

CII and FICCI heads have in separate letters asked the Finance Minister to address "precarious" financial position of telcos saddled with a debt of ₹7 lakh crore and ensure robust competition for vibrancy in the sector.

CII president Vikram Kirloskar in a November 19 letter sought revising the current revenue-sharing business model - where the government is paid a pre-decided share out of the income generated from using

scarce natural resource, and replacing it with "competitive and transparent" model that also "addresses the possible adverse impacts on banks" having exposure to sectors with such business model.

The letter stressed that telecom services are a 'raw material' for the rest of the economy serving as a productivity-enhancer for many other sectors. "A robust vibrant ecosystem of TSPs is critical for some of the key nation business initiatives of the government of India, including the drive towards a less cash-based economy and the larger Digital India programme. In essence, a vibrant telecom sector is in the national interest."

FICCI president Sandip Somany's letter says, "The recent developments on the Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) dues of Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), have triggered a great deal of concern not only to the seriously-affected TSPs, but also others who are part of the overall telecom eco-system."

Mr. Somany said the apex court ruling will not only lead to the collapse of the telecom sector but will also have a cascading effect on several other sectors including power, steel and railways.

His letter urged Ms. Sitharaman's urgent intervention, saying the debt-ridden industry has no appetite left to invest in networks and future technologies.

## Search on for 2 accused in T.N. gang-rape case

The gang-rape also put the focus back on the Pollachi sexual abuse case that had hit headlines earlier this year before the Lok Sabha polls after videos of some girls being forced to strip by certain politically influential persons surfaced.

The accused in that case had allegedly sexually assaulted, filmed and blackmailed many women.

The CBI is handling the case.

The five accused – K. Thirunavukarasu, N. Sabarirajan aka Rishwanth, N. Sathish, T. Vasanthakumar and Mani alias Manivannan – were in judicial remand.

The CBI had filed a preliminary chargesheet against the accused in May.

Provisions of the Goondas Act slapped on Thirunavukarasu, Sabarirajan, Sathish and Vasanthakumar were quashed by the Madras High Court recently.

## Japan tracking Kashmir situation very carefully'

The comments came a day after the Foreign and Defence Ministers of Japan Toshimitsu Motegi and Taro Kono discussed a wide range of regional and global issues with their Indian counterparts S. Jaishankar and Rajnath Singh at the First Japan-India 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting.

Mr. Kaifu could not say if the Ministers held a detailed discussion on the situation that emerged in Kashmir after India ended the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5. India's action had drawn a sharp response from Pakistan as well as China, which had also opposed the decision to create the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh out of the erstwhile State, saying it affected China's sovereignty. Beijing also has a similar position on India's northeastern State of Arunachal Pradesh.

The official highlighted Japan's interest in the northeastern region during his interaction and said, "Connectivity inside India, including the northeastern part, is important for us."

We are responding to a question whether Japan would consider building infrastructure in Arunachal Pradesh. "We are carefully studying the status of the region," he added.

The observations of the official is significant in view of *The Hindu*'s earlier report that the Japan-India Summit 2019 will be held in Assam's Guwahati later this

month. Beijing continues to include Arunachal Pradesh in the India-China border dispute and has criticised foreign visitors to the State.

It is understood that infrastructure in the northeastern region will build a connectivity continuum that will help in better ties between India and the Indo-Pacific region, especially the ASEAN countries.

Mr. Kaifu said that during the 2+2 meeting, both sides discussed China, North Korea, and relationship with Sri Lanka, which is located on the energy line between Japan and the Gulf nations.

**Allaying concerns**  
The official addressed concerns over the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Corridor or the bullet train project and asserted that it is on track.

"We do not share the impression that the project is stuck. The joint feasibility study has been conducted and some concrete facilities have been constructed for training of Indian personnel," said Mr. Kaifu.

Uncertainties about the project grew in the past one week, especially after members of the new Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress government in Maharashtra expressed opposition to it because farmers will have to give up large tracts of land.

But Mr. Kaifu maintained that he was not aware of the Shiv Sena's opposition. "New challenges are very much common in this type of projects," he said.

## Centre hangs up on BSNL: Cong.

Party says BJP government giving preferential treatment to private companies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday accused the Union government of giving "special treatment" to private players in the telecom sector at the cost of public sector entities, and asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi if the ruling party received benefits in the form of electoral bonds from them.

### At a loss

At a press conference, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera alleged that public sector companies such as the BSNL and MTNL were making profits under the UPA-1 and -2 governments, but were now running at losses while the government was promoting and giving relief to private sector companies.

"Why are meting out



Wrong signals: The Congress says the BSNL and MTNL are making losses after years of profits. ■REUTERS

a stepmotherly treatment to public sector companies and this special treatment to private sector undertakings? I want to ask Modiji if his party received benefits in terms of electoral bonds from the latter," Mr. Khera said.

His remarks come against

the backdrop of the increases in rates of mobile phone services announced by Vodafone-Idea, Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio on Sunday.

"You deliberately allowed them [public sector companies] to bleed to death," Mr. Khera said.

At the end of the day we end up paying for these stunts."

"Look at the efforts to sell BPCL, Container Corporation of India, Shipping Corporation of India. They also took money from the capital reserves of the RBI and they are out to sell Maharatna companies of India. So the strategy towards public sector of this government is that if there is a profit-making company, try and reduce its profit, if you fail in that case sell it," he alleged.

### All stunts

Questioning the intention of the government, the Congress spokesperson said, "There has to be a *quid pro quo*. Why would a government go out of its way to destroy the profit-making public sector companies and try maximising the profits of private sectors companies?"

At the end of the day we end up paying for these stunts."

## RS MPs want more time to speak

Members want uniform allocation for all, more representation for smaller States

SOBHANA K. NAIR  
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha Secretariat is pulling out the rule books and going through the precedents to tackle the demand from members that they be allocated more time in debates.

The secretariat is also looking into a demand for an increase in representation from smaller States.

On November 18, first day of its 250th session, the House hosted a debate on the "Role of Rajya Sabha in Indian polity and way forward" in which 28 members and Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke.

**Equal time to speak**  
A fourth of the members who participated in the debate called for uniform representation for all States for reflecting true federalism since the Upper House is the Council of States. They also demanded that each member be given a minimum of



Nominated members must be allowed more time so that the House can benefit from their special expertise

MANMOHAN SINGH  
Former Prime Minister

five minutes to convey views meaningfully.

Currently, members are given time according to the strength of their party in the House.

Which means that independent or nominated mem-

bers get less time like MPs from smaller parties.

According to sources, the suggestions made by the members has been circulated to all divisions in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat by Secretary-General Desh Deepak Verma.

"Fixing a minimum time limit for each members is doable, but for equal representation for all States, legal opinion has to be taken and will be a long-drawn exercise which can be done only if there is a political will," a senior official of the secretariat said.

The inadequacy of time was raised by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh among others. He argued that the nominated members be allowed more time so that the House can benefit from their special expertise.

Samajwadi Party leader Ramgopal Yadav demanded that even smaller States should have six members at the very least. Currently, the

northeastern States, barring Assam which has seven seats, have only one seat each. Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of members at 31.

**'Wrong benchmark'**  
The BJD's Prasanna Acharya too argued that population should not be the basis for representation in the Upper House. Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) leader Vaiko also supported this view.

The NCP's Praful Patel had cited the example of the U.S. Senate which has two members from each State giving equal space to every State irrespective of their size.

Bodoland People's Front leader Biswajit Daimary demanded 10 minutes each for every member. Many members argued that if a State is represented by a single member, then he/she should be allocated more time to speak.

## There is a climate of fear, says Congress

Party backs Rahul Bajaj's statement

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Industrialist Rahul Bajaj's remark on the atmosphere of fear is a sentiment shared by the entire country across all sectors, the Congress said on Sunday.

In the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at an event in Mumbai on Saturday, Mr. Bajaj said people feared criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi. During the second term of the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA), one could criticise the government without fear, he said.

"If we criticise you, there is no guarantee that you will appreciate that."



At event on Friday, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said there was a "palpable climate of fear".

The Congress said the Modi government could not find a cure for the ailing economy since it was not willing to acknowledge the "pathogens" that infected it. "They don't know what are the mistakes led to this situation. The first fatal blow to the economy was demonetisation, followed by a badly implemented Goods and Services Tax," Mr. Khera said. He asked why the government was putting itself on the back on the GST collection for November, at ₹1,03,492 crore, after it dipped below ₹1 lakh crore for three successive months. "This was the collection target in 2017."

## Adityanath orders probe into death of schoolgirl

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday ordered a probe by a Special Investigation Team into the death under suspicious circumstances of a schoolgirl.

His decision comes a day after Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra wrote to him seeking action in the case.

While the police had stated that it appeared to be a case of suicide, the student's parents, however, alleged that she was murdered.

Lucknow for alleged laxity in the investigation of the case, the U.P. Home department said in a statement.

The Chief Minister also instructed officials to send a reminder to the Centre recommending the case to be taken up by the CBI.

The student was found hanging from the ceiling of her hostel room in September, the police had said.

While the police had stated that it appeared to be a case of suicide, the student's parents, however, alleged that she was murdered.

## The curious case of 59 Bangladeshis who went missing

Govt. and police officials of Bengal claim to have no information on the group brought to Kolkata by Karnataka police



Nowhere people: The authorities have been accused of violating an MoU between the two countries and pushing back undocumented migrants to Bangladesh. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

denied the charge.

West Bengal officials have said that "Bangladeshis are not in Indian soil", while the

Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Kolkata is in the dark about the whole episode.

A Kolkata-based civil rights group, the Association for Protection of Democratic Rights (APDR), has alleged

that all the 59 persons were "pushed back to Bangladesh in the most inhuman way" violating a memorandum of understanding signed by India and Bangladesh in 2015.

### JTF not engaged

"There is a Joint Task Force to look into this issue which was not engaged. The detained persons were pushed back at the deep hours of the night, encouraged by the West Bengal government, which triggers a fear related to stripping of citizenship in Assam. [Will those excluded by the NRC] Also be pushed back like these 59 people," noted the APDR statement.

"Push-back" from India to Bangladesh is a regular, but legally unclear, feature of re-

turning undocumented Bangladeshis to their country through the Bengal border," said senior State government officials.

At times the migrants are caught and sent back immediately or they serve a sentence for illegal entry and then are asked to cross over.

The APDR has asked how the detained persons were identified as being "all Bangladeshis" without a legal procedure.

The civil right group also blamed the Bangladesh High Commission for its studied silence. Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Kolkata Toufique Hasan denied having "any official knowledge" about the detained persons.

## Uddhav and Fadnavis spar in Assembly

Bitterness among former allies spills over in session

ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI

The political clash between Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and the BJP in the Assembly on Sunday morning while congratulating Devendra Fadnavis on his appointment as the Leader of the Opposition was an indication that the former allies are in no mood to forgive the other.

"I will not hesitate to admit that we have been good friends for a long time," Mr. Thackeray said after Mr. Fadnavis was named the Leader of Opposition. "Had you listened to us, I would have been sitting at home watching



ing today's developments on TV," he added.

Mr. Thackeray said he had "found a friend in my opponents for the past 20 years and my friend for the past 20 years is sitting in Opposition."

"Let's work towards betterment for the needy by

keeping the word 'opposition' out," he added.

Mr. Fadnavis replied that he did not consider the Opposition an enemy. "We believe that democracy is an answer to everything. I did say that I will return, but I never announced the time table," he said.

## Will not dump Hindutva, says CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

Notwithstanding the ruling Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress combine mentioning the word "secular" in the preamble of its Common Minimum Programme (CMP), Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday said he would never abandon the ideology of Hindutva.



# Hong Kong rally cut short by police tear gas

Protesters marched to the U.S. Consulate to thank Trump for supporting their cause by passing a law

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONG KONG

In the largest of three rallies on Sunday along the waterfront on the Kowloon side of Victoria Harbour in Hong Kong, a key thoroughfare was packed with demonstrators, from hardened masked protesters to families and the elderly. They chanted "Five demands, not one less" and "Disband the police force" as they marched.

That rally followed two other marches earlier on Sunday as protesters sought to keep the pressure on city leader Carrie Lam after the recent win by the pro-democracy camp in district council elections and the gaining of U.S. support for their cause.

"If we don't walk out, the government will say it's just a youth issue, but this problem affects all of us," Lily Chau, 30, said as she pushed her toddler in a stroller at the march in Kowloon. "If we are scared, the government will continue to trample on our



**Face-off:** Police running towards protesters on Nathan road in Hong Kong on Sunday. ■ AFP

rights." Police estimated that 16,000 people attended the Kowloon rally.

#### Minimum force used'

The Kowloon march was cut short after riot police fired tear gas and arrested a few people. A police statement said minimum force was deployed after "hundreds of rioters hurled smoke bombs" and bricks.

Marchers berated police

as they scrambled to flee the tear gas, shouting "Dirty cops" and "Are you trying to kill us?" Some protesters dug up paving stones and threw them on the street to try to slow the police down.

More tear gas was fired at night after dozens of hardcore protesters set up road-blocks and vandalised some shops and restaurants linked to China.

Tensions started on Saturday night after police used pepper balls against protesters and a man was hit in the head by an unidentified assailant while clearing the street.

#### Only one demand met

Ms. Lam has said she'll accelerate dialogue but has refused to offer any new concessions since the elections. Her government has accepted only one demand: withdrawing extradition legislation that would have sent suspects to mainland China for trial.

Elaine Wong, an office worker who was at the Kowloon march, called the recent election win "an empty victory." "We have, in fact, not won any concessions for our demands," she said. "We must continue to stand out to remind the government of our unhappiness."

The two earlier marches on Sunday appealed to President Donald Trump for help and demanded that police stop using tear gas.

Waving American flags, black-clad protesters marched to the U.S. Consulate to thank Mr. Trump for signing into law last week legislation supporting their cause and urged him to swiftly sanction Lam and other officials for suppressing human rights.

Some held banners reading "Let's make Hong Kong great again" – a riff on Mr. Trump's 2016 campaign pledge to make America great again. One showed him standing atop a tank with "Trump" emblazoned on the front and side.

In September, China's Industry and Information Technology Ministry issued a notice on "safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of citizens online", which laid out rules for enforcing "digital violence" in Hong Kong.

In an opinion piece published in Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post* newspaper, Ms. Bachelet called for an "independent and impartial judge-led investigation into reports of excessive use of force by the police."

# China introduces mandatory face scans for phone users

New customers need to record themselves to get connection

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

BEIJING

China will require telecom operators to collect face scans when registering new phone users at offline outlets starting on Sunday, according to the country's information technology authority, as Beijing continues to tighten cyberspace controls.

In September, China's Industry and Information Technology Ministry issued a notice on "safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests of citizens online", which laid out rules for enforcing "digital violence" in Hong Kong.

In Geneva, China accused the U.N. high commissioner for human rights, Michelle Bachelet, of emboldening

Marchers berated police



China seeks to leverage AI as facial recognition technology gains traction. ■ GETTY IMAGES

AFP that the December 1 "portrait matching" requirement means customers registering for a new phone number may have to record themselves turning their head and blinking.

Though the Chinese government has pushed for real-name registration for phone users since at least 2013 – meaning ID cards are linked to new phone numbers – the move to leverage face scans for entry, according to the local court.

tion technology gains traction across China, where the tech is used for everything from supermarket checkouts to surveillance.

Chinese social media users reacted with a mix of support and worry over the December 1 facial verification notice.

"This is a bit too much," wrote one user on Twitter-like Weibo. "Control, and then more control," posted another.

While researchers have warned of the privacy risks associated with gathering facial recognition data, consumers have widely embraced the technology – though China saw one of its first lawsuits on facial recognition last month. In November, a Chinese professor filed a claim against a safari park in Hangzhou for requiring face scans for entry, according to the local court.

## ELSEWHERE



Iraq Parliament approves PM's resignation

BAGHDAD

Iraq's Parliament approved the resignation of Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi on Sunday, amid ongoing anti-government demonstrations in the capital that saw one protester shot dead.

Parliament enacted Mr. Mahdi's resignation without putting it to a vote, according to two parliamentarians in attendance. Existing laws do not provide clear procedures for MPs to recognise the PM's resignation. ■ AFP

#### 19 killed as bus plunges into frozen river in Russia

MOSCOW

A passenger bus plunged off a bridge onto a frozen river in Siberia on Sunday, killing 19 of the more than 40 people on board, authorities said. A tire on the bus burst as it was crossing the bridge over the Kuenga river in eastern Siberia's Zabaikalsky region. The vehicle, which was travelling from Sretensk to Chita, skidded off the road and onto the ice. ■ AFP

#### Plane crash kills nine, injures three in U.S.

WASHINGTON

A plane crash in the U.S. state of South Dakota killed nine people, including two children, and injured three others on Saturday while a winter storm warning was in place, officials said. The Pilatus PC-12, a single-engine turboprop plane, crashed shortly after takeoff from the Chamberlain airport, the Federal Aviation Administration said. ■ AFP

## Swiss embassy staffer's claims don't add up: Lanka Colombo seeks access to the woman

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka on Sunday raised doubts about claims by a Swiss embassy staff member that she was abducted and demanded access to the woman who has said she was forced to hand over sensitive information.

The alleged abduction came one day after a top Sri Lanka police officer sought asylum in Switzerland.

Sri Lanka's Foreign Ministry said that Swiss Ambassador Hanspeter Mock was briefed on Sunday about the inquiry and told that the staffer's account did not add up. "The Ambassador was

presented with clear evidence that the sequence of events and timeline of the alleged incident... did not in any way correspond with the actual movements of the alleged victim on that date," said a Ministry statement.

Police had interviewed witnesses and secured technical evidence, including Uber records, CCTV footage, telephone records and GPS data, it added.

The Ministry insisted that the employee be interviewed and also undergo a medical examination. The Swiss embassy has said the woman is suffering from "deteriorating health".

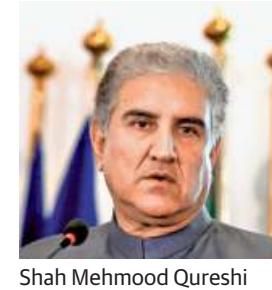
## Pakistan Foreign Minister to meet Gotabaya, Mahinda

Qureshi is scheduled to meet them in Colombo today

MEERA SRINIVASAN  
COLOMBO

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi is scheduled to meet President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa in Colombo on Monday.

The visiting Pakistan Foreign Minister will also meet his Sri Lankan counterpart, Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena. "The two sides will exchange views on the entire gamut of bilateral relations and matters pertaining to regional and international issues," said a statement



Shah Mahmood Qureshi

from the Pakistan High Commission in Colombo.

The visit comes a day after President Gotabaya returned from his first state visit abroad, to New Delhi. Islamabad and Colombo

have had historically close ties, spanning political, trade and military ties. Mr. Qureshi is the second foreign official to visit Sri Lanka, after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar flew in to meet Mr. Gotabaya in Colombo on November 19.

Soon after Sri Lanka's presidential poll outcome was known, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan was among the regional leaders who sent early wishes to Mr. Gotabaya. Mr. Khan also spoke to Mr. Gotabaya over telephone and invited him to Pakistan, it added.

## Six European nations join Iran barter system

INSTEX circumvents U.S. sanctions

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
PARIS

Paris, London and Berlin on Saturday welcomed six new European countries to the INSTEX barter mechanism, which is designed to circumvent U.S. sanctions against trade with Iran by avoiding use of the dollar.

"As founding shareholders of the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX), France, Germany and the U.K. warmly welcome the decision taken by the governments of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, to join INSTEX as shareholders," the three

said in a joint statement.

The Paris-based INSTEX functions as a clearing house allowing Iran to continue to sell oil and import other products or services in exchange.

The system has not yet enabled any transactions.

In 2018, U.S. withdrew from the international agreement governing Iran's nuclear programme and reinstated heavy sanctions against Tehran.

The accession of the six members "strengthens INSTEX and demonstrates European efforts to facilitate legitimate trade between Europe and Iran", it said. +

## Will strengthen sentencing system: PM

London attacker was freed after serving less than half of a 16-year sentence

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

Prime Minister Boris Johnson vowed on Saturday to strengthen Britain's sentencing system after a convicted terrorist released early from prison stabbed two people to death and wounded three in a London Bridge attack.

Members of the public were hailed as heroes for preventing greater loss of life by tackling Usman Khan before police shot him dead.

#### IS claims responsibility

Khan had been conditionally released from jail last December after serving less than half of a 16-year prison sentence for terrorism.



Boris Johnson

On Saturday, the Islamic State group released a statement claiming responsibility for the attack.

"The person who carried out the London attack... was a fighter from the Islamic State, and did so in response to calls to target citizens of coalition countries," it said, referring to a multi-country alliance against the group.

The latest attack came less than two weeks before Britain's general election, and thrust the issue of terrorism into the heart of the campaign.

Mr. Johnson pledged to introduce minimum 14-year sentences for serious terrorist offences, while some convicted might never be released, and to scrap early re-

lease if he wins a majority. "It's absolutely clear that we can't carry on with the failed approaches of the past," said Mr. Johnson, who became leader of the Conservative Party – which has been in power since 2010 – in July.

But Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn appeared to raise doubts about the Tories' handling of the parole and wider justice system in light of the attack. "We need to investigate the way all aspects of the criminal justice system operate," he said, branding the London Bridge incident "a complete disaster".

The three workers, including two drivers, were

## Bangladesh court jails 3 over 2018 road crash

2 students died, sparking mass protests

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
DHAKA

A Bangladeshi court on Sunday sentenced three transport workers to life for a road crash last year that killed two students and triggered major anti-government protests.

Hundreds of thousands of students across the country took to the streets after the two teenagers were hit by an out-of-control bus that had been illegally racing through the streets of Dhaka in July 2018.

The battles in the north-western province of Idlib are "the most violent" there since a Russian-backed ceasefire deal came into effect in August, said Rami Abdul Rahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

## Nearly 70 dead in clashes in Syria's Idlib

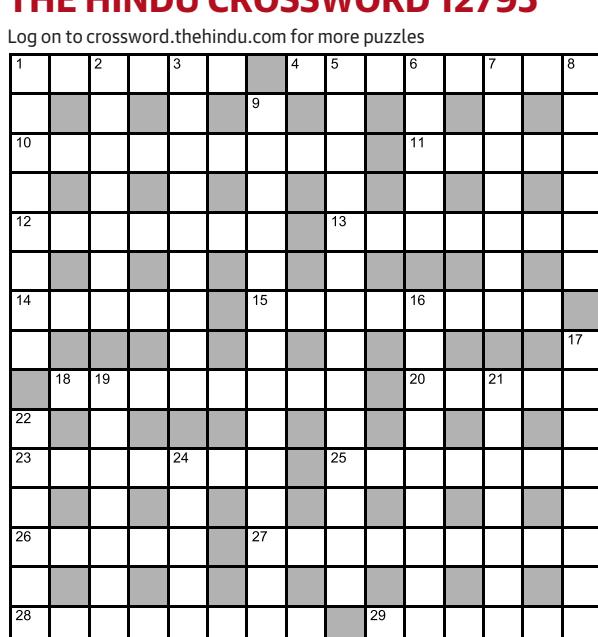
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
SURMAN

Two days of clashes between regime forces and armed groups in Syria's last major opposition bastion have killed nearly 70 on both sides, undermining a months-long ceasefire agreement, a war monitor said on Sunday.

As the demonstrations spread across the country, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina launched a heavy crackdown and over 150 people were injured after police fired tear gas and rubber bullets.

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12795

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



#### ACROSS

- Place to relax – will make one happy (6)
- Fuss over break point finds acceptance (8)
- Adopt lethal procedure till the end (3,3)
- Painting frames, Hindu leader and a Buddhist monk (5)

#### DOWN

- Protective cover at a prime ground (3,5)
- Base ring, missing the odd count, perhaps? (7)
- A man in detention, said to be a peasant (6)
- Head off with headgear from the city (5)

## SUDOKU

				5	7	2		
7				8			4	
	3	2	7				9	
5		7				1	8	
3	1	9		3	5		7	
9		5	2	1				
4		9					5	
	3	1	4					

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 12794

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

O	I	P	Y	C	G

## ASK US



ARATI KRISHNAN

## Investing retirement proceeds

**Q.** My dad recently retired from service in a PSU bank. He received a lump sum of about ₹25 lakh. I have the following questions: 1. How and where should he invest this money for optimum returns? He will be getting a monthly pension of about ₹4,000. 2. Should he buy a health insurance plan as the bank's group insurance is over now? 3. He had purchased an endowment insurance plan three years ago and he wants to discontinue investing in it given the low amount of actual return. Would it be wise to do so or should he continue investing in it for the full term which is another 13 years with an annual premium payment of about ₹1.15 lakh?

NAVDEEP

**A.** Your father can invest ₹15 lakh of these proceeds in the post office Senior Citizens Savings Scheme. The scheme is absolutely safe being a Central government scheme and also offers an attractive return of 8.6% for investments made until December 31, 2019. The scheme pays quarterly interest and if your father doesn't need the income, he can reinvest it in FDs or bank deposits.

The remaining ₹10 lakh needs to be invested based on what his objectives are. If he would like to preserve capital, he can invest the money in FDs of highly-rated NBFCs such as Sundaram Finance or Mahindra Finance. But if he can take on a higher risk profile to generate an inflation-beating return, he can consider conservative hybrid mutual funds, which invest 80% of their portfolio in bonds and 20% in equities.

Such funds yield tax-efficient returns because sums parked in their growth option are taxed at a 20% capital gains tax rate after adjusting the returns for inflation, provided they are held for three-plus years.

Yes, he should buy a health insurance plan to cover him in his post-retirement years. An endowment plan with such a high premium commitment will deplete his savings post retirement.

Endowment plans also yield very modest returns that barely match savings deposit rates.

He should discontinue the plan even if it means losing a good part of the premium paid earlier. The future premiums saved can be reinvested in FDs or mutual funds for a better return, with greater liquidity.

## Multiplying money

**Q.** My father retired from his job in January 2019. Now he has a capital of ₹10 lakh to invest in the market. Can you give me some options to multiply the money efficiently? I need to see considerable growth every three years along with an option for any-time withdrawal.

SRITAM

**A.** We hope your father has made provisions for his living expenses post retirement, medical expenses and emergency needs before deciding to invest this money in the markets.

If not, he should prioritise those first. Frankly, there are no market-related options that can multiply your money within three years. The most suitable market-related options for a three-year horizon are short-term debt mutual funds. They can deliver a 7-8% return and the appreciation you earn from the growth option of these funds is taxed at 20% after adjusting for inflation.

Hybrid mutual funds investing in a mix of debt and equity can deliver a slightly higher return. But a three-year horizon is too short to expect such funds to work miracles.

Over such short periods, you would run the risk of a capital loss or low returns from fluctuations in the stock market.

Investing directly in stocks or equity funds should also be ruled out with a three-year horizon, as there would not be enough time for your portfolio to recover from any sharp market fall or a bear market.

Readers can send in queries on personal finance and investing to moneywise@thehindu.co.in. Our experts who write on personal finance will answer these queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

## LOOSE CHANGE

RAVIKANTH



"You may apply for a festival advance, yes! But not for a shopping festival...!"

# A taxing TASK

Despite the popularity of chit funds in India, the tax treatment of income from this preferred investment option is not too clear

## SATYA SONTANAM

Chit funds are still a preferred investment option for many despite frequent news reports on scams by chit fund companies or its organisers.

Despite the wide prevalence of chit funds in India, the tax treatment of income from this instrument is not very clear.

Taking into account the spirit of the Income Tax Act, various court judgments and expert opinions, we decode the taxation aspect of chit funds in the hands of subscribers.

## How it works

In a chit scheme, a group of people contribute towards the chit value periodically for a duration that equals the number of investors. Every month, an auction is conducted wherein the members bid for the chit amount.

The person who bids for the lowest amount – by offering the highest discount – is awarded the bid. The amount foregone

by the winning bidder is distributed among all the members equally after deducting foreman's commission and other charges. The amount distributed to each member is called dividend.

## Attracts tax

Websites of even prominent chit fund companies state that the income derived in the form of dividend is not chargeable to tax. But this doesn't seem to hold ground, for a couple of reasons.

Firstly, Section 56 of the Income Tax Act states that if income of any kind is not exempt from tax but is not chargeable under any of the heads specified – salary, house property, business and capital gains – then, such income is to be included under the head 'income from other sources' (IFOS).

Secondly, there are court judgments stating income from chit funds is taxable.

For example, there are instances where 'doctrine of mutuality' was invoked by assesses to make the dividend income non-taxable. Doctrine of mutuality, which is applicable in case of clubs, argues that the members of the club and the club are one and the same and transactions between them are not applicable to tax. However, the Madras High Court, in the case of V. Raj Kumar vs. The Commissioner of Income Tax, held the mutuality principle did not arise in chit funds and dividend income deserves to be assessed as income.

stances where 'doctrine of mutuality' was invoked by assesses to make the dividend income non-taxable. Doctrine of mutuality, which is applicable in case of clubs, argues that the members of the club and the club are one and the same and transactions between them are not applicable to tax. However, the Madras High Court, in the case of V. Raj Kumar vs. The Commissioner of Income Tax, held the mutuality principle did not arise in chit funds and dividend income deserves to be assessed as income.

## Deduct the discount

Now, a doubt arises as to whether the discount forgone by a member on winning the auction can be claimed as deduction from dividend income. There doesn't seem to be any explicit tax provision to answer

this question.

Naveen Wadhwa, DGM, Taxmann.com says, "Discount should be treated as interest paid for amount taken in advance. It is more logical to consider net dividend income after deducting discount foregone for the purpose of taxation." He cited tax treatment in a similar case where Income Tax Act allows setting-off interest paid on the loans taken – which are immediately not deployed but deposited elsewhere for an interim period – against interest income earned on deposits made from such loans.

There could be a case when discount foregone by a member is more than the dividend income received throughout the tenure of the chit. "Such loss is tax neutral," adds Mr. Wadhwa.

Thus, if the net income (dividend minus discount) is posi-

tive, the difference is chargeable to tax under IFOS. But if it is negative, the loss doesn't come under the purview of taxation.

## Claim as expense

Seems unfair that the profit is taxed but loss is not given any benefit of deduction?

There's a silver lining.

In case the chit fund money is utilised for the purpose of business, any loss incurred out of the same is allowable as business expenditure.

Sunil Gidwani, partner, Nangia Advisors (Anderson Global) reiterates that the amount should be allowed as business expenditure as it is equivalent to the interest paid on a loan that is invested in a business.

Note, however, that income from chit fund continues to be taxable under IFOS and not business income of an assessee even if the chit amount is used for the purpose of business. This because, courts time and again have held that participating in a chit scheme is not a business of an assessee and hence it cannot be business income.

## On accrual

The period in which profit/loss from chit fund is liable to tax gets tricky when the tenure of the chit does not fall within a single financial year.

Archit Gupta, founder and

## TECH TRAIL: PRECIOUS METALS

## Firm equities keep metals in check

November saw gold, silver prices in narrow range as estimated

## B. KRISHNAKUMAR

The price of precious metals was confined to a narrow range in November 2019. The lacklustre price action was evident in the domestic as well as international markets. The firm trend in equity markets and the strength in the U.S. dollar played a key role in keeping precious metal prices in check last month.

The international gold price dropped to three-month low in the second week of November before recovering to slightly higher levels thereafter. At the end of November 2019, Comex gold closed 2.9% lower at \$1,470.4. an ounce while Comex silver fell 6.07% to settle at \$16.97 an ounce.

In the domestic market, the price of gold futures at MCX dropped 2.2% in November to close at ₹37,723 per 10 gm. MCX silver futures too ruled weak and slipped 5.6% lower at ₹44,159 per kg.

The short-term outlook for Comex gold and silver does not appear too positive.

The recent range-bound price action is likely to persist in Comex gold until the price moves either above \$1,480 an ounce or falls below the \$1,440 level.

A break past either of these levels would set the tone for the next significant move in gold. Above \$1,480, gold price

## Prices

**Gold**  
at MCX in ₹/10 gm  
Nov. 1, 2019 Nov. 29, 2019

**Silver**  
at MCX in ₹/kg  
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**Gold**  
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Nov. 1, 20

## ■ RAMESH BATLISH

The JEE Main 2020 is conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for admission to undergraduate programmes in NITs, IIITs and other centrally-funded technical institutions (CFTIs).

The First JEE (Main) 2020 will be conducted between January 06 and 11, and the Second JEE (Main) will be conducted between April 03 and 09, 2020.

With a little more than a month to go, the time should be utilised to consolidate one's preparation by focusing on revision, problem solving and overcoming the weaker areas in preparation.

Here are some last-month preparation tips:

**Time management:** Proper planning is most important for timely preparation and dealing with the study pressure.

All the three subjects – Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics – are equally important. So, divide these crucial remaining weeks between the three subjects.

Prepare a chapter-wise and topic-wise revision schedule.

Create short notes and list all formulae and points to remember. This will help in quick revision.

**Correct methodology:** Stick to one source and not to refer to a multitude of books/study material available in the market. In the last two weeks, brush-up through your notes and flag important problems. Taking mock tests based on the actual pattern is recommended at this time to develop ones' self-confidence and exam temperament.

**Study material:** Do not start reading any new books at this stage. However, one can still refer to standard books for concept clearing. This stage should be utilised more for problem solving, developing short cuts, and memorising formulae, and under-



With the  
JEE Main  
2020 just a month away,  
it is time to get set for the  
last leg of preparation.  
Some expert tips...

standing one's strengths and weaknesses.

**Important topics**

The syllabus of class XI and XII is equally distributed across the question paper in JEE Main. While stress may be given on the following topics for each subject, avoid selective study:

**Mathematics:** Quadratic Equations and Expressions, Complex Numbers, Probability, Vectors, Matrices in Algebra, Circle, Parabola, Hyperbola in Coordinate Geometry; Functions, Limits, Continuity and Differentiability, Application of Derivatives, and Definite Integral in Calculus.

(Tip: Try to do as much as qual-

ity problems as possible to develop a sound confidence level.)

**Physics:** Kinematics, Gravitation, Fluids, Heat and Thermodynamics, Waves and Sound, Capacitors and Electrostatics, Magnetics, Electromagnetic Induction, Optics and Modern Physics.

(Tip: Practising quality pro-

blems is key. If concepts are clear, then this subject becomes more interesting.)

**Chemistry:** Coordination Chemistry and Chemical Bonding in Inorganic Chemistry, Electrochemistry, Chemical and Ionic Equilibrium, Mole Concept in Physical Chemistry and Organic Chemistry.

## Track the changes

## ■ AKHAND SWAROOP PANDIT

The latest changes introduced by NTA that every JEE aspirant should look into are as follows:

**1** From now on, candidates who wish to apply for B.Planning courses will be required to give a separate exam. JEE Main 2020 will be conducted in three sections: Paper 1 for B.Tech/B.E., Paper 2 for B.Arch and Paper 3 for B.Planning. This gives them the choice to appear for anyone or two or all three papers.

**2** When it comes to B.E / B.Tech paper, there will be 75 questions in total as compared to 90. Each section will now have 5 questions less, which is, an aspirant will need to solve 25 questions instead of 30.

**3** Similarly, Paper 2 for B.Arch will have a total of 77 questions. In the drawing test, candidates will now require to solve 2 questions instead of 3. While Part 1 and Part 2 of this paper will be Computer Based, Part 3 will involve Pen and Paper. Scanning these latest changes in the JEE Main 2020 pattern will give a clear picture of how to prepare, accordingly.

The writer is Founder and CEO, Catalyst Group-Online Learning Platform.

(Tip: Just go through the Periodic Table in general and read NCERT for Inorganic Chemistry. For Physical part, practise as many numerical as you can.)

Create short notes and list all formulae and points to remember. This will help in quick revision.

**Study Plan**

Develop speed by solving quizzes/Mock Tests. Speed and Accuracy will be your key to success in JEE Main

Take mock-test series to build a winning exam temperament.

Sample papers will give you a fair idea about the pattern of questions and help one improve time management.

Solve the Previous year's JEE/AIEEE papers for understanding the level of questions asked.

Focus on your weaker areas and improve your concepts.

For practice of Numerical/Integer Type questions introduced this year, follow a reputed source like www.mypat.in or sample papers on JEE Main official website.

**Mental health**

Remain focused and maintain a positive attitude while studying.

Remember, it is the quality of time spent and not the quantity alone. Hence, take short breaks of five to 10 minutes after every one or two hours of serious study. Relax completely when you take a break.

Practise meditation to develop inner calm, poise, confidence and power of concentration. These matter a lot and will help you on the day of the exam.

Don't overstress yourself. Five to six hours of sleep every night is a must, especially three-four days before JEE Main 2020.

Relaxation exercises may help to regain freshness. Avoid oversleeping during the day.

The writer is a FIITJEE expert.

## SCHOLARSHIP

## ■ Fair and Lovely Career Foundation Scholarship

Fair and Lovely Career Foundation invites applications from girl students to earn scholarship for their higher studies (UG/PG) across disciplines. Girl students attending preparatory classes for various professional courses and entrance exams can also apply.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Girl students who are in the age group of 15 to 30 years and residents of India. Applicants must be enrolled in select UG or PG programmes or must be attending preparatory classes for IIT-JEE, NEET, AIIMS, Civil Services, CA and similar select courses. They must have scored a minimum of 60% marks in classes X and XII. The family income of applicants must be less than ₹6 lakhs per year.

**PRIZES AND REWARDS:** Scholarship amount ranging between ₹25,000 to ₹50,000.

**APPLICATION MODE:** Online  
**DEADLINE:** December 15  
<http://www.b4s.in/edge/FALI1>

**College Board India Scholars Programme 2019-20**

College Board, in association with Global Higher Education Alliance institutions, is offering financial support to students looking to take admission in Indian universities after class XII, based on the SAT.

**ELIGIBILITY:** For SAT fee discount, the applicant must be an Indian resident with an annual family income less than ₹10 L and must be studying in class XI or XII. To be considered eligible for a full college tuition scholarship, the applicant's family income should be below ₹4 L p.a. The student must also perform very well in SAT and must receive an offer of admission from the Global Higher Education Alliance institution.

**PRIZES AND REWARDS:** Up to 90% waiver for SAT exam and complete tuition fee waiver for study in member institutions, based on their SAT Exam performance of minimum 1350 out of 1600 and annual income should be less than ₹4 L acceptance to the respective courses.

**APPLICATION MODE:** Online  
**DEADLINE:** May 31, 2020  
<http://www.b4s.in/edge/CBI2>

Courtesy: buddy4study.com



## When ideas spark change

Enactus, an international not-for-profit organisation, aims to develop value-driven leaders for communities

## ■ MADHUMITHA SRINIVASAN

With several impediments to development, one of the means to addressing them is social entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurs who can develop and implement solutions to issues spanning the social, cultural and environment sectors are the need of the hour. It also helps that organisations such as Enactus tap into students' potential and interest at the college level, encouraging them to think of a prospective future in developing sustainable and innovative solutions through entrepreneurship.

Enactus is an international, not-for-profit organisation. It works with global business, academic institutions and students, specifically partnering with 72,000 students at 1,730 campuses worldwide. Enactus establishes student programmes on campuses around the world, working with the support of the faculty and a local business advisory board.

One such programme has been established at Kirori Mal College, Delhi, where the student chapter runs four projects, namely Project Dor, Project Patradya, Project Janbhoomi, and Project Syahi all committed to the upliftment of marginalised communities through entrepreneurial action.

Project Patradya produces edible cutlery in different flavours like chocolate, coffee and achari. Project Janbhoomi

aims to tackle the problem of land degradation by producing organic and environment-friendly compost. A recent endeavour, Project Syahi combats plastic menace by replacing single-use plastic pens with paper pens that have a seed attached at the rear-end.

**Sustainable solutions**

The idea behind Project Dor, besides helping an underprivileged community, is to sustain a dying art form. It deals with the traditional art of tie and dye for the production of handmade scarves, dupattas and cushion covers. The artisans behind it are the migrant women of West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand.

Ritika Jajoo, President, Enactus Kirori Mal College, explains the process: "Any Enactus project starts as a mere idea. We pick a problem, and work towards finding a solution. The ideas go through an extensive research and development phase. In this process, we also find underprivileged communities we can help sustain through the project, and do their needs assessment. We then go through a process of training with the beneficiaries."

The students are involved

**Any Enactus project starts as a mere idea. We pick a problem, and work towards finding a solution.**

The students are involved



## LIVE LIGHTLY

## NIVEDITA DAS NARAYAN

In life, there's a constant interplay between reaching and journeying. The yearning for movement that lingers after a long-traversed journey is indicative of the human need to be 'in process'. To me, this unfaltering state signals our continuous 'becoming'. An instance: I have a framework of an idea for this article, yet as I pen it down I am becoming sharper around the idea and perhaps, a better writer of it than an hour before.

Becoming or being in process is an encouraging view of our natural propensity to evolve. It's a state of consciousness where realities continue to emerge on a track parallel to what has already emerged. Back in elementary School, grammar taught us that the present tense has two components – the present and the present continuous. While the usage led to different constructs, the present continuous fully included the present; it connected the present to infinity. In much the same way, be-

ing 'clear about life' while continuing to derive 'clarity' about life, goals or relationships simplifies this co-existence in the context of life.

**Real life example**

The imitable Virat Kohli became the National team Captain in 2014, yet to this day the process of his becoming more Captain-like, becoming a respected sportsman and journeying forward in his potential, is visible to us. He had earned his Captaincy deservedly, yet, to become the Captain of his own potential, to retain the title, to better his best, he has to strive and raise the bar continuously.

Becoming a better Captain is a striving entirely of his bidding, and as is evident in his case, demands complete participation and ownership.

This example offers some interconnected strands of insight:

A fulfilled dream is a reward of hard work;

To continue to live the dream and chase excellence one has to yearn incremental growth,

Continued striving is a choice; once owned it keeps one connected to their evolving potential.

Potential is not stagnant; it is dynamic and developing every minute.

This understanding can change the very nature of how we connect

to our present and future. As you understand the potential of your becomingness, you can grow an undefeated attitude to life. As you accept the emergent nature of the self, you may even experience a shift in the ratio of 'what you are now' v/s 'what you are becoming'. And when the ratio tilts in favour of the latter, you will experience moments of intense hope and fulfilment. You will be brimming with potential.

The phrase "Never Say Never" exemplifies this confidence of growth and of the truth that titles, definitions, failures and accolades are impermanent. The simple phrase negates existing status, especially failure; a statement of intent where what matters is what you are fuelling, where you are headed and how you are championing your progress.

As author James Clear says, "it is about the cycle of endless refinement and continuous improvement. It is about your commitment to the process that will determine your progress". Participation in our present-continuous fosters this commitment and our ownership of it.

The writer is a life coach, blogger and writer who simplifies the patterns and archetypes she encounters at work and in life.

nivedita@lifealigncoaching.com

## Stanford certificate programme

Great Learning, an EdTech company, has introduced the Stanford Advanced Computer Security Programme.

The six-month certificate programme is structured as a series of six online courses where learners get access to video content de-

signed and delivered by Stanford faculty. Insights from senior industry practitioners from leading organisations such as Google and LinkedIn bring a practitioner's perspective. It is designed to help students master in-demand skills like Web Application, Mobile,

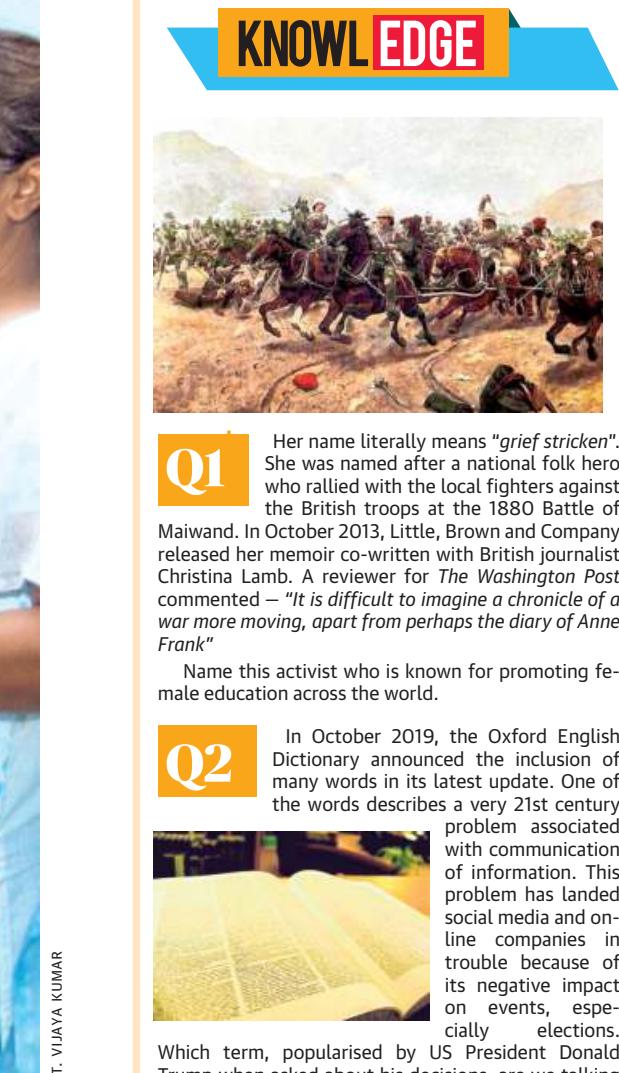
Cloud Security, Security Design, Cryptography, Emerging Threats and Defences, and Network Security.

By the end of the programme, learners will be able to use their skills to protect networks, secure electronic assets, prevent attacks, ensure the privacy of customers, and build secure infrastructure.



# Active learning

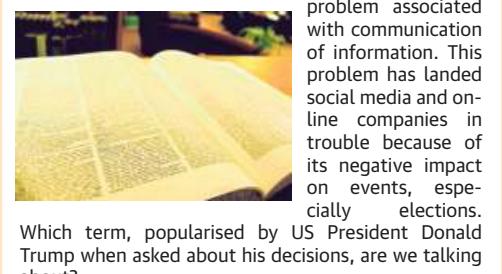
Asking questions and eliciting solutions can help the teacher to get the students to apply themselves



**Q1** Her name literally means "grief stricken". She was named after a national folk hero who rallied with the local fighters against the British troops at the 1880 Battle of Maiwand. In October 2013, Little, Brown and Company released her memoir co-written with British journalist Christina Lamb. A reviewer for *The Washington Post* commented – "It is difficult to imagine a chronicle of a war more moving, apart from perhaps the diary of Anne Frank"

Name this activist who is known for promoting female education across the world.

**Q2** In October 2019, the Oxford English Dictionary announced the inclusion of many words in its latest update. One of the words describes a very 21st century problem associated with communication of information. This problem has landed social media and online companies in trouble because of its negative impact on events, especially elections.



Which term, popularised by US President Donald Trump when asked about his decisions, are we talking about?

**Q3** In March 2019, NASA had to cancel the first all-female spacewalk on the International Space Station due to the unavailability of a suit in the correct size for astronaut Anne McClain. Hence, a new Moon suit, formally known as the Exploration Extravehicular Mobility Unit (XEMU) was unveiled for the 2024 mission. The new suit gives the wearer a customised fit irrespective of their body size. It is designed to give more flexibility to the astronauts, allowing them to bend over to pick up rocks, drive a rover, or walk normally without bunny-hopping along the Moon's surface. It also protects them against radiation, moon dust, extreme temperatures.



As the 2024 mission aims to put the first woman on the moon, it is aptly named after the twin sister of Greek god Apollo. Name her.

WALNUT KNOWLEDGE SOLUTIONS

A3. Artrems  
A2. Felipe News  
A1. Malala Yousafzai

Answers



**THINK**  
ARUNA SANKARANARAYANAN

Professor A is a gifted lecturer. When she speaks, her students are riveted. Her knowledge of her subject is both vast and deep. As her lectures extend beyond the content in prescribed textbooks, students assiduously write notes. While she does encourage students to ask questions, she ends up doing the bulk of the talking. Predictably, Professor A receives stellar evaluations at the end of every semester, with students reporting that they learnt a lot from the course.

In contrast, Professor B conducts

his classes differently. Usually, he starts off by describing a problem. Then, he divides the class into groups of five or six, and asks them to suggest solutions. As students ponder over the problem, he moves around the room listening to snippets of conversations. Later, he convenes the class and asks the groups to share their ideas. At the end, Professor B discusses the pros and cons of different approaches, again inviting students to take the lead. While he too receives laudatory evaluations, there are two differences.

These variances are illustrated in a well-designed study conducted by physicist Louis Deslauriers and his colleagues at Harvard University. Students in a physics course were divided into two groups. While both groups were presented with identi-

cal content, including handouts, in the active learning condition, students had to try and solve problems in small groups before the instructor demonstrated the solution. In the passive lecture condition, the instructor demonstrated the solutions without asking the students to first solve them. Two topics were taught this way, with one group doing active learning for the first topic and the second group receiving the passive lecture format. For the second topic, the instructors swapped their styles to rule out the effect of individual instructors.

#### Participation pays

In addition to completing a test, students also filled out a "feeling of learning" questionnaire at the end of the course. When students were presented with content that in-

volved passively listening to a lecture, they exhibited less learning on the subsequent test. In contrast, when they were made to learn actively by solving problems, their performance increased. However, students felt they learnt more when they were in the passive group.

Why is this so? Active learning entails students putting in cognitive effort, which, at times, can be strenuous and difficult. Students misperceive the struggle involved as a sign that they are learning less, when, in fact, evidence indicates the opposite. Students also mis-

judge the fluency of the professor's lecture with their own learning. The authors argue that "novices in a subject are poor judges of their own competence."

By asking questions, posing problems and eliciting solutions, teachers across disciplines can promote learning by getting students to apply themselves. Of course, students should also realise that great lectures don't necessarily lead to robust learning. They need to be willing to exercise their mental faculties. Also, if teachers point out that expending cognitive energy during learning leads to a more substantial grasp of concepts, students may be more receptive to active learning.

The writer is Director, PRAYATNA. arunasankara@gmail.com

# All party talk



**KNOW YOUR ENGLISH**

S. UPENDRAN

"My! My! Look at you! Where are you off to dressed like that?"

"Rajesh is getting married next week. He's having a party at his place tonight."

"That's nice. Is Meera coming with you?"

"Unfortunately, I can't ask her to come. It's a stag party."

"It's a what party? What did you say?"

"S....t...a...g. Stag! It rhymes with 'tag', 'bag' and 'lag'. When you say that it's a 'stag' party, you mean there won't be any women present at the event. It'll only be men."

"That makes sense. A 'stag' is actually a male deer, isn't it?"

"Yes, that's right! Since the people at the event will all be men..."

"Such events are called 'stag' parties. Tell me, since a female deer is called a 'doe', are parties that only ladies attend called 'doe' parties?"

"Very good! Some people do refer to them as 'doe party'. But the common term to refer to such parties is 'hen' party."

"Hen party? That doesn't make any sense! Why would they call it that?"

"Because the word 'hen' in this context doesn't refer to the adult female chicken. It refers to any female bird. Many female birds are called 'hen'. The same is true of the word 'stag'. In the past, male animals in their prime were called stags."

**For fun**  
"I see. If this hadn't been a stag party, would you

have asked Meera to come with you?"

"I don't think so. Unlike many of my friends, Meera is not a party animal."

"Party animal?"

Does it mean someone who loves attending parties?"

"Very good! That's exactly what it means. A party animal is someone who loves going to parties and goes to as many as possible. Ganesh doesn't like attending parties. His wife, on the other hand, is a real party animal."

"How about this example? During our trip to Goa, my friend and I did a lot of trekking. The party animals in our group, however, enjoyed themselves on the beach."

"That's an excellent example. Now tell me, what have..."

"Is there a term for someone who comes to parties reluctantly? He doesn't really enjoy himself, and in the process makes sure that the others don't either."

"Such a person is called a 'party pooper'! He spoils your fun. He's a real 'killjoy'. Please don't invite Ram to this evening's function. He's a real party pooper."

"I've come to this restaurant to enjoy myself, Veda. So don't be a party pooper by talking about work."

"Good example. Rajesh didn't invite his boss because he's a real party pooper."

"Good reason not to invite someone, I suppose."

Hear no evil, speak no evil, and you won't be invited to cocktail parties. Oscar Wilde

The writer teaches at the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad.  
upendrankye@gmail.com



**BLACKBOARD**

VINEY KIRPAL

If we would answer just one question frankly, we would be well on the way to becoming good teachers. The question is: Do we prepare for our class?

Choose one of the following options which mirrors your usual practice:

i. I don't need to prepare because I am an experienced teacher.

ii. I glance at the lesson just before I enter the classroom.

iii. Yes, I prepare thoroughly for every class.

iv. I wish to prepare for my class but I don't know how to do so.

In your answer lies the level of your success in the class.

If we have chosen answers i./ii./iv., it means we are going to class unprepared. An unprepared teacher cannot hope to win over students, no matter how senior.

Value add  
Students admire and respect teachers who are well-prepared, knowledgeable and interesting. They like to attend

their lectures. The opposite also is true that students 'bunk' the class of a casual teacher because it has no value for them.

The responsibility of delivering an effective lecture in school or college, is that of the teacher.

Some teachers blame students for being inattentive. The challenge lies in how to prepare in such a way that teachers win over even those habitually inattentive.

The word 'Preparation'

means different things to diffe-



# Why preparation matters

To succeed, teachers must create a plan, well in advance

their lectures. The opposite also is true that students 'bunk' the class of a casual teacher because it has no value for them. The responsibility of delivering an effective lecture in school or college, is that of the teacher. Some teachers blame students for being inattentive. The challenge lies in how to prepare in such a way that teachers win over even those habitually inattentive.

The word 'Preparation' means different things to different teachers. Simply put, it means (i) carefully selecting the concepts we wish to teach in a lecture; (ii) knowing why we wish to teach those concepts (i.e. the objectives); and (iii) choosing the teaching-learning strategies that we will adopt to communicate those concepts effectively. These constitute the WHAT-WHY-HOW of designing and preparing a lecture.

To succeed, we need to create a well thought out teaching-learning plan in advance.

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To succeed, we need to

create a well thought out teaching-learning plan in advance.

This calls for effort much before the class, and not during the class or a few minutes earlier. It may seem far-fetched, but there are teachers who read from the text in class and paraphrase it to the students. This is not teaching.

The most seasoned teachers always prepare in advance, even if they do not carry a piece of paper with them to the class. It is a gross misconception that we don't need preparation because students know lesser than us. In that case, we should not feel agitated if students surprise us with their knowledge and reject us by not attending/disturbing our class.

Preparation means designing a lucid roadmap of communicating concepts in a systematic and lively manner. This has to be preceded by reading thoroughly on each concept until we are crystal clear about what we wish to teach. Concepts that are muddy in our heads can never be taught well nor made clear to students.

Preparation means designing (i) a plan for the course, (ii) a plan for the week and (iii) one for every lesson.

The writer was Professor at IIT Bombay. She has trained over

7500 teachers in 'Effective

Teaching Skills'.

vineykirpal@gmail.com

# Focus on your competencies



**OFF THE EDGE**

NANDINI RAMAN

I am currently about to complete my master's in Psychology in Human Resource Development. I want to apply my passion for counselling, based on my qualification. Which area/field do you recommend, and what is the scope? – Priyanka Venkatramani

Dear Priyanka,

In the end, it all depends on what and where your heart is. Many colleges today, offer a master's course in counselling psychology. However, you have done a HRD specialisation and want to be a

counsellor now. Making a shift is not tough, but please be aware that counselling is different from being a HR manager. It is not merely the course content and curriculum that you need to ace, but must also be able to develop the skill and the art of understanding your client through whatever he/she feels and expresses in therapy. It is an art that can be honed, given the right personality traits, values and attributes. I believe a basic course in counselling psychology is a must, followed by an active internship (that helps you narrow the gap between theory and practice) with a successful counsellor will go a long way in helping you get started. Good luck.

I passed my class IX in ICSE. According to my teachers and

parents, I am capable of topping the school, but I lack concentration. How do I improve my concentration? – Dhruthi

Dear Dhruthi,

What do you feel and believe about your own potential? Our internal thoughts about our self are most powerful. So, pay close attention to what thoughts you are feeding yourself with, about your own capability, limitations, competence and boundaries.

Are you stressed out and anxious? What do you want to achieve for yourself? Identify and list out your goals on a paper and stick it on your study table where it works as a subtle reminder to motivate you, every day.

What do you attribute your lack of concentration to? Do

you get adequate rest? How many hours do you sleep?

Physical exercise? Is there enough nourishment and nutrition?

How much time do you spend post school on the cell phone/Netflix/social media? What are the other time stealers that drain your energy and distract you?

Become aware of these and work backwards to achieve your goal. All the best.

**Disclaimer:** This column is not a substitute for long-term therapy. It is merely a guiding voice. Some issues may need medical intervention.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. She will answer questions sent to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com. The subject line should be: 'Off the edge'

## ASMISSIONS

### MSc Civil Engineering and Management

**INSTITUTION:** The University of Sheffield, the U.K.

**DURATION:** One year, full-time

**ELIGIBILITY:** Holders of a three-year bachelor's degree with a minimum of 60% or first class (B.Eng, M.Eng, B.Sc) in Civil and Structural Engineering, or other appropriate engineering, or science subject from a reputable university. The overall IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component, or equivalent is a must.

Applications will be considered if applicants have appropriate professional qualifications and work experience, but applicants will need a strong background in the areas covered in the course.

**FEE:** £23,750 for international students  
<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/courses/2020/civil-engineering-and-management-msc>

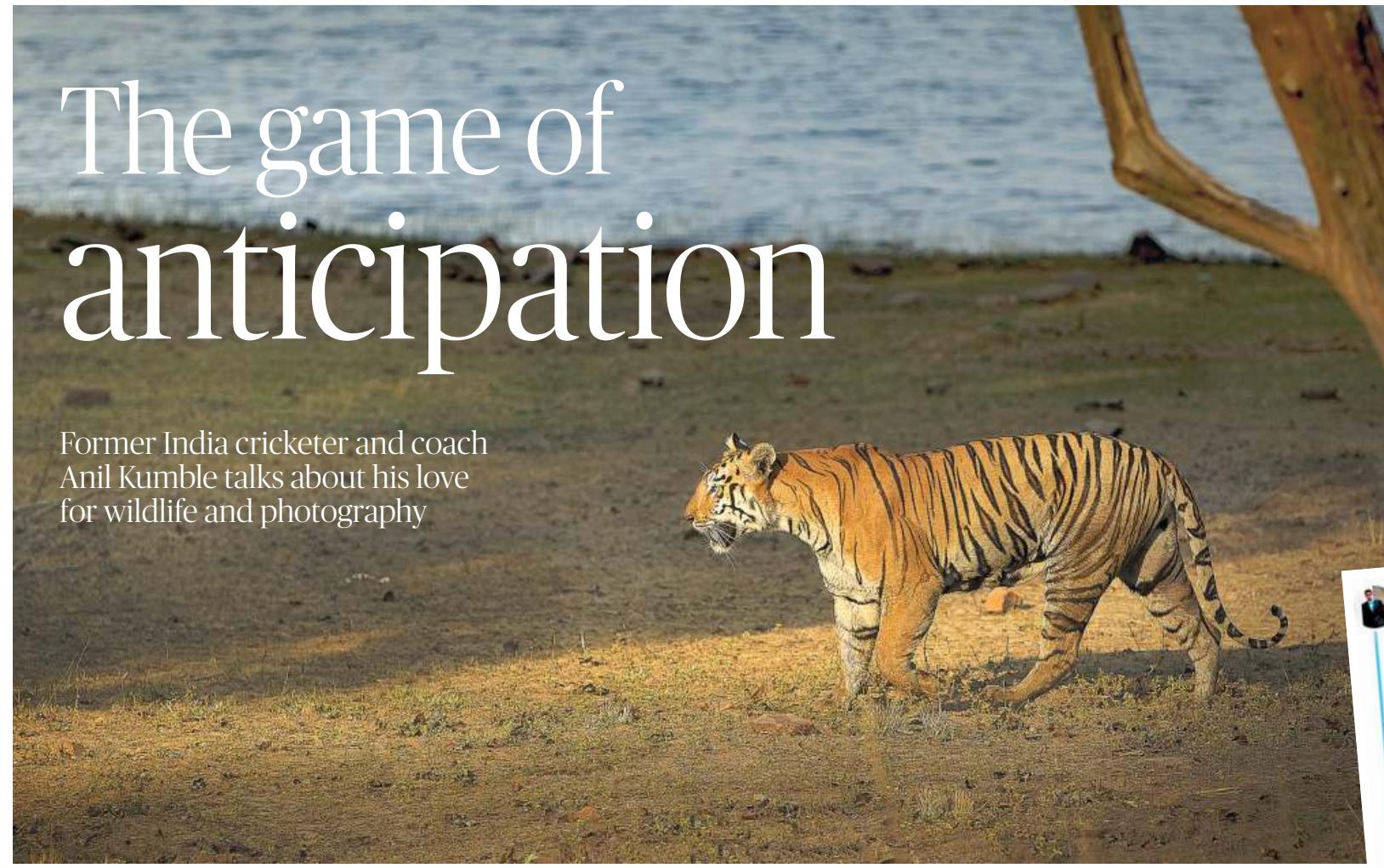
### MSc Advanced Computer Science with Big Data

**INSTITUTION:** The University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

**ELIGIBILITY:** Minimum second-class honours degree or international equivalent in computer science or another numerate discipline (for example, math, physics, engineering). Some

# The game of anticipation

Former India cricketer and coach Anil Kumble talks about his love for wildlife and photography



**Anil Kumble** @anikumble1074   
I had a once in a lifetime sighting of Maya the tigress in #Tadoba, who was protecting her territory from another tigress. The sequence of pictures shared depicts the ferocious chase that culminated in a fight and a civilised way of asking the intruder to leave her territory.

Kanha in 2011. "Chetana and I were on an elephant. We were taken to a spot they push the tiger into a space for us to see. There was a family too with a 10-year-old boy. Suddenly the boy slipped from the elephant. The tiger stood just

10 metres away. We all froze. The elephants did not panic. The boy did not. The grass was tall and it was really scary. The mahout stayed calm, slid down the trunk of the elephant and in a flash picked the boy up. On returning we all hugged the child. The whole episode lasted two minutes but to us it was an eternity."

Reflecting on his experience of animals being disturbed by visitors, Kumble says things have changed in wildlife photography today. "You have lot of photographers. There used to be hardly anyone when I started visiting jungles. Today, every vehicle has four photographers, carrying big lenses, competing to catch a Nat Geo award winning picture. But I keep my distance from the animals and not worry about getting a head-on shot, low angle, wide angle. Why? And then there are these mobile phones. Inside the jungle surprisingly you get good signals too but I am glad Tadoba does not permit mobile phones."

In 2010, Kumble had brought out a book called *Wide Angle*, a collection of his off-the-field cricket photographs. He now has a rich collection of pictures from the jungle, material enough for another book we hope he brings out soon.



**Kumble's shots** (clockwise from above) Leopard at Kabini Wildlife Sanctuary; Maya, the tigress; tigresses at the Tadoba National Park • ANIL KUMBLE

VIJAY LOKAPALLY

Last week Anil Kumble, former India captain and coach, who runs a sports education company called TENVIC, posted pictures on Twitter of Maya, the favourite tigress of visitors at Tadoba National Park, Maharashtra. People responded with their own pictures of tigers, advice on where he could go next (Bandhavgarh), with compliments on his photographs.

What we didn't know was that Kumble was accompanied by his 'assistant', his 15-year-old son Mayas. "He too likes wildlife and takes pictures for his collection. My long-time friend (Shirish Joshi) operates wildlife tours and I often go with my family (wife Chetana, daughters Aaruni and Svasti)."

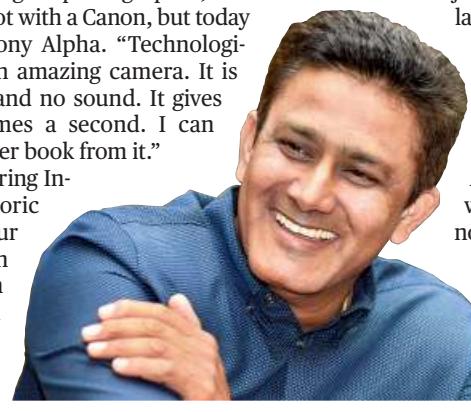
Kumble counts himself "lucky" to have had a sighting of Maya. "We spotted her at a crossing. She was sitting and posing. There was a tigress inside a bush and Maya was just 30 metres from where we had halted. I was waiting for my moment and saw her running towards us. She chased the tiger away ferociously to establish her territory. It was a life-time experience and I just clicked away to glory," says Kumble, recounting the

thrill.

It's not just tigers Kumble will lie in wait for. "There are other animals in the wild. There are the birds too. But the tiger is mesmerizing, the apex predator. The majestic walk has to be seen to be believed, so nonchalant, just not bothered with people surrounding him. The tiger is such an elusive animal. It is so aware of the surroundings and the animals close by. What awesome strength a tiger possesses. It can bring down prey bigger in size. You won't see a tiger with same behaviour. Maya was so different from what I have seen. I had waited long to see an animal like her."

A self-taught photographer, he used to shoot with a Canon, but today prefers a Sony Alpha. "Technologically it is an amazing camera. It is mirrorless and no sound. It gives me 20 frames a second. I can make a flicker book from it."

It was during India's historic cricket tour to South Africa in 1992 when Kumble first had a taste of



Project Tiger campaign launched by friends Krishna Prasad and Praveen Bhargav. By the time Kumble revisited South Africa in 1996, he was committed to not just the cause of wildlife, but also to documenting their movement. He also remembers

wildlife. The team and some of us travelling journalists took a break to spend five days in the Ithala Game Reserve. "It was a thrilling experience," recalls Kumble.

His first sighting was a leopard at the Nagarhole National Park in 1996. "I remember every detail. It was pretty dark after sunset and I thought it was a tiger until it came closer. I didn't have a camera to take a picture but the image is etched."

The same year, along with Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Sourav Ganguly, Jayalalithaa, Venkatesh Prasad and Sunil Joshi, he promoted the

Project Tiger campaign launched by friends Krishna Prasad and Praveen Bhargav. By the time Kumble revisited South Africa in 1996, he was committed to not just the cause of wildlife, but also to documenting their movement.

In 2010, Kumble had brought out a book called *Wide Angle*, a collection of his off-the-field cricket photographs. He now has a rich collection of pictures from the jungle, material enough for another book we hope he brings out soon.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

### How Wajid Ali Shah lives on

Wajid Ali Shah may not be alive but his fondness for good food has ensured that foodies in Delhi and Lucknow can still get to know the Nawabi way of eating kebab



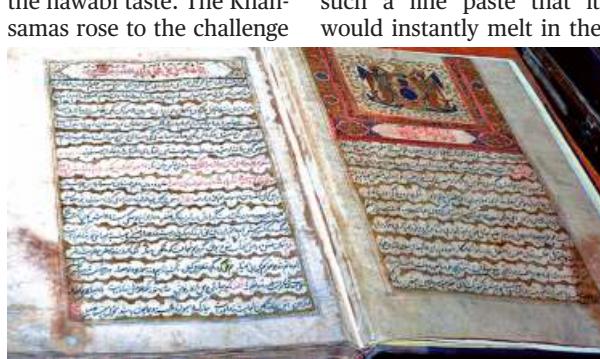
R. V. SMITH



**Whiff of royalty** Tunday Kababi belongs to Haji Murad Ali Tunday's grandson; (below) a calendar by Wajid Ali Shah • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

dey Kebabi, what else have you eaten?". Haji Murad Ali (nicknamed Tunday because of a maimed hand) was the kebab maker par excellence when Masita, whose kebabs were the favourite of Mirza Ghalib, and Ghummi held sway in Delhi.

It is said that Haji Murad Ali was working on perfecting the mixture of the shahi Gulawat kebabs when he fell off the roof of his shop and fractured his arm, which had to be eventually amputated. This, however, did not prevent him from pursuing his passion for cooking with one hand. He employed people who would pound meat into such a fine paste that it would instantly melt in the



mouth. Made in batches of 20-30, the kebabs were cooked in ghee in "dum" (oven-baked) style. When these kebabs were presented to Wajid Ali Shah he instantly gave royal patronage to Tunday Kebabi.

The Nawab also stopped eating tobacco paan and took to savouring malai paan as a softer alternative. The malai paan made of cream, sugar and dry fruit, attracted the curiosity of the common people too and hundreds of them thronged mithai shops, especially the one of Ram Ashrey.

The Nawab's idiosyncrasies and wasteful expenditure on romantic pursuits (he had 359 wives) made the Governor General, Lord Dalhousie take over the Government on the charge of maladministration and refusal to introduce beneficiary reforms. He sent the Nawab into exile in Calcutta's Metiaburj locality, where his descendants still live.

Lucknow no doubt was left bereft of his presence but the culture he advocated continued to flourish with kebabs and other delicacies making the city the cuisine capital of the country.

Tunday and his family, even without royal patronage, continued to thrive and the tradition they set is still followed by their descendants.

Wajid Ali Shah never came to Delhi but exerted such a hypnotic influence that many from the court of Bahadur Shah Zafar migrated to Lucknow-poets.

*The writer is a veteran chronicler of Delhi*

### Find your seat

Through mixed media and installations, nine pairs of artists and designers interpret the humble chair at Gallery Espace's newest exhibition

**Marcantonio Raimondi Malerba x Scarlet Splendour**

The Italian designer's work often explores the connection between man and nature. As he has repeatedly explained in his interviews, "If there is no reference to nature, in the shapes and colour of my work... then there's no reason for me to design." His newest experiment, the Forest Chair, is a quirky take on trees and was executed by Scarlet Splendour's team of in-house craftsmen, using fiberglass, brass and lacquer work. "It is a tribute to the welfare of animals, since that's what the fundraiser is also about," says Ashish Bajoria, founder of the Kolkata-based luxury brand.



Chairs are like pop songs, said French designers Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec. They'd just released their 2012 book, *Works*, which tracked the brothers' work and the 11 chairs they'd designed in a career spanning over 20 years. According to Ronan, the humble form-meets-function designs can "sweeten your day, remain in the background or insinuate itself into your subconscious... [to] become a classic".

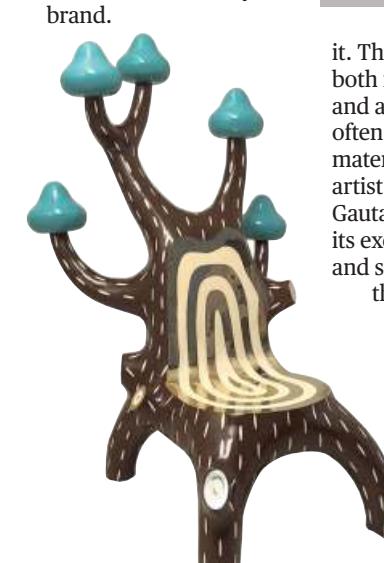
And, just like pop songs, there's always a new, and interesting, iteration of it. The latest to join this ever-expanding catalogue is the 10 Chairs x Stir initiative by Sonali Purewal. The Kasauli-based designer, along with co-curator Pramiti Madhavji, has brought together nine pairs of well-known artists, architects and designers to interpret the ubiquitous chair. "I got the idea from a rustic sit-down dinner, when I began to think 'who are these friends', 'what are their different personalities?' Each of these collectors' pieces tell a story," says Purewal.

The works are a mix of digital, mixed media and interactive, such as a diptych by Anita Dube with Madhav Raman, and an optical illusion by Karl Antao and Gurjit Matharoo. "The results have been very interesting," says Madhavji. "For instance, we paired Bose Krishnamachari, whose paintings are usually bold and colourful, with artist-designer Alex Davis, who has a product design background." The result: a chair described in Braille on canvas. Other exhibits include interpretations by Punita Kaushik and Ayush Kasliwal, Shakuntala Kulkarni and Sanjay Puri (pictured above), and Valay Gada and Mandeep Nagi. Here are three to look out for.



**GR Iranna x Klove Studio**

Two months of brainstorming and sketching coalesced into this installation of a wooden chair, with hand-blown glass birds bursting from it.



The Umbilical Chair "is a reference to both maternal love on a spiritual scale, and a liberation from power (chairs are often seen as symbols of status) on a more material level," says the New Delhi-based artist. Lighting experts Prateek Jain and Gautam Seth provided their experience in its execution. "This piece uses wood, glass and stainless steel, and in a structure like this, which hangs from the ceiling by a single metal chain, it is important to balance everything perfectly," says Jain, adding that the chair is especially relevant today when "people around the world are fighting for different variations of freedom – all related to the simple concept of human rights".

**Martand Khosla x Gunjan Gupta**

Gunjan Gupta has always been fascinated by chairs. Who can forget the Aloo Bori (jute sacks filled with potatoes) at the 2016 Kochi-Muziris Biennale or the Muda Walla Bicycle Throne (bamboo stools, steel and bicycle parts) exhibited at Paris' Musée des Arts Décoratifs last year. To her, they deserve a closer look, "especially in the Indian context. Traditionally, Indians sat on chowkis or on the floor. The idea of elevated seating arrived with the Europeans and is, in some way, symbolic of authority and power," she says, adding that the duo wanted to explore the idea of seating beyond the functional. The 24-piece installation is made from brick dust (a medium that artist-architect Khosla uses extensively in his work) and brass. "People sit in many ways, on the floor, a bed, on steps, thrones – and seating can reference authority, power, caste," explains Khosla. "We wanted to keep it playful too, so each piece has quirky names, like Sofa-ltu or Ek do teen chair."

Through today, at Gallery Espace, New Delhi. All proceeds will go to the Good Karma Shelter, to create medical units for animals and initiate green waste disposal systems at micro village levels.



On the heels of Thanksgiving Day, let us look at what it takes to be gracious even in the darkest of times

## Where's the silver lining?

SWETA AKUNDI

The act of being grateful has been drilled into Indians much before motivational posters and Live Love Laugh throw pillows came around. The one response we can bet on, when recounting any sort of trauma, is advice to be strong and thankful it wasn't worse. All around us, we are bombarded with stories of everyday people showing courage and gratitude, and encouraging others to do the same.

Cancer conqueror Neerja Malik designed her life around this. "When I first got the diagnosis, I went into auto-pilot mode. It hit me only after we reached home, and my husband had to cancel lunch with our friends," says Neerja. That was 1998. Since then, she has had another bout of cancer, conquered both, written two books and counselled several others – some from the recovery room of a hospital. Throughout, she has remained optimistic, with only kind words for what life brought her.

"I am grateful that God planned my life in a way that I was equipped to handle. I have experienced broken bones, miscarriages and cancer, but I was also blessed with strong parents, two children – my reason for survival – a good education and a gift

of the gab that helps me help others in the same boat," she says.

Neerja's *jolie de vivre* over the phone is reminiscent of Chennai-based restaurateur Sandesh Reddy. Sandesh had two failed restaurants before he hit gold with the now-popular Sandy's Chocolate Laboratory. He recently took over French Loaf as well, but in between were a string of experiments, and not all worked out. "There have been days when I didn't know if I would make rent, or pay salaries..." he says.

Even then, his philosophy of taking risks never changed. His failures, he says, only showed him what a reliable support system he had. "I don't have a single regret. And for that I'm grateful to my wife, my childhood friends... people who would point me in the right direction, without any filters."

What we instinctively feel, and what most of our religions teach us – that there is good in being grateful – has backing in science.

"Gratitude generates feel-good emotions which are essential for brain health and well-being," says Kolkata-based psychologist Mansi Poddar.

She quotes a 2003 study,

Counting Blessings vs Burdens that required patients to keep a gratitude journal: "Sixteen per cent of the subjects reported reduced symptoms, and 10% of subjects reported a decrease in pain.

It also showed that subjects were more willing to exercise, and were far more motivated in their recovery."

Similar studies in people with hypertension revealed that expressing gratitude showed a significant decrease in their systolic blood pressure.

**Can happiness be tiring?**  
But try telling a person in their lowest phase, that they should hold their heads high. Try telling that to a woman who has lost her twin infants. Try telling that to Cynthia John.

Cynthia lost her first two babies, both premature, before they turned one. "I can never look back and show gratitude.

I will always carry that grief," she says. Well-meaning family members either advised her on what she

could have done differently, or tried consoling her saying she would have other children. "But that's not how a mother feels," she says.

However, what she did with this grief was in her control. "Sometimes you can't rely on your family and friends for moving on. You have to refocus yourself," she says, adding that she gave up freelancing for a full-time job in order to distract herself from it.

Mansi confirms that forcing positivity could be toxic. "We can't manufacture happiness," she says. "In fact, its constant pursuit makes us unhappy. A gratitude practice is a tool, and like all tools it needs to be used correctly. You can't start forcing gratitude to arise when in the depth of grief. Self compassion is key here."

Anger, on the other hand, is a movement emotion, she says. "It alerts us to something that's occurred which we identify as unjust or

threatening to us. If handled well, anger can lead us toward what we value and cherish."

But Japneet Kaur could not even bring herself to be angry. The Noida-based psychologist faced sexual abuse at the hands of her family's domestic help since she was nine, until she turned 14, when she mustered the courage to tell her parents about it.

"Before I consulted a professional, who told me I was showing signs of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, it was almost like I was pressuring myself to feel angry. I wanted to feel angry and I wanted to wish bad things upon him but I never could... I would always think of some justification for his act," she recalls. This was one of the things that she worked on with her psychologist: accepting her emotions for what they were.

Though traumatised then, Japneet claims she can still see the silver lining. For many years, she feared her experiences would make her an inefficient psychologist. "But my professor made me see the other side of the coin. She told me how I would be able to empathise better," she says.

People with trauma history and emotional dysregulation have now become her forte; she feels she understands better what would comfort them. "It all depends on what part of the situation we want to focus on. It took me time to understand my ill experience, but when I did, it became my biggest strength," she says.

Looking back today, Cynthia too chooses to remember how her first pregnancy positively affected her second. "I was advised bed rest throughout, and I made use of this time by writing more than I had ever written. I finished my 10th book at eight in the night, right before being wheeled into the delivery room," she laughs. Soon, she was blessed with a son and a daughter, who are now aged 11 and eight.

## My grandfather's tales of Gandhiji

Author Arthy Muthanna Singh talks about her new books, co-written with Mamta Nainy

SRAVASTI DATTA

Arthy Muthanna Singh has a bag full of stories to tell. Little wonder, then, that she has written 35 books for children of all ages, published by various companies, including Puffin, Talking Cub, Writer's Workshop, Mango Books (DC Books), Rupa Publications, and Scholastic. In addition, she has co-authored 29 books, of which eight will be published by early next year.

Her latest book, co-written by Mamta Nainy, which has been shortlisted for the Peek A Book award – *My Grandfather's Funny Eyebrows* (Full Circle's imprint Tota Books) – is a tribute to grandfathers. The eyebrows in question refer to their "eloquent" eyebrows.

Arthy makes it a point to praise Shreya Sen, the illustrator. "She understood the text so well. We didn't have to explain. We giggled the moment the scribbles came."

As for why she chose to focus on grandfathers, she says, "Everybody writes about grandmothers; most people don't have the cuddly relationship with their grandfather like they do with their grandmother."

In fact, Arthy's other book – *Gandhi in 150 Anecdotes* (co-written by Mamta and published to mark Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary) – was inspired by the stories her grandfather regaled her with. "I had the idea for this book many years ago as I am a great fan of Gandhiji. I was seven and in boarding school. I had fallen ill and so I was brought to my grandfather's place. He had to entertain this cranky, little girl who wanted to be told a story. So



Child talk Arthy Muthanna Singh • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

he started telling me stories about Gandhiji. I thought he was making it up but he would tell me repeatedly that these stories actually happened."

For the book, Mamta and Arthy had to pick just 150 anecdotes from Gandhiji's life. "We had to be careful; we didn't want any controversy. The plus point was that the publisher didn't change anything, from the design to illustrations."

The conversation veers towards the Ooty Literary Fest, which was started by her mother, Yash Muthanna (also a writer). "My grandmother was a writer too. She used to write in Kannada and was an amazing storyteller."

Arthy says the fest is loved by authors for facilitating intimate interactions among readers and writers. "I tried to dissuade my mother from starting it," she laughs and adds: "But her ideas always work. Through a friend I contacted Jerry Pinto (the festival director) and that's how it started. M. T. Vasudevan Nair, Shanta Gokhale, N. Ram, and Gopalkrishna Gandhi have attended it."

Arthy is now busy with Sylables21, a children's publishing start-up she started with Mamta. "We do all the writing. We work very well together; we've written 21 books so far."

From journalism to advertising and finally to writing children's books, Arthy has had quite a creative journey.

### POOCH CAFE



### PEANUTS



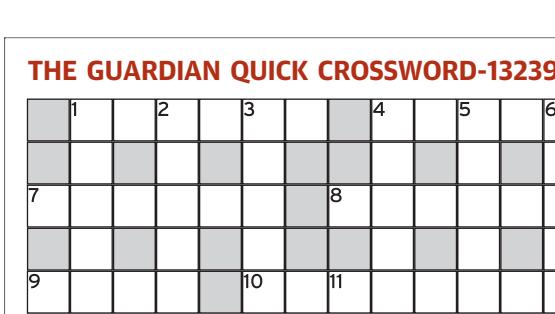
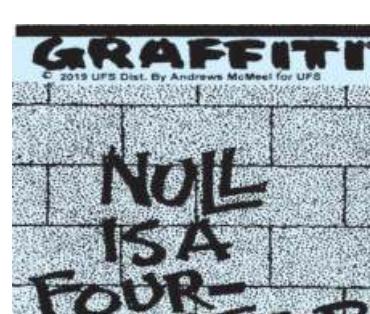
### HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



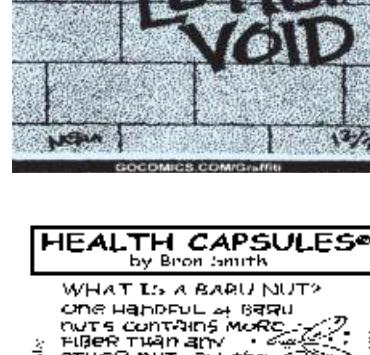
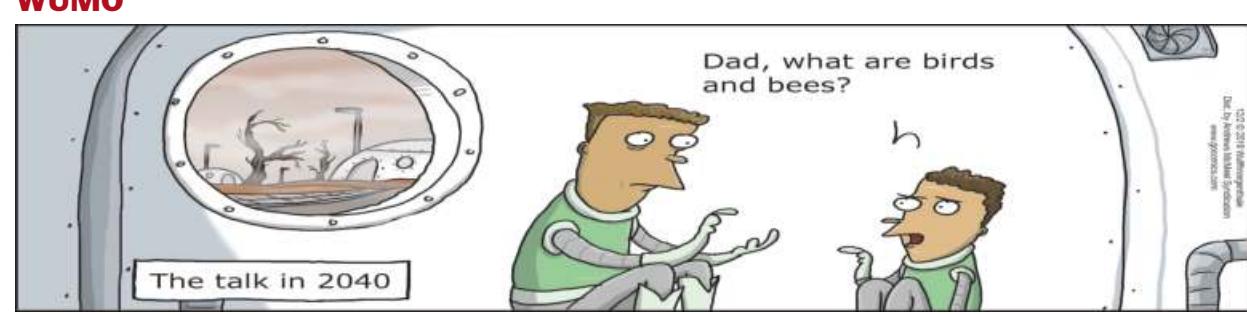
### CALVIN AND HOBBES



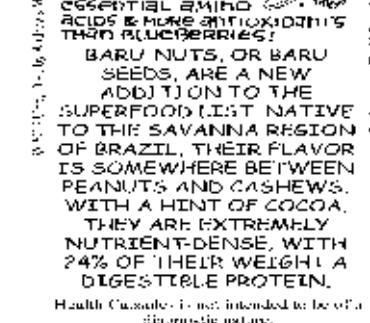
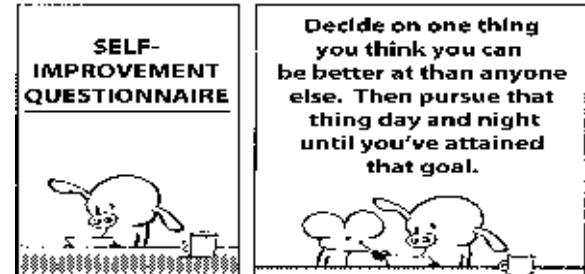
### TIGER



### WUMO



### PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



less busy (7)  
3 Increase in loudness (9)  
4 Suddenly stood motionless (5)  
5 Comfort (7)  
6 Short internet messages (6)  
11 Unimportant thing (9)  
13 From an East African country? (7)  
14 Assortment (7)  
15 Extract juice from an orange, say (7)  
16 Cruel and terrifying (6)  
18 Recess – suitable position (5)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated December 3, 2019.

Solution No. 13239

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17	Gorbachev's 'openness' (8)
19	Praise (4)
20	Charge with a crime (6)
21	Supporting beam over a door (6)
22	From this time (5)
23	Strike out (6)
■ Down	
1	Landlord's agent (7)
2	Loosen – become

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# Joy for Karnataka, heartbreak for Tamil Nadu in a humdinger

One run separates the teams; skipper Pandey pulls his weight for the winner while Aparajith and Vijay Shankar do their best for the team in yellow

**MUSHTAQ ALI**

S. DIPAK RAGAV  
SURAT

Just like the IPL final earlier in the year, a team in blue prevailed over a team in yellow by one run as Karnataka defeated Tamil Nadu to retain its Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy crown in an exciting climax at the Lalbhai Contractor Stadium on Sunday. This is Karnataka's second title of the season after the Vijay Hazare Trophy in October and gave skipper Manish Pandey, who is getting married on Monday, a perfect wedding gift.

In the IPL summit clash, Mumbai Indians had pipped Chennai Super Kings by a solitary run.

Chasing 181 and needing 13 off the last over, R. Ashwin smashed K. Gowtham for two boundaries off the first two balls but the off-spinner came back strongly in the last four deliveries.

Vijay Shankar was run out off the fifth ball while going for a second run and M. Ashwin failed to connect properly when his team needed three off the final delivery.

From 80 for four in the 10th over, Vijay Shankar (44, 27b, 5x4) and B. Aparajith (40, 25b, 1x4, 3x6) were involved in a 71-run stand for the fifth wicket off just 7.1 overs. The two took Tamil Nadu



**Having the last laugh:** Karnataka edged out Tamil Nadu in a thriller. • VIJAY SONEJI

close to the target before Aparajith holed out to long-on at the start of the 18th over.

For TN, the openers failed to provide the blazing start it needed before Washington Sundar and Dinesh Karthik steadied things with a 39-run stand. However, two quick wickets by J. Suchith and Gowtham put the skids on the chase.

Earlier, after being asked to bat, Pandey led from the front with an unbeaten 60 (45b, 4x4, 2x6) to help Karnataka post 180 for five.

Tamil Nadu opened the

bowling with its trump card – off-spinner R. Ashwin – who was assigned the tough task of keeping the Karnataka openers, K.L. Rahul and Devdutt Padikkal, in check. The two looked watchful and took calculated risks, with Rahul hitting Ashwin for a couple of boundaries and Padikkal flicking left-arm pacer Natarajan for a six over square-leg.

#### Wily Ashwin

In the fifth over, Rahul stepped down and sent Ashwin soaring over long-on for a six. Off the next, he attempted

the same but the bowler outsmarted him by pulling back the length and having the India opener caught at long-on. The wily off-spinner had Mayank Agarwal caught and bowled off the very next delivery.

Pandey and Rohan Kadam ensured that Karnataka did not lose its way in the middle overs, stringing together a 65-run partnership for the fourth wicket.

Pandey started with a six and a four off leg-spinner M. Ashwin over long-on. He enjoyed a slice of luck in the



**Turning point:** Vijay Shankar's run out proved decisive in the final analysis. • VIJAY SONEJI

## SCOREBOARD

**Karnataka:** K.L. Rahul c M. Ashwin b R. Ashwin 22 (15b, 2x4, 7x6), Devdutt Padikkal b Washington 32 (23b, 3x4, 2x6), Mayank Agarwal c & b R. Ashwin 0 (1b), Manish Pandey (not out) 60 (45b, 4x4, 2x6), Rohan Kadam c Natarajan b M. Ashwin 35 (28b, 5x4), Karun Nair c Natarajan b M. Ashwin 17 (8b, 1x4, 1x6); Extras (lb-5, w-9): 14; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 180.

**Tamil Nadu:** M. Shahrukh Khan c Suchith b Gopal 16 (11b, 3x4), C. Hari Nishaanth c Pandey b More 14 (12b, 3x4), Washington Sundar b Gowtham 24 (19b, 2x4), Dinesh Karthik st. Rahul b Suchith 20 (16b, 3x4), B. Aparajith c Pandey b More 40 (25b, 1x4, 3x6), Vijay Shankar run out 44 (27b, 5x4), R. Ashwin (not out) 16 (9b, 3x4), M. Ashwin

(not out) 1 (1b); Extras (lb-3, w-1): 4; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 179.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-26 (Nishaanth, 2.6), 2-37 (Shahrukh, 4.1), 3-76 (Karthik, 8.6), 4-80 (Washington, 9.6), 5-151 (Aparajith, 17.1), 6-178 (Vijay Shankar, 19.5).

**Karnataka bowling:** More 4-0-32-2, Gowtham 4-0-31-1, Koushik 4-0-38-0, Gopal 4-0-37-1, Suchith 4-0-38-1.

**Toss:** Tamil Nadu.

**Karnataka won by one run to retain the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.**

## BCCI to pursue relaxation in conflict of interest clause

Results in the deferment of appointment of Cricket Advisory Committee



**All set:** Sourav Ganguly arrives at the BCCI office for the board's AGM. • PTI

#### AGM

**AMOL KARHADKAR**  
MUMBAI

With the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) deciding to pursue relaxation in the conflict of interest (COI) clause for the involvement of former cricketers in administrative and technical capacity, it has resulted in the 88th Annual General Meeting (AGM) deferring the appointment of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC).

The delay in appointing the CAC will mean that the fate of the senior National selection panel will continue to hang in the balance, at least for a few more days.

"The conflict clause stops everyone, A to Z it stops everyone. It has got former cricketers and former administrators also."

"That is why we can't make the CAC, we can't make proper selectors," said BCCI president Sourav Ganguly after chairing the first AGM in three years.

"We are going back to the court for all these clarifications because some of these I

don't know where we will finish. The conflict issue stops us from everything, to get good people and keep them for longer and to stop them from doing other things is very difficult."

The conflict of interest clause inserted in the BCCI rulebook, forced by the apex court, resulted in all the three members of the then high-profile CAC – Ganguly, V.V.S. Laxman and Sachin Tendulkar – resigning.

Their successors, who were acting on an interim basis, also tendered their resignations recently, with Kapil Dev, Aunshuman Gaekwad and Shanta Rangaswamy stepping down from their posts.

Even the Committee of Administrators (CoA), in its last status report, had recommended to the Supreme Court relaxation in the conflict clause.

#### Fate uncertain

The delay in CAC's appointment will mean the fate of M.S.K. Prasad's selection committee remains uncertain. Prasad and Gagan Kho-

#### Salient features

##### Contracts for domestic cricketers

The AGM approved central contracts for domestic cricketers "through state associations", according to Ganguly. The next step is to chalk out a plan before the end of the Ranji Trophy, depending on the revenue each association generates and the quality of cricketers

##### Azharuddin's dues cleared

Dues cleared for Mohammad Azharuddin. They had been held back since the former India captain was banned for his alleged involvement in the match-fixing scandal in 2000. The Hindu understands that the amount to be disbursed to him is approximately 1.5 crore. Azharuddin attended the meeting on Sunday as HCA president

##### Pink-ball Test to continue

Some of the cricketers who featured in India's maiden day-night Test in Kolkata recently may have been apprehensive about sighting the ball under lights, but Ganguly stressed that the pink-ball Tests are here to stay

**No-ball umpire in IPL**

The Kolkata Test featured an additional umpire to only monitor no-balls via television. Ganguly said the experiment had been a success and will be persisted with during IPL 2020

##### Infrastructure subsidy

It was decided to raise the infrastructure subsidy for State associations from 70 crore to 100 crore. This will help various associations complete their new stadium projects or grounds in the interiors faster. Gujarat CA's ambitious project - the largest cricket stadium in the world with a capacity of 1.10 lakh - is set to be inaugurated in March next year

da have served four years as

selectors, while the other three – Sarandeep Singh, Jatin Paranjape and Devang Gandhi – have been in the role for three years.

According to the revised rules, no individual can be a selector for more than five years.

complaints. Chennai has suspended its two franchises.

"It's very hard to stop tournaments on the basis of who gets approached. Even in Syed Mushtaq Ali, was told that one of the players got approached.

"That's not wrong. What's wrong is what you do after getting approached, whether it's right or wrong.

"In some of these cases, the teams seem to be involved, so we are dealing with it. We have to get the Anti-corruption (systems) right."

Contrary to Ganguly's statement, the TNPL corruption scandal hasn't resulted in the suspension of an individual or a team. Besides, the T20 Mumbai's second season had a reported approach to a senior player for under-performing during the knockouts.

## Ganguly reveals suspicious approach in Mushtaq Ali Trophy

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
MUMBAI

With two of the four prominent intra-State T20 leagues facing a corruption crisis, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly revealed that the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 championship too had an incident of a player reporting a suspicious approach to the anti-corruption unit.

#### Dealt with

Asked whether the allegations of corruption in the Karnataka Premier League and Tamil Nadu Premier League are of concern to the BCCI, Ganguly said: "We have dealt with it. We have spoken to the respective State associations. As you know, KPL is on hold now.

"Then there is one in Chennai, one in Saurashtra and one in Mumbai. Saurashtra and Mumbai haven't seen any

## Root, Burns hit centuries

Visitors 39 for three after Australia enforces follow-on

#### PAKISTAN IN AUS

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
ADELAIDE

Pakistan was battling to stave off defeat in the day-night second Test against Australia on Sunday after being forced to follow on, with Tim Paine's men needing seven wickets to clinch the series 2-0.

The visitor, which has lost 13 consecutive Tests in Australia, was in big trouble at 39 for three when rain forced an early end, 248 runs behind with two days left and its top order decimated.

It had resumed on an overcast afternoon at 96 for six in its first innings, in reply to Australia's 589 for three declared, built on the back of David Warner's monumental 335 not out.

#### Yasir's maiden ton

Yasir Shah smacked a dogged maiden Test century and Babar Azam hit 97 but it was all out for 302 and still 287 runs adrift, with Mitchell Starc the hero, taking six for 66.

Australian skipper Tim Paine enforced the follow on and the second innings started badly for Pakistan.



**Spoilsport rain:** Australia's players celebrate Mitchell Starc's dismissal of Azhar Ali even as the heavens open up. • AP

#### SCOREBOARD

**Australia – 1st innings:** 589 for three decl.

**Pakistan – 1st innings:** S. Masood c Paine b Hazlewood 19, Imam-ul-Haq c Warner b Starc 2, A. Ali c Smith b Cummins 9, A. Shafiq c Paine b Starc 9, B. Azam c Paine b Starc 97, I. Ahmed c Paine b Starc 10, M. Rizwan c Paine b Starc 0, Y. Shah c Lyon b Cummins 113, S. Afridi lbw b Starc 0, M. Abbas c Warner b Cummins 29, M. Musa (not out) 12; Extras (lb-2): 2; Total (in 94.4 overs): 302.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-11, 2-24, 3-201, 4-245, 5-262.

**New Zealand bowling:** Southee 26-3-63-2, Henry 21.4-5-56-1, Wagner 23-3-76-1, Mitchell 12-4-28-0, Santner 17-4-32-0.

9-281.

**Australia bowling:** Starc 25-6-66-6, Hazlewood 14-2-48-1, Cummins 22.4-2-83-3, Lyon, 22-3-65-0, Labuschagne 10-2-32-0, Smith 1-0-6-0.

**Pakistan – 2nd innings:** S. Masood (batting) 14; Imam-ul-Haq lbw b Hazlewood 0; A. Ali c Smith b Starc 9; B. Azam c Paine b Hazlewood 8; A. Shafiq (batting) 8; Total (for three wickets; in 16.5 overs): 39.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-2, 2-11, 3-20.

**Australia bowling:** Starc 4-1-10-1, Hazlewood 8-3-15-2, Cummins 4.5-2-14-0.

## Last-gasp win for Leicester; United frustrated

Inter moves to the top of Serie A after Juventus trips against Sassuolo

#### EURO LEAGUES

**REUTERS**  
ROME

Leicester City reclaimed second spot in the Premier League in dramatic fashion as Kelechi Iheanacho's stoppage-time goal earned it a 2-1 victory over luckless Everton on Sunday.

Jamie Vardy had equalised for Leicester in the 68th minute after Richarlison had given Everton a deserved first-half lead.

Iheanacho's goal was initially disallowed for offside but after an agonising VAR wait the decision was overturned, sparking scenes of joy for the hosts and dejection for Everton.

Leicester moved back above Manchester City and is three points ahead of the champion with 32 from 14 games, eight behind Liverpool.

Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer suffered another frustrating afternoon as his team was held to a 2-2 draw by lowly Aston Villa at Old Trafford on Sunday.

United is ninth on 18 points with Villa 15th on 15.

Inter Milan moved above



**Two-goal hero:** Lautaro Martinez fires in Inter Milan's opening goal against SPAL. • AP

Juventus, which was held by Sassuolo, to the top of the Serie A table with a 2-1 win at home to SPAL thanks to a Lautaro Martinez double on Sunday.

Leicester is now one point ahead of Juve on 37 points, while SPAL remains second from bottom and without a win in its past seven matches.

Leon Bailey scored twice as Bayern Munich crashed 2-1 at home to 10-man Bayer Leverkusen. Hansi Flick lost

for the first time in five

games as Bayern's interim coach after Jamaica winger Bailey scored first-half goals for Leverkusen.

## TV PICKS

**New Zealand v England:** 2nd Test, S S Select 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 a.m.

**NBA:** Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.

**Australia v Pakistan:** 2nd Test, Sony Six (SD & HD), 9 a.m.

**Big Bout League:** Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7 p.m.

**ISL:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

## IN BRIEF



Harden joins Jordan for third-most 60 point games

**LOS ANGELES**  
James Harden tied Michael Jordan for the third most 60-point performances in NBA history on Saturday as Houston Rockets blasted the last-place Atlanta Hawks 158-111. Harden finished with 60 points to reach the mark for the fourth time in his career and tie Jordan. Only two players, Kobe Bryant (6) and Wilt Chamberlain (32) have more.

**The results:** Houston 158 bt Atlanta 111; Milwaukee 137 bt Charlotte 96; Philadelphia 119 bt Indiana 116; Sacramento 100 bt Denver 97 (OT).

**Ethiopia win in SCO Kunning Intl. marathon**

**KUNNING (CHINA)**  
Ethiopia's Dereje Debele Tulu won the men's event in 2:13:18s at the SCO Kunning International Marathon here on Sunday. Compatriot Mulu Seboka Seyfu triumphed in the women's category in 2:32:54, both smashing the competition's records. IANS

**Rajnigandha Achievers takes the honours**

**NEW DELHI:**  
Rajnigandha Achievers beat Adie Broswon 3-0 in the final of the Col. Girdhari Singh Cup 8-goal polo tournament here on Sunday.

+  
Kuldeep Singh Rathore was adjudged the 'most valuable player' and mare Carbonara of Padmanabh Singh was declared the 'best polo pony'. Lt. Gen. M.H. Thakur, Director General of Supplies and Transport, presented the prizes.

**The results (final):**  
Rajnigandha Achievers 3 (Kuldeep Singh Rathore 2, Daniel Otamendi) bt Adie Broswon 0.

**Penalty costs Rajiv and Senthil points**

**SPORTS BUREAU**

BURIRAM (THAILAND)

Despite a top 15 finish by both Rajiv Sethu and Senthil Kumar in the Asia Production 250cc class, IDE-MITSU Honda Racing India faced a rather tough Sunday in the final round of the Asia Road Racing Championship here.

The five-position penalty for exceeding track limits in turn 12 of the final race turned the fortune of five riders, which included Rajiv and Senthil.

Rajiv settled for the 18th place after finishing 13 and Senthil 16th after a brilliant 11th place. It proved costly as the team had no points added to its kitty.

## Miranda scores CCFC's winner

TRAU FC remained subdued for most part

## I-LEAGUE

**K. KEERTHIVASAN**  
COIMBATORE

Chennai City FC's new foreign signing Adolfo Miranda struck home the winner in the host's 1-0 victory over Tiddim Road Athletic Union FC (TRAU FC) in its Hero-I League opening match at the Nehru Stadium here on Sunday.

The victory, though wouldn't have pleased its chief coach Akbar Nawas for the way its midfield and frontline performed. The defending champion's defence, though, was top-notch.

After a barren first session, Miranda gave the seizable gathering of 8000-odd at the Stadium, something to cheer about when the Spaniard's left-footer from near the box found the back of the net.

**Defensive error**

The goal was largely due to central defender Isinde Isaac's failure to make the clearance.

It could have easily been 2-0 in the 88th minute but for an unmarked Pedro Manzi missing an easy chance.

Pedro Manzi, the star of last season for CCFC, wasn't exactly firing on all cylinders.

He did have his moments to score. He nearly did it in the 30th minute when his header off a beautiful cross



**Good start:** Adolfo Miranda, who scored for Chennai City FC, vies for the ball with a TRAU FC player. ■ M. PERIASAMY

from Ajith Kumar, who dribbled past two defenders on the right, ricocheted off the crossbar only to be cleared.

As early as in the 10th minute, Jackson Dhas cross from the left saw Manzi miss the ball with his shot just near the goalmouth.

Soon, Manzi was again in the thick of things when a pass from Jackson saw the Spanish striker hit it over the post.

TRAU FC, the second divi-

sion champion, was subdued for almost the entire first and second session.

As early as in the 10th minute, Jackson Dhas cross from the left saw Manzi miss the ball with his shot just near the goalmouth.

Soon, Manzi was again in the thick of things when a pass from Jackson saw the Spanish striker hit it over the post.

TRAU FC, the second divi-

## Portugal, France, Germany in group of death

England gets Croatia; relatively easier opponents for Italy, Spain

## EURO 2020

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
BUCHAREST

Reigning European champion Portugal will come up against World Cup winners France and Germany in the standout group at Euro 2020 following Saturday's draw for the tournament here, as England came out alongside

Croatia. Neither France nor Portugal were in Pot One for the 24-team competition being held in 12 cities across Europe, making them the dangerous teams to avoid for the top seeds.

In the event, they came out together in an incredibly tough Group F alongside Germany, which will play group games at home in Budapest should it make it.

Meanwhile, England was

drawn with Croatia and the Czech Republic in Group D, with Gareth Southgate's team to play home group games at Wembley, which will also be the venue for the semifinals and final.

That section will be completed by one of the winners of the play-offs to be played next March, leaving open several possibilities including Hungary, which will play at home in Budapest should it make it.

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## Messi and Rapinoe expected to win Ballon d'Or ceremony to be held today in the Paris capital

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
PARIS

The biggest names in world football will descend on Paris on Monday for the 2019 Ballon d'Or ceremony, with Lionel Messi and USA women's World Cup superstar Megan Rapinoe tipped to leave with the honours.

It would be an enormous shock if Rapinoe did not depart the Chatelet Theatre

with the women's prize as she returns to the country where she was the driving force on and off the field for the United States as it retained their title.

The suspense surrounds the identity of the men's winner, 12 months after Croatia's Luka Modric claimed the crown thanks to his exploits in dragging his country to the World Cup fi-

nal and winning the Champions League with Real Madrid.

That ended a decade in which Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo had won the Ballon d'Or five times each, but the smart money now is on the Barcelona man claiming number six.

There are 30 nominees in total for the prize, organised by France Football.

## Versallies claims Zoom Zoom Plate

**HYDERABAD:** Versallies (Akshay Kumar up) won the Zoom Zoom Plate, the main event of the races held here on Sunday (Dec. 1). The winner is owned by M/s. K. Balamukunda Das, K. Shashabindu Das & Krishnan Kamesh, and trained by D. Netto.

1. ROYAL TERN PLATE (1,200m), maiden 2x+o only (Cat. II), (Terms): CONSCIOUS GIFT (Suraj Narredu) 1, Kapell Bruke (Kiran Naidu) 2, Lightning P (Ajeeth Kumar) 3 and Royal Valentine (Nakhat Singh) 4. 4-1/4, 1-1/4 & 2-1/4, Im, 14, 22s. 27 (w), 5, 6 and 6 (p), SHP: 14; FP: 24, Q: 20, Tla: 33. Favourite: Conscious Gift. Owners: Mr. M. Ramakrishna Reddy & Miss Ameeta Mahra. Trainer: D. D'Silva.

2. MING DYNASTY PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II); KING MAKER (Surya Prakash) 1, Max (Afroz Khan) 2, Lightning Fin (A. Imran) 3 and Tokyo Jam (Koushik) 4, 2 and hd. Im, 12, 84s. ₹46 (w), 9, 7 and 6 (p), SHP: 20, FP: 283; Q:

5. BANARSILAL GUPTA MEMORIAL CUP (1,800m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): HAVELOCK CRUISE (A. Imran) 1, No Compromise (Akshay Kumar) 2, Francis Bacon (Ajeeth Kumar) 3 and Miss Marvelous (Ashhad Asbar) 4. 2, 1-1/2 and 3/4. Im, 55, 25s. ₹21 (w), 8, 6 and 7 (p), SHP: 21; FP: 58, Q: 23, Tla: 123. Favourite: No Compromise. Owners: M/s. K.S.N. Murthy, P. Ranga Raju & C. Nanda Kumar. Trainer: D. Netto.

6. MING DYNASTY PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): MISS LILY (Surya Prakash) 1, La Mer (Suraj Narredu) 2, Sublime (Gaddam) 3 and Delphina (Gaurav Singh) 4. 3/4, shd and nk. Im, 13,04s. ₹16 (w), 8, 5 and 11 (p), SHP: 17; FP: 49, Q: 20, Tla: 124. Favourite: La Mer. Owners: M/s. Manjiri Horse Breeders Farm Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Mr & Mrs. Shapoor P. Mistry. Trainer: Deshmukh.

Jkt: ₹3,220 (84 tkt.), Runner-up: 382 (303 tkt.), Mini Jkt: 300 (261 tkt.), Tr (i): 237 (163 tkt.), (ii): 190 (211 tkt.).

7. GALACTICA PLATE (2,000m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), (no. whip), 500: 1. Ashwa Arjun (4) G. Nareesh 60, 2. Buttonwood (3) Abhay Singh 60, 3. Alexanderthegreat (1) Surya Prakash 58, 4. Yogatha (8) Ajeeth Kumar 58, 5. Dorotheo (1) Koushik 58, 6. Super Dart (2) Ashhad Asbar 57, 7. Pontius Pilate (7) Suraj Narredu 55, 8. Nayadeep (3) Akshay Kumar 54 and 9. Shaquille (4) Kunal Bunde 53.

1. PASO ROBLES, 2. KARIEGA, 3. BRITISH EMPRESS

8. ACTUALLY, 2. AVANTIKA, 3. TOP CONTENDER

9. CH. V. LAKSHMI PRASAD RAO SIRDSEAP SIRCILLA MEMORIAL CUP (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 350: 1.

Golden Fortune (5) Ajeeth Kumar 60, 2. Tootsie Roll (6) Afroz Khan 58, 3. Magnetosphere (6) P. Trevor 59, 4. Ayur Shakti (4) Suraj Narredu 58, 5. Red Snaper (5) Jitendra Singh 58, 6. Tapatio (2) Surya Prakash 56, 7. Royal Treat (8) Nakhat Singh 55, 8. Whisky (1) Rafique Sk. 52.5 and 9. Vijays Maestro (9) Gopal Singh 51.5.

10. BEYOND LIMITS, 2. AYUR SHAKTI, 3. MAGNETOSPHERE

11. KUNTALA PLATE (1,400m), 5-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 205: 1. Running Fire (8) Kiran Naidu 60, 2. Shakesphere (7) Abhay Singh 57.5, 3. Takisha (5) Gaurav Singh 55.5, 4. Best Friend

12. GOLDEN FORTUNE, 2. PONTIUS PILATE, 3. NAYADEEP

13. TLA: 815. Favourite: Siyabonga. Owner: Mr. N. Prashant Reddy. Trainer: Deshmukh.

14. BANARSILAL GUPTA MEMORIAL CUP (1,800m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): HAVELOCK CRUISE (A. Imran) 1, No Compromise (Akshay Kumar) 2, Francis Bacon (Ajeeth Kumar) 3 and Miss Marvelous (Ashhad Asbar) 4. 2, 1-1/2 and 3/4. Im, 55, 25s. ₹21 (w), 8, 6 and 7 (p), SHP: 21; FP: 58, Q: 23, Tla: 123. Favourite: No Compromise. Owners: M/s. K.S.N. Murthy, P. Ranga Raju & C. Nanda Kumar. Trainer: D. Netto.

15. TLA: 815. Favourite: Siyabonga. Owner: Mr. N. Prashant Reddy. Trainer: Deshmukh.

16. GOLCONDA 1000 GUINEAS (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 315: 1. Arc Of History (3) Gaurav Singh 60, 2. N R I Symbol (2) Rohit Kumar 60, 3. Actually (4)

17. GOLCONDA 1000 GUINEAS (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 315: 1. Arc Of History (3) Gaurav Singh 60, 2. N R I Symbol (2) Rohit Kumar 60, 3. Actually (4)

18. GOLCONDA 1000 GUINEAS (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 315: 1. Arc Of History (3) Gaurav Singh 60, 2. N R I Symbol (2) Rohit Kumar 60, 3. Actually (4)

19. GOLCONDA 1000 GUINEAS (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 315: 1. Arc Of History (3) Gaurav Singh 60, 2. N R I Symbol (2) Rohit Kumar 60, 3. Actually (4)

20. GOLCONDA 1000 GUINEAS (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 315: 1. Arc Of History (3) Gaurav Singh 60, 2. N R I Symbol (2) Rohit Kumar 60, 3. Actually (4)

21. GOLCONDA 1000 GUINEAS (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 315: 1. Arc Of History (3) Gaurav Singh 60, 2. N R I Symbol (2) Rohit Kumar 60, 3. Actually (4)

22. GOLCONDA 1000 GUINEAS (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 315: 1. Arc Of History (3) Gaurav Singh 60, 2. N R I Symbol (2) Rohit Kumar 60, 3. Actually (4)

23. GOLCONDA 1000 GUINEAS (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 315: 1. Arc Of History (3) Gaurav Singh 60, 2. N R I Symbol (2) Rohit Kumar 60, 3. Actually (4)

24. GOLCONDA 1000 GUINEAS (1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 315: 1. Arc Of History (3) Gaurav Singh 60, 2. N R I Symbol (2) Rohit Kumar 60, 3. Actually (4)

25. GOLCONDA 1000 GUINEAS (1,600m), 3-y-o & over

# Bangalore Racing Stars dazzle

The team finishes on top in three of the four races

## X1 RACING

**RAYAN ROZARIO**

GREATER NOIDA

The Bangalore Racing Stars (BRS) line-up of Oliver Webb, Arjun Maini, Michelle Gating, Nayan Chatterjee and Vishnu Prasad struck it rich, winning three out of the four races, in the first round of the X1 Racing League which was part of the JK Tyre Festival of Speed at BIC here on Sunday.

BRS had won two races quite comfortably on Saturday but it seemed to go Mumbai Falcons' (Mikkel Jensen, Kush Maini, Pippa Mann, Karthik Tharani & Sohil Shah) on Sunday. The latter looked well prepared for the challenge and, with a clever strategy in place, outwitted the former to throw the contest wide open.

### Unfortunate

In the final race, run on a relay format, Falcons looked determined to pull it off, but an unfortunate spin upset its calculations.

## Gurpreet and Sunil clinch gold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JALANDHAR

Asian championship silver medallists Gurpreet Singh and Sunil Kumar clinched gold medals in the Tata Motors senior National wrestling here on Sunday.

Punjab's Gurpreet overcame two-time junior World championships medallist Sajan Bhanwal, representing Services, 3-1 in the 77kg category.

The experienced Sunil crushed Punjab's Prabhal 5-1 in the 87kg final.

In the 55kg category, Services' Arjun beat Ajay on technical superiority.

Enjoying home support, Punjab's Harpreet Singh, the Asian Games silver medallist, defeated Rajbir Chhikara of Railways 4-1 in the 82kg final.

Hardeep Singh, the first Greco-Roman wrestler to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, received a walkover from Ravi Rathi of Railways in the 97kg section.

Railways finished on top with 210 points ahead of Services (170) and Jharkhand (109). The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), as announced earlier, included the gold medallists of the Nationals in the Indian squad for the South Asian Games in Nepal.



**Lot to cheer about:** Bangalore Racing Stars outshone the field during the inaugural weekend.

\*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Arjun Maini was pleased with BRS' performance. "The team has been fantastic and we are waiting for the points to come in. We should be leading the table. I hope we have a decent lead so that we can build on it in Chen-

nai," he said. He admitted that Mumbai had come up with a smart strategy. "The combination of Kush (Arjun's brother) and Jensen was a big boost to the team."

"It was a good day today [Sunday], but yesterday it

never went right as we did not have the drivers we wanted in the same car. Obviously, we were losing a lot of time."

"But we sorted that out, qualified second and won the first race of the day.

## Vishnu Prasad has the last laugh

MSport driver pips Raghul to the coveted FLGB4 title



**Burning rubber:** Vishnu Prasad speeding around the BIC during his win on Sunday.

\*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## MOTORSPORTS

**RAYAN ROZARIO**

GREATER NOIDA

Chennai's Vishnu Prasad of MSport edged out his friend and teammate Raghul Rangasamy in the final race to clinch the coveted FLGB4 title in the JK Tyre-FMSCI National racing championship at the BIC here on Sunday.

Vishnu was not at his best the other day and defending champion Raghul had caught up with him on the points table. "We were dead-even on points (73) and knew it would go down to the wire," said Vishnu, after the race.

It did with both Vishnu and Raghul, third and fourth on grid, giving their all for the title. Pole sitter Ashwin (Dark Don Racing) tried hard to stop an aggressive-looking Vishnu from going upfront. But the latter played it smart to go ahead before the safety car came in.

**Trouble**  
Raghul realised this was his chance to play catch up. He was stuck in the middle but with three laps to go in the eight-lapper, Vishnu moved from the inside in Turn 1. Rohit Khanna (Dark Don) tried to close the door on him but ended up kissing Vishnu's car a bit. That spelt trouble as Rohit bumped his teammate Sandeep, who flipped his car and, it eventually caught fire.

Raghul managed to sneak in on time and, from there, Vishnu, Ashwin and Raghul finished in that order under the safety car. For Vishnu it was his 13th title. "I want a couple more," he said.

Raghul was not disappointed. "To be frank, I am happy that the title is within the team and between us," he said.

**The results (provisional):**

**JK FLGB4:** 1. Vishnu Prasad 23:16.961; 2. Ashwin Datta; 3. Raghul Rangasamy.

**JK Gixxer Cup:** 1. Sanjeev Mhatre 23:28.022; 2. Syed Muhammadi Ali; 3. Tanay Gaikwad.

**JK Superbike 600cc:** 1. P. Sai Raghul Shetty 12:21.241; 2. Gurvinder Singh; 3. Vimal Khubchandani.

**JK Superbike 1000cc:** 1. Rajini Krishnan 11:49.834; 2. Dilip Lalwani; 3. Simranjeet Singh.

India defeated Sri Lanka 27-25, 25-19, 21-25, 25-21 in a hard-fought match while Pakistan beat Bangladesh 25-15 25-21 26-24 in the other semifinal.

India defeated Sri Lanka 27-25, 25-19, 21-25, 25-21 in a hard-fought match while Pakistan beat Bangladesh 25-15 25-21 26-24 in the other semifinal.

The final will be played on Tuesday.

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## A Hamilton masterclass

Runner-up Verstappen is third overall in championship

### FORMULA ONE

**REUTERS**

ABU DHABI

Lewis Hamilton delivered sumptuous confirmation of his title-winning supremacy on Sunday when he claimed his 84th career victory and 11th in 21 races this year by dominating the season-ending 'twilight' Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

Starting from a record 88th pole position, the 34-year-old Briton was unchallenged from lights to flag as he cruised to an untroubled triumph 16 seconds ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen and Charles Leclerc of Ferrari, who faced a post-race investigation for fuel irregularities.

All teams went through teething issues which is quite understandable, as it is the maiden attempt in a format that is the first of its kind in the world of motorsports.

**The results:** **Race 3:** 1. Mumbai Falcons; 2. Bangalore Racing Stars; 3. DGR Ahmedabad.

**Race 4:** 1. Bangalore Racing Stars; 2. Mumbai Falcons; 3. NK Racing Chennai.



**No sweat:** Lewis Hamilton was hardly troubled by the chasing pack as he scorched the Yas Marina racetrack. \*AP

rina circuit drew him level with Ayrton Senna in claiming a 19th start-to-finish triumph.

Hamilton's Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas, who had started from the back of the grid after taking a new engine, came home fourth ahead of four-time champion Sebastian Vettel in the second Ferrari and Alex Albon in the second Red Bull.

"That was an absolute masterclass," Hamilton's race engineer Peter Bonington told him on team radio. "You didn't even break into a sweat!"

The winner, who secured title number six with two races to go in Texas last month replied: "I can assure you, I am definitely sweating."

His fifth win at the Yas Ma-

nouncing the end of his three-year marriage to Emilia.

Sergio Perez took seventh for Racing Point on the final lap, Lando Norris was eighth for McLaren, Daniil Kvyat of Toro Rosso ninth and Carlos Sainz, in the second McLaren, took 10th.

The race was preceded by drama for Ferrari when Leclerc's car was discovered, during a pit-lane inspection, to have a fuel irregularity that revealed "significant discrepancies" and required a planned post-race ste-

wards investigation.

clerc 249, 5. Vettel 230, 6. Gasly 95, 7. Sainz Jr 95, 8. Albon 84, 9. Ricciardo 54, 10. Perez 46, 11. Norris 45, 12. Raikkonen 43, 13. Hulkenberg 37, 14. Kvyat 35, 15. Stroll 21, 16. Magnussen 20, 17. Giovinazzi 14, 18. Grosjean 8, 19. Kubica 1.

**Manufacturers' standings:** 1. Mercedes 701 points, 2. Ferrari 479, 3. Red Bull Racing 391, 4. McLaren 140, 5. Renault 91, 6. Toro Rosso 83, 7. Racing Point BWT 67, 8. Alfa Romeo Racing 57, 9. Haas 28, 10. Williams 1.

**Final drivers' standings:** 1. Hamilton 387 points, 2. Bottas 314, 3. Verstappen 260, 4. Le-

## Indian men to meet Pakistan in final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KATHMANDU

Defending champion India will face Pakistan in the summit clash of the men's volleyball competition in the South Asian Games after their respective wins in the semifinals here on Sunday.

India defeated Sri Lanka 27-25, 25-19, 21-25, 25-21 in a hard-fought match while Pakistan beat Bangladesh 25-15 25-21 26-24 in the other semifinal.

The final will be played on Tuesday.

### THE RESULTS

1. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) 1:42.866s, 2. Max Verstappen (Red Bull Racing) +16.772s, 3. Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) +43.435, 4. Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes) +44.379, 5. Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari) +1.04.357s.

India defeated Sri Lanka 27-25, 25-19, 21-25, 25-21 in a hard-fought match while Pakistan beat Bangladesh 25-15 25-21 26-24 in the other semifinal.

The final will be played on Tuesday.

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LICAR19-20/03/ENG

**Wang Tzu Wei ends three-year title-drought; no stopping Carolina Marin**

## BADMINTON

**RAKESH RAO**

LUCKNOW

Comeback-girl Carolina Marin kept her date with a second title in 71 days but Sourabh Verma faltered at the final hurdle of the \$150,000 Syed Modi International badminton tournament on Sunday.

Riding a wave of enviable crowd-support, the Olympic champion and fourth seed eased to a 21-12, 21-16 win over Thai challenger Phittayaporn Chaiwan for her maiden title here.

On a day of straight-game finals that produced two new singles champions, Sourabh came a cropper as Chinese Taipei's Wang Tzu Wei, seeded eight, ended a three-year title-drought with a 21-15, 21-17 victory.

**Energetic and accurate**  
Against a more energetic and accurate rival, Sourabh searched for answers but in vain. He did well to stay close in both games but the superiority of the Chinese Taipei player was never in doubt.

Ranked 22nd in the world and third in his country