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NEARBY



Trinamool MP speaks on pollution wearing mask

NEW DELHI
Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar of the Trinamool Congress wore a mask while participating in a discussion in the Lok Sabha on air pollution and climate change on Tuesday. Calling the current state of air pollution a national emergency, she demanded that the government launch a 'Swachh Hawa Mission'.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

CNG made a difference to Delhi's air, says Sonia

NEW DELHI
Expressing concern over the deteriorating air quality in the national capital, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday said the introduction of compressed natural gas in public transport by the Congress government in Delhi made a visible difference.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Delhi Jal Board to test 1,400 water samples

NEW DELHI
The Delhi Jal Board on Tuesday said it will start collecting 1,400 water samples for testing from across the city after a study by the Bureau of Indian Standards last week said that water in the city was the most unsafe among 21 State capitals.

CITY ▶ PAGE 4

Cong. sweeps municipal elections in Rajasthan

JAIPUR
The ruling Congress swept the municipal elections in Rajasthan on Tuesday, winning 965 of the 2,105 wards in 49 urban local bodies, for which the polling was held on Saturday. The BJP trailed behind with 736 wards.

NATION ▶ PAGE 9

OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 15

Hyderabad techie, M.P. farmer held in Pak. for illegal entry

Software engineer aimed to go to Turkey to meet girlfriend

MEHMAL SARFRAZ
ABHINAY DESHPANDE
LAHORE/HYDERABAD

Two Indian nationals, one from Telangana and the other from Madhya Pradesh, were arrested by the Pakistani police for illegally entering the country, authorities have confirmed.

Prashant Maidam, a software engineer from Hyderabad, and Durmi Lal, a farmer from Madhya Pradesh, were arrested in the Cholistan desert area of Bahawalpur in Pakistan's Punjab province last week, the police said. The Bahawalpur police registered an FIR against them under the Pakistan (Control of Entry) Act on November 14.

They had crossed the bor-



In custody: Prashant Maidam, who hails from Hyderabad, entered Pakistan without valid documents.

der without any identification papers and proper documents, such as a valid visa and passport, said the police.

Sources said Mr. Maidam told them that he was in love

with a woman in Turkey and was going there through Pakistan and Afghanistan. Mr. Lal wanted to see the border and crossed over by mistake.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

they had crossed the bor-

Tracing His footprints



From a faraway land: South Korean monks offer prayers at the Maha Bodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya on Tuesday. Buddhism travelled to China from India and then to Korea. Bodh Gaya is the spiritual home of Buddhists across the world. ■ PTI

Trade body pegs Kashmir's economic losses at over \$1 bn

KCCI plans to sue govt. for damages, move court

REUTERS
SRINAGAR

Economic losses in Kashmir have run well over a billion dollars since India revoked its autonomy and statehood in August, the main trade body in the region said, adding that it planned to sue the government for damages.

India turned its erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir into a federally-controlled territory, tightening control in a shock move it said would rein in militancy in the region and promote its development.

But the Kashmir Chamber

of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) said development was elusive, thanks to a protracted shutdown after people closed markets and businesses as a mark of protest, and for fear of reprisals from insurgents.

Telecom blackout
It estimated economic losses ran into at least ₹10,000 crore (\$140 billion) by September, but now exceeded that, said Nasir Khan, its senior vice president.

"We'll ask the court to appoint an external agency to assess the losses, because it is

beyond us," said Mr. Khan, adding that India's telecoms blackout in the region meant the body could not reach business owners by telephone to prepare estimates.

Instead, it had to send staff to meet them and gather details.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and local government officials did not respond to detailed requests for comment.

The clampdown has hit tourism as well as farming, horticulture and the arts and crafts that contribute the most to its export-oriented economy.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12



Ballad of protest: Isai Arasu comes up with impromptu songs on occasions such as slum evictions. ■ M. KARUNAKARAN

compose folk songs and render them with feeling to create awareness of social issues. Those include untouchability and forced resettlement of squatters. He has five own compositions, besides many where he has changed lyrics of film songs to carry a message.

"I first saw the impact music can have when I listened to my father singing a lullaby for my little brother. He also used to sing an *oppari* (a lament) to vent the pain of a penurious life. I also became fond of the medium listening to people

in my father's village sing, and even more so after listening to Ilaiyaraaja's songs," says Mr. Arasu.

He was born in Mylapore's Ambedkar Nagar, and his life has been a litany of problems. "I used

to sing the lyrics of Tamil poet Inquilab. My favourite was *Manusangada Naanga Manusangada*, which passionately draws attention to lack of humanity, he recalls. With his singing giving him an identity, he was invited by many Left parties to render songs at protests.

He composed *Chennaiyila vasika* after seeing the plight of people living along a canal at Tod Hunter Nagar. Whenever he visits sites where people are being evicted, it provokes him to come up with impromptu songs.

Gotabaya to visit Delhi on Nov. 29: Jaishankar

New President accepts Modi's invite



S. Jaishankar meets President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in Colombo. ■ PTI

dramodi's invitation to visit India on 29th November,"

Mr. Jaishankar wrote on Twitter soon after the meeting.

"We'll ask the court to appoint an external agency to assess the losses, because it is

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

An autorickshaw driver who turns lament into song

Provoked by inequality and inspired by folk tunes, he uses his compositions to take a jab at society

VIVEK NARAYANAN
CHENNAI

His name is Isai Arasu and he frequently breaks into song. *Chennaiyila vasika namaku edamilla, singara Chennai yarruku theriyala* (We don't have a place to live in Chennai, for whom is Singara Chennai then?) hums the 42-year-old

autorickshaw driver sitting in his vehicle in Adyar, waiting for a passenger.

Mr. Arasu, who makes ₹500 a day, has several personal challenges, including the ailment of his teenage daughter. This actually spurs him to

Network for intel agencies to share info will go live next year

NATGRID will help organisations to access database from a common platform

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The ambitious National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) project will be operational by December 31, 2020, the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

More than half the sanctioned positions are vacant, the government said.

The NATGRID will enable multiple security and intelligence agencies to access a database related to immigration entry and exit, banking and telephone details, among others, from a common platform.

The project, initially started in 2009 with a budget of ₹2,800 crore, is an online da-

Banking on information

■ NATGRID started in 2009 with a budget of ₹2,800 crore. This year, ₹84 crore has been allocated

■ It is an online database for collating scattered pieces of information and putting them on one platform. Ten Central agencies will have access to the data on a secure platform

■ 21 agencies, such as telecom firms, tax bodies and immigration department, will provide information

■ While NATGRID's data recovery centre in Bengaluru has been constructed, its office complex in south Delhi is nearing completion

tabase for collating scattered pieces of information and putting them together on one platform.

At least 10 Central government agencies, such as the Intelligence Bureau, the Research and Analysis Wing

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

and others, will have access to the data on a secured platform.

Periodic review

On Tuesday, Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy informed the Lok Sabha that "NATGRID has developed application software for proof of technology, which is yet to be fully rolled out. NATGRID solution is planned to go live by 31.12.2020." He said the progress was reviewed from time to time, and during the current financial year, ₹84.80 crore had been allocated to the project.

Nithyananda faces charge of illegally confining two students

Bengaluru couple move court for custody of daughters



When they rushed to Ahmedabad and tried to meet them, the officials at the institution did not allow them inside.

Complaint registered

The couple could bring back their two minor daughters with the help of the police and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. But their elder daughters, Lopamudra Jardananda Sharma, 21, and Nandhita, 18, refused to go with them. Based on their complaint, the Ahmedabad Rural police registered an FIR against Nithyananda and other ashram officials.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

JNU students complain of police brutality

SHINJINI GHOSH
NEW DELHI

Continuing its demand for a complete rollback of the hotel fee hike, the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students'

Union on Tuesday complained of police brutality and manhandling of women protesters during Monday's agitation. While the police had on Monday maintained

that there was no "lathicharge", several students, who were part of the protest, recounted the events that left many of them injured.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 2

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DATE	DAY	SUBJECT	TOPIC
30 th Nov. 2019	Saturday	Polity-1 + Current Affairs June, July & August 2018	Introduction to Indian Polity, Evolution of Indian Polity, Salient features of the Constitution, Preamble, Union and its Territory, Citizenship, Fundamental Rights, Fundamental Duties, DPSPs, Emergency Provisions, Centre-State Relations, Inter-State Relations, Amendments
7 th Dec. 2019	Saturday	Economy-01 + Current Affairs of September, October & November 2018	Introduction to Economy, National Income Accounting, Planning in India, NITI Aayog, Money and Banking, Inflation, Poverty and Unemployment, Inclusive Growth, NCERTS of Economy
14 th Dec. 2019	Saturday	Geography-1 + Current Affairs of Dec. 2018 & Jan. 2019	Fundamentals of Physical and Human Geography + World Map
21 st Dec. 2019	Saturday	Environment and Ecology-1 + Current Affairs of February & March 2019	Ecosystem and Ecology, Biodiversity, Environmental Pollution and conservation, Theoretical aspects of Climate Change
28 th Dec. 2019	Saturday	Ancient India + Art and Culture of Ancient Times + Current Affairs of April & May 2019	Introduction to Ancient History, Pre Historic cultures in India, Indus Valley Civilization, Vedic Society, Pre Mauryan Period, Mahajanapadas, Mauryan Empire, Jainism, Buddhism, foreign invaders in ancient times, Post Mauryan Era, Gupta Empire, Harshavardhan, Southern Dynasties + Architecture Styles, Literature and Philosophy, Dance, Drama/Theatre, Music, Paintings, Food, Puppetry, Crafts, Fairs and Festivals, socio-cultural movements

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Injured students complain of police brutality

They say women protesters were molested and manhandled; JNUSU to continue strike over fee hike

SHINJINI GHOSH

NEW DELHI

Continuing its demand for a complete rollback of the hostel fee hike, the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) on Tuesday complained of police brutality and manhandling of women protesters during Monday's agitation.

The Delhi police had on Monday said that there was no "lathi-charge", but several students who were part of the protest recounted the events which resulted in injuries to them.

Shashi Bhushan Pandey, a visually challenged student, who is also a JNUSU councilor, said: "I kept telling the police that I am visually challenged and even removed my spectacles but they did not stop hitting. Later, I was told by one of the policemen 'aandha hain toh protest mein kyun aya' (why are you participating in the protest if you are visually challenged)."

"We are being asked about our so-called 'violent protest', but what violence will a visually impaired person inflict? Shouldn't this question be asked to the government or the ones with the lathis?"



Students addressing the media at JNU on Tuesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

added Mr. Pandey.

Another JNU student, Suheta, recounted, "We were bleeding and asked for medical help but no heed was paid to our requests. The women protesters were molested and manhandled by the force."

Turned off lights, caned
Into the 23rd day of its strike, JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh, while addressing the media, said: "It was a historic day on Monday as such brutal attacks on students

have not been seen in the recent past. The Delhi police lathi-charged students after turning off the lights in the area. Everything seemed to happen within a fraction of a second and the students were left severely injured."

Referring to the high-power committee constituted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) on Monday, Ms. Ghosh said, "We have been told that the Registrar has refused to meet the committee. If this is the state of af-

fairs, then what justice will the students get? Why should we end our strike?"

Demanding the Vice-Chancellor's resignation, Ms. Ghosh added, "If the V-C is not listening to the Ministry too then he should be removed. We are not going to succumb to the brutality unleashed on us and will march to Parliament several times if required."

Students, including JNUSU office-bearers, maintained that "dialogue and negotiations" with the

administration are what they demand.

"Either the MHRD or the JNU administration should come out with a statement saying that the hostel fee hike will be rolled back. We will continue our strike as we are fighting for a cause," said Ms. Ghosh.

Priyanka Bharti, another student, said, "They talk about *Beti Bachao, Beti Bachao* but does anybody notice how the women are being treated? It seems like our crime is that we want to study. We will not budge as we want affordable education and will continue to fight for it."

The police said if they receive a complaint, they will look into it but they haven't received any so far.

Meanwhile, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad in a statement said: "The ABVP condemns in harshest terms the manner in which Delhi Police placed barricades and manhandled peacefully protesting students. However, we would like to express our disagreement with the Left Unity's mode of agitation and we have decided to continue our struggle separately from the Left-led union."

MP wears mask to Lok Sabha

Members call for joint action, keeping aside party politics

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

NEW DELHI

Driving home the adverse impact of air pollution, Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) wore a mask while participating in a discussion on air pollution and climate change in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Calling the current state of air pollution a "national emergency", she demanded that the government should launch a 'Swachh Hawa Mission' (clean air mission) on the lines of the Swachh Bharat Mission. Though she took off her mask after being urged by the members of the Treasury Bench, the MP said that it was time the Central government took note of the seriousness of the problem and initiated corrective steps.

During the discussion initiated by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, the MPs noted that party politics should be kept aside to seriously deal with air pollution, and suggested that a high-level task force headed by the Prime Minister be put in place.

BJP MPs in the Lok Sabha



TMC MP Kakoli Ghosh wearing an anti-pollution mask to Parliament on Tuesday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

said the Delhi government had done little to improve the situation and was instead shifting the blame on farmers in the neighbouring States.

Don't blame farmers'
BJP member representing West Delhi Parvez Sahib Singh slammed the Delhi government for blaming stubble burning for the pollution in Delhi-NCR and ignoring major pollutants, including vehicles and dust. "The Delhi government has spent sever-

al crores of rupees on advertisements but has done little to curb pollution. They have again spent on publicising the odd-even scheme but not taken steps to increase the number of public buses," he noted with both Pinaki Misra (BJD) and Manish Tewari (Congress) stating that stubble burning is not a major contributor to pollution in Delhi and the farmers should not be vilified.

Preneet Kaur (Congress) said farmers of Punjab are being subjected to harsh criticism and being projected as almost villains for pollution in Delhi as "rhetoric is getting better of sound rational thinking".

A meeting of a parliamentary committee on the issue of air pollution in the national capital is scheduled for Wednesday, after the absence of most of its members and senior officials in its last meeting sparked outrage. Sources said Mr. Birla pulled up some of the key officials, who had skipped the panel's meeting on November 15, and asked them to ensure that it is not repeated.

Congress president lauds CSE's efforts to protect environment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Expressing concern over the deteriorating air quality in the national capital, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday said the introduction of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in public transport by the then Congress government in Delhi made a visible difference.

Speaking at the presentation of the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, which was given to the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), Ms. Gandhi recalled how Indira Gandhi had contributed to safeguarding India's natural heritage and environment even in the midst of the 1971 India-Pakistan war.

"We, who live in this Capital, notorious now as the world's most polluted city, can recall the difference in air quality when CNG was introduced in public vehicles

the CSE in its fight to protect the environment.

"Since its establishment, CSE has become virtually India's conscience in the fight to preserve, protect and improve our natural environment. Over the years it has striven to raise awareness on the problem long before it became a major crisis we face today," she said.

Making her acceptance speech, Sunita Narain, director general of the CSE, pointed out how Indira Gandhi had moved to protect the environment by enacting various legislations with regard to water, air and land use.

Ms. Narain also dwelt on how climate change and weather patterns were now directly impacting India's economy.

She lauded the efforts of



the weird weather

events that are hitting the world should make us sit up; in India the monsoon is changing - I say again and again, the true Finance Minister of India was not or is not Mr. Mukerjee, Doctor Saab or Nirmala ji - it is the monsoon. Today, we are seeing extreme rain events like never before; we go from flood to drought; the intensity and frequency of cyclones has increased; the poor who did not contribute to the emissions in the atmosphere are the victims. And remember, this is just the beginning," Ms. Narain said.

The dignitaries who attended the event included former President Pranab Mukherjee, former Vice-President Hamid Ansari and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh among others.

The weird weather

No funds for Delhi under clean air programme

Capital among 102 most polluted cities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Despite being among the most polluted capital cities in the world, Delhi hasn't been allotted funds under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), an initiative launched by the Centre to reduce air pollution in 102 cities by 2024.

In response to a query from Prabhat Jha, BJP MP from Madhya Pradesh, on details of the NCAP, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar gave a statement describing funds allotted to cities. Of the 102 cities, that have been identified as the most polluted and submitted voluntary emission reduction plans, funds allotted for 90 cities were provided. Delhi wasn't on the list.

A senior official in the Delhi government, who did not want to be identified, confirmed to *The Hindu* that no funds were allocated to Delhi under the NCAP. A senior official in the Union Environment Ministry, who also declined to be identified, said that funds for Delhi were available through multiple Ministries. "Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has a budget of ₹206 crore for pollution." However, Delhi wasn't on the list.

"For the remaining non-attainment cities, a funding of ₹10 lakh per city for those with a population of less than five lakh and ₹20 lakh per city for those with a population of five to 10 lakh have been sanctioned," according to the reply.

The 28 priority cities are:

Vijayawada, Chandigarh, Raipur, Bhilai, Surat, Ahmedabad, Dhanbad, Bangalore, Bhopal, Gwalior, Mumbai, Nagpur, Navi Mumbai, Pune, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Ludhiana, Amritsar, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, Kolkata, Patna, Agra, Allahabad, Kanpur, Lucknow and Varanasi.

Air quality likely to fall to 'severe' category

AQI was in 'poor' category on Tuesday

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The air quality of Delhi stayed in the 'poor' category on Tuesday and is expected to fall to the 'severe' on Thursday and Friday, said forecasting agency SAFAR.

On Tuesday, the average level of PM 2.5 was twice (122.6 ug/m³) the safe limit (60ug/m³) in Delhi-NCR at 6 p.m., as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). But the level is nearly five times the safe limit (25 ug/m³) set by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The contribution of stubble burning in neighbouring States to Delhi's pollution was 13% on Tuesday, and is expected to rise to 14% on Wednesday.

Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) on Tuesday was 242 (poor), up from 214 (poor) on Monday, as per the 4 p.m. bulletin by the CPCB.

The AQI is likely to deteriorate to the higher end of 'very poor' category by early Wednesday and then

FIRs filed in connection with JNUSU protest march

No complaint from students yet: police

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi police on Tuesday registered two FIRs in connection with the protest march carried out by Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) students on Monday against the hike in hostel fees.

The police said that one case has been registered in south district's Lodhi Colony police station and another in south west district's Kishan Garh police station.

Both cases have been registered against unknown members who were part of the protest, they said.

Cases have been registered under Section 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions), 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 332 (voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from his duty), 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 147 (punishment for rioting), 148 (rioting, armed with deadly weapon), 149 (every member of unlawful assembly guilty of offence committed in prosecution

of common object), 151 (knowingly joining or continuing in assembly of five or more persons after it has been commanded to disperse) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code and 3 Damage to Public Property Act.

Police said that no complaint has been received from the students so far.

No. of injured to rise

On Monday, during the protest, several students and officers sustained injuries and it was revealed that 15 students and 30 police officials were reportedly injured. However, the number rose to 27 and 46 on Wednesday which is likely to increase.

The students, during their long march to Parliament House, were contained near Safdarjung Tomb after they break through several barricades which were set up at multiple points, including the west gate of the university.

The students were protesting to save 'public funded education' and demanded roll back of the hostel fee hike.

JNU moves HC, seeks contempt action against students, police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The JNU on Tuesday approached the Delhi High Court seeking contempt action against its students and the Delhi police for allegedly violating a court order against holding a protest within 100 metres of the university's administrative block.

The JNU claimed that the students had grossly violated the August 9, 2017, order of the High Court by holding a protest within 100 metres of the administrative block and affecting its day-to-day working, which has been disrupted since October 28.

It said the police also violated the court order by refusing and failing to take action to maintain law and order in the university and removing the blockade around the administrative block.

The petition, filed through the Central government's standing counsel Monika Arora, sought direction to issue contempt notice against the alleged contemnors.

Geelani's son delivers emotional address at his remembrance meet

Ex-students, colleagues speak of how he was labelled a 'terrorist'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Narrating the experience of his father's time in jail and his prosecution, former Delhi University professor S.A.R. Geelani's son, Atif delivered an emotional address at a remembrance meeting for him held at Arts Faculty on Tuesday.

Former colleagues, friends and students also shared stories of the late professor, who was acquitted of his involvement in the 2001 Parliament attack case.

"Our family was never left alone. We were never allowed to live a life we always wanted," Atif told those gathered.

He spoke of seeing his father beaten up and

chained by the special cell when he was a child, of the trauma when his father was shot at after he was released from Tihar in 2004 and how the memories of his imprisonment returned when he was again imprisoned in 2016.

Others present, including former students and colleagues, also spoke of how the professor was labelled a "terrorist" at Zakir Husain College, where he taught, even after his acquittal and how those who spoke in his support were silenced.

"I can proudly say baba devoted all his life to the cause of the people...and I am proud to say I am his son" said Atif, who along with his sister decided to

pursue career as lawyers. "We had in our hearts that we will make sure that nobody goes through all of this again and do anything we could to protect the people" he said.

"He was such a figure to me that I still can't believe he is not with us. I resume my day-to-day work with the thought that he will always be with me. Always," said Atif.

The meeting was called by various students groups, including AISA, Pintaj Tod collective, SFI, DSU as well as a group of students from Zakir Husain College, who also spoke against the ongoing communication blackout in Kashmir.

East body proposes hike in taxes

Proposal includes property, betterment and professional tax

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Presenting the revised budget estimates for the current financial year on Tuesday, Commissioner of the East Delhi Municipal Corporation, Dilraj Kaur proposed a hike in property tax in various categories, a betterment tax as well as a professional tax - similar to proposals made in the South and North bodies.

Among new taxes, the east body proposed the introduction of an education cess of 5% of property tax, introduction of a "betterment tax" (levied on improvement of property value as a consequence of improved public infrastructure).

The Commissioner said that with the new devolution formula and funds received based on the latest DFC's recommendations, the east civic body was just able to manage its day-to-day expenses.

Notice to Centre, AIIMS over plea on quota for disabled

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday issued

CISF's canine brigade calls it a day

Seven retiring dogs felicitated at first-ever farewell ceremony, handed over to NGO for old-age care

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

Seven canines which served in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) for more than eight years received heartwarming salutes on the last day of service at a ceremony in Prakriti Park near Shastri Park metro station on Tuesday.

These dogs, aged between 8 and 10 years, served in the CISF squad deployed for Delhi Metro protection.

They had developed age-related ailments and were deemed unfit for operations by the force. The canines – Hina, Veer, Kite, Jelli, Jessy, Lucy and Lovely – have been adopted by a Delhi-based NGO which takes care of ailing animals, said a CISF officer.

Constable Vijay Kumar, the handler of Lovely, a female labrador, said he will miss the canine terribly because she had been a part of his life for last 10 years.



Faithful service: The canines during their farewell ceremony at Prakriti Park in New Delhi on Tuesday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

"She was very calm and sensitive compared with the other canines in the group. During the service, she has cleared 51 unattended baggages and 81 mock drills," said Mr. Vijay.

Deputy Commandant, CISF, Raman Kumar said it was the first time in the force's history that a ceremony was organised to honour the dedication and devotion of retiring canines.

"We organised a felicitation ceremony for the canines because a batch of seven were retiring together. It was a rare moment and we wanted to give them a memorable goodbye," said Mr. Kumar.

We organised a felicitation ceremony for the canines because a batch of seven were retiring together... We will always be grateful for the undying loyalty, devotion and faithful service from all seven of them. They will never be forgotten

RAMAN KUMAR
Deputy Commandant, CISF

who attended the ceremony, especially the dog handlers. Many CISF personnel gathered around the dogs to take a selfie before bidding them adieu.

Best friends'

Constable Neeraj, the handler of Veer, a male cocker spaniel, said he cannot describe the pain he is feeling in handing over Veer to someone else. "When I got Veer he was just a month old. We were best friends."

He was very naughty but he had a way of telling me 'get up friend, time to go to work'. He was loved by all other dogs in the kennel. I have taken one last selfie with him," said Mr. Neeraj. The canines were trained for six months at the CISF Dog Breeding Training Centre in Ghaziabad before being inducted into the Delhi Mero squad.

During the ceremony, senior CISF officers presented mementoes, medals and certificates to the dogs. Thereafter, they were offered cakes and given a final salute as they walked down the red carpet.

Mr. Kumar said that a team of CISF personnel has been formed to visit the dogs at the NGO's Gurugram centre where they will be kept for the rest of their lives. "We always form a team to look after retired dogs to avoid any ill-treatment to them," said the officer.

Elderly man dies on metro tracks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A 75-year-old man died on Tuesday after jumping in front of a moving train at Laxmi Nagar metro station.

The elderly man was a resident of Laxmi Nagar. He

had undergone eye and knee surgery around two years ago, said the police.

He had come to the metro station without informing his family members, they added. Family members of the man said he had been

upset over the past few months. He is survived by a son and two daughters.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.

Three brothers stab man to death in north Delhi

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old man was stabbed to death allegedly by three brothers in north Delhi's Sarai Rohilla. Two accused have been arrested, the police said on Tuesday.

A senior police officer said the victim has been identified as Firoz, and the accused are Ashfaq, Mushraq and Mumtaz, who is still absconding.

The victim's brother, Arman, reported the matter and said that Firoz had been assaulted. "Arman said that he was at his shop on Monday around 10.30 p.m., with his father when he heard a person cry. When he

stepped out, he saw three persons assaulting," the officer said. Arman said that his brother tried to break away but the men stabbed him and fled.

Based on the complaint, a case under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code was registered at Sarai Rohilla police station.

During investigation, it was revealed that Firoz had abused the mother of the accused, which enraged them and an argument broke out between the two sides leading to the incident.

The police said that the accused and the victim were previously involved in criminal cases.

Fire in Alipur paper godown; none injured

NEW DELHI
A fire broke out in a paper godown in Outer Delhi's Alipur on Tuesday. No injuries were reported in the incident. The blaze began around 1.41 p.m. Fifteen fire tenders were rushed to the spot and the fire was brought under control by 4.30 p.m. The cause of the blaze has not yet been ascertained, said the police

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

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Lord Lall had his own special stall at the DELHI BOOK FAIR 2019 dedicated to his Award winning Book "England my Love" (Best Indo-English Book 2018)

The stall was very popular with the visitors at the fair.

ENGLAND My Love

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Over 1,600 died in road accidents in 2018

Fatal accidents in Delhi register a five-year high, hit-and-run cases also increase, reveal Centre's data

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI

Road accidents in the Capital are on the decline but fatal accidents are at their worst compared to the last five years, as per data released by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).

According to the Road Accidents in India 2018 report, the Capital has been ranked first in the total number of road fatalities when compared to other Indian cities.

A total of 6,515 accidents were reported in the city out of which 1,657 were fatal. A total of 1,690 people died in road accidents in 2018 – or five every day.

Straight roads

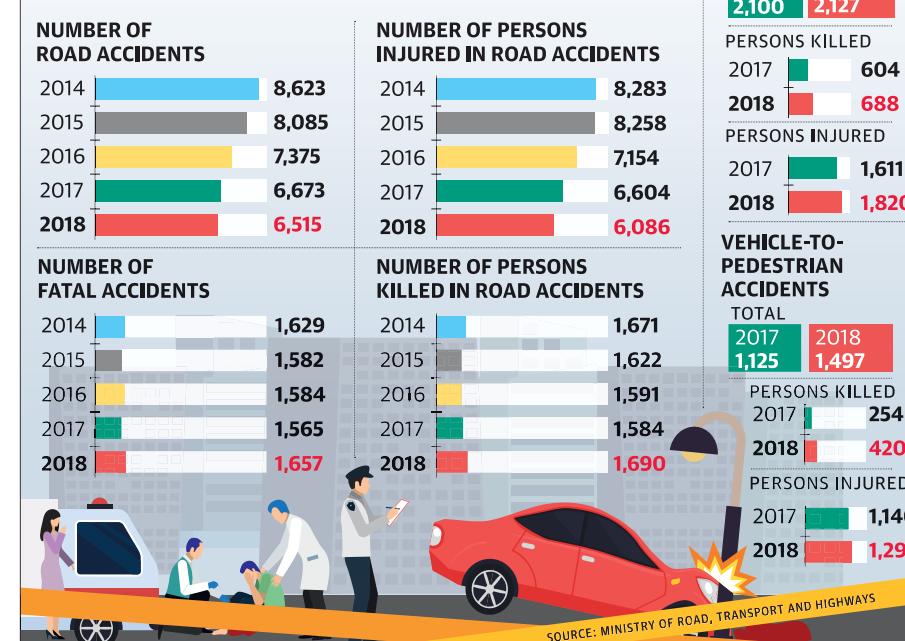
The number of hit-and-run accidents and vehicle-to-pedestrian accidents have also increased.

The report further pointed out that the maximum number of road accidents occurred on straight roads.

After a steady decline for three years – from 2015 to 2017 – last year recorded the maximum number of road accident deaths in Delhi compared to other Indian cities. The city recorded its highest road fatalities since 2014, when 1,671 people lost

Deadly roads

While the number of accidents has gone down, the number of people killed has increased between 2014 and 2018



ber of people killed in road accidents, after Delhi, Chennai recorded 1,260 deaths, Kanpur 698, Jaipur 692 and Bengaluru 686 deaths, according to the report.

Data digest

Out of the 6,515 road accidents reported in Delhi in 2018, the maximum were vehicle-to-vehicle collisions: 3,993 incidents, or 61% of total accidents reported.

Such collisions claimed 1,033 lives, in addition to injuring 3,694 persons.

There were 2,127 (or over 32%) incidents of hit-and-run in which 688 people were killed and 1,820 were injured. A total of 1,497 road accidents (or close to 23% of total accidents) were vehicle-to-pedestrian collisions in which 420 people died and 1,293 were injured.

The maximum number of road accidents (3,688) occurred on straight roads.

In 2017, a total of 6,673 accidents were recorded in Delhi, according to a similar MoRTH report released last year. There were 2,100 hit-and-run cases recorded in which 604 people were killed and 1,611 were injured.

Delhi Jal Board to collect, test 1,400 water samples

Move comes after Centre's report states city's water unsafe

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) on Tuesday said that it will start collecting 1,400 water samples for testing from across the city, after a study by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) last week said that water in Delhi was the most unsafe among 21 State capitals. The result was based on 11 water samples taken from across the city.

On Tuesday, the DJB also opened its water treatment plant in Sonia Vihar to the media and explained the different processes involved in treating water. The officials said that the DJB's water is 100% safe.

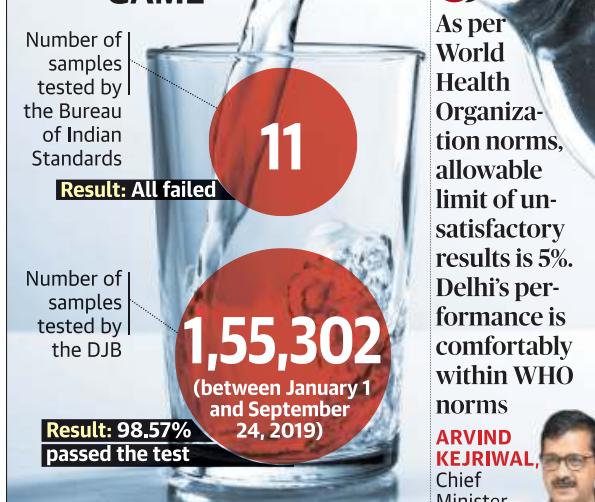
The DJB will deploy 32 teams to take five samples from each ward and a third party, which will be part of the process, will also test the water at their own facility, said the officials.

"The Centre has nominated two people for a joint inspection and we will also appoint two officials... after that we will hold a joint meeting to work on the details of how to conduct the sampling process," said Dinesh Mohaniya, vice-chairman of the DJB.

Mr. Mohaniya added that two Central government officials would not be enough to conduct a joint sampling.

Explaining the process, DJB's chief water analyst Sanjay Sharma said, "The treated water is tested 24 times in a day, once every hour, and it

NUMBERS GAME



taken to a recycle chamber, and if it is treatable, then it is taken through the whole treatment process again.

"If there is any problem with the raw water, then we stop the production immediately. If at any point during the treatment we feel that we cannot treat it up to the desired standards, then we flow it out into the Yamuna," he added.

Mr. Mohaniya said that the treatment is done through a four-stage process. "We do not know from where the Centre took the water for the study. As per the WHO, one sample should be taken for every 10,000 of population, but the Centre took only 11 samples for a city as big as Delhi."

has to pass all parameters, or else we do not supply it."

Mr. Sharma said if they feel that the quality of the treated water is not up to BIS standards, then the water is

'Have drafted rules for vehicle scrapping units'

Centre tells National Green Tribunal

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways on Tuesday informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that the draft guidelines for the setting up and operation of vehicle-scraping centres have been prepared and uploaded on its website for public suggestions and objections.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel was informed by the Ministry that a policy paper on the creation of an ecosystem for scrapping old vehicles and ensuring the transition into environment-friendly new vehicles, has also been circulated.

According to the draft Authorised Vehicle Scrapping Facility (AVSF) guidelines, individuals, firms, societies and trusts will be allowed to set up such facilities. However, it will be subject to meeting the requisite eligibility criteria and authorisation from the authorities.

The guidelines added that the authorisation will be valid for a decade and



The Delhi pollution control body told the NGT that it is monitoring scrapping units in Mayapuri. ■ FILE PHOTO

can be renewed for another 10 years.

Additionally, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) submitted before the Bench that a special task force is monitoring Mayapuri on a weekly basis to keep a check on any units dismantling vehicles on the roads. "The DPCC has constituted 16 teams to carry out night patrolling of industrial areas of Delhi to identify dumping and burning of any type of waste, apart from identifying industries emitting black smoke," the DPCC submitted.

The police said they received information on Monday about manufacturing of fake cumin in Bawana. The information was shared with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). A team was constituted comprising policemen and two officials from the food safety authority.

"A raid was conducted in Pooth Khurd and it was found that some people were manufacturing fake cumin with the help of grass, stone powder and sheera (jaggery residue). FSSAI officials have taken

samples of the fake cumin," Mr. Sharma said, adding that a case under relevant sections has been lodged. During interrogation, the accused allegedly told the police that they learned to manufacture fake cumin from people in their hometown.

"The manufacturing process involves a special type of grass being mixed with Sheera... then stone powder is mixed in and the material resembles cumin," the officer said. The police said that Harinandan and another identified accused who is at large are the masterminds behind

the operation. The other four are labourers.

Mr. Sharma said that the accused used to procure raw material from Rajasthan and would sell the finished product in U.P. and Rajasthan. "Now the accused persons were trying to run their illegal business here in Delhi and they had taken a warehouse on rent in August," he said.

The police said that the price of cumin in the market is ₹400 per kg but they used to sell their product for ₹20 per kg. The police claim to have recovered 19,400 kg of fake cumin and 8,075 kg of raw material.

search revealed an ID card bearing the name of Lufthansa Airlines. It was found to be fake," Mr. Bhatia said, adding that based on the complaint, a case was registered and the man was arrested.

When he was questioned, it was found that he pretended to be a pilot and was not enrolled in Lufthansa Airlines. "A

Fake cumin factory busted in Bawana, five arrested

Grass, stone powder, jaggery residue used to make product



The accused in custody along with the 19,400 kg of fake cumin seized during the raid on Tuesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Two held with heroin worth ₹50 crore

Man to face trial for admission fraud

Had duped Class 12 student of ₹50,000

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Two men were arrested in Delhi's Rohini on Tuesday for allegedly smuggling heroin into the city.

The police said they have seized 14 kg of the drug worth over ₹50 crore. The accused, Sanjeev Kumar Singh (34) and Pardeep Kumar Yadav (24), both residents of Uttar Pradesh, were arrested in Rohini's Sector-24. They used to get heroin from a woman in Manipur, they added.

"We got a tip-off that two persons will come to Rohini with heroin to smuggle it in the national capital," said Sanjeev Kumar Yadav, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell).

A trap was laid and the accused were arrested around 7 a.m.

During the search, two parcels, each containing 7 kg of heroin, were recovered from their backpacks, the DCP said, adding that the woman allegedly procures the drugs from Nepal, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

C. M. K.

different courses.

He filed a complaint in a Metropolitan Magistrate court seeking a direction to the Delhi Police to lodge a cheating case against the accused. The court allowed his petition. After the probe, the city police charged the man under Section 420 (cheating). Later, the court added the charge of forgery for the purpose of cheating, and put him on trial after framing the two charges.

The accused, through a revision petition, challenged the framing of charges in the court of Additional Sessions Judge Pooran Chand on the ground that the trial court did not take into account the material annexed with the chargesheet while framing the charges.

Dismissing the petition, the Judge said: "Prima facie material exists against the accused persons for framing of charges under aforementioned sections. I find no material irregularity or illegality in the impugned order."

Vineet Jaiswal, SP (City) Noida, who is investigating

Amid probe into salary scam, fire guts logs of Noida Home Guard

Scam could run into crores of rupees, says investigating officer

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

A fire broke out at the District Commandant Home Guard Office in Gautam Buddha Nagar in the early hours of Tuesday, allegedly destroying the salary muster rolls of the Home Guard.

On November 13, the Noida police had unearthed a salary scam allegedly running into crores in the Home Guard department.

Noida SSP Vaibhav Krishna said it seemed like a criminal act as only the salary papers were destroyed in the room. "An FIR has been lodged and a probe has been launched to find the cause of the fire," he said.

The scam is related to fraudulent withdrawal of salaries of several home guards in the district who reported on duty only 15 to 20 days in a month. An FIR was registered against unnamed officials for fraudulent withdrawal of salaries of the personnel.

Vineet Jaiswal, SP (City) Noida, who is investigating

the salary muster rolls were in a trunk. There is no sign of fire on the body of the trunk. It seems somebody unlocked it and burnt the records up to 2014... the incident will limit our knowledge of when the scam started and total amount swindled

the districts over a period of 45 days.

"The sample suggested that it was a big scam and other districts also opened similar inquiries. We registered an FIR but didn't reveal the names as it was a matter of investigation," Mr. Jaiswal said the home guards were paid on a daily basis.

"Their salaries are calculated by higher officials of the unit but are counter-signed by the Station House Officer. In this case, the signatures and stamps were found to be forged," he said.

He added that the fire would not impact the outcome too much as the investigation officer had acquired salary documents of the last year a couple of days back.

"It would only limit our knowledge of when it all started and the amount swindled," he said.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath took serious note of the incident and directed the district officials to take prompt action and arrest the culprits.

BJP alleges scam in LED streetlights procurement

Party approaches CBI seeking probe

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP on Tuesday met the CBI director to inform him about a "scam" in the procurement of 2.1 lakh LED lights.

The Rohini MLA further alleged that the LED lights procured by the Delhi government through the discoms were costlier and have shorter warranty periods than those available in the open market.

AAP denied the allegation and accused the BJP of "running a factory of lies".

The BJP delegation, led by Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta, demanded a probe into the alleged scam which, it claimed, was to the tune of ₹100 crore.

Mr. Gupta said that BJP MLAs met CBI Director, Rishi Kumar Shukla at his office and submitted a memorandum regarding the "scam" in procurement of LED streetlights.

Mr. Bhardwaj added that the discoms were merely executing agencies that invited tenders from the open market. The streetlights being installed are LED lights and they are far more economical than those being installed by the BJP-ruled municipal corporations in the city, he added.

ding that the tenders were floated by the discoms to procure 2.1 lakh LED lights.

The Rohini MLA further alleged that the LED lights procured by the Delhi government through the discoms were costlier and have shorter warranty periods than those available in the open market.

In response to the accusations, AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj said: "The BJP has started a factory of lies. In the last 4.5 years, they have filed two dozen cases against the Delhi government, with the CBI and the Anti-Corruption Branch. Despite the fact that the BJP-ruled Centre controls these agencies, nothing has been found."

Mr. Bhardwaj added that the discoms were merely executing agencies that invited tenders from the open market. The streetlights being installed are LED lights and they are far more economical than those being installed by the BJP-ruled municipal corporations in the city, he added.

DELHI Timings	
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20	
RISE 06:47 SET 17:26	
RISE 00:00 SET 13:24	
THURSDAY, NOV. 21	
RISE 06:48 SET 17:26	
RISE 00:52 SET 14:04	
FRIDAY, NOV. 22	
RISE 06:49 SET 17:26	
RISE 01:56 SET 14:43	

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	27	12
Safdarjung	27	12
Palam	26	13

Delhi Palam Today
27°C Shallow fog/mist during cool morning. Day will be comfortable with few clouds. Pollution level to increase.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
27°C Shallow fog/mist during cool morning. Day will be comfortable with few clouds. Night will be cool. Pollution level to increase.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019 All rights reserved.

IN BRIEF

'False' dope tests: probe ordered against hospital

AMRITSAR

The Deputy Commissioner of Punjab's Tarn Taran district on Tuesday constituted a team to probe against a civil hospital that is accused of falsely clearing over a dozen police personnel in dope tests, officials said. PTI

Protest against 'Muslim' faculty continues in BHU

Appointment as per norm, clarification not needed: varsity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT LUCKNOW

Protests against the appointment of a "Muslim" assistant professor in the Sanskrit Faculty of Banaras Hindu University continued on Tuesday, 12 days after it began.

The university, however, reiterated that the appointment was made as per norms and there was no need for further clarification.

The students opposed to the appointment of Assistant Professor Firoz Khan in the Sahaitya (Literature) Department of the Sanskrit Vidyaya Dharm Vigyan of the central university staged a sit-in and recited the Hanuman Chalisa.

They argued that Mr. Khan may be eligible to teach the Sanskrit 'language' but not the Sanskrit 'vidya dharma', primarily due to his religious identity.



The BHU campus

The students have been demanding that Mr. Khan be transferred to another faculty.

'Dharma yudh'

"The dharma yudh (holy war) goes on," posted Shubham Tiwary, one of the students leading the protest, on Facebook.

While he was not reachable on phone, in another Facebook post Mr. Tiwary, a Ph.D scholar, said: "Everyone has rights over a lan-

guage, but not over religion".

Umaresh Chaturvedi, the head of department, said the deadlock was still on and classes were not being held in the department.

Amid speculation that the administration held another meeting to convince the students to drop the protests and resume classes, BHU spokesperson Rajesh Singh clarified there was no such discussion by the Vice-Chancellor on Tuesday.

"Once appointment is made as per rules, we have taken a stand, [there is] no use to reiterate it," the spokesperson said.

However, asked about Mr. Khan not being able to discharge his duties as a teacher, Mr. Singh said: "He has officially joined and is getting his salary."

Mr. Khan did not respond to phone calls.

Savarkar photo found defaced in BHU

Incident took place in Political Science Department; varsity orders probe

OMAR RASHID LUCKNOW

Banaras Hindu University on Tuesday constituted a probe after a photograph of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar placed in a classroom was found to be defaced.

The incident took place in the Political Science Department of the central university.

On Tuesday morning, students discovered the defaced photograph of Savarkar lying on the ground in Lecture Room No. 103, of

C Incident was a minor one, but not an ordinary one from the national perspective

ASHOK UPADHYAY
Head of the Dept., Political Science

M.A.(final) and reported it to the administration. Following this, angry students sat on a dharna and submitted a memorandum demanding action against the culprit(s).

There is a "nexus at work," a student told repor-

ters, drawing a parallel with the defacing of the statue of Swami Vivekananda at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

"We fully oppose this," he said and demanded that CCTVs be installed in all classrooms and the miscreant be arrested.

The department said it replaced the defaced photograph with a new one. The photographs of other national icons also adorn the walls of the department.

Ashok Upadhyay, department head, said somebody

splashed the photograph with ink, causing discontent among the students.

Mr. Upadhyay said the incident was a minor one but "not an ordinary one from the national perspective".

Three-member panel
A three-member committee was formed by the Dean of the department to probe the matter, he said.

"We will try to find out about the culprits, report and punish them," said Mr. Upadhyay.

Google removes 'anti-India' mobile app from Play Store

IT giant takes action on request from Punjab Chief Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

Days after Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh asked Google to remove an anti-India mobile application – '2020 Sikh Referendum' – from its play store, the mobile app has been removed, said a government statement on Tuesday.

A press release from Punjab Chief Minister's office said that the app was not available anymore on Google play store for mobile users in India.



Punjab Chief Minister
Amarinder Singh

Lab, Punjab, it was found that the data of voters registered through the app was also linked and stored in the web server of the website, namely www.yes2Khalistan.org, created and handled by 'Sikhs For Justice' (SFJ), an outfit banned by India.

Notice to Google

"Based on these findings, the Cyber Crime Centre of the Bureau of Investigation, Punjab, had moved to get the app removed from the Google play store and the website blocked for usage in India.

He said two doves and a partridge were also found dead in the same field. Mr Semmaran, who is a veterinary doctor as well, said the cause of the deaths were not clear yet.

Wild berries

He said around 100 wild red berries were found stuffed in the digestive tract of peahens along with a few wheat grains.

Mr. Semmaran didn't rule out pesticides that farmers spray on crops for the deaths.

16 farmers held for stubble burning in U.P.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MATHURA

Sixteen farmers have been arrested for allegedly burning stubble and two lekh-pals suspended for dereliction of duty in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura district, officials said on Tuesday.

District Magistrate Sarvagya Ram Mishra said a total fine of ₹3.05 lakh is being realized from the guilty farmers. He also said 300 cases of stubble burning have been detected.



DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OLD SECRETARIAT, DELHI-54

e-Notice Inviting Tenders

Tender Ref. No. - F.15/DE/PSB/7th Paycomm/2016/12721 dated 15/11/19

Online tenders through e-procurement system are invited on behalf of Director (Education), GNCT of Delhi, under two-bid system i.e. (i) Technical Bid and (ii) Financial Bid, from Chartered Accountants Firms/LLP of Chartered Accountants to inspect the records of the Private Unaided Recognized Schools for a period of 12 months. The complete details of the tender are uploaded on the govt. e-procurement website and can be downloaded from <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>. Bids will be accepted online only. Any change/amendments made in the tender will be available on the above mentioned website.

Availability of NIT Document: from 20.11.2019

Last date and time for submission of Bids: 11.12.2019, upto 2.00 PM

Bidders may kindly refer the above website before submitting the bids.

-s/d-
DY. Director of Education
Private School Branch

Akali leader shot dead in Gurdaspur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BATALA (PUNJAB)

A local Shiromani Akali Dal leader was allegedly shot dead and his legs were chopped off following an altercation with his neighbour in Punjab's Gurdaspur district, police said on Tuesday.

Batali Senior Superintendent of Police Opinderjit Singh Ghuman ruled out any political motive behind the killing of Dalbir Singh Dhillwan, 51, who was the vice-president of the Gurdaspur unit of the SAD and also a two-time village head.

The incident occurred at Dhillwan village in Dera Baba Nanak area on Monday.

**GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**
E-procurement notice
**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING**

On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, RFP for Construction of 330.00 mtr span double lane Bridge i/c footpath on back water of Govind Sager Lake on Panjal-Jhandutta Nand-Nagru road at Nand Nagru including approaches from chainage 18/650 to 19/050 and chainage 19/380 to 19/470 on EPC mode Under Central Road Fund (CRF) sanction, Job No. CRP-HP-2018-19/161 is hereby invited from eligible class of contractors enlisted with HPPWD/MORTH/Railway.

The Govt. of Himachal Pradesh (HPPWD) is engaged in the development of Highway in the State and as part of this endeavor, it has been decided to undertake Up-gradation of the road stretch namely Panjal-Jhandutta Nand-Nagru road alongwith construction of Bridge (span 330.00 mtr.) at Nand-Nagru on Govind Sager Lake i/c approaches and road upto Jejwin (From Km.0/0 to 21/250) (Category-MDR-095) through an Engineering, Procurement and Construction(EPC) Mode Contract.

The Govt. of Himachal Pradesh (HPPWD) Organization represented by Chief Engineer (HZ) HP.PWD, Hamirpur now invites bids for the following Bridge project:-

State	MDR No.	Name of work.	Estimated cost (In Crore)	Starting date for downloadng Bid	Earnest Money (in Lac)	Deadline for Submission of Bid	Cost of document (Rs)	Period of completion
H.P.	MDR-095	Construction of 330.00 mtr span double lane Bridge i/c footpath on back water of Govind Sager Lake at Nand Nagru including approaches from chainage 18/650 to 19/050 and chainage 19/380 to 19/470 (inclusive of required geometrics, pavement structure, CD works, way side amenities , protection works and road furniture)	42.30 Crore	30.11.2019 at 6:00 PM	42.00 Lacs	21.12.2019 at 11:00 AM	12,000/-	24 Months

The complete BID document can be viewed/downloaded from official portal of the hptender website <http://www.hptenders.gov.in> w.e.f. 30.11.2019 to 21.12.2019 (upto 6.00 PM). Bidder must submit its Financial bid and Technical Bid at <http://www.hptenders.gov.in> before upto 21.12.2019 at 11:00AM). Technical Bids so received online shall be opened on 21.12.2019 (at 11:30AM). Bid submitted through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, Original Bid Security, document fee, power of Attorney and joint Bidding Agreement etc. shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before 21.12.2019 (at 11:00 AM); please note that the Under Signed reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the BIDs without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Authorized Signatory

Superintending Engineer,
10th Circle HPPWD Bilaspur
Pin No.174001
Tel. No.01978-223466
e-mail:-hp-bil@nic.in

(For & on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh)

HP/2941/19-20

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Directorate of Archives, Archaeology & Museums,
J&K, Srinagar
www.karchives.nic.in

CORRIGENDUM

E-NIT No.: DAMA-03/2019-20
Please read:
i. Please read 25-11-2019 upto 1800 Hours instead of 20-11-2019 upto 1800 Hours for dead line of submission of Bids
ii. M.H. 0202-Edu instead of ABC/Revenue (others) and CD-011001010000276 instead of CD-011000101500276 appearing at Sr. No. 19 of Clause C (Weightage of Technical and Financial Bid)
iii. Empannelled as Consultant vide list issued vide No. F. No. 29-61/2016-C dated 13/03/2018 be treated as deleted as appearing in Annexure-I at Sr. No. 16 (Minimum Eligibility Criteria).
iv. The Bid Document uploaded herewith be treated as responsive.

DIRECTOR

Cost Rs. 1000.00
Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums
Mubarak-mandi- Jammu J&K, Jammu-180001
Ph/fax-0191-2578834.
Bid Invitation Notification
Tender e-NIT/DAMA-04/2019-20, Bid Identification No.2019_cc-85767_1
On behalf of Lieutenant Governor Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Department of Archives Archaeology & Museums J&K invites tender from reputed Photographers having specialty in Heritage Photography with sufficient resources to develop high definition photographs for publication in coffee table book on following titles/themes:
• Built Heritage of Jammu & Kashmir,
• Vanishing Arts, Crafts and Culture of Jammu & Kashmir
"Only after successful publication of first title the job of 2nd title shall be granted to the qualified bidder.
The tender/have to be submitted in prescribed Forms i.e. Annexure'A, and B.
The tenderdocument consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given at table-1.

Table -1

Name of the work:-	Heritage photography for publication of coffee table book,
• Bid Security	30,000/- INR
• Cost of bid document.	1,000/- INR
• Time of completion for work	75 days.
• Availability of Bid Document on e-Procurement Portal	18-11-2019
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Tiger on prowl in MIHAN: forest officials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NAGPUR

An adult tiger has been spotted in Multi-modal International Cargo Hub and Airport at Nagpur (MIHAN) in Maharashtra, forest officials said on Tuesday.

The forest department had installed several cameras traps in MIHAN on Saturday after they got information about a tiger sighting near the Infosys campus road here.

Authorities have alerted workers and people living in villages in and around MIHAN about the presence of the big cat.

The tiger's presence was confirmed after the inspection of camera traps in the area, deputy conservator of forests (Nagpur) Prabhunath Shukla said.

"Forest officials and MIHAN authorities have taken necessary steps to avoid any untoward incident," Mr. Shukla said.

Several tech companies including Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, HCL, Dassault Reliance Aerospace Ltd (DRAL) etc. have their campuses in the area.

Prolonged rains help tackle drought

Survey predicts dip in number of villages facing water scarcity in 2020

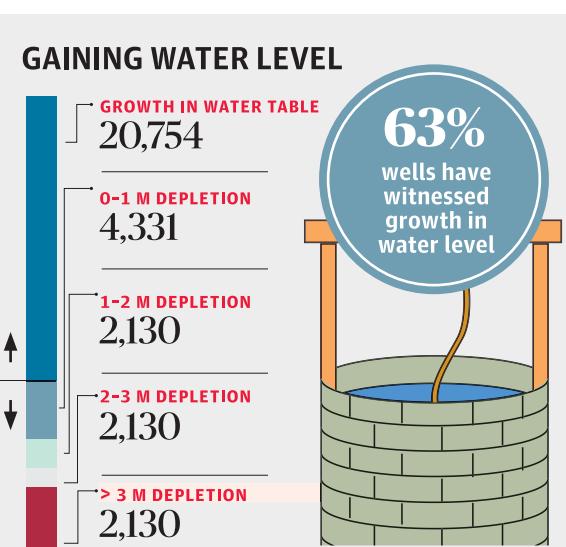
ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

While the prolonged rains in Maharashtra have led to destruction of crops in many parts of the State, it has also given authorities a breather in tackling drought.

According to the drought prediction survey 2019-20, prepared by the Groundwater Surveys and Development Agency (GSDA) of the State government, around 689 villages in 14 tehsils of the State could face water scarcity in 2020. Of these 359 villages may face the problem from January while the rest from April 2020. The survey was released in the first week of November and is available online.

As per the survey, the villages which might face water scarcity in 2020 are in Latur, Osmanabad, Solapur, Parbhani, Yavatmal, Amaravati and Chandrapur districts.

The GSDA survey for 2018-19 had estimated that 11,487 villages from 167 tehsils would face water scarcity due to rainfall deficit. For this year's survey, the GSDA had set up 32,769 observation wells where the water



levels were measured till October-end.

According to the survey, entire Konkan region including Mumbai, Kolhapur, Bhandara, Gondia, and Gadchiroli fall in the region which received more than 1200 mm rainfall while Pune, Satara, Nasik, Nandurbar, Latur, Parbhani, Hingoli, Nanded, Amaravati, Washim, Yavatmal, Nagpur, Wardha and Chandrapur receive around 1200 mm to

700 mm rainfall. The rest of the State falls in the less than 700 mm rainfall category.

"Earlier, the prediction was broadly based on merely 32,00 observation wells. But considering the size of the State, we decided to set up 32,769 wells this time. These were geo-tagged with Maharashtra Remote Sensing Application Centre. The gram panchayat and jal surakshaks were given training. As a result, this report is a pro-

duct of a survey from almost every village in the State," said Kaustubh Diwegaonkar, Director, GSDA. He added that the survey will help plan and prepare for drought mitigation methods.

"We will be updating the report after incorporating latest reports following the total withdrawal of rains by January," he added.

Considering the geography of Maharashtra, 28% area is a highly dissected plateau, which includes Konkan, western ghats and other hilly regions. At least 44% area is moderately dissected plateau with medium water seepage capacity. The rest of the 28% area is undissected plateau and/or valley fill where groundwater availability is higher.

In addition, 82% of the State consists of balsamic rock which has the capacity to store merely 1 to 3% water. Metamorphic rock covers 10% region which too does not hold water. Of the remaining 8%, around 5.5% is sedimentary rock while rest is alluvium where water storage is considerably good, around 5 to 10%.

BJP's Mohol all set to be elected next Pune Mayor

Party has 97 corporators in the 162-seat PMC

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Murli Mohol is set to become the next Mayor of Pune. Election for the top civic post is scheduled to be held on November 22.

Though the Congress-Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) alliance has fielded Prakash Kadamb, the contest is expected to be completely one-sided as the BJP has an overwhelming majority of 97 corporators in the 162-seat Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC).

Current Mayor Mukta Tilak's tenure ends on November 21. Ms. Tilak was fielded by the BJP from the Kasba Assembly segment and won an emphatic victory there.

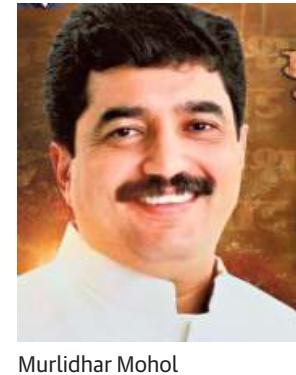
Given the changing political equations in the State following the Assembly polls, even if the Shiv Sena, the NCP and the Congress join hands in the PMC Mayoral election to replicate the 'Mahashiv Aghadi', the BJP's superior numbers will be enough for its candidate to

segment.

The Kothrud seat is considered a BJP bastion and was a 'safe' constituency for the BJP State chief, whose prestige was at stake in the electoral contest. According to sources, Mr. Mohol, a three-time corporator is being compensated for his part in ensuring Mr. Patil's victory in the Assembly polls.

In a related development, the NCP's Surmanji Latkar was on Tuesday elected as the 49th Mayor of the Kolhapur Municipal Corporation (KMC).

Ms. Latkar trounced Bhagyashree Shetke, fielded by the BJP and the Tararani Front, by securing 43 votes against Ms. Shetke's 32.



Murli Mohol

sail through.

Mr. Mohol had played a vital role in engineering the victory of BJP State unit president Chandrakant Patil from the hotly-contested Kothrud Assembly segment in the recently-concluded Assembly polls.

Prior to the Assembly polls, the party had dropped its sitting Kothrud MLA, Medha Kulkarni to make way for Mr. Patil, who was perceived as an 'outsider' on account of his hailing from Kolhapur. Mr. Mohol, too, was an aspirant for the candidature of the Kolhapur

'Report sought on Navy craft crash'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PANAJI

The Goa government has sought a detailed report from its district administration and the Indian Navy on the cause of Saturday's crash of a MIG-29K trainer aircraft here, Chief Minister

Pramod Sawant said.

Mr. Sawant told reporters he sought a report after preliminary reports claimed the crash was due to bird menace around the airport.

Both pilots of the twin-seater aircraft had ejected safely.

Two warkaris killed, 15 hurt in road mishap near Pune

Descendant of the 14th century Saint Namdev among the dead

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

Two warkaris were killed and 15 injured after a JCB earthmover mowed down a group of pilgrims at Dive ghat near Saswad, 25 km from Pune city.

The deceased included Sopan Namdas (35), said to be the 17th descendant of the 14th century Saint Namdev (a significant figure in the Bhakti movement) and his disciple, Atul Alashi (23).

The warkaris had set out from the temple town of Pandharpur carrying a palanquin bearing footprints of the poet-saint Namdev, and were heading towards the holy city of Alandi when the tragedy occurred. A pall of gloom descended among the pilgrims with the passing away of Sopan Namdas.

According to police authorities, the driver of the JCB machine, which was heading to Pune from Saswad, lost control after the brakes

of the machine allegedly failed, causing it to crash into the group of warkaris near Dive ghat.

The driver was later arrested under section 304 (2) (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), a police official said.

"Despite the frequency of such accidents, police have not provided us with adequate protection. We request that the authorities take serious note of this during the wari (the annual pilgrimage to the shrine of Lord Vithoba in Pandharpur)," said a pilgrim.

The injured were rushed to Noble multi-specialty hospital in Hadapsar.

"Two warkaris were

brought dead while two others, one of whom suffered head injuries, have been admitted to the ICU and are critical. The others suffered minor injuries and will be discharged soon," said Dr. H.K. Sale, Director,

Noble Hospital.

Offering his condolences, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State chief Chandrakant Patil, after a visit to the hospital, said the party would bear the expenses of those undergoing treatment from a special party relief fund.

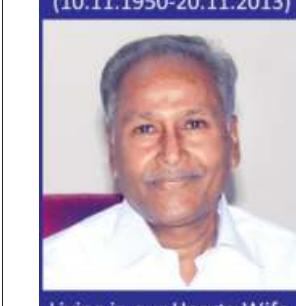
"The BJP has formed a special relief trust from which they will give ₹5 lakh compensation to the kin of the deceased and bear the medical expenses of those under treatment. A persistent refrain from the warkari fraternity is that they ought to have adequate police protection. We will work on this immediately once a government is in place," said Mr. Patil.

District Collector Naval Kishore Ram, who also visited the hospital, said a proposal to provide financial aid for the deceased and injured is being forwarded to the State administration.

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SHO DP/7151/SW/19. PS. Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi Ph.: 011-24106346, 8750870834	



Last-minute preparations in full swing in Panaji on Tuesday at the venue of the golden jubilee edition of the International Film Festival of India, which begins on Wednesday. ■PTI

Fee hike shouldn't hit poor students'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NAGPUR

Bihar-based Anand Kumar, founder of the famed Super 30 facility which prepares underprivileged children to crack the IIT entrance exams, said here on Tuesday that the JNU fee hike protest

should be resolved amicably.

Students have been protesting for nearly three weeks over the draft hostel manual, which proposes hostel fee hike, dress code and curfew timings.

"I feel fees should be ap-

plicable to those who are capable of paying them. The rich and those who have no dearth of money should pay the (hiked) fees," Kumar said. "The authorities, students should sit together and reach a solution," he added.

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IN BRIEF



Cong. MLA Tanveer Sait out of danger, say doctors

MYSURU
Former Minister and Congress MLA Tanveer Sait was declared out of danger on Tuesday after doctors found significant improvement in his medical condition. Mr. Sait was hospitalised after an assailant stabbed him at a wedding ceremony in Mysuru on Sunday.

Walayar case: Congress seeks Shah's intervention

NEW DELHI
In a surprise move, the Congress has sought the intervention of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to initiate a CBI probe into the death of two sisters at Walayar, in which the accused were being allegedly shielded by the CPI(M)-led LDF government. Congress MP Kodikummal Suresh raised the issue during zero hour in the Lok Sabha. The case relates to the mysterious death and sexual exploitation of two minor Dalit siblings at Walayar in Palakkad in 2017. IANS

PAC asks Karnataka govt. to put a stop to all turf club activities

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU**
With non-renewal of land lease agreement with the Karnataka government for the last one decade, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Assembly on Tuesday directed the State to take steps for the closure of all activities, including racing, of the Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) in Bengaluru

12-year-old girl stopped from going to Sabarimala temple

Kerala police stop her at Pampa after examining her Aadhaar card

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SABARIMALA**

A 12-year-old girl from Puducherry, who had come with her father for darshan at the Lord Ayyappa temple here, was not allowed to proceed from Pampa on Tuesday morning.

The age of the girl had been shown as 10 in the 'Virtual Q' booking. Women police examined her Aadhaar card and found that she was 12 years old and refused to allow her to proceed further, the police said.

After those accompanying the child were informed about the current situation in Sabarimala, her father and other relatives proceeded to the temple.

'Ready to wait'
A nine-year-old girl from Kerala, who came to the temple complex from Karnataka on Monday, had a placard around her neck that said "Ready to wait. Will visit the shrine after attaining 50 years." Hailing from Thrissur, Hridyakrishnan said she had visited the shrine thrice



Police personnel examining the Aadhaar card of a 12-year-old girl, who had come to offer prayers at Sabarimala. ■ PTI

thus far and would have darshan of Lord Ayyappa again only after she was 50.

The Pampa base camp is at the foothills of Sabarimala, about 5 km from the shrine. The Lord Ayyappa temple opened on November 16 evening for the two-month long Mandala-Makaravillaku pilgrimage season.

The State and temple precincts had witnessed protests by right wing outfits and BJP workers last year after the LDF government decided to implement the Su-

preme Court's verdict allowing women of all age groups to offer prayers at the shrine. However, the government is exercising caution this year, even though the top court has not stayed its verdict while posting various petitions on the matter to a larger bench.

Devaswom Minister Kadarkampally Surendran has made it clear that Sabarimala was not a place for activists, and said the government would not encourage women who wanted to visit the shrine for publicity.

HC allows light vehicles till Pampa

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHEE**

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Tuesday allowed private light motor vehicles (LMVs), including ones with 15 seaters carrying Sabarimala pilgrims, to Pampa and back. The Bench of Justice C.T. Ravikumar and Justice N. Nagaresh also made it clear that these vehicles should not be allowed to park on the roadside between Pampa and Nilackal.

The court ordered the vehicles to drop the passengers at Pampa and return to Nilackal for parking. The order came on a petition filed by P. Prasanakumar. The government had imposed restrictions on the entry of vehicles to Pampa last year following the devastation and damage due to the floods.

RTC panel awaits HC order, to continue strike

**SYED MOHAMMED
HYDERABAD**

The TSRTC Joint Action Committee on Tuesday said that the workers' strike would continue till they obtain clarity on Telangana High Court's orders on a batch of petitions seeking declaration of the strike illegal.

Speaking to the media, TSRTC JAC convener E. Ashwathama Reddy said, "We

have taken everybody's views. The strike will continue till we receive the High Court order. Then we will sit with our advocate and discuss it. We are expecting to receive the order copy on Wednesday. The central committee has decided to abide by the JAC's decision."

Sources at the meeting said that the opinion among workers on continuing the strike was divided.

Maoist held in Coimbatore associated with armed wing

An explosives expert, he was active in Chhattisgarh till 2012

**WILSON THOMAS
COIMBATORE**

Maoist Deepak, arrested by the Special Task Force (STF) from Coimbatore earlier this month, was associated with battalion-1, one of the most dreaded armed units of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA), according to Chhattisgarh police.

Shalabh Sinha, Superintendent of Police, Sukma, told *The Hindu* over phone that Deepak was part of battalion-1 of PLGA, the military component of the CPI (Maoist), and he was active in Chhattisgarh till 2012.

According to Chhattisgarh police, Deepak, as he is called within the party, had been with the battalion-1 in Bastar, one of the most Maoist-affected areas in the country.

He is an expert in making explosives and has also worked with the communication wing of the central military committee (CMC), the military governing body of the CPI (Maoist) which is responsible for conducting guerrilla attacks and for buying and supplying arms.

Mr. Sinha had earlier confirmed that Deepak had a role in the April 6, 2010 ambush on Central Reserve Police Force in which 76 men were killed in Chintalnagar village. As per the records with the Chhattisgarh police, Deepak's original name is Ramlu Korsa, and he hails from Mankeli village of Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh.

Aged 32, he was also associated with the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee (DKSZC) of the CPI (Maoist), according to Chhattisgarh police. When picked up by the STF men from a forest near Anaikatti in Coimbatore on November 9, he had claimed that he



A file photo of the Special Task Force personnel taking Deepak for medical examination. ■ SIVA SARAVANAN

CPI(M) leader Mohanan's comments trigger a row

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOZHIKODE**

A statement made by Communist Party of India (Marxist) Kozhikode district secretary P. Mohanan that Muslim extremist outfits are offering help to Maoists has triggered a political storm in Kerala with the Indian Union Muslim League and the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) accusing the

ruling party of trying to save itself when its members have been booked for Maoist links. The Popular Front of India said the CPI(M) was echoing the anti-Muslim posture of the Sangh Parivar.

P. Abdul Hamed, SDPI State general secretary, said the statements only paved the way for strengthening Hindutva apologists.

was a central committee member of the PLGA.

Meanwhile, a special court in Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh issued a warrant against him on November 15 in a case registered under Sections of the Arms Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act at Bejjai police station in 2012. The warrant directs the police to produce him before the court on November 26.

Police plea dismissed

On Tuesday, the Principal Sessions and District Court, Coimbatore, dismissed the petition filed by the district police seeking his custody

for five days. Bhavani B. Mohan, who appeared for him on behalf of the Centre for Protection of Civil Rights-Tamil Nadu, argued that there could be a threat to the life of the accused in police custody.

Though the court had issued an order on Tuesday directing the authorities of Coimbatore Central Prison and the Coimbatore Medical College Hospital to permit Mr. Mohan and two others to meet Deepak, the police and the hospital did not allow them. On Tuesday evening, he was discharged from CMCH after treatment for injuries and shifted to prison.

Kerala House opposes disinvestment of BPCL

CM slams Centre's privatisation policy



**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

The Kerala Assembly on Tuesday adopted a resolution condemning the Union government's move to privatise Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL).

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan pointed out that the Centre had put up the refinery in Kochi, a BPCL asset, also for disinvestment. He slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Central government for pushing ahead with a policy of privatisation that allowed corporates to gobble up profit-making public sector assets. The BPCL had registered profits since its inception.

'Security compromised'
The move would imperil the future of 30,000 employees. It would deprive households of subsidised cooking gas. The Modi go-

vernment had compromised the country's energy security by selling critical sectors to private profiteers.

The State had invested heavily in Kochi refinery. It had planned a large-scale petrochemical plant there at a cost of ₹25,000 crore. Moreover, the firm owed Kerala ₹1,500 crore in loan.

The State urged the Centre to withdraw its disinvestment plan in public and national security interests.

Farmer's bid to set ablaze Tahsildar office foiled

He was irked by delay in solving issue

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KARIMNAGAR**
Even as the people of Telangana are yet to recover from the shocking incident of Abdullapurmet Tahsildar Vijaya Reddy being burnt alive by a villager, an aggrieved farmer doused petrol on the office furniture, computers and on some of the employees of Chigirumamidi Tahsildar office in Karimnagar district on Tuesday.

Sources said Kanakaiah from Lambadipalli village of Chigirumamidi mandal had been visiting the tahsildar office for the last two years appealing to the revenue officials to look into a land dispute.

Disturbed over the undue delay in solving his problem, the farmer arrived at the tahsildar office with a petrol bottle and doused the same on the office computer, files and on some staff.

As he was about to light a matchbox, revenue officials overpowered him and confined him in a room and alerted the police.

The police took him into custody and said they would register a criminal case and remand him to judicial custody.

The revenue officials said that there was no delay on their part for the redressal of his grievance.

There was a land dispute between the brothers and there was no role of revenue officials in it, the officials maintained.

Commissioner V.B. Kamalasani Reddy warned that people involved in the assault of revenue or any government officials and obstructing their duties would be dealt with firmly. Any attack on revenue and government officials would not be tolerated, he said.

Following up on a report on the damage caused to the dam, its downstream apron and plunging pool by the several floods that have battered it in recent times, Mr. Singh visited the reservoir and interacted with operations and maintenance officials.

Speaking to *The Hindu* over telephone from atop the dam, Mr. Singh said the Superintending Engineer had told him that the plunging pool was growing and there was a need to arrest its growth. The foundation of



Students learning self-defence techniques as a part of 'Mission Sahasi' (making of the fearless) to mark the birth anniversary of Lakshmi Bai, the Rani of Jhansi, in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. ■ C.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

Clear look at solar eclipse in Cheruvathur

Kasaragod site will have first view of the Dec. 26 phenomenon in India

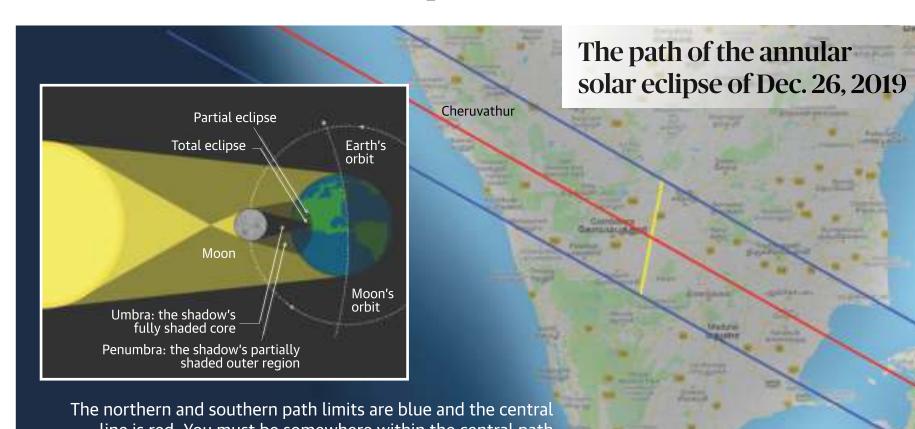
**C.P. SAJIT
KASARAGOD**

The people of Kasaragod district will have a rare opportunity to witness the December 26 solar eclipse first in all of India. Cheruvathur here is one of the three places in the world where the eclipse will be most clearly seen.

District Collector Sajith Babu said the district administration would make arrangements for the public to watch the eclipse from Kadakkottu in Cheruvathur.

The partial eclipse will begin at 8.04 a.m. At 9.24 a.m., the annular phase will begin and the full eclipse would be visible by then.

The annular solar eclipse will be fully visible in Cheruvathur. Observers will be able to experience the "ring of fire" that is characteristic



for this kind of solar eclipse. This is a rare event that can be seen only along a relatively narrow strip on the earth's surface. The eclipse is also visible in other areas, but the moon will not move central-

logical positioning, Cheruvathur will be the first place in India where it will be very visible," said Sachin Bamba of Space India, which works in the field of astronomy education.

'Srisailam dam needs maintenance'

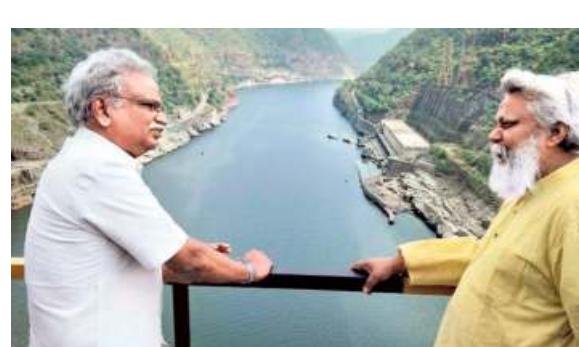
Foundation in peril if plunging pool erodes towards dam, says Rajendra Singh

**G. VENKATARAMANA RAO
VIJAYAWADA**

'Waterman of India' and Magsaysay Award winner Rajendra Singh has said the Srisailam Dam needs repair and maintenance works urgently.

Following up on a report on the damage caused to the dam, its downstream apron and plunging pool by the several floods that have battered it in recent times, Mr. Singh visited the reservoir and interacted with operations and maintenance officials.

Speaking to *The Hindu* over telephone from atop the dam, Mr. Singh said the Superintending Engineer had told him that the plunging pool was growing and there was a need to arrest its growth. The foundation of



Rajendra Singh at the Srisailam Dam along with dam SE Chandrasekhar Rao on Tuesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the dam would be in danger if the plunging pool eroded towards the dam.

Mr. Singh said more men and money were needed for the maintenance of the Srisailam dam, on which the lives of lakhs of people depended. Top priority should be given to the issue, he added.

ding that infrastructure was being developed but there was no proper maintenance of it.

Jalbiradiri national convener and environmental activist Bolisetty Satyanarayana said that considering the financial position of Andhra Pradesh, the Union government should ensure that the Central Water Commission included the protecting of plunging pool works under the World Bank's Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) II.

The extended parts of the dam's plunge pool should be filled with M50 concrete, Mr. Satyanarayana said. The outcome of the underwater study made by National Institute of Oceanography is expected in a couple of weeks.



House not in order

No Parliament can condone the preventive detention of its members for long periods

More than 1,300 people who were detained around the Centre's abrupt move on August 5 that downgraded and bifurcated Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) continue to be so 15 weeks later. In detention are dozens of elected representatives including a member of the Lok Sabha, Farooq Abdullah, who also happens to be a former Chief Minister. Senior functionaries of the government have repeatedly said the situation is normal in J&K, but indefinite preventive detention of people is difficult to justify under any circumstances. With continuing restrictions on communication, gauging the mood of the people may be tricky, but some signs of normalcy are visible as more businesses open and vehicular traffic increases in the Valley. Now that the first Lieutenant Governor has also taken charge in J&K, immediate steps must be taken to open up political and civil society space. Instead of trying to hard sell an improbable portrait to the outside world, the Centre would do well by engaging with those most affected by its decisions – the people of J&K. The government cannot possibly see merit in undermining mainstream political leaders in J&K.

The paradox of continuing detentions and restrictions in J&K was stark when Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about the forthcoming Constitution Day and the role of the Rajya Sabha in sustaining India's federal structure on the first day of the winter session of Parliament. As the PM rightly indicated, Parliament is for giving meaningful voice to the people, not to make disruptive noise. But those prevented from attending the House are denied the right to speak for the people they are elected to represent. The PM's call for frank discussions and dialogues in the current session would ring hollow when some of them remain in detention. The government has refused to make any commitment on Mr. Abdullah's release, while a member of Rajya Sabha, Congress leader P. Chidambaram remains in judicial custody as government agencies and law officers show an alacrity that they reserve exclusively for pursuing Opposition leaders. The PM's appreciation of the Rajya Sabha's role in the hollowing out of Article 370 through a hurried resolution in the last session was disingenuous. The non-deliberative manner in which a full-fledged State was reduced into two UTs in one stroke was an unprecedented assault on federalism. Disruption by the Opposition is a marginal challenge to the role of Parliament at present. The real and graver trial of the legislature is the executive's refusal to be scrutinised by it. By undermining parliamentary committees and brazenly labelling any Bill as a money Bill in order to bypass the Rajya Sabha, the government has shown scant regard for parliamentary precedents and processes. A course correction is in order.

Iran on the boil

Iran, struggling under the weight of U.S. sanctions, needs to revive the nuclear deal

Nationwide protests that broke out over the weekend are the latest challenge to the Iranian regime that's already struggling to fix a battered economy, hostile ties with the U.S. and waning influence in West Asia. The trigger was the government's decision to raise the price of rationed fuel. Thousands of people took to the streets, reminiscent of recent protests in Hong Kong, Chile, Lebanon and neighbouring Iraq. The protesters chanted slogans against the Islamic regime, carried "Death to Khamenei" posters, in a direct challenge to the country's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, and burned down banks and stores. Security personnel reportedly unleashed violence on the protesters, while the government shut down the Internet. According to Iranian media, at least 12 people were killed, including security personnel, and some 1,000 protesters were arrested. Both President Hassan Rouhani and Ayatollah Khamenei, the real ruler of Iran, have condemned the protests, while the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the country's top paramilitary force, has threatened to crack down on the demonstrations, raising the prospects of more violence.

Iran still has one of the lowest fuel prices in the world. But the rise was enough for a people reeling under high inflation, joblessness and a collapsing economy to take to the streets. President Donald Trump's decision last year to pull the U.S. out of the 2015 nuclear deal and reimpose sanctions has dealt a blow to Iran's economy. Inflation has risen to 40%. A quarter of Iran's youth are unemployed. And according to the IMF, the country's economy is expected to contract by 9.5% this year, while the currency, the rial, has plunged to record lows against the dollar. It is now evident that the collapse of the nuclear deal has cost the Iranian economy dearly. And the protests broke out at a time when Iran's influence in Lebanon and Iraq is being challenged by protesters. In Iraq, protesters burned an Iranian consulate and turned their anger against Iran-trained militias. In Lebanon, where Iran-backed Hezbollah is a key pillar of the government, protesters demand the resignation of the entire political class. And now in Iran, the protesters challenge the regime itself. In recent years, Iran has seen many protests and labour agitations. And the regime's response has always been typical. It branded the protesters as counter-revolutionaries and blamed foreign hands. The economic woes have weakened the delicate balance between the regime and its angry youth. The latest round of protests might die down. But Iran needs a lasting solution to address its revolting underbelly. It can't violently suppress the protesters forever and needs to get the nuclear deal back on track.

A harbinger of the new hard-right normal

Trump is the logical end product of an old GOP strategy of appealing to the white community's worst instincts



SANKARAN KRISHNA

In the weeks after Barack Obama's stunning victory in the presidential elections in November 2008, the Republican leadership was conducting its own post-mortem on John McCain's defeat. Things did not look good at all. Around 60% of Hispanics; 62% of Asians; 95% of African-Americans; and, most significantly, two out of three voters below the age of 30 had voted for Mr. Obama. While he got only 43% of the white votes, Mr. Obama outpolled McCain by a full 10% (54% to 44%) among young white voters. Other than elderly whites and evangelical Christians, the Grand Old Party (GOP) could not count on any constituency as a stronghold. Given the demographic changes underway (the proportion of non-Hispanic whites is projected to drop to below 50% of the U.S. population by the year 2045), the white vote as a share of the overall electorate has dropped in every election since 1992. Quite simply, it was hard to see where the GOP could turn for renewal. Defeat followed again in 2012 as Mr. Obama handily beat Mitt Romney, and pundits were predicting a prolonged presidential drought for the GOP. Sen. Lindsey Graham remarked in 2012, "We're not generating enough angry white guys to stay in business for the long term."

Angry white voters

Seven years later, Sen. Graham need no worries about the supply of angry white guys in the U.S. And in Donald Trump, they have 'one of their very own' ensconced in the White House. The unabashed appeal to the idea of a white America, alongside the impediments to minority voting; the

gerrymandering of districts; and a politics of constant spectacle centring on issues such as race, abortion, 'Christian values', immigration, crime, gun control, and anti-elitism, has kept the GOP from the obsolescence it feared. While Mr. Trump is the latest manifestation of this trend within the Republicans, there is abundant evidence that at least since Richard Nixon's "war on crime" (read "on minorities") in the name of a "silent majority" (read "whites"), the politics of race-baiting, minority voter suppression, and pandering to the fears of whites has long been a core strategy.

So much of the focus on the 45th President of the U.S. is trained on him being an 'exception'. It is fair to say that no previous President has ever combined mendacity, ignorance, arrogance, bigotry, and vulgarity in the way that he has. And yet, in contrast to this narrative of Mr. Trump being an 'egregious exception', it is time to regard him the harbinger of the new normal. For all his distastefulness, Mr. Trump is the logical end product of a 50-year-long Republican strategy of winning elections through appeal to the worst fears and instincts of the whites, especially those at the lower end of the educational ladder, whose greatest fear is losing their status vis-à-vis blacks and other coloured minorities. White supremacism has always been barely concealed throughout the history of the U.S., and events on the ground are making it increasingly likely that the open bigotry espoused by Mr. Trump may not just disappear when he is done being President.

Consider this: about 41% of Americans approve of the job Mr. Trump is doing as President (almost the same as Mr. Obama's approval rating three years into his first term). However, not one Senator or Congressman from one of the world's oldest political parties

has broken ranks with him; and his approval rating among Republican voters runs around 90%, as it does amongst all those who voted for him in 2016. In early November, a *New York Times*/Sienna College poll and analysis found that only Joe Biden bested Mr. Trump in a head-to-head contest (but by a margin of less than 2%) in six key States (Michigan, Pennsylvania, Florida, Wisconsin, Arizona and North Carolina). Mr. Trump was even with Bernie Sanders and clearly bested Elizabeth Warren in these States. The piece concluded that if present trends continued, there is a good possibility that Mr. Trump may lose the popular vote by a larger margin than the three million by which Hillary Clinton beat him in 2016 – but that he might win the Electoral College by an even wider margin than he did last time.

These facts are the background against which the Democratic move to impeach the President is unfolding. That Mr. Trump's conduct clearly exceeds the bar set for bringing charges of impeachment ("The President... shall be removed from Office... for treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors" as per the Constitution) is beyond doubt to anyone except the wilfully blind. Yet, the chances of impeachment resulting in Mr. Trump's ouster or resignation are practically zero. Even if

"smoking guns," and "this time he's gone too far," the truth is that most Americans, but especially those predisposed to like the President, now live in discrete media silos: they hear and see only what they already agree with. The idea that these impeachment hearings could uncover something that would result in a significant number of people changing their minds about him seems unlikely.

At the same time, the sheer outrage of what the whistleblower revealed about the quid pro quo sought to be exacted from Ukraine left Ms. Pelosi with no choice but to proceed with impeachment. Though it might play into Mr. Trump's hands, it was still the right thing to do. In the meantime, the already unwieldy list of Democratic contenders for the nomination just increased, bringing the scrum up to 19. With none of them able to establish a clear frontrunner status, Mr. Trump can focus on what he does best: be the ringmaster of a media circus that energises his core constituencies and mocks the rest.

Impeachment hearings

The first week of televised impeachment hearings before the House committee has confirmed that Speaker Nancy Pelosi's initial hesitation in embarking on impeachment was well-founded. Despite testimony that unequivocally indicates that President Trump personally vetted a policy of withholding already approved foreign aid to Ukraine until it agreed to dig up some dirt on the Bidens; that he had the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine fired because she would not play along with such extortion; and that he has since lied about all of this, Mr. Trump's popularity within his own base is unaffected. If anything, the longer the impeachment hearings play out, the more credible his claim – this is all a diversionary witch-hunt – will seem to the faithful. Despite the endless deployment of phrases such as



Turning the policy focus to child undernutrition

India has sustained its progress in reducing stunting and the number of underweight children in the last decade



SUNNY JOSE

The Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS) report, brought out recently by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, assumes salience, especially against two important factors. One, the latest Global Hunger Index (GHI), 2019 ranks India at the 102nd position out of 117 countries. Two, India's past performance in reducing child undernutrition has been rather mixed: there was a moderate decline in stunting but not in wasting. Between 2005-06 and 2015-16, child stunting and the condition of being underweight declined by 10% and 7% points, respectively. In wasting, the decline was a paltry 1% point. These factors make the CNNS (2016-2018) report timely and important.

The report covers dimensions of nutrition, some of which are new and important, and thereby heralds a new beginning in collecting national level nutrition data. It reveals that India has sustained its progress made in reducing the number of stunted and underweight children in the last decade. Despite such sustained decline,

the present stunting level still belongs to the threshold level of 'very high'. Hence, what is of urgent requirement is increasing the rate of decline. Though there is no magic policy wand to reduce stunting drastically within a short span of time, the CNNS report draws our attention to an all too familiar factor, which has not received the necessary attention.

Educated mothers

Stunting among children under four years came down from 46% to 19%, a whopping 27% points decline, when maternal education went up from illiteracy/no schooling to 12 years of schooling completed. This phenomenal decline was also true for the number of underweight children. The difference was close to the gap between the poorest and richest wealth groups. It is next to impossible to transform poorest households into richest so soon. However, increasing the educational attainment of women significantly is certainly feasible. Women's education, besides being of instrumental significance, has an intrinsic worth of its own. Possibly, as studies suggest, women's secondary education might be capturing the cumulative effects of household wealth, women's empowerment and knowledge and health-seeking behaviour.

Ending open defecation and en-



ded into nutrition policy, is dietary diversity. It is important to move away from the present focus on rice and wheat, which studies denounce as 'staple grain fundamentalism,' of Public Distribution System (PDS), to a more diversified food basket, with an emphasis on coarse grains. It would be worth including millets in the PDS on a pilot basis, in States where stunting levels are high. Evidence suggests that dietary diversity is indeed good for reducing iron deficiency anaemia, levels of which also remain high in India. It may be useful learning from the virtues, in terms of food habits, of the marginalised than from the vices of the privileged groups. The rising obesity among the latter is a cause for concern, and is an emerging public health problem in India which demands equal attention.

Decline in wasting
What about child wasting, in which India's past performance has been rather poor? Here, the report reveals an interesting, rather surprising, turnaround. The extent of decline in wasting is larger than that of stunting: about 4% points within 22 months. This is indeed a remarkable achievement, especially against a measly decline in wasting in the last ten years: 2% in 2015-2016 from 19.8% in 2005-2006. A closer look at the

performance of States reveals that Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana have reduced wasting by 10% points or more within just 30 months or less, the best performer being Uttarakhand that has reduced wasting by 14% points.

While a fair measure of decline in wasting, consistent with that of stunting, is expected, the magnitude in this case appears rather high. This is especially so, as all these five States had witnessed an increase in wasting during the last decade, between 2005-06 and 2015-16. If the decline has actually happened, then it means that many States have achieved unprecedented decline in wasting, reversing their past poor record, within a short span of time. Surprisingly, these States have not performed equally well in reducing stunting, despite the fact that wasting and stunting share many common causes. Is this 'empirical reality' rightly captured by the CNNS? Or, alternatively, do these estimates indicate a possibility of some sort of anomaly in data? An independent validation would not only dispel any doubt regarding data quality but also help identify the drivers of rapid reduction in child wasting in India.

Sunny Jose is RBI Chair Professor at Council for Social Development, Hyderabad. Views are personal

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.

An MP in detention

It is close to four months since the Centre revoked the special status for Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and the government has inexplicably kept the National Conference leader Dr. Farooq Abdullah still under preventive detention. The former Chief Minister of J&K has played an important role in the politics of the erstwhile State. The Speaker should intervene and facilitate the participation of Dr. Abdullah in the winter session. Such detentions exhibit the dictatorial character of the Narendra Modi government. In a democracy, there should be

no misuse of legislation like that of the Public Safety Act (Front page, "Uproar in LS over Farooq's detention," Nov. 19)

ARCHANA VENKATAMDHVARAJ,
Thoothukkudi, Tamil Nadu

■ Dr. Abdullah is a sitting Member of Parliament. He has every right to take part in the winter session. To keep him under detention is illegal. By silencing his voice, the Modi government is only justifying our suspicion that all is not well in Kashmir.

T. ANAND RAJ,
Chennai

Release of convicts

The High Court has rightly

government for its decision to release six convicts undergoing life imprisonment for the gruesome killing of six Dalits in Melavalavu in 1997. (Editorial, "Wrong signals," Nov. 19.) Considering the fact that this was a case where the casteist overtones in the crime appeared to be crystal clear, the government should have applied its mind a little more before arriving at the decision to release the convicts. While the government has the prerogative to effect such releases, the gravity of the case and the heinousness of the crime should have weighed over factors such as the longevity of the jail term

and the good conduct of the prisoners.

C.V. ARAVIND,
Bengaluru

Return of Rajapaksas

Gotabaya Rajapaksa's success in the presidential elections in Sri Lanka marks the return of the Rajapaksa family to power after about four years in the wilderness. Mr.

Gotabaya's nationalist campaign, with a promise of security and a vow to crush religious extremism, found favour with the Sinhalese majority in the country but his victory will be a concern for Sri Lanka's Tamil and Muslim minorities who voted against him. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi lost

no time in greeting him and offering an invitation to him to visit India, it will be a tall order to dissociate the island nation from its pro-China tilt (Op-Ed page, "An elusive reconciliation in Sri Lanka," Nov. 19).

N.J. RAVI CHANDER,
Bengaluru

Maternity benefits

The absence of adequate maternity benefits and leave provisions in India's policy measures is despite the fact that mothers, even those working in the formal sector, are forced to disproportionately bear the care-giving burden while facing discrimination in recruitment, promotion and

work allocation. Not only maternity provisions but other women-centred health care services are ignored, as is evident from a dearth of breast-feeding stations and separate functioning toilets in offices and workplaces. Underlying such policy neglect on the part of the government is an unwillingness of policymakers to de-glory motherhood and see the liabilities, risks and forgone opportunities it entails (Editorial page, "The mother of non-issues," Nov. 19).

TANVI SONI,
Jalandhar, Punjab



The threat to the idea of a public university

Education is a right, not a privilege reserved for the select elite



AVIJIT PATHAK

Even though Jawaharlal Nehru University, where I teach, is in turmoil because of an incompetent administration incapable of communicating with the students and teachers, the larger crisis confronting the idea of a public university needs to be understood. From Jamia Millia Islamia to Jadavpur University, from Visva-Bharati University to Aligarh Muslim University, and from the University of Hyderabad to Delhi University, we are witnessing an organised attack on the fundamentals of a creative centre of learning: critical pedagogy with deep politico-ethical sensibilities; epistemological pluralism; and a minimalist and enabling administration nurturing a transparent and democratic milieu for students, researchers and teachers to flourish as active participants in the cultivation and dissemination of foundational knowledge traditions. With politically appointed vice chancellors, philosophically impoverished technocrats, new technologies of surveillance, and the militaristic notion of discipline and punishment, it seems some of our finest universities are dying.

The purpose of education

To begin with, it is important to realise that if public universities with good quality, affordable education begin to crumble, the spirit of egalitarian democracy will be in danger. In times characterised by the market-driven principle, where there is commodification of education and reduction of higher education into market-friendly technical skills; where there are fancy private universities and all sorts of institutes of technology and management; and where teachers are seen as mere 'service providers' and students as 'consumers', education becomes a mere utilitarian/instrumental transaction. And this sort of education can by no means be emancipatory; it is inherently non-democratic, conservative and status quoist.

If, as a nation, we are really eager to resist the process of asymmetrical



"JNU aroused hope about the possibility of excellence with social justice and equity. It is sad that the administration is preparing the ground for the death of this grand dream." A student protest in JNU in 2018. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

distribution of cultural capital, and the resultant reproduction of social inequality, we have to nurture creative, sensitive citizens through an environment of life-affirming teaching and an egalitarian practice of socialisation. And for this, we have to keep the dream of a public university alive. As I look at JNU, I feel that its promise was essentially the fulfilment of this dream – possibly, some sort of a Nehruvian dream of a welfare state. With an innovative admission policy; heightened sensitivity to heterogeneity; a blend of critically nuanced social sciences, cultural studies and foundational sciences; and a reasonable degree of autonomy regarding teaching, research and evaluation, the university made its presence felt as a liberating site. It embraced all: a tribal girl from Manipur, a Dalit boy from Maharashtra, a young leftist from Kerala, a radical feminist from Delhi, an Ambedkarite from the hinterland of Uttar Pradesh, and a young wanderer from Germany or Sri Lanka. JNU aroused hope about the possibility of excellence with social justice and equity. It is sad that the present administration is preparing the ground for the death of this grand dream.

Repression of alternative voices

A deeper understanding of the crisis would enable us to see the changing nature of politics – the Machiavellian play of the ruling regime. As the doctrine of hyper-masculine religious nationalism tends to become hege-

monic, we see the repression of what I would regard as alternative voices – or a different reading of nation, culture and identity. It is obvious that young minds and researchers who have seen beyond placement and salary packages, and have engaged with Marx and Ambedkar, Gandhi and Tagore, and Foucault and Butler, would interrogate the dominant ideology of nationalism – its patriarchy, its hierarchy, its aggression and its indifference to cultural pluralism. This is why JNU has been castigated as "anti-national"; this is why a bunch of zealots seek to invade Jadavpur University, and this is why the curriculum of Delhi University is under scrutiny.

A new politics of knowledge

Furthermore, because of a mix of technocratic rationality and right-wing nationalism, a new politics of knowledge begins to emerge. It suspects the criticality of social sciences or reflexivity of liberal arts and quite often, the young minds pursuing research in these disciplines are seen as a 'burden' – something that, as noisy television channels propagate, taxpayers cannot afford. For instance, when one sees the enthusiasm of the JNU administration to remove aesthetically and politically enriched posters from the walls of the university, and their urge to introduce schools of engineering and management, the message, I believe, becomes obvious.

Yes, students are angry, restless, and unhappy. However, what is real-

ly pathetic is that the administration sees it merely as a 'law and order' problem. Instead of reflecting on the roots of the crisis, and engaging meaningfully with students and teachers, the administration relies heavily on all sorts of coercive measures. The JNU administration is known for issuing show-cause notices and charge sheets to its students and teachers. With a non-dialogic administration, the presence of police and paramilitary forces, and surveillance, the culture of learning has been severely damaged. Is it the assertion of the profane, and the death of the sacred?

As a teacher with a keen interest in culture and pedagogy, I believe that the larger society has to come forward to save our public universities, particularly at a time when the corporate elite or the market-driven aspiring class refuses to see the significance of any shared, egalitarian public domain, and the dominant political force fears creative and critical ideas. For instance, when JNU students protest against the hostel fee hike, they are essentially reminding us of the need for the state to fund public universities so that higher education becomes accessible to all. The message is that education is our right, not a privilege reserved for the select elite. Or when the students of the University of Hyderabad expressed their concern over the suicide of Rohith Vemula, it was an attempt to remind us of the danger of violence – physical as well as psychic – that stigmatised students from marginalised sections are often subjected to.

Students and teachers have to be immensely careful and alert. Never should they allow their struggle and resistance to degenerate into a reactive violent act. And the university should not be seen as a war zone. It is really sad to see the administrators asking the police to give a 'tough' lesson to the students. We need a spirit of communion and dialogue. However, what is worrying is that it is not easy to educate our vice chancellors and other academic bureaucrats. Quite often, because of their obsessive indulgence with power and psychic insecurity, they miss what characterises a mentor: the art of listening, the skill of persuasion and the ethics of care.

Avijit Pathak is Professor of Sociology at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Rebalancing counterterrorism

As Israel shows, an effective strategy must be comprehensive



ARZAN TARAPORE

How should India respond to the next terrorist attack sponsored by Pakistan? Future attacks are inevitable – the sponsorship of cross-border terrorism is a core tenet of Pakistan's security strategy, even as Kashmiri militancy is increasingly dominated by radicalised locals. The BJP-led government has repeatedly declared that it will emulate Israel's apparently successful strategy in responding to cross-border terrorism. But the government's fetishisation of Israeli counterterrorism mischaracterises Israeli strategy. New Delhi risks overemphasising the showy but narrow role of military punishment, and it elides other elements of strategy, which Israel itself has embraced, that are critical to counterterrorism effectiveness.

India's military responses in 2016 and 2019 were framed as attempts to impose costs on the Pakistani terrorist groups and their Army backers. But such minor actions have marginal material impact on the target; at best they may have killed fighters and temporarily damaged a training facility, although even those claims are contentious.

Uses of punishment
Strategies of punishment work when an actor can impose sufficiently heavy costs on the enemy such that the enemy is dissuaded from attacking again. But the Pakistani Army and its terrorist proxies have already shown a willingness to absorb enormous material costs, as their wars with India showed – and their anti-India ideology has only hardened over time. Minor cross-border military action will not exact a cost sufficient to change the adversary's preferences or strategy.

Punishment can have other uses. Most particularly, it serves a domestic political purpose, shoring up popular support for the government – and the Modi government did use its national security credentials after Balakot to win the 2019 election. And as Israel has shown, it can be used to eliminate specific enemy capabilities, such as weapons manufacturing, although such tactics only work if they are enabled by exquisite intelligence and targeting, and even then the destroyed capabilities are likely to be reconstituted.

Punishment, then, never affords a resolution to a rivalry. At best, it allows the punisher to manage the ongoing conflict, and communicate diminishing patience with the adversary. On the other hand, it can also carry the risks of inadvertent escalation, especially if the punishment actions themselves

are escalatory, like the Balakot strikes. And they can create a commitment trap, binding the government to a policy of retaliation, lest it be seen as weak in the next crisis. Thus, the next crisis will be shaped by the Balakot crisis and, with each side thinking it can safely escalate force, could be more dangerous.

An effective counterterrorism strategy

A more effective counterterrorism strategy goes beyond punishment. As Israel itself has shown, counterterrorism requires a balance, including at least three other lines of effort. First, it requires effective denial operations, to make terrorist attacks more difficult for the enemy. At the tactical level, this means simple adherence to security procedures – the attacks on the Pulwama and Pathankot air force base, for example, were costlier because of sub-standard force protection measures. Beyond security, this means addressing the grievances of the local population, which drive radicalisation. This requires managing trade-offs: heightened security measures since August 5 may help to control the population, but likely also exacerbate radical anti-India sentiment in Jammu and Kashmir.

Second, it requires shaping operations to incentivise the adversary to limit its attacks. Israel can use carrots and sticks in occupied territories, including economic development programmes or harsher security restrictions, but India lacks such leverage over the Pakistani Army and terror groups, and must rely on international actors. Thus counterterrorism must be synchronised with wider foreign policy, using harsh action through the Financial Action Task Force, or productive bilateral talks with China, to isolate Pakistan and make its strategy of supporting cross-border terrorism less appealing.

Third, it requires cultivating resilience, to reduce the political impact of terrorism. The BJP's 2019 election manifesto declared a "zero tolerance" policy on terrorism. Such policies only serve to sharpen public fears and box-in their governments to respond aggressively to the next attack. Despite all its counterterrorism experience, Israel still suffers terrorist attacks, but most can be absorbed without generating public hysteria.

There is a place for punishment in counterterrorism, but the Modi government's single-minded celebration of it yields primarily political benefits, rather than security. Effective counterterrorism requires a more comprehensive strategy. It requires a constant process of evaluation and adjustment – Israel does not have all the answers and relies on trial and error for different contexts. India should learn from Israel's tragic experience, but make sure to learn the right lessons.

Arzan Tarapore is a non-resident fellow at the National Bureau of Asian Research, and an adjunct professor at Georgetown University

A lost opportunity in 1971

Indira Gandhi failed to convert India's victory in the 1971 war into a durable peace with Pakistan

UDAY BALAKRISHNAN

November 19, 2019 marked the 102nd birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Thirty-five years after her death, she continues to be regarded as the most courageous and decisive leader India has had. Her time in office was marked by epoch-making achievements, including the swift and successful prosecution of the war with Pakistan in 1971. But there were also serious lapses of judgment, including the 1975 Emergency and the storming of the Golden Temple in Amritsar in 1984, an ill-advised move that cost the Prime Minister her life.

If, as a nation, we are really eager to resist the process of asymmetrical

abashed aggression: her eastern part seized by Indian forces. It was this fact that made it difficult for our people to be reconciled to the fait accompli, more so because the invasion was not an isolated phenomenon. On the contrary, it was but the climax of a long series of hostile and aggressive acts by India against Pakistan since the establishment of the two as sovereign and independent states".

What the Simla agreement failed to achieve for India could well have been obtained through the 1973 Delhi Agreement signed by India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

An inflection point

If ever there was an inflection point in India's relations with Pakistan, it was the moment when India had Pakistan on its knees, holding over 15,000 square kilometres of its territory and 93,000 of its soldiers – nearly a quarter of its army – as prisoners of war. It is mystifying why India so easily returned both. A former Indian diplomat, Sashanka Banerjee, provided an explanation, when he said that the decision to repatriate Pakistani prisoners of war "was taken to get Sheikh Mujibur Rahman back to his country alive and well". But that doesn't sound right. The repatriation of Pakistani prisoners of war occurred after the signing of the Delhi Agreement, long after Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had returned to Bangladesh in January 1972.

India ought to have rightly insisted that an international tribunal try those prisoners of war who had contributed to the well-documented genocide in Bangladesh. This would have also eroded the credibility of the Pakistani Army, eliminated it as a political force and led to a more enduring peace in the region. Indira Gandhi's inexplicable failure to convert India's victory in the 1971 war into a durable peace will remain a blot on her record. We will continue to bear its consequences, one of them being confronting a nuclear Pakistan.

Hardly had the Agreement been signed when the Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who had never hidden his intention to make Pakistan a nuclear power, began disparaging India. Indira Gandhi ought to have taken note. Writing in the Foreign Affairs magazine in April 1973, Bhutto disingenuously observed that "Pakistan had been the victim of un-



Uday Balakrishnan teaches at IISc, Bengaluru

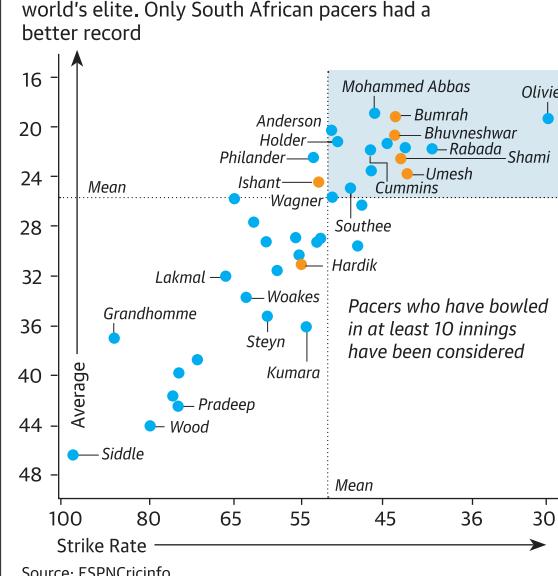


DATA POINT

Speed wins

Mohammad Shami, Umesh Yadav and Ishant Sharma have been instrumental in India's emphatic wins in Test matches at home over the last one month. Not only are they among the world's best fast-bowlers in the last three years, they have helped clinch a perfect win record so far for India in Tests at home in 2019. By Sumanth Sen

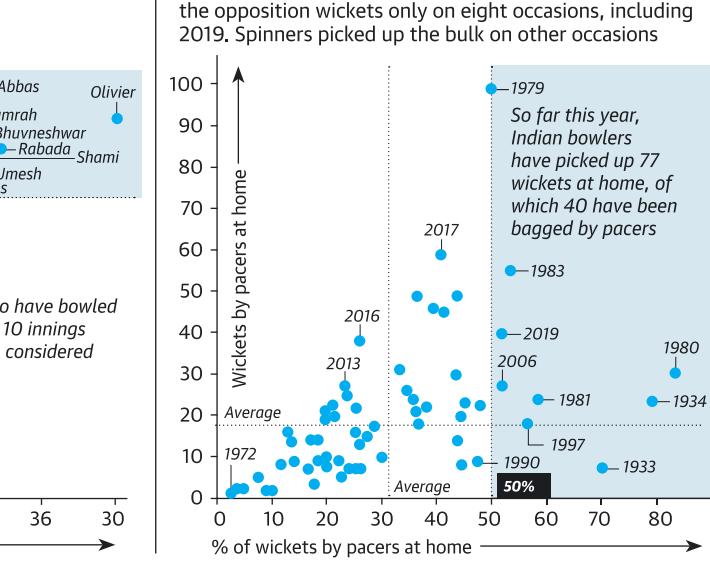
1. Creme de la creme | Between January 2017 and November 2019, most Indian pacers featured among the world's elite. Only South African pacers had a better record



3. Decisive contributors

In the eight years when pacers picked at least 50% of the wickets, India has a perfect win record in only 2019 so far. In 1980, 1981 and 2006 India managed to win a third of its matches

2. Where spin thrives | Between 1933 and 2019, Indian seamers in Test matches at home dismissed over half of the opposition wickets only on eight occasions, including 2019. Spinners picked up the bulk on other occasions



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 20, 1969

Historic 4-hour moon walk

Two more Americans, Charles Conrad and Alan Bean, strode the moon to-day [November 19] after an astonishing bull's-eye landing at 12-24 I.S.T., on the dusty Ocean of Storms and set up a lunar scientific station powered by a nuclear generator. They also raised their nation's flag. The exultant astronauts stepped out of the landing craft Intrepid, after a voyage of more than a quarter million miles and spotted their target – a 1967 Surveyor robot – not more than 180 metres away. They returned to Intrepid after spending nearly four hours walking about the lunar surface in the first of two scheduled excursions outside Intrepid. The 39-year-old Conrad, America's shortest spaceman, hummed as he worked. "I feel great", Conrad kept saying. Bean joined him on the moon half an hour later, lowering his visor against the dazzling sunlight and exclaiming with delight at the sight of shining glass beads sparkling on the lunar ground.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOV. 20, 1919.

Hunter Committee

Bombay, November 19. – Mr. C.F. Andrews has made the following statement to the representative of the Associated Press in regard to the decision of the Congress Sub-Committee regarding Hunter Committee. Before sailing for South Africa I wish to identify myself with the decision of the Congress Sub-Committee not to appear and lead evidence before the Disorders Enquiry Committee at Lahore. While I recognise the conciliatory attitude of Sir Edward MacCagin in offering to release on parole the Punjab political leaders during the time when they might be called upon to give evidence, I regard His Honour's decision to withhold from them the right of even ordinary criminals to be present under police escort when their own cases are being tried as not only nullifying the value of the concession but also as depriving them of an important safeguard against injustice. It appears to me to be opposed to every canon of fair play that serious allegations reflecting on the character and honour of these gentlemen should be allowed to be made behind their backs, and they themselves prevented from confronting their accusers on the spot. Mr. C.F. Andrews sails for South Africa tomorrow, and will probably stay for a short time in British Africa on his way to Natal.

FROM PAGE ONE

Hyderabad techie, M.P. farmer held in Pakistan

Bahawalpur Judicial Magistrate Yazman asked the local police to travel to Multan and hand over the two Indians to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). Bahawalpur police sources confirmed to *The Hindu* that the two Indian nationals were thoroughly investigated and were sent back from Multan as the FIA doesn't think this case falls under its jurisdiction.

The two are now back in the custody of the Bahawalpur police.

"Prashant is lucky he was arrested here. We don't know what would have happened if he had gone to Afghanistan via Pakistan," said one police officer.

Police sources said the two will most likely be repatriated after due process is followed. The Indian High Commission will have to get in touch with the police and initiate the process of repatriation.

Telangana police said Mr. Maidam has been missing from Hyderabad since April 2017. Cyberabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar said they have written to the State government, which will contact the Ministry of External Affairs seeking his extradition from Pakistan.

A father's appeal
Earlier on Tuesday, Mr. Maidam's father Babu Rao met Mr. Sajjanar and appealed to him to bring his son back. Two years ago when Mr. Maidam left for office and did not return home, his father lodged a complaint with the Madhapur police of Cyberabad and a man missing case was registered on

April 11. Mr. Rao said he got to know that his missing son was in Pakistan through news channels. "He was working in Bengaluru for one and a half years, before starting a new job at a software firm in Hyderabad," he said, adding that their family moved to Hyderabad from Visakhapatnam in 2014. "The earlier our son is handed over to us, the happier we will be," he said.

Video message

In a video message to his parents on Monday night, the techie said he would be released from jail within a month and would come home soon. "Now they brought me to court from the police station after it was declared that there was no problem. They will now send me to jail and inform the Indian Embassy here and then I can contact you," he said.

He said the bail process would start and both the countries would exchange prisoners, which would take time. At the beginning of the video, Mr. Maidam was seen taking permission from the Pakistani officials to speak in Telugu.

The arrest has left residents of Mithilapuri Colony, Visakhapatnam in a state of shock. "Their family lived for about five years in this Ganga Residency apartment and they were very close to us. Prasanth was nice to everyone and speaks in a friendly manner. He used to visit Vizag regularly, before he went missing," said Ch Sai Baba, a resident.

(With inputs from
Gili Harish)

Intel network to go live by the end of next year

"Against 119 sanctioned government posts, a total of 53 officers are presently in position; whereas against 123 contractual posts, 21 consultants have been deployed. Central agencies will have access to the data on NATGRID platform in the first phase," Mr. Reddy said.

He said NATGRID was exempted from the Right to Information Act, 2005 under sub-section (2) of Section 24.

He added that "physical infrastructure" is planned

to be completed by March 31 next year and "IT Solution to go live by 31.12.2020."

Earlier, Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the progress of NATGRID in September. The NATGRID links intelligence and investigation agencies. The 10 user agencies will be linked independently with certain databases which will be procured from 21 providing organisations including telecom, tax records, bank, immigration etc. to generate intelligence inputs.

Nithyananda accused of illegal confinement

"Our team is probing the matter," Ahmedabad (Rural) Superintendent of Police R.V. Asari said.

In their petition, the couple alleged that their two younger daughters were kidnapped and kept in illegal confinement for more than two weeks and were deprived of sleep.

The Sharmas have urged the court to direct the police as well as the institution's authorities to produce their daughters who, they alleged, are being kept under

"illegal confinement", before the court and hand them over to them.

Meanwhile, the Gujarat Congress slammed the BJP government in the State for not initiating action against the ashram. "It is a well-known fact that Nithyananda enjoys protection from the State government despite the fact that many children are being confined in the ashram against the wishes of their parents," Gujarat Congress spokesman Manish Doshi said on Tuesday.

The Sharmas have urged the court to direct the police as well as the institution's authorities to produce their daughters who, they alleged, are being kept under

Gotabaya to visit Delhi on Nov. 29: Jaishankar

In another tweet, Mr. Jaishankar said: "A warm meeting with Sri Lanka President @GotabayaR. Conveyed PM @narendramodi's message of a partnership for shared peace, progress, prosperity & security. Confident that under his leadership, #IndiaSriLanka relations would reach greater heights."

Indian High Commissioner Tarun Singh Sandhu was also present at the meeting.

Mr. Modi was among the first international leaders to congratulate Mr. Gotabaya on Twitter and on the phone, after his decisive vic-

tory in the November 16 election.

Replying to Mr. Modi on Twitter, Mr. Gotabaya said he looked forward to meeting him in "the near future".

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan, Nepali Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli and Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih were among the regional leaders who wished the new President, who won with 52.25% of the vote, riding on his promise to revive the economy and enhance national security, a concern for many Sri Lankans after the bombings.

I have a small observation to make that the Secretariat of the Rajya Sabha, after considering the various

suggestions, has come out with a new dress code for the marshals. But we have received some observations by some political and well-meaning people. So, I have decided to ask the Secretariat to revisit the same and then take a conclusive decision," Mr. Naidu said.

Some MPs had said that the obvious similarity with the Army uniform was a violation of the rules.

'Stone-throwing on the decline'

Home Ministry says such incidents in J&K have reduced after August 5

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



Protesters throwing stones in the streets of Srinagar on August 8, 2019. ■ ATUL LOKE/NYT

The number of stone-throwing incidents in the Kashmir Valley has come down after August 5 when Jammu and Kashmir was put under lockdown after its special status was revoked, the Union Home Ministry informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The government admitted that pellet guns were used as a "matter of abundant caution" only to deal with "severe law and order problems and to avoid civilian casualties".

In a written reply to a question, Minister of State for Home Affairs G. Kishan Reddy said that from August 5 to November 15, 765 persons were arrested in 190 cases of "stone-throwing and law and order".

He said 361 such cases were registered from January 1 to August 4 this year. The number of arrests during this period was not provided.

He said the bail process would start and both the countries would exchange prisoners, which would take time. At the beginning of the video, Mr. Maidam was seen taking permission from the Pakistani officials to speak in Telugu.

The arrest has left residents of Mithilapuri Colony, Visakhapatnam in a state of shock. "Their family lived for about five years in this Ganga Residency apartment and they were very close to us. Prasanth was nice to everyone and speaks in a friendly manner. He used to visit Vizag regularly, before he went missing," said Ch Sai Baba, a resident.

(With inputs from
Gili Harish)

The government has initiated multi-pronged policies to check the menace of stone-throwing and succeeded in curbing it to the extent that a large number of troublemakers and instigators has been identified, and preventive measures, including detention under the Public Safety Act, have been taken

against them," Mr. Reddy said. He said an investigation revealed that separatist organisations and activists, part of the Hurriyat Conference, were behind the incidents of stone-throwing.

The NIA had charge-sheeted 18 persons in the terror-funding cases so far, he said.

Mr. Reddy said that initial

ly student attendance in the Valley was thin, but it picked up gradually and stood at 99.7% during the ongoing examinations. He said 34,10,219 tourists, including 12,934 foreigners, visited Jammu and Kashmir in the past six months, and ₹25.12 crore was earned from tourism.

Oppn. wants Speaker to act on Farooq issue

'Ensure Srinagar MP's presence'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Opposition parties are going to approach Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla seeking his intervention on behalf of the House to ensure that Srinagar MP Farooq Abdullah is allowed to attend the ongoing Parliament session.

The Opposition parties are arguing that the onus lies on the Speaker to ensure the presence of Mr. Abdullah in the House since he has not sought a leave of absence and has been detained without any genuine grounds for his detention. Mr. Abdullah was re-elected from the Srinagar constituency in May 2019.

The government has detained Mr. Abdullah under the Public Safety Act (PSA). The Opposition parties had taken up the issue during the all-party meeting on Sunday, and then once again in the Lok Sabha on



Monday. The government has so far not come up with a concrete reply except for Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi saying that the government would look into it and do whatever possible within the framework of the law.

"We seek to take all legitimate steps within the framework of Constitution to ensure Mr. Farooq Abdullah's presence in the House," National Conference MP Hasnain Masoodi said.

We're becoming a police state, counsel tells SC

Dushyant Dave questions the need for 'blanket restrictions' in Jammu and Kashmir, asks court to stand up for the people

SOBIRAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

restrictions violate the right to life and liberty under Article 21, he said.

"This kind of restrictions is unheard-of in a democracy," Mr. Dave, who was appearing for the Foundation for Media Professionals, said, urging the Supreme Court to step in to protect the rights of the people.

"This court has to stand up for the people," Mr. Dave said, invoking the words of B.R. Ambedkar that rights without remedies was of no use. "Individual liberty cannot be subsumed for social control," he said citing Con-

stituent Assembly debates. He said that even in the Hong Kong protests, which have been going on for over 50 weeks, the government has not imposed such restrictions. Even a Hong Kong court has ruled against the government's decision to

ban wearing of masks by protesters, he said.

Mr. Dave also brought the attention of the three-judge Bench of Justices N.V. Ramana, R. Subhash Reddy and B.R. Gavai to the "cavalier" affidavit filed by the Centre and State government on the

issue. "Their affidavit is a casual approach towards what they have done in the State," Mr. Dave said, adding that the blanket restrictions were not supported by hard facts.

He also argued that the restrictions should be temporary and could not go on for over 100 days.

Internet freedom

Accusing the government of stifling voices of citizens using the Internet shutdown, Mr. Dave said the right to freedom of speech and expression included freedom of propagation of ideas, in-

cluding the freedom to circulate one's ideas. He referred to a recent verdict of the Kerala High Court that had stated that Internet freedom was a fundamental right.

After Mr. Dave concluded his submission, senior advocate Meenakshi Arora, appearing for activist Tehseen Poonawala and Shoib Qureshi, began her arguments.

The Bench has posted the case for further hearing on November 21.

Cong. protests removal of SPG cover

Speaker warns party MPs of action after they troop into the well of the Lok Sabha

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



Parliament disrupted: Opposition members protesting in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. ■ PTI/LSTV

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday warned of action against protesting members as Congress MPs trooped into the well of the House over withdrawal of Special Protection Group (SPG) cover provided to the Gandhi family, and demanded a response from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi are not normal protectees. Vajpayeeji had allowed Special Protection Group security for the Gandhi family. From 1991 to 2019,

the NDA came to power twice but their SPG cover was never removed. I don't know what has happened to them [Modi government],

Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said after raising the issue during Zero Hour – when an MP can raise any issue with notice.

Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Meghwal, however, objected

to Mr. Chowdhury raising the issue, and pointed out that the Speaker had already rejected his adjournment motion on it.

As soon as proceedings started at 11 a.m. and Question Hour got under way, Congress MPs walked into the well, shouting slogans such as "Prime Minister give reply", "We want justice" and "Please stop revenge politics".

After the Speaker's re-

quest to the members to go back to their seats failed to have any effect, Mr. Birla issued the warning.

"There might have been precedents of protesting in the well. From today onwards, no [member] will protest in the well. If not, I will be forced to take action," he said.

Members of the Congress and the DMK later walked out in protest after the Speaker did not allow a discussion on the issue.

Rahul absent

During Zero Hour, Mr. Birla took note of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's absence as another Congress MP, K. Suresh, got up to speak from Mr. Gandhi's seat. "His [Rahul Gandhi's] question was listed for the Question Hour and I wanted to give him a chance had he been present," the Speaker remarked and asked Mr. Suresh to speak from his own seat.

The Upper House proceedings adjourned after an Opposition uproar over alleged police action on protesting JNU students and detention of political leaders in Jammu and Kashmir.

Soon after the House met for the day, the Left and other Opposition party members raised the two issues.

Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu said the adjournment notices received from members do not warrant setting aside the listed business of the day.

Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien pointed out that not a single member of the Opposition went into the well, yet within minutes

the House was adjourned.

"The government had four good reasons to do so. The first four questions listed today to be answered by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman were on hoarding notes after demonetisation, PMC bank fraud, public sector banks fraud and PSU disinvestment. You run away when you don't have answers to any of the questions," he said.

RS Secretariat to revisit marshals' dress code

Uniform was recently changed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



M. Venkaiah Naidu

Following outrage from military veterans and MPs alike, Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu informed the House on Tuesday that the Secretariat would revisit the design of the uniform of the marshals.

On Monday, the first day of the 250th session of the Rajya Sabha, the marshals came wearing new olive green uniform, complete with peak cap and lanyard.

The marshals used to wear safari suits during summer and bandhgals during winter, along with turbans.

"I have a small observation to make that the Army uniform was a violation of the rules.

BJP MPs briefed on PM's foreign tours

Modi's visits abroad boosted India's standing, says External Affairs Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with other leaders after the BJP parliamentary party meeting on Tuesday. ■ PTI

The BJP held the first meeting of its parliamentary party for the winter session on Tuesday with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar briefing MPs on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent trips abroad and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal explaining to MPs why India decided to keep out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

Mr. Modi was not present at the meeting.

Party MPs who attended the meeting said that Mr. Jaishankar emphasised the point that Mr. Modi's foreign visits had boosted India's

IN BRIEF



Allow Kartarpur visit without passport: MP

NEW DELHI
Congress MP Gurjeet Aujla on Tuesday urged the Centre to ensure that pilgrims can visit Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan with Aadhar cards instead of passports, and the \$20 fee is waived. He also urged restoration of trade between the two countries, at least in the border areas.

Don't distort Periyar's image, says DMK

NEW DELHI
DMK MP S. Senthilkumar on Tuesday condemned Yoga guru Ramdev for allegedly describing Periyar as a "Dalit terrorist" and asserted that the image of the social reformer should not be distorted. "Periyar fought for social equality and woman empowerment," he said.

Anti-lynching Bills being examined, says Centre

They were passed by the Rajasthan and Manipur Assemblies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The anti-lynching Bills passed by the Rajasthan and Manipur Assemblies were still being examined and are yet to get the President's consent, the Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday.

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said the Centre, following a Supreme Court directive, had issued two advisories to State governments to check incidents of lynching.

"In pursuance to the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgment on July 17, 2018, two advisories – on July 23, 2018, and September 25, 2018 – were issued to the State governments and Union Territories' administrations for taking measures to curb incidents of mob lynching in the country," he said in reply to a written question.



Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai

On whether a number of States have enacted laws, making lynching a non-bailable offence and recommending life imprisonment for those involved in such violence, Mr. Rai said as per

information available, two Bills on the subject passed by the State legislatures of Manipur and Rajasthan and reserved by the Governor for consideration of the President had been received.

Creating awareness

"The Bills so received are examined in consultation with the concerned Central Ministries," he said.

Mr. Rai said the government through audiovisual media has also generated public awareness to curb the menace of lynching. The government has also sensitised service providers to take steps to check the propagation of false news and rumours having potential to incite mob violence and lynching.

The Trust was first set up by then Congress president Motilal Nehru in 1920.

RS passes Jallianwala Trust Bill

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Trust will no longer have the Congress president as a member, and the Central government will have the power to end any member's five-year term before its expiry, according to an amendment passed by the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

The committee has also received a representation from 17 persons who have come together on a common platform, "Pegasus Targeted Persons."

Officials from the IT and Home Ministries have been summoned for the meeting. Kudankulam Nuclear Plant authorities too have been asked to depose. The nuclear plant had reported a malware attack on its system. "We will summon the WhatsApp officials later once we have spoken to the

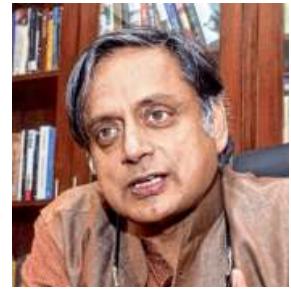
House panel to take up spyware issue

Officials summoned for meeting today

SOBHANA K. NAIR

NEW DELHI

The Standing Committee on Information and Technology, headed by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, will meet on Wednesday to discuss the recent breach in WhatsApp using the Pegasus spyware.



Shashi Tharoor

government representatives," a member of the Committee told *The Hindu*.

In its representation, the "Pegasus Targeted Persons" group has asked the committee to probe the role of the Indian government, and to find out whether "public money has been expended for these illegal and unauthorised attacks". It also sought to know "who authorised this expenditure?"

More litigants back Ayodhya review plea

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

AYODHYA

After the All India Muslim Personal Law Board decided to file a review petition against the Ayodhya verdict, seven Muslim litigants have announced their support for the AIMPLB.

After the meeting of the AIMPLB held in Lucknow on Sunday, the Jamiat Ulema Hind had announced its decision to file a review petition.

The first three Muslim litigants who supported the move were Mohammad Umar and Misbahuddin, residents of Ayodhya and Faizabad, respectively, and Maulana Mahfuz Ur Rahman of Ambedkar Nagar.

On Monday, four more litigants – Haji Mahboob, Haji Asad, Hafiz Rizwan and Maulana Hizbulah – said they would back the AIMPLB and the Jamiat.

Electoral bonds: CEC objected to 1% vote share norm

Finance Ministry brushed aside objections, including those of Law Ministry, documents obtained via RTI application show

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI

In the process of vetting the electoral bonds scheme in December 2017, the Law Ministry repeatedly objected to the Finance Ministry's stipulation that political parties must have a 1% vote share in the Lok Sabha or State Assembly elections in order to be eligible for the scheme, documents obtained through an RTI query by activist Anjali Bhardwaj show.

The documents, which were viewed by *The Hindu* on Tuesday, show that the

Law Ministry recommended the imposition of a 6% vote share requirement (similar to the requirement for recognised State, national parties) or the removal of the vote share requirement entirely. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) also objected to the vote share requirement as discriminatory, while political parties themselves were not consulted.

However, the Finance Ministry chose to ignore these concerns and insisted that only registered political parties which had "secured not less than one percent of

votes polled in the last general election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly, as the case may be, shall be eligible to receive the bond."

According to the latest data from the Election Commission of India, there are eight recognised national political parties, 52 recognised State parties and 2,487 unrecognised parties registered with the Commission.

The documents obtained through Ms. Bhardwaj's RTI application show that in June, some early drafts of the scheme only referenced "registered political parties" as eligible to receive the bond, while another said the party

In May 2017, the Finance Ministry wrote to all State and national parties asking for their comments on the electoral bond scheme. Only four parties – the Congress, the Bahujan Samaj Party, the Communist Party of India and the Shiromani Akali Dal – responded, with most asking for a draft of the scheme.

The documents obtained through Ms. Bhardwaj's RTI application show that in June, some early drafts of the scheme only referenced "registered political parties" as eligible to receive the bond, while another said the party

would need to be a national/ State political party.

No public comment

On August 5, a draft incorporated the 1% vote share stipulation for the first time.

On August 21, the draft was presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. After that meeting, a proposal to circulate the draft to all national and State parties or to open it for public comment was scrapped.

On September 22, in a meeting with the Economic Affairs Secretary, CEC A.K. Joti raised concerns that in-

dividual candidates and new political parties would not be able to receive donations under the scheme and cautioned that the "somewhat discriminatory" provision might be challenged in the courts.

When the draft went for vetting in December, the Law Ministry recommended an amendment to a 6% vote share requirement, saying that the scheme should be aligned with the RPI Act.

In response, the Economic Affairs Secretary replied: "we have to retain the formulation of 1% votes".

The Congress released the EC letter of May 2017 to the Law and Justice Ministry in which the poll panel expressed its strong opposition.

"Despite knowing this, the then MoS for Finance told a 'horrendous lie' in the Upper House that the government received no complaint from the EC," Mr. Googi said, adding that the issue was a breach of parliamentary privilege.

"The Electoral Bonds scheme by the BJP government is nothing but a mechanism to legitimise bribery," Ms. Shrinati said.

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Jaripat, Bhubaneswar-751 022 (Odisha)
CIN: U40102OR2004SC00753

e-Tender No. CPC-63/2018-19

For and on behalf of ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD. Senior General Manager (C.P.C) invites Tenders from reputed manufacturers (OEM) / Channel Partner of OEM (Indian Agent for the foreign made testing equipment) in two part bidding system for supply of PORTABLE HAND HELD HIGH RESOLUTION INFRARED THERMOVISION CAMERA. The interested bidders would be required to enroll themselves on the tender portal www.tenderwizard.com/OPCL. Complete set of bidding documents are available at www.tenderwizard.com/OPCL From 20.11.2019 (11:00 Hrs.) up to 19.12.2019 (13:00 Hrs.). Interested manufacturers may visit OPCL's official website <http://www.optcl.co.in> and www.tenderwizard.com/OPCL for detail specification.

N.B: All subsequent addendum / corrigendum to the tender shall be hosted in the OPCL's official website <http://www.optcl.co.in> and www.tenderwizard.com/OPCL only.

SD/-
CR Advt. No.20/2019-20 Senior General Manager (CPC)

Please connect us: [@optcl.odisha](mailto:optcl.odisha) <https://www.linkedin.com/company/odisha-power-transmission-corporation-ltd/>

Tender Call Notice

Office of the D.G & I.G. of Police, Odisha, Cuttack

1. Sealed tenders are invited from the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) or their Authorized Agent / Authorized Dealer for supply of Tyre, Tube, Flaps, Batteries, Hood and Side Flaps to Odisha Police M.V fleet during the Current Financial Year 2019-20.
2. Name of items along with detail technical Specifications, probable requirement of Tyre, Tube, Flaps, Batteries, Hood and Side Flaps may be seen from the Web site of the Odisha Police i.e. www.odishapolice.gov.in and in Govt. of Odisha website i.e. www.odisha.gov.in. The quantity may vary during indent of the items depending upon budgetary allocation.
3. Date of Issue of Tender documents from dtd.22.11.2019 at 10.00 AM to dtd.12.12.2019 upto 5.00 PM.
4. Last date for receipt of sealed Tender on dtd. 13.12.2019 up to 5.00 PM.
5. Date for opening of sealed Tenders / Technical Bids on dtd. 17.12.2019 at 11.30 AM at the Office of the Communication Range Office, Tulsipur, Cuttack.

A.I.G. of Police (Provisioning), Odisha, Cuttack.
(Tender Calling Authority)

CORPORATION OF THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

No: DB/62983/08 (48) Date: 19.11.2019

RETENDER NOTICE

Thiruvananthapuram Corporation Planfund online e-tenders (Prequalification) are invited for the below mentioned project in 2 bid system.

1. E13/1835/19 - Modernization of Slaughter house - Civil/Structural construction, procurement/supply and installation of all equipments related to mechanical, electrical, piping etc followed by Turn Key basis- Rs.9,22,00,00/-

The detailed e-tender notice is published in our website www.corporationoftrivandrum.in and office notice board. For participating e-tender visit website <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in>

Superintending Engineer

D-198, 1/100/24/1920

Date : 19.11.2019

Ref : HMT/Legal/Empanel/2019-20 Date : 20.11.2019

EMANELMENT OF LAW FIRMS/ADVOCATES

HMT Limited intends to Empanel Law Firms/Advocates to Handle Legal Matters in various courts across India. For details visit @ www.hmtindia.com. Corrigendum(S) If any, shall be posted on above website only.

Last date for submission of Applications shall be 21days from the date of publication.

Phone No : 080-23337569 / 28381353. Sd/- Dy. Manager (Legal)

59, BELLARY ROAD, BANGALORE - 560 032.

Ref : HMT/Legal/Empanel/2019-20 Date : 20.11.2019

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59, BELL

Israel settlements not illegal, says U.S.

Decision will provide greater space for Israelis and Palestinians to negotiate peace, says Pompeo

LARA JAKES
DAVID M. HALBFINGER
WASHINGTON

The Trump administration declared on Monday that the U.S. does not consider Israeli settlements in the West Bank a violation of international law, reversing four decades of U.S. policy.

The announcement by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was the latest political gift from the Trump administration to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has vowed in two elections this year to push for the annexation of the West Bank. His chief opponent, Benny Gantz, has until Wednesday night to gather a majority in Israel's Parliament or he will relinquish his chance to form a new government, raising the prospect of a third round of elections.

The U.S. has in the past described the settlements as illegitimate, and Palestinians have demanded the land for a future state, a goal that has been backed by the UN, European governments and U.S. allies across West Asia.

Political support

But President Donald Trump has been persistent in changing U.S. policy on Israel and the Palestinian territories – moves aimed at bolstering political support for Netanyahu, who has failed to form a government after two rounds of elections with razor-thin outcomes.

Monday's decision reversed a 1978 legal opinion by the State Department concluding that the settlements were inconsistent with international law. Mr. Pompeo said that ruling "hasn't advanced the cause of peace".

"We've recognised the

reality on the ground," Mr. Pompeo told reporters at the State Department. (President Ronald Reagan also told reporters shortly after taking office in 1981 that he did not believe the settlements were illegal but called new Israeli communities in Palestinian territory "unnecessarily provocative".)

The settlements have been a main sticking point in peace negotiations that have failed to find a solution for generations. They are home to Israelis in territory that Palestinians have fought to control, and their presence makes negotiations for a two-state solution all the more difficult. The two-state solution has been a primary focus of past peace plans, calling for a separate state for Palestinians.

Within hours of the announcement, the State Department issued a travel alert to Americans planning to visit Jerusalem, the West Bank or the Gaza Strip. "Those opposed to the Secretary of State's announcement may target U.S. govt facilities, interests, and citizens," the department said on Twitter.

In Washington, Mr. Pompeo said the decision would provide greater space for the Israelis and Palestinians to negotiate over the status of the settlements.

He said that the issue could be largely left to Israeli courts to decide, and that it had no bearing on legal conclusions regarding similar situations elsewhere in the world.

Instead, Mr. Pompeo said the issue must be solved by the Israelis and the Palestinians. "And arguments about who is right and wrong as a matter of international law will not bring peace," he said. *NY TIMES*



Fighting over land: Israeli border guards keeping watch as bulldozers demolish Palestinian houses near the al-Aruba camp, on the outskirts of the West Bank town of Hebron. ■ AFP

Palestinians rail against U.S. decision, Israelis hail it

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JERUSALEM

"The Trump administration has corrected an historic injustice and lined up with truth and justice."

Mr. Pompeo said that after legal consultation Washington had concluded the establishment of settlements was "not, per se, inconsistent with international law".

More than 6,00,000 Israelis live in settlements in east Jerusalem and the West Bank, alongside more than 3 million Palestinians.

The Arab League criticised Mr. Pompeo's announcement, calling it an "extremely adverse development".

The only two Arab states to have signed peace treaties with Israel – Egypt and Jordan – also sharply criticised the U.S. policy shift, with Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi warning of its

"dangerous consequences". The EU reiterated that it considers all settlement activity "illegal under international law".

The direct impact on the ground may be limited but analysts say it will further embolden the settlement movement.

The Palestinian Authority – which considers the U.S. biased and has rejected the Trump administration as a mediator if peace talks are ever revived – denounced the latest decision.

Chief negotiator Saeb Erekat said the Palestinians would take a series of measures to oppose it. "We began deliberations in the UN to present a draft resolution in the Security Council," he said. "We expect a (US) veto but we will do it. Let the U.S. veto international law."

Hong Kong university holdouts desperately seek escape routes

1,100 protesters arrested; about 100 still remain on campus

REUTERS
HONG KONG

Anti-government protesters holed up in a Hong Kong university were frantically searching for escape routes on Tuesday after more than two days of clashes with police, dramatic breakouts by rope and motorcycle and more than 1,000 arrests in 24 hours.

About 100 protesters were trapped in the Polytechnic University a day after students, some tired and fearful of police storming the campus, tried again and again to flee, only to be beaten back by police firing rubber bullets, water cannon and tear gas. Some 235 in-



Out in the open: Injured protesters leaving the Hong Kong Polytechnic University on Tuesday. ■ AFP

jured were hospitalised.

Police have made about 1,100 arrests in the past 24 hours on charges, including rioting and possession of offensive weapons. The total number of those arrested since protests began in June is more than 5,000.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said she had told police to handle the protests humanely.

The university is the last of five that protesters have occupied to use as bases from which to disrupt the city.

Foreign Service professional and an adviser to Vice President Mike Pence, Jennifer Williams, who was on

Trump's call with Zelenksy 'inappropriate'

Officials give firsthand accounts of conversation between Ukraine & U.S. Presidents

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

As the second week of public impeachment hearings got underway, Americans heard from witnesses who could provide firsthand accounts of conversation between U.S. President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. Calling what he heard on the July 25 phone call "inappropriate", Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Vindman, the top Ukraine expert at the National Security Council, testified that it was "improper for the President to request... to demand an investigation into a political opponent".

Foreign Service professional and an adviser to Vice President Mike Pence, Jennifer Williams, who was on



Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman

tified that he spoke to State Department official George Kent and an unnamed intelligence official about the call.

A decorated Army officer, who has served in South Korea and Iraq, Lt. Col. Vindman was brought to the U.S. as a child by his family, which left the Soviet Union forty years ago. On Tuesday, he called attacks on the character of testifying public servants "reprehensible" and "vile".

Addressing his father during his opening remarks, he said his decision to leave the Soviet Union forty years ago was the right one. "Do not worry, I will be fine for telling the truth," he said.

Mr. Trump has publicly criticised those testifying, including on Twitter while

their hearings were in progress, as in the case of former Ukraine Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch's last week.

The U.S. Army is considering moving Lt. Col. Vindman and his family to a military base for their physical safety, if required, the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

Both provided firsthand testimonies of the call. This is significant given that one of the core Republican strategies has been to discount the testimonies, saying they are based on second- or thirdhand accounts.

In his opening remarks, ranking Intelligence Committee member, Devin Nunes, focused his criticism on "media", referring to some of them as "puppets of the Democratic Party".

ELSEWHERE



Rajapaksa seeks PM's resignation

COLOMBO
Former President Mahinda Rajapaksa has sought the resignation of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe,

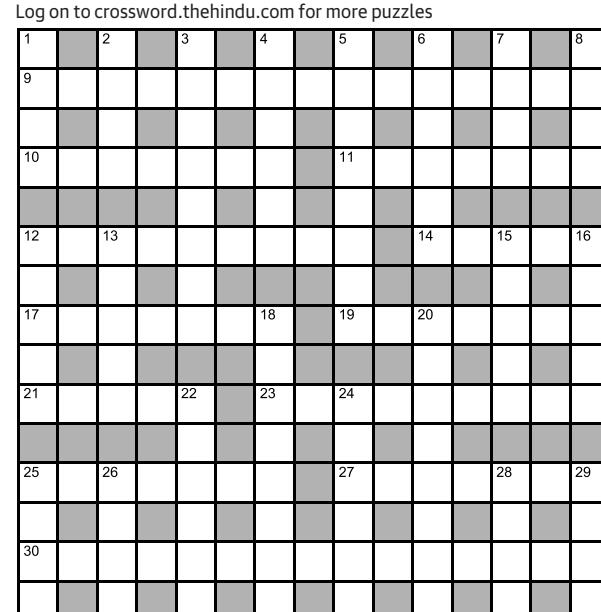
asserting that governance will improve if the President and the Cabinet are from the same party. PTI

Sharif flown to London for further treatment

LAHORE
Pakistan's ailing former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday left for London in an air ambulance to seek better treatment for multiple illness. This comes days after a court here allowed him to travel abroad for four weeks. PTI

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12785

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



ACROSS

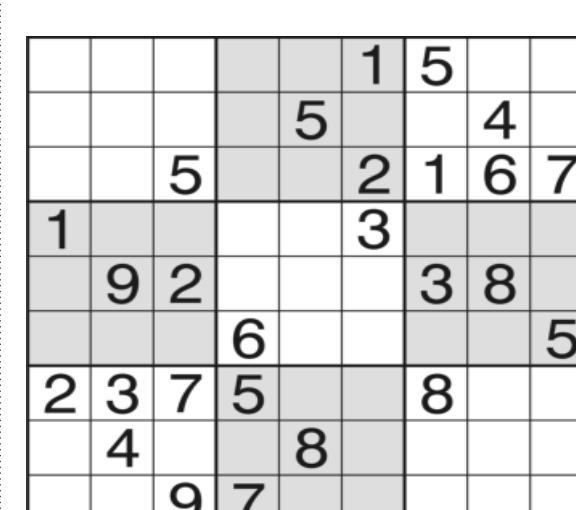
- 9 French official boarding party bus condemned hypocrisy (6,9)
- 10 Busy Santa Claus oddly left dried fruit (7)
- 11 Since French and German articles are separated (7)
- 12 Drama staged in front of love sick creature (9)

- 1 They're not even large to cover priest (4)
- 2 Roll up flag after fine address (4)
- 3 When it doesn't rain on Spooner's beloved earth (5,3)
- 4 Attack gangster without one back-up (6)
- 5 Ratnam, perhaps devours Italian's favourite pasta (8)
- 6 Judge wore a clean suit (4)

- 7 Boring book finally offered for reading to a toddler (4)
- 8 For starters, ultimately someone employing resources (4)
- 19 Sensible paper trashed without liberal notion (7)
- 21 Stole and returned without a fight (5)
- 23 Cushy life at her Edinburgh house (9)
- 25 Eat bear (7)
- 27 Around lunch time, two queens became increasingly lustful (7)
- 30 Face up to something else (7,3,2,3)

- DOWN
- 1 They're not even large to cover priest (4)
- 2 Roll up flag after fine address (4)
- 3 When it doesn't rain on Spooner's beloved earth (5,3)
- 4 Attack gangster without one back-up (6)
- 5 Ratnam, perhaps devours Italian's favourite pasta (8)
- 6 Judge wore a clean suit (4)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 12784

D	E	A	R	J	O	H	N	S	P	U	R	G	E
E	U	I	O		I	E		X					
N	O	T	E	B	O	K	U	P	K	E			
T	U	E	D	J	S	L	E						
A	R	M	A	D	I	L	L	Q	U	E			
L	N				U	L	U	C	D				
Z	O	M											
U	R	A	N	I									
R	A	N	I	T									
M	L	V	I	I									
P	U	S	M	E	N	M	O	I	N	S			
T	O	T	E	R	V	L	A						
J	N	W	A	D	A	T	U	L	Y				

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	4	8	3	6	2	1	7	5					
3	7	5	8	9	1	2	4	6					
1	6	2	5	4	7	8	3	9					
6	1	4	7	3	5	9	2	8					
4	9	2	6	3	8	7	5	1					
2	3	7	5	8	6	4	9	1					
3	8	5	7	2	9	6	4	3					
5	7	4	1	8	3	2	6	9					
7	6	8	9	5	3	4	1	2					
9	8	3	1	7	6	5	9	2					
5	6	7	4	8	9	3	1	5					
2	5	1	4	6	8	9	3	7					

FAITH

Narasimha emerges

When Prahlada said that the Lord was everywhere, even in a small atom, Hiranyakasipu struck the pillar before him, and out came Narasimha. Hiranyakasipu had requested Brahma that he should not be killed by man or animal; he should not be killed inside a structure or outside; he should not be killed during the day or during the night; he should not be killed by any weapon. Brahma had granted him all his requests. And that is why Vishnu had to come as Narasimha – in half-man, half-lion form, said M.A. Venkatakrishnan in a discourse. The Lord killed Hiranyakasipu in twilight, which was neither day nor night. He sat on the threshold and put the demon on his lap

Bringing the office closer home

Companies with multiple addresses in a city can easily help their employees tide over commuting-related problems

LIFFY THOMAS

Last month, tyre-manufacturing company CEAT opened an office in Borivali, a suburb in Mumbai, primarily to spare a sizeable section of its workforce the hassle of a long commute to the company's headquarters in Worli.

Frequent traffic congestion on the Western Express Highway, which is part of the arterial route leading to Worli, is reportedly among the factors that contributed to this decision.

In August 2018, semiconductor multinational company Advanced Micro Devices set up a "satellite office" in Bengaluru, and the move is said to have been shaped by a survey that showed 40% of its workforce lived in areas close to the Central Business District.

Early this year, when the Electronic City flyover, the lifeline to a major IT Corridor in Bengaluru, was closed for maintenance, Robert Bosch Engineering and Business Solutions Private Limited allowed its employees to choose any of its four facilities in the city to work from.

When a company has multiple addresses, it can help its workforce tide over commuting-related problems. It can come in handy particularly for companies whose nature of operations is not conducive to readily offering a work-from-home arrangement.

A different scenario
Sometimes, companies may have to centralise their oper-



The challenges of travelling to work. FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Co-working spaces to the rescue

While some companies go in for satellite offices, there will also be others who go the other way – bringing their various offices in a city into one common space.

Usually, the reasons are obvious: Reducing operational costs; and creating synergy among its various wings. In Bengaluru, this year, Goldman Sachs, Swiggy and Quest have turned

their back on the multiple-offices model. Oracle is joining the club. Last year, Flipkart moved its associates to a new office at Embassy Tech Village in Bengaluru.

"In Chennai, TCS, for example, closed its Cathedral Road office to move its associates to the Siruseri facility a few years ago," says Sanjay Chugh, city head – Chennai, Anarock Property Consultants. Chugh says

moved closer to the new office; one-time reimbursement of packing-and-moving charges for those moving within 10 km from the office; reimbursement in brokerage fee and one-time broadband installation.

A 50% subsidy on items bought at the cafeteria was offered as an incentive to move closer to the new office.

"About 20% of our employees availed the offer,"

says Aanandita Bhatnagar, director, Corporate Communications, NetApp. Today, the company has 2,000 employees with a host of added amenities on the campus.

"We were able to take our employees with us and engage them so well that we climbed nearly 30 spots to rank #7 in 2017 in the Good Place To Work survey. It was the same year that we moved to the new office," says Aanandita.

NEWS BYTES

A hackathon in textile technology

A technical textile hackathon will be held in Mumbai on November 22 to identify solutions to the challenges of sustainable urban living.

The hackathon aims to build business models that can be funded, scaled, and taken at a global level.

It is expected to bring the country's top 10 technical textile start-ups under one roof, according to a statement issued by the organisers Messe Frankfurt India.

While the manufacturing side will be represented by companies engaged in the production of products relating to specialty fibres, yarns, textiles, fabrics, along with brands and traders, the entrepreneur side will be represented by SMEs, start-up ecosystems and accelerators.

Topics centred around India's sustainability challenges will be taken up with the objective of developing focused solutions, the statement says.

Forum for healthcare professionals

The Occupational English Test (OET), the English language test designed specifically for healthcare professionals, is conducting 'Healthcare Communication Forum 2019' at Kochi on November 21.

The Forum will focus on the shared responsibility of healthcare stakeholders.

GENERAL

TEACH OUR STUDENTS TO ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

SRM University – Andhra Pradesh invites applications from candidates for faculty positions.

The university is looking for applicants with a passion for teaching and demonstrated excellence in research. Selected candidates will be expected to teach undergraduate courses, conduct independent research and provide services to the university. Our faculty members have graduated from world's leading institutes and 100% are Ph.D. holders with international exposure. SRM University AP is looking for illustrious candidates in the following streams, to join our intellectual team of academicians.

Schools with Positions Open:

School of Engineering and Applied Sciences: Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Electronics and Communications Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Civil Engineering

School of Liberal Arts and Basic Sciences: Environmental Science, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics & Statistics, Biology, Bioinformatics, Economics, Psychology, History, and English

School of Management and Business Administration: Marketing, Finance, Operations, Human Resources, International Business

Qualification and Experience:

Ph.D. in the relevant disciplines is mandatory. Candidates from IISc, IITs, IIMs, JNU, National Laboratories, and Foreign Universities will be given preference.

Professor: 10 years teaching/research/industrial experience of which at least 4 years should be at the level of Associate Professor or equivalent

Candidates are encouraged to Apply online:

Submit detailed resume with complete list of publications, research experience and professional references by 15th December 2019 at www.srm.edu.in/careers

REGISTRAR

SRM University, Andhra Pradesh Neerukonda, Mangalagiri Mandal, Guntur Dt, Andhra Pradesh – 522 502

SRM
UNIVERSITY AP
Andhra Pradesh



Associate Professor: 6 years teaching/research/industrial experience of which at least 3 years should be at the level of Assistant Professor or equivalent

Assistant Professor: At least 3 years of teaching/research/industrial experience. Outstanding fresh Ph.D. candidates may also be considered

Compensation & Benefits:

- Salary ranges from INR 12 to 36 lakhs per annum commensurate with the candidate's experience and achievements
- Compensation will not be a constraint for outstanding candidates
- Additional benefits like subsidized accommodation and child care in the campus, transportation option, and medical insurance are provided

MARKET WATCH

	19-11-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	40,470	0.46
US Dollar	71.71	0.18
Gold	39,028	0.84
Brent oil	61.57	-1.73

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	364.05	-1.60
Asian Paints	1721.35	-17.65
Axis Bank	747.80	24.85
Bajaj Auto	3161.05	4.15
Bajaj Finserv	9152.80	48.55
Bajaj Finance	4135.75	-19.15
Bharti Airtel	439.35	30.15
BPCL	518.95	-2.80
Britannia Ind	3120.35	-20.55
Cipla	472.10	11.50
Coal India	199.60	-0.70
Dr Reddy's Lab	2743.00	6.00
Eicher Motors	21747.35	269.95
GAIL (India)	125.10	0.30
Grafix Ind	786.15	16.65
HCL Tech	1134.65	-6.45
HDFC	2212.10	-24.20
HDFC Bank	1271.90	9.85
Hero MotoCorp	2468.95	-33.95
Hindalco	192.35	-1.25
Hind Unilever	2037.75	-18.45
ICICI Bank	493.50	-4.85
IndusInd Bank	1392.75	18.35
Bharti InfraNet	250.55	23.75
Infosys	712.85	7.65
Indian Oil Corp	133.00	0.45
ITC	249.30	-1.45
JSW Steel	247.90	-1.70
Kotak Bank	1623.80	-3.40
L&T	1365.75	1.25
M&M	560.65	-13.05
Maruti Suzuki	7045.75	-53.00
Nestle India Ltd.	14171.10	31.55
NTPC	117.35	-0.10
ONGC	133.25	-0.65
Power Grid Corp	195.45	4.80
Reliance Ind	1509.75	50.55
State Bank	330.40	5.30
Sun Pharma	425.90	1.35
Tata Motors	167.75	-2.35
Tata Steel	401.75	-8.30
TCS	2108.80	-43.80
Tech Mahindra	763.15	11.35
Titan	1163.20	4.40
UltraTech Cement	4100.15	-26.20
UPL	551.25	2.25
Vedanta	141.70	-1.70
Wipro	250.40	0.95
YES Bank	64.15	-1.70
Zee Entertainment	285.85	-8.30

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
USDollar	71.51	71.83
Euro	79.18	79.53
British Pound	92.45	92.87
Japanese Yen (100)	65.77	66.07
Chinese Yuan	10.18	10.23
Swiss Franc	72.12	72.44
Singapore Dollar	52.56	52.80
Canadian Dollar	54.14	54.38
Malaysian Ringgit	17.20	17.28

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF

Now, Reliance Jio to hike mobile tariffs soon

NEW DELHI Reliance Jio on Tuesday said it will increase mobile phone call and data charges in the next few weeks. This comes a day after Airtel and Vodafone Idea announced a hike in call and data charges from next month. Jio said TRAI is likely to initiate a consultation process for revision in tariffs. "Like other operators, we will also work with the Centre and comply with the regulatory regime to strengthen the industry to benefit consumers," it said. PTI

5 independent directors' posts fall vacant at CIL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

The posts of five independent directors at Coal India Ltd. have fallen vacant together, following the expiry of their tenure, the PSU said in a regulatory filing on Tuesday. CIL said the matter had been taken up with the Union Coal Ministry.

The five directors are Loretta M. Vyas, S.B. Agnihotri, D.C. Panigrahi, Khannindra Pathak and Vinod Jain. They were among CIL's seven independent directors.

While Ms. Vyas and Mr. Agnihotri had served in the Indian Administrative Service, Mr. Pathak is well-known mining expert and Mr. Jain is a chartered accountant.

Their term (re-appointment for a year) expired on November 16, 2019.

They were appointed in November 2015 for a period of three years.

CIL has four functional directors in charge of marketing, technical, personnel and finance, besides the chairman and managing director. The vacancies come at a time when CIL, which produces over 80% of India's coal, is struggling to increase its output. October was its third straight month of production decline. Between April and October 2019, CIL produced 280.4 million tonnes, 8.5% lower than a year ago.

CMYK

Karvy Group under SEBI scanner after delayed payouts to clients

Firm cites technical issues, says it's working on auto payout for online customers

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has begun an initial inquiry based on reports that Hyderabad-based Karvy Group is facing liquidity issues, even as the financial services entity clarified that the delay in payouts to certain clients was only due to technical issues.

Karvy Group has been in the news over the last few days after its equity clients took to social media to air their grievances over delayed payouts.

Incidentally, some of the clients alleged that they had not received the payout even though more than a week had passed since trading.

According to SEBI guidelines, the payouts should happen on a T+2 basis, which means that the client should get the money on the second day from the day of the



Rule book: According to SEBI guidelines, the client should get the money on the second day from the day of trade. ■REUTERS

trade. While the market has been abuzz with talks of a liquidity crisis at Karvy, the company on Tuesday said that the delays were only on account of technical issues and that it was in the process of enabling T+2 auto payout for all online customers to eliminate manual payout process.

"In the month of October 2019, we have had some technical issues in reconcilia-

tion between ledger postings and bank payout file creation process. This issue has led to some delays in giving payouts to some customers who have asked for payouts," Karvy said in a statement in response to a query from *The Hindu*.

SEBI, however, has taken note of the developments and is examining the matter to ascertain if there were any lapses in terms of risk and

settlement mechanisms by Kotak Stock Broking, a person familiar with the development said. An email query sent to SEBI remained unanswered till the time of going to press.

Meanwhile, Karvy has denied that it is facing any liquidity crisis and added that it had the "wherewithal" to settle the dues, which it had been doing consistently.

"Some of the codes would have been missed out during reconciliation process [and] are being processed and settled, we wish to bring to your notice that such unreconciled customers would be less than 50 to 60 unique customers a day," said Karvy.

"We are building processes to ensure that such unreconciled cases are reconciled the very next day, instead of the existing reconciliation process which is being done on a monthly basis," it added.

The bank further informed the exchanges that out of the ₹3,277 crore, ₹1,259 crore had already

Brokers complain as NSE faces technical glitch

Updation of margin positions hit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Brokers on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) were unable to update their margin positions in the system on Tuesday due to a technical glitch in the systems. However, trading was not disrupted in any manner.

According to brokers, the glitch in the system led to a scenario wherein they were not able to view or update their margins.

Every broker has to maintain a certain amount of margin with the exchange, based on which the trading quantum is ascertained.

Simply put, if the exchange systems do not allow the broker to put in more margin, the trading limit will be hit.

The Association of National Exchanges Members of India (ANMI), the umbrella body of brokers, wrote to the National Stock Exchange

(NSE) highlighting Tuesday's glitch and said that it caused huge financial losses to many brokers.

"Few members reported their margin files are not getting updated and hence exceeding 85% limit, apparently forcing [them] to square off the positions, running into huge financial loss to clients," ANMI said in the letter to NSE.

"It is further submitted that it is becoming very difficult for members to handle such situations as one cannot infuse or remove margins etc.," the association added in the letter.

"The trading systems were working normally. Some members faced problems with the support systems of the exchange due to an inadvertent error on the part of the vendor. Normal operations resumed from 11:15 a.m.," said an NSE spokesperson.

buildings, places like airports, railway stations, bus terminals, metro stations/lines, hospitals etc., as per the terms and conditions of their respective licenses," the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) said in an advisory.

In order to provide a better network for voice calls as well as high speed broadband inside buildings, TSPs need to install in-building solutions (IBS) as well as lay cables including copper, optical fibre and LAN cables. For this, they may require permission from the owner of the building. However, in

many cases, building owners enter into an exclusive agreement with one of the TSPs, and deny access to others.

"Such practices not only limit competition, it also leaves no choice to consumers except to avail services from the TSP with whom the contract is done; taking away choice and flexibility from the consumers which they would have had in terms of quality of service (QoS), tariff, redundancy etc.," the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) observed in its recommendations in March 2017.

All the telecom service providers(TSPs) are advised to share the in-building infrastructure (IBS, OFC and other cables, ducts, etc.) with other TSPs, in all the existing government/public

buildings, places like airports, railway stations, bus terminals, metro stations/lines, hospitals etc., as per the terms and conditions of their respective licenses," the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) said in an advisory.

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Telcos asked to share infra

DoT advisory aims to boost connectivity in public places

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

In a move that is likely to lead to better telecom connectivity for consumers, the government has advised all service providers to share their in-building infrastructure with their peers in all public buildings, including government offices, airports, railway stations and hospitals.

"All the telecom service providers(TSPs) are advised to share the in-building infrastructure (IBS, OFC and other cables, ducts, etc.) with other TSPs, in all the existing government/public

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While the DoT advisory is aimed at boosting connectivity in public places, it is also intended to encourage TSPs to share their in-building infrastructure with other TSPs.

CSB Bank to raise ₹410 cr. via IPO

Offer opens on Nov. 22 and priced at ₹193-195 a share

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Thrissur-based old generation private lender CSB Bank – earlier known as Catholic Syrian Bank – has set a price band of ₹193-195 per share for its initial public offer (IPO), valuing the bank at ₹3,400 crore. The IPO opens on November 22 and closes on November 26.

The IPO is expected to raise ₹410 crore, which will be used for

expansion and to meet regulatory requirements.

RBI had asked the lender to list by September but there was a delay due to procedural issues. The bank reported ₹44 crore profit for the half-year ended September 2019 as compared with a ₹197 crore loss for the full financial year 2018-19. While the loan book of the bank is at ₹11,500 crore its deposit base is ₹15,000 crore, 25% of which is from NRIs. Mr. Rajendran said the bank was going slow on deposits as the bank had surplus liquidity.

The RBI has given promoters a 15-year-time period to

Yes Bank under-reported bad loans of ₹3,277 crore, finds RBI

Rana Kapoor and his companies exit almost fully from bank

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Yes Bank reported a whooping ₹3,277 crore divergence of bad loans in the financial year 2



American illustrator and author Adam Ellis says he likes to create comics that he feels good about and not think about how many 'likes' it gets on social media

SRAVASTI DATTA

On Adam Ellis' Instagram page, @adamtots, his character (a bearded Adam) checks into the airport a day earlier. The airline staff is stupefied and asks, 'why are you so early?' Well, that is just the point. Air travel is so cumbersome: reaching on time, checking in, waiting for the flight while hoping it is not delayed.

This experience is almost universal, so it was only natural that illustrator and author Adam Ellis would depict it. The word 'natural' is the right word here as Adam's creativity is spontaneous. 'I have been told my work is real and relatable. But I try not to think about what will be relatable to people. I try to make stuff I like and think is funny. The fact that people also relate to them is an added bonus. If you try too hard to create something, thinking about how many likes it's going to get on social media, then it does not feel as genuine. I like to make stuff that feels good to me,' says a bashful Adam, who was at the Bengaluru Comic Con 2019, held last week at Maruti Suzuki Arena, KTPPO, Whitefield.

Adam adds: 'The protagonist Adam is a heightened version of me. I sort of explore insecurities and quirks in a more exaggerated way. But I am not quite as neurotic as the character.'

Tete-a-tete

Adam says his inspiration is Belgian cartoonist Georges Remi, whose pen name was Herge, and created *The Adventures of Tintin*

The making of the film on Dear David has been announced, says Adam

Adam says the online space works well for artists looking to reach out to their audience faster: 'Instagram feels a lot like the Sunday comics in the newspaper. It's removed a lot of obstacles. You don't have to go through a syndicate or a publisher'

In 2013, he published *Books of Adam: The Blunder Years*—a humorous take on his life. 'Even a couple years ago I would have never anticipated that being an illustrator would allow me to attend conventions in India and Europe. I have been able to travel and talk about my art and feel lucky.'

Adam also worked in BuzzFeed in 2015. 'I was there for about four-and-a-half years and learned so much while I was there. But, at

FOOD REVIEW

Dressed to impress

The Kimono Club has excellent dimsum and sushi rolls, once you pass the obnoxious hostess

NAVAL SATARAWALA CHOPRA

An ambitious project in the luxury mall, The Chanakya, the Kimono Club is an establishment whose success will lie in the crowd it will attract. With interiors which appear inspired from Park Chinois, London (think red velvet, bell lamp shades and dim lighting) the expansive space designed by adman-artist Freddy Birdy is sexy, but not sexy enough; kitsch but restrained. It's almost as if Freddy was not allowed to go all the way.

On the Monday night I visited, my wife was first told over the phone that they don't take reservations after 8.30 pm - a policy which I abhor; Bukhara can do it, but a new and mostly empty restaurant just cannot. Then, despite having a reservation, the 'posh' hostess told us we didn't, but as a special favour, she would arrange a table for us (in



For the epicurean Dimsums; the interiors; and nibbling prawns ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ders definitely know how to shake a cocktail or two. The restaurant serves a mix of Chinese and Japanese favourites, with a plethora of vegetarian options.

Do try: Their dimsums. Perhaps the finest in Delhi by a stretch, the 'skin' of the dimsums are super thin and the filling delicious. Their Xiao-longbao's (soup dumplings) rival the legendary Taiwanese chain, Din Tai Fung - bursting with flavour and juicy. The Crispy Prawn Cheung Fun was also excellent - succulent

prawn, perfectly fried and with a light skin. The spicy avocado rolls had generous amounts of avocado and were well put together.

Skip: The Duck Carpaccio - apart from being too thick, the yuzu and orange flavours were not note-

a certain point, I realised I needed to pursue things I like," shares Adam, who even created a webcomic on him leaving *Buzzfeed*.

For Adam, the idea is more important than the art work. "I have seen a lot of people, who may not be the most accomplished artists, but are doing well on Instagram. That is because they are smart and funny."

As for his creative process, Adam says: "It's very quick for me. I just sit down at my desk, sketch, add colour, and since it's all digital, it goes pretty quickly. Usually, from the idea to the finished product, it takes only a couple of hours and that is one of the things I love about making stuff for the internet, you can put your idea out there." Adam is quite open about his life. His recent book *Super Chill: A Year Of Living Anxiously*, which, as the title suggests, is about his emotional struggles. His other books include *Tiny Hats on Cats: Because Every Cat Deserves to Feel Fancy*, which shows his love for cats. In 2017, Adam tweeted extensively about a child ghost allegedly haunting his apartment. The ghost, which he called 'Dear David', also began to appear in a series of dreams. "That is another thing that was completely unexpected. I told a friend about it. And she said, 'this is crazy, you should put this on the internet.' I thought nobody wants to hear about my dreams, but eventually put it out there and went out for lunch. By the time I returned, it had gone viral and was trending on Twitter. It was a complete surprise, and opened up all these avenues that I never thought I would be a part of - like there is a movie in production. Then there is *Trending Fear*, in which my friends and I travel around America, investigating other people's hauntings, and that has been a strange-cool experience. We did six episodes and it is going to premiere in December and that just happened by chance." The conversation veers to his visit to Bengaluru - his first time in the city. When asked what comic he would create on his first impressions, Adam replies, "I will probably make a comment about the traffic I live in New York, so I feel like I know what crazy traffic is like. This is a completely different world, though," he signs off.

CONSCIOUS LIVING

No-waste cooking and plating



Hand-woven leaves as a platter and bowl



Guacamole served with no cutlery, in the fruit's shell



Coconut and corn salad in coconut shell bowls



Churned cucumber juice shots served in scooped out cucumbers

PRODUCTS

Scandinavian accessories



Skagen, the once-Danish watchmakers, have launched their Jewellwey line in India with two collections: Agnethe and Ellen. Agnethe uses imitation pearls and mother of pearl in new ways, along with both 925 Sterling Silver as well as stainless steel for its durability and anti-erosion properties. The Ellen Collection, also available in both sterling silver and stainless steel variations, features rose quartz and onyx stones in its pieces.

Available at the Skagen kiosk at Mall of India; and from next month online on Amazon, and offline at Fossil stores; upwards of ₹,995

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



CRAFTS FAIR

Crafts mela
Dastkar has organised Nature 2019, its annual winter mela, dedicated to craftspeople and traditional Indian handicrafts. On till 24th November, the exhibition-cum-sale features a wide array of paintings, handwoven garments, tribal weaves, wood crafts, terracotta and sea-shell craft.

VENUE: Kisan Haat, Andheria Modh

TIME: 11 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.



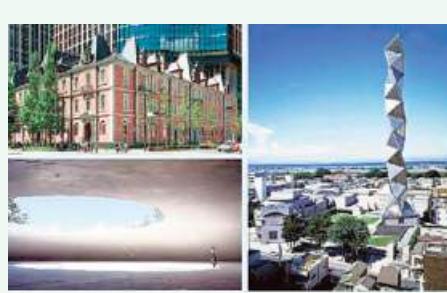
FOOD

Kulcha special

Singh Sahib, an eatery at Eros Hotel, is offering signature Amritsari Kulcha found on the streets of undivided Punjab. On till 27th November, this special menu has variety of kulchas such as Murgh Afghani Kulcha, Tandoori Prawn ka Kulcha, Kacche Kele aur Pyaz ka Kulcha and Mushroom Methi ka Kulcha, and more.

VENUE: Eros Hotel Nehru Place

TIME: 12 noon-3 p.m. and 7 p.m.-12 midnight



EXHIBITION

Photography

The ongoing exhibition titled 99+1 Japan: Travelling through Art, Design and Architecture, at Tenshin Okakura Gallery is based on a brochure published by the Japan National Tourism Organisation. The photo show is organised with an aim to provide tourist information about the country for the travellers.

VENUE: The Japan Foundation, Lajpat Nagar IV

TIME: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



CUISINE

Winter menu

Anglow, an Anglo-Indian themed bar and kitchen, has launched a new winter menu. Curated by food consultant Bridget White Kumar, the menu features Duck Ding Ding, Chicken Liver & Kidney, Bengal Lancers Shrimp Curry, Vegetable Chops, Aubergine and Potato Vindaloo, Deviled Scotch Eggs, to name a few.

VENUE: 57, Khan Market, Rabindra Nagar

TIME: 11 a.m. - 1 a.m.



GIG

Indus Creed live

Saints & Sinner will be celebrating their 500th gig by hosting the award-winning band Indus Creed with Traffic Jam tonight. Indus Creed comprises Uday Benegal on the vocals and Zubin Balaporia on the keyboards. The band plays indie alternative and rock.

VENUE: Golf Course Road, Gurugram

TIME: 7 p.m.

Isuzu D-Max V-Cross gets an update



This truck is now available with two engines and transmissions and gets an all-black theme on the inside

SAUMIL SHAH

Pick-up trucks are looked at as utilitarian vehicles, but in India, this body style is rare; it caters to a rather niche set of buyers. Isuzu has refreshed its D-Max V-Cross pick-up truck and added several premium features to go well with its lifestyle image. This truck is now available with two engines and transmissions – the lower variants are still powered by the 2.5-litre diesel engine mated to the 5-speed manual, while there's an all-new range-topping Z Prestige variant which gets an all-new 1.9-litre diesel engine mated to a 6-speed automatic transmission, and that's the variant reviewed here.

The Isuzu V-Cross is a typical ladder-frame pick-up truck that's equipped with four-wheel drive. This massive truck towers over regular hatchbacks and sedans, and is even longer than a Mercedes S-class. With this facelift, it

gets new bi-beam LED headlamps with DRLs, a massive chrome grille, and chrome inserts around the fog lamps.

This Isuzu now sits on large 18-inch alloys, and other new bits include a side-step and a shark-fin antenna. The tail-lamps get LED elements, and the rear sports several badges, massive 'ISUZU' lettering, and a chunky chrome bumper. As before, the cargo area remains uncovered and has a load-carrying capacity of 235kg.

The talking point of the V-Cross automatic is its new 150hp, 1,898cc, four-cylinder diesel engine, which makes 16hp more than the larger 2.5-litre diesel available in the lower variants. Curiously, this new 1.9-litre en-

gine is only BS-IV compliant. Buyers will appreciate the fact that the core characteristic of this engine is very similar to the bigger capacity unit, and it feels smoother now. The bottom-end is almost as nice as the 2.5's, and once the turbo is at full boost around 2,000rpm, performance feels strong and it remains so until about 3,000rpm, after which power begins to taper. It is this strong mid-range that makes the V-Cross an effortless cruiser. This 1.9-tonne truck sprints from 0-100kph in a respectable 13.22sec.

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On the inside is where most changes are – it gets an all-black theme, which goes well with its outdoorsy character, and there are many premium touches like some soft-touch bits on the dashboard fascia and over the hood of the instrument cluster. The large and comfy seats now wear new brown leatherette upholstery, which feels nice, and the driver's seat also gets electric adjustment. Getting into the rear (like the front) is a bit of a trek, but, once in, you realise the space here is generous. The seat is low-set and backrest a bit upright, still, passengers will be quite comfy over long journeys.

The cabin retains its practical design



Rough and ready If it is sheer road presence you seek, then you could check out the V-Cross

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

a manual mode, and those who take it off the road will appreciate the fact that it holds on to gears in this mode – it will only downshift automatically if the revs fall too low. This motor is quite refined, but it does get clattery when under load, and from there on there's no hiding from the fact that there's a big diesel mill under the bonnet.

The V-Cross rides on massive 255/60 tyres, which iron out road imperfections and smaller potholes, and despite riding on 18-inch wheels, it filters road shocks from larger bumps well. The V-Cross is typically rear-wheel drive; however, it gets a 4-high and a 4-low mode to tackle some tricky situations, and reach places where few SUVs can. In terms of ride quality, there's plenty of movement in the cabin at all speeds, and it feels rather bouncy, especially at the rear, particularly when the cargo bed isn't loaded up. Its steering feels heavy at low speeds and, because of its large turning circle, it is a bit ponderous to drive. On the flip side, this heft infuses confidence in the driver at highway speeds.

The V-Cross is a tough four-wheel-drive vehicle that ranks high when it comes to utility and capability. The automatic transmission and other parking aids have made it a lot easier to live with than before. Still as a daily driver, the V-Cross isn't ideal due to its massive dimensions, heavy steering, and large turning circle. At ₹19.99 lakh (ex-showroom, Delhi), this truck is too expensive. What you get for this price are several premium yet usable features, a four-wheel-drive system and the convenience of an automatic transmission, and if it is sheer road presence you seek, there's simply nothing that comes close to the V-Cross.

ISUZU D-MAX V-CROSS Z-PRESTIGE AT

ENGINE: 1898cc, 4 cyl, turbo-diesel

MAX POWER (HP @ RPM): 150hp at 3600rpm

MAX TORQUE (NM @ RPM): 350Nm at 1800-2600rpm

GEARBOX: 6-speed automatic

TYRES (F/R): 255/60 R18

FRONT BRAKES: Ventilated discs

REAR BRAKES: Drums

LENGTH (MM): 5295mm

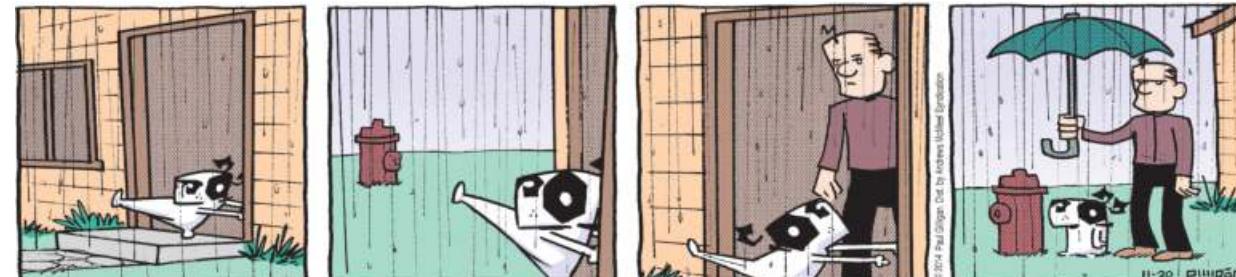
WIDTH (MM): 1860mm

HEIGHT (MM): 1855mm

WHEELBASE (MM): 3095mm

Mated to this engine is an all-new 6-speed automatic (torque converter), which brings some much-needed convenience while around. It works well and does its job smoothly, but put your foot down, and there is quite a pause before downshifting. What's nice is that there's

POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



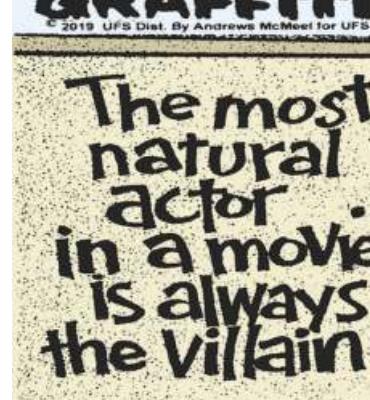
CALVIN AND HOBBES



TIGER



GRAFFITI



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13229

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Portrush? (4,4)

4 Grey and overcast (6)

5 Child prodigy (10)

6 Way to go! (4)

7 Powdery starch used in cooking (4)

10 Royal Artillery soldier (10)

12 Get a move on! (4,2,2)

13 Ghostly figure – man's path (anag) (8)

16 Three fours (6)

18 Urban area (4)

19 Keep (4)

WUMO



HEALTH CAPSULES

by Bron Smith
HOW LONG DO INFANTS AND TODDLERS REMEMBER?
WHAT'S A PETARBYE?
BY ABOUT AGE 7, THIS FIRST THREE YEARS OF MEMORIES ARE ALMOST ENTIRELY ERASED FROM THE CONSCIOUS MEMORY AND OVERLAIDED WITH NEW ONES. FROM THAT POINT, OUR MEMORIES SHIFT AND EVOLVE, AFFECTED BY OUR EXPERIENCES. OUR MEMORIES ARE ABLE TO STORE LONG TERM SOME 2.5 PETABYTES OF DATA, ABOUT 300 MILLION HOURS OF TV PROGRAMMING.
Health Capsules is not intended to be a diagnostic or therapeutic

17 Poster-securing device? (7,3)

20 Area furthest from the stumps (8)

21 Old South American (4)

22 Old film about current events (8)

23 Tiny piece (4)

■ Down

1 Wreck (8)

2 Wedge from Royal

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F	S	N	A	U	U	U	U	U
B	L	O	M	I	T	E	M	E
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D	A	R	N	I	N	G	N	E

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated November 21, 2019.

Solution No. 13228

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE





Slipping away: Oman's Mohsin al-Khalidi, left, gets past India's Nishu Kumar and Vinit Rai. Oman won 1-0. ■ AFP

India almost out of contention

Loses to Oman, courtesy Al-Ghassani's 33rd-minute goal

WC QUALIFIERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Indian football team was on Tuesday virtually knocked out of the 2022 World Cup qualifying round after losing 0-1 to Oman here.

Muhsen Al-Ghassani scored the all-important goal in the 33rd minute at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex Stadium as Oman beat India for the second time in the campaign.

Oman had defeated India 2-1 in the first leg in September in Guwahati.

With just three points from five matches, India still remain at fourth spot in the Group E table, headed by Asian champions Qatar which has 13 points from five matches. Oman is at second spot with 12 points.

With a nine point gap with the second-place team (Oman) in the group table,

India is almost out of reckoning for a third round berth. It has only three more matches – maximum nine points – left to play in this second round of the qualifiers.

Even the runner-up team is not guaranteed an automatic spot for the third round of the qualifiers.

The Indian team is, however, still in the hunt for a third round berth for the 2023 Asian Cup qualifiers.

This campaign is also a joint qualifying round for the 2023 Asian Cup and the third-placed teams and the best four fourth-placed teams from the eight groups automatically get a spot in the third round of the qualifiers of the continental championships.

Earlier, head coach Igor Stimac made three changes to his side that drew Afghanistan 1-1 in Dushanbe on November 14 with Manvir Singh, Farukh Choudhary

and Nishu Kumar coming in for Pritam Kotal, Mandar Rao Desai and Sahal Abdul Samad.

Missed penalty

India was, however, lucky not to have conceded a goal in the seventh minute when Al-Ghassani shot over the bar from the penalty spot.

Al-Ghassani himself earned the spot kick after a clumsy challenge inside the Indian box by Rahul Bheke who was beaten for pace by Omani striker.

Al-Ghassani later made amends as he fired home in the 33rd minute past Indian goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu after a beautiful defence-splitting through pass by Mohsin Johar Al Khalidi.

Oman had more of the ball possession in the first half but it had few clear chances. Ahmed Al Kaabi got a free header in the 27th minute but sent the ball over the bar from a corner kick.

India had a few raids at the opposition goal but could not pose any threat to the Omani goalkeeper Ali Al Habsi.

Three substitutions

India made three substitutions in the first half with Vinit Rai coming in for Pranoy Halder who was booked in the 26th minute while an injury to central defender Adil Khan led to Anas Edathodikatt taking his place.

India played better in the second half with a lot of ball possession and attack at the opposition citadel but a clear chance eluded it.

Oman nearly doubled its lead in the 64th minute but Indian goalkeeper Gurpreet dived full length to his left to block an Al Khalidi free kick.

All of India's last three matches will be played next year – against Qatar (at home on March 26), Bangladesh (away, June 4) and Afghanistan (at home, June 9).

Memories from another era

A fan, a player and an umpire recall the first-ever floodlit ODI on Indian soil

PINK-BALL TEST

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

At 60, Praveen Kumar Soni is eagerly waiting to witness another chapter in Indian cricket unfold.

As a 25-year-old ardent fan, Soni was at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium to watch the first-ever floodlit white ball ODI, between India and Australia on September 28, 1984 – six years after the glamorous version of international cricket was first played at Sydney.

After 35 years, he is ready to see the country host the first-ever pink-ball Test at the Eden Gardens here from Friday.

Fantastic atmosphere'

"Fantastic atmosphere. I remember cover-drives from Kapil Dev and Sunil Gavaskar. Also, a tremendous catch by Graham Yallop at gully to dismiss Dilip Vengsarkar.

"It was great to be part of history – the first-ever floodlit ODI match on Indian soil. A new cricket culture had arrived. I will be at the Eden Gardens for the pink-ball Test," said Soni, now the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) media manager, told *The Hindu*.

However, Soni pointed out that the stands of the huge Nehru Stadium were filled only 60%, perhaps, due to the 'skepticism' of the cricket purists.

Another Delhiite, Surender Khanna, the Indian wicketkeeper in that match, shared his experience of keeping to the white ball under lights.

"It was an artificial turf but the lights were magnificent. I had no trouble spotting the ball. "The ODI against Australia was as good as any other match. There was the novel-



Here I am... Cheteshwar Pujara arrives in Kolkata on Tuesday, ahead of the historic Test. ■ PTI

Praveen Kumar Soni.
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTSurender Khanna.
■ FILE PHOTO

Piloo Reporter. ■ FILE PHOTO

lights at Gwalior in 1997.

The first white-ball ODI in the country also brought good tidings for umpire Piloo Reporter, who made his international debut in that match.

"What excitement! It took a few deliveries for us (umpires) to settle down and then it was fine. I remember giving an early decision – caught behind. Light was fine. We had a superb turn

out for me, it was memorable because both the teams complimented me for my work," said the 81-year-old Reporter.

As the Eden Gardens is all set to script a similar history with the pink ball – first experimented in Adelaide, in 2015 – the cricket fraternity in India will keenly watch whether the idea can bring back the spectators to the longer version of the game.

+ Pink ball a challenge for umpires, too: Taufel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KOLKATA

Sighting the pink ball during the twilight period will be a challenge not only for the batsmen but also the umpires, who are expected to attend some practice sessions to get used to the new colour, retired Australian umpire Simon Taufel said on Tuesday.

Taufel, who was present at the first-ever pink-ball Test in Adelaide as ICC Umpire Performance and Training Manager, said the umpires can use artificial lenses to have a better view.

"I don't know whether they will wear any special lenses to see the ball differently. That's entirely up to them. But they will be attending as many net sessions as possible," Taufel told PTI.

"They will be going through their net session and simulation activities. Maybe trying to see some



Simon Taufel. ■ AFP

practice session with the pink ball so that they are pretty confident of seeing the right things at the right time," he said.

"You have a twilight period when the light changes as it goes from very bright to sunshine to artificial light. That period is more challenging for the batsmen to pick up the ball. I would expect a similar type of challenge for the umpires as well."

A sport for nerds which makes millionaires of players

BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

Cricket's version of Saul Bellow's much-quoted question: "Who is the Tolstoy of the Zulus?" is, "Who is the Cardus of T20?"

The Cardusian philosophy is that the scoreboard is an ass, that figures don't matter, that beauty is all. It reflects the mistake in assuming that T20 is a version of 50-over or even first class cricket.

But in T20, the scoreboard is everything, and the best writing would focus on data, its usage and constant re-appraisals. *Cricket 2.0: Inside the T20 Revolution* by Tim Wigmore and Freddie Wilde does exactly that.

It is the first serious book on a format that began by confusing players and commentators alike, but has evolved into something both challenging and fascinating. The data may become obsolete in

two years' time, so T20 is a sport for nerds and number-crunchers. Old theories do not apply; nor do old ways of calculating how good a player is.

Variety of changes

Some of the changes are inevitable given the essential shift to a winning-is-everything philosophy. Some changes are cultural, as when emotions are taken out of team selections, and top players like Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid are dropped by their teams. Some changes nod in the direction of American sport with projections worked out by experts.

T20 burst into prominence with the IPL just over a decade ago. It was "cricketainment" then, but with so many millions of dollars involved, it outgrew that early label. Now the auctions no longer surprise, cheerleaders no longer shock. Data is the new cover drive. The beauty is in the relationship between figures.

Wigmore and Wilde take us on an absorbing ride while emphasising this change. It is possible that the pre-tournament computations made in air-conditioned offices are

far more interesting than the actual game on the field, whatever the number of sixes hit. Some might prefer to read the book to watching a match.

Sometimes the philosophy of a thing is more interesting than the thing itself.

I have been arguing for many years now that T20 is a sport that looks and feels like cricket, uses the same equipment, and many of the same personnel, but it is in fact a different sport altogether. In time it might even have its own governing body. *Cricket 2.0* is a history of the format, its evolution speeded up by the IPL, and its possible future. Clearly the format works differently.

Revelations

Some of the revelations come with the startling force of unexpected thunder on a still night. Who imagined, for example, that part of Chris Gayle's impact lay in the way he forced bowlers into bowling wades to him to keep him in check, thus giving his team extra deliveries to play with? Gayle received nearly twice as many deliveries as the average batsman!

Cricket, like all sport, generates statistics and allows for comparisons between players and eras. But what is unique to the numbers generated in T20, especially the IPL, is that these lead directly to commercial gains for the player. The best batsman is not the one who scores the most or averages the highest, but the one who can be relied upon in tight situations. This happy marriage of the concrete and the abstract adds to the format's uniqueness.

The chapter 'Why CSK win and RCB lose' summarises the authors' clear-headed reading of what makes T20 the sport it is, and why mining data is so crucial to it.

Some teams, like Rajasthan Royals, were quick on the uptake. Others, like KKR worked it out as they went along. The basis on which they picked their players, made clear what was expected of them, and suggested the harmful effects of ego – whether belonging to the players or owners – is well written.

'Team' format

Kane Williamson says T20 is the most "team" format of cricket, and

the authors explain why. "No team," they say, "identified undervalued players as consistently as KKR." This is no mere "gut feeling". Everything – as in the format itself – is supported by figures.

Things are still evolving, of course. As R. Ashwin said in an interview, "I basically think that six well-constructed bad balls could be the way to go forward..." Thus, the value of unpredictability.

Equally important are the problems, both current and future. The scope for fixing games, something the IPL has seen, is one. With power-hitting an important element, there is the likely issue of performance-enhancing drugs raising its head too. In 2018, say the authors, there were 719 fixtures worldwide, hence the potential for corruption. A game built on six-hitting is clearly vulnerable to doping.

By not ignoring the potential for danger, the authors give us a rounded picture. Cardus loved to tell us the stories behind the scoreboard, of the players behind the figures. Wigmore and Wilde do that too. But the real heroes are not the players, but the data analysts. This is the nerds' triumph.

France overcomes Japan; Russia bests champion Croatia

DAVIS CUP FINALS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADRID

Two days after clinching the doubles title in the ATP Finals, French duo Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut gave France an opening win over Japan in Group A of the Davis Cup Finals on Tuesday.

The French duo squandered two match-points while serving at 5-4 against Ben McLachlan and Yasutaka Uchiyama, but capitalised on its chance at 6-5 to clinch victory for last year's runner-up.

The teams were tied after Jo-Wilfried Tsonga cruised past Uchiyama 6-2, 6-1 and Yoshihito Nishioka defeated Gael Monfils 7-5, 6-2.

In other day matches, Argentina comfortably defeated Chile 3-0 in Group C,

while Kazakhstan also needed the doubles match to beat the Netherlands 2-1 in Group E.

Meanwhile on the opening day, Karen Khachanov and Andre Rublev helped Russia open with a 3-0 victory over defending champion Croatia.

Canada claimed a 2-1 victory over well-fancied Italy to strike first in Group F and Belgium made a victorious start in Group D with a win over Colombia.

The results:

Group A: France bt Japan 2-1 [Jo-Wilfried Tsonga bt Yasutaka Uchiyama 6-2, 6-1; Gael Monfils lost to Yoshihito Nishioka 7-5, 6-2; Pierre-Hugues Herbert & Nicolas Mahut bt Ben McLachlan & Uchiyama 6-7(4), 6-4, 7-5]

Group B: Russia bt Croatia 3-0 [Karen Khachanov bt Borna Coric 6-7(4), 6-4, 6-4; Khachanov & Rublev bt Ivan Dodig & Nikola Mektić 7-6(3), 6-4]

Group C: Argentina bt Chile 3-0 [Guido Pella bt Nicolas Jarry 6-4, 6-3; Diego Schwartzman bt Cristian Garín 6-2, 6-2; Maxi

mo Gonzalez & Leonardo Mayer bt Jarry & Hans Podlipnik-Castillo 6-3, 7-5]

Group E: Kazakhstan bt The Netherlands 2-1 [Mikhail Kukushkin bt Botic van de Zandschulp 6-2, 6-2; Alexander Bublik lost to Robin Haase 7-5, 3-6, 7-6(5); Kukushkin & Bublik bt Haase & Jean-Julien Rojer 6-4, 7-6(2)]

Monday: Group B: Russia bt Croatia 3-0 [Karen Khachanov bt Borna Coric 6-7(4), 6-4, 6-4; Khachanov & Rublev bt Ivan Dodig & Nikola Mektić 7-6(3), 6-4]

Group D: Belgium bt Colombia 2-1 [David Goffin bt Daniel Elahi Galán Riveros 3-6, 6-3, 6-3; Sander Gillé & Joran Vliegen lost to Juan Sebastián Cabal & Robert Farah 6-7(5), 6-4, 7-6(3)]

Group F: Canada bt Italy 2-1 [Denis Shapovalov bt Matteo Berrettini 7-6(5), 6-7(3), 7-6(5); Pospisil & Shapovalov lost to Berrettini & Fognini 6-2, 3-6, 6-3]

Group C: Argentina bt Chile 3-0 [Guido Pella bt Nicolas Jarry 6-4, 6-3; Diego Schwartzman bt Cristian Garín 6-2, 6-2; Maxi



Maximum effort: France's Nicolas Mahut stretches to play a return, as Pierre-Hugues Herbert looks on, in their exciting decider against Japan's Ben McLachlan and Yasutaka Uchiyama. ■ AP

Camp from Nov. 21

TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m.
T10 League: Sony Ten 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 5.30 p.m.
Euro 2020 Qualifiers: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Thursday)

New Zealand vs England: First Test, day one, Star Sports Select 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 a.m. (Thursday)
Australia vs Pakistan: First Test, day one, Sony Six (SD & HD), 5.30 a.m. (Thursday)

IN BRIEF



Harden, Westbrook shine to extend Rockets' winning streak

LOS ANGELES James Harden scored 36 points and Russell Westbrook bagged a triple double as the Houston Rockets extended their red-hot winning streak to eight games with a 132-108 rout of the Portland Trail Blazers on Monday.

The results: New York Knicks 123 bt Cleveland Cavaliers 105; Indiana Pacers 115 bt Brooklyn Nets 86; Toronto Raptors 132 bt Charlotte Hornets 96; Milwaukee Bucks 115 bt Chicago Bulls 101; Houston Rockets 132 bt Portland Trail Blazers 108; Dallas Mavericks 117 bt San Antonio Spurs 110; Boston Celtics 99 bt Phoenix Suns 85; Minnesota Timberwolves 112 bt Utah Jazz 102; Los Angeles Clippers 90 bt Oklahoma City Thunder 88.

ISL: Chennaiyin, JFC fixture rescheduled
JAMSHEDPUR The Indian Super League (ISL) fixture between Jamshedpur FC and Chennaiyin FC has been moved to December 9 with a 7.30 p.m. kick-off time. The tie was originally scheduled on Dec. 6 at the J.R.D. Tata Sports Complex, here. The rescheduling, the press release said, is done in conjunction with the city authorities and administration in view of the Jharkhand State Assembly Phase 2 polling on Dec. 7.



Bangladesh's Shahadat banned for assault

DHAKA The Bangladesh Cricket Board on Tuesday banned former national team fast bowler Shahadat Hossain for five years, two of them suspended, after he assaulted teammate Arafat Sunny Jr. in a National Cricket League match on Sunday. Shahadat, who admitted a charge of "physical assault," was also fined 300,000 taka (\$3,540), the board said. AFP

Sasi Kumar crashes out
MAIA (PORTUGAL) Daniel Maser of Germany ousted Sasi Kumar Mukund 6-3, 6-0 in the first round of the €46,600 Challenger tennis tournament here on Tuesday.



Luis Enrique to return as Spain's coach

MADRID Luis Enrique will return as coach of Spain and replace Robert Moreno ahead of Euro 2020, the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) confirmed on Tuesday. Moreno took charge in June after Luis Enrique had resigned to take care of his daughter Xana, who died in August of bone cancer. AFP

Rashford puts tough start behind him

LONDON With nine goals in his last 10 games for Manchester United and England forward Marcus Rashford says he has put a tough start to the season behind him and is feeling confident once more. "It has been a tough period and now I'm getting consistent games. When you're in the team it's important to come up with the goods and once you start that it becomes second nature," he said. REUTERS

Italy signs off with a perfect record

Scores nine against Armenia; Spain blanks Romania, Denmark and Switzerland qualify

EURO QUALIFIERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE PARIS

Denmark and Switzerland secured spots at Euro 2020 at the expense of the Republic of Ireland on Monday as Roberto Mancini's Italy completed a perfect qualifying campaign by scoring nine.

Ireland needed to beat Denmark in Dublin to clinch qualification for next year's 24-team European Championship finals, but Matt Doherty's late header was only enough to earn Mick McCarthy's men a 1-1 draw at the Aviva Stadium.

Switzerland secured top spot with a 6-1 away win against minnow Gibraltar as Cedric Itten scored twice. Skipper and Arsenal outcast Granit Xhaka netted its final goal.

Italy had already wrapped up qualification from Group J but saved its best for last,



Opening salvo: Martin Braithwaite shoots to score Denmark's goal against Ireland • AFP

making it 10 wins from 10 by hammering Armenia 9-1 in Palermo with seven different scorers.

Ciro Immobile and Nicolo Zaniolo both scored braces, while Nicolo Barella and Alessio Romagnoli found the net

before Chelsea midfielder Jorginho converted a penalty.

Riccardo Orsolini came off the bench to score on his Italy debut and Federico Chiesa finished off the scoring after Edgar Babayan had pulled one back for Armenia.

Meanwhile, Group F winner Spain rounded out its qualifying campaign with a 5-0 destruction of Romania in Madrid.

Gerard Moreno scored twice after midfielder Fabian Ruiz opened the scoring.

Astha makes a splash, rewrites 100m butterfly mark

SCHOOL SWIMMING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Astha Choudhary of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan set a new meet mark in the heats and broke it in the finals of the under-17 girls' 100-metre butterfly event on the third day of the 65th National School Games at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Swimming Pool on Wednesday.

Astha clocked 1 minute 4.57 seconds to beat Nilabja Ghosh of West Bengal for the 100-metre butterfly gold. Prachi Tokas of Delhi continued with her record breaking performance by winning the 400-metre freestyle in the under-19 girls' section with a new

meet mark of 4 minutes 33.18 seconds. She beat Bhavika Dagar of Tamil Nadu who was more than two seconds behind her.

Aneesh Gowda, Aanya Wala, Kiara Bangera, Tamay Das, Nina Venkatesh and Ridhima Veerender Kumar were the others to set new marks.

The results:

Men: Under-19: 50m backstroke: 1. K. Mohith Kumar 27.58; 2. Gourav Chavan 28.99; 3. Prashanna Khedekar 29.17.

100m butterfly: 1. C.J. Sanjay 57.33; 2. P.A. Prasidha Krishna 57.77; 3. Swapnil Chakraborty 58.88.

Women: Under-19: 50m backstroke: 1. Sourbhi Mondal 32.11; 2. Bhavjot Kaur 32.57; 3. Jispa Doshi 32.66.

100m butterfly: 1. Shristi Upadhyaya 1:07.69; 2. Sucheta-

na Chakraborty 1:08.91; 3. Priyanga Pugazharasu 1:09.03.

4 x 100m freestyle: 1. Tamil Nadu 4:16.15; 2. Karnataka 4:23.03; 3. Maharashtra 4:24.76.

Boys: Under-17: 50m backstroke: 1. Tanmay Das 27.44 (NMR); 2. Vedant Bapna 27.97; 3. V. Vinayak 28.13.

100m butterfly: 1. Aryan Pandit 57.16; 2. Harsh Saroha 57.21; 3. Divyansh Arora 58.94.

Under-14: 50m backstroke: 1. Md. Rehan Mirza 30.63; 2. Aryaman Jain 30.67; 3. Abeer Singh Mehta 31.21.

100m butterfly: 1. Yug Chelani 1:02.27; 2. Atharva Pradeep Jargave 1:03.31; 3. Parambrata Biswas 1:04.15.

200m medley: 1. Yug Chelani 2:19.74; 2. Vedit Shankar 2:23.64; 3. Sanskar Bhuyan 2:25.30.

Girls: Under-17: 50m backstroke: 1. Nina Venkatesh 31.20

(NMR); 2. Palak Kalpesh Dhami 33.05; 3. Tanusmita Das 33.06.

100m butterfly: 1. Ashtha Choudhury 1:04.57 (NMR); 2. Nilabja Ghosh 1:06.87; 3. Sanjiti Saha 1:07.78.

4 x 100m freestyle: 1. International Board Schools 4:11.40; 2. Council for the Indian School 4:16.85; 3. Maharashtra 4:17.00.

Under-14: 50m backstroke: 1. Ridhima Veerendra Kumar 32.03; 2. Rajosri Routh 33.09; 3. Esha Chattopadhyay 33.21.

100m butterfly: 1. Kiara Bangera 1:07.62 (NMR); 2. Dhara Patel 1:07.97; 3. Subharanshini Priyadarshini 1:11.07.

200m medley: 1. Anushka Patil 2:36.32; 2. Sanjana Prabhgaonker 2:38.46; 3. Lavleen Das 2:40.14.

4 x 100m freestyle: 1. Maharashtra 4:22.96; 2. Council for the Indian School 4:24.77; 3. Assam 4:29.21.

Adrian Rus put through his own net in first-half stoppage time and Real Sociedad striker Mikel Oyarzabal wrapped up the win amid reports the match was Robert Moreno's last as coach.

The results:

Group D: Republic of Ireland 1 (Doherty 85) drew with Denmark 1 (Braithwaite 73); Gibraltar 1 (Styche 74) lost to Switzerland 6 (Itten 10, 84, Vargas 50, Fassnacht 57, Benito 75, Xhaka 86).

Group F: Sweden 3 (Andersson 29, Svanberg 72, Guidetti 80) bt Faroe Islands 0; Spain 5 (Fabian Ruiz 8, Gerard Moreno 33, 43, 45+1-og, Oyarzabal 90+2) bt Romania 0; Malta 1 (Fenech 40) lost to Norway 2 (King 7 Sorloth 62).

Group J: Liechtenstein 0 lost to Bosnia and Herzegovina 3 (Civic 57, Hodzic 64, 72); Italy 9 (Immobile 8, 33, Zaniolo 9, 64, Barrera 29, Romagnoli 72, Jorginho 75-pen, Orsolini 78, Chiesa 81) bt Armenia 1 (Babyan 79, Greece 2 (Mantolos 47, Galanopoulos 70) bt Finland 1 (Pukki 27).

Manchanda spoke to the media in his capacity as a member of the DDCA Advisory Committee. "I am not an Apex Council member but I have spent many years at the DDCA and am well versed with cricket administration. Rajat Sharma is a friend but here I am not happy with the way he has handled his power at the DDCA," said Manchanda, whose younger brother, Rajan, is the joint-secretary in the current set up.

"Rajat Sharma resigned from his position and it is deemed to be accepted by the Apex Council in accordance with the rules of the association," insisted Ravinder Manchanda. The grouse of the Apex Council members was not against Rajat Sharma as much as the "functioning" of the DDCA Ombudsman Justice (Retd.) Badar Durrez Ahmed.

Those who attended the meeting, called without the

sanction of Rajat Sharma, were Rakesh Bansal, Rajan Manchanda, Vinod Tiwari, Apoorv Jain, Sanjay Bhardwaj, Renu Khanna, Nitin Gupta, Shiv Nandan Sharma and Alok Mittal.

Justice Ahmed, in his order on November 17, put Rajat Sharma's resignation in "abeyance" and asked CEO Ravikant Chopra, CFO P.C. Vaish and GM (Cricket Operations) Manvi Dhadhi to discharge their duties in the "interest of the game". Rajat Sharma assumed charge on Monday.

Justice Ahmed has fixed November 27 to hear the matter.

Legal options explored against Ombudsman's action

I am not happy with the way he has handled his power, says Manchanda

VIJAY LOKAPALLY

NEW DELHI

According to Ravinder Manchanda, there was no transparency in the DDCA functioning. "The Ombudsman has clearly exceeded his brief and we are seeking legal options to challenge him. No one has a clue as to how the DDCA is being run today," he charged.

The suspended secretary of the DDCA, Vinod Tiwari, was invited by those addressing the media. "My suspension is not legal and I have already challenged it," he claimed.

Corrupt practices

The nine members of the Apex Council claimed corrupt practices in team selections.

"Delhi has performed poorly this season because of faulty team compositions and we are going to correct that by having a new Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) who will appoint fresh selectors," said Rajan Manchanda.

Prithiviraj will continue to be president of the FMSCI, he won't be allowed to officiate in national championships for three years. The five-member FMSCI panel recommended a three-year ban on Prithiviraj, the event's clerk of the course (COC).

"You can see we are in majority now. We seek audience with the Ombudsman," said Bhardwaj.

Justice Ahmed has fixed November 27 to hear the matter.

Rajput misses the final

SHOOTING WC

SPORTS BUREAU

PUTIAN (CHINA)

Sanjeev Rajput shot 1153 but missed the final in men's rifle 3-position event by one point in the shooting World Cup Finals here on Tuesday.

Olympian Sanjeev, who had narrowly missed gold in the last World Cup in Rio after qualifying with a national record 1181, shot 384 in kneeling, 388 in prone and 381 in the standing positions.

The other Indian in the field, Akhil Sheoran, who had won gold in the World Cup in Guadalajara, Mexico, last year, could muster only 1147 and placed 13th.

In women's rifle 3-position event, Anjum Moudgil also scored only 1147 for the

Messi is Argentina's saviour

REUTERS

TEL AVIV

Argentina's Lionel Messi scored an added-time penalty to salvage a 2-2 draw with Uruguay as it twice came from behind in an entertaining friendly match in Israel on Monday.

The result: Argentina 2 (Aguero 63, Messi 90+2) drew with Uruguay 2 (Cavani 34, Suarez 68).

Riya advances

ITF WOMEN'S

SPORTS BUREAU

BHOPAL

Former National champion Riya Bhatia saved a bunch of match-points to beat eighth seed Valeriya Strakova of Ukraine 1-6, 7-6(12), 6-3 in the first round of the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament on Tuesday.

The results: **Singles (first round):** Sarah-Rebecca Sekulic (Ger) bt Jacqueline Cabaj Awad (Swe) 6-4, 6-4; Eri Horozumi (Jpn) bt Dan Ni Wang (Chn) 6-1, 6-1; Hiroko Kuwata (Jpn) bt Gozal Aintidinova (Kaz) 6-0, 6-2; Riya Bhatia bt Valeriya Strakova (Ukr) 1-6, 7-6(12), 6-3; Diana Marcinkevica (Lat) bt Rashi Malviya 6-0, 6-2; Karman Kaur Thandi bt Snehal Mane 6-1, 6-1.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Emily Webley-Smith (Gbr) & Rutuja Bhosale bt Vlada Katir (Isr) & Prarthana Thombare 6-2, 6-4; Jennifer Luikhamb & Mihika Yadav bt Humera Shaik & Sara Yadav 7-5, 4-6, [10-6]; Melanie Klaffner (Aut) & Sarah-Rebecca Sekulic (Ger) bt Sravya Shivan Chilakalapudi & Snehal Mane 6-2, 6-2; Sarah Pang (Sgp) & Arthi Munian bt Shival