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NEARBY



Apex court dismisses 19 Ayodhya review pleas

NEW DELHI
A five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde, on Thursday dismissed 19 petitions seeking a review of the court's November 9 verdict permitting the construction of a temple on the land in Ayodhya where Babri Masjid stood before it was razed on December 6, 1992.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 12

JNU students boycott exams over fee hike

NEW DELHI
Jawaharlal Nehru University students from various departments, including the School of Social Sciences, School of International Studies and others, boycotted examinations on Thursday over the hostel fee hike issue. The JNUSU said that by boycotting examinations, students had shown "exemplary unity" in the face of violence and a barrage of threats issued by the administration.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

FRIDAY REVIEW ▶ 4 PAGES

Anti-CAB protests rage through Assam, 2 killed in police firing

Mobs attack houses of MLAs and Ministers; offices of BJP and AGP vandalised

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill got the assent of President Ram Nath Kovind, a late night notification said on Thursday, even as violent protests against it continued in several districts in the Brahmaputra Valley. An indefinite curfew was imposed in Guwahati, Dibrugarh and Tezpur.

Two persons were killed in firing by security forces in Guwahati. Incidents of police firing were reported from several areas of the State capital, including Hatigaon, Lachitnagar, Bashista, and Lalungia. Sources at the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital said 11 people were brought with gunshot injuries.

The government extended by 48 hours the suspension of mobile Internet and data services in the affected districts. As thousands of protesters took to the streets, crowds attacked the offices of the BJP, the RSS and the AGP, and the houses of MLAs belonging to the rul-



No let-up in violence: People staging a protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in Guwahati. ▶ RITU RAJ KONWAR

ing coalition. BJP legislator Binod Hazarika's house in Dibrugarh district was set on fire and Badatradra MLA Angoorlata Deka's house in Morigaon district was damaged in stone-throwing.

Five persons, including a police officer, sustained bullet wounds when a mob attacked the house of Adivasi BJP leader and Union Minister Rameshwar Teli in Duliajan late on Wednesday. Educational institutions in the affected districts have been

closed till December 22.

As the protests spiralled, the Centre repatriated senior IPS officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre G.P. Singh, posted at the National Investigation Agency. The orders from Home Minister Amit Shah came after his meeting with Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday night.

Air, train and bus services were cancelled.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Scrap Bill, IJML tells SC

The Indian Union Muslim League (IJML) on Thursday moved the Supreme Court against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, saying the law violated the fundamental value of the Constitution that "all should be treated equally". It said the law should be struck down for violating the fundamental right to equality. ▶ PAGE 13

'Govt. following Kashmir model'

Opposition leaders condemned the deployment of forces and the suspension of Internet to tackle violence in Assam and Tripura, and said the Kashmir model was being imposed on the northeastern region. Gaurav Gogoi, Congress MP, said the region had again been pushed into turmoil because of the BJP's greed. ▶ PAGE 13

Snow world



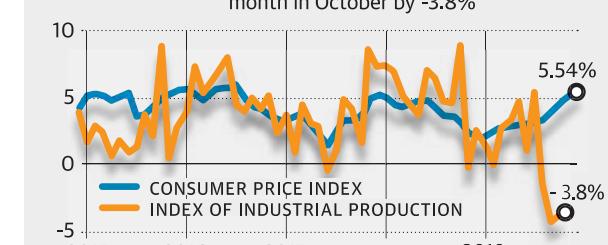
Freeze frame: Locals walking down a road at Kufri in Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh on Thursday. The cold wave conditions have intensified in the State, with rainfall and snow in several places. The temperature in Kufri fell below freezing point. ▶ PTI

IIP shrinks again, inflation accelerates

Food inflation is at a 40-month high

Worrying numbers

Retail inflation rose to 5.54% in November while industrial activity contracted for the third consecutive month in October by -3.8%



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Industrial activity contracted for the third consecutive month in October by 3.8%, driven by a fall in activity across sectors, according to official data released on Thursday.

Separate data showed that retail inflation had surged to a 40-month high of 5.54% in November, driven by rising food inflation.

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) had contracted by 4.3% in September and 1.1% in August.

Growth in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) accelerated in November for the fourth consecutive month. It stood at 4.62% in October.

This combination of contraction in industrial activity and rising inflation has led experts to fear that India

is entering a phase of stagflation (a situation in which there is persistent high inflation combined with stagnant or declining demand).

"The momentum of IIP remaining in the negative zone has continued while CPI inflation, led by food and vegetable inflation, has crossed 5.5%," D.K. Srivastava, chief policy adviser at EY India, said. "This is developing into a classic situation of stagflation."

Within the IIP, the mining sector shrunk by 8% in October compared with a contraction of 8.5% in the previous month. The manufacturing sector contracted for the third consecutive month in October, by 2.1%, compared with a contraction of 3.9% in September.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Bangladesh Ministers call off trips

Dhaka hasn't spelt out reasons, but MEA says 'domestic issues'



Bangladesh Foreign Minister A.K. Abdul Momin

few months, he would see exemplary communal harmony," Mr. Momin said.

No persecution

He told the Bengali service of BBC that religious persecution did not exist in Bangladesh. "We believe that religion is a personal affair, but festivals belong to all."

Mr. Momin, who should have been the keynote speaker at Friday's combined session of Delhi Dialogue XI and Indian Ocean Dialogue VI, said: "We can say that the

condition of the minority communities in Bangladesh is very good now. Those who went abroad earlier are now returning home."

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar maintained that Dhaka had conveyed that its Ministers cancelled their India visit because of "domestic issues pertaining to the commemoration of the 'Victory Day' in Bangladesh on December 16".

Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan was expected to attend an event in Shillong on Friday to pay tribute to the sacrifice of the guerrillas of Mukti Bahini who assisted India in the war against Pakistan in 1971.

It is learnt that Dhaka was concerned about the law and order situation in Meghalaya, where protests were reported following the passing of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, in Parliament.

Parliament has "no authority to pass a law that defiles the Constitution and violates its basic principles and fundamental rights of the people," said the Chief Minister.

Asserting his commitment to protect constitutional ethos, Capt. Amarinder said the Congress government would not let the legislation passed by the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday "rip apart the secular fabric of the country whose strength lies in its diversity".

Parliament has "no authority to pass a law that defiles the Constitution and violates its basic principles and fundamental rights of the people," said the Chief Minister.

Throwing the weight of his office behind the growing resistance to the contentious Act, Mr. Vijayan told presspersons here that the communally polarising law that discriminated against Islam as a religion had no place in Kerala. Five Left parties announced a nationwide joint protest against the Act on December 19.

Trinamool Congress leader in the Rajya Sabha Derek O'Brien equated it with the 1975 Emergency.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Punjab, Kerala CMs vow not to implement Bill

Left parties to stage protest on Dec. 19

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Terming the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill a direct assault on India's secular character, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said on Thursday that his government would not allow the legislation on account of their religious beliefs?" he said.

Pinarayi's promise

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Thursday said the State would not implement the patently unconstitutional CAB.

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CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Polls show Conservatives leading by a narrow margin



PM Boris Johnson leaving a polling station in London on Thursday. ▶ REUTERS

socialist committed to renationalisation and massive public sector spending.

Britons braved winter storms and howling winds as they lined up to cast ballots in what Mr. Johnson and Mr. Corbyn have both described as the most important vote.

Opinion polls show Mr. Johnson's ruling Conservatives leading by a narrow margin. But they were almost unanimously wrong about the last general election in 2017 and Mr. Johnson said the outcome rested on a "knife edge".

"Just imagine how wonderful it will be to settle down to a turkey dinner this Christmas with Brexit decided," he said in a final message to voters.

Brussels has indicated that Mr. Johnson's plans to secure a comprehensive trade deal before a December 2020 deadline is unrealistic.

Akshay has sought a review of the apex court's 2017 judgment confirming his death sentence. His petition said, "The state must not simply execute people to prove that it is attacking ter-

ror or violence against women. It must persistently work towards systematic reforms to bring about change. Executions only kill the criminal, not the crime..."

Earlier plea dismissed

The apex court had in July last year dismissed the review petition filed by the other three convicts — Mukesh (30), Pawan Gupta (23) and Vinay Sharma (24). They are now left with the extremely rare remedy of filing curative petitions in the Supreme Court. A juvenile convict in the case has been released from reformation home after serving a three-year term. One of the accused in the case, Ram Singh, died in the Tihar jail

in 2013, months after the brutal gang rape of a 23-year-old paramedical student in a moving bus on December 16, 2012.

Akshay opted to file his review petition now when the authorities are reportedly making preparations in Tihar jail for the execution of the four convicts. He contended in his plea that his conviction and sentence were due to public and political pressure.

"Death penalty is a pre-meditated and cold-blooded killing of a human being by the State in the name of justice... Death penalty is the ultimate denial of human rights, goes against the principle of non-violence," he said in the review petition.

SC forms panel to probe Hyderabad 'encounter'

It will complete investigation in 6 months

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday set up an inquiry commission led by its former judge, Justice V.S. Sirpurkar, to probe the circumstances of the police 'encounter' killing of four persons accused in the gang-rape and murder of a veterinarian in Hyderabad.

A Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde, asked the inquiry commission, which includes former Bombay High Court Judge, Justice Rekha Baldota, and the former CBI Director, D.R. Karthikeyan, to complete its investigation in six months. Advocate K. Parameeshwar was appointed the counsel for the Inquiry Commission. The commis-

sion will sit in Hyderabad.

The apex court has, meanwhile, stayed the proceedings in the Telangana High Court and the NHRC into the incident

IN BRIEF

L-G reviews status of filling up posts in DFS

NEW DELHI
Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal on Thursday reviewed the status of filling of vacancies in the Delhi Fire Service (DFS) and the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) as part of regular monitoring here. The meeting, chaired at Raj Niwas, was attended by Chief Secretary, Delhi; Secretary (Services); Director (FSL) and Director (DFS).

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	430	Gurugram	395
Ghaziabad	467	Faridabad	410
Noida	434	Greater Noida	423
Good	■	Satisfactory	■
0-50	51-100	101-200	
Poor	■	Very poor	■
201-300	301-400	>401	

AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) SOURCE: CPCB

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Lecture on "Mahatma Gandhi, Multilateralism and the United Nations" by Milon Kothari, an independent expert on human rights and social policy. The lecture will explore the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi and other leaders from India to the development of multilateralism as a defining and lasting characteristic of the global work of the United Nations, at C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre (IIC), 3 p.m.

Talk: Discussion on the book "Categories, Creations and Cognition in Vaisesika Philosophy" authored by Shashi Prabha Kumar. Discussants: Prof. Uma C. Vaideya, former Vice Chancellor, KKSU, Ramtek, Nagpur; Prof. Ran Nath Jha, School of Sanskrit & Indic Studies, JNU; Prof. Purushottama Bilimoria, Fulbright-Nehru Visiting Professor, Ashoka University; Prof. Christopher Key Chapple, Doshi Professor of Indic and Comparative Theology, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, at Conference Room - I, India International Centre (IIC), 6.30 p.m.

Talk: Lecture on "Indian Ocean World and the Meanings of Indian Merchant Capitalism, 1500-1800" by Prof. Plus Malekandathil, Centre for Historical Studies, School of Social Sciences, JNU at Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML), Teen Murti House, Teen Murti Marg, 3 p.m.

Exhibition: "Family is Plural", an exhibition of recent works by Artist Probir Gupta at Bikaran House, Pandara Road, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Pinnacle", an exhibition of paintings by Ramesh Anand at Triveni Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. (Mail your listings for this column at citeditor@thehindu.co.in)

DU students burn copy of CAB, up the ante

Protesters term it 'unconstitutional, illegal and communal'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Hundreds of students of Delhi University held protest demonstration against the passing of the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Bill and "State repression" in Assam and Tripura on Thursday.

The protesters, including members of students' group AISA, students from Assam and others took out a rally at the Arts Faculty on North Campus, burnt a copy of the Bill, raised slogans against the government and demanded its rollback, terming it "unconstitutional, illegal and communal."

"CAB has been brought by the RSS-BJP to further the agenda of a Hindu Rashtra of the Sangh Parivar. Amit Shah is none to tell us whether we are citizens of this country or not. The country will not accept citizenship on religious grounds. We also condemn



Members of AISA, students from Assam and others protesting on North Campus on Thursday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

the State repression in Assam on protesters," said AISADU secretary Madhurima Kundu.

In a statement, the group said that through an all India National Citizens Registry (NRC) and the CAB, the "Modi-Shah duo" wants to deny citizenship rights to Muslims. "It does not even respect the indigenous voices of the Northeast," it said, adding "all voices are attempted to be suppressed by military and snapping of

internet connection. But the movement will only strengthen."

Protest at India Gate

Meanwhile, a motley group of protesters gathered at India Gate protesting against the Bill. The protesters raised anti-BJP and anti-government slogans and asked the President not to sign the Bill into a law.

The police appealed to the protesters to disperse but to no avail.

BJP celebrates passage of CAB, hits out at AAP, Cong.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A day after it went through the Rajya Sabha, BJP leaders and office-bearers fanned out across the Capital as part of outreach programmes scheduled by the party to celebrate the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB) here on Thursday.

Felicitation ceremonies were held at Adarsh Nagar, Majnu ka Tilla and Rohini followed by a press conference where Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari alleged that

opposition to the Bill had "exposed" the "real face" of AAP and the Congress.

"AAP is trying to create confusion among the people that this Bill is against the minority, while the truth is that refugees from outside India are being given citizenship," Mr. Tiwari alleged.

The North East Delhi MP and Rajya Sabha MP Vijay Goel participated in an event for Hindu refugees at Majnu Ka Tilla and Union Minister Harsh Vardhan at Sharnarthi Basti, Adarsh Nagar.

On Wednesday, Mr. Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, after meeting Union Minister Piyush Goyal over cancellation of trains for the free pilgrimage scheme of the Delhi government, said that the latter has promised to reallocate trains for the scheme.

The scheme was temporarily suspended by the Delhi government on Wednesday due to unavailability of trains.

On Wednesday, Mr. Sisodia

said that the scheme which provides free pilgrimage to senior citizens in Delhi has been temporarily suspended as Indian Railway Catering And Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) has informed the Delhi government that they cannot provide trains.

Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana is temporarily suspended as the IRCTC intimated the Delhi government of the cancellation of trains scheduled from December 10 onwards," he had said.

Expect light rain by today afternoon

Showers on Thursday brought down pollution levels; AQI is expected to improve

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Most parts of the city received rainfall on Thursday evening due to western disturbances and light rains are expected in the city in the first half of Friday also, according to Regional Meteorological Centre.

The rains also brought down the air pollution levels slightly by 9 p.m. and the air quality is expected to further improve from "severe" category on Thursday to "poor" category on Friday, according to government-run monitoring agency System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR).

"The air quality was severe on Thursday as it was cloudy and there was high moisture in the air. This increased the particle holding capacity of the air and thus trapping more pollutants. Also the wind speed was very less," an official at SAFAR said.

"There was rainfall between 5.30 pm and 7 p.m. in the evening in most parts of



A cyclist covers himself with an umbrella during a spell of rain in the Capital on Thursday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Delhi and we expect light rainfall in some parts of Delhi in the first half of Friday also," said Kuldeep Srivastava, Head of Regional Weather Forecasting Centre of the India Meteorological Department.

It rained in parts of the city later in the night around 9 p.m. also, accompanied by thunder and lightning.

IMD prediction for NCR on

Friday reads: "Generally cloudy sky, light rain/thundershower, accompanied with hailstorm and strong surface winds (speed 15-20 kmph)."

The air quality is expected to improve to "moderate" category by Saturday. "The air quality will improve rapidly and significantly by Thursday night and the impact will be seen by Friday with AQI

falling from severe to poor category. The western disturbance started to influence the region with an induced cyclonic circulation over northwest Rajasthan. An increase in surface winds and scattered rainfall is expected. Further improvement in AQI is forecast towards the lower end of the poor to moderate category by December 14," SAFAR said.

Goyal promised to reallocate trains for free pilgrimage scheme: Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, after meeting Union Minister Piyush Goyal over cancellation of trains for the free pilgrimage scheme of the Delhi government, said that the latter has promised to reallocate trains for the scheme.

The scheme was temporarily suspended as the IRCTC intimated the Delhi government of the cancellation of trains scheduled from December 10 onwards," he had said.

The Deputy Chief Minister said, "The honourable Railway Minister assured me that the trains for Tirth Yatra Yojana will be reallocated as early as possible."

IRCTC's decision has affected more than 30,000 elderly people whose pilgrimage trips were scheduled from December 10 onwards.

"We hope that the honour of these 30,000 elderly people will be respected by resuming the Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana," Mr. Sisodia added.

Assistant Manager, Toll Operations, Millennium City Expressway Private Limited, Mohammad Sohrab Khan told *The Hindu* that implementing the FASTag decision would be "very difficult" in the current situation with the "traffic congestion" and the "users behaviour" being the two major challenges.

He said that as part of the preparations to gear up for

Cash users at Kherki toll plaza dip by a mere 2%

Only 2 more days to go for FASTag deadline

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

Though only two days are to go for the extended December 15 deadline for FASTags at the National Highways Authority of India toll plazas, the number of cash users at Kherki Daula toll plaza – one of the busiest and the most sensitive plazas – has gone down by only 2%.

The cash transactions have reduced only from earlier 70% to 68% – which is still more than two-thirds of the total traffic volume.

Marshals are deployed to filter the traffic according to the payment modes and allow only FASTag users in the dedicated lanes. But the results have not been encouraging. Every time the traffic piles up, the boom are lifted to clear the mess.

Around 50-60 marshals would be deployed from December 15 onwards," said Mr. Khan.

However those availing the PassTag, a local discounted tag for Kherki Daula, have switched over to FASTag in large numbers. While the number of FASTag and PassTag users was recorded as 14,141 and 9,389 respectively on November 1, the FASTag users increased to 21,549 and the PassTag users decreased to 4,917 on December 10.

TRF gives certification to four rummy operators

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Rummy Federation (TRF), a not-for-profit society to regulate, guide and support the online rummy, has awarded "TRF dynamic seal" to four online rummy operators, so that players can know that these platforms are safe, fair, and responsible environment for them, the TRF said.

The certificate was issued after the TRF asked the platforms to enforce a "code of conduct" for six months

PRESS NOTICE TO BE PUBLISHED IN NEWS PAPERS FOR E-TENDERING

The Executive Engineer IPH Division Rampur invites tenders on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following works(s) through e-tendering process:-

Job No Name of Work Estd. Cost Earnest Money Cost of Time form

1 Providing Sewerage scheme to Ward No. 9 (Khaneri) of MC Rampur in Tehsil Rampur Distt. Shimla (HP)-SH-Construction of Sewage treatment plant of 1.16MLD capacity based on MBBR technology, site Development, C/O approach road to STP and Poly Fixing Fencing Panel complete in all respect including operation & maintenance of sewage treatment plant for three years

2 Providing GWSS to PC Hab. DP Daran in GP Dofda, Tehsil Rampur Distt. Shimla (HP)-Sh- Site development , Barbed wire fencing, C/O Head weir, 1 No. R.C.C. Nallah intake 2 No. C/O 1 No. RCC Storage Tank 25000 ltr. cap. (At Node 12), 1 No. Sector storage tank 15000 ltrs cap. (At Node 12), providing laying, jointing & testing of GI pipe (Length Grade) of various dia and different length

3 Providing GWSS to PC Hab. Fancha Ganvi & DPF Katwari in GP Fancha Tehsil Rampur Distt. Shimla (HP)- Site Development , Barbed wire fencing, C/O RCC intake 3 Nos. RCC Intake Source , C/O Sed. Tank 10000 Ltrs. Cap., C/O Filter Bed 22.80 Sqm at Ganvi, C/O 5 Nos. Storage Tank 30000 ltr. & 15000 Ltr. cap., 25000 ltr. cap. 5000 ltr & 10000 ltr cap and Laying & jointing of GMS Tube light grade at various node (Phase-I & II)

4 Providing GWSS to harizen Basti Shahdhar, Talara, Majhaon, Rangori, Odidiher & Deo Kunni in GP Shahdhar Tehsil Rampur Distt. Shimla (HP)- Site Development, Pattra cutting for Gravity Main, Barbed wire fencing, C/O RCC intake nalla Source , C/O Sed. Tank 19000 ltr cap, C/O Filter Bed 40 Sqm, C/O Storage tank Flat Slab 57000 ltr cap., C/O storage tank Flat Slab 27000 ltr cap. 1 No. C/O Storage Tank, 6000 ltrs cap 1 No., C/O Storage tank 5000 ltrs cap 1 No., C/O Chemical room cum store, Restoration of damaged road, C/O CGI roofing over filter bed & panel fencing around filter & chemical room and Laying & jointing of GMS Tube light grade at various node

5 Providing GWSS to harizen Basti Shahdhar, Talara, Majhaon, Rangori, Odidiher & Deo Kunni in GP Shahdhar Tehsil Rampur Distt. Shimla (HP)- Site Development, Pattra cutting for Gravity Main, Barbed wire fencing, C/O RCC intake nalla Source , C/O Sed. Tank 19000 ltr cap, C/O Filter Bed 40 Sqm, C/O Storage tank Flat Slab 57000 ltr cap., C/O storage tank Flat Slab 27000 ltr cap. 1 No. C/O Storage Tank, 6000 ltrs cap 1 No., C/O Storage tank 5000 ltrs cap 1 No., C/O Chemical room cum store, Restoration of damaged road, C/O CGI roofing over filter bed & panel fencing around filter & chemical room and Laying & jointing of GMS Tube light grade at various node

Last date of filing/uploading the tender through e-tendering 20.12.2019 upto 5.00 PM and the same will be opened on 21.12.2019 at 10.00 AM. The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website www.hipiph.org.

Sd/- Executive Engineer IPH Division Rampur

HP/3491/19-20

ED wants bail cancelled in chopper case

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday moved the Delhi High Court seeking cancellation of bail granted by a trial court to businessman Ratul Puri in the AgustaWestland money laundering case.

It has claimed that the trial court had not taken note of all the documents put on record.

The trial court, while granting bail to Puri, had directed him not to "tamper with evidence" or "try to contact or influence witnesses".

Puri was named as an accused in the sixth chargesheet filed by the ED in the ₹3,600-crore AgustaWestland chopper deal case.

SETTLE TRAFFIC CHALLANS

NATIONAL LOK ADALAT

14th December, 2019

10:00 am to 3:30 pm

Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSL SA) in coordination with Delhi Traffic Police is organizing National Lok Adalat for settlement of Traffic Challans on 14.12.2019.

PENDING "ON-THE-SPOT" AND NOTICE BRANCH'S TRAFFIC CHALLANS of all types of vehicles (including Commercial Vehicles)

FOR "ON-THE-SPOT" TRAFFIC CHALLANS All concerned Traffic Courts of the Metropolitan Magistrates

FOR NOTICE BRANCH TRAFFIC CHALLANS Any court at Court Complexes i.e. Tis Hazari, Karkardooma, Patiala House, Saket, Rohini and Dwarka

Note:- (a) Virtual Court's Challan shall not be taken in this National Lok Adalat.
(b) Notice Branch Challan up to 31.08.2019 will be taken.

Log on to Delhi Traffic Police Website <https://delhitrafficpolice.nic.in> to know about pending notices/challans of your vehicles.

24 HOURS TRAFFIC HELPLINE : 011-25844444/1095

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JNU students stand firm, boycott exams over fee hike

Talks between student representatives and administration remain inconclusive

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) students from various departments, including the School of Social Sciences, School of International Studies and others, boycotted examinations on Thursday over the hostel fee hike issue.

The JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) said that by boycotting examinations, students of the university had shown "exemplary unity in the face of intimidation, violence and a barrage of threats in the form of circulars" issued by the administration.

However, the School of Sanskrit and Indic Studies (SSIS) saw students appearing for their papers.

In a bid to end the deadlock, the JNU administration also held several meetings with student representatives throughout the day and said that the meetings were a "significant step towards normalising the situation."

V-C appeals to end strike
"The JNU administration reiterated that students and their



JNU students during a protest on the campus on Thursday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

representatives are always welcome to have a dialogue and discussion. The V-C ended the meeting with an appeal to call off the strike in the interest of thousands of students," the administration said, after a meeting with presidential candidates who had contested in the JNUSU elections this year.

Earlier in the day, Vice-Chancellor M. Jagadesh Kumar also met 18 hostel presidents to discuss the matter and "explained about the revised hostel manual," accord-

ing to the university administration.

While the administration maintained that it was a step towards "normalising" the situation, students' representatives said that "nothing conclusive" came out of the meeting.

"First they tried to convince us how the service and utility charges are justified. Then the hostel presidents demanded a rollback of the new hostel manual and a fresh IHA meeting to be held for the lost academic period, said officials.

Three policemen booked for extortion, 2 of them suspended

They searched car for drugs, demanded money from 2 men

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Three Delhi Police officers have been booked for allegedly trying to extort money from two persons in Dwaraka's Mohan Garden, the police said on Thursday.

They said that two of the officers have been suspended and disciplinary action is being taken against the third.

A senior police officer said that in the last week of November, two persons – one hailing from Himachal Pradesh and another from Rajasthan who work in Mohali – had come to Delhi and were on Najafgarh Road in their car. The victims had stopped to buy fruits when a person in civil dress approached them and introduced himself

as a Narcotics Cell officer.

"The victims said that the man searched their car and interrogated them. He took out around ₹9,000 from their wallet alleging that they were supplying drugs. He was later identified as constable Harish posted in West District's Narcotics Cell," the officer said.

The two persons kept on telling the officer that they were not supplying drugs and were not in possession of any either, but the latter allegedly called two locals of officers and asked them to conduct a thorough search. Mr. Harish then left the spot, they said.

The other two officials, later identified as Constable Ram Avtar and Head Consta-

ble Mohan Lal, the complainants stated, took them to a barren plot a few km away and started interrogating them. The complainants alleged that they were harassed by the officers who demanded money to release them. The complainants then called a relative who helped them in getting released and filing a complaint at Mohan Garden police station.

The senior police officer said that a case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code was registered. Mr. Avtar and Mr. Lal were suspended pending enquiry. A senior officer from West District said that strict disciplinary action is being taken against Mr. Harish.

The other two officials, later identified as Constable Ram Avtar and Head Consta-

Women take to streets, demand capital punishment for rapists

Protesters brutally assaulted by police, alleges DCW

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Several women and members of the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) took to the streets on Thursday demanding capital punishment for those convicted on rape charges. While the protest march was scheduled from Rajghat to Parliament, the Delhi police stopped the protesters near ITO.

DCW members said that the protesters were "brutally assaulted" by the force despite the march being a "peaceful" one.

Rajrani Sharma, 60, who was a part of the protest

said: "How long will the police stop us? They will get tired but we will not. Our fight is against the government for not taking adequate steps. Nobody seems to think about the poor. Our daughters do not have bodyguards that the affluent sections have."

The march was organised on a day when DCW chief Swati Malwal's hunger strike entered the tenth day.

The women's panel also said that several women were detained and injured following a scuffle between the force and the protesters.

DCC (Central) Mandeep Singh Randhawa said that

around 10 people were detained during the protest and later let off.

During the scuffle a photojournalist was also allegedly manhandled by the force.

Responding to the allegations, Mr. Randhawa said,

"During the protest, a photojournalist who was standing close to the barricade was requested by the police staff not to stand there as protesters were throwing bangles and pushing barricades. Further on my intervention, he argued with me and neither his camera was taken nor he was assaulted. Many other journalists were also present there."

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TENDER NOTIFICATION

Meat Products of India Ltd. invites E tenders through online bids from registered and eligible firms for supply of Live animals (Cattle and Buffalo). Bids can be submitted through the Kerala government E tender website from 04.12.2019 at 5 PM. Last date for bid submission is 20.12.2019 at 1.30 PM. Details and tender documents will be available from the above website. For details contact 7012435646.

Sd/-
Managing Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I. PRADUMAN KUMAR JAIN & Late SHRI M.P. JAIN am the owner of DDA MIG Flat No. 5, BLOCK-C-A on FIRST FLOOR DDA FLATS, MUNIRKA, NEW DELHI-67, Vide DDA's File No.72/101/77LAB/HMIG. My original documents viz. 1. Affidavit cum Demand Letter 2. Possession Slip 3. Possession Letter 4. N.O.C of Water and Electricity 5. A.I.B. Bank Challans of above said flat have been misplaced. An Information report of this effect has been lodged in Police Station, Crime Branch, Delhi vide LR No.: 1984/166/2019 on 01/12/2019. Any person(s) claiming any right, Interest having any objection or found in Possession of the said original Documents may Write/Contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 9871046088 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE TO Mr. Amit Dasgupta, If You Fail To Pay Dues Of E111 VV Noida- 82 Before 20/12/19, I. Prema Scrut Will Then Be Forced To Take Hold Of My Flat & I Will Not Be Responsible For Any Goods

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Mrs. Munni Devi W/o Late Sh. Chhagan Pal R/o H.NO. 18, Street No.11, Ashok Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110093 has discovered and debarr her son namely Sh. Gaurav Pal and daughter-in-law namely Smt. Nidhi Pal and their legal heirs from all her movable and immovable properties with immediate effect and severed relations because they are out of control and misbehaving with my client. Anybody dealing with them in future will be liable doing so at his / her own cost, risk and responsibility thereto and my client shall not be responsible for any act done by them.

Rajesh & Rajesh Associates (Advocate) Off - E-370, Street No.15, Ashok Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110093

THANKSGIVING

✓ MOST HOLY St. Jude-apostle, martyr and friend of jesus, today we ask that you pray for us and our intentions! You are the patron of impossible. O'St.Jude, pray that God's grace and mercy will cover our intentions. Pray for the impossible if it is God's will. Pray that we may have the grace to accept God's holy will even if it is painful and difficult for us. St. Jude you loved our Lord, help us to love him more. O'St. Jude, pray for us that we may grow in faith, hope and love and in the grace of jesus Christ. Pray for these intentions, but most of all pray that we may join you in heaven for God for all eternity. we make this prayer in the precious name of jesus who lives and reigns with us and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

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PERSONAL CHANGE OF NAME

I. LATE LOKESH KUMAR, R/o. D09301 Sarai Crescent Park Royal Greens, Sector 92, Gurgaon 122505, has changed the name of my minor daughter whose age 2 years, DOB 24.10.2017, from Ivana to Ivana Kashyap vide affidavit dt. 11.11.2019 before Executive Magistrate, Kadipur (Gurgaon), for all future purposes

HWH-257/2019-20

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.indianrailways.gov.in / www.reps.gov.in

Following e-Tender is invited online by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah from Tenderers having experience of similar nature of work and required financial capabilities including those registered with Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MES or any public sector undertaking for the following works under DEN/3/HWH. Description of Work : Repairing and maintenance of hand tubewells for 03 years in the section of AEN/Azimganj. Approximate Cost : Rs. 1,03,92,703.24. Earnest Money : Rs. 2,02,000/- Closing Date and Time of tender : 06.01.2020 upto 14.00 hrs. The detail of tender is available at website www.reps.gov.in No manual offer will be accepted.

HWH-257/2019-20

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.indianrailways.gov.in / www.reps.gov.in

e-Tender Notice No. MC/59/Welding Works/2019-20, dated 09.12.2019, e-Tender is invited by Sr Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Eastern Railway, Asansol for the following work : Tender No. : MC-59-Welding-Works. Name of Work : Body repair of wagons through welding work at UDL, BOXN Depot and DSEY through works contract on open tender basis for two years. Tender Value : Rs. 1,81,08,000/- Earnest Money : Rs. 2,40,600/- Date and Time of Closing & Opening : 08.01.2020 at 15.00 hrs. Complete details can be seen in the Railway's website www.reps.gov.in

ASN-206/2019-20

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.indianrailways.gov.in / www.reps.gov.in

Tender No. 285_2019-20, dated 10.12.2019. Following e-Tender is invited by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah in the prescribed form from Tenderers including those registered with Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MES for the following work under AEN/I/LHH. Description of Work : Titing of 01 no. of non-AC road vehicle (Tata Sumo)/Qualis or similar type for the official use of AEN/I/LHH for 24 months. Approx Cost : Rs. 13,700/- Closing Date and Time of tender : 06.01.2020 upto 14.00 hrs. The detail of tender is available at website www.reps.gov.in No manual offer will be accepted.

HWH-259/2019-20

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.indianrailways.gov.in / www.reps.gov.in

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Tender No. 285_2019-20, dated 10.12.2019. Following e-Tender is invited by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah in the prescribed form from Tenderers including those registered with Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MES for the following work under AEN/I/LHH. Description of Work : Titing of 01 no. of non-AC road vehicle (Tata Sumo)/Qualis or similar type for the official use of AEN/I/LHH for 24 months. Approx Cost : Rs. 13,700/- Closing Date and Time of tender : 06.01.2020 upto 14.00 hrs. The detail of tender is available at website www.reps.gov.in No manual offer will be accepted.

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NORTHEAST REMAINS ON EDGE

Angry protesters defied curfew and came out on the streets in Assam, prompting the police to open fire on Thursday, while schools, colleges and offices in neighbouring Tripura remained shut amid a 24-hour bandh call given by the Congress over the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill



Raging protests: (Clockwise from left) Security personnel walk past burnt vehicles amid curfew in Assam; a police officer takes aim during a protest march towards the secretariat office in Guwahati; slogan-shouting protesters drive past burning debris in Guwahati; security personnel stand guard during the 24-hour Tripura bandh; and a Congress worker being dragged away by policemen in Agartala. ■ PHOTOS: RITU RAJ KONWAR & PTI



कार्यालय नगरपालिका फर्लेखनगर (गुरुग्राम)
अधिकारी
सर्वोच्चाधिकार की सूचित दिया जाता है कि नगरपालिका फर्लेखनगर द्वारा वर्ष 2010-11 से 2019-20 तक सभी खातों का रिकार्ड-होल्डर एवं डबल इंटर्सिपरेशन दिया जाना है। अधिकारी लिए Chartered Accountant अधिकारी किया जाना है। अधिकारी अपनी अमुख प्राप्ति पत्र के साथ युक्त ग्राम पंचायत में 7 दिन के अन्दर-अन्दर विभिन्न भी कार्यालय पर सुधारना दिया जाएगा ताकि नगरपालिका को उपलब्ध कराए।

संस्था
नगरपालिका फर्लेखनगर

● Timings
DELHI
FRIDAY, DEC. 13
● RISE 07:05 SET 17:26
● RISE 18:34 SET 07:55
SATURDAY, DEC. 14
● RISE 07:05 SET 17:26
● RISE 19:33 SET 08:54
SUNDAY, DEC. 15
● RISE 07:06 SET 17:27
● RISE 20:36 SET 09:49

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

Delhi Palam Today
20°C Light to moderate rain and thundershowers are likely. Gusty strong winds are likely to blow over the area.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
21°C Shallow to moderate fog is likely to prevail during morning. Pollution level will remain very poor.

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CAB is a divisive tool, says Mahanta

'It will damage composite culture of Northeast and must be immediately scrapped'



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill is a "divisive tool" that will damage the composite culture of the Northeast and must be immediately scrapped, two-time Assam Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta said on Thursday as massive protests against the proposed legislation rocked the region.

The CAB has been brought in to create a Hindu-Muslim divide, said the former student leader who spearheaded a six-year movement demanding deportation of illegal Bangladeshi in the late 1980s.

The State will continue to "burn" if the Modi government does not realise the se-

black bill. The people of Assam are determined to defeat this divisive and unconstitutional tool called CAB. We will not relent till it is scrapped," Mr. Mahanta told PTI over phone from Guwahati.

Asked why several leaders

of the party he had founded in 1985 are defending the CAB and why the party's alliance with the BJP is still intact, he said it is but a small group and does not reflect the AGP's views.

A number of AGP leaders have resigned from the party alleging that it has failed to stand with the people of Assam when they are facing an "existential crisis".

Mr. Mahanta also cau-

tioned the Central govern-

ment that the situation in As-

sam may take a "dangerous turn" and any delay in taking the right decision may cause unimaginable harm to the region.

"The indigenous people of Assam and the Northeast are staring at an existential threat to their composite culture. The proposed law will open the floodgates of illegal foreigners to the region. We are determined to fight it out till our last breath," said Mr. Mahanta, who was Assam chief minister from 1985 to 1990 and then from 1996 to 2001.

Referring to the bill being cleared by Parliament, the former Chief Minister said the "majority" is not the essence of democracy.

AMUSU protest march against CAB

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

The Aligarh Muslim University Students' Union has decided to lead a protest march against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill from the Jama Masjid of AMU to the District Magistrate office on Friday after the prayers.

According to Salman Imtiaz, president of the outgoing students' union, "32,000 students of the university are expected to join the peaceful mega march."

"We have also called upon AMU Teachers' Association, AMU Court members and the non-teaching staff to join the march," he said.

Rape victim threatened with Unnao-like fate

Accused warns her not to testify

beyond me," said the girl. She then approached the Consulate General of India in Dubai. "He ensured my return to India," she added.

There are gaps in her statement like who financed the ticket and who sponsored the visa.

She said she had some savings which allowed her to stay in Dubai for 33 days.

Brother relieved

Her brother said he was relieved that her sister was back home.

He said her sister had big dreams and she wanted to do something for the family. "Perhaps, somebody misused her naivety," he said.

According to police, the girl was allegedly raped by the accused Soran Singh when both were living in Mukherjee Nagar area of Delhi.

'Drink spiked'

"In March 2018, he took the survivor, in her early 20s, to the rented accommodation of his friend and raped her after allegedly mixing some intoxicant in her drink. He, along with his two friends were arrested by the Delhi Police," said Pratap Gopendra Yadav, Superintendent of Police, Baghpat. Later, the names of his friend were dropped from the FIR and Soran Singh was granted bail.

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

APTS ANDHRA PRADESH TECHNOLOGY SERVICES
Tender Call Notice for Procurement of 8-inch Tablets (10,061 Nos.) to O/o Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, GoAP, Vijayawada.
Time schedule of various tender related events:
Bid calling date 13-12-2019
Pre-bid conference date/time 17-12-2019, 10:00 AM
Bid closing date/time 27-12-2019, 01:30 PM
Bid Document Fee Rs.20,000/-
APTS Contact person K. Dhavuryan Naik, Manager (HWP), Mob: 9963029418 e-mail Id: dhavuryannai.k@gov.in
APTS Reference No. APTS/HWP/N/AGRI-TABLETS /2019
For further details regarding detailed Tender Notification, specifications and digital certificate please visit <https://www.apts.gov.in> and www.apptprocurement.gov.in.
Sd/- Managing Director, A.P. Technology Services Ltd.

SPORTSTAR

Passengers stranded at Guwahati airport

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Nearly 500 passengers were stranded at Guwahati's Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport on Thursday evening as authorities struggled to make arrangements for safely transporting travellers arriving from different cities into Assam.

"There is total chaos outside the terminal building. We have got only four ASTC (Assam State Transport Corporation) buses when we need at least 10. I have made several requests to District Commissioner of Kamrup district, MD of ASTC as well as the police top brass requesting for more buses as well as police personnel to escort passengers to Paltan Bazaar [in Guwahati]. Safe transportation of passengers is a law and order issue," Airport Director Ramesh Kumar told *The Hindu*.

Nearly 200 passengers were ferried by the four buses sent to the airport.

According to the official, "five to six" flights were cancelled at the airport. He maintained that inside the airport building passengers were being looked after. "We have provided drinking water and refreshments and ensured functioning toilets. But there is complete chaos at the city side [outside the terminal building]."

Earlier in the day, airlines cancelled all flights to Dibrugarh as passengers were unable to reach the airport.

"Passengers have been evacuated in a phased manner. The temporary suspension of operations on December 12 is being closely monitored," the Ministry of Civil Aviation posted on Twitter. IndiGo operated an Airbus A320 from Dibrugarh to Kolkata to evacuate passengers.

NOW 100 GOVERNMENT SERVICES AT YOUR DOORSTEP

**30 ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES
ADDED TO DOORSTEP DELIVERY**



DipShabdarthID027919-20

After successfully bringing 70 Government services to the doorstep of Delhi citizens, Delhi Government has added another 30 Government services that you can now avail while sitting inside your homes. Now citizens don't need to stand in long lines in government offices to get driving licenses, caste certificates or income certificates.

"This is true democracy. This is true freedom.
When citizens sit in their homes, and the government comes to their doorstep"

- Arvind Kejriwal, Chief Minister, Delhi



दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

दिल्ली ने कर दिखाया

Administrative Reforms Department, Government of NCT of Delhi

LIST OF 100 PUBLIC SERVICES

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

1. Issuance of Income Certificate
2. Enrolment as Civil Defence Volunteer
3. Issuance of Land Status Report
4. Issuance of Domicile Certificate
5. Issuance of Delayed Birth Order
6. Issuance of Delayed Death Order
7. Issuance of Lal Dora Certificate
8. Issuance of Permanent Identity Card to the Disabled Person
9. Issuance of Caste Certificate (OBC)
10. Issuance of Caste Certificate (ST)
11. Issuance of Caste Certificate (SC)
12. Issuance of Surviving Member Certificate
13. Issuance of Solvency Certificate
14. Registration of Marriage
15. Issuance of ROR

LABOUR DEPARTMENT

16. Approval of Installation of Passenger Lift, Lift Shaft & Machine Room
17. Delhi Shops & Establishments Act, 1954
18. Grant of License for Contractor Under Section 12 of Contract Labour (regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970
19. Grant of License for Working of Passenger Lift
20. Grant of Registration of Establishment Employing building workers of BOCW (RE&CS) Act, 1996
21. Grant of Registration Certificate of Principal Employer Under Section 7 of Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970
22. Periodical Inspection of Lift
23. Grant of Electrical Contractor License
24. Issuance of Certificate of Competency – Class I (Electrical Supervisor)
25. Registration of Construction Workers Under Building and other Construction Workers (RE&CS) Act, 1996
26. Renewal of Construction Workers under building and other Construction Workers (RE&CS) Act, 1996
27. Renewal of License to Contractor under Contract Labour Act, 1970

DEPARTMENT FOR THE WELFARE OF SC/ST/ OBC/ MINORITIES

28. Financial Assistance for Purchase of Stationery to SC/ST/OBC/Minority Category Students
29. Reimbursement of Tuition Fees for Students Belonging to SC/ST/OBC/Minority Category Students
30. Scholarship/Merit Scholarship To SC/ST/OBC/Minority Students Of School (for Class I To XII) and for OBC (class VI To XII)
31. Post Matric Scheme for SC Students
32. Pre Matric Scheme for SC Students
33. Post Matric Scholarship for OBC Students of College/ Professional Institutions
34. Post Matric Scholarship for OBC Students (PMS-OBC)
35. Pre Matric Scholarship for OBC Students (PMS-OBC)

FOOD & SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

36. Issuance of Priority Household Card
37. Updation of Member Details in the AAY/priority Household Card
38. Addition of Members in the Ration Card
39. Change in Head of Family
40. Change in Residential Address
41. Deletion of Members in the Ration Card
42. Issuance of Duplicate Ration Card
43. Transfer of Ration Card within Delhi
44. Updation of Mobile Number of Beneficiary

DIRECTORATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

45. Higher Education and Skill Development Guarantee Scheme of Delhi Higher Education Aid Trust
46. Merit-cum-means Income Linked Financial Assistance Scheme of Delhi Higher Education Aid Trust

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

47. Duplicate RC Certificate
48. Change of Address in RC
49. Transfer of Ownership
50. Hypothecation Addition
51. Hypothecation Termination
52. Issuance of NOC
53. Learners License
54. Permanent Driving License
55. Renewal of Driving License
56. Duplicate Driving License
57. Change of Address in Driving Licence
58. Addition of New Class of Vehicle to a Driving License
59. Motor Vehicle Tax
60. Issue of PSV Badge
61. Issue of Conductor License/Badge
62. Issue of Duplicate Conductor License
63. Renewal of Conductor License
64. Renewal of Permit
65. Issue of Duplicate Permit

TOURISM DEPARTMENT

66. Registration of Bed & Breakfast Establishments

DELHI JAL BOARD

67. New water/Sewer connection
68. Mutation
69. Re-Opening (After rebuilding of house etc.)
70. Disconnection

SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT

71. Delhi Family Benefit Scheme
72. Handicap Pension Scheme
73. Grievances of Old Age Pension Scheme

DELHI TOURISM AND TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

74. Booking of Tour Package

DELHI TRANSPORT CORPORATION

75. Issuance of General All Route Bus Pass for AC & Non AC Buses
76. Issuance of Delhi-NCR Bus Passes
77. Issuance of Concessional BPL/AAY Monthly Bus Passes
78. Issuance of Concessional Bus Passes to Senior Citizen AC & Non AC Buses
79. Issuance of Free Bus Passes for Disabled Persons (blind)
80. Issuance of Free Bus Passes for Disabled Persons (deaf & dumb)
81. Issuance of Free Bus Passes for Disabled Persons (orthopaedics)
82. Issuance of Free Bus Passes for Freedom Fighters with one attendant
83. Issuance of Free Bus Passes For MLA with one Attendant
84. Issuance of Free Bus Passes for National Award Winner
85. Issuance of Free Bus Passes for Sportsman (International)
86. Issuance of Free Bus Passes for War Widows & Their Dependents
87. Issuance of Student Concessional Destination/All Route Bus Passes

DRUGS CONTROL DEPARTMENT

88. Grant of License to Chemist
89. Grant of License for Sale of Homoeopathic Drugs
90. Grant of License for Sale of Schedule X Drug
91. Addition/ Deletion of Competent Person
92. Addition/ Deletion of Registered Pharmacist
93. Renewal of License
94. Addition of Premises
95. Change in Premises
96. Change in Constitution
97. Surrender of License

DELHI PHARMACY COUNCIL

98. Fresh Registration
99. Renewal of Registration

WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

100. 1.Delhi Pension Scheme to Women in Distress (Widow Pension Scheme)

IN BRIEF



Delay likely in Karnataka Cabinet expansion

TUMAKURU
Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa hinted here on Thursday that Cabinet expansion may be pushed further, with his meeting with Central BJP leaders likely only after eight days. This means that expansion is unlikely till at least December 20.

Three tribes set to enter Karnataka ST list

NEW DELHI
The Rajya Sabha on Thursday passed a Bill to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 to include three tribes - Parivar, Talwara and the Siddi community of Dharwad and Belagavi districts - in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka. Currently, the Siddi tribe of Uttar Kannada alone is included in the list.

Rape case proceedings against Nithyananda

BENGALURU
The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday stayed the proceedings of a rape case against self-styled godman Nithyananda in a court in Ramanagaram and directed the Registrar-General of the High Court to secure the records of the case from the trial court. The order came on a petition filed by Lenin Karuppan, a former aide of Nithyananda.

Gold seized from two foreigners in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD
Sleuths of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence on Thursday recovered 14 kg of smuggled gold at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport here. The gold was allegedly concealed in hollow pipes under the seats of the Air India aircraft that came from Dubai. The two suspects are from South Korea and China.

Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited (CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Dumka Electric Supply Area, Mahudangal, 814101, Dumka
E-mail — gm_esadk@rediffmail.com/gm_dmkjseb@yahoo.co.in
Ph.No.06434-222109(0)

1st EXTENSION OF e-TENDER NOTICE

Due to unavoidable circumstances bid submission & opening for NIT No. 139 to 142/PR/JBVNL/2019-20 for the work of Preventive & routine breakdown Maintenance of 11 KV Lines, 11/0.4 KV DSS, LT Lines and Disposal of Fuse Calls & Energy meter related activities at different Electric Supply division under Electric Supply Circle, Dumka & Sahebganj for three years on contractual basis is hereby extended in following manner:-

IMPORTANT SCHEDULE OF DATES FOR ABOVE NIT's

Last date and time for uploading of e-Tender	27.12.2019 upto 05.00 P.M
Last date and time for physical submission of original Demand Draft towards cost of BOQ and Earnest Money	27.12.2019 upto 05.00 P.M
Date and time for opening of tender Part-I (Technical and Commercial)	30.12.2019 at 12.00 P.M
Date and time for opening of tender Part-II (Price Part)	Further communicated
Tendering Officer and address for communication	Electric Supply Area, Dumka
Other terms & conditions will remain same.	

PR NO. 220928

Sd/-
General Manager-Cum-Chief Engineer

संवित एवं राज्यीय में उच्चारी कृपया अपनी विकास को दर्शा करें। राज्यीय में उच्चारी करें।

PR 222667 (Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd)19-20*D

RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION, LUCKNOW

Tender No.: SRELKO281951/73/82/83/84 Dated: 06.12.2019

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

Open e-Tender in Single Packet System are invited by the Dy. Chief Material Manager, Railway Electrification, Lucknow for & on behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items:-

1. Description : 33KV Single phase silent 7 Diesel Generating set

i. Qty : 16 Nos.

ii. Approximate cost : ₹17,43,983/- (Rs. Seventeen Lakh Forty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Three Only)

iii. Earnest Money : ₹ 34,880/- (Rs. Thirty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Only)

iv. Tender Closing date & Time : 03.01.2020 at 11.00 Hrs.

v. Validity of offer : 90 Days

2. Description : 2500 Volt insulation tester

i. Qty : 18 Nos.

ii. Approximate cost : ₹ 32,09,895/- (Rs. Thirty Two Lakh Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Five Only)

iii. Earnest Money : ₹ 64,200/- (Rs. Sixty Four Thousand Two Hundred Only)

iv. Tender Closing date & Time : 03.01.2020 at 11.00 Hrs.

v. Validity of offer : 90 Days

3. Description : Portable Welding cum Generating set 200 Amp

i. Qty : 12 Nos.

ii. Approximate cost : ₹ 24,08,616/- (Rs. Twenty Four Lakh Eight Thousand Six Hundred Sixteen Only)

iii. Earnest Money : ₹ 48,170/- (Rs. Forty Eight Thousand One Hundred Seventy Only)

iv. Tender Closing date & Time : 03.01.2020 at 11.00 Hrs.

v. Validity of offer : 90 Days

4. Description : 5KV high performance Digital Insulation Tester

i. Qty : 11 Nos.

ii. Approximate cost : ₹ 45,81,291/- (Rs. Forty Five Lakh Eighty One Thousand Two Hundred Ninety One Only)

iii. Earnest Money : ₹ 91,630/- (Rs. Ninety One Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Only)

iv. Tender Closing date & Time : 03.01.2020 at 11.00 Hrs.

v. Validity of offer : 90 Days

1. The cost of Earnest Money deposit through net banking, debit card, credit card or payment gateway only as per payment option available in <http://www.ireps.gov.in> website. Payment in any other form shall not be accepted. 2. For other details and to download the entire Tender Paper, please visit website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. 3. Online offer without earnest money will be summarily rejected. 4. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. 5. Railway reserve the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning reasons to any or all tenders.

Dy. Chief Material Manager
Railway Electrification, Lucknow
For & on behalf of President of India

No. PR/135/19
R.D.Adv

Seek Supreme Court's views on preservation of bodies, says HC

Court declines to intervene in pleas on the killing of four accused in vet rape case

MARRI RAMU
HYDERABAD

Declining to intervene in the petitions relating to the Shadnagar killings, the Telangana High Court on Thursday suggested to the State government to approach the Supreme Court on further course of action over the preservation of bodies of the four persons accused of raping and murdering a veterinarian recently.

A Division Bench, headed by Chief Justice Raghvendra Singh Chauhan, on Monday directed the State to shift the bodies from the Mahabubnagar hospital to the Gandhi Medical College morgue and preserve them till Friday.

Four PIL petitions were filed in the HC on the police action. When they came up for hearing at 10.30 a.m., the Bench posted them till 12.45 p.m. on learning that the Supreme Court was hearing



The four accused in the Hyderabadi rape and murder case.

pleas in the matter. Later, the Bench declined to intervene as the SC was seized of the matter. Advocate General B.S. Prasad raised the issue of the bodies, stating that the

families were ready to receive them. The Chief Justice told him to make a mention about the preservation before the SC by Friday and secure clarification.

FSL submits Disha's DNA analysis report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

A fortnight after the Disha rape and murder in Hyderabad, experts from the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) here have concluded the DNA profiling of her charred body recovered at Chatanpalli near Shadnagar.

Sources in the Telangana police said the DNA of sternum bone of the victim matched with that of her parents. Semen samples collected from the undergarment and scarf of the victim matched with the DNA of the four accused. The report was submitted on Thursday.

HC suo motu takes up snakebite case

It issues notices to concerned officials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCCHI

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Thursday initiated suo motu proceedings in connection with the recent death of a girl student owing to snakebite at a government school in Wayanad.

The victim was Shehala Sherin, a class V student of the Government Sarvajana Vocational Higher Secondary School, Sultan Bathery.

The Bench comprising Chief Justice S. Manikumar and Justice Anu Sivaraman issued notice to the Chief Secretary and the Health Secretary on the suo motu public interest litigation based on letters of Justice C.K. Abdul Rehim, executive chairman, Kerala State Legal Services Authority (KELSA), and Justice A.K. Jayasankaran Nambari.

The letters said Shehala Sherin died of snakebite in

side the classroom.

A report submitted by the Wayanad District Legal Services Authority chairman to the KELSA said the inference arrived at by the team which inspected the school was that the irresponsible attitude of the school authorities, coupled with the non-availability of 'anti-venom' for snakebite in the nearby hospitals and the irresponsible attitude of the doctors and other staff at the taluk hospital, were factors which contributed to the death of the child. Snakebite anti-venom or ambulances with intensive care facility were not available in the hospitals near educational institutions, the report said.

The report pointed out that educational authorities needed to intensify periodic inspections to ensure hygiene, health facilities and environmental safety in schools.



Gollapudi Maruthi Rao
Veteran Telugu actor-writer Gollapudi dead

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
VISAKHAPATNAM

Veteran film personality and writer Gollapudi Maruthi Rao, who made Visakhapatnam his home for the past several decades, died at a private hospital in Chennai on Thursday. He was 80 and is survived by wife and sons Subba Rao and Ramakrishna.

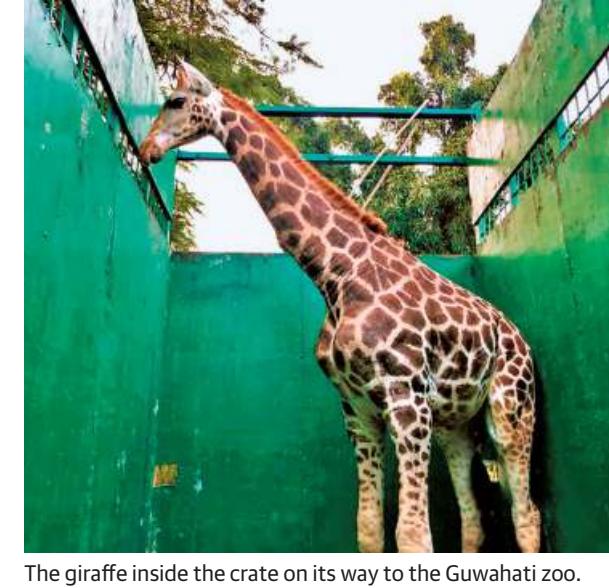
Born at Vizianagaram on April 14, 1939, Mr. Maruti Rao began his career as a journalist with the Telugu daily *Andhra Prabha* as a sub-editor in Chittoor in the early 1960s. He acted in stageplays as a student and led the drama troupe 'Raghava Kala Niketan'.

He penned his first story *Aashajeeli* in the mid-1960s. He began scripting stories for films with encouragement from film lyricist Dasaradhi. His first story for a film was *Dr. Chakravarthi* starring Akkineni Nageswara Rao.

At the age of 42, he established himself as a character actor in his debut film *Intlo Ramayya Veethilo Krishnaya* (1982).

His third son Srinivas, who was a film director, died in an accident while shooting for a film in 1992. Mr. Maruti Rao then instituted an annual memorial award in the name of Srinivas for the best debut film director.

He portrayed varied roles in over 250 films. His last film was *Jodi*. He wrote 12 novels, three children's stories and several essays.



The giraffe inside the crate on its way to the Guwahati zoo.

Mysuru giraffe travels 3,200 km by road to Guwahati zoo

Eight-member team accompanied the animal that was shifted in a special crate

SHANKAR BENNUR
MYSURU

The management of the century-old Mysuru zoo has created a record of sorts by successfully transporting a 12-foot tall male giraffe to Guwahati in Assam, covering a distance of about 3,200 km,

including roads in hilly terrains, through many States in a custom-built crate that was mounted on a long-chassis truck.

It's not the first time the zoo, which has expertise in the captive breeding of giraffes, has ferried the tallest land animal on long-distance routes. What is unique in this

distance travel for six months. Food and other essentials for the animal were from Mysuru. An eight-member team, including vets, keepers and helpers, which accompanied the giraffe to Guwahati, put in a lot of efforts to ensure its safe journey.

Gruelling journey
The journey from Kolkata was gruelling with many ghats and congested roads en route. Carrying the tallest animal by road was a big challenge for the team.

"I call this mission a record because of the sheer distance and the difficult

routes. Clearing hurdles such as hanging electric wires, the animal reached safely," said Zoo Executive Director Ajit Kulkarni. Mr. Kulkarni claimed that Jayachamarajendra's road journey could be considered the longest a giraffe had covered so far in the country. "I deem it a major achievement and a milestone for the zoo," he added.

The Mysuru zoo had in the past transported a giraffe to Patna zoo, covering a distance of about 1,800 km. Bheem, the male giraffe, was exchanged with another animal from Patna zoo in 2014.

The zoo had been making preparations for its long-dis-

tant travel for six months. Food and other essentials for the animal were from Mysuru. An eight-member team, including vets, keepers and helpers, which accompanied the giraffe to Guwahati, put in a lot of efforts to ensure its safe journey.

4th Time Extension Notice

Last date of uploading of bid documents, last date of physical submission of tender fee and bid opening date of following short e-procurement notice no. is hereby extended as below :-

Sl. No.	Tender notice no. and description of item	Extended online bid uploading/ submission end date	Last date of physical submission of tender fee and EMD	Technical bid opening date and time
1.	113/PR/JBVNL/19-20. Supply of Air Conditioner (ACs), Water dispenser, sound system, projector & LED TV for newly constructed offices (IT Training Centre & Library) of Nigam Headquarter	18.12.2019 upto 18:00 Hrs	19.12.2019 upto 13:00 Hrs.	19.12.2019 upto 18:00 Hrs.

Further details against the above NIT can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> and may be contacted on Mobile No. 09431135523 / 9430348596/ NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178. Submission of tender fee/EMD will not be accepted by courier/Regd. Post. Further details.

PR No. 222020

Sd/-
ESE (Purchases)

IN BRIEF



Medha Patkar's passport set to be impounded

NEW DELHI
In more trouble for Narmada Bachao Andolan activist Medha Patkar, the Regional Passport Office, Mumbai, is set to impound her passport for not disclosing pending criminal cases in her passport application. Since she surrendered the document on December 9, it will automatically be impounded, sources said. PTI

Madras HC nod for release of 'Queen'

CHENNAI
The Madras High Court on Thursday cleared the decks for the release of director Gowtham Vasudeva Menon's web series Queen, a "fictional" rendition of the life of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa. It also rejected a plea by Jayalalithaa's niece J. Deepa to injunct the release of a biopic titled Thalaivi.

2 Maoists killed, jawan injured in Chhattisgarh

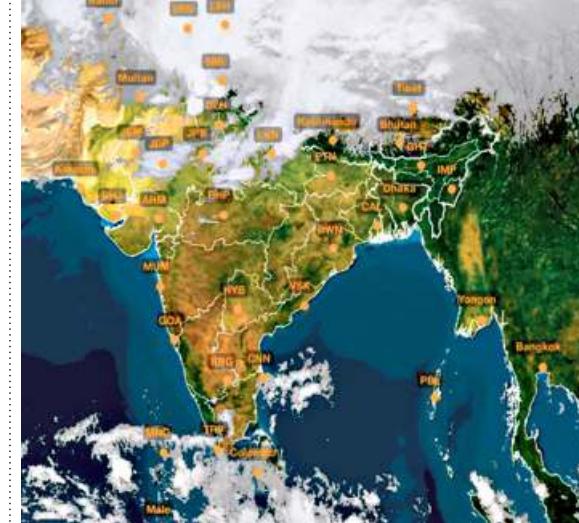
RAIPUR
Two Maoists were killed and a Special Task Force jawan was injured at separate places during a joint counter-insurgency operation by security forces in Sukma, Chhattisgarh, on Thursday, police said. The ultras were gunned down in an exchange with security forces in the forest between Morpalli and Timapuram villages in the afternoon, officials said.

Odisha officer arrested for abusing wife

BERHAMPUR
Basant Kumar Behera, a recently appointed trainee Odisha Administrative Service officer, allegedly involved in the physical and mental abuse of his wife, was arrested by the Golanthara police in Ganjam, Odisha. He was arrested on Wednesday, following a complaint filed by his wife Kanaklata Behera, sources said.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)
Forecast for Friday: Thunderstorm/hailstorm accompanied with lightning very likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh and Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning at isolated places over Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karaikal.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	25.7	13.3	Kozhikode	—	35.2...	25.3
Ahmedabad	—	29.5	12.8	Kurnool	—	31.1...	19.1
Aizawl	—	—	8.4	Lucknow	—	22.4...	11.8
Allahabad	—	26.0	13.3	Madurai	—	31.4...	22.6
Bengaluru	—	27.8	16.8	Mangaluru	—	35.6...	23.4
Bhopal	—	—	15.8	Mumbai	—	32.5...	21.4
Bhubaneswar	—	31.0	17.6	Mysuru	—	28.9...	17.3
Chandigarh	—	0.6	21.5...	New Delhi	—	21.5...	12.8
Chennai	—	30.3	22.1	Patna	—	23.8...	13.0
Coimbatore	—	30.2	21.6	Port Blair	—	30.5...	25.6
Dehradun	—	22.2	11.6	Puducherry	—	30.2...	20.6
Gangtok	—	2.3	11.0	Pune	—	30.7...	18.3
Goa	—	33.6	21.8	Raipur	—	30.2...	16.4
Guwahati	—	26.4	13.8	Ranchi	—	25.0...	12.8
Hubballi	—	28.0	18.0	Shillong	—	15.2...	5.0
Hyderabad	—	18.5	17.0	Shimla	—	2.8...	5.9
Imphal	—	22.3	8.3	Srinagar	—	6.4...	1.4
Jaipur	—	24.0	14.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	0.5...	21.8
Kochi	—	34.6	24.4	Tiruchi	—	31.5...	21.8
Kohima	—	24.4	6.5	Vijayawada	—	30.1...	21.0
Kolkata	—	28.1	18.3	Visakhapatnam	—	29.3...	22.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES SO₂ NO_x CO PM_{2.5} PM₁₀ CODE

Ahmedabad	73	20	08	149	121	120
Bengaluru	11	43	47	64	84	84
Chennai	07	21	40	71	—	—
Delhi	11	62	107	477	469	469
Hyderabad	16	70	39	171	—	—
Kolkata	18	81	21	189	168	168
Lucknow	12	67	73	361	—	—
Mumbai	21	49	55	260	153	153
Pune	102	25	.54	138	107	107
Visakhapatnam	07	54	41	54	99	99

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

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

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

PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

CAG hints at massive diversion of LPG

Report finds that around 13.96 lakh beneficiaries of PMUY scheme consumed 3 to 41 refills in a month

DEEVEK K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, in a report on the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), has highlighted the risk of diversion of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial use, as 1.98 lakh beneficiaries had an average annual consumption of more than 12 cylinders.

The CAG said this level of consumption seemed improbable in view of the BPL (below poverty line) status of such beneficiaries.

"Similarly, 13.96 lakh beneficiaries consumed 3 to 41 refills in a month. Further, IOCL [Indian Oil Corporation Limited] and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) in 3.44 lakh instances issued 2 to 20 refills in a day to a single Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiary having a single cylinder connection. Table lists customers who ordered more than one refill in a single day and the number of such instances

A CAG audit found that in 3.43 lakh instances LPG distributors had issued 2 to 20 refills in a day to a single Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana beneficiary having a single cylinder connection. Table lists customers who ordered more than one refill in a single day and the number of such instances

Daily refills	Customers	Instances
2	2,60,934	3,02,193
3	17,589	20,389
4	6,931	7,574
5	3,829	4,065
6 - 13	9,283	9,587
14 - 20	5	5
Total	2,98,571	3,43,813

■ At least 2.98 lakh customers have applied for more than one refill in a day in 3.43 lakh instances

■ As a domestic connection won't need so many refills, the CAG suspects that they are being diverted for commercial use (such as in restaurants)

in May 2016 to safeguard the health of women and children by providing them with clean cooking fuel. Its target was revised to eight crore LPG connections.

As on 31 March 2019, the oil marketing companies had issued 7.19 crore connections, which is about 90% of the target to be achieved till March 2020.

To rule out existing LPG connections in beneficiaries' household, de-duplication was to be carried out based on Aadhaar of all family members.

"Audit noticed that out of 3.78 crore LPG connections, 1.60 crore (42%) connections were issued only on the basis of beneficiary Aadhaar which remained a deterrent

in de-duplication," said the report.

Errors in identification

The CAG said laxity in identification of beneficiaries was noticed as 9,897 connections were issued against Abridged Household List Temporary Identification Numbers (AHL TINs), where names of all family members

IBM's weather forecast system to tap users' phones for data

IBM GRAF can generate forecasts at a resolution of 3 km

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

International technology company IBM plans to make a high-resolution weather forecast model that will also rely on user-generated data to improve the accuracy of forecasts available in India.

IBM GRAF, as the forecast system is called, can generate forecasts at a resolution of 3 kilometres. This is a significantly higher resolution than the 12-kilometre models used by the India Meteorological Department to generate forecasts.

The Tiruchi police on Thursday arrested Christopher Alphonse, 42, of Khajapet on charges of possessing and circulating child pornography. This is the first time that the State police have invoked provisions under these amended Acts to curb child pornography.

The Tiruchi police on Thursday arrested Christopher Alphonse, 42, of Khajapet on charges of possessing and circulating child porn. After the investigators summoned the suspect based on specific inputs, he deleted the content from his mobile phone and other devices. However, the police retrieved the child porn films forwarded by the suspect.

These weather forecast techniques rely on dynamic modelling and collect a trove of atmospheric and ocean data, crunch it in supercomputers and generate forecasts over desired timeframes – three days, weekly or fortnightly. "From the

and the beneficiary were blank in the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC)-2011 list.

Lack of input validation check in the IOC software allowed issue of 0.80 lakh connections to beneficiaries aged below 18. Data analysis also revealed that 8.59 lakh connections were released to beneficiaries who were minor as per the SECC-2011 data, which was in violation of PMUY guidelines and LPG Control Order, 2000.

It also exposed a mismatch in the name of 12.46 lakh beneficiaries between the PMUY database and SECC-2011 data. The CAG, on field visits, also found that connections were given to "unintended" persons.

The audit also highlighted the delay of more than 365 days in the installation of 4.35 lakh connections against the stipulated time period of seven days.

our national flower and is part of the enhanced security features to identify fake passports."

These security features have been introduced as part of the International Civil Aviation Organisation guidelines, he said.

"Apart from the lotus, other national symbols will be used on rotation. Right now, it is lotus and then next month there will be something else. These are symbols connected with India, such as the national flower or the national animal," he said.

12-year-old gang-raped in Haryana

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

A 12-year-old was raped by four persons, including a minor, over the past few months in Haryana's Karnal, police said on Thursday.

"One of the accused, identified as Lovekesh, 20, alias Lovely, has been arrested, while three others have been detained and were being questioned after we received a complaint from the girl," Harjinder Singh, Station House Incharge, Karnal police station, said. The incident happened around two-and-a-half months ago, but the victim with her parents approached the police on Wednesday, he said. The police has registered a case under Section 376 of the Indian Penal Code and other Sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

cellphones of users who've downloaded the application. Weather forecasts will be available to individuals for free download and can be used by farmers.

A study by IBM found that 72% Indians believed that the local economy had been disrupted by a severe weather event in the past year and 89% were concerned that climate change could negatively impact the economy.

Weathering the storm: People walking towards a shelter during Cyclone Titli in Odisha in 2018. ■ AP

tests we've done so far, our forecasts are 30% more accurate than those generated by 12-km resolution models," Cameron Clayton, general manager, IBM Watson Media and Weather, said at a press conference here on Thursday.

For its forecasts, IBM relies on a global network of sensors – automatic weather station, data buoys and barometric pressure data from

'Lotus on passports is security feature'

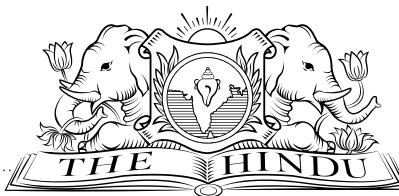
National symbols will be used: MEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A day after Opposition members in the Lok Sabha raised the issue of the lotus being printed on new passports, the Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday said it was part of the enhanced security features to identify fake passports. The MEA said the measure would involve the use of other national symbols as well on rotation.

Raising the issue during Zero Hour, M.K. Raghavan of the Congress said the matter had been highlighted in a newspaper report. He alleged that this was "further saffronisation" of the government establishment, with the lotus being the election symbol of the BJP.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said, "This symbol is



An exoneration

The clean chit to Modi is unsurprising, but the riots can't be described as spontaneous

Commissions of Inquiry are often seen as tools to manage public perception about lapses on the part of the state whenever an untoward incident takes place. Their reports are rarely submitted on time, many are not made public, and few stray from the 'clean chit' route mapped out for them by the regimes that appointed them. Often, the findings are made public so late as to make little difference. The G.T. Nanavati-A.H. Mehta Commission, constituted to probe the horrific burning of the Sabarmati Express train at Godhra in 2002, and the deadly communal carnage that followed, fits this profile of a judicial commission to a tee. Its exoneration of Narendra Modi, the then Chief Minister of Gujarat, should come as no surprise. Mr. Modi had already been absolved by a Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team. A judicial magistrate had accepted the team's report. There were allegations that Mr. Modi had instructed the police to "allow Hindus to vent their anger" and that he had placed two Ministers in the police control room, but except for some oral testimony, there was no material evidence to back them. The Supreme Court did not accept the views of *amicus curiae* Raju Ramachandran that there was prima facie material to proceed against Mr. Modi for "promoting enmity between different groups" and "imputations prejudicial to national integration". Since then, Mr. Modi has led his party to victory in two general elections. The issue was never about direct involvement or instigation, but rather about culpable inaction, and his moral and political failure to take responsibility for the lawlessness that consumed the lives of over a thousand people and the mayhem unleashed by perceived supporters of the ruling party under his watch.

It would have been unrealistic to expect that the probe would unearth any new evidence to establish a conspiracy at the highest level of the State government. However, what is somewhat disconcerting is that the panel says there was no orchestrated violence anywhere, and that no organisation or party was involved. This flies in the face of convictions obtained in trial courts against political functionaries, including former BJP Minister Maya Kodnani. Its only major finding on administrative failure pertains to Joint Commissioner of Police M.K. Tandon, under whose jurisdiction 177 people were killed in incidents at Gulberg Society, Naroda Patiya and Naroda Gam. He is indicted for failing to appreciate the gravity of the situation. Otherwise, the report sails with the official explanation that the riots were wholly spontaneous, and that the police did their best to contain it. It is disappointing, but not surprising, that the panel dismisses the testimony of three IPS officers on police complicity or inaction, as false, and questions the work of NGOs working for the victims.

Nation #194?

Bougainville is some distance from nationhood but its people have spoken

With Bougainville's overwhelming vote for independence from Papua New Guinea (PNG), the country has crossed a milestone in the peace process following the civil war that ended in 1998. The non-binding referendum, to ascertain a preference for either greater autonomy or separate statehood, was a promise enshrined in the 2001 Bougainville Peace Agreement. In a province of fewer than 3,00,000, the voting process spanning two weeks underscored the challenges facing the regional administration in Buka and that in the national capital of Port Moresby. The Bougainville Referendum Commission undertook the commendable task of enlisting inmates in hospitals and prisons and non-residents to ensure that the conduct of the franchise was inclusive. A testament of the participation was the 85% turnout in the plebiscite. With 98% opting to secede, the people spoke emphatically at the end of an animated campaign.

The demand for separate statehood in Bougainville dates back almost to PNG's independence in 1975. This sentiment was further crystallised by the conflict over the open cast copper mine in Panguna town – among the world's largest and richest – whose revenues accounted for over 45% of the country's export earnings. In the confrontation that centred around sharing the mineral resources, the Bougainville Revolutionary Army was pitted against the PNG security forces for a decade. An estimated 20,000 lives were lost and many were displaced. Enforcing the Bougainville verdict is bound to be protracted, characteristic of the political and administrative processes of carving out the boundaries of a new state. Foremost, in an attempt to give shape to the decision, Port Moresby and Buka will engage in negotiations. Any agreement would have to be ratified by the country's Parliament. Significantly, the Central government had hoped that the region would vote to remain rather than secede, whereas among Bougainvillians and observers, the choice for separation was a foregone conclusion. In a sign of the future shape of events, the PNG Minister responsible for Bougainville recently expressed concern that Buka could set a precedent for any other breakaway movement. There are, moreover, issues around the economic viability of the tiny island group. The controversy over the Panguna mine still lingers, as the company that once controlled operations is vying for restoration of its licence. The Bougainville government, which last year clamped an indefinite moratorium on the mine's reopening, would inevitably have to revisit that decision sooner rather than later. But the advent of the world's 194th nation may be some distance in the future.

In the name of a majority

The NRC in Assam has given us an indication of risks involved in such exercises of inclusion and exclusion



ANUPAMA ROY

The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB), passed in both Houses this week, promises to give the protection of citizenship to non-Muslims who fled to India to escape religious persecution in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. While religious persecution is a reasonable ground for protection, the problem with the CAB is that it does not include all communities that suffered religious persecution, and explicitly excludes Muslims who suffered persecution in the specified countries and other non-Muslim majority countries like Myanmar.

This majoritarian notion of religion-based citizenship, although intrinsic to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s idea of India, is not shared by the majority of people in this country. In addition, such a view is alien to the constitutional consensus which emerged in 1950, embodying the idea of a people who committed themselves – and those governing on their behalf – to a constitutional order. Those in support of the CAB have rallied around the argument that it is non-discriminatory and its objectives are justifiable. In doing so, they have often invoked the moral imperative of correcting a perceived past wrong – in this case the Partition. In the process, the CAB changes completely the idea of equal and inclusive citizenship promised in the Constitution.

Changes in citizenship law
The CAB cannot, however, be seen in isolation. It must be seen in tandem with the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and other changes

in the citizenship law, which have preceded it. The Home Minister and the Law Minister have clarified that the CAB and the NRC are distinct – the NRC protects the country against illegal migrants and the CAB protects refugees. This, however, is incommensurate with the election speeches made by BJP leaders. For instance, speaking in Kolkata earlier this year, Amit Shah had promised an NRC in West Bengal, but only after the passage of the CAB to ensure that no Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Jain and Christian refugee is denied citizenship for being an illegal immigrant. In a triumphal note after the passage of the CAB in Lok Sabha, Mr. Shah declared that a nationwide NRC would follow soon.

Despite their seemingly disparate and adversarial political imperatives, the CAB and the NRC have become conjoined in their articulation of citizenship. Indeed, the two represent the tendency towards *jus sanguinis* in the citizenship law in India, which commenced in 1986, became definitive in 2003, and has reached its culmination in the contemporary moment. In 2003, the insertion of the category 'illegal migrants' in the provision of citizenship by birth became the hinge from which the NRC and the CAB later emerged.

The Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules of 2003 made the registration of all citizens of India, issue of national identity cards, the maintenance of a national population register, and the establishment of an NRC by the Central government compulsory. Under these rules, the Registrar General of Citizen Registration is to collect particulars of individuals and families, including their citizenship status, through a 'house-to-house enumeration'. In an exception to the general rule, Assam has followed a different



procedure of 'inviting applications' with particulars of each family and individual and their citizenship status based on the NRC 1951 and electoral rolls up to the midnight of March 24, 1971. The purpose of the NRC is to sift out 'foreigners' and 'illegal migrants', who were referred to at different points as 'infiltrators' and 'aggressors', and a threat to the territory and people of India.

Exempting minority groups

The second strand emerging from the 2003 amendment has taken the form of the CAB, which exempts 'minority communities', Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, and Christians, from three countries – Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan – from the category of 'illegal migrants'. The CAB brings the citizenship law in line with exemptions already made in the Passport Act 1920 and Foreigners Act 1946 through executive orders in September 2015 and July 2016. It sets a cut-off date of December 31, 2014 as the date of eligibility of illegal migrants for exemption.

It must be noted that a PIL filed by the Assam Sanmilta Mahasangha pending before the Supreme Court has contested the deviation in the cut-off date set for Assam by the Citizenship Amendment Act 1986, March 24, 1971, from the date specified in Article 6 of the Constitution, i.e., July 19, 1948, which applies to the rest of the country. The

CAB is applicable to entire India, and takes the cut-off date forward by several years.

The claim that the CAB does not violate the Constitution is reflective of the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). The JPC was advised by constitutional experts to use a broader category, 'persecuted minorities', to protect the Bill from the charge of violating the right to equality in Article 14. The CAB uses the category 'minority communities' and goes on to identify them on the ground of religion. The notifications of September 2015 and July 2016, which changed the Passport and Foreigners Acts, had mentioned the term 'religious persecution'. The consideration of religious persecution for making a distinction among persons, the JPC argued, could not be discriminatory, because the distinction was both intelligible and reasonable – satisfying the standards laid down in the Supreme Court judgment in *State of West Bengal vs. Anwar Ali Sarkarhabib* (1952) to affirm adherence to Article 14.

Test of reasonableness

The JPC appears, however, to have overlooked the substantive conditions that the Supreme Court laid down in the same verdict. These require that the criteria of intelligibility of the differential and the reasonableness of classification, must satisfy both grounds of protection guaranteed by Article 14, i.e., protection against discrimination and protection against the arbitrary exercise of state power. In 2009, the Delhi High Court judgement in *Naz Foundation vs. Government of NCT of Delhi* referred to "a catena of decisions" to lay down a further test of reasonableness, requiring that the objective for such classification in any law must also be subjected to judicial scrutiny. The restraint on state ar-

bitrariness, according to the judgment, was to come from constitutional morality, which as B.R. Ambedkar declared in the Constituent Assembly, was the responsibility of the state to protect.

It remains a puzzle as to why the government wishes to change the citizenship law to address the problem of refugees. The JPC refers to standard operating procedures for addressing the concerns of refugees from neighbouring countries. In the case of refugees from the erstwhile West Pakistan who deposed before the JPC in favour of a CAB, the standard operating procedure was the grant of long-term visas leading to citizenship. One wonders how these refugees will benefit from a law which will put them through an arduous process of proving religious persecution. Immediately after Partition, 'displaced persons' constituted an administrative category, and citizenship files of 1950s tell us how district officials expedited their citizenship in the process of preparation of electoral rolls.

The focus in the recent parliamentary debates, for various reasons, was the eastern borders. States in the region have resisted the CAB, and simultaneously asked for an NRC. West Bengal has been an exception. The reality of imposing a national order of things, through a CAB and an NRC, in non-national spaces will unfold in future but Assam has given us adequate evidence of the risks involved. It can only be hoped that the judiciary and civil society are able to restore constitutional and democratic politics through an exercise of counter-majoritarian power in a context where electoral gains have determined political choices.

Anupama Roy teaches at the Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Not many lessons learnt from water planning failures

In the absence of scientific planning and implementation, measures like Jal Shakti Abhiyan may not be successful



J. HARSHA

Following the massive water crisis across India in the summer of 2019, the Central government hurriedly launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA), a time-bound, mission-mode water conservation campaign to be carried out in two phases, across the 255 districts having critical and over-exploited groundwater levels. This campaign, however, was not intended to be a funding programme and did not create any new intervention on its own. It only aimed to make water conservation a 'people's movement' through ongoing schemes like the MGNREGA and other government programmes.

The JSA is partly modelled and driven by some sporadic success stories such as NGO Tarun Bharat Sangh's experiment in Alwar, Rajasthan and Anna Hazare-led efforts in Ralegan Siddhi, Maharashtra. These projects primarily involved building tanks and ponds to capture rainwater and building recharge wells to recharge ground-

water. However, it is unclear whether they were based on reference to watershed management or groundwater prospect maps.

Planning scientifically

Water planning should be based on hydrological units, namely river basins. And, political and administrative boundaries of districts rarely coincide with the hydrological boundaries or aquifer boundaries. However, contrary to this principle of water management, JSA was planned based on the boundary of the districts, and to be carried out under the overall supervision of a bureaucrat. This resulted in the division of basins/aquifers into multiple units that followed multiple policies. There was no data on basin-wise rainfall, no analysis of run-off and groundwater maps were rarely used. As a result, one never came to know whether water harvested in a pond in a district was at the cost of water in adjoining districts.

The JSA also fundamentally ignored the fact that most of India's water-stressed basins, particularly those in the peninsular regions, are facing closure, with the demand exceeding supply. Hence, groundwater recharge happened at the cost of surface water and vice versa. This is where an absence of autonomous and knowl-



edge-intensive river-basin organisations is acutely felt.

As on date, the JSA's portal displays impressive data, images and statistics. For example, it claims that there are around 10 million ongoing and completed water conservation structures; 7.6 million recharge structures. The website also says that one billion saplings have been planted and that six million people participated in awareness campaigns. But data and statistics can deceive or lie, as claimed by journalist Darrel Huff in his 1954 book *How to Lie with Statistics*.

For example, the data displayed on JSA portal do not speak anything about the pre-JSA water levels, the monthly water levels and impact of monsoon on the water levels across the 255 districts with

critical and over-exploited blocks. They also don't convey anything about the quality of the structures, their maintenance and sustainability. Even if the water levels had been measured, it is unknown whether the measurement was accurate. Many such queries remain unanswered and hidden behind these data and statistics. The results for a 2016 study conducted by the Central Groundwater Board showed that water levels always increase post-monsoon. Therefore, it will require long-term monitoring of water level data to determine the actual impact of a measure like JSA. At present, there is no such parameter to measure the outcome of such a mission-mode campaign. The rat race among districts for ranking has turned out to be meaningless.

Facile assumptions

True, the aim and intent of JSA are noble. But the assumptions are distorted. For example, it assumes that common people in rural areas are ignorant and prone to wasting water; on the contrary, they are the ones who first bear the brunt of any water crisis. The per capita water allocation to those living in rural areas is 55 litres, whereas the same for urban areas like Delhi and Bengaluru is 135-150 litres.

Therefore, the JSA's move to

reach out to poor people and farmers, asking them to 'save water', appears hypocritical, particularly when district administrations blatantly allow the sewage generated from towns and cities to pollute village water sources such as tanks, ponds and wells.

Moreover, it is difficult to say whether measures like JSA can provide long-term solutions. Most of the farm bunds built with soil can collapse within one monsoon season due to rains and/or trespassing by farm vehicles, animals and humans. Further, there are issues like lack of proper engineering supervision of these structures, involvement of multiple departments with less or no coordination, and limited funding under MGNERGA and other schemes. Finally, there have hardly been many efforts undertaken to dissuade farmers from growing water-intensive crops such as paddy, sugarcane, and banana, when it is widely known that agriculture consumes 80% of freshwater.

The summer water crisis has not led to our policymakers learning many lessons, and the country just seems to have returned to a business-as-usual situation.

J. Harsha is Director, Central Water Commission. Views expressed in the article 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.

Test of democracy
The Rajya Sabha's decision to vote for the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill (CAB) marked the defeat of the Indian democracy (Front page, "After a heated debate, RS clears Citizenship Bill," Dec. 12). It

signalled victory of Hindutva over the Constitution enacted under the supervision of B.R. Ambedkar and was violative of the founding document's basic structure. The Bill is a polarising measure and victimises people belonging to one community.

MAHMUDUL HASAN,
Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh

Protect the Northeast
It pains me and every single person who lives in Assam, speaks Assamese, writes in

Assamese, eats Assamese meals, and loves the culture of Assam, that our birthplace and our motherland is facing a very serious situation due to the CAB. I, and every fellow Assamese, do not wish that this Bill should become an Act. We fear that the number of immigrants in Assam will increase in great numbers and our culture will be overwhelmed. This will also put more pressure on the depleting resources. There already is an abundance of graduates in the State facing unemployment. Unsurprisingly, students in various districts of Assam are protesting, and these demonstrations will grow only to get bigger.

DIKSHA DERA,
Sonitpur, Assam

The CAB's very nature has caused the North-Eastern States to protest against it. The Bill has offered citizenship to members of certain minority communities from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan, without specifying what proof or document will be required to support their claims. The Bill aroused greater suspicion after the non-inclusion of many Bengali Hindus in Assam's National Register of Citizens. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is perhaps attempting to create a vote bank out of these immigrants rather than protecting them. It looks like communities apart from Hindus are included in the CAB only to avoid making it appear too arbitrary. It is also to be noted that the violence that

has gripped the region, especially Assam, has been ignored by the Centre. The government must think about the welfare of all citizens of the country, including those in the North-Eastern States. We need to protect our people and our Constitution.

REAKOR SHISHA KHARKRANG,
Upper Shillong, Meghalaya

Unnecessary hysteria
The Opposition parties have been unnecessarily hysterical in their reaction to the CAB. The Bill could have been objected to had it provided for dispossessing any section of the people of their citizenship. But the Centre is well within its sovereign rights to determine who should be granted citizenship among foreigners. The Opposition

parties are trying to create a false narrative that the Bill is against the Indian Muslims. However, the government does need to answer a few questions: How many such immigrants are there in India eligible to get citizenship? Where these immigrants are staying at present and where will they be accommodated after grant of citizenship?

K.R. JAYAPRAKASH RAO,
Mysuru

Anglo-Indian MPs
The Anglo-Indian community, a microscopic minority comprised mostly of Christians, has been

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS: >> A Sports page story headlined "Rijuji confident of India's good showing at Tokyo" (Dec. 12, 2019) erroneously referred to 2028 Tokyo Olympics. Actually, the 2028 edition will be held in Los Angeles and 2020 games will be held in Japan.

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nominating members both to Parliament and State Assemblies since the passage of the Constitution. The Centre's decision to scrap the quota for the community's members is discriminatory and a clear violation of the Constitution. This cruel move could leave the group with no representation, making it vulnerable. A civilised nation has to ensure that it safeguards the rights of all its minorities, irrespective of how small their numbers are.

J. FERNANDEZ,
Kochi

Should the creamy layer norm be extended to SC/STs?

PARLEY

Reservation for Dalits is not to undo economic backwardness, but as remedy for untouchability

The Centre has called upon the Supreme Court to constitute a seven-judge Bench to examine whether the 'creamy layer' concept should be applied to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) for promotions in service. In a conversation moderated by K. Venkataraman, Sukhadeo Thorat and Ashwini Deshpande discuss the basis for reservation and the myths associated with it. Edited excerpts:

Can you give us a perspective on the idea of applying the creamy layer concept to reservation and, in particular, to SCs and STs?

Sukhadeo Thorat: Reservation in politics, services and institutions is given to SCs particularly because they were denied the right to property, education and industries for nearly 2,000 years. Besides they were treated as untouchables. Discrimination continues even today in society. The argument was that to provide them the safeguard [against discrimination] and compensate them to some extent for past exclusions, they should be given representation as per their population share. Because otherwise, due to persisting discrimination in services, enterprises and agriculture, they won't get their due share.

They continue to be landless. I think there the policy should have been reparation or compensation. That has not been done. What we are doing is simply giving some protection against discrimination in the present, and giving a share in proportion to the population. So, instead of going to the Supreme Court, the government should have set up a committee and checked whether people in service face discrimination or not. And I have a feeling that there is a huge discrimination once you get into service. There are about 12,000 cases lying with the SC/ST Commission, complaining about discrimination in service. Therefore, they need protection in promotion also.

Ashwini Deshpande: I agree that the reason for having reservation, at the entry level and then in promotions, is to combat discrimination,

which can be economic or social. But reservation is not an anti-poverty programme. The more advantageous sections of all caste groups are able to enter higher education. So, if we want to make sure that the poor are getting represented, we need a separate set of policies.

We have to recognise that while both OBCs and SCs get reservation, the social reality under which Dalits live and the situation under which OBCs live are very different. So, I would make a case for justifying the 'creamy layer' exclusion from within the OBCs, because for them a lot of it is economic backwardness. And if you are rich enough to cross a certain threshold, there isn't the kind of social discrimination that happens towards Dalits. In fact, there is an argument in the U.S. that richer Blacks face greater discrimination because the Whites resent their entry into areas that are considered privileged for the Whites. So, in a way, there is some evidence to show that discrimination actually increases with a rise in economic position. Even after Dalits get entry into jobs or higher education, there are little micro-aggressions that they face. For example, in educational institutions students complain of harassment because they came in through reservation. We need more data, but to link it with economic status is wrong.

How far do you think the test of backwardness, the adequacy of representation, and the impact of reservations on the efficiency of administration affect or do not affect the prospects of SC/ST candidates?

ST: The reservation policy type of affirmative action is against discrimination; it is not based on economic consideration because the discrimination is independent of your economic standing. Women are asking for reservation. Have they ever raised the issue that relatively better-off women should not get political reservation? Because they are discriminated based on gender, poor or non-poor. So, I think this clarity has to be there.

I take the view that economic concessions should not be given.



Don't give them subsidies, scholarships, because some of them are economically better-off, but you cannot extend that argument to say that reservation should not be given to the economically better-off. So, I think the Supreme Court has to understand the point academically; I don't think the issue is legal.

If there is a question of limit, the limit can be modified. If promotion harms others, there are other ways of helping them. The Supreme Court should not put a legal limit on it, 50% or otherwise. Find out the alternative ways of benefiting non-SCs/STs, while retaining reservation for SCs/STs.

AD: One more point. If you treat the unfulfilled vacancies as a separate unit to be filled, you actually don't even exceed the 50%. In any case, the 50% limit is a bit arbitrary. It also has to be rethought. But even if you don't go into that today, the point is that if you consider the unfulfilled vacancies as a separate unit, and not club that with upcoming vacancies, it is possible to not violate that 50%.

One more aspect is the test of backwardness. In Jarnail Singh, the court felt that the test of backwardness should not be made applicable at all to SC/STs. But at the same time it advocated the creamy layer concept to be applied. Isn't there some contradiction here?

ST: Yeah, I think there is a contradiction. On the one hand, they say that no criteria or indicator should be applied of backwardness to the SCs and STs. And on the other, they are trying to apply the same economic criteria to exclude some of the relatively economically better-

C The economically better-off also face discrimination, in service and many other spheres. They also need a safeguard and that safeguard is the affirmative action policy

off SCs. And if at all the Supreme Court has to take a position, it should ask the government to set up a comprehensive committee to study the practice of untouchability and discrimination faced by SCs and STs. The court should revise its position, and see where they continue to face discrimination in all spheres of life. If a community does not face discrimination, then you can develop an anti-poverty policy for the poor. But when there is discrimination, you have a separate policy all over the world.

AD: The point that both of us are repeating is that the reason for reservations for Dalits is not economic backwardness. It is the stigma that comes on account of the untouchable status. And even though legally untouchability has been abolished, there is a lot of data that show that people still practise untouchability. So the stigma that comes on account of an untouchable status... reservation is only a tiny remedial measure for that. This continuous clubbing together of economic backwardness and stigma because of the untouchable status is wrong. Because you can talk about economic backwardness, but for Dalits you have to address the stigma.

One argument was that while at the entry level a person is genuinely deprived, and reservation is a remedial measure, as he goes up the

ladder in both income and status there may not be any need for reservation in promotions. And that the creamy concept should be applied at that level.

ST: We are emphasising the point that the policy of reservation or affirmative action is based on discrimination, that is denial of equal opportunity which others enjoy. And the economically better-off also face discrimination, in service and many other spheres. They also need a safeguard and that safeguard is the affirmative action policy. What I had also said is that since they are economically better-off, don't give them economic advantages like subsidies. They can afford that but you cannot extend this argument to say reservation should be withdrawn for the better-off. There is need for reservation in promotions because they face discrimination in promotions. We don't have studies on this. The Supreme Court and government should undertake a study.

Reservation is sort of peanuts. The public sector accounts for a small portion of jobs. And it is there they get some share. In private, they have no protection against discrimination. What you require is compensation for 2,000 years of reservation. We have to give them land, funding to start industries, and for education. So, you require a large policy of compensation, reparation, supplemented by reservation.

There is a provision in Article 335 on how affirmative action should be subject to overall efficiency. A Division Bench recently rejected the idea that reservation will have an impact on efficiency, but even then I think the view is still prevalent.

AD: This belief that reservations affect the efficiency of public services is a complete myth. I have done a study with the Indian Railways. And that is the only long-term, big-scale study to actually empirically estimate the effect of reservations on efficiency. Reservations have no negative effect on efficiency. If anything, at the top level, they actually have a positive effect. Recently, another study came out looking at IAS officers' performance indicators, and that study reached the same conclusion. There is another study too.

The point is that this myth is so strong that people are not willing to publicise the rigorous examination of this question.

The courts insist on quantifiable data - whether it is on backwardness, on inadequacy of representation or the question of efficiency. Do you think it's too onerous a requirement for the government to demonstrate everything through quantifiable data?

AD: I strongly support a data-based, evidence-based approach to judging reservations. We need to have greater transparency and data-based evidence to support any claims.

ST: I would like to add that under the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and the Protection of Civil Rights Act, it is the government's responsibility to undertake a study every five years, to bring out the nature of discrimination and untouchability faced by Dalits. The government's SC/ST Commission report is supposed to have a separate chapter on untouchability. That report has not been brought out in the last 20 years or so. The government has also not done any study. There are quantitative techniques that will capture qualitative relationships but unfortunately such surveys have been bypassed by the NSSO.

The reservation policy as it exists has been helpful and is a pro-poor policy. More than 60% of government employees are Class 3 or Class 4 employees and are poor and less educated. At the same time, there is massive privatisation of public sector jobs and the public sector is increasingly taking on contractual jobs for which there is no reservation. There is a need to extend reservation to the private sector as well.

AD: We need a strong anti-discrimination framework. There are so many barriers for the oppressed to approaching the justice system that it is difficult for somebody with genuine grievances about discrimination to seek justice. There is now a greater awareness about gender discrimination and institutions are making sure they develop structures to tackle it. We need similar structures for caste discrimination in the workplace.



Sukhadeo Thorat
is former chairman, UGC, and Professor Emeritus, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences, JNU



Ashwini Deshpande
is Professor of Economics, Ashoka University



Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

Capitol Hill raises an eyebrow

In some quarters, Washington's love affair with Modi's India has hit a rough patch

MICHAEL KUGELMAN

On December 9, when the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha, the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC) issued an extraordinary statement on Twitter: "Religious pluralism is central to the foundations of both India and the United States and is one of our core shared values. Any religious test for citizenship undermines this most basic democratic tenet. #CAB-Bill." This statement says much about shifting perceptions on Capitol Hill about India and the U.S.-India relationship. It comes on the heels of sharp Congressional criticism of India, much of it leveled by Democrats, and mainly focused on New Delhi actions in Jammu and Kashmir.

A significant statement
However, the HFAC tweet is particularly significant. First, it was issued by a Congressional committee – in this case, a key bipartisan body involved with legislation on international affairs. This was not a case of a sole elected official levying criticism.

It was a tweet that required some level of informal consensus from the committee in order to be posted. In other words, it reflected the views of a critical mass of elected officials focused on foreign affairs.

Second, the statement targeted a piece of legislation in India that hasn't even been signed into law. This was not a case of the HFAC railing against a newly enshrined law, much less an implemented policy. In other words, the committee was delivering a pre-emptive salvo against a Bill that has quite some time to go before it becomes the law of the land in India. Such criticism, at this relatively early moment in the legislation's life, is quite unusual, and a reflection of the deep concern harboured by Capitol Hill about the Bill.

Third, the HFAC statement invoked the U.S.-India relationship. It underscored the shared values that underpin the partnership, before suggesting that the Bill undermines those very values. Indeed, the two democracies have both seen considerable democratic backsliding, including on religious pluralism, over the last few years. The HFAC state-

ment is a reminder that one of the core pillars, shared values, of U.S.-India partnership is taking a major hit. Shared interests more than shared values are increasingly what drive the relationship today. Recent messaging from both capitals, which has emphasised the former more than the latter, makes that quite clear.

To be sure, we shouldn't overstate the significance of the HFAC's tweet. Congress doesn't drive or determine policy towards India – a useful reminder when considering the intensifying drumbeat of Congressional criticism (ranging from hearings to a recently introduced bipartisan resolution) of India's actions in J&K. Still, make no mistake: A bipartisan Congressional committee has called out a piece of Indian legislation and highlighted the potential damage it could inflict on the U.S.-India relationship.

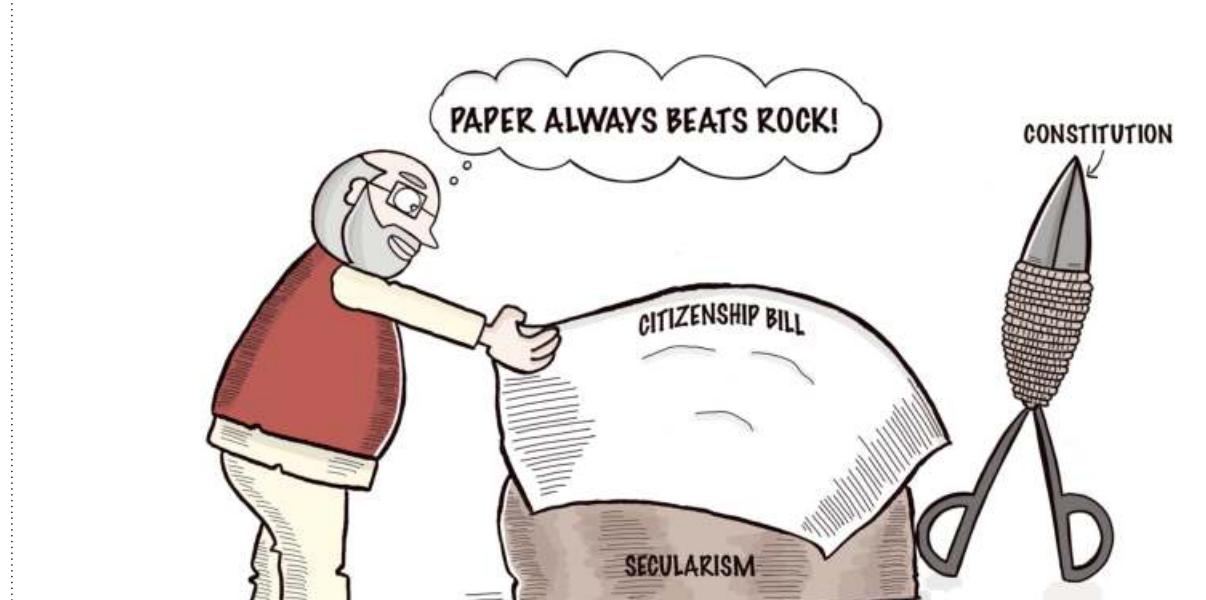
And such criticism has emerged from one of the most pro-India political places in Washington.

Another critic

Consider as well another American government critic of the Citizenship Bill – the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). On December 9, USCIRF released a missive decrying the legislation and calling on the U.S. government to "consider sanctions" against Home Minister Amit Shah and "other principal leadership" if the Bill passes in both legislative chambers. USCIRF too doesn't set U.S. policy on India. Still, it's quite striking to hear an organ of Washington officialdom speaking of sanctioning Indian officials five years after the Obama administration ended its visa ban on Narendra Modi.

This isn't to say that the bilateral relationship is about to take a major plunge. Indeed, the State Department, the Defense Department and the White House remain firmly on board with U.S.-India strategic partnership. Still, at least in some quarters, Washington's love affair with Modi's India has hit a rough patch.

Michael Kugelman is Deputy Director and Senior Associate for South Asia with the Asia Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, DC



NOTEBOOK

News that goes around comes around

Journalists cannot depend on just one source of information

SRI RAM SRINIVASAN

You might have heard the story of the native Indians and the weather forecast.

Here's how it goes: Winter is coming, and the native Indians ask their chief how bad it will be. The chief tells them he will get back after listening to nature's secrets.

It's the modern era, and there are meteorologists around. Pragmatic as he is, the chief reaches out to experts in the weather station, who tell him that the winter is going to be colder than usual. When this is communicated to his people, they start cutting more wood than usual.

After some time, the chief reaches out again to the weathermen. This time the forecast is of an even harsher winter. And again, after the chief tells his people this, much more wood is cut. This goes on for a few more cycles, and in the

final exchange the meteorologists tell the chief that it's going to be the harshest winter ever. By now, the pragmatic chief is sceptical. How did you figure this out, asks the chief. Their answer: "The Indians are cutting wood like crazy."

It's a story alright, and a funny one at that, but it may not be a bad starting point to understand how people form views as well as spread cheer and fears. Also, an important lesson if you are a journalist: don't depend on just one source of information.

I learnt this lesson quite early in my career, as they say many moons ago, when I worked briefly for a business wire agency. I was then working as a reporter and one of my tasks was to religiously track the cotton market in which varieties with fascinating names like Shankar-6 and Bengal Desi abound. Often referred to as 'white gold,' cotton has

been considered valuable since ancient times. But in the world of commodities where oil and metals rule, cotton is easily inconspicuous. It's an utterly low profile item – so low profile that, back then, there used to be only a few analysts who tracked the commodity. And they were low profile too!

On the flip side, tracking cotton gave a journalist an understanding of not only the agriculture side of things but also its end use in textile manufacturing, garments, and branding. Its importance to the well-being of the textile industry, the second largest employer after agriculture in India, cannot be ignored. At that time, however, my concern was in writing multiple stories a day, sometimes on how cotton will fare in the market – both the physical one as well as the future ones.

Over time, I found a few analysts who were helpful with their insight. Once, many days after perfecting this daily routine, I wrote a piece on why prices could stiffen in the coming days because of unseasonal rains in many cotton-growing regions of the country. I don't vividly remember the conversation that I had with one of those routine analysts the next day but what I very well remember is the lesson. I reached out to him as usual, seeking insight. He gave me some. I asked him for the reasons. He hesitated a bit, and said, "You yourself have said so in your report yesterday."



FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 13, 1969

President addresses Governors

The President, Mr. V. Giri to-day (December 12, New Delhi) called upon the Governors to face new situations with sagacity and impartiality, and free from political pressures or party bias. Mr. Giri, who was inaugurating the annual conference of the Governors at Rashtrapati Bhavan said: "The Governor's position today is becoming increasingly important. The Governor's action and inaction are open to the public gaze and often public criticism." The President hoped that in the discussions of the conference, the Governors would exchange views based on their personal experience and evolve norms and conventions which might facilitate their work and help in laying down proper standards. He laid considerable stress on the responsibilities of a Governor in the new context and said that his role had assumed special significance. "To-day, more than at any time before, the Governors are called upon to face situations which were perhaps not fully envisaged when our Constitution was framed."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DEC. 13, 1919

The Australian Flight.

London, December 9. – The Report of the Advisory Committee on civil aviation on imperial air routes, and the speeding up of inter-imperial communications unhesitatingly decide that the initial route should be between Great Britain and India and ultimately from India to Australia. The Report therefore recommends the development of a route from Egypt to India. It considers that Imperial routes will be best developed by private enterprise backed by state assistance, which latter should consist of the provision of meteorological and wireless services and air ports, including shed for running purposes the necessity of additional expenditure on the development of air ports will be determined by experience. The Report recommends that some of the surplus material of the Air Force should be distributed gratis in Great Britain and the Colonies and the ban prohibiting civil aviation in Egypt and India should be removed. The Committee states that the present report is confined to a discussion about heavier than air machines. It will present a report on lighter than air machines later. The Committee also has only investigated the establishment of main trunk lines between the United Kingdom and the principal parts of the Empire.

CM YK

FROM PAGE ONE

Anti-CAB protests rage through Assam

A government order said Mr. Singh was posted as ADGP, Law and Order, pending repatriation from central deputation "in the interest of public service".

The State has indicated a crackdown on protesters with more than 5,000 paramilitary personnel, besides the Army, deployed in sensitive areas. It has also instructed the local authorities to take action.

RTI activist and peasant leader Akhil Gogoi was arrested in Jorhat district as a preventive measure, offi-

cials said. A senior official of the Jorhat administration said Mr. Gogoi was taken into custody to avoid any "untoward incident" in the district, as well as other parts of the State by his supporters.

As protests continued, Assam Assembly Speaker Hitendra Nath Goswami in statement said doubts over the CAB were not baseless, and there was a strong possibility of it creating divisions if implemented.

(With inputs from Viju Singh, PTT)

Opposition objects to advisory for TV channels

"Information and Broadcasting Ministry advisory to TV channels tantamount to media censorship. Stop intimidating the media. A second emergency," Mr. O'Brien tweeted.

Congress leader Pranav

Jha tweeted: "By issuing this advisory, is the Government actually ordering the Media to not show protests against the #CAB? After internet ban, this is Media ban. Repression at any cost. Condemnable to say the least."

IIP shrinks again in October; inflation up

The electricity sector contracted sharply by 12.2%, compared with a contraction of 2.6% in the previous month.

"The growth story is driven by a continuing fall in demand, and the inflation spike is driven by seasonal factors," Mr. Srivastava ad-

ded. "If the government had anticipated this, it should have filled in the gaps by imports and inflation would not have spiked."

Within the CPI, food inflation climbed to 8.66% in November compared with 6.93% in October, which itself was a 39-month high.

Hyderabad 'encounter': SC forms panel

The Telangana government, represented by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, welcomed an impartial probe.

The government said it had registered an FIR against the four dead accused for attempting to murder policemen. "We don't think your trial for non-existing, dead accused will take you anywhere," CJL Bobde firmly dismissed the submission. In fact the court found an FIR against dead people "rather odd" as it was obvious that "no prose-

cution is contemplated against dead persons who can neither be tried nor convicted".

The four accused were taken to the scene of the crime around 60 km from Hyderabad in the early hours of December 6 for a re-construction of crime scene. The Telangana government stuck to its version that the accused men surprised their police escort there, grabbed their guns and tried to kill the policemen to escape custody.

IN BRIEF



INTERVIEW| P. CHIDAMBARAM

'It is a clear signal, a blunt signal to Muslims'

You can live and work in India, but you will not be entitled to rights, says former Minister

SANDEEP PHUKAN

NEW DELHI

In this exclusive interview, his first after his release on bail in the INX Media case, former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram speaks of the Citizenship Bill and the ills plaguing the economy.

Now that the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) has been passed, where do you go from here? Your tweet did hint that the Bill might be challenged in the Supreme Court.

■ It's not a hint. It will happen. I think already a number of people are getting ready to challenge the Bill. Whether political parties will formally challenge the Bill, I cannot say, but it will be challenged by a number of concerned citizens and groups.

Assam has virtually erupted, other States in the Northeast are also pretty tense. Why do you think the government went ahead at this time?

■ Government was taken by surprise when it found that the bulk of the 1.9 million people finally excluded under NRC (National Register of Citizens) were Bengali Hindus. That's what Derek O'Brien [Trinamool Congress MP] said in Parliament. Now the bulk of them are Bengali Hindus. It's very unlikely though that all of them are illegal migrants. They had to find a

Fall in onion output caused price spike'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

"There is a shortfall of over 15.8 lakh tonnes in onion production, which has caused a spike in onion prices," said Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar in Lok Sabha, replying to a discussion on crop loss and its impact on Citizenship (Amendment) Bill.

"There is definitely a shortage of onions...The current problem [price rise] is due to this. And this is natural. Our government has taken several measures, including banning its export and allowing import," he said.

Talking about the shortage, the Minister said the States placed the expected onion production at 69.9 lakh tonnes in November, but actual onion production was likely to be 53.73 lakh tonnes. To deal with the problem, the government had banned the export of onions and ordered imports, said Mr. Tomar, adding, "I have also written to the Chief Ministers to take steps to deal with the issue." Speaking on other farmer-related issues, Mr. Tomar said the government was working to make the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna more beneficial to farmers.

Mr. Pralhad Joshi said it was, in fact, the Congress that was instigating violence in the region, and the government condemned it. His remark prompted an uproar among the Congress members, who walked out.

In the Rajya Sabha, as Home Minister Amit Shah reiterated the government's resolve to prepare a nationwide National Register of Ci-

Uproar in Parliament over CAB

Kashmir model replicated in northeast: Adhir; Cong. instigating violence: Joshi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The government and the Opposition clashed in the Lok Sabha on Thursday after Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi accused the Congress of stoking protests and instigating violence in the northeastern region following the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill.

During Zero Hour, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the entire region was in flames, barring a few places. He said the violence stemmed from the passage of the Bill and the apprehensions of the people about the consequences.

"The Kashmir phenomenon is being replicated in the northeastern region; it has become a Kashmir, and it is seeing a similar Internet shutdown. The situation in Kashmir has not normalised because of these people [the ruling party members]..."

Mr. Pralhad Joshi said it was, in fact, the Congress that was instigating violence in the region, and the government condemned it. His remark prompted an uproar among the Congress members, who walked out.

In the Rajya Sabha, as Home Minister Amit Shah reiterated the government's resolve to prepare a nationwide National Register of Ci-



On fire: The violence in Assam found an echo in Parliament on Thursday. ■ PTI

tizens (NRC), Congress MP Rajeev Gowda asked the government on Thursday to spell out what it would do with those excluded from the list in view of the deplorable condition in Assam's detention camps, where the death toll was rising.

Plight of NRC-excluded
Mr. Gowda said "now-illegal immigrants" would be housed in these camps after the NRC was published in the State. Nearly 19 lakh individuals had been excluded from the list, and the government had not sent them any letter, spelling out the reasons for their exclusion. The excluded were supposed to file corrective petitions at

the foreigners' tribunal with supporting documents to prove their Indian citizenship.

He spoke about a 2.5-hectare camp, one of the proposed 10, that is operational in Goalpara district. "While officials claim that the camps will be better than prisons, media reports and the past history paint a different picture. As per the latest reports, the death toll in detention centres has reached 28. The reasons range from consumption of unfit food and insanitary conditions to suicide."

In January 2019, the government circulated a 'model detention centre manual' to all the States and Union

Territories, which had not been made public. "In response to questions raised in Parliament, the Home Ministry said there would be 'sufficient toilets, communication and medical facilities'.

This reply led to more questions such as what did "sufficient" mean? what are the communication facilities and how can they be used? Given the segregation by gender, how often can members of the same family interact? Will they be permitted to work? How long will they be detained? "This is a humanitarian issue. At the very least, the government should be transparent about the process and the future of detainees," he said.

Sena gets Home, NCP Finance, Cong. Revenue

Cabinet expansion after winter session

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Fifteen days after swearing in ceremony in Maharashtra, the government has finally announced the portfolio distribution in the state, ahead of winter session of the legislature to begin from December 16. At present six ministers will handle all portfolios and Cabinet ex-

pansion will take place after the session.

While Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has not taken any portfolio, the Sena's Ek Nath Shinde will be the new Home Minister. Mr. Shinde will also handle Urban Development, Environment, Water supply and sanitation, Tourism, MSRDC and Parliamentary Affairs.

Nationalist Congress Party's Jayant Patil will handle

SC, ST quota in Parliament extended

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Parliament on Thursday passed a Constitutional amendment giving a 10-year extension to reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies and ending the provision for nomination of two Anglo-Indians.

The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2019, was passed unanimously by the Rajya Sabha, two days after it was passed by the Lok Sabha. All 163 members present voted to pass the amendment, after a heated exchange between the ruling party and the Opposition. While the Congress and Trinamool MPs staged a walkout during Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad's reply, they returned in time to vote.

The Bill extended the reservation for SCs and STs in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, which was due to end on January 25, 2020, for 10 years, the seventh such 10-year extension given since the Constitution was enacted in 1950. However, the Bill also ended the provision for nomination of Anglo-Indians to.

SC dismisses 19 Ayodhya review pleas

One petition said the verdict had a direct impact on the secular fabric of India



We have carefully gone through the review petitions and the connected papers filed therewith. We do not find any ground whatsoever, to entertain the same
FIVE-JUDGE BENCH LED BY CJLS. A. BOBBE

sion, said. Review petitions are usually examined for merit in the chambers.

If the judges find any reason for a review, they would order open court hearings, during which lawyers from both sides would present their arguments.

Several illegalities'

Among the review petitions is one filed by Maulana Syed Ashhad Rashidi, president of

the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind. He said the judgment rewarded "the several illegalities committed by the Hindu parties, particularly in 1934 [damaging the domes of the Babri Masjid], 1949 [desecrating the Babri Masjid] and 1992 [demolition of the Babri Masjid]."

A petition filed by 40 prominent persons said the verdict had a direct impact on the secular fabric of the

country. They include Irfan Habib, Harsh Mander, Farah Naqvi, Nandini Sundar, Shabnam Hashmi, John Dayal and Jayati Ghosh, among others.

The verdict had declined the Muslims' claim of title over the disputed land but allowed them five acres somewhere else in the area as compensation.

The unanimous judgment was originally delivered by a Bench of then CJL Ranjan Gogoi, Justices S.A. Bobde, D.Y. Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S. Abdul Nazeer. Interestingly, it did not carry the name of the judge who wrote it for the Bench.

Justice Bobde succeeded Justice Gogoi as CJL on the latter's retirement in mid-November and Justice Sanjiv Khanna replaced Justice Gogoi on the Review Bench.

back but he doesn't seem to be interested. There seems to be confusion.

■ The Congress has a problem.

We have found a temporary solution to the problem by asking Mrs. Gandhi to assume the Office of interim leader. And I think eventually the Congress leaders have to sit down together and find the leader who will run the party machinery.

See, running the party is one thing from leading the nation. Sometimes it will be a happy coincidence, the party leader can also be the leader of the nation. But at the moment we need party leaders to lead the party at the Centre and in the States.

When you look back at those 106 days, what comes to your mind?

■ What comes to my mind is that our criminal justice system, at least, the procedural criminal justice system, appears to be badly broken. It requires to be repaired. There are 14,000 undertrials in jail and nobody gets bail. And many of them would have spent seven-five years.

Let me underline that the procedural criminal justice system is badly broken.

(Full interview on bitly/ChidambaramInterview)

tion signed between the J&K ruler and the Government of India.

However, the two past judgments, both by five-judge Benches of the Supreme Court, gave contradictory viewpoints on Article 370. The 1959 one, *Prem Nath Kaul versus State of Jammu and Kashmir*, indicated that Article 370 was applicable only till the J&K Constitution was enacted on January 26, 1957. After that, no further changes could be made to the relationship between India and J&K.

But the judgment reported in the 1970 *Sampath Prakash versus State of Jammu and Kashmir* case ignored the 1959 verdict and concluded that Article 370 was permanent in nature and a "perennial source of power" for the Centre to govern its relationship with the State of J&K.

The petitioners challenging the abrogation of special status of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday urged the five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court to refer the case to a larger Bench. Appearing before the Constitution Bench led by Justice N.V. Ramana, senior advocate Dinesh Dwivedi, appearing for economist Prem Shankar Jha, said there was a "direct conflict" of opinion between two judgments, one of 1959 and the other of 1970, about the nature and extent of Article 370. The President's notification on August 5 abrogated the special status of J&K by blunting Article 370, which sources the privileges accorded to the erstwhile State in accordance with the assurances which was made in the Instrument of Accession of J&K.



Name of Patient: Sivakesava, 7 years.
Hospital Name: Christian Medical College,
Diagnosis: T Cell Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma. His treatment is for 3 years and total Cost of treatment is Rs. 7,00,000/-
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A ND-NDE

INTERVIEW | RAM MADHAV

'Citizenship Bill is intended to address Partition-related fallout'

The legislation is for empowering minorities, giving them an opportunity for claiming citizenship, says the BJP general secretary in charge of northeast India

NISTULA HEBBAR

BJP general secretary and party in-charge for northeastern States Ram Madhav says the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, fulfils the party's promise to undo the harm of Partition and give an opportunity to those in a stateless condition.

The passage of the Bill in Parliament has set off unrest in the northeast, especially Assam. Wasn't there an anticipation of this reaction?

■ The Bill passed in the Rajya Sabha yesterday [Wednesday] is another historic commitment fulfilled by our government and party.

It will open doors for those waiting for many years in an almost stateless condition in our country for citizenship. It is unfortunate that some parties and groups are trying to mislead the public by portraying it wrongly. This Bill is for the entire country, it is not for excluding anybody. In the northeast, largely the situation is normal and peaceful. There was some issue in Tripura, which we have resolved through dialogue and negotia-

tions. The tribal groups have met and discussed their issues with Chief Minister Biplob Kumar Deb, and announced yesterday that they are withdrawing the agitation.

The only State where there are some protests is Assam. Prime Minister [Narendra] Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have both said this Bill is not against the interest of any State. We are reassuring again that the Government of India and Assam take the responsibility for protecting the State's culture and language; we are committed to the implementation of the Assam Accord, especially Clause 6, which is all about providing constitutional and legal and other mechanisms for protection of the identity of Assam.

A major criticism of the Bill

is that it specifically excludes Muslims.

■ The Bill is for empowering minorities, giving them an opportunity for claiming citizenship. This Bill is specific to minorities for a particular reason. During Partition, which was on the basis of religion, there was huge migration, both ways. We had taken care of citizenship issues in the first three years, but many more came over the years as the two countries, Pakistan and Bangladesh, became Islamic Republics. Many influxes continued over the years.

Today, those things have abated, at least from Bangladesh, but continue from Pakistan. Even now a large number of the Scheduled Caste people come over the border fearing persecution. It's a clear case of religious persecution as a fallout of the religious partition of this country. We had accepted them in the immediate aftermath of Partition. We accepted them after the Bangladesh war. In the latter case, under



the Indira-Mujib Accord, we accepted 1.5 million minorities who had migrated to India but denied them citizenship. So they lived here as our people but without citizenship. This Bill will provide an opportunity to these people to claim citizenship; we are not thrusting it on anybody nor denying it to anybody else.

But, as was pointed out in Parliament by the Opposition, Balochs, Hazaras, Ahmediyas are also groups that can be included under the rubric of the religiously persecuted.

■ Historically, India has been

related fallout, this number is huge.

What is the number?

■ Exact number is not known, but in the 1970s when the Indira-Mujib agreement happened, at that time itself the number was 1.5 million.

There is a charge against the government that the Bill has been brought solely as part of the BJP's strategy in West Bengal, to create a Hindu vote bank of those who have come over from Bangladesh into West Bengal.

■ It is not proper to link this decision to elections. You know that polls are more than a year-and-a-half away. If that was our intention, then what was to stop us bringing this in the next year, closer to the polls. The whole objective was to fulfil our commitment, one which we have made to the people before the Lok Sabha election.

Bangladesh Foreign

Minister A.K. Abdul Momin has cancelled his trip to Delhi and there seems to be much hurt feelings over the parliamentary debate over the Bill in Bangladesh and in Afghanistan. Has the government shot itself in the foot diplomatically?

■ Every effort will be made to ensure that there will be no adverse diplomatic fallout. This Bill is, as I said, in a way, a continuation of the efforts to sort out the unfinished fallout of Partition. For example in 1950, the then Union government had promulgated a Bill called the Expulsion of Illegal Immigrants from Assam Act. When the issue of migrants fleeing persecution across the border was brought to Pandit Nehru's notice, at that time too, it was decided such people would be exempted from the purview of expulsion. I have already mentioned the Indira-Mujib Accord.

What we are doing is that those migrants who had come over into India, living here, would be given an opportunity to claim citizenship. We are not using any coercive stance against any other country. So no other country's interests are in anyway affected by this Bill. It's not going to be a prospective Bill. There is a cut-off date of December 31, 2014.

Home Minister Amit Shah has said a nationwide National Register of Citizens is coming. There is an apprehension that it will be used to strategically disenfranchise some communities.

■ That is a baseless fear. No country in the world allows non-citizens the rights of citizens, and has its own ways of determining citizenship. The last time such an exercise was undertaken in India was in 1951. Late Home Minister, CPI's Indrajit Gupta who served in the Gujral government, had said in Parliament that there were 1.25 crore illegal residents, but we have never tried to identify them. So the exercise will be to repeat the 1951 exercise.

Kashmir model imposed on Assam, says Opposition

'Internet, media blacked out, Army deployed'

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

Condemning the deployment of paramilitary forces and suspension of the Internet in Assam and Tripura, Opposition leaders said the Kashmir model was being imposed in the northeast by the Modi government.

"They have brought the Kashmir model to Assam and the northeast. Internet has been suspended, media blackout has been advised by this government. They don't want people to know what is happening in Assam and the rest of the northeast. Trains and flights have been cancelled. Army has been brought out on the street," Gaurav Gogoi, Congress MP from Assam, told *The Hindu*.

Rajya Sabha MP and Congress Assam State president Bodoland Peoples Front's Biswajit Daimary said the go-

Ripun Bora said, "The situation in Assam is worse than in Kashmir. Eleven districts are under curfew, there have been police firing at nine places. Paramilitary forces have overrun the State".

Union Minister and Dibrugarh MP Rameswar Teli said that his uncle's shop was set on fire and the boundary wall of his house was damaged by protesters on Wednesday night.

Rajya Sabha MP and Congress Assam State president

vernment needed to speed up the report of high-level committee on Clause 6 of the Assam Accord that promises to safeguard the interest of Assamese people from the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. "We supported the Bill because Home Minister assured us that Schedule Six areas will not be affected," Mr. Daimary said.

"There has to be a way of settling these protests by negotiations," K.G. Kenye, Naga Peoples Front MP, said.



Uncontained rage: People taking to the streets during a curfew in Guwahati on Thursday. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

Civil rights groups hold protests in Kolkata

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Scores of civil rights groups organised protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill here on Thursday, while celebrations were witnessed outside the State headquarters of the BJP. The Trinamool did not organise any protest. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who was busy at the Bengal Business Summit in Digha, called a

meeting of MPs and the MLAs to chalk out a strategy to counter the Bill.

BJP workers at the party headquarters came face to face with Congress supporters who were taking out a rally. A few hours later, tensions prevailed in the area when a few students of Presidency University, less than 200 metres from the BJP office, marched with copies of the Constitution.

India faces a diplomatic challenge

U.S. legislators express concern

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

Soon after the Rajya Sabha passed the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, reactions from U.S. lawmakers, raising concerns about the implications of the Bill, have continued.

"Today, we witness yet another potentially devastating move by the Prime Minister, as lawmakers enacted his draconian Citizenship (Amendment) Bill. However, this action is not unexpected, considering the history of Mr. Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party and

mocracy. Earlier, the Ministry had reacted strongly to the Commission for International Religious Freedom favouring sanctions against Home Minister Amit Shah and other senior leadership.

its connections to strident communalism. This is yet another attempt to effectively reduce Muslims in India to second-class citizens," Andre Carson, an Indiana Democrat and member of the U.S. House of Representatives, said in a statement.

Earlier this week, the House Foreign Affairs Committee had tweeted about the Bill, calling it a "religious test for citizenship".

"Any religious test for citizenship undermines this most basic democratic tenet. #CABBill," it said.

Shortly after the Bill was cleared in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, Congressman Andre Carson issued a statement criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi for what he called a "draconian"

Bill which attempts to "reduce Muslims in India to second class citizens". Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar on Thursday said, "We have reached out to the members of the U.S. Congress and to other stakeholders to share our perspective on the Bill. We feel that given our strong engagement with the U.S. Congress and others within the U.S., we do expect that the Congress members will take into account our views before taking a position on the Bill."

India hit out at Pakistan

and its Prime Minister Imran Khan's tweet accusing the Modi government of furthering a "Hindu supremacist agenda".

"Instead of casting aspersions on others, Pakistan needs to look inwards and ensure protection and promotion of the right of its minorities," the spokesperson said.

(With inputs from Kallol Bhattacharjee)

Mobile Internet services withdrawn in Meghalaya

Deteriorating law and order situation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHILLONG

The Meghalaya government on Thursday withdrew mobile Internet and messaging services across the State for the next 48 hours following the deteriorating law and order situation triggered by protests over the contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, officials said. The services have been withdrawn since 5 p.m., they added.

Curfew imposed

The district administration in Shillong has also clamped curfew in areas under two police stations in view of the "serious" deterioration of law and order. The curfew will come into effect from 10 p.m. on Thursday till further orders, they said.

The petition said the Bill flagrantly "discriminates" against religiously persecuted Muslim immigrants from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh. The petitioners include prominent IJML leaders.

Sangma postponed a scheduled meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah as his Cabinet colleagues failed to reach the Guwahati Airport to board a plane to Delhi amid violent protests in the neighbouring State.

Mr. Sangma, who had managed to reach the LGB airport, however, left for the national Capital, official sources said. He was scheduled to meet Mr. Shah, along with his Cabinet Ministers, to seek total exemption of Meghalaya from the purview of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill.

The CM had visited western Meghalaya earlier in the day. He took a separate route to reach the airport, on the outskirts of Guwahati. His Cabinet colleagues, however, were stuck in violence-hit Guwahati," a source said.

Bangladesh and Afghanistan ties, Shinzo Abe visit under a cloud

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

In the wake of a statement from United States Congress members on the Citizenship Amendment Bill, the Union government has spoken to lawmakers across parties in Washington, the External Affairs Ministry said on Thursday.

New Delhi is grappling with the diplomatic and logistical fallout of the Bill on relations with Bangladesh and Afghanistan and the coming visit of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

In particular, the Ministry said it had noted a statement from the bipartisan House Foreign Affairs Committee that had said that any "religious test for citizenship" would undermine Indian de-

pendability. Earlier, the Ministry had reacted strongly to the Commission for International Religious Freedom favouring sanctions against Home Minister Amit Shah and other senior leadership.

The Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) on Thursday moved the Supreme Court against the Bill, a day after it was passed by the Rajya Sabha, saying the law violated the basic and fundamental value of the Constitution that "all should be treated equally alike" and should be struck down for violation of the fundamental right to equality under Article 14.

The IUML is the first off the block even as opposition parties are expected to move the court against the Bill, which ostensibly bestows the benefit of Indian citizenship by naturalisation to illegal immigrants from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh who are

opportunity to claim citizenship. We are not using any coercive stance against any other country. So no other country's interests are in anyway affected by this Bill. It's not going to be a prospective Bill. There is a cut-off date of December 31, 2014.

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Small parties could be kingmakers in U.K.

Lib Dems, DUP, SNP or Brexit Party could play a decisive role if leading parties fail to win majority

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

LONDON
If British Prime Minister Boris Johnson fails to win an absolute majority in Parliament on Thursday, smaller parties may find themselves holding the trump cards in negotiations to form an alliance. Some opinion polls suggested that Mr. Johnson's Conservative Party would fail to gain majority as most polls showed the gap between the Conservatives and Labour narrowing on the eve of the election.

Here are the parties who could hold the keys to power.

The 'Remainers'

Under Jo Swinson, 39, the Liberal Democrats hope to capture the votes of "Remainers" with a clear message to cancel Brexit, pitching themselves as the pro-EU party, as opposed to the pro-Brexit Conservatives and undecided Labour.

The Lib Dems, who came second in EU elections in May, have seen their ranks swell after defections by dissident pro-EU Conservative MPs. But polls suggest they could lose some of their 21



Final countdown: Leader of Liberal Democrats Jo Swinson taking a selfie in Sheffield. ■REUTERS/FILE

seats. The promise to cancel Brexit has proven unpopular among even eurosphiles.

The party's role in a coalition government in the early 2010s, a period marked by severe austerity, has also turned off voters on the Left.

Their failure "to capitalise on their distinctive position on Brexit" was "perhaps the biggest surprise of the election campaign," pollster John Curtice said.

Northern Ireland's DUP

With no absolute majority in 2017, the Conservatives were

forced to join forces with Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party to govern.

But the immovable stance of the ultra-conservative party's 10 MPs on Brexit was the decisive factor in the failure of Conservative Prime Minister Boris Johnson to get the divorce deal he had reached with the EU through Parliament.

The party also opposed an agreement negotiated between Brussels and Mr. Johnson's predecessor Theresa May, contributing to her

downfall. They believe Mr. Johnson's deal will lead to a border between Northern Ireland and mainland Britain, which they fear could stoke growing momentum for a united Ireland. The DUP is the main party in Northern Ireland and is led by 49-year-old Arlene Foster.

Scottish party
The Scottish National Party (SNP), which wants Scotland to split from the rest of Britain, has capitalised on the 2016 Brexit referendum – in which more than six out of

10 Scots voted to stay in the EU – to breathe life into its campaign.

Led by energetic First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, 49, the party has campaigned under the slogan "Stop Brexit", believing the vote to leave has exposed a permanent ideological rift between Scotland and the rest of Britain. The party's progressive ideology means it could theoretically join forces with the Labour Party.

But its demands to hold a second independence referendum in 2020 and its opposition to Britain's Trident nuclear programme could complicate negotiations.

The Brexit Party

The new party is the latest vehicle of chief eurosceptic Nigel Farage.

His party won the European elections in May, weeks after its official launch, leading to Theresa May's departure and a pro-Brexit shift within Tory party. Despite an intervention by his friend Donald Trump, Mr. Farage has struggled to compete against Mr. Johnson, who warned against splitting the Leave vote.

Gotabaya promises media freedom under his govt.

Uphold country's reputation, President tells media houses

MEERA SRINIVASAN

COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Thursday assured that media freedom will not be hindered in any form during his tenure, according to a statement from his office.

Addressing heads of local media institutions, he said that while there was an opportunity for "reasonable criticism", he expected every media institution to fulfil its obligation towards the country, by "engaging in favourable media reporting" to uphold the country's reputation.

The statement quoted him as saying: "People of this country elected me to the office of the President with great expectations. Enhancing the efficiency of politicians and public officials, elimination of corruption and the economic development are some of the priorities among them. As such I expect the fullest support and cooperation of media towards achieving these objectives."



Gotabaya Rajapaksa

fence establishment, Mr. Gotabaya, a former Defence Secretary, squarely denied the charges. The CID's submission pertained to the assassination of well-known newspaper editor Lasantha Wickrematunga, in January 2009. In the last month, at least one news website was raided, while two other online journalists were "questioned". An editor of a Vavuniya-based Tamil newspaper was also questioned in November allegedly over publication of "LTTE-related" photographs, local media reported.

"No doubt that there is a big fear factor now," said senior journalist and commentator Victor Ivan, a former editor of Sinhala weekly newspaper *Ravaya*. "A lot of journalists who merely covered and followed issues as part of their job now feel threatened under the new government," he told *The Hindu*, adding that the previous government, "although foolish", was "relatively much better" for media freedom.

According to international press freedom advocate Reporters Without Borders (RSF), at least 14 journalists were murdered during the 2005-15, when Mahinda Rajapaksa was President.

In 2017, when the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) told a magistrate in Colombo about "top-secret death squads" reportedly linked to the de-

mands of the new president.

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16 killed in Ukraine college fire

Firefighters pull out two more bodies after eight-day search

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

KIEV

Firefighters have pulled two more bodies from a college building in Ukraine's southern port of Odessa that burned in a spectacular fire last week, authorities said on Thursday, bringing the number of dead to 16.

Prosecutors have arrested the director of the college on

charges of professional negligence and placed her under house arrest.

The bodies of the last two people missing following the fire were found late on Wednesday, the emergency services said in a statement.

30 injured

Firefighters spent eight days combing through the debris

of the six-storey building, which caught fire last Wednesday. Another 30 people were injured in the blaze, with eight still in hospital as of Thursday.

The College of Economics, Law, and the Hotel and Restaurant Business is in central Odessa and gets around 400 graduates per year.

50 lawyers arrested after attack on Lahore hospital

Five patients died as doctors, staff fled

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LAHORE

Pakistan police on Thursday arrested 50 lawyers for attacking a cardiac hospital, which led to a melee, in which five patients died as they were left unattended.

A large number of lawyers, including women, forced their entry into the Lahore's Punjab Institute of Cardiology (PIC) to avenge what they said was an assault by doctors on a fellow advocate weeks ago.

Interestingly, Prime Minister Imran Khan's nephew Barrister Hassan Khan Niazi was also among the attackers.

Police, however, did not lay a hand on him.

"PM's nephew Hassan Khan was caught on camera in PIC attack but the police have been stopped from arresting him, PML-N lawmaker Azma Bokhari said.

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MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	40,582	0.42
US Dollar	70.83	-0.03
Gold	38,564	0.18
Brent oil	64.60	0.94

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	372.70	2.80
Asian Paints	1750.65	12.45
Axis Bank	722.10	5.55
Bajaj Auto	3261.45	-7.20
Bajaj Finance	9169.25	90.15
Bharti Airtel	438.65	-4.10
BPCL	491.75	9.10
Britannia Ind	3073.55	32.55
Cipla	461.05	11.10
Coal India	190.15	3.00
Dr Reddy's Lab	2095.65	17.85
Eicher Motors	2195.55	41.75
GAIL (India)	118.95	1.65
Grafix Ind	774.20	6.80
HCL Tech	536.35	-7.45
HDFC	2318.45	-3.20
HDFC Bank	1263.60	14.85
Heron MotoCorp	2334.05	37.75
Hindalco	201.45	4.85
Hind Unilever	2007.35	-3.10
ICICI Bank	535.35	1.80
IndusInd Bank	1444.15	23.50
Bharti InfraNet	252.20	-2.40
Infosys	702.10	-18.95
Indian Oil Corp	128.10	2.55
ITC	238.55	0.95
JSW Steel	255.60	5.65
Kotak Bank	1715.60	29.05
L&T	1279.70	15.40
M&M	511.90	4.15
Maruti Suzuki	6999.80	6.60
Nestle India Ltd.	14154.95	88.95
NTPC	114.45	1.45
ONGC	125.90	-2.10
PowerGrid Corp	184.75	3.00
Reliance Ind	1568.20	5.80
State Bank	321.85	9.05
Sun Pharma	434.15	4.35
Tata Motors	173.35	11.55
Tata Steel	418.70	13.15
TCI	2020.90	-21.00
Tech Mahindra	756.45	-1.50
Titan	1188.00	8.45
UltraTech Cement	3992.10	-9.05
UPL	569.95	8.90
Vedanta	144.00	5.50
Wipro	239.45	-0.60
YES Bank	45.35	2.55
Zee Entertainment	284.30	0.85

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	70.63	70.95
Euro	78.64	78.99
British Pound	92.99	93.41
Japanese Yen (100)	65.00	65.29
Chinese Yuan	10.04	10.08
Swiss Franc	71.85	72.21
Singapore Dollar	52.05	52.29
Canadian Dollar	53.63	53.87
Malaysian Ringgit	16.97	17.05

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

December 12 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses

Retail Silver (1g) 46.9... (46.6)

22 ct gold (1g) 3602... (3597)

Source: Indian Bank

Will pay GST compensation to States: FM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

With States not being paid compensation for loss of revenue due to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) implementation since August, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said that the Centre would honour its commitment and no one should doubt [this].

Replying to the debate on supplementary demands for grants in the Rajya Sabha, she said the central government has released ₹9,783 crore in excess of collections made from GST cess.

She, however, did not reply to questions as to by when the Centre would clear the dues of States.

IRDAI forms group to study loss prevention

It will also mull ways to minimise loss

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

A ten-member working group has been constituted by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to suggest segment-wise ways and means to improve loss prevention and loss minimisation in the general insurance industry.

The move is aimed at all stakeholders working together towards a common end on a common platform.

Though a crucial aspect for the insurance industry, loss prevention and loss minimisation measures have remained very company-specific, sources among insurers said.

There may be considerable overlap in the way companies approach the issue, yet there is little in terms of knowledge-sharing, something that the working group sought to formalise.

Domestic air passenger traffic grows 11% in November

Void left by Jet's closure filled by induction of aircraft by other airlines

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Growth in domestic air passenger traffic returned to double-digit figures for the first time this year in November, as Indian carriers altogether saw an 11% growth in passenger demand last month compared with the same month last year, as per DGCA's monthly data.

Airlines ferried 129.47 lakh passengers last month compared with 116.45 lakh passengers in November 2018.

November also saw the largest number of passengers compared with all other months. The trend is an indicator of how the airline sector has been able to make up for the reduction in capacity after Jet Airways' exit, by in-

Taking off



ducting new aircraft. There are now 628 aircraft among different carriers compared

with 529 in April when Jet Airways shut its operations, leading to the grounding of

Bharat Bond ETF opens for subscription

Anchor book subscription at ₹2,980 cr.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The public issue of Bharat Bond ETF, the country's first corporate bond exchange-traded fund aimed at retail investors, opened on Thursday.

The ETF will invest only in AAA-rated bonds of public sector companies.

The ETF, which is an initiative of the Government of India through the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), will be managed by Edelweiss Asset Management Company.

"The NFO of Bharat Bond ETF, the first corporate bond ETF of the country, the fund house said in a release.

was launched today.

"The anchor book was oversubscribed by 1.7 times at ₹2,980 crore. The offer will remain open for all investors from December 13 to December 20," the DIPAM Secretary said in a tweet.

Green shoe option

Through the ETF, Edelweiss Mutual Fund proposes to raise an initial amount of ₹3,000 crore with a green shoe option of ₹2,000 crore in the 3-year maturity period (2023) and ₹4,000 crore with a green shoe option of ₹6,000 crore in the 10-year maturity bucket (2030), the fund house said in a release.

"In fact, the company's fi-

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

The Schall Law Firm, a national shareholder rights litigation firm based in California, has filed a class action lawsuit against digital transformation major Infosys for "making false and misleading statements to the market."

The lawsuit filed accused Infosys CEO Salil Parekh of avoiding standard reviews of mega deals to get rid of scrutiny. It also alleged that the Bengaluru-based tech firm used improper recognition of revenue to boost short-term profits.

Based on these facts, the company's public state-

IOC, OIL in race for Bharat Petroleum's Numaligarh unit

Oil India already holds 26% stake in the refinery

PIYUSH PANDEY

MUMBAI

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) and Oil India Limited (OIL) are in the race to buy Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited's (BPCL's) 61.65% stake in Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL), according to sources in the know of the development.

SpiceJet continued to lead in passenger load factor with 92.8% of its seats across flights sold, followed by GoAir (92.7%) and IndiGo (91.4%). In market share, IndiGo cornered 47.5%, followed by SpiceJet with 16.1% and Air India with 12.1%.

GoAir was the most punctual with 67.6% of its flights on time, followed by Vistara (67.4%) and Air Asia (66.7%).



■ THE HINDU ARCHIVES

BPCL holds 61.65% stake in the NRL while OIL and Assam Government hold 26% and 12.35%, respectively.

Eyeing synergies

For upstream OIL, NRL will be an opportunity to become an integrated energy company. Acquiring BPCL's 61.65% stake will increase OIL's stake in NRL to 87.25%.

A senior OIL official told *The Hindu*, "Given an opportunity, we would like to buy BPCL's stake in NRL as we already have 26% stake there. We both have a lot of synergies."

According to Moody's Investors Service, the sale will reduce BPCL's capital spending as it is one of the largest projects that the firm is working on.

"We will definitely look at (NRL)," an IOCL board member said, without elaborating.

Vipin Sondhi named Ashok Leyland CEO

Mandate is to drive growth, strategy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Commercial vehicle manufacturer Ashok Leyland Ltd. (ALL) has appointed Vipin Sondhi as the CEO and MD for five years from December 12.

Mr. Sondhi would drive technology transition, growth and future strategy for the flagship company of the Hindujas as well as the group's global automotive portfolio. He had been inducted recently as a director on the board, said the company in a filing.

Mr. Sondhi succeeds Vipin Dasari, who stepped down on March 31, 2019 citing personal reasons.



Mr. Sondhi has more than three decades of experience in manufacturing and engineering sectors.

He was earlier MD and CEO of JCB India and member of JCB's global executive team.

Fed keeps rates on hold

REUTERS

WASHINGTON

The U.S. Federal Reserve on Wednesday held interest rates steady and signalled borrowing costs will not change anytime soon, with moderate economic growth and historically low unemployment expected to persist through the 2020 presidential election.

In its final policy meeting of a tumultuous year, when it was spurred to cut interest rates 3 times to forestall a slowdown fuelled largely by President Trump's trade war, the U.S. central bank struck a sanguine tone, confident the actions it had taken so far are working. "Our economic outlook remains a favourable one, despite global developments and ongoing risks," Fed Chair Jerome Powell said.

posit rate at minus 0.5% and its main refinancing rate at zero. Doubts have grown about how much good additional central bank action can do to support developed economies; the U.S. Federal Reserve kept interest rates unchanged and signalled it would leave them alone through 2020.

officer and senior V-P, Engineering, Dominique Malenfant, said, "Our technology team in India will be crucial to bring breakthrough technologies to the industries we serve. Our new design and development centre will facilitate collaboration between our development hubs across the U.S. and Europe to further our innovation." Wabtec has over 27,000 employees, of whom over 5,000 are technologists. The company employs over 3,000 people in India. The new centre has over

Public performance
(clockwise from right) A DCM Football match in Ambedkar Stadium in 1983; Nehru Hockey Championship at Shivaji Stadium held the same year; Iranian women supporters at a DCM match in 1995; Prithvi Nath Sharma Memorial Basketball Tournament at Ajmal Khan Park in 2005

■ THE HINDU ARCHIVES



Delhi's vanishing sports tournaments

VIJAY LOKAPALLY

Winter in Delhi used to bring people out of their houses to enjoy peanuts, sport, and a spot of afternoon sunshine. In some cases, when the sun set on the grounds of the Roshanara Club, and the cricket continued, hip flasks would emerge, and a pushcart man would supply local *chakna* from across the wall.

Ferozeshah Kotla, Ambedkar Stadium, Shivaji Stadium, Ajmal Khan Park, Lodhi Colony's central park were some of the popular spots that attracted sport-lovers. Cricket, hockey, and football were played during the day; volleyball and basketball late in the evening, under lights. Table tennis and badminton went into indoor spaces like St Columba's School and the RBI hall, where business was conducted during the day and matches in the evening.

Sadly, this sporting activity has declined in Delhi, and while there are many reasons – the emergence of other entertainment options, the fascination with big-ticket events, and stadia restricting entry – one of them is the death of major city competitions like the DCM

The culture of catching a match of a winter evening, just for fun, no longer exists in Delhi



Cup (football), Nehru Hockey (that now has a shifting location) and the Master Prithvi Nath Sharma basketball tournaments.

Sport enthusiasts in Delhi used to have a rich choice to plan their day. "We would soak in the sun at the Ferozeshah Kotla during Ranji Trophy matches, watching some of the big stars of the game. Next door was football at the Ambedkar Stadium," recalls S. Ganesh, a sports-marketing consultant who now lives in New York, but craves a day of sport-watching in the Capital. There is little for him to enjoy.

The DCM Cup held its final edition in 1998 when Mohun Bagan won the title. "It was the first tournament to bring foreign clubs to Delhi. We saw some World Cup players in action at the Ambedkar Stadium. The stands would be packed and spectators got to see some memorable matches with clubs from Korea, Germany, and Iran," remembers veteran sports scribe Jaydeep Basu.

Trips to Ambedkar Stadium and

Ferozeshah Kotla would include a welcome dash to Old Delhi where kebabs, kormas and chaat would go with goals and runs. Since football matches had a paid entry, spectators would enter Kotla for free and from its upper galleries, watch the action at Ambedkar Stadium. At times, the players on the field at Kotla would be pleasantly 'disturbed' by the thunderous roar from the Ambedkar Stadium at a goal scored or one saved.

Shivaji Stadium was the destination for hockey lovers. Some of the finest players would produce electrifying action, keeping spectators entranced during the Nehru Cup and Sanjay Gandhi tournaments, always in winter. These brought great business to the samosa sellers. There was always a queue here, and it was a tough decision whether to miss the action before or after half-time.

It was common for people to watch a game at Ambedkar and then rush to Shivaji Stadium, depending on the stars engaged in the matches. S. P. Singh, a businessman who never missed a game in the capital, would be 'consulted' by scribes who popped out for sa-

mosas, and missed some part of the action. He was an authority on sports in the capital.

There were some who would squeeze in a visit to the Ajmal Khan Park to enjoy the Prithvi Nath basketball tournament (which ended a decade ago). The cold of winter was forgotten once the warmth from the courts spread to the temporary stands. Hundreds from nearby residential areas would flock to watch the basketball contests, and to consume some of the best bread pakoras and hot milk.

The central park, adjacent to the bus stop in Lodhi Colony, would stage volleyball matches in the evening where office-goers would break journey to enjoy tea and the game. Similarly, tourists, waiting for a delayed train at New Delhi, would spend time at the Karnail Singh stadium to catch some cricket and *chhole-kulche* from the Sita Ram Diwan Chand outlet in nearby Nahargarh.

Table tennis tournaments such as Manav Sthal and Surjeet Kaur, have vanished from Delhi's calendar. So has the city's local winter-sporting culture where even inter-colony matches were well-attended, and the warm *chai* flowed into foggy nights.

PEOPLE

Sugar rush

Rachel Goenka, in her first cookbook, *Adventures with Mithai*, gives traditional sweets a contemporary makeover



The foundation of Rachel Goenka's first cookbook, *Adventures with Mithai*, was laid seven years ago when she started the European restaurant The Sassy Spoon in Mumbai. The Le Cordon Bleu-trained chef, says, "Every Diwali, I would come up with a specific festive menu. The desserts would be predominantly Indian with a contemporary flair to them, similar to the recipes you see in the book. But the recipes I had at The Sassy Spoon were plated desserts and you can't expect a home-baker to do that. It was a challenging yet rewarding process, adapting Indian ingredients, especially sweets, to a Western palate and balancing those flavours."

Comprising 50 recipes, the book is sorted into desserts, cheesecakes and cakes, truffles, macarons, ice creams, *kulfis* and sorbets. There's a lot to satiate the adventurous pastry enthusiast: from the lemongrass panna cotta with vermicelli *kheer*, and Mysore pak and tender coconut domes to the ras *kadam* cheesecake, *kaju katli* truffles and *rasmalai* ice cream.

On how she decided on which *mithai* would find a place in her book, Rachel says, "The book actually had to be a representation of India. It couldn't just be sweets that were predominantly, say from Kolkata or

Gujarat. I purposely didn't use something like a *jalebi* because it's overdone. But I tried to cover as much of India as possible. Obviously, there was so much more I could do, but [the question was also] could those sweets actually translate into a contemporary dessert. There was a lot of trial and error. I also looked at which *mithai* was easily available to people."

This means that not only is there an *rasmalai* and *elaneer* (coconut) pudding from the South, there is also a bitter chocolate *nap naang* (a black rice pudding from Nagaland).

On whether one needs to have some level of skill to follow the recipes in her book, Rachel clarifies, "Not really. Someone who has baked a cake two or three times can easily execute any of these recipes. Keeping in mind that the book is for a home baker who is interested in playing around with *mithai* and doing something with it."

But is the book only for those who like their sweets... well, sweet? Or can calorie watchers also enjoy them? Says Rachel, "I have a recipe for a granola bar. The *nap naang* is extremely healthy too with black rice and dark chocolate."

While Rachel states that Mysore pak is her favourite, there is also an ode to childhood in the form of the Jim Jam macaron. She laughs, "People love the Jim Jam macaron. But my favourite is the Kashmiri Kahwa tea macaron because it actually tastes like a cup of Kahwa tea."

Available online and at bookstores; from Harper Collins, ₹899

APARNA NARRAIN

FOOD SPOT



RAHUL VERMA

Fare for the crisp air

Kadak Singh da Dhaba has food that takes you back to the cold hills with its hot rotis and simple curries

the ordinary. So I surfed some more, and found out that there was a restaurant called Kadak Singh da Dhaba from where I could order food using one of the delivery apps.

I looked at the menu and liked the sound of the Chicken Dhania-Adhrakh (₹350). So we asked for that, as well as a plate of Mutton Curry (₹350) and Palak Kofta (₹240).

The eatery is in G-4 Parmesh Tower, Karkardooma Community Centre (Phone numbers: 9582305565 and 9811436635). I placed my order on Zomato, and the food arrived just in time for dinner. The containers came with a sticker of Kadak Singh da Dhaba – of a Sardarji on a motorcycle, apron in place, and holding what promised to be a nice chicken dish.

The food wasn't bad at all.



Spinach's the trick
Palak Kofta; Chicken Dhania Adhrakh

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

seeds and ginger.

The menu is limited, but there are some interesting dishes on it.

For vegetarians, they have Malai Chaap, Pudina Chaap, Paneer Korma, Dal Punjabi, Dal Makhni and Dal Hand, among other dishes.

I was contemplating ordering their Rogan Josh before settling for the mutton curry. The menu included Tandoori Chicken, Afghani Chicken, Mutton Seekh Kabab, Chilli Chicken, Mutton Masala, Mutton Tawa, Mutton Kabab Masala. On social media, the eatery says that its butter chicken is among its most popular dishes. But I had just ordered the dish two nights earlier from Roomaligarh, another eatery that I had discovered last year, so decided to give it a miss.

My encounter with Mr Kadak Singh left nothing to complain about. After all, it ended up reminding me of the hills.

The writer is a seasoned food critic



FOOD

New menu

Masala Gully, a restaurant which specialises in North Indian cuisine, has introduced a new menu for the onset of winter. The main course includes dishes like Kathal ke Kofte, Mathaniya Mirch Paneer, Ustadji ka Chicken Masala, Ande Keema Kofta Curry, Champaran Meat, Rajasthani Laal Maas, and more.

VENUE: Sector 53, Gurugram

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



DANCE

Indian classical

Navaneetham Cultural Trust presents Nrityath 2019, a festival showcasing young, upcoming artists in classical dance. This two-day festival, which begins today, will feature a Bharatanatyam dance by Kapil Sharma, a Mohiniyattam by Kalamandalam Sheena Sunil, and a Kuchipudi recital by Ayana Mukherjee.

VENUE: Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

GIG

Bollywood hits

Imperfecto Shor Club is hosting Papon, live tonight. Angaraag Mahanta, better known by his stage name Papon, is a multi-instrumentalist, composer, producer and singer from the Assam. He will be playing some of his Bollywood hits like Banao, Kyun (from *Barfi!*), Humnava (from *Hamari Aadhi Kahanii*), and more.

VENUE: Hotel Pride Plaza, Aerocity

TIME: 10 p.m. onwards

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



EXHIBITION



PERFORMANCE

Kathak recital

India Habitat Centre is hosting a solo Kathak recital by Shivani Varma, a disciple of renowned danseuse Guru Shovana Narayan, this evening. The event will be followed by a Sufi dance presentation by Kathak exponents Vidha Lal and Abhimanyu Lal. The duo will be accompanied by noted Sufi singers Roohani Sisters.

VENUE: The Stein Auditorium, IHC

TIME: 7 p.m.



FOOD

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TIME: 10 p.m. onwards



Need for speed
Spectators watch racers gear up for the race at MMRT, Irungattukottai (bottom) Aditya Patel and Armaan Ebrahim

Blazing a new trail

With their XI Racing league, Indian racers Armaan Ebrahim and Aditya Patel want to make motorsports accessible to a mass audience

RACING DNA

Six teams took part in the inaugural season of XI Racing.

1. TEAM BENGALURU
- Bangalore Racing Stars

2. TEAM CHENNAI
- NK Racing

3. TEAM HYDERABAD
- Blackbirds Hyderabad

4. TEAM MUMBAI
- Mumbai Falcons

5. TEAM DELHI - AD Racing Delhi

6. TEAM AHMEDABAD - DG Racing

Bangalore Racing Stars were crowned champions of the inaugural season.

PRADEEP KUMAR

The inception of Indian Premier League in 2008, let in bucket loads of entertainment to go with the on field action and broadcasters and governing agencies of various sports since then have tested their luck with the league format. There has been since then a league for football, hockey, badminton and kabaddi dominating prime time space on television.

This is one of the reasons that pushed Armaan Ebrahim and Aditya Patel to conceptualise a franchise ownership model-based league for motorsports, the first of its kind anywhere in the world.

Motorsports is very niche as far as India is concerned. Ebrahim and Patel, both racing professionals, admit that in the over 15 years spent racing the circuits they have only come across the "same set of people" – the ones whose families have a history with motorsports.

Yet, the duo says, of the six franchisees who bought into their brainchild, XI Racing league, five had no background in motorsports. "Except for Naraian Karthikeyan," says Patel, who is one of the biggest names in Indian racing and owns the league's Chennai team, NK Racing.

Breaking new ground
Armaan and Aditya want to break the notion of motorsports being non-accessible for the masses. A league format with city-specific

franchisees makes it easier to attract followers because, as Aditya adds, "there is a city affinity" that is absent in manufacturer-based race events."

The teams in XI Racing were a mix of Indian and international drivers, including female racers, and the league also had its own quirky rule interpretations – like driver changes, which is very uncommon in races involving open-wheel cars. "You had men against women, men teaming up with women, Indians versus international drivers..." says Armaan. "Change of drivers added an element of surprise, and for the audience to see this action happening in front of them, it was exciting," recalls Aditya.

The league was not without its issues, from criticism over the use of older cars to those automobiles breaking down on the track multiple times and causing racers to drop out.

Gaurav Gill, the rally champion, who raced for the Delhi team, describes it as a "chicken-and-egg situation."

"It is where you need the money first to make a good league but the sponsors need to see a good

C For now, XI gives the owners a chance to dip their fingers in at a low cost. It is the cheapest league that someone can buy into

product first before investing. I think there was a fallout with a race car manufacturer at the last moment. So, they had to resort to other options they could find. It was bad luck... something they could not foresee," he comments.

While Armaan says it is anyway not a standard practice to build a new race car every year, Aditya explains that keeping costs down to a minimum was a big factor in opting for an older car.

"Also, a lot of the youngsters were not able to handle the more advanced cars. They would have gotten completely overshadowed by the international drivers.

We wanted to bring a level playing field where the young racers would have been able to showcase the talents," he says.

When it returns next year, XI Racing will, in all certainty, have a different set of cars. "You learn and you move forward, right? A change in car will eradicate most of the issues we faced this season," says Armaan.

Since it looks like the duo is in it for the long run, what about expansion plans? India only has

three FIA grade race tracks (the Buddh International Circuit in Delhi, MMRT in Irungattukottai and Kari Speedway in Coimbatore).

Last year, the Government of Andhra Pradesh announced that a new FIA grade race track will come up in Ananthapuram district. "There are ongoing talks for newer tracks in Maharashtra and in Karnataka," says Aditya.

In fact, there were discussions to open up a street circuit in Navi Mumbai area but cost became the villain, again. "It is ridiculously expensive, and India is too young in motorsports. For now, XI gives the owners a chance to dip their fingers in at a low cost. It is the cheapest league that someone can buy into (₹2.5 crore per year). They are only paying for operational costs. Once we start to expand, maybe, we can incorporate street circuits," hopes Armaan.

For now, the focus is on building interest in the league by holding eSport events in Indian cities, which will offer a simulated experience of real time racing. The duo believes that interest in eSport can translate into passion for motorsports, and, when it does, they will be there to lend a helping hand for ambitious talents to make the step up to domestic circuits from the virtual world.

And with people like Naraian Karthikeyan and Gaurav Gill throwing their weight behind XI racing, the possibilities are huge.

(with inputs from Praveen Sudevan)

OWNERSHIP

TEAM CHENNAI
- Naraian Karthikeyan

TEAM DELHI - Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Tahnoun bin Saeed bin Tahnoun al Nahyan

TEAM HYDERABAD - Akhilesh Reddy

TEAM AHMEDABAD - Dhaval Gada

TEAM MUMBAI - Ameet Ghadoke

TEAM BANGALORE - Naina Parekh

The races were held on November 30 and December 1 at the Buddh International Circuit in Delhi, and on December 7-8 at the MMRT in Chennai.

According to Patel, there were "a few thousand spectators" at both the venues.

Tickets for the event can be booked online on platforms like bookmyshow.



POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



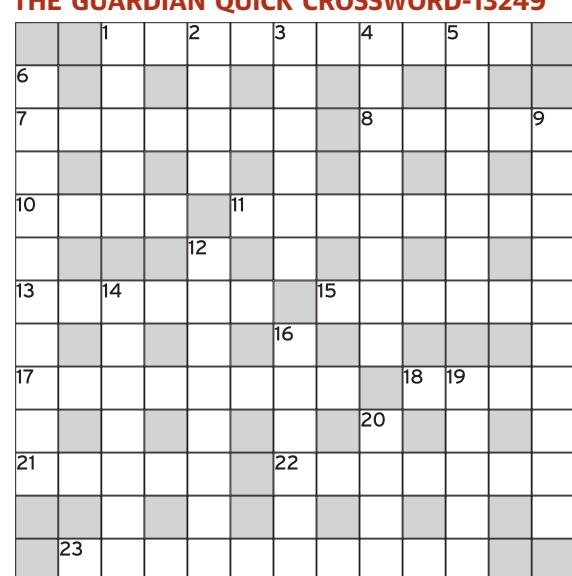
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBES



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13249



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- 2 Mistake – small piece of paper (4)
- 3 Running fast (6)
- 4 Unconsciousness induced by drugs (8)
- 5 Large house (7)
- 6 Gets rid of unnecessary jumble (10)
- 9 Maker of timepieces (10)
- 12 Strong emotional attachment (8)
- 14 Popeye the Sailor's vegetable of choice (7)
- 16 Go bad – turn from liquid into solids (6)
- 19 Author of *The Female Eunuch*, b.1939 (5)
- 20 Lament noisily (4)

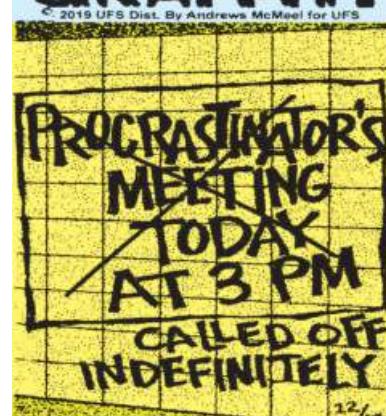
Solution will appear in The Hindu dated December 14, 2019.

Solution No. 13248

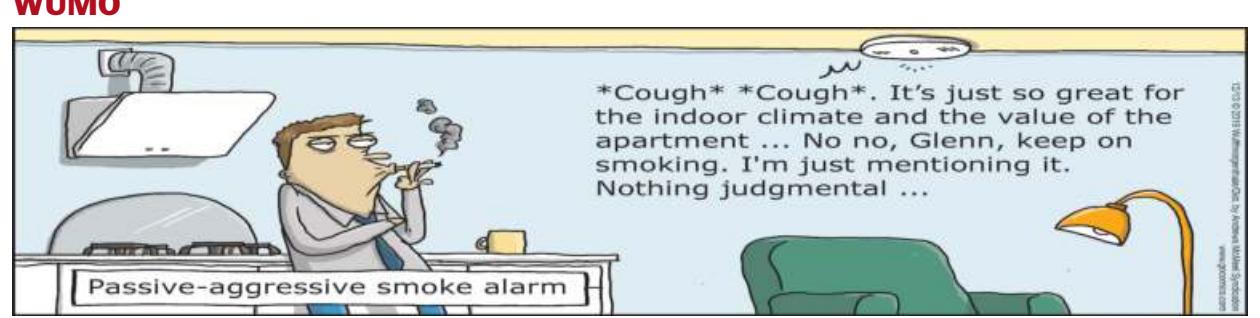
TIGER



GRAFFITI



WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



ACROSS

- 1 Art of good eating (10)
- 2 Postscript to a literary work (8)
- 3 Expressing poetic sorrow for something past (7)
- 4 American stock farm (5)
- 5 Form on which a shoe is made (4)
- 6 Even more snobby (8)
- 7 Canopy over a four-poster bed (6)
- 8 Tyrolean style (6)
- 9 Postscript to a literary work (8)
- 10 In excited eagerness (4)
- 11 Hindu male religious teacher (5)
- 12 Traders – leaders (anag) (7)
- 13 Titular university head (10)
- 14 Woman's dress in (5)
- 15 Speculation (5)

D	I	S	E	N	C	H	A	N	T
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F	I	N	L	L	E	H			
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H	A	I	L	J	L	H			
L	I	S	D	R					
G	E	T	H	I	C	H	E	D	

Both camps will have plenty of positives to take

India shed its confusing approach while batting first; Windies' build-up for the T20 World Cup on the right track

WI IN INDIA

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

India may have run away with the series by raising its standard when it mattered most, but the manner in which the T20I series versus West Indies panned out over the last week, both camps will have plenty of positives to take from three games.

Despite losing the series, West Indies will be a happy bunch going into the ODI series, which starts at Chepauk on Sunday.

Captain Kieron Pollard admitted that some of the individuals – especially the likes of Kesrick Williams, Hayden Walsh, Shimron Hetmyer, and Lendl Simmons, besides himself – have ensured that the Windies build-up for the T20 World Cup in Australia next October is on the right track.

India, on the other hand, should treat the series win as yet another mixed bag. The biggest gain was the manner in which India shed its confusing approach while batting first in the decider at Wankhede Stadium.

All through 2019, as captain Virat Kohli described it, India has been "too tight and hesitant" while batting first. It resulted in the batting unit falling short of par score – as was the case in the second match in Thiruvananthapuram.

It was incredible to witness the manner in which Rohit Sharma, K.L. Rahul and Virat Kohli unleashed themselves from the word go. They may not get such batting-friendly conditions over the next year, but if the troika

can sustain the confidence it earned from the blitzkrieg, it will definitely augur well for India going into the global extravaganza.

It was heartening to see Rahul coming good and making the most of his opportunity to open the innings in the absence of an injured Shikhar Dhawan. His performances will give the selectors a problem of plenty when they sit down to finalise the combination for the forthcoming contests.

While Rishabh Pant's inability to transcend ability into success will continue to be a concern for now, the Indian camp must have been delighted to see Shivam Dube deliver under pressure. The all-rounder – being tried out as a back-up option for the injured Hardik Pandya – scored a classy fifty in Thiruvananthapuram after being promoted to No. 3. Dube, though, has to work harder on his bowling.

Bowling far from stable

The bowling unit, meanwhile, continues to be far from stable.

With Jasprit Bumrah's continuing to be sidelined due to a stress fracture in lower back, the selectors and the team management have been trying out multiple options. Deepak Chahar has been impressive, not just with the new ball but even at the death as he showed in the series. It was heartening to see a fully fit Bhuvneshwar Kumar back in the blues but he was obviously rusty. It would be unfair to judge Mohammed Shami based on one outing.

The butter finger syndrome trickled down to ground fielding as well, with even the likes of Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja misfielding.



Looking good: Shivam Dube, being tried out as a back-up option for the injured Hardik Pandya, delivered under pressure. ■ R. RAGU

India-West Indies T20I Series Top Four

	Name	Innings	Runs	Highest	Avg.	S/R	50/100s
BATTING	Virat Kohli	3	183	94*	183.00	190.62	2/0
	K.L. Rahul	3	164	91	54.66	153.27	2/0
	Shimron Hetmyer	3	120	56	40.00	151.89	1/0
	Kieron Pollard	2	105	68	52.50	181.03	1/0

	Name	Matches	Wickets	BBI	Avg.	Econ.	4/5W
BOWLING	Khary Pierre	3	3	2/44	30.00	11.25	0/0
	Sheldon Cottrell	3	3	1/24	30.33	7.58	0/0
	Deepak Chahar	3	3	2/20	37.00	9.65	0/0
	Kesrick Williams	3	3	2/30	42.33	10.88	0/0

Touchdown



The next leg: Virat Kohli & Co. arrived in Chennai on Thursday ahead of the ODI series set to begin on Sunday.

■ B. VELAKANNI RAJ

Atletico, Atlanta make last-16

Bayern, Real, Juventus and PSG finish with impressive wins

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Atletico Madrid claimed the final spot in the Champions League pre-quarterfinals with a 2-0 win over Lokomotiv Moscow, after Atalanta completed an impressive comeback in Group C to qualify.

Bayern Munich sealed consecutive victories over Tottenham with a 3-1 success at the Allianz Arena, while Real Madrid, Paris Saint-Germain and Juventus also finished their group campaigns on winning notes.

Diego Simeone's Atletico went into its game knowing defeat, coupled with a Bayer Leverkusen win against Juve, would see it dumped out.

Kieran Tripper had a second-minute penalty brilliantly saved by Lokomotiv goalkeeper Anton Kochenkov at the Wanda Metropolitano, but Joao Felix made no mistake from the spot a quarter of an hour later.

Atletico wasted a string of chances and Alvaro Morata had a goal ruled out by VAR



On top: Joao Felix, up, celebrates with his Atletico teammates after defender Felipe scored the second goal against Lokomotiv Moscow. ■ AFP

for offside. But its place in the knockout rounds was secured when centre-back Felipe volleyed home Koke's cross after a short corner routine.

Champions League debutant Atalanta claimed a famous 3-0 triumph at Shakhtar Donetsk to qualify with Manchester City despite having lost its first three games.

The results: Group A: Club Brugge 1 (Vanaken 55) lost to Real Madrid 3 (Rodrygo 53, Vinicius Junior 64, Modric 90+1); Paris Saint-Germain 5 (Icardi 32, Sarabia 35, Neymar 47,

Mbappe 63, Cavani 84+pen) bt Galatasaray 0.

Group B: Bayern Munich 3 (Coman 14, Muller 45, Coutinho 64) bt Tottenham Hotspur 1 (Sessegnon 20); Olympiakos 1 (El Arabi 87+pen) bt Red Star Belgrade 0.

Group C: Dinamo Zagreb 1 (Olmo 10) lost to Manchester City 4 (Jesus 34, 50, 54, Foden 84); Shakhtar Donetsk 0 lost to Atalanta 3 (Castagne 66, Pasalic 80, Gosen 90+).

Group D: Atletico Madrid 2 (Joao Felix 17+pen, Felipe 54) bt Lokomotiv Moscow 0; Bayer Leverkusen 0 lost to Juventus 2 (Ronaldo 75, Higuain 90+2).

The results: Group A: Club Brugge 1 (Vanaken 55) lost to Real Madrid 3 (Rodrygo 53, Vinicius Junior 64, Modric 90+1); Paris Saint-Germain 5 (Icardi 32, Sarabia 35, Neymar 47,

Second loss virtually ends Sindhu's chances

Goes down to Chen Yufei

BWF TOUR FINAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUANGZHOU

Defending champion P.V. Sindhu's campaign in the year-ending BWF World Tour Final was all but over after the Indian lost to China's Chen Yufei 22-20, 16-21, 12-21 here on Thursday.

Just like in her campaign opener against Japan's Akane Yamaguchi on Wednesday, Sindhu squandered a game advantage to lose yet again in 72 minutes, virtually bowing out of contention for the knockouts.

Trailing 17-20, Sindhu staged a dramatic turnaround to score five straight points and claim the first game. However, the Chinese rallied to win the second game after a strong start.

Too good in decider
Chen, who has been in rampaging form this season having won all six of her finals, including the All England Championships, carried the momentum into the decider and left Sindhu stunned

with her wide repertoire of shots.

Coming into the match with a strong 6-3 head-to-head record, Sindhu struggled to match Chen initially, as the Chinese used her smashes to good effect and grabbed an 8-4 lead and then extended it to 16-12.

But the reigning World champion turned it around superbly and clinched the opening game in 24 minutes.

The second game started on an even keel but from 7-7, Chen went ahead before leading 19-12 in favour of the Chinese. With a drop shot, the World No. 2 claimed the second game and restored parity. The second game also lasted 24 minutes.

A confident Chen was in her element in the decider and rarely gave the World No. 6 an opportunity to come back into the Group A match.

Sindhu will play He Bing Jiao on Friday but that could well be a dead rubber as far as her chances of progressing further are concerned.

2020 Sportstar ACES Awards

Readers will have a chance to pick their favourites for the 10 Popular Choice Awards. The top two contenders from each category, based on popular vote, will be sent to a jury, which will decide the winner.

THE NOMINEES

SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR (TRACK AND FIELD)



TAJINDERPAL SINGH TOOR

The shot-putter was the only Indian male athlete to win an Asian Championships gold in 2019. Though he did not qualify for the final at the World Championships in Doha, the 25-year-old was consistent this season. He went past the 20m mark quite a few times, hitting a high at the end of the season and breaking his own National record at the National open in Ranchi with an effort of 20.92m.



AVINASH SABLE

The 3000m steeplechaser, Asian silver medallist in Doha in April, was in tremendous form this year. Two years ago, he had a personal best of 8:39.81s, but went on a National record-breaking spree after that. He improved to 8:29.80s last year and rewrote the mark thrice this year, twice at the World Championships. The Doha performance - he made the final and finished 13th with a new National record of 8:21.37s - helped the 25-year-old qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.



JINSON JOHNSON

A calf injury in the 1,500m final ended his chances in the Asian Championships this year, but Jinson Johnson came up with a stunning run of 3:35.24s in Berlin in September, bettering his National mark by two seconds and earning him a berth at the Doha World Championships. After the high last year, when he won the Asian Games gold, 2019 was a quiet one when it came to major meets. However, Johnson's improvement in quality stood out

To vote, log on to <https://sportstar.thehindu.com/aces-awards>

Rahul – high on entertainment quotient

G. VISWANATH
MUMBAI

The packed house at the Wankhede on Wednesday must have wondered why K.L. Rahul is in and out of Team India.

Someone who cut his teeth in international cricket five years ago with a 110 against Australia in his second Test in Sydney, ought to have established permanency in the national team.

Terrific outing

Rahul plays a brand of cricket that's highly entertaining and excites everyone – in the stands as well as living rooms. On Wednesday, he was terrific, thundering his way to a 56-ball 91 with nine 4s and four 6s.

He has not played enough matches to be anywhere near the boundary aggregate of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, but is only second behind Kohli in the entertainment quotient index.

The Karnataka right-hander, who has the knack of scoring off any ball, seems to have a special liking for the Wankhede surface; last April he made an unbeaten 100

for Kings XI Punjab in the IPL.

When asked whether the Wankhede wicket was better than Hyderabad and Thiruvananthapuram, he said: "I love playing here; any wicket that has pace and bounce is what all batsmen like."

"Wankhede is one such ground where we get to play our shots freely. And the crowd is amazing, electrifying. You just want to be out there in the middle and entertain them, so we love coming to the Wankhede."

Rahul is back in the thick of things and must be a front-runner for the Twenty20 World Cup in Australia. The team has a success rate of 67.65% when he plays (23/34) and 57.89% in the 19 he has not played.

The team management has backed him and he has come back strongly in the three-match series against the West Indies. When he gets going, Rahul looks to score runs that's par for the course and on many occasions he surpasses it. So far he has scored 1,138 runs off 777 balls at 8.79 an over. Incredible!



In his element: K.L. Rahul showed why many think he should be a permanent fixture in the Indian team. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

Bad weather hits match

Sri Lanka progresses to 263 for six

SL IN PAKISTAN

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
RAWALPINDI

Heavy rain and bad light hit the second day of the historic Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka here on Thursday. Pakistan's first home Test since a deadly attack in 2009. Sri Lanka, resuming at 202 for five, had progressed to 225 for five when heavy rain in the morning forced the teams to have early lunch. The stop-start play left both teams frustrated as well as 2,000 fans.

The rock

Having toiled without much success in 40°C heat, the Kiwis fought back late in the day by removing Steve Smith (43) and Matthew Wade (12).

However, Labuschagne was the rock and was unbeaten on 110, with Travis Head

on 20. The leading run-scorer in Test cricket this year, the 25-year-old passed the 1,000-run mark in the five-day format.

Called up for the Ashes in England after Smith was injured, Labuschagne had posted his first two Test centuries in his previous two outings against Pakistan.

He reached

TV PICKS

BWF World Tour Finals: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 8.30 a.m.
NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 9 a.m.
Pakistan vs Sri Lanka: 1st Test, Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 10.30 a.m.
Australia vs New Zealand: 1st Test, Sony Six (SD & HD), 10.30 a.m.
Big Bout League: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
Europa League: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 12 a.m. (Saturday)

IN BRIEF



Leonard stars in emotional return

LOS ANGELES

Kawhi Leonard finished with a team-high 23 points in an emotional return to Toronto as Los Angeles Clippers defeated reigning champion Raptors 112-92 on Wednesday.
The results: Houston 116 bt Cleveland 110; Indiana 122 bt Boston 117; LA Lakers 96 bt Orlando 87; LA Clippers 112 bt Toronto 92; Charlotte 113 bt Brooklyn 108; Chicago 136 bt Atlanta 102; Utah 127 bt Minnesota 116; Memphis 115 bt Phoenix 108; Milwaukee 127 bt New Orleans 112; Sacramento 94 bt Oklahoma City 93; New York 124 bt Golden State 122 (OT).
AGENCIES

Formidables lifts title

KOLKATA

Former champion Formidables outplayed city-based Maharaja 115-58 in the final to lift the team title and claim the Ruia Gold Cup in the Winter National bridge championships at the Netaji Indoor Stadium here on Thursday. Rampage beat Railways-A 79-55 to take the third place.



Ferguson stays Everton caretaker manager

LONDON

Duncan Ferguson is to stay on as caretaker manager of Everton for its Premier League match away to Manchester United this weekend, the club announced on Wednesday. Former Scotland forward Ferguson enjoyed two spells as a player with Everton, amounting to 10 years in total. AFP

Bengal Ranji squad announced

KOLKATA: The Cricket Association of Bengal on Thursday announced a 15-member squad for Bengal's opening Ranji Trophy match against Kerala to be played at Thiruvananthapuram from December 17 to 20.

The team: Abhimanyu Easwaran (captain), Sudip Chatterjee (vice-captain), Manoj Tiwary, Anustup Majumder, Shreerav Goswami (wk), Abhishek Raman, Arnab Nandi, Ashoke Dinda, Ritwik Roy Chowdhury, Ishan Porel, Pradipita Pramanik, Shahbaz Ahmed, Mukesh Kumar, Koushik Ghosh and B. Amit.

ISL

Fighting Delhi thwarts Kerala's plans

Visitors prevent the hosts from pulling off an outright win

A. VINOD
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Delhi's tremendous fight back stopped Kerala from completing an outright win in the Ranji Trophy Elite Group match here on Thursday.

Brilliant centuries

The side staged a comeback with magnificent centuries from Kunal Chandela and Nitish Rana, following the cue set by Anuj Rawat on Wednesday. The side was asked to follow-on after finishing 383 runs in the arrears in its first innings.

Realising that the batsmen had been done in by their own tentativeness on a pitch that turned a bit more on the first two days, the Delhi wicket-keeper-batsman proved that offence is the best form of defence as he took on the Kerala bowlers with gusto.

Chandela and Rana followed suit received with some help from Kerala skipper Sachin Baby. In a situation where the rival batsmen were going for runs, Baby persisted with an attacking field rather than trying to keep the run flow in check.

True, the home side had a massive lead, but banking on that did not help Kerala's cause, as its bowlers, Jalaj Saxena included, failed to bowl the expected line and

length. And when wisdom finally dawned to make changes in the field placements, the game was out of Kerala's hands.

Chandela's 125 came off 219 deliveries and was studded with 11 fours and a six, while Rana's 114 came off 164 balls with 11 boundaries fours and four sixes. The two added 118-runs for the third wicket.

Delhi wiped off the deficit soon after tea and not much later, the match was halted by consensus prior to the start of the 15 mandatory overs with Delhi on 395 for four.

Kerala gained three points from the drawn encounter, while Delhi bagged one.

The scores:

Kerala – 1st innings: 525 for nine decl.

Delhi – 1st innings: 142.

Delhi – 2nd innings: Anuj Rawat b Rahul b Baby 87, Kunal Chandela c Azharudeen b Warner 125, Dhruv Shorey c Nizar b Saxena 20, Nitish Rana b Saxena 114, Jonty Sidhu (not out) 30, Lalit Yadav (not out) 13; Extras (b-1, lb-2, nb-2, w-1); 6; Total (for four wkts. in 112 overs): 395.

Fall of wickets: 1-130, 2-185, 3-303, 4-363.

Kerala bowling: Warrier 13-4-27-1, Asif 6-0-27-0, Saxena 41-2-119-2, Monish 23-0-106-0, Uthappa 2-0-10-0, Joseph 16-1-68-0, Baby 9-0-33-1, Vinod 2-0-2-0.



■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

RANJI TROPHY SCORES, ROUND 1, DAY 4

GROUP A

Andhra 211 & 314/3 in 103.4 overs (C.R. Gnaneshwar 61, Ricky Bhui 100 n.o., K.S. Bharat 102 n.o.) drew with Vidarbha 441. Points: **Vidarbha**



3, Andhra 1.

Hyderabad 233 & 266 in 90.1 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 96, Akshath Reddy 45, B. Sandeep 41, Roosh Kalaria 5/45) lost to Gujarat 313 & 187/2 in 36.4 overs (Priyank Panchal 90, Bhargav Merai 69 n.o.). **Gujarat 0.**

3, Hyderabad 0.

Kerala 525/9 decl. drew with Delhi 142 & 395/4 in 112 overs (Anuj Rawat 87, Kunal Chandela 125, Nitish Rana 114). **Kerala 3, Delhi 1.**

Rajasthan 257 & 168 in 74.5

GROUP C

Services 124 & 279 drew with Assam 162 & 74/5 in 31 overs. **Assam 3, Services 1.**

Mumbai 431 & 409/4 decl. bt Baroda 307 & 224 in 52.4 overs (Viraj Bholase 41, Abhimanyusingh Rajput 53, Deepak Hooda 61, Shams Mulani 4/72). **Mumbai 6, Baroda 0.**

Karnataka 336 & 151 in 65.4 overs (R. Ashwin 4/46) bt Tamil Nadu 30 & 154 in 63.3 overs (Abhinav Mukund 42, K. Gowtham 8/60). **Karnataka 6, TN 0.**

(Akhil 257 & 168 in 74.5 overs (Yashpal Singh 84, Iqbal Abdulla 135) lost to Goa 436/6 decl. & 75/1 in 18.2 overs (Suyash Prabhudessai 49 n.o.). **Goa 6, Sikkim 0.**

PLATE

Sikkim 136 & 374 in 111.3 overs (Yashpal Singh 84, Iqbal Abdulla 135) lost to Goa 436/6 decl. & 75/1 in 18.2 overs (Suyash Prabhudessai 49 n.o.). **Goa 6, Sikkim 0.**

TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Top seed Sumit Nagal and second seed Ramkumar Ramanathan set up a title clash in the men's event of the 39th Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) inter-unit tennis tournament on Thursday.

The two top players of the

country, who had battled together in the Davis Cup tie against Pakistan at Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan, recently, have also been fighting together for their employer Indian Oil.

It was all Indian Oil in the men's doubles final in which Asian Games gold medallists Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan prevailed over Ramkumar and Sumit.

with his pace, though he restrained from any predictions on his performance over the next two days when the qualifying and four races would be run.

"It went very well for me today. First time in MRF Challenge, first time in this car and learning the track.

"It's been nearly two months since I drove a racing car. So, MRF Challenge will provide me with some winter mileage.

Happy with the pace

"The car is good and so also the tyres, I am really enjoying it here. I was quite happy with the pace, though you never know with qualifying session and races still to be run," said Viscaal.

Schumacher said he enjoyed the outing. "New car, new tyres and it was quite fun to drive. It was one of the best cars I have driven in practice session. I was missing half-a-tenths in the quickest laps."

"The track is really difficult and the temperatures were quite high. This car is pretty easy to drive compared to others."

"I chose the MRF Challenge to learn the track for next season. This week, I want to win all the races of course!"

Viscaal was quite pleased

Nagal to meet Ramkumar for the title

TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Top seed Sumit Nagal and second seed Ramkumar Ramanathan set up a title clash in the men's event of the 39th Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) inter-unit tennis tournament on Thursday.

It was all Indian Oil in the men's doubles final in which Asian Games gold medallists Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan prevailed over Ramkumar and Sumit.

Naik 8-2; Ramkumar bt Sudarshan 8-0.

Doubles, final: Divij & Rohan Bopanna bt Ramkumar & Nagal 9-7; **Semifinals:** Divij & Bopanna bt Raunaq Barkati & Siddharth Barali 8-2; Ramkumar & Nagal bt Vijay Kannan & Ranjeet 8-6.

Women, final: Mahak Jain bt Prerna Bhamori 6-3, 6-3.

Veterans, semifinals: Bhushan Akut bt Devoyoti Borpuzari 8-4; Hakim Ali bt Subhash Rajora 8-4.



THE HINDU GROUP

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Cast your vote for the

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and watch them claim the prize at

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Male:	G. Sathiyan (Table Tennis)	G. Prajesh (Tennis)	Saurav Ghosal (Squash)
Female:	P. V. Sindhu (Badminton)	Archana Kamath (Table Tennis)	Joshna Chinappa (Squash)



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Snowdon primed to deliver in feature

BENGALURU: Snowdon, who has been well tuned, is expected to score in the Vidhana Soudha Trophy (1,400m), the main event of the races to be held here on Friday (Dec 13). Friege rails (width about 3m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be position.

1. BELGAUM STAKES (1,400m), rated 0 to 20, 2-15 p.m.: 1. Barog (3) M. Kumar 60, 2. Custom Cut 60, 3. Desert Gilt (10) K. Raghu 60, 4. She's Stylish (9) Vinod Shinde 60, 5. Brightside Of Life (7) Arvind Kumar 59, 6. Bazinga (6) Rajesh K 57, 7. Emerald Green (4) Sharif 55, 8. Phoenix Reached (5) T.S. Jodha 53, 9. Apathamitra (2) Vivek 53 and 10. Turf Prospector (1) J.H. Arul 52.

1. CUSTOM CUT

Anand looks back on a satisfying journey

Almost everything I want to do, I've done, says the Grandmaster

CHESS

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

It seems like yesterday that India was warming up to this exciting chess talent.

This was bound to happen when, in the span of five months – between August 2 and December 30, 1987 – a teenager named V. Anand moved from being the country's first World Junior champion to the first Grandmaster!

Almost 32 years later, at 50, Viswanathan Anand has delivered far more than he once promised. In the pro-

cess, Vishy, as he is known in the chess world, revolutionised the sport in India.

Bringing joy

True to his name, Anand brought joyous times for a nation starved of world beaters. Five world titles across three formats, two World Cups and triumphs spread over tournaments, worth winning.

In an illustrious career spanning over three decades, and counting, the former World No. 1 was ranked in the top-10 list for nearly 25 years!

"Like all life stories, when it started I had no idea of the

destination," said Anand. "As they say, it's been glorious. Almost everything I want to do, I've done. I can look back with a lot of pleasure. But I think you really only look back when you do it for others."

Anand said he had learnt most of life's lessons through chess and that whenever he looked back on events he did so in the context of what it meant in chess terms.

On his book, *Mind Masters*, to be released on Friday, Anand said: "For a lot of people, this will be the closest they come to the mind of a chess player.

"I think there are far more

Indians who follow my results than those who follow the moves.

"So I hope that they will become acquainted with my chess journey and also my life lessons. And get a deeper understanding of me as a person, as well. So in that sense, it's meant for the non-chess audience and for people who are curious in some way."

Asked whether he felt age impacted his recent performances, Anand was candid.

"I've noticed I've become much more unstable, I've become much more inconsistent. And before I had a sense of control or feeling a

sense of control. I realised now looking back and forgetting the little details. I think the past looks much better now, than when it was present," he said.

Extra time

Returning to the present, Anand said, "I'm proud of the last few years, that I'm able to fight, in what is becoming a very young sport very fast.

"Now, it feels like the whistle has been blown, but the referee has given a bit of extra-time, like in football. And it feels like, I know, this is just fun. And of course, you still have to challenge yourself."



Master of the game: Vishy, as Anand is known in the chess world, revolutionised the sport in India. ■ RAJEEV BHATT

Dhruv Sunish goes down fighting

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
CAIRO

Dhruv Sunish fought hard but was beaten 6-1, 6-7(7), 6-1 by Facundo Juarez of Argentina in the first round of the \$15,000 ITF men's Futures tennis tournament in Cairo, Egypt.

The results:

\$15,000 ITF men, Cairo, Egypt: Singles (first round): Facundo Juarez (Arg) bt Dhruv Sunish 6-1, 6-7(7), 6-1.

Omar El-Moslemey (Egy) bt Atharva Sharma 6-2, 6-2; Giulio Colacioppo (Ita) bt PC Vignesh 6-4, 6-0.

\$15,000 ITF men, Doha, Qatar: Singles (first round): Simon Freudenthal (Swe) bt Haadin Bava 6-2, 6-1.

\$15,000 ITF women, Cairo, Egypt: Singles (first round): Nada Fouad (Egy) bt Aaliyah Ibrahim 6-4, 6-2.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Emma Belluomini (Ita) & Malvika Shukla bt Julia Klimovicz (Bra) & Katarina Sopkova (Aut) 6-3, 6-3.

Internationals dominate opening day

Woods-Thomas' win brings the lone cheer for USA

PRESIDENTS CUP

REUTERS
MELBOURNE

A Presidents Cup rivalry all but buried by decades of American dominance flickered back to life at Royal Melbourne on Thursday, as the unfancied International team stormed to a 4-1 lead by routing Tiger Woods' USA in the fourballs matches.

Ernie Els' rookie-laden outfit played fearlessly on a gusty day at the sandbelt course as the Internationals secured a day one lead for the first time at the biennial tournament since 2003.

Woods, only the second playing-captain in the 25-year history of the tournament, upheld his end of the bargain, as he anchored a comprehensive 4&3 win with Justin Thomas over Australian Marc Leishman and Chilean debutant Joaquin Niemann.

But that was as good as it got for the U.S. which was



Stunning win: Ancer combined well with Oosthuizen to get the better of the fancied Johnson and Woodland. ■ GETTY IMAGES

consistently bamboozled by Royal Melbourne's undulating greens.

Dream team flops

Dustin Johnson and Gary Woodland had been branded a dream team by U.S. media after their pairing was announced on tournament eve. But they walked off 4&3 losers after a thrashing by South Africa's Louis Oosthuizen and Mexican debutant Abraham Ancer.

The results: International leads USA 4-1 [Marc Leishman & Joaquin Niemann lost to Tiger Woods & Justin Thomas 4 & 3; Adam Hadwin & Im Sung-jae bt Xander Schauffele & Patrick Cantlay 1 up; Adam Scott & An Byeong-hun bt Bryson DeChambeau & Tony Finau 2 & 1; Hideki Matsuyama & C.T. Pan bt Webb Simpson & Patrick Reed 1 up; Abraham Ancer & Louis Oosthuizen bt Dustin Johnson & Gary Woodland 4 & 3].

The Korean and Dutch way of sports excellence

The former was able to develop into a force in football

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Nation building, best done with sports, was emphasised fluently with the Korean example by the Minister-Counselor for Political Affairs of the Embassy of Korea, Yoo Chang-Ho, during one of the sessions of the Global Sports Summit organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on Wednesday.

Making comparisons with India in terms of being suppressed under the colonial rule, apart from the country being devastated by the Korean war in 1950, Yoo Chang-Ho, explained how sports had played a big part in restructuring the nation, not only as one of the sports power, but also as the 11th largest economy in the world.

The Korean expert revealed that traditional Korean sports were used as the roots to lay a strong foundation for Korean sports.



Yoo Chang-Ho.
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The country was able to develop into a football force, reaching the fourth place in the World Cup when it hosted the mega event, in 2002.

"Korea has participated in all the World Cups since 1966," the Korean said, pointing out the fact that Korea has won 121 Olympic gold medals, including 31 in winter Olympics.

Korea had placed fourth in the medals table when it hosted the Olympics in 1988 in Seoul.

"Our national growth is 2.5%, but our sports growth is 7%.

"Every time we host a major international competition, it mobilises and unites the whole country. There is more development. There is also demand for sports facilities to find an opponent. We keep the cost low. There are about 3000 clubs. Most of the time, it is not about winning," said the Dutch specialist, as he emphasised the need to enjoy sports in all age groups.

He also pointed out that about 5000 coaches at all levels were constantly educated so that they could provide good basics to everyone.

"There is high quality control, and we make sure that coaches are dealing with the children in the best way," he said.

Even as it aspires to become a sports power, India has a lot to learn, in terms of ensuring basic sporting facilities, at least for everyone aspiring to play.

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