

FREE WORKSHOP IAS 2019-20

24th February (SUNDAY)
at 4:30 pm

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WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS



Discussion on
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pattern and
preparation
strategies



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Recent Legislations
and the Dynamic
part of the syllabus



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faculty on how to
master Current
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different streams

IAS FOUNDATION 2019-20

WEEKDAY
Batch 1 : 25th February 2019
Batch 2 : 4th March 2019
Morning : 7 am to 9:30 am
Afternoon : 2 pm to 4:30 pm
Evening : 5 pm to 7:30 pm

WEEKEND
Batch 1 : 2nd March 2019
Batch 2 : 16th March 2019
Saturday : 3 pm to 8 pm
Sunday : 9 am to 8 pm

For Free Registration, SMS or Whatsapp < IAS, Name > to 98736 43487

NEARBY



Boycott everything
Kashmiri: Tathagata Roy

GUWAHATI
Meghalaya Governor
Tathagata Roy on Tuesday
tweeted that he was "inclined
to agree" with an unnamed
retired Army officer's call to
boycott everything Kashmiri,
including the Amarnath
Yatra, as a response to the
Pulwama suicide bombing
that killed more than 40
CRPF personnel on February
14. His tweets have attracted
sharp reactions with some
saying his comments virtually
absolved Pakistan by shifting
the blame for the attack on
Kashmiris.

NATION ▶ PAGE 6

OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 2
DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

AIADMK signs pact with BJP, PMK

Allots five Lok Sabha seats to national party, seven to ally in the State

T. RAMAKRISHNAN

CHENNAI

The All India Anna Dravida
Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) on Tuesday inked
pacts with the Pattali Makkal
Katchi (PMK) and the Bharatiya
Janata Party (BJP) for the
Lok Sabha election, by allotting
seven and five seats
respectively.

This leaves 28 seats, in-
cluding one in the Union Ter-
ritory of Puducherry, availa-
ble to the AIADMK and other
possible allies.

Support in byelection

The PMK and the BJP
pledged support to the ruling
party in the by-election
to 21 Assembly constituencies,
expected to be held
along with the Lok Sabha

Joining hands

AIADMK alliance for Lok Sabha elections

TOTAL NO. OF SEATS

Tamil Nadu: 39

Puducherry: 1

SEATS ALLOTTED SO FAR

BJP: 5

PMK: 7 + 1 Rajya Sabha seat

Piyush Goyal addressing
the media after the deal
was concluded in Chennai
on Tuesday. PTI

AIADMK: Seats to be finalised after
allotment to other allies (Indiya
Jananayaga Katchi, New Justice Party,
Puthiya Tamizhagam, and DMK)



election. It was after a gap of
10 years, for the Lok Sabha
election, that the AIADMK
has reached an understand-
ing with the PMK and after
an interval of 15 years, with
the BJP. On both occasions,
the Dravidian party's allies
drew a blank.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Chief Minister and
co-coordinator
Edappadi K. Palaniswami
and Deputy Chief Minister
and party coordinator O.
Panneerselvam signed the
agreement with the PMK.

Congress seals pact with DMK

B. KOLAPPAN

CHENNAI

The Congress and the DMK
completed seat-sharing
talks and a formal
announcement will be
made in Chennai, TNCC
president K.S. Alagiri said.

"We are satisfied with the
number of seats offered by
the DMK. Either Ahamed
Patel or Ghulam Nabi Azad
or Mukul Wasnik will visit
the city and make the
announcement," he said.
DMK sources said the
Congress would get nine
seats in the State and the
lone seat in Puducherry.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10



ALL IMAGES FROM VIDEO GRABS
 1
 2
 3
 The aircraft grazing each other during the manoeuvre
 The aircraft burst into flames after hitting the ground

We must pay more attention [to preventing such incidents]
 — NIRMALA SITHARAMAN,
 DEFENCE MINISTER

REPORTS ON PAGE 5

Fatal rehearsal

Two aircraft of IAF's aerobatic team Surya Kiran crashed after grazing each other mid-air during a rehearsal for the Aero India show near Bengaluru. A pilot was killed and two others, who ejected, were injured



The aircraft
Hawk MK-132 trainers.
The British-origin Hawks are
made in India by Hindustan
Aeronautics Ltd.

Time of the accident
11:50 a.m.

Accident spot
ISRO Layout near
Yelahanka airbase

The deceased
Wing Commander Sahil Gandhi

Two survivors
Wing Commander V.T. Shelke and
Squadron Leader T.J. Singh



Karnataka
Bengaluru

SC upset at the plight of illegal migrants in Assam centres

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Illegal immigrants should not
languish for long in detention
centres in Assam; instead
they should be repatriated or
deported expeditiously, the
Supreme Court and the
Centre agreed on Tuesday.

The Centre assured the
court that it would hold con-
sultations with the State on a
scheme to expedite deporta-
tion or repatriation of illegal
foreigners and report back to
the Bench, led by Chief Justice
of India Ranjan Gogoi, on
March 13. The court is hear-

ing a petition by activist
Harsh Mander about the di-
moral living conditions in As-
sam's detention centres. The
court noticed that many de-
tinees were kept in these
centres even after they
served their term of im-
prisonment.

"The petition says the
conditions are pathetic, even in-
human. Detention should only
be for a minimum time... For all
these years, these centres were
virtual jails," Chief Justice Gogoi observed.

Solicitor-General Tushar
Mehta submitted that deten-

tion centres had a variety of
recreational facilities, includ-
ing chess, carrom and choice
TV programmes. The Bench
referred to the draft list of the
National Register of Citizens
(NRC) for Assam that left out
40 lakh people.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Cabinet approves new National Electronics Policy

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Tues-
day approved the National
Electronics Policy 2019 aimed
at achieving a turnover of \$400 billion (about ₹26
lakh crore) for the electronics
system design and manufac-
turing sector by 2025, while
generating employment
opportunities for one
crore people.

"The policy will enable
flow of investment and tech-
nology, leading to higher val-
ue addition in the domesti-
cally manufactured elec-
tronics products and in-
creased manufacturing of
electronics hardware for lo-
cal use as well as exports," IT
and Law Minister Ravi Shan-
kar Prasad said.

Incentive schemes
The policy has introduced
"easier to implement" incen-
tive schemes, including an
interest subvention scheme
and credit default guarantee,
to replace some of the exist-
ing ones under the National
Electronics Policy 2012.

It proposes to provide
interest subsidy of 4% on loans
up to ₹1,000 crore on plant
and machinery, an IT Minis-
try official told *The Hindu*.

adding that in case of larger
loans, the subsidy would be
limited to ₹1,000 crore.

The government proposes
to create a fund to provide
default guarantee of up to
75% to banks for plant and
machine loans of up to ₹100
crore. "This will eliminate
the need for small and new
investors to provide third-
party collateral... the
scheme will be on the pat-
tern of credit guarantee being
provided by SIDBI for the
SME sector," the official said.

However, for both these
schemes, consultations are
on with the Department of
Expenditure, the official ad-
ded. They will be launched
once the policy is notified.

To help create an ecosys-
tem, the policy has pitched
for 2.0 version of the Elec-
tronics Manufacturing Clus-
ter Scheme, under which in-
frastructure support will be
provided for a group of in-
dustries that are part of the
product supply chain rather
than individual industries.

It has also proposed a so-
vereign patent fund to ac-
quire intellectual property
for chips and chip compo-
nents.

TRIPLE TALAQ ORDINANCE
TO BE RENEWED ▶ PAGE 10

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Pakistan will hit back if India strikes, says Imran

Guarantees action if given actionable intelligence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Breaking his silence on the
Pulwama terror attack, Paki-
stani Prime Minister Imran
Khan on Tuesday warned India
that Islamabad would re-
taliate if New Delhi decided
to take punitive military ac-
tion against it.

In a televised address, Mr.
Khan said, "If you think that
you will launch any kind of
attack on Pakistan, Pakistan will
not just think about retalia-
tion, Pakistan will retaliate."

Speaking five days after
the car-bomb strike carried
out by the Pakistan-based
Jaish-e-Mohammed, he said,
"There will be no other op-
tion [for Pakistan] but to
retaliate."

Using a mix of Urdu and
English, he said, "We all
know that it's in a person's
hands to begin a war, but it's
not in his hands to end a
war. Where this will go, God
knows better. That's why I
hope better sense will
prevail."

'Victims ourselves'
Claiming that India had pre-
sented "no evidence" of Pa-
kistan's involvement in the
Pulwama attack, Mr. Khan
wanted to know what advan-
tage would accrue to Paki-
stan when the country itself
was a "victim" of terrorism.

He felt that India was
"again and again" making
Pakistan the "whipping boy"
instead of starting a dialogue
with Islamabad. He said it
was not in Pakistan's interest
to allow its soil to be used for
a lesson. "What interna-
tional law allows a country to
be judge, jury and execution-
er?" he wanted to know.

PAK. NEVER ACTED ON EVIDENCE:
DEFENCE MINISTER ▶ PAGE 11
'END TERROR SUPPORT' ▶ PAGE 11



If you think that you will
launch any kind of attack
on Pakistan, Pakistan will not just
think about retaliation, Pakistan
will retaliate

We all know that it's in a person's
hands to begin a war, but it's not in
his hands to end a war. Where this
will go, God knows better

— IMRAN KHAN, Pakistan Prime Minister

'Pakistan Army handled JeM'

The Army said on Tuesday
that it killed the Jaish-e-
Muhammad's top
leadership within 100 hours
of the Pulwama terror
attack. "This group was
taking directions from
Pakistan's Army and
intelligence agency, Inter-
Services Intelligence,
directly," Lt. Gen. Kanwal
Jeet Singh Dhillon, General
Officer Commanding,
Chinar Corps, said. ▶ PAGE 11

He promised that if India
provided Islamabad with
"actionable intelligence"
about Pakistani involvement
in the Pulwama attack, in
which 40 paramilitary per-
sonnel were killed, "I guar-
antee action." India, he sug-
gested, should embrace a
"new thought process" and
introspect why young peo-
ple in Kashmir were no lon-
ger scared of death.

PAK. NEVER ACTED ON EVIDENCE:
DEFENCE MINISTER ▶ PAGE 11
'END TERROR SUPPORT' ▶ PAGE 11

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OPPORTUNITIES

WEDNESDAY • FEBRUARY 20, 2019

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

Interns strike it rich

Corporates offer huge stipends to students with the requisite skills; colleges tweak the programme for the latter

LIFFY THOMAS

Company representatives camp at an institution for three days and screen candidates through a series of tests. They offer the cherry-picked talent a fat "compensation package" that comes complete with attractive perks.

Given the time of the year, you might be excused for assuming that we are referring to a campus-interview scenario. It is a campus-interview all right, but one undertaken with the objective of choosing interns.

Corporates are investing heavily in internships that usually last three months, and offering students who make the cut, stipends that are very similar to impressive entry-level salaries. Monthly stipends in the range of ₹40,000 to ₹1,00,000 are not uncommon for interns selected from premier engineering colleges.

Last month, after a series of written and face-to-face interviews, 30 undergraduate and postgraduate students from BITS Pilani joined Cisco in Bengaluru for a six-month internship, with stipends ranging from ₹44,000 to ₹55,000 every month.

Cisco, Amazon, Goldman Sachs, Walmart Labs, Google and Facebook are some of the companies that are quite generous with their stipends for interns.

Of course, big stipends calls for big talent. When Citi Group visited Madras Insti-

tute of Technology (MIT) in Chennai to shortlist students for a two-month internship programme, the first criteria it had laid down was that those with a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 8 or 8.5 could only apply.

"For Dow Chemical, we were divided into groups for a two-day hackathon where we were asked to come up with solutions to a given problem," says a final-year student of the college. That was just the preliminary. Students had a "presentation" round where they were assessed how well aligned they were with company's culture and ethos.

A new calendar

Companies are working out unique programmes with colleges to get industry-ready talent. Take the case of AMD, a multi-national semiconductor company that has signed MoUs with 18 colleges, both in Tier-I and Tier-II cities.

The company has been running a "co-op programme" since 2011, where they select accredited universities in Hyderabad and Bengaluru that offer courses in VLSI and related fields. Open to M.Tech students, who, if selected, spend nine months of their final year at the company.

Some colleges are tweaking their academic calendar to allow students to take internships of a longer duration.

Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, for instance, does not saddle students with any subjects whose study would be time-consuming, in the final semester of the engineering course. Students are encouraged to combine internship with their project work.

"Until the 2015-16 academic year, internships were not mandatory in our engineering curriculum. Now, they are a must. We have an MoU with Boeing for an internship programme," says N.V. R. Naidu, principal.

Wide exposure

Some of the well-structured programmes provide students with exposure to learning that is diverse in its focus.

"The programme is different from regular internships, as students get to work on real-world projects as part of teams that are executing our next-generation CPU and GPU technologies.



ILLUSTRATION: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

Colleges are tweaking their academic calendar to allow students to take internships of a longer duration.

For example, when we worked with the makers of the movie Baahubali, as their technology partner, many of

our Co-ops were part of the VFX team that executed the project," says Fathima Farouk, India HR Lead and Director, HR Business Partner, AMD.

If Co-ops perform well, they get absorbed as full-time employees after completion of their post graduation. "On an average, 90% of the Co-ops become full-time employees," says Fathima.

How do you form and train your ICC?

A recent panel discussion explained how a few corporates have gone about these two processes

LIFFY THOMAS

What makes for an effective Internal Complaints Committee? This question was central to "Equipping our ICCs: Advantages, Challenges and Successes", a panel discussion organised by Parity Consulting in Bengaluru recently.

The panelists, who were drawn from the corporate sector, agreed that "selection" and "training" were two processes that would determine the quality of an ICC, which is a mandatory provision at any workplace for receiving complaints of sexual harassment of women.

Each of the panellists explained how their companies went about these processes.

The panel comprised Sukanya Gopinath, head, Ethics Management, Titan Company; K. Sribhoomi Yesaswini, partner, Kasturi & Associates; Sajan Mathai, senior director, Oracle India; and Padmaja A.R., vice-president, Robert Bosch Engineering and Business Solutions (RBEI).

At Oracle, nominations for the role come from the human resources department, and the list is then pared down using a variety of parameters.

The ICC has a 70:30 percentage of women and men, with representation from each of the 30 offices of the company across India. Sajan pointed out that the process of selection was carried out with great care over a period of three months.

At RBEI, those in the short-

list are evaluated for credibility and approachability. Seniority is another factor. The HR Department would recommend names of people, and the committee must have a representative from every region the company operated in.

At Titan, a background check including feedback from the peer group would be done before selecting someone to be a part of the ICC.

Two components

There are two components to the training provided to members of an ICC. One of the two is obvious: It is training that will help them deal with a complaint effectively, which covers a host of issues, including ensuring confidentiality, showing sensitivity and fighting unconscious bias, and also providing counselling to those left with scars.

And two, training that will be of help to ICC members themselves: In other words, providing them with the strength to deal with highly traumatising cases. For, an ICC member can sometimes find the experience of listening to what a complainant has to share, traumatic.

Sribhoomi Yesaswini, an advocate who is part of the committee of various organisations, said each case was mentally draining. "I don't take many cases at a time," she said.

To get better at dealing with these cases, ICC members have to meet regularly and exchange notes. "At Oracle, we meet every quarter and we write the minutes even if there are no cases," said Mathai.

At RBEI, the committee would meet every two months, said Padmaja.

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Date: 10.03.2019
DIRECTOR

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U.P. IPS officer suspended for interview to English portal

He had booked then Gorakhpur MP Yogi Adityanath under NSA in 2002

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

An IPS officer in Uttar Pradesh has been suspended weeks after he gave an interview to an English portal on how he had been sidelined over the years especially after he had booked CM Yogi Adityanath, then Gorakhpur MP, under the National Security Act in 2002.

U.P. police spokesperson R.K. Gautam confirmed that the 1992 batch IPS officer Jasvir Singh, who was last posted as ADG Rules and Manual, was placed under suspension. However, he did not clarify why. When asked on a private WhatsApp group of the U.P. police meant for journalists, he said the information circulating about the reason for the suspension was correct.

Mr. Singh was allegedly sus-

pended for violation of service rules by making controversial statements and for being absent without taking leave approval. According to the U.P. police website, Mr. Singh was suspended on February 14. "ADG under suspension," it read under his current post section.

Mr. Singh was the SP of Maharaiganj district in Purvanchal in 2002 when he booked Mr. Adityanath under the NSA. In a story published in *Huffington Post* on January 30, Mr. Singh was quoted as saying that he had refused to withdraw the case for preventive detention against the then sitting MP, Mr. Adityanath, despite pressure from the BJP, in power at the Centre at the time, and the BSP, which formed the State government. Two days later, he was

transferred to the Food Cell of the U.P. police, said the story.

Mr. Singh had also taken strong action against Raghuraj Pratap Singh aka Raja Bhaiya, then Food Minister in the Mulayam Singh Yadav government, in the Lakhimpur Kheri food scam case.

Paying the price'

The police officer says he paid the price for trying to hold politicians and Ministers to account, as per the article, in which he also questions the encounter killings under the Yogi government. Mr. Singh is quoted as saying: "They want loyalty to political persons. This is totally unconstitutional. If we don't resist, things won't change. Resisting is the most rewarding thing especially when there is a big allurement."

AMU students end their six-day-old agitation

After assurance from district authorities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ALIGARH (U.P.)

The students of Aligarh Muslim University ended their six-day-old agitation here after a meeting between the university administration, district officials and leaders of the students' union.

The dharna ended on Monday midnight after the agitating students were assured by the district authorities that no vindictive action would be taken against any student. The meeting took place at the residence of AMU Vice-Chancellor Tariq Mansoor.

Fourteen AMU students, including their union president, were booked under sedition charges after violence broke out between two student groups on the

campus on February 12 over reports of a planned visit by AIMIM lawmaker Asaduddin Owaisi.

The protest intensified on Monday after the arrest of a student from the university campus on Sunday night.

AMU spokesman Professor Shafey Qidwai said, "The protesting students have agreed to end their dharna after the district authorities gave an assurance that justice will be meted out after carefully scrutinising all allegations as per the law."

President's intervention
Meanwhile, students' union president Salman Imtiaz said, "We have written to the President, asking him to intervene in the crisis."

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Oppn. to corner Khattar govt. in Assembly

Cong., INLD to expose divisive politics, raise SYL canal issue in budget session beginning today

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

As the budget session of the Haryana Assembly is slated to begin today, the Opposition parties – the Congress and the Indian National Lok Dal – have decided to corner the ruling BJP government on issues related to government employees, corruption, water, farmers' distress and deteriorating law and order.

The ruling BJP, which is high on confidence after sweeping the recent Jind bypoll, is all set take on the Opposition.

The party claims that the people have entrusted their faith in the Manohar Lal Khattar government's transparent and graft-free governance and uniform development policy, which has been proved by the

We have moved at least six calling attention motions on different issues

KIRAN CHAUDHARY
Congress leader

Jind bypoll and municipal polls in the State.

Budget on Feb. 26

The budget session will start with the Governor's address on Wednesday and the budget for 2019-20 would be presented by Finance Minister Capt. Abhimanyu on February 26.

Congress Legislature Party leader Kiran Chaudhary told *The Hindu* that the party would highlight issues pertaining to government employees, who have been staging protests on various

platforms against the alleged wrong policies of the State government.

"Rising corruption, scarcity of water, deteriorating law and order situation and farmers' plight are other important issue that we intend to raise in the House. We have moved at least six calling attention motions on different issues," she said

"Apart from these, we will also expose the BJP government on its caste-based divisive politics, which it had been adopting for garnering votes. The BJP has failed to fulfil even a single promise that it made during the 2014 Assembly elections. Every section of society – be it farmers, government employees, traders or youth – is suffering due to the anti-people policies

of the BJP," said Ms. Chaudhary. "Before the session starts, we will have a meeting on February 20 (morning) to fine tune the final strategy to strongly raise public interest issues in the House," she added.

INLD, the principal Opposition party in the State, is also set to take the government to task on issues related to the problems of government employees, the Sutlej-Yamuna Link canal issue, corruption and law and order. "The BJP had promised to regularise government employees but has failed to do so... the staff of various departments are protesting. We will raise their voice in the House," Leader of the Opposition and senior INLD leader Abhay Singh Chautala said.

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Su-30MKI fitted with BrahMos missile

of Su-30MKI/SM fighters' family. Nowdays, HAL and its subcontractors in India are fully loaded with production of these fighters until 2020

Indian enterprises have become the exclusive providers of the overhaul services for Su-30MKIs. Its volumes are growing, which ensures an increase in the combat readiness of Air Forces, who operate the Su-30MKI's fleet. The infrastructure and experience enable India to become a regional center for repair and overhaul of the Su-30MKI family a/c for the countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

Efforts to improve the Su-30MKI are going on. Equipping the MKI fighter with supersonic cruise missiles BrahMos has become an unique project of Indian designers

and their Russian colleagues.

There is no other system in the world, which is capable of breaking through the most powerful air defense system. Some other Indian missiles are being integrated into the Su-30MKI's armament.

The pilots of Russia and India have gained huge operating and combat experience, which can be used in training pilots of states that already have fighters of the Su-30MKI/SM family and ones, who are planning to acquire them.

Over the years of joint work on the Su-30MKI Program, Indian and Russian specialists have forged between them constructive relations. Joining hands, they are able to solve the tasks of the highest complexity.

Mr. Sergei Shoigu, the Russian

Defense Minister during his visit to India in December 2018, noted that "no state cooperates so closely with India in the field of technology transfer of weapons and military equipment like Russia."

The current cooperation within the Su-30MKI Program, a high level of mutual understanding of specialists, and the smooth large-scale production, they are a joint capital of India and Russia, that needs to be maintained and developed.

One of the reasons for such development is the high priority of the Su-30SM Program in Russia. Su-30SMs are the most popular fighters of the new type in the Russian armed forces.

They have demonstrated their advantages during the recent combat missions in antiterrorism operations. Analyzing the results of its combat operation, Mr. Yuri Borisov, the Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, stated that the Su-30SM has demonstrated a high potential in its multi-functionality, and also has exceeded the stated reliability indicators by 3-4 times.

Su-30SM are actually chosen as the main combat aircraft by Russia's closest allies under the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). Two squadrons of fighters have been inducted by the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the Su-30SM's deliveries will continue.

The Belorussia's Air Force is going to receive a first batch of Su-30SMs during 2019. A contract on delivery of Su-30SM has been signed up with Armenia, which is also part of the CSTO.

During his visit to the Irkutsk Aviation Plant, which is the production wing of IRKUT Corporation at the end of last January, Mr. Sergei Shoigu, the Russia's Defense Minister confirmed the high priority of the Su-30SM Program. The head of the Russian MoD was got acquainted with modernized fighters, the combat capabilities of which were significantly increased with innovative technical solutions.

Due to modernization programs, the range of detection and identification of air targets is increased, and new high-precision weapons are introduced into armaments for aerial, land and sea

targets at a distance of several hundred kilometers.

The Minister was informed that as part of the development work, a set of improvements and ground checks had been completed. The first modernized version of Su-30SM is prepared for flight tests, in which three a/c will participate. It is especially noted that technical improvements can be incorporated both in the production of new aircraft and as well as during the overhaul of previously supplied a/c. There is no doubt that joining efforts of Russia and India in modernization of Su-30MKI and Su-30SM, which are actual twins, will benefit both countries. According to Mr. Alexander Mikheev, the CEO's Rosoboronexport: "such a move would lead to cost effectiveness and bring in some technologies and systems which have been planned for the Su-30SM aircraft".



Su-30SM fighter of the Russian AF in flight

In a joint statement following the talks in New Delhi last October, Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India and Mr. Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia, it is outlined that "Military and Military-Technical cooperation between the two countries is an important pillar of their strategic partnership".

The leaders of the both states emphasized "the positive shift towards joint research and joint production of military technical equipment between the two countries". Putin and Modi also outlined the importance a mechanism to promote the "Make in India" policy of the Government of India.

The joint work of the military, scientists, industrialists of our countries under the Su-30MKI Program is considered as an ideal example of the "Make in India" policy. And this Program, which has given the most positive results, keeps its development.

Two hundred Su-30MKI fighters form up the backbone of the IAF, providing a qualitative superiority over combat aircraft of its competitors.

HAL Corporation continues the Su-30MKI's serial production. It is to be noted, that the production process starts with the processing of raw materials. The serial production of the AL-31FP high-tech engines is also organized in India. A number of Indian-made avionics systems are being supplied to foreign operators

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Hanif Malik, who intends to mortgage the Entire First Floor, of Prop. No. C-193, at Greater Kailash Part-I, Delhi with our client Cholamandalam against the financial assistance. Whereas, out of the chain link documents, surviving member certificate issued in favour of legal heirs of Late N.D. Rajpal i.e.; Mrs. Ritika Anand & Mrs. Shweta Rajpal Kohli is not available.

If any person(s) having objection regarding ownership and mortgage of the said property is/are requested to intimate in writing to undersigned within 07 days from the date of issue of this notice at below address. In the event no information is received within 07 days from date hereof, our Client i.e. Cholamandalam will proceed with the mortgage process.

KEWIN KUNJAPPY, ADVOCATE

A-13, LGF, South Extn-II, New Delhi-49 # 011-2626210, 11, 12

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(CIN-U3190DL1971PLC005672)
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LOSS OF SHARE CERTIFICATES AND ISSUE OF DUPLICATE THEREOF

Notice is hereby given that below mentioned certificate has been reported lost/misplaced and that the company shall issue Duplicate Share Certificate in respect thereof unless valid objection letter accompanied by proper authenticated supporting documents is received by the Company at its registered office within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Name of the Shareholder(s) Certificate No. Distinctive No. For - To No. of Shares
Baldev Raja Bhasin 6616 399263-3992832 70
Jt. Ram Yari Bhasin

Public in general and investors as well as share brokers in particular are hereby cautioned against dealing in said share certificates in any manner whatsoever.

For C&S Electric Limited

Place : New Delhi Date : 19.02.2019

Sd/-
Latit Krishan Khanna
Company Secretary

Email Address: ahuja61@hotmail.com

IN BRIEF



Saritha Nair moves HC against Congress leader

KOCHI A writ petition was filed in the Kerala High Court on Tuesday by Saritha S. Nair, an accused in the solar scam, seeking a directive to the State government and the Crime Branch to complete the investigation in the case registered against Congress leader and former Union Minister of State K.C. Venugopal on her complaint of rape charges. She alleged that the investigation agency was not conducting any probe, apparently under the influence of the former Minister.

Modi capable of creating anarchy, says Naidu

VIJAYAWADA A day after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee raised doubts over the timing of the Pulwama attack, A.P. Chief Minister and TDP national president N. Chandrababu Naidu said that the entire nation was discussing it. The TDP would not allow anyone to "pledge the country" for political interests, he said during a teleconference with party leaders on Tuesday. Mr. Naidu alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was capable of creating anarchy.

TTD approves budget of ₹3,116.25 cr. for 2019-20

TIRUMALA The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) on Tuesday approved its annual budget for 2019-20 with an overall revenue of ₹3,116.25 crore. The TTD trust board, headed by Chairman Putta Sudhakar Yadhav, met in Tirumala to approve its revised budget for 2018-19 and the budget estimates for 2019-20. The temple hundi topped the receipts table with an income of ₹1,231 crore.

IAF pilot killed, two injured in crash

They were part of an aerobatics display team practising manoeuvres ahead of Aero India show

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

A pilot was killed and two others were injured when two Hawk trainers of the Indian Air Force's Surya Kiran Aerobatics Display Team (SKAT) grazed each other mid-air and crashed into a residential layout behind the Air Force base in Yelahanka on Tuesday.

They were practising manoeuvres ahead of the Aero India 2019, scheduled to begin on Wednesday.

Two pilots of one aircraft bailed out. But Wing Commander Sahil Gandhi, 38, who was in the same aircraft did not survive the crash. His teammates in the other display aircraft, Wing Commander Vijay Shelke and Squadron Leader Tejeshwar Singh, were injured.

The Hawk MK.132 trainer that Wing Commander Gandhi was in and another SKAT plane came into contact with each other while performing a mirror or Calypso pass. The manoeuvre involves one plane flying inverted above the other, with a gap of four to five metres between them. Wing Com-



Mid-air tragedy: Indian Air Force officials inspecting the charred remains of an aircraft after two planes crashed near the Yelahanka airbase in Bengaluru on Tuesday. • PTI

mander Gandhi was in the inverted aircraft.

"The two injured aircrew have been airlifted to Air Force Command Hospital, Bengaluru. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate the accident," the IAF said in a statement.

Wing Commander Gandhi from Hisar in Haryana, has been living in Bidar, where

the SKAT is based, for a year and a half. He leaves behind wife Himani and five-year-old son Riaan.

K. Unnikrishnan, the father of 26/11 hero Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan, who resides in ISRO Akash Vihar where both the aircraft crashed, remembers hearing a loud sound. "I thought it was a transformer blast and

rushed outside and saw an aircraft burning," he said.

"It is very unfortunate," said Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in the city for the Aero India. "I will say anything until the inquiry is over. But no doubt, we have to pay more attention [to preventing such incidents]."

The five-day Aero India 2019, the largest so far in

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The five-day Aero India 2019, the largest so far in

terms of participation, will open on Wednesday as scheduled. The aerobatics team will, however, be grounded till the inquiry is over.

Dangerous operations'

The U.S. ambassador to India conveyed his sympathies to the family of the dead pilot. "Unfortunately, we don't always appreciate how dangerous these manoeuvres are... It is a real shame," said ambassador Kenneth I. Juster, who is here with a large delegation of U.S. military and administrative officials for the Aero India.

Alan Shaffer, Deputy under-secretary of Defence for acquisition and sustainment, said these demonstrations signified the greatness of the military. "As a former Airman, I recognise the dangers of military operations, which are highlighted in these kinds of events. It happens in many places and [even] the U.S. is coming up on the one-year anniversary of the loss of a [U.S. Air Force] Thunderbird pilot in an aerial demonstration [in April 2018]," he said.



New team: Governor of Telangana E.S.L. Narasimhan and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao with the new Ministers in Hyderabad on Tuesday. • K.V.S. GIRI

Ten Telangana Ministers sworn in

KTR, Harish Rao do not figure in list

N. RAHUL

HYDERABAD

The over two-month-old Telangana Rashtra Samithi government was expanded on Tuesday with the induction of 10 Ministers at a ceremony on the Raj Bhavan lawns. With this, the strength of the K. Chandrasekhar Rao-led Council of Ministers has gone up to 12 and there is scope to take on board six more Ministers, which is likely only after the Lok Sabha election.

Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new Ministers, starting with A. Indrakaran Reddy, in the presence of Mr. Rao and over 1,200 invitees who packed the premises. Mr. Rao was followed in the order by T. Srinivas Yadav, G. Jagdish Reddy, Eatala Rajender, S. Niranjan Reddy, Koppula Easwar, E. Dayakar Rao, V. Srinivas Goud, V. Prashant Reddy and C. Malala Reddy.

Barring Mr. Rajender, Mr. Srinivas Yadav, Mr. Indrakaran Reddy and Mr. Jagdish Reddy, all are new faces. There is no representation for Khammam district in the Cabinet. The Chief Minister who hails from Medak also avoided anyone else to represent the district.

An MLC of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen Syed Amin Jaffri was the lone leader from the other parties to attend.

KTR tweets

All eyes were on TRS working president K.T. Rama Rao, who held half a dozen portfolios in the previous government, and former Irrigation Minister T. Harish Rao, both of whom missed the bus this time. Mr. Rama Rao tweeted his compliments to the new Ministers later, saying "heartiest congratulations. I am confident that you will do your best for Telangana under the able guidance of KCR garu."

At the venue, Mr. Harish Rao said no motives should be attributed to his omission. He recalled his election speeches that he would remain a disciplined soldier of the TRS. He said he was committed to implementing the instructions of the party and the Chief Minister.

Mr. Rao said the Chief Minister had constituted his team, balancing representation to different regions and social groups in the State. "I am never unhappy. I condemn adverse social media posts against me. I am not identified with any group within the party."

Students, locals rush to the rescue of pilots

Eyewitnesses see 'ball of fire' after aircraft crash

SUCHITH KIDIOOR

BENGALURU

When two aircraft of IAF's aerobatic team Surya Kiran crashed near the Yelahanka airbase here around 11.50 a.m. on Tuesday, residents of ISRO Akashvihari Layout heard a thunderous sound. Eyewitnesses described a ball of fire as two aircraft crashed onto the ground.

But the fear of further ex-

plosion and the fire that engulfed the wreckage did not deter students of the Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology from approaching the injured pilots.

Final year aeronautical students Chethan Kumar B.M. and Prajwal H.K., who were on the terrace watching the practice session of the Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team, witnessed the incident from the take-off to when the aircraft grazed each other mid-air and crashed.

After 10 minutes of

stunts in the sky, during one of the formations, it appeared like one aircraft hit the tail of the other. They then started falling. One aircraft hit the ground a few metres away from our building. There were two pilots who ejected themselves from the aircraft with the help of a parachute. One fell on a farmland and the other on the road. We immediately rushed to attend to them," said Mr. Prajwal.

Mr. Chethan added: "After the crash, it looked like the pilots were coming out

of the wreckage. Wing Commander Vijay Shelke was lying on the ground with injuries on his face. We asked him to stay calm and sought instructions. He told us how to remove the belts. Parts of the aircraft started exploding, generating too much heat. We immediately shifted him to a safe place. Meanwhile, he asked us to enquire about his co-pilot. One of our friends rushed there to enquire about him."

They later learnt that the other pilot, Squadron Leader Tejeshwar Singh's para-

chute was entangled in an electric pole. He fell on the road and sustained injuries in his back and neck. Within 10 minutes, emergency services reached the spot.

"The Air Force personnel thanked us for the help."

Uday Kumar, another resident, said: "It was difficult to react to the situation. After the crash, the aircraft was in flames and repeated explosions caused fear among people. We were relieved when emergency services reached the spot to attend to pilots."

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IN BRIEF



CM lays foundation stones of water projects

PATIALA
Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Tuesday laid foundation stones for three projects to supply canal water to 409 villages in Patiala and Fatehgarh Sahib districts. He appealed to the people to use groundwater reserves judiciously. PTI

Goods train derails, rail traffic hit in Jharkhand
RANCHI
A goods train derailed between Khalari and Ray stations near Dhanbad on Tuesday, disrupting train movement in Dhanbad Rail Division, a statement issued by the Railway Protection Force said. There was no report of any casualty. PTI

Ex-councillor held for highway robbery

KENDRAPARA (ODISHA)
Three persons, including a former councillor of Kendrapara urban local body, were arrested on the charge of committing a highway robbery, police said on Tuesday. The trio had robbed a man on the Paradip-Daitary expressway, they said. PTI

3 dead after vehicle hits motorcycle in U.P.

HAROON
Three men were killed on Tuesday after their motorcycle was hit by a vehicle, police said. Rajendra (45), Mansaram (40) and Ram (38) were killed in the mishap that took place in Baghauti village of Hardoi district, they said. PTI

Punjab Police bust gang of snatchers, 5 held

RUPNAGAR
The police on Tuesday claimed to have busted a gang allegedly involved in over 60 cases of snatching and theft in Punjab and Himachal, and arrested five of its members. 50 mobiles were recovered from them. PTI

Boycott everything Kashmiri, tweets Roy

Meghalaya Governor draws flak from several sections for controversial posts following Pulwama attack

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

Meghalaya Governor Tathagata Roy on Tuesday tweeted that he was "inclined to agree" with an unnamed retired Army officer's call to boycott everything Kashmiri, including the Amarnath Yatra, as a response to the Pulwama suicide bombing that killed more than 40 Central Reserve Police Force personnel on February 14.

"An appeal from a retired colonel of the Indian Army: Don't visit Kashmir, don't go to Amarnath for the next 2 years. Don't buy articles from Kashmiri emporia or Kashmiri tradesmen who come every winter. Boycott everything Kashmiri. I am inclined to agree," read his tweet.

Replies to a tweet by retired Major Gaurav Arya, the Meghalaya Governor suggested that the Indian Army



Tathagata Roy tweeted that he was "inclined to agree" with a "retired Army officer". ■ FILE PHOTO

should take a leaf out of the book of its Pakistan counterpart in dealing with Kashmiris.

"The Pakistan Army (who

are handling the Kashmiri separatists) was among their own in East Pakistan in 1971. They slaughtered and raped right and left. And they would have kept EP but for the whacking from India. I am not suggesting that we go that far. But at least some distance (sic)" Mr. Roy said on Twitter.

Sharp reactions

His tweets have attracted sharp reactions with some saying his comments virtually absolved Pakistan by shifting the blame for the attack on Kashmiris.

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said in reply to Mr. Roy's tweets: "People like

Tathagata want Kashmir but

without Kashmiris. They'd sooner see us driven into the sea. He'll be best placed to know he can't have one without the other so what's it to be?"

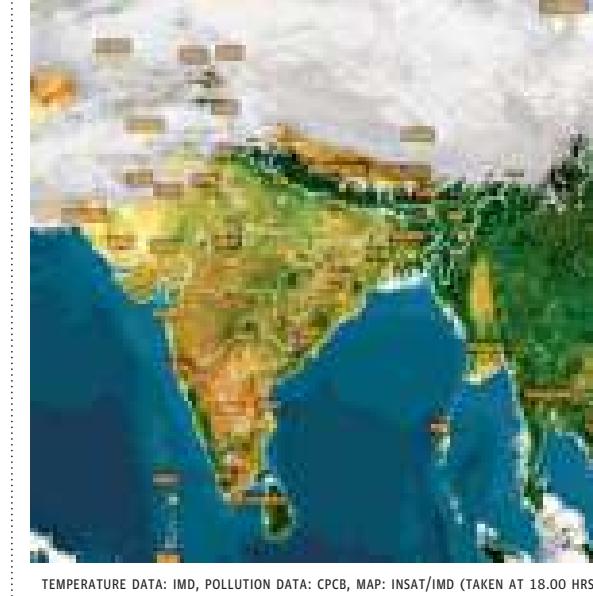
Not new to controversies
Mr. Roy had posted controversial tweets even when he was the Governor of Tripura.

On March 23, 2015, he tweeted on the 'fighting back' nature of Hindus by pointing out: "One exception was Gujarat, 2002. I'm glad you appreciate what the Hindus did then."

Four months later, on July 31, he tweeted that many people who attended the last rites of 1993 Mumbai blast accused Yakub Memon were "potential terrorists".

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 Wednesday: Heavy/very heavy rain/snow likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab. Thunderstorm accompanied with hailstorm, lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and north Rajasthan

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	... -	30.6...	13.5	Kozhikode	... -	35.2...	24.0
Ahmedabad	... -	32.5...	17.2	Kurnool	... -	37.5...	24.1
Aizawl	... -	30.4...	-	Lucknow	... -	28.0...	14.6
Allahabad	... 0.2...	30.2...	13.7	Madurai	... -	37.2...	25.1
Bengaluru	... -	32.8...	22.0	Mangalore	... -	33.1...	20.0
Bhopal	... -	32.3...	13.2	Mumbai	... -	32.5...	16.0
Bhubaneswar	... -	34.6...	18.8	Mysuru	... -	34.0...	16.4
Chandigarh	7.6...	22.7...	11.8	New Delhi	2.2...	24.5...	12.0
Chennai	... -	32.7...	26.2	Patna	... -	29.4...	12.5
Coimbatore	... -	36.2...	22.5	Port Blair	... -	31.0...	23.2
Dehradun	... 3.3...	22.4...	9.6	Puducherry	... -	32.6...	26.1
Gangtok	14.8...	-	6.4	Pune	... -	35.9...	13.0
Goa	... -	31.3...	19.5	Raipur	... -	35.3...	17.0
Guwahati	4...	23.1...	10.5	Ranchi	... -	29.4...	12.0
Hubballi	... -	34.0...	18.0	Shillong	... -	18.3...	5.3
Hyderabad	... -	34.9...	21.7	Shimla	... -	28.5...	8.4...
Imphal	... -	25.0...	9.1	Srinagar	... -	11.3...	0.4
Jaipur	... -	29.0...	16.0	Trivandrum	... -	34.7...	25.2
Kochi	... -	30.8...	25.0	Tiruchi	... -	36.4...	26.2
Kohima	... -	23.8...	9.6	Vijayawada	... -	34.0...	24.4
Kolkata	... -	32.0...	17.1	Visakhapatnam	... -	31.8...	26.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	58	74	3295	■
Bengaluru8	59	70156	■
Chennai	17	14	5864	■
Delhi	24	104	77	323	239	■
Hyderabad3	113	29	138	124	■
Kolkata	24	170	38	360	280	■
Lucknow	10	62	63	308	■
Mumbai	22	43	8482	105	■
Pune	32	16	2698	115	■
Visakhapatnam	.6	29	2958	... /4	■

In observation made at 4:00 pm, Takhar, Odisha recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 345 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Rupnagar, Punjab recorded a healthy AQI score of 23

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor □ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)**SO₂:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.**NO_x:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.**PM2.5 & PM10:** Particulate matter pollution can 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

Anuj Sharma appointed new Kolkata Police Commissioner

Rajeev Kumar takes charge as Director General, CID

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA



Newly appointed Kolkata Police Commissioner Anuj Sharma at the Lalbazar Police Headquarters. ■ SUBHAM DUTTA

in one position for three years ought to be shifted out.

Siddhi Nath Gupta has replaced Mr. Sharma as the new ADG (Law and Order).

'Kashmiris safe'

Speaking to journalists after assuming charge, Mr. Sharma assured them that all Kashmiris residing in Kolkata are safe and their security

has been stepped up.

"Kashmiris are safe in the

city. We have already identified the pockets where they are staying. We have interacted with them and assured them of their safety and security," he told media persons at the Lalbazar Police Headquarters.

Mr. Sharma said the Kolkata police were already doing a very good job in serving the people of the city and there was a need for some "fine-tuning".

Imphal court releases student activist on bail

FB post not seditious, observes CJM

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH

NEW DELHI

Four days after Manipur student activist Veemon Thokchom was arrested from his residence in Delhi for a Facebook post over the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, an Imphal court on Tuesday released him on bail noting that the post was not seditious.

Chief Judicial Magistrate Ningthoujam Lanleima remarked that the content of Mr. Thokchom's Facebook post "cannot be stated to bring into hatred or contempt, or excite or attempt to excite disaffection towards the government". "At the most, the accused mentioned the incident of burning of Assembly with approval, but I don't find any attempt or incitement to commit violence," the judge said.

As a condition for his re-

lease on bail, the judge has directed him not to commit an offence similar to the one he is accused of.

Following the court's order, Mr. Thokchom was released during the day and reached his home in Manipur around 4 p.m.

Second such case

Mr. Thokchom is the second case in recent months where the Manipur government has booked individuals for sedition, an offence which entails a maximum punishment of life imprisonment.

In December last year, Manipur journalist Kishorechandra Wangkhemcha, who had posted an alleged offensive Facebook post on Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, was booked for sedition and later detained for 12 months under the National Security Act.

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
Office of the Executive Engineer, Water Resources Department, Water Ways Division, Khuntie-Procurement Notice (1st call)

e-Procurement Reference no. - EE WWD NIT NO- 2, KHUNTI

1	NAME OF WORK	Estimate for Repair of Building Divisional Office, Executive Engineer's Residence and all type of Quarters with Boundary wall under Water ways Division, Khunti.
2(a)	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 25058930.00 (Rupees Two Crore Fifty Lacs Fifty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty only)
(b)	Bid Security (Rs.)	Rs. 251000.00 (Rupees Two Lac Fifty One Thousand only)
3	Time of Completion	11 months
4	Last date/Time for Receipt of Bids	12.03.2019 12.30PM
5	Date of opening tender	13.03.2019 12.30PM
6	Place of opening Tender	Office of Chief Engineer, WRD Ranchi, Jal Bhawan, Doranda-834002
7	Date of publication of Tender on website	22.02.2019 to 11.03.2019 (Till 12.30PM)
8	Name & Address of Inviting Tender	Executive Engineer Water Ways Division, Khunti
9	Contact no. of Procurement Officer	7765904482
10	Email-ID	ceranchi-wrd-jhr@nic.in
11	Helpline number of E-procurement	7903012374

Further Details can be seen on Website [http://jh](http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)

IN BRIEF



Apps offering free legal advice launched

NEW DELHI
Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Tuesday said Pro Bono or free legal services should be an important criterion in the appointment of judges. He was launching two new mobile apps, Tele Law and Nyaya Bandhu, that seek to offer easy access to justice and free legal advice across the country.

Narayanasamy, Bedi call 'temporary truce'

PUDUCHERRY
The agitation led by Puducherry CM V. Narayanasamy in front of the Raj Nivas, bringing to a head the long-standing tug-of-war with Lt. Governor Kiran Bedi, was called off on Monday night after extended consultations produced a 'temporary truce'. He said the Lt. Governor 'agreed' to reconsider her decision to close down the Anglo French Textiles and Swadeshi Bharati Cotton Mills.

9 killed as truck runs into marriage procession

JAIPUR
A speeding truck ploughed into a marriage procession in Rajasthan's Pratapgarh district, leaving nine people, including four children, dead and 19 others injured, the police said on Tuesday. The accident happened near the Ramdev Temple on National Highway-113 on Monday night when the truck going to Banswara from Nimbalera rammed into the marriage party moving on the roadside, SP, Pratapgarh, Anil Benwal said. PTI

Refinery gets deadline to raze wall on jumbo path

GUWAHATI
The administration of eastern Assam's Golaghat district had set a week's deadline to Numaligarh Refinery Limited to demolish a boundary wall erected on a major elephant corridor. The Supreme Court had on January 18 ordered NRL to remove the 2.2 km wall around its proposed township that included a golf course.

Censor Board denied certificate to 793 films in 16 years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
The Central Board of Film Certification banned a total of 793 films in 16 years, an RTI response has revealed.

The response to the RTI query filed by Lucknow-based activist Dr. Nutan Tha-

7 islands in Andamans, Lakshadweep identified for seaplane operations

Bids invited for private sector participation in tourism-based projects; Home Minister Rajnath Singh reviews progress of development work

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
Four islands in the Andamans and three in Lakshadweep have been identified for seaplane operations, while private sector participation has been invited for tourism-based projects, the Home Ministry said on Tuesday.

The 5th meeting of the Island Development Agency, chaired by Home Minister Rajnath Singh, also reviewed the progress made towards the programme 'Holistic development of islands'.

Swaraj Dweep, Shaheed Dweep, Hutbay and Long Island in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Kavaratti, Agatti and Minicoy in Laksh-

adweep have been identified for seaplane operations.

Key infrastructure projects such as operationalisation of the Diglipur airport for civilian aircraft and the construction of a new airport on Minicoy Island have been accorded high priority by the government, while Coastal Regulation Zone clearance (CRZ) has been accorded for 'Middle Strait Bridge' on Andaman Trunk Road.

Bids for private sector participation in three tourism-based projects have already been invited by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration. They include eco-tourism projects on Smith Island and Long Island and a

tent city project on Aves Island. Bids will be invited shortly for one more project on Neil Island.

Three projects in Lakshadweep have been identified for issue of bids. These include tourism projects in the islands of Kadmat, Minicoy and Suheli Cheriyakara. Environmental Clearance (EC), CRZ clearance and all other clearances required for these projects are being obtained upfront, on priority, to attract more number of reputed bidders, the statement said.

The Ministry of Commerce has issued a notification extending tax incentives for investments made in the manufacturing and service

sector in the islands of Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep.

In order to sustainably utilise the potential of Tuna fish, 10 deep-sea modern fishing vessels are being procured by the Lakshadweep administration from Cochin Shipyard Limited.

The Home Minister expressed satisfaction at the progress made since the last meeting held on June 30, 2018, when directions were given to focus on creation of recreational facilities along with tourism infrastructure, implementation of renewable energy projects, incentives for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and the development of a film city.

Connecting islands

The Centre has taken up various projects for the development of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep. A look at some of them

Seaplane operation

- Islands in the Andamans: Swaraj Dweep, Shaheed Dweep, Hutbay and Long Island
- Islands in Lakshadweep: Kavaratti, Agatti and Minicoy

Other key infrastructure projects

- Operationalisation of the Diglipur airport in the Andamans for civilian aircraft
- Construction of a new airport in Minicoy
- 'Middle Strait Bridge' on Andaman Trunk Road

Projects identified for private sector participation

- Eco-tourism on Smith Island and Long Island in the Andamans
- Tent city on Aves Island
- Tourism projects at Kadmat, Minicoy and Suheli Cheriyakara in Lakshadweep



More than 4 lakh children are inhalant addicts: survey

5.7 crore people suffer from alcohol dependence in India

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

NEW DELHI
Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Chhattisgarh and Arunachal Pradesh have emerged front runners in alcohol abuse and health complications arising due to the addiction, according to a survey conducted by the National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi.

The survey report, which was submitted to the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on Monday, noted that 5.7 crore people in the country suffered from alcohol-related problems.

Of the 16 crore people who consumed alcohol across the country, prevalence of alcohol consumption was 17 times higher among men than among women.

More than four lakh children and 18 lakh adults needed help for inhalant abuse and dependence, the report said.

The survey, conducted to

Growing addiction

A survey conducted between December 2017 and October 2018 to ascertain the magnitude of substance abuse in India has thrown up some disturbing figures

People with alcohol-dependence:

5.7 crore

High prevalence States: U.P., Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Arunachal Pradesh

Sedative/Inhalants users: 4,60,000 children, 18 lakh adults

Cannabis dependence:

72 lakh

High prevalence States: U.P., Punjab and Odisha

Heroin is the most abused opioid (1.14% of Indians use this)

High prevalence States: U.P., Chhattisgarh, Punjab and Delhi

ascertain the magnitude of substance abuse in the country, was carried out between December 2017 and October 2018. It covered 4,73,569 individuals in the 10-75 age group. High prevalence of consumption of alcohol was also reported in Tripura and Chhattisgarh.

The survey also revealed that about 3.1 crore individuals consumed cannabis, with 72 lakh of them needing help for cannabis use problems. Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Odisha registered

maximum cannabis dependence.

The most common opioid used was heroin. The current use of heroin was 1.14%, followed by pharmaceutical opioids (0.96%) and opium (0.52%). The abuse was found most prevalent in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana.

The Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment maintained that a national guideline would be formulated after detailed consultation with all stakeholders to counter the drug menace in the country.

3% DA hike for Central staff

Increase is as per formula based on the 7th Pay Commission recommendation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the release of an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central government employees, and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners w.e.f. 1.1.2019 representing an increase of 3% over the existing rate of 9% of the Basic Pay/Pension, to compensate for price rise," the government said in a release.

This will involve an increase of 3% over the existing rate of 9% of the basic pay or pension. "The Union Cabinet has given its appro-

val to the release of an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central government employees, and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners w.e.f. 1.1.2019 representing an increase of 3% over the existing rate of 9% of the Basic Pay/Pension, to compensate for price rise," the government said in a release.

The government said the combined impact of the hike in dearness allowance and

dearness relief will amount to ₹9,168.12 crore per annum and ₹10,696.14 crore in the financial year 2019-20 (for a period of 14 months from January 2019 to February 2020).

This will benefit about 48.41 lakh Central government employees and 62.03 lakh pensioners, it added.

The increase is in accordance with the accepted formula based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission.

Central Pay Commission.

The government had last increased the dearness allowance in August 2018, when it approved an increase of 2% in dearness allowance for Central government employees over the rate of 7%, effective from July 1, 2018.

Previously, the Cabinet had increased dearness allowance in March 2018, from 5% to 7% in accordance with the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission.

Ordinance to curb Ponzi schemes gets nod

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI
The Cabinet on Tuesday approved the promulgation of an ordinance with regard to the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, to protect investors from Ponzi schemes.

The Lok Sabha had passed the Bill on the last day of the Budget session, but could not get the approval of the Rajya Sabha.

The proposed ordinance

will tackle the menace of illicit deposit-taking activities launched by rapacious operators, who at present are exploiting regulatory gaps and lack of strict administrative measures to dupe poor and gullible people of their hard-earned savings, an official statement said. It has provisions for punishment and disgorgement or repayment of deposits in cases where such schemes nonetheless manage to raise deposits.

lease. "This will offset the impact of inflation on the food items under Mid Day Meal Scheme," it added. A new component of ₹10,000 per kitchen for repair of more than 10-year-old kitchens had been introduced. Also, ₹50 crore has been allocated for fortification of food items in a systematic manner. This would address the problems of anaemia and other micro nutrient deficiencies.

Govt. provides more for mid-day meal costs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Tuesday approved the revision of norms under the Mid Day Meal Scheme with an outlay of ₹12,054 crore for 2019-20, in addition to the subsidy of about ₹8,000 crore borne by Department of Food & Public Distribution.

"This year cooking cost is enhanced...by ₹361 crore,"

the government said in a re-

Centre launches panic button on mobiles

Dial 112 to access emergency services

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
The government on Tuesday launched the panic button feature on mobile phones for safety of women and other emergency services across 16 States and Mumbai.

The initiative was opened jointly by Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi nearly three years after the government first made the safety feature a mandatory requirement in phones through a gazette notification.

In order to access an emergency service, such as police, medical and other services, a user can dial 112 from any phone. A smartphone user can also press the power button thrice in quick succession and a user of a basic or feature phone can long press 5 or 9 on the key pad. One can also download the 112 mobile application.

One can also download the 112 mobile application.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

SMSes and emails to police officials at the State, district and local level.

It can be availed in Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, UP, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Andaman, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Jammu & Kashmir as well as Mumbai.

The safety feature had earlier been launched in Nagaland and Himachal Pradesh.

The panic button facility, also known as the Emergency Response Support System, is being supported under the Nirbhaya Fund set up for safety of women.

The court's decision will hit former Chief Ministers Rabri Devi and Lalu Prasad, Satish Prasad Singh (Chief Minister for three days in 1968), Dr. Jagannath Mishra (three terms in 1975-77, 1980-83 and 1989-90) and Jitan Ram Manjhi (Chief Minister for nine months in 2014-15).

Once a user presses the panic button, five calls will be made to emergency number 112 as well as call log details and the geo location of the victim will be sent by

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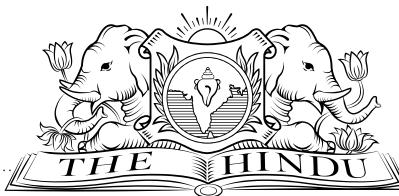
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Interim bailout

A system for sharing the RBI's surpluses with the Centre must be quickly institutionalised

The decision of the central board of the Reserve Bank of India to transfer an interim surplus of ₹28,000 crore to the Centre should come as a big relief to the Modi government. Together with the ₹40,000-crore final surplus share for 2017-18, which the Centre received in the first half, the total receipts from the RBI this fiscal will be a tidy ₹68,000 crore. For a government strapped for finances and struggling to meet the revised fiscal deficit target of 3.4% of GDP, the RBI's largesse will be handy. The total surplus received by the Centre for 2018-19 is substantially higher than the ₹50,000 crore it got from the RBI in 2017-18, and this is the second successive year the central bank is making an interim transfer: last year it transferred ₹10,000 crore. Though there is nothing wrong in a shareholder demanding an interim dividend payout, the fact is that the Centre is advancing a receipt from the next fiscal to bail itself out in the current one. Should the RBI decide not to repeat this practice, the government's revenues will suffer because as much as ₹82,911 crore has been budgeted on this count for the next fiscal. Again, the central bank is not like a corporate enterprise, nor can the government compare itself with a company shareholder. The RBI's income and surplus growth cannot be measured in commercial terms since a large part of it comes from statutory functions it has to perform as a regulator.

The large payout this fiscal is bound to raise eyebrows, especially because of the recent history of conflict between the RBI and the Centre over the sharing of the former's accumulated reserves as dividend with the Centre. Pressure on this count was said to be a major reason for the resignation of Urjit Patel as RBI Governor. Though the practice of an interim payout started under Mr. Patel, there are inevitable questions over whether there was pressure from the Centre now for the transfer of a higher sum than last year. This is because the Centre had in the Interim Budget bumped up receipts under this head from the central bank, nationalised banks and other financial institutions to ₹74,140 crore from the original estimate of ₹54,817 crore made in the 2018-19 Budget. Clearly, the Finance Ministry knew what it wanted. There will, hopefully, be a system and a structure in place once the committee under former RBI Governor Bimal Jalan, that is now reviewing the economic capital framework for the RBI, submits its report. It was constituted to de-personalise and institutionalise a system for the sharing of the RBI's surpluses with the government, and is expected to come out with its recommendations by the end of the next month.

Clean power

A viable financial mechanism must be evolved to remove pollutants in power plants

The effort to clean up India's thermal power plants running on coal has never really taken off, despite the Ministry of Environment notifying emission limits for major pollutants such as suspended particulate matter, sulphur oxide, nitrogen oxide and mercury in December 2015. Considering that the cumulative impact of these pollutants on the health and well-being of people is severe, the Centre should have followed up the notification with a viable financial plan to help power plants acquire pollution control technologies. The economics favours such an approach for the larger plants, while for the smaller, older units, scaling down generation during the winter months when pollutants accumulate may prove beneficial. Originally, the compliance deadline was set for 2017, but that was missed and the plan now is to achieve the norms by 2022. Unofficial estimates prepared by one NGO, Greenpeace India, suggest the estimated cost of non-compliance by the original deadline has been about 76,000 premature deaths. Benefit-cost projections from another non-profit, the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy, put the positive outcomes from achieving pollution control at coal-fired plants by 2025 at potentially 3.2 lakh lives saved from premature death, and 5.2 crore respiratory hospital admissions avoided in the next decade. These are outcomes that need to be pursued seriously. It is in this context that the latest proposal from the Power Ministry to provide the equivalent of over \$12 billion (about ₹88,000 crore), mainly to remove sulphur from coal plant emissions, becomes important.

A viable financial mechanism must be evolved to remove pollutants in existing and upcoming power plants, without losing sight of the need to stop further long-term investments in a dirty fuel such as coal that contributes to carbon emissions. Optimally, the burden of incorporating pollution control should fall on the beneficiary-user, which in simple terms would translate into a tariff hike. On the other hand, achieving speedy implementation of the new processes covering both public and private power producers may require some form of immediate governmental support, such as grants. This is particularly relevant, given that power producers that have borrowed from several institutions, including state-funded ones, are reported to be under severe financial stress. India's coal use represents just over 54% of the present energy mix, and the fuel will continue to retain a high share of the overall generation. The challenge, therefore, is to identify the right instruments to fund the entire exercise, in the interests of pollution control and the wider social objective of extending electricity access to the un-reached. There could be a positive spin-off from sulphur-removal, since it can yield commercially significant quantities of synthetic gypsum. But even if little else accrues from the effort, the benefits of clean air to public health would make the investment well worth the effort.

The importance of being humane

Opposition parties must make a new anti-torture legislation part of their common programme



GOPALKRISHNA GANDHI

Custodial torture is global, old and stubborn. Dismemberment was a method of torture practised with vigour in ancient India, crushing-by-elephant-foot another. The Arthashastra prescribes mental torture through swear-words with or without physical assaults. Death by a thousand cuts was ancient China's speciality. The Tang Code (652 CE) describes judicial torture in detail. Ancient Japanese methods of torture numb the human imagination. Their modern avatar in Japan's World War II of biological and chemical experimentation on humans – prisoners, mainly Chinese – in Unit 731 stop the blood-flow to one's heart.

Cautioned by history

So, does that mean sadism is an inherent part of human nature? It certainly shows that the inflicting of pain is an inseparable part of human history. More specifically, the history of power, of authority and control.

The practice of custodial power is about men – and sometimes, women – who are in positions of power, even if for a brief while and over a limited terrain, having custody over a powerless person. It is about the use of custodial opportunity to torture the captive's body and mind. And there, in that arena of wantonness, it becomes something of a sport for the human "Gods" that rule mere humans. "They kill us for their sport," Shakespeare said of "the Gods".

Custodial death, when not 'natural', is the extreme end-point of custodial torture. The death penalty, notwithstanding 'due process', is a close kin to this lawless and heartless game.

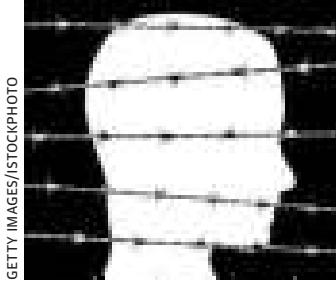
In Greece, the pinnacle of culture, Socrates was in 399 BCE sentenced to death by hemlock, which was known to act slowly, incapacitating the person in stages, climbing from the lower extremities limb by limb to the heart. A little further to the east, around 30 CE took place what is ironically the only hallowed case of plain torture. After being stripped and scourged, the victim's palms, known in anatomy to be among the most sensitive of human limbs, were nailed to the cross's horizontal beam, his feet to the vertical. "I thirst," Mary's son said.

Torturers are invariably sadists. Mary Surratt is not a well-known name. She was the first woman to be hanged in the U.S., in 1865, under due process. Her crime: being part of the conspiracy that led to the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Minutes before her end, she complained to the hangman that her handcuffs hurt. They won't hurt long, he said. Peering down the 'drop', she then said she hoped they would send her down neatly. Sure thing, they said. Sure enough they botched it. Her frame doubled up. "She makes a good bow," the hangmen jested. Lincoln must have screamed in his grave.

Hitler's torturing of his prisoners would shame Satan, if such a creature exists. He was as real as his poison gases, tooth-extractors. Stalin's, Pol Pot's, "Papa Doc" Duvalier's examples would have embarrassed Hell, if such a place exists. The power-centres of these tyrants were hellishly real.

Apartheid South Africa had its torturers trained in Algeria to inflict pain without leaving any signs on the body. Imam Haron, Steve Biko and the Naidoo family are among the better known of the many less known and unknown brutalised by the apartheid regime.

The butchering last October of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi tells us custodial torture and killing are no country's, creed's or



CULTURE'S MONOPOLY. NOR THAT OF ANY CLIME-TIME. TORTURE SEEMS TO BE, LIKE THE ROACH, CO-TERMINUS WITH TIME. AND CO-EXTENSIVE WITH HOMO SAPIENS.

Custodial torture is about the here and now. As I write and the reader reads this, we can be sure that not far from wherever we are, someone is being tortured by somebody. I am not referring to criminals torturing their captives, but of that somebody who has ephemeral custody, semi-legal, pre-legal, legal, over that someone's body and mind.

India has practised and continues to practise the 'third degree' with impunity. Let only him deny it who has cause to hide it.

But if torture is real, human revulsion with torture is also real. And it has shape, definition. It has scope.

Meeting on December 10, 1984, the UN General Assembly stirred the world's conscience. It adopted the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Better known as the UN Convention against Torture, it sought to prevent torture around the world. More specifically, it required states to take effective measures to prevent torture and forbade them from transporting people to any country where there is reason to believe they will be tortured (refoulement). Most significantly, the Convention made state parties to undertake that "no exceptional circumstances whatsoever" will be "invoked to justify torture, including war, threat of war, internal political instability,

public emergency, terrorist acts, violent crime, or any form of armed conflict".

In other words, it foresaw every possible subterfuge and subversion by states.

The Indian case

India took 13 years to sign the Convention, but signed it did, on October 14, 1997, during the 11-month-old Prime Ministership of I.K. Gujral. Hat's off to him. He did what Rajiv Gandhi, V.P. Singh, Chandra Shekhar, P.V. Narasimha Rao, H.D. Deve Gowda could not, did not, do. But signing is only the first step. Unless a convention is ratified and followed or preceded by domestic legislation that commits the ratifying party to compliance, the original signing carries no meaning. India has not ratified.

India's non-ratification of the Convention is both surprising and dismaying. What is the constraint? A state which signs the Convention has to have a domestic law on the subject to outlaw and prevent custodial torture. Without such a law, there is no meaning to signing the Convention. And so, late as it was, the UPA II government introduced a Prevention of Torture Bill in the Lok Sabha in 2010 and had it passed in 10 days. The bill as passed by the Lok Sabha was referred to a select committee of the Rajya Sabha. The committee gave its report recommending the Bill's adoption later the same year. Citing National Human Rights Commission figures of reported torture cases, the report said the figures showed custodial torture was rising. It also pointed out that the number of reported cases being only a fraction of actuals, the situation was serious.

But that Bill was unlucky. It lapsed with the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha. And was not revived by the 16th, the present Lok Sabha. Ratification of the Convention remains in limbo. Custodial torture remains in position.

In reply to a question (May 11,

2016) whether the government was planning to ratify the Convention, the Minister of State for Home did not answer either in the positive or negative but spoke of amending Sections 330 (voluntarily causing hurt to extort confession) and 331 of the Indian Penal Code. The nature of these amendments has not been delineated and so, almost nine years after the report of the Select Committee and 21 years after signing the Convention, India is yet to legislate a law that will outlaw torture an enable it to ratify the Convention.

What is the constraint? Why is the Indian state unwilling to say, 'no custodial torture in India'? The answer can only be that the power over a captive's body and mind is not easily given up.

Waiting for a nudge?

Senior advocate Ashwani Kumar, former MP and Minister, moved a PIL in the Supreme Court in 2016 asking it to get Parliament to move forward in the matter. After a full day's exclusive hearing in the case, the court has reserved its orders. Can the Supreme Court indeed "nudge" Parliament? It knows best, in its wisdom and experience. This much, however, one can hope: In a matter that concerns 'life and liberty', the Supreme Court is the guardian of the Constitution's guarantees. And when the one being guarded says, 'I thirst,' the guardian can only bring to its parched lips the waters of life. Whatever be the outcome of Mr. Kumar's PIL, it is imperative that the democratic opposition makes the ratification of the Convention and a new anti-torture legislation part of its common programme. The 17th Lok Sabha must take a stand on this matter. It has a choice: to join the civilised world in moving away from ancient barbarism or stay in the dungeons of blinding, numbing brutality.

Gopalkrishna Gandhi is a former administrator, diplomat and governor

The Saudi-India-Pakistan triangle

New Delhi should not be overly optimistic about prying Riyadh away from Islamabad



MOHAMMED AYOOB

There seems to be much exultation in New Delhi that the visit by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, or MBS (*left in picture*), will lead to further strengthening of Saudi Arabia-Indian ties, a process that had begun with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Riyadh in 2016. Some of this jubilation is based on rational calculations regarding Saudi interest in expanding trade and investment in India and collaboration in the energy sector. Saudi Aramco is interested in partnering with the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company in developing an integrated refinery and petrochemicals complex at Ratnagiri in Maharashtra, a \$44 billion joint venture with Indian public sector involvement. Saudi Arabia is already one of the three largest suppliers of oil to India.

However, much of the euphoria is based on wishful thinking and vague statements such as Riyadh's declaration that India is one of eight countries with which it wants to intensify its strategic partnership in various fields. The Indian self-delusion is demonstrated, above all, by the speculation in

policy-making circles in New Delhi that the Saudi stance on Kashmir has now changed and its tilt toward Pakistan corrected.

The latter assumption is nothing more than a pipe dream. The Saudi Foreign Minister's statement in Islamabad during MBS's visit that Riyadh is committed to "de-escalating" tensions between India and Pakistan over Kashmir must not be read as an endorsement of the Indian stand but as an attempt to intervene in the dispute rather than accept its bilateral nature.

Key reasons

New Delhi should, therefore, not be overly optimistic that growing Saudi-Indian relations in the economic sphere will succeed in prying Riyadh away from Islamabad. There are various reasons that lead to this conclusion. First, Pakistan is far too important to Saudi Arabia for internal security reasons for Riyadh to sacrifice its stake in Islamabad in order to appease New Delhi. The Pakistan Army has more than once acted as the Saudi rulers' praetorian guard and given the uncertain hold of MBS on his country, despite impressions to the contrary, he may need the services of Pakistani mercenaries in the near future.

Second, Afghanistan has been a point of strategic convergence for Pakistan and Saudi Arabia going back to the 1980s when the Saudis used Pakistan as a conduit for material assistance to the Islamist forces fighting the Soviet Union and its proxy government in Kabul. With U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and the consequent expansion of Taliban influence very much on the cards, Pakistan's strategic value as the Taliban's patron has grown exponentially. Saudi Arabia is interested in curbing Iranian influence in Afghanistan and needs Pakistan to contain Tehran's ability to influence events in that country after the American withdrawal through its Tajik and Hazara allies.

The Iran angle

Iran is Saudi Arabia's chief adversary in West Asia. The Saudi-Iranian rivalry is being played out across the region, from Syria to Yemen. Riyadh perceives Pakistan as a major asset it can use to check the spread of Iranian influence despite the Nawaz Sharif government's refusal to commit Pakistani



troops in the Yemen war on behalf of the Saudi-led alliance. It sees Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan (*right in picture*) and Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa as more amenable to Saudi persuasion.

Pakistan on its part perceives MBS as a valuable interlocutor on its behalf with the U.S. because of his excellent rapport with U.S. President Donald Trump. Islamabad deems this essential in light of the recent strains in U.S.-Pakistani relations over Pakistan's support to terrorist groups targeting U.S. forces in Afghanistan that led to stern rebukes from Mr. Trump and suspension of American military aid to Pakistan.

Moreover, Pakistan's relations with Iran, never easy, have hit a new low following the recent terrorist attack in the Sistan-Baluchestan Province that killed 27 Revolutionary Guards. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei pointed the finger at "the spying agencies of some regional and trans-regional countries", an obvious reference to Pakistan and the U.S. The commander of the IRGC said, "The government of Pakistan must pay the price of harbouring these terrorist groups and this price will undoubtedly be very high."

As Pakistan's relations with Iran deteriorate, it is likely to move further into the Saudi orbit. Increasing Sunni fundamentalism, bordering on Wahhabism, in Pakistan also makes it a natural ideological ally of Saudi Arabia and an ideological foe of Shia Iran.

Aid bailout

Saudi economic largesse matters greatly to Pakistan, which is in dire economic straits and has been forced to turn to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for loans that are bound to come with strict conditionalities. Over and above the \$6 billion already promised by Saudi Arabia, MBS has promised a further \$20 billion in Saudi investment in Pakistan. A large part is earmarked for investment in the construction of an oil refinery in Gwadar on the Makran coast, which is being developed as a strategic port by China and features prominently in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) plan.

In the context of this strategic and economic nexus between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, it will be unwise for New Delhi to seriously believe that it will be able to wean Saudi Arabia away from Pakistan. India should take advantage of any benefit that accrues from India's economic relations with Saudi Arabia but should not pin much hope on Riyadh in the political-strategic sphere.

Mohammed Ayoob is University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of International Relations, Michigan State University and Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Center for Global Policy, Washington DC

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.

After Pulwama

No one wants a full-scale war now, which, by all accounts, would be disastrous for both India and Pakistan (OpEd page, "India's options after Pulwama", February 19). Defence officials in India ought to brainstorm to counter the enemy's covert and overt plans. Border incursions should be stopped completely.

As far as trade and travel are concerned, all kinds of punitive measures must be implemented without a time frame, till the aggressor feels the heat. Being able to convince China and Saudi Arabia about the sinister intentions of Pakistan may prove to be difficult. Finally, targeting and

eliminating the non-state actors of terrorism is the good suggestion.

A.M.N. PANDIAN,
Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu

■ Is it the fear of collateral damage that is holding India back from acting against Pakistan, as the writer seems to hint at? If we do not instill fear in terrorist groups that are entrenched in Pakistan, we are only going to be suffering more losses. While improving security measures and preventing radicalisation of our youth is a desirable long-term plan, our military also needs to act – act promptly and adequately to make enemies realise that fostering terrorism on our soil is no more an option.

ATUL KRITI,
New Delhi

Plastic ban

As a German tourist who was travelling in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry for three weeks (December 2018/January 2019), I want to express my deepest respect for the enormous challenge the authorities faced in banning single-use plastics in such a short time. I think it is important to do it as quickly and strictly as possible not only because it is a global issue but also out of the need to preserve the beauty of India. My wife and I tried to do our little bit to clean Mamallapuram beach, south of Chennai. We collected a few bags of plastic in less than 10 minutes, but of course could only cover a few metres. We now fly back to Germany where the issue is less visible

but as big and challenging as it is in India. All nations have to rethink their behaviour as far as the environment is concerned. India has taken an excellent step – in my opinion.

ARMIN KRAUS,
Wuerzburg, Germany

■ I took me back to the time when I had finished school and applied for college admission, in 1976. Eventually I went on to do my post-graduation in chemistry. On my first-ever visit to the leading book store, I came across an interesting title, *107 Stories About Chemistry*. I still remember the Russian authors depicting the arrangement of elements in the form of a story. Chemistry was made interesting.

S.V. VENUGOPALAN,
Chennai

THE WEDNESDAY INTERVIEW | ARUN K. SINGH

'We can defeat terrorism by upholding the unity of our society'

The former diplomat on the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan, India-Pakistan ties, and the security situation in Kashmir

VARGHESE K. GEORGE

Arun K. Singh was Indian Ambassador to the U.S., France and Israel, and served in various capacities in the Ministry of External Affairs, including dealing with Afghanistan post-2001. Now a teacher, commentator and keen observer of geopolitics, Mr. Singh discusses in this interview the evolving situation in Afghanistan and how it is linked to the security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir. Excerpts:

The U.S. appears to be planning an exit from Afghanistan after making a deal with the Taliban. How do you assess the evolving situation?

■ The U.S. under President Donald Trump clearly wants to pull out of Afghanistan. This is not something new. Even under former President Barack Obama, there was a concerted attempt to pull out of Afghanistan. There is a certain amount of wariness in American society about this prolonged involvement in Afghanistan. It has now gone on for almost 18 years. There have been costs, economic and social. Obama was not able to do it, partly due to the push from the U.S. military and partly because he was worried that if there was a major terrorist attack in the U.S. after the pullout, and sourced from Pakistan or Afghanistan... that would have been devastating. The U.S. also did not want to convey the message that it lost in Afghanistan. Then there would have been wider consequences.

Trump and his politics are different. I think he is in a position to handle the consequences of pulling out even if there is a subsequent attack in the U.S. Their challenge now is that the military is pushing for a slow drawdown, as they don't want to create the impression that they have been defeated and leave, like they did in Vietnam. They would like to make an agreement on a political solution, and even if that collapses after a few

months, the U.S. cannot be held responsible.

This is causing a lot of anxiety among groups within Afghanistan. The Afghan President has concerns. The Taliban is reaching out to different countries and groups within Afghanistan, barring the government. Much will depend on whether the Taliban is negating what happened over the last 18 years or accepting the broad parameters of the Afghan Constitution; whether it accommodates others, shows more moderation and also talks to the government. If it is not willing to do that, there will be further instability.

What chances do you see of the Taliban moderating and accepting the broad parameters of the present Constitution?

■ At the moment it looks difficult. The Taliban has managed to create an impression that the present effort is not succeeding, and it has an edge militarily. It also perceives the U.S. as being keen to withdraw from Afghanistan. I don't think it would be willing to make much compromise. Also, there is the question of whether Pakistan is willing to accept an independent and autonomous Afghanistan. Pakistan will be tempted to think that it sustained the Taliban for 18 years and now if the Taliban is back in power, it can re-establish its pre-2001 equity in Afghanistan. That then raises the question of how much independence the Taliban will be able to exercise with re-



R.V. MOORTHY

gard to Pakistan.
Regardless of how the U.S. withdrawal happens, the Taliban will consider this as its victory, right?

■ The Taliban will consider it a victory, many in Pakistan will also consider it a victory. Since 2001, Pakistan has been under tremendous pressure from the U.S. to give up support for the Taliban, for the Haqqani network. Pakistan has managed to sustain its support for these groups, risking its ties with the U.S.

After the exit of the Soviets from Afghanistan, Islamists had claimed they would defeat the Western capitalist system. Will they feel vindicated?

■ Yes, they will. There will be a reinforced argument that the radical Islamist forces defeated the Soviets, and now they have defeated the world's most powerful country. It will certainly encourage extremist tendencies in the Islamic world. We will see the impact of this in diffe-

It is clearly at the behest of Pakistan that China is giving Masood Azhar cover. All the reports suggest that there are very deep links between Azhar and the ISI.

rent parts of the world. In Syria, Iraq, and other parts of the Gulf, Africa, and even European countries.

For the Islamists, Kashmir is also part of the same continuum. How do you think the situation in Afghanistan will influence the situation in Kashmir?

■ Clearly, there are some links. If you see reports about the Pulwama attack, people who were fighting in Afghanistan earlier put together the IED that was used. Afghanistan was, in the past, used to train terrorists for action in India. When the IC-814 hijacking happened [in 1999], the released terrorists were taken to Kabul and they reportedly had meetings with Mullah Omar and Osama bin Laden. There is a

link between Afghanistan and Kashmir: the entity that controls both is the ISI [Inter Services Intelligence]. In the 1990s, when the challenges in Kashmir flared up, one of the factors fanning those was the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Besides being a morale booster, this could also lead to redeployment of personnel from the Afghan front to Kashmir.

■ Yes, unless there is continued instability in Afghanistan. If they get free, they could be deployed elsewhere.

Pakistan is at the centre of all these calculations. The U.S. was categorical in calling out Pakistan after Pulwama. How does it square with its priorities in Afghanistan?

■ India must continue to explain to the world the challenge that Pakistan is posing to global stability. Not every country faces those challenges in the same fashion as India does. We are right next

door. But it is not just India. Recently, Afghanistan and Iran came out with statements directly accusing Pakistan. Attacks in the U.S. and the U.K. have been sourced to Pakistan. At the same time, we should be aware of the limit to what one can achieve in the short term. Each country looks at its relationship with Pakistan from the perspective of its own interest. Of all statements from other countries on Pulwama, one can say there is widespread support for India, but very few countries have directly named Pakistan. The U.S. specifically named Pakistan and asked for measures against terrorists; in the French statement, there is a reference to cross-border terrorism. All the other countries made general statements on terrorism. So one has to understand the limits. Three countries are critical for Pakistan. One is China, for political support, military equipment and investment. China will not discontinue its support. Saudi Arabia will continue its support for Pakistan, which it sees as a large Muslim country where its interests are critical. When MBS [Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman] was under international pressure, [Pakistan Prime Minister] Imran Khan went to support him. Similarly, the U.S., despite all the current challenges in the relations, does not want to burn all its bridges with Pakistan. Despite all that has happened, it has not declared Pakistan a terrorist state as that would disrupt diplomatic engagement.

India-China ties also keep oscillating. How will China respond to the current tensions between India and Pakistan?

■ We will have to wait and watch. China has not come

100% to the side of Pakistan. China sees Pakistan as a useful partner to challenge India, but it will not come fully in support of Pakistan and against India. In Kargil, in 1997, it did not fully support Pakistan. It also made the right noises along with the international community during Kargil and after 2008, asking Pakistan to control terrorism. It would not want to lose India completely. Due to two issues – China's opposition to India's membership in the Nuclear Suppliers Group and on the question of declaring [Jaish-e-Mohammed chief] Masood Azhar a global terrorist – the mood about China in India is negative. But I think it would be very careful to not get 100% on the side of Pakistan.

Why do you think China is staking so much on one individual, Masood Azhar?

■ I think it is clearly at the request of Pakistan. All the reports suggest that there are very deep links between Azhar and the ISI. Pakistan does not want to be in a position where it is compelled to take action against him. Azhar has remained loyal to the Pakistani establishment through thick and thin, and has been a great leverage for it in Afghanistan and India. It is clearly at the behest of Pakistan that China is giving him cover.

Given this context, how should India approach the conflict in Kashmir?

■ There are two dimensions to the problem in Jammu and Kashmir. One is the external – cross-border terrorism, state support from Pakistan, the situation in Afghanistan, etc. Then there is an internal dimension – the relationship between the Central government and the State government and the people of Jam-

mu and Kashmir. The two have to be addressed, broadly speaking, in separate tracks. The radicalisation of youths in the State must be addressed urgently and politically. It has to be a battle of hearts and minds.

After every terrorist strike, there is a flurry of comments that broadly say India is paying the price for being soft. The argument is that India should have used more military force earlier. How do you see that?

■ A challenge like this has to be handled in a long-term framework, though short-term steps are necessary. In 2001-2002, after the attack on our Parliament, the government took a lot of short-term measures – diplomatic and military, including mobilisation at the border. It had some impact and a message was conveyed to the world and Pakistan. President Pervez Musharraf made some moves, such as banning Lashkar-e-Taiba and JeM. But short-term measures cannot do away with a problem of this nature. If one were to look at what the U.S. has done since 2001, nobody would accuse it of being a soft state or not having used power. But despite having used all that power, it has not quite achieved the objectives it set out to achieve. Or look at France and its use of hard military power in Africa. That has its utility, but that cannot resolve a problem. So it has to be a sustained effort, a multidimensional effort. It has to be handled with care and patience. One clear objective of Pakistan is to use terrorism to create a divide among communities in India, and that must be thwarted.

If the people of India show unity and solidarity as these challenges are mounted, that would be a clear defeat of terrorism.

SINGLE FILE

Real tests of leadership

Where does Rahul Gandhi stand on jobs, secularism and democracy?

ANITA INDER SINGH

Rahul Gandhi's leadership of the Congress is being tested. Where does he stand on jobs, secularism and democracy? His promises of farm loan waivers and a minimum income guarantee scheme are populist. In the long run, more Indians will need jobs and the economic changes necessary to create them. If voted to power, what will the Congress do to generate employment? Unless he spells out his plans in detail, Mr. Gandhi's talk of progress will ring as hollow as that of the ruling BJP.

Mr. Gandhi's idea of a minimum income guarantee resonates with the BJP's idea of a universal basic income (UBI), which was presented by Arvind Subramanian when he was Chief Economic Adviser. It was rejected by then Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, Arvind Panagariya, on the grounds that India lacks the fiscal room to implement such a scheme. The only country that has experimented with a UBI is Finland, which has a per capita income of about \$41,000, compared to India's \$2,134. Finland's UBI reportedly made more people happy, but did not create jobs. It also imposed an extra burden on the state. More generally, many Scandinavians and Germans would probably say that a country has to create wealth in order to create welfare. How does that sound to Indians?

Then there is the question of religious issues. Recently, the Congress government in Madhya Pradesh invoked the National Security Act against three men accused of cow slaughter. While Mr. Gandhi's Congress is making the BJP's authoritarianism an election issue, this act shows that the Congress government can be as high-handed as the BJP government it seeks to displace.

Especially at a time when high unemployment figures are making headlines, it should be remembered that the cow slaughter ban not only impacts the beef export industry, which is worth about \$4 billion, but also implies coercion against those Indians who are not Hindus. Will Mr. Gandhi's soft Hindutva build new social bridges? Divided on the issue, some Congresspersons have asked whether cows are more important than human beings. It is precisely these divisions that will test Mr. Gandhi's mettle.

Mr. Gandhi has also lambasted the BJP's use of Aadhaar as an instrument of authoritarianism, intended to disempower citizens. Will the Congress do away with the relevant legislation on Aadhaar if it comes to power? What will the party do to ensure that a Congress government will not misuse authority in an analogous manner?

All these issues – jobs, equality, and secularism – are intertwined. Voters would like to know how Mr. Gandhi's Congress will handle them. To paraphrase Martin Luther King Jr., leadership is about moulding consensus and showing the way.

The writer is a founding professor of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution in New Delhi

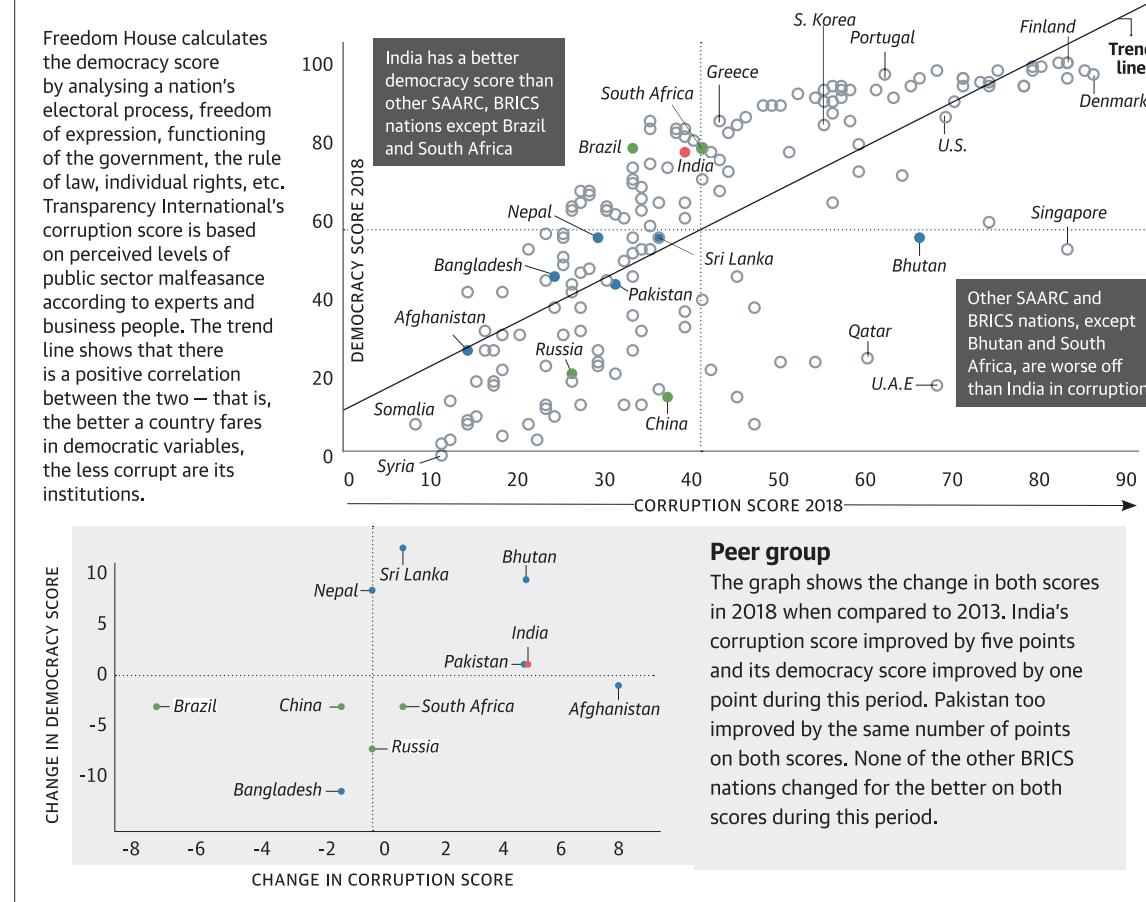


DATA POINT

Corruption and democracy

Freedom House calculates the democracy score by analysing a nation's electoral process, freedom of expression, functioning of the government, the rule of law, individual rights, etc. Transparency International's corruption score is based on perceived levels of public sector malfeasance according to experts and business people. The trend line shows that there is a positive correlation between the two – that is, the better a country fares in democratic variables, the less corrupt are its institutions.

Nations which are relatively more corrupt tend to have weaker democratic institutions. India was among the aberrations in 2018. It registered an above average democracy score of 77 (0: autocracy, 100: full democracy) and a below average corruption score of 41 (0: highly corrupt, 100: very clean)



FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 20, 1969

Surplus railway budget

The Railways have for the first time in the last four years come out with a surplus budget and that too without resort to increase in passenger fares and freights. Presenting the budget to the Lok Sabha [February 19, New Delhi], the new Minister of Railways, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, estimated a small surplus of Rs. 1.91 crores in 1969/70 after fully discharging the Railways' dividend liability, to the general revenues at Rs. 159 crores, the highest so far. The Railway Minister said that the Railways expected to lift about nine million tonnes of additional revenue earning traffic and carry an extra three per cent of passenger traffic in the coming year.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 20, 1919

Hinduism and Sea-Voyages

(Correspondence)

Sir, We are under the deepest debt of gratitude to Mr. Kasturi Ranga Iyengar for the clear terms in which in his Conjeevaram speech he determined the principles of solution of conflicts between Orthodox Hinduism and Nationalism. "I have no hesitation in saying that if there be any conflict between the principles of Nationalism and Hinduism, which I believe there is not, I will pursue the path marked out by the former." It is hoped that no narrow construction will be placed on this statement saving only sea-voyages involved in political deputations from the prohibitions of orthodoxy by the weight of his authority. I trust that not only political deputations to England, but every action aimed at "the elevation and the good of the masses of our countrymen and the attainment of national unity and progress" will be included in the category of things not to be obstructed, but to be encouraged by those who heard or read this splendid exhortation.

C. Rajagopalachari,
Salem, February 18.

CONCEPTUAL

Turkheimer's laws

BIOLOGY

This refers to a set of laws regarding the heritability of various behavioural traits and the relative influence of genes and environment on human behaviour. The first Turkheimer law states that all human behavioural traits are heritable. The second law states that the influence of genes on human behaviour is greater than the family environment. The final law argues that a significant number of behavioural traits may be explained neither by genes nor the family environment. Turkheimer's laws were proposed by American psychologist Eric Turkheimer in his 2000 paper "Three Laws of Behavior Genetics and What They Mean".

MORE ON THE WEB

Why is Mohammed bin Salman's India visit crucial?

<http://bit.ly/SaudiPrinceinIndia>

FROM PAGE ONE

AIADMK signs pact with BJP, PMK

In the morning, State Ministers P. Thangamani and S.P. Velumani, both regarded as confidants of the Chief Minister, went to the residence of daughter of the PMK founder in T. Nagar to escort Dr. Ramadoss and former Union Minister Anbumani Ramadoss to a star hotel in R.A. Puram, where the AIADMK leaders received them.

The Deputy Chief Minister then told the media that the two parties had clinched a deal. The PMK leader had presented a charter of demands.

Wishes for Vijayakant
Union Minister Piyush Goyal reached the city in the afternoon and got the understanding with the AIADMK finalised after a meeting with the latter's leaders.

SC upset by plight of migrants in Assam centres

On the other hand, the Foreign Tribunals were able to identify only 52,000 illegal foreigners. "How do you expect people to have confidence in the government when you have acted like this for the past 50 years... You have not done anything," the Chief Justice told Mr. Mehta.

Referring to the submission that about 29,000 illegal immigrants were "pushed back," the Chief Justice asked the government whether "pushing back was an effective way of deportation." "Of the 52,000, how many have you actually deported," he asked the government.

Mr. Mehta repeatedly assured the court that steps would be taken to expedite deportation or repatriation of illegal immigrants rather than have them spend years

Even though it was expected that the BJP would finalise an arrangement with the Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMKD), what emerged after his meeting with the DMDK's leaders, Vijayakant, his wife Prema-latha Vijayakant and brother-in-law L.K. Sudeesh, was a statement from the Union Minister that he had come to the city only to wish Mr. Vijayakant, who came back to Chennai on Saturday after undergoing treatment in the U.S., a "very good and healthy life."

According to a source, the DMDK was said to have sought five Lok Sabha seats along with one Rajya Sabha seat. To this, the BJP sought more time to respond. However, another source in the BJP said the issue would be resolved in a few days.

Triple talaq ordinance to be reissued

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday gave its approval to reissue the triple talaq ordinance that makes the practice of talaq-e-biddat or instant triple talaq by Muslim men a criminal offence with a jail term.

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley made the announcement at a press conference.

The government adopted the ordinance route after the Bill lapsed, failing to get passed in the Rajya Sabha in the recently concluded session of Parliament.

For the third time in less than a year, the ordinance will become law once President Ram Nath Kovind signs it.

The petition, whose contents were inspired from a report Mr. Mander wrote as Minorities Monitor for the National Human Rights Commission, underscored the helplessness of children, aged over six, separated from their parents held in these centres.

dia Shining" pitch was helmed by Leo Burnett. For the 2014 election, Japanese firm Dentis India handled the Congress's ₹500-crore advertising campaign.

Catching the pulse

The sources say seven taglines have been shortlisted including *Bande Mein Hai Dum-Saath Challenge Hum, Ab Is Bar Soch Samajh Ke, and Bahut Hua Jumalon Ki Mar-Aao Badlein Modi Sarkar*. The companies made their presentation on January 30 and 31 to the core committee, headed by A.K. Antony and with Ghulam Nabi Azad, P. Chidambaram, Ashok Gehlot, Mallikarjun Kharge, Ahmed Patel, Jairam Ramesh, Randeep Surjewala and K.C. Venugopal as mem-



bers. A meeting of the campaign committee and State campaign committee chairpersons was held on Monday and Tuesday to further fine-tune the taglines and the campaign strategy.

The Congress's emphasis is on the critical 130 million first-time voters and 110 million second-time voters who voted in 2014. A total of 900 million persons are on the rolls for Lok Sabha election.

The first phase of the campaign was to begin by February 20 but for now it has been delayed. Sources say Congress president Rahul Gandhi is unhappy over the delay. "It is a work in progress, and it has been a fairly comprehensive exercise," Anand Sharma, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and chairman of the publicity committee of the Congress, said.

The campaign is expected to change gears once the nomination process is completed. There will be a dual campaign, one for the States where it is in a direct fight with the BJP and another where it is fighting in alliance with regional parties. "There will be uniformity in the Congress message across the

nation," a source said. In 2014, the Congress was taken by surprise with the digital effort of the BJP, while it was still using it in a rudimentary manner. It is learnt from sources that the Congress is considering hiring a digital media firm and has had presentations by the New York-based Gutenberg and India-based Silverpush.

A member of the publicity committee told *The Hindu* that the Assembly election in five States was used as a testing ground for its strategy. "We worked at many levels to distil the issues affecting the people the most. At first stage, data was collected, then inputs from the State units were collated and we did a real time check on the issues," the member said.

'Celebrities willing to endorse parties for a fee'

Cobrapost conducts sting operation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Investigative platform Cobrapost on Tuesday claimed to have exposed 36 Bollywood personalities who agreed to promote for a fee any specified political party on their social media accounts ahead of the Lok Sabha election.

"Most of them were willing to accept the bulk of their fee in cash, which in other words means black money," Cobrapost said in a statement. While some actors proposed they would indirectly promote the political party in their press briefings during the promotion of a film or an event, others even offered to post videos on social media and make them go viral.

Mr. Bahal asserted that the report highlighted the need for the Election Commission to frame guidelines to regulate proxy campaigning by celebrities on social media.

However, four of those

who were approached refused the offer straight away.

Cobrapost Editor Aniruddha Bahal said the sting operation was conducted last year and it took some time to release it after the post-production work.

"Most of them were willing to accept the bulk of their fee in cash, which in other words means black money," Cobrapost said in a statement. While some actors proposed they would indirectly promote the political party in their press briefings during the promotion of a film or an event, others even offered to post videos on social media and make them go viral.

Mr. Bahal asserted that the report highlighted the need for the Election Commission to frame guidelines to regulate proxy campaigning by celebrities on social media.

SC dismisses plea on CBI interim chief

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed a petition challenging the re-appointment of M. Nageswara Rao as interim CBI Director in January as both "fallacious" and "misconceived".

In a 13-page judgment, a Bench of Justices Arun Misra and Navin Sinha said the petition by NGO Common Cause through advocate Prashant Bhushan was filed with "undue haste" without verifying facts.

The NGO had claimed that the appointment of Mr. Rao, after the exit of Alok Verma, was done by the government without the prior approval of the high-power selection committee of the Prime Minister, the Opposition leader and the Chief Justice of India or his nominee Supreme Court judge as per the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, the statute which controls the functioning of the CBI.

Rahul hosts lunch for entrepreneurs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday hosted a group of entrepreneurs for lunch and had an interaction as part of the 'Apni Baat Rahul ke Saath' initiative to interact with different sections of the society.

"When you listen to TV debates, everybody talks about growth, 'India is growing at 6%... 8%'. But nobody talks about jobs. Where are the jobs?" Mr. Gandhi told the group.

His remark is understood to have been targeted at SP, BSP



Narendra Modi also said he was saddened by those who mocked the Vande Bharat Express. ■ FILE PHOTO

cost ₹50 crore, the Prime Minister said.

He said mocking the "world-class" train amounted to an "insult" of every technician and engineer, and said he was saddened by the episode.

"Every citizen and every youth must be cautious of those people who have a mentality to mock India," Mr. Modi said.

However, four of those



Royal welcome: Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the New Delhi airport on Tuesday. ■ AP

PM, Saudi Crown Prince to discuss cross-border terror

Breaking protocol, Modi receives Salman at airport

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

In a special gesture, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday received Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at the airport here, signifying the importance India attaches to the visit by the leader of the powerful Gulf nation.

The Crown Prince arrived here on a visit for under 30 hours, a day after concluding his high-profile tour of Pakistan where he said dialogue was the only way to resolve "outstanding issues" between India and Pakistan.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted, "A new chapter in bilateral relations. Breaking protocol, PM @narendramodi personally receives HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Crown

Prince of Saudi Arabia as he arrives on his first bilateral visit to India."

The Saudi leader, who returned to Riyadh from Pakistan, and Mr. Modi will hold extensive talks on Wednesday during which India is likely to raise strongly the issue of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.

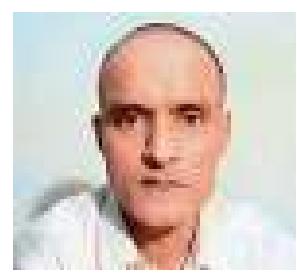
Official sources said Saudi Arabia was no longer accepting Pakistan's narrative on Kashmir and cross-border terrorism and that India would forcefully raise the issue of Pakistan's support to terror groups during delegation-level talks between Mr. Modi and the Crown Prince.

They said the joint statement to be issued after talks between the two sides is likely to have strong reference about terrorism and ways to deal with it.

Official sources said there has been a "change" in the way Saudi Arabia looked at relations between India and Pakistan and that the powerful Gulf nation had a better understanding of the cross-border terrorism.

Dismiss ple to free Jadhav: Pak.

India accused of engaging in 'political theatre' and 'grandstanding' at ICJ

VIDYA RAM
THE HAGUE

Kulbhushan Jadhav

of failing to answer fundamental questions and of "causing terrorism and training terrorists to act in Pakistan" and wanting to "destroy" the country.

Indian interference
Pakistan had suffered more than 74,000 terrorism-related casualties and fatalities that had been caused "mainly by the interference" of India, said Mr. Khan in open-

presentations that contrasted with the more muted tone of India's opening oral arguments the day before, Mr. Qureshi and Pakistani's Attorney-General Anwar Mansoor Khan accused India

ing remarks. Mr. Khan then accused India of having "detained and tortured" him as a prisoner of war 20 years before.

"I have been a victim of Indian brutalities," he told the court, in his opening submission, after he had been told to proceed with setting out Pakistan's case, despite their putting forward a request for an adjournment after former Chief Justice Tassaduq Hussain Jillani was taken ill on Monday, and has not been able to return to the court.

Pakistan had invoked the right for Pakistan to appoint an ad hoc judge because one of the ICJ judges is Indian, and because of Mr. Jillani's absence.

Mr. Khan on Tuesday called for the court to allow

for another individual to be sworn in to replace Mr. Jillani and for them to be given "sufficient time" to review the case. "This is a matter of great concern for Pakistan," he said.

"The court will provide its response to your questions in due time," ICJ president Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf told Pakistan during the proceedings.

The three-hour hearing – during which Mr. Qureshi was asked to slow down the pace of his presentation several times by the President – followed opening arguments by Harish Salve, India's counsel, and joint secretary Deepak Mittal, who accused Pakistan of "knowingly, wilfully and brazenly" flouting the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

Arguing that the Supreme Court should not enter the realm of facts in criminal cases like this, Mr. Sibal said factual evidence should be best left to be argued before the Magistrate's court concerned.

At one point, Justice Sikri asked Mr. Bhatia whether the CBI could investigate cases in West Bengal considering the fact that the State government had withdrawn general consent to the CBI's jurisdiction within its territory.

Here, Mr. Sibal intervened and said that "as an officer of this court I have to say that nothing can prevent the Supreme Court from ordering a CBI investigation. But having said that, I feel this court should not decide on facts".

The court adjourned the hearing.

Hearing on plea for CBI probe into death of BJP men

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday witnessed a sharp exchange between a judge and West Bengal counsel. When Justice A.K. Sikri asked, "What is happening in West Bengal government", senior advocate Kapil Sibal instantly retorted, "What is happening in the CBI?"

The impromptu query of the judge came after advocate and BJP leader Gaurav Bhatia detailed the alleged circumstances around the deaths of three BJP workers in Purulia as part of his plea for a CBI probe. Mr. Bhatia contended that the "brutal killings", with the body of

Sharp exchanges in SC on Bengal

CBI complaint to be heard today

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refrained from ordering the personal appearance of West Bengal chief secretary, DGP and the Kolkata police commissioner in court on February 20 in connection with a contempt action initiated by the CBI against them.

A Bench led by Chief

Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi instead said the matter would come up for consideration on February 20, when the CBI application is listed for hearing.

The CBI had moved the apex court against the State Police personnel who said physically prevented the agency's team from questioning the Kolkata police commissioner.

"West Bengal?" Justice Sikri remarked.

Mr. Sibal, however, responded with a counter-question. "So what is happening in the CBI also... And all of this [Mr. Bhatia's petition] is indeed politics," he coun-

ted.

one of the party workers found hanging from a high-tension electric post, exemplified the violence meted out by the Trinamool Congress to its political rivals.

"This is not being politi-

cal, but what is happening in

IN BRIEF



Intervene with Imran, Digvijaya tells Sidhu

NEW DELHI
Convince your friend 'Imran bhai' to act against terrorists targeting India. Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh tendered this advice on Tuesday to his party colleague Navjot Singh Sidhu, who is at the centre of a row over his remark on the Pulwama attack. After the attack, Mr. Sidhu asked whether an entire nation could be blamed for the act of a "handful of people." PTI

What proof do you want, Amarinder asks Imran

CHANDIGARH
Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh reacted sharply on Tuesday to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's remark that India had no evidence of his country's involvement in the Pulwama terror attack, wondering "if the Pakistan Prime Minister wanted New Delhi to send the bodies of the soldiers." "What proof is he talking about? Masood Azhar is in Pakistan and doing things from there ... Every day our soldiers are being killed at the Line of Control – so who's killing them?" he asked.

Pak. seeks U.N. mediation to de-escalate tension

ISLAMABAD
Pakistan has sought the urgent intervention of the U.N. Secretary-General in defusing tension with India and help facilitate dialogue between the two countries, the Foreign Office said on Tuesday. The Pulwama attack has heightened bilateral tensions with both New Delhi and Islamabad calling back their envoys for "consultations". PTI

JeM local leadership destroyed'

Group had been taking directions from ISI, neutralised within 100 hours: Army

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

The Army on Tuesday said it had neutralised the top local leadership of the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), which had been "taking directions from Pakistan Army and its intelligence agency ISI directly," within 100 hours of the Pulwama suicide attack.

"We have eliminated the JeM leadership in the Valley, which was being handled by the JeM based in Pakistan and was taking directions from Pakistan Army and ISI," Lt. Gen. Kanwal Jeet Singh Dhillon, General Officer Commanding (GOC), Chinar Corps, told presspersons. "The February 14 type car bombing has happened after a long time... we will keep all options open to deal with these kinds of attacks."

Lt. Gen. Dhillon briefed the press jointly with Inspector-General of Police (IGP) S.P. Pani and IG CRPF Zulfiz-



Tough talk: General Officer Commanding of the Chinar Corps Lt. Gen. Kanwal Jeet Singh Dhillon, centre, addressing a press meet in Srinagar on Tuesday. • NISSAR AHMED

kar Hassan on the operation carried out in Pulwama on Monday in which three JeM militants were killed in an 18-hour encounter.

Pakistani operatives

The Army said two Pakistani JeM terrorists, Kamran, alias Fahad, and Rashid, alias Gazi, alias Lukaman, and a lo-

cal militant, Hilal Ahmad, "played a role in the suicide attack" on a CRPF convoy at Pulwama's Lethpora area that killed 40 jawans. Kamran had taken over as JeM's operational commander last year and was active in the Pulwama-Awantipora-Tral axis, officials said.

The GOC asked the moth-

ers of Kashmiri youth to request their sons who had joined terrorism to surrender and return to the mainstream.

"Anyone who has picked up a gun will be killed and eliminated, unless he surrenders. Our focus is clear on counter-terrorism operations," he said.

France to propose ban on JeM chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

France will move a proposal at the U.N. in a "couple of days" to ban Masood Azhar, chief of the U.N.-proscribed JeM, French sources said on Tuesday.

This will be the second time France will be party to such a proposal. In 2017, the U.S., supported by the U.K. and France, moved a proposal at the U.N.'s Sanctions Committee 1267 to ban him. However, it was blocked by China.

"At the U.N., France will lead a proposal to put Masood Azhar on the terrorist list ... It will happen in a couple of days," a senior French source said. The French decision was discussed between Philippe Etienne, Diplomatic Adviser to the French President, and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, French sources said.



Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaking at a press conference in Bengaluru on Tuesday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Pak. never acted on evidence: Minister

'Morale of armed forces not hit'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Pakistan has nothing to show that they have acted on earlier evidence handed to them on violence from across the border, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said here on Tuesday.

She referred to the dossier and evidence provided by successive governments since the Mumbai attacks. "What action has Pakistan taken on them?" she said.

In India, following the due process of law, the Mumbai attackers were heard and then punished. "But in Pakistan, even the first court has not completed its job," Ms. Sitharaman told a news conference ahead of Aero India 2019 scheduled to begin on Wednesday. She was responding to questions about Pakistan Prime Minister's statement that his country would take action when it got evidence from India.

The five-day Aero India 2019, scheduled to start on Wednesday, will see the largest delegation of military and industry officials from the U.S.

"There is no doubt about it," she said.

"The morale [of the armed forces] has not been affected at all," she said to another question.

Budget allocation

About Budget allocations reportedly falling short of requirements, the Minister said the government would do whatever needed to be done. "Post-election, we will take a call."

To a query on the many defence deals that were signed or were ready to be signed with Russia in the face of threats of U.S. sanctions, Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra said, "We have developed a modus vivendi with the Ministry of External Affairs. And it is going on for the present and future projects."

The five-day Aero India 2019, which officials said is the largest so far in terms of participation, opens here on Wednesday.

The military and civil air show opens under a cloud, as a Hawk pilot died early on Tuesday while the aerobatic team was rehearsing at the Yelahanka air base.

U.S. envoy wants Pak. to end terror support

Pulwama attack bolsters resolve to cooperate with India in counter-terrorism, says Juster

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Pakistan should end the support to terror groups operating on its soil, said U.S. Ambassador to India Kenneth I. Juster.

His comments came a few hours after Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said there was no proof linking the country with the Pulwama terror attack.

"The United States condemns in the strongest terms this horrific attack by a Pakistan-based terrorist group



Kenneth I. Juster

... The United States calls on Pakistan to end immediately the support and safe havens provided to all terrorist

groups operating on its soil," he said on Thursday, during an interaction with presspersons in connection with the Aero India 2019.

The "horrific" Pulwama incident "bolsters" the U.S.'s resolve to cooperate with India on counter-terrorism. "[We will] work with them [India] to get to the bottom of what has occurred last week," Mr. Juster said.

He said the U.S. had previously condemned terrorist sanctuaries that existed in Pakistan and suspended mil-

itary assistance. Asked if Pakistan could initiate the crackdown on terror groups with increased U.S. pressure, the Ambassador said: "I don't want to get ahead of the situation that is developing."

Growing defence ties
The coming year will surpass the achievements of 2018 in terms of U.S.-India defence relationship, said the Ambassador.

"2018 was a banner year in our partnership in India.

The Indian armed forces conducted more exercises with the United States than with any other country, and more U.S. service members came to train with their counterparts than any time in the past ... 2019 is on track to meet or exceed last year's levels of bilateral cooperation," he said.

The five-day Aero India 2019, scheduled to start on Wednesday, will see the largest delegation of military and industry officials from the U.S.

Ms. Sitharaman, however, declined to respond to questions on the Pulwama attack as "many details are yet to come."

Every such incident should be prevented.

Imran Khan giving a 'lame excuse', says India

'Pakistan PM has not chosen to condemn the heinous act'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's offer to investigate the Pulwama terror attack is a "lame excuse", the External Affairs Ministry said on Tuesday.

"The Prime Minister of Pakistan has offered to investigate the matter if India provides proof. This is a lame excuse ... Prime Minister of Pakistan has neither chosen to condemn this heinous act nor condoled with the bereaved families," a press release from the Ministry said.

Putting forward the Indian position, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley criticised Imran Khan saying the attack at Pulwama drew universal condemnation. "There is not even a pretext of an outright



condemnation of the incident," said Mr. Jaitley describing Pakistan's demand for actionable intelligence as "shallow logic".

The Ministry's statement singled out Pakistan Minister Noorul-Haq Qadri's appearance with Hafiz Saeed in an event last year, and said that Imran Khan's "new Pakistan" was also responsible for

promoting terrorism. "It is regrettable that the Pakistani Prime Minister has insinuated that India's response to the terrorism attack is determined by the forthcoming General Election," the Ministry said.

The international campaign of India to counter Pakistan continued on Tuesday with senior diplomats briefing Arab diplomats about India's anguish. Pakistan summoned the Acting Indian High Commissioner and raised security concerns regarding its mission here after protests reached the gate of the High Commission.

Bikaner is adjacent to the international border with Pakistan.

The order also bans the use of Pakistani SIM cards in the district.

Pak. nationals asked to leave Bikaner

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The Collector of Bikaner in Rajasthan has asked all Pakistani nationals to leave the district within 48 hours, citing intelligence reports that indicated "extreme unrest" among the locals after the Pulwama attack. Collector Kumar Pal Gautam issued prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code on Monday, banning the stay of Pakistani nationals in any hotel, inn or hospital within the limits of the district and restricting any direct or indirect trade and exchange of classified information with any Pakistani national.

The international campaign of India to counter Pakistan continued on Tuesday with senior diplomats briefing Arab diplomats about India's anguish. Pakistan summoned the Acting Indian High Commissioner and raised security concerns regarding its mission here after protests reached the gate of the High Commission.

Bikaner is adjacent to the international border with Pakistan.

The order also bans the use of Pakistani SIM cards in the district.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
ANANDAPUR BARRAGE PROJECT, SALAPADA.
(E-mail Id: cceabp-eicwr.od@nic.in/ ioabp-eicwr.od@nic.in)

e-Procurement Notice No. CCEABP-20 of 2018-19

E-Procurement Officer	Name of Work	Bid Id No.	Tender Cost in Lakhs (Appx.)	Bid Security in Lakhs	Cost of Bid Document	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From To	Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Cover-1)
Chief Construction Engineer, A.B. Project, Salapada	Excavation of Salandi Left Main Canal (SMC) From RD 40927 M to 45570 M Including Construction of Structures and Service Road of Anandapur Barrage Project.	ABP-MCD-01/ of 2018-19	2002.00	20.02	10,000/-	Super Class	16 (Sixteen) Calendar months	27.02.19 11.30 hrs 17.00 hrs	25.03.19 11.30 hrs 27.03.19

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website : www.tendersorissa.gov.in / www.dowrodisha.gov.in. Addendum/Corrigendum/ Cancellation if any required will be published in Govt. website only.

32068/11/0032/1819

Chief Construction Engineer, Anandapur Barrage Project, Salapada.

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SCG030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement)

BESCOM invites tender vide Enquiry No. : BESCOM/DGM (SG&EV)/BC-53/2018-19/ENQ-07, Dated 18.02.2019 for Implementation of Advance Metering Infrastructure (AMI) in Tumakuru Smart City ABD Area.

Bid document available from : 28.02.2019 at 15:00 Hrs. **Last date & time for receipt of bid document :** 22.04.2019 upto 16:00 Hrs. **Opening of bid document :** 24.04.2019 at 12:00 Hrs. All the payments such as tender cost, EMD, etc. shall be made through e-payment mode. Further, bidders can take assistance with e-procurement help desk at 080-25501216 and 080-25501227 or website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- The Deputy General Manager (Ele.)
SG&EV, 2nd Block, 1st Floor, Corporate Office, BESCOM, K.R. Circle, Bangalore-01
Contact No.: 080-22204344

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP
Solar Rooftop Help Desk No. 080-22340816

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(PROJECT ORGANISATION)TENDER NOTICE
SIGNALLING WORK

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer / Project, Southern Railway, Chep, Chennai - 31 invites ONLINE tenders for the following works as per Tender Notice given in our E-Tender portal [www.reps.gov.in](http://reps.gov.in). Tenders / Contract(s) intended to apply for tender, must be registered in E-Tender portal www.reps.gov.in and only online tender will be accepted. All the tender(s) / contractor(s) have to deposit full Earnest Money (EMD) and Tender Document Cost (TDC) as stipulated for the tender, through online modes as permitted in IREPS applicable through Net banking, Debit / Credit Cards or Payment Gateway only. It is responsibility of tenderer(s) / contractor(s) to obtain Digital Signature Certificates for participating e-tendering.

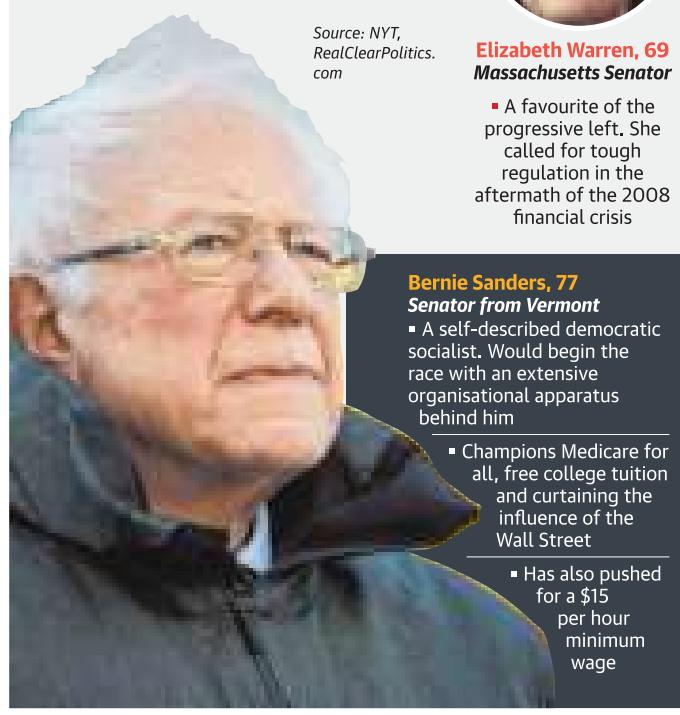
E-Tender Notice No.: SG/PROJ/AFTC/AUTO/2019/EOT (03) dt. 18.02.2019

Name of the work and its location : Provision of Signalling Arrangement in connection with provision of Audio Frequency Track Circuit in lieu of Conventional DC Track Circuits on ENR-GPD section (32RKM). Balance Signalling and Engineering works to be carried out between ENR-PON section (17RKM).

S.No.	Description of Work	Details
1	Approximate cost of the work	Rs.2,44,58,424.01
2	Cost of Tender Form (Rupees)	Rs.11,200.00
3	Earliest Money to be deposited (Rupees)	Rs.2,72,300.00
4	Completion Period of work	6 Months
5	Eligibility Criteria to participation for this tender	*Any signalling interlocking works

A crowded space

With the entry of Bernie Sanders, an Independent who caucuses with the Democrats, there are now at least 12 contenders for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination



Source: NYT, RealClearPolitics.com

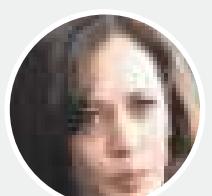


Elizabeth Warren, 69
Massachusetts Senator

- A favourite of the progressive left. She called for tough regulation in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis

Bernie Sanders, 77
Senator from Vermont

- A self-described democratic socialist. Would begin the race with an extensive organisational apparatus behind him
- Champions Medicare for all, free college tuition and curtailing the influence of the Wall Street
- Has also pushed for a \$15 per hour minimum wage



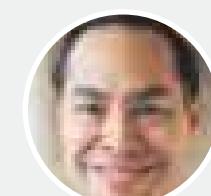
Kamala Harris, 54
California Senator

- Drew attention for her tough questioning of Trump's Cabinet nominees
- Unveiled middle-class tax legislation last year and has championed a liberal civil rights agenda



Tulsi Gabbard, 37
Hawaii Congresswoman

- She has been a supporter of universal government-provided health care and raising of the minimum wage. She is also an opponent of America's interventions in other countries
- Opted out of challenging Ted Cruz for Senate in 2018
- Has emphasised Medicare for all and immigration reform and universal primary education



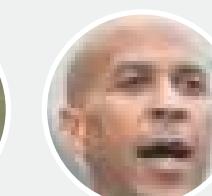
Julián Castro, 44
Former Mayor of San Antonio

- Opted out of challenging Ted Cruz for Senate in 2018
- Has emphasised Medicare for all and immigration reform and universal primary education
- Has placed women's equality at the centre of her policy agenda



Kirsten Gillibrand, 52
New York Senator

- She has positioned herself as one of the presidential candidates who can capitalise on the #MeToo movement
- Has placed women's equality at the centre of her policy agenda
- Enjoys a vast fund-raising base, thanks to connections with donors across the country
- Has been one of the leaders in the Senate on criminal justice reform



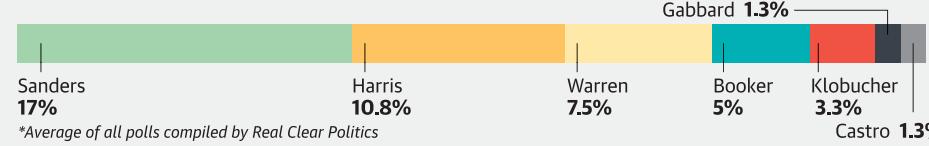
Cory Booker, 49
New Jersey Senator

- Enjoys a vast fund-raising base, thanks to connections with donors across the country
- Has been one of the leaders in the Senate on criminal justice reform

Sanders has the advantage of having the small donors behind him

The 2018 Senate candidates who raised the largest share from small donors

*Among those who have announced their candidacy, Sanders has the highest favourability ratings



Average of all polls compiled by Real Clear Politics

Bernie Sanders announces White House bid

Our campaign is about taking on the powerful special interests that dominate our economic and political life, he says

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
NEW YORK

Independent Senator from Vermont and 2016 presidential candidate, Bernie Sanders, has announced that he is seeking the Democratic nomination for the White House in 2020. Mr. Sanders announced his intention to run on Vermont Public Radio on Tuesday morning, entering a crowded field of at least 10 other Democratic candidates.

With his 2016 campaign and agenda of free health care for all, a \$15 minimum wage, zero college tuition and higher taxes on the rich, Mr. Sanders, who has described himself as a democratic socialist, gave the Democratic Party a push to the left, bringing several progressive policies to the mainstream of political discourse.

Some of the policies he popularised are now part of the agenda of those seeking

the Democratic nomination, including Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, who is likely to run on a similar platform to Mr. Sanders's.

The nature of the race has changed markedly in just three years. In 2016, Mr. Sanders was pushing progressive policies and his main opponent for the Democratic nomination, Hilary Clinton, was an establishment candidate. In 2020, Mr. Sanders will run in a less ideologically unique space – a result of his own policy agenda and presence on the national stage.

Grassroots campaign

At least two of those who had endorsed Mr. Sanders previously – Tulsi Gabbard, Congresswoman from Hawaii, and author Marianne Williamson – will now compete with him for the Democratic ticket.

"Hi, I'm Bernie Sanders.

I'm running for President," Mr. Sanders said in a video and email sent to supporters on Tuesday, in which he also asked them to be part of an "unprecedented grassroots campaign". Mr. Sanders had raised some \$230 million, mostly through small donations in 2016.

"Our campaign is not only about defeating Donald Trump, the most dangerous President in modern American history," Mr. Sanders said in the video. "It is not only about winning the Democratic nomination and the general election. Our campaign is about transforming our country and creating a government based on the principles of economic, social, racial and environmental justice."

"Our campaign is about taking on the powerful special interests that dominate our economic and political life. I'm talking about Wall

Street, the health insurance companies, the drug companies, the fossil fuel industry, the military-industrial complex, the private prison industry, and the large multinational corporations that exert such an enormous influence over our lives," said Mr. Sanders, who has projected himself as a candidate for working class Americans and against entrenched Washington interests.

Mr. Sanders referred to e-commerce giant Amazon paying "nothing in federal income taxes" and the "grotesque" income inequalities in American society. He called for an end to racism, sexism, homophobia, religious bigotry and an end to voter suppression and gerrymandering (manipulating the boundaries of an electoral constituency in an electorally strategic manner).

"We are running against a President who is a patholog-

ical liar, a fraud, a racist, a sexist, a xenophobe, and someone who is undermining American democracy as he leads us in an authoritarian direction," Mr. Sanders said.

Oldest candidate

If he wins, Mr. Sanders, at 77, will be the oldest candidate on the Democratic ticket. Yet, he is highly popular among young voters and won the under-30 vote in 2016 against Ms. Clinton. However, Mr. Sanders fared badly last time with African-American and women voters. Ms. Clinton won South Carolina – where some 60% of Democratic voters are black – by almost 50 points.

Mr. Sanders visited South Carolina on Martin Luther King Jr. day at the end of January and met with lawmakers and others, and delivered a speech in honour of King.

There are other vulnerabilities in the Sanders cam-

paign. His opponents will likely bring up his voting record on gun control – he received support from the NRA as a Congressman in 1990 for voting against wait times for those wanting to buy handguns.

Mr. Sanders is also likely to be challenged on reports of harassment of women workers by their colleagues and pay disparities in the Sanders campaign in 2016. "I certainly apologise to any woman who felt she was not treated appropriately, and of course, if I run we will do better the next time," Mr. Sanders had said.

A recent Morning Consult nationwide poll of democratic primary voters put Mr. Sanders in second place, winning 22% of primary voters and behind former Vice-President Joe Biden (29%). Indian and African-American candidate Kamala Harris came in third at 13%.

16 U.S. states sue Trump over border wall emergency

They warn of a constitutional crisis

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SAN FRANCISCO

Sixteen U.S. states sued President Donald Trump's administration on Monday over his decision to declare a national emergency to fund a wall on the southern border with Mexico, saying the move violated the Constitution.

Mr. Trump announced the emergency on Friday in order to bypass Congress, which approved only a quarter of the \$5.6 billion he wanted for the wall in a spending Bill.

But the lawsuit, filed in a federal court in California, said the President's order was contrary to the Constitution's presentment and appropriations clauses, which outline legislative procedures and define Congress as the final arbiter of public funds, respectively.

The move had already been announced by Xavier Becerra, the Attorney-General of California, who said on Sunday his State and others had legal standing because they risked losing money intended for military projects, disaster assistance and other purposes. Critics have warned that Mr. Trump has opened the door for future Presidents to call on the act whenever they fail to get their way with Congress. Should the States prevail, the case could work its way up to the Supreme Court, setting up a precedent-setting showdown on the separation of powers.

A protest against President Donald Trump in New York City on Monday. • AFP

tion to protect their residents, natural resources, and economic interests from President Donald J. Trump's flagrant disregard of fundamental separation of powers principles enshrined in the United States Constitution," the complaint said.

It added that Mr. Trump had already been announced by Xavier Becerra, the Attorney-General of California, who said on Sunday his State and others had legal standing because they risked losing money intended for military projects, disaster assistance and other purposes. Critics have warned that Mr. Trump has opened the door for future Presidents to call on the act whenever they fail to get their way with Congress. Should the States prevail, the case could work its way up to the Supreme Court, setting up a precedent-setting showdown on the separation of powers.

"After the government reopened, Congress approved, and the President signed into law, a \$1.375 billion appropriation for fencing along the southern border, but Congress made clear that funding could not be used to build President Trump's proposed border wall."

The complaint also questioned Mr. Trump's categorisation of illegal border crossings as a national emergency, saying data issued by the administration refuted it. "Customs and Border Protection data show that unlawful entries are near 45-year lows," it said.

Venezuela military should abandon Maduro

Trump warns that the armed forces will find 'no safe harbour' if they keep backing him

REUTERS
MIAMI

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday warned members of Venezuela's military who remain loyal to President Nicolás Maduro that they are risking their future and their lives and urged them to allow humanitarian aid into the country.

Speaking to a cheering crowd mostly of Venezuelan and Cuban immigrants in Miami, Mr. Trump said if the Venezuelan military continued supporting Mr. Maduro, "you will find no safe harbour, no easy exit and no way out. You'll lose everything."

Nazi-style speech

Mr. Maduro retaliated late on Monday that Mr. Trump's speech was "Nazi-style" and said he acted as if he were the owner of Venezuela and its citizens his slaves.

Mr. Trump offered strong



Strong words: People listening to U.S. President Donald Trump during a rally in Miami, Florida, on Monday. • AFP

backing for Venezuelan Opposition leader Juan Guaidó, whom the United States, many of Venezuela's neighbours and most Western countries have recognised as interim President of Venezuela. But Mr. Maduro, who won a second term last year in an election that critics denounced as a sham, retains the

backing of Russia and China and control of Venezuelan state institutions, including the security services.

The U.S. has sent tonnes of aid that is being stockpiled on Colombia's border with Venezuela, but Mr. Maduro has refused to let it in. Mr. Maduro has called the aid a U.S.-orchestrated

ed show and denied any crisis. Mr. Maduro said Venezuela already received "humanitarian assistance" on a daily basis. Russia, for example, was sending 300 tonnes of aid to the country by plane on Wednesday, he said, albeit clarifying this was not a donation but supplies for which Venezuela had paid.

"We seek a peaceful transition of power but all options are open," Mr. Trump said. It was a further hint of Mr. Trump's repeated insistence that military options remain on the table, though most Latin America experts believe such action is unlikely.

The United States has had direct communications with members of Venezuela's military, urging them to abandon Mr. Maduro, a senior White House official said earlier this month, and Mr. Trump's aides have openly predicted more defections.

French Jewish cemetery vandalised

REUTERS
STRASBOURG

Vandals have daubed swastikas and anti-Semitic slogans on around 90 graves in a Jewish cemetery in eastern France, local officials said on Tuesday, shortly before planned marches nationwide against a rise in anti-Semitic attacks.

French President Emmanuel Macron visited the cemetery on Tuesday in the village of Quatzenheim, near the city of Strasbourg, following the overnight desecration, walking through a gate daubed with a swastika as he entered the graveyard. Figures released last week showed there were

more than 500 anti-Semitic attacks in 2018, a 74% increase from 2017.

Among incidents in recent days, 'yellow vest' protesters were filmed hurling abuse at Alain Finkielkraut, a well-known Jewish writer and son of a Holocaust survivor, on Saturday.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE	
WORKS DEPARTMENT	
E-mail : ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com	
1285-B:	Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-85/2018-19
1. The Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road / Bridge works as mentioned below:	
2. Nature of work	: Road Safety Measures Implementation
3. No. of work	: 01 No.
4. Tender Paper Cost	: ₹.10,00,000
5. Class of Contractor	: Special Class/ Super Class as noted against each work
6. Available of bid document :	From 10.00 A.M. of 26.02.2019 to 5.00 PM of 18.03.2019
7. Date of opening of Bid	: Dt.19.03.2019 at 11.30 AM
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : https://tenderodisha.gov.in . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.	
Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha.	
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR	
34117/11/0208/1819	

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION ORGANISATION	
-x-x-x-x-x-x-	
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWSS& DIVISION, ANGUL:AT:TALCHER	
At- Baghuabole, Po. Hatatoda, Talcher, Dist- Angul, Pin- 759100 (Ph. No./Fax-06760-240762, E-mail: eerwssang@gmail.com)	

MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	35,353	-0.41
Gold	34,680	0.66
Brent oil	66.31	-0.19

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	339.55	-7.75
Asian Paints	1377.85	-2.20
Axis Bank	693.05	-0.25
Bajaj Auto	2787.85	-5.65
Bajaj Finserv	5969.75	84.60
Bajaj Finance	2559.80	10.35
Bharti Airtel	303.70	1.15
BPCL	335.25	7.50
Cipla	539.65	-1.50
Coal India	214.25	-0.90
Dr Reddys Lab	2536.90	-28.65
Eicher Motors	20409.80	254.60
GAIL (India)	320.25	2.80
Grasim Ind	718.35	18.50
HCL Tech.	1039.05	-7.25
HDIL	1853.45	-21.40
HDFC Bank	2084.05	-5.85
Hero MotoCorp	2636.85	-46.70
Hindalco	186.55	2.00
HPLC	214.80	2.15
Hind Unilever	1737.95	-13.95
Indiabulls HFL	614.30	-9.20
ICICI Bank	342.25	4.50
IndusInd Bank	1480.50	-36.50
Bharti InfraNet	318.45	1.40
Infosys	724.30	-16.75
Indian Oil Corp	125.60	0.65
ITC	275.90	1.20
JSW Steel	266.85	4.95
Kotak Bank	1280.45	3.40
L&T	1258.30	13.80
M&M	632.60	7.90
Maurti Suzuki	6804.55	-38.15
NTPC	133.70	-3.75
ONGC	139.15	2.05
PowerGrid Corp	179.45	-1.30
Reliance Ind	1216.10	-4.00
State Bank	262.90	2.95
Sun Pharma	413.65	-1.00
Tata Motors	163.75	0.85
Tata Steel	470.95	5.40
TCS	1904.80	-65.50
Tech Mahindra	791.00	-12.45
Titan	1028.80	1.45
UltraTech Cement	3467.60	38.35
UPL	816.45	-5.40
Vedanta	153.10	5.10
Wipro	363.45	-12.15
YES Bank	121.85	-0.70
Zee Entertainment	446.45	7.50

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

	PRICE	CHANGES
February 19 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses		
Retail Silver (1g)..... 43.6..... (43.6)	43.6..... (43.6)	
22 ct gold (1 g)..... 3211..... (3196)	3211..... (3196)	

IN BRIEF

Yes Bank says disclosure as per regulatory norms

NEW DELHI

Yes Bank on Tuesday said its disclosure of 'nil divergence' was as per the regulatory guidelines. The bank was of the view that the information received under Risk Assessment Report was an Unpublished Price Sensitive Information likely to be misused or leaked, Yes Bank told the NSE. PTI

New angel tax rules provide relief to eligible start-ups

Centre's notification exempts investments up to ₹25 crore in eligible firms and funding by non-resident Indians

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday notified new rules pertaining to angel tax which, will exempt registered start-ups of a specified size from the tax and any scrutiny to do with its applicability.

Angel tax is applicable to unlisted companies that have raised capital through sale of shares at a value above their fair market value. This excess capital is treated as income and taxed accordingly. This tax predominantly affects start-ups and the angel investments they attract.

According to Tuesday's notification, investments of up to ₹25 crore in an eligible company will be exempt from the angel tax. In addition, investments made by a listed company of a net-

worth of at least ₹100 crore or a turnover of at least ₹250 crore would also be exempt. Investments made by non-residents will also be exempt.

The notification said that an eligible start-up would be one that is registered with the government, has been incorporated for less than 10 years, and has a turnover that has not exceeded ₹100 crore over that period.

"It is a positive move by the government," Bhavin Shah, Financial Services Tax Leader at PwC India said. "This clarification would help in avoiding potentially significant tax challenges faced by start-ups. There was a request from the industry to include Category II Alternate Investment Funds as well in the exclusion list, which has unfortunately not been considered favourably."

In order to register with the government as a start-up, the company will also have to make an online application to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

This application will have to be accompanied by a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation or Registration, a



Right step: The move will help start-ups avoid significant tax challenges, says PwC India's Bhavin Shah • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

write-up about the nature of the business highlighting how it is working towards "innovation, development or improvement of products or processes or services, or its scalability in terms of employment generation or wealth creation."

Welcoming the move, the start-up community said

some issues such as start-ups having already been sent tax notices, and the applicability of Section 68 of the I-T Act still remained and that they would take it up with the tax department.

Fast track disposal

"We will also make a submission to CBDT soon and request them to drive fast track disposal for start-ups having cases under appeal with exemption to be considered and any possible consideration for orders under Section 68 where PAN of investors have been furnished to be included in CBDT's instructions to assessing officers," Sachin Taparia, founder of LocalCircles, said.

Once the signed declaration and documents are submitted to the DPIIT, the body will decide on the eligibility of the start-up and then communicate a list of eligible start-ups to the Central Board of Direct Taxes.

ary course of business, any vehicle over the value of ₹10 lakh, any jewellery, among other things.

Many of the concerns raised by the start-ups have been addressed in the recent notification," S. Vasudevan, partner, LakshmiKumaran & Sridharan Attorneys, said. "However, the notification imposes certain restrictions on investments by the start-ups. Some of these restrictions can lead to hardships for the start-ups and may even disqualify some genuine start-ups from this exemption."

The start-up will also have to attest to the fact that it has not invested in any land that is not being used in its ordin-

Ola gets ₹650-crore from Sachin Bansal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Ride-hailing platform Ola, on Tuesday, said Flipkart co-founder Sachin Bansal had invested ₹650 crore in the company. The investment, which has been made in Mr. Bansal's personal capacity, is the largest investment by an individual in Ola till date.

Mr. Bansal, who had co-founded Flipkart with Binny Bansal in 2007, exited the company after the U.S. retail giant Walmart picked up 77% in the Bengaluru-based e-commerce firm for \$16 billion.

"I have known Bhavish [Ola co-founder and CEO] as an entrepreneur and as a friend over these years and I have great respect for what he and the team at Ola have built in just 8 years. I am personally thrilled to be part of the Ola journey and I look forward to contributing to their success," Mr. Bansal said.

In October last, the firm had raised \$1.1 billion from China's Tencent Holdings Ltd. and SoftBank Group. The company had stated then that it was in talks to raise another \$1 billion from a group of investors to take the total funding to more than \$2 billion.

Bhavish Aggarwal, co-founder and CEO, Ola, said: "Sachin is an icon of entrepreneurship and his experience of building one of India's most respected businesses ground up is unparalleled. I personally look forward to learning from Sachin's journey, his mentorship and guidance, as we look to build one of the most impactful global businesses out of India."

GST Council to discuss realty rates

Wednesday's meet to also examine ways to boost collections

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN

NEW DELHI

The Goods and Services Tax Council will meet via video-conferencing on Wednesday to discuss key issues such as the possible reduction of GST rates on the real estate sector, and ways to increase tax collections.

Experts feel that this will be the last meeting of the Council before the general elections, since the model code of conduct will come into force soon. The GST Council, in December, had created a Group of Ministers to look into the applicability of GST rates on under-construction properties. One of the options reportedly recommended by the GoM was to reduce the tax rate on the sale of such properties to 5%

without input tax credits (ITC) from the current 12% with ITC. Addressing the real estate issue, however, is a much more complex issue that requires more nuanced solutions, according to tax experts.

Input tax credit "I'm not sure how they can look at it [real estate] as a standalone issue," Archit Gupta, founder and CEO of ClearTax said. "It is a deeper issue and they should take a more holistic view of how the input tax credit set-off will play out, whether the rates on cement will be reduced, etc. It also causes credit blockages, because if you are not getting input tax credits then that breaks the chain. It may be difficult to

give a complete solution at this juncture." If the input credit has to be restricted, then it is important that the rates on key inputs such as cement and the tax paid to construction contractors should also be reduced," Pratik Jain, Indirect Tax Leader at PwC India said.

In general, tax experts feel that removing ITC for the real estate sector would be a big blow to the structure of GST since it would open the doorway for other sectors to ask for similar treatment, whereas the backbone of GST is built on the provision of ITC.

Apart from the single-point rate agenda of real estate, the Council will likely discuss ways to improve overall collections as well.

The programme will be implemented with a total central financial support of ₹1,814 crore.

The Phase II programme provides for central financial assistance (for residential rooftop solar installations) up to 40% for rooftop systems up to 3kW and 20% for those with a capacity of 3-

10kW. The second phase will also focus on increasing the involvement of the distribution companies (DISCOM).

Performance-based incentives will be provided to DISCOMs based on RTS capacity achieved in a financial

year [i.e. April 1 to March 31 every year till the duration of the scheme] over and above the base capacity, i.e., cumulative capacity achieved at the end of previous financial year," the government said in a release.

Farmer security In a separate decision, the Cabinet approved the launch of the Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan aimed at providing financial and water security to farmers.

Through the scheme, farmers will be given financial assistance to set up solar panels in their unused or fallow land.

Standard mediclaim policy on the cards, guidelines to be framed

Basic sum insured is ₹50,000 and maximum of ₹10 lakh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set in motion the process of formulating guidelines for a Standard Health Product that it wants all general and health insurance companies to offer.

The Standard Mediclaim Policy, followed by the name of the insurer concerned, as the product would be called, will have a minimum basic sum insured of ₹50,000 and a maximum limit of ₹10 lakh. It will be for those above 18 years of age with the maximum age at entry of 65 years. With health products differing significantly in terms of their benefits, it is essential that potential customers need to have access to a basic health insurance

cover. This would enable them to choose the coverage based on the need, IRDAI said, inviting suggestions from stakeholders on the draft guidelines.

Such a policy, it said, was necessary as at times the prospective customers may have no option but to choose a health product which has embedded certain other covers whether or not such covers are needed. Dependent child/children aged up to 25 years are to be covered under the policy.

On the benefit structure, the regulator mooted a 'Base Cover' comprising various, mandatory components un-

der hospitalisation expenses. These include ICU/ICCU expenses; cost incurred on treatment of cataract subject to certain limits; dental treatment, necessitated due to an injury; and plastic surgery, necessitated due to disease or injury. IRDAI wanted the companies to devise a pricing mechanism that incentivised early entry of prospective policyholders, continued renewals and favourable claim experience.

Expenses incurred on treatment under Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH) systems of medicines would be covered as well as those on pre and post hospitalisation medical expenses subject to certain limits; dental treatment, necessitated due to an injury; and plastic surgery, necessitated due to disease or injury. IRDAI wanted the companies to devise a pricing mechanism that incentivised early entry of prospective policyholders, continued renewals and favourable claim experience.

Indivior's suit claimed Dr. Reddy's copycat would violate a patent on the treatment, filed in New Jersey federal court in 2017.

Chief Justice John Roberts denied Indivior's request to put on hold a lower court's ruling that had opened the door to cheaper generic versions of Suboxone while the company prepares an appeal to the high court.

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IN BRIEF



RPOWER promoters eye ₹2,500 cr. via stake sale

NEW DELHI Sovereign wealth funds of Qatar and Abu Dhabi and private equity major KKR have evinced interest in investing in Reliance Power, where promoters plan to sell part of their direct holdings to raise ₹2,500 crore, investment banking sources said. The promoters plan to offload 18-19% of their 30% direct holding in the firm. Overall, they would retain 51% of direct and indirect shareholding post sale. PTI

I-T raids on Divi's Laboratories

NEW DELHI Divi's Laboratories on Tuesday said the Income Tax department had conducted raids at its premises, including its head office and manufacturing sites, between February 14-18. The raids were conducted by I-T officials under Section 132 of the Income-Tax Act. "The search operation concluded on February 18 and no irregularities have been found," the company said in a regulatory filing. PTI

Govt. may launch ETF of PSB stocks next fiscal

NEW DELHI The Finance Ministry is planning to launch an exchange traded fund consisting of PSU bank stocks in the next financial year, an official said. "We are studying the price movement of the probable stocks which could form part of the index," the official said. The bank exchange traded fund (ETF) would be in addition to the CPSE ETF and Bharat-22 ETF – launched by the Centre which have seen huge investor demand. PTI

JSW Cement eyes 30 mtpa by 2025

Company plans to invest more than ₹12,000 crore, make an IPO in 2020

PIYUSH PANDEY
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

After failing to buy out Lafarge and Binani Cement units, JSW Cement now plans to more than double its capacity to 30 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) at a cost of more than ₹12,000 crore by 2025.

The company plans to reach a capacity of 20 mtpa by 2020 at a capex of ₹2,000 crore and raise another ₹3,500 crore through an initial public offering (IPO) to add another 10 mtpa of cement capacity, aiming to be among the top 5 cement players in the country.

Parth Jindal, managing director, JSW Cement, told *The Hindu*, "We plan to be among the top five cement players in India. Our current capacity is 12.6 mtpa, which will be enhanced to 14 mtpa



Expansion mode: MD Parth Jindal says his firm aims to be among the top five cement players in India. ■ BIJU GHOSH

by April 2019, and to 20 mtpa by December 2020. Then, we will plan for an IPO to increase our capacity to 30 mtpa by adding two cement plants of 5 mtpa each in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh." The company will expand its capacity mostly through a combination of brownfield and greenfield

projects. However, it is also evaluating various 'inorganic' opportunities to further ramp up capacity growth.

With revenue of ₹2,800 crore, an EBITDA margin of 24% and debt of ₹2,400 crore, JSW Cement is looking at enterprise valuation between ₹25,000 crore and ₹30,000 crore while launch-

ing its maiden IPO. The company will appoint merchant bankers for its IPO later this year.

₹3,500 cr. from IPO'

"With ₹3,500 crore from IPO, we will be in position to invest over ₹10,000 crore in expanding our cement business, as the rest will come from debt," said Mr. Jindal.

JSW Cement recorded a cumulative volume growth of 54% during the first nine months ending December 31, 2018, compared with the cement industry growth of 20% across participative markets during the same period.

JSW entered the cement market in 2009 and has plants in Vijayanagar in Karnataka, Nandyal in Andhra Pradesh, Salboni in West Bengal and Dolvi in Maharashtra.

RInfra moves SC in DAMEPL award case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Reliance Infrastructure has filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court challenging a judgment of the Division Bench of the Delhi High Court setting aside the over ₹5,800 crore arbitral award won by Delhi Airport Metro Express Pvt. Ltd. (DAMEPL) against Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC). DAMEPL is the special purpose vehicle (SPV) of Reliance Infrastructure.

The SC has issued notice to the DMRC on the SLP.

A short notice was also issued to DMRC on DAMEPL's plea for interim relief, so that DMRC continues to service the debt of DAMEPL pending the disposal of SLP by the Supreme Court," RInfra said.

Strike at Tiruvottiyur plant illegal, says MRF

Union opposes CCTVs at select places

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Tyre major MRF Ltd. has termed the ongoing strike by a large section of workers at its Tiruvottiyur plant here illegal.

MRF, however, said that the industrial action would not have any financial impact on the company.

In a regulatory filing, MRF said that the employees were on strike since February 8.

While the management did not give any reason for the strike, the union representatives said the industrial action was to protest against the unilateral installation of surveillance cameras within the factory premises.

MRF claimed that the CCTVs were installed for safety and security purposes.

Installation of CCTVs was a requirement under the prevailing laws in Tamil Nadu, the company said.

"The operations of the factory are being partly continued with the help of workmen who are not part of the strike. The company is taking necessary steps to restore normalcy at the earliest," the management said.

"We are not against installation of CCTVs. But don't snoop on us as they encroach into our privacy," said Union treasurer A. Gopinath.

"The company installed CCTVs unilaterally in over 100 places," said MRF Union, general secretary, C.R. Prabhakaran.

MRF alleged that the union had not served any strike notice.

Jindal Steel sets up facility for Railways

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

JSL Lifestyle Ltd., a subsidiary of Jindal Stainless Steel, has commissioned its first dedicated facility for Railways.

The facility, spread over two acres, has come up at Maraimalai Nagar near Chennai. The new facility would supply stainless steel components to Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, for production of railway coaches. Earlier, these components were supplied from the Pathredi unit of Jindal in Haryana.

"This railway facility will produce railway coach sub-assemblies for ICF," said Deepika Jindal, MD, Jindal Steel, in a statement.

SIDBI plans bond issue to raise ₹300 crore

Bonds will bear a coupon rate of 3%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Government-owned Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will raise ₹300 crore through bonds over the next few months from a clutch of investors, including Tata group companies such as Tata Chemicals, Voltas, Titan and Trent.

Wealth managers such as Centrum group, ASK Wealth Advisors, Ambit Capital and Aditya Birla Finance have reached out to high net-worth individuals and impact investors to raise funds. Private equity fund KKR has also evinced interest to subscribe the bonds. The World Bank group,

which is facilitating the fund-raising, said the money would be extended to micro finance institutions, which, in turn, would be disbursed to women entrepreneurs.

The bonds will be uncured and unlisted with a fixed coupon rate of 3% and with a tenure of five years.

At a press conference, SIDBI chairman and managing director Mohammad Mustafa said that the actual lending rate for the borrower would not be more than 13%. These bonds would enable woman entrepreneurs in sectors such as agriculture, food processing, services and manufacturing to borrow ₹1 lakh- ₹1.5 lakh.

Tata Motors gears up for EV race

Auto major to develop vehicles with capacity to run 200 km on a single charge

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Tata Motors Ltd. has announced plans to develop a comprehensive range of electric vehicles with capability to run more than 200 km on a single charge and an ecosystem that would support the company's e-mobility push in the country.

Having being convinced that e-mobility is imminent in India due to tighter emission norms and growing pollution in major cities, Tata Motors has committed to lead the e-mobility space in India, a top executive said.

Electrifying vehicles

For this, the company has set up the electric mobility business that has already started working on electrify-



ing some of the existing Tata vehicles and developing new ones under the Alpha and Omega platforms of the company. At least three new electric vehicles are being developed.

The first concept of an all new electric vehicle will be showcased at the Geneva Auto Show in March and this passenger vehicle should hit

the roads in the near future. Company officials declined to give a timeline.

"We want to win the race with a proactive approach. We will bring a comprehensive range of electric vehicles and offer value proposition. We will leverage on partnership with Tata companies and non Tata companies to build a full ecosystem rather than just manufacturing and selling the products," Shailesh Chandra, president, Electric Mobility Business and Corporate Strategy, Tata Motors said.

"We have a long-term view on the e-mobility space. We want to be market makers," Mr. Chandra said.

As a first step, the company has opted for the conversion path and optimisation

of range, price and performance of its electric vehicles.

While Tigor has been electrified for the EESL order of over 5,000 electric vehicles, Tiago is being electrified. The company has also developed a range of electric buses and electric small commercial vehicles for providing last-mile connectivity.

The company has decided on a focused approach to address the needs of the market.

It will concentrate on 25 cities of India that are high on pollution and has scope for EV adoption in cities such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Pune that have a large number of people working in the IT sector.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

SHADHARA SOUTH, SCHOOL BLOCK, SHAKARPUR, DELHI-110092

NIT No. EDMC/EE-(M)-IV/S(H-S)/TC/2018-19/42 Dated 15.02.2019

Engineering Department

EAST DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER-M-IV

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For online tendering at percentage rate tenders are invited for the execution of the following works by the EDMC from approved and eligible contractor and will be received as per time table.

Last date of Download Tender 25.02.2019 at 12.00 Hours

Last date of Bid Preparation 25.02.2019 at 14.00 Hours

Last date for close of Bid 25.02.2019 at 14.01 to 16.00 Hours

Date of Re-encryption of Online 26.02.2019 at 16.01 Hours to 26.02.2019 at 14.00 Hours

Opening of Financial Bid 26.02.2019 at 14.01 Hours

S. Name of Head of Tender Amount Earnest Cost of Tender No. work A/c

1 Improvement Development of lanes of Saket Block Mandawali by pdg. RMC and drain for lane no. 3, 11 and 13 in Ward No. 16-E/AC-58 SSZ-XL-VIII-S- (i) ₹35,68,770/- ₹500/- 313881

2 Improvement Development of lanes of D-Block, Shakarpur near main market road adjoining to H.No. D-12, D-50, D-70, D-64, D-9, D-96 and links by pdg. RMC in Ward No. 15-E/AC-58 Shash (S) XL-VIII-S- (i) ₹31,39,707/- ₹62,800/- ₹500/- 313882

3 Construction of Hall by pdg. 0 from and room for ladies and gents paravarti sayyahak in pkt.-IV Mayur Vihar ph-l in Patparganj W.No. 12E SBM(SWM) ₹31,30,652/- ₹62,600/- ₹500/- 313883

4 Improvement Development of EK Minar Masjid Road, Lalita Park in Ward No. 13-E/AC-58 by pdg. RMC Shahdara (S) Zone XL-VIII-S-(iv) (MSPY) ₹85,61,692/- ₹1,71,250/- ₹1000/- 313884

5 Improvement Development of Gali No. 11, 13, 14 and 16 of main Gurudwara road in Laxmi Nagar in Ward No. 14-E/AC-58 by pdg. 0 in Shahdara (S) Zone XL-VIII-S- (i) ₹26,09,747/- ₹52,200/- ₹500/- 313885

6 Improvement Development of Link roads of Kishan Kunj Extn. and Guru Ramdas Nagar in Ward No. 14-E/AC-58 by pdg. 0 in Shahdara (S) Zone XL-VIII-S- (i) ₹34,21,829/- ₹68,450/- ₹500/- 313886

7 Improvement Development of Lanes of J and K Extn. in Kishan Kunj XL-VIII-S- (i) ₹26,15,643/- ₹52,300/- ₹500/- 313887

8 Improvement Development of lane adjoining park and lanes and berms along Charchi [-] by pdg. 0 from in Pocket -3 in Mayur Vihar Ph-l in Ward No. 03/AC-55 in Shahdara South Zone in Trilokpuri XL-VIII-X(TYABD) ₹38,41,295/- ₹76,850/- ₹500/- 313889

Note : From Sr. No. 1 to 9 for above mentioned each work Time of Compl.: 03 Months; Rates Hold Good for : 06 Months

The demand draft for tenders cost & earnest money will be deposited in the office of E.E.-M-IV Shahdara (South) Zone, School Block, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092.

Detailed NIT can be seen from the following website or from the office of the undersigned. <http://engineering.mcdtenders.com> (WAP & SMS enable tenders portal)

RO No. 176/DPI/East/2018-19

EDMC's Citizens Helpline No. 155303

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. PC

Whereas complaint has been made before me that Anul S/o Sh. Lal Sharif @ Harish Ali R/o: Village Banga Machhli, P.S. Badarpur, Distt. Karim Ganj, Assam and also at H. No. 195, Gali No. 3, Block-E, New Seemapuri, Delhi, has committed (or suspected to have committed) offence case FIR No. 122/2008 U/s 457/380/411 IPC has been registered at PS. Chandni Mahal, Delhi punishable and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person Anul cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person namely Anul absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Anul of case FIR No. 122/2008 U/s 457/380/411 IPC, PS. Chandni Mahal, Delhi is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 19.03.2019.

By Order

Sh. Harjeet Singh Jaswal

Metropolitan Magistrate-9, (Central), Room No. 286

DP/6060/CD/19 Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

Cost of each Tender Document : ₹110/-

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If we play to potential and are injury-free, we can go the distance'

The ability to dominate in all conditions is Kohli's strength; he's just 30 and already a great, says Shastri

EXCLUSIVE

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

Ravi Shastri talks straight, doesn't hold back his punches. The Indian cricket team coach shared his views with *The Hindu* on a variety of issues.

How different is this Indian team from the previous sides?

I wouldn't like to compare sides. This team plays as a unit. It plays with pride. Individual brilliance will be there but the emphasis is on collective effort.

What does Virat Kohli bring with him?

He brings with him extreme professionalism with a very high price tag on fitness, work ethics and on-field aggression. We have a similar view on the direction the team should go.

Where would you put Kohli in the pantheon of great batsmen?

His ability to dominate in all conditions and situations is his strength. He is right up there with the very best. He's just 30 and already a great.

What are India's chances in the World Cup?

If we play to potential and are injury-free, we can go the distance.

Which teams are the biggest



Complete package: India skipper Virat Kohli brings with him extreme professionalism with a very high price tag on fitness, work ethics and on-field aggression, according to coach Ravi Shastri. ■ AFP

threats for India?

The much-improved England have gone for one-day specialists and they will be playing at home. And you can never discount Australia

with Smith and Warner back and the bowling attack they have.

Fitness will be crucial in a long, gruelling format.

The Indian pace attack will

be in the hunt in England...

If it is overcast and the tracks have got something in it; they will be more than handy, especially the way they have

have bowled in the last 12

months. Collectively they have been varied, accurate, hostile and deadly.

On the role bowling coach Bharat Arun played in the development of the

pacemen...

Massive. He has been in the coaching system for over 20 years. He's seen these guys at the academy. And his ability to communicate with them, in the manner he does, is a great help.

Jasprit Bumrah has added an additional dimension to the attack.

He's an awkward customer with his action, gets steep bounce, his pace doesn't drop and he's got the skills. A massive asset.

The fielding standards have gone up.

Overall, catching, ground fielding, speed on the ground, the ability to create chances have all improved. Identifying and preparing fielders for catching positions is an area where Sridhar is very good.

You have shown a great faith in wrist spin and said

Kuldeep Yadav will be India's No. 1 Test spinner overseas.

I don't want to go in that direction. What I meant to say was Kuldeep, a special talent who can only get stronger and wiser and is already bowling with good control,

had become a contender who could even be first-choice overseas. It all depends on the conditions, the combination you want to go in with, whether you want an all-rounder.

For that matter, even Jadhua (Ravindra Jadeja), when he got two opportunities overseas, did an excellent job. Any of the three can play depending on the opposition you are playing against and what combination you want. Jadeja can use the rough outside the left-hander's off-stump, Kuldeep can use the rough both ways from over and round the wicket. Then you have Ash (Ashwin) with all his experience.

The Test series triumph down under was a path-breaking moment in Indian cricket.

There was desire, hunger, and the boys wanted it badly.

Your view on Cheteshwar Pujara's rise?

Unbelievable concentration. Once he got in, you needed a stretcher to get him off in Australia.

You reply to those who said

there was some infighting within the side in Australia?

There wasn't anything and we are not bothered. If anybody wants to cook up stories, be my guest. By the way, we won the series in Australia.

Where do you draw the line between aggression and bad behaviour?

With experience you know that you can't get personal, you can't go over the line, you play within the rules. But you slip, you own up.

the intent should be there.

Your thoughts on the evolution of Rishabh Pant?

Grabbed his opportunities. Away hundreds at Oval and Sydney. Likes the big stage, has the confidence. Learned quickly, kept well. And he is just 21.

On the coordination between the team-management, the selection panel and Rahul Dravid...

The regular 'A' tours is a very good system BCCI has created. Stands you in good stead when you want to raise the bar.

Prithvi Shaw, Mayank Agarwal, Hanuma Vihari, they are a good crop, good strength of mind. I interact with Rahul pretty regularly. Sometimes, more than runs and wickets, you are looking for balance in the eleven and the selectors have to look in a particular direction. They have done that very well.

What has been the most satisfying aspect in your tenure as a coach?

The Test-series win in Australia. I know how hard it is. When the job is done, you enjoy the moment. I must compliment the support staff. Arun, Sanjay [Bangar] and Sridhar for their remarkable work in a gruelling schedule. The hallmark of this team is 'no excuses'. If you slip, you own up.

Australian team arrives

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The Australian cricketers, led by Aaron Finch, arrived here on Monday night. The team will play the first T20I against India in Visakhapatnam on Feb. 24 before flying to Bengaluru for the second match.

The Australians will come back to the city for the first of the five-match ODI series to be played on March 2.

The cricketers preferred to stay indoors and are scheduled to train on Wednesday and Thursday before flying out.

Osaka exits

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DUBAI

World No.1 Naomi Osaka went down in a flurry of errors to exit the Dubai Championships on Tuesday. Kristina Mladenovic claimed a 6-3, 6-3 win to reach the third round as Osaka made 25 unforced errors.

Important results (second round): Petra Kvitova bt Katerina Siniakova 6-7(3), 6-4, 6-4; Victoria Kuzmova bt Kiki Bertens 6-2, 4-6, 7-6(6); Alison Riske bt Alizé Cornet 6-2, 6-3; Elina Svitolina bt Ons Jabeur 7-6(4), 4-0 (retd.); Garbine Muguruza bt Zheng Saisai 7-5, 6-2; Simona Halep bt Eugenie Bouchard 7-6(4), 6-4; Angelique Kerber bt Dalila Jakupovic 7-6(4), 6-3; Kristina Mladenovic bt Naomi Osaka 6-3, 6-3; Aryna Sabalenka bt Ivana Jorovic 6-4, 6-0.

HC exempts BCCI from submitting audio recordings of AGMs to Competition Commission

MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S.
CHENNAI

and had its registered office at M.A. Chidambaram Stadium at Chepauk in Chennai. At present, it was managed by a Committee of Administrators appointed by the Supreme Court in January 2017.

In 2013, Pan India Infra-projects Pvt. Ltd. approached the competition commission accusing BCCI of having contravened Section 4 (abuse of dominant position) of the Competition Act of 2002.

The issue was taken up to the erstwhile Competition Appellate Tribunal and got remitted to the commission which on June 1, 2018, about three years after the tribunal's order, directed the Director General to conduct a detailed inquiry.

Two allegations

The investigation was ordered with respect to two allegations: "Whether BCCI restrained the conduct of a competitive league titled Indian Cricket League (ICL) and whether the petitioner excluded the informant (Pan India Infra-projects) in the downstream market by disallowing it to bid for the media rights for Indian Premier League (IPL)." The Director General was further ordered to submit a detailed probe report to the commission.

Registered society

In his affidavit, BCCI's Chief Executive Officer Rahul Johri stated that the board had chosen to file the case in the Madras High Court because it was a society registered under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act of 1975

CSK to host RCB in opener

Schedule subject to the announcement of Lok Sabha poll dates

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Kolkata Knight Riders in the only home match it played at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium. CSK has so far played 48 home matches.

The opening match will straightforwardly bring into picture the captaincy mettle of M.S. Dhoni and Virat Kohli.

Advantage

CSK holds considerable advantage in the 22 matches the two teams have played so far; it has won 14 including the last six, while RCB has won on seven occasions.

RCB's home match in April 2012 did not deliver a result.

The BCCI-IPL has not announced the full schedule though and it has also attached a rider to the 17-match programme featuring

the eight teams across as many home venues.

The release said: These (schedule) are still subject to the announcement of the Lok Sabha 2019 election dates. Once these have been released, the BCCI will address any issue with the first two weeks and will also prepare a schedule for the remainder of the season working with the local authorities around the polling dates."

The eight teams will play a minimum of four matches (two each home and away) while Delhi Capitals and RCB will play five (three home and two away). There will be no off-day between March 23 and April 5 when the 17 matches will be played.

Date	Day	Match	Venue
March 23	Saturday	CSK vs RCB	Chennai
March 24	Sunday	KKR vs SRH	Kolkata
March 24	Sunday	MI vs DC	Mumbai
March 25	Monday	RR vs KXIP	Jaipur
March 26	Tuesday	DC vs CSK	Delhi
March 27	Wednesday	KKR vs KXIP	Kolkata
March 28	Thursday	RCB vs MI	Bengaluru
March 29	Friday	SRH vs RR	Hyderabad
March 30	Saturday	KXIP vs MI	Mohali
March 30	Saturday	DC vs KKR	Delhi
March 31	Sunday	SRH vs RCB	Hyderabad
March 31	Sunday	CSK vs RR	Chennai
April 1	Monday	KXIP vs DC	Mohali
April 2	Tuesday	RR vs RCB	Jaipur
April 3	Wednesday	MI vs CSK	Mumbai
April 4	Thursday	DC vs SRH	Delhi
April 5	Friday	RCB vs KKR	Bengaluru

East Bengal not keen to travel to Srinagar

'Head coach and a number of players, especially foreigners, are feeling apprehensive'

I-LEAGUE

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Kolkata giant East Bengal FC voiced its concern about the prevailing situation in Srinagar and sought a postponement or a change of venue of its upcoming I-League football match against Real Kashmir FC.

One of the directors of the Quess East Bengal FC, Debraj Sarkar, said that the

head coach of the team and a number of players, especially the foreigners, are feeling apprehensive about the situation in and around Srinagar.

East Bengal is scheduled to play its match, which has once been postponed owing to heavy snowfall in Srinagar, on February 28.

Serious reservations

The East Bengal FC director

said the team's Spanish coach Alejandro Menendez,

has mailed his "serious reservations about playing the match in Srinagar" to the CEO of the team, Sanjit Sen.

"The primary concern is about the players, who are quite apprehensive of the existing situation. The situation is extremely volatile in Srinagar and if we are forced to play, the players will be doing it under duress."

"The All India Football Federation (AIFF) should take a decision after properly assessing the situation and

not just to prove a point," said Sarkar.

"We can certainly travel to Srinagar and play the match but when the situation is normal," he added.

The East Bengal team placed on record a mail sent to the AIFF by the team CEO Sanjit Sen outlining the concern of the team and its manager Alejandro Menendez.

Neutral venue

The East Bengal team CEO's letter, while addressing the

concern of the coach and its players, asked the national federation about a possibility of having the match at a neutral venue.

According to the team officials, the AIFF has refused to postpone the match or change the venue while asking the team to send its travel plans to arrange for additional security for the team.

"If we do not get a satisfactory reply from AIFF then we decide on the next course of action," Sarkar said.

Stump microphones serve a purpose, but not the one you think

The adage that what happens on the field should be left on the field no longer applies



BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

Professional sport is seriously competitive; sportsmen and women react when frustrated, or feel badly done by. The distance between the performer and the spectator once lent sport a unique charm – and enabled writers like Neville Cardus to invent conversations. The quotes he fabricated were often humorous or imaginative, so the players didn't mind. And then came the stump mic.

This was an innovation by Kerry Packer, who, briefly stole international cricket, spruced it up and returned it. He stuck microphones into the ground near the pitch so television audiences

Laureus laurels for Djokovic and Biles

Vinesh loses out to Woods in Comeback of the Year category

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
MONTE CARLO

The applause wouldn't stop.

Among those standing up in respect for a remarkable woman on the world sport's most glamorous stage were legends who have won several Olympic golds, World Cups, Grand Slams and major leagues between them.

Novak Djokovic, Sergey Bubka, Edwin Moses, Nadia Comaneci, Missy Franklin, Cafa, Boris Becker and Monica Seles could only watch in amazement at the achievement of Henrieta Farkasova, a visually impaired downhill skier from Slovakia who won the Laureus World Sports Award of the Year with a Disability on a night most memorable at the Sporting Club here.

Last year, she had won her sixth Paralympic gold at the Winter Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Hers is an amazing story that proves how inspiring sport could be. The night be-



Best of the best: It was yet another red letter day in Novak Djokovic's career when he won the Laureus World Sportsman of The Year. ■ ALEXANDER HASSENSTEIN/GETTY IMAGES

longed to her as much as it did to Djokovic, who won the Sportsman of the Year for the fourth time in the last

nine years.

After accepting the award from Seles, who was also born in Serbia, he revealed

he had nearly quit tennis because of injuries. The current men's World No. 1 said to the former women's

World No. 1: "Thank you for inspiring me on the court; I had to grunt like you and be aggressive like you."

Simone Biles wasn't there in person to make a speech like that after winning the Sportswoman of the Year award, which she had taken home in 2017 as well. The American gymnastic sensation said through video that she could not make it to Monaco because she was hosting a gymnastics event in Houston.

Team of the year
Earlier, the distribution of the awards – that have over the last couple of decades become the equivalent of cinema's Oscars – was kicked off with the one for the team of the year.

It went to France, the 2018 World Cup champion. Accepting it, coach Didier Deschamps thanked his players, who all came up with great individual performances, and the French football fed-

eration for helping the team prepare.

The winner of the Comeback of the Year award was just as popular. It was Tiger Woods, the golfing legend, of course.

The short film on him was among the several well-made ones. Among the nominees in that category was wrestler Vinesh Phogat, the first Indian ever to make this far at Laureus.

The other winners of the night were Naomi Osaka (Breakthrough of the Year), Chloe Kim (Action Sportsperson), Eliud Kipchoge, Arsene Wenger (Lifetime Achievement), Lindsey Vonn (Spirit for Sports), Yuwa (Sport for Good) and Xia Boyu (Sporting Moment), the man who climbed Mount Everest, 44 years after he lost both his lower legs due to frostbite on his first attempt.

(The writer is in Monte Carlo at the invitation of Laureus)

tired. "It was a very tough decision, but I had to take it because I was in too much pain and there wasn't much I could do with my shoulder injury," she said. "Yes, I know had another Olympics or two in me still, but at least I could take heart from the fact I have five golds at home."

She admits it isn't easy staying away from the pool. "I was put into water by my mother when I was six months old, as she couldn't swim and didn't want me to be like her," she said. "In America, every kid is taught to swim."

"That is what India needs to do if it wants to do well in swimming," said Franklin, who is fascinated by the country and Hinduism.

"There is no reason why India couldn't do well in swimming. But children need to be taught when they are very young. It has to be a cultural thing, as in the US."

SRFI decides to have different coaches for different tournaments

K. KEERTHIVASAN
CHENNAI

In the aftermath of the Ashraf El Karargui fiasco, the Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI), it appears, has chosen to tread a slightly different path in the appointment of foreign coaches.

It has decided, in principle, to have different coaches for different tournaments for a particular period of time, instead of a full-time coach.

According to SRFI National coach Cyrus Poncha, the federation has shortlisted Egypt's Amir Waghi and Australia's David Palmer, a former world champion, and it is also looking at coaches from the England High Performance Centre.

"We have written to the Sports Ministry and are in

C We have written to the Sports Ministry and are in touch with the coaches. We hope to get a favourable response [from the Government]

CYRUS PONCHA
SRFI National coach

touch with the coaches. We hope to get a favourable response [from the Government]," he said.

Major tournaments

Poncha said with two major tournaments – Asian senior championships in May in Malaysia and the World men's championship in December in Washington – coming up, SRFI is keen to use the services of the top names provided the ministry accepts its proposal.

"Having a full-time coach defeats the purpose," emphasised Poncha.

As most of the top Indians play abroad, SRFI has decided that it is wise to have an "horses for courses" approach.

"For example, if a tournament is in Washington, the [Indian] players can train there instead of practicing in India. It is not necessary that they will have to train in the Indian Squash Academy [here]," said Poncha. "We are not fixated on anything."

He added that the SRFI wanted to try out the new idea for the current year and see how it goes.

"Overall, if you look at it, it [having different coaches for a particular tournament] is an economical one and will definitely help the [Indian] players," he said.

India U-19 starts favourite

South African team has adjusted to the climate and conditions

M.R. PRAVEEN CHANDRAN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

India Under-19 starts as the favourites against the visiting South Africa Under-19 side in the first unofficial Test which begins at the KCA-St. Xavier's College ground here on Wednesday.

Home advantage and familiarity with the conditions give India the edge though it is altogether a new squad that will take the field against South Africa.

Seventeen-year-old opener Yashavini Jaiswal, who was part of the squad which won the Under-19 Asia Cup in October last year, is the only player with prior experience of playing for the team.

All others are new and have been selected based on their excellent performances in the Cooch Behar Trophy.

Making heads turn

Players like Vathsal Govind, who scored more than 1000 runs including a triple century, and Rex Singh, who took 10 wickets for Manipur in an innings, have made heads turn and are keen to continue in the same vein in the Test against South Africa.

Captain and wicketkeeper Suraj Ahuja was confident of his team's chances against South Africa. "We want to start the tour with a win. I think we have a definite advantage as our players are familiar with the conditions and all of them have done well in Cooch Behar Trophy. Obviously we don't know how good the South Africans are but we are pretty much confident



Rex Singh.
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

of our abilities," he said.

The South African team arrived in the city three days ahead of the Test match and has been practising hard at the venue and has adjusted to the climate and conditions here.

Preparation

South African Captain Matthew Montgomery was happy with his team's preparation but admitted that India had an edge.

The teams: India Under-19: Suraj Ahuja (captain), Divyaansh Saxena, Varun Nayara, Avneesh Sudha, Yashavini Jaiswal, Vaibhav Kandpal, Shaurya Saran, Hritik Shokeen, Manav Suthar, Manishi Sabir Khan, Anshul Kamboj, Rajvardhan Hangarekar, Rohit Dattatraya, Rex Singh and Vathsal Govind

South Africa Under-19: Matthew Montgomery (captain), Luke Beaufort, Jonathan Bird, Achille Cloete, Gerald Coetzee, Marco Jansen, Thamsanga Khumalo, Bonga Makaka, Andile Mogokane, Kgudusile Molafe, Lifa Ntanzi, Bryce Parsons, Siya Plaatjie, Ruan Terblanche and Nonelela Yika.

Calicut Heroes enters final

Jerome Vinith is its star player with 12 points



Clinical show: Heroes' players celebrate after winning the semifinal against U Mumba. ■ R. RAGU

PRO VOLLEYBALL

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

Calicut Heroes came into the semifinals of the RuPay Pro Volleyball league as the overwhelming favourites and on Tuesday the team lived up to that billing with a comprehensive straight-set win over U Mumba (15-12, 15-9, 16-14) at the Nehru Indoor Stadium here to claim its rightful place in the final.

Jerome Vinith was the Heroes' star player with 12 points and was ably supported by Republic of Congo's Ilouni Ngampourou with six.

With a huge crowd already egging on Heroes with heavy percussions, the table toppers wasted no time in taking an early 9-6 lead in the opening set.

But U Mumba, which showed resilience to reach the semifinals after losing its first three matches, fought back starting with a super point from Pankaj Sharma to

level the scores 10-10.

However, on Heroes' super point, Vinit Kumar hit a spike long surrendering two points. A few more unforced errors, including on one serve by Vinit Kumar, gave Heroes the set 15-12.

The second set was a blowout as the Heroes always maintained a two-point edge and ran away after another error from Vinit on super point allowed the Heroes to take an 11-7 lead and eventually the set 15-9.

Jerome was once again the top scorer with four points in the set.

Mumba showed signs of a fightback in the third set with Vinit and Pankaj producing some good spikes while Deepesh Kumar Sinha was effective with his blocks at the net. Mumba looked all set to make the Heroes work for victory and was on course to take the third set at 12-7.

However, Heroes' Karthick produced a spike on

super point before a moment of misjudgement from Mumba gave another two points to the opponents as they failed to go for a serve from Jerome that narrowed the lead to 12-11.

Pankaj then made the cardinal sin of netting his serve and on 14-14 yet another confusion between Tomislav Coskovic and Pankaj meant neither went for the ball giving match point to Heroes before an unforced error from Vinit sealed Mumba's fate.

Heroes will now await the winner of the Kochi Blue Spikers vs Chennai Spartans match to be played on Wednesday. When the two teams met in the round-robin stage in Kochi, Blue Spikers came back from 0-2 down to win the match 3-2.

The Spartans will now want to get one back in front of their home crowd and reach the summit clash to be played on Friday, February 22.

Atletico vs Juve — a clash of high stakes

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

C Those that have ambition are not afraid

MASSIMILIANO ALLEGRI
Juventus coach

C It's like a final, we cannot put a foot wrong

DIEGO SIMEONE
Atletico boss

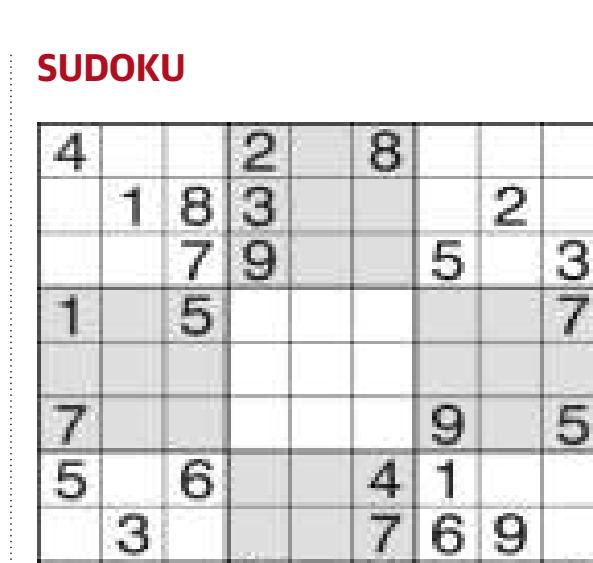
against Chelsea on Sunday.

It is another piece of history that Pep Guardiola's side now craves by outdoing even Manchester United's treble of league, Champions League and FA Cup in 1998/99.

City will be heavy favourites to retain the League Cup this weekend and should cruise past a Schalke in 14th in the Bundesliga to make the Champions League quarter-finals.

Meanwhile, Manchester City will look to keep alive the prospect of a historic clean sweep of four trophies when it faces Schalke on Wednesday for the Champions League last-16 first leg before the League Cup final

SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12553

I	M	C	E	B	U	G
T	O	F	U	A	L	P
T	S	R	S	S	R	O
C	A	N	C	I	N	T
A	A	L	L	P	L	P
B	O	R	D	E	L	O
L	E	T	R	I	C	E
G	I	S	A	M	A	G
E	A	T	P	E	T	R
S	I	A	O	Y	T	E
D	I	R	E	M	R	O
B	O	D	I	R	C	X
B	E	T	A	T	E	X
S	R	Y	D	T	S	N

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

Frost has a knack of identifying young players: Padukone

The Indian ace believes the Dane can effectively marry the old world knowledge with the modern-day methods



Legends all: Morten Frost, Prakash Padukone and Vishwanathan Anand at the Padukone-Dravid center for sports excellence. ■ SUDHAKARA JAIN

N. SUDARSHAN
BENGALURU

In the early 1980s, when badminton legend Prakash Padukone dropped anchor in Denmark for six long years, he left a lasting impact. On no one could it be better seen than Morten Frost, a World No.1 and winner of four All England titles.

"He simply raised my game," recalled Frost on Tuesday. "He elevated it to a standard I did not have before. He was a better player than me when he arrived but I turned out to be better than him when he left." If Frost can do a bunch of youngsters at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy (PPBA) what Prakash did to him, it will be yet another glorious chapter in a lifelong friendship.

"He has the knack of identifying young players," said

Padukone at the unveiling of the 60-year-old as a consultant coach, in partnership with the Olympic Gold Quest. "I remember him telling us 10 years back about Viktor Axelsen. He has that knack and also in giving them the right inputs. I am very sure that we will benefit from his immense experience."

Outliers

Back then, Padukone and Frost were considered the outliers, trying to crack the code with their fleet-footed movement and strategic brilliance against the marauding Chinese and Indonesians. Padukone believes Frost can effectively marry this old world knowledge with the modern-day methods the latter is abreast of through coaching stints in Europe and Asia.

"It's very much a matter of moving with the times," said Frost. "Taking some of the good things from the past and combining them with new trends to get a more complete player. The game today is faster, players hit harder but I also think they make a bit more mistakes."

"The game has also got more breaks now. The umpires are always trying to push the players to continue playing, but somehow we always need to wipe the floor, towel or drink water resulting in longer matches. But that gives them the extra strength to go faster for shorter periods of time whereas we had to stretch it a bit more."

Frost though conceded that the players of the current era were better than those in his times and singled out the current crop of

women's singles stars. "Women's singles badminton has never ever had such a high level. It is by far the most competitive category of all five on the world scene. There is a nice spread of nationalities and also of personalities and playing styles."

It is this level which Frost will like to help a few youngsters reach during his stint in India. "Hopefully, I can make a little difference," he said.

"The toughest thing for any sportsperson the transition from junior status to senior. It is about self confidence and belief. It's also about picking up pace. There is a massive difference. What you can get away with in juniors you get punished in the seniors. With the experience I have, hopefully I can help some of the players here be world-beaters one day."

Nikhat and Meena Kumari strike gold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Former junior World champion Nikhat Zareen and Meena Kumari Devi on Tuesday became the first set of Indian women boxers to notch up gold medals at the Strandja Memorial Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Nikhat claimed a 5-0 win in the 51kg category finals against Filipino Irish Magno, while Devi got the better of Aira Villegas 3-2, also from Philippines, in bantamweight (54kg).

Manju Rani (48kg) got a silver after going down to another Filipino Josie Gabuco in a split 2-3 verdict.

On Monday, Pwilao Bamsutari (64kg), Neeraj (60kg) and Lovina Borgohain (69kg) had won bronze medals.

NEUFC eyes maiden playoffs spot

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUWAHATI

NorthEast United FC (NEUFC) will look to seal a maiden play-offs spot when it hosts FC Pune City in an Indian Super League (ISL) match here on Wednesday.

Elco Schattorie's team is one of the four which have lost just three matches this season. The Highlanders with 27 points from 16 matches are in the third spot.

"I didn't mention anything to the players about qualifying. I really take it game by game because if I look back at the last 10 games, the number of times I had to shuffle to make the best possible eleven, it was almost 10 games," said Schattorie.

With 12 goals, Bartholomew Ogbeche remains the key for NEUFC and he is two shy of equalling Ferran Corominas. He has the support of Federico Gallego, who is joint-second on the list of most assists, and new recruit Panagiotis Triadis, who has had an impact in the attacking, third.

Jeevan & Purav beat top seeds

SPORTS BUREAU
MARSEILLE

Wild card entrants Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Purav Raja knocked out top seeds Oliver Marach of Austria and Mate Pavic of Croatia 6-2, 6-4 in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the € 744,010 ATP tennis tournament here on Tuesday.

In the Challenger in Bangkok, Saketh Myneni was outplayed 6-4, 6-0 by James Duckworth of Australia in

the second round. Sasi Kumar Mukund went down after winning the first set, in the first round to Kevin King of the US.

Fourth seeds Sriram Balaji and Arjun Kadhe were beaten 11-9 in the super tie-break of the doubles quarterfinals by Enrique Lopez Perez and Hiroki Moriya.

In the ITF women's event in China, Natasha Palha and Saumya Vig won their doubles pre-quarterfinals in con-

Lopez Perez (Esp) & Hiroki Moriya (Jpn) bt Sriram Balaji & Arjun Kadhe 5-7, 6-4, [11-9].

\$15,000 ITF women, Nan-

chang, China: Doubles (pre-

quarterfinals): Si Qi Liu (Chn) &

Natalsha Palha bt Jiatian Qi & Zi-yi Yang (Chn) 6-0, 6-2; Izabela Gabriela Novac (Rou) & Saumya Vig bt Ai Qi Chen & Meiting Liu (Chn) 6-7(6), 7-5, [10-4].

\$54,160 Challenger, Bangkok:

Singles (second round): James

Duckworth (Aus) bt Saketh Myneni 6-4, 6-0. First round: Kevin King (US) bt Sasi Kumar Mukund 5-7, 6-4, 6-2. Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Enrique

DELHI ROUND-UP

Llorente strikes six

Manuel Llorente struck six goals in helping Garcha Group-Aravalı Polo to a 9-7 victory over Sona Polo in a league match of the Northern India Polo championship at the Jaipur Polo ground on Tuesday.

The results: Northern India championship (league):

Garcha Group-Aravalı Polo 9

(Manuel Llorente 6, Angad

Kalaan 2, Ravi Rathore) bt Sona

Polo 7 (Abhimanyu Pathak 4,

Basheer Ali, Gaurav Sahgal,

Sawai Padmanabh Singh).

Sahara Warriors 10 (Matthew

Perry 4, Dhruvital Godara 3,

Siddhant Sharma 2, Vandit

Golechha) bt Jindal Panther 6 (Tom Brodie 3, Shamsheer Ali 2, Simran Shergill).

Army Polo championship

(league): Territorial Army

(Combined) 7 (Tarsem Singh 4,

Raghavraj Singh 2,

Bhanupratap Singh) bt Artillery

6 (Joginder Singh 3, Irfan Khan

2, Asish Samantary).

61st Cavalry 8 (Vishal Chauhan

5, Ilyash Ali 2, Anant

Rajpurohit) bt ASC 5 1/2

(Yatinder Kumar 2, G.S.

Pandher, handicap 2 1/2).

YMCA advances

Host YMCA defeated Gargi

College 25-223, 25-22 in the

women's pre-quarterfinals

of the YMCA volleyball

tournament on Tuesday.

Dananjaya's action cleared

ANI
DUBAI

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Monday said the bowling action of Sri Lanka spinner Akila Dananjaya has been found to be legal, following remedial work and reassessment, and he can resume bowling in international cricket.

Dananjaya's remodelled bowling action was assessed in Chennai on February 2, where it was revealed that the elbow extension for all his deliveries was within the 15-degree level of tolerance.

Dananjaya was suspended after being reported during the first Test against England in Galle last year.

We have a well-rounded side, says Karthik

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

Kolkata Knight Riders captain Dinesh Karthik on Tuesday said that he had got a stronger team for the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) starting on March 23.

Karthik, who led KKR to the IPL playoffs last season, said the team was bolstered after assessing its performance.

"We have a slightly different team than that of last year. We are really looking forward to the season. We have realised what we lacked last year. So we have added resources accordingly."

"So, it's a more well-rounded team this year," said Karthik during an interaction on the sidelines of the KKR-backed Mayor's Cup cricket tournament at the Eden Gardens here.

On neutral venue

On the possibility of KKR playing at a neutral venue owing to the forthcoming general elections, Karthik said, "I will miss Kolkata because there are certain vibes – you are playing in the



Dinesh Karthik. ■ PTI

Eden Gardens, 60,000 people cheering you. We will massively miss it. The schedule has just come out but it's early for me to comment. If we don't play a few matches (here), I will miss the Eden Gardens terribly."

KKR CEO Venky Mysore said the franchise had not received any guidelines from the Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) regarding workload management of the players ahead of the World Cup.

"If May 12 is the (IPL) final and India plays its first match on June 5, then there is enough gap. But we have not had any such guidance or instruction," said Mysore.

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF T.S. LTD. e-Procurement Tender Notice

TSSPDCL intends to float tender for procurement of (a) 3Cx16+25 Sq.mm LT XLPE AB Cable (b) 4Cx2.5 Sq.mm Copper Control Cable (c) Various Scrap materials on e-procurement platform.

For further details, please visit www.tssouthernpower.com and www.eprocurement.telangana.gov.in (e-Tenders/e-Auctions), Phone: 040-2343 1035, 1360, 1033, 1026.

Sd/- (M. BALRAJU)
CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&MM)

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI CHITTOOR DIST., ANDHRA PRADESH, SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER-IV AMENDMENT FOR THE TENDER NOTICE Adv.No.46/SE-IV/TTD/TPT/2018-19						
Adv.No.46/SE-IV/TTD/TPT/2018-19 Dated:18-02-2019						
Sl. No.	NIT No.	Name of work	Estimate Amount Rs. in Lakhs / Time for Completion	Tender Schedule download starting date	Tender Schedule download ending date & last date for bid submission respectively	Eligibility
(1)	194/SE-IV/TTD/TPT/2018-19	Construction of Sri Padmavathi Amman Temple at G.N.Chetty Street, Chennai, Tamilnadu State,	575.00 24 months	16-02-2019 5.00 p.m.	05-03-2019 3.00 p.m.	Class-I

NOTE: For details on NIT No.194/SE-IV/TTD/TPT/2018-19 please log on to the website <https://tender.approcurement.gov.in> or <http://www.approcurement.gov.in>

Rec.No.PR4/13903/Adv.No.524/PRO/2019/19-02-19.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SW)-III Sector-VII, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-110022 Phone No.011-26167618 N.I.T.No.77 (2018-19) SW-III						
S. No.	Description	Amount Put to Tender, Earnest Money and tender fee	Date of release of tender E-procurement solution	Last Date / Time of receipt of tender Through E-procurement Solution		
1</						

New Universe map unveils 3,000,000 more galaxies

LOFAR telescope detects light sources that optical instruments cannot find

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

The known Universe just got a lot bigger.

A new map of the night sky published on Tuesday charts hundreds of thousands of previously unknown galaxies discovered using a telescope that can detect light sources optical instruments cannot see. The team behind the space survey said their discovery literally shed new light on some of the Universe's deepest secrets, including the physics of black holes and how clusters of galaxies evolve.

"This is a new window on the universe," said Cyril Tasse, an astronomer at the Paris Observatory who was involved in the project.

"When we saw the first images we were like: 'What



Deep secrets: An optical image of the M106 galaxy stacked on an image of the galaxy's emissions (in orange). •PSL/AFP

is this?' It didn't look anything at all like what we are used to seeing."

More than 200 astronomers from 18 countries were involved in the study, which used radio astronomy to look at a segment of sky over the northern hemisphere, and found 3,00,000 previously unseen light sources

thought to be distant galaxies.

The map created by the LOFAR observations, part of which was published in the journal *Astronomy & Astrophysics*, contains data equivalent to the capacity of ten million DVDs yet charts just two percent of the sky.

Radio astronomy helps

detect radiation produced when massive celestial objects interact.

Ancient radiation

The team used the Low Frequency Array (LOFAR) telescope in the Netherlands to pick up traces – or "jets" – of ancient radiation produced when galaxies merge. These jets, previously undetected, can extend over millions of light years. "With radio observations we can detect radiation from the tenuous medium that exists between galaxies," said Amanda Wilber, of the University of Hamburg.

The discovery of the new light sources may also help scientists better understand the behaviour of one of space's most enigmatic phenomena.

Haute couture designer Karl Lagerfeld is dead

VANESSA FRIEDMAN
PARIS

Karl Lagerfeld, the most prolific designer of the 20th and 21st centuries and a man whose career formed the prototype of the modern luxury fashion industry, died on Tuesday in Paris. He was 85.

"More than anyone I know, he represents the soul of fashion: restless, forward-looking and voraciously attentive to our changing culture," Anna Wintour, editor of *American Vogue*, said of Mr. Lagerfeld when presenting him with the Outstanding Achievement Award at the British Fashion Awards in 2015.

Creative director of Chanel since 1983 and Fendi since 1965, and founder of his own line, Mr. Lagerfeld was the definition of a fashion polyglot, able to speak the language of many different brands at the same time (not to mention many lan-



Karl Lagerfeld. •AFP

guages themselves: He read in English, French, German and Italian).

In his 1980s, when most of his peers were retiring to their yachts or country estates, Mr. Lagerfeld was designing an average of 14 new collections a year ranging from couture to the high street, and not counting collaborations and special projects.

"Ideas come to you when you work," he said before a Fendi show at age 83. As a result, Mr. Lagerfeld never stopped creating. •NY TIMES

Tab bhi B Ab bhi B



daCunha/AB/542

A bundle of joy from a hidden ovary

The baby was born through surrogacy

STAFF REPORTER
CHENNAI

At 27 years, Soumya (name changed) had to undergo removal of the uterus and the left ovary, due to uterine cancer (mild-grade endometrioid adenocarcinoma). Her surgical oncologist decided to preserve her right ovary, but moved it to the abdominal wall, just underneath the skin.

Five years later, the woman became a mother through surrogacy as fertility specialists, in a novel method, extracted the egg from the transposed ovary percutaneously, and fertilised it.

Being married and childless, the woman was referred to GG Hospital in August 2016. After detailed work-up, she was put on stimulant injections and doctors used a syringe (same as used in regular IVF procedures) to extract the eggs, but through the skin of the patient's abdomen. The quality of eggs was another challenge, Dr. Selvaraj added.

Three attempts later, doctors finally managed to get embryos out of such a retrieval and implanted them a surrogate in 2018. She delivered a baby girl, weighing 2.62 kg on February 16.

Doctors said this was the country's first surrogate birth following egg extraction from an ovary transpositioned under the skin.

Unique case
Soumya's case was unique as IVF specialists at GG Fertility and Women's Speciality Hospital found no reports of pregnancies in which eggs were extracted from an ovary in such an ectopic location, and that too, retrieved through the skin, according to Priya Selvaraj, scientific and assistant director of the hospital.

"Her uterus with fallopian tubes as well as the left ovary were removed in a hospital in Kerala. What was remaining was her right ovary. The only way she could have her child was through surrogacy.

There was a twist as the right ovary along with its blood supply, instead of being lodged within the abdomen, was brought up through the abdominal wall and placed right beneath the skin," she said.

Ovaries in cancer patients, Dr. Selvaraj said, can be located within the abdomen or above the pelvic brim in case they had to go undergo radiation. In the literature search, the doctors found that people in this situation usually have their ovaries removed and



The baby was born five years after her mother underwent treatment for uterine cancer. •B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

later transplanted back once they are cancer free. In some cases, it it moved out of its normal position in the pelvic area to just above the pelvis, and eggs are retrieved laparoscopically, she explained.

Doctors said this was the country's first surrogate birth following egg extraction from an ovary transpositioned under the skin.

Preserving tissue
The hospital is now working to preserve ovarian tissue for future re-transplantation into the individual for fertility purpose after thawing. "Childhood cancers in pre-pubertal age group are maximum indicators for ovarian tissue preservation," she added.

Kamala Selvaraj, associate director of the hospital, was present.

Aussie mammal the first 'climate change extinction'

Ocean inundation led to the loss

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SYDNEY

Australia officially declared a Great Barrier Reef rodent extinct on Tuesday, making it the first mammal believed to have been killed off by human-induced climate change.

The rat-like Bramble Cay Melomys – whose only known habitat was a small sandy island in far northern Australia – has not been spotted in a decade.



The Bramble Cay Melomys. •QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT

vey in 2014 in a bid to track down the species, but found no trace.

Expected move

Researchers from Queensland determined a key factor in its disappearance was "almost certainly" repeated ocean inundation of the cay – a low-lying island on a coral reef – over the last decade, which had resulted in dramatic habitat loss.

Australia's Environment Ministry on Tuesday said it had officially transferred the animal to the "extinct" list.

The declaration was unexpected.

The researchers completed a wide-ranging sur-

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD IN Rs.	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	UHBVN BERI	HIRING OF 2 NOS JEEP ONLY (BOLERO) OFFICE OF SDO BERI AND SDO BAHU	CLOSING 26.02.2019	6000	www.uhbvn.org.in NIT-08/2018-19	xenopuhbvnberi@gmail.com
2	UHBVN	NIT FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANCY FIRM TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO UHBVN AND DHBVN ON RETAINERSHIP BASIS FOR MYT FILING/REGULATORY AFFAIRS	15.02.2019 08.03.2019	7 LACS	uhbvn.org.in	serauhbvn@gmail.com
3	UHBVN	CONSTRUCTION OF EQUIPMENT FOUNDATION FOR AUGMENTATION OF 33KV S/STN. NIGDU	15.02.2019 25.02.2019	2.91 LACS	www.uhbvn.org.in NIT-27/2018-19	9356063248 xenciviluhbvnpanchku@gmail.com
4	UHBVN	CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL & CEMENT CONCRETE ROAD AT 33KV S/STN. PADDA.	15.02.2019 25.02.2019	13.65 LACS	www.uhbvn.org.in NIT-26/2018-19	9356063248 xenciviluhbvnpanchku@gmail.com
5	HARYANA SEEDS DEVE.CORP LTD	ALUMINUM PHOSPHIDE 56% + 16 OTHER WORKS	18.02.2019 06.03.2019	4.86 LACS	haryanaseeds.org.in	9417669911 hscd@hry.nic.in
6	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURUGRAM	CONSTRUCTION OF HARIJAN CHAUPAL IN VILLAGE BADSHAHPUR,WARD NO-25 + 1 OTHER WORK	CLOSING 26.02.2019	149.44 LACS	http://mcgurugram.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	9821395213 ee4@mcg.gov.in
7	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE KHARKHODA	PROVIDING AND INSTALLATION OF 1NO 16MTR. HIGH MAST LIGHTS WITH ENERGY EFFICIENT LED LIGHTS AT THANA KALA CHOWK + 3 OTHER WORKS	15.02.2019 21.02.2019	EMD-76640	etenders.hry.nic.in	9729784950 amanrathi1988@gmail.com
8	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE SAMPLA	CATCHING OF MONKEY + 4 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING 25.02.2019	46 LACS	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2744951 dpr@chd.nic.in
9	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ROHTAK	CONST OF PUBLIC TOILET AT KARTARPURA HISSAR BY PASS UNDER ROB,WARD NO.3 ROHTAK + 58 OTHER WORKS	15.02.2019 01.03.2019	3486.60 LACS	www.mcrohtak.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	xenmcrohtak@gmail.com
10	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE BAWANI KHERA	BHULA SAINI TO JAYPAL JAT SURENDRA SAINI RAJENDER TO W. NO 1 TO BAWANI KHERA WORK NO 1 TO 26	CLOSING 25.02.2019	9.75 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9992959222 mc.bawankhera1@gmail.com
11	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURUGRAM	REPAIRING/RE-CARPETING OF ROADS WITH BM & BC OF SEC-42, WARD NO-34, + 1 OTHER WORK	15.02.2019 07.03.2019	1.86 CRORE	https://mcgurgaon.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	ee8@mcg.gov.in
12	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION PANCHKULA	PROVIDING AND FIXING OF TWO NOS. CCTV CAMERA ALONG WITH RECORDER IN THE DUMPING YARD/GROUND IN SECTOR-23,PANCHKULA	12.02.2019 22.02.2019	1.62 LACS	https://ulb.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	0172-2583695 mcpanchkula@gmail.com
13	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE KALANAUR	05 NOS OF D-PLAN DEVELOPMENT WORK RELATED TO KALANAUR	15.02.2019 21.02.2019	AS PER DNIT	https://haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	01258223180 municipalcommitteekalanaur@gmail.com
14	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURUGRAM	CONSTRUCTION OF STREET ROAD OF NAHARPUR RUPA,NITIN VIHAR,SHIVA NAGAR,WRD NO 27 ZONE IV, + 1 OTHER WORK	CLOSING 26.02.2019	126.85 LACS	http://mcgurugram.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	7988669791 ee3@mcg.gov.in
15	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ROHTAK	CONST OF C.C STREET DEEPU WALI GALI, TOMER,SATBIR HOODA WALI GALI AND MAHABIR AHLAWAT WALI GALI IN KAILASH COLONY WARD NO 5 + 1 OTHER WORK	15.02.2019 23.02.2019	107.83	www.mcrohtak.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	xenmcrohtak@gmail.com
16	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURUGRAM	RENOVATION OF COMMUNITY CENTER SECTOR-4,WARD NO.15, ZONE-I,GURUGRAM + 2 OTHER WORKS	16.02.2019 28.02.2019	7.73 LACS	https://mcgurgaon.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	ee6@mcg.gov.in
17	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURUGRAM	APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANT FOR CONDITION ASSESSMENT AND PREPARATION OF MASTER PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT AND AUGMENTATION OF SEWERAGE SYSTEM + 1 OTHER WORK	17.02.2019 06.03.2019	1 LACS	https://mcgurgaon.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	ee6@mcg.gov.in
18	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURUGRAM	LAYING OF S.W PIPE,CASTING OF SLAB, REPLACE & RAISING OF MANHOLE COVER NEW MANHOLE AND REPLACEMENT OF DAMAGE SEWER LINE AT VARIOUS LOCATION+ 1 OTHER WORK	16.02.2019 25.02.2019	42500	https://mcgurgaon.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in	ee6@mcg.gov.in
19	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE ELLENABAD	CONST OF HALL AT REGAR DHARMASHALA IN WARD NO 02 AT ELLENABAD	CLOSING 20.02.2019	20 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9468283876
20	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE ELLENABAD	DISMANTLING & PREPARATION OF UPPER SURFACE OF NOHAR TO G.P.S(HARCHAND KA BASS) IN WARD NO 14 + 15 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING 25.02.2019	69.79 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in/nicgp/app	94682-83876
21	MUNI. CORP. YAMUNANAGAR JAGADHRI	CONST OF IPB STREET (80MM THICK IS1 MARK) WITH DRAIN FROM HOUSE OF SH. PARVEEN UPPAL MEAR PWD OFFICE TO H/MR.				

DELHIMETRO



Rally against Centre's policy

Teachers, students hold protest to demand a reversal of the Centre's 'privatisation policies' Page 2



Worker dies in factory fire

A massive fire at a shoe factory in Narela industrial area claims one life Page 3



Sophie's flaws and foibles

The author of the *Shopaholic* series on why being less than perfect makes for great comedy Page 5



A moving-art exhibition

Cartist Yatra promotes art, culture, and artistes by using automobiles as its canvas Page 6

IN BRIEF



Rewari soldier cremated with full State honours

GURUGRAM
A day after Grenadier Hari Singh of 55 Rashtriya Rifles Battalion died along with three other Army personnel in a gun battle with terrorists in Pulwama, his last rites were performed at Rajgarh village, Rewari, on Tuesday with full State honours.

CITY ▶ PAGE 4

Student rusticated over posts on Army

GURUGRAM
A Kashmiri student at Shree Guru Gobind Singh Tricentenary (SGT) University was rusticated on Tuesday for circulating controversial posts referring to alleged atrocities of Indian Army on the Kashmiri civilians.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi 221	Gurugram 141		
Ghaziabad 223	Faridabad 167		
Noida 257	Greater Noida 212		
Good 0-50	Satisfactory 51-100	Moderate 101-200	
Poor 201-300	Very poor 301-400	Severe >401	
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M., YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) SOURCE: CPCB			

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

Seven killed in Yamuna e-way accident

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MATHURA (UP)
Seven persons were killed and five others were injured in a head-on collision between an ambulance and a car on the Yamuna Expressway in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura district on Tuesday, the police said.

The accident happened near Burj Sukhaday village when a Bihar-bound ambulance, carrying a body, rammed a car coming from the opposite side, they said. Among those dead were two women. The bodies are yet to be identified, the police said.

"Central financial assistance of ₹5,634 crore will be in the form of grant and subordinate debt," it added.

The project is likely to be completed in six years time, Finance Minister Arun Jaitly said. "Implementation of the RRTS would provide the

Women panel seeks speedy probe into threats to journalist

Barkha Dutt receives abusive messages, including one threatening to shoot her

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Women on Tuesday wrote to Delhi Police Commissioner Amulya Patnaik asking for a speedy inquiry into senior journalist Barkha Dutt's complaint on Twitter about sexually abusive messages and threats to her life received on phone.

"It is requested to initiate speedy investigation in the matter and take action as per law," NCW Chairperson Rekha Sharma wrote to the Delhi Police Commissioner. She also demanded an update on the matter at the earliest.

"I have continued to get hundreds of abuses, sexually violent messages and threats to my life for a second day running. I urgently ask @DelhiPolice @MPpoliceonline @PoliceRajasthan @PunjabPoliceInd to intervene. FIR with Delhi Police

BARKHA DUTT
Senior journalist

I have continued to get hundreds of abuses, sexually violent messages and threats to my life for a second day running. I urgently ask @DelhiPolice @MPpoliceonline @PoliceRajasthan @PunjabPoliceInd to intervene. FIR with Delhi Police

online @PoliceRajasthan @PunjabPoliceInd to intervene. FIR with Delhi Police," Ms. Dutt appealed on Twitter on Tuesday.

In separate tweets, she posted that she had received 1,000 abusive messages, including a message to shoot her, a nude photo and a rape threat.

The Delhi police have confirmed that they have re-

ceived a complaint from Ms. Dutt.

When Ms. Dutt decided to make some of the phone numbers public and post an obscene picture she had received, she found her account locked by Twitter temporarily until she wrote to them calling Twitter an "enabler of abuse and sexual violence".

"As per Twitter rules, you

may not publish or post other people's private information without their express authorisation and permission. This includes private contact information, such as non-public, personal phone numbers," a Twitter spokesperson said.

Scribes express concern

Meanwhile, the Indian Women's Press Corps, the Press Club of India and the Press Association issued a statement expressing deep concern over journalists being "bombarded by calls threatening violence, including sexual violence and other forms of intimidation," after they offered to help Kashmiris. They appealed to the Ministry of Home Affairs to identify and book the callers.

Joined family business
"His documents need to be verified and witnesses need to be examined for which custody was sought," Mr.



His [Asees Singh Chadha]
documents need to be verified and witnesses need to be examined for which custody was sought

MADHUR VERMA
Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi)

Asees Singh Chadha

Verma said.

On Monday, Mr. Asees Chadha, who returned from London after completing studies a few months ago and joined family business, rammed his car into an autorickshaw in Chanakyapuri killing a Turkmenistani woman.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Madhur Verma said that the accused Asees Singh Chadha, a resident of Chhatarpur Farm, was produced before Patiala House Courts where a one-day police custody was sought.

Joined family business

"His documents need to be verified and witnesses need to be examined for which custody was sought," Mr.

nistan and were here on a vacation.

Gulshat succumbed to her injuries on Monday after which the embassy was informed. The police said that her post-mortem will be conducted on Wednesday. The three injured are stable and undergoing treatment.

The police said that Mr. Asees Chadha was on his way home from work when the incident happened.

Union Cabinet clears ₹30,274-cr Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS

Regional Rapid Transit System to cover a distance of 82.15 km

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Tuesday approved construction of rail-based high-speed transit system for the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor to be built at a cost of ₹30,274 crore.

The Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) will cover a distance of 82.15 km, of which 68.03 km will be elevated and 14.12 km will be underground, an official statement said.

"Central financial assistance of ₹5,634 crore will be in the form of grant and subordinate debt," it added.

The project is likely to be completed in six years time, Finance Minister Arun Jaitly said. "Implementation of the RRTS would provide the

ARUN JAITLEY
Union Finance Minister

Implementation of the RRTS would provide the much-needed additional public transport infrastructure to the National Capital Region to address issues of congestion, air pollution

Purpose Vehicle (SPV) – National Capital Region Transport Corporation.

The RRTS will be a first-of-its-kind, rail-based, high-speed regional transit system to be implemented in India, the government said, adding that once operational, it will be the fastest and the safest mode of commuter transport in the National Capital Region.

"The RRTS aims to streamline the urban transportation system, which is stressed due to intensive developments, and increase in the number of private vehicles, thus, putting stress on travel infrastructure and industrial activities, and by providing the people a safe, secure, reliable, fast and comfortable public transport," it added.

Bail dismissed
"Sharadindu Goel, elder brother of Rakesh Goel and licensee of Hotel Arpit Palace and

purpose vehicle, has been arrested. Earlier today, his anticipatory bail was dismissed in court. He was produced at Tis Hazari Courts and his police remand was sought for four days," he said.

The police said Sharadindu Goel, absconding for a week, was travelling across Delhi and Haryana and was staying with relatives. He is also grappling with health issues like diabetes and back problems," an officer privy to the case.

Rakesh Goel was arrested on Sunday after he landed in Delhi from Qatar. The Immigration officials at the Delhi

Karol Bagh fire: hotel licence holder arrested

His brother Rakesh Goel was arrested at IGI airport on Sunday

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A week after a fire broke out at a hotel in Karol Bagh in which 17 people were killed, the police have arrested the 69-year-old licence holder of the hotel on Tuesday. His brother, the owner, was arrested earlier.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) Rakesh Deo said the accused, Sharadindu Goel, a resident of Karol Bagh, was arrested after his anticipatory bail got rejected.



Sharadindu Goel (right), licensee of Hotel Arpit Palace in Karol Bagh, in police custody. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sharadindu Goel, absconding for a week, was travelling across Delhi and Haryana and was staying with relatives. He is also grappling with health issues like diabetes and back problems.

airport were alerted as an LOC had already been issued against him. The moment his flight landed and he came out of the airport, he was detained and handed over to the Crime Branch.

In a massive fire that broke out at the four-storey Hotel Arpit Palace in Karol Bagh on February 12, three Myanmar nationals – an IRS officer, a Central government drug inspector and a doctor were among the 17 killed.

HC asks NGO to respond to CBI plea in Talwar case

Case of 'violation of foreign funding rules'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked an NGO to respond to CBI's plea seeking custodial interrogation of its former president Deepak Talwar in a case of alleged violation of foreign funding rules.

A Bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Anu Malhotra asked the NGO, Advantages India Private Ltd., and its secretary Manish Garg to respond to the CBI's application.

Mr. Talwar, an alleged lobbyist, is in judicial custody in a money laundering case lodged by the Enforcement Directorate following his deportation from Dubai on January 30.

Criminal conspiracy
A case was lodged in 2017 against the NGO, Mr. Talwar and others for the alleged offences of criminal conspiracy, forgery and using forged document as genuine under the IPC and various Sections of the FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) for allegedly diverting ₹90.72 crore worth of foreign funds meant for ambulances and other articles received by his NGO from Europe's leading

missile manufacturing company.

Custodial interrogation

CBI's counsel Rajdipa Behura told the court that Mr. Talwar's custodial interrogation was required to confront him with documents, unearth the conspiracy and to ascertain the actual beneficiary of the funds received by the NGO.

The agency said the investigation had revealed that the foreign contribution received by the NGO was "misused" and diverted for some other purpose.

The court has listed the matter to February 27. (With PTI inputs)



Vehicles wade through a waterlogged road near Ramlila Ground in New Delhi on Tuesday, a day after the Capital received heavy rain. ■ PRADEEP KUMAR

thunderstorm activity accompanied with hailstorm, lightning and strong surface winds likely from February 20 afternoon till February 21.

Neighbouring States
Thunderstorm accompanied with isolated hailstorm, lightning and strong surface winds is very likely over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Rajasthan on February 20 and 21 and

over west Uttar Pradesh on 21 February, it added.

Maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to hover between 21 and 14 degrees Celsius.

The minimum temperature on Tuesday was 12 degrees Celsius which was one degree above normal for the season.

The city received 2.2 mm rainfall as well between 5.30 p.m. on Monday and 8.30 a.m. on Tuesday.

Fire safety norm violation: HC asks govt, civic bodies to reply

Plea seeks compensation to kin of Karol Bagh fire victims

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought the response of the AAP government and the three municipal corporations here on a plea for immediate action against hotels or guest houses flouting fire safety and other norms.

A Bench of Chief Justice Rajendra Menon and Justice V.K. Rao issued notice to the Delhi government and the three corporations, seeking their response on a plea demanding payment of compensation to the families of those who died in the fire.

The application was filed in a petition against the running of illegal community or banquet halls in the Capital.

'Negligent' authorities
During the brief hearing, the petitioner said that inaction of the authorities has led to the incident in question and if steps were not taken, a major catastrophe may occur.

The Bench directed the Delhi government and the corporations to indicate their stand before the next date of hearing on March 13.



The plea urged that authorities should frame and implement a policy for periodic inspection of all community halls, hotels and guest houses in the city. ■ FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHKAR

Health licences of 75 more hotels suspended

NEW DELHI
The North Delhi Municipal Corporation has suspended health licences of 75 more hotels in Karol Bagh here, in the wake of the deadly fire incident at Hotel Arpit Palace in the area recently, a senior official of the civic body said on Tuesday. "The North Corporation has suspended licences of a total of 105 hotels till today, after their fire NOCs were cancelled," the official said. PTI

IN BRIEF



Corporation staff pay homage to CRPF jawans

NEW DELHI
Staff of North Delhi Municipal Corporation took out a 'peace march' on Tuesday to pay homage to CRPF soldiers killed in the Pulwama attack. The employees walked in large numbers around the civic centre on Minto Road holding banners. Corporation staff also observed two minute silence in tribute to those killed. STAFF REPORTER

LSR students plant vertical gardens

NEW DELHI
Students of Lady Shri Ram College for Women along with the East Delhi Municipal Corporation 'planted' up to 500 plastic bottles of 'vertical gardens' in the civic body's jurisdiction, it said in a statement on Tuesday. Apart from this, they carried out beautification work by painting walls at Veer Savarkar Hospital and at a municipal corporation school in GTB Enclave. STAFF REPORTER

India will give befitting reply to Pak: CM

NEW DELHI
India will give a befitting reply to Pakistan for its alleged hand in the killing of 40 CRPF personnel in Pulwama, CM Arvind Kejriwal said on Tuesday. In reference to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's statement earlier during the day, Mr. Kejriwal took to Twitter to state, "Does a murderer ever admit to a murder? Has Pakistan ever owned up to its antics? India is not weak. It will give a befitting reply (Sic.)" STAFF REPORTER

Liquor vends swelled under AAP govt: BJP

NEW DELHI
Liquor vends and pubs have mushroomed across the Capital under AAP government, the BJP alleged on Tuesday. BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor alleged that while the number of government-run liquor vends stood at 368 when the AAP government came to power in 2015, the number had gone above 390 now. STAFF REPORTER

Sisodia seeks GST Council meeting postponement

NEW DELHI
Deputy CM Manish Sisodia on Tuesday wrote to Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, demanding postponement of GST Council meeting to be held through video-conference on Wednesday. In his letter, Mr. Sisodia said that both the agenda items - special scheme for real estate sector and single rate of tax on lottery -- are of crucial nature and requires detailed discussion before arriving at a considered decision. PTI

Delivery boy of online store held for theft

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
Delivery boy employed with the transportation service of an online shopping store has been arrested for allegedly stealing gadgets worth ₹7 lakh, police said on Tuesday.

DCP (IGIA) Sanjay Bhateria said that the accused has been identified as Siddharth (25), a resident of Haryana's Bahadurgarh. His associate Vinod is absconding, Mr. Bhateria said.

Police said they received a complaint from the online store's transportation service on Monday that their employee has stolen 15 high-end mobile phones, fire sticks, camera and tablets between loading and delivery on February 9 and 10 after which a case was registered. Siddharth was arrested with the help of technical and human surveillance. Mobile phones and tools used in commission of the crime have been recovered.

Call to reverse 'privatisation policies' of Centre gets louder

Teachers, students and non-teaching staff take out a march pressing for their demands

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Hundreds of teachers, students and non-teaching employees from across the country gathered at the Capital on Tuesday for a march from Mandi House to Jantar Mantar to demand a reversal of the "privatisation policies" of the Central government during its tenure.

The stakeholders marched under the banner of Joint Forum for Movement on Education (JFME) and brought to the attention of the public how in their view, a string of new education policies has led to social exclusion.

The participants accused the Central government of failing to bring about a coherent national education policy and take steps to alleviate the crisis in the public-funded education system. Members from opposition parties like CPI(M), CPI, AAP and other organisations lent their support.



Teachers and students marching towards Parliament Street during a protest in the city on Tuesday. ■ PRADEEP KUMAR

The JFME submitted a list of 26 demands via a memorandum to the Prime Minister's Office and said that they would continue to hold demonstrations across the country to spread the message on how the government is slowly privatising education.

The JFME has demanded that Right to Education be extended to cover higher

education up to the PG level and that a nation-wide fully state-funded and free common education system from KG to PG be established that included provision for maternal and infant healthcare and nutrition, early childhood care and education and compulsory neighbourhood common school system upto Class XII. The teachers demanded

that the government schools must be strengthened and, the Allahabad High Court judgment (2015), directing that anyone who receives any money in any form from the State treasury, must send their children to state schools be implemented and that preference should be given to government school students in public-funded institutions of higher education and public sector jobs.

Many join protest

Organised by AIFUCTO, DUTA and PEDCUTA, the march has participants from the National-level Secondary School Teachers' Association and students' organisations like SFI, AISF, AIDS, AISA, CYSS and KYS among several others.

Ahead of the rally, the teachers have appealed to students and parents to join the rally to ensure that public-funded higher education in the country is not destroyed.

Will expose BJP's doublespeak on statehood issue, vows AAP

Aam Aadmi Party to distribute previous manifestos of the BJP

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday said it would expose the "real anti-Delhi character" of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections through its doublespeak on the issue of statehood for the Capital.

Even as AAP announced that it would launch a "full scale struggle" which would include the distribution of previous manifestos of the BJP in which the party had pitched for statehood for Delhi as one of its significant promises, the BJP accused AAP of "flogging a dead horse" in relation to the issue which, it argued, had "been rejected" by the people of Delhi.

"AAP will launch a full-scale struggle to tell the people of Delhi that the Narendra Modi-Amit Shah duo's BJP has no respect even for the founding fathers of their own party -- late Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L.K. Advani. The duo has ruthlessly shattered their dream of granting statehood to Delhi," AAP said in a statement.

The statement said "Would take to the people all the manifestos of BJP released in previous polls, including the latest Delhi-specific manifesto for the 2014 LS polls, in which the BJP had promised statehood for Delhi, if it was voted to power."

The BJP's Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta said Delhi Chief Minister and AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal was raising "this dead issue" to "hide his failure to perform



Mr. Goel, you are insulting the people. You will not give the government chosen by the people the power to serve the people...

ARVIND KEJRIWAL
Chief Minister

that hollow promises and falsehoods will no longer be tolerated and only those who are willing to take up the cause of people of Delhi will be elected to Lok Sabha now," the statement said.

The AAP also intends to take door-to-door the May, 2015 notification of the Modi government which "snatched away the legal powers of the elected Delhi government."

Mr. Gupta attacked Mr. Kejriwal for his repeated attempts at raking up the issue. "He raised a demand for full statehood in 2015 itself. Again, in 2016, AAP prepared draft of Delhi State Bill and put it in its election campaign. It called for special session of Delhi Assembly on June 6, 2018 for full statehood," Mr. Gupta said.

It (AAP) claimed to have launched a march on Delhi roads with signature of citizens in support of its demand. None of its attempts to demand statehood for Delhi succeeded in winning Delhiites to the cause...CM Kejriwal has chosen to raise this dead issue to hide his government's utter failure to govern and perform during the last four years," he added.

Anu Singh Lather appointed V-C of AUD

Lather is Ambedkar University Delhi's second V-C, takes over from Shyam B. Menon

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Ambedkar University Delhi on Tuesday said that the Directorate of Higher Education has appointed Anu Singh Lather as Vice-Chancellor of the university. Prof. Lather will be AUD's second Vice-Chancellor taking over from Shyam B. Menon who retired last year.

Prof. Lather was the Pro Vice-Chancellor of Delhi Technological University for the last two years and played a pivotal role in establishing the East Delhi Campus of DTU. Prof. Lather had earlier served as Dean of University School of Management Studies (2008-2014), Director, International Affairs (2009-2017) and was the founder head, Department of Applied Psychology at Guru Jambheshwar University, Hissar, between 1997 and 2000.

Prof. Lather's field of specialisation is Strategic Human Resource Management, Organisational Behaviour, and Organisational Development and Change Management, Business Communication and Technology and Innovation Management.

Ambedkar University was established in 2007 by Government of the NCT of Delhi and reserves seats specifically for students from the Capital. It has expanded from its Kashmere Gate Campus to the Karampura Campus in 2016-17 and the Lodhi Road Campus in 2017.

BJP cadre to embark on Kamal Jyoti Abhiyan to propagate welfare schemes

Door-to-door visit by party workers to begin on February 26

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will begin a door-to-door campaign to make voters aware of the public welfare schemes implemented by the Narendra Modi government, especially for the women, the party announced on Tuesday.

Party's Kamal Jyoti Abhiyan which will be initiated on February 26 will see BJP workers visiting homes of people and lighting a 'Kamal Jyoti' in the house of beneficiaries, BJP national Mahila Morcha president Vijaya Rahatkar said.

According to Ms. Rahatkar, on February 26, the abhiyan will be initiated and will see workers visiting every booth not only to light a 'Kamal Jyoti' in the house of beneficiaries but also to talk about the achievements of the Modi government.

The Modi government, Ms. Rahatkar said, had, by constructing 9 crore toilets, ensured a "respectable life to the sisters and mothers of the country" while under the Mudra Loan Scheme, 13 crore people were given a loan out of which 75% beneficiaries were women.

"The Congress governments only made promises for the security of the women but did not do anything for them. Under POSCO law, stringent provisions of capital punishment has been made for crime against minor children," Ms. Rahatkar added.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced a law on Triple Talaq to empower the Muslim women. On one hand the BJP is working with good intentions and for right development, on the other hand opposition parties are forming alliance which is like Mahamilawat," Ms. Rahatkar argued.

"Women centred

"The BJP is committed for the total development of women with its motto of Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas. The promises made by Delhi government on schools and hospitals have proven to be hollow

"The Congress governments only made promises for the security of the women but did not do anything for them. Under POSCO law, stringent provisions of capital punishment has been made for crime against minor children," Ms. Rahatkar added.

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IN BRIEF



Chautala moves HC, seeks early release

NEW DELHI
Former Haryana Chief Minister O. P. Chautala, serving 10-year jail term in JBT teachers recruitment scam, on Tuesday approached the Delhi High Court seeking direction to the government to release him under the Centre's policy for grant of special remission to prisoners. PTI

Miscreants shoot at businessman's car

NEW DELHI
A 52-year-old businessman on Tuesday alleged that two unidentified men came in a white car and fired seven rounds at his SUV parked outside his house in Pitampura. Based on Inderjeet Bhatia's complaint, the police have registered a case. STAFF REPORTER

Hoax bomb call at Metro sends cops into a tizzy

NEW DELHI
A PRC call was received on Tuesday morning regarding a suspicious packet in a dustbin at Dilshad Garden Metro Station. An officer said the caller stated that "someone has thrown a packet in the dustbin and it looks suspicious". Taking action, officers and CISF Bomb Disposal Squad reached the spot and found that it was a battery. The call was declared hoax. STAFF REPORTER

Court upholds jail term for truck driver

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI
A Sessions court here has maintained a sentence of 13-month jail term to a truck driver, holding him guilty of killing a pedestrian in Mehrauli in 2001.

The truck driven at a high speed had lost control and hit the victim, who was walking on the footpath along with his two friends. The victim died on the spot. In an appeal against a Metropolitan Magistrate court judgment, the accused took the plea that there was no evidence of rash and negligent driving on his part.

Further, the prosecution did not lead evidence to show that the accident occurred on the footpath after the offending vehicle went off the road.

They also questioned evidence given by the eyewitnesses..., the two persons who were walking along with the victim on the footpath.

"...The driver was injured after the accident...There is a minor contradiction in the statement of one of the eyewitnesses..." said Special Judge Rakesh Kumar Singh dismissing the appeal. The accused was also asked to pay ₹30,000 as compensation to the heirs of the victim, failing which he will have to serve one-month imprisonment more.

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Dialogue on "Satyagraha and the Conquest of Evil" by Professor Vinit Haksar, author of the recently published book "Gandhi and Liberalism: Satyagraha and the Conquest of Evil" at Seminar Rooms I, II & III Kamaladevi Complex, India International Centre (IIC), 6:30 p.m.

Talk: Seminar on "China Factor in India-America Relations (1942-62)" by Atul Bharadwaj, Adjunct Fellow, ICS. Chair: Alka Acharya, Hon. Fellow, ICS at Seminar Room, Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS), 8/17, Sri Ram Road, Civil Lines, 2:30 p.m.

Talk: Discussion on "Employment in the Formal Sector" by Prof. Santosh Kumar Mehrotra, Professor, Centre for Informal Sector and Labour Studies, JNU, and Manish Sabharwal, Chairman and Co-Founder, Team-Lease Services Limited. Chair: M.C.Verma, Former Advisor, UNDP at Lecture Room - II, Basement Annex, India International Centre (IIC), 4:30 p.m.

Exhibition: 'A Wired Ecology' solo show by Jayashree Chakravarty at Akar Prakar, First Floor, D-42 Defence Colony, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: 'Tales of Yore', a group art show at Gallerie Nyka, 101-103 Square One Designer Arcade, C-2, District Centre, Saket, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column to cityeditor@thehindu.co.in) --end

College rusticates student over social media posts on Army

FB posts triggers fury among other students, action taken after they held protest

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

A Kashmiri student at Shree Guru Gobind Singh Tricentenary (SGT) University was rusticated on Tuesday for circulating controversial posts referring to alleged atrocities of Indian Army on Kashmiri civilians.

Slogans against Pakistan
The decision to rusticate the student was taken after hundreds of students of the university assembled on its campus in the morning and took out a march raising slogans against Pakistan and seeking action against her.

The woman allegedly shared the controversial posts on her Facebook account late on Sunday night and the messages soon spread to other university students through different social networking plat-

C The students were not ready to accept any action lesser than rustication. A four-member committee was constituted...She was found guilty of posting anti-national messages and was, therefore, rusticated

RANJISH YADAV
SGT University spokesperson

forms. The second-year student of an allied medical course at the university had been staying in the hostel.

The information also reached the local police.

Peaceful protest

SGT University spokesperson Ranjish Yadav told *The Hindu* that the agitated students gathered inside the campus around 9 a.m.

seeking action and the peaceful protest went on till noon.

"The students were not ready to accept any action lesser than her rustication. A four-member committee was immediately constituted to look into the issue. The woman was found guilty of posting anti-national messages and was, therefore, rusticated," said Mr. Yadav.

The committee comprised director, academics; dean, students' welfare; dean, allied health sciences and registrar.

Single-page order

"We received a memorandum from the students of the university on Tuesday regarding the anti-national post...the university will not tolerate such type of discipline in the campus and hence it has been decided...

she has been rusticated from the university with immediate effect," read the single-page order.

The family and local guardians of the student have been informed.

Mr. Yadav, however, said that no formal complaint was given to the police in this connection.

In presence of cops

Around two-dozen policemen and the SHO of Rajendra Park police station were present during the protest march.

"The policemen were present in view of the protest march to prevent any untoward incident. The march passed off peacefully. We have not received any complaint against any student posting controversial posts," said Gurugram Police spokesperson Subhash Boken.

Class XII student held, charged with sedition

Posted pro-Pakistan slogans on WhatsApp

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA

A 19-year-old youth has been arrested in Greater Noida after being charged with sedition for his alleged anti-national activities on social media, the police said on Tuesday.

Mr. Yadav, however, said that no formal complaint was given to the police in this connection.

Nabbed during checks

He was nabbed around 10.30 p.m. on Monday during a security check near Dungarpur, they said.

Spreading hatred'

The Class XII student was disturbing "communal harmony" and "spreading hatred" by using social media for his "anti-national" activities, the police said.

"He was posting pro-Pakistan slogans on WhatsApp, which were getting circulated further. The police took suo motu cognisance after the posts reached WhatsApp of a local officer," said an officer.

Youth killed after being hit by truck

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old man was killed when his scooter was hit by an unidentified truck in north-west Delhi's Adarsh Nagar on Monday night, the police said on Tuesday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North-West) Vijayanta Arya said a call was received regarding an accident outside the gate of Azadpur Mandi.

On reaching the spot, the police found that locals had taken the injured to a hospital. Monu from the jhuggis in Lal Bagh was declared brought dead. "It was informed that his scooter was hit by a truck, which fled the spot after the incident," the officer said.

The police have registered a case under Sections 304A (causing death by negligence) and 279 (rash and negligent driving) of the Indian Penal Code and are trying to ascertain the identity of the accused.

Two forest range officers suspended during surprise inspection by Minister

'They failed to protect land'; Hussain promises more checks

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Environment and Forest Minister Imran Hussain on Tuesday suspended two forest range officers for their alleged failure to protect forest land and initiate action against encroachers.

Under encroachment'
The action came in the wake of a surprise inspection of the forest ridge adjoining Chattarpur Enclave Part-2 by the Minister. During this, a large chunk of the ridge and forest land was found "under encroachment and illegal occupation of private persons", read a government statement.

Mr. Hussain said similar inspections would be carried out in other forest areas to check conservation and protection of land in the coming days.

"Taking immediate cognizance of the seriousness of the situation, the Minister directed the Forest Department to remove the encroachment at once. Also, free the encroached land so that the Forest Department



Environment and Forest Minister Imran Hussain.

could take back its possession. On the directions of the Minister, a bulldozer was called and immediately pressed into service," the statement said.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal took to Twitter to commend the action taken by Mr. Hussain.

"The Delhi government is engaged in wiping out the mafia from every sphere. Delhi now has an honest government. All these mafia had functioned so far under through a conspiracy involving both the BJP and Congress governments [sic]," he added.

tweeted.
The encroachment on ridge land was demolished by removing the illegal structures and large a chunk of land was brought back under the possession of the government during the inspection of the Minister, the government stated.

Mr. Hussain also directed the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest to seek an explanation from the officers concerned who "failed to detect and prevent" such "large scale encroachment of forest and ridge land" and initiate departmental action against the guilty.

"The Minister also directed Principal Chief Conservator of Forest to ensure that the land which was vacated from encroachment at the time of inspection is immediately fenced so that it is not usurped again by vested interests. The Minister also directed that all the encroached forest land be evicted expeditiously, in time bound manner and action may be taken against the trespassers," the statement added.



The shoe factory in Narela industrial area where a massive fire broke out on Tuesday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

Worker dies after fire breaks out at Narela factory

Blaze spread across 3 floors of the factory, including basement; probe under way

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 28-year-old man was killed in a massive fire that broke at a shoe factory in Narela industrial area in the small hours of Tuesday.

Body from basement

Bablu, from Bihar, was a

worker at the factory, the police said, adding that his body was recovered from the basement.

A fire official said the call was received around 3.15 a.m. regarding a fire at the factory after which 14 fire tenders were pressed into service.

The blaze was spread across three floors of the factory, including the basement.

The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained, the official added.

Most of the workers were sleeping at that time but Bablu was trapped at the base-

ment, the police said.

They added that a case under Sections 285 (negligent conduct with respect to fire) and 304A (causing death by negligence) has been registered at Narela industrial area police station and investigation is under way.

HC rejects plea for using 'martyr' for slain jawans

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday refused to entertain a plea seeking martyr status for paramilitary personnel killed in the line of duty.

The petition was dismissed in 2016 by the High Court, which had said the plea was misconceived.

The court said it was unfortunate that such a plea was moved by a lawyer, despite being aware that the main petition was dismissed.

'Aspiring politician' arrested for 'supplying cannabis'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 35-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly supplying cannabis in the Capital, the police said on Tuesday. They said that Mohd Parvez Alam was considered a local hero in his village in Bihar and wanted to contest the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

DCP (Dwarka) Anto Alphonse said Alam was arrested from Vikaspuri on February 14.

"The staff was carrying out checks on the Vikaspuri to Najafgarh drain road when one person carrying a white plastic sack was spotted. On seeing the cops, he started walking on the other side," Mr. Alphonse said.

He was asked to stop but he started walking faster after which the staff chased him and nabbed him.

"On search, the white sack was found containing about six kg of ganja. A case was registered and he was arrested," the officer said, adding: "He had planned to contest the general election from Bihar."

Mohd Parvez Alam in police custody on Tuesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Woman found dead, husband arrested on murder charge

Father claims the 28-year-old was pushed off the balcony by her in-laws; post-mortem report awaited

HEMAMI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

A 28-year-old woman was found dead at a residential complex in east Delhi's Mayur Vihar in the small hours of Monday, the police said.

Her husband, a graphic designer, was arrested on charges of murder and cruelty, they said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Jasmeet Singh said a case under Section 302 (punishment for murder), 398A (subjecting woman to

cruelty) and 34 (common intention) has been registered and the woman's husband, mother-in-law and sister-in-law have been booked.

A senior officer said Nisha had got married to Shailesh Gupta, from Trilokpuri, just two years ago.

Her father Chiranjit Lal alleged that Nisha was pushed by Shailesh and his family from their third-floor residence.

Lal who has a shop in Haryana's Jhajjar, told police

that he was informed by Shailesh's family that she had jumped off from the balcony.

The police have recovered her body and sent it for post-mortem following which a magisterial enquiry was initiated.

Physical, mental abuse

Mr. Lal informed the magistrate and police that Nisha was constantly harassed and abused, both physically and mentally, by her husband and his family right after

marriage.
They started troubling her 20-25 days after marriage. In the last 23 months of her marriage, she has left the husband's house and come to our house about four-five times," he said in his complaint.

Earlier complaint

The father also claimed that the victim had given a com-

plaint to Mayur Vihar Police in December 2018 alleging that she was beaten up and

harassed by the accused.

The officer said the case

was registered based on the complaint and statement before the magistrate after which the husband was arrested.

"The crime team visited the spot on Tuesday and re-created the scene to ascertain whether she was pushed or she jumped herself. The post-

mortem report which is awaited will also bring clarity. Investigation is under way," he said.

IN BRIEF



Give relief to farmers, Dikshit tells govt

NEW DELHI
Delhi Congress president Sheila Dikshit on Tuesday demanded that the AAP government pay compensation to farmers whose crops had been damaged due to the recent hailstorms in the city. The former Delhi CM raised the demand after meeting a delegation of the All India Kisan Congress that told her about farming losses incurred due to the hailstorms. PTI

In authorised occupancy of property: JNMF

NEW DELHI
The Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund on Tuesday told the Delhi High Court that it is in "authorised occupancy" of the property at Teen Murti, and there was mala fide on the Centre's part in seeking its eviction. The counsel for JNMF contended that there was mala fide as it has been occupying the property for 54 years and the estate officer asked it to vacate the premises within 10 days. PTI

Clubbing together



Afternoon break: Farmers play cards in the sun at Kunal village in Fatehabad district, Haryana. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Will hike limit on speed governors, govt tells HC

Says proposal to increase speed limit for public transport vehicles awaiting L-G nod

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI
The Aam Aadmi Party government on Tuesday told the Delhi High Court that it was in the process of increasing the limit, from 40 kmph to 80 kmph, on speed governors installed on public transport vehicles that are plying in the NCR.

The Delhi government said it was awaiting the Lieutenant-Governor's approval to the proposal. Currently, public transport vehicles, including school buses, have speed governors that limit their speed to under 40 kmph.



The speed of vehicles, including school buses, is currently limited to 40 kmph.

date of hearing on July 30. The High Court was hearing a petition challenging a Delhi government notification of July 17 last year making it mandatory to install speed governors in public transport vehicles running in the NCR.

The petition was moved by the Commercial Drivers Welfare Association, which on the last date of hearing had got protection from the court against coercive action for not complying with the order to install speed governors.

The High Court said the interim order would continue to operate till the next date of hearing.

The association has sought quashing of the notification on the ground that it was "unconstitutional, unlawful, arbitrary and ultra vires" of the Constitution.

The speed governors would be pre-set to a specific limit according to the category of the public transport vehicle, the petition has said.

The association has also sought that its commercial cabs and taxis, purchased after October 1, 2015, be exempted from installation of speed governors.

Para Commando hurt in J&K gun battle dies

Sustained four bullet injuries in encounter just two days before Pulwama attack

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

FARIDABAD

Naik Sandeep, 33, who was injured in a gun battle with terrorists a week ago in Jammu and Kashmir, succumbed to injuries at Srinagar's Army Hospital on Tuesday. He was a resident of Atali village here.



Naik Sandeep

Sandeep of 10 Para Commando was injured on his birthday on February 12 at Ratnpora, two days before the deadly terror attack on Central Reserve Police Force convoy in Pulwama claiming 40 lives.

Rashit.

Sandeep had sustained four bullet injuries and died during treatment on Tuesday around noon, said his younger brother Sonu.

Last rites

Sandeep's parents and wife were with him at the time of his death. "They are all expected to return to the village on Wednesday around noon. The last rites will be performed around 1.30 p.m.," said Sonu.

Atali Sarpanch Prahlad said the Sub-Divisional Magistrate had called him to inform them about the death of Sandeep and asked him to make arrangements for his last rites.

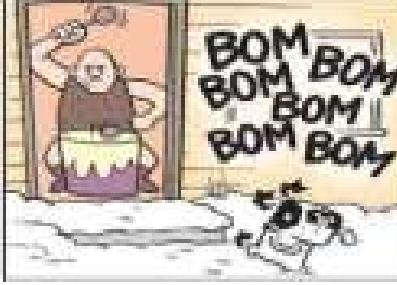
Sonu said Sandeep had joined the force in 2005.

He said that his brother always wanted to serve his country and joined the Army following the footsteps of a host of their relatives.

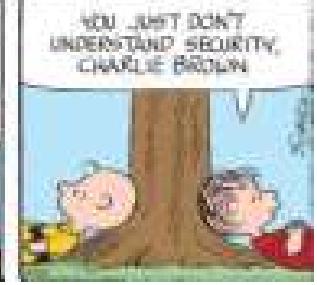
He was expected to return home later this month, but was injured just days before that.

He had been posted in Jammu and Kashmir a couple of times earlier as well during his over 14-year service. He was most recently sent there a year ago.

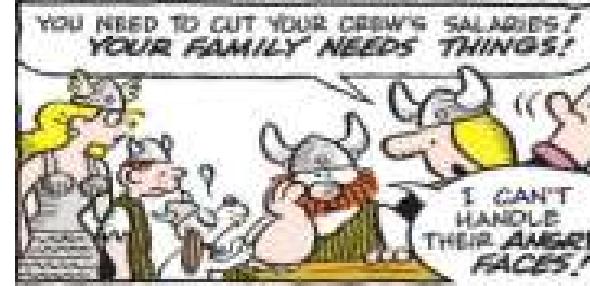
POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBES



TIGER



GRAFFITI



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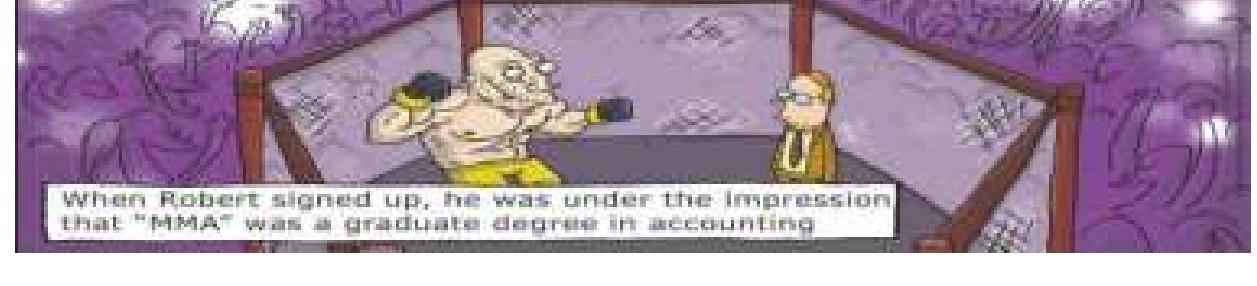
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- 6 Lift up (5)
7 Chemical element, symbol W (8)
8 Cure for balding? (4,8)
12 Michelle __, US movie star (8)
15 Coffee sediment (7)
16 Heavy cream-coloured writing paper (6)
18 Relating to sound (5)
19 By and by (4)

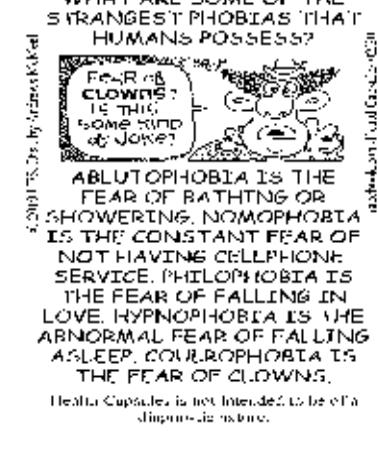
Solution will appear in Delhi Metro dated February 21, 2019.

Solution No. 12997

WUMO



HEALTH CAPSULES



© GUARDIAN NEWS AND MEDIA LTD., 2016

- Across
1 Social networking website (8)
5 Gait between a walk and a canter (4)
9 East African country (5)
10 Dante's tongue (7)
11 Administrative centre (12)
13 What's yet to come (6)
14 Darwin voyaged in this ship (6)
17 Revolt (12)
20 Pernicety (7)
21 Approach-disagreement (3-2)
22 Stone (4)
23 Incarcerate (8)
■ Down
1 Sham (4)
2 Nunney (7)
3 Common brown seaweed (12)
4 Detestable (6)

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PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



Health Capsules is not intended to be a diagnostic resource.



Sophie's flaws and foibles

The author of the *Shopaholic* series on why being less than perfect makes for great comedy

SINDHURI NANDHAKUMAR

Like her name suggests, Fixie Farr is a "fixaholic" who puts other people – including her selfish and "gruesome" siblings (Sophie Kinsella's words) – ahead of herself. After her father's death, she tries to keep the family together while her mother (her confidante and ally) takes a break. Throw in a selfish childhood crush, a kind stranger whose life becomes intertwined with Fixie's, stressful Christmas meals, and a few embarrassing and hilarious moments, and you have a signature Sophie Kinsella novel.

For her most recent book, *I Owe You One*, the UK-based writer – whose real name is Madeline Wickham and who I have to remind myself to address as Maddy – wanted to send her heroine on a "big journey". And family

life seemed like the perfect setting. "I often think that our family dynamic is the hardest terrain for us to navigate," she says. "People who are perfectly competent in all aspects of life can start to go to pieces when it's their own family. I've really noticed this when people talk about going home at Christmas. When you go back, you're somebody's little brother – and people get stuck in their roles."

Heroines with hurdles

By her own admission, Kinsella likes to give her protagonists "massive obstacles". Fixie's challenge is finding her voice around her overbearing siblings.

Life's little vanities

The author (above) is particular that her heroines go on 'big journeys'. ■ JOHN SWANNELL AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As the mother of five children (ranging in age from seven to 22), this is something the author feels strongly about. "When I was in university [at Oxford], I found it hard to voice my arguments and opinions. I would be too perfectionist," she explains. "In terms of my own children, I think they have to feel that there's a safe space. Which is why, when I feel like there's something they

JOKES ON SET

Kinsella describes a recent trip to New York, to visit the sets of *Can You Keep a Secret*, as "utter joy". "The scenes were just so funny. In fact, my agent got told off because she kept laughing and it was being picked up on the sound." The film, starring Alexandra Daddario (pictured below in a scene from the 2018 film, *When We First Met*) is based on Kinsella's 2003 novel about Emma Corrigan, a young woman who, on a turbulent flight, blurts out her biggest secrets to a handsome stranger, who turns out to be the CEO of her company. "I think the creators have made the film with the spirit of wanting to represent the book," says the author about the adaptation.

want to say, I start suggesting even wilder things. I ask, 'Do you want to run away from home?'" She laughs, admitting that this makes her children more comfortable about sharing their outlandish ideas.

Sink before rising

Kinsella, who turns 50 later this year, has been writing 'chick lit' for more than two decades now. Her most prominent series about the spendthrift Rebecca Bloomwood – a financial journalist who is very bad with money – was adapted into the 2009 film, *Confessions of a Shopaholic*, starring Isla Fisher. Her 2003 novel, *Can You Keep a Secret*, will also become a movie, with Alexandra Daddario playing the lead (see box).

The author confesses that her work is so compatible with film adaptations because she writes with cinematic vision. "I love a sweeping movie," she says. "It's just the way I see a story; I see it in scenes. I like writing dialogues and I love that sense of escapism that you get in a really great romcom, and I try to recreate that in my books."

Even though the world that she writes about has changed (for example, when she started writing, social media didn't exist, but her 2017 novel, *My Not So Perfect Life*, is about a young woman's desire to match up to Instagram standards). Kinsella's reasons for becoming a novelist (she used to work as a financial journalist) have remained the same. Her protagonists are young women who are never portrayed as perfect. "We're all flawed, we've all got foibles," she explains. "We all know, deep down, that we might spend a bit too much or work a bit too hard or be slightly obsessional about coffee stains." Her writing is gentle but sarcastic and there is always a light touch of gravitas. "I test the temperature of each book as I write it, and I think, 'how low do I want them to sink before they rise up?'"

And that's the thing with Sophie Kinsella. Her heroines always rise up. Life's little vanities, she says, lend themselves to comedy. "But it also means that my readers relate to my character. I like when people think 'oh yeah that's me,' or 'it's not me, it's my sister,'" says the author, who has just completed the next in her children's series (her first for young readers), *Mummy Fairy and Me*.

I Owe You One, published by Bantam Press (Penguin), will be available in India on February 26. It is priced at ₹599.

PEOPLE

Pilates pop

Namrata Purohit brings her fitness studio to Gurugram, with a focus on core strengthening



At 16, Namrata Purohit was India's youngest Pilates trainer. Based in Mumbai, she now has 16 studios across the country (Defence Colony has one), with Gurugram's being the newest. Here, she tells us why Pilates work and what's in store at her fitness centre.

Why Pilates?

I have always been into sports, but at 15 I fell off a horse and had a bad knee injury. Around that time my father was hosting a Pilates meet in India. When we tried it, for the first time in years I felt no pain. He was dealing with a chronic back ache, and the pain left him too. That's when we became believers. So we converted a small space in dad's office into a studio, and that's where it all started.

What does Pilates give you that other forms don't?

Besides rehab, injury prevention, and the development of flexibility, strength, endurance, balance, and an engagement of the deeper muscles. It's also about mind-body-spirit balance, and working through the core. But we have group and private classes and also do functional training, using the Flowin board, Flexi-Bars, Core Stix. We already have a studio in Delhi's Defence Colony.

Have fitness goals changed over the years?

Initially people used to think fitness is about weight loss. But that's changing and people are looking to be the best version of themselves. Goals range from wanting to be more toned, stronger, or wanting to be able to build up to do a pull-up. ₹1,000 per class for group sessions; ₹2,000 per session for a private session; The Pilates Studio, 3rd floor, F-9/10, Golf Course Road, near DLF Phase 1 Metro, Gurugram Sunalini Mathew

PRODUCT

Lovable fuglies



You may love to hate (or hate to love) Crocs but there's no denying the practicality of their comfort, snug fit, and water-resistant quality. For Spring/Summer 2019, the company has come out with Crocs Reviva, a new line that shows off air bubbles on the footbed, which align with your sole's pressure points, or so the brand claims. Crocs clearly places a premium on foot-health and durability without getting too hung up on the aesthetics of how this is executed. These bubbles gently massage your feet as they walk you around the grocery store, or take you around the locker room when you can hit the pool again. The collection comes in sandal, flip-flop, and slide silhouette models for men and women.

₹2,475 upward; in stores and on shopcrocs.in

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



EXHIBITION

Sculpture
Retrospective, an exhibition by sculptor and chairman of AIFACS, Prof. Biman B. Das, showcases sculptures, paintings and drawings from his childhood to date. His statues and busts of great personalities in bronze, stone and marble have been installed in India and around the world.

VENUE: The All India Fine Arts & Crafts Society

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



CUISINE

Beer Fest
Pho King, a multi-cuisine restaurant, has a month-long 'Crazy Kings Festival' for beer enthusiasts. Their food menu offers a range of Mexican and Pan-Asian dishes prepared with fresh ingredients. Among these are a variety of dimsums, and a Mad King handcrafted beer for free.

VENUE: Saket and Hauz Khas outlets

TIME: 12 noon - 12 midnight



MUSIC

LostRadio Live
The LostRadio will perform at Saints N Sinners in Gurugram this evening. With their soft crooning music and dulcet tones, the duo Sushant and Diyat, will perform an all-acoustic act, which will include blues, country, and classic rock covers. They also play in another band, the Big Bang Blues.

VENUE: Saints N Sinners, GF-21 Sector 43

TIME: 8:30 p.m. - 11 p.m.

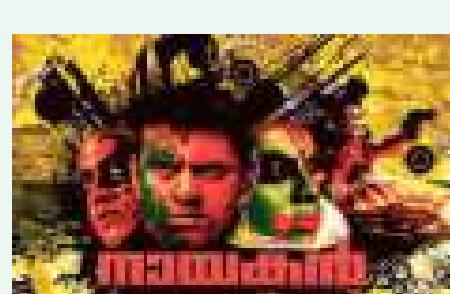


PERFORMANCE

Comedy
This evening, stand-up comics Amit Sharma and Rajat Chauhan will perform in Hinglish. Chauhan is an engineer by education, while Sharma who has performed in more than 300 shows, mostly talks about husband-wife relationships and his personal stories, among various other contemporary themes.

VENUE: Canvas Laugh Club, Sector- 18, Noida

TIME: 7:30 p.m.



FILM

Nayakan
This 2010 Malayalam crime film is a revenge story, told against the backdrop of Kochi's underworld. The story is centered around a Kathakali artist Vardanuni, who joins the underworld to take revenge on those who killed his family and destroyed his life. Directed by Lijo Jose Pellissery and written by P. S. Rafeeq.

VENUE: Stein Auditorium, Indi Habitat Centre

TIME: 7 p.m.

6 WHEELS

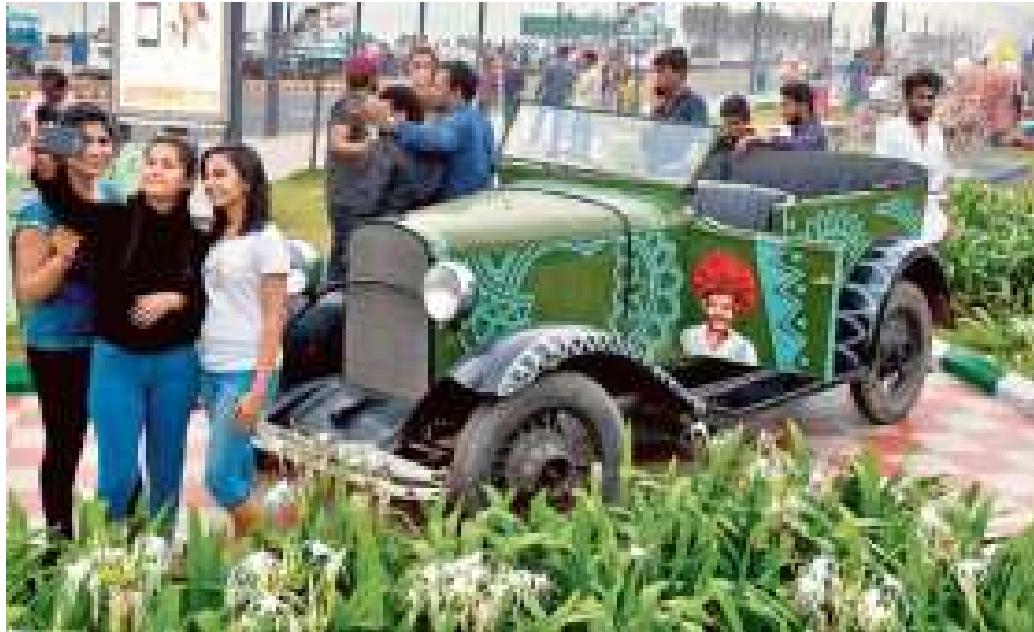
Cartist Yatra promotes art, culture, and artistes by using automobiles as its canvas

A moving-art exhibition



AISHWARYA UPADHYE

Cartist Yatra, 2019, a travelling exhibition of painted cars, rickshaws and scooters, is visiting 10 cities in a span of 80 days. And it carries with it the message of 'Unity', its theme. "Art should not be confined to museums and galleries. It should be taken to the everyone and what better way than automobiles. With this exhibition, we aim to raise awareness of the various art forms from different parts of the country, and also of the evolution of the Indian automobile industry," says Himanshu Jangid, founder of Cartist.



TAIL LIGHT

Painting the town red, and blue too

With a bit of planning and a dash of creativity, public spaces can be transformed into a canvas of art for all



ANNIE ZAIDI

Odisha was in the news for a good reason recently. It was named the best State for promotion of sports at the Sportstar Aces Awards on account of Bhubaneswar having hosted three successful international events – the Hockey World Cup in 2018, the Asian Athletics Championships in 2017 and the Hero Super Cup in 2018.

I am sure the State has invested in training infrastructure too. Certainly, Odisha has invested time and money in making sports more visible in the capital city. I was in Bhubaneswar recently for a literature festival and found that commuting had become an aesthetic experience. Long stretches of street-facing walls were covered in murals.

Much of the art focused on hockey, especially around the Kalinga Stadium. Apart from dynamic images of players in the middle of a game, there was a lot of conceptual art around hockey sticks. One of my favourites was a mural that showed large black ants winding their way around a stick. Another artist showed flashes of lightning – or was it a blue pulse? – rising off the stick as if to suggest an electrifying game.

Mural art has picked up in several cities, but the murals in Bhubaneswar struck me as particular. Figures of athletes in motion brought a sense of dynamism to an otherwise quiet street. There was something of their spirit up on the walls, something akin to enthusiasm. In another part of the town, walls have been painted with flowers. Giant blue morning glories are painted such that it seemed the homely flower was demanding its due. There were a few Frida Kahlo murals too, and one I especially remember is that of the famous artist's face crowded in by flowers. It was almost as if the flowers were emanat-



Feast your eyes: It is time citizens got access to art through the year

Individuals rarely invest in their maintenance.

I grew up looking at urban walls covered in posters, advertisements for everything from black magic to underwear, films to political parties. Then, a few years ago in Mumbai, a tiny corner was transformed through the efforts of an art collective that calls itself the Bollywood Art Project. It took nearly a decade for other public spaces to open up, especially suburban railway stations. In Delhi too, there are a few walls covered with graffiti and artwork. By and large, though, our cities remain overwhelmingly grey.

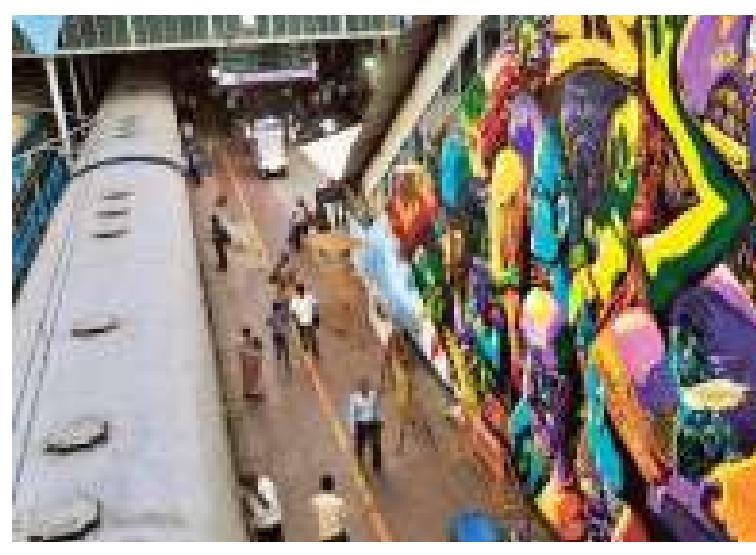
Perhaps, it is time our city councils and State governments started funding the creation of murals. India barely supports her artists, and it is time citizens get access to a glimpse of art through the year, every year. This would serve to keep us interested in each other's imaginations. It would also make commuting a lot less dull.

ing from her. Her hand was across her mouth, as if she was trying to hide it or hold back a laugh, or simply posturing in a manner that could be seductive if you want to see it as that. Or, aghast at such riotous beauty.

There's another whimsical sort of mural, where the artist has painted just the feet of an Odissi dancer in motion. The adjacent wall has the eyes of the dancer, dancing with fun, with astonishment, full of *rasa*.

Under-utilised spaces

Looking at these murals made me wonder whose mind and heart was behind them. Who loves morning glories so? Who wants to make Bhubaneswar dance with its eyes? The murals made me think about how under-utilised public space has been so far. While interiors and a few expensive homes are decorated well, as per the owners' tastes, the side of the wall that faces the street is considered nobody's personal property.



The author is a writer of essays, stories, poems, and scripts for stage and screen



Colourful ride:
At the Visakhapatnam leg of Cartist Yatra 2019

■ KR DEEPAK

India is no stranger to automobile art. For decades, we have seen bright colours splashed across the sides of trucks with quirky messages such as 'Horn Ok Please'. Jaipur-based Himanshu, a vintage-car restorer and an art aficionado, took it up a notch when he established Cartist in 2015.

Initially, the initiative was restricted to workshops and an exhibition on automobile art in Jaipur.

However, last year, Himanshu decided to put the exhibition on wheels and the idea of Cartist Yatra was conceived. They have also seen numerous collaborations, with brands such as Absolut and the Jaipur Metro.

The theme of the first edition was 'Unsung Heroes': artists practising dying traditional professions, were projected as heroes.

"I see them as heroes because



they are trying to conserve an art that would die out if not for their persistence. The cars had motifs that gave a glimpse into the lives of quilt-makers and artists who work on miniatures, from Rajasthan, and wooden-toy makers from Karnataka," says Himanshu.

This year, the team is travelling with 10 cars, 4 scooters, and a rickshaw. The models include a Maruti 800, a Hindustan Ambassador, a Fiat 1100D (popularly referred to as Premier Padmini) and a 1929 Chevrolet convertible. The highlight of the exhibition is a car donated by Deepa Malik, the first Indian woman to win a Paralympic medal. They also have 10 art installations, including peacocks and deer, made from the spare parts of automobiles.

At every pitstop, the team, which consists of 10 artists and 10

organisers, is getting at least one car painted by the local artists. In Ahmedabad, two cars – a Maruti 800 and a Standard Herald – were painted by the local artists. Along the way in Goa, Bengaluru and Visakhapatnam, three more cars that showcase the local art forms were done.

"Engaging these artists helps in a better understanding of the local art form. Rarely have these artists painted on cars, and hence it gives them an opportunity to experiment," he adds. Some of the art includes colourful figures in Rajasthani attire on the doors of the cars, with murals borrowed from the architecture of the desert State.

In Visakhapatnam, over 80 local artists and students of Andhra University's Fine Arts Department were invited to paint at the exhibition. These will eventually be exhibited at the Cartist Automobile Art Festival in Jaipur. A sculpture of a dolphin made by a local artist at the event, was gifted to the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation by the organisers.

After Bhubaneswar, Kolkata, Lucknow, Gurugram, and Chandigarh, the exhibition will culminate on March 18 at the Cartist Automobile Art Festival in Jaipur. "Apart from the cars, the festival will also exhibit and auction the paintings made by artists from across the country," he says.

Q AND A WITH HORMAZD

**Ideal SUV**

Aditya Rai, Mumbai: I want to buy a premium SUV and my budget is ₹2 crore. What are my options?

■ There are a lot of choices available for that budget, but we would pick the new Porsche Cayenne which offers a good blend of fantastic performance, great ride and handling and quality interiors. If you want something less sporty and more comfortable, then the Range Rover Vogue is a good choice as it offers a sense of luxury and feel-good factor that none of the other SUVs can match.

Petrol-automatic car

Sagar, Thane: My budget is ₹12 lakh and I want to buy a petrol-automatic car that gives good mileage and has less maintenance. What are my options?

■ The Honda City petrol-automatic would be our pick as it is easy to drive, very reliable and pretty fuel-efficient too. Also, the resale value is quite good when it's time to sell. The City, however, may be a little beyond your budget, and if you can't stretch beyond ₹12 lakh, then the Honda Amaze is a good option as well. We find that the Honda's CVT system is a more efficient, responsive and reliable transmission, compared to the other automatic transmissions in rival cars.

Perfect engine

Ativeer Sangwan, Rohtak: I have a ₹2 lakh budget and I need a 350cc motorcycle. I have shortlisted the Royal Enfield Thunderbird 350X. I want to ask, does the bike really vibrate after 80kph, and if it does so, what options do I have?

■ At this budget, the 350 Royal Enfields are your only real options for an engine capacity of that size. These engines are very tor-

quey and offer an appealing riding experience at lower speeds, but the vibrations become harsh above 80kph unfortunately. For this kind of money, the only direct options are the new Jawas, but they are sold out until September 2019.

If you're looking at lazy, relaxed riding, the Royal Enfields will meet your needs. But if you want to comfortably hold higher speeds on the highway, you're going to have to look at something more sporty. Quick but relatively comfortable options here include the KTM 250 Duke and the Bajaj Dominar. The KTM is due to get ABS soon, while the Dominar is going to receive a significant overhaul in early 2019, and it will get better suspension and more power, among many other things.

Long distances

Swapnil, Bhopal: I am 30 years old and am planning to purchase a new bike in the 150-200cc segment. My priority is comfort and reliability. Power output and top speed are not important. My daily commute will be around 60km and I will go out on the occasional weekend ride. What should I buy?

■ There are a number of bikes available in this segment that offer what you're looking for. One option for a comfortable commuter would be something from the Honda stable, like the CB Hornet 160R or the X-Blade, or even the CB Unicorn 160, if you want something a little more conservative. Since reliability is a big factor, you could take a look at the Yamaha FZ FI.

The bike has an excellent reputation for reliability, and as power and speed aren't priorities for you, the FZ's lower power output than its rivals won't bother you much. In fact, Yamaha is set to launch the updated FZ soon, so we suggest you wait for that motorcycle if you can.

Hormazd Sorabjee is the Editor of Autocar India. Mail your feedback and queries to roadshow@thehindu.co.in

ROUTE AHEAD

