

FREE WORKSHOP IAS 2019-20

20th January (SUNDAY)
at 2:30 pm

Apsara Arcade,

Nr. Karol Bagh Metro Station Gate #7

WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS



Discussion on
changing exam
pattern and
preparation
strategies



Special talk on
Program & Policies,
Recent Legislations
and the Dynamic
part of the syllabus



Session by eminent
faculty on how to
master Current
Affairs by interlinking
different streams

IAS FOUNDATION 2019-20

WEEKDAY
Batch 1 : 21th January 2019
Batch 2 : 28th January 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 : 19th January 2019
Batch 2 : 23rd February 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



Bawana fire: solatium given to wrong family

NEW DELHI

It is almost a year since 17 people were killed in a massive fire that broke out at a firecracker factory in Bawana on January 20. One family was still running from pillar to post for a compensation of ₹5 lakh announced by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. The compensation was wrongly given to another family, admitted SDM Pura Garg.

DEHLI METRO ▶ PAGE 1

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OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 2
DELHI METRO ▶ 4 PAGES

We are not trying to pull down govt. in Karnataka, says BJP

Party continues to sequester its MLAs from the State in Haryana hotel

NISTULA HEBBAR

NEW DELHI

The BJP adopted a wait and watch attitude with regard to political developments in Karnataka, maintaining that it was not trying to topple the Kumaraswamy government in the State, while still sequestering party MLAs at a hotel in Manesar in Haryana. State unit president B.S. Yeddyurappa, in fact, left for Bengaluru as news of the deteriorating health of Shiva-kumara Swami, the centenarian Lingayat seer of the Siddaganga Mutt, broke.

BJP general secretary in charge of Karnataka P. Muradilhar Rao told *The Hindu* that the party had sequestered its MLAs due to Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy's own on-record claims that he was in touch with BJP



Winter sojourn: BJP MLAs Dinakar Shetty, Harshavardhan and Sunil Nayak at a Manesar hotel. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

MLAs, and that the party needed to safeguard its own numbers.

'Coalition fragile'

"All that is happening is that the Congress has its own in-

ternal issues of disgruntled elements, and whoever has expressed any disgruntlement is promptly labelled pro-BJP by the opposing factions in that party," said Mr. Rao.

He added that the political developments in Karnataka "in fact, exposed the way such unprincipled coalitions existed."

"In any case, the developments are exposing the fragility of the coalition, and people are watching everything," he said.

Mr. Rao's statements have been careful about maintaining a distance from any attempts to get in touch with Congress MLAs in the State, possibly because the success of the venture has major odds stacked against it.

The BJP requires at least 13 Congress MLAs to absent themselves from voting on any no-confidence motion it may bring in the Assembly.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12
'BJP BEHIND RUMOURS' ▶ PAGE 5

Panel to meet on Jan. 24 to pick new CBI chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led selection panel to appoint a new CBI director is likely to meet on January 24, said a source familiar with the development.

The move comes a day after Congress leader in the Lok Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, wrote to the Prime Minister calling the appointment of interim CBI Director M. Nageshwar Rao "illegal."

In the letter dated Janu-

ary 14, he had said the government should establish its bonafides in fighting corruption and ensuring the integrity of the premier investigative agency by convening an immediate meeting of the Selection Committee.

"Any delay would further erode the faith the public has placed in this institution and the credibility of this institution," the Congress leader said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Theresa May survives no-trust vote by a narrow margin

VIDYA RAM
LONDON

The British government led by Theresa May survived a vote of no-confidence by a narrow margin of 19 on Wednesday evening.

The vote came at the end of a five-hour debate on a motion tabled by Opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn, who accused the government of failing the country and turning a deal that had been touted as "the easiest in history" into a "national embarrass-

ment." Prime Minister May had been expected to win the vote as both her ally the Democratic Unionist Party of Northern Ireland and party MPs promised to back her; 306 MPs voted with Mr. Corbyn and 325 voted against him.

The vote followed the huge defeat suffered by the government on Tuesday night, when MPs rejected the government's Brexit withdrawal deal by a margin of 230.

MORE REPORTS ▶ PAGE 14

10% reservation in all admissions for 2019-20

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The 10% reservation for the economically weaker sections in the general category will be implemented in all colleges and universities, including private institutions, from 2019-20, Human Resources Development Minister Prakash Javadekar said.

"The UGC and AICTE will be given the operational mandate within a week to implement it."

This quota will be over and above the existing quo-

tas for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Castes, which will also be implemented in private institutions, the Minister said on Tuesday.

Income criteria

The income criteria for the EWS quota would be set at a gross annual household income of ₹8 lakh, said a senior Ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

RLD inches closer to SP-BSP tie-up

OMAR RASHID

LUCKNOW

The Rashtriya Lok Dal on Wednesday inched closer to becoming a part of the alliance of the SP and the BSP in U.P., with party vice-president Jayant Chaudhary giving out positive signs after his meeting with SP chief Akhilesh Yadav here. This was his second meeting with Mr. Yadav in little over a week.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 12

Fire run



Blazing race: Cattle dashing through burning hay as part of the Makara Sankranti celebrations at Hosahalli village in Karnataka's Mandya district. Cattle owners believe the ritual, called 'kichchu haisodu', brings prosperity. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Cricket in Dubai brings Pandits and Muslims closer

Partnership of Sandeep Bhan and Rajab Abid in Kashmir Super League sets record, raises spirits

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

A record partnership of 251 runs between a Kashmiri Muslim and a Pandit in Dubai's Kashmir Super League (KSL) has become a joint feat celebrated by the two communities, which parted on a bitter note during the traumatic displacement in January, 1990.

Openers Sandeep Bhan, a migrant Kashmiri Pandit whose family never returned to Kashmir after they left in 1990, and Rajab Abid, a current resident of

Srinagar, bonded on the field at the Ajman Cricket Council Grounds in Dubai to build a record partnership in the ongoing KSL, a series started four years ago by Kashmiris living overseas.

"The team and the spectators were exhilarated when Captain Abid scored 142 not out in 62 balls with the help of seven fours and 13 sixes. I scored 109 not out in 58 balls from nine fours and eight sixes on January 4. We were backing each other with Kashmiri phrases to achieve the feat,"



Sandeep Bhan from team Razey Kadal Falcons, left, owner Farooq Peerzada and captain Rajab Abid. Mr. Bhan told *The Hindu*.

One of four

Employed in Dubai, Mr. Bhan is among four other

Pandit players representing the Razey Kadal Falcons (RKF) team, a name adopted from an area in Srinagar's old city where Muslims and Pandits congregated before the 1990s. Around 14 teams named after places in Kashmir are participating in the tournament.

The RKF played Safakadal Stars and won the match because of the record partnership.

Kashmiri Pandits are participating for the first time in the cricket league, helping to mend broken

bonds between the communities.

The timing could not have been better, as January 19 will mark the migration of hundreds of Pandit families 30 years ago.

"Slowly, we are building a bond which will last forever. I love to spend time with native Kashmiri-speaking team members. I was in Class 5 when our family left the Valley," said Mr. Bhan, who is from Srinagar's Chanapora and migrated to Indirapuram in Ghaziabad. Around 30,000 Kashmiris live in Dubai.

Sheila takes over as Delhi Cong. chief

JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ
NEW DELHI

Taking over as president of the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee on Wednesday, former Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit sought the help of party workers to ensure that the party wins all seven Lok Sabha seats in the city.

"Our target is to reach out to the people in every nook and corner of the city. I will be available to the Congress workers 24 hours a day to motivate them to work for the party at the grassroots level," Ms. Dikshit said.

DETAILS ▶ DELHI METRO PAGE 1

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OPPORTUNITIES

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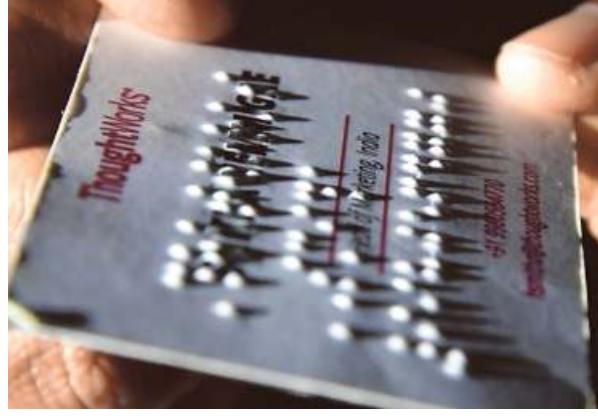
Here are a few ways organisations can demonstrate their commitment to promoting diversity and inclusivity at their workplaces

LIFFY THOMAS

That first impression

For many years now, Raghav Sharma has been exchanging business cards. He remembers a few times that he did this, vividly, because of what followed.

Here is one example. At a park abroad, Sharma happened to meet a man wearing dark glasses. "We were talking and I gave him my card not knowing he was visually-challenged. He was intrigued by the tiny embossed dots," says Sharma, co-founder, MediTrip Advisor. "I was happy to see that this man was able to



A Braille-enabled business card. PHOTO: K. MURALIKUMAR

read out my name."

Sharma has been printing Braille-enabled business cards for the last seven years and has encouraged others to follow his example. Braille-enabled visiting card is a demonstration of inclusivity.

In Bengaluru, Venkatesh K.N., a visually-challenged

person, gets orders for Braille embossing from big corporates including CISCO, Accenture, ThoughtWorks and State Bank of India.

"When I started printing Braille-enabled visiting cards seven years ago, I had half-a-dozen companies sending me their requests. Now, I have more than 15 companies, which include IT, BFSI and non-governmental organisations," says Venkatesh as he flips through the pages of his visiting card holder to read out names of people. He charges somewhere between ₹2 and ₹3, depending on the number of lines the organisation wants printed. TeamLease gives him orders on a regular basis. For every employee, Braille-embossed cards are printed.

Esha, a non-profit initiative started by Nidhi Arora, takes up online orders through its platform www.

Increasingly, many companies want to be inclusive and sensitive to the needs of the visually-challenged

[.braillecards.org](http://braillecards.org).

When they started printing Braille-enabled cards over 10 years ago, it was difficult to find patronage. Today, they get requests from independent businesses, professionals, mid- and large-sized companies. "We get requests like "Our CEO is travelling for a conference...", for which we get it done the next day," says Nidhi, who outsources the Brailleing of cards to the visually-challenged.

'Proficiency in sign language is a must'



At Lemon Tree Hotels, all employees have to clear a sign language programme. FILE PHOTO

cinc many inclusion-related initiatives.

The company has 5, 500 employees, which include those with hearing impairment, physical and intellectual disabilities, low vision and acid survivors.

"Among those with disabilities, the hearing-and speech-impaired make up the majority; so, twice a month we have Indian Sign Language training imparted to all the new joiners," says Aradhana. The initiative is called 'Expressions'.

"Hiring employees with disabilities is a part of our business model and HR strategy, with 10 to 11% of the employee base constituting persons with disabilities," says Aradhana Lal, VP – Brand, Communications and Sustainability, Lemon Tree Hotels.

For the last 11 years, the organisation has been introdu-

If you have to move up the ladder, your knowledge of sign language has to keep getting better

years old. Similarly, at Flex India, managers of persons with disabilities are trained in sign language.

"We have 40 employees who have speech and hearing disabilities. The majority of the PwDs with speech impairment work as data entry operators in the finance department," says Kannan Srinivasan, senior director, Regional HR Business Partner, Flex India.

They keep an initiative flying high



By way of commemorating Transgender Day of Remembrance, which is on November 20, the rainbow flag is unfurled at the offices of Goldman Sachs in Bengaluru.

It is their way of extending their support to LGBT.

Last year, they extend an invitation to offices in the vicinity to attend the flag-unfurling event.

The whole of November is used to create awareness about LGBT issues. "We encourage our employees to wear and create a 'sea of pink' showing visible support for our LGBT colleagues, friends and family," says Vidya

Lakshmi, head of Human Capital Management of Goldman Sachs, Bengaluru.

In-flight safety cards

IndiGo launched safety cards and food and beverage menu, both in Braille, in 2013. Today, these cards are available across its flights, every day. The crew on board presents a Braille card to customers, along with the safety demonstration.



+IELTS cut-off reduced

Nurses aspiring to work in the United Kingdom have to score only 6.5 in the writing section



Representational picture. PHOTO: K.V. SRINIVASAN

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) in the United Kingdom has announced changes to its English language proficiency requirements for overseas nurses and midwives planning to work in the country.

The reduced cut-off of 0.5 might look small but it is a big help for those dreaming to work in the United Kingdom.

According to academics that coach students for the examination, the writing section has been a weak area for many nurses.

The British Council conducts IELTS across 45 locations in India.

QUOTING THE GURU

Barnard on organisational development

"The elements of an organisation are (1) communication; (2) willingness to serve, and communication, and the interdependence of the three elements in general, and their mutual dependence in specific cooperative systems, are matters of experience and observation."

Chesster Barnard in *The Functions of the Executive*

definition. Willingness to serve, and communication, and the interdependence of the three elements in general, and their mutual dependence in specific cooperative systems, are matters of experience and observation."

The third element, purpose, is implicit in the

GENERAL



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GENERAL



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RISE 14:11 SET 02:58
FRIDAY, JAN. 18
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RISE 15:00 SET 04:01
SATURDAY, JAN. 19
RISE 07:15 SET 17:50
RISE 15:56 SET 05:05

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 21 04
Safdarjung 21 04
Palam 22 06Delhi Pali Today
21°C Dry weather is likely with bright sunshine. Pollution level will be poor. Night will be very cold.Delhi Pali Tomorrow
22°C Shallow to moderate fog is expected during cold morning. Day will be pleasant with partly cloudy sky.© Copyright Skynet Weather 2018
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Swine flu toll 39

JAIPUR
Swine flu on Wednesday claimed one more life in Rajasthan, taking the toll to 39 since January 1, officials said. According to data, of the 4,091 people tested, 971 were diagnosed positive for swine flu and 39 people have died. PTIWill win 74 Lok Sabha seats in U.P.
SP-BSP alliance is recognition of BJP's might: NaddaPRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LUCKNOW

Union Minister J.P. Nadda on Wednesday exuded confidence that the BJP will win 74 Lok Sabha seats out of 80 in Uttar Pradesh and downplayed the SP-BSP alliance in the State for the general election.

At a meeting with senior office-bearers of the party here, Mr. Nadda, who is on his first visit to the U.P. capital after being appointed the BJP's election in-charge for the State, said the party will register a handsome win in the Lok Sabha polls and break all records.

"We shall increase our tally of Lok Sabha seats from the State by winning 74 seats, one more than last time," he told reporters later. "The reasons for this are the inclination and affection of the people towards PM Modi and the welfare works done by the Central government in the

past four and a half years. Apart from this, BJP president Amit Shah's strategy will also lead us to victory," Mr. Nadda said. On the party's strategy, he said, "Strategy is not meant to be disclosed and will be unveiled at the battleground only."

On the SP-BSP alliance, he said, "We knew that this (SP-BSP alliance) is going to happen, and this is a recognition of the BJP. The strength of the BJP itself speaks about it. Our strategy is to get more than 50% of the votes and that is how we are moving..."

On allegations that the BJP has not fulfilled its poll promises, Mr. Nadda said, "As far as Mayawati and Akhilesh are concerned, they are giving their own records."

Mr. Nadda also asserted that the allies, like Apna Dal (S), are with the BJP. "There is no bickering... There are very cordial relations."



Baldev Singh FILE PHOTO

Aam Aadmi Party leader and MLA from Punjab's Jaitu constituency Baldev Singh on Wednesday resigned from the primary membership of the party saying it has "deviated from its ideology and principles".

Mr. Singh attributed the "autocratic" style of functioning of AAP convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal as another reason for quitting.

The MLA in his resignation letter to Mr. Kejriwal wrote, "I am pained to forward my resignation from the primary membership of the AAP because the party has completely given up its basic ideology and principles."

'No takers for Dalit card'

Mr. Singh also accused Mr. Kejriwal of being "anti-Dalit". "To further rub salt on the wounds of Punjabis, you

played the Dalit card as a reason to remove Sukhpal Singh Khaira and appoint Harpal Cheema as the Leader of the Opposition. Let me remind you that not a single Dalit of Punjab accepted this ploy because of the track record of the AAP."

Hitting out at Mr. Kejriwal in his letter, Mr. Singh said, "As a result of your [Kejriwal's] dictatorial, arrogant and autocratic style of functioning, pioneers of the AAP like Prashant Bhushan, Yogendra Yadav, Medha Patkar,

Kiran Bedi, Dharamvir Gandhi, H.S. Khalsa, Sucha Singh Chhotepur, Gurpreet Ghuggi etc. have all left the party or have been thrown out in a humiliating manner."

Mr. Khaira, MLA from Bholath seat, resigned from the AAP on January 6. Senior leader H.S. Phoolka also quit the party after resigning as a legislator from the Dakha seat.

Meanwhile, Mr. Cheema said that the AAP's core committee had decided to request the Punjab Assembly Speaker to disqualify Mr. Khaira. "We will soon meet the Speaker and urge him to disqualify Mr. Khaira from the Assembly as he is no longer with the AAP," he told reporters. Last year, the AAP in Punjab saw a rebellion by eight of its 20 MLAs after Mr. Khaira was removed from the post of Leader of the Opposition by the party's central leadership.



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IN BRIEF



Kerala High Court stays strike by KSRTC unions

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Wednesday stayed the indefinite strike by KSRTC trade unions which was to begin at midnight on January 16. A Bench passed the stay order on a public interest litigation filed by the Centre for Consumer Education, Pala, seeking to declare the strike illegal.

2 women pilgrims blocked on way to Sabarimala

Tension prevailed on the Sabarimala trekking for over three hours after protesters and pilgrims blocked two young women pilgrims, Reshma Nishanth and Shanila Sajesh, near Neelimala on Wednesday morning. Later, the women were shifted to the Pampa police control room and then to Nilakkal and from there to an unidentified location.

Four nuns who protested against bishop face action

Mulakkal accused of raping a nun

STAFF REPORTER

KOTTAYAM Even as the government appointed a special prosecutor in the nun rape case, four of the five nuns who had protested against Bishop Franco Mulakkal, the accused, have been asked to leave the convent here.

In separate communiqué to the nuns at the St. Francis Mission home at Kuravilangad, Superior General Reginald Kadambottu of the Missionaries of Jesus Congregation sought to enforce the transfer orders is-

Relief for Congress as dissidents relent

Congress Legislature Party meeting tomorrow; party leaders confident State govt. will not fall

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

After two days of intense political drama that saw brazen attempts to destabilise the coalition government in Karnataka – with nearly a dozen dissident Congress legislators being “in touch” with the BJP and threatening desertion – the party’s senior leaders breathed a sigh of relief on Wednesday. For a section of these legislators decided to stay with the party after the top leaders apparently agreed to some of their demands, including ministerial berths.

List of demands

Dissident legislators, including Bheem Naik, Anand Singh (both from Ballari), and Shrimant Patil (from Belagavi), who had not been in touch with the party, surfaced in Bengaluru, met with top Congress leaders and ruled out a defection to the BJP. It is learnt that the Congress MLAs placed a list of demands before the State



Members of Youth Congress protesting in front of BJP MLA C.N. Ashwath Narayan's house on Wednesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

leadership for remaining with the party.

The Congress has convened a meeting of its legislators on Friday to work out a strategy to douse dissidence. Significantly, the party has warned that those who do not attend the CLP meeting would face action under the Anti-Defection Law.

In the wake of the BJP's attempts to poach the party's dissident legislators, AICC

general secretary in-charge of Karnataka K.C. Venugopal, former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara, and KPCC president Dinesh Gundu Rao held a series of meetings over the past few days. Mr. Venugopal told reporters that the drama would “end in a day or a two”.

Alleging that the BJP was “shamelessly indulging in

‘BJP spreading rumours’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Accusing the BJP of spreading “rumours of instability” of the Karnataka government, the Congress on Wednesday said the H.D. Kumaraswamy-led government was stable and would remain so. Senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge told reporters at the party headquarters that all the 118 MLAs of the coalition

were “intact” and asked the BJP to explain why its MLAs were in a five-star hotel in Gurugram (Haryana).

“I have spoken to Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara and Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal. They all confirmed the stability of the Karnataka government. All our 118 MLAs are intact,” he said.

horse-trading”, he said, “not even a single MLA is going to quit the party. I have contacted my MLAs, and therefore I am telling you this very confidently. In fact, by Thursday evening you will have a clear picture about Karnataka. It will be a big slap in the face of the BJP as it is going to fail in its endeavour to bring the government down. It will be a national shame for them.”

With H. Nagesh (Independent MLA) and former Minister R. Shankar (Karnataka Janata Party) announcing their decision to withdraw support to the coalition government, the Congress has deputed Water Resources Minister D.K. Shivakumar, KPCC working president Eshwar Khandre, and Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan to keep the partymen together.

Australia-bound immigrants are Indians, say police

More people may have undertaken the illegal journey

M.P. PRAVEEN
KOCCHI

Four days after a suspected illegal immigration bid by sea from Malyankara, near Munambam, came to light, police are saying that those who set out seeking better pastures were not Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka but Indian citizens.

They also think that about 80 people might have undertaken the illegal journey as against 43 as was previously suspected.

Police have ruled out a second boat in the incident and reaffirmed that Australia was indeed the chosen destination.

Teams have fanned out to different parts of the country, including New Delhi, as part of the probe.

Probe in right direction

“The investigation is progressing at a great pace in the right direction. We are looking at the possibility of a mafia behind the incident and will track them down if they are still in the country. We have a fairly good idea about the entire episode, including the identity of those who are

involved, how they have gone and who facilitated that. Chances are that agents who facilitated the illegal journey might have travelled with them,” Vijay Sakhare,

Inspector General of Police, Eranakulam range, told *The Hindu*.

He refused to admit any failure of the intelligence apparatus. “Intelligence was



Into the blue

The police suspect the role of a mafia behind the smuggling of people in a fishing vessel from Munambam to Australia through 6,000 km of open sea.

primarily for national security and maintaining law and order,” he said.

Meanwhile, lavish spending by some 82 people, who had stayed at Chottanikkara and are suspected to be part of the group, has caught the attention of the police.

Personal details of these people, with their photographs, have been collected by the police. The group was staying there because a woman was in the final stage of pregnancy.

Besides, it was not uncommon for Tamils to stay at Chottanikkara during the Sabarimala pilgrimage season, it was pointed out.

Police are hamstrung by the lack of useful CCTV footage from the homestays and resorts at Cherai, where the suspected group stayed.

Some of the homestays have been shut since. Sources said CCTVs were missing altogether at some homestays and the proprietors had not collected ID proofs.

Anilkumar, co-owner of boat Daya Matha II that the group is suspected to be on, remains in the custody of the Vadakkekka police while the other owner Srikanth, of Tamil Nadu, is absconding.

Police suspect that Anilkumar was used as a front to pull off the boat deal.

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IN BRIEF



Dera chief to appear before court via video

CHANDIGARH

A special court in Panchkula will pronounce the sentence on Dera chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh in the journalist murder case through video conferencing on Thursday. Security has been beefed up in Panchkula and other parts of Haryana. PTI

Teachers' test cancelled after question paper leak

CUTTACK

The Board of Secondary Education, Odisha, on Wednesday cancelled the Teachers Eligibility Test after a question paper leak, board's president Jahan Ara Begum informed. More than 1.11 lakh candidates were appearing for the test.

Punjab Police chief gets nine-month extension

NEW DELHI

Punjab Police chief Suresh Arora has been given a nine-month extension in service by the Centre in public interest, according to a Personnel Ministry order issued on Wednesday. Mr. Arora was given a three-month extension last year. PTI

Bru refugees to get free ration till March 31

AIZAWL

Around 35,000 Bru refugees living in relief camps in Tripura would continue to receive free ration till March 31, officials said on Wednesday. Thousands of Bru refugees from Mizoram had fled to Tripura during ethnic violence in 1997. PTI

Plea seeks quota for tribes in Sikkim House

NEW DELHI

A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking reservation for two Scheduled Tribes, 'Limboo' and 'Tamang', in Sikkim Legislative Assembly. The petition has sought a direction to the Centre to take appropriate steps in this regard. PTI

C.P. Joshi new Rajasthan Speaker

Former Union Minister elected unopposed on second day of Assembly session

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

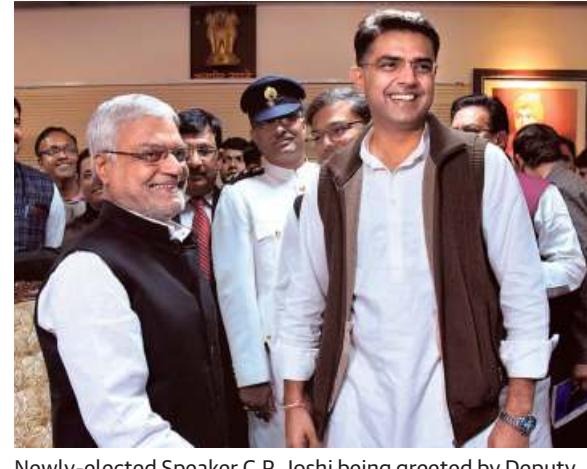
JAIPUR

Veteran Congress leader C.P. Joshi was on Wednesday elected unopposed as the Speaker of the Rajasthan Assembly. The House passed the motion for Mr. Joshi's election to the post by a voice vote on the second day of its first session, after the formation of government by the Congress.

The five-time Congress MLA, elected in the 2018 Assembly polls from Rajasmand's Nathdwara constituency, took over the chair from pro tem Speaker Gulab Chand Kataria, who will be the Leader of Opposition in the House.

Mr. Joshi, 68, was also an MP from Bhilwara in the 15th Lok Sabha and served as a Union Minister between 2009 and 2013.

The Congress' top leadership had named Mr. Joshi for



Newly-elected Speaker C.P. Joshi being greeted by Deputy CM Sachin Pilot in Jaipur on Wednesday. ROHIT JAIN PARAS

the Speaker's post, while Jai-pur's Hawa Mahal MLA Mahesh Joshi was appointed chief whip of the party and Nagaur's Nawam MLA Mahendra Choudhary the deputy chief whip. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot proposed the name of Mr. Joshi in the

House and it was seconded by Mr. Kataria.

Mr. Gehlot said the State Assembly would benefit from Mr. Joshi's "rich experience and vast knowledge" of legislative rules, regulations, procedures and conventions both as a Parlia-

mentarian and a State legislator. "I am confident that the new Speaker will take care of the feelings of all members of the House," he said.

'Utilise House time'

In his address to the Assembly, Mr. Joshi said he would work in an "unbiased manner" and maintain the dignity of the chair. "Every member will be given [an] opportunity to raise people's voice and issues under the rules and regulations," Mr. Joshi said, while calling upon the MLAs to optimally utilise the time of the House.

Mr. Joshi had also served as Education Minister in the Congress government headed by Mr. Gehlot in 1998. He lost the Nathdwara Assembly seat by one vote in 2008 when Mr. Gehlot formed the government in the State for the second term.

Expedite work on Kartarpur corridor: CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has written to the Centre to finalise the infrastructure to be built around the Kartarpur corridor to ensure its early operationalisation.

"The Centre should create adequate infrastructure at the border crossing to handle the large number of pilgrims who would want to use the Corridor for darshan of the Kartarpur Sahib. The land proposed to be acquired should factor in both present and future requirements," the Chief Minister said in his letter to Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, according to an official spokesperson.

Capt. Singh also requested that the condition of mandatory passport for devotees be waived.

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 Thursday: Cold wave conditions likely at isolated pockets over east Madhya Pradesh. Dense fog likely at isolated places over Punjab, Haryana and north west Uttar Pradesh

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Agartala	—	26.2	9.1	Kozhikode	—	34.8	21.4
Ahmedabad	—	30.8	10.9	Kurnool	—	32.1	18.2
Aizawl	—	27.7	—	Lucknow	—	22.8	5.2
Allahabad	—	25.5	5.0	Madurai	—	32.9	19.6
Bengaluru	—	29.5	14.5	Mangaluru	—	36.6	18.0
Bhopal	—	26.8	7.4	Mumbai	—	33.4	18.0
Bhubaneswar	—	27.6	13.0	Mysuru	—	30.0	12.7
Chandigarh	—	19.0	5.6	New Delhi	—	20.0	4.5
Chennai	—	29.3	21.0	Patna	—	22.8	7.2
Coimbatore	—	31.4	16.5	Port Blair	—	30.0	23.2
Dehradun	—	22.2	5.2	Puducherry	—	29.6	18.6
Gangtok	—	14.5	5.3	Pune	—	31.1	11.8
Goa	—	33.8	19.1	Raipur	—	27.6	12.5
Guwahati	—	25.4	9.0	Ranchi	—	24.2	6.0
Hubballi	—	29.0	16.0	Shillong	—	17.4	5.0
Hyderabad	—	30.0	15.2	Shimla	—	13.1	7.0
Imphal	—	23.7	3.0	Srinagar	—	5.4	1.0
Jaipur	—	23.6	6.6	Trivandrum	—	34.8	22.2
Kochi	—	32.6	22.6	Tiruchi	—	31.5	20.2
Kohima	—	16.0	4.2	Tiruvananthapuram	—	29.8	19.6
Kolkata	—	25.1	12.3	Visakhapatnam	—	27.0	18.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

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Ahmedabad	—	—	47	—	—	—
Bengaluru	5	28	68	137	—	■
Chennai	21	15	17	144	—	■
Delhi	27	94	93	453	437	■
Hyderabad	35	63	38	154	138	■
Kolkata	19	68	64	332	247	■
Lucknow	14	96	58	348	—	■
Mumbai	35	58	97	135	166	■
Pune	59	11	11	230	160	■
Visakhapatnam	—	—	46	—	—	—

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Gaya, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 402 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Patiala recorded a healthy AQI score of 49

Audit reports

The State government cited the audit reports of the Accountant General, which state that excess amount has been spent on the Loktantra Senani Samman Nidhi against the budget provision during Emergency (1975-1977), before making any payment of their monthly pension.

The pension scheme for MISA detainees was put hold by the State government in the last week of December 2018.

According to the directives issued by the General Administration Department to Divisional Commission-

ers and District Collectors on Tuesday, the payment of pension under the 'Loktantra Samman Nidhi' should be made only after the physical verification of the Loktantra Senani Samman Nidhi

against the budget provision during the last few financial years in the State, as the reason to put the scheme on hold.

The State government said that it will redefine the payment procedure.

MISA pension linked to physical verification

Scheme was stopped by new M.P. govt.

ANUP DUTTA

BHOJPAL

The newly formed Congress Government in Madhya Pradesh led by Chief Minister Kamal Nath has instructed District Collectors to conduct physical verification of 'Loktantra Senani', people who went to jail under Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) during Emergency (1975-1977), before making any payment of their monthly pension.

The pension scheme for MISA detainees was put hold by the State government in the last week of December 2018.

According to the directives issued by the General Administration Department to Divisional Commission-

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Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution : 29.01.2019 at 3:30 PM						
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S. No. : 01, Hiring of underframe constructed Pick up Van/Jeep with trailer under SSE/TRD/HDK and SSE/TRD/CPJ for maintenance and attending breakdown with commercial registration, fuel and driver maintenance, on the basis of days and Kilometers for Two years.		Reference No.: Earnest Money : ₹ 45,700/-			
SrDEE-TRD-BSB-2018-19-T38		Cost of Tender Documents : ₹ 3,000/-			
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कार्यालय महाप्रबन्धक हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन पलवल।
निविदा सूचना
<p>सभी संपत्ति को सुधूरित किया जाता है कि हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन पलवल की कार्यालय में इसकी कार्यालयी हैं और उन्हें आवश्यक है इसके लिए इसकी बोर्डर/पार्क वार्ड (एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन) वार्ड-1 के तत्व 20 अधिकारी के लिए निविदा आवश्यक की जाती है ये निविदा दिनांक 01.02.2019 को 2.00 बजे तक तथा तभी जारी रखा दियाँगा 01.02.2019 को 3.00 बजे महाप्रबन्धक हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन पलवल के कार्यालय में सौंधी जायेगी।</p> <p>1- इसके अन्तर्गत वार्ड अधिकारी निविदा को दियी जाएगी जिसमें प्राप्त-09 बजे से तात्पुर 05 बजे तक यी दूसरे एवं तीसरे बस अवधिकारी पलवल के कार्यालय से 1000/- रुपये देखने प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।</p> <p>2- प्रदर्शन निविदा के साथ 20000/- रुपये के विषयालय इसकी बोर्डर/पार्क वार्ड (एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन) वार्ड-1 के तत्व 20 अधिकारी के लिए निविदा आवश्यक की जाती है ये निविदा दिनांक 01.02.2019 को 2.00 बजे तक तथा तभी जारी रखा दियाँगा 01.02.2019 को 3.00 बजे महाप्रबन्धक हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन पलवल के कार्यालय में सौंधी जायेगी।</p> <p>3- राजकीय बोर्डर/पार्क की ओर विशेषांकी अधिकारी वो भूमि के बीच के बदल वर्गीकरण तक जाना जाएगा तथा विशेषांकी अधिकारी वो भूमि के बीच के बदल वर्गीकरण तक जाना जाएगा।</p> <p>4- सभी नियम/सभी महाप्रबन्धक हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन पलवल के कार्यालय से प्राप्त करने तथा तात्पुर का अधिकारी जाने उपर्युक्त ही निविदा दिया देने वाले हैं।</p> <p>5- महाप्रबन्धक हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन पलवल को अधिकारी होना कि वह दिया किसी कार्रवाई पर निविदा दिया देने वाले हैं।</p>
महाप्रबन्धक हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन पलवल।
PRDH-74826

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT										
NOTICE INVITING TENDER										
Sealed item rate tenders on PWD form No. 6 & 8 are invited by the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, HPPWD Una on behalf of the Governor of H.P. for the following works from approved and eligible Contractors enlisted with HPPWD (Electrical) in appropriate class/authorized dealers so as to reach in the office of undersigned on 11.02.2019 up to 10.30 A.M and will be opened on the same day at 11.00 A.M. in the presence of the intending contractors or their authorised representatives. The tender forms can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, HPPWD, Una against cash payment (Non Refundable) on date 08.02.2019 during office hours i.e. 01.00 PM to 5.00 PM. The application for obtaining the tender forms will be received up to 08.02.2019 up to 1.00 PM. The earnest money in the shape of NSC/FRD, Saving Any of such Bank in HP duly pledged in favour of the undersigned must be submitted with the application for issue of tender form. The earnest money should be submitted separately for each work. The copy of valid enlistment and renewal certificate shall be attached with application form. The ambiguous /telegraphic / conditional / fax / e-mail or by post tender will also not be entertained/ considered in any case. The offer of the tender shall remain open 90 days from the date of opening of the tenders. The undersigned reserves the right to reject the tenders without assigning any reason.										
Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost (Rs.)	Earnest money (Rs.)	Time Limit	Cost of from No.					
1. C/O Science block for Govt. Sr. Sec. School building at Kangoo Distl. Hamirpur (SH:- Providing E.I. therein).										
2. Replacement of tube fixture and accessories in HP PWD Rest House Hamirpur, Distl. Hamirpur H.P.										
3. C/O Additional Accommodation in HPHPW Rest House at Town Bharati Tehsil Bhoranj, Distl. Hamirpur (HP) (SH:- Providing E.I. therein).										
4. C/O Staff quarters Type-II 8 Nos for Para Medical staff at CHC Building Sujanpur Thira, Distl. Hamirpur (HP) (SH:- Providing E.I. therein).										
5. Providing rewiring in HP PWD Rest House at Patander, Distl. Hamirup (HP)										
6. Providing street lights in PWD Colony Hamirpur, Distl. Hamirpur H.P.										
7. C/O Class room and computer Lab in Basement hall in Library building at Govt. Degree college Hamirpur (SH:- Providing E.I. therein).										
8. Renovation of existing PWD Rest House at Namdhil in Distl. Bilaspur HP (SH:- Providing LED lighting therein).										
9. C/O 3 Nos. class rooms in S.V.N. Govt. college Ghumarwan, Distl. Bilaspur H.P. (SH:- Providing E.I. therein).										
10. C/O Science Lab. in Govt. Sr. Secondary School building at Namdhil in Distl. Bilaspur (HP) (SH:- Providing E.I. therein).										
11. Replacement of E.I. in H-type quarter 8 Nos (H-1 to H-8) at Changer Sector in Distl. Bilaspur HP.										
12. Replacement of wiring and providing additional points in Sub Division Election office AmbTehsil Amb Distl.Una HP										
13. Replacement of Ground luminaries LED 1watts and post top lantern campus light LED 30 watts in PWD Rest House/Circuit House Una(HP)										
14. Replacement of E.I. in H-type quarter 8 Nos (H-9 to H-16) at changer sector in Distl. Bilaspur HP.										
15. C/O type-III quarter 2 Nos. PWD quarters at Rakkar colony (1st floor) (SH:- Providing E.I. therein)										
16. C/O court shed at court complex Amb Tehsil Amb Distl. Una (SH:- Providing E.I. therein)										
17. Replacement of E.I. in H-type quarter 8 Nos (H-17 to H-24) at changer sector in Distl. Bilaspur HP.										
18. C/O School building of Govt. Jateri (9 Nos class room) Tehsil Bangana Distl. Una (HP) (SH: Providing E.I. therein)										
19. C/O school building of Govt. Sr. Secondary School at Galoon (Pipli) (3 Nos class room) Tehsil Bangana Distl. Una (HP) (SH:- Providing E.I. therein)										
20. C/O 4 Nos. Class room with (Ground Floor, 1st floor & 2nd floor) in Govt. Sr. Sec. School at Amarpur, Tehsil Jhundutta, Distl. Bilaspur H.P. (SH: Providing E.I. therein).										
21. Services of Electrician and T-Mates for attending the complaints of Electrical maintenance running of 125 KVA DG set in Rjonal Hospital at Hamirup Distl. Hamirup HP for the period 01.01.2019 to 30.06.2019.										
22. Replacement of E.I. in H-type quarter 8 Nos (H-25 to H-32) at changer sector in Distl. Bilaspur HP.										

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

- In case office happens to be closed on any of the above mentioned dates, the bids will be opened on the next working day at same time and venue.
- The contractors/firms are required to quote their rates clearly both in words as well as in figures, failing which tenders are likely to be rejected.
- No Person/persons shall be allowed to give the documents with regard to tender unless he/they holds the power of attorney registered under law.
- The tender of those contractors who are registered under H.P. Central Sales Tax Act 1969 and who have been cleared all the dues on account of tax will be entertained.

HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT(ELECTRICITY WING)	
Corrigendum Notice	
Subject: Replacement of Full Wave Controlled battery charger along with Battery Bank DC DB at 66KV Grid Sub Station at Manimajra, under Electrcy, OP Sub Divn. No. 8, Manimajra, UT Chandigarh.[OP/236/2018-19]	
The bid submission closing date(online) of subject cited tender is hereby extended upto 17/01/2019 at 16:00 hrs., due to administrative reasons.	
Executive Engineer, Electricity(OP) Division No. 2 DPR-chd-423-25	

Indian Council of World Affairs

Sapru House, New Delhi

REQUIRES**DIRECTOR (RESEARCH)
& RESEARCH FELLOWS**

Applications are invited for the appointment of **Director Research (One) and Research Fellows (Four)** with requisite experience & qualifications for undertaking research, on a contract of **two years** at fixed gross monthly lumpsum remuneration. There are vacancies in areas of international terrorism, radicalization & related issues, international / multilateral economic issues, energy and climate change, and South Asia. However, scholars of international affairs, strategic analysis and diplomatic history are also encouraged to apply. Applications in sealed covers addressed to Deputy Director General, ICWA must be received at ICWA, Sapru House by **25th January, 2019**. Intimation of application may be emailed to **ddgoffice@icwa.in**. Application forms, terms & conditions are available at: www.icwa.in

TENDER NOTICE	
Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)	
Tender No.: 25.8.602.DSL.SSB. Name of work: Provision for fitment of aluminium cladding in exhaust pipe of DEMU-DPCs for a period of three years. Approximate cost: Rs. 74,000/- including GST @ 18% (Rs. Forty Seven Lacs Seven Four Thousand only). Earnest money: Rs. 15,000/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. Note: FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Board letter no. 2015/CR/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016). Completion period of the work: 3 Years. Cost of tender document: Rs. 2,360/- with GST @ 18% (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. Note: FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Board letter no. 2015/CR/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016). Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 15:00 hrs. on 14.02.2019 Opening of Tender at 15:00 hrs. Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen: Above tender is available	

IN BRIEF



Vishnu Hari Dalmia passes away

MATHURA
The former president of Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Vishnu Hari Dalmia, passed away at his Delhi residence on Wednesday, said an official of a trust here. "An exponent of Hindu culture, Mr. Dalmia, 91, played a crucial role in the Ram Janambhumi agitation." PTI

Fresh snowfall in Kashmir hits air traffic

KASHMIR
Kashmir valley on Wednesday received fresh snowfall, which affected both air and surface traffic and cut-off many areas from their district headquarters. An official said all flights to and from Srinagar were suspended.

Male nurse arrested for molesting patients

GUWAHATI
A male nurse has been arrested for allegedly sexually harassing three female cancer patients at a hospital here, police said on Wednesday. The Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute had filed an FIR last Thursday, accusing Kamal Kant Sen Choudhury of sexually harassing three patients on December 31. PTI

Relief for commuters as BEST strike ends

MUMBAI
The nine-day-long BEST bus strike was called off on Wednesday, bringing relief to lakhs of Mumbai commuters. The Bombay Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) was assured of a pay hike before a court. PTI

Leopard snatches baby from mother's lap

ALIPURDAR
A leopard snatched away a three-year-old girl from her mother's lap at a tea garden in West Bengal's Alipurduar district, police said. Parts of the baby's body were found in the Garganda tea garden on Wednesday, officials said. PTI

CBI registers 4 more cases against Bihar shelter homes

FIRs lodged against former officials in wake of SC's fiat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered four cases of alleged physical abuse and exploitation of children at shelter homes in Bihar, following a Supreme Court directive.

First Information Reports (FIR) have been registered against the then officials of the Boys' Children Home run by the Rupam Pragati Samaj Samiti in Bhagalpur and House Mother Children

Home in Gaya, and the Panah Shelter Home and Short Stay Home in Munger.

In the case involving alleged exploitation and wrongful confinement of children at the Short Stay Home, the agency has named its then director Manoj Kumar and Novelty Welfare Society.

The CBI had initially taken over the case of alleged sexual assault of more than 30 minor girls at a shelter home in Muzaffarpur.

Based on the FIR, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) also initiated a money laundering probe and has recorded the statement of main accused Brajesh Thakur, who is currently lodged in a Patiala jail. The Directorate now plans to attach the alleged proceeds of crime.

The SC had earlier directed the CBI to investigate 17 shelter homes based on a Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) report that recorded testimonies of abuse.

Professor in trouble for sexist remarks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

After days of outrage, authorities of the Jadavpur University on Wednesday sprung into action.

The University divested professor Kanak Sarkar, who made sexist comments on social media, of his teaching duties. "In view of the recommendations of the Student Teaching Committee of his department (International Relations), he is divested of his teaching duties with immediate effect," Head of Department (IR) Omprakash Mishra said.

Tobacco companies are targeting children: study

Sample of 243 schools and 487 points of sale studied

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A report released on Wednesday said that tobacco companies in India are systematically targeting children as young as eight by selling tobacco products and placing tobacco advertisements near schools.

These tactics, happening all over the country, clearly violate the Section 5 and 6 of Cigarettes & Other Tobacco Products Act, it said.

To gather evidence regarding tobacco products

being sold around educational institutions in violation of the law, two groups working in the area of tobacco control -- Consumer Voice and Voluntary Health Association of India -- undertook a study in 20 cities across six states in India.

Action sought
"The tobacco industry must be held accountable for their aggressive advertising efforts around schools," said Bhavna B. Mukhopadhyay, Voluntary Health Association of India.

during this study. "Despite the prohibition on sales of tobacco products near educational institutions, numerous shops/vendors/points of sale sell and advertise tobacco products around schools," the study said.

Engine failures in A320 Neos within acceptable limits: DGCA

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

Engine failures in Pratt and Whitney-powered Airbus A320 Neos are within acceptable limits, the aviation safety regulator said on Wednesday.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said it would issue another directive for airlines within a week.

The statement from DGCA follows a review of Pratt and Whitney powered planes, with IndiGo and GoAir, conducted by it and the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

"It was noted that the in-flight shut-down (IFSD) on account of these Neo engines in India averaged 0.02 per 1,000 engine flight



A file photo of the Airbus stall at the Dubai Airshow. The DGCA has said Airbus A320 Neo engines are safe. ■ AFP

hours which is considerably lower than the stringent global benchmark of 0.05 IFSD rates per 1,000 engine flight hours," it said in a press statement.

There have been 12 instances of in-flight shutdowns since the Neo (new engine option) engines entered into service in 2016, DGCA said.

The review meeting was called by the Ministry of Civil Aviation immediately after a mid-air engine failure of an IndiGo plane on January 3, when there was a loud bang, smoke and heavy vibrations inside the aircraft.

HC adjourns hearing in Herald matter

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday adjourned the hearing on an appeal by Associated Journals Ltd. (AJL) against a single judge's order, asking it to vacate the Herald House, to January 28.

Chief Justice Rajendra Menon, who was heading the bench, cited health issues and asked the parties if proceedings could be deferred for about a week.

Next hearing
Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for AJL -- publisher of the National Herald newspaper -- agreed to January 28 as the next date.

Odisha to frame new norms for SC/ST school hostels

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

The Chairperson of Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Sandhyabati Pradhan, said they are planning to propose new guidelines for management of residential schools' hostels managed by the State

Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) Development Department.

Speaking to newsmen during her visit to MKCG Medical College and Hospital to meet and interact with the Class VIII girl from Daringbadi area of Kandhamal district, who had given birth to

a child at her school hostel on January 13, Ms. Pradhan said the SC and ST Department has been directed to ensure safety and security of students at all hostels managed by it.

"To enhance security of children staying at these hostels, new guidelines are being formulated," she added.

"Police verification of all staff at these hostels has to be made, and any person with suspicious records should be removed. Our commission has directed the administration to initiate action against erring personnel of these schools," she said.

NGT may hear petitioner asked to disclose funding

'Source of funding for appeals is not known or disclosed'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Thursday is likely to hear the plea of a petitioner who was asked to disclose details of the source of his funding. A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel had earlier directed petitioner Shailesh Singh to disclose the source of funding for various petitions he has filed at the green tribunal.

"We find that the present applicant has filed large number of petitions in this Tribunal and the locus sought is on ground that he is a journalist and public spirited person. The petitions



The National Green Tribunal headquarters in New Delhi.

are filed through advocates. The source of funding for such petitions is not known nor disclosed," the Bench had observed.

The Bench had added, "No doubt a public spirited

person can raise an issue of public interest but it should not involve personal gain." If not satisfied, Mr. Singh would be debarred from filing further petitions at the NGT, the green panel said.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAKSHADWEEP ADMINISTRATION
(DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT)
Kavaratti – 682 555

F.No.18/15/2018-TD(Part-I) Dated: 08.01.2019

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE
Inviting Applications for filling the post of Managing Director (MD) LTDC.

Lakshadweep Tourism Development Corporation Ltd (LTDC) has been incorporated with the primary objective of development of tourism in Lakshadweep. Applications are invited from eligible candidate for the post of Managing Director of LTDC. The detailed terms and conditions for the filling up the post of Managing Director (LTDC) are available on the official website of Lakshadweep administration <https://lakshadweep.gov.in>.

Last date of receipt of applications is 25th February 2019.

A HAMZA
Secretary (Tourism), UTI

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY,
KOTAYAM
KAROOR, VALAVOO PO, KERALA-686635
Tel: 0482-2202100 / 2201Walk-in Interview
Recruitment of Training & Placement Officer

A walk in interview will be conducted for the post of Training & Placement Officer (on short term contract - full time or part time) as detailed below:-

Date & Time: 21 January 2019 at 10.00 AM

Reporting time : 09.00 AM

Venue: IIT Kottayam, Karoor, Valavoor PO, Pala, Kottayam

Age Limit : 50 years

For detailed advertisement please log on to: www.iitkottayam.ac.in/career

Advt.No. IIT-K 07/18-19 Dated 16.01.2019

Registrar

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Lenin Centre, Governorpet, Vijayawada-520002, (A.P.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

NIT No. 60/PRO/CRDA-13023/37/4/2018-AEE21-HB/APCRDA/2nd Call Dtd:12-01-2019

Name of the work: Providing MEP services like Internal Electricity Works, HVAC- Chilled Water Systems, ELV, IT & BMS works, Fire Fighting & Protection System Works, Plumbing Works, Interior Works including furniture for G+3 floors. External Electrification works for CRDA Project Office under Phase III in Amaravati Capital City, Andhra Pradesh including Three years defects liability period under Item Rate Contract - ECV-Rs. Rs.38,19,06,673/-

The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from 17.01.2019 to 02.02.2019 up to 14.00 hrs. Due date for submission of Bid 02.02.2019 up to 15.00 hrs. Technical bid opening 02.02.2019 @16.00hrs. For further details Please refer www.approcurement.gov.in and www.crrda.gov.in. For any further clarifications contact Sri M. Zachariah, Director (H&B) +91-909599842.

Sd/- Commissioner, APRCD, Vijayawada

NMDC Limited
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)

Kanijji Bhavan, 10-311A, Castle Hills, Massai Tank, Hyderabad - 500028, (MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT)

Telephone: 040-23536740, 23538713 to 14, 23538721 Ext: 230545

E-mail: jmsrc@nmdc.co.in, jmsrc@nmdcindia.org, jmsrc@nmdcindia.in

CIN : L13100AP1958G01674

OPEN TENDER NOTICE (E-Procurement Mode Only)

E-tenders are invited for following items from reputed manufacturers directly or through their dealers / accredited agents through MSTC portal website http://www.mstccommerce.com/eprocurement/nmdc/buyer_login.jsp

S. No. Tender No. & Description Display & Sale of Tender Documents Last Date for Submission of Tender

1 HOMM/2018/BOX169/323 Dt:16/01/2019 Draft Tender: 17.01.2019 to 01.02.2019 Final Tender: 01.02.2019

13/02/2019 to 01/03/2019 Prebid meeting on 01/02/2019 at 11.00 am Venue: NMDC, Hyderabad

2 HOMM/2018/242909/S14 Dt:16/01/2019 Draft Tender: 17.01.2019 to 30.01.2019 Final Tender: 30.01.2019 to 27/02/2019 Prebid meeting on 30/01/2019 at 11.00 am Venue: NMDC, Hyderabad

3 HOMM/2018/242909/S14 Dt:16/01/2019 Draft Tender: 15/01/2019 to 12/02/2019 Final Tender: 15/02/2019 to 27/02/2019 Prebid meeting on 15/02/2019 at 11.00 am at main sub-station of DMP Panna, MP

Tender Fee: Rs.5,900/- & EMD: Rs.25,000/-

Potpective bidders may visit our websites: www.nmdc.co.in; CPP Portal <https://procure.gov.in>; [https://mstccommerce.com](http://mstccommerce.com) and may download the tender documents. Any corrigendum to the above tender notice will be uploaded on our website and MSTC portal only.

Executive Director (Materials)

DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH)-I
OPPOSITE J-BLOCK MARKET, SAKEET : NEW DELHI- 110001
NIT NO. 49(S-I) (2018-19)

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1	Improvement of sewerage system by replacement of badly silted up and damaged sewer line on main road along Nallian in B-II & C-II block Madangir under EE (South)	43,12,10/- 15.01.2019	2019_DJB_165850_1	06.02.2019 upto 3:00 PM

NIT along with all the terms & conditions is available on Web Site [https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in](http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in)

Issued by P.R.O.(Water) Advt. No. J.S.V. 674/2018-19

Executive Engineer (South)-I

M-NDE



Escape options

After losing the Brexit vote, the British PM's best option is to postpone the exit date

After the British Parliament's overwhelming rejection of Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit deal, chances are the government will postpone the March 29 deadline to leave the European Union. An extension of the exit date – hinted at by Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer and France's President following the vote – seems the least controversial in the spectrum of complex alternatives. For a start, Ms. May is expected to sail through the motion of no-confidence against her government moved by the Opposition leader, Jeremy Corbyn of the Labour Party. Both the Conservative Eurosceptic backbenchers, and Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party, which supports the minority government in London, have promised to oppose the motion. Consequently, the onus of taking the country out of the EU will remain with Ms. May, who struck a conciliatory note after the defeat in the House of Commons with a 230-vote margin (432 to 202) on Tuesday. Ms. May argues that there is no better deal than the one she has painstakingly negotiated with the other 27 members of the EU. Yet, the build-up to the vote, delayed by over a month, laid bare the difficult task of persuading MPs on the merits of the agreement. Ms. May will hope to win the Commons' approval on Monday for a Plan B. At the minimum, it must do better on the contentious Irish backstop that could come into force after the transition period expires, and something that Brexit supporters oppose. It is highly improbable that the EU can offer any big improvements so soon to ensure that the backstop, which allows the flow of goods between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, will not indefinitely lock Britain into a customs union with the EU. Such an arrangement, which would necessarily limit London's freedom to make trade deals with third states, is regarded as anathema for a country that championed Brexit as a route to regain its sovereignty.

Deep differences persist within the Conservative and Labour parties on the terms of exit they must obtain from Brussels. There is also increasing clamour for a second referendum from remainers in the two parties, who view the uncertainty as symptomatic of a flawed Brexit project. Their case is rooted in concerns that citizens be enabled to make a more informed decision, given the mounting evidence on the economic impact of Brexit. But such enthusiasm would have to be balanced with the consideration that the majority of MPs, despite strong opposition among members, have resolved to respect the June 2016 popular mandate. In any case, a reversal of the 2016 Brexit result is not a guaranteed outcome. There is, meanwhile, support growing within and outside Parliament to avert, at all costs, a crashing out of the EU in late March, with imponderable consequences for the economy and society. Ms. May will gain in stature if she takes Parliament into greater confidence, not just her own party backbenchers.

Sedition and politics

The charge-sheeting of JNU students is a move to criminalise contrarian opinion

The filing of sedition and conspiracy charges against three former Jawaharlal Nehru University students and seven others nearly three years after a political event on its campus, is a needlessly heavy-handed response to campus sloganeering. That it took so long to ready a charge sheet, which has been filed a few months ahead of the general election, casts a shadow of political motive. It would have been far wiser to dismiss this as an instance of radicalised student politics than proceed against them with a stringent colonial-era law, which should not have been allowed to even remain in the statute book. There is no convincing case that the students, and the others present, disrupted public order or incited violence. Even if all the charges about the shouting of "anti-national" slogans and supporting those who questioned the country's sovereignty were true, these acts do not merit the use of the sedition law. The Delhi Police had arrested JNU student union leader Kanhaiya Kumar in February 2016, but failed to protect him from assault while being produced in court; it did nothing to bring to book his assailants. Now, in filing formal charges of sedition, it continues to ignore the law laid down by the Supreme Court on what constitutes 'sedition'. The essential ingredients of Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code, that there should be a call for violence or a pernicious tendency to foment public disorder, are conspicuously absent in the case.

Campuses on which radical politics thrives are anathema to the ruling dispensation. However, that cannot be a justification for the sort of fear-mongering about the direction of campus politics that the ruling party and its supporters have been indulging in since the developments of 2016. Campuses ought to nurture political opinions of different shades, but there has been a disquieting tendency to brand as "anti-national" those who do not endorse all actions of the state. That the ABVP, the student wing of the RSS, has not done well in several student union elections may also be a factor in driving antipathy towards some institutions. In every case of sedition, which is filed invariably in connection with a dissenting speech or piece of writing, there is a political element. In this case, the filing of the charge sheet appears to subserve the political and electoral purpose of advancing a populist nationalist agenda. It is also liable to be seen as an attempt to criminalise contrarian views among student activists and also a clampdown on dissent. It will be in the fitness of things if the trial court examines the Delhi Police report in the light of the Supreme Court's restricted interpretation of sedition before it takes cognisance of it.

Manipur shows the way

Its anti-lynching law breaks important ground in attempting to control hate crimes and ensure police action



HARSH MANDER

Six months have passed since the Supreme Court – anguished by what it described as 'horrific acts of mobocracy' – issued a slew of directions to the Union and State governments to protect India's 'pluralist social fabric' from mob violence. The court felt compelled to act in the shadow of four years of surging hate violence targeting religious and caste minorities. It also urged Parliament to consider passing a law to combat mob hate crime.

The Union and most State governments have done little to comply with the directions of India's highest court. But Manipur became the first to pass a remarkable law against lynching, late last year. It did this after a single horrific video-taped lynching of a Muslim youth with an MBA degree stirred the public conscience.

Comprehensive in definition

The Manipur law closely follows the Supreme Court's prescriptions, creating a nodal officer to control such crimes in every State, special courts and enhanced punishments. But its weighty significance lies in that it breaks new ground in some critical matters concerning hate violence in India, and shows the way in which the Union and other governments need to move if they are serious about combating hate crimes.

Its definition of lynching is comprehensive, covering many forms of hate crimes. These are "any act or series of acts of violence or aid-

ing, abetting such act/acts thereof, whether spontaneous or planned, by a mob on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, language, dietary practices, sexual orientation, political affiliation, ethnicity or any other related grounds ..."

The law, however, excludes from its provisions solitary hate crimes. For the law to apply instead it requires that these hate crimes are undertaken by mobs (defined as a group of two or more individuals, assembled with a common intention of lynching), thereby excluding from its provisions solitary hate crimes. When we look back at the last four years, the majority of hate crimes were indeed by mobs of attackers and onlookers, but we also saw solitary hate murders, such as of the Bengali migrant Mohammad Afrazul in Rajasthan. This restriction of numbers is arbitrary, since the essence of what distinguishes these kinds of crimes is not the numbers of attackers but the motivation of hate behind the crimes; therefore, provisions of this law should apply to all hate crimes, not just lynching, regardless of the numbers of persons who participate.

On the public official

The most substantial and worthy contribution of the law is that it is the first in the country dealing with the protection and rights of vulnerable populations which creates a new crime of dereliction of duty of public officials. It lays down that "any police officer directly in charge of maintaining law and order in an area, omits to exercise lawful authority vested in them under the law, without reasonable cause, and thereby fails to prevent lynching shall be guilty of dereliction of duty" and will be liable "to punishment of imprison-



ment of one year, which may extend to three years, and with fine that may extend to fifty thousand rupees".

Equally pathbreaking is that it removes the protection that is otherwise extended to public officials charged with any offence committed while acting in their discharge of official duty. At present, no court can take cognisance of such an offence except with the previous sanction of the State government. The Manipur law means that now no prior sanction is required to register crimes against public officials who fail in their duties to prevent hate crimes such as lynching.

In almost every incident of hate crime that the Karwan e Mohabbat, a campaign of solidarity for victims of such crimes, has investigated, the police acted brazenly in ways that would have been deemed crimes by public officials if a law such as the Manipur law had been in force. They arrived late deliberately, or watched even as the crimes were under way without restraining the mobs; they delayed taking those injured to hospital and on occasion even ill-treated them, ensuring their death; and after the hate crimes, they tended to register criminal cases against the victims and to defend the accused.

If police officers knew that they

could be punished for these crimes (which would also put them at risk of losing their jobs), it is very unlikely that they would have acted in this way. They would have prevented, or stopped in their tracks, these hate crimes, and protected the victims.

I would also include in the crimes of dereliction of duty deliberately protecting criminals during investigation after the hate crime. I would also, most importantly, incorporate command responsibility, so that officials and also those who have directed them to betray their constitutional duties are criminally liable.

The second momentous contribution of the Manipur law is that it does away with the requirement of prior state sanction before acting on a hate crime. All hate crimes today should attract Section 153A of the Indian Penal Code, which is related to fostering enmity between people on the basis of religion, race, language and so on. But registering this crime requires prior permission of the State government, and most governments use this power to shield perpetrators of hate crimes who are politically and ideologically aligned to the ruling establishment. The Manipur law does away with this requirement, which would make acting against hate crimes far more effective and non-partisan.

The third substantial feature is that it clearly lays down the duty and responsibility of the State government to make arrangements for the protection of victims and witnesses against any kind of intimidation, coercion, inducement, violence or threats of violence. It also prescribes the duty of State officials to prevent a hostile environment against people of the community who have been lynched, which includes econo-

mic and social boycott, and humiliation through excluding them from public services such as education, health and transport, threats and evictions.

Rehabilitation

The last substantial contribution of the law is requiring the state to formulate a scheme for relief camps and rehabilitation in case of displacement of victims, and death compensation. Again, in most cases of lynching, we have found that States have only criminalised the victims, never supported the survivors who live not just in loss and fear, but also in penury.

But the law needs to prescribe a much more expansive framework of mandatory gender-sensitive reparation on an atonement model, requiring the state to ensure that the victim of hate violence is assisted to achieve material conditions that are better than what they were before the violence, and that women, the elderly and children are supported regularly with monthly pensions over time.

Even with these caveats, the Manipur government has broken new ground, being the first government in the country to hold public officials criminally accountable if they fail to prevent hate crimes. If emulated by the Union and other State governments, such a sterling law could substantially prevent hate attacks, ensure public officials are faithful to their constitutional responsibilities and victims, and that their families and communities are assured of protection and justice.

This is the India we must claim – of safety, fairness and fraternity.

Harsh Mander, a human rights worker, writer and teacher, convenes the Karwan e Mohabbat

Muslim, Islamic, Indian, or all of the above

Pakistan's identity crisis, going back to the debates since its creation, remains unresolved



MOHAMMED AYOOB

At the base of all of Pakistan's current problems, both domestic and foreign, lies its inability to define its identity. The issue whether it is a Muslim state, an Islamic state, or merely a Muslim offshoot of India remains unresolved to this day.

A tension

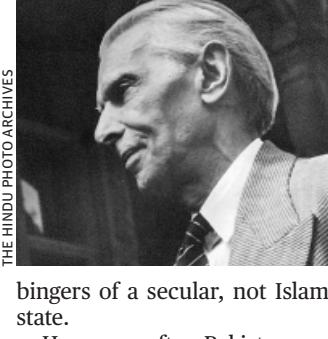
As Princeton scholar Muhammad Qasim Zaman's recently published book *Islam in Pakistan: A History* clearly demonstrates, the tension between the modernist concept of a Muslim state and the traditionalist and Islamist concepts of an Islamic state continues to hound Pakistan.

As far as the leading lights of the Muslim League, above all Muhammad Ali Jinnah (picture), were concerned, Islam was strictly of instrumental value to them. It was used to mobilise Muslim opinion in British India to serve the political goals of the League leadership, first parity with the Congress, and when that failed, partition of the country. After the creation of a Muslim majority state, Islam became useful to them as a unifying myth that could hold the country together and act as the principal antidote to ethnic nationalism, especially in East Bengal and the North-West Frontier

Province.

The leading traditional ulama, especially those associated with the Deoband seminary with its strong Indian nationalist tradition, had opposed Partition. However, a breakaway faction led by Maulana Shabbir Ahmed Usmani had from the mid-1940s supported the League's demand for Partition. The creation of Pakistan provided the traditionalist ulama led by Usmani with the opportunity to demand that the state should be turned into an Islamic one. In such a state, the ulama, although not necessarily in direct control of day-to-day affairs of governance, would have a supervisory role in order to ensure that its laws conformed to the Sharia as interpreted by leading jurists of the Hanafi school predominant among Muslims of the Indian subcontinent.

The lay Islamists, exemplified by Maulana Maududi and his Jamaat-i-Islami, were cut from a very different cloth. They were not religious scholars trained in Islamic jurisprudence – Maududi, despite the honorific title of Maulana, began his career as a journalist – and held the ulama in disdain as fossilised relics of a bygone age. They were both a product of modernism and a powerful reaction to it. Maududi had opposed Partition for two reasons. One, he believed that nationalism was the very antithesis of Islam which enjoined a universal community of all true believers. Two, he intensely distrusted the modernist leaders of the Pakistan movement, who he compared to Ataturk, as the har-



THE HINDU PHOTO ARCHIVES

bingers of a secular, not Islamic, state.

However, after Pakistan came into existence, Maududi moved to the new country and changed his tune. He began agitating for a purely Islamic state that combined the most intrusive aspects of the modern Westphalian state in terms of social control with a government run by a vanguard Leninist party like the Jamaat-i-Islami committed to the implementation of Islamic law. In his conception of the ideal Islamic state, the legislature's power would be circumscribed by the dictates of the Sharia, but the executive under persons of exceptional probity and commitment to Islam would possess near-dictatorial powers.

Although the traditionalist ulama and the Islamists were often at daggers drawn with one another, they combined forces against the modernists to introduce "Islamic" provisions in Pakistan's first and subsequent Constitutions. Under their joint pressure, the modernists have been steadily losing ground, especially since the 1980s when the fallout of the Afghan "jihad" began to radicalise the Pakistani polity.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Karnataka politics

The political drama in Karnataka only speaks volumes of the greed of MLAs for power, irrespective of the party they belong to. Voters should realise that split verdicts will only induce these sorts of ugly political games being played by political parties. It is high time voters vote decisively and get themselves a stable and good government they all deserve (Page 1, "BJP sequesters Karnataka MLAs in hotel near Delhi", January 15).

V.S. GANESHAN,
Bengaluru

Karnataka is in the news again for all the wrong reasons. There are claims and counter-claims on the number of MLAs being enticed to quit.

Such is the level of politics in the State that a toppling game is going on, in turn subverting the people's mandate. The unfortunate part is that people are watching this sorry spectacle, unable to do anything in this dirty game of politics.

D.B.N. MURTHY,
Bengaluru

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T. ANAND RAJ,
Chennai

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Learning to compete

Skill India needs a sharp realignment if it is to meaningfully transform people's life chances



SANTOSH MEHROTRA & ASHUTOSH PRATAP

In 2013, India's skill agenda got a push when the government introduced the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF). This organises all qualifications according to a series of levels of knowledge, skills and aptitude, just like classes in general academic education. For instance, level 1 corresponds to Class 9 (because vocational education is only supposed to begin in secondary school in many countries, including India). Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4 correspond to Classes 9, 10, 11 and 12, respectively. Levels 5-7 correspond to undergraduate education, and so on. For each trade/occupation or professional qualification, course content should be prepared that corresponds to higher and higher level of professional knowledge and practical experience.

The framework was to be implemented by December 27, 2018. The Ministry mandated that all training/educational programmes/courses be NSQF-compliant, and all training and educational institutions define eligibility criteria for admission to various courses in terms of NSQF levels, by that time.

In this article, we look at NSQF implementation through the prism of national skill competitions, or India Skills, a commendable initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). Twenty-seven States participated in India Skills 2018, held in Delhi. Maharashtra led the medals tally, followed by Odisha and Delhi. Now, teams will be selected to represent India at the 45th World Skills Competition, scheduled in Russia this year. It was also heartening that the Abilypics was included in India Skills 2018, for Persons with Disabilities.

Course curriculum not clear
However, there are two priorities requiring action before the next round of India Skills is held. There are five pillars of the skills ecosystem: the secondary schools/polytechnics; in-



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ustrial training institutes; National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)-funded private training providers offering short-term training; 16 Ministries providing mostly short-term training; and employers offering enterprise-based training. From which training programmes and NSQF courses did participants come to the competition? The answers to this would hold the key to improve Skill India government programmes dramatically.

Meanwhile, the India Skills competition has provided evidence that many reforms are critical and urgent. We have advocated these reforms in the Sharda Prasad Expert Group report, submitted to the MSDE in 2016.

India Skills was open to government industrial training institutes, engineering colleges, Skill India schemes, corporates, government colleges, and school dropouts. Skill India is understood to mean courses that are compliant with the NSQF. A majority of the participants were from corporates (offering enterprise-based training) and industrial training institutes; only less than 20% were from the short-term courses of the NSDC. Neither industrial training institutes nor corporates' courses are aligned with the NSQF.

This points to the need for more holistic training and the need to re-examine the narrow, short-term NSQF-based NSDC courses to include skills in broader occupation groups, so that trainees are skilled enough to compete at the international level. If India Skills 2018 was only open for the NSQF-aligned institutions, it would have been a big failure. This

indicates that the NSQF has not been well accepted or adopted across India. One reason for this is that unlike for general academic education, which requires the completion of certain levels of certification before further progression is permitted, there is no clear definition of the course curriculum within the NSQF that enables upward mobility. There is no connection of the tertiary level vocational courses to prior real knowledge of theory or practical experience in a vocational field, making alignment with the NSQF meaningless. Efforts to introduce new Bachelor of Vocation and Bachelor of Skills courses were made, but the alignment of these UGC-approved Bachelor of Vocation courses was half-hearted. There is no real alignment between the Human Resource Development Ministry (responsible for the school level and Bachelor of Vocation courses) and the Ministry of Skill Development (responsible for non-school/non-university-related vocational courses).

Too many councils
We must also reduce complications caused by too many Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) anchoring skill courses. World Skills holds competitions in construction and building technology, transportation and logistics, manufacturing and engineering technology, information and communication technology, creative arts and fashion, and social and personal services. To cater to these sectors, 19 SSCs participated in India Skills 2018 as knowledge partners with the help of industry or academic institutions.

But India has 38 SSCs (earlier it had 40). Why did the others not participate? The first reason is that the representation of their core work was done by the other SSCs. For example, we have four SSCs for manufacturing: iron and steel, strategic manufacturing, capital goods, and, infrastructure equipment. In effect these are treated as one in World Skills courses. As we had proposed, there should be just one SSC called the Machinery and Equipment Manufacturing Council, in line with the National Industrial Classification of India. Similarly, there is no reason to have four SSCs (instead of one) each of textile, apparel made-ups and home furnishing, leather and handicrafts.

It was a mistake to create 40 SSCs. Outcomes have shown that they have been ineffective. If we want Skill India trainees to win international competitions and if we want competitors to come from schemes of the Ministry, we must find a way to provide broader skills in broader occupational groups.

The second, and related, reason is that the other SSC courses were not comprehensive enough for students to compete. Most of their NSDC-SSC-approved training does not produce students who can showcase "holistic" skills for broad occupational groups in such competitions. This takes us back to the point made in our report: sectors should be consolidated in line with the National Industrial Classification of India. This will improve quality, ensure better outcomes, strengthen the ecosystem, and help in directly assessing the trainee's competence. It might also bring some coherence to our skills data collection system.

India could learn a lesson from Germany, which imparts skills in just 340 occupation groups. Vocational education must be imparted in broadly defined occupational skills, so that if job descriptions change over a youth's career, she is able to adapt to changing technologies and changing job roles. Skill India needs a sharp realignment, if India is to perform well in the World Skills competition later this year.

Santosh Mehrotra is Professor of Economics, Centre for Labour, JNU, and a lead author of the NSQF. Ashutosh Pratap works on Skills and Jobs Policy

The coast is unclear

The Coastal Regulation Zone notification of 2018 increases the vulnerability of coastal people to climate disasters



MANJU MENON & KANCHI KOHLI

The National Democratic Alliance government has unleashed several extremely unimaginative developmental policies that target areas that have retained some degree of ecological value to turn them into sites for industrial production. This is despite evidence of the damaging effects of such policies. The latest instance of this is the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notification of 2018. The government has announced "amendments" to the CRZ law which, in the words of the fisher leader from Goa, Olencio Simoes, spell the death of the coasts. These changes negate the coastal space entirely of its special socio-ecological uniqueness and open up this niche space that joins land and sea to mindless real estate development, mass scale tourism, and industry.

Devalued fisheries economy
Successive governments have created the impression that India's coastline is a vast, empty space that economic actors can take over. Industrialists and real estate developers share this view because coastal lands are for the most part outside the regime of individual property rights. Land grabbing by private and government actors has been the norm. These actors forget that this space is the common property of coastal villages, towns and cities, and public beaches. Over 3,000 fishing hamlets reside along India's coast, park and repair their nets and boats and organise their economic and social activities here. The fisheries sector employs 4.9 million people. The self-reliant fisher communities generates ₹48,000-₹75,000 crore for the economy, with almost no support from governments in the form of subsidies.

A government that has performed dismally on its promise of employment generation should avoid taking away the jobs of people engaged in this sector. Yet, that is exactly what this notification seeks to do. The misfortune of the fisher communities is their lack of effective political representation. Even though at least 75 MPs are elected from coastal constituencies, as stated by V. Vivekanandan of South Indian Federation of Fisher-Societies, fisher people are not a vote bank as they are spread across the coast. This may be why they are the targets of hostile government policies.

With rapid urbanisation and industrialisa-

tion, coasts have become convenient dumping grounds. Sewage, garbage and sludge from industrial processes land up on the coastline and makes life for coastal dwellers a living hell. The new amendments legalise the setting up of common effluent treatment plants (CETPs), an impractical technology for cleaning up waste, on the most fragile parts of the coast. These projects have made the coastal people of Saurashtra and south Gujarat more vulnerable to toxicity in their food, water and air. Since India's systems to reduce waste generation and comply with pollution standards are so poor, the law now makes the coasts legitimate receptacles for all waste.

India's coasts are already facing climate change events such as intensive, frequent and unpredictable cyclones and erosion. In 2017, cyclone Ockhi killed over 300 people on the west coast, a region not familiar with such events. The combined effects of harmful coastal development and climate change are apparent in the form of mass migrations from coastal areas like Odisha and the Sundarbans in West Bengal. These lessons have already sparked decentralised action: mangroves are being planted, sand dunes and coastal wetlands are being protected, and coastal communities and local governments are collaborating on disaster preparedness. But the top-down policy of the Central government to encroach what's left of the coasts and increase activities that involve dredging, sand removal, and large-scale constructions contradict grass-roots and scientific wisdom.

Risking lives

It is untrue that this notification has been introduced after consultations with "other stakeholders". The National Fishworkers Forum (NFF), for instance, has vociferously opposed these amendments since the review was announced in June 2014 by the Shailesh Nayak Committee. It has carried out protests demanding fisher rights to the coastal commons and legal action against corporate and government violators of coastal laws. The indifference of the government to coastal and marine regions has even led the forum to demand a separate Fisheries Ministry. Instead of using the NFF's knowledge to craft an effective policy, the government has peddled the same development model that has generated conflict and impoverishment. The notification now exposes more people to the unassessed impacts of climate change-related coastal damages. Is the capital too far from coastal India to understand this?

Manju Menon and Kanchi Kohli are environmental researchers at Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi

SINGLE FILE

Hitting its stride

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank has grown stronger, but it should develop a wider portfolio of projects

SOURABH GUPTA

On January 16, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) marked its third anniversary. India has been the bank's biggest beneficiary, with a quarter of the AIIB's approved projects geared towards its development. India is also the only country apart from China to enjoy a permanent seat on the Bank's board of directors.

When the AIIB opened for business in 2016, critics assailed it as a barely concealed attempt by China, India and the global south to supplant the existing international financial order. The reality is that the bank has been both a rule-maker and rule-taker, devising innovations in multilateral development finance while upholding existing best practices. Most of its projects are co-financed with the World Bank or the Asian Development Bank, suggesting a healthy mix of complementarity and competition with its peers.

Critics also assailed the AIIB for its non-transparent internal procedures, notably the lack of a resident board, and potentially lax loan appraisal standards, which they claimed would spark a rash of irrecoverable loans. Former U.S. President Barack Obama's administration sought to dissuade Western countries and Asian allies from joining the bank as prospective founding members, pointing to concerns related to governance and environmental and social safeguards. The reality is that the AIIB's lending practices have been socially conscious and prudent, attested by its triple-A credit rating secured from the three major international rating agencies. Disregarding the U.S.'s 'dog in the manger' attitude towards infrastructure finance, 90-odd countries have signed up as founding or prospective members.

As the AIIB marches from strength-to-strength, it should develop a wider portfolio of projects in areas such as smart cities, renewable energy, urban transport, clean coal technology, solid waste management and urban water supply. Along with the New Development Bank, its uniqueness must lie in faster loan appraisal, a lean organisational structure resulting in lower cost of loans, a variety of financing instruments, including local currency financing, and flexibility in responding to its clients' needs. It should leverage its unique 'special funds mechanism' to crowd-in infrastructure financing from external sources, including extra-regional, public and private, as well as nurture infrastructure as a profitable asset class for capital market investors.

A distracted U.S. appears neither willing nor capable of fundamentally reshaping and resourcing the much-vaunted Bretton Woods-era institutions for the challenges of the 21st century. India, China and other multilaterally minded major countries will need to pick up this gauntlet in the areas of trade, development and finance. The successful mainstreaming of the AIIB in three short years must become just the beginning of system-wide reform and overhaul.

The writer is a Senior Fellow at the Institute for China-America Studies in Washington, DC



FAQ

TV choices, à la carte

How the new TRAI regulatory framework will pan out

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

What does TRAI's new regulation say?

The new regulatory framework by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), which comes into effect from February 1, will apply to all direct-to-home (DTH) and local cable operators. Under these rules, customers can choose which channels they wish to watch rather than pick from pre-decided packs offered by service providers. Accordingly, consumers will only need to pay for channels they want to view.

Why was this change needed?

According to TRAI, post-digitisation of cable TV networks in March 2017, there was an urgent need to improve transparency as many stakeholders were not giving choices to consumers. The new regulatory framework has been introduced after a consultative

process that lasted more than one-and-a-half years.

Do the new rules benefit consumers?

The new framework makes it mandatory for the service provider to offer every channel on an à la carte basis. Additionally, the MRP of the channels needs to be displayed on the TV screen through the Electronic Program Guide. Along with giving customers à la carte choice, broadcasters and distributors can offer bouquets of channels. However, the price of the bouquet is also to be published transparently. Given that the MRP of the channels will be displayed to users, the distributor will not be able to charge more than what has been declared by a broadcaster. This is likely to bring down the monthly cable/DTH bill.

How much will consumers need to pay?

The framework puts in place a network capacity fee with an upper ceiling of ₹130 for 100 channels. Any subscriber who opts for more than 100 channels can choose additional channels in each slab of 25 channels with a maximum price of ₹20 per slab. A high definition channel will be treated as two standard definition (SD) channels for the purpose of determining the network capacity fee.

According to TRAI, less than one-and-a-half percent of consumers are likely to opt for more than 100 channels. The regulator has put out some examples of the probable packs in different markets on its website. For the Tamil-speaking market, one package costs ₹294 a month, including taxes for 100 SD channels. This pack includes 23 paid channels, 52 free-to-air channels and 25 Doordarshan channels. In addition to a ₹130 network capacity fee for 100 channels, the consumer will have to pay MRP for the 23

paid channels (amounting to ₹119) and the GST (₹45). Depending on the number and price of the paid channels, the bill may go up.

What if subscription charges are paid ahead?

In case a subscriber has paid advance charges for a scheme with a future lock-in period like an annual plan, the distributor will continue to provide services for the committed period without any increase in price or charges and without altering the other terms of subscription. Distributors cannot make any changes that may lead to a disadvantage to the subscriber in such cases, the regulator has said. However, if the subscriber wants to switch over to a new package after February 1, the proportional balance amount of the existing package as on the date of switchover may be adjusted for the new package prices.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 17, 1969

Ban on bigamous marriages

Bigamous marriages by employees of the Central Government men or women, have been prohibited under the latest Service Conduct Rules, except on special grounds. These are: Where such marriage would be permissible under the personal law applicable to the employee concerned or where there were "other grounds" for doing so. Even under the original conduct rules, it was the Government's intention that the ban on bigamous marriages should apply both to men and women employees. But this was not brought out by the actual wording of the rules. The revised All-India Service Conduct Rules gazetted on December 18 last year make this clear beyond doubt. The relevant rule reads: "No member of the service shall enter into or contract, a marriage with any person having a spouse living." The Government, however, may permit such marriage where it was allowed in the personal law or on other valid grounds.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 17, 1919

Bombay Labour Unrest

To-day [January 15, in Bombay] after the firing and as the crowd cleared, the Officer Commanding the troops appreciated the situation ceased firing with approval. Besides Mr. Ashton, Rao Bahadur Chunilal H. Setalvad, Mr. Frank Olivira, Messrs Ghulam Husain, Rahimtullah, Khairaj and Athavale were also present in the mill district from early morning and had to hasten to the different localities where disturbances were reported. At Hornby Vellard 200 persons were stopped by the Light Horse Patrol. Here Mr. Athavale and a number of policeman were despatched with instructions to disperse the crowd and arrest those who might disobey. Mr. Khairaj was despatched with a number of policemen to the Mackenzie Saw Mills near Sewri Cemetery where a number of rioters were interfering with workmen in the mill.

CONCEPTUAL

Repugnant market

ECONOMICS

This refers to certain markets where transactions between willing buyers and sellers are considered to be unethical. The market for human organs, for instance, is considered by many to be a repugnant market. A section of people believe that organ transplants should be facilitated through voluntary donations rather than through the exchange of money. Many governments have banned the functioning of these markets due to various moral concerns that have been raised. Supporters of repugnant markets, however, believe that allowing the exchange of money helps people in serious need to gain easier access to supplies than they would otherwise.

MORE ON THE WEB

Watch: Jairam Ramesh speaks on his latest book, Indira Gandhi, and more

<http://bit.ly/JairamRameshLFL>

M ND-NDE

FROM PAGE ONE

Justices Maheshwari and Khanna made SC judges

The Collegium said "fresh" and "extensive" deliberations were held after the vacations by the newly constituted body, in which Justice Arun Mishra replaced Justice Lokur. It said it had "deemed it appropriate to have a fresh look at the matter and also to consider the proposals in the light of the additional material that became available."

'More deserving'
It recorded that it found Justices Maheshwari and Khanna "more deserving and suitable in all respects than other Chief Justices and senior puisne judges of the high courts."

A former Delhi High Court judge, Justice Kailash Gambhir, has written to the President, saying the "earth-shattering" decision to recommend Justice Khanna by superseding 32 senior judges amounts to "casting aspersions on their intellect, merit and integrity."

Justice Maheshwari was the subject of a letter written by Justice J.S. Chelameswar, now retired, to

Panel to meet on Jan. 24 to pick new CBI chief

The Prime Minister heads the high-power Selection Committee. The other two members are the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge.

Next date Jan. 24
A source told *The Hindu* that the government had initially proposed January 21 as the next date, but Mr. Kharge is learnt to have conveyed his preference for January 25 or 24. After consultations, the government has finalised January 24.

10% quota in all admissions for 2019-20

While the 93rd constitutional amendment enabled the provision of 27% reservation for OBCs in both public and private educational institutions, the Central Educational Institutions Amendment Act, 2006, only mandated the implementation of the OBC quota in centrally-funded institutions. Private players in many States don't implement the OBC quota.

7th Pay Commission
Separately, the Centre had also decided to extend the 7th Central Pay Commission to teachers and other academic staff of State and State government-aided degree level technical institutions. As the Centre would reimburse 50% of the total additional expenditure to be incurred by these institutes for payment of arrears, the Centre would bear an additional liability of ₹1,241.78 crore, said Mr. Javadekar.

The Minister's announcement came barely days after Parliament passed a constitutional amendment providing for 10% reserva-

'We are not trying to pull down govt. in Karnataka'

BJP insiders say that the party has not been able to "trust" the disgruntled Congress MLAs who are basically bargaining for money and position and may go back on their word if the Congress leadership manages to give a better deal.

'Risky venture'
Any fishing expedition in the faction-ridden Congress in the State is a risky venture as top leaders in Delhi are determined that the al-

then Chief Justice Dipak Misra early in March 2018.

Justice Chelameswar had questioned an enquiry initiated by Justice Maheshwari, on the basis of a government letter, against a judge recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium for elevation to the High Court.

In fact, the government notification comes within a week of the Collegium file reaching the Union Ministry of Law and Justice. The Collegium recommendation itself is dated January 10. The appointment is dated January 16.

With this, Justice Khanna has superseded many to the Supreme Court, including three of his accomplished seniors from their parent Delhi High Court. They are Justices Gita Mittal, Pradeep Nandra-

jog and Ravindra Bhat.

In a curious twist of fate, a retired judge pointed how Justice H.R. Khanna, who is Justice Sanjiv Khanna's uncle and author of the historic dissent in the ADM Jabalpur case, resigned as Supreme Court judge in 1977 when he was superseded by the government as Chief Justice of India. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, was number 33 in the all-In-

country list.

Justice Maheshwari was the subject of a letter written by Justice J.S. Chelameswar, now retired, to

CPI(M) chides PM for remarks on Sabarimala

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comments on the Sabarimala issue is a direct assault on the Constitution and the Supreme Court, the CPI(M) Polit Bureau said in a statement here.

The Prime Minister had called the LDF government's stand on Sabarimala shameful. "The conduct of Kerala's LDF government on the Sabarimala issue will go down in history as one of the most shameful behaviour by any party. We knew that communists do not respect Indian history, culture and spirituality, but nobody imagined that they will have such hatred," he had said in Kollam on Tuesday.

The Congress had asked the Modi government to extend Mr. Verma's tenure by 77 days – the period when he was on forced leave – as the Supreme Court had restored his post and noted that the government's decision to send him on leave was 'procedurally wrong.'

For private institutions
By saying that the quota would be implemented "across 40,000 colleges and 900 universities in the country", Mr. Javadekar made it clear that private institutions would also come within its ambit. The SC, ST and OBC quotas will also be mandated in private institutions across the country through this measure, he asserted.

"In the 2019-20 academic session, we will have this 10% reservation without disturbing, [while] keeping intact the SC, ST and OBC reservation," said Mr. Javadekar. "This will be given in addition, by creating additional seats," he said, adding that the estimated increase would be to the tune of 25% more seats.

No scam in spectrum allocation'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

With the Congress alleging a 'scam' in the allocation of microwave access spectrum under the current government, Telecom Minister Manoj Sinha on Wednesday strongly refuted it as "baseless and unsubstantial".

This follows the CAG report tabled in Parliament stating that microwave access spectrum was allocated to a telecom operator in 2015 on first-come-first-served basis.

liaison government has to last till the Lok Sabha polls, and may force leaders like Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar to rein in supporters and detractors till then," said a source.

The one thing giving confidence to the BJP is that the Central leadership of the party is not as averse to the exercise as earlier.

"Today's developments, however, are not very encouraging," party sources admitted.

This time, the Centre has no misgivings

Unlike in Justice Joseph's case, lack of seniority did not pose a problem for Justice Khanna

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Unlike in the case of Justice K.M. Joseph, the government did not have a problem approving the Collegium recommendation to appoint Delhi High Court judge, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, as a Supreme Court judge despite his clear lack of seniority.

In fact, the government notification comes within a week of the Collegium file reaching the Union Ministry of Law and Justice. The Collegium recommendation itself is dated January 10. The appointment is dated January 16.

With this, Justice Khanna has superseded many to the Supreme Court, including three of his accomplished seniors from their parent Delhi High Court. They are Justices Gita Mittal, Pradeep Nandra-

Collegium's brief



DECEMBER 12: Collegium decides on Chief Justices of Rajasthan and Delhi High Courts, Pradeep Nandrajog and Rajendra Menon, for appointment to the Supreme Court



JANUARY 10: Collegium recommends Karnataka High Court Chief Justice Dinesh Maheshwari and Delhi High Court judge, Sanjiv Khanna to the Supreme Court. Collegium explains that though "certain decisions" were taken on December 12, it could not be followed through

JANUARY 16: Government notifies the appointments of Justice Maheshwari and Justice Khanna as Supreme Court judges

jog and Ravindra Bhat.

In a curious twist of fate, a retired judge pointed how Justice H.R. Khanna, who is Justice Sanjiv Khanna's uncle and author of the historic

dissent in the ADM Jabalpur case, resigned as Supreme Court judge in 1977 when he was superseded by the government as Chief Justice of India. Justice Sanjiv Khanna, was number 33 in the all-In-

country list, may become the CJL after Justice D.Y. Chandrachud retires in 2024.

With Justice Khanna's appointment coming through, the Collegium and the government have now confirmed that seniority is not the sole criterion for appointment to the Supreme Court. Justice Sanjiv Khanna was number 33 in the all-In-

country list.

One-year delay

The seniority question had delayed Justice Joseph's elevation for nearly a year. During this time, it unilaterally bifurcated the Collegium file and appointed Justice Indu Malhotra to supersede Justice Joseph to the Supreme Court.

Before the Collegium recommended him to the Supreme Court, Justice Joseph was known for his April 2016 judgment quashing President's rule in Uttarakhand when he was the Chief Justice of that State's high court.

It was only after then Collegium judges like Justices J. Chelameswar and Kurian Joseph raised their voices that the government communicated its objection about Justice Joseph. The government argued that Justice Joseph was too junior, ranked 42 in the seniority list, for Supreme Court judgeship.

The Collegium had to finally reiterate its recommendation before the government notified the appointment of Justice Joseph to the Supreme Court in August 2018. The Collegium said it had considered the entire seniority list of all high court judges across the country. The two judges were chosen over others after taking into consideration their "merit and integrity".

By notifying Justice Joseph's appointment, the Centre seems to have agreed to the Collegium's conclusion that the judge is more suitable for the Supreme Court than the 32 high court judges senior to him.



Rahul wishes Jaitley speedy recovery

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday expressed his support for Finance Minister Arun Jaitley at a time when the Minister is in the U.S. for medical treatment.

While several agencies say Mr. Jaitley has soft-tissue cancer in the thigh, officials in the Finance Ministry could not confirm this to *The Hindu*. Instead, they said that he had gone for a "medical check-up" and as of now, the plan was to return "sometime next week".

"I'm upset to hear Arun Jaitley Ji is not well. We fight him on a daily basis for his ideas. However, I and the Congress party send him our love and best wishes for a speedy recovery."

"So far, nobody else has been given charge of the Finance Ministry, and both the Ministers of State for Finance are in position," an official in the Finance Ministry said.

Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram tweeted: "I am deeply disturbed by the news that Mr. Arun Jaitley has left for the United States for medical treatment. I wish him well and, above all, a speedy and full recovery."

The Finance Minister's health assumes greater significance with the Union Budget set to be presented in about two weeks.

No urgent hearing on plea on Rao

SC may list next week petition alleging bypassing of norms in his appointment

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused urgent hearing on a petition challenging the appointment of M. Nageshwar Rao as interim Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director.

In an oral mentioning, Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, however, indicated that the petition may be listed next week.

The petition contended that the government has "completely bypassed" the statutory requirement to consult the high-powered selection committee of the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, and the Chief Justice of India, before appointing Mr. Rao.

Party general secretary Sitaran Yechury demanded that the Supreme Court take cognisance of his comments.

Common Cause, an NGO,



M. Nageshwar Rao

handing over the charge and work of the CBI Director to Mr. Rao as "illegal".

"The Government of India has attempted to stifle the independence of the institution of the CBI by appointing the Director of the CBI in an arbitrary and illegal manner," the petition contended.

It said the mandatory requirement under Section 4A of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act of 1946 to consult the high-powered selection committee

was a statutory measure to make the appointment process of the CBI Director free from government interference.

"The October 23 order making Mr. Rao interim CBI Director was quashed by the Supreme Court on January 8 for violating the procedure for the appointment of CBI Director as defined in the DSPE Act. However, the government still invoked its earlier order, which had been quashed, to once again make Shri Nageshwar Rao Interim Director of the CBI, even though it was not the competent authority and did not have any powers to make the appointment," the petition said.

Previous appointment

Besides, it argued that Mr. Rao's earlier appointment as interim CBI Director following the ouster of Alok Verma on October 23 was quashed by the Supreme Court in a judgment on January 8. Yet the January 10 order has stat-

ed that the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of Mr. Rao "as per the earlier arrangement."

Among these are the RLD bastion of Baghpat, Muzaffarnagar and Mathura. While Mr. Jayant is expected to contest from Baghpat, a seat held by his father Ajit Singh many times in the past, the RLD president himself is interested in contesting from Muzaffarnagar, which was hit by communal violence in 2013, drawing apart the social coalition of Jats and Muslims.

Sources said that while the BSP was initially not ready to cede Muzaffarnagar, which fell under its quota, it was now willing to give it up for the RLD.

In Mathura, an SP candidate is expected to fight on RLD ticket, a reversal of the bypoll experiment in Kairana last year.

The RLD hopes to get a fourth seat, preferably a reserved constituency. So far Bulandshahr, Nagina and Hathras are under its radar.

there was no official word on the number of seats the RLD would get, a source said the SP-BSP have "considered four".

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The court said its directions were issued in larger public interest and to protect the police officials from political interference.

On December 12 last year, the Supreme Court extended till January 31 the tenures of the present DGP of Punjab and Haryana and agreed to hear the States' pleas seeking to implement their local laws for the appointment of the police chief. DGPs Suresh Arora (Punjab) and B.S. Sandhu (Haryana) were due to retire on December 31 last year and will now remain in office till January 31 according to the earlier order of the Supreme Court.

In July 2018, the Supreme

Court restrained State governments from appointing DGPs without first consulting the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

UPSC has to vet list

The State government concerned has to send UPSC the names of the probables three months before the incumbent DGP is to retire.

The UPSC will prepare a panel of three officers fit to be DGP and send it back. The UPSC shall, as far as practicable, choose the people within the zone of consideration who have got a clear two years of service and must give due weightage to merit and seniority.

The State shall "immediately" appoint one of the persons shortlisted by the UPSC.

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IN BRIEF



Defend democracy at any cost: Rahul

NEW DELHI
Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said democracy must be defended at any cost and described it as India's greatest strength. He made these remarks in a Facebook post in the context of a delegation of lawmakers from Afghanistan who visited Parliament and watched the proceedings.

Amit Shah admitted to AIIMS with swine flu

NEW DELHI
BJP president Amit Shah was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences here on Wednesday evening after he complained of breathlessness. He tweeted that he had been diagnosed with swine flu. "By the grace of God and prayers from all of you I hope to recover soon," he said. He had high fever for two days and after complaining of breathlessness, was advised to seek medical help.

Congress suspends MLA for indiscipline

CHANDIGARH
Punjab Congress president Sunil Jakhar on Wednesday said that Kulbir Singh Zira, MLA from Zira, has been suspended from the primary membership of the party for "indiscipline". Mr. Zira had last week boycotted a district-level function and later publicly alleged that no action was being taken against liquor contractors in Ferozepur district.

IAS topper Faesal bats against sedition law

SRINAGAR
Shah Faesal, an IAS topper who quit the Services and joined politics, spoke out on Wednesday against the sedition law. "Invoking sedition law against [JNU student] Kanhaiya Kumar and eight others is a travesty of free speech. Section 124A of the IPC is totally at odds with the spirit of the time," said the 35-year-old. He said the world had moved on and it was time our governments grew up.

Cut red meat, sugar by 50%: Lancet's diet plan for the world

The new diet could avert around 11 million premature deaths a year

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

With the ideal diet, your life would be less sweet but your lifespan would be longer. Cut consumption of sugar and red meat by 50%, and increase the intake of fruits, vegetables, and nuts – that is the top recommendation of a worldwide diet plan according to a special report released on Thursday by the journal *Lancet*. Such a diet would not only be healthier but also more environment-friendly.

The EAT-Lancet Commission, an independent non-profit consisting of 19 scien-

tists and 18 co-authors from 16 countries, was tasked with developing global scientific targets for a healthy diet and sustainable food production.

The experts on this panel from India included Srinath Reddy of the Public Health Foundation of India and Sunita Narain of the Centre for Science and Environment.

The Commission recommended that the average adult, whose daily requirement is about 2,500 calories, must strive to source around 800 calories from whole grain (rice, wheat or corn), 204 calories from fruits and vegetables, and not more than 30 calories from red meat (beef, lamb or pork). It also suggested that the ideal diet should have no "added sugar" or "added fat". Unhealthy diets are the leading cause

What constitutes a healthy diet

Scientific targets for a planetary health diet for an intake of 2,500 Kcal/day



of ill-health worldwide, and following this healthy diet could avoid approximately 11 million premature deaths a year, the report said.

UN goals

These global targets define a safe operating space for food systems that allow us to assess which diets and

Food	Macronutrient intake (gm/day)	Caloric intake (kcal/day)
Whole grains	232	811
Tubers	50	39
All vegetables	300	78
Fruits	200	126
Dairy foods	250	153
Beef, lamb, pork	14	30
Chicken	29	62
Eggs	13	19
Fish	28	40
Legumes	75	284
All sugars	31	120

food production practices will help ensure that the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement [on Climate Change] are achieved," said a press statement accompanying the report.

Though the Commission's recommendations for a healthy diet do include red

meat, it emphasises that "global targets" ought to be applied "locally" and must keep in mind "cultural sensitivities". That means the protein requirement from meat can be substituted, with, say, legumes or equivalent substitutes.

People in North American countries eat almost 6.5

times the recommended amount of red meat, while those in South Asia eat only half the recommended amount. All countries are eating more starchy vegetables (potatoes and cassava) than recommended, with intakes ranging from between 1.5 times above the recommendation in South Asia to 7.5 times the optimum level in sub-Saharan Africa.

Dramatic change

"The world's diets must change dramatically. More than 800 million people have insufficient food, while many more consume an unhealthy diet that contributes to premature death and disease," said co-chair Commissioner Dr. Walter Willett of Harvard University. "To be healthy, diets must have an appropriate calorie intake and consist of a variety of

plant-based foods, low amounts of animal-based foods, unsaturated rather than saturated fats, and few refined grains, highly processed foods, and added sugars."

The researchers also modelled the effects of a global adoption of such a diet on deaths from diet-related diseases.

Three models each showed major health benefits, suggesting that the new diet could globally avert 10.9-11.6 million premature deaths a year.

The report shared a road map to help global populations move towards such a diet by 2050. These include reorienting the focus of agriculture from large-scale production of a few crops to a diverse range of nutritious foods from biodiversity-enhancing food production systems".

Audit firm under lens in Agusta copter deal

ED says it submitted wrong facts

DEVESH K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI

An international audit firm has come under the Enforcement Directorate's scanner for purportedly endorsing a "factually incorrect" report that was submitted before Italian courts in connection with the prosecution of accused persons in the AgustaWestland helicopter case.

"The firm had certified the audit report produced before the Italian court, which finally acquitted the accused persons on the basis of the evidence placed before them," said an official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"The report's authenticity was not checked. Also, not enough evidence from Indian side had been brought before the Italian courts during the trial," the official added.



Christian Michel

In January 2018, former Finmeccanica chief Giuseppe Orsi and AgustaWestland CEO Bruno Spagnolini were acquitted by the Italian court.

The ED had recently informed a special court about the "factually incorrect" audit report furnished in the Italian court. The report, the official said, relates to payment of more than €18 million by the then U.K.-based Westland to alleged middleman Christian Michel's company.

India in talks to recognise U.K. degrees

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

India and the United Kingdom are negotiating an agreement that will lead to recognition of year-long Master's degree courses offered by British universities that are not considered legitimate here currently. The discussion on the agreement figured in a high-level two-day meeting between officials of both sides, diplomatic sources indicated on Wednesday.

"India does not recognise many U.K. Master's degrees as they are mostly of 12 months' duration. Both sides are looking for mutual recognition of these degrees," said a source.

The Hindu was told that the issue featured during a discussion on the future bilateral migration relationship which is expected to provide greater U.K. opportunities for workers from India.

Will not betray people of Assam, says Sonowal

Seeks to assuage feelings about the Citizenship Bill

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Wednesday broke his silence over the ongoing protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, saying that he would never betray the people who had entrusted him with running the State more than two years ago.

His assurance almost coincided with the decision of a forum of indigenous people to take up the fight against the Bill as a nationwide movement and not just restricted to Assam or the northeast comprising eight States.

"The people of Assam made me a Chief Minister with lots of trust and confidence. I am not here to betray the Assamese race," Mr. Sonowal said at a meeting at



Sarbananda Sonowal

Dhubri in western Assam.

"Time will prove that only we can protect the Assamese people. I have seen governments come and go, and did not take this responsibility to just become the Chief Minister," he said.

Assam erupted in protest after the contentious Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha on January 8.

Other northeastern

States, whose inhabitants are touchy about being outnumbered by migrants, joined the protest.

While the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) pulled out of the alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Assam, the latter's regional partners in Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura have voiced concern about the Bill. BJP leaders in the region, too, have urged the Centre to address the concerns of indigenous peoples.

The Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti, leading a group of 70 organisations in the movement against the Bill, has decided to make the fight a national issue. "The Bill remains an issue for Assam and the other northeastern States," the organisation's leader Akhil Gogoi said.

Gegong Apang, ex-Arunachal CM, quits BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Former Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Gegong Apang, who gave the Bharatiya Janata Party its first government in the Northeast 16 years ago, has quit the party.

Mr. Apang said he decided to leave because the party had become a "platform to seek power."

It served a leadership that "hates decentralisation or democratic decision-making" and "does not address real issues" on the ground.

In a letter to BJP's national president Amit Shah and State BJP president Tapir Gao on Tuesday, he said: "I am disappointed to see that the present day BJP is no longer following the principles of the late [Atal Bihari] Vajpayee."

Mr. Apang, a seven-time MLA, was Chief Minister of the State for 23 years.

NREGA gets additional ₹6,084 cr.

Pending payments will leave little money for fresh employment generation

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

After exhausting 99% of its annual allocation three months ahead of time, the National Rural Employment Guarantee (NREGA) scheme has been given an additional allocation of ₹6,084 crore to tide over the next three months.

This lifts the total allocation to MGNREGA for 2018-19 to ₹61,084 crore, which is the highest ever allocation, according to a statement from the Ministry of Rural Development.

However, the fine print of the balance sheet paints a less buoyant picture.

As on January 16, the scheme's financial statement shows that 15 States have a total negative net balance of ₹4,064 crore, which includes payments due for unskilled wages for work that has al-

At a high

The Union Rural Development Ministry says the allocation for the rural job scheme is the highest ever during 2018-19, but activists cite pending dues and liabilities to contest the claim



99% of funds allocated were exhausted three months ahead of the end of the fiscal
₹6,084 crore is the additional allocation
₹61,084 crore is the total allocation

from seeking employment under the scheme," she added.

Serious consequences' The funds crunch being faced by States has serious consequences for employment provision, researchers say. "We are already seeing that when workers come looking for work, they are not being registered in many districts, simply because there is no money to pay them," said Rajendran Narayanan, an assistant professor at Azim Premji University in Bengaluru. "And even this under-registered demand for work is not being met."

Dr. Narayanan's study analysing government data in 3,500 panchayats found that the employment provided during 2017-18 was 32% lower than the work demanded in that year.

Facebook to tighten political ad rules for polls

In India, it will launch Ad Library, enforce authorisations

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Facebook said on Tuesday it would tighten rules for political ads in countries such as India where elections are scheduled in the first half of the year, building on transparency efforts already underway in the United States, Britain and Brazil after a series of scandals.

"As we prepare for major elections around the world this year, we're continuing our focus on preventing fo-



reign interference and giving people more information about the ads they see across our platforms," the social media giant said in a post.

In India, the network will launch an Ad Library and

enforce authorisations before spring elections, it said.

In the U.S., Britain and Brazil, political advertisers must confirm their identity and location before they can run Facebook ads, which are also housed in a public, searchable library for up to seven years. "By shining a light on political ads, news organizations, regulators, watchdog groups and people anywhere in the world can hold advertisers and us more accountable," it said.

झारखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग

सर्कलर रोड, रांची-834001

प्रेस विज्ञप्ति

झारखण्ड राज्य के विभिन्न विश्वविद्यालयों में प्राध्यापक, सह-प्राध्यापक एवं सहायक प्राध्यापक के नियमित एवं बैकलॉग पद पर नियुक्त हेतु प्रकाशित विज्ञप्ति संस्था क्रमांक:- 40/2016, 41/2016, 04/2018 तथा 05/2018 के नियमित की जा रही नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया को संबंधित विश्वविद्यालय के अनुरोध पर अपरिवर्त्य कारणवश अगले आदेश तक स्थगित किया जाता है।

2. यह प्रेस विज्ञप्ति आयोग के वेबसाइट www.jpsc.gov.in पर भी उपलब्ध है।

हो/- सचिव,

झारखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग, रांची

KARNATAKA UNIVERSITY, DHARWAD
DST-PURSE-Phase-II Program

Karnataka University Campus, Pavate Nagar, Dharwad-580 003 (Karnatak)

No. KU/DST-PURSE-Phase-II/2018-19 Date: 16.01.2019

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through E-Procurement System only)

Tenders are invited under the DST-PURSE-Phase-II Program, Department of Chemistry, K. U. Dharwad, from the reputed Manufacturers/Authorized Dealers for the supply of Scientific Equipments/Instruments. All future corrigendum shall be updated only on the website and no separate

THE CONTOURS
OF MAY'S
DEAL

Border: To avoid a hard border in Ireland, the parties have agreed to a backstop arrangement that keeps the U.K. in the Customs Union till a free-trade agreement is reached



Financial settlement: The figure agreed to is £39bn, which the U.K. needs to pay



Transition period: Status quo for up to three years during which the U.K. can enter into agreements individually with other countries



Citizens' rights: The U.K. will respect the rights of EU citizens who arrive before the end of the transition period

The risk of a no-deal Brexit looms large

After MPs rejected Prime Minister May's withdrawal plan, she will have to return to the House with a Plan B next week

Embattled PM

Following a resounding defeat on the floor of the House of Commons over the withdrawal deal — the biggest-ever for a sitting government — Theresa May faced a no-confidence vote on Wednesday. Here are some key points on the significance of what transpired on Tuesday:

HOW THE MPS VOTED

432	against the deal
248	Labour
118	Rebel Tories
202	for the deal
196	Conservatives
Rebel Labour 3	
Independent 3	
Scottish National Party 35	
Liberal Democrats 11	
Democratic Unionist Party 10	
Plaid Cymru 4	
Green Party 1	
Independent 5	

BIGGEST DEFEATS

Tuesday's defeat marked a new record

January 15, 2019	Theresa May
Vote on withdrawal agreement	
Defeated by 230 votes	
October 8, 1924	Ramsay MacDonald
Second vote on inquiry into Campbell case	
161 votes	
June 23, 1924	Ramsay MacDonald
First vote on inquiry into Campbell case	
166 votes	
March 22, 1979	Jim Callaghan
Firearms (variation of fees) order	
Housing Bill	
140 votes	
89 votes	

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Government wins no-confidence vote (likely)

January 16: No-confidence vote rejected

January 21: May presents a Plan B

January 30: Last date for MPs to vote on Plan B

March 13: Two-day European Council summit begins

March 29: The U.K. exits the EU

THE ODDS: They are stacked in favour of the Conservatives. Most of them — including the group of MPs who constitute the European Research Group — have said they will support the PM on Wednesday. The DUP has also pledged its support

VIDYA RAM
LONDON

With the votes stacked firmly in favour of the Theresa May government, Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn's no-confidence motion is seen more as an opportunity for the Opposition to attack the government across a wide range of issues, which Mr. Corbyn did in setting out his motion. He covered issues ranging from rising levels of poverty, to the crisis in the NHS, the Windrush scandal and police staffing levels.

However, Ms. May shot back, insisting that Mr. Corbyn's strategy and a new general election would lead simply to division, chaos and delay and was not in the national interest, criticising its economic policy, as well as the anti-Semitism controversy within the party among other issues.

A victory for the government in the vote won't put an end to the crisis engulfing it. After MPs rejected her withdrawal deal on Tuesday, she must return to the House of Commons with a plan B by next Monday, though this is not expected to repre-

DIFFERENT SCENARIOS

More uncertainty, with many scenarios possible

1 U.K. tries to get a better deal

The EU has repeatedly refused to renegotiate the withdrawal deal

2 A no-deal Brexit

The U.K. leaves the European Union without securing a deal on March 29. This scenario risks seriously damaging the country's business environment. This may also result in a hard border in Ireland, undoing the spirit of the 'Good Friday Agreement'

A report last year estimated that it would take 22 weeks between the decision to hold another referendum and the polling day. This would require an extension of Article 50 till well into the second half of 2019

3 Brexit gets delayed

The chances of this remain high, but the deadline is unlikely to be extended beyond the end of June, when a new European Parliament takes office, presumably without British MEPs

4 A general election

The Labour Party finds itself in a minority when it says it wants a fresh election, a new government and a fresh process of negotiations with the EU

5 A second referendum

On Wednesday, 71 Labour MPs signed a statement asking Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn to call for another 'People's Vote'. This proposal does not currently enjoy a majority

he may instead push for more revisions to Ms. May's deal, in particular remaining in the customs union and securing more workers' rights — as well as a delay to Brexit. He has, however, ruled out supporting a no-deal exit, which he says would be disastrous for the country. On Wednesday, he declined to say whether any future Labour manifesto would include a commitment to delivering Brexit, insisting that all options remained on the table in discussions with Europe were Labour to win a general election.

No consensus

Many are now pressing for Britain to request a delay to Brexit, which Ms. May has so far been reluctant to do. In addition, with no political consensus in the U.K. in sight, it is unclear whether European leaders would agree to this.

Politicians in Europe have expressed their frustration at recent developments, and in particular the perception that Britain was running down the clock in an attempt to exact further concessions from them. French President Emmanuel Macron warned that Britain would be the biggest loser from a no-deal crash out, Reuters reported, while European Council President Donald Tusk asked: "If a deal is impossible, and no one wants no deal, then who will finally have the courage to say what the only positive solution is?" — which many have taken as a suggestion that the U.K. should remain in the EU.

Wild card

The real wild card in all of this is Mr. Corbyn. He's so far insisted his party will also abide by the result of the referendum though the party had previously conceded that they could back a second referendum if their attempt to get a general election failed. However, recent comments have suggested

Ms. May told MPs that she had wanted the U.K. to leave the EU in an "orderly way with a good deal" and called on MPs to clarify what they supported if it wasn't her deal. "I ask members on all sides of the House to listen to the British people who want this issue settled and to work with the government to do that."

Some "hard" Brexiteers hope the lack of any alternative on which people will agree could mean that, with the clock ticking down, Britain will have to crash out of the EU without a deal, and resort to WTO rules. This remains a highly likely scenario as the default situation — if nothing were agreed further — would mean Britain leaving without a deal on March 29.

We want to deliver an orderly Brexit with a deal. One that... gives us control of our borders... and means we have an independent trade policy

DOWNTON STREET

If a deal is impossible, and no one wants no deal, then who will finally have the courage to say what the only positive solution is?

DONALD TUSK, EU Council president

Hundreds of Bangladesh garment workers sacked

Move comes after strikes and clashes

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DHAKA

can dare to stage protests or demand fair wages," the leader said.

400 fired

Police and a senior factory manager gave a lower total of around 400 workers fired for damaging equipment during the strike — with more than half from one Ashulia plant called Metro Knitting and Dyeing.

Metro Knitting's manager Atiqul Islam said that the company has reported nearly 300 workers to police for smashing the factory's CCTV cameras and computers. "Some 10,000 apparel items made for export also went missing," he added. So far, 12 arrests have been made for vandalism during the unrest, local police said.

650 acres of land reclaimed for China-backed port city in Colombo

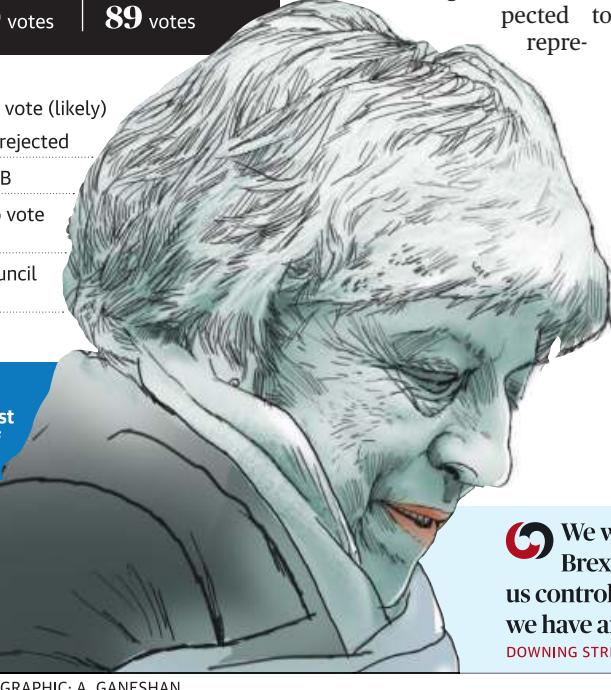
The project is likely to draw about \$15 billion in investment

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Over 650 acres of land off Colombo's seafront, where a China-backed \$1.4 billion port city is currently being built, has been reclaimed, Sri Lankan authorities said on Wednesday.

Beijing attaches great importance to the port city, Chinese Ambassador to Sri Lanka Cheng Xueyuan said at a ceremony held to mark what the Sri Lankan government termed "another milestone" in the mega project.

The total investment is expected to go up to \$15 billion when the project is completed.



14 civilians killed in Nairobi terror attack claimed by Shabaab

Security operation ends with death of militants in upscale hotel compound

REUTERS
NAIROBI

Kenyan security forces have killed the militants who stormed an upscale Nairobi hotel compound, taking at least 14 lives and forcing hundreds of others to make terrifying escapes, the government said on Wednesday.

More than 700 civilians were evacuated from the DusitD2 complex after a 20-hour siege that echoed a 2013 assault that killed 67 people in Nairobi's Westgate

The Sri Lankan government has pledged its support to China's ambitious OBOR initiative, with the hope of promoting the island as a trading hub in the Indian Ocean region.

shopping centre in the same neighbourhood.

"The security operation at Dusit complex is over, and all the terrorists eliminated," President Uhuru Kenyatta told the nation, looking drained and grave. "As of this moment, we can confirm that 14 innocent lives were lost through the hands of these murderous terrorists."

5 assailants

Mr. Kenyatta did not specify how many assailants there



Escape from terror: Civilians flee as security forces stage an operation to eliminate militants in the DusitD2 complex. ■ AP

were, but CCTV clips showed at least five dressed in black. One is seen waiting outside

the restaurant before blowing himself up in a cloud of debris just after 3 p.m. (1200 GMT). Four others then shoot assault rifles crossing the car park.

The attack was claimed by Somali group al-Shabaab, an al-Qaeda affiliate fighting an insurgency in Somalia. Air strikes against the group have stepped up under U.S. President Donald Trump.

Neighboring Kenya, a hub for expatriates, became a frequent target for al-Shabaab after sending troops into Somalia to try to create a buffer zone along the long, porous border. Eleven Kenyans, an American and a Briton were among the casualties, morgue staff said.

Malaysia not to host any event involving Israel

REUTERS
KUALA LUMPUR

Malaysia has imposed a blanket ban on all Israelis participating in events hosted by the nation, as the government maintains its decision to ban Israeli athletes from taking part in the World Para Swimming Championships in July.

Malaysia's Cabinet decided last week that Israelis will not be allowed to enter the country, Foreign Minister Saifuddin Abdullah said on Wednesday. "Even if we have already committed to hosting an event, they will not be allowed (into the country)," he said. "Secondly, Malaysia will not host any event that has representation from or participation of Israel."

Blockade was a mistake, admits Madhesi leader

Mahato was among its key organisers

blockade. "We extended support to the government of Prime Minister Oli for the promised amendments but he did not keep the promise so far," Mr. Mahato said.

This is the first time that one of the key organisers admitted that the months-long blockade did not yield the necessary results.

The blockade was imposed soon after the new Constitution was adopted in September 2015 and continued till the spring of 2016.

The failure of the blockade has led to revaluation of the strategy for Madhesi rights, he said. "Now we are looking for connectivity and industrialisation of the Madhesi region," said Mr. Mahato.

He said that the Madhesi have waited patiently for the amendments to the Nepali Constitution which was part of their demands before the

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : SUNDARGARH E-Procurement Notice, Online-RWSESGN -23 of 2018-19 Ltr. No.60/Dtd.10.01.2019					
1390-Q:	E-mail address :- serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com				
1. Type of the Work	Road Works (Periodical Maintenance)				
2. Total No. of Works	2 Nos. of Road				
3. Estimated cost	Varies from Rs.134.54 Lakh to Rs.156.13 Lakh.				
4. Class of Contractor	'B' Class & 'A' Class				
5. Period of completion	Four Calendar Months				
6. Cost of tender paper	The Bidder shall transfer online the cost of bid document for Rs.10,000/- towards cost of Bid through a process as mentioned under DTCN.				
7. EMD Required	The Bidder shall transfer online the Earnest Money Deposit / Bid Security at the rate of 1% of the estimated cost put to tender as mentioned under DTCN. Bidders desirous to hire machineries or equipments from outside the State or owned but deployed outside the State are required to transfer online 2% of the amount put to tender as Bid Security. Exemption from EMD is permissible as per codal provisions of Govt. of Odisha.				
8. APS	Additional Performance Security shall be obtained from the Bidder when the bid amount is less than estimated cost put to tender. In such an event, only the successful bidder who has quoted less bid price/rates than the estimated cost put to tender shall have to furnish the exact amount of differential cost i.e. estimated cost put to tender minus the quoted amount as Additional Performance Security (APS) in shape of Term Deposit Receipt pledged in favour of Division Officer / Bank Guarantee in favour of the Divisional Officer from any Nationalized / Scheduled Bank in India counter guaranteed by its local branch at Bhubaneswar within seven days of issue of Letter of Acceptance (LoA) by the Divisional Officer (by e-mail) to the successful bidder otherwise the bid of the successful bidder shall be cancelled and the Earnest Money Deposit / Bid Security shall be forfeited. Further, proceeding for blacklisting shall be initiated against the bidder".				
9. GST	Rate quoted by the Contractor shall be excluding GST. The GST as applicable for the work contract shall be payable to the contractor on each bill amount on production of tax invoice. The prevailing rate of GST on the gross amount of bill will be deducted from the contractor bill as tax deduction at source (TDS) as per rule.				
10. Other details:					
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender	Technical Bid Opening	Financial Bid Opening
1	2	3	4	5	6
Superintending Engineer, Rural					

MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	% CHANGE
Sensex	36,321	-0.01
US Dollar	71.24	-0.26
Gold	33,190	0.19
Brent oil	60.61	1.15

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	% CHANGE
Adani Ports	389.30	-4.15
Asian Paints	1389.75	-16.20
Axius Bank	664.00	3.40
Bajaj Auto	2717.45	-8.40
Bajaj Finserv	6464.85	-44.85
Bajaj Finance	2569.85	-34.35
Bharti Airtel	333.95	-3.80
BPCL	347.25	5.55
Cipla	511.50	-3.45
Coal India	232.05	-0.60
Dr Reddys Lab	2616.95	22.15
Eicher Motors	20735.70	97.55
GAIL (India)	325.50	0.95
Grasim Ind	826.30	10.80
HCL Tech	938.25	-9.45
HDFC	1975.00	-17.15
HDFC Bank	2120.20	-1.70
Hero MotoCorp	2879.85	-31.10
Hindalco	208.40	-0.10
HPL	240.60	-0.95
Hind Unilever	1772.55	-17.30
Indiabulls HFL	829.60	20.75
ICICI Bank	375.30	2.55
IndusInd Bank	1526.70	31.50
Bharti Infralet	275.85	-3.90
Infosys	736.80	10.20
Indian Oil Corp	135.80	1.25
ITC	294.05	-2.50
JSW Steel	286.45	-5.65
Kotak Bank	1202.75	-10.65
L&T	1342.15	1.25
M&M	726.25	-0.65
Maurti Suzuki	7310.25	-44.90
NTPC	146.35	0.55
ONGC	146.35	1.20
PowerGrid Corp	192.00	-0.45
Reliance Ind	1135.90	6.25
State Bank	303.15	1.50
Sun Pharma	453.80	1.35
Tata Motors	185.45	0.10
Tata Steel	474.55	-0.50
TCS	1870.15	2.35
Tech Mahindra	699.90	-6.35
Titan	961.20	-7.10
UltraTech Cement	3887.00	59.35
UPL	766.10	-9.85
Vedanta	196.30	-2.60
Wipro	336.55	6.75
YES Bank	208.35	5.35
Zee Entertainment	452.10	-4.70

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 16		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.04	71.36
Euro	80.85	81.22
British Pound	91.24	91.66
Japanese Yen (100)	65.30	65.60
Chinese Yuan	10.51	10.56
Swiss Franc	71.74	72.07
Singapore Dollar	52.40	52.64
Canadian Dollar	53.53	53.77
Malaysian Ringgit	17.28	17.37

Source: Indian Bank

Das to meet industry bodies today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

As part of the consultative exercise among all stakeholders, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das will meet the industry bodies on Thursday.

"Will meet the apex chambers/associations of industry and commerce tomorrow (17th January)," Mr. Das tweeted.

Mulye gets two more years as ICICI Bank ED

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The RBI has approved the reappointment of Vishakha Mulye as executive director of ICICI Bank from January 19, 2019 to January 18, 2021, the lender told the exchanges. Shareholders had approved Ms. Mulye's appointment for five years, upto January 2021, in April 2016.

SEBI mints creating commodity indices

Futures contracts can be introduced on such indices, says markets regulator

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed allowing commodity exchanges to create indices on which futures contracts can be introduced.

Such indices can be based on the most liquid contracts traded on the bourses and have to be diversified with the weightage of a single constituent capped at 20%, according to a consultation paper by the SEBI.

"Index-based products will also encourage the participation of institutions such as mutual funds, insurance companies etc., in the commodity derivatives market," the discussion paper issued by SEBI on Wednesday said.

"Further, trading in derivatives products on commodity indices may also increase liquidity in underlying com-

CMYK



Just a day to process I-T returns

Cabinet approves system that would bring down processing time from 63 days

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The processing time for your income tax returns could well take only a day, as compared to 63 days now, if a proposal approved by the Cabinet on Wednesday fructifies.

The proposal is for the development of an upgraded e-filing portal that would ease income tax return filing and reduce the processing time for returns, the government announced.

Live in 21 months

The Integrated E-filing & Centralized Processing Center 2.0 is expected to take 18 months to develop and three months to be tested before it is implemented, and an amount of ₹4,241.97 crore has been set aside for it. The



Less taxing: About ₹4,242 crore has been set aside for the project and the portal will be operational for 8 years. ■ R. RAGU

portal will be operational for eight years, and the project has been awarded to Infosys, which emerged as the lowest bidder.

"The Income Tax Department currently takes about 63 days to process an income tax return," Minister of Railways and Coal Piyush

Goyal said at a press conference. "Using the new system, this would go down to just one day."

"Rectification requests, which are currently in 2% of the returns, our estimate is that this will go down to just 0.1%," Mr. Goyal added. "That is, of the number of

rectification requests today, just 5% will remain. The remaining 95% will not need rectification."

"This approval has significant benefits for the Department and taxpayers through various functionalities such as pre-filling of ITR and acceptance by taxpayer as a means to improve accuracy and to reduce refund/processing turnaround time drastically, and facilitation to taxpayers in resolving outstanding tax demands," the government said in a release.

Mr. Goyal added that in the current version of the automatic processing system, about 23 crore income tax returns have been filed so far. He said that refunds of ₹1.83 lakh crore have been issued in the current financial year up to September 30.

SBI puts ₹15,431 cr. of Essar Steel exposure on the block

Sets reserve price of ₹9,588 crore at 38% discount

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

State Bank of India (SBI) has decided to sell ₹15,431.44 crore exposure of debt-laden Essar Steel to financial institutions, including asset reconstruction companies.

According to the auction notice, the reserve price fixed for the asset sale is ₹9,587.64 crore, which is at 38% discount.

"The resolution plan has been approved and filed in NCLT, Ahmedabad. As per the approved resolution plan of ArcelorMittal India Private Limited, minimum recovery to SBI is ₹11,313.42 cr. Reserve price of ₹9,587.64 cr. is on the basis of NPV of minimum recov-



ery discounted @18% with a time factor of 1 year," the auction notice of SBI read.

E-auction
The sale of the NPA account is to happen through e-auction on January 30.

"The interested ARCs/Banks/NBFCs/FIs can con-

duct due diligence of these assets with immediate effect, after submitting expression of interest and executing a non-disclosure agreement [NDA] with the bank," the notice further said.

The Ahmedabad Bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) will pronounce its order before January 31 on the maintainability of the petition filed by the Essar promoters to settle dues.

Banks are however getting impatient over the deadlock as they are looking to recover as much as they can from the bad loans, as they finalise their books for the financial year.

SBI-led consortium of lenders working on resolution plan, says Jet Airways

Airline hints at major board rejig; options on equity infusion being contemplated

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Jet Airways (India) Ltd., which is currently battling a severe financial crisis, has admitted for the first time that the lenders, led by the State Bank of India (SBI), are working on a comprehensive resolution plan for a turnaround of the airline. It also said that changes in the composition of its board were also being discussed.

Commenting on its delay in the payment of interest and principal instalment due to the consortium of Indian banks led by SBI, Jet Airways said, "SBI, in consultation with the other members of the consortium and the oth-

ers and the consequent change in the composition of the company's board of directors.

"The implementation of the resolution plan, once agreed to and approved by all the stakeholders, including the board of directors of the company, will be subject to receipt of applicable statutory, regulatory, contractual and corporate approvals and consents," Jet Airways said in a statement to dispel various rumours floating in the market.

No communication

Jet Airways denied any communication alleged to have been sent by Etihad Airways



er stakeholders, has been working on a comprehensive resolution plan towards a turnaround of the company for its sustained growth and restoration of financial health." It said the resolution plan contemplated various options on the debt-equity mix, proportion of equity infusion by various stakeholders



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IN BRIEF



Suven gets patents from Australia, Singapore

HYDERABAD Suven Life Sciences Ltd. has received a product patent each from Australia and Singapore corresponding to the new chemical entities for the treatment of disorders associated with neuro-degenerative diseases. The patents are valid till 2036. The granted claims of the patents include the class of selective 5-HT4 and M1 PAM compounds respectively, developed as therapeutic agents.

Dr. Reddy's unit under USFDA scanner

HYDERABAD A formulations unit of pharma major Dr. Reddy's Laboratories in Andhra Pradesh has been issued a Form 483 with four observations, following an inspection by the USFDA, the firm said in a regulatory filing. The USFDA issues the form after an inspection, in which the investigators observe any conditions that may be in violation of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and related acts.

Orient Electric unveils IoT-enabled ceiling fan

NEW DELHI Orient Electric, part of the \$1.8 billion CK Birla Group, on Wednesday launched its Internet of Things (IoT) enabled premium ceiling fan – Aerolim, with a price tag of ₹7,790. The fan, which comes with an inverter motor, consumes 45 watts of electricity. Users will be able to manage fan speed and modes, reverse rotation and under light with dimming options, through the Orient Smart mobile app.

Investors in start-ups may get special rights

SEBI mulling board representation and appointment of auditors among other privileges

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is examining whether investors in start-ups can be granted special rights in terms of board representations and governance if such ventures list on the Innovators Growth Platform (IGP).

As part of its attempts to attract start-ups and investors to the platform, the capital markets regulator is examining whether investors, including those that have convertible instruments, could have special rights such as board representation and appointment of auditors or internal auditor, among other rights. According to a memorandum presented to the SEBI board, market participants have suggested such



Push start: Intermediaries are trying to create a framework to encourage start-ups list on Indian bourses. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

special rights to investors. SEBI has reportedly decided to examine the matter.

"Suggestions have been made that the investors could have special rights, including on convertible instruments, and governance, such as board representa-

tion, appointment of auditor/internal auditor, and the like, if such rights can be incorporated as part of Articles of Association of the company and disclosed in the RHP/Prospectus," the memorandum said. The issue of special rights, it is believed, will

be examined by the SEBI in conjunction with the issue of differential voting rights, which is already being examined by a sub-group within PMAC [primary market advisory committee].

Regulatory framework

Apart from the SEBI, market intermediaries such as exchanges, merchant bankers and investors have also been trying hard to create a regulatory framework to encourage start-ups to list on Indian exchanges.

"Start-ups have different set of investors such as angel, seed, venture capital, etc., who usually come with special rights in terms of information access, governance and exit, among other parameters," Mahavir Lunawat, managing director, Pan-

tomath Capital Advisors, said.

"When such start-ups pursue public listing, special rights are required to be foregone by investors, which could become a stumbling block. Listing mechanism could, therefore, encourage continuity of special rights as to governance etc., which do not potentially jeopardise the overall common rights," Mr. Lunawat added.

Last month, SEBI tweaked the norms for the technology start-up platform. Apart from renaming the segment, it relaxed various regulatory requirements.

The regulator has also done away with the 25% cap on post-issue holding by any person individually or collectively with persons acting in concert.



Indra Nooyi

ing a role in the selection of a nominee," the report said.

The report said the decision-making process for the top post at the Bank is "in its initial stages and early front-runners... often fall off the radar, or withdraw from consideration, before the President (Donald Trump) makes his ultimate pick."

'Nooyi being considered to lead World Bank'

Ivanka floats name of India-born exec

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW YORK

Indra Nooyi is among the candidates being considered by the White House to head the World Bank after the India-born former PepsiCo CEO's name was floated by Ivanka Trump, the U.S. President's influential daughter, The New York Times reported.

The Bank's current president Jim Yong Kim had earlier this month announced that he would quit his post in February.

Ms. Nooyi, 63, stepped down as PepsiCo's chief last year after leading the company for 12 years. She "has been courted as an administration ally by Ivanka Trump, the president's eldest daughter who is play-

Don't dilute e-commerce FDI rules, traders' body tells government

To accede to their demand not good for trading community

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Confederation of Indian Traders on Wednesday urged the government not to heed to the demands by e-commerce companies and agencies from the U.S. to water down or delay the implementation of the recently-announced foreign direct investment (FDI) rules in e-commerce.

"As a body that represents seven crore small businesses and 40,000 trade federation, we strongly oppose any changes," Praveen Khandelwal, national general secretary of CAIT, said at a press conference. "To accede to their demand is not good for the trading community."

This comes against the background of reports of intense lobbying by the e-commerce companies to ensure that the FDI rules are amended. The rules mandate that no entity in which an e-commerce company has stake can sell its wares on that e-commerce company's portal.

Any vendor who receives 25% or more of its inputs from an e-commerce group company cannot sell on that e-commerce portal. These rules, which are to be implemented from February 1, are expected to adversely impact Flipkart and Amazon, who have considerable stake in vendors operating on their respective platforms.

Mr. Khandelwal said that any move to dilute the rules or push back the implementation date would be met with stiff resistance from the trading community and also a nationwide agitation to protest this.

The CAIT also called for the implementation of these FDI norms to apply to domestic players as well in order to ensure a level-playing field and promote competition.

'Hamara Bajaj' to remain within family

Promoters carve out family pact to ensure smooth succession, clear ownership

PIYUSH PANDEY
MUMBAI

The Bajaj Group has carved out a confidential family settlement agreement (FSA), by virtue of which control of the 93-year old diversified business conglomerate will remain within the family.

The family accord was signed by Bajaj Group chairman Rahul Bajaj along with his cousins, Shekhar, Madhur and Niraj, all directors in the Bajaj Group. The idea is to ensure smooth functioning of group companies as it elaborates on issues relating to succession, ownership and conflict resolution.

The Group, started by freedom fighter Jamnalal Bajaj in 1926, and among the large business families that has stuck together for four generations, is making way



for the fifth generation to take over the reins.

Confirming the development, Niraj Bajaj, director of Bajaj Group, told *The Hindu*: "It's a confidential document so I can't talk in detail about it. It's like in any family business, to provide clarity with understanding of the future, [of] how a family works together.

"We are a joint family, and

the fourth generation has already come into the business. We want the joint family to continue as long as possible. Nobody knows the future; today, touchwood, everything is going very well. We needed clarity on future so whatever we can foresee today is put up in the family settlement agreement."

'Value' systems

"It's like a business group, owned by the joint family where brothers, cousins, uncles and nephews are involved. How will we work together, how the group stays together and how to preserve the value system... It contains lots of specifics,"

Mr. Bajaj added, without elaborating on who gets what within the family.

The Bajaj Group has 34 companies with market capitalisation of about ₹3.7 lakh crore. In the Group, Bajaj Auto, Bajaj Finance and Bajaj Electricals are the major listed entities.

When asked if the settlement agreement was to ensure that the family retained control of the Group, Mr. Bajaj said: "Yes, of course it has certain core group shares of companies that can't go to outsiders. It has to remain within the family."

"If someone wants to leave the family, it has to be with everybody's approval. It's a legal document and the idea is to keep the family strongly bonded like we are today. The spirit of the joint family should continue for the fifth generation and sixth generation, and beyond."

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

S.No	Name of Work	Amount
1.	180/D(H)/DD(H)-I/2018-19, 33th Noida Flower Show Sector-21A Stadium 2019 (Sub Head Tent)	Cost- ₹ 7.65 Lacs
2.	181/D(H)/DD(H)-I/2018-19, 33th Noida Flower Show Sector-21A Stadium 2019 (Sub Head Octonum).	Cost- ₹ 5.15 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 23.01.2019 upto 5.00PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 24.01.2019 at 11.00AM.

Director (Hort.)
Office: Sector-39, Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Name of work : Modification work of AC units, Lights and provision of new 10 KVA Inverter in Non-AC Inspection Carriage. Tender No. : 30-Elect-6-TR2-Chg-2018-19. Approx cost of the work in (Rs.) : Rs. 76,555.79. Cost of tender form : Rs. 5,900/- Address of the Office : Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/Cng/Northern Railway, New Delhi. Earnest Money : Rs. 1,53,600/- Period of completion of work : 06 Months. Last Date & time of submission of tender : 19.02.2019 up to 15.00 hrs. And Opening of tender : 19.02.2019 at 15.01 hrs. Website & notice board : www.reps.gov.in & Sr. DEE/Cng/DLI. 97/2019 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

BM-PK DIVISION, CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

ROOM NO. 1615, 16TH FLOOR, PALIKI KENDRA, NEW DELHI

e-TENDERING NOTICE

Tender ID No. 2019_NDMC_165909_1

Name of Work: Improvement to Convention centre Building.

Sub-Head: Providing & Fixing Vinyl flooring in auditorium of 300 capacity.

Estimated cost : ₹7,75,656/-

Tender ID No. 2019_NDMC_165901_1

Name of Work: A/R & M/O building in BM-PK Division during 2018-19.

Sub-Head: A/R & M/O of quarters of Palika Kunj Housing Complex at Aliganj.

Estimated cost : ₹6,28,774/-

Tender ID No. 2019_NDMC_165916_1

Name of Work: A/R & M/O Building in BM-PK Division during 2018-19.

Sub-Head: Distempering painting and other repair/renovatin works in 85 Type-I quarters of Multistorey Housing Complex at Aliganj.

Estimated cost : ₹7,84,801/-

Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution : 15.01.2019

Date and time for pre-bid meeting is : N.A.

Last date/time for receipt of tender through e-procurement solution : 28.01.2019 upto 4:00 P.M.

Further details can be seen at <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in/niccpd> & www.ndmc.gov.in (e-Tendering System Government of NCT of Delhi).

Note: To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with e Tendering System Government of NCT of Delhi is mandatory.

The tender shall be read only through e-Procurement procedure and this supersedes all conditions of NIT for issue/receipt of tender in normal tendering process for the purpose.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (BM-PK)

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

मंत्रक नियंत्रक का कार्यालय, प्रवेतन निदेशालय, हैदराबाद जोनल कार्यालय

OFFICE OF THE JOINT DIRECTOR, ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE, HYDERABAD ZONAL OFFICE

वीसी नल, वाहर बाहन, वरीबांध, हैदराबाद - 500044

3rd floor, Shakar Bhanw, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad-500 004

Phone No. 040-2321 4726 / 2321 5105 Fax No. 040-2321 4620

File No. SLP(Crl) No. 4189/2018 Date : 15-01-2019

NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT TO SHOW CAUSE

[SCR, Order XXII]

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

PETITION FOR SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRIMINAL) No. 4189 of 2018

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT ...Petitioner(s)/Appellant(s)

VERSUS ...Petitioner(s)/Appellant(s)

ASHOK KUMAR JAIN AND ANOTHER ...Respondent(s)

To,

1. ASHOK KUMAR JAIN S/O LATE CHANDRA BHUSHANAM, PID: 31515/2018 FOR R(1) (SEC-II)

R/D-2, 2325 VASANTH KUNJ (SLP(CRL)No.4189/2018)</p

Kohli terms Dhoni's knock as 'classic'

The skipper's 39th ODI century helps India draw level

OZ CHALLENGE

IANS, ANI
ADELAIDE

Calling it an "MS classic", India captain Virat Kohli on Tuesday firmly put his weight behind the under-fire former skipper, saying he would definitely be part of the team going ahead.

Dhoni cracked an unbeaten 55 off 54 balls to guide India to a series-levelling six-wicket victory over Australia in the second ODI. Kohli had laid the foundation with a fluent 104, his 39th ODI century.

Backs himself

"There is no doubt that he should be a part of this team. Tonight was MS classic. He calculates the game so well. He takes the game till the end, when only he knows what's going on in his mind, and he backs himself to hit those big shots at the end," Kohli said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

Kohli also praised seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar for his crucial blows at the death. "We wanted to try and restrict them in the end. I thought they were going to get away from us when Maxy [Glenn Maxwell] and Shaun [Marsh] were in. Getting

them in two balls was brilliant."

Meanwhile, the Indian skipper has shared his vision for the Indian team.

"I wouldn't say goal but I would rather speak of a vision, which is for India to be a superpower in Test cricket or a very, very strong side in Test cricket in the years to come," Kohli was quoted as saying by Star Sports.

For the third time in a row, Kohli scored his first century of the year on January 15

- 2017: 122 vs England, Pune ODI
- 2018: 153 vs South Africa, Centurion Test
- 2019: 104 vs Australia, Adelaide ODI

SCOREBOARD AUSTRALIA VS INDIA, SECOND ODI

Australia: A. Carey c Dhawan b Shami 18 (27b, 2x4), A. Finch b Bhuvneshwar 6 (19b), U. Khawaja run out 21 (23b, 3x4), S. Marsh c Jadeja b Bhuvneshwar 131 (123b, 11x4, 3x6), P. Handscomb st Dhoni b Jadeja 20 (22b, 2x4), M. Stoinis c Dhoni b Shami 29 (36b, 3x4), G. Maxwell c Karthik b Bhuvneshwar 48 (37b, 5x4, 1x6), J. Richardson c Dhawan b Shami 2 (6b), N. Lyon (not out) 12 (5b, 1x4, 1x6), P. Siddle c Kohli b Bhuvneshwar 0 (1b), T. Behrendorff (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (lb-4, w-7): 16; Total (for four wkts. in 49.2 overs): 299.

Fall of wickets: 1-47 (Dhawan, 7.4), 2-101 (Rohit, 17.5), 3-160 (Rayudu, 30.4), 4-242 (Kohli, 43.4).

Australia bowling: Behrendorff 8.2-1-52-1, Richardson 10-0-59-1, Siddle 8-0-58-0, Lyon 10-0-59-0, Stoinis 9-0-46-1, Maxwell 4-0-16-1.

Toss: Australia.

Man-of-the-match: Kohli.

India won by six wickets to level the three-match series 1-1.

Final ODI: Jan. 18, Melbourne 7.50 a.m. (IST)

India bowling: Bhuvneshwar 10-0-45-4, Shami 10-0-58-3, Siraj 10-0-76-0, Kuldeep 10-0-

66-0, Jadeja 10-1-49-1.

India: Rohit c Handscomb b Stoinis 43 (52b, 2x4, 2x6), S. Dhawan c Khawaja b Behrendorff 32 (28b, 5x4), V. Kohli c Maxwell b Richardson 104 (112b, 5x4, 2x6), A. Rayudu c Stoinis b Maxwell 24 (36b, 2x4), M.S. Dhoni (not out) 55 (54b, 2x6), D. Karthik (not out) 25 (14b, 2x4); Extras (lb-9, w-7): 16; Total (for four wkts. in 49.2 overs): 299.

Fall of wickets: 1-47 (Dhawan, 7.4), 2-101 (Rohit, 17.5), 3-160 (Rayudu, 30.4), 4-242 (Kohli, 43.4).

Australia bowling: Behrendorff 8.2-1-52-1, Richardson 10-0-59-1, Siddle 8-0-58-0, Lyon 10-0-59-0, Stoinis 9-0-46-1, Maxwell 4-0-16-1.

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Captain's knock: Virat Kohli paced his innings brilliantly to put India on the victory path in the second one-dayer. ■ DANIEL KALISZ/GETTY IMAGES

Players brought the game into disrepute, so did the CoA and the BCCI



BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

struct, and the one sphere of activity where we seek perfection. Whether in a cover drive or a backhand down-the-line. Or in player behaviour. The very artificiality of sport allows us to inject it with a greater moral purpose.

Crass confessions

I caught the *Coffee with Karan* episode on YouTube. It was crass, insensitive and misogynistic. Hardik Pandya came across as an illiterate (by his own admission), woman-hater who represented the culture of entitlement and toxic masculinity that afflicts male sports teams.

His friend Lokesh Rahul – whose parents discovered a condom among his belongings when he was 18 – played the wingman. Giggling, endorsing, adding masala, and suggesting he was cool too. He wasn't nearly as obnoxious, even if his definition of "cool" reeked of sexual callousness.

I have heard the 'boys will be boys' argument to defend the two players. That is repugnant too. In her book *Night Games: Sex, Power and a Journey into the Dark Heart of Sport*, the Australian writer Anna Krien says,

"Treating women like shit shades into a culture of abuse, which in turn can shade into rape." It is a continuum which can be snapped early if authorities are alert.

Back in 1991, after Magic Johnson revealed he had been diagnosed with the HIV virus, and also threw out the

information that he had slept with 20,000 women, the NBA strengthened its programme to educate rookies (the Rookie Transition Program was established in 1986).

More recently an NBA official was quoted as saying, "We're simply trying to remove the excuse that a guy would ever say 'nobody told me that.' We're trying to tell you and then give you the resources and support and guidance you need to really have a successful and prosperous career."

Failure to learn from best practices

If the BCCI had the sense to learn from the best practices in other sports, such a programme would have been well established in India by now. The lack of a mentoring system has been a lacuna for years. The lack of a players' association that looked after the genuine interests of players, ditto.

"I didn't know" can never be an excuse, legally or morally. It says something about Pandya's upbringing that his parents said "Wah! Wah!" when he pointed out the women he had slept with, to say nothing of Pandya returning home with a crude confession about having lost his virginity. His parents were impressed then too. What kind of parents are these? Is Hardik alone to blame for growing up in a culture that treats women as objects?

Pandya and Rahul deserve to be

punished even if it was "entrapment" by a television show looking for TRP ratings. A ban for two matches and a recall to India in the middle of a series would have sent the message to them and to others. A quick reaction from the BCCI, a plan in place for future NBA-like transition groups (for newcomers at lower levels) and it would have been a job well done.

Instead we have the drama of a proposed ombudsman, yet another public spat between the two members of the CoA, and another divisive battle in the administration. Suddenly, it is no longer about Pandya and Rahul. It is about Vinod Rai and Diana Edulji, and the BCCI's attempts to muddy the waters further. To use the shoulders of the young players to fire on is shameful. And brings the game into disrepute too.

How do we deal with administrators who act thus? Not even at their undemocratic worst has the cricket administration appeared so absurd, so wrapped up in individual egos and so eager to make every incident part of an ongoing battle.

The administration (which is a combination of the letters, BCCI and CoA) must resist the bureaucratic solution to ban all players from all television shows. That would be dealing with the symptom while the malaise remains untouched. Instead, remove the excuse that a guy would ever say "nobody told me that."

Gukesh is youngest Indian GM

Breaks Praggnanandhaa's record; he is the country's 59th

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

After running out of time in his desperate bid to break the long-standing record of Sergey Karjakin of being the world's youngest chess Grandmaster, D. Gukesh completed the formalities to be the sport's youngest GM, at present.

On the auspicious day of Pongal, the 12-year-old defeated Dinesh Sharma in the ninth round of the Delhi International Open GMs chess tournament for his third and final GM norm.

The country's 59th GM is also the youngest after breaking the record of statemate R. Praggnanandhaa set in June last year.

Gukesh reached the landmark at the age of 12 years, seven months and 17 days while Praggnanandhaa did it in 12 years, 10 months and 13 days.

Karjakin's record, set in 2002, stays intact at 12 years and seven months.

On the all-time list of youngest GMs, Gukesh now holds the second place. Parimarjan Negi, in 2006, and Praggnanandhaa last year, also held similar distinction.

Five years after taking the sport, the 2006-born Gukesh became an International Master in March last year.



D. Gukesh.
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

took live rating past the stipulated 2500-mark in the recently-concluded event in Mumbai.

Initially coached by M.S. Bhaskar, Gukesh has since trained under several others. Son of an ENT specialist Dr. Rajnikant and Dr. Padma Kumari, Gukesh was quick to acknowledge the contributions of his trainers Vijay Anand, GM in-waiting and Commonwealth champion P. Karthikeyan and his present coach GM Vishnu Prasanna. He added the name of his mental-trainer Krishna Prasad to the list.

After her son's record-making feat, Padma praised her husband for devoting "365 days a year for Gukesh's chess". She said: "He sacrificed his career for Gukesh and remains his pillar of support. For the past five years, he has spent all his time planning every tournament for Gukesh, booking his tickets and room. He only thinks of Gukesh's chess. So the whole credit should go to my husband."

With young turks like Praggnanandhaa, Nihal Sarin and Gukesh, among others, making the chess world sit up and take note, the future of Indian chess looks very bright.

Vidit closer to sharing the lead

SPORTS BUREAU
WILK ANN ZEE
Vidit Gujarati appeared well poised to beat Russia's Vladimir Fedoseev and join Ian Nepomniachtchi and Ding Liren in the lead at 3.5 points after five rounds of the Tata Steel Masters chess tournament here on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Viswanathan Anand drew with Anish Giri to reach three points. Magnus Carlsen joined the duo following his first win of the tournament.

In the Challengers section, R. Praggnanandhaa drew with Iran's Parham Maghsoudloo to reach two points.

The results:
Fifth round: Anish Giri (Ned, 3) drew with Viswanathan Anand (3); Ian Nepomniachtchi (Rus, 3.5) drew with Richard Rapport (Hun, 2); Samuel Shankland (USA, 2) lost to Ding Liren (Chn, 3.5); Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 1) lost to Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 3); Teimour Radjabov (Aze, 2.5) drew with Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Pol, 2.5).

Federer and Nadal stay on course even as Anderson falls to Tiafoe

Sharapova sets up Wozniacki showdown in the third round; Djokovic and Serena start campaign with facile wins



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MELBOURNE

Roger Federer ground out a tough three-set win to make the Australian Open third round for an incredible 20th straight year on Wednesday, with long-time rival Rafael Nadal also safely through in his drive towards an 18th Grand Slam title.

Women's defending champion Caroline Wozniacki also progressed to set up a mouth-watering clash next with in-form former World No. 1 Maria Sharapova, while second seed Angelique Kerber, the 2016 winner, made the grade.

But it was curtains for South African Kevin Anderson, who slumped out to young American Frances Tiafoe 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 and became the highest seed, at five, to be sent packing so far.



Hard-fought: Roger Federer had to dig deep against Daniel Evans in his second match. ■ AFP

Federer might be 37 but he's not showing his age, with British qualifier Dan Evans the latest to fall under his spell as he works towards a third successive Australian crown and 21st Major victory.

He defeated Evans at



Wimbledon last year with the loss of just eight games, but it was a much harder assignment this time, winning 7-6(5), 7-6(3), 6-3 on Rod Laver Arena.

"I think if I could have pulled away earlier in the match it might have been ea-

IMPORTANT RESULTS

MEN

Second round: 14-Stefanos Tsitsipas (Gre) bt Viktor Troicki (Srb) 6-3, 2-6, 6-2, 7-5; 19-Nikoloz Basilashvili (Geo) bt Stefano Travaglia (Ita) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3; 18-Diego Schwartzman (Arg) bt Denis Kudla (USA) 6-4, 7-5, 3-6, 6-7 (6), 6-4; 6-Marin Cilic (Cro) bt Mackenzie McDonald (USA) 7-5, 6-7(9), 6-4, 6-4; Frances Tiafoe (USA) bt 5-Kevin Anderson (RSA) 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 7-5; 26-Fernando Verdasco (Esp) bt Radu Albot (Mda) 6-1, 7-6(2), 6-3; 10-Karen Khachanov (Rus) bt Yoshihito Nishioka (Jpn) 6-3, 6-3, 6-3; 3-Roger Federer (Sui) bt Daniel Evans (GBR) 7-6(5), 7-6(3), 6-3; 27-Taylor Fritz (USA) bt 30-Gael Monfils (Fra) 6-3, 6-7 (8), 7-6(6), 7-6(5); 22-Roberto Bautista Agut (Esp) bt John Millman (Aus) 6-3, 6-1, 3-6, 6-7 (6), 6-4; 20-Grigor Dimitrov (Bul) bt Pablo Cuevas (Uru) 6-3, 6-7(5), 6-3, 7-5; 27-Alex de Min-

aur (Aus) bt Henri Laaksonen (Sui) 6-4, 6-2, 6-7(7), 4-6, 6-3; 2-Rafael Nadal (Esp) bt Matthew Ebden (Aus) 6-3, 6-2, 6-2. **Tuesday, First round:** 1-Novak Djokovic (Srb) bt Mitchell Krueger (USA) 6-3, 6-2, 6-2; 15-Daniil Medvedev (Rus) bt Lloyd Harris (RSA) 6-1, 6-2, 6-1; 12-Fabiano Fognini (Ita) bt Jaume Munar (Esp) 7-6(3), 7-6(7), 3-1 ret'd.; 8-Kei Nishikori (Jpn) bt Kamil Majchrzak (Pol) 3-6, 6-7 (6), 6-0, 6-2, 3-0 ret'd.; 4-Alexander Zverev (Ger) bt Aljaz Bedene (Slo) 6-4, 6-1, 6-4; 11-Borna Coric (Cro) bt Steve Darcis (Bel) 6-1, 6-4, 6-4; 7-Dominic Thiem (Aut) bt Benoit Paire (Fra) 6-4, 6-3

Harendra breaks his silence

Says allegations that he lacked 'skills' and strategising ability hurt him the most

HOCKEY

UTHRA GANESAN

NEW DELHI

Ever since news came out of men's chief coach Harendra Singh being 'demoted' to coach of the junior Indian hockey team, there have been allegations and counter-allegations on the decision.

On Thursday, the man himself broke his silence, speaking to *The Hindu* for the first time on a variety of issues and expressing his disappointment at the sequence of events. Excerpts:

A lot is being said about the team's performance and your own role in the last few months. Your take.

Honestly, I am not surprised or angry, I am only disappointed with the way it panned out. Ideally, the federation could have called me during the High Performance Committee meeting, asked me what I had to say and then if they wanted they could have simply said 'we are not keen on continuing with your services'.

On my first day in charge I told the boys, 'the countdown to my days as coach has begun. Coaches like me will keep coming and going but my only target is to go out with some achievement. Our targets have to be high, we cannot be satisfied with whatever we get and move on.' I also said that all the 24-25 coaches in the last 20 years were not bad so the players also now have to take the onus and be stakeholders for results and performance.

Hockey India has claimed



Strong denial: Harendra Singh has reiterated that the team followed what was decided in the dressing room and meetings, and that no player acted or played an individual game. ■ AP

you lack the skills or strategising ability at the highest level and are unable to enforce discipline in the team.

This is what has hurt me most. You have put a black spot on my 19 years of coaching and cited my strengths and USP as my drawback! This is also one of the reasons I was forced to send a point-by-point rebuttal to the decision.

If I accept this statement today then the four people who decided this – people who have either never been a coach or if they did, have not achieved anything – have questioned my very existence as a coach.

Discipline, absence of regionalism and groupism, awareness of modern tech-

niques and skills and strategy are areas I am proud of and no one can point a finger at me on these aspects.

It is being alleged that Indian coaches cannot handle Indian players and you could not handle the team well.

I don't agree. The entire team followed in all games what was decided in the dressing room and meetings. No player acted or played an individual game.

I deny this charge completely. As the chief coach, I am proud they did what was decided.

As for last minute errors, that is part of decision-making, not indiscipline and that comes from education. Education is not what we study in text books – it includes socialising, your surroundings

and their involvement in decision-making process. I have repeatedly stressed on these.

What would you say on the charge that groups were forming in the side?

Baseless. Entire Hockey India was present during the World Cup. The media would be present at all training sessions. Did anyone notice anything? I am not always right, maybe I missed it.

But people from the HPC were also there – R.P. Singh, B.P. Govinda – if anyone felt this at any point, why did no one point it out?

Why did no one say, 'Harendra, we have to talk about this?' There can be any number of allegations to justify a decision without proof.

Panstulaia tops seven-way tie for title

DELHI OPEN

RAKESH RAO

NEW DELHI

It took Georgia's Levan Pantulaia just 13 moves to draw his top-table game against S.L. Narayanan but he had to wait for over six hours to know his fate. With the next six boards producing decisive results, there was a seven-way tie for the title at eight points from 10 rounds.

Eventually, when the tie-break rules were applied, Pantulaia managed to pip young Iranian contender Masoud Mosadeghpour on Sonneborn-Berger (SB) score by just 0.25 points for the top prize of ₹6 lakh in the Delhi International Open Grandmasters chess tournament here on Wednesday.

Even the third and fourth prizes were claimed by overseas GMs, Belarus' Kirill Stupak and Tajikistan's Farrukh Amonatov. Diptayan Ghosh, Abhijeet Gupta and Narayanan filled the fifth to seventh spots.

The Category 'C', for those rated under 1500, Bi-



Winner: Levan Pantulaia poses with his reward. ■ RAKESH RAO

har's Bir Kumar took the honours with 9.5 points. Nishchay Sharma (MP) and R. Rishi (TN) came second and third following a five-way tie for the runner-up spot at nine points.

Leading 10th round results (Indians unless stated): S.L. Narayanan (8) drew with Levan Pantulaia (Geo, 8); Farrukh Amonatov (Tjk, 8) bt N.R. Visakh (7); Abhijeet Gupta (8) bt D. Gukesh (7); Masoud Mosa-

dehpour (Irl, 8) bt E. Arjun (7); Diptayan Ghosh (8) bt C. Praveen Kumar (7); Karen Movsisyan (Arm, 7) lost to Kirill Stupak (8); Swapnil Dhopade (7.5) drew with Tran Tuan Minh (Vie, 8).

Final standings (top-7, with prize-money in ₹): Pantulaia (6 lakh), Mosadeghpour (5 lakh), Stupak (4 lakh), Amonatov (3 lakh), Diptayan (2 lakh), Abhijeet (1.50 lakh) and S.L. Narayanan (1 lakh) (8 points each).

Visakh becomes GM

RAKESH RAO

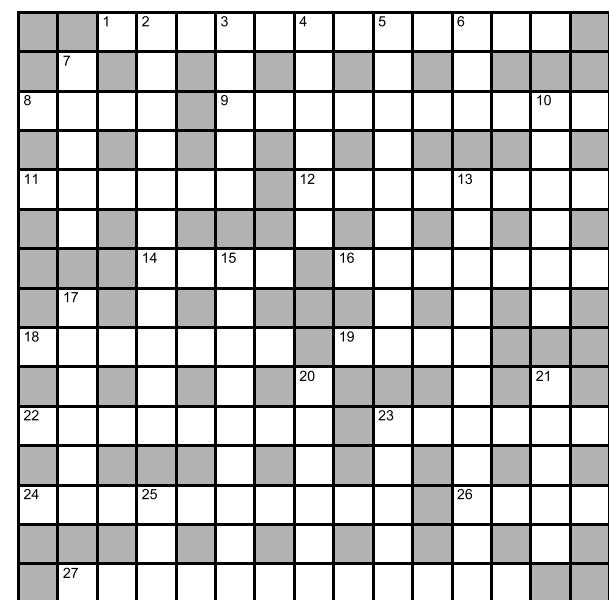
NEW DELHI

N.R. Visakh joined the country's list of Grandmasters by completing his final GM-norm in the ninth round here on Tuesday. Visakh completed the stipulation to become country's 59th GM following a draw with Diptayan Ghosh.

Visakh, who will turn 20 in April, made his maiden GM norm in the Czech Open in 2016 and got his second in the Turkish League last year. He met the rating regulation of 2500 earlier this month in Mumbai. Four other players – Neelash Saha, Aditya Mittal, Saurabh Anand and Bharat Kumar Reddy – made International Master norms while B. Mounika Akshaya made her maiden Woman International Master norm on Wednesday.

Final standings (top-7, with prize-money in ₹): Pantulaia (6 lakh), Mosadeghpour (5 lakh), Stupak (4 lakh), Amonatov (3 lakh), Diptayan (2 lakh), Abhijeet (1.50 lakh) and S.L. Narayanan (1 lakh) (8 points each).

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12525



ACROSS

- 1 Variety in clueing often is bending and bowing (12)
- 8 Most of publisher's book description is smear (4)
- 9 Discover heavenly body with green light right away (4,2,4)
- 11 Up-to-date comedian a success (4-2)

(set by Buzzer)

- 12 Crazy about sell-off they have nothing in their possession (4,4)
- 14 Attributes of born-again Indian (4)
- 16 English cricketer won good contest after batting with only tail (1,1,5)
- 18 Sound from TV describing catch (7)
- 19 Foolish one dropping off in jacket (4)
- 22 Custom length, about right for mini vehicle (5,3)
- 23 Settling on a loveless endless routine (2,1,3)
- 24 Bowled with urgency finding an edge to dismiss (5,5)
- 26 Unit showing resistance to the end, hardly that's a surprise (2,2)
- 27 Those with ticks kept at arm's length? (5,7)

■ DOWN

- 2 Elements of fear, then war engulfing Terracotta? (11)
- 3 Oh no, uncouth and rough (5)

Semper Fidelis claims Lingapur Cup

HYDERABAD: Semper Fidelis (Akshay Kumar) won the Lingapur Cup, the feature event of the extra day's races here on Wednesday (Jan. 16). The Arjun Anne-trained winner is owned by Lt. Col. A.R. Raju M/S. G. Narsing Rao, Sreeramulu Bommisetti & G. Raghunandan Chary. Trainer: A. Vatsalya.

Prakash) 4, 2, 1-1/4 and shd. Im, 12.45s, ₹9 (w), 5, 8 and 46 (p), SHP: 22, FP: 51, Q: 44, Tha: 1,214. Favourite: Top Link. Owners: Mr. Mir Firasath Ali Khan, Mrs. Bindu Laxman Singh & Mr. Mir Saqafath Ali Khan. Trainer: Lakman Singh.

5 HOVERCRAFT PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 30 (Cat. III): LOVE MACHINE (Deepak Singh) 1, Shivalik Sand (Rohit Kumar) 2, Run Runner Run (Afroz Khan) 3 and Adoria (Surya Prakash) 4. Dist, nk and 1/4, Im, 13.37s, ₹9 (w), 5, 13 and 15 (p), SHP: 46, FP: 103, Q: 72, Tha: 959. Favourite: Love Machine. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: D. Netto.

6 ADLER PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), 5-y-o & over, rated upto 26 to 46 (Cat. III): TAKE A BOW (Jitendra Singh) 1, Withdrawn.

CORAL GABLES CUP (1,600m),

3 4-y-o & over (not won a race since Nov. 1, 2018), rated 42 to 62 (Cat. II): KING MAKER (Tanwar) 1, The Special One (Akshay Kumar) 2, Golden Fortune (Nakhat Singh) 3 and Euro Zone (C.P. Bopanna) 4, 1/4, 2 and 1/2, Im, 39.60s, ₹26 (w), 9 and 7 (p), SHP: 16, FP: 115, Q: 38, Tha: 184. Favourite: Golden Fortune. Owner: Mr. N. Prashant Reddy. Trainer: Deshmukh.

7 SUNNY BLOSSOM PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), 5-y-o & over, rated 26 to 46 (Cat. II): HEAVEN CAN WAIT (Afroz Khan) 1, Ispanah (Gaddam) 2, Moon Walker (Na-

khata Singh) 3 and Vijay's Empress (Rohit Kumar) 4, 1/2, nk and 3/4, Im, 13.86s, ₹53 (w), 14, 9 and 19 (p), SHP: 22, FP: 51, Q: 44, Tha: 1,214. Favourite: Top Link. Owners: Mr. Mir Firasath Ali Khan, Mrs. Bindu Laxman Singh & Mr. Mir Saqafath Ali Khan. Trainer: Lakman Singh.

8 HOVERCRAFT PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 30 (Cat. III): SOUTHERN MET-EON (Gaurav Singh) 1, Dance All Night (Rohit Kumar) 2, Top Singer (Md. Ismail) 3 and Cannon Gift (N. Rawal) 4, 3-1/4, 1 and 1/2, Im, 14.91s, ₹17 (w), 6, 10 and 11 (p), SHP: 28, FP: 113, Q: 59, Tha: 763. Favourite: Triumph Boy. Owner: Mr. Chandrasekhar Reddy Calluri. Trainer: Ravinder Singh.

9 LINGAPUR CUP (1,400m), 4-

y-o & over, rated 58 to 78 (Cat. II): SEMPER FIDELIS (Akshay Kumar) 1, Super Dart (Suraj Narreddu)

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Srihari Nataraj rules the pool

The Karnataka youngster bags seven gold medals

KHELO INDIA

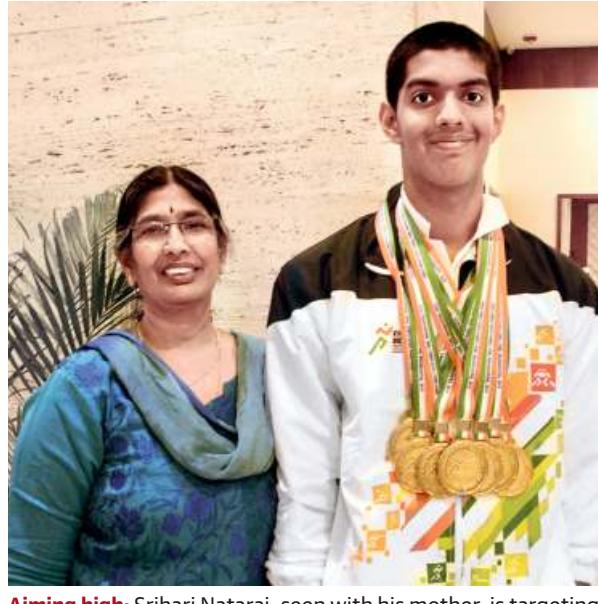
KAMESH SRINIVASAN
PUNE

Srihari Nataraj likes to keep it short, be it in the pool, or in conversation. Yet, when it comes to winning gold medals, he does not hide a strong appetite.

For the thousands of athletes who compete in the Khelo India Youth Games, winning a gold may be a passport to better government support. For Srihari, who has already made an impact in the Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires and the Asian Games in Jakarta, seven gold medals from the Youth Games does not make him feel as if he was in seventh heaven.

In contrast, he wears the medals gently as he physically did on a special request from *The Hindu*.

"I wanted to do 25 seconds here," said Srihari, who punched the water in a bit of disappointment when he saw the time on the clock after the 50m backstroke on



Aiming high: Srihari Nataraj, seen with his mother, is targeting a medal in the 2024 Olympic Games. ■ KAMESH SRINIVASAN

the last day of swimming competitions.

The long wait between the races on the last day had perhaps robbed him of the energy and the intensity of focus, even though he improved on his own best time of 26.19 with 26.16 for the 50m backstroke.

Six golds from the last edition may not have changed his life much, and Srihari continues with his bid to improve his timings even as he tries to find a balance for studies.

"I will prepare for the Board exams now, and then get ready to qualify and com-

pete in the World Championship," said Srihari, who wound up the proceedings in the pool with the 100m freestyle gold.

For his long-term goal, Srihari does not hesitate to say, "to win a medal in the 2024 Olympics".

That may sound far fetched at the moment, but Srihari will not spare anything in his capacity to live that dream.

Five individual and two relay golds from Srihari helped Karnataka top the medals table with 21 gold, 17 silver and 13 bronze. Delhi followed with 19 gold, 13 silver and 16 bronze. Host Maharashtra was pushed to the third place with 18 gold, 14 silver and 10 bronze, ahead of Tamil Nadu, which had seven gold, 12 silver and six bronze.

Delhi won the under-17 team championship with 242 points, ahead of Karnataka (201) and Maharashtra (145). Host Maharashtra topped the u-21 section with 192 points, ahead of Karnataka (187) and Delhi (108).

Qualification topper Ay-

Garcha claims skeet gold

SHOOTING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

Gurnihal Singh Garcha accelerated to the finish brilliantly in the men's skeet gold, as the shooting competition ended, in the Khelo India Youth Games at the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Balewadi, on Wednesday.

Gurnihal who is guided by his father Gurinder, shot the last 30 birds straight in the 60-shot final to win the gold with 56 points.

Anantjeet Singh Naruka had the lead at the half way stage, but was not at his best in the second half of the final, and thus was four short than the eventual champion.

It was a brave performance by Gurnihal, especially after he had shot 17 out of 25 in the second round, on way to a modest qualification score of 111.

Not expecting to do this well to bag the gold, Darshna Rathore overcame a strong field to bag the gold, and expressed her joy.

In women's skeet, Darshna Rathore 49 (108); 2. Simranpreet Kaur Johal 44-44,



Atop the podium: Anantjeet Singh Naruka, skeet champion Gurnihal Singh Garcha and Abhay Singh Sekhon. ■ KAMESH SRINIVASAN

was spontaneous in thanking the government for "giving us such a platform to perform", apart from the coaches Saumyadev Singh and Ennio Falco for the guidance.

In the women's rifle 3-position event, G. Varsha shot a strong final to bag the gold,

after qualifying for the final in the fourth place with 1141. She won the gold with 447.1 points ahead of Shirin Godara and Ayushi Podder.

A Masters student of commerce, Varsha revealed that her graduation in psychology had helped her handle many aspects very well and develop a better personality.

The results:
50m rifle 3-position: Women under-21: 1. G. Varsha 447.1 (1141); 2. Shirin Godara 443.3 (1148); 3. Ayushi Podder 432.8 (1145).

Air pistol mixed team: 1. Haryana (Anmol Jain, Priya Raghav) 464.9 (759); 2. Telangana (Esha Singh, Md. Zainulabedin) 461.8 (759); 3. Punjab (Arjun Singh Cheema, Pardeep Kaur Sidhu) 394.7 (741).

Skeet: Men under-21: 1. Gurnihal Singh Garcha 56 (111); 2. Anantjeet Singh Naruka 52 (112); 3. Abhay Singh Sekhon 41 (108).

Women under-21: 1. Darshna Rathore 49 (108); 2. Simranpreet Kaur Johal 44 (105); 3. Pooja Vishwakarma 37 (101).

Mahak and Mihika make the final

TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

Two-time national women's tennis champion, 17-year-old Mahak Jain took another step forward as she beat Zeel Desai 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 in the under-21 women's tennis semifinals of the Khelo India Youth Games at the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Pune on Wednesday.

Playing with determina-

tion, the diminutive Mahak overcame a 2-4 deficit in the first set, and bounced back from being down an early break in the decider to make the final.

Zeel who has slipped in rank in the international circuit, was a bit tentative and lacked the confidence even though she fought well in the decider.

In the final, top seed Mahak will be challenged by the former Asian junior champion Mihika Yadav.

In the men's under-17 section, Aryaan Bhatia gave a lot to cheer for host Maharashtra as he pipped top seed Sushant Dabas in three sets on the centre court, which had recently hosted the ATP Maharashtra Open.

The results: Men: Under-21 (quarterfinals): Dhruv Unish bt Ishaque Eqlab 6-4, 4-6, 6-3; Paramveer Singh Bajwa bt Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam 6-7(6), 7-5, 6-3; Manish Sureshkumar bt Sar Karthick Ganta 6-1, 2-0 (retired); Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Faisal Qa-

mar 6-1, 6-3.

Under-17 (semifinals): Aryaan Bhatia bt Sushant Dabas 7-5, 3-6, 6-2; Dev Java bt Krish Patel 4-6, 6-2, 7-6(1).

Women: Under-21 (semifinals):

Mahak Jain bt Zeel Desai 6-4, 2-6, 6-4; Mihika Yadav bt Kavya Sawhney 6-3, 6-3.

Under-17 (quarterfinals): Gargi Pawar bt Anjali Rath 6-2, 6-7 (4), 6-3; Priyanshi Bhandari bt Vanisha Choudhary 6-2, 6-2; Prerna Vichare bt Sruthi Pandithurai 4-6, 6-3, 7-6(5); Lakshmi Sai Reddy bt Sanjana Sirimala 6-2, 2-6, 6-3.

He is the only player in the KIYG to feature in the league

VOLLEYBALL

NANDAKUMAR MARAR
PUNE

M. Ashwin Raj stands taller than the under-21 youth from across the nation assembled at the Balewadi indoor stadium for Khelo India Youth Games' volleyball event.

At 196cm, the 20-year-old has competition from others in terms of height and a few spikers may look down upon him from up above, but fall short when it comes to achievements on court (senior National and Pro Volley-

ball League).

He is the only player in the KIYC to feature in the forthcoming PVL, brushing shoulders with pros in the Chennai Spartans squad.

Ashwin, categorised as an 'universal' in Chennai Spartans as well as his teammates include India international and PVL marquee player G.S. Akhin and Canadian Rudy Vierheoff, both operating as blockers. "Watching them prepare is exciting for younger players," he said and added: "PVL is an opportunity every volleyball player is waiting for."

"I will return to the PVL preparation as soon as the volleyball event in KIYC is over," Ashwin said. He is in the ₹1 lakh bracket in the pro league, as one of the two u-21 players in each squad.

Each of six squads in the league, which kicks-off on February 2 in Kochi, have 12 players, including a maximum of two foreigners and two u-21 Indians to gain exposure.

"Live telecast of matches will popularise the sport and give players recognition in places where volleyball is followed," said the Chennai Spartans player. "People buy tickets to watch live volleyball in Kerala, I am looking forward to touring with the squad."

Supreme Court to hear BCCI issues today

CoA is insisting on elections at the earliest date

VIJAY LOKAPALLY NEW DELHI

The future of the Committee of Administrators (CoA) may well be decided on Thursday when the Supreme Court decides on the status report filed last October against non-compliance by a majority of the State associations.

The CoA has asked for taking away the voting rights from the non-compliant States and also finalise a ti-

meline for the new set of office-bearers of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to take charge.

The matter will be heard by a two-judge bench of Justice S.A. Bobde and A.M. Sapre.

Barring Vidarbha and Assam, none of the associations have reportedly implemented the Supreme Court guideline in toto.

The CoA is insisting on

elections at the earliest date for the administration to be handed over to the BCCI.

New constitution

The CoA has sought the new constitution as the foundation for the administration to take charge.

Most association have objected to the age bar (70 years), cooling off period and the disqualification clause.

A robust BCCI is much-

The associations would be denied voting rights if they don't fall in line.

Funds would also be held back to the errant member.

With the one-day series against Australia coming up in February and the subsequent Indian Premier League (IPL), the CoA is reportedly hoping for things to fall in place.

"A robust BCCI is much-needed for the conduct of

cricket in the country. The matter has been stretched too long and it has impacted the image of the BCCI too.

The (two-member) CoA is also not on the same platform

on many issues and it does not speak well for the administration of the game," said a senior BCCI official.

Hardik, Rahul issue

On the issue of Hardik Pandya and K.L. Rahul and the

quantum of punishment for their comments on women on a TV show, the BCCI official was of the view that the appointment of an Ombudsman as the best way forward.

"There is not much time left for the World Cup and it is important that the matter is decided at the earliest for the players to concentrate on their cricket," the official added.

TV PICKS

Australian Open: Sony Ten 2 & Six (SD & HD), 5.30 a.m. & 1.30 p.m.

NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m.

Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.

Khelo India Youth Games: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) 1.30 p.m.

AFC Asian Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 7 p.m. and Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) 9.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Manu Sawhney named ICC CEO
DUBAI
The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday announced the appointment of Manu Sawhney as its new Chief Executive Officer. Sawhney, the former CEO of Singapore Sports Hub and Managing Director of ESPN Star Sports, will join the organisation next month before formally taking over from David Richardson in July following the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup. ANI

Petr Cech announces retirement
LONDON

Arsenal goalkeeper Petr Cech announced retirement from professional football at the end of the current season. "It has been 20 years since I signed my first professional contract, so it feels like the right time to announce that I will retire," Cech tweeted. ANI

India Open boxing postponed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

prevailing situation in Assam, several countries did not send their entries.

"We had entries from only 10 countries and there was no point holding the event on a small scale," Sachet said.

The BFI had started the event last year with an aim to give international exposure to Indian boxers, who were fielded in various

teams. Boxers from 28 countries had participated in the inaugural edition held in Delhi.

"Now, it is likely to be held in May," said Sachet.

Meanwhile, Mohammed Ali Qamar, the first-ever Indian to win a gold medal in the Commonwealth Games, has replaced Shiv Singh as the chief coach of National women's boxing team.

Saina, Kashyap rally to win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KUALA LUMPUR

Saina Nehwal, P. Kashyap and K. Srikanth entered the second round at the Malaysia Masters on Wednesday. Seeded seventh Saina quelled the challenge of Hong Kong's Joy Xuan Deng 14-21, 21-18, 21-18 in 65 minutes. Kashyap had a tough match against Denmark's Rasmus Gemke before winning 19-21, 21-19, 21-10.

The results (first round): Men: P. Kashyap bt Rasmus Gemke 19-21, 21-19, 21-10; K. Srikanth bt Angus Ka Long NG 21-17, 21-11.

Women: Saina Nehwal bt Joy Xuan Deng (Hk) 21-18, 21-18. **Doubles:** Ashwini Ponnapa & N. Nikki Reddy bt Tszyu Yau NG, Sin Ying Yuen (Hk) 21-16, 22-20.

Mixed doubles: Robin Tabeling & Selena Piek (Ned) bt Pranava Jerry Chopra & Sikki Reddy 21-19, 21-17.

It will be staged at the Dr. Karni Singh Range here from February 23 to 27.

The teams: Men: Air rifle: Dee-

pak Kumar, Ravi Kumar, Divyansh Singh Panwar; 50m rifle

IN BRIEF

**Hugh Grant appeals for return of stolen script**

LONDON Actor Hugh Grant has appealed for the return of a script which was among valuables stolen from his car. The 58-year-old actor took to Twitter, saying, "In the unlikely chance that anyone knows who broke into my car tonight and stole my bag, please try and persuade them to at least return my script. Many weeks worth of notes and ideas." PTI

**Rihanna sues her father over Fenty name**

LOS ANGELES Singer Rihanna is suing her father for trying to exploit her name to further his entertainment business. In a lawsuit, the pop star alleges that her father, Ronald Fenty, is trading on their surname, Fenty, which she made famous, for financial gain, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*. The singer was born Robyn Rihanna Fenty. PTI

'A third of UN staffers reported sexual abuse'

Study takes into account misconduct over two years

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

UNITED NATIONS

A third of United Nations employees have reported experiencing sexual harassment at the world body over the past two years, according to the findings of the first-ever survey on such misconduct released on Tuesday.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told staff in a letter that the study contained "some sobering statistics and evidence of what needs to change" to improve the workplace at the United Nations.

One in three respondents, or 33%, reported at least one instance of sexual harassment in the past two years, but that figure climbed to 38.7% for those who reported some form of sexual harassment during their time at the United Nations.

Offensive jokes, remarks
The most common type of sexual harassment were sexual stories or jokes that were offensive, or offensive remarks about appearance, body or sexual activities.

UN employees were also

**Wake up call:** Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the study contained some sobering statistics. • AFP

targeted for unwelcome attempts to draw them into discussion about sexual matters, offensive gestures and touching, according to the survey carried out by Deloitte in November.

Two out of three harassers were men and one in four were supervisors or managers. Nearly one in 10 harassers were senior leaders, according to the survey.

The survey had a moderately low response rate of 17%, with some 30,364 staff providing answers to a confidential questionnaire online.

In a letter to staff, Mr. Guterres said the survey findings on the prevalence of

sexual harassment were comparable to other organisations, but that the United Nations, which champions equality, dignity and human rights, must set a high standard.

In February, the United Nations launched a 24-hour helpline for staff to report sexual harassment and UN investigators were tasked with addressing all complaints. The head of the UN AIDS agency, Michel Sidibe, last month announced he was stepping down after a review of his management style found that he had enabled a culture of harassment, including sexual harassment, at the UN agency.

Decoding patterns of lion, tiger and leopard attacks on humans

Lion attacks led to more human fatalities than by other species, says study

JYOTI SHELAR

MUMBAI

A recent study published in the *Journal of Applied Ecology* reveals that lion attacks led to more human fatalities, persisted for a longer time and extended over larger areas than tiger or leopard attacks.

The study analysed 908 attacks on humans by these species in India, Nepal, and Tanzania. Researchers said very little is known about the pattern of such attacks and studies like these provide a range of perspectives.

**Face-to-face:** The study revealed that lions attacked more people in areas with recent loss of tree cover. • VIJAY SONEJI

pal between 1979 and 2006.

"Our analysis reveals the typical spatiotemporal patterns of past lion, leopard, and tiger attacks on humans. In future, this technique could be used by relevant agencies to warn local people of risks from further attacks within a certain time and distance following an initial incident by each species," the study stated, adding that the approach can also help identify areas requiring management interventions to address such threats.

According to researcher Shweta Shivakumar, who covered the Himachal Pradesh aspect of the study, the data on the attacks were obtained from the forest department. "We further interviewed the people and also visited the spot of the attack," said Ms. Shivakumar, adding that a space-time scan was carried out by feeding GPS location, date, time and other details of the attacks.

"The findings could provide valuable information to agencies for concentrated conservation efforts in future," she said.

Fasting may help keep age-related diseases at bay

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON Fasting can boost the body's metabolism and help protect against age-related diseases, a study has found.

The circadian clock operates within the body and its organs as intrinsic time-keeping machinery to preserve homeostasis in response to the changing environment.

While food is known to influence clocks in peripheral tissues, it was unclear, until now, how the lack of food influences clock function and ultimately affects the body.

"We discovered fasting influences the circadian clock and fasting-driven cellular responses, which together work to achieve fasting-specific temporal gene regulation," said Paolo Sassone-

Corsi, a professor at University of California, Irvine, in the U.S. "Skeletal muscle, for example, appears to be twice as responsive to fasting as the liver," said Mr. Sassone-Corsi.

The research, published in the journal *Cell Reports*, was conducted using mice, which were subjected to 24-hour periods of fasting.

While fasting, researchers

noted the mice exhibited a reduction in oxygen consumption (VO₂), respiratory exchange ratio (RER), and energy expenditure, all of which were completely abolished by refeeding, which parallels results observed in humans. "The reorganisation of gene regulation by fasting could prime the genome to a more permissive state to anticipate upcoming

food intake and thereby drive a new rhythmic cycle of gene expression," he said.

"In other words, fasting is able to essentially reprogram a variety of cellular responses. Therefore, optimal fasting in a timed manner would be strategic to positively affect cellular functions and ultimately benefiting health and protecting against age-associated diseases."

YouTube bans harmful pranks

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

SAN FRANCISCO

YouTube on Tuesday clarified rules against posting videos of dangerous pranks, as risky "challenges" prompt people to video themselves doing things like biting into laundry soap or driving blindfolded.

The company already forbids content inciting dangerous activities likely to result

in serious harm. But the clarifications "make it clear that challenges like the Tide pod challenge or the Fire challenge, that can cause death and/or have caused death in some instances, have no place on YouTube," the company said in a blog post.

YouTube policy also bans pranks that cause children trauma, for example the fake death of a parent or severe abandonment.

with a perceived danger of serious physical injury," said YouTube. It made clear the updated policies ban pranks that trick people into thinking they are in danger, such as fake home invasions or drive-by shootings.

YouTube policy also bans pranks that cause children trauma, for example the fake death of a parent or severe abandonment.

Man who sold kidney to buy iPhone is bedridden

He is suffering from renal failure

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

SAN FRANCISCO

A Chinese man who sold his kidney as a teenager to buy the latest Apple iPad and iPhone in 2011 is now bedridden with organ failure, the media reported.

Wang Shangkun was 17 years old when he made the decision to undergo surgery and sell his right kidney in the black market to buy the Apple products.

Shortly after the illegal surgery, he began suffering from a decreased level of kidney function, news.com.au reported late on Monday.

"Shangkun had sold his kidney to black market organ harvesters in April 2011 where he received 4,500 Australian dollars. He purchased an iPhone 4 and iPad 2 with the funds," the report added.

The man suffered renal failure in his second kidney. It is said that it was due to the unsanitary conditions where the surgery took place.

In 2012, a total of nine individuals connected to the organ harvesting case were jailed for their involvement. Five surgeons involved with the procedure were among those convicted, according to Newsweek.

In nature's embrace



Tourists enjoying the morning fog at Araku in Visakhapatnam district, also known as the Queen of Hills of Andhra Pradesh, on Wednesday. Temperatures has dipped to single digits in the valley that has witnessed a steep rise in tourist footfall. • K.R. DEEPAK

'Naive, reckless' tourists couchsurfing in war-torn Afghanistan

Many Afghans have signed up on the social networking platform, which connects travellers around the world with locals

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

KABUL

Seeking an "authentic" experience as he backpacked through war-torn Afghanistan, Dutch tourist Ciaran Barr searched the Couchsurfing website for locals to stay with. He found an astonishing number of potential hosts.

Despite the country's decaying security nearly 2,000 Afghans – the vast majority of them men – have signed up to host guests on the social networking platform, which connects travellers around the world with locals who are willing to put them up for free.

"You feel like you get a more authentic feel for the city so you don't get trapped in tourist hotspots," Mr. Barr, 24, says in heavily militarised Kabul, where he spent several nights sleeping on a thin

mattress on the floor of his Afghan host's bedroom. "Not that there are any in Afghanistan," he adds wryly.

Many take their chances by staying with Afghan strangers they find through the Couchsurfing network, rather than paying for a room in a hotel protected by armed guards and bullet-proof doors.

"Staying with people and dressing to blend in a bit makes it possible to travel in Afghanistan with not too big of a risk," says Mr. Barr, who – with his dark hair and beard, and dressed in the baggy pyjama-style shalwar kameez favoured by most Afghan men – stands out less than most foreigners.

You have to be smart
Couchsurfing's concept is like a modern-day version of Afghanistan's tradition of

**Breaking bread:** Afghan Couchsurfing host Naser Majidi, centre, eating breakfast with his guests. • AFP

hospitality, which obliges Afghans to provide food and shelter to strangers. But it is risky.

Couchsurfers only have their host's online profile and references to judge their character.

In a country where kidnappings remain common and foreigners are highly-prized targets, they have no

way of knowing if their host is connected to criminals, who may see a chance to get rich by abducting them or giving them up to militants. "You can end up with the Taliban," says a diplomat in Kabul, who has been involved in negotiations to rescue kidnap victims. "It's naive and reckless."

That is what happened to

North American couple Caitlin Coleman and Joshua Boyle, who were kidnapped while backpacking in Afghanistan in 2012. They were freed from the Taliban in 2017, along with their three children who were born in captivity.

But Norwegian tourist Jorn Bjorn Augestad, who has couchsurfed in Iraq and the Central African Republic, says that government warnings exaggerate the dangers. "They are too careful. You have to be smart about a lot of things, having contact with a local is the best way to stay safe," says Mr. Augestad, who is on a mission to visit every country in the world, including Syria, before his 30th birthday this year.

He adds: "This is part of the cultural experience, seeing how people live and hearing people's life story

and getting an understanding of the country that you are in."

Knowing the world

For Afghans consumed by wanderlust, hosting a foreigner is a chance to travel vicariously through their experiences, as more and more countries make it all but impossible for Afghan passport holders to obtain a visa. "I can make it easier for them to see the beauty of this country," says Majidi, who has hosted six guests since signing up to Couchsurfing in 2016.

"It's a good experience for me – I get more friends and I know the world better." But his family worry that he is putting himself in danger. "They have advised me many times that this is very risky for you and for them (guests)," Mr. Majidi says.

China campaign targets gay conversion therapy

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

SHANGHAI

A Chinese artist and a gay policeman have launched an unusually bold public protest campaign in which bright-red trucks bearing slogans denouncing homosexual "conversion therapy" are being paraded through several major cities.

Artist Wu Qiong said the rolling protest was inspired by the 2017 film *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*, in which Frances McDormand gave an Oscar-winning performance as a woman who uses billboards to call attention to her daughter's unsolved rape and murder. "We wanted to use this format to raise doubts (about) conversion therapy," said Mr. Wu, 28.

China removed homosexuality and bisexuality from the list of "mental illnesses"



The trucks bear slogans saying the therapy was being used on a "non-existent disease". Others say: "Chinese Classification of Mental Disorders" still includes "sexual orientation disorder", and "it's been 19 years, why?"

in 2001, but official terminology still includes vague references to "sexual orientation disorders". Some parents are known to pressure children to "correct" their orientation, including through conversion therapy.

The trucks bear slogans saying the therapy was being used on a "non-existent disease". Others say: "Chinese Classification of Mental Disorders" still includes "sexual orientation disorder", and "it's been 19 years, why?"

China removed homosexuality and bisexuality from the list of "mental illnesses"

**Reaching out**

The Delhi BJP appoints senior members to reach out to beneficiaries of Central government schemes **Page 2**

**JNU sedition case**

FSL and cybercrime experts play an important role in the investigation of JNU sedition case **Page 3**

**Victim helps nab robbers**

A 26-year-old studio manager, a victim of robbery, helps police nab the culprits **Page 3**

**The Calcutta chromosome**

Pramod Kapoor on Calcutta Then - Kolkata Now, a tribute to the city where he spent his childhood summers **Page 4**

IN BRIEF**Jaideep Deo Bhajan**
NEW DELHI

30 more govt services to be home-delivered
From getting a new bus pass to procuring a licence to operate an elevator, applications for 30 services offered by the Delhi government will be home delivered from February 1, taking the total number of services offered in the doorstep delivery scheme to 70.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	371	Gurugram	304
Ghaziabad	384	Faridabad	328
Noida	356	Greater Noida	356
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			

One dead as neighbour stabs three of family

NEW DELHI
A 35-year-old died while her husband and son are battling for life after they were allegedly stabbed multiple times by their neighbour in west Delhi on Wednesday evening, the police said. The accused is absconding.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Ampal flats booked for ₹1 per sq ft, SC told
NEW DELHI
Skeletons kept tumbling out of the closet in the forensic audit of embattled Ampal Group, as court-appointed auditors on Wednesday told the SC that posh flats were booked for sums as low as ₹1, ₹5 and ₹11 per sq ft in the name of over 500 people. PTI

BCI protests SC Collegium's elevation decision

Says it will demoralise several other deserving senior judges; terms it 'unjust'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Bar Council of India (BCI) on Wednesday termed as "unjust and improper" a recent decision of the Supreme Court Collegium to revoke its recommendation to elevate two senior-most judges of the Delhi High Court as judges of the apex court.

'Whimsical, arbitrary'
"The revocation of the earlier decision recommending the names of Justice Pradeep Nandrajog and Justice Rajendra Menon is viewed as whimsical and arbitrary," a BCI press statement released on Wednesday said.

The Supreme Court Collegium, which is helmed by the Chief Justice of India and top four senior-most judges of the court, had on January

10 recommended elevation of Justice Dinesh Maheshwari, who is presently the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court, and Justice Sanjiv Khanna, a judge in the Delhi High Court, as the judges of the apex court.

Plea to recall decision
Justice Maheshwari and Justice Khanna stand at serial number 21 and 33 respectively in the combined seniority of High Court judges on an



him ignoring the merit and seniority of several Chief justices and puisne judges of the country," it added.

Joint meeting

The BCI has cautioned that if required it will convene a joint meeting of representatives of all the State Bar Councils, High Court Bar Associations and other important Bar Associations of the country in order to discuss this issue and to decide the future course of action.

Two days ago, former Delhi High Court judge Justice Kailash Gambhir wrote a letter to President Ram Nath Kovind against the Supreme Court Collegium's recommendation to elevate Justice Maheshwari and Justice Khanna to the apex court by superseding other senior judges.

all-India basis.

"The decision of January 10, 2019, will certainly lead to humiliation and demoralisation of such judges and also of several other deserving senior judges and Chief Justices of High Courts," the BCI said asking the SC Collegium to recall its January 10 decision.

"We have no grievance against Justice Khanna. But we can wait for his turn; there is no hurry to elevate

mained unidentified for over a month after the incident – the only unidentified person in what can be called the biggest fire tragedy in Delhi after the Uphaar Cinema fire.

Reema's brother Harcharan (28), from Madhya Pradesh's Chhatarpur and a resident of Metro Vihar who also works in a factory in Bawana, explained that his sister remained unidentified for weeks and how the family has been struggling to get compensation.

Harcharan said Reema had been working in such factories since the age of 15. However, a few months before the incident, they sent her to her elder brother's house in Haryana. She, however, left his

house without telling anyone. We also reported her missing in a police station," Harcharan said.

When the fire broke out killing 17 people, including Reema and her close friend Sonam, the family had no idea that she was one of the victims.

Bank account seized
The compensation was wrongly given to another family, admitted Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Purva Garg, adding that the bank account of the person was seized earlier this month.

Reema (23), a resident of Metro Vihar's JJ Colony, re-

ceived the compensation wrongfully given to another family, admitted Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Purva Garg, adding that the bank account of the person was seized earlier this month.

Harcharan said Reema had been working in such factories since the age of 15. However, a few months before the incident, they sent her to her elder brother's house in Haryana. She, however, left his

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When the fire broke out killing 17 people, including Reema and her close friend Sonam, the family had no idea that she was one of the victims.

Friend kept secret
"Sonam and Reema always worked together. When she went missing, we asked Sonam about her whereabouts but she never told us that Reema was working in Bawana with her," Harcharan said.

On February 25, the family were informed that Reema was killed in the factory fire.

The police then matched Reema's DNA with that of her mother Udiya Devi, and established that the two were indeed related. The Forensic Science Laboratory report dated July 27 concluded that "Udiya Devi is the biological mother of the deceased". In September, the office of Crime Branch also released a

letter stating the same.

Harcharan said he submitted all the documents at the SDM's office, which was tasked with releasing the compensation.

"There was a lot of rush at the time of giving compensation to all the grieving families and there was a mistake in the list given to my office. With respect to that, an inquiry is on and we have been able to identify the person who was wrongly given the compensation. His account has been seized and recovery process initiated," said Ms. Garg.

"The incident happened in January and the applicant came to our office much later," she added.

Woman was identified a month after the incident as she was working at the factory without her family's knowledge

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI
It is almost a year since 17 people were killed in a massive fire that broke out at a firecracker factory in Bawana on January 20. However, one family is still running from pillar to post for compensation of ₹5 lakh announced by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Reema's brother Harcharan (28), from Madhya Pradesh's Chhatarpur and a resident of Metro Vihar who also works in a factory in Bawana, explained that his sister remained unidentified for weeks and how the family has been struggling to get compensation.

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Police stand outside the firecracker factory where 17 people died in a massive fire in Bawana last year.

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IN BRIEF



Round-the-clock service at veterinary hospital

NEW DELHI
The Delhi government's veterinary hospital in Tis Hazari launched 24x7 services on Wednesday. Inaugurating the facility, Development Minister Gopal Rai said that a helpline: 011-23967555, had also been set. He added that the government will be setting up 24x7 facilities in all districts. STAFF REPORTER

Students to organise protest march on Feb 18

NEW DELHI
Five Left-leaning students' organisation are planning to march to Parliament on February 18 to protest the "anti-people" education policies of the Centre. Organisers of the 'Delhi Chalo' march said students will be demanding free common education system from KG to PG, and an increased budget for education. STAFF REPORTER

North Commissioner inspects Rohini

NEW DELHI
The North Delhi Municipal Corporation Commissioner, Varsha Joshi, inspected several areas in Rohini for cleanliness along with area councillor Kanika Jain and members of the residents' welfare association on Wednesday. Ms. Joshi instructed officials to install garbage compactors in Sector 11 and 6, following a plea by Ms. Jain. The councillor said the corporation was making efforts to improve facilities in schools with the help of CSR funds. STAFF REPORTER

Delhi BJP plans to reach out to beneficiaries of Central schemes

Appoints senior members as 'Labharthi Sampark Pramukh' and 'Vistarak'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP has appointed senior members as 'Labharthi Sampark Pramukhs' and 'Vistaraks', who will reach out to beneficiaries of schemes by the Modi-led Central government.

In run-up to LS polls

A senior party leader said that the appointees will also be mandated to dispel "misinformation" and counter the incumbent Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government's "claims of welfare and development".

In the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls, the party aims



The members will also dispel 'misinformation' being spread by AAP govt. ■ FILE PHOTO

to contact all beneficiaries of central government schemes to inform them about how they can utilise the schemes.

While there will be one LSP and 'Vistarak' for each

of the seven Lok Sabha constituencies in the Capital, there will also be 70 'Vistaraks' – one each for the Assembly constituencies.

"A list of beneficiaries will be prepared by Labharthi Sampark Pramukhs (LSPs) and Vistaraks. Party leaders and workers will also be deployed so that each can contact ten beneficiaries," the leader said, adding that the prime condition for appointment as an LSP and Vistarak is that they will not contest the upcoming Lok Sabha election.

Party workers will also be required to apprise voters about how the ruling AAP is

"taking credit" of schemes and programmes of the BJP government at the Centre, said the leader.

"They [the AAP government] have taken credit for increase in wages of ASHA workers and ANM [auxiliary nurse midwife], and also for skill development centres, which actually happened due to the central government's decisions and funds," said the senior leader.

BJP insiders said that the party aims to reach out to all estimated 22 crore beneficiaries of Central government schemes, including Ujjwala Yojana, Jan Awas Yojana, and Jan Dhan Yojana.

EWS students not getting uniforms, books: BJP

Vijender Gupta accuses AAP govt of ignoring nearly 60,000 students

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP on Wednesday accused the Aam Aadmi Party government of meting out "step-motherly treatment" to nearly 60,000 students belonging to the economically weaker section.

The students, studying in around 3,000 government-recognised middle, secondary and senior secondary private schools on private land, are being denied uniforms, textbooks and stationery, which they are entitled to, said Leader of

Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta.

"These students belong to the EWS and disadvantaged groups (DG) across SC, ST and OBC categories," Mr. Gupta said.

"The schools they go to are finding it difficult to provide facilities to students in time. The primary cause of the acute financial crisis being faced by low-budget private schools is due to delayed reimbursement amount of EWS and DG category students," Mr. Gupta said.

He alleged that reimbursement for themselves, said Mr. Gupta.

The Rohini legislator said he would raise the issue in the next Assembly session if the matter is not sorted out by the government.

The reimbursement for financial year 2017-18 was released in January 2019. It is not known when the reimbursement for financial year 2018-19 will be made. Such long delay in release of funds derails the entire management of school finances and provision of facilities to children," Mr. Gupta said.

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From February 1, 30 more govt services to be home-delivered

Residents can apply for bus pass, scholarships from home

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

From getting a new bus pass to procuring a licence to operate an elevator, applications for 30 services offered by the Delhi government will be home delivered from February 1, taking the total number of services offered in the doorstep delivery scheme to 70.

The Delhi government had launched the home delivery of 40 services, including applications for new driving licences, caste certificates and water connection, on September 10, 2018.

BJP insiders said that the party aims to reach out to all estimated 22 crore beneficiaries of Central government schemes, including Ujjwala Yojana, Jan Awas Yojana, and Jan Dhan Yojana.



Administrative Reforms Minister Kailash Gahlot (left) with Chief Secretary Vijay Dev during a review meeting on Wednesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

At your doorstep

Some of the new services that will soon be available in the government's doorstep delivery scheme:

- Grant of licence for working of passenger lift
- Addition/changes to details in ration card
- Scholarships for OBC, SC students
- Booking of tour packages of DTTDC
- Issuance of bus pass for AC, non-AC buses
- Motor vehicle tax
- Grant of licence to chemists

SOURCE: DELHI GOVERNMENT

ment added.

The mobile sahayaks, who go to the applicant's home to help fill out forms, collect fees and complete the paperwork, should be qualified and trained, the government said.

From that, the progress of the third phase, which will be announced soon, was also reviewed and the AR Department was told to make sure that 30 more services are ready to be rolled out, the government statement read.

The company that is running the project, VFS Global Services Private Limited, has said it would be revamping the IT system soon, the state-

ment added.

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NDMC Budget proposes panic buttons in public places, schools

Use of smart-teaching technology in primary classes

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

From expanding the use of smart-teaching technology to setting up "smart-poles" with panic buttons in public spaces, the New Delhi Municipal Council's Budget for 2019-2020 includes many proposals aimed at achieving its target of becoming a Smart City.

Presented by NDMC Chairperson Naresh Kumar on Tuesday, the civic body's Budget for the upcoming financial year proposes an expenditure of ₹4,144.53 crore, up from expenditure of ₹3,727.23 crore, according to the revised budget estimate for 2018-19.

Among the areas selected for the Centre's Smart Cities Mission, the NDMC's special purpose vehicle (SPV) for the project has so far received a grant of ₹194 crore from the Ministry of Urban Development and ₹200 crore from the NDMC, Mr. Kumar said in his Budget speech.

Under its smart city initiative, the NDMC has already installed 55 'smart-poles'

Steps toward a smart city

RECEIPT		BE: BUDGET ESTIMATE 2019-20 BE	₹4,172.34 crore
EXPENDITURE		2018-19 RBE	₹3,954.51 crore
PROPOSALS FOR 2019-20		2019-20 BE	₹4,144.53 crore
• Installation of 625 smart poles	with panic buttons to boost public safety	• Setting up 100 public e-charging facilities for electric vehicles	• Redevelopment of Rajpath: rejuvenation of water bodies, parking for 1,000 cars
SOURCE: NDMC BUDGET 2019-2020			

in Connaught Place that have LED lights, Wi-Fi access, air pollution sensors and communication infrastructure.

Earlier, the NDMC had converted all Class VI to XII into smart classes.

Mr. Kumar proposed installing 625 more such poles across NDMC's jurisdiction that will have the additional facility of a panic button, which will have network connection to schools, NDMC offices and local police station.

He also proposed making

the chairperson also proposed a redevelopment plan for Rajpath. Apart from rejuvenation of the existing water channel, the plan includes setting up a waterbody and fountains; setting up parking for 1,000 cars; and providing utilities like toilets and drinking water.

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We have already started the process of shifting to treated water from groundwater. While work has already been completed at multi-



The East Delhi Lok Sabha constituency got five e-rickshaws to spread awareness among voters, on Wednesday. ■ PRADEEP KUMAR

their respective offices.

Apart from sensitising employees about the importance of their vote, the fo-

machines, which will be provided for demonstrations.

Like the Electoral Literacy Clubs in schools make students aware of the importance of voting, the VAFs will be used to spread awareness among employees.

East Delhi constituency

In addition, the East Delhi Lok Sabha constituency got five e-rickshaws to spread awareness among voters starting on Wednesday.

East Delhi and Shahdara districts DM K. Mahesh said the e-rickshaws would travel through the lanes and bylanes of the constituency over the next month to spread awareness.

The purpose of the e-

vehicles is to deepen democracy horizontally and vertically through voter awareness by using five environment-friendly rickshaws that will cover a population of 19.42 lakh, in 1,844 polling stations in 324 polling buildings in 30 days," said Mr. Mahesh.

Last week, the East Delhi election authorities had become the first to launch a vehicle that takes an EVM and VVPAT machine to residents to make them aware of how to use them. Since this vehicle, 'Democracy on Wheels', will not be able to travel in the bylanes of congested areas, the e-rickshaws will be used to reach out to more people.

Aims to become hub of public policy research and education

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, tied up with Tata Trusts on Wednesday to scale up the recently established School of Public Policy to become a world-class hub of public policy research and education on issues at the intersection of science and technology (S&T), and development.

The school intends to contribute to improved policy-making such that the Indian S&T enterprise can better meet the country's developmental priorities and also address major global challenges. The partnership with Tata Trusts will significantly strengthen the school to achieve this vision by enhancing its intellectual

ecosystem and its effectiveness to engage with existing and emerging policy issues," IIT-Delhi said in a statement.

Intellectual ecosystem
IIT-Delhi director V. Ramgopal Rao said the institute was grateful for the support of Tata Trusts. "We see a modern and dynamic School of Public Policy as an essential and, in fact, central plank of our intention to transform and enhance our intellectual ecosystem and position us to better engage with the scientific and technological opportunities and societal challenges of the 21st century," Mr. Rao said.

Manoj Kumar, head of institutions, Tata Trusts, said that rapid advances in science and technology are accentuating the urgency for policy response and creating a demand for world-class professionals and researchers, trained in the discipline of public policy. "Our partnership with IIT-Delhi to catalyse public policy education and research is yet another milestone in the Trusts' legacy of building epochal institutions in the country," Mr. Kumar said.

Founding head of the School of Public Policy, Ambuj Sagar, hoped that academic efforts of the school would not only be helpful to policymakers in government agencies but also other entities such as philanthropy, foundations and business enterprises as the impact and influence of public policy was broad based.

NGT summons two officials over delay in demarcating forest land

Plea seeks removal of encroachments in Southern Ridge

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Wednesday summoned the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and the Delhi government's Revenue Secretary seeking reasons behind the delay in demarcation of forest land in the Southern Ridge.

On January 31
A Bench headed by NGT judicial member Justice Raghubendra S. Rathore said, "In order to look into the issues thoroughly and to have the views of both, i.e. Forest De-

partment and the Revenue Department, we direct Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Secretary, Revenue Department, to be present before the tribunal on the next date."

The officers have been asked to be present before the tribunal on January 31 to apprise the Bench of the reasons behind the delay in demarcation.

The directions came while the green panel was hearing a plea filed by city resident Sonya Ghosh and others who sought removal of encroachments on forest land in the Southern Ridge.

Earlier, the Tribunal had asked the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests to file an affidavit stating the time required to take possession of the demarcated forest land in the Southern Ridge.

The officers have been

9,000 tonnes of plastic waste cleared in Narela

About 100 plastic-sorting units sealed

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The North Delhi Municipal Corporation on Wednesday undertook a drive against unauthorised plastic-sorting industries in Narela.

The corporation cleared 9,000 metric tonnes of plastic waste from 983 bighas of land, stated a release issued by the civic body. The refuse was sent to the waste-to-energy (WTE) plant, Narela

IN BRIEF



AAP MLA to face trial in 2013 rioting case

NEW DELHI
AAP MLA Akhilesh Pati Tripathi will face trial in a 2013 rioting case here with a Delhi court framing charges against him and others. Special Judge Arun Bhardwaj framed charges against Mr. Tripathi, who is an MLA from Model Town constituency here, and 17 others for rioting, obstructing the Delhi police from doing its duty. PTI

Court dismisses case against AAP MLA

NEW DELHI
A Delhi court has dismissed a Delhi police chargesheet against AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan in a case of allegedly attempting to kill and insult the modesty of a woman worker of the party when she went to his house to complain about local grievances. Special Judge Arun Bhardwaj said, "The statement of the accused was recorded by SI Varun Kumar in 2016. She did not tell at that time that the accused had tried to kill her." SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

DU passes ordinance on contractual employment

NEW DELHI
Delhi University on Wednesday passed an ordinance on contractual employment, during an Academic Council meeting, said a member of the body. According to the ordinance, contractual teachers will be employed for vacancies over four months. STAFF REPORTER

Tonnes of hazardous waste removed, says UP

NEW DELHI
The Uttar Pradesh government on Wednesday informed the National Green Tribunal that 10,744 tonnes of hazardous waste lying on the banks of Ramganga in Moradabad has been removed by authorities. STAFF REPORTER

+ Woman alleges rape by three

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI
A 26-year-old woman alleged that she was gang raped by three men in Shahdara's Anand Vihar on Monday evening. The police have arrested one person in connection with the case and identified the others.

A senior officer privy to the case said they received a PCR call from a passer-by around 7.30 p.m. when he saw the woman crying on the road, where the accused, identified as Amit, was also present.

Police said, the woman, separated from her husband and a resident of Faridabad, had come to meet the accused regarding job. "The woman alleged that Amit and his two friends raped her. Her medical examination was conducted and based on the complaint, an FIR under Section 376D [gang rape] has been registered," the officer said.

The accused Amit, a trader in UP's Baghpat, was arrested from the spot, the police said. "The other two have been identified and their role is being ascertained," the officer said.

DELHI TODAY

Talk: "The Rise of China in the International Monetary System" by V. Srinivas, IAS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Personnel, P.G. & Pensions, Govt. of India. Chair: Dr. Indira Rajaraman, at India International Centre (IIC), 6 p.m.

Talk: Panel discussion on "Is Junk Food Making Our Children Obese?" Panellists: Amita Mishra, Principal-DPS International; Dr. Naresh Gupta, Director-Professor, Maulana Azad Medical College; Anita Gupta, Academic Head for Science, Mount Carmel School; Dr. Vandana Agrawal, Associate Professor, PGDAV-OU; Dr. Jayashree Gupta, President, Consumers India, at Gurukul Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Magic Melody 3" a solo show by Kishore Roy at All India Fine Arts & Craft Society, Rafi Marg, 11 a.m.- 7 p.m.

Screening: "Kharti", Bengali film screening as part of tribute to Mrinal Sen at IHC, 7 p.m.

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

Sedition case: chargesheet cites digital proof against Kanhaiya

'Shehla, Aparajita Raja and 34 others not seen raising seditious slogans'

SAURABH TRIVEDI

NEW DELHI

The forensic science laboratory and cybercrime experts have played an important role in the investigation of the JNU sedition case. The chargesheet cities mobile location, call data records and e-mail trails as electronic evidence to prove the role of Kanhaiya Kumar, Umar Khalid and Anirban Bhattacharya during the February 9, 2016, event.

The chargesheet clearly states that Aparajita Raja, Shehla Rashid and 34 others were not seen raising any seditious slogans.

"We have thoroughly analysed the reports of cyber-crime experts and forensic reports of the videos collected after February 9, 2016, event. Cybercrime experts helped retrieve e-mails and other data from electronic devices that were seized during the investigation," said a



(From left) Umar Khalid, Kanhaiya Kumar, and Anirban Bhattacharya. ■ FILE PHOTO

police officer.

celled by the university administration. The SMS has been retrieved by FSL and the location of the mobile phone was the place of occurrence, says the chargesheet.

In the chargesheet, Mr. Khalid has been charged under IPC Sections 465 (forgery) and 471 (using as genuine, forged document). As per CFSL report, he forged

SMS retrieved

The chargesheet said Mr. Kumar was identified by witnesses in the video. In the video footage, he was seen leading the students, who were raising anti-national slogans. SMS was sent by Mr. Khalid to Mr. Kumar to arrive at Sabarmati Dhaba in JNU as their permission was can-

Two days after robbery, victim helps police nab accused

Alerts cops; follows one of the accused till PCR van arrives

SAURABH TRIVEDI

NEW DELHI

A 26-year-old studio manager who was allegedly robbed at gunpoint outside a mall in Saket on Monday helped the police nab the two accused on Wednesday.

Kavi Dutt Joshi, a studio manager with Ambedkar University Delhi, was on the way to a bank in Malviya Nagar when he was robbed by two men at gunpoint.

The robbery
"On Monday, I took a share auto from outside Select CityWalk mall in Saket to the metro station as I had to visit the university's head office at Kashmere Gate. After a few seconds, two passengers in the autorickshaw asked the driver to stop the vehicle. They pulled out a pistol and pointed it at me," said Mr. Joshi.

"One of them snatched my bag and escaped from the spot. It happened just



Accused Sadiq Ali and Sunny Chaudhary. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

outside the exit gate near the mall parking. I was in shock and could not move an inch. The auto driver also fled the spot. I reached my branch office at Khirki Extension and informed the police about the incident," added Mr. Joshi.

A police control room van contacted him and took him to the spot where the robbery took place. They even tried to check whether the incident was recorded on CCTV cameras.

The policemen searched nearby parks and other locations to identify the suspects but in vain.

On Wednesday, Mr. Joshi took a new route to reach the bank, located in Malviya Nagar main market.

"I was walking towards the main gate to get an auto to reach the bank, when I saw one of the robbers standing on the corner of

the road and smoking. I got scared and rushed into a lane to hide. I noticed that the robber had started moving in the other direction," said Mr. Joshi.

Without wasting time, he informed the police. The police assured him that a team would reach the spot at the earliest. However, Mr. Joshi kept following the accused. The moment the police team arrived, he pointed in the direction of the robber, who was nabbed.

The suspect was nabbed by the Malviya Nagar police but was later handed over to the Saket police for further investigation. Following his arrest, the other accused was also nabbed.

"The arrested men have been identified as Sadiq Ali and Sunny Chaudhary. They have been sent to jail," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Vijay Kumar.

Domestic help convicted of killing employer

Murdered victim during robbery

NIRNIMESH KUMAR

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has held a domestic helth guilty of killing his employer by hitting him with an iron rod while committing robbery at his house at Shreshtha Vihar in east Delhi in 2009.

Convict Surjeet Munda had also hit the victim's wife with the same rod when she tried to save her husband. However, she survived the attack, and deposition by her as an eyewitness and two of her daughters proved crucial in the conviction of the accused.

Duo absconding

There were two more attackers with the domestic helth at the time of incident, but they could not be arrested. Counsel for the accused argued that Munda has been implicated in the case and the police could not prove his employability at the house of the victim. He also argued that the victim's wife and their two daughters were interested witnesses.

But Additional Judge Sudarshan Kumar Sharma dismissed the arguments. The judge said, "Sudha Soli [victim's wife] has deposited that accused [Munda] had gagged her husband and his accomplices were carrying iron rods with them. The accused took a rod from one of his accomplices, and hit her husband and shoved his head against the wall."

"Therefore, it is proved that the accused [Munda] committed robbery in pursuance of criminal conspiracy hatched by him with Shyam Kumar and Kumar Thapa [both not arrested]. It is also proved that while committing the robbery, the accused used deadly weapon, that is, iron rod with which he caused injuries to Ms. Soli. It is also proved that the accused along with others in furtherance of their common intention committed murder of Yash Pal Soli. Hence, the accused is held guilty," the judge said.

Wednesday's strike was the culmination of a five-

Research scholars demand stipend hike

Converged at Shastri Bhavan for day-long strike, 700 of them detained by police

JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI

Research scholars from several institutes across the country converged at Shastri Bhavan on Wednesday for a day-long strike demanding a hike in stipends and quicker disbursement of research funds.

About 2,000 students and researchers from the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) took part in the protest. About 700 of them detained by the Delhi Police until 4 p.m., said Vickey Nandal, a doctoral student at IIT, Delhi.

Social media
"We staged a peaceful protest from 10 a.m. on Wednesday but were not granted an audience by the Minister or senior officials [of the Union Ministry for Human Resource Development]. We plan to continue our protests at our respective institutions from Thursday," he told *The Hindu*.

Wednesday's strike was

the signatures of Ashwathi and Mr. Bhattacharya on the original permission letter. His name was also mentioned as the organiser on the event's pamphlet.

"The Computer Emergency Response Team [CERT] has retrieved the pamphlets from his e-mail ID. Mobile phone location and call data record prove his contact with Mr. Bhattacharya, Mujeeb, Muneeb, Umair Gul and Mr. Kumar. In the video, he was seen raising and supporting anti-national slogans," adds the chargesheet.

However, Mr. Bhattacharya was also identified by the witness in the video. CERT experts have retrieved pamphlets from his email ID. The seven others, all residents of Kashmir, who were named in the chargesheet were also identified with the help of video footage, where they were seen raising anti-national slogans.

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SENIOR POLICE OFFICER

solved," the officer said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Monika Bhardwaj said the victims have been identified as Sunita, her 41-year-old husband Viru and their 20-year-old son Akash. Both the accused and the victims are residents of Khayala.

A senior officer said a water bottle belonging to Sunita's daughter had fallen from the terrace four days ago and hit the accused.

"The bottle hit Azad, who was passing by. He got angry and fought with Sunita's husband. Both the accused and the victims are residents of Khayala.

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