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NEARBY

Goods driver succumbs to injuries; 2 cops suspended

NEW DELHI

A driver of a goods carrier succumbed to injuries on Monday after he met with an accident in Geeta Colony early on Sunday. His family members alleged that policemen demanded bribe and also stopped them from taking him to hospital. Two cops have been suspended.

DELHI METRO ▶ PAGE 1

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DELHI METRO ▶ 6 PAGES

CJI pulls out of CBI case hearing

He is part of the high-power committee scheduled to select the agency's Director

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi on Monday recused himself from hearing a petition challenging the appointment of M. Nageswara Rao as interim CBI Director and ordered the plea to be placed before a Bench led by the number two Supreme Court judge, Justice A.K. Sikri, on January 24.

Justice Sikri himself was part of the high-power committee chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which ousted Alok Verma as CBI Director and paved the way for the appointment of Mr. Rao

Over to Sikri

CJI orders the plea against appointment of M. Nageswara Rao placed before a Bench led by Justice Sikri

- Justice Sikri attended the meeting of the PM-led panel that ousted Alok Verma
- Earlier, the CJI heard Mr. Verma's plea against his divestment on October 23-24 last

- The CJI also authored the ruling that let Mr. Verma return to office and ordered the panel to decide on Mr. Verma's divestment

It was at this meeting that Justice Sikri had represented the CJI



as interim Director. The vote of Justice Sikri, who went in place of Chief Justice Gogoi as his nominee, had proved to be the decisive one against

Mr. Verma. During the court hearing, the Chief Justice explained that it would not be possible for him to hear the case as there is a meeting of

the high-power committee scheduled for January 24. This committee would recommend a name for CBI Director from a panel. Chief Justice Gogoi would be attending the meeting as member.

The Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946, mandates that the Centre appoint the CBI Director on the recommendation of a committee chaired by the Prime Minister and comprising the Leader of the Opposition, the CJI or his nominee Supreme Court judge.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

CBI seeks sanction to prosecute Chidambaram in INX Media case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Monday said it has sought sanction from the Central government to prosecute former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram in the INX Media case.

The agency had earlier examined Mr. Chidambaram in connection with the case. The former Finance Minister had then refuted all charges, stating that his name was not even in the FIR.

ram in connection with the case.

The CBI had registered an FIR on May 15, 2017 against alleged irregularities in the Foreign Investment Promotion Board clearance to INX Media for receiving overseas funds to the tune of ₹305 crore in 2007 when Mr. Chidambaram was the Finance Minister.

No comment
When contacted on Monday, Mr. Chidambaram said, "I don't comment on pending cases."

ing cases."

The CBI had registered an FIR on May 15, 2017 against alleged irregularities in the Foreign Investment Promotion Board clearance to INX Media for receiving overseas funds to the tune of ₹305 crore in 2007 when Mr. Chidambaram was the Finance Minister.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Brawl at Bengaluru resort: FIR against Kampli MLA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A day after a brawl between two Karnataka Congress MLAs at a resort resulted in one of them being hospitalised, the Bidadi police on Monday booked Kampli MLA J.N. Ganesh.

He has been charged with attempt to murder, assault

and criminal intimidation of Vijayanagar MLA B.S. Anand Singh early on Sunday. Mr. Singh gave a statement to the police stating that Mr. Ganesh was upset that he had not helped him financially during the Assembly elections.

CONG. SUSPENDS MLA ▶ PAGE 5



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Hon'ble Union Minister of Defence will release the

Tamil Nadu Aerospace and Defence Industrial Policy 2019

Thiru O. Panneerselvam

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

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Guests of Honour

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Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Thiru O. Panneerselvam

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Thiru Pon. Radhakrishnan

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance and Shipping

Thiru M. C. Sampath

Hon'ble Minister for Industries

Government of Tamil Nadu

Thiru K. Gnanaresikan, I.A.S.

Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Industries Department

Dr. Girija Vaidyanathan, I.A.S.

Chief Secretary
Government of Tamil Nadu

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Centre proposes to hike pensions

Plan likely to be part of interim Budget

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ

NEW DELHI

Ahead of the 2019 election, the Rural Development Ministry has proposed that the monthly pensions of the elderly poor, disabled and widows be increased from the current ₹200 to ₹800. For those above the age of 80, the proposal is to increase the pension from ₹500 to ₹1,200 a month.

The Ministry has submitted the proposal, which would have an additional annual cost implication of ₹18,000 crore, to the Finance Ministry to be considered for inclusion in the interim Budget to be presented on February 1.

"The proposal is being scrutinised for the possibility of inclusion in the Budget speech," said a senior official of the Rural Development Ministry, which administers the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP).

If the proposal is announced, the Ministry will then move the Cabinet to approve the increase in pensions, said the official.

Separately, a study has

Poll sop

Existing Central scheme

- Covers more than three crore people
- Includes the elderly, the disabled and widows
- ₹200/month for those under 80 years and ₹500/month for those above 80 years
- Annual budget: ₹9,975 crore

Rural Development Ministry's proposal

- For existing beneficiaries
- ₹800/month for those under 80 years and ₹1,200/month for those above 80 years
- Estimated annual budget: ₹30,000 crore

been launched to consider doubling the number of people covered by the scheme, a promise originally made in last year's Budget.

Discussions are also being held with the State governments on a proposal to merge the Central and State pension schemes. The BJP's defeat in the recent Assembly elections has forced the Centre to consider sops for rural India.

It was learnt last year that Mr. Choksi had taken the citizenship of Antigua before fleeing India.

While reports had confirmed earlier that Mr. Narendra Modi had taken refuge in London, Mr. Choksi has remained on the island, which has legal ties with the United Kingdom.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Choksi hands in his Indian passport

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
Fugitive diamond trader Mehul Choksi has surrendered his Indian passport, sources confirmed on Monday. The announcement comes a year after Mr. Choksi and his nephew Nirav Modi left India, just before a major financial scam involving the duo and the Punjab National Bank (PNB) came to light.

Mr. Choksi was subsequently located in the Caribbean island of Antigua.

"Mehul Choksi has surrendered his Indian passport to the High Commission in Guyana... Whenever an Indian citizen acquires foreign nationality, he is expected to surrender his Indian passport," said the source.

It was learnt last year that Mr. Choksi had taken the citizenship of Antigua before fleeing India.

While reports had confirmed earlier that Mr. Narendra Modi had taken refuge in London, Mr. Choksi has remained on the island, which has legal ties with the United Kingdom.

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DELHI Timings	
TUESDAY, JAN. 22	
RISE 07:14 SET 17:52	
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 23	
RISE 07:14 SET 17:53	
THURSDAY, JAN. 24	
RISE 07:13 SET 17:54	
RISE 21:32 SET 09:41	

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 23 11
Safdarjang 23 11
Palam 23 13

Delhi Palam Today
20°C Few spell of rain and thunder shower with isolated heavy spell and hail storm likely over the city. Pollution level to improve significantly.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
19°C Rain/thunder shower will continue over the city. Day and night temperature would drop over the area. Pollution level to remain good.

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Militant held

GUWAHATI
An NSCN(R) cadre was arrested and a huge cache of arms and ammunition were recovered during separate raids in Assam's Tinsukia district, police said on Monday. Army troops launched an operation near Tirap Colliery in Ledo town and nabbed the NSCN(R) militant on Monday. The militant has been identified as Singmai Haseng. PTI

Naveen seeks rail route change

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has written a letter to Union Railways Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday seeking change in route alignment of the Balasore-Digha broad gauge rail project.

The project, sanctioned in 2011, has not started yet due to land acquisition issues in neighbouring West Bengal, Mr. Patnaik said.

Of the 41-km rail stretch, seven km is to run through West Bengal and the rest through Odisha.

Mr. Patnaik assured Mr. Goyal of necessary support for acquiring land if the proposal is approved.

"As this important project has been stalled for more than seven years, I would request you to kindly intervene in the matter and take an early decision to change the alignment so that the route may entirely pass through Odisha," Mr. Patnaik said.

He also informed Mr. Goyal that he had written to the Prime Minister previously on the same issue.

They alleged that a large

Two ex-MPs join hands, launch new political front in Odisha

"The Front's aim is to defeat BJD in Lok Sabha, Assembly polls'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHUBANESWAR

Two fringe political parties on Monday joined hands and launched a front with the sole objective of ousting the ruling BJD from power in the coming twin elections in Odisha.

Samata Kranti Dal, headed by former MP Braja Kishore Tripathy, and Utkal Bharat, led by former MP Kharavel Swain, announced the formation of the Odisha Democratic Front.

The two ex-MPs said that the new front aimed at defeating the BJD in the upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections and announced to field candidates in all the 147 Assembly seats in the State.

An alternative'

Claiming that the BJD government has made the State poor during its 18-year rule, they said the Odisha Democratic Front will emerge as an alternative.

They alleged that a large



Samata Kranti Dal's Braja Kishore Tripathy. ■ FILE PHOTO

number of people are migrating to other States in search of jobs and the State government has failed to create employment opportunities for the local youths.

'Govt. has failed'

The Front leaders also criticised the State government and the Chief Minister alleging that the administration failed in all sectors including like health, education and agriculture. Both Mr. Tripathy and Mr. Swain were hopeful that all the anti-BJD leaders will come forward



Utkal Bharat's Kharavel Swain ■ FILE PHOTO

and fight together to defeat the Naveen government.

Mr. Tripathy had been elected MP twice and was a Cabinet Minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government at the Centre after being elected on the BJD ticket from Puri Lok Sabha seat in 1999. He had resigned from the BJD in 2009 and joined the BJP before launching his own party, Samata Kranti Dal, in 2013.

Mr. Swain was also elected MP twice, including once from Balasore on a BJD ticket.

5.84 lakh new voters in State

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BHUBANESWAR

The number of voters in Odisha has increased to 3.18 crore after the addition of 5.84 lakh new names, according to the final electoral rolls released on Monday.

"The number of voters as per the draft e-roll published on September 1 last year was 3,12,52,333. (In the final roll) it has gone up to 3,18,00,787 with the addition of 5,84,454 new voters," Chief Electoral Officer Surendra Kumar told reporters.

Of these, 1,63,37,310 are male, 1,54,60,545 female and 2,932 are transgenders, he said.

The number of young voters (in the age group of 18-19 years) has increased

from 1,33,896 to 5,45,401, Mr. Kumar said adding that 1,80,391 voters have been deleted.



Promod Boro. ■ FILE PHOTO

he said.

"We believe in the Indian Constitution and are not demanding anything against it. We want a separate Bodo State which can solve our problems," the ABSU leader said.

The united Bodo movement seeks a national policy on the issue of settlement of Bodoland State, to expedite the process of dialogue at the political level, ensure the political rights of the Bodos living outside the proposed Bodoland area and to grant ST Hills status to the Bodos living in Assam, sources said.

Nagendra Jamatia, TNV peace accord initiator, passes away

SYED SAJJAD ALI
AGARTALA

Nagendra Jamatia, the veteran tribal leader who brokered peace with insurgent outfit Tripura National Volunteers in 1988, passed away on Monday.

He was 71.

The politician, who was admired for his writing skills and social engagements, was a Minister in the Congress-led coalition government for five years from 1988.

His family said he died due to health complications.

The leader of the Tripura



Nagendra Jamatia ■ FILE PHOTO

Upajati Juba Samiti, which is now known as the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura

ra, is best known for his success in bringing TNV supremo Bijoy Kumar Hrangkhawl to negotiate peace with the Centre. His efforts culminated in a peace accord that was signed in the presence of then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi.

Mr. Jamatia later admitted that the entire exercise of dialogue with TNV had to be kept a top secret under instructions from New Delhi and became public only after signing of the accord. Besides him, then Chief Minis

ter Sudhir Ranjan Majumder was in the loop.

Mr. Hrangkhawl, who is now president of the Indigenous Nationalist Party of Twipria, and his entire team of office-bearers reached the residence of the deceased to offer condolences on Monday.

Chief Minister Biplob Kumar Deb, his Cabinet colleagues and prominent personalities have expressed grief at the demise of Mr. Jamatia.

He is survived by his wife, son and daughter.

Protest against proposed bird sanctuary in Manipur

Villagers claim fishing ban in Loktak lake will hit their livelihood

IBOYAIMA LAITHANGBAM
IMPHAL

The Manipur government's plan to set up a bird sanctuary at the Loktak lake in Bishnupur district has met with stiff opposition from the villagers in nearby areas.

A large number of residents of Thimgunggei village took out a massive procession against the government's proposal on Sunday.

"The villagers of Thimgunggei are poor and they have no other means of earning a livelihood except for catching fish and plucking vegetables from the lake. If fishing is banned in the lake, the villagers would starve. We are all for protection of birds, most of whom are migratory, but the new scheme should not be implemented at the cost of the

villagers," said one of the protesters.

Declining number
Thousands of migratory birds flock to the Loktak lake, the largest freshwater lake in north-eastern India, every year. However, in the past few years there has been a sharp decline in the number of migratory birds coming to the lake.

Reports indicate that bird poachers are active in the area, targeting the winged guests. Officials of the forest department's wildlife wing say in view of the widespread bird poaching at the lake, setting up of the sanctuary is a must.

Birdwatchers on the other hand blame human intrusion, bird poaching and hydroelectric power project near the lake for the decline in the number of migratory birds and brown-antlered deer in the Keibul Lamjao national park in the vicinity.

Brown-antlered deer
Some decades ago, the villagers of the lake islets had agitated against setting up of the Keibul Lamjao National Park, the natural habitat of the endangered brown-antlered deer.

They wanted the land demarcated for the park to be made available to them for cultivating paddy.

Now, several years later, the latest census suggests that there are only 260 brown-antlered deer in the Keibul Lamjao national park.

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Recycling the right way

Brand connect initiative
Many of us love eating a meal in a hotel, but how many of us wonder what happens to all the food that gets wasted at the end of each day? Is it disposed or is it converted to something as valuable as organic manure?

"Since I come from a family of hoteliers where we own a group called Temple city, I had an urge to provide peo-

ple organic food which is non carcinogenic," says Dr. Thirupathi, a pharmacist in Madurai.

This was at the time when Dr. Thirupathi happened to meet former president Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam at the airport and during the short 5-minute conversation, Dr. Kalam asked him "why don't you become a Pasumai Nayagan?"

"Initially I did not understand what he meant but when I reflected on it I realized, being an hotelier, I can start with converting waste from my own hotel into organic manure. It took me 10 years working on it

to start with the project 'Hotel Waste Recycling' from the Madurai District Hotel Association. He works with the Madurai Corporation and has been given a dump yard of 5.5 acres with the objective of making it an organic farm.

"We are now working with 30 hotels. We recycle 10 tonnes of waste per day and have been doing this for the last 8 months" says Dr. Thirupathi.

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'BJP did not keep its promise on Statehood'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GUWAHATI

A rally by leading Bodo organisations at Kokrajhar in Assam on Monday demanded a separate Bodoland and blamed the BJP-led government at the Centre for not keeping its promise on Statehood.

The All Bodo Students Union, the National Democratic Front of Bodoland Progressive and Peoples Joint Action Committee for Bodoland Movement participated in the rally, sources said.

ABSU president Promod Boro said that the BJP-led government at the Centre had promised that their problems would be solved.

"It is now more than four and a half years but the government is yet to take any policy decision on the issue."

The BJP had assured to fulfil the demand for separate State before the 2014 Lok Sabha and 2016 Assembly elections, "but they forgot their commitments",

The united Bodo movement seeks a national policy on the issue of settlement of Bodoland State, to expedite the process of dialogue at the political level, ensure the political rights of the Bodos living outside the proposed Bodoland area and to grant ST Hills status to the Bodos living in Assam, sources said.

The Bodo movement demands a national policy on the issue of settlement of Bodoland State, to expedite the process of dialogue at the political level, ensure the political rights of the Bodos living outside the proposed Bodoland area and to grant ST Hills status to the Bodos living in Assam, sources said.

Seven killed in 4 separate road accidents in Odisha

CORRESPONDENT
CUTTACK

At least two persons were killed and 15 injured, five of them seriously, when a passenger bus overturned near Choudwar here on Monday evening, the police said.

Elsewhere in the State, at least five persons died and several were injured in three separate road accidents due to poor visibility in the morning.

The accidents were reported from Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur and Nayagarh districts. In Kendrapara, four persons died and five sustained critical injuries when an SUV rammed a stationary lorry near Katia on Cuttack-Chandbali road.

In Jagatsinghpur, one person

died and two were injured when their motorcycle hit a tree by the roadside.

Giving details of the Choudwar mishap, Cuttack City Additional DCP Trinath Mishra said the bus on its way to Angul met with an accident at 5 p.m. He said the bus overturned after its right-side wheels went over a mound of sand by the roadside.

"The driver was apparently trying to overtake another vehicle and swerved to the extreme right and ran over the mound," Mr. Mishra said. Two persons died on the spot due to severe head injuries. The bus driver managed to flee, he added.

Chronic kidney disease a major concern in Balangir

STAFF REPORTER
KADLIPALLI (BALANGIR)

Chronic kidney disease, an ailment involving gradual loss of kidney function over a period of several years, has taken a vice-like grip in remote villages in Odisha's Balangir district.

At least seven villagers have succumbed to renal failure in one year and 15 persons are suffering from it in one small village, Kadlipalli, under Loisingha block in the district.

Kadlipalli had around 130 households. Most of the villagers belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled

Tribes and find it difficult to meet the high recurring treatment cost of the disease.

Relics from a bygone era



Priceless past: A team of Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute, Pune, at Gorewada forest, near Nagpur, where they unearthed 3,000-year-old artefacts including human skeleton, remains of copper ornaments, earthen pots and other household materials belonging to the Megalithic era. With the help of Nagpur forest department, the Pune team also unearthed pre-historic burial sights recently. ■ SUDARSHAN

PM hoodwinking cane farmers: SSS chief

Narendra Modi quoted figures for 2016-17, covering up present crisis: Shetti

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

PUNE

Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana (SSS) chief and MP Raju Shetti has criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "hoodwinking" sugar-cane farmers.

Speaking to *The Hindu* on Monday, the MP from Hatkanagale (in Kolhapur district) accused Mr. Modi of allegedly misrepresenting facts about fair and remunerative price (FRP) arrears.

Mr. Shetti was referring to The Prime Minister's address on Sunday (via video conferencing) to booth-level Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

workers in Kolhapur, Hatkanagale, Madha and Satara.

Twisting facts

"During his address, the PM claimed that 99% farmers were paid their FRP dues in 2016-17. The fact is that sugar prices had remained stable during that year and there was never any serious question of FRP arrears [in 2016-17]. Why is the PM quoting past figures and trying to cover-up the present crisis triggered by the rapid fall in sugar crisis," Mr. Shetti asked, before adding: "I have never seen a Prime Minister who twisted facts so blatantly."

He reiterated his intention to stage a protest rally in front of the Sugar Commissioner on January 28, demanding full FRP payment to farmers by errant factory owners.

"The agitation will only be

called off if we get concrete assurances from the government and sugarcane factory owners that they will pay farmers the complete FRP amount. It is not difficult for them to pay the FRP of ₹2,900-₹3,050 per tonne, which is the current rate in the sugar-belt districts of Sangli and Kolhapur," Mr. Shetti said.

In the event the mill owners failed to deposit the full FRP amount into farmers' bank accounts, he said he would urge the Sugar Commissioner to prosecute the mill owners under the Revenue Recovery Act (RRA).

Fergusson College cancels Justice Kolse-Patil's speech

Yet another attempt by BJP to stifle dissent, says Elgaar Parishad organiser

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

PUNE

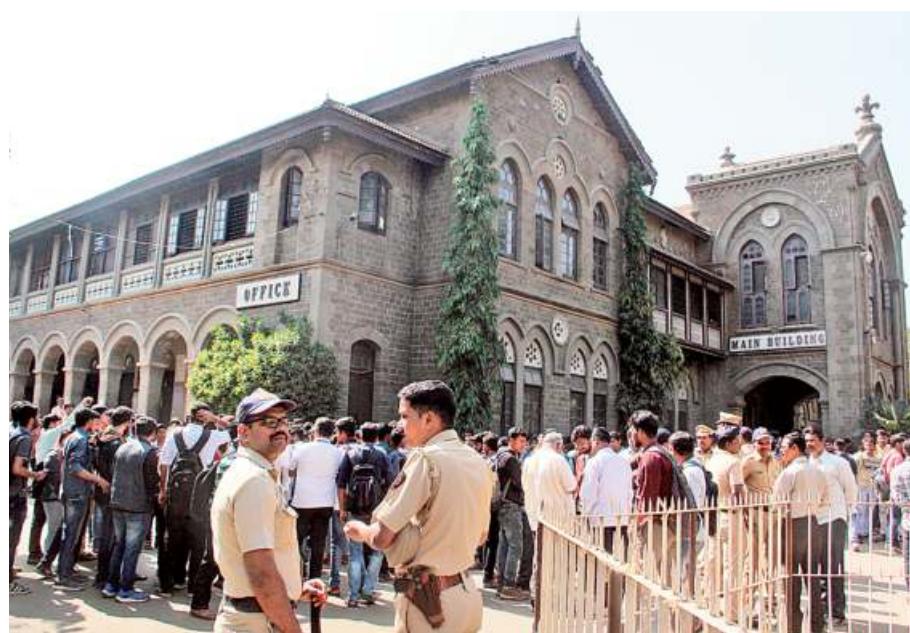
The city-based Fergusson College on Monday cancelled a speech by former Bombay High Court judge B. G. Kolse-Patil, one of the main organisers of the controversial Elgaar Parishad held in December 2017.

Mr. Kolse-Patil, who had been invited by the college to deliver a lecture on "Indian Constitution from 1950-2018" was shocked when he found that the college administration had scrapped his talk without intimating him.

The retired judge accused college authorities of "caving in to right wing pressure" and alleged that the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was attempting to stamp out every instance of dissent.

Mr. Kolse-Patil later delivered a 20-minute speech inside the college premises amid angry slogans raised against him by student activists affiliated to the fringe right-wing Patit Pavan Sanghatana (PPS).

The college witnessed some tension during the speech as students from Ambedkarite groups, who gathered to hear the retiree judge's lecture, faced-off PPS



Students gather outside Fergusson College on Monday after college administration cancelled a speech scheduled by former Bombay High Court judge B. G. Kolse-Patil. ■ MANDAR TANNU

activists attempting to heckle the retired judge's talk.

"I had no official intimation from Fergusson College that my lecture was cancelled...the present atmosphere is such that when reactionaries are invited for lectures in the college, they are eagerly welcomed, but the ruling powers [read BJP] immediately clamp down on people with secular ideals

critical of the government," Mr. Kolse-Patil told *The Hindu*.

He further said that he had never faced similar trouble and had successfully given lectures in Fergusson College in the past.

Mr. Kolse-Patil had been formally invited by Dr. Ravindrasinh Pardeshi, Principal of Fergusson College.

Dr. Sharad Kunte, presi-

dent, governing body of the Deccan Education Society (DES) which runs the 134-year-old Fergusson College, said the right to grant permission lay with the DES and not with the principal. "There appears to be some miscommunication between the DES and the Principal regarding sanctioning permission for the event," said Dr. Kunte.

Amend outdated tourism Act, demand Goa hotel owners

PRAKASH KAMAT

PANAJI

The Goa Small and Medium Hoteliers Association of Goa has said that unchecked online room aggregator services, mushrooming illegal guest houses and wholesale liquor shops doing un-checked retail business were

the bane of Goa's tourism.

At a press conference here on Monday, president of the association, Serafino Cotta, demanded that the Goa Tourism Trade Act be amended to check and regulate most of these ills. He also blamed lopsided regulation and a unresponsive State Tourism

travel marts in countries which hardly have any interest in Goa.

The medium and small hoteliers held poor management of the tourism industry responsible for declining footfalls. "There is a sharp drop in arrivals. Instead of looking to arrest this fall, the Tourism Ministry is going to

travel marts in countries which hardly have any interest in Goa. They are visiting international markets where the officials have a good holiday," alleged Mr. Cotta.

Mr. Cotta said the biggest problem encountered by them was unregulated accommodation.

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IN BRIEF



Fire breaks out at Vizag Steel Plant again

VISAKHAPATNAM

In the second mishap in a span of three days, a fire broke out at the Steel Melt Shop-2 of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant on Monday. However, no casualty was reported in the fire that was doused at 4.30 a.m. after a two-hour operation. No one was present at the time when the fire broke out in the Filter House Building, the company official said.

Foreign, domestic carriers keen to fly to Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Airline companies, including foreign carriers, have assured Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan of their willingness to commence more international and domestic flights from the Kannur International airport. The assurance was given at a meeting of the chief executive officers of airlines convened on Monday by the Chief Minister here to improve flight connectivity.

HC 'no' to stay NIA probe in Jagan attack case

VIJAYAWADA

A Division Bench of the High Court headed by Justice G. Shyam Prasad on Monday refused to stay an inquiry by the National Investigation Agency into the attack on Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, at the Visakhapatnam airport.

Boat capsizes; 8 drown, 18 rescued in Karnataka

HUBBALLI

A boat ferrying devotees to the mainland from an island temple capsized off the Karwar coast resulting in the death of at least eight persons, including a one-year-old boy, on Monday. The devotees were returning after participating in 'Koormagad Narasimha Jatre' held at Koormagad island annually.

111-year-old Siddaganga Mutt seer passes away

Shivakumara Swami's funeral, with full state honours, today

STAFF REPORTER
TUMAKURU

Shivakumara Swami, the 111-year-old seer of Siddaganga Mutt, near Tumakuru, passed away on Monday morning. Popularly known as "Nadedduva Devaru" (Walking God), the prominent Lingayat seer was known for his humanitarian work in education.

He was suffering from age-related complications and was on ventilator support at the mutt for nearly two weeks. He underwent a liver bypass surgery in Chennai in December 2018 and had been seriously ill since then. "His pulse and blood pressure dropped in the early hours of Monday. All attempts to revive him failed and he passed away at 11.44 a.m.," said Dr. Paramesh, the seer's personal physician.

Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, who announced the death in the afternoon, declared a public holiday on Tuesday and a three-day State mourning in the seer's honour.

A Padma Bhushan awardee, the seer founded over 125 institutions and was a follower of the Virakta Lingayat tradition. He had followers across caste and religious barriers, evident in the lakhs of people thronging the mutt for a last glimpse of the seer. Students at the mutt were inconsolable on hearing of his death.

On Monday, nearly two lakh people arrived to pay their respects to the seer. People will be allowed to pay their respects till 3 p.m. on Tuesday, after which the last rites, with full state honours, will be performed on the mutt premises. The seer had



Long stint: The Siddaganga Mutt seer was known for his humanitarian work in education. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Warring leaders come together to pay respects

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The occasion of paying respects to Siddaganga Mutt seer Shivakumara Swami saw top leaders of the ruling coalition and the Opposition BJP come together on Monday, even though they had been at loggerheads for the past 10 days over attempts to topple the Karnataka government.

Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, BJP State president B.S.

laid the foundation stone for the construction of his own Gaddige (tomb) at the mutt.

Dr. Shivakumara Swami, who became a seer of the mutt in 1941, had a long stint of 78 years. The many institutions he started offer free schooling, hostel facilities and food. Following his wish, the mutt ensured that "Dasoha" (charity) was uninterrupted after his death.

Students and devotees who came to pay their respects

Yeddyurappa, and Congress leader and Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara were huddled together at the mutt, where the funeral plans were discussed. Home Minister M.B. Patil, senior Minister K.J. George from the Congress, and Union Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda from the BJP were also present.

Although there was no exchange of pleasantries, the leaders sat together and later addressed a press conference.

were served food by the mutt.

The mutt of the politically powerful Lingayat community saw leaders cutting across party lines camping there.

BJP State president B.S. Yeddyurappa, a devotee of the mutt and also closely associated with the seer, described him as "Basavanna of our age" and pitched for Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian honour for the seer.

hours after an FIR was filed against Mr. Ganesh by the Biddadi police over the incident. Senior Congress Minister D.K. Shivakumar, however, denied that Mr. Singh had been assaulted and claimed that all the Congress MLAs were united. Party spokesperson and former MP Madhu Goud Yakshi said the scuffle was related to

Boat from Kerala may be headed to NZ

REUTERS
NEW DELHI/KOCHI

A fishing boat that could contain more than 100 Indian migrants may be heading to New Zealand, police said on Monday. The boat, carrying people from New Delhi and Tamil Nadu, left Munambam harbour in Kerala on January 12, two officers involved in the case told Reuters.

An individual from New Delhi arrested in connection with the investigation, Prabhu Dhandapani, told police the boat was heading to New Zealand, according to both officers.

"The people and boat are missing somewhere in the sea. Many Indian agencies including the Coast Guard are trying to locate the boat," said officer M.J. Sojan.

Addressing a BJP meeting here on Monday, Mr. Gadkari said: "The DPR for the river-linking project has already been prepared and is in the process of being submitted to the Cabinet. It

Steel pipes will link Godavari and Cauvery, says Gadkari

Minister says this will prevent wastage of water, reduce cost



Nitin Gadkari

personal responsibility to ensure its completion as per schedule.

Mr. Gadkari said 1,100 tmcft of the backwater of Godavari river was going into the sea and there was a dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu over 45 tmcft of it.

"To solve the crisis, the Centre has decided to link up the above rivers and once the Cabinet gives its nod, funds will be raised from the World Bank or the Asian Development Bank. It will mitigate the scarcity of water in A.P., Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu," he said.

It was Atal Bihari Vajpeyi who, as Prime Minister, had conceived the idea of linking rivers, he recalled.

Cong. suspends MLA after brawl

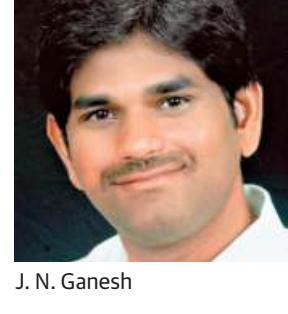
Deputy CM Parameshwara heads panel to probe incident at Bengaluru resort

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) on Monday suspended party MLA from Kampli J. N. Ganesh and ordered an inquiry into the brawl at the Eagleton Resort on Sunday night, which left Vijayanagar MLA B.S. Anand Singh injured and requiring hospitalisation.

The KPCC has set up a three-member committee, headed by Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara to look into the issue. The panel includes Ministers K.J. George and Krishna Byre Gowda, a release said, adding that the panel had been asked to submit the report at the earliest.

The suspension comes



J. N. Ganesh

some business issue and had nothing to do with politics.

Death threat

According to Mr. Anand Singh's statement to the police, on Saturday night when he was returning to his room after dinner, "Kampli MLA Ganesh started hurling abuses at me, stating that during the time of elections I did not help with money." Mr. Singh also alleged that Mr. Ganesh had threatened to kill him and his nephew Sandeep.

When Mr. Singh objected, Mr. Ganesh allegedly picked up a stick and a flower pot and attacked him. The Vijayanagar MLA said he sustained injuries and began to bleed profusely, according to the statement. Mr. Singh alleged that Mr. Ganesh asked

for a pistol from his gunman in an attempt to kill, while continuing to rain blows. Mr. Singh said other MLAs E. Tukaram, T. Raghunath, S. Ramappa and Tanver Sait, who were present, rushed to his help and rescued him.

MLAs leave resort

Later on Monday, the over 70 Congress legislators, who have been staying at a resort on the outskirts of Bengaluru since Friday following a CLP meeting, left for their home constituencies, a party leader said.

"All the MLAs left the resort to return to their constituencies," Congress State unit chief Dinesh Gundu Rao told the media here.

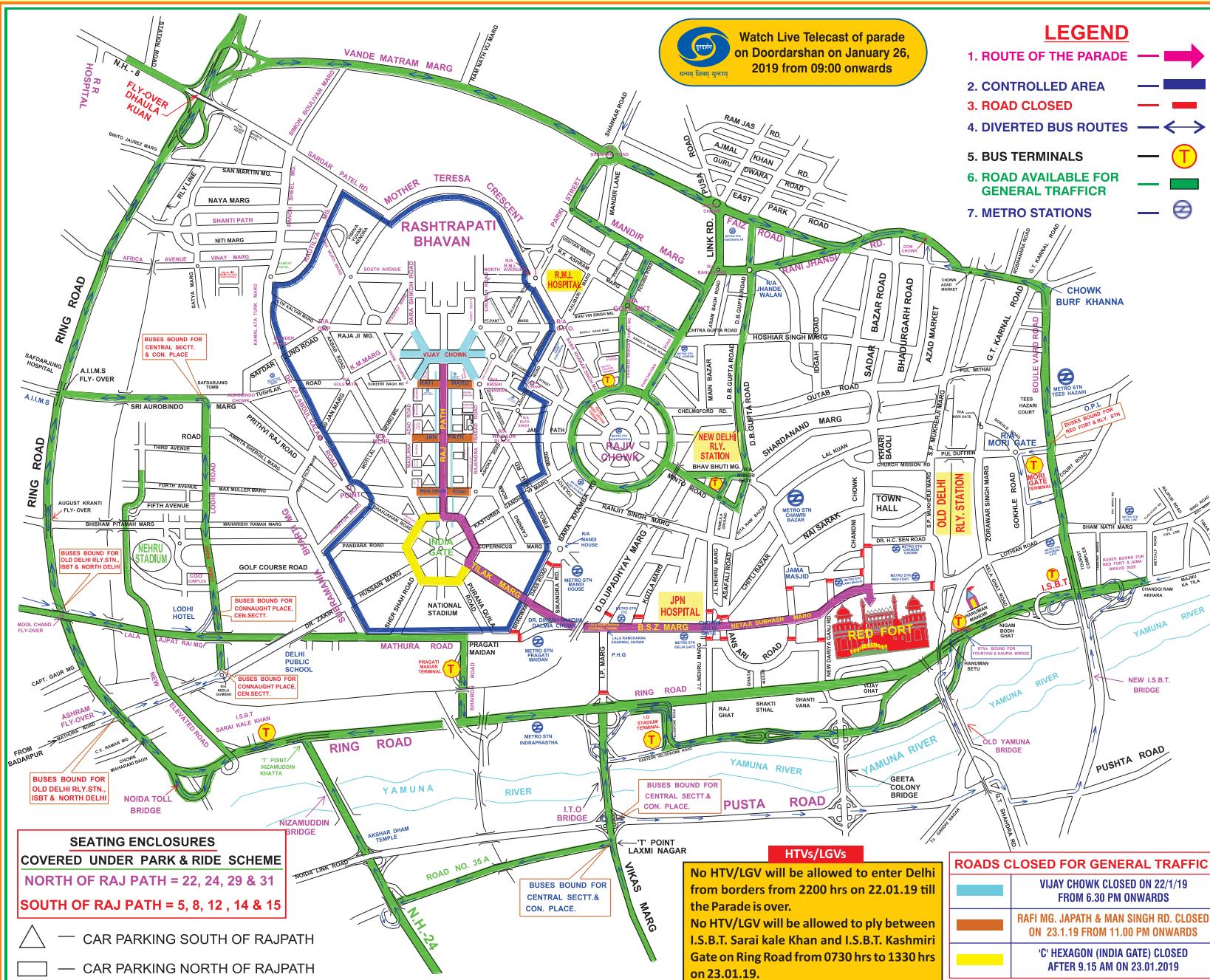
(With inputs from PTI, IANS)

TRAFFIC FOR REPUBLIC DAY FULL DRESS REHEARSALS ON 23RD JANUARY, 2019

ADVISORY



ROUTE OF THE PARADE: VIJAY CHOWK – RAJPATH – INDIA GATE – TILAK MARG – BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG – NETAJI SUBHASH MARG – RED FORT



LEGEND

- ROUTE OF THE PARADE
- CONTROLLED AREA
- ROAD CLOSED
- DIVERTED BUS ROUTES
- BUS TERMINALS
- ROAD AVAILABLE FOR GENERAL TRAFFIC
- METRO STATIONS

TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

In order to facilitate smooth passage of the Parade, movement of traffic on certain roads leading to the route of the Parade will be restricted as under:-

- No traffic on Rajpath from Vijay Chowk to India Gate from 06.00 PM on 22.01.2019 till Parade is over.
- No cross traffic on Rajpath from 11.00 PM on 22.01.2019 at Rafi Marg, Janpath, Man Singh Road till Parade is over.
- 'C'-Hexagon-India Gate will be closed for traffic from 09.00 AM on 23.01.2019 till Parade crosses Tilak Marg.
- From 10.00 AM on 23.01.2019 traffic on Tilak Marg, BSZ Marg and Subhash Marg will not be allowed on both directions. Cross traffic will only be allowed depending upon the movement of the Parade.

Road users are requested to plan their journey in advance accordingly and avoid the route of Parade, from 0900 hours to 1230 hours, for their own convenience.

SUGGESTED ROUTES

However, if the journey is unavoidable, the road users are advised to take following routes:-

NORTH – SOUTH CORRIDOR

- Ring Road – Ashram Chowk – Sarai Kale Khan – I.P. Flyover – Rajghat – Ring Road
- From Madrasa – Lodhi Road 'T' point – Aurobindo Marg – AIIMS Chowk – Ring Road – Dhaula Kuan – Vande Matram Marg – Shankar Road – Park Street or Mandir Marg.

EAST – WEST CORRIDOR

- Ring Road – Bhairoon Road – Mathura Road – Lodhi Road – Aurobindo Marg – AIIMS Chowk – Ring Road – Dhaula Kuan – Vande Matram Marg – Shankar Road – Park Street or Mandir Marg.
- Ring Road – Boulevard Road – Barf Khana Chowk – Rani Jhansi Flyover – Faiz Road – Vande Matram Marg – R/A Shankar Road.
- Ring Road – ISBT – Chhadi Ram Akhara – I.P. College – Mall Road – Azadpur – Punjabi Bagh.

FOR NEW DELHI RAILWAY STATION

- FROM SOUTH DELHI:** Dhaula Kuan – Vande Matram Marg – Panchkuin Road – Outer Circle Connaught Place – Chelmsford Road for Paharganj side or Minto Road – Bhavbhuti Marg for Ajmeri Gate side.
- FROM EAST DELHI:** Boulevard Road via ISBT Bridge – Rani Jhansi Flyover – R/A Jhandewalan – D.B. Gupta Road – Sheela Cinema Road – Paharganj Bridge and reach New Delhi Rly Station.

Though there will be no restriction for people from North Delhi going towards New Delhi Railway Station or Old Delhi Railway Station yet it is advised that they plan their journey in advance and take sufficient extra time to reach their destination to avoid possible delay.

BUS TERMINATING POINTS

Movement of the City Bus Services will be curtailed at the following points:-

- Park Street/Udyan Marg
- Aram Bagh Road (Pahar Ganj)
- R/A Kamla Market.
- Delhi Sachivalaya (IG Stadium)
- Pragati Maidan (Bhairoon Road)
- Hanuman Mandir (Yamuna Bazar)
- ISBT Kashmire Gate
- 10 Tis Hazari Court

INTER STATE BUSES

- Buses from Ghaziabad bound for Shiva Stadium shall take NH-24, Ring Road and terminate at Bhairoon Road.
- Buses coming from NH-24 shall take right turn on Road No. 56 and terminate at ISBT Anand Vihar.
- Buses coming from Ghaziabad side will be diverted at Mohan Nagar towards Bhopra Chungi for Wazirabad Bridge.
- All Inter State buses coming from Dhaula Kuan side shall terminate at Dhaula Kuan.

METRO SERVICES

Metro Rail Service shall remain available for commuters at all Metro Stations during the Full Dress Rehearsal Ceremony on 23rd Jan., 2019. However, Boarding/De-boarding at the below mentioned station will not be permitted as per schedule given:-

Name of Metro Station	Boarding/De-boarding not allowed
Kendriya Sachivalaya	From 5.00 AM till 12.00 Noon on 23.01.19.

TSR/TAXI

No TSR and Taxi will be allowed to enter or ply after 0700 hours on 23.01.2019 in the Area bound by:- Mother Teresa Crescent – Baba Kharak Singh Marg – Ashoka Road Upto R/a Patel Chowk – Sanskruti Marg Upto Tolstoy Marg Upto – Tolstoy Marg Upto Kasturba Gandhi Marg – Kasturba Gandhi Marg Upto Ferozeshah Road – Ferozeshah R/a Mandi House – Bhagwan Das Road – Mathura Road – Subramanian Bharti Marg – Humayun Road – A.P. Abdul Kalam Marg – Kamal Ata Turk Marg – Kautilya Marg And Sardar Patel Road (Excluding).

In case any unidentified object or suspicious person is seen, information must be conveyed to the nearest policeman on duty. Flying of sub conventional aerial platforms like para-gliders, para motors, hang gliders, UAVs, UAS, microlight aircrafts, remotely piloted aircrafts, hot air balloons, small size powered aircrafts, quadcopters or para jumping from aircraft etc. are prohibited over the jurisdiction of National Capital Territory of Delhi from 09.01.2019 upto 09.02.2019 (both are inclusive)

General public and motorists are requested to keep patience, observe traffic rules & road discipline and follow directions of traffic personnel deployed at all intersections. People are requested to plan their journey in advance and keep sufficient time in hand to avoid inconvenience.

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IN BRIEF



'BJP suffered for changing names of govt. schemes'

JAIPUR
Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said the Bharatiya Janata Party "suffered" in the State because it changed the name of existing government schemes when it was in power and "now it's time" for it to face defeat at the Centre. PTI

Five get life in jail in U.P. murder case

MUZAFFARNAGAR (U.P.)
A court here sentenced five people to life in jail on Monday in a 2009 murder case. District Judge Sanjay Pachauri found Ramlal, Prem, Ramphal, Madan and Mainpal guilty under sections 302 (murder), 147 (rioting) and 149 (unlawful assembly) of the IPC, government counsel Rajiv Sharma said. PTI

One killed as trucks collide in U.P.

SANT KABIRNAGAR (U.P.)
One person was killed and another seriously injured when the stone-laden truck they were travelling in rammed another in Uttar Pradesh's Sant Kabirnagar district early on Monday, the police said. The incident took place in Mehdawal town. PTI

College student killed over old enmity

KOTA
A 19-year-old college student was allegedly killed by his former friends over an old enmity here, the police said on Monday. Three youths came on a motorcycle and attacked Rohit Prajapati with sharp weapons in his stomach and chest near his house in the Nayapura area late on Sunday night, the police said. PTI

AAP to support Dushyant's JJP in Jind Assembly bypoll

Decision taken after Chautala praised Arvind Kejriwal's work in Delhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT



GURUGRAM
The Aam Aadmi Party on Monday announced its support for the Janayak Janata Party (JJP) in the Jind by-election. The BJP, the Congress and the JJP are locked in a three-cornered contest.

The formal announcement for the support was made by AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sushil Gupta at a press conference in Jind in the presence of senior JJP leader and Haryana unit chief Nishan Singh.

The JJP was formed last month by Hisar Lok Sabha

MP Dushyant Chautala following a split in the Indian National Lok Dal.

Haryana AAP spokesperson

son Sudhir Yadav said the decision to support the JJP was taken after Mr. Chautala praised the work done by the Arvind Kejriwal government in the health and education sectors in Delhi and sought the party's support. "Mr. Chautala at a public meeting on Sunday had sought the support of the AAP and also praised the party's work in Delhi," he said.

JJP nominee Digvijay Singh is contesting as an Independent since the party is yet to be formally registered.

The voting for the Jind bypoll is scheduled for January 28. The counting of votes will be taken up on January 31.

the support from the AAP.

Non-committal

On the question of an alliance between the two parties for the upcoming Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections, Mr. Yadav said time alone would answer this.

JJP nominee Digvijay Singh is contesting as an Independent since the party is yet to be formally registered.

The voting for the Jind bypoll is scheduled for January 28. The counting of votes will be taken up on January 31.

BJP MLA comes out in support of party colleague

Nothing wrong in Sadhana Singh's remarks, says legislator from Bariya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI
NCW issues notice to MLA

BALLIA (U.P.)
BJP MLA Surendra Singh on Monday came out in support of his party colleague, Sadhana Singh, who raised a political storm by calling Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati "worse than a transgender", saying there was nothing wrong in her remarks. "There is nothing wrong in what Sadhana Singh said...any person who has zero self-respect is called a transgender," the MLA from the Bariya constituency said while talking to reporters here.

"The manner in which Mayawati has joined hands with the Samajwadi Party after the State guest house case of 1995 goes on to prove that she has no self-respect," he added.

Regarding police complaint against Ms. Singh, he said: "How will the case be filed...we will protest against it."

Ms. Singh, a legislator from Uttar Pradesh's Mughalsarai, had at a rally on Saturday called the BSP chief a "blot on womankind" and "worse than a transgender", following which the BJP MLA issued an apology,

remarks against Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati.

Taking suo motu cognisance, the NCW said the remarks made are "extremely offensive, unethical and shows disrespect towards the dignity and respect of women in general".

clarifying that she did not mean to hurt anyone.

Guest house incident
The BJP lawmaker made the remarks while referring to the infamous incident when Ms. Mayawati was assaulted by SP workers in a Lucknow guest house in 1995.

"Former Uttar Pradesh

Chief Minister Mayawati sold her dignity for power and joined hands with those who disrespected her... She is a blot on womankind. Cannot say if she can be counted among men or women, she is worse than a transgender person," she had said.

Remarks condemned

Condemning her remarks, Union Minister and Republican Party of India president Ramdas Athawale said such personal comments should not be made.

BSP leader S.C. Misra tweeted: "BJP leaders have lost their mental balance after the BSP-SP tie-up".

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and the Congress had also denounced Ms. Singh for using objectionable remarks against Ms. Mayawati.

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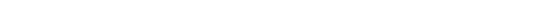
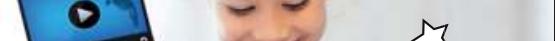
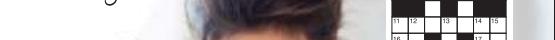
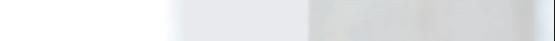
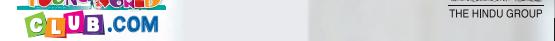
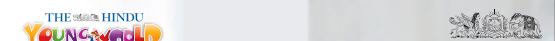
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A matter of faith



Dip of austerity: Devotees at the Kumbh Mela taking a holy dip on the occasion of 'Paush Purnima' in Allahabad – recently renamed as Prayagraj – on Monday, marking the beginning of 'Kalpas', a period during which devotees lead a life of austerity. •PTI

IN BRIEF



Bihar mid-day meal cooks on strike

The ongoing strike of over 2.18 lakh midday meal cooks in over 70,000 schools has stalled lunch for students in Bihar and caused a sharp fall in their attendance.

Discrimination lens on NEET exam

NEW DELHI
Alleging there is "continued discrimination towards candidates with disabilities in the NEET (UG)-2019, 75 doctors with disabilities under an umbrella group have written to the Health Ministry stating there was no clarity on guidelines for candidates with disabilities."

Attempt to bury baby alive in Uttar Pradesh

SHAHJAHANPUR
A one-month-old baby girl was buried alive during occult rituals near Puraina village here, officials said on Monday. She was rescued and admitted to a hospital after locals heard her cries and informed the police. PTI

Plastic waste imports to India go up'

Influx of PET bottles quadrupled from 2017 to 2018, according to green body

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

In spite of a ban on the import of plastic waste into India, the influx of PET bottles has quadrupled from 2017 to 2018 thanks to legal loophole, says a Delhi-based environmentalist organisation, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Smriti Manch (PDUSM).

"Indian firms are importing plastic scraps from China, Italy, Japan and Malawi for recycling and the imports of PET bottle scrap & flakes has increased from 12,000 tonnes in FY 16-17 to 48,000 MT in FY 17-18, growing at 290%," says PDUSM.

"India has already imported 25,000 MT in the first 3 months of FY 18-19."

"About 9 million tonnes of plastic waste is generated in India annually."

Expanding threat

- Import of PET bottle scrap & flakes have increased from **12,000 MT** in FY 16-17 to **48,000 MT** in FY 17-18, growing at 290%
- India has already imported **25,000 MT** in the first 3 months of FY 18-19
- About **9 million tonnes** of plastic waste is generated in India annually

SOURCE: PDUSM, CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY

not making its way to recycling centres.

To incentivise domestic plastic recycling units, the government had banned the import of plastic waste, particularly PET bottles in 2015. In 2016, an amendment allowed such imports as long as they were carried out by agencies situated in Special Economic Zones. It's this loophole that's been exploited.

A senior Union environment ministry official, who declined to be identified, told *The Hindu* that while the ministry couldn't vouch for whether such plastic imports had quadrupled, it was true that the imports had "substantially increased" and action was being contemplated. "We've been apprised of these imports and they're quite substantial. We're beginning internal investigations to see how this can be addressed," the official added.

Ravi Agrawal, director of Toxics Link, an organisation that works on plastic waste management, said that figures were "plausible" as China, once a major global importer of plastic waste for recycling, had banned such imports.

"It's possible that some of that is making its way to India but I can't be sure of these numbers," Mr. Agrawal said.

The Indian packaging industry, the largest consumer of plastic, is valued at over \$32 billion and offers employment to more than 10 lakh people



Complaint against Jairam, magazine

Article had alleged money laundering

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Vivek Doval, son of National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval, has filed a criminal defamation complaint against former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh, news magazine *The Caravan* and Kaushal Shroff, the writer of an article in the magazine which linked his Cayman Islands-based hedge fund GNY Asia to demonetisation and money laundering.

In his charge, Mr. Vivek Doval said he was constrained to file the complaint as the accused persons had deliberately maligned and defamed him, seemingly to settle scores with his father.

The complaint follows

the publication of an article in *The Caravan* magazine titled "The D-Companies" on January 16.

The author of the article alleged "various wrongdoings and unlawful actions" on the part of the complainant, Mr. Doval said.

The complaint further stated that "on the basis of the article, Mr. Ramesh had been holding press conferences and making irresponsible statements, further maligning the reputation and goodwill of the complainant as well as the entire Doval family."

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Samar Vishal is likely to take up the complaint for hearing on Tuesday.

Affidavit in SC on CIC appointment

Congress cries 'subterfuge' in postings

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

RTI activists filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court on Monday alleging that the appointment of former Law Secretary Suresh Chandra as a member of the Central Information Commission was done "in complete violation of the prescribed process", as he had not applied for the post.

As *The Hindu* reported on Monday, Mr. Chandra's name was not on the list of 280 applicants for the vacant positions, according to data made public by the Department of Personnel and Training.

The Supreme Court is currently hearing a petition by Anjali Bhardwaj, co-con-

venor of the National Campaign for People's Right to Information, and others, on vacancies in State and Central Information Commissions. The next hearing is on Tuesday.

The additional affidavit said the appointment of Mr. Chandra was in violation of the DoPT's own affidavit to the SC on the appointment procedure to be followed. The search committee "acted beyond its mandate and undermined the selection process", said the affidavit.

Referring to *The Hindu*'s report, the Congress accused the Centre of "subterfuge and trying to keep the Opposition out" while making key appointments to statutory bodies.

and the rest from Boeing.

Based on the CBI First Information Report (FIR), the ED launched the money laundering probe last year.

The then officials of the Ministry of Civil Aviation are also under the scanner. The agency is currently examining the price-fixation criteria of the aircraft, about which the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) had not come across any information while going through government records.

"To enable effective price negotiations, it is normal to assess a reasonable or

threshold price (based on comparable prices paid by other buyers and other factors). However, no benchmarks for the aircraft cost were set by Air India Limited/ Ministry of Civil Aviation before negotiations were initiated with the manufacturers at various levels," the CAG had observed in its 2011 report.

Consequently, the CAG had said, in the absence of such benchmarks, it was difficult to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of negotiations and the price arrived at.

Kiran Rao.

to look into the allegations of irregularities in the purchase of 111 aircraft worth about ₹70,000 crore for Air India and Indian Airlines, which included the procurement of 43 aeroplanes from Airbus

and the rest from Boeing.

Based on the CBI First Information Report (FIR), the ED launched the money laundering probe last year.

The then officials of the Ministry of Civil Aviation are also under the scanner. The agency is currently examining the price-fixation criteria of the aircraft, about which the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) had not come across any information while going through government records.

"To enable effective price negotiations, it is normal to assess a reasonable or

Rescue work at mine not abandoned: Centre

'Space too narrow to bring out body found on January 16'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday dismissed the charge made in the Supreme Court that it had "abandoned" the operations to rescue the miners trapped in a flooded Meghalaya rat-hole mine since December 13, even as the State said the "bodies of the remaining miners are behind the body detected on January 16" by the Navy's underwater remotely operated vehicle (ROV) in a narrow shaft 210 feet below.

Counsel for Meghalaya Avijit Mani Tripathi told a Bench of Justices A.K. Sikri and S. Abdul Nazeer that the unidentified body was in a decomposed state and it would be "virtually impossible" to retrieve it. The space was too narrow to bring the body out and the danger of "disintegration" of the body was high. The State said it



Tough task: A file photo of Navy personnel during a rescue operation at the mine site in Meghalaya. •REUTERS

was consulting the families of the missing miners about future action.

Senior advocate Anand Grover, representing the PIL petitioner-advocate Aditya N. Prasad, said the authorities were "trying to abandon the operation." Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, intervened and said: "There is no intention to abandon the operation. It is still going on."

Referring to the 11-page affidavit filed by Meghalaya on the status of the operation, Mr. Tripathi said the body was found "lying prostrate..." "The miner was found wearing a red T-shirt and jeans," the affidavit said. It said the ROV was utilised for moving the body from 210 feet to 100 feet. "However, there are signs of decay, making the evacuation of the body difficult."

Quota for poor not aimed at forward castes: Centre to HC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The Centre on Monday contended before the Madras High Court that a recent amendment to the Constitution providing 10% reservation in jobs and higher education to "economically weaker sections (EWS)" in the open competition category, was "not a communal reservation" aimed at the so-called "forward castes."

Appearing before a Division Bench of Justices S. Manikumar and Subramonian Prasad, Additional Solicitor General G. Rajagopal said the intent of the constitutional amendment was to provide reservations on the basis of economic criteria to all communities other than those already benefiting from reservations.

Tussle over terms
When the senior judge pointed out that providing reservations for people ex-

cept those who were socially and educationally backward as well as those belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes would naturally refer to 'forward caste,' the ASG said, the right term that could be used was 'other communities' and not 'forward caste.'

He also contended that what had been intended for the EWS was vertical and not horizontal reservation. However, insisting on written submissions, the judges ordered notices, returnable by February 18, to the Centre as well as the State government on a writ petition filed by DMK organising secretary R.S. Bharathi challenging the amendment.

Asserting that the intention of framers of the Constitution was to provide reservations to undo historic wrongs against the oppressed and backward classes, Mr. Wilson said, unlike caste, which gets attached to a person by birth and remains until death, economic status of a person was a fluctuating factor.

Opposing the petition vigorously, the ASG accused the petitioner, a Rajya Sabha MP, of having filed the case with a political motive. "He is not an aggrieved party because he was part of the process through which a Bill to amend the Constitution was passed by the Lok Sabha as well as the Rajya Sabha, no matter in which way he voted," Mr. Rajagopal contended.

Recording his strong objection to such submissions, senior counsel P. Wilson, representing the writ petitioner, said: "I thought he'll reply to my arguments legally but he is replying politically." The counsel said providing reservations based on economic criteria would amount to altering the basic structure of the Constitution.

+

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EOI published in the newspaper on dated 21.12.2018 for empanelment of project executives for setting up Livelihood Business Incubation center (LBI) for Handmade Paper processing plant. The last date is extended upto **01.02.2019 till 15.00 hrs.** and date of opening (Tech. Bid) is **01.02.2019 (16.00 Hrs)**

Director (CB)
KVIC, Mumbai

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Sl.No. Tender Ref./Scope of supplies & Qty. reqd.

1. UNIT: M.M. COMPLEX: ENQ/18-19/004080/MM17(03), Dt.17.01.2019: Procurement of planks-mango, wooden sleepers (Pillai Marudhu/Karimaranudu) – (9 items) Due date of opening: 14.02.2019

2. ENQ/18-19/004084/MM09(04), Dt.17.01.2019: Purchase of 12V and not less than 200AH fully charged battery Due date of opening: 20.02.2019

3. ENQ/18-19/004111/MM19(03), Dt.17.01.2019: Procurement of second hand empty gunny bag (Single item) Due date of opening: 15.02.2019

4. ENQ/18-19/004171/MM01(03), Dt.19.01.2019: 2 items of Cardon Shaft Due date of opening: 22.02.2019

5. P.T.E No. ENQ/18-19/004206/MM01(01), Dt.19.01.2019: 6 items of Bushes and labyrinth Due date of opening: 20.02.2019

6. P.T.E No. ENQ/18-19/004221/MM01(01), Dt.19.01.2019: 8 items of worm and worm wheel of track gear box Due date of opening: 22.02.2019

7. P.T.E No. ENQ/18-19/004227/MM01(05), Dt.19.01.2019: (i) C Type teeth for 700 litres capacity bucket wheel excavator as per NLCIL Drawing No.SME 65/12, Qty:1105 Nos. (ii) D Type teeth for 700 litres capacity bucket wheel excavator as per NLCIL Drawing No. SME 65/12, Qty:1592 Nos. Due date of opening: 21.02.2019

8. ENQ/18-19/004234/MM02(07), Dt.19.01.2019: Labyrinth rings both inner and outer for the troughing and return idlers. Qty: 20850 Sets. Due date of opening: 21.02.2019

9. P.T.E. ENQ/18-19/004256/MM01(06), Dt.19.01.2019: 4 items of 700 litres teeth type-A,B,E & F. Due date of opening: 25.02.2019

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Death by design

Tighter regulations cannot eliminate the element of danger intrinsic to jallikattu

In situations involving humans and animals, Murphy's law takes a strong hold: if things can go wrong, they most likely will. Jallikattu may have drawn the attention of animal rights activists for the innumerable accounts of cruelty to bulls, but the deaths fall mostly on the human side of the ledger. The animals suffer but generally survive the ordeal, while a few youth lose their lives. A tragedy as in Viralimalai in Pudukkottai district of Tamil Nadu, where two men were gored to death by bulls, was waiting to happen. Whatever the precautions taken, and there were many, one cannot prepare for the behaviour of a rampaging bull. Viralimalai jallikattu may not be as famed as the Alanganallur or Palamedu events, but this year it had the full weight of the government behind it. The event was organised by Health Minister C. Vijaya Baskar, a bull-owner himself, in an attempt to create a 'record' for the largest number of bulls in a single arena. The event got a bigger profile with Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami in attendance. Multi-tier metal galleries were erected on either side of the arena to accommodate the thousands who had turned up to watch the contest. Double barricades were in place at the *vaadivasal*, the entry point for the bulls, but the tragedy happened at the exit point, the open area for collection of the bulls after the event. The contest was over, and the bull-tamers were no longer chasing the bulls. But how were the bulls to know? An owner trying to rein in his bull was gored to death by another behind him, and a spectator who wandered out of the protective cover at the scene of action bled to death on being pierced in the abdomen.

Could anything have been done differently? In keeping with the guidelines set by the Supreme Court to regulate the sport, the Health Department had also deployed teams of doctors from Pudukkottai. Medical experts from Tiruchi and Thanjavur Medical Colleges were deployed to attend to emergency cases. A makeshift operation theatre was also set up at the venue. After Sunday's tragedy, jallikattu events of the future might have barricades at the collection points too. But danger is in the very nature of the blood sport that is jallikattu. Unpredictability is intrinsic to the sport. Attempts to ban the sport have been opposed on the ground that it is an inseparable part of Tamil Nadu's culture. The Tamil Nadu government in 2017 took the ordinance route to allow for the holding of jallikattu following a ban by the Supreme Court, and the Centre exempted bulls from the rules framed for ensuring the well-being of performing animals. After every loss of human life the regulations might get tighter, but the danger to the life and limb of participants, spectators, and bull-owners will remain in the conduct of jallikattu.

Summit 2.0

A second Trump-Kim meeting could do with a Chinese nudge and a South Korean whisper

Even though there was little progress in achieving the goals set in the historic meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Chairman Kim Jong-un of North Korea in June 2018, the announcement of a second summit next month is a step in the right direction. The fact that Pyongyang has ceased its nuclear muscle-flexing, and has not tested any nuclear-capable device or launched any missile for more than a year, is reason for continued patience and confidence in the dialogue. The Singapore meeting generated mutual goodwill and hopes of a breakthrough. But in the declaration the leaders had promised a denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula without indicating a timetable or the modalities of reaching that far-sighted end-goal. In the months since the meeting, Pyongyang's anticipation of an easing of U.S. sanctions have not materialised, while information about the inventory of North Korean nuclear stockpiles that Washington had sought as a first step towards a verifiable dismantling of the North Korean arsenal, has not been forthcoming. Underscoring the stalemate, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence stated days before the announcement of the coming bilateral summit that Pyongyang had made little headway on its commitments. Similarly, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's persistent efforts since the Singapore meeting have come to nought. The concept of "complete denuclearisation" of the Korean Peninsula that formed the crux of the Singapore declaration has become a subject of conflicting interpretations. Pyongyang insists that the expression must have a wider meaning and include the U.S. military umbrella that extends across South Korea and Japan. It contends that North Korea will be the first target in the event of a pre-emptive U.S. strike. For nuclear hawks in Washington, the stalemate is at best a case of Mr. Trump's diplomatic gambit having gone awry and at worst, an impasse that allows Pyongyang to prevaricate and give nothing away.

Against this backdrop, the prospects for any meaningful progress appear to hinge on mediation by Beijing and Seoul. Moon Jae-in, South Korea's President, favours rapprochement with the neighbour, and a lasting resolution of the Washington-Pyongyang nuclear imbroglio, advocating dialogue. After his recent meeting with the Chinese leader Xi Jinping, Mr. Kim reinforced his pledge to rid the region of nuclear arms and expressed a willingness for another summit with Mr. Trump. But he emphasised Pyongyang's need for security guarantees, replacing the decades-long armistice with a formal peace treaty to mark the end of the 1950-1953 Korean War. Toning down his rhetoric, President Trump has displayed a readiness to wait and watch. It is not certain if the sober mood will translate into tangible outcomes. But that would be a credible offer that can lure Mr. Kim to reciprocate on the nuclear front.

The ambiguity of reservations for the poor

While the constitutional amendment may survive the 'basic structure' test, the hardest test will be its implementation



ANUP SURENDRANATH

The 103rd Constitution Amendment Act introducing special measures and reservations for 'economically weaker sections' (EWS) has been perceived as being obviously unconstitutional. This article is sceptical of such a reading and takes the view that a constitutional challenge to the amendment will take us into unclear constitutional territories. The strongest constitutional challenge might not be to the amendment itself but to the manner in which governments implement it. There is no foregone conclusion to a potential challenge and we would do well to start identifying the core constitutional questions that arise. To be clear, I am here concerned only with questions that arise within constitutional law.

Special measures

Article 15 stands amended enabling the state to take special measures (not limited to reservations) in favour of EWS generally with an explicit sub-article on admissions to educational institutions with maximum 10% reservations. The amendment to Article 16 allows 10% reservations (and not special measures) for EWS in public employment and does so in a manner that is different from reservations for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. The amendment leaves the definition of 'economically weaker sections' to be determined by the state on the basis of 'family income' and other economic indicators. Also critical to this amendment is the exclusion of SC/STs, OBCs and other beneficiary groups under Articles 15(4), 15(5) and 16(4) as beneficiaries of the 10% EWS reservation.



A good point to start the constitutional examination is the Supreme Court's view on reservations based purely on economic criteria. Eight of the nine judges in *Indra Sawhney* (November 1992) held that the Narasimha Rao government's executive order (and not a constitutional amendment) providing for 10% reservations based purely on economic criteria was unconstitutional. Their reasons included the position that income/property holdings cannot be the basis for exclusion from government jobs, and that the Constitution was primarily concerned with addressing social backwardness.

Basic structure doctrine

However, the decision in *Indra Sawhney* involved testing an executive order against existing constitutional provisions. In the current situation, we are concerned with a constitutional amendment brought into force using the constituent power of Parliament. The fact that we are not concerned with legislative or executive power means that the amendment will be tested against the 'basic structure' and not the constitutional provisions existing before the amendment. The pointed question is whether measures based purely on economic criteria violate the

'basic structure' of the Constitution? I do not think it is a sufficient answer to say that 'backwardness' in the Constitution can only mean 'social and educational backwardness'. Citing the Constituent Assembly debates is not going to take the discussion much further either. It is difficult to see an argument that measures purely on economic criteria are per se violative of the 'basic structure'. We can have our views on whether such EWS reservations will alleviate poverty (and they most certainly will not), but that is not really the nature of 'basic structure' enquiry. Providing a justification for these measures as furthering the spirit of substantive equality within the Indian Constitution is not very difficult.

Economic criteria (if seen as poverty) forms the basis for differential treatment by the state in many ways and it would be a stretch to suddenly see it as constitutionally suspect when it comes to 'special measures' and reservations in education and public employment. Poverty inflicts serious disadvantages and the prerogative of the state to use special measures/reservations as one of the means to address it (however misplaced it might be as a policy) is unlikely to fall foul of the 'basic structure' doctrine.

A challenge to the amendment

may lie in the context of Article 16 by virtue of shifting the manner in which reservations can be provided in public employment. Under Article 16(4), reservations for backward classes (SC/STs, OBCs) are dependent on beneficiary groups not being 'adequately represented' but that has been omitted in the newly inserted Article 16(6) for EWS. The amendment through Article 16(6) ends up making it easier for the state to provide reservations in public employment for EWS than the requirements to provide reservations for 'backward classes' under Article 16(4). In a sense that is potentially a normative minefield for the Supreme Court. On the one hand, it is confronted with the reality that 'backward classes' like SC/STs and OBCs are disadvantaged along multiple axes and on the other, it is now far more difficult for the state to provide reservations to these groups compared to the EWS. The response might well be that 'representation' is not the aim of EWS reservation and questions of 'adequacy' are relevant only in the context of representation claims like those of the backward classes under Article 16(4).

Questions and challenges

In many of the responses to the amendment, breaching the 50% ceiling on reservations has been cited as its greatest weakness. It is hard to see the merit of that argument because the amendment by itself does not push the reservations beyond 50%. While it might be a ground to challenge the subsequent legislative/executive actions, the amendment itself is secure from this challenge. But even beyond this narrow technical response, the 50% ceiling argument is far from clear. In *Indra Sawhney*, the majority of judges held that the 50% ceiling must be the general rule and a higher proportion may be possible in 'extraordinary situations'. Fundamentally this argument stems from an unresolved normative tension in *Indra Sawhney*. While committing to the con-

situtional position that reservations are not an 'exception' but a 'facet' of equality, the majority in *Indra Sawhney* also invokes the idea of balancing the equality of opportunity of backward classes 'against' the right to equality of everyone else. When governments implement the EWS reservations and push quotas beyond 50%, the Supreme Court will be forced to confront this normative tension. If reservations further equality, what then are the justifications to limit it to 50% when the identified beneficiaries constitute significantly more than 50%? The answer to that question might lie in *Indra Sawhney*'s position that the constitutional imagination is not one of 'proportional representation' but one of 'adequate representation'. However, as discussed above, if abandoning the 'adequacy' requirement per se is upheld for EWS reservations, the basis for a 50% ceiling becomes unclear.

While the constitutional amendment by itself might survive the 'basic structure' test, the hardest test for governments will be the manner in which they give effect to the amendment. The definition of 'economically weaker sections' will be a major hurdle because the political temptation will be to go as broad as possible and include large sections of citizens. But broader the definition, greater will be the constitutional risk. For example, if beneficiaries are defined as all those with family income of less than ₹8 lakh per annum, it must necessarily fail constitutional scrutiny. To justify that an individual 'below poverty line' and another with a family income of ₹8 lakh per annum belong to the same group for purposes of affirmative action will involve constitutional jugglery at an unprecedented level. But then, the history of our constitutional jurisprudence has prepared us well for such surprises.

Anup Surendranath teaches constitutional law at the National Law University, Delhi

The fault lines of diplomatic recrimination

The Huawei episode raises serious concerns over issues that are germane to international business and trade



R.K. RAGHAVAN

One of the world's largest telecom companies, Huawei, is at war with a few powerful western nations led by the United States. This is not a new spat. The conflict, which has been simmering for quite a few years, reached its crescendo on December 1, 2018 with the detention and arrest of Sabrina Meng Wanzhou, its Chief Financial Officer, in Vancouver, Canada, for allegedly breaking U.S. sanctions on Iran by way of bank frauds. The U.S. had asked Canada to detain her.

Ms. Meng, a tech heiress, is the daughter of Huawei's founder Ren Zhengfei and was arrested while in transit at the airport. A Canadian court has granted her bail, but she could face extradition to the U.S. The incident, which has led to an uproar in China, has left Canada embarrassed, as any decision will have a bearing on its ties with Beijing.

The more recent conviction (January 14) of a Canadian national Robert Lloyd Schellenberg to death by a court in China for drug trafficking has only aggravated the controversy. Significantly, this conviction was based on a retrial that took place after the arrest of

Ms. Meng. The fact that Canada does not have a death sentence on its statute books complicates relations between the two countries. The Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, has assailed this as a political move. Additionally the recent detention in China of two other Canadian citizens (one, a diplomat on leave) on national security grounds has muddied the waters further.

The Chinese assessment is that the U.S. is exercised over the growing stature of Huawei and the resultant threat to U.S. technology companies and links this to the action against Ms. Meng. It must be remembered that Huawei has overtaken Apple to become the second largest maker of smartphones, and its investments in research and development are growing at a frenetic pace.

Need for protocol
The conflict between China and the West, especially the U.S., raises serious concerns over issues that are germane to international business and trade. The first is its impact on the troubled state of international relations and international law that operates in such cases. There is also the issue of the apparent ease and arbitrariness with which a nation determined to outwit a rival can hit the latter hard. There does not seem to be an ethical set of rules.

No one suggests that Ms. Meng did not transgress U.S. law. She may have acted surreptitiously to

counter U.S. sanctions against Iran. The point, however, is whether such drastic action against a top executive was warranted, especially in the context of the fragile relationship between the two nations. The implications of the incident, in terms of the need for a protocol between nations in the area of criminal justice must be pondered over. Some experts cite the concept of 'long-arm jurisdiction' in support of the U.S. action – such jurisdiction empowers a nation to enforce its laws and rules over foreign entities, generally through courts.

The concept has a political colour to it and, therefore, questionable in cases such as Ms. Meng's arrest. The Chinese criminal action against three Canadian nationals also smacks of vindictive conduct. On the other side, the detention of Ms. Meng was obviously meant to send out a signal not only to China but also to prospective violators

of U.S. sanctions. If this was the objective, this was achieved, with the rider that a nation acting so pre-emptorily may have to brace itself to meet retaliatory action by the targeted nation, as borne out by the Chinese action against the three Canadians, one of whom now faces execution. This collateral damage to Canada should set alarm bells ringing, especially in the West.

Issue of cybersecurity
A second important issue relates to cybersecurity. China, along with Russia, has long been suspect in the eyes of the West for spying, the basis for this being proven instances of online attacks and unestablished cases of breaches in western computer systems. In the case of Huawei, the western line is that as it is a corporation close to the Chinese establishment, its activities cannot be purely technological and commercial. Ren Zhengfei had links with the People's Liberation Army (PLA). The specific charge against Huawei is that in every piece of hardware sold by it, there are microchips and devices that provide substantial information to the Chinese authorities. The irony is that there has been no major irrefutable evidence communicated to the rest of the world to substantiate this charge. Western agencies say that Huawei is so smart and skilful that it is impossible to ferret out such evidence. On its part, the latter has dismissed the charges against it as

fanciful and motivated, only in order to keep it at bay after its successful forays into American hardware bastions.

Third is the issue of the continued fragility of cybersecurity as far as the average computer user is concerned. Breaches even in highly protected environments across the globe hardly instil confidence in ordinary customers who have bought devices and follow procedures, often at great expense, to plugging security loopholes in their systems. There is, therefore, a growing reluctance on the part of many large corporations to invest more in cybersecurity. From this perspective, an emerging philosophy is that security can never be 100%, and that one should not be unduly agitated over inevitable cyberattacks, as long as they do not cause major loss, economic or reputational.

There is no means to guess the impact of the U.S. action on to-be-released and game-changing 5G technology, and in which Huawei has great stakes. China maybe expected to use the ante if any Western nation actually goes to the extent of banning Huawei from a role in the upgrading. China suspects that the anti-Huawei campaign is only at the instance of its competitors to cut it down to size on the eve of the launch of a valuable product. But this again is in the realm of speculation.

R.K. Raghavan is a former CBI Director. The views expressed are personal



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Eye on the border

One thing is crystal-clear about our aggressive neighbour, Pakistan – that it never has wanted peace.

It is a country that constantly plots what to do next even if the earlier plan has failed.

Indian Army officers are unlikely to discuss sensitive issues openly, as can be read from the report (Page 1, "9/11 derailed Army plan to capture Pakistani posts along LoC," January 21). As long as firm action such as "Operation Kabaddi" is put off, India will continue to pay a heavy price in terms of our soldiers' lives being lost and our vital military

installations becoming vulnerable to attack.

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

Rafale deal

The Hindu's exclusive report on the Rafale fighter aircraft deal does not seem to find anything that merits a deep probe. The CAG has complete access to the files on the deal, so why jump the gun and cry foul without waiting for its report? The highest court of the land too did not find anything adverse. The silver lining is that there is no money trail in this deal. One must always remember that when there are

thousands of our brave sons at our borders fighting the odds to ensure our safety, any amount of money spent for the country's defence procurements is not at all an issue per se.

S. SESADRI,
Chennai

Data and NREGA

The article, "Fabrication and falsification" (Editorial page, January 21) flags the grave danger caused by deliberate manipulation of data by government agencies. This is the worst form of corruption as it is done with the intention of cheating the common man by projecting false

performance. We often lament that Indians are corrupt but unless this sort of dishonesty is rooted out from the highest offices, how can we even talk of eliminating corruption at the grass-root level?

SUNIL KUNNATHULU,
Kochi

Federer crashes out

The Australian Open match on Sunday, where Roger Federer was stunned by Stefanos Tsitsipas, needs to be viewed how close it was in terms of the tie-breaks ("Sport" page, "Tsitsipas packs off his idol Federer; Kerber too shown the door," January 21). His

opponent had twin advantages. The first was he had nothing to lose so there was no pressure on him while Federer had to win. The second is that tie-breaks are most unpredictable. Federer needs to ponder over his future. One could discern a lack of power in his ground

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

In the interview of Dravidar Kazhagam president K. Veeramani (Jan. 21, 2018, some editions), in the answer to the last question, the place of seminar by the Backward Classes Commission was wrongly mentioned as *Kerala*. It is actually *Karnataka*.

It is the policy of *The Hindu* to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition (place of publication), date and page. The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday); Fax: +91-44-28552963; Email: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in; Mail: Readers' Editor, *The Hindu*, Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860 Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002, India. All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone number. Personal visits. The Terms of Reference for the Readers' Editor are on www.thehindu.com

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Why EVMS must go

Paper ballots claim legitimacy by passing the three tests of a free and fair election, which EVMs don't



G. SAMPATH



"It is nearly impossible to detect EVM-tampering." EVMs being inspected in Chennai before the R.K. Nagar byelection. ■ V. GANESAN

The recent Assembly elections – the last major polling exercise before the 2019 Lok Sabha polls – were not devoid of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) malfunctions. Though the discourse at present makes no distinction between a 'malfunction' (which suggests a technical defect) and 'tampering' (manipulation aimed at fraud), there were several reports of misbehaving EVMs.

A discrepancy of even one vote between votes polled and votes counted is unacceptable. This is not an unreasonably high standard but one followed by democracies worldwide. It might therefore be helpful to briefly look beyond the question that has hijacked the EVM debate – of how easy or tough it is to hack these machines – and consider the first principles of a free and fair election.

Electoral first principles

The reason a nation chooses to be a democracy is that it gives moral legitimacy to the government. The fount of this legitimacy is the people's will. The people's will is expressed through the vote, anonymously (the principle of secret ballot). Not only must this vote be recorded correctly and counted correctly, it must also be seen to be recorded correctly and counted correctly. The recording and counting process must be accessible to, and verifiable by, the public. So transparency, verifiability, and secrecy are the three pillars of a free and fair election.

Regardless of whether one is for or against EVMs, there is no getting away from the fact that any polling method must pass these three tests to claim legitimacy. Paper ballots obviously do. The voter can visually confirm that her selection has been registered, the voting happens in secret, and the counting happens in front of her representative's eyes.

EVMs, however, fail on all three, as established by a definitive judgment of the German constitutional court in 2009. The court's ruling forced the country to scrap EVMs and return to paper ballot. Other technologically

advanced nations such as the Netherlands and Ireland have also abandoned EVMs.

If we take the first two criteria, EVMs are neither transparent nor verifiable. Neither can the voter see her vote being recorded, nor can it be verified later whether the vote was recorded correctly. What is verifiable is the total number of votes cast, not the choice expressed in each vote. An electronic display of the voter's selection may not be the same as the vote stored electronically in the machine's memory. This gap was why the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) was introduced.

But VVPATs solve only one-half of the EVMs' transparency/verifiability problem: the voting part. The counting part remains an opaque operation. If anyone suspects a counting error, there is no recourse, for an electronic recount is, by definition, absurd. Some believe the VVPATs can solve this problem too, through statistics.

At present, the EC's VVPAT auditing is restricted to one randomly chosen polling booth per constituency. In a recent essay, K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty, a former IAS officer, demonstrates that this sample size will fail to detect faulty EVMs 98-99% of the time. He also shows that VVPATs can be an effective deterrent to fraud only on the condition that the detection of even one faulty EVM in a constituency must entail the VVPAT hand-counting of all the EVMs in that

constituency. Without this proviso, VVPATs would merely provide the sheen of integrity without its substance.

The third criterion is secrecy. Here too, EVMs disappoint. With the paper ballot, the EC could mix ballot papers from different booths before counting, so that voting preferences could not be connected to a given locality. But with EVMs, we are back to booth-wise counting, which allows one to discern voting patterns and renders marginalised communities vulnerable to pressure. Totaliser machines can remedy this, but the EC has shown no intent to adopt them.

So, on all three counts – transparency, verifiability and secrecy – EVMs are flawed. VVPATs are not the answer either, given the sheer magnitude of the logistical challenges. The recent track record of EVMs indicates that the number of malfunctions in a national election will be high. For that very reason, the EC is unlikely to adopt a policy of hand-counting all EVMs in constituencies where faulty machines are reported, as this might entail hand-counting on a scale that defeats the very purpose of EVMs. And yet, this is a principle without which the use of VVPATs is meaningless.

Unjustified suspicions

Despite these issues, EVMs continue to enjoy the confidence of the EC, which insists that Indian EVMs, unlike the Western ones, are tamper-

proof. But this is a matter of trust. Even if the software has been burnt into the microchip, neither the EC nor the voter knows for sure what software is running in a particular EVM. One has to simply trust the manufacturer and the EC. But as the German court observed, the precondition of this trust is the verifiability of election events, whereas in the case of EVMs, "the calculation of the election result is based on a calculation act which cannot be examined from outside".

While it is true that the results come quicker and the process is cheaper with EVMs as compared to paper ballot, both these considerations are undeniably secondary to the integrity of the election. Another argument made in favour of the EVM is that it eliminates malpractices such as booth-capturing and ballot-box stuffing. In the age of the smartphone, however, the opportunity costs of ballot-box-stuffing and the risk of exposure are prohibitively high. In contrast, tampering with code could accomplish rigging on a scale unimaginable for booth-capturers. Moreover, it is nearly impossible to detect EVM-tampering. As a result, suspicions of tampering in the tallying of votes – as opposed to malfunction in registering the votes, which alone is detectable – are destined to remain in the realm of speculation. The absence of proven fraud might save the EVM for now, but its survival comes at a dangerous cost – the corrosion of people's faith in the electoral process.

Yet there doesn't have to be incontrovertible evidence of EVM-tampering for a nation to return to paper ballot. Suspicion is enough, and there is enough of it already. As the German court put it, "The democratic legitimacy of the election demands that the election events be controllable so that... unjustified suspicion can be refuted." The phrase "unjustified suspicion" is pertinent. The EC has always maintained that suspicions against EVMs are unjustified. Clearly, the solution is not to dismiss EVM-sceptics as ignorant technophobes. Rather, the EC is obliged to provide the people of India a polling process capable of refuting unjustified suspicion, as this is a basic requirement for democratic legitimacy, not an optional accessory.

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Justice delayed is markets stymied

In a market economy like India, a strong judiciary is required for quick settlement of disputes



SAMEER MALIK & SANJIB POHIT

cases, the average duration of pendency is about 4.3 years for the five major High Courts. The Centre and the States approximately spend 0.08-0.09% of the GDP on administration of justice, which is very low. In 2017, India spent about ₹0.24 per person on the judiciary; the U.S. spent ₹12. Even though, understandably, it is a little punitive to compare India's budget with that of the most powerful economy in the world, the point is to set out a benchmark for India.

The problem is with economic theory
Unlike our policymakers, those in other countries seem to have realised the importance of the judiciary in the efficient functioning of a market economy. The problem here lies with economic theory. The proponents of reform belong to the school of neoclassical economics, and are taught that transactions are costless. However, the writings of Richard Coase and Douglass North have taught us that in reality, the rules and regulations that affect economic activity determine whether transactions are costless or not. This theory of new institutional economics questions the two crucial assumptions of neoclassical economics – costless transactions and perfect information – and stresses the role of institutions in facilitating market exchange by reducing transaction costs, providing a predictable framework for exchange, and overcoming imperfect information. In India, there are few practitioners of new institutional economics and that could explain why this aspect has not been addressed in the past decade.

The low focus on the judiciary obviously implies that non-compliance of contracts is not at all costly in India. The official dispute settlement mechanism does not deliver justice in a time-bound manner. Consequently, players are willing to bypass the system by paying rents to government officials, a system that became customary in the License Raj. Officials are willing to accept quick money since there is little chance of getting caught, making venality a norm. Of course, studies in political economy have shown that strengthening institutions and political power enjoyed by the incumbent are in conflict of interest. Thus, the Opposition also has a major role to play in the solidification of institutions, including, and especially, the judiciary. Strong institutions are the key to move India up the economic ladder. Otherwise, India will remain a land of crony capitalists.

Over the years, and with the advent of the Internet, India has taken a leap towards transparency of information. However, little progress has been made in the case of dispute settlement mechanisms due to an inefficient judiciary. The situation is so desperate that the Economic Survey of 2017-18 had to set aside an entire chapter on the need for 'Timely Justice'. It noted that the current working capacity of the High Courts and the Supreme Court is only 63.6%. Plus, there are huge numbers of pending cases: 1.8 lakh in six of the major tribunals, and close to 3.5 million in the High Courts. For economic

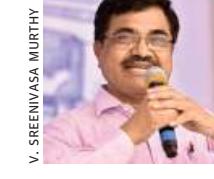
Sameer Malik and Sanjib Pohit are with the National Council of Applied Economic Research. Views are personal

SINGLE FILE

Yet another soft target

The hounding of Anand Teltumbde shows the contempt for public intellectualism in today's India

KANCHI ILAIAH SHEPHERD



I do not agree with activist Anand Teltumbde on many ideological fronts, nor does he agree with me. That is evident from his writings about my work. He is a Dalit scholar and colleague of many upper-caste intellectuals, who do not like my work. Yet I can vouch for the fact that he is an intellectual of the highest quality. And Hindutva-based parties tend to have contempt for public intellectualism. Those in the Sangh Parivar cannot match Mr. Teltumbde's commitment to the people's cause.

If he is arrested for disagreeing in writing on the causes behind the Bhima-Koregaon incident of January 1, 2018, that would rank among the most significant cases of overreach by law enforcement. The unjust arrest of an intellectual may not cause the loss of votes in a democracy such as ours, but it could lead to a rebellion against the forces of elitist chauvinism. If such rebellions gather force across the nation, that might even spur a political revolution of the sort that other countries have occasionally witnessed.

Maoists, to whom the state appears to be seeking to link Mr. Teltumbde, have thus far failed to create the conditions for a true revolution. They were unlikely to succeed so long as Indian democracy operated in a manner consistent with its constitutional foundations. Yet, as there are growing incidents of unjust arrests of public intellectuals, a more potent rebellion against formal authorities may take place.

In India intellectuals are considered soft targets because of a general lack of interest in public intellectualism relative to, say, religious institutions. But French society was in the same stage at the time of the philosopher Voltaire, on the cusp of the French revolution. If not today, India may well reach that stage tomorrow. Religiously conservative governments may catalyse that process.

Mr. Teltumbde's has been the most vibrant pen since B.R. Ambedkar, particularly from that social background in Maharashtra. He may be a public intellectual who sometimes disagrees with Ambedkar's ideas, but he remains a member of that intellectual family.

Today the authorities are seeking to muzzle this voice and prove that they are nationalists. This kind of spiritually loaded nationalism inspires a philosophical internationalism among Indian intellectuals seeking a common cause for a bigger democratic fight. The idea of Hindutva may be Indian, but the idea of civil liberty is international. It was the common cause of Voltaire of the 18th century and Teltumbde of 21st century. The cause of Indian democracy would be better served if the FIR against Mr. Teltumbde were dropped, and we simply let him get on with his writing and teaching.

The writer is a Director at the Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad



NOTEBOOK

Please read my story'

The thought that drives journalists in danger

SUHASINI HAIDAR

Contrary to many of the stories that appeared about him after his brutal death in 2011, Pakistani journalist Syed Saleem Shahzad had always played it safe. A journalist at the *Asia Times*, Shahzad wrote about jihadi groups, and was among the few who had met Osama bin Laden, Mullah Omar, Ilyas Kashmiri and other elusive terrorist leaders. He stayed under the radar, seldom appearing on TV, living in a different city from his family, and keeping his travel plans close to his chest.

Yet there he was, a few days after bin Laden's capture and killing, at a prominent restaurant in Islamabad, giving an Indian journalist a television interview. Shahzad's theory was that al-Qaeda and affiliated pan-Islamic groups had managed to infiltrate a small part of the Pakistani Army. According to him,

bin Laden's killing would prove the trigger for those groups.

Within a few weeks, the Pakistani Army's naval base, PNS Mehran, in Karachi was attacked. Shahzad wrote a story, the "first article of a two-part report", on how the al-Qaeda-linked "313 Brigade" had carried out the attack.

The second part of the report was to be on the recruitment and training of the militants. But it never appeared. Shahzad was abducted, tortured and killed. In an interview to me a few weeks before his death, Shahzad had said: "Even if I don't remain, I have written a book. Please ensure that it is widely read." The book, *Inside Al-Qaeda and the Taliban: Beyond bin Laden and 9/11*, was released after his death and never actually caught on. But his words remain the driving thought of every journalist I have met, regardless of the dan-

gers they face.

Unfortunately, Shahzad was not the only journalist I met who faced threats. American journalist Marie Colvin did too – of a different kind. In 2011, Colvin was one of the few journalists who had been invited by Muammar Gaddafi to cover his stand-off with the U.S. and its European allies.

Colvin was aware that the wily Libyan dictator had invited renowned international journalists to Tripoli only to ensure that NATO forces wouldn't attack his capital. As I fixed a mike on her for an interview, I asked her why she had come. She shrugged. "What else would I do," she asked. "If we don't write the stories, how can we expect people to read them?" Colvin, who wore a black eyepatch after losing an eye in a mortar attack in Sri Lanka some years before, escaped alive from Libya. But less than a year later, she was killed while covering the Siege of Homs.

Last June, Shujaat Bukhari, Editor of *Rising Kashmir* and a former correspondent of *The Hindu*, was gunned down outside his office in Srinagar. That Bukhari supported the peace process and the short-lived ceasefire operations in Kashmir had become too dangerous for those who wanted the violence to continue. In May, at the start of the ceasefire, Bukhari had made an impassioned plea to journalists to come to Srinagar and write about the benefits of the small window of peace. "Don't let Kashmir go off the news pages," he had said to me. Those who had ordered his killing had clearly wanted more than just the end of one story; they wanted to erase a credible byline.

All of them were targeted for the stories they were writing. They wrote those stories anyway, with only one hope: that they would be read.

FROM The Hindu ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 22, 1969

Specialists from Bombay examine C.M.

Two specialists from the Tata Memorial Cancer Institute, Bombay, Dr. Paymaster and Dr. Jussawalla, arrived in the City [Madras] this morning [Jan. 21] and examined the Chief Minister, Mr. C.N. Annadurai, who has been admitted in the Cancer Institute, Adyar. The specialists studied the X-ray pictures of Mr. Annadurai and also held prolonged discussions with the panel of doctors appointed by the State Government to treat him. A bulletin issued by the Health Minister later in the afternoon said: "For the past few days, the doctors attending on the Chief Minister, Mr. C.N. Annadurai, have been concerned about certain symptoms presented by him which suggested the possibility of a small area of recurrence of disease. They have investigated and desired that a few more specialists could be called in for opinion." Accordingly, "Dr. Paymaster and Dr. Jussawalla of Bombay examined the Chief Minister to-day. The Chief Minister's general condition continues to be satisfactory."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 22, 1919

Mr. S.N. Banerjee at the Law College.

At a meeting at the Law College, Madras, which was intended for the benefit of the students of the College and which was not open to the Press, the Hon'ble Mr. T. Rangachari delivered a lecture last evening [Jan. 21] on the Montagu-Chelmsford Reform Scheme. The Hon'ble Mr. Surendranath Banerjee presided. In the course of his concluding remarks as Chairman Mr. Banerjee said that the road to responsible government was laid out in the scheme in clear and strong outlines. They had only to prove their capacity at every stage of development before proceeding to the next stage. There had been a profound change in the angle of vision of their rulers. The colour barrier had been removed. The appointment of Sir S.P. Sinha as Under-Secretary in the India Office was an instance.

CONCEPTUAL Wisdom of repugnance

PHILOSOPHY

Also known as the yuck factor, this refers to the argument that any intuitive feeling of disgust that a human being might feel towards something is reason enough to consider the thing to be immoral in nature. Supporters of this idea believe that the emotional reaction towards something is simply an involuntary articulation of deeper wisdom within human beings that may not be easily comprehensible through reason. The term was coined by American scientist Leon R. Kass in 1997 to argue against the cloning of human beings. Critics of the idea believe that gut reaction against something can, in fact, lead people to do things that are deeply unethical in nature.

MORE ON THE WEB

In conversation with writer and investigative journalist Suki Kim

<http://bit.ly/JournalistSukiKim>

A ND-NDE

FROM PAGE ONE

CJI recuses himself from CBI case hearing

Chief Justice Gogoi, however, had heard a petition filed by Mr. Verma against the latter's 'overnight' divestment from office on October 23-24 last year even though the CJI was a member of the high-power committee. Chief Justice Gogoi had authored the judgment for the Bench allowing Mr. Verma to return to office and directed the competent authority to organise a meeting of the committee within a week to decide Mr. Verma's divestment. It was in this meeting that Justice Sikri had represented Chief Justice Gogoi.

The petition against the appointment of Mr. Rao, filed jointly by NGO Common Cause and activist Anjali Bhardwaj, submitted that the government had "completely bypassed" the statutory requirement to consult the high-power selection committee of the Prime Minister, Opposition Leader and the Chief Justice of India before appointing Mr. Rao.

It claimed that the January 10 order of the govern-

ment handing over the charge and work of the CBI Director to Mr. Rao was "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, represented by advocate Prashant Bhushan, contended.

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

Lack of transparency in the appointment of the CBI Director allows the government to exercise undue influence in the appointment process especially at the stage of short-listing of candidates, the petition said.

Choksi surrenders his Indian passport

The Ministry of External Affairs had revoked the passports of the duo a few months after the PNB scam erupted.

Mr. Choksi has refused to return, despite a major controversy erupting in Antigua following the discovery that the authorities had granted citizenship to a fugitive from India under an 'investment criterion' that allows businessmen to buy citizenship of the island in exchange for investments. This is the first prominent incident after the government took legislative measures against finan-

cial fraudsters. "Our government has passed the Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill. Those who have fled will be brought back. It might take some time, but they all will be brought back," said Home Minister Rajnath Singh.

Officials are, however, yet to clarify if Mr. Choksi personally came to surrender the passport at Guyana or sent it by mail. "India continues to pursue Choksi's return with the Government of Antigua through diplomatic and legal channels," a source said.

Centre proposes to hike pensions for the poor

The Centre has been considering various welfare measures to benefit rural Indians and farming communities before the Lok Sabha election. Senior government officials have mentioned income support, interest waivers and increased access to credit as some of the other measures being considered.

The NSAP is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with an annual budget of ₹9975 crore. It currently covers more than three crore people who are below the poverty line (BPL), including about 80 lakh widows, 10 lakh disabled and 2.2 crore elderly. Those who are older than 80 years are paid ₹500 per month, while the rest are given ₹200 per month.

In his last budget speech in February 2018, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had said that the government "is implementing a comprehensive social security and protection programme to reach every household of old, widows, orphaned children, divyaang and deprived as per the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC)."

Post Oppn. meet, Modi to hold multiple rallies in West Bengal

Amit Shah to address meetings in Malda and Jhargram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA

The massive Opposition rally at the Brigade Parade Grounds in Kolkata on January 19 has triggered a flurry of political activity in West Bengal, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi scheduled to address multiple rallies in the State during the next few days.

The West Bengal BJP on Tuesday announced that Mr. Modi will address a rally at Siliguri in north Bengal on January 28, followed by rallies at Bongaon on January 31 and Asansol on February 8. Plans for the Prime Minister to hold a rally at the same Brigade Parade Grounds in early February however, seem to have been put on



Amit Shah

hold. BJP president Amit Shah is scheduled to arrive in Malda on Tuesday and address a rally in the district. On Wednesday, Mr. Shah is scheduled to hold two rallies at Jhargram and Suri in south Bengal.

Left gears up

The Left parties have also stepped up preparations for their rally at the Brigade Pa-

rade Ground on February 3.

Meanwhile, a day before Mr. Shah's Malda meeting, controversy erupted over permission for the landing of his helicopter.

While the BJP alleged permission was denied by the State Administration. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said permission had been given and the BJP was misinforming people.

According to the BJP leadership, after the administration denied permission the party spoke to a private hotel and Border Security Force to make their air strip available.

Ms. Banerjee said there were certain security concerns but permission was granted later in the day.

Pak. shares draft pact on Kartarpur Corridor

Proposes to keep it open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day; officials from both countries to meet next month

SUHASINI HAIDAR

NEW DELHI



Crucial link: Land around the Gurudwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur is being cleared and levelled for the proposed corridor in Punjab, Pakistan. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Indian and Pakistani officials are expected to meet next month to discuss a "draft agreement" on the Kartarpur corridor in Punjab, sources confirmed. The meeting follows the Pakistan government's announcement that it had shared the draft of the agreement, to be signed by the two governments, for "facilitation of (Indian) Sikh Yatrees to visit the Gurudwara, Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, Narowal, Pakistan".

In a statement on Monday, the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the draft had been shared "in line with Prime Minister Imran Khan's commitment" to open the pilgrim corridor in time for the 550th Birth Anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak in November 2019. The Pakistan government also appointed its Director-General (South Asia & SAARC), Dr. Muhammad Faisal "as the focal person on Pakistan's side and requested that the Government of India designate a focal person at its end", the statement said, and called for an Indian dele-

gation to travel to Islamabad to finalise the agreement.

Peace effort

"Pakistan would continue with its efforts to bring peace and stability in the region," the statement added.

The Ministry of External Affairs didn't comment on the statement from Isla-

bad. However, sources said India has been working on modalities for arrangements for the corridor on the Indian side, and is expected to meet with Pakistani officials in February this year.

The Kartarpur initiative is seen as an exceptional case for the Indian government, which has refused to open

talks with Pakistan on any other issue until concerns on terror are addressed. It has agreed to work with Pakistan on the plan to help Sikh pilgrims access the sacred site, which is just four kilometres across the border from India.

Among the issues that need to be finalised are the exact point of crossing over for the pilgrims, the identity cards required, as well as security procedures and guarantees needed by both sides. In a previous draft, Pakistan had proposed a 14-point agreement, which included visa free travel for the pilgrims who would be processed at checkpoints on both the Indian and Pakistani side.

On Monday, the Pakistan government released photographs of work on an expressway to be used to shuttle the pilgrims from the border and for levelling work being undertaken near the Kartarpur shrine.

Earlier, the MEA had said there should be no restriction on the number of pilgrims or visiting hours. However, given security protocols, the Ministry of Home Affairs concluded that a cap would be necessary. The draft agreement from Pakistan also proposes to keep the corridor open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day.

Work on the infrastructure for the corridor, which was started at ceremonies held in Dera Baba Nanak in India and Kartarpur in Pakistan in November 2018, has also begun.

On Monday, the Pakistan government released photographs of work on an expressway to be used to shuttle the pilgrims from the border and for levelling work being undertaken near the Kartarpur shrine.

PM acts as frontman for corporate friends: Cong.

Alleges misuse of Defence Ministry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Objecting to Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman describing the Opposition's questions on the Rafale deal as "corporate lobbying," the Congress on Monday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had been "acting as a frontman for corporate friends."

Deputy Leader of the Congress party in the Rajya Sabha Anand Sharma said Ms. Sitharaman, who defended the deal in the Lok Sabha, was reduced to being an "apologist defending the indefensible."

"The Defence Minister terming it [questions on the deal] as corporate lobbying is objectionable. Sad to see Defence Ministry misused to cover up and Minister reduced to being an apologist defending the indefensible," he tweeted.

"The government's and the BJP's claims that the Rafale deal was transparent, and that it has cut out middlemen, is laughable and ridiculous. The fact is that it was opaque and flawed. Surely no middlemen-



Anand Sharma

...good. But what when Pradhan Mantri acts as a frontman for corporate friends?" asked Mr. Sharma.

"Why has the PM not personally denied former French President Francois Hollande's statement? Any answers?" he asked.

In an interview to a French publication, Mr. Hollande had claimed France or Dassault Aviation did not have a choice in selecting the offset partner. The government, however, has denied all the charges.

"The Opposition has raised fundamental questions on the Rafale jet acquisition. These include compromising national security, hurting national manufacturing, and denial of technology to HAL and loss to national exchequer," countered Mr. Sharma.

CBI officer moves SC against transfer back to Port Blair

Bassi was part of team investigating the FIR against Asthana

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

A CBI officer, who was part of a probe team investigating an FIR against former Special Director Rakesh Asthana, on Monday challenged his transfer to Andaman and Nicobar Islands immediately after M. Nageshwar Rao took over charge as CBI Director.

A.K. Bassi had been earlier transferred to Port Blair in October 2018 when Alok Verma was divested of his office of CBI Director.

Following the re-instatement of Mr. Verma on the basis of a Supreme Court judgment of January 8, Mr. Bassi was transferred back to the national capital in order to continue with his investigation of Mr. Asthana.

However, Mr. Verma was once again removed as CBI Director, within 48 hours of his re-instatement, on the basis of a recommendation from the high-power committee. This development saw Mr. Bassi facing a second transfer order to Port Blair on January 11.

The CBI officer, represent-



A.K. Bassi

ed by advocate Sunil Fernandes, contended that his second transfer order was issued without authority and with malafide intentions. It was meant to 'victimise' him and prejudice the investigation against Mr. Asthana.

Mr. Bassi said his transfer order is non-speaking and fails to disclose reasons for such an "emergent sweeping action."

"The petitioner (Bassi) apprehends that the course of investigation will be in-

HC rejects officer's plea

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday refused to entertain the plea of CBI Deputy SP Devender Kumar seeking direction to the probe agency not to allow its then director Alok Verma to deal with the FIR lodged against him over bribery charges.

fluenced in such a manner that investigators will soon be arraigned as accused persons... he was never a part of any 'group or faction' within the CBI and has no concern whatsoever with the alleged disputes that have erupted within the CBI," the petition said.

Mr. Bassi said his transfer order is non-speaking and fails to disclose reasons for such an "emergent sweeping action."

"The petitioner (Bassi) apprehends that the course of investigation will be in-

20 officials transferred in new reshuffle

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

In yet another round of reshuffle, 20 Central Bureau of Investigation officials were transferred and posted in different States on Monday.

Among them are 13 officials of the Superintendent of Police rank and the rest are Assistant Superintendents of Police.

Sterlite protest case

A. Saravanan, SP from the Chennai zone, has been transferred to Mumbai replacing S.K. Nair as the supervising officer of the Punjab National Bank fraud case. However, Mr. Saravanan will continue to supervise the Sterlite protest case.

The transfer order said all the officials designated by Constitutional courts to inquire, probe or supervise any case would continue to do so.

The move comes days before the Prime Minister-led selection committee is to decide on the next CBI Director. The committee is scheduled to meet on January 24.

Jaitley says Opposition alliance is unviable

Finance Minister writes Facebook post titled 'Agenda for 2019 – Modi vs Chaos'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley termed the "Mahagathbandhan" or alliance of opposition parties against the NDA as "unviable and unworkable", saying an aspirational society of current times "will not commit collective suicide" by voting in the opposition in the forthcoming general elections.

Mr. Jaitley, who is in the U.S. for medical treatment



Arun Jaitley

made these remarks in a Facebook post entitled "Agenda for 2019 – Modi vs Chaos".

He referenced late prime

minister Indira Gandhi's campaign in 1971, where there was a similar opposition unity against her and asked the question: "Will 2019 be a replica of 1971? Is it Modi vs an unviable and an unworkable short-lived combination, or is it Modi vs Chaos?"

Further referencing 1971, Mr. Jaitley said, "We had powerful leaders and a head-start in the media. Additionally, the Congress had split into two. The results were announced, India rejected negativity. The India of 2019 has moved way ahead of India of 1971. Aspirational society never commits a collective suicide. They do not suffer from Lemming Syndrome."

The Lemming Syndrome refers to a phenomenon wherein crowds of people, imitate actions of each other just because they see majority of their peers doing it.

It's Modi versus India, says Goyal

Terms West Bengal govt. obstructionist

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday asserted that the 2019 Lok Sabha polls will be a fight between 'Prime Minister Narendra Modi versus India' in response to a blog by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley titled 'Modi versus Chaos.'

"This is going to be a fight of Modi vs India. This is now a fight between Modi's Thugbandhan (alliance of thugs) and Janta's Janbandhan (people's alliance)," senior Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi told reporters.

The Congress alleged that the Modi government was attacking Opposition parties to cover its failures like 'Rafale', rural distress, tax terrorism, bank frauds among others.

'No Rafale issue had Lokpal been in place'

Anna Hazare to go on hunger strike

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Claiming that the alleged Rafale scam would not have taken place if the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act had been implemented by the Modi government, social activist Anna Hazare announced that he would begin an indefinite hunger strike from January 30 to demand that the Centre keep its promises regarding the anti-corruption law and farmers' welfare.

"I have papers regarding Rafale, which I will study over the next two days, and then hold a separate press conference on it," he said on Monday, adding that it was incomprehensible how an Ambani-led company, which was established just before the Rafale deal was signed and had no prior defence expertise, had made a windfall from it. "If Lokpal had been implemented, Rafale [alleged] scam could not have happened," he added.

IN BRIEF



Bihar will implement 10% EWS quota: Nitish

PATNA
Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday said the 10% reservation for the economically weaker sections will be implemented in the State even as he called for enhanced quota for the Other Backward Classes. He demanded that the census in 2021 should be caste-based to enable proportional representation of various castes in reservation.

Three militants killed in Budgam encounter

Srinagar
Three militants were killed in a day-long operation by security forces in a forest area in central Kashmir's Budgam on Monday. An official said the body of one militant was spotted outside the hideout and two were inside it. "The bodies were being retrieved for identification," said the police, adding that the operation took time due to the tough terrain and inclement weather. Preliminary reports suggest the militants belonged to the Hizbul Mujahideen.

Arunachal Pradesh, Assam CMs defend Citizenship Bill

People with vested interest are spreading misinformation, say Khandu & Sonowal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has joined his Assam counterpart Sarbananda Sonowal in defending the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, and said "people with vested interests" have been misinterpreting it to create confusion.

Mr. Khandu heads a Bharatiya Janata Party government in Arunachal Pradesh, while Mr. Sonowal leads a coalition government with the BJP being the major player.

"Some people with vested interests are opposing the Bill with misinterpretations creating confusions among the people that it will have a negative impact upon us. This is not true; rather, the Bill will help us in rebuilding a balanced demography of the region," Mr. Khandu said in Arunachal Pradesh's East Kameng district on Sunday.

"I am sure it (Citizenship Bill) will not harm us as we are safe from any kind of infiltrators due to the Inner Line Permit mechanism."

Voices of support

I am sure it (Citizenship Bill) will not harm us as we are safe from any kind of infiltrators due to the Inner Line Permit mechanism

The Bill will only allow the people who have entered India before December 31, 2014, to apply for citizenship after a seven-year-long stay in India

The Bill:

The Citizenship Bill seeks to grant Indian citizenship to Hindus, Jains, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Parsis from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan after six years of residence in India, instead of 12 years currently, even if they do not possess any document

infiltrators due to the Inner Line Permit (ILP) mechanism," he said. Anyone entering Arunachal Pradesh from elsewhere in India requires an ILP as mandated by the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act of 1873.

Various organisations, including the All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union, have been protesting the

Bill. They say it would make thousands of Chakma and Hajong refugees displaced from Bangladesh and Tibetans from China eligible for citizenship in the frontier State.

On Sunday at Banderdewa on the Arunachal Pradesh-Assam border, Mr. Sonowal insisted that the BJP government had made all possible

efforts to safeguard the interests of the indigenous people. "Certain organisations have unleashed a misinformation campaign about the proposed Citizenship (Amendment) Bill," he said.

Clause 6 key

Earlier, in central Assam's Morigaon district, Mr. Sonowal said: "The Bill will only allow the people who have entered India before December 31, 2014 to apply for citizenship after a seven-year-long stay in India. And mere application won't grant them citizenship. They have to prove they have lived for seven years in India and they were persecuted in those countries."

Mr. Sonowal also said no government at the Centre before the one led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi made any tangible effort to implement Clause 6 of the Assam Accord of 1985 for safeguarding constitutional, legislative, and administrative interests of the indigenous people of the State.

EC mulls legal action on anti-EVM campaign

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Monday said it was examining the option of taking legal action on the claims made at a press conference in London that the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) used by the electoral body could be hacked and that the 2014 Lok Sabha polls were rigged.

Syed Shuja, a U.S.-based cyberexpert levelled the allegations via Skype at an event

hosted by the Indian Journalist Association and the Foreign Press Association in London. He claimed that he had intended to travel to the U.K. from an undisclosed location in the U.S. four days ago but was attacked and injured and was unable to travel.

He also alleged that the individuals who were meant to bring an EVM to the venue for him to be able to demonstrate alleged tampering had

been "offered a great deal of money" and "decided not to show up."

"It has come to the notice of the Election Commission of India that an event claiming to demonstrate EVMs used by ECI can be tampered with, has been organised in London. Whereas the ECI has been wary of becoming a party to this motivated slugfest, ECI firmly stands by the empirical facts about the foolproof nature of ECI-

EVMs deployed in elections in India," said the Commission.

"It needs to be reiterated that these EVMs are manufactured in Bharat Electronics Limited and Electronics Corporation of India Limited under very strict supervisory and security conditions and there are rigorous standard operating procedures meticulously observed at all stages under the supervision of a committee of eminent

technical experts constituted way back in 2010. It is being separately examined as to what legal action can and should be taken in the matter," the EC said.

Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi said: "We cannot deny it, we cannot affirm it. But, it is clear that it adds to the significant body of thoughts which has grave doubts about the authenticity, objectivity and correctness of these machines."

"Where there is outstanding merit, the possessor thereof deserves to be appointed regardless of the fact that he may not stand high in the all-India seniority list or in his own High Court," the court had held in its opinion on the 1998 Presidential Reference on the intricacies of the Collegium system.

However, objections

31 Rohingya stranded near Bangladesh border

Taking care of their basic needs: BSF

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Border Security Force (BSF) has said they were taking care of the daily necessities of 31 Rohingya who have been stranded along the Bangladesh-Tripura border for the past three days.

The Rohingya are held up behind the barbed wire fencing at Raymura in west Tripura.

It is not clear how they reached here. The official said six men, nine women and 16 children were detained by the Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) on Saturday.

A senior BSF official said that Commandant rank officers of the BSF and their counterparts in the BGB have met twice, but the impasse continues.

"We have also asked the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to intervene if the situation isn't solved by the two forces," said the official.

While the BGB asserted that the Rohingya came from India, the BSF denied the claim.

The barbed wire fencing has been erected 300 feet into the Indian side from the international border, as per norms.

HC asks Vadra to answer ED summons

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JODHPUR

The Rajasthan High Court on Monday lifted its earlier order for "no coercive action" against Robert Vadra in the Bikaner land deal case, while asking the partners of his firm Sky Light Hospitality Private Limited to cooperate with the Enforcement Directorate in the investigation.

Mr. Vadra and his mother Maureen Vadra, as Directors of Sky Light Hospitality, will appear before the Directorate on February 12 in response to its summons, as per the court's order.

ASSAM ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Assam Undertaking)
Industrial Estate, Bamunimaidan, Guwahati - 781021, Assam
Ph. 0361 2724222 Fax: 0361 2724131
RFP No. AEDC/RFP/TPDS-FPS/18-19/17/Pt-1/2 Date: 21-01-2019
RE - TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders are invited from the qualified bidders for Selection of System Integrator (SI) for Implementation of Fair Price Shop (FPS) automation project across the State of Assam under End-to-End Computerisation of TPDS Operations on behalf of the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, Government of Assam.

Further details and subsequent communication may be seen at <https://assamtenders.gov.in>. Those tenders will be rejected which have not been submitted online.

Sd/- Managing Director
A.E.D.C.Ltd.

Department of Collegiate Education
Government of Karnataka
NO. 1, 2nd Floor, DTE Building, Palace Road, Bangalore - 560 001
Phone: 080 22343904, 05, Fax: 080 22343904, email: bngcce@kar.nic.in
web: www.doc.kar.nic.in

No. DCE/ITS/40/Laptop/2018/19 Date: 19 .01.2019
E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Supply of Laptop Computers for Distribution to Under Graduate Students of Government First Grade and University Constituent Colleges in Karnataka"

Tender Number : DCE/2018-19/IND934 dated:21-01-2019

The Commissioner for Collegiate Education, Bengaluru hereby invites Bids (Two Cover System) from the registered and eligible bidders for "Supply of Laptop Computers for Distribution to Under Graduate Students of Government First Grade and University Constituent Colleges in Karnataka". The Tender Document with detailed terms and conditions can be obtained from the website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>.

Date of floating Tender e-procurement Portal: 21/01/2019

Pre-Bid Meeting : 28/01/2019 at 11.00 HRS IST

Last Date and time to Submit bids : 22/02/2019, 17.00 HRS IST

Opening of Technical Bids : 25/02/2019 at 11.00 HRS IST

Sd/- Commissioner of Collegiate Education
Bangalore, Karnataka

Karnataka Sheep and Wool Development Corporation Limited
Kuri Bhavana, Veterinary College Campus, Hebball, Bengaluru - 560024. Ph: 080-23414295, 23413294, Fax: 080-23413294
E-mail: kswdcl@gmail.com

No.KSWDCL/Woolmachineries/Tender/2018-19 Date: 21-01-2019

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement)

Karnataka Sheep and Wool Development Corporation Limited invites tenders through e-procurement to supply

Machineries for Wool Processing Centre at Hospet Taluk, Ballary District. Interested tenderers can participate

through Website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Further details can be had from office of the Managing

Director, Karnataka Sheep and Wool Development

Corporation Ltd., Kuri Bhavana, Veterinary College

Campus, Hebball, Bengaluru - 560024.

Full tender documents may be viewed from the above

website from 21.01.2019 onwards. Tenderers should

upload E.M.D and required certificates through

e-procurement platform from 21-01-2019 to 27-02-2019

upto 5.00 P.M. Technical bids will be Opened on

01-03-2019 at 11.00 A.M. at the Office of the Managing

Director, Karnataka Sheep and Wool Development

Corporation Ltd., Kuri Bhavana, Veterinary College

Campus, Hebball, Bengaluru - 560024.

Sd/- Chairman & Deputy Director
Tender Inviting Committee
KSWDCL, Bengaluru

DIPR/Bengaluru/R.O.No.1977/2018-19

Controversy continues over Justice Khanna's elevation

1998 opinion by the SC may shed light on the issues raised

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of the controversy over the appointment of Justice Sanjiv Khanna, a 1998 opinion by the Supreme Court may shed light on the questions raised by the episode.

The objections against are not merely over seniority, but extends to questions about the Collegium dropping the names of two judges considered earlier and the reasons given for changing its decision.

As Justice Khanna shared the Bench with the Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi on Monday, a section of legal experts condemned the controversy as a "selective" outcry.

They cited the recent example of the Collegium recommending Justice K.M. Joseph for appointment to the Supreme Court over many other judges senior to him. Why cannot the same happen to Justice Khanna, who was ranked 33 in the all-India high court judges' seniority list, they asked.

'Outstanding merit'

A nine-judge Bench in the 'Special Reference Case' of 1998 had ruled that "merit is the pre-dominant consideration for the purposes of appointment to the Supreme Court".

These include unauthorised media leaks, "additional materials", intervening Winter vacation and subsequent change in the composition of the Collegium on the retirement of Justice Madan B. Lokur during the holidays.

Finally, both the 1993 judgment and 1998 opinion have established that the CJI's "final opinion" is not merely his individual opinion. The CJI's opinion "must necessarily have the element of plurality in its formation".

The CJI's view on a prospective judicial appointment has primacy because it 'symbolises' the opinion of the judiciary itself.

"View of the Chief Justice of India is to be expressed in the consultative process as truly reflective of the opinion of the judiciary," the 1993 judgment observed.



resolution explained that it took "certain decisions" on December 12, but consultations could not be done due to the winter vacation. When the court re-opened, Justice Arun Mishra joined the Collegium. Extensive deliberations held on January 5-6 led to a "fresh look" in the light of "additional materials" that became available."

The 1998 Special Reference case explains that when a Collegium judge retires in the midst of an appointment process and reasons are later made available for the non-appointment of the person under consideration, such reasons should be placed before the newly constituted Collegium.

Strong reasons'

Further, the Second Judges Case (Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association versus Union of India) judgment in October 1993, and later the court's opinion in the 1998 Special Reference, confirm that "strong cogent reasons" should be the basis for appointing a judge to the Supreme Court by superseding others senior to him.

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"View of the Chief Justice of India is to be expressed in the consultative process as truly reflective of the opinion of the judiciary," the 1993 judgment observed.

Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA)

Nijojan Bhawan, Sriya Square, Unit-3, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha, India

Tel : +91 0674 2391320 / +91 9535533255,

Website : www.empmissionodisha.gov.in; Email : wsc.osda@gmail.com

KK-105 CORRIGENDUM / EXTENSION OF LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDER

Invitation for Bids No.: OSDA/WSC/Goods/01-2018

ELSEWHERE



'Resisting technology is an outdated approach'

TEHRAN
Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Monday said resistance against new technologies is "outdated" as he once again criticised the judiciary's blocking of social media. "Resisting new technologies and modern developments is an outdated approach," he said in a speech broadcast by state television. Iran in recent years has blocked access to many social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. AFP

Trust in Putin has fallen to a 13-year low: pollster

MOSCOW
Public trust in President Vladimir Putin has fallen to its lowest level in 13 years, according to a state pollster, a setback for the Kremlin which works hard to burnish his image as a wise father-of-the-nation-style leader. The poll, by the Public Opinion Research Centre, found that trust in Mr. Putin had fallen to 33.4%, its lowest level since 2006. REUTERS

UNHCR gets suspicious envelope from India

ATHENS
The UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Athens on Monday received an envelope from India containing suspicious powder, the fire department said, after dozens of mystery deliveries to Greek universities and institutions. A police source said the envelope was similar to nearly 40 letters sent from India to Greece over recent weeks. AFP

10 dead after tanker catches fire near Crimea

MOSCOW
Ten people died off Crimea in the Black Sea on Monday after a fire engulfed gas tankers sailing under the flag of Tanzania, authorities said. "There are 10 dead," said Alexei Kravchenko, spokesman for Russia's Federal Agency for Maritime and River Transport. The fire broke out when one vessel was transferring fuel to another, he said. The ships, the *Kandy* and the *Maestro*, had crews of nationals from India and Turkey. AFP

France slaps €50-mn fine on Google under new law

Company penalised over data policies

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

France's data watchdog on Monday announced a fine of €50 million (\$57 million) on U.S. search giant Google, using the EU's strict General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) for the first time.

Google was handed the record fine from the CNIL regulator for failing to provide transparent and easily accessible information on its data consent policies, a statement said.

U.S. asks Russia to destroy new missile system

REUTERS
GENEVA

The U.S. called on Russia on Monday to destroy a new cruise missile system which it said was a "direct and continuing violation" of the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty, and accused Moscow of destabilising security.

Robert Wood, U.S. Disarmament Ambassador, said the system was capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads and represented a "potent and direct threat to Europe and Asia" as it had a range of 500 km to 1,500 km.

The U.S. last week rejected a Russian offer to save the INF treaty, which keeps nuclear missiles out of Europe, because it could not be properly verified, setting the stage for Washington to withdraw from the pact next month.

Kamala Harris announces decision to run for President

She joins a number of other candidates vying for the Democratic nomination

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. Senator Kamala Harris announced on Monday that she is running for President, joining an already-crowded field of Democrats who are making or considering bids to take on Donald Trump.

"The future of our country depends on you and millions of others lifting our voices to fight for our American values. That's why I'm running for President of the United States," the Senator representing California said in a video posted on Twitter.

Many contenders

Ms. Harris made the announcement on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

"I'm honoured to be able to make my announcement on the day that we commemorate him," Ms. Harris told ABC's "Good Morning America." "My parents were very active in the civil rights movement and that's the language that I grew up hearing. And it was about a belief that we are a country that was



Taking a stand: Senator Kamala Harris speaking at a rally in Santa Clarita, California, last year. ■ AFP

founded on noble ideals and we are the best of who we are when we fight to achieve those ideals," she said.

She joins Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Hawaii Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and former Housing Secretary Julian Castro, among others, in vying for the 2020 Democratic nomination.

After two terms as District Attorney of San Francisco

(2004-2011), she was twice elected as Attorney-General of California (2011-2017), becoming the first woman to serve as chief law enforcement officer of that populous State. Then in January 2017, she took the oath of office as California's junior U.S. Senator, making her the first woman Senator of South Asian descent.

Ms. Harris often proudly recalls that as a prosecutor she fought big banks during the 2008 financial crisis to

defend families. She casts herself as a champion of middle class families "living paycheck to paycheck" and denounces police brutality and the killing of unarmed Black men.

The daughter of immigrants – her father is from Jamaica and mother from India – Ms. Harris grew up in the 1960s in the progressive hotbed of Oakland, California, proud of the struggle her parents waged for civil rights.

But after her parents separated when she was about five years old, it was her mother who raised her and her younger sister, Maya, who went on to become a lawyer and an adviser to Hillary Clinton during the 2016 presidential campaign.

Nearly 22 months before the 2020 election, the battle for the White House is already firming up, as Americans begin to assess who might be the Opposition party nominee to challenge Mr. Trump for control of the White House.

May offers to tweak Brexit plan, refuses to rule out 'no-deal' exit

PM agrees to be flexible in seeking changes to Irish backstop

REUTERS
LONDON

British Prime Minister Theresa May sought to break the parliamentary deadlock over Brexit on Monday by proposing to seek further concessions from the European Union (EU) on a plan to prevent customs checks on the Irish border.

After her Brexit divorce deal with Brussels was rejected by 432-202 lawmakers last Tuesday Ms. May has been searching for a way to get a deal through.

No approved alternative

She told Parliament she could not take a "no-deal" Brexit off the table as there was no approved alternative yet, and that the EU would be unlikely to postpone Britain's exit date – determined by the "Article 50" withdrawal notice – without an exit plan. "No-deal will only be taken off the table by either revoking Article 50, which turns back the results of the referendum – the government will not do that – or by having a deal, and that is



U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May. ■ AFP

above all to the fact that Britain cannot unilaterally end the backstop.

'An epic tragedy'

German Europe Minister Michael Roth said on Monday that even William Shakespeare would not have been able to think up a Brexit tragedy of such drama.

The EU's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, said the bloc was ready to work on the political declaration on future EU-U.K. ties that accompanies the withdrawal deal, but that the withdrawal deal already agreed was the best one possible.

In a sign of just how grave the political crisis has become, Ms. May was forced to deny a report by *The Daily Telegraph* that she was considering amending the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, which ended 30 years of violence in Northern Ireland.

Ireland's European Affairs Minister Helen McEntee said Dublin would not engage in bilateral talks on Brexit, and would negotiate only as part of the remaining EU.

Student denies mocking Native-American activist

I never interacted with the protester

REUTERS

A white high school student seen with classmates appearing to confront a Native-American Vietnam veteran near the Lincoln Memorial issued a statement on Sunday that video of the incident gives the false impression that the teens were instigators.

Nick Sandmann, a student from the Covington Catholic High School in northern Kentucky, is seen in the video standing face to face with the activist, Nathan Phillips, staring at him with a smile, while Mr. Phillips sings and plays a drum.

According to Mr. Sandmann, his group was waiting on the steps of the Lin-

coln Memorial for their bus back to Kentucky when four African-American protesters nearby began shouting racially charged insults. With permission from their teacher chaperones, the students responded by shouting "school spirit" chants.

In the midst of this interaction, Mr. Sandmann said, he noticed that a Native American protester – since identified as Mr. Phillips – began playing his drum as he waded into the crowd, which parted for him.

"I never interacted with this protester. I did not speak to him. I did not make any hand gestures or other aggressive moves," Mr. Sandmann wrote.

126 killed in Taliban attack on military centre

Officials say training compound in central Maidan Wardak province was bombed

REUTERS
KABUL

The Taliban killed more than 100 members of the Afghan security forces inside a military compound in central Maidan Wardak province on Monday, a senior defence official said.

"We have information that 126 people have been killed in the explosion inside the military training centre. Eight special commandos are among the dead," said a senior official in the Defence Ministry in Kabul, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The official said the assault began on Monday morning when the attackers rammed a car full of explosives through a military check point and detonated the vehicle on the campus of



Targeting the military: The collapsed building of a military base in Maidan Wardak, Afghanistan, on Monday. ■ REUTERS

the National Directorate of Security (NDS) forces training centre in Maidan Shahr, the capital of Maidan Wardak province. Two gunmen

entered the campus right after the explosion and shot at many Afghan soldiers before being gunned down.

Defence Ministry officials

said the Taliban had used U.S.-made armoured Humvee vehicles captured from Afghan forces as a car bomb in order to breach the military fortifications.

A second source residing in Maidan Wardak province said more than 100 members of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) were killed in the complex attack.

Sharif Hotak, a member of the provincial council in Maidan Wardak said he saw bodies of 35 Afghan soldiers in the hospital.

President Ashraf Ghani's office in a statement said the "enemies of the country" had carried out an attack against NDS personnel. "They killed and wounded a number of our beloved and honest sons."

Taliban-U.S. meeting took place in Qatar

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

The Taliban said it met with U.S. officials in Qatar on Monday. The U.S. has not officially commented on the reported meeting, which follows the last confirmed talks between the two parties in the UAE in December.

"Following American acceptance of the agenda of ending the occupation of Afghanistan and preventing Afghanistan from being used against other countries in the future, talks with American representatives took place today in Doha, the capital of Qatar," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a statement.

REUTERS

BEIRUT/JERUSALEM

Israel struck in Syria early on Monday, the latest salvo in its increasingly open assault on Iran's presence there, shaking the night sky over Damascus with an hour of loud explosions in a second consecutive night of military action.

Damascus did not say what damage or casualties resulted from the strikes. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor said 11 people were killed.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the air raid mostly targeted Iranian forces, but also hit

Israel attacks Iranian targets in Syria

At least 11 were killed in the air strikes, says war monitor



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. ■ AFP

Syrians helping them.

With an election approaching, Israel's government has begun discussing its strikes more openly, and has also taken a tougher stance towards Hezbollah.

The Israeli military said its fighter jets attacked Iranian "Quds Force" targets early on Monday, including munition stores, a position in the Damascus International Airport, an intelligence site and a military camp. Its jets then targeted Syrian defence batteries after coming under fire.

Germany bans Iranian airline Mahan Air

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BERLIN

Germany said on Monday that it had banned Iranian airline Mahan Air from its airports, in an escalation of sanctions adopted by the European Union (EU) against Tehran over attacks on opponents in the bloc.

The move was necessary to protect Germany's "foreign and security policy interests", Foreign Ministry spokesman Christofer Burger told reporters.

Mahan Air, Iran's second-largest carrier, was blacklisted by the U.S. in 2011, as Washington said the carrier was providing support to elite unit of Iran's Revolutionary Guards known as the Quds Force. The U.S. treasury has threatened sanctions against countries and companies offering the airline's aircraft landing rights.

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General Manager (Procurement), MAHA-METRO

Maha Metro, Greenest Metro

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI CHITTOOR DIST., ANDHRA PRADESH.

MARKET WATCH

	21-01-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	36,579	-0.53
US Dollar	71.28	-0.13
Gold	33,200	-0.12
Brent oil	62.68	-0.33

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	396.20	-3.10
Asian Paints	1422.10	21.65
Axis Bank	660.30	-4.30
Bajaj Auto	2684.60	-36.15
Bajaj Finserv	6384.55	134.65
Bajaj Finance	2594.20	51.30
Bharti Airtel	311.35	0.20
BPCL	351.55	-2.65
Cipla	509.25	-0.15
Coal India	229.00	-1.00
Dr Reddy's Lab	2599.80	3.00
Eicher Motors	2008.00	-94.75
GAIL (India)	327.80	5.65
Gasim Ind	815.65	-9.30
HCL Tech.	965.75	-0.55
HDFC	2004.45	-2.40
HDFC Bank	2148.15	17.90
Hero MotoCorp	2794.25	-104.50
Hindalco	207.65	-1.15
HPLC	238.65	-0.85
Hind Unilever	1746.90	2.80
Indiabulls HFL	804.80	-12.55
ICICI Bank	371.70	-0.30
IndusBank	1507.60	-9.30
Bharti Infratel	277.80	-0.25
Infosys	745.00	14.05
Indian Oil Corp	135.65	-2.20
ITC	289.90	-1.55
JSW Steel	284.60	-1.00
Kotak Bank	1267.60	27.40
L&T	1314.55	-3.35
M&M	730.30	-4.65
Maurit Suzuki	7208.40	-149.55
NTPC	143.40	-0.90
ONGC	144.70	-2.05
PowerGrid Corp	191.25	-2.35
Reliance Ind	1237.70	53.35
State Bank	292.45	-2.50
Sun Pharma	398.30	7.55
Tata Motors	181.50	-1.80
Tata Steel	471.70	1.05
TCS	1908.70	8.05
Tech Mahindra	713.90	4.75
Titan	962.75	1.80
UltraTech Cement	3849.55	29.60
UPL	769.15	3.10
Vedanta	198.45	-8.35
Wipro	337.80	-8.35
YES Bank	191.95	-6.65
Zee Entertainment	436.65	-3.65

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.08	71.40
Euro	80.79	81.18
British Pound	91.49	91.91
Japanese Yen (100)	64.85	65.14
Chinese Yuan	10.46	10.51
Swiss Franc	71.23	71.56
Singapore Dollar	52.27	52.51
Canadian Dollar	53.47	53.73
Malaysian Ringgit	17.27	17.37

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI

Retail Silver (1g)	41.9	(42.5)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3080	(3093)
Retail Silver (1g)	41.9	(42.5)
22 ct gold (1 g)	3080	(3093)

China's 2018 growth slows to 28-year low

Weak domestic demand, bruising U.S. tariffs drag economy; slowdown fuels anxiety about global risks

REUTERS
BEIJING

In the dock: Beijing is under pressure to roll out more stimulus to avert a sharper deceleration. — AFP

China's economy cooled in the fourth quarter under pressure from faltering domestic demand and bruising U.S. tariffs, dragging 2018 growth to the lowest in nearly three decades and pressuring Beijing to roll out more stimulus to avert a sharper slowdown.

Growing signs of weakness in China – which has generated nearly a third of global growth in recent years – are fuelling anxiety about risks to the world economy and are weighing on profits for firms ranging from Apple to big carmakers.

Policymakers have pledged more support this year to reduce the risk of massive job losses, but have ruled out a “flood” of stimu-

lus like that which Beijing has relied on in the past, which quickly juiced growth rates but left a mountain of debt.

The government has means to support the economy. They can expand infrastructure spending and they can cut banks' reserve re-

quirement ratio. So we don't need to worry about capital spending,” said Naoto Saito, chief researcher at Daiwa Institute of Research, in Tokyo. “But the problem lies in consumption. As the U.S. and China clash on many fronts, consumer sentiment appears to have been hurt.

Until now, solid wage growth has been supporting consumption but now there appears to be a sense of vague anxiety about the future.”

Fourth-quarter gross domestic product (GDP) grew at the slowest pace since the global financial crisis, easing to 6.4% on-year as expected from 6.5% in the third quarter, the National Bureau of Statistics said on Monday. That pulled full-year growth down to 6.6%, the slowest annual pace since 1990. GDP in 2017 grew a revised 6.8%.

With support measures expected to take some time to kick in, most analysts believe conditions are likely to get worse before they get better, and see a further slowing to 6.3% this year. Some China watchers be-

lieve actual growth is already weaker than official data suggest.

Uncertainties aplenty

Despite a raft of policy easing steps so far, December data released along with GDP showed continued weakness across broad areas of the economy at the end of last year. Factory output picked up unexpectedly to 5.7% from 5.4%, but it was one of the few bright spots, along with a stronger services sector. While regulators have been fast-tracking construction projects, most of the gain appeared due to higher mining and oil production.

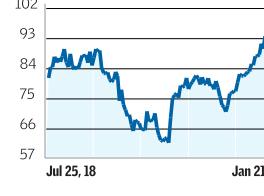
Other data on Monday showed investment and retail sales continued to languish, while the jobless rate edged higher.

Union Bank of India sees rise in GNPs to 15.66%

Lender posts net profit of ₹153 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI



State-run lender Union Bank of India reported a rise in gross non-performing assets to 15.66% of total advances for the quarter ended December 31, from 13.03% in the same quarter of the previous year. Net NPs also rose to 8.27% from 6.96% a year ago.

The bank reported a net profit of ₹153 crore for the latest quarter compared with the ₹2,500-crore loss in the year-earlier period. This is the third straight quarterly profit that the bank has made.

Provisions for non-performing assets in Q3 declined to ₹2,139 crore compared with ₹2,521 crore in the year-ago period.

Net interest income in the quarter was at ₹2,493 crore, marginally down from ₹2,548 crore while non-interest income grew 25.4% to ₹1,095 crore. The rise in non-interest income is due to profit on sale of investments of ₹10 crore.

The net interest margin was steady at 2.23% year-on-year, and rose 5 basis points sequentially. The bank's shares fell 6.4% to ₹86.40 on the BSE.

Other income fell to ₹963.88 crore from ₹1,039.82 crore due to mark-

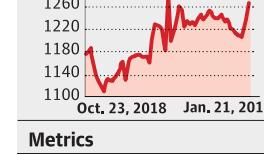
Kotak Bank net profit rises 23%

Net interest income, provision write-back boosts bottomline

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Steady rise



Margins will be sustained at this level

DIPAK GUPTA,

Joint managing director,
Kotak Mahindra Bank

to-market (MTM) losses on investment portfolio.

There was a provision write-back of ₹32.30 crore compared with a provision of ₹212.77 crore.

“It is the accounting treatment for the investment which is resulting in other income as per RBI guidelines,” Mr. Gupta said explaining the fall in other in-

come. “There is a provision write-back and other income write-down due to MTM losses.”

As on December 31, 2018, gross NPs stood at 2.07% compared with 2.31% a year ago while net NPs were at 0.71% compared with 1.09%.

On a consolidated basis, profit increased by 13.5% to ₹1,844 crore.

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IN BRIEF



Lupin gets USFDA nod for thyroid drug

NEW DELHI Drug firm Lupin said it had received approval from the U.S. health regulator to market Levothyroxine Sodium tablets used for treating hypothyroidism. The company has received the strengths of 25 microgram (mcg), 50 mcg, 75 mcg, 88 mcg, 100 mcg, 112 mcg, 125 mcg, 137 mcg, 150 mcg, 175 mcg, 200 mcg, and 300 mcg, Lupin said. PTI

Rustomjee ropes in IKEA for apartment furnishing

MUMBAI Real estate developer Rustomjee Group has tied up with IKEA India to furnish apartments constructed by it at Global City, Virar, Mumbai Metropolitan Region. Boman R. Irani, chairman and director, Rustomjee Group, said, "Our association with IKEA is made special by the fact that not only is it the first of its kind in Mumbai and India, but that IKEA shares our vision of making homes for the common man."

Tata Tele-Bharti Airtel merger gets NCLT nod

NEW DELHI The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved the merger of loss-making Tata Teleservices with Bharti Airtel, according to an exchange filing. The merger is subject to the approval of the Department of Telecommunications. As part of the pact, Airtel would absorb Tata's consumer mobile business operations in 19 telecom circles (17 under Tata Teleservices and two under Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra). PTI

BHEL, Libcoin consortium to build lithium-ion gigafactory

Factory's capacity would be scaled up to 30 GWh in due course: Magnis Energy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

State-owned Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), one of India's largest power generation equipment manufacturers, is in talks with Libcoin consortium to build Indian government's first lithium-ion gigafactory as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Make in India, for India" programme.

Libcoin is a consortium comprising Magnis Energy, Duggal Family Trust and Charge CCCV s(C4V) and has plans to build large lithium-ion battery gigafactories globally.

Commenting on the development, Libcoin chairman



Charged up: Magnis views India as one of world's largest markets for lithium-ion batteries. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Rajan Duggal said: "Our plan is to be the largest lithium-ion battery manufacturer in India, and we aim to be the first mover in one of the world's largest markets. The

interest this project is generating, especially in the Indian automobile sector, is very exciting."

Development of the gigafactory would initially start

with the construction of a 1 gigawatt hour lithium-ion battery plant, which would be scaled up to 30 GWh in due course, said Magnis Energy.

Magnis chairman Frank Poullas said: "To have the Central Government of India endorse this project is very encouraging for both Magnis and its partners.

"We see India as one of the largest markets in the world for lithium-ion batteries and to potentially build one of the world's largest lithium-ion battery gigafactories with a partner who possesses the skill and expertise of BHEL is exciting for the company."

New player entry in retail payments may get easier

RBI invites comments on policy paper

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday proposed to relax norms for entry of new players in retail payment systems with a view to give a boost to innovation and competition.

At the end of 2018, there were 89 authorised non-bank Payment System Operators.

The RBI's policy paper on 'Authorisation of New Retail Payment Systems' proposes a multi-pronged policy action for a more appropriate level of retail payment systems and operators. With regard to entry point norms for entities, the paper said a judicious approach needs to be adopted with regard to network criteria.

"For all payment systems it would be desirable that they have physical presence in the country, impeccable track record and are likely to conform to the best overall standards, including those pertaining to customer service and efficiency," the paper said.

It also makes a case for alignment of regulatory framework to encourage enhanced participation of both bank and non-bank entities.

The RBI had earlier said that the aim was to minimise concentration risk in the retail payments market from a financial stability perspective. The central bank has invited comments on the policy paper by February 20.

Kia to roll out mid-SUV in second half

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Kia Motors India has drawn up plans to be among the top five automakers in India in the next three years by rolling out at least five vehicles by 2021.

The eighth largest auto-maker, on Monday, unveiled its mid-sport utility vehicle – SP2i in Puducherry. It will be rolled out of Anantapur plant in Andhra Pradesh during the second half of 2019, said a release.

Kia Motors plans to launch a car every six months after the roll out of the first product in India. This would expand its portfolio to at least five vehicles by 2021. Kia made its debut in India at the Auto Expo 2018 and showcased 16 top global line-up along with SP2i.

Srei Infrastructure plans to list equipment arm

Plans scheme of amalgamation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA

Srei Infrastructure Finance Ltd. (Srei) is planning to list its wholly-owned subsidiary Srei Equipment Finance through a composite scheme of arrangement and amalgamation, according to chairman and managing director Hemant Kanoria.

This decision, on which the company has also made a regulatory filing, follows Srei's deferment of an earlier strategy of listing its equipment finance business through an IPO. "IPO was a different track, but objective is the same," Mr. Kanoria told reporters. "Now, we are making the company ready to raise capital when it needs," he said.

India may soon witness increase in casual shoe exports: council

'Worldwide demand for formal shoes is dwindling'

N. ANAND

CHENNAI

India would soon start exporting casual shoes with a 'Made in India' tag in massive numbers to international markets such as the U.S. and the Europe to meet global demand, said a top industry official.

"Worldwide, the demand for formal shoes is dying and the customers have started moving towards casual wear," said P.R. Aqeel Ahmed, chairman, Council for Leather Exports (CLE). "We have a strong foothold in the formal shoes, accounting for 90% of the country's export."

From January to December 2018, India exported



P.R. Aqeel Ahmed

leather and leather products valued at ₹35,181 crore against ₹33,900 crore for the year-earlier period, marking an increase of 3.78%. Of this, leather footwear accounted for 40%.

"This year, we will produce two billion pairs of shoes per annum, an increase of 2-3% over the last year. Formal shoes account for 50% of total production, casual shoes 40% and sport shoes 10% respectively," Mr. Ahmed said.

U.S.-China trade war

"The ongoing trade war between the U.S. and China augurs well for India, as the overseas buyers have started looking for alternative sources," said Rafeeqe M. Ahmed, president, All India Skin and Hide Tanners and Merchants Association.

Mentioning that the U.S. market was heavily dependent on China for import of footwear, he said a mere 5% shift to India would bring in huge volume amounting to ₹1.5 billion.

Yamaha Motor India to invest ₹100 crore more

To promote brand in digital, print media

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

Yamaha Motor India will invest an additional ₹100 crore during the next three years in marketing to promote its brand in India, a senior company official said on Monday.

The Indian arm of Yamaha Motor Company had announced in 2015 that it would invest ₹1,500 crore for three years ended 2018. The new investment will promote the brand in both digital and print media, Motofumi Shitara, chairman of Yamaha Motor India, told reporters.

Yamaha unveiled its third generation sports models, FZ-FI, FZS-FI, FZ-25 and Fazer 25, at prices ranging from ₹95,000 to ₹1,43,000.

The sports model retail sales grew 23.07% from 2,73,000 units in 2017 to 3,36,000 units last calendar year, mainly driven by FZ15.

The company's scooter sales fell 11.7% to 3,64,000 units during the same period.

THE HINDU



INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878



CHENNAI

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Trinamool, DMK, BSP skip Opposition meet convened by Pawar

Economic Survey has exposed government claims: Rahul Gandhi

63.76% polling in Alwar and Ajmer Lok Sabha constituencies

I am in a mood to celebrate, says Deepika Padukone

#UNDERMYWATCH

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CM YK

AN-NDE

PASSING SHOTS



Made me feel better: racquet-smasher Zverev
Furious fourth seed Alexander Zverev crashed out of the Australian Open on Monday but said he "felt better" after smashing his racquet to pieces in frustration. Zverev erupted in the second set of a fourth-round humiliation by Canadian 16th seed Milos Raonic, hammering his racquet into the ground eight times to leave it a mangled mess. "Yeah, it made me feel better. I was very angry, so I let my anger out," he told reporters. And the volatile German was surprised when asked if he had done it before. "You never watched my matches? You should watch my matches," he smiled. AFP



Wig and shades keep Osaka anonymous
Naomi Osaka says she needs to wear a wig and sunglasses to stay anonymous in Japan since her profile soared into the stratosphere after her stunning victory at the US Open. The bubbly 21-year-old's achievement in New York made her the first player from her country to win a Major, and with it came fanatical support. AFP

Serena shows her fighting skills, outslugs top seed Halep

Djokovic battles past Medvedev; Nishikori's resilience breaks Busta's resolve; Raonic sends Zverev into self-destruct mode



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MELBOURNE

A fired up Serena Williams slugged past World No. 1 Simona Halep on Monday as she inches ever closer to a 24th Grand Slam title, while Novak Djokovic survived a battle to stay on course for a record seventh Australian Open crown.

In a towering performance, the American great scored her biggest win since having a baby to grind down the Romanian top seed 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 and move into a quarterfinal against seventh seed Karolina Pliskova.

Czech Pliskova is another form player, winning the warm-up Brisbane International and easing past two-time Grand Slam winner Garbine Muguruza 6-3, 6-1 to set up the Williams clash.

Staying cool
"I'm such a fighter, I never give up," declared Williams after the epic encounter. "It was an intense match and there were some incredible points but I love playing tennis and being out here and I love this court, it's really cool to be back."

While Williams stayed calm, highly-rated German fourth seed Alexander Zverev lost the plot against Canadian Milos Raonic, crashing 6-1, 6-1, 7-6(5) and demolishing a racquet in a massive



Marathon man: Kei Nishikori, who has now spent nearly 14 hours on court, outlasted Pablo Carreno Busta. ■ REUTERS

THE RESULTS

Men: 16-Milos Raonic (Can) bt 4-Alexander Zverev (Ger) 6-1, 6-1, 7-6(5), 28-Lucas Pouille (Fra) bt 11-Borna Coric (Cro) 6-7(4), 6-4, 7-5, 7-6(2); 8-Kei Nishikori (Jpn) bt 23-Pablo Carreno Busta (Esp) 6-7(8), 4-6, 7-6(4), 6-4, 7-6[10-8]; 1-Novak Djokovic (Srb) bt 15-Daniil Medvedev (Rus) 6-4, 6-7(5), 6-2, 6-3.

Women: 4-Naomi Osaka (Jpn) bt 13-Anastasija Sevastova (Lat) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; 6-Elena Svitolina (Ukr) bt 17-Madison Keys (USA) 6-2, 1-6, 6-1; 7-Karolina Pliskova (Cze) bt 18-Garbine Muguruza (Esp) 6-3, 6-1; 16-Serena Williams (USA) bt 1-Simona Halep (Rou) 6-1, 4-6, 6-4.

went to a final set tie-break against Ivo Karlovic.

Nishikori will now play six-time champion Djokovic, who dropped a set for the second match in a row before

seeing off 15th-seeded Daniil Medvedev 6-4, 6-7(5), 6-2, 6-3.

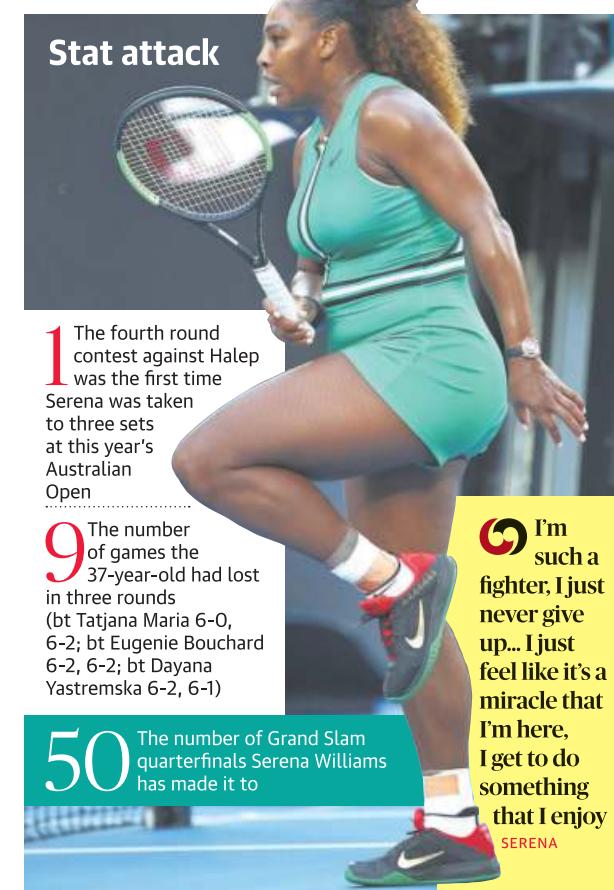
Dominant Williams overshadowed them all and is overwhelming favourite to

win an eighth Australian title.

She has been in ominous form at Melbourne Park as she seeks one more Major title to put her alongside Margaret Court's record 24, and it looked like French Open champion Halep would be another easy scalp after a first set rout.

But the Romanian isn't World No. 1 for nothing.

She bounced back to set up a huge power struggle that Williams finally won with a break in the seventh game of the third set.



50 The number of Grand Slam quarterfinals Serena Williams has made it to

I'm such a fighter, I just never give up... I just feel like it's a miracle that I'm here, I get to do something that I enjoy
SERENA

1 The Nishikori-Carreno Busta match was the first one played under the new system of 10-point tie-break in the fifth set

4 Number of five-set matches Nishikori has won, after losing the first two sets. Two of those have been in this tournament

TUESDAY'S SCHEDULE (QUARTERFINALS)

WOMEN
Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova vs Danielle Collins

MEN
22-Roberto Bautista Agut vs 14-Stefanos Tsitsipas

8-Petra Kvitova vs 15-Ashleigh Barty

2-Rafael Nadal vs Frances Tiafoe

More to Men in Blue than just Kohli, Ross tells mates

Says New Zealand should learn from Aussies' mistake s

INDIA IN NZ

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NAPIER

New Zealand's seniormost batsman Ross Taylor on Monday urged his team to focus on the Indian top-order rather than "get caught up" with run-machine Virat Kohli during the upcoming limited-over series.

The tour starts on Wednesday with the first One-Day International here. India will be playing five One-dayers and three T20 Internationals against the 'Black Caps'.

Entering the Test series worried about how to decode Kohli, the Australians recently learnt it the hard way as Cheteshwar Pujara stole the thunder down under, helping his team to an epic triumph. Taylor doesn't want his team to follow a similar approach.

"He's (Kohli) a sensational player, the best one-day player going around, easily. It's easy to get caught up in him. You've got two pretty good openers at the top, (Ro-



Raring to go: Ross Taylor returned to the nets on Monday after his finger injury during the series against Sri Lanka. ■ AFP

hit) Sharma and (Shikhar) Dhawan, before he gets in," Taylor was quoted as saying by *stuff.co.nz*. Taylor had his first nets session at the McLean Park after his finger injury during the home series against Sri Lanka.

While Kohli averages a staggering 113 in ODIs in 2018, Taylor's average is 92 in the same period across 13

ODIs. "I understand my role in the team. I've worked on my game and try and rotate the strike early. Different shots against spinners at different stages have maybe evolved my game in a positive way," Taylor said.

"But you're still human and you still have to start again, and it's exciting against India."

Fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah has climbed to 15th with

India and its skipper maintain top positions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

A maiden Test series triumph in Australia saw both the Indian team and its skipper Virat Kohli consolidate their respective pole positions in the latest ICC Test rankings.

India, with 116 points, stayed the No. 1-ranked Test team while skipper Kohli (922 points) was 25 points clear of second-ranked New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson (897).

Cheteshwar Pujara after his dream series down under is ranked third among batsmen, while Rishabh Pant has entered the top 20 with a career-best 17th rank.

In the bowlers' list Kagiso Rabada still topped the chart while R. Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja are the best-ranked Indians at fifth and ninth respectively.

Fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah has climbed to 15th with



Virat Kohli.
■ MATT KING/GETTY IMAGES

711 points. England will have to win its upcoming three-match series against the West Indies starting on Wednesday in order to retain third position in the rankings while Australia and Sri Lanka will vie for important points in their two-match series starting a day later.

A 3-0 sweep will lift England to 109 points, but it will remain behind India and South Africa, while the West Indies will remain in eighth position irrespective of how the matches pan out.

Financial help pours in for Martin

Former India batsman is battling for life after an accident

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Indian cricket fraternity has stood firmly behind Jacob Martin who is battling for life in his hometown of Vadodara since December 28 after being involved in a two-wheeler accident.

Martin, a former India batsman, was the skipper of Baroda when it won its first Ranji Trophy title in 2000-01.

Martin, 46, suffered grievous injuries to his lung and liver after the accident and has been put on a ventilator at a private hospital ever since.

But with the treatment costing at least ₹70,000 per day, Sanjay, along with a few prominent members, decided to reach out to the former International players of Baroda.

Escalating costs
After exhausting all the savings, Martin's wife reached out to Sanjay Patel, the former Baroda Cricket Association (BCA) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary, when the hospital had warned of limiting the treatment due to escalating costs.

Sanjay helped Martin's family get in touch with the BCA and BCCI. While the



Jacob Martin. ■ FILE PHOTO

BCCI responded by disbursing ₹5 lakh from its Benevolent Fund, the BCA contributed ₹3 lakh for the medical expenses.

"With the help and blessings of the cricket fraternity, it looks like Jacob's medical treatment will be taken care of.

"Now let's hope he gets out of the critical care unit at the earliest and starts recovering from the unfortunate accident."

Martin played 10 One-Day Internationals and 138 First Class matches during his long career from 1991-92 till 2008-09.

Anand-Carlsen race adds spice

SPORTS BUREAU
WIJK AAN ZEE

With Viswanathan Anand matching the steps of Magnus Carlsen, the title race in the Tata Steel Masters chess tournament has garnered more interest.

Over the next two rounds, after Monday's rest day, the outcome of the games involving these two champions could well prove crucial in the eventual analysis.

Before the final rest day on Thursday, Anand plays consecutive black against Richard Rapport and Carlsen, who has won three of the last four rounds. Nevertheless, Anand, following his back-to-back triumphs over Vladimir Kramnik and World No. 3 Shakhriyar Mamedyarov, should be considered a worthy contender.

Interestingly, in the remaining five rounds, Anand and Carlsen play three blacks and two whites. In fact, when the two clash in the 10th round, the action will shift for a day to Leiden, around



Keen contest: Anand, who is in joint lead with Carlsen, should be a worthy contender for the title. ■ FILE PHOTO

the current 11th position after playing successive games with white pieces against Anton Korobov and Maksim Chigayev.

Ninth-round pairings: Richard Rapport (Hun, 3) v Viswanathan Anand (5.5); Ian Nepomniachtchi (Rus, 5) v Vidit Gujrati (4); Samuel Shankland (USA, 3.5) v Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 5.5); Vladimir Kramnik (Rus, 2) v Ding Liren (Chn, 5); Anish Giri and Ding Liren, all just half-a-point behind the leaders, have reasons to be optimistic of their prospects.

In the Challengers section, R. Pragganandhaa is getting the taste of how tough the competition is at a higher level. After 3.5 points from eight rounds, the youngster is looking to improve from

CoA takes notice of report published in *The Hindu* on Monday

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

Successes are magnified. So are failures. Former India captain and the current India-A coach Rahul Dravid is clear in his assessment of some developments that have created a negative image of the game in recent times.

"It is not that players did not make mistakes in the past. It is not that mistakes will not be made in the future despite our best efforts to educate the youth. But let us not overreact, please," Dravid said even as the Committee of Administrators (CoA) took notice of a report published in *The Hindu* on Monday.

The Hindu had highlighted the views of former players Anil Kumble, Virender Sehwag, Mohinder Amarnath, V.V.S. Laxman and BCCI official Ratnakar Shetty on the need to ad-

dress certain issues involving grooming of youngsters.

Process started

The CoA chairman Vinod Rai, in response to the report, said, "This has been my concern and, in fact recommendation, for youngsters in the game. I have already started the process for the same. We will start in the NCA (National Cricket Academy) with all players U-23 – all categories.

"We will also take it forward with the senior team in the window that we can get within their commitments. Saba Karim is already in touch with Dravid for guidance and I am hoping we can rope in Kumble also. Both being in Bengaluru also, a tremendous advantage."

BCCI operations manager Karim confirmed the development. "There are certain things within our control. Some are not. At various

sessions we organise lectures for the youngsters on handling the media, understanding the laws and managing finances."

Dravid does it on a regular basis. It is an ever evolving process of workshops on gender sensitisation for players and officials," said Karim.

According to Dravid, "Before the last two under-19 World Cups we did have lectures on various aspects. We brought in psychologists to

hablito the players. We had workshops on building roles of responsibility. These lectures are also part of the NCA already.

"We need to keep refining and keep getting better. We can only try to ensure but we are not in a position to completely take charge or be responsible for every action of the player.

"We can look to be meaningful and have an impact in grooming them at the NCA. This training has to be done at various levels, from homes to schools and then the dressing room at the state level."

Can't abuse the system
Dravid explained, "Players come from different teams and their roles of responsibility need to be addressed. Issues will always be there and we have to educate and guide them. They should be told they can't abuse the sys-



Rahul Dravid. ■ M. VEDHAN

stages we organise lectures for the youngsters on handling the media, understanding the laws and managing finances."

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RAHUL DRavid

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TV PICKS

Australian Open: Sony Ten 2 & Six, 5.30 a.m.
AF Asian Cup: Star Sports 3, 6.30 p.m. & 9.30 p.m.
PWL: Sony Ten 3 & Six (SD & HD), 7 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Warner to undergo surgery on injured elbow

SYDNEY
Banned former Australia vice-captain David Warner is expected to undergo minor surgery on his elbow on Tuesday after returning home from the Bangladesh Premier League with an injury. The 32-year-old returned to Australia last week following a stint with the Sylhet Sixers in the Bangladesh Twenty20 tournament after he reported pain in his right elbow. Warner's elbow will be assessed in Melbourne on Tuesday, before he is expected to undergo minor surgery. cricket.com.au reported on Monday. PTI



Trump overpowers O'Sullivan in final

LONDON
Judd Trump won his first snooker Masters title in commanding fashion with a 10-4 win over seven-time champion Ronnie O'Sullivan in the final at London's Alexandra Palace on Sunday. AFP

Australia calls up in-form Patterson

SYDNEY
In-form Kurtis Patterson was added to Australia's squad on Monday for the upcoming Tests against Sri Lanka as selectors try to fix a batting line-up that failed to fire during the home Tests against India. The 25-year-old New South Wales batsman scored back-to-back centuries for a Cricket Australia XI in Hobart last week. PTI



Clippers snap five-game losing skid

LOS ANGELES
Tobias Harris scored 27 points and flirted with a triple double as Los Angeles Clippers snapped a five-game losing skid with a 103-95 win over the red-hot San Antonio Spurs in the NBA on Sunday. Harris also had nine assists and nine rebounds and Patrick Beverley finished with 18 points and 12 rebounds for Clippers. **The results:** Indiana Pacers 120 bt Charlotte Hornets 95; Minnesota Timberwolves 116 bt Phoenix Suns 114; San Antonio Spurs 95 lost to LA Clippers 103. AFP

Indians can ace Dakar: Aravind

The second Indian to finish the rally eyes a top 10 finish in 2020

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

K.P. Aravind, only the second rider from the country to complete the gruelling Dakar Rally, believes an Indian can secure a podium finish in two years time.

"May be it will take two more years for us to get into the podium," a confident Aravind told PTI when asked how long it will take for an Indian rider to finish at the top at Dakar.

Considered as the world's most gruelling off-road rally, this year's Dakar Rally was held in Peru from January 6-17 where the 34-year-old Sherco TVS Racing ride, ended his campaign at 37th place in his third attempt after two unsuccessful efforts in 2017 and 2018.

C.S. Santosh is the first Indian rider to have completed the Dakar Rally.

He has done so thrice – in 2015, 2017 and 2018. He, however, could not complete the rally this year.



Showing grit: K.P. Aravind had to recover from a wrist injury ahead of the Dakar Rally.

* SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A 17-time winner in National Championships in dirt track, rallies and motocross race formats, Aravind is already eyeing a top 10 finish in the 2020 edition but said finishing the rally would be the prime target.

It turned out to be a race against time for Aravind ahead of the 2019 Dakar Rally as he had to regain fitness quickly after suffering a wrist injury at the PanAfrica Rally last September.

"I had injured my left wrist during PanAfrica rally. It is a critical bone and initially the diagnosis was that it takes usually six months to recover."

"It happened in September, so there was no way to make it to Dakar," he said.

"Then I got in touch with a doctor in France and after a lot of things, it was said that I can do Dakar, though not 100 per cent. It is still not 100 percent but I am happy I could do it," he said.

The 2019 Dakar Rally has been touted as the toughest with only 55 per cent of the bikes completing the 11-day grueling rally this year.

FIH Series Finals: India in easy group

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAUSANNE

India was on Monday placed in a relatively easy group in the International Hockey Federation's Series Finals, the first-round qualifiers for the 2020 Olympics, and will play its matches in Bhubaneswar from June 6 to 16.

The FIH confirmed the composition of the pools for the six Finals scheduled between April and June this year.

"The FIH Series Finals are one of the roads to reach the Olympic Games. The top two teams from each FIH Series Finals will secure a place in the qualification events for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games which will be held in October and November 2019," the FIH said in a release.

Barring Asian Games winner Japan, none of the teams are expected to offer stiff competition to the home team. Besides India and Japan, the other teams in the group are Mexico, Po-

land, Russia, South Africa, USA and Uzbekistan.

Hiroshima to host

The women's team will be battling it out at Hiroshima with Chile, Fiji, Mexico, Poland, Russia and Uruguay on Monday.

Though Jisna Joseph made an unbeaten 31, she did not get any support from her teammates. Punjab's Komalpreet Kour took four wickets.

It was Kerala's second loss from five matches in the seven-team group.

Punjab women beat Kerala

ROCHI: National champion Kerala suffered a 19-run loss against Punjab in a Group A league match of the National under-23 women's T20 cricket championship on Monday.

Though Jisna Joseph made an unbeaten 31, she did not get any support from her teammates. Punjab's Komalpreet Kour took four wickets.

It was Kerala's second loss from five matches in the seven-team group.

The scores:
Group A: Punjab 76 for eight in 20 overs (V.S. Murudula three for 16) bt Kerala 57 in 16.2 overs (Jisna V. Joseph 31 n.o., Komalpreet Kour four for 14).

Goa 71 for nine in 20 overs (Rashi Kanjoly four for 13) lost to Uttar Pradesh 72 for three in 16.3 overs (Shiv Priya Pandey 34, Muskan Malik 31 n.o.).

Manipur 103 for six in 20 overs lost to Meghalaya 105 for six in 19.4 overs (Debasmita Dutta 39 n.o.).

Marinetti wins Darley Arabian Million

HYDERABAD: M/s. Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Mr. & Mrs. K.N. Dhuunjibhoy & Mr. Z.K. Dhuunjibhoy & Mr. Teja Gollapudi owned Marinetti (Akshay Kumar astride) won the Darley Arabian Million, the feature event of the races here on Monday (Jan. 21). Laxman Singh trains the winner.

1 MALAKU PLATE (1,200m), 4 y-o & over, rated 26 to 46 (Cat. III): LATEST NEWS (Akshay Kumar) 1, Dandy Man (J. Chisty) 2, Promiseforhappiness (Rohit Kumar) 3 and Hurricane (Tanwar) 4. 3/4, 3/4 and shd. 1m, 12.92s. 24 (p), SHP: 21, FP: 53, Q: 51, Tla: 21. Favourite: Marvel Princess. Owner: Mr. Niraj Tyagi. Trainer: D. Prasad Raju.

4 ARTISTIC TRIBUTE CUP (Div. I, 1,600m), 3-y-o & over, rated 42 to 62 (Cat. II): N R I SYMBOLO (Tanwar) 1, Vijay's Empire (I. Chisty) 2, Avantika (Deepak Singh) 3 and Euro Zone (Nakhat Singh) 4. 3/4, 1/4 and 1/4, shd and 1-1/2, Im. 11.89s. 35 (w), 5, 7 and 6 (p), SHP: 15, FP: 30, Q: 25, Tla: 52. Favourite: Marinetti. Owner: M/s. Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Mr. & Mrs. K.N. Dhuunjibhoy & Mr. Z.K. Dhuunjibhoy & Mr. Teja Gollapudi. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

5 RED ORCHID CUP (Div. I, 1,100m), 4-y-o & over, rated 26 to 46 (Cat. III): DANCING DOLL (Md. Ismail) 1, Running Fire (Akshay Kumar) 2, Vega Cassandra (G. Naresh) 3 and Man Apart (A. Sandesh) 4. 1-1/4, 4-3/4 and shd. Im. 5.34s. 31 (w), 5, 8 and 8 (p), SHP: 15, FP: 21, Tla: 216. Favourite: Running Fire. Owners: M/s. Premaand Sangidhi, K. Ram Gopal Rao & Rammoorthy Belde. Trainer: Arjun Reddy.

6 ARTISTIC TRIBUTE CUP (Div. II, 1,600m), 5-y-o & over, rated 42 to 62 (Cat. II): SOMERSET (B.R. Kumar) 1, Bayrd (Akshay Kumar) 2, Hopi Is Eternal (A.

Sandesh) 3 and On My Way (Rafique Sk) 4. 1/2, 23/4 and shd. Im. 40.03s. 34 (w), 6, 7 and 6 (p), SHP: 18, FP: 104, Q: 26, Tla: 176. Favourite: Bayrd. Owner: Mr. Rama Krishna Reddy. Trainer: L.D.Silva.

7 DARLEY ARABIAN MILLION (1,200m), 3-y-o only (Terms): MARINETTI (Akshay Kumar) 1, Consigliori (A. Sandesh) 2, Agni (Suraj Narredu) 3 and Mon General (Ashhad Asbar) 4. 1-3/4, shd and 1-1/2, Im. 11.89s. 35 (w), 5, 7 and 6 (p), SHP: 15, FP: 30, Q: 25, Tla: 52. Favourite: Marinetti. Owner: M/s. Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Mr. & Mrs. K.N. Dhuunjibhoy & Mr. Z.K. Dhuunjibhoy & Mr. Teja Gollapudi. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

8 NELSTON PLATE (Div. I), 4-y-o & over, rated 42 to 62 (Cat. II): BRUSH THE SKY (Md. Ismail) 1, Bombastic (Tanwar) 2, Jazz It Up (Jitendra Singh) 3 and Blazing Speed (N. Rawal) 4. Not run: Aftab-un and Magic Street, 2, 1/2 and 3/4. Im. 6.96s. 28 (w), 8, 7 and 11 (p), SHP: 27, FP: 272, Q: 128, Tla: 1,226. Favourite: Top Singer. Owner: Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy.

Jackpot: ₹2,909 m (26 tks). Runner up: 421 (34 tks), Treble (i): 167 (24 tks), (ii): 190 (224 tks), (iii): 666 (32 tks).

Dembele begins it, Messi finishes it

Suarez scores the other goal as Barcelona tames Leganes

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BARCELONA

Ousmane Dembele gave Barcelona a glimpse into the future but Barcelona still needed Lionel Messi to beat Leganes 3-1 on Sunday and restore its five-point lead at the top of La Liga.

Messi had started on the bench, rested by coach Ernesto Valverde, and for just over an hour at the Camp Nou, Dembele filled the void by scoring the opening goal.

The 21-year-old, however, limped off with a sprained ankle in the 69th minute, shortly after Leganes had equalised through Martin Braithwaite and Valverde responded by introducing Messi.

He needed only seven minutes to make an impact as his curling shot found Luis Suarez who poked the ball

past Leganes goalkeeper Pichu Cuellar. Messi completed the tally in injury-time.

Rounding it off: Lionel Messi, coming off the bench, made it a perfect night for Barcelona. ■ DAVID RAMOS/GETTY IMAGES

need these kind of decisions to help them."

VAR's decision

But VAR disagreed and Barcelona advanced to what was, in truth, a fully deserved victory. Leganes had beaten Barcelona at home in September but that remains

its high point of the season.

Valverde was accused of failing to rest key players last term, to the detriment of its progress in the Champions League, and his gamble to spare his star player just about paid off.

"There are lots of games," Valverde said. "We talk to the players and decide when it may be good for them to rest."

The results:
La Liga: Rayo Vallecano 2 (Cormesana 22, Embra Blazquez 28) drew with Real Sociedad 2 (Moreno 39, Willian Jose 82); Levante 2 (Coke 42, Roger 90+5) bt Valladolid 0; Barcelona 3 (Dembele 32, Suarez 71, Messi 90+2) bt Leganes 1 (Braithwaite 57).
Series A: Cagliari 2 (Pavoletti 36, Farias 90+1) drew with Empoli 2 (Di Lorenzo 70, Zajic 81); Napoli 2 (Callegion 34, Milik 37) bt Lazio 1 (Immobile 65).

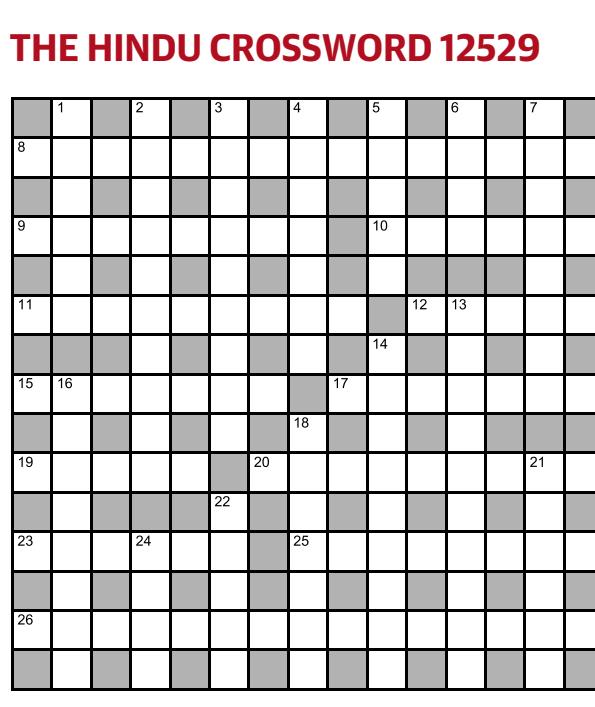
Long wins Desert Classic

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LOS ANGELES



Lot to cheer about: The rapid strides made by Indian shuttlers has pleased Gopi Chand no end. ■ FILE PHOTO

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12529



ACROSS

- 8 Start afresh once baker's quota has been distributed (4,2,6,3)
- 9 Is mother going after maid with appeal? (8)
- 10 Element of vehicle with hood partly missing (6)
- 11 Pump is apart or assembled? (9)

DOWN

- 1 Snack with banana chosen in part (6)
- 2 Hikers miss turbulent clashes (10)
- 3 Policeman and inmate in good condition (9)
- 4 Torque generated around a line (7)
- 5 Caught, held by Scandinavian, say (5)
- 6 Successor's sound manner (4)
- 7 Hotel primarily owned by Penny is artless (8)
- 13 Reduce electronic price by mistake during occasion (10)
- 14 Punishment for every issue disregarded at first (9)
- 16 Dull man unaccompanied by hard worker around noon (8)
- 18 Army officer at US state and Spanish island (7)
- 21 Embarrass like bad actor on final stage (6)
- 22 Watch restrained batting by Flower (5)
- 24 Physicist dull in speech (4)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 12528

B	U	C	K	S	H	O	T	P	O	U	N	C	E

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Khelo had moments to cherish

Sports Minister Rathore promises proper follow-up

VIJAY LOKAPALLY
NEW DELHI

For Hemant Jogdeo, a 91-year-old Marathi sports scribe based in Pune, the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) at Balewadi signified the progress the nation had made on the organisational front. Having covered four Olympics, he should know. "The infrastructure for the event and the overall conduct was top class," he gushed, the sparkle in his eyes conveying the joy the young athletes brought to the audience.

"This is what we had aimed at. To create a system, to create a brand of value, we needed a platform. Khelo India is that platform. It helps a youngster combine sports with education. We are going to develop the individual to combine his talent at sports and education. They are the bedrock of any system, a system that takes you close to perfection. We are now encouraging private academies to join hands with us to produce champions. I am glad to say that we have identified these academies of high standards," Union Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore told *The Hindu*.

Gains

On the gains from KIYG, Rathore said, "The youngsters got to compete in international standard arenas.



Stupendous success: The Khelo India Games saw youngsters showcasing their talent in international standard arenas. ■ PTI

They showcased their talent – and not just the winners – with a sense of pride. The competition had moments to cherish in life for the participants. It was the Prime Minister's clarion call for states to mingle and KIYG provided that platform. The athletes experienced ten days of unforgettable togetherness."

The KIYG, according to Rathore, created a healthy atmosphere for the youth. "It highlighted the emphasis of playing among students, parents and teachers. The emphasis of sports in our life was highlighted too. SAI (Sports Authority of India) is developing into the best

sports management company in the country. We are in the process of creating structural changes to maximise the potential capability of our youth and transform them into best in the world."

Rathore promised proper follow-up of the KIYG.

"I would like to thank the media for its support. The media has helped the young champions to believe in themselves by highlighting their achievements."

"We will engage former champions to be the mentors of these youngsters. Those selected will be provided the platform to become bigger champions."

Sindhu's season begins

Saina, Srikanth look to continue run

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAKARTA

Olympic silver medalist P.V. Sindhu will resume her quest for glory in the new season, while Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth aim to continue their impressive run when they start their campaign at the Indonesia Masters, starting on Tuesday.

Great year

Seeded second Sindhu has been a cut above other Indians as she claimed silver medals at all the major events – Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and World Championship – before ending the year with the prestigious World Tour Final title, the first Indian to achieve the feat.

After the engagements of the Premier Badminton League (PBL), Sindhu decided

to skip last week's Malaysia Masters and will begin her campaign against former Olympic gold medallist China's Li Xuerui on Wednesday.

The 23-year-old from Hyderabad is expected to clash with reigning Olympic champion Carolina Marin in the quarterfinals.

Impressive start

Saina, on the other hand, had an impressive start to the season, losing in the quarterfinals of the Malaysia Masters, which was the first World Tour Super 500 tournament of the season. The London Olympic bronze medallist will take on a qualifier in the opening round.

Srikanth, who also entered the quarterfinals at Kuala Lumpur last week, plays his first match against Malaysia's Liew Daren.

Visker knocks out Pantino

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Unseeded Niels Visker of the Netherlands sprung the biggest upset of the day, shocking second-seeded Arthur Craig Pantino of Philippines in straight sets in the DKS ITF juniors tennis tournament here on Monday.

The results (first round):

Boys: Stijn Pel (Ned) bt Rohan Mehra 6-3, 2-6, 6-3; Madhwin Kamath bt Yu Zhang (Chn) 6-1, 4-6, 7-5; Alexander Gaponenko (Isr) bt Nikhil Nirajan (USA) 6-2, 6-2; Dev Javia bt Michael Francis Eala (Phi) 6-4, 6-4; Han-Chih Lin (Tpe) bt Fons van Sambeek (Ned) 3-6, 6-4, 6-3; Sahar Simon (Isr) bt Anurag Agarwal 7-5, 6-0; Guy den Ouden (Ned) bt Vansh Bhagatani 6-2, 6-1; Chirag Duanh bt Yair Sarouk (Isr) 6-5 retd.; Hanwen Li (Chn) bt Sammr Raina 6-2, 7-6(0); Younes Lalami Laaroussi (Mor) bt Kabir Hans 6-3, 2-6, 6-2; Krish Patel bt Roi Ginat (Isr) 7-5, 7-6(7); Bikramjeet Singh Chawla (USA) bt Yash Chaurasia 4-6, 6-4, 6-1; Yan Cheng Chen (Tpe) bt Tarush Bagai 6-2, 6-3; Niels Visker (Ned) bt Arthur Craig Pantino (Phi) 6-4, 6-4.

Girls: Jagmeet Kaur Grewal bt Chao-Yi Wang (Tpe) 6-4, 6-4; Shuruan Wang (Chn) bt Holly Fischer (GBr) 6-3, 2-1 retd.; Mai Napatt Nirundorn (Tha) bt Garigai Pawar 6-1, 6-1; Rutuja Chaphalkar (USA) bt Archita Mahalwal 6-3, 6-3; Yu-Yun Li (Tpe) bt Jiaqi Huang (Chn) 6-4, 6-1; Melissa Boyden (Ned) bt Manya Viswanath 6-4, 6-3; Linda Kumhorn (Tha) bt Shreya Chakraborty 6-3, 6-0; Bhakti Shah bt Wei Ning Fang (Tpe) 6-3, 6-4; Anastasia Astakhova (Kaz) bt Malika Marathe 6-4, 6-4; Ya Yi Yang (Tpe) bt Jiangxue Han (Chn) 6-1, 6-4; Ting-Pei Chang (Tpe) bt Bhakti Parwani 6-1, 6-2; Yijia Jiao (Chn) bt Shatavia Ghosh 6-2, 6-0; Federica Sacco (Ita) bt Sandeepi Singh Rao 6-4, 6-3.

Don't mind being called arrogant: Vinesh

Feels that this attitude helps her intimidate rivals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Stubborn by her own admission, trailblazing Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat doesn't mind being called arrogant for she says the attitude comes in handy to intimidate rivals on the mat.

"I am very stubborn. If I feel something is right, even if that is wrong, I will be very stubborn about that and I make sure people agree with me even if I am wrong sometimes," she laughed.

But would she call it a virtue, to be steadfast even if wrong? "If someone explains with love and proves that my thought process is wrong and I also start to realise that, then I concede and take a step back," she said.

And what about the perception of being arrogant for being so headstrong? "Yes people say that (arrogant) but I know what's inside me. And if it helps me on the mat, I don't bother," she said.

"People say it's over-confidence but for me it's belief. I don't get intimidated and your opponent also notices the body language. Some people work on it but for me it's God gift," she added.

Vinesh, the first Indian athlete ever to be nominated for Laureus World Sports Award, insisted that Indian wrestlers have great self-belief.



Being herself: Vinesh Phogat, the first Indian athlete ever to be nominated for Laureus World Sports Award, insists that Indian wrestlers have great self-belief. ■ PTI

self-belief.

Strong contenders

"I feel India has four or five strong contenders, who can beat any wrestler in the world. I won't take names but we can win two or three Olympic medals," she asserted.

"We have started becoming technically smart while earlier we just played a power game, it's giving results."

The significance of getting a nomination for the prestigious Laureus awards has still not dawned on the Haryana grappler.

"Honestly I still don't know what this nomination

is about. I just know that my name has been put for voting. I had not even heard of Laureus. And if no Indian athlete has been nominated before, I can only be proud of it.

"...it's definitely huge for wrestling in India because it is still struggling for recognition," said Vinesh.

The winner of multiple international medals says her comeback from a career-threatening injury, sometimes has even her amazed. "I have seen athletes struggling so badly after suffering injuries. Sometimes I am shocked to see what and how I have achieved this success."

It's nothing but God's grace."

Vinesh, who married fellow grappler Somvir Rathee, says he has played a huge role in her success.

"He is one person who has contributed to my success more than my family."

"The way he motivated me, no one did. I believe more in him than myself. He has videos of all my opponents in his phone. He knows them all, who attacks better, whose defence is solid."

"He devises strategies for me. He is more focussed on me than on himself. He has lot of belief in me," she explained.

Umesh wants a consistent run to prove himself

Vidarbha pacer says his rhythm gets affected if he doesn't get regular opportunities

AMOL KARHADKAR
NAGPUR

Umesh Yadav is proud to be a member of "the best Indian pace bowling unit".

However, the 31-year-old pacer who has come a long way since starting his journey in a village close to the Vidarbha cricket capital, is not fully satisfied. He obviously revels in the success of his three famed colleagues who were the toast of cricket globe in the year gone by, but feels he "deserves a consistent run in the playing XI rather than a one-off appearance in a series."

"I would say there have been plenty of ups and downs of late. Sometimes you get a few games on the run and then you have to wait for your chance, so a bowler's rhythm is affected a little bit."

"Bowling in the nets is different than playing a match. Usually when I play matches continuously, I feel the body responds well and I get into a rhythm," Umesh told *The Hindu* after helping Vidarbha roll over Uttarakhand in the Ranji Trophy quarterfinal.

"The KIYG gives them a degree of confidence useful at the international level. The KIYG will help inculcate culture of sports at the state level and will be permanent part of the sporting calendar."



Tips from a master: Umesh Yadav shares his knowledge with the Uttarakhand players.

■ AMOL KARHADKAR

havuls versus the West Indies, Umesh had hoped for more opportunities in the four-Test series. However, he wasted the only chance he got in the series – at Perth – due to "lack of rhythm".

"When you aren't getting a consistent run, you are thinking more about how to earn a chance (when you play). When you play one or two games overseas in a year, it definitely makes a difference. In Tests, I have played five matches in the last year and in ODIs and T20s, I have been on-off, on-off... so it does matter a lot."

Ever since he featured in each of India's 13 Tests in the home season in 2016-17, Umesh has found himself warming the benches on overseas Test tours. In ODIs, he continues to be in the dark. In fact, he has no clarity over whether he is being looked at as a World Cup prospect.

No clarity

"When it comes to clarity, the selectors will have to think about it. As a bowler, I haven't played any major tournaments. I just get an odd game in a series and then omitted. If you don't get chances, how will you prove

yourself? I played just four-five ODIs last season. I got two games in England, two against the West Indies and then they picked me for the T20s and now I am out again," said Umesh.

"If I have been performing in the IPL, they have to give me a fair chance. I should get a consistent run to prove myself. If I can't do well, then I can accept it. But if you get just one or two games in a year, even when you come in, you tend to carry too much pressure just to maintain your place in the side rather than giving your best and helping the team win."

I will be fit before IPL, says Prithvi Shaw

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Recovering from an ankle injury that forced him out of the Australia tour, the young Prithvi Shaw on Monday said he will be fit in time for the 12th season of Indian Premier League.

The 19-year-old Shaw suffered the injury in Australia before the start of the four-match Test series.

"I will be fit before the Indian Premier League and I

am trying hard to reach full fitness. I am working on my ankle as well as on my upper body," Shaw told *'India TV'*.

The Mumbai opener has been retained by Delhi Capitals for what will be his second season.

Twisting his ankle

The batsman twisted his ankle while fielding in the deep during India's practice match ahead of the first Test

against Australia in Adelaide.

Having stayed on with the team hoping to be fit for the second Test in Perth, Shaw was eventually ruled out of the remainder of the series and sent back home for an extensive rehabilitation programme.

Recalling the injury, he said, "We were playing the practice match in Sydney ahead of the first Test.

"I was standing at deep mid-wicket and Ash bhai (R Ashwin) was bowling and a

catch came towards me.

"I caught the ball while jumping backwards in the air and my body weight fell on my left foot when I landed.

"It was a bit uneven there and my ankle got twisted 90 degrees and the entire body-weight fell on that. That's how it happened."

Efforts were then on to get the batsman fit for the series but the severity of the injury dashed his hopes.

Water Supply Division, Civil Engineering Dept.
NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
Room No. 231, Shahid Bhagat Singh Place, New Delhi
e-Procurement Tender Notice
Tender ID - 2019_NDMC_166240_1

Name of work:-MLA LAD Fund
Sub Head:-Laying of New Hydrant pipe lines for 18 Nos. Water Metered Hydrants in NDMC area, New Delhi.
Estimated Cost : ₹ 12,88,949.00
Date of release of tender : 18.01.2019
Last date/time for receipt of tenders : 28.01.2019 upto 3:00 PM
Further details can be seen at <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
Note: To participate in e-tender in NDMC, registration with e-tendering system, Government of NCT of Delhi is mandatory.

To be the global Benchmark for a Capital City

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ROORKEE
ROORKEE, HARIDWAR - 247667, UTTARAKHAND
RE-TENDER NOTICE
No.1100000718/MM-16/ITR/2018-19/Kitchen Equipment/E&W/R-T/1682 Dated: 21.01.2019
Sealed Tenders are invited for the purchase of "Supply, Installation & Testing of Modular Kitchen Equipments". For Details please visit Institute website: www.iitr.ac.in/administration/pages/Tenders_EOI & CPP_Portal
<https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Sealed tenders should reach latest by 17:00 hours on 14/02/2019.
Deputy Registrar (MM)

U.P. RAJKIYA NIRMAN NIGAM LIMITED
(ISO 2008 Certified Company)
Visheshwaraya Bhawan, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow
Notice No. 183/G.M.I.Lko. Zone-1/RNN/W-15/19 Dated : 19.01.2019
Notice Inviting Tenders
The Project Manager, Raebareli Unit, Raebareli Invites for and on behalf of Managing Director U.P. Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd. online percentage rate bids in two bid system for the following work:
1. C/o Rajkiya Kanya Inter College at Village Alhuapur Sarsai, District Unnao (U.P.).
2. C/o Model Multipurpose Seed Store and Technology Dissemination Centre Kisan Kalyan Kendra, at Sadar District Pratapgarh (U.P.)
3. C/o Model Multipurpose Seed Store and Technology Dissemination Centre Kisan Kalyan Kendra, at Magrauda District Pratapgarh (U.P.).
The Bid forms and other details can be obtained/downloaded from the website: <https://tender.uprnn.co.in> The NIT is also available on <http://www.uprnn.co.in>
General Manager (LZ-1)

Online e-tenders i.e two bid system (Technical and Financial) are invited through the e-procurement portal <http://eprocure.gov.in/cpp> by the Director, LGRIMH from reputed and financially sound supplier/ manufacturer/

