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NEARBY



Envoy to U.S. Shringla is
next Foreign Secretary

NEW DELHI
The government has appointed India's Ambassador to the United States Harsh Vardhan Shringla, an expert in India's neighbourhood, as the next Foreign Secretary. Mr. Shringla will take over from Vijay Gokhale on January 29 for a two-year tenure.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 12

Delhi Cabinet passes
electric vehicle policy

NEW DELHI
The Delhi Cabinet on Monday gave approval to an electric vehicle policy with the aim to reduce air pollution. Through subsidies, the policy aims to raise the number of e-vehicles to 25% of the total registered vehicles in the city by 2024.

CITY ▶ PAGE 4

JMM coalition wrests Jharkhand

Hemant Soren to become Chief Minister again as his party wins 30 seats

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
RANCHI

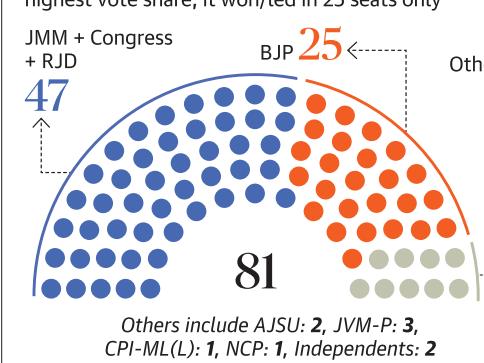
The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)-led alliance on Monday is on course to post a convincing victory in the Assembly election, handing a crushing defeat to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has lost another State after the recent setback in Maharashtra.

The JMM, the Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal crossed the halfway mark in the 81-seat Assembly by a comfortable margin. The JMM and the Congress also emerged victorious in 47 seats – their highest ever tally of seats won individually since the formation of Jharkhand in 2000.

In this process, the JMM also became the single largest party with 30 seats, pushing the BJP to second position with 25 seats compared to 37 in 2014. The Congress increased its tally to 16 compared to six in 2014.

Decisive victory

The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-Congress-RJD coalition won/led in 47 seats as the JMM emerged as the single largest party in the State. While the BJP had the highest vote share, it won/led in 25 seats only



Interestingly, over 33.4% of the votes went in favour of the BJP while the JMM and the Congress polled 18.7% and 13.9% votes respectively.

CM routed

JMM executive president Hemant Soren won from both the seats he contested –

Dumka and Barhait – while outgoing Chief Minister Raghubar Das could not retain his Jamshedpur East seat. "I express my gratitude to the people of Jharkhand for giving a clear mandate, which is a result of the hard work and sacrifice of Shibu Soren [his father] over the

years. The time has come to achieve the goal for which Jharkhand as a separate State was created. This is a new chapter in the history of the State," Mr. Soren said.

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Change of guard: JMM working president Hemant Soren seeking the blessings of his father and party chief Shibu Soren on Monday. ■ PTI

Uddhav, Jagan rule out NRC exercise in their States

Expressing dissent

Chief Ministers of 11 States have expressed opposition to the National Register of Citizens

■ States whose Chief Ministers have expressed opposition to the NRC and have said they will not implement it - Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra & Jharkhand (CM-elect)

■ States whose Chief Ministers have expressed opposition to the NRC - Odisha & Punjab

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI/VIJAYAWADA

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Monday assured delegations from the Muslim community that the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens will not be implemented in the State.

Addressing a public

meeting at Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy also categorically stated that the State government would not support the proposed implementation of the National Register of Citizens. With this, Andhra Pradesh joins 10 other States in opposing or refusing to implement the National Regis-

ter of Citizens. The Maharashtra government would not construct any detention centre and Muslims should not fear being thrown out of the State, Mr. Thackeray told two separate delegations of leading Muslim leaders, ulemas and maulanas.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

Gutted by fire



Tragic end: Nine persons, including a two-month-old girl, were killed when a major fire broke out at a three-storey building in north-west Delhi's Kirari in the early hours of Monday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR (REPORT ON PAGE 3)

Gold medallist kept out at convocation event

Pondy University student later accepts M.A. degree but rejects medal in solidarity with CAA protesters

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUDUCHERRY
A student who completed her masters in Mass Communication with a gold medal from Pondicherry University, Rabeeha Abdurehim, has alleged that she was prevented from attending the convocation ceremony attended by President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday.

Rabeeha Abdurehim, who hails from Kozhikode in Kerala, told reporters after the ceremony that she was asked to leave the hall before the President arrived.

"As I was on the radar of authorities (for participation in anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protests), I was asked to leave the hall and was allowed only after the President left. Later, I received my degree and refused to accept the gold medal," she told reporters.

Ms. Rabeeha said her decision to reject the gold medal was also to express solidarity with students who faced police brutality while staging protests against the CAA.

'Take a strong stand'
"Educated youth should take a strong stand against the legislation and fascist regime," she said.

Ms. Rabeeha did her masters in the School of Media and Communication of Pondicherry University. Another gold medallist from the same school, Karthika B. Kurup had announced her decision to boycott the convocation in support of the protest against the CAA.

S.I. Humayun, officer-in-charge, Pondicherry University, said the student's decision to not receive the medal from the President was her "personal decision" and the



Rabeeha Abdurehim later accepted her certificate but turned down the medal.

University had nothing to comment on it.

The official also denied knowledge of what actually led her to getting ousted as she had been duly registered and had taken a seat.

"All we know is that there was commotion in the hall

and she was asked to leave. She was allowed back after departure of the President."

The official also denied the charge that she was asked to leave for wearing a hijab as was being claimed on social media.

"This is borne out by the student's Facebook post where she herself has denied it," said the official.

'Peaceful message'
In her Facebook post, Ms. Rabeeha said that while she dreamt often about the moment she would receive a gold medal and master's certificate, "never did I imagine it would end up being in a way in which I could send a strong peaceful message across India."

"As a woman, as a student, as an Indian, today in my graduation I reject the gold medal awarded to me in

solidarity with all the students and public who are fighting against CAA and NRC. This is my way of showing the world what education means to us youth, not medals and certificates but... standing up against injustice, fascism and bigotry," she said.

"And even though (for 'unknown' reasons) I was sent (sic) out of the auditorium where 100s of students sat awaiting their medals when the president came and was only allowed inside when he left, I feel at peace for the fact that I was able to take a stand as an educated youth."

A post script to this added: "I have been seeing news which says I was asked to remove my scarf. That is false. No one asked me to remove anything. No one told me why I was kept outside."

ing hate" as the Congress held a five-hour 'Satyagraha for Unity' at Rajghat to express solidarity with the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the proposed pan-India National Register of Citizens.

Opposition steps up stir against citizenship law

Thousands take to the streets in Bengaluru

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI/GUWAHATI

The Opposition on Monday stepped out to protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) with the Congress holding a 'Satyagraha for unity' at Mahatma Gandhi's memorial Rajghat, while demonstrations were held against the Act in several States by students and others.

Countering the Opposition offensive, the BJP held a rally in Kolkata in support of the Citizenship Act that was addressed by party working president J.P. Nadda and several State leaders, who accused the Trinamool Congress and other rival parties of misleading the people.

Thousands of people from the Muslim community took to the streets in the Karnataka capital, Bengaluru, against the CAA and the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC), following a call by around 35 organisations under the banner of the Joint Action Committee of Bengaluru.

Workers beaten up
Demanding the scrapping of the Act, activists of the Youth League, a wing of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), organised protest marches to post offices in various parts of Kerala, where three migrant labourers from West Bengal



In one voice: A rally led by the DMK in Chennai on Monday to protest against the Citizenship Act. ■ M. KARUNAKARAN

Daryaganj violence accused fail to get bail

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

A city court on Monday rejected the bail applications of 15 persons arrested in Daryaganj last Friday on charges of indulging in violence during a protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. Their judicial custody has been extended by two weeks.

Metropolitan Magistrate

were assaulted by some unidentified people for allegedly taking part in anti-CAA protests that took place near Kozhikode a day ago.

The Murshidabad natives were beaten up on Sunday

Kapil Kumar dismissed the bail applications as he did not find sufficient grounds to grant them relief.

Lawyer Rebecca John, who represented the bail applicants, had pointed out that a vehicle set ablaze during the protest was private property, and questioned how the police invoked the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act. Page 2

A 'sad' reality that has long been in existence in Assam

Persons released from detention centres recount 'horror'

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

Guwahati-based retired Army officer Mohammed Sanullah smiled wryly as he watched Prime Minister Narendra Modi's televised speech at Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi on Sunday.

Congratulating Jharkhand Mukti Morcha's executive president Hemant Soren on the party-led alliance winning the Assembly elections, Mr. Kejriwal ascribed the ruling BJP's defeat in the State to "non-performance" and "arrogance". "People want to vote on the basis of work and they (BJP) didn't work. Second, BJP's arrogance is visible throughout the country," he said.

On June 8, the Gauhati High Court released Sanullah on bail from the Goalpara central jail, one of six in Assam that also serve as detention centres for people declared non-citizens by 100 functional Foreigners' Tribunals (FTs). He was lodged in the Goalpara centre on May 28. "So what is that place where I spent 11 horrific days called? If I had not been sent to a detention centre by the State machinery, maybe I am not a Muslim too," he told *The Hindu*.

On November 30, Assam's Parliamentary Affairs Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary said these centres had 988 declared foreigners till November 20, while 935

Tezpur detention centre, said the denial of such centres ridiculed his death.

"If there are no detention centres, my father was not sent to one after being declared a foreigner. In that case, the government should bring him back to life," one of his three sons said.

The family had refused to accept Paul's body for a week, putting the Sarbananda Sonowal government in a spot. Their contention was that since he was marked a foreigner, the government should send his body to whichever country it thought he had come from.

On November 30, Assam's Parliamentary Affairs Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary

provided data on the number of detention centres and how many declared foreigners they housed. This was two days after Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nitayanand Rai said in Parliament that there were 1,043 foreigners – 1,025 Bangladeshis and 18 Myanmar – across Assam's six detention centres.

The detention centres are run by Assam's Home Department with approval from the Home Ministry.

Released declared foreigners said four-five rooms within the central jails serve as detention centres.

"Each room is crammed with 50-60 people. Even the worst of enemies should not be sent there," Ali said.

PM muzzling India's voice: Rahul

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "suppressing Bharat Mata's [Mother India's] voice and the proposed pan-India National Register of Citizens.

ing hate" as the Congress held a five-hour 'Satyagraha for Unity' at Rajghat to express solidarity with the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and demanded that the rights of people be protected.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 12

A ND-NDE

'Modi, Shah's statements contradict each other'

PM praised police, did not talk about injured students: protesters

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI

In south-east Delhi's Shaheen Bagh, where protesters opposing the amended Citizenship Act have blocked the Noida-Kalindi Kunj Highway for over a week now, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comments that no discussion about the NRC had taken place on Sunday, found no takers.

"Amit Shah has stated in both Houses of Parliament that NRC will come... that's what all this started with," the Prime Minister had said. "It's all nonsense," said Shafeen Kausar, commenting on the Prime Minister's remark. Several others echoed her view highlighting the "contradiction". "The Prime Minister was trying to pacify the protests but his statements on the NRC were contradicting those of Amit Shah. He also claimed there were no detention centres but that is also not true," said Faisal Khan, a resident of the area.

"Who should we believe? The Prime Minister or the



Protesters gathering at Shaheen Bagh in New Delhi. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Home Minister?" asked Abdul Qauam, a social activist, underlining a "lack of trust". "They said they would send ₹15 lakh to each person's bank account... Amit Shah later said that it was a *jumla*. They said demonetisation would cut off funding to terrorists, but then Pulwama happened. There's no talk on the economy, education or unemployment. They must look the educated youth in the country in the eye and answer their questions," he argued.

Protesters here were also disappointed after the Prime Minister haled the police, but made no mention of the students who sustained injuries in the police crackdown. "Who will take responsibility for that?" said Ms. Kausar. The injustice being meted out had brought housewives into the street, she said, pointing at scores of women who had been sitting on the highway under a makeshift tent, braving the cold for the last several days. "Every little child here knows what the CAA and NRC are," said Mehnreda Kaftoum (42), a housewife, adding: "We are doing this for our children. If we are pushed out what will happen to them?"

Large banners denouncing the CAA and explaining the issue with the NRC have been hung from a foot overbridge which remains unused. "No CAA" and "No NRC" have also been spray-painted at various points.

The police have erected barricades on both ends of the roads but locals have set up their own checkpoints to ensure no face-off takes place with the police.

Protesters here were also disappointed after the Prime

139 detained during peaceful protest

They were taken to Mandir Marg police station, released at 5 p.m.

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police detained 139 people from outside Uttar Pradesh Bhawan and Assam Bhawan here on Monday when they were about to begin a protest against the action taken by the U.P. police during demonstrations against the amended Citizenship Act in the State.

Eish Singh, DCP (New Delhi), said that 46 people, including 27 women were detained from outside U.P. Bhawan and 93 people, including 52 women were detained from outside Assam Bhawan. They were taken to Mandir Marg police station and all of them were released at 5 p.m. "It was a peaceful protest. Most of the protesters were students," he added.

At U.P. Bhawan, the protesters were demanding the resignation of U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath over the killing of an eight-year-old boy who died during a crack down on protesters in Varanasi. Former JNU Students' Union (JNUSU) president N. Sai Balaji and All India Students' Association's Delhi unit president Kawalpreet Kaur were detained the moment they reached.

At Assam Bhawan, the JNUSU called for a protest against the arrest of RTI Activist Akhil Gogoi in Assam under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Amid heavy police presence and a water cannon on stand by, students were detained as soon as they reached the site of protest. However, a group of 15-20 students marched in with placards from a bylane and raised slogans like "Free Akhil Gogoi" and "Delhi police sharam karo", before being forcefully shoved into police vehicles.

With inputs from Elisha Virmani

A police officer on duty outside the U.P. Bhawan said that Section 144 of CrPC was imposed outside U.P. Bhawan and Assam Bhawan. All preventive measures were taken to avoid gathering of protesters. The people who arrived to protest were taken to Mandir Marg police station and women protesters were taken to the police station in police vehicles by women constables, he said.

"Many of the women protesters were also dropped off at their respective institutions by women constables," the officer added.

Rushnae Kabir (22), a JNU student, condemned the "systematic police crackdown" on students and on minority communities.

Pritish Menon (25), a student, called the UAPA "draconian".

With inputs from Elisha Virmani

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Pritish Menon (25), a student, called the UAPA "draconian".

With inputs from Elisha Virmani

SCHOOL BUZZ

GOING BEYOND THE CURRICULUM

ASN Senior Secondary School, Mayur Vihar -1 in collaboration with IQF hosted an 'Inter School Street Play & Power Point Presentation Event 2019.' Children from various schools performed on the theme, 'Spiritual Empowerment of Youth will generate responsible citizens of Future India.'

The Chief Guest for the event was Prof. Anil Sahatrabudhe, the Chairman of All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi. The Guests of Honour for the day were Mr. N. S. Chakravarthy, Former Deputy Director General, Department of Telecommunications, Govt. of India, Dr. Shrishti Mukherjee, Strategic Advisor, India Initiative of the Welcome Trust, Swami Dhruvarupananda, Ramakrishna Mission and Pravrajika Jnanaprana, Ramakrishna Sarada Mission. The School Principal, Ms. Swarnima Luthra addressed the gathering.

SPORTS DAY

The Junior School, Anand Niketan hosted Sports Meet on 30th November. The Chief Guest, Rear Admiral A George (Nausena Medal) and his wife graced the occasion. Mrs. Roma Das, the Associate Principal, welcomed the gathering. Various competitions were conducted. The Director Principals, Dr. V.K. William and Dr. Mrs N.M. William, the Dean of Mount Carmel Schools Dr. Michael William, along with the Heads of

FITNESS ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

The CBSE in collaboration with Sports Authority of India for Physical Education Teachers organized a workshop on 'Khelo India National Fitness Assessment Program' at New Era Public School, Mayapuri, New Delhi on 10th December. The resource person for the workshop was Mr. Ashutosh Kumar who was appointed as master trainer by CBSE. Mr. Ankur Sharma and Mr. Prateek Chauhan gave technical support and were from Khelo India Operations Team, Sports Authority of India. The day-long workshop was attended by registered Physical Education teachers from various schools of Delhi.

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Lecture on "The Making of Indian Civilization - Some Underlying Features" by Dr. Meenakshi Jain, Affiliate Fellow, NMML at Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML), Teen Murti House, Teen Murti Marg, 3 p.m.

Exhibition: "India: A Mapful Story", an exhibition of unseen historical maps and other important engravings (circa 18th Century to 1946) by Arunabh Nath, Curatorial Director of Ojas Art Galerie at 1AQ, Qutab Minar Roundabout, Mehrauli Road, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "A Dialogue with Soil", a solo glass sculpture show by Sisir Sahana at Gallerie Ganesh, E-557, Greater Kailash-II, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Exhibition: 92nd Annual All India Art Exhibition at All India Fine Arts & Craft Society (AIFACS), 1 Rafi Marg, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Screening: Mandi, a Hindi film directed by Shyam Benegal will be screened at The Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Hundreds of teachers of Delhi University marched on North Campus on Monday to press for their demand for absorption of ad hoc and temporary teachers.

The teachers of the university have been on an indefinite strike, boycotting evaluation of the ongoing semester examinations since nearly two weeks now. The discontentment of the teachers is palpable as more than 4,000 teachers have been denied permanent jobs and a similar number denied career progression for more than a decade in many cases," the Delhi University Teachers' Association said in a statement.

The teachers demanded that the Vice-Chancellor must speedily implement various concessions agreed upon by the Ministry of Human Resource and meet their representatives to find solutions to their concerns. Apart from absorption, the union also drew attention to alleged harassment of physical education teachers, delay in restoration of increments for M.Phil and Ph.D students, alleged unjust recoveries from salaries on "specious grounds", and the denial of pension to retired teachers.

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Standing united and how!



(Clockwise from top left) A protester being detained by the police outside Uttar Pradesh Bhawan; Jamia Millia Islamia Teachers' Association members during a candlelight march against the amended Citizenship Act at India Gate; students seen holding placards during a demonstration; doctors during a protest in the city on Monday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY



No bail to Daryaganj violence accused

Delhi court extends their judicial custody by two weeks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A city court on Monday rejected the bail applications of 15 persons arrested in Daryaganj last Friday on charges of indulging in violence during a protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. Their judicial custody has been extended by two weeks.

Metropolitan Magistrate Kapil Kumar dismissed the bail applications as he did not find sufficient grounds to grant them relief.

Lawyer Rebecca John, who represented the bail applicants, earlier read out the FIR registered on a complaint from the area Station House Officer to point out that a vehicle set ablaze during the protest was private property, and questioned how the police invoked the

Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act.

The police submitted that the protesters damaged barricades and pelted stones at the police station, which is adjacent to the area Deputy Commissioner of Police's office. They said that 17 police men were injured.

Ms. John said the 15 persons, who were from a poor background, were randomly picked up by the police. She asked if the police had identified them through CCTV footage or any witness. One of them, a 61-year-old, was a welding worker, she said.

The accused's lawyer contested the charge of criminal conspiracy and common intent, stating that they did not know each other. She also cited High Court guidelines to argue that rioting cases needed to be assessed

carefully. She said the police could have sent them notices as part of the probe instead of arresting them. The police submitted that the 15 persons were arrested as they were pelting stones during the protest.

Ms. John urged the court to direct the police to produce the arrest memos, which said that the arrests were made around 6 a.m. the next morning. It meant that the arrests were not spontaneous, she said. She also questioned the police for invoking provisions relating to fire and explosives.

The arrested persons were from low-income group and were not capable of influencing any witness or tamper with evidence, and sureties, as directed by the court, would be furnished for their bail, she said.

know as to how many detention centres the government would build if all Muslims, Christians and other minorities are "outsiders" and "illegal migrants".

The students alleged that Mr. Modi had developed a "sudden love" for the police forces.

Ashish Jha, a Jamia student, while addressing the protesters, said: "This government did not lodge a single case when policemen were beaten up in courts a month back."

"They had no love for the policemen then. Now, when the police have thrashed students at Jamia, AMU and other universities, they are terming officers as martyrs. What about the students and others who died in U.P.?"

Anti-CAA protest in Jamia enters eighth day

School students attend on Monday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The protests against the amended Citizenship Act at Jamia Millia Islamia entered its eighth day on Monday, with hundreds continuing to throng the streets outside the university.

Students from several schools in Noor Nagar, Batla House and Okhla also attended the protests on Monday.

The Jamia students, demanding withdrawal of the amendments in the law, questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remark that his government has never discussed the National Register of Citizens (NRC) after coming to power for the first time in 2014.

The students wanted to

DUTA rallies in support of ad hoc teachers

Hundreds join march on North Campus

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Hundreds of teachers of Delhi University marched on North Campus on Monday to press for their demand for absorption of ad hoc and temporary teachers.

The teachers of the university have been on an indefinite strike, boycotting evaluation of the ongoing semester examinations since nearly two weeks now. The discontentment of the teachers is palpable as more than 4,000 teachers have been denied permanent jobs and a similar number denied career progression for more than a decade...

The discontentment of the teachers is palpable as more than 4,000 teachers have been denied permanent jobs and a similar number denied career progression for more than a decade...

DISCONTENTMENT OF THE TEACHERS IS PALPABLE AS MORE THAN 4,000 TEACHERS HAVE BEEN DENIED PERMANENT JOBS AND A SIMILAR NUMBER DENIED CAREER PROGRESSION FOR MORE THAN A DECADE...

DISCONTENTMENT OF THE TEACHERS IS PALPABLE AS MORE THAN 4,000 TEACHERS HAVE BEEN DENIED PERMANENT JOBS AND A SIMILAR NUMBER DENIED CAREER PROGRESSION FOR MORE THAN A DECADE...

₹1 crore compensation: NGT refuses relief to U.P.

Review plea by U.P. govt. dismissed

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has disposed of a review plea filed by the Uttar Pradesh government seeking relief from an earlier order in which the State government was directed to deposit an environmental compensation of ₹1 crore for failing to curb pollution in the Ganga.

Dismissing the review plea, a Bench headed by NGT chief Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said, "In support of this application, it is stated that certain facts could not be placed before the Tribunal at the time when the order was passed. It is contended that the action was permissible in view of the prevailing circumstances [under relevant sections]."

"We have considered the pleadings contained in the application...we are of the view that there is no merit in this application in as much as the factual position set out by the applicant with regard to the unlawful action of the Jal Nigam," the Bench observed.

Earlier, the green panel had imposed the environmental compensation after it held that a permission granted by the Principal Secretary, Urban Development, for the release of large quantity of untreated sludge and effluents into river Ganga was illegal.

A ND-NDE

IN BRIEF



'No religion-linked party name allowed since '05'

NEW DELHI
The Election Commission on Monday told the Delhi High Court that in 2005 it took a policy decision not to register any political party having a name with religious connotations and thereafter, no such party has been registered. However, any such party registered before 2005 will not lose its registration for having a name with a religious connotation, the poll panel told a Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar.

Mandoli jail warden held for smuggling drugs

NEW DELHI
A 30-year-old warden from Mandoli Jail was arrested for allegedly smuggling drugs inside the prison, police said on Monday. The accused, Jitender, was working at the prison since October last year and he was arrested on Saturday, they said. He was carrying contraband weighing 25 grams inside his car while entering the jail on Friday night, they added.

Winter Carnival at Dilli Haats, Garden of 5 Senses

NEW DELHI
On cue with the holiday season, Delhi Tourism is organising Winter Carnival at various Dilli Haats across the city as well as the Garden of Five Senses. The timings of the carnival at all three Dilli Haats and Garden of Five Senses are from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. The festival will be held at Dilli Haat, Pitampura, till December 25, Dilli Haat, INA, till December 31, Dilli Haat, Janakpuri, till December 24 and Garden of Five Senses till January 1.

File affidavit on encroached forest areas: HC

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court on Monday told the Capital's Chief Forest Conservator to clarify whether encroached forest areas have been included in the Centre's plan to regularise 1,731 unauthorised colonies in Delhi.

A Bench comprising Justice G.S. Sistani and Justice Anup J. Bhamhani, while hearing a public interest petition seeking to curb air pollution, asked the forest department to file an affidavit on the issue by January 23, next date of hearing.

The High Court's query came after senior advocate Kailash Vasudev, who was appointed as amicus curiae to assist the court in the case, raised apprehension that encroached forest area could get included under the unauthorised colonies regularisation policy.

Ishwar Singh, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, who was present in the court, said the encroached forest area will not be included in the regularisation policy.

The case has been pending before the High Court since February 2015 and during the period detailed orders have been passed from time-to-time for taking steps to curb air pollution in Delhi.

"We are of the view that in case the measures suggested from time-to-time had been seriously implemented, pollution levels in Delhi would not have been as alarming as they are today," the High Court had said in November.

"There cannot be two views that with the present state of affairs in Delhi, existence of a robust tree cover must certainly be a priority," the court had said.

Mr. Singh had also submitted that the authorities was in the process of removal of encroachments on the Southern Ridge, where some 370 hectares of land is under heavy encroachment.

Nine, including 2-month-old, killed as fire engulfs building

Second major fire in city in less than a month; 3 occupants rescued by neighbours

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

Nine persons, including a two-month-old girl, were killed when a major fire broke out at a three-storey building in Rohini's Kirari in the early hours of Monday. This is the second such incident in the Capital in less than a month after the Anaj Mandi fire in which over 40 people died.

The deceased were identified as owner of the residential building Ram Chander Jha (65), his wife Sudariya Devi (58), their daughter-in-law Sanju (28), Sanju's mother Guddan, Uday Kant Chaudhary, his wife Muskan and their three children Anjali (9), Adarsh (7) and two-month-old Tulsi. While Jha along with his family members were residing on the first floor of the building, Chaudhary's family was staying on rent on the first floor. However, Pooja (24), her daughter Aradhya (3) and Sanju's daughter Soniya (10), who were also at the building at the time of incident, escaped with minor injuries.

Cylinder blast
The ground floor from where the fire is suspected to have started was being used as a godown for clothes. The fire had triggered a cylinder blast on the second floor. The impact of the blast was such that a part of the adjoining wall collapsed and fell on to the barren plot right next to the building.

Neighbours Avdhesh Pathak, who along with his brother Devesh Pathak and Rajesh Kumar, were among



The building where a fire broke out early on Monday morning in Kirari. The ground floor of the building was used to store clothes. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

the first responders and they saved the lives of three.

Recalling the incident, Avdesh, who is a street vendor, said that around noon, he and his brother were having dinner when he heard Pooja shouting for help. They went outside and saw her on the rooftop with two minor girls.

"I called my brother and other neighbours and we climbed up using a wooden staircase and brought them down. The doors of the first floor were however shut. The three who escaped the fire had managed to reach the terrace through the staircase," he said.

Though Pooja had told them about others being trapped inside the house, they couldn't help as the door was jammed due to the heat.

At the time of the incident, Pooja's husband Amarnath alias Tinku had gone to Haridwar for performing the rituals of his deceased brother.

er, who is Sanju's husband.

The deceased Ram Chander Jha and his wife used to shuttle between Delhi and their home town in Bihar's Madhubani. The family said that they had come to Delhi only about 10 days ago. Sanju's mother Guddan had come to help her daughter about two months ago.

Uday Kant Chaudhary's family said that he worked with the Customs Department. He had been staying on the first floor for over two years. They wanted to leave the house and were planning to move out on January 1.

Distress call
Delhi Fire Service Director Atul Garg said that they received a distress call at 12.25 a.m. after which nine fire tenders were pressed into service. "Three persons on the second floor were charred to death and the rest died of asphyxiation. The fire is suspected to have

started from the ground floor and spread to the upper floors," Mr. Garg said.

Mr. Garg also said that there was only one exit in the building, which was locked from inside, and there was no fire safety equipment.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Rohini) S.D. Mishra said that no commercial activity was going on in the building and the ground floor was being used to store cloth material.

The ground floor was given for rent to one Vijay Katara. The clothes had been stocked there a few days ago," he said.

He added that a case under Section 285 (negligent conduct with respect to fire or combustible matter), 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 304A (causing death by negligence) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered.

Incorrect information delayed operation: DFS

Caller didn't inform about cloth godown

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The distress call received by the Delhi Fire Service was about a fire in the house and the callers didn't inform about the cloth godown on the ground floor. The incorrect information had delayed the operation, said fire officials.

DFS Director Atul Garg said that as they received call regarding fire in the house, they had initially sent three fire tenders with a capacity of 3,000 and 5,000 litres. However, when the fire offi-

cials reached the spot, they found that a cloth godown existed on the ground floor from where the fire was suspected to have started.

It was then that water bowsers with a capacity of 20,000 litres were sent to the spot. "If we had known about the cloth godown, then we would have immediately sent water bowsers along with the fire tenders.

Incorrect information delayed the operation," he said. A total of nine fire tenders were pressed into service to douse the fire.

₹10 lakh compensation to families of deceased

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Monday ordered a magisterial inquiry into the fire tragedy in Kirari in which nine people died and announced a compensation of ₹10 lakh to the families of deceased and ₹1 lakh for those injured in the incident.

"Inspected spot in Kirari and ordered magisterial inquiry to fix responsibility. Delhi government will provide ₹10 lakh as compensation for the families of deceased and ₹1 lakh for those injured," said Home Minister Satyendar Jain.

"Very sad news. The fire was controlled, but nine people could not be saved. May their soul rest in peace. There will not be anything lacking in the treatment of the injured," Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said in a tweet.

Delhi BJP President Manoj Tiwari who visited the area said that people of Delhi have not recovered from the Anaj Mandi fire tragedy and the current incident has shaken them. "Such incidents are saddening and everyone should desist from accusing each other and politicising the tragedy," he added.

Internal issues
Talking about the internal issues, Shikha Jha, sister of Sanju Jha, who died in the fire, said that her sister was tortured by the family after her husband Jitender's death

in January this year. "They didn't want to take care of her and her daughter. She started working at a city hospital about six months ago because of this. They used to abuse and thrash her and wanted her to leave the house. Her sister-in-law Pooja, who had survived the fire, had hit her with a slipper a few days ago. She was living in a separate room on the first floor for the last four days. That is why our mother had gone there to help her," Ms. Shikha said, adding that she suspects foul play and demanded an investigation into it.

Ms. Shikha claimed that a major fight between her sister and other family members broke out on Sunday.

"My sister called me in the afternoon and told me that they had threatened to kill her," she alleged.

Building not surveyed by civic body

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The building in north Delhi's Kirari, where a fire broke out in the early hours of Monday, had not been surveyed by the municipal corporation as it was a residential building with no instance of industrial work, chairperson of the North DMC Standing Committee, Jai Prakash said.

"We were told that the cloth materials were shifted to the large hall, which was purely a residential building, only a few days ago," he added.

The three municipal corporations are engaged in an exercise to survey and seal factories operating illegally in residential areas. "No commercial activity was being undertaken there. No small scale industry was running in the area either," Mayor Avtar Singh said.

"We were told that the cloth materials were shifted to the large hall, which was purely a residential building, only a few days ago," he added.

With regard to the inquiry into the Anaj Mandi fire, the Mayor said that officials had asked for a few more days and the report would be ready by January 3.

AQI likely to be 'severe' in parts of city, may improve by tomorrow

Dense fog expected over next 2 days: monitoring agency

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The air quality of Delhi continued to be in the 'very poor' category on Monday and is predicted to deteriorate to 'severe' in parts of Delhi on Tuesday, said government-run monitoring agency SAFAR.

"The decrease in surface wind speed, temperature, and increase in moisture have been forecast and these are likely to lead to very dense fog during the next two days. However, an increase in surface wind speed is forecast from December 25. It is likely to improve ventilation and AQI. Further improvement is expected by December 26," said SAFAR.



most six times the safe limit (25 ug/m³) set by the World Health Organization.

People are advised to avoid all kinds of outdoor activities, give morning walks a miss, and close windows of rooms. "Stop any activity if you experience any unusual coughing, chest discomfort, wheezing, breathing difficulty, or fatigue and consult a doctor," an advisory by SAFAR stated.

The city's air quality index on Monday was 327, up from 322 on Sunday, according to the CPCB. According to SAFAR, Tuesday's top three air pollution hotspots in Delhi are likely to be Jhangipuri, Vinobapuri and Adarsh Nagar.

However, the level is al-

toral enquiries, they claimed.

"We warn the administration to not execute such stunts, and also appeal to the larger students community to stand against the hostel eviction order and deter the administration from targeting the students," they said.

The statement has also been endorsed by other student bodies like BAPSA, NSUI.

JNU suspended 6 students for protesting'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI
The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) on Monday alleged that six students have been academically suspended for their participation in the protest over hostel fee hike.

The JNU administration is formulating a strategy of mass intimidation by sending proctorial enquiries to students en masse and

even academically suspending them as well as evicting them from hostels and declaring them out of bounds, the JNUSU alleged.

However, no immediate reaction was available from the university.

Six students have been academically suspended and declared out of bounds for allegedly heckling the Vice-Chancellor, they said.

The statement has also been endorsed by other student bodies like BAPSA, NSUI.

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National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)
Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

NIFT EMBARKS ON A NEW JOURNEY

Come December, the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) opens its doors for a fresh batch of aspiring design professionals. Yes, NIFT admissions for 2020 are now open! As aspiring students of design throng the 16 NIFT centers, that are busy hosting Open House sessions for interactions and counseling, it is imperative for parents and candidates to know what's new at NIFT. This year, the premier design institute has restructured its curriculum after careful review and deliberations. This has been done to make students more industry-ready and prepared to successfully manage the dynamic, complex world of fashion technology, design and retailing. The curriculum now integrates technical know-how with soft skills, creativity with entrepreneurship, and education with exploration. The new curriculum at NIFT will equip the students with an extraordinarily valuable set of skills required for a well-rounded personality that can tackle the rigors of a fast-paced professional environment. It does so, by teaming a host of General Electives, Inter-Disciplinary Minors and Deepening Specializations with the Majors. From 2019 onwards, NIFT has also introduced a diverse range of General Electives that include niche areas like Theatre, Psychology, Critical Thinking, Professional Ethics, among others. Adapting to the changing times, it has also incorporated technology-centric areas like Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Big Data and Business Analytics, Smart Textiles and Smart Jewellery, into the curriculum. NIFT is optimistic that this will encourage more candidates with specialized and distinct interest areas to apply for its programmes. In addition to this, the Institute has firmly integrated the Craft Cluster Initiative into its new curriculum. This, it is believed, will inspire students to draw from our country's rich and diverse cultural heritage, arts and crafts and metamorphose and assimilate the learnings into the current trends and requirements of the fashion industry and the society at large. NIFT intends to deploy innovative pedagogy, in the form of academic transaction, opportunities for interdisciplinary learning and specialization, assimilative and continuous evaluation and academic mentorship to give students a holistic understanding of subjects, contexts, environment and an ability to adapt and innovate. The dynamic NIFT faculty and industry experts with hands-on experience, will teach the ambitious curriculum. The NIFT programme will give students first hand exposure to the working of the industry and experience of some of its most seasoned practitioners. It will give the students the opportunity to take up classroom projects which respond to an Industry brief, and to do industry internships under the mentorship of some of the best minds in the business. NIFT has also been working towards expanding its global presence through international partnerships, student exchanges and participation in international seminars and symposia that allow for world-class academic discourse and knowledge transfer. Students of all NIFT campuses will get the opportunity to join international twinning programmes depending on their academic performance. With such world-class infrastructure, faculty opportunities for exposure, NIFT is ready to revolutionize design and fashion education in India. The deadline for NIFT applications is 31st December, 2019!



IN BRIEF**Jammat-e-Siddiqui head joins AAP**

NEW DELHI
Mohammad Shahid Siddiqui, national president of Jamaat-e-Siddiqui of India, joined AAP on Monday along with its leaders, the party said.

Services affected on Blue Line**STAFF REPORTER**
NEW DELHI

Services on the Delhi Metro's Blue Line were affected on Monday following a technical snag. A weld fracture in a segment between Karol Bagh and Rajendra Place metro stations led to the delay, said the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC).

"These welds at times get fractured due to change in temperature or weather conditions and generally happen in the early morning hours. Monday's defect was also noticed in the morning and accordingly it was safely secured as per the established norms and procedures," the DMRC said. The trains were run at a restricted speed throughout the day between Rajiv Chowk and Rajendra Place metro stations, said officials.

"Funding for the various incentives under Delhi EV Policy will be obtained from multiple sources such as pollution/diesel cess, road tax, Environment compensation charge (ECC), etc., which will be monitored under State EV Fund. A State EV Board shall be constituted as the apex body for the effective imple-

Timings

DELHI

TUESDAY, DEC. 24

RISE 07:11 SET 17:31

RISE 05:04 SET 16:01

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25

RISE 07:11 SET 17:31

RISE 06:07 SET 16:50

THURSDAY, DEC. 26

RISE 07:12 SET 17:32

RISE 07:07 SET 17:43

Delhi Weather max min

Delhi City 14 08

Safdarjung 14 08

Palam 13 07

Delhi Palam Today

14°C Dense fog during chilly morning. A cold day with partly cloudy sky.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow

14°C Moderate fog with dense in pockets. A mainly sunny sky and cool afternoon.

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3 dead, 13 injured as van turns turtle in M.P.

KHARGONE

Three persons were killed and 13 were injured in the early hours of Monday when their van overturned between Piprad and Temla village in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone district, police said. PTI

AMUSU seeks resignation of VC and Registrar

Students' union releases 32-page report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GAZIABAD

The Aligarh Muslim University Students' Union has demanded the resignation of Vice Chancellor Tariq Mansoor and Registrar Abdul Hamid for their "mishandling" of affairs of the university.

In a 32-page report released by AMUSU detailing "the circumstances under which the AMU was attacked by the BJP government on December 15" on Monday, it has also demanded a "high-profile inquiry" by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court into the December 15 "State-sponsored violence" at AMU. It has also asked for government jobs for students who were seriously injured in the "brutal police action."

Alleging that the Vice Chancellor and Registrar were in sync with the BJP government, Salman Imtiaz,

'BJP's divisive agenda rejected by the people'

Punjab Chief Minister welcomes Jharkhand poll results

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Monday hailed the Congress-JMM-RJD victory in the Jharkhand Assembly polls as rejection of the divisive politics of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

The Chief Minister said the reversal of the ruling BJP's fortunes, which had begun earlier this year, has taken another leap forward with these polls. The results had resoundingly crushed BJP's ambitions of spreading its tentacles across the length and breadth of the country, and paved the way for the creation of a BJP-Mukta Bharat, he added.

"With these results, BJP's divisive agenda had not only been exposed but had also been rejected outright by the people," said Capt. Amarinder, adding that the mandate marked the defeat of the rul-



Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh

ing party's communal politics.

"People want development and progress, in the backdrop of the Constitutional ethos of unity in diversity; they do not want to be divided by vested interests in the name of religion," Capt. Amarinder said, adding that the BJP had failed to read the people's mood and pulse.

The Punjab Chief Minister further said that the Jhark-

hand results validate the Congress party's secular agenda.

"Coming at a time when a strong anti-BJP wave was sweeping the nation, as manifest in the widespread public protests against the unconstitutional CAA [Citizenship Amendment Act] and NRC [National Register of Citizens] of the central government, the Jharkhand results validate the Congress party's secular agenda," he said.

False promises'

"It is only a matter of time now for the saffron hue to be lifted from the nation's face, and give way to a bright future for its people... false promises and fake claims cannot take any political party far which the BJP has dogmatically failed to appreciate or accept," Capt. Amarinder added.

(With PTI inputs)

AAP hits out at Akalis on citizenship law

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Aam Aadmi Party has hit out at the BJP's ally in Punjab, the Shiromani Akali Dal, accusing it of having shown its "double face" on the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Act, after the latter demanded the inclusion of Muslims in the controversial Act.

The Akali Dal had voted in favour of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in Parliament.

Attacking Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal and his wife, Harsimrat Kaur Badal, who is a Union Minister, AAP's Punjab unit president Bhagwant Mann on Monday said: "Both of them supported and voted in favour of the CAB on the floor of the House, while their eyes were riveted on ministerial berth instead of the Muslim community."

He said that the real strength was their vote in the House which they exercised against the Muslims.

Srinagar Deputy Mayor removed

Mayor survives BJP bid to topple him

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

In the Valley's first major "political activity" post abrogation of J&K's special status, jailed Deputy Mayor of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) was toppled and Mayor Junaid Azim Mattu, from Sajad Lone's Peoples Conference (PC), retained his position despite the BJP move to remove him.

In a first signal that the regional parties – Lone's Peoples Conference, the National Conference – and the Congress were closing ranks and putting a joint front, SMC Mayor survived the apparent move by the BJP councillors to topple him.

The BJP, which won four councillor seats out of 74 in the urban local bodies election held in October 2018, of late worked hard to increase its numbers in the SMC to dominate the crucial municipality in the capital.

PDP demands release of party leaders

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU/SRINAGAR

The Peoples Democratic Party on Monday held a meeting in Srinagar, the first after the Centre abrogated Article 370, to take stock of the situation in the Valley and arrangements being made to observe the fourth death anniversary of party's founder Mufti Mohammad Sayeed on January 7.

Release prisoners'

In another meeting held in Jammu, the party sought immediate release of all detained political leaders, including its president and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti.

In Jammu, the meeting was presided over by PDP general secretary and former MLC Surinder Chowdhary who termed the prolonged incarceration of politicians in Jammu and Kashmir as "unjustified and uncalled for", a party spokesperson said.

Amarinder defends his Finance Minister

'SAD's resignation demand ridiculous'

VIKAS VASUDEVA

CHANDIGARH

As the politics surrounding Punjab's worsening financial situation gained momentum after the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) demanded resignation of State's Finance Minister, the Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Monday came to the defence of his Cabinet colleague.

Terminating the demand for Manpreet Badal's resignation over the fiscal situation in the State as "ridiculous", Capt. Amarinder said that it was the Akalis who were wholly and solely responsible for Punjab's financial crisis which his government was striving hard to resolve.

'Akalis ruined economy'

"For 10 years of their rule, the Akalis messed with the State's economy for their own vested interests," said the Chief Minister, adding that his government, in his previous term, had left a robust economy, which the SAD-BJP regime ruined with their ill-conceived and anti-people policies.

"What's more, just months before the 2017 Assembly elections, the then SAD-BJP government added a ₹31,000 crore loan burden on the State on account of food grain procurement for the central pool, which had aggravated the fiscal crisis," he said.

"It was shameful that instead of regretting their actions and apologising to the people for the same, the Akali leaders were now seeking to put the blame of the financial mess on my government and Finance Minister," said Capt. Amarinder.

All the money in the State's coffers was wasted away by the Akalis and their allies, the BJP, during their decade-long misrule, with no positive measures taken to boost the economy," he said here.

Superintendent of Police, Rohtas district, Satyaveer Singh said a communication was received from the State headquarters seeking verification of details of the woman, who claims to hail from "Koni Bigha, Dehri on Sone".

"According to the details made available, the woman was granted consular access at Lahore Central Jail on October 28. She has stated her father's name as Dharam. The address given appears sketchy. Dehri on Sone has been called the district from which she hails," the SP said.

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6 women had climbed a water tank to press for their demand

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JAIPUR

Candidates appearing in the Rajasthan Public Service Commission's examination for recruitment of government school teachers received an assurance from Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot here on Monday for "sympathetic consideration" of their demand for extension of the exam dates. The exam is scheduled to begin on January 3.

Half-a-dozen women protesters raising the demand had climbed down from an overhead water tank at Jagatpura locality here late on Sunday night after Mr. Gehlot's appeal. The aspirants have launched an agitation with the demand that new

dates in July-August 2020 be fixed in view of the upcoming panchayat elections.

While several of them are yet to obtain the qualifying degree, a large number of aspirants serving the government were unable to prepare due to time constraint. The protesting women, who spent more than 32 hours on the water tank, were sent food, blankets and water through ropes by the crowd present below.

Meena extends support
As the women continued their protest and issued a video message addressed to the Chief Minister, other candidates waited on the ground to support them. Rajya Sabha member Kirori Lal

Meena extended his support to the agitation and also spoke up in favour of the candidates' additional demand for increasing the number of vacancies from 5,000 to 10,000.

Mr. Gehlot told a delegation of the candidates led by Mr. Meena that he would take a decision "in the best interest" of the youth appearing in the exam. He had tweeted on Sunday that he was concerned for the protesting women and pointed out that the government had extended the exam dates twice in the past.

"If the date is not extended this time, about 2.50 lakh candidates may become ineligible for various reasons," Mr. Meena said.

Punjab govt. changes timings of schools

State reeling under cold wave

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

As Punjab continues to reel under cold wave conditions, the State government has decided to change the timings for all schools from December 24.

The Punjab Education Department has issued direction changing timings of government, aided as well as private schools in the State.

"The changed timings would take effect from December 24, 2019, and would be in force till January 15, 2020," an official statement said.

The timings of the primary schools would be from 10 a.m. till 3 p.m., while those of the middle, high and senior secondary schools would be from 10

a.m. till 4 p.m. The timings of the schools having double shifts would remain the same," it added.

Met forecast

The Chandigarh-based India Meteorological Department has forecast that during the next 4-5 days the weather conditions are likely to be remain mostly dry in Punjab and Haryana.

'Woman from Bihar' lands in Pakistan jail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DEHLI ON SONE

A 51-year-old woman, claiming to be from this Bihar town, has landed in a Pakistan jail, police said on Monday.

Superintendent of Police, Rohtas district, Satyaveer Singh said a communication was received from the State headquarters seeking verification of details of the woman, who claims to hail from "Koni Bigha, Dehri on Sone".

"According to the details made available, the woman was granted consular access at Lahore Central Jail on October 28. She has stated her father's name as Dharam. The address given appears sketchy. Dehri on Sone has been called the district from which she hails," the SP said.

Conditions returned to Jammu region on Monday after the night temperature plummeted again.

Severe cold
The residents of Jammu city woke up to a chilly morning with minimum temperature settling two degrees below the season's average at 6.2 degrees Celsius, down by 2.5 notches against the previous night's 8.7 degrees Celsius, an official of the mete-

rological department said.

Katra, which serves as the base camp for the pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in Reasi district, recorded a minimum of 5.7 degrees Celsius against the previous night's 6.2 degrees Celsius, the official said.

He said the snow-bound Bhaderwah town in Doda district was the coldest recorded place in Jammu region with a low of minus 1.8 degrees Celsius.

Jammu-Srinagar highway cleared after remaining closed for 42 hours

A massive landslide in Ramban district had left thousands of vehicles stranded on the crucial road since Saturday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BANIHAL/JAMMU

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

GS Krishnan (Sivaraman) (91), retd. Sr Section Supervisor, Dept of Telecom, passed away on Dec. 23 (Mon) Last rites in Abhirampuram on Dec. 25 (Wed.) 044 24984560.

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नामांकन प्रारम्भ

631, भूतल, मुखजी नगर

7428085757/58

PERSONAL

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, GOURAV Jain, S/o Dharmanand Jain born on 10/04/91 R/o 9/227 Galli no.11 Kailash nagar Gandhi Nagar Delhi-110031, changed my name to Gaurav Jain vide affidavit dated 21/12/19 before Notary S.K. Sharma, Delhi.

MARKSHEET OF 10th & 12th class belonging to Hitesh Kumar Singh lost in Delhi Metro. Finders please contact.8210223877.

CM YK

LOST & FOUND

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES
COMMISSION CONSTITUTION
W/BLOCK 1st FLOOR, BHIKHARI BHAWAN, ETC., NEW DELHI-11002
No. C-359/19/4348 Dated 22-11-2019
In the Matter of Sanjay Kumar Mittal
Versus
M/s Eleven Buldon Private Limited
12, Jay House, Bihari Park, Deoli Road,
Khanpur, Near Delhi-110052
Through its Manager Mr. Hemant Kumar
& Sh. Sarva Prasad Yadav
Also at: Solars Apartments, Proposed Group Housing
(A joint venture of Shri. Hemant Kumar Mittal &
Sh. Sarva Prasad Yadav), Sector-18, Noida-201301, Uttar Pradesh
Also at: 5, Noida-201301, U.P.
Date: 22-11-2019, Time: 10:30 a.m. sharp

Whereas complaint against you has been made to me by a consumer or by a pleader or an authorised agent duly registered with the State Consumer Disputes Commission in relation to the complaint on 04/03/2020 at 10:30 a.m. sharp.
You are directed to file complete reply of your defence on the aforesaid date and take note of the same. You are also directed to appear before the consumer commission on 22-11-2019, under my hand and the seal of this commission on this 22-11-2019.
Sd/-
Seal
Registrar
State Commission
Place: New Delhi
Date: 23/12/2019
Director

Man lynched
on suspicion of
cattle theft

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AGARTALA

A 29-year-old man was lynched by a mob in Tripura's Sipahijala district on suspicion of cattle theft, the police said on Monday.

Matin Miah was caught by a few locals in the early hours of Sunday from Goruband area of Sonamura near the India-Bangladesh border with two cows, said Souvik Dey, Sub-Divisional Police Officer, Sonamura. He was beaten up severely and died at Melagar Hospital, the officer said.

Matin's father Shafique Miah, 60, has filed a complaint against two persons accusing them of murdering his son. Another complaint has been filed by one Tapan Bhowmik alleging cattle theft.

When he was leaving the campus, Mr. Dhankhar was asked certain questions by the agitating students. They wanted to know his opinion on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act which the students said "violated the Constitution". The students also claimed that 25 people had died during anti-

W.B. Governor shown black flags at Jadavpur University

Students blocked Dhankhar's car, demanded answers on CAA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar was shown black flags and greeted with "go back" slogans at Jadavpur University on Monday when he arrived on the campus to attend a meeting.

The protest was held a day after the Governor, who is the Chancellor of State universities, declared as "illegal and invalid" the varsity's decision to defer the December 24 special convocation because of possible trouble. A large number of students blocked his car and the Governor had a difficult time stepping out of his vehicle.

The protest was held a day after the Governor, who is the Chancellor of State universities, declared as "illegal and invalid" the varsity's decision to defer the December 24 special convocation because of possible trouble. A large number of students blocked his car and the Governor had a difficult time stepping out of his vehicle.



Students raise slogans during a rally against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in Kolkata. ■ FILE PHOTO

CAA protests across the country and asked why the Governor has not said anything on the vandalising of JU campus allegedly by supporters of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad earlier this year.

The university Vice-Chancellor, Surjan Das, said the convocation will be held as scheduled on Tuesday morning. To a question, he said, "If the Chancellor comes, he will preside over the convocation and if he presides, he will also speak."

(With inputs from PTI)

450 Maoist supporters part ways with organisation

STAFF REPORTER

Around 450 Maoist sympathisers, including more than 100 former militia, snapped their ties with the organisation and surrendered before the police at Mathili in Odisha's Malkangiri district on Sunday.

They were from more than 10 villages of Mahudar panchayat, a traditional stronghold of the Maoists. Many of them were engaged in providing logistics and other support to the rebels. Their parting ways with the organisation would be a setback for the Maoists, said the police.

"The police and the administration have promised to provide security to all of them [surrendered persons]. We will also facilitate them to benefit from pro-poor schemes. We want to raise their standard of living through various government schemes, for which the Maoists are a major obstacle," said Malkangiri SP Rishikesh Khilari.

He said the Maoist sympathisers have now understood the futility of violence as they realised it had not brought any development to their area. Extortion and torture of innocent tribals by the Maoists also prodded them to snap ties with them. It was alleged that the Maoists were using threat and force to collect money and food from poor tribals, the SP said. There had been several instances when poor tribal families had faced torture at the hands of the Maoists, who for no reason accused them of being police informers. Several families had to leave their homes to take shelter elsewhere because of it.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused K. Nithyanandan S/o Kannan R/o H.No. 14, Ramji Nagar, Mariamman Koil, Street Mill Colony, Trichirappalli, Tamilnadu has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence FIR No. 29/17 u/s 379/174A/34 IPC P.S. Rajinder Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said K. Nithyanandan cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said K. Nithyanandan absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said K. Nithyanandan accused of FIR No. 29/17 u/s 379/174A/34 IPC P.S. Rajinder Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 29.01.2020.

By Order: Sh. Viplav Dabas
Metropolitan Magistrate-03
(Central Distt.) Room No. 150,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/6809/CD/19

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER DEPTT. OF FLORICULTURE
BAGH-E-BAHU, JAMMU
E-mail Id: xenfrijamnu33@gmail.com
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E-NIT No. 59 of 2019-20 Dated - 19-12-2019

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor J&K Union Territory, e-tenders are invited on % rate method basis from approved and eligible firms/manufacturers/authorized dealer registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments dealing with similar type of Job for the following work -

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of Tender / Document (In Rupees)	Earnest Money Bid Security (In Rupees)	Time of completion	Time & Date of opening of tender (Technical Bid)
1	Development of Bhour Garden Jammu (Phase-II) by way of:-					
A)	Design, Supply, fitting, installation and commissioning of ultra fast action musical fountain with water effect comprising of automated synchronised dancing water formations frame, water jets, water curtains, water walls, water effects nozzles, manifolds, delivery and distribution pipe work, valves, mounting stands with accessories. (Complete Job)	239.28	3000/- (Non-refundable)	478560.00	04 months	10-01-2020 02.00 P.M

Major Head of Account = UNDER LANGUISHING PROGRAMME
Position of AAI = ACCORDED
Position of funds = ASSURED

The Bidding Documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q.), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://ttenders.gov.in> as per below schedule -

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	20-12-2019
2	Date, Time and place of Pre-bid meeting,	24-12-2019 at 12.00 P.M. in the Office of the Directorate of Floriculture, Jammu.
3	On-line Bid submission Start Date	20-12-2019 up to 12.00 P.M.
4	On-line Bid Submission End Date	09-01-2020 up to 4.00 P.M.

DIP/J- 11177

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Dept. Of Floriculture
Jammu.

Man mauled to death by lion in Gir forest area

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

AMRELI

A 55-year-old man was mauled to death by a lion at a forest in Gujarat's Amreli district on Monday morning, an official said.

The feline, in the age group of three to five years, attacked Kadubhai Bhilad when he went to attend nature's call near his house in Jira village under Dalkhaniya range of Gir forest division, he said.

"The man died after he was attacked by a male lion around 6 a.m.," Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Junagadh, Dushyant Vasavada said.

The body was sent to Dhari civil hospital for postmortem, he said.

The Dalkhaniya range of Gir forest in October last year witnessed a massive outbreak of canine distemper virus that killed several lions in the region.

Gir forest is the only abode of Asiatic lions. As per the last census in 2015, there were around 523 lions in the State, mainly in the forest areas of Junagadh, Gir-Somnath, Amreli and Bhavnagar districts.

CAA, NRC to divert people's attention from economy: Sharad

The Central government has failed on every front, says NCP chief

ALOK DESHPANDE

MUMBAI

Issues such as the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizens are being brought forward by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to divert people's attention from the government's failures on various fronts, especially its economic policies, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar said here on Monday.

Mr. Pawar said he was surprised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comment at Delhi's Ramila ground on Sunday that his government had never discussed a countrywide NRC. President Ram Nath Kovind had talked about the government's plan to implement NRC across the country in his joint address to Parliament.

Home Minister Amit Shah had also spoken on this in Rajya Sabha, Mr. Pawar said.

"When a major policy is brought, a discussion takes place at the government level. Such a policy will not come before the country without that. Secondly, the



NCP chief Sharad Pawar at a press conference in Mumbai on Monday. • VIVEK BENDRE

Commenting of the defeat of the BJP in Jharkhand, Mr. Pawar said, "The weakening condition of the economy is one of the major reasons behind the party's loss. The situation in Jharkhand is different from other States. It is an Adivasi-dominated State where there is more poverty. In such a situation, the BJP tried to use financial strength to retain power. But I am happy the people have not accepted the BJP. I want to thank the people of Jharkhand," Mr. Pawar said.

"It is a defeat for the BJP and those leading the party will have to take responsibility for it, be it the PM or the party president," he said.

'Am I also a Naxalite?'

STAFF REPORTER

MUMBAI

Asked about the ongoing trial in the Koregaon-Bhima riot case, NCP chief Mr. Pawar said that he had held talks with several people regarding the same.

"It is really unfortunate that people have been behind bars for more than a year only because of naxalism-related literature found with them. Even I read many books and someone may find books on naxalism at my house as well. Does that mean I am a naxalite too?" asked the NCP chief.

No clarity yet on expansion of Maharashtra Cabinet

There are no orders to prepare for a swearing-in ceremony

ALOK DESHPANDE

MUMBAI

The new Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government is yet to finalise the date for Cabinet expansion even 25 days after Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray was sworn in along with six ministers.

Several leaders from the Shiv Sena, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Congress had hinted during the just-concluded winter session of the legislature in Nagpur that the expansion would take place a day or two after the session ended. However, a Raj Bhavan official said, "We are yet to receive orders for the preparations of the swearing in ceremony."

A senior Congress leader said, on condition of anonymity, that the final date of the expansion will be decided after the meeting between party president Sonia Gandhi and State unit president Balasaheb Thorat. "Once she clears the names of Congress ministers, and we receive the message, the preparations will start," he said, hinting that the expansion could take place on



Uddhav Thackeray took oath as Chief Minister with six others on November 28. • THE HINDU

Tuesday or on December 26. Two other dates being discussed were December 27 and 30. The opposition has already targeted the MVA government for the delay in Cabinet expansion.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar, when asked about the expansion, said it is the prerogative of the Chief Minister. "We are local parties where the names are fixed by us and we need not go to someone else to fix the names," said Mr. Pawar, again hinting that the Congress is yet to finalise the names.

Asked whether he would be meeting Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Monday night, Mr. Pawar replied

it was likely. Several hopefus from all three parties confirmed to *The Hindu* till the time of writing this report that no call had been made to them inviting them for the swearing in ceremony.

The formula for portfolio distribution has already been announced as per which no party will get the post of Minister of State in the same department as Cabinet minister from that party. Around 30 ministers, including those of Cabinet and MoS rank, are likely to take oath in the expansion while some departments could be kept vacant for future expansion.

Why did BJP not grant full farm loan waiver when in power: Sena

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

Hailing the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maharashtra government for declaring loan waiver of up to ₹ 2 lakh for farmers, the Shiv Sena on Monday hit out at the BJP for seeking to write off debts fully and asked why it did not address the issue when it was in power.

In a veiled attack on the BJP-led Central government, the Shiv Sena, in its party mouthpiece *Saamana*, noted that the Thackeray government took the decision of farm loan waiver at a time when the country is "burning" over the issue of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Without naming the BJP, it said one can provoke people by playing politics of sentiments, but he/she needs courage to take a de-

cision in the interest of farmers.

When Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray announced the loan waiver in Assembly on the last day of the winter session in Nagpur, the BJP staged a walkout seeking full loan waiver.

This is the first step of the new government towards writing off farmers' debts completely, the Marathi daily said.

The Fadnavis government could have also given full loan waiver, but it did not do so then.

"You were in power in Maharashtra for five years. Why did not you give it then? You should tell this first," it said.

"The BJP doesn't have to sulk if farmers feel joyous. Be a part of farmers' joy," it said.

Death on a highway



Eight people lost their lives when a speeding truck rammed an autorickshaw on Dhule-Jalgaon road at Erandol on the Mumbai-Nagpur highway on Monday. Eight people were injured in the accident. • VIKAY KUMBHAR

Deliberate attempt to spread rumours on CAA: Fadnavis

'In India, everybody is safe and secure, including minorities'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KOLHAPUR

Former Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday said a "deliberate" attempt was being made to spread rumours and divide society over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Without naming any party, he said some political outfits were trying to disrupt harmony in society, and asserted that minorities in the country were safe.

"Rumours are being spread about the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. There is a deliberate attempt to create a divide in society and it is condemnable. The Act is not against any religion, and there is no provision in it to take away the citizenship of any citizen of the country," Mr. Fadnavis told reporters here.

The Act deals with giving citizenship and not taking it away, he stressed.

"The Act deals with giving citizenship to the persecuted minorities from three countries – Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh," the BJP leader said.

He said there is a "deliberate attempt to spread rumours and misunderstandings" about the Act, and some political parties are at the forefront to create a di-



Former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis.

vide in society and break the harmony.

"In India, everybody is safe and secure, including minorities," he added.

There have been anti-CAA protests across the country with several of them turning violent, leading to arson and damage to property.

Farmers betrayed

Mr. Fadnavis also accused the Maharashtra government of "betraying" farmers with its farm loan waiver announcement, and demanded that the Uddhav Thackeray-led dispensation give ₹25,000 per hectare to cultivators for crop damage.

The Thackeray government on Saturday announced a loan waiver of up to ₹2 lakh for farmers, with a cut off date of September 30, 2019.

"The jugglery of the loan waiver scheme is that loans that have been declared outstanding till September 2019 will be waived, which means all these loans will be from previous years," Mr. Fadnavis said in the Assembly last week.

He said his government had already written off loans of upto ₹1.5 lakh, so the waiver announced by the Chief Minister did not add to much.

"The government which was formed by betrayal is now betraying farmers as well," he said.

He said farmers from Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara were severely affected by unseasonal rains in October, but left in the lurch by the new Maha Vikas Aghadi government.

"Crops on around 94 lakh hectares were damaged due to floods in the region and farmers faced 100% losses. The Chief Minister promised ₹25,000 per hectare to the affected farmers, but nothing was given to them in this (winter) session," Mr. Fadnavis said.

He said the BJP would hold protests on various issues concerning the people and the party's State unit chief Chandrakant Patil would soon announce the programme.

Raut quotes Martin Luther King to hit out at BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

In the backdrop of protests over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Monday launched a veiled attack on the BJP by quoting the late Martin Luther King.

If politics creates religious issues, then one should know the country is being run by wrong people, Mr. Raut said while attributing the comment to the legendary civil rights leader.

The 57-year-old firebrand Rajya Sabha member has of late been taking aim at the BJP, with whom the Sena recently severed ties, through his posts on the micro-blogging site.

"The country where religious issues are addressed politically becomes great. But one should know the country is being run by wrong people if its politics creates religious issues," Mr. Raut tweeted without specifying any issue.

Amid nationwide protests against the amended citizenship law, the Opposition parties, including the Congress, have been accusing the BJP-led central government of dividing the country in the name of religion.

The new law seeks to grant Indian citizenship to non-Muslim refugees who came to India before December 31, 2014, to escape religious persecution in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.



Thousands of people had gathered to protest over the Citizenship Amendment Act at a peaceful rally in Aurangabad last week. • YOGESH MHATRE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

AURANGABAD

More than 100 people have been arrested and over 12,000 booked in three districts in connection with violence during protests over the amended Citizenship Act in central Maharashtra region last week, officials said.

"So far, 47 people have been arrested from areas under three police stations in Parbhani. The search is still on for more people who pelted stones," said Assistant Superintendent of Police (Parbhani city) Nitin Bagate.

The process to file cases

and arrest protesters was still on in Beed district.

"The police have filed cases against 80-100 people in Beed. So far, we have arrested 32 people and offences such as attempt to murder, damaging public property and rioting, among others, are being registered against protesters," said Harsh Poddar, Beed Superintendent of Police.

"We have registered offences against 100-120 people and arrested 25 people till Sunday evening," said Yogesh Kumar, Hingoli Superintendent of Police.

Thousands take to streets in Latur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LATUR

Social activists, political workers and people from different walks of life on Monday took out a peaceful march demanding scrapping of the amended citizenship law and boycott of the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC) here in central Maharashtra.

The march, with the theme 'Sanvidhan Bachao, Desh Bachao' (Save the Constitution, Save the country), was organised under the banner *Amhi Laturkar* (we, residents of Latur) and comes amid nationwide protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the NRC.

The 'maha morcha' started from the Gangolai area around 11 a.m. and passed through Hanuman Chowk, Gandhi Chowk, and Ashok Hotel before ending at local Tehsil office in the afternoon.

Thousands of local residents, including students, women, lawyers, along with members of several political parties and social groups participated in the morcha.

The marchers held placards with messages like 'Reject CAB! Boycott NRC! We want constitutional India, Not Naziwad' and 'We are for rights not riots.'

104 arrested, thousands booked

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

AURANGABAD

More than 12,200 cases have been registered in these three districts, where 104 people have been arrested till now, they said.

Most of the cases, nearly 12,000, have been registered in Parbhani district, the officials said.

"The police have filed cases against 80-100 people in Beed. So far, we have arrested 32 people and offences such as attempt to murder, damaging public property and rioting, among others, are being registered against protesters," said Harsh Poddar, Beed Superintendent of Police.

"We have registered offences against 100-120 people and arrested 25 people till Sunday evening," said Yogesh Kumar, Hingoli Superintendent of Police.

A ND-ND

IN BRIEF



Writer Anand bags Ezhuthachan Award

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan presented the Ezhuthachan Award for the year 2019 to writer Anand (P. Sachidanandan) at Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. The award carries a purse of ₹5 lakh. The author has penned novels such as *Aalkootam*, *Maranacertificate* and *Marubhoomikal Undakunathu*.

Thanka Anki procession sets off to Sabarimala

PATHANAMTHITTA
The ceremonial procession carrying the sacred golden attire, Thanka Anki, for the 'madala puja' at Sabarimala set off from the Sree Partha Sarathy temple at Aranmula on Monday. The Ayyappa idol will be adorned with the Anki prior to the 'mandala puja' to be performed between 10 a.m. and 10.40 a.m. on Friday.

Yediyurappa announces CID probe into Mangaluru violence

There will be a magisterial inquiry too, says Karnataka Chief Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU/SHIVAMOGGA

Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa on Monday announced a CID probe and also a magisterial inquiry into the violence in Mangaluru during the protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act that left two persons dead in police firing.

However, the Opposition demanded a judicial inquiry.

The Chief Minister also rejected the Opposition demand for the resignation of Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai. While the Chief Minister announced the CID probe in Bengaluru, he later clarified in Shivamogga that there would be two inquiries. However, Congress leader Siddaramaiah, on a visit to Mangaluru, said there should be a judicial probe.

"I have directed that strict action be taken against those



Demonstrators throwing stones at the police during a protest against the CAA in Mangaluru on December 19. ■ REUTERS

who tried to enter a police station to loot arms. I hope peace prevails at least now," Mr. Yediyurappa told presspersons in Bengaluru. Continuing to accuse the Congress of inciting violence, he said those leading the protest or speaking against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act had not explained how the Act was going to affect Muslims.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also clearly said

that this Act will not affect Muslims. Even after Mr. Modi's clarification, the Congress is deliberately causing confusion," he said. Further, in Shivamogga, Mr. Yediyurappa said that there was information that a few youths from neighbouring Kerala were also involved in the violent incidents. He added that his government would not try to suppress peaceful agitations, but cautioned of

stern action against those who indulged in disturbing peace and harmony in the name of protest.

Meanwhile, Mangaluru police commissioner P.S. Harsha requested the public to share videos or photos of the violence on December 19 for further investigation. The police said the prohibitory orders would be in force in the city till Monday midnight.

Disha case: second autopsy on four accused performed

Bodies handed over to families; report to be given to HC

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

Eighteen days after they were killed in an alleged exchange of fire with the Cyberabad police at Chatanpalli near Shadnagar in Telangana, the bodies of the four persons accused of gang-rape and murder of a woman veterinarian were handed over to their families on Monday.

The bodies were taken to their villages in Makkal mandal of Narayanpet district, after a team of forensic experts from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi, conducted the second post-mortem on them at the State-run Gandhi Hospital here.

The three-member team, comprising Dr. Sudhir Gupta, head of forensics at the AIIMS, Dr. Abhishek Yadav and Dr. Adarsh Kumar, conducted the autopsy for more



A team of forensic experts from AIIMS at the Gandhi Hospital morgue in Secunderabad on Monday. ■ G. RAMAKRISHNA

than four hours, while Dr. Varun Chandra assisted them.

The entire procedure was video-recorded and the footage would be submitted to the Registrar-General of the Telangana High Court, as per its direction.

Doctors of the Gandhi Hospital, who had conducted the first post-mortem at

Mahabubnagar government hospital on December 6, had been asked not to be part of the procedure, as they might 'influence' the AIIMS team's investigation.

Sources in the Telangana police department said the medical board of the AIIMS was likely to submit its 'classified report' in a couple of days to the High Court.

German student who took part in anti-CAA protests deported

PON VASANTH B.A.
CHENNAI

Jakob Lindenthal, a German student on an exchange programme in IIT Madras, who took part in the protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) here, left India on Monday night after officials from the Bureau of Immigration (BoI) asked him to leave forthwith.

No written order

Sources close to the student confirmed that no written communication was given to him by BoI officials. He was orally informed that he had



Jakob Lindenthal at a protest rally in Chennai.

violated his visa regulations. He was summoned to the BoI office here in the morning through the office of the Dean of International and

Workers from West Bengal took part in CAA protest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOZHIKODE

The Kozhikode rural police have launched an investigation into the attack on three migrant workers from West Bengal by an unidentified gang for taking part in the anti-CAA protests organised by the Indian Union Muslim League and the Congress at Nadapuram on Sunday night.

Shafullah Islam, Sasnab Abdulla and Mukkram Khan, in their 30s and hailing from Murshidabad, were assaulted by a four-member gang with sticks in their rent-



Long march: Protesters attending a rally against CAA and NRC in Kochi on Monday. ■ THULASI KAKKAT

ed house at Nadapuram town around 9.30 p.m.

They had taken part in the protest at 6 p.m. They said that the attackers wore saf-

ron shawls and had threatened them with dire consequences.

The beatings were only a warning and they would not

be spared if they took part in protests again, they were told.

The police said a case had been registered based on a

complaint by Mr. Shafullah Islam. The migrant workers said they had no idea about the assailants but could identify them.

Festive spirit



Bright and beautiful: With Christmas around the corner, people are busy buying items for decoration in Kochi, Kerala. ■ AP

Bar-headed goose spotted in Pandalam

Karingali Puncha in Pathanamthitta district is a major birding spot

RADHAKRISHNAN KUTTOOR
PATHANAMTHITTA

A six-member team attached to Pathanamthitta Birders has spotted the Bar-headed goose (*Anser indicus*) in the wetlands of Karingali Puncha, near Pandalam, reportedly the first sighting in the district.

According to Hari Mavelikara, birdwatcher and district coordinator of the Bird Atlas Project, the team comprising Robin C. Koshy, Jiji Sam, Libin Abraham, Stebin, Aben and Sabu sighted this rare goose species in Karingali Puncha on December 21.

The Puncha is a major birding spot in the district which reported the highest bird count in the Asian Waterfowl Census of 2015.

Mr. Hari said the bar-headed goose was the 336th



New abode: A bar-headed goose sighted in Karingali Puncha, near Pandalam, on Saturday.

bird species found in the district. Bar-headed geese are found in central China and Mongolia and they breed there. They start migration to the Indian sub-continent during the winter and stay here till the end of the season.

They are one of the birds

which can fly even at very high altitude. They come to India and return to their homes by crossing the Himalayan ranges.

Cross Himalayas Their migration has been a fascination for birders as they cross the Himalayas on

one of the most high-altitude migrations in the world. Their ability to sustain the high oxygen demands of flight in air that is exceedingly oxygen-thin is exceptional. The capacity of bar-headed geese to transport and consume oxygen at high rates in hypoxia distinguishes this species from similar lowland waterfowl.

Two years ago, a few birds were observed in the Periyar Lake at Thekkady. Before that some other observations were made in the Thrissur kore fields and in Kollam. Large flocks used to visit the Koonthakulam bird sanctuary at Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu. However, it is rare that the bird is spotted in Kerala and the recent sighting at puncha is important, says Mr. Hari.

T. APPALA NAIDU
MAREDUMILLI
Konda Reddi tribal chef K. Amarnath Reddi, who had commercialised the tribal delicacy of 'Bamboo Chicken' in the early 2000 at Madumillili town in the Rampa Agency area, is sad today. Reason? The way the tribal delicacy has lost its identity and authenticity in Andhra Pradesh.

"Our tribal delicacy, Bamboo Chicken, has lost its authenticity in many ways. From the additional ingredients being added in preparing it by the non-tribals to the taste for which foodies fall in love," Mr. Reddi, 44, told *The Hindu*.

A tribal ambrosia Living in a mud-walled hut, the lone crusader is now

Bamboo Chicken has lost authenticity'

A.P. tribal chef who commercialised the delicacy regrets the loss of its essence



Authentic taste: Konda Reddi tribal chef K. Amarnath Reddi at his mud-walled hut in East Godavari district. ■ T. APPALA NAIDU

tumeric, red chilli powder, green chilli, ginger, and garlic. This typical process is hardly seen anywhere now in the State," said Mr. Reddi.

Ignorant eaters A majority of the customers are unaware of the authentic method of preparing Bamboo Chicken, gobbling whatever is being sold in prominent tourist destinations – Mareduvilli and Araku Valley in Andhra Pradesh.

"Being a Konda Reddi tribal chef, I repent for introducing it for commercial purpose as the experiment has led to killing its uniqueness and prominence slowly," Mr. Reddi rued. He predicts that the trade of the delicacy thrives as long as the customer does not realise its original taste.

striving to protect the authenticity of his tribe's delicacy by running a tiny unit making and selling Bamboo Chicken here. The tribal ambrosia originated in the Madumillili forests in which the Konda Reddi tribe practices the traditional method of 'roasting chicken in a bamboo pipe'. "Oil, spices, and salt should not be added to prepare the Bamboo Chicken. Unless the bamboo pipe is not fresh, salt should not be added. The chicken requires to be roasted in the bamboo pipe at least for one and a half hours to attain the actual taste only by adding

IN BRIEF



Maradu flats demolition to begin on January 11

KOCHI
H2O Holy Faith would be the first of the four Maradu apartments in Kerala that would be pulled down for violating the Coastal Regulation Zone norms. As per the revised plans, the apartment will be demolished using controlled implosion on January 11.

DRDO successfully tests quick reaction missile

NEW DELHI
The Defence Research and Development Organisation successfully conducted twin tests of the Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) from the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur off the Odisha coast on Monday morning.

South has higher prevalence of mental disorders: study

Report finds one in seven, or 197 million, Indians suffered from mental health issues in 2017

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Telangana, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh account for a higher prevalence of mental disorders than the second leading cause of disease burden in terms of years lived with disability (YLDs) and the sixth leading cause of disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) in the world in 2017.

In total, 45.7 million people had depressive disorders, as one in three years lost due to a mental disorder was due to depression. This was followed by anxiety – a total of 44.9 million people suffered from it and it accounted for the loss of 1 in 5 years.

These include depression, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, bipolar disorders, idiopathic developmental intellectual disability, conduct disorders, and autism. Importantly, the contribution of mental disorders to the disability adjusted life year

(DALY) – the sum of total years of life lost and years lived with disability – has doubled between 1990 and 2017 increasing from 2.5% to 4.7%. Mental disorders were the second leading cause of disease burden in terms of years lived with disability (YLDs) and the sixth leading cause of disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) in the world in 2017.

The study finds that roughly one in seven Indians, or 197 million persons, suffered from mental disorders of varying severity in 2017.

In its State-wise analysis, the study divides different States into three categories on the basis of their socio-demographic index (SDI), i.e. low, medium and high SDI States. The SDI is a composite measure of per-capita income, mean education, and fertility rate in women younger than 25 years and is calculated on a scale of one.

Prevalence of depressive disorders was highest in Tamil Nadu (loss of 836 years per 1 lakh population), Kerala (loss of 641 years), Goa (loss of 626 years) and Telangana (loss of 756 years) in the high SDI group and Andhra Pradesh (loss of 793 years) in the middle SDI State group.

Similarly, anxiety disorders were found to be more common in Kerala (loss of 383 years per 1 lakh population), Himachal Pradesh (loss of 329 years), Tamil Nadu (loss of 325 years), Karnataka (loss of 324 years), Telangana (loss of 324 years), and Maharashtra (loss of 324 years) in the high SDI State group and Andhra Pradesh (loss of 328 years), Manipur (loss of 360 years), and West Bengal (loss of 331 years) in the middle SDI State group.

A heavy burden

Prevalence of depressive disorders was highest in Tamil Nadu (loss of 836 years per 1 lakh population), Kerala (loss of 641 years), Goa (loss of 626 years) and Telangana (loss of 756 years) in the high SDI group and Andhra Pradesh (loss of 793 years) in the middle SDI group

Prevalence per 1,00,000

>3,750

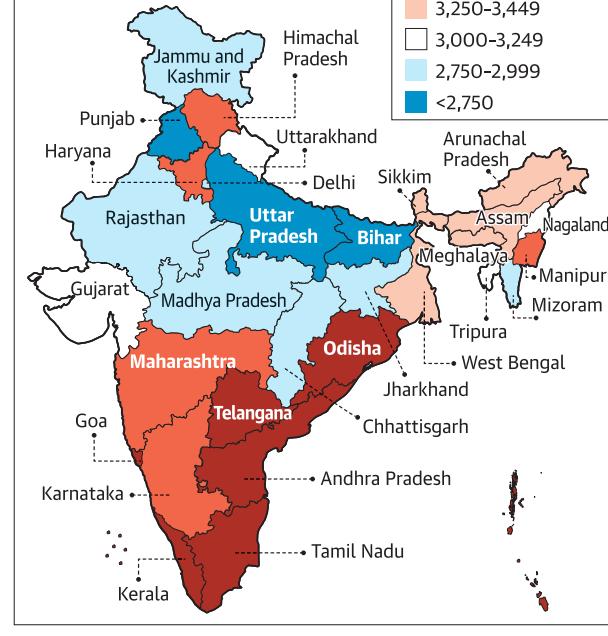
3,500-3,749

3,250-3,449

3,000-3,249

2,750-2,999

<2,750



Army officer awarded for developing bulletproof jacket

Suit, which is named Sarvatra Kavach, provides protection from neck to ankle and upper arms: official

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

In 2014, Maj. Anoop Mishra was hit by a bullet while serving in Kashmir valley. Luckily, the bullet hit his armour plate but he went through deep trauma following which he decided to work on developing an armour that can withstand hits from all kinds of ammunition.

On Monday, he was felicitated by Army chief Gen. Bipin Rawat with the Army Design Bureau (ADB) excellence award for indigenously developing Sarvatra bulletproof jacket that can provide protection against various ammunition including that of sniper rifles.

Maj. Mishra is presently posted as Instructor at the College of Military Engineer-



Army chief General Bipin Rawat and his deputy General M.M. Naravane in New Delhi on Monday. ■ ANI

ing, Pune. He was among the four awardees felicitated by Gen. Rawat.

Sanctioned in 2017
The project was sanctioned in June 2017 and initially the design and development of a Level IIIA soft body armour suit was sanctioned and was subsequently revised to in-

clude a Level IV hard armour panel inserts, an officer explained. "The suit was named Sarvatra Kavach, it provides protection from neck to ankle and upper arms," he said.

Addressing the seminar held by the ADB on "Technologies for Non Contact Warfare", Gen. Rawat called

on the industry to develop dual-use technologies. "A large number of equipment has now been changed to commercial specifications so that what is built by the industry if it is not ordered by the military and the orders are sinking they can go for civilian use."

Military specifications

Giving examples, he said tyres used in the Army vehicles are of military specifications and different from those used by civil vehicles. And so is the case with batteries and generators.

The ADB was set up to liaise with the industry and the academia and develop indigenous solutions for the Army which saw some progress in the last couple of

years. Gen. Rawat stressed on the growing importance of non-contact in future wars and flagged cyber, space and Artificial Intelligence (AI) as the focus areas.

In line with this was technology on display by a team from the Military College Of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering (MCME), Secunderabad on the use of AI for carrying out predictive maintenance of helicopter engines, which is under development.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation also put up a few technologies under development one of which was a Laser Ordnance Disposal System (LORDS) which uses high-energy laser beams to destroy far away ordnance.

Weather, stir hit domestic GoAir flights

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

GoAir on Monday cancelled several domestic flights on its network. While the airline declined to cite an exact number, officials said there were about 18 cancellations.

"A combination of factors such as inclement weather, low visibility and anti-CAA protests in certain parts of the country have disrupted multiple flights across GoAir's network. This was further aggravated with flight duty time limitations for the crew," a GoAir spokesperson said in a statement. Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata and Patna airports were affected.

Judge conduct of judicial officers strictly'

Must keep litigant's faith intact, says SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A judicial officer in the subordinate courts performs a "pious duty" in the service of justice. The standards of probity, conduct and integrity of a judicial officer in discharge of his duties are not the same of a careerist, who is only bothered about advancement in his profession, the Supreme Court said in a recent judgment.

A Bench of Justices Ashok Bhushan and Navin Sinha pronounced the judgment in an appeal filed by Ram Murti Yadav, who was an additional district and sessions judge in Uttar Pradesh. In 2007, Justice Yadav acquitted the accused in a criminal case. A vigilance inquiry into his conduct gave an unfavourable report in 2012. A judicial committee ordered his compulsory retirement in 2016. The State High Court dismissed his appeal.

The SC said it was necessary that the ordinary litigant's faith in the judiciary is kept intact. Even creating a perception to the contrary may have damaging consequences.

"The yardstick for judging the conduct of the judicial officer, therefore, has necessarily to be strict. Having said so, we must also observe that it is not every inadvertent flaw or error that will make a judicial officer culpable," the SC observed.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD. POLLUTION DATA: CPCB. MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Cold day to severe cold day conditions very likely in many pockets over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi and cold day in isolated pockets over Uttar Pradesh. Cold wave condition very likely in North Rajasthan.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	22.5	12.4	Kozhikode	—	33.6	17.3
Ahmedabad	—	28.0	17.8	Kurnool	—	30.2	19.2
Aizawl	—	18.2	—	Lucknow	—	17.3	7.2
Allahabad	—	24.2	9.0	Madurai	—	31.1	23.3
Bengaluru	—	27.6	18.1	Mangaluru	—	35.8	23.0
Bhopal	—	24.3	11.8	Mumbai	—	34.6	22.2
Bhubaneswar	—	27.6	17.1	Mysuru	—	28.0	17.2
Chandigarh	—	12.0	9.1	New Delhi	—	14.3	8.3
Chennai	—	30.1	21.2	Patna	—	20.4	10.4
Coimbatore	—	28.9	21.0	Port Blair	—	30.9	25.4
Dehradoon	—	22.2	6.8	Puducherry	—	29.5	20.1
Gangtok	—	6.4	—	Pune	—	29.2	17.3
Goa	—	34.2	24.4	Raipur	—	28.3	18.8
Guwahati	—	20.7	12.9	Ranchi	—	22.6	12.8
Hubballi	—	29.0	19.0	Shillong	—	14.4	—
Hyderabad	—	27.3	17.4	Shimla	—	14.1	3.6
Imphal	—	22.2	5.8	Srinagar	—	8.7	0.8
Jaipur	—	24.0	7.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.8	24.4
Kochi	—	32.0	25.6	Tiruchi	—	30.6	22.4
Kohima	—	15.8	5.6	Vijayawada	—	29.7	20.2
Kolkata	—	23.5	14.4	Visakhapatnam	—	29.2	22.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing Yesterday

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	51	.21	.21	.103	.95	—
Bengaluru	10	.58	.64	.162	.82	—
Chennai	16	.48	.64	.221	.82	—
Delhi	7	.171	.94	.388	.268	—
Hyderabad	17	.56	.38	.221	.82	—
Kolkata	10	.74	.51	.329	.220	—
Lucknow	.4	—	.76	.313	.82	—
Mumbai	16	.37	.58	.259	.178	—
Pune	69	.20	.98	.208	.137	—
Visakhapatnam	.8	.37	.49	.161	.—	—

Air Quality Code: Poor (Red) Moderate (Orange) Good (Green) (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

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

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

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

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SI No. Name of work

Estimated Contract Value (ECV)/ Amount put to tender

Tender Fees



Jharkhand signals

BJP lost because of its inability to recognise livelihood issues and regional aspirations

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s defeat in Jharkhand at the hands of the Congress-Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-Rashtriya Janata Dal alliance, seven months after it won 51.6% votes in the Lok Sabha election, follows a now-familiar pattern. The BJP does much better in Lok Sabha elections than in Assembly elections if one goes by the outcomes in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Haryana over the last year. Jharkhand, like Maharashtra, is also an example of the increasing distrust between the BJP and allies. The BJP's ally, All Jharkhand Students Union, parted ways with it following the Lok Sabha election, contributing to its defeat. Its unyielding approach towards allies has a certain appeal, but many communities and interest groups find it as hubris, for good reasons. Conflicting demands of social groups are easier to overcome for the BJP when it manages to place itself as the sole torch-bearer of national interest and pride in Parliament elections. Nationalist bluster has limited appeal in State elections, and questions of livelihood and ethnic autonomy significantly influence voter choices, it appears. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity and rhetorical flourish may still win elections for himself, but State elections have different dynamics. In Jharkhand, outgoing Chief Minister Raghubar Das's unpopularity made the BJP's downfall quite predictable. Mr. Modi tried to make up for the governance deficiency by making communal appeals during the campaign. He insinuated that only Muslims were behind the violence in protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. The BJP bit the dust nevertheless.

Mr. Das, the first non-tribal CM of the State that was formed with the objective of accelerating welfare for indigenous communities, ran a government that only strengthened the perception that the BJP had little sympathy for them. Simultaneously, the BJP and the Sangh Parivar also sought to deepen religious fault lines in the State, between Christian and non-Christian tribals on the one hand, and against Muslims in the name of cow protection on the other. The State witnessed some abhorrent incidents of mob lynching under the BJP. To top it all, the BJP failed to keep its own house in order. Long-time party loyalist Saryu Rai resigned from the party and defeated Mr. Das. The win is a breather for the Opposition, which is struggling to formulate a nationwide and coherent strategy against the BJP on the CAA and the proposed National Register of Citizens. But it may not be accurate to interpret the outcome as the sign of any countrywide mood against the BJP. There is no proof yet that the Opposition has gained enough momentum to challenge the BJP's defining ability to build up mega campaigns on sentimental issues and eclipse material questions and diversity in aspirations.

Brexit on fast-track

With Parliament approving the Brexit deal, U.K. is set to exit the EU on or before Jan. 31

With the passage of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Brexit deal in British Parliament, it is now almost certain that the country would exit the European Union (EU) on or before the current deadline – January 31. Mr. Johnson became Prime Minister after his predecessor Theresa May's repeated attempts to get lawmakers' support for her Brexit deal failed. Mr. Johnson first reached a new agreement with the EU and then called fresh elections. With his party's resounding win in the parliamentary election and a surge in the number of Brexiteers among Conservative lawmakers, the passage of the Bill in the House of Commons was a mere formality. The deal got the support of 358 lawmakers against 234. The agreement deals with issues such as citizens' rights, the settlement amount the U.K. has agreed to pay the EU and an arrangement to avoid physical barriers between the Northern Ireland, which is part of the U.K., and the Republic of Ireland, an EU member. The accord will be put on vote in the House of Commons once more, and then the upper chamber, the House of Lords, will vote on it. The formalities in the U.K. are expected to be over by early January and the deal will then go to the EU Parliament. Once the EU lawmakers ratify it (which is expected on January 29), the U.K. will formally exit the union.

A formal exit, however, doesn't mean that the tedious Brexit process is over. Even after January 31, the U.K. will continue to remain in the EU single market and customs union, at least for 11 months – this means trade will continue as usual. Mr. Johnson's biggest challenge is to reach another agreement with the EU on the country's future relationship with the bloc. He has ruled out extending talks beyond the December 31, 2020 deadline, which means a no-deal exit can still not be ruled out. Furthermore, Mr. Johnson faces legislative and political challenges ahead even if the current deal goes through the EU hurdle. His government has to pass a series of new legislation replacing the existing EU laws. He should also be mindful of the impact his deal may have on the delicate peace in Northern Ireland. Desperate to secure a complete break with the EU customs union while at the same avoiding a physical barrier between the two Irelands, Mr. Johnson's deal seeks to erect a customs border between Great Britain and the island of Ireland. This has already irked the unionists and strengthened the nationalists in Northern Ireland. The uncertainty over Brexit is now over. But the uncertainty on how Brexit will happen still remains. Mr. Johnson may like to wrap up Brexit at a breakneck speed, but he should be mindful of these speed-breakers. If not, the economic and political costs of Brexit could be huge.

Safeguarding constitutional morality

The post-poll developments in Maharashtra and the hastily passed CAA have been in conflict with constitutional values



M.K. NARAYANAN

On the occasion of Constitution Day, at a joint sitting of Parliament to mark the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution, President Ram Nath Kovind, (quoting B.R.Ambedkar) made a significant observation that all three organs of the state, persons occupying constitutional posts, civil society members, and citizens should abide by 'constitutional morality'.

The reiteration by the President of an essential truth came not a moment too soon. Concerns are increasingly being voiced by different segments of people regarding violations of the Constitution by those in authority.

Concerns about the future of democracy and democratic traditions are, no doubt, growing across the world. In quite a few democracies, moreover, one can also perceive a decrease in democratic freedoms and a trend in favour of illiberal populism. India was hitherto perceived to be an exception to this, being protected by safeguards found in its Constitution – the product of a Constituent Assembly that consisted of not only the best legal minds, but also of compassionate individuals who espoused the finest human values.

Article 370, and after

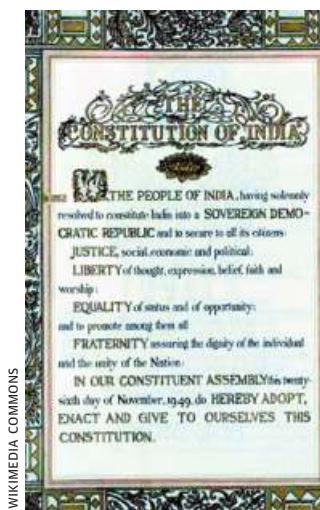
Recent developments in India, however, seem to 'sing', without as yet undermining, the basic structure and principles of the Constitution. Steps need to be taken expeditiously to prevent any further slide. For instance, much has been

made of the fact of diluting Article 370, that it was a temporary provision. The reality is that it was, nevertheless, a provision made in the Constitution for a specific purpose, which clearly required more detailed and careful treatment before being peremptorily invalidated. Even if the end justified the means, the haste was unwarranted.

Again, while the Indian Constitution provides for a federal system with a unitary bias, the Central and State Governments both derive their authority from the Constitution. This implies that States are not exactly subordinate to the Centre. Splitting Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) into two Union Territories, without due consultation with different segments and shades of opinion there, including its political leadership, ran contrary to this essential principle. It violated the spirit, if not the letter, of the Constitution.

Furthermore, while secularism is becoming an ugly word today in many parts of the globe, we in India were free of any such bias. Lately, it would seem, that some of these biases are beginning to emerge in many circles in India as well, undermining our long held secular precepts. In its seminal judgment in the *Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala case* (1973), the Supreme Court held that secularism is part of the basic structure of the Constitution and cannot be trifled with in the name of security or other considerations.

These are all portents of danger, and call for a great deal of introspection. They merit a calibrated response. Unfortunately, this does not seem to be happening. Those in authority would do well to heed the warning given by former President Pranab Mukherjee while delivering the second Atal Bihari Vaj-



payee Memorial Lecture that "A numerical majority in elections gives you the right to make a stable government. The lack of popular majority forbids you from a majoritarian government. That is the message and essence of our parliamentary democracy".

Drama in Maharashtra

Constitutional capers are aggravating this situation. The unfortunate drama enacted after the Maharashtra State Assembly results were announced could have been avoided if constitutional proprieties were adhered to. A pre-election alliance of the BJP-Shiv Sena had secured a majority, but the inability of the two allies to resolve issues relating to sharing of power led to a breakdown. President's rule had to be invoked. Later, after a compromise was reached between the Shiv Sena, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress to form a government, the President's rule was revoked in a midnight charade using the Prime Minister's 'special powers', and a BJP-led government was sworn in. The State also witnessed

unseemly incidents such as sequestering of MLAs who were taken to safe havens to avoid poaching in the event of a trial of strength in the Assembly. That the attempt to impose a BJP-led government did not succeed is less important than the fact that provisions of the Constitution and the position of constitutional functionaries had been compromised.

A still more expedient experiment, which conflicts with some of the basic precepts contained in the Constitution, has been the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA). On the face of it, the CAA only makes it easier for refugees from countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan to gain Indian citizenship. The fine point, however, is that it excludes certain categories, such as Muslims. This denies people belonging to one particular religion recourse to the new law.

While the CAA implicitly violates India's liberal traditions, when combined with the move to compile a National Register of Citizens, it carries an ominous ring. Many experts had apparently warned that the proposals were in violation of the Constitution, but these warnings were not heeded.

That the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill passed through both the Houses without any detailed debate or discussion thereafter is, hence, unfortunate, giving an impression that a majority in Parliament is adequate to push through Acts which may or may not be in tune with the Constitution.

A study was needed

Whatever be the merits or demerits of the CAA, given India's many-layered democracy and the existence of different religious communities spread across different regions of the country, a more de-

tailed and in-depth study was called for before pushing through such a key measure. Granting citizenship may be the sole discretion of the Centre, with the States having no role. Yet, this could still be unconstitutional if it violates Articles 8 and 14 of the Constitution.

The violence in varying degrees of intensity that has erupted across the nation is a testimony to the divisive nature of this latest piece of legislation. The issue of refugees from neighbouring countries has been pending for long. No satisfactory outcomes were readily forthcoming. Given that the Constitution has been the guarantor of equal treatment to people of all religions and regions, and irrespective of geography and history, the issue of refugees called for not only greater understanding, but also more time, so that the fundamental principles of the Constitution were not violated. While piloting the Bill, the Home Minister had mentioned that "if the Congress had not divided this country on the basis of religion, there would have been no need to bring in this Bill". This is hardly a valid argument. On the other hand, it raises more questions as to what were the real reasons behind the enactment of the Act.

What is also not understood is the haste with which the Bill was pushed through Parliament. India has been grappling with several more critical issues in recent months, including the state of its economy. To raise this matter at this time seemed uncalled for. At this juncture, it may be worthwhile to quote Winston Churchill 'the price of greatness is responsibility'. Is India acting responsibly?

M.K. Narayanan is a former National Security Adviser and former Governor of West Bengal

Making capital out of political rivalry

Coming five-and-a-half years after the bifurcation, Reddy's three-capital proposal for Andhra Pradesh is a belated idea



K. VENKATESWARLU

After maintaining secrecy over the future of Amaravati for months and allowing confusion to prevail, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has finally revealed what is in his mind. By hinting at the establishment of three capitals, citing the South Africa example, Mr. Reddy has made it clear that he is not in favour of grandiose plans lined up for Amaravati by his predecessor, N. Chandrababu Naidu.

If Mr. Reddy means what he has announced in Andhra Pradesh Assembly about having Amaravati, Visakhapatnam and Kurnool as the legislative, executive and judicial capitals respectively, it is going to be a rather radical move that raises many questions. Can a capital city be divided into three or more pieces and spread across the State based on regional and other considerations?

Can the ruling party of the day play with the idea of a State capital, an enduring symbol of identity for people, and keep shuffling it on political grounds? Should a huge mandate mean a licence to tinker with anything, with scant regard

to continuity in governance? And what if a rival political party comes to power later and reverses the three capitals proposal midway?

Wait for a capital

Such a move by Mr. Reddy would mean that people of Andhra Pradesh have to wait for more time to realise their dream of having a place that could be called a capital. When the Telugu-speaking Andhra State was carved out of the composite Madras State in 1953, Kurnool was made the capital and many people had to move out of the then-Madras city. Three years later, in 1956, the erstwhile Hyderabad State was merged with the Andhra State, including Rayalaseema, to form Andhra Pradesh with Hyderabad as capital.

And, just when people began settling down in Hyderabad, investing their time and resources, showing their enterprise and entrepreneurial skills, the agitation for separate Telangana State began, triggering a wave of insecurity. Following the creation of Telangana in 2014, just when people in Andhra Pradesh thought their search for a capital was over with Amaravati, Mr. Reddy tossed up the three-capital idea.

No one opposes decentralisation of administration and development. But in gravitating towards a three-capital idea, Mr. Reddy appears to be using it to set-



tle political scores with his predecessor.

There could be no other reason as Mr. Reddy has floated his idea a full five-and-a-half years after the tumultuous bifurcation left a truncated Andhra Pradesh without a capital. As Leader of the Opposition in the previous State Assembly, Mr. Reddy did not oppose the location or structure of the capital, leave alone demanding three capitals. He avoided visiting Amaravati even when a section of farmers in the region protested. There was no mention of the three-capital idea in YSR Congress Party (YSRCP)'s manifesto either. So, to find fault with the choice and contours of the capital now looks belated and motivated. Further, thousands of farmers who gave away their land are now in a fix.

Yes, it is true that the Sivaramakrishnan Committee, constituted by the Central government to suggest choices for the capital, did not favour one 'super-capital' and pitched for decentralised development. But, the panel also never

said that there should be a string of capitals across the State as is being interpreted now. Perhaps, it was for this reason that the government went in for a fresh committee headed by former IAS officer G.N. Rao to get a report in sync with its thinking. It came as no surprise that the committee's report had all the points made by Mr. Reddy in the Assembly, two days earlier! This committee suggested that Andhra Pradesh should have a High Court in Kurnool, with a bench each in Visakhapatnam and Amaravati, and an Assembly in Amaravati, which also conducts a few sessions in Visakhapatnam. The proposal promises to be a logistical nightmare with officials frequently having to hop from one city to another.

Naidu's vision and fallacies

At the same time, no one disputes the fact that Mr. Naidu had dumped the Sivaramakrishnan Committee report and its objections to locating the capital in the Vijayawada-Guntur-Tenali-Mangalagiri stretch of land – a fertile stretch. He bulldozed the panel's warnings and went ahead to build a 'dream capital' at the very place. Mr. Naidu's vision was that of a capital as grand as Singapore or any other contemporary capital city with characteristics like iconic public buildings and multiple cities within a city.

Mr. Naidu wanted the capital to

be a robust growth engine that would attract investments, promote tourism and create innumerable jobs, like Hyderabad closer home, Bengaluru and Mumbai. Through Amaravati, Mr. Naidu thought his name would remain etched in public memory forever. In hindsight, Mr. Naidu seems to have gone for an overkill, pooling in a whopping 33,000 acres for the capital and taking his own sweet time to draw a master plan, for which he paid a heavy price and lost badly in the election. There is also a charge made by YSRCP leaders that lot of 'insider trading' happened and Mr. Naidu's supporters benefited.

The point here is, leaving aside Amaravati's scale and size, a centrally located capital has already come into existence with the completion of Secretariat, Assembly and High Court buildings. Should not a government that appears to be sensitive to extravagant public expenditure capitalise on this infrastructure, instead of creating something new in various cities at an enormous cost? At a time when political rivals of conflicting ideologies have come together to form a government in a neighbouring State based on a Common Minimum Programme, is it too much to expect something like CMP on a capital city?

K. Venkateswarlu is a senior journalist based in Hyderabad

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.

Modi's speech

The Prime Minister, through his customary rhetoric and grandstanding, has tried to pin the blame for the wave of unrest sweeping the country on the Opposition parties and the so-called 'urban Naxals' (Front page, "Pan-India NRC never on the table: PM," Dec. 23). But, the truth is that no one other than his own Home Minister, Amit Shah, was responsible for the unrest. It was the overaggressive and unduly dramatic statements made by Mr. Shah in the Lok Sabha asking the people to be prepared for a nationwide NRC that led to all the trouble. Now that Mr. Modi has clarified that a pan-India NRC is not on the table, what is one to make

of all that happened? Was the Home Minister just shooting off his mouth or was he testing the waters for an NRC with the full knowledge and backing of the Prime Minister and the rest of the Cabinet? Or is it that the Home Minister has become a power unto himself? At this juncture, when the NRC restricted to Assam has itself thrown up a situation where the future of lakhs of people still remains uncertain, the priority of the government should be to find a humane solution to the problems of the people figuring in the list of 'illegal immigrants'. While the Citizenship (Amendment) Act can potentially take care of the Hindus among them, the government of a civilised country like ours should

not close its eyes to the plight of those belonging to other communities. G.G. MENON, Tripunithura, Ernakulam, Kerala

Public volte-face

Is the Modi government so rattled by the countrywide protests that cost more than 20 lives that the Prime Minister was forced to make a public volte-face by asserting that a pan-India NRC has never been even discussed since his government came to power in 2014? This not only contradicts the repeated categorical assertions by his Home Minister Amit Shah, it is also in direct conflict with President Ram Nath Kovind's address to the MPs after the 17th Lok Sabha was constituted. Such customary address by the

President is a policy declaration of the government of the day. How does the Prime Minister reconcile this contradiction on such a sensitive issue? Similarly, Mr. Modi's denial about the existence of detention camps anywhere in the country is factually incorrect. His own junior Minister's reply in the Rajya Sabha had admitted that instructions had been issued to all States for setting up detention camps. Was it then fair on the part of the Prime Minister to blame the Opposition? S.K. CHOUDHURY, Bengaluru

The Kerala model

Minority communalism

certainly not the answer to majoritarian communalism

and Hindutva in India today (Op-Ed page, "A Hindu Critique of Hindutva," Dec. 23). Since CAA and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) may likely to be misused by the latter, the best way to oppose them is through political mobilisation. Kerala's response in this case is a sterling example. The two main coalitions have buried their ideological differences and political enmity at least temporarily for this great democratic cause.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS: A clarification in regard to the FAQ page article "What connects the NRP, NRIC and Census" (Dec. 22): A reader had raised a question as to how persons living abroad would be affected as the National Population Register (NPR) will not include the NRIs. However, since they continue to be citizens, the National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC) will naturally have to include them. This is something that should be addressed when the NRIC is generated. There is no clear answer as of now.

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preventing the fringe minority communal elements from unifying and communalising the people's resistance. It gives a great model to all the Opposition parties at the regional and national levels. Hopefully, this will usher in a new democratically sustainable political culture.

P.J. THOMAS, Changanassery, Kerala



Periyar, the hero of Vaikom

On his death anniversary, remembering a leader who gave new life to a sagging movement



PAZHA. ATHIYAMAN

To people in Kerala, Vaikom is associated with the name of the great Malayalam writer, Muhammad Basheer. The historically minded would associate it with an important satyagraha during the freedom struggle. In Tamil Nadu, it conjures up the bearded figure of Periyar E.V. Ramasamy (September 17, 1879–December 24, 1973). Vaikom is a metaphor for social justice – when scores of satyagrahis from the Tamil country joined hands with their brethren in a heroic struggle.

Vaikom was then in the princely state of Travancore. The four streets surrounding the temple of the presiding deity, Lord Mahadeva, were out of bounds for Ezavas and other castes counted as ritually lower. In 1924, a satyagraha was launched against this injustice by T.K. Madhavan. It lasted for 18 months. In the initial stages, K.P. Kesava Menon and George Joseph led the struggle. Other prominent figures included Kurur Neelakanthan Namboodiri and Mananthu Padmanabhan. Towards the end, M.K. Gandhi reached Vaikom and gave it the finishing flourish.

Leadership at a critical juncture
The satyagraha began on March 30 with the active support of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee. But within a week all its leaders were behind bars. While George Joseph sought directions from Gandhi and C. Rajagopalachari, he wrote to Periyar pleading with him to lead the satyagraha. Periyar was in the midst of political work when Joseph's missive reached him. As he was then the president of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee, Periyar handed over temporary charge to Rajaji before reaching Vaikom on April 13, 1924. From that date to the day of the victory celebrations, November 29, 1925, he was in the thick of the struggle giving it leadership at a critical juncture.

Periyar presided over the satyagraha in the face of untold violence and indignity inflicted by the orthodox and the repression of the police.



"Periyar was in the forefront of every aspect of the Vaikom struggle." A view of the Vaikom Mahadeva Temple. • VIPIN CHANDRAN

To mobilise support, he visited villages in and around Vaikom and delivered public speeches in several towns. His campaign tour stretched to Thiruvananthapuram and even further to Nagercoil.

When the Kerala leaders asked for Gandhi's permission to make the satyagraha an all-India affair, Gandhi refused saying that volunteers from Tamil Nadu would keep it alive. The Mahatma was not wrong. As the British Resident said in his report to the government of Madras: "In fact, the movement would have collapsed long ago but for the support it has received from outside Travancore..." Historian T.K. Ravindran observes that Periyar's arrival gave "a new life to the movement".

What was Periyar's role in the satyagraha? He made a cogent and compelling case for it. He used his wit and folk logic to punch holes in the argument of the orthodox. The speeches reported by the secret police and the press make for interesting reading nearly a century later. As his campaign met with an enthusiastic response, the government imposed prohibitory orders on him. He was excommunicated from Kottayam district and then Kollam. Unmindful, he continued his campaign. An angry administration arrested him on May 21. Periyar refused to cooperate with the court saying that the trial was no more than an eyewash and braved the magistrate to inflict any punishment. On May 22, he was awarded a month's simple imprisonment which he spent at Arookutty jail.

On his release, Periyar went to Vaikom rather than to his home town of

Erode much to the chagrin of the district magistrate who chided the police superintendent for this. As Periyar showed no sign of slackening, he was arrested 27 days later, on July 18. This time he was sentenced to four months of rigorous imprisonment and lodged in Thiruvananthapuram central jail. While fellow satyagrahis were treated as political prisoners, Periyar was denied this status. Rajaji wrote in a letter to *The Hindu* that Periyar was condemned to "rigorous imprisonment and irons and jail clothing and to deprive him of all society to which other satyagraha prisoners were rightly deemed entitled is totally unjustifiable". Infuriated by this discriminatory treatment, fellow prisoner Kesava Menon wrote to the government expressing objection but to no avail. The indignities continued until all the satyagrahis were released when the minor king Chithira Tirunal ascended the throne.

Periyar continued his campaign in Vaikom apart from Nedunganda and Nagercoil. On September 10, he returned to Erode where he was again arrested – but this time by the British Indian police for a seditious speech delivered earlier. It was but a ploy to keep him away from Vaikom.

At the forefront

Periyar was in the forefront of every aspect of the struggle. As president of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee he arranged for a contribution of ₹1,000. He was part of every consultative meeting, peace committee, campaign party, etc., including the eight-member delegation constituted to meet the Diwan. Every major

personality who came to Vaikom met with Periyar. This included Swami Shraddhananda of the Arya Samaj. Rajaji met Periyar in prison before proceeding to Vaikom. Gandhi too consulted him during his visit. Periyar had received Gandhi at Erode (March 8, 1925) on his way to Vaikom, joining him later at Varkala on March 12. The police superintendent records that Periyar was present in the small closed door meeting of Gandhi with Sree Narayana Guru. Periyar recalled on many occasions that Gandhi had consulted him before his all-important meeting with Maharani Regent. It should be added that his wife Nagammal and his sister S.R. Kannammal were with him for much of the agitation, apart from offering satyagraha themselves.

When, following an agreement between Gandhi and the police, the prohibition order against Periyar which had been in place for over a year was withdrawn, Gandhi wrote in *Young India* (April 23, 1925): "The reader will be glad to learn that the Travancore Government have... withdrawn the prohibition order against Sjt. Ramaswamy Naicker..."

The satyagraha ended in partial victory in November 1925: three out of four streets were thrown open. Nevertheless, it was an important step. Final victory came 11 years later with the Travancore Temple Entry Proclamation of 1936. By that time not only had Periyar become a bitter critic of Gandhi, but even his views on satyagraha changed.

Periyar had arrived at Vaikom, on invitation, and had given a new life to a sagging movement. He was jailed twice, and was the only person to be sentenced to rigorous imprisonment. From available evidence we know that he visited Vaikom seven times. Of the 114 days that he devoted to the struggle he languished in prison for 74 days. Apart from being the only leader from outside the State to be invited to the victory celebrations, he was even asked to preside over it.

No wonder, Thiru.Vi. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar, the great journalist and labour leader, called him the Vaikom Veerar, the hero of Vaikom, even at the time of the struggle.

This essay draws from the author's full-length Tamil book *Vaikom Porattam (Kalachuvadu Pathippagam)*. Translated by A.R. Venkatachalapathy

A decision without forethought

The government's decision to implement the CAA has thrown the Northeast into turmoil and shaken investor confidence



JAIVEER SHERGILL

such a decision would affect the economic development of the Northeast.

Second, in case Japan has a rethink on these development projects, will it do so keeping in mind only the Northeast or the rest of India too? JICA is involved in various big-ticket infrastructure projects in Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Odisha, etc. Third, the volatility of the Northeast can possibly be a setback to the collaborative efforts between India and Japan in providing an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative. Fourth, besides being a development partner, Japan is also a member of the Quad, which came into existence to counter Chinese economic prowess and unlock India's potential in the Indo-Pacific. Last and most importantly, when Kashmir is already volatile, can India afford to open another frontier of vulnerability in the Northeast?

Clearly, the government did not take various stakeholders into confidence while taking this decision. The proof of messy diplomatic pudding is in the eating as the UN has described the CAA as "fundamentally discriminatory". The U.S., the U.K., Canada and others have issued travel advisories to those visiting the Northeast. Why did the government not utilise diplomatic channels to put forth its views before the stakeholders in the international community? Had it done this, it could have avoided the embarrassment it is facing today. It is high time that decision-makers of the BJP learnt the basic difference between raw muscularity and successful diplomacy before taking such measures.

Viewed with suspicion

The blunders of the BJP government are straining and staining India's foreign policy. India has been described as the "Internet shutdown capital of the world". Senior political leaders are under detention, Parliament is passing laws to grant religion-based citizenship to migrants of selected countries, and the youth of the country is out on the streets protesting. Will all this not shake investors' confidence and dent the ease of doing business in India? The Indian economy is already going through a rough phase and the loss of investor confidence will only add to our woes. At the global level, India has always been respected for its diversity and inclusive character. It is because of parochial decisions like the CAA that India will now join the rank of nations which are viewed with suspicion because of their political and economic climate. Instead of being on an expansion mode, thanks to the government India will now be on an explanatory mode.

Jaiveer Shergill is a Supreme Court lawyer and national spokesperson, INC. Views are personal

EXPLAINER

A hard Brexit?

Breaking down the key features of the revised withdrawal agreement bill

GARIMELLA SUBRAMANIAM

More than 40 months after the June 2016 referendum vote to leave the European Union, Britain will exit the EU on January 31. But nearly a fortnight since Prime Minister Boris Johnson's landslide general election victory, Downing Street has scuttled all speculation about a smooth transition out of the bloc a year hence. On Friday, the House of Commons voted 358-234 for the Withdrawal Agreement Bill. The new version of the Bill has several key changes, of which three are particularly significant.

First, a new clause outlaws an extension to the standstill transition period that would expire on December 31, 2020. The contentious step fulfils the Conservative Party's election promise, and precludes the possibility of seeking any further extension beyond December 2020. Following the announcement, the pound slid 1.1% against the dollar relative to the gains after the election results, reviving market anxiety.

The hostile stance on an extension is rooted partly in the Tories' resentment going all the way back to Margaret Thatcher's premiership, against the country's EU membership contributions. Besides the £33 billion settlement contained in the withdrawal deal, any extension after next December would entail additionally about £10 billion a year. The resistance also carries echoes of the Tory Eurosceptic stance in the previous Parliament. Eliminating the threat of leaving without an agreement, the party had argued, would diminish the government's negotiating position vis-à-vis the EU.

Second, the bill dispenses with the need for parliamentary approval, for the government's negotiating mandate as well as the final agreement on the country's future relationship with the bloc. The blueprint is to be ready by the end of February and the defining post-transition agreement by November. The provision risks sidestepping normal democratic channels for industries and trade unions to influence the shape of their future trading relations with the EU, worth an estimated £90 billion.

Third, guarantees on labour rights previously included in the withdrawal bill have been removed. This vindicates sceptics' fears about a drift to a low-tax, low-regulation U.K. economy after Brexit. EU leaders have described Mr. Johnson's cramped timetable as highly problematic to finalise a zero-tariffs, zero-quotas free trade agreement. Brussels is wary of granting these concessions to a major economy such as Britain. In exchange for any flexibility, the EU insists on a close regulatory alignment and a level playing field on state subsidies, competition policy, and labour and environmental rights to safeguard its single market. Such demands are at odds with the Eurosceptic vision of Britain wresting control of its laws and borders. In any case, a narrow "goods only" deal excluding the large services sector from any agreement would deprive Britain of the benefits from its pre-eminence in financial and digital services. If no agreement is within sight by this time next year, a cliff-edge exit on WTO terms is a very real possibility.

Challenges ahead

Under the terms of withdrawal, Northern Ireland will continue to remain within the EU jurisdiction after Brexit. The government will enforce customs checks for goods traded across the Irish Sea to the rest of the U.K., increasing costs for the bulk of small enterprises. The regulatory divergence within U.K. territory is the compromise London has conceded to protect the EU's single market. The arrangement would maintain the existing soft border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, which has underpinned the region's tenuous peace since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement. The new scenario could strengthen demands in Belfast for unification with Dublin, potentially imperilling the U.K.'s constitutional integrity. Brexit has strengthened calls for a second referendum on independence by the Scottish National Party, which won a big majority in the UK elections. Mr. Johnson faces challenges on many fronts.

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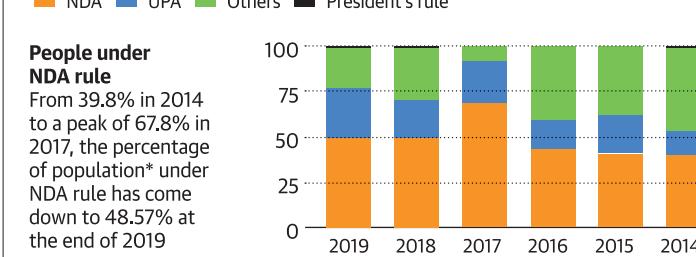
Juggernaut halted

While the BJP-led NDA won resoundingly in the 2019 Lok Sabha election, it has lost power in five major State assemblies since December 2018. The NDA still remains the strongest in terms of the number of States where it is in power, share of the total population and the share of the area of the country, but their lead over the UPA is narrowing. By Srinivasan Ramani

States in control | From 12 in 2014, the number of States/UTs ruled by the NDA peaked at 18 in 2017 and has come down marginally to 17 at the end of 2019

Coalition	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
NDA	17	16	18	14	13	12
UPA	7	6	5	8	10	10
Others*	7	9	8	9	9	9

* NDA ■ UPA ■ Others ■ President's rule



UPA closes in on NDA in area terms

The share of area under NDA rule also peaked at 73.9% in 2017 and has come down to 40% at the end of 2019. The corresponding number for the UPA has peaked in 2019 - 38.5%

* Population figures were based on unadjusted 2011 Census data



2017



2019

Ministers in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir have been virtually on a pen-down strike since last month, according to a report recently published in the well-informed daily Nawa-e-Waqt of Lahore. The so-called Cabinet of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, appointed two months ago, is yet without a "proper secretary" with "Ministers" having no authority or responsibility. The "Ministers" have refused to work "in such conditions." The report disclosed that during the first month of their appointment "no portfolios were allotted to them". This was supposed to have been done by the recently-appointed tenth "provisional president" of Pak-occupied Kashmir. After the appointment of Brig. Abdul Redman, a retired military officer from the Muzaffarabad area, an attempt was made to placate some of the political groups in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir who had been agitating for a democratic form of Government. Consequently, six Ministers representing three political organisations of the area were sworn in.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DEC. 24, 1919.

Babu Bepin Chandra Pal's Address.

A largely attended public meeting was held on Sunday evening at the College Square to hear Babu Bepin Chandra Pal on the present world situation. Owing to Babu Sriish Chatterjee of Dacca (who was to preside) not having turned up in time, Babu Jitendra Lal Banerjee took the Chair and introduced the subject of discourse in a brief speech. In their study of the world he wanted to emphasise three main factors, viz., first, that the late war had not made the Great Powers less greedy, less rapacious, or less fond of self-aggrandisement than before; secondly, that England crushed by the burden of her huge war debt, distracted by strife between capital and labour and thus handicapped in the production of wealth was financially in a critical almost in a bankrupt condition; and thirdly, that this financial stringency coupled with whetted appetite for self-aggrandisement would be an incentive to the English governing classes who are also the English governing classes to exploit for their own purposes India's abundance of raw materials and her abundance of cheap labour. Mr. Banerjee concluded by urging the audience to bear these cardinal factors as a clue with which to read the present world situation, specially as bearing upon themselves.

FROM PAGE ONE

JMM coalition wrests Jharkhand from BJP

After submitting his resignation, Mr. Das said, "The result was not as per our expectations. The way the JMM, the Congress and the RJD fought in alliance, we wanted to do like that. But it did not happen."

The Opposition alliance posted big wins in the Santal Pargana region, a JMM stronghold, despite Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah holding a number of meetings there.

Crucial seats

Of the 18 crucial seats, the JMM bagged nine, followed by the Congress with four. The JMM has also performed well in the Kolhan region comprising the districts of East Singhbhum, Seraikella-Kharaswan and West Singhbhum.

All eyes were on Jamshedpur East where Mr. Das was defeated by his former Cabinet colleague Saryu Roy.

Opposition steps up stir against citizenship law

Protests continued in Assam, too, with former Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, founder of the Asom Gana Parishad, an alliance partner of the ruling BJP in the State, joining a sit-in at a memorial for Mahatma Gandhi atop the Sarania Hills in Guwahati.

Top Congress leaders, including party chief Sonia Gandhi, former prime minister Manmohan Singh, former party chief Rahul Gandhi and general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, participated in the 'satyagraha' at Rajghat to "show solidarity" with students agitating against the amended Citizenship Act and all those "suffering due to the bad policies of the government."

Ms. Gandhi, Dr. Singh and Mr. Gandhi read out the

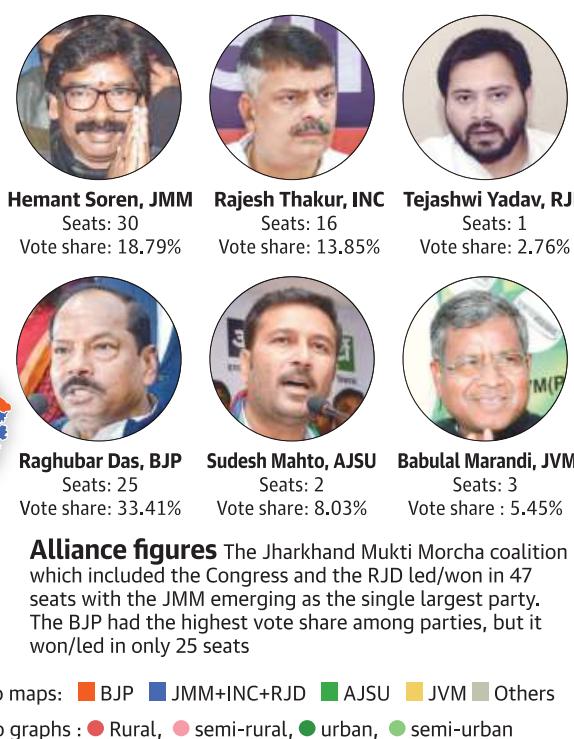
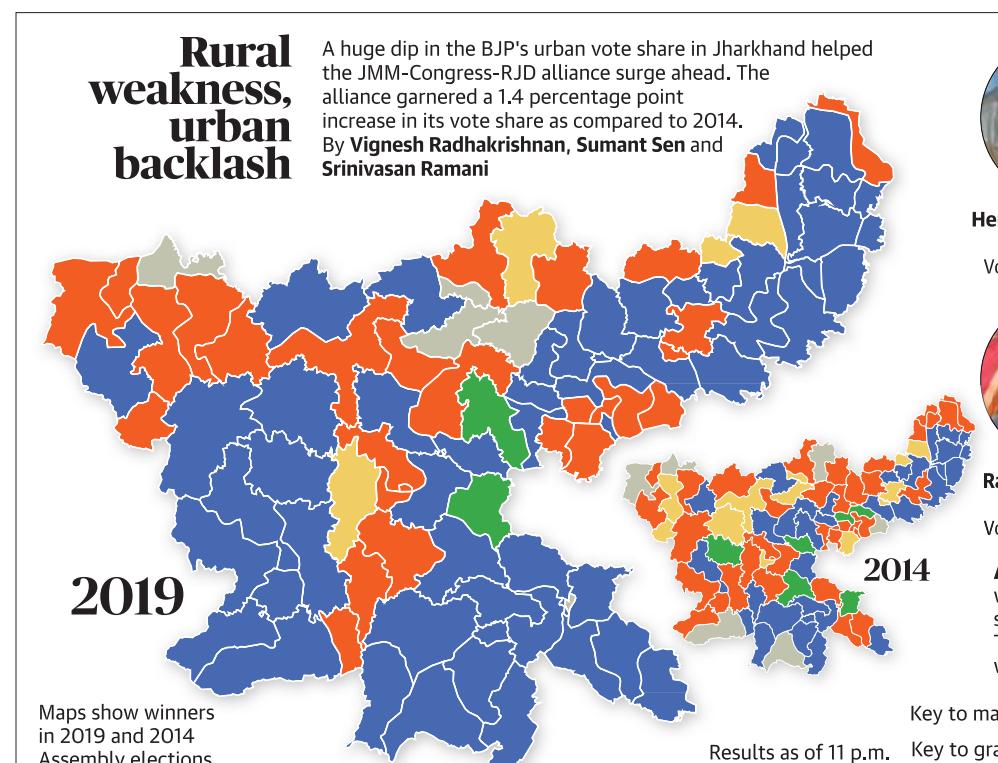
Jharkhand BJP president Laxman Gilua and Speaker of the outgoing Assembly Dinesh Oraon also lost their seats.

From the Opposition, Jharkhand Congress president Rameswar Oraon won the Lohardaga seat. Jharkhand's first Chief Minister Babulal Marandi and president of the All Jharkhand Students Union Sudesh Kumar Mahto ended their losing streaks by winning the Dhanwar and Silli constituencies respectively.

The chief ministerial candidate for the Opposition alliance, Mr. Henant Soren, is credited with ensuring the convincing victory. JMM sources said he had conducted 165 rallies in 28 days, covering each constituency at least twice. He also held numerous informal meetings with civil society organisations, activists, government employees and other associations.

Jharkhand result extends Assembly election jinx of BJP

Party loses power in the fifth State within a year despite thundering win in Lok Sabha polls; leaders blame lack of allies, unpopular Chief Minister and local issues



Alliance figures The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha coalition which included the Congress and the RJD led/won in 47 seats with the JMM emerging as the single largest party. The BJP had the highest vote share among parties, but it won/led in only 25 seats

Key to maps: ■ BJP ■ JMM+INC+RJD ■ AJSU ■ Yellow ■ Others

Results as of 11 p.m. Key to graphs: ● Rural, ○ semi-rural, ■ urban, ▲ semi-urban

Rural-urban voting patterns

Though the BJP continued to score well in the urban areas, their vote share took a major hit. The JMM+ gained in urban areas while maintaining their vote share in the rest

Type of seat	BJP (2019)	Change since '14	JMM+ (2019)	Change since '14
Rural	31.9%	+2.2	32.5%	+0.1
Semi-rural	34.9%	-0.7	38.4%	+1
Semi-urban	30.8%	-8.4	40.6%	+0
Urban	40.4%	-4	35.5%	+4

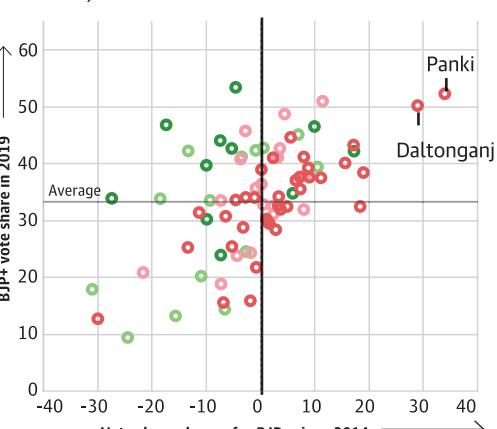
SC/ST voting patterns

The BJP lost vote share mostly in seats where the SC/ST population was relatively lower

SC/ST population %	BJP (2019)	Change since '14	JMM+ (2019)	Change since '14
<30%	33.5%	-2.3	32.5%	+0.1
30 to 60%	31.6%	+1.5	41.1%	+1.6
>60%	31.1%	+0.4	33.7%	-0.2

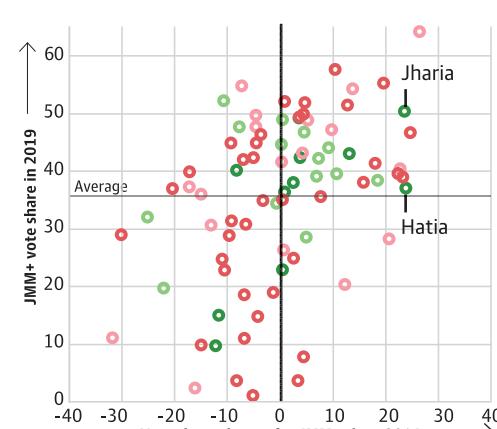
Change in vote share for BJP

In 39 seats, the BJP vote share decreased compared to 2014, while it increased in 40 seats. The party gained a lot in some rural seats (such as Daltonganj and Panki)



Change in vote share for JMM+

In 44 seats, JMM+ vote share increased compared to 2014 while the coalition's vote share decreased only in 26. The coalition gained across regions including urban constituencies such as Hatia and Jharia



NISTULA HEBBAR NEW DELHI

The BJP has lost power in five States since last year as an alliance of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, the Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal crossed the half-way mark when votes of the Jharkhand Assembly election were counted on Monday.

BJP leaders went into a huddle after the results showed that the party would not be returning to power. Much of the initial assessment of the loss centred on its internal problems and rebellion against outgoing Chief Minister Raghubar Das, the lack of allies against a strong Opposition alliance and the now-routine under-performance of the State units in the Assembly elections compared with the Lok Sabha polls.

Quite in the manner of Maharashtra, Mr. Das had his way with the candidate list, ensuring that 13 of the 37 sitting MLAs were dropped, inducing many turncoats and setting off factional confrontations before the polls.

When the results came in, Mr. Das, too, lost his seat — Jamshedpur East — to Saryu Rai, his erstwhile Cabinet colleague. "His personal unpopularity and inability to take the [State] unit along cost us dear," a senior BJP leader said.

It was, however, ill-advised attempts by Jharkhand's first non-tribal Chief Minister to change the land acquisition policy by amending the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act and the Santhal Pargana

C In national polls, it's Prime Minister Modi versus the rest. In the States, Opposition parties have realised that Mr. Modi cannot be made the face

RAHUL VERMA
Political scientist

na Tenancy Act that polarised tribal people and others in the State, and gave the Opposition a big issue.

"The amendments were opposed with such ferocity that Governor Draupadi Murmu sent it back to the government and the Bills were withdrawn. That started the build-up of an atmosphere that led to the voting out of the current Chief Minister," the BJP leader said.

The Opposition got an issue, and despite the washout in the Lok Sabha polls, stuck to local issues in the Assembly election to romp home.

Losing allies

The BJP's failure to tie up with its ally, the All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU), has also come at a significant cost — in at least 10 seats, the combined votes of the BJP and AJSU candidates were more than the number polled by the winning candidate.

The logic given for not finalising a seat-sharing arrangement was a supposed assessment by the BJP that going it alone would be more beneficial than tying up with the AJSU. It was pointed out that in Maharashtra, the alliance with the Shiv Sena had

angered some BJP hopefuls who were eyeing seats handed over to the ally.

The large number of rebel candidates in Maharashtra and its effect on the BJP's final tally were cited as examples in Jharkhand. In the final event, however, the rebellion sparked by Mr. Das's dropping of sitting MLAs negated any such advantage.

Modi 'Yes', Das 'No'

With the loss in Jharkhand, the BJP has lost its fifth recent Assembly election, though it won an extraordinarily strong mandate in the Lok Sabha election during the period.

The question that arises is why did the party do well in the Lok Sabha election but not in the Assembly elections. Political scientist Rahul Verma said, "Prime Minister Modi as an extraordinary vote aggregator is an advantage that the State units do not have."

"In national polls, it's Prime Minister Modi versus the rest. In the States, Opposition parties have realised that Mr. Modi cannot be made the face; the local unit is the face of the BJP and can be taken on more easily especially with alliances," he said.

Mr. Verma said that while national issues had been on the back burner in Jharkhand, the handling of the economy, shutting down of industries and resultant unemployment were a factor. "That is a hint the BJP would do well to heed," he added.

Things look up for RJD, Lalu Prasad

'Dented in Haryana, denied in Maharashtra, defeated in Jharkhand'

Opposition leaders see victory as a verdict on BJP's arrogance and against controversial laws such as the Citizenship (Amendment) Act

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

The Opposition alliance's win in Jharkhand is a boost for Bihar's principal Opposition party, the Rashtriya Janata Dal. RJD chief Lalu Prasad is in Ranchi's Birsa Munda Central jail and is under treatment in a government hospital in the city. "Yes, we do hope that our party chief would now get the best medical facility, wherever he wants," said a senior party leader. Lalu Prasad's sons Tej Pratap and Tejashwi Yadav congratulated Mr. Soren.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congratulations poured in from across the political spectrum for Jharkhand Mukti Morcha president Hemant Soren, who led the JMM-Congress-RJD alliance to victory in the Assembly election, with political leaders calling it a verdict on the arrogance of the BJP and against controversial legislation such as the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

"For the past six years, BJP and PM Narendra Modi especially have tried to mislead the people. They brought in controversial laws to divert the attention of people from critical livelihood issues. They have failed to deliver any of their promises. The black money is yet to return, the farmers' suicides continue and the economy is in a shambles," Mr. Azad said.



Congress president Sonia Gandhi has thanked the people of Jharkhand for expressing faith in the "people-cent

ric" Congress-JMM-RJD alliance. She congratulated Mr. Hemant Soren, all alliance partners and Congress

leaders and workers on the victory.

"The victory is special and of extreme contemporary importance, and the people of Jharkhand deserve special gratitude and congratulations for summarily defeating the BJP and its divisive agenda," she said. "With this mandate, the people have defeated the BJP's attempts to divide society on caste and religious lines."

Rajya Sabha member P. Chidambaram, in a tweet, said the Jharkhand results showed the need for non-BJP parties to unite against the

Modi-Shah regime. "Dented in Haryana, denied in Maharashtra, defeated in Jharkhand. That is the story of the BJP in 2019. All non-BJP parties must raise their sights and rally around the Congress to save the Constitution of India," the former Union Minister said.

The Shiv Sena, which recently cut ties with the BJP, also expressed satisfaction at the results, with the party's Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut calling the results a rejection of the Amit Shah-led BJP.

West Bengal Chief Minis

ter and Trinamool leader Mamata Banerjee also congratulated Mr. Soren, and underlined that the Opposition's victory came at a time of protests against the amended Citizenship Act.

CPI general secretary D. Raja said the results came despite the desperate campaign by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who tried to

make the CAA and other divisive issues the talking point. "Jharkhand reports the highest number of lynching incidents. This is a rejection of the BJP's policies to felicitate the lynchers," he said.

It's payback time for Hemant Soren

JMM leader used his years in the Opposition to emerge as a pro-people leader

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
RANCHI

Hemant Soren, executive president of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), is all set to take over as the 11th Chief Minister by term of the mineral-rich, largely tribal State.

Mr. Soren, 44, the second son of JMM patriarch and tribal leader Shibu Soren, is currently Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly. The State has seen six leaders, including him, as Chief Minister since it was carved out of Bihar in 2000.

Mr. Soren had dropped out of a B.Tech. course at BITS, Mesra, to pursue politics. He began his political journey at a young age in the



dependent candidate. In 2009, he became a member of the Rajya Sabha.

However, after the death of his elder brother later that year, he took centre stage, guiding the regional party.

Following a brief stint in the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Soren returned in 2010 to become Deputy Chief Minister in the Arjun Munda government.

In 2013, he became Chief Minister and led the alliance with the Congress for 18 months. In 2014, however, the alliance was swept aside by the BJP.

In the past five years, Mr. Soren has reinvented himself. And even as a perception of Chief Minister Raghubar Das as an arrogant leader grew, Mr. Soren won a people-friendly image, coming across as a progressive leader, using social media to put forth his views on crucial issues such as mob-lynching deaths in Jharkhand.

Cautious welcome for Afghan results

Results of U.S. talks with Taliban could upset President Ghani's return to power

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

India welcomed the preliminary results in the Afghanistan presidential election but stopped short of congratulating President Ashraf Ghani directly for winning a second term, along with his vice-presidential running mate, former intelligence chief and interior minister Amrullah Saleh.

According to the Independent Election Commission (IEC) results announced on

and institutions for their hard work to preserve and strengthen democracy in the country... India remains committed to work with the people and Government of Afghanistan," MEA spokesperson Ravneesh Kumar said on Monday.

'Short-lived win'
Diplomats also say while the preliminary result in favour of Mr. Ghani is important, it may be a short-lived win given the progress, after a

three-month break, of the U.S.-Taliban talks being led by President Trump's special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad.

"It is a razor thin majority, and we have to wait for final results. If the intra-Afghan dialogue process starts, the equations may change, as the Taliban would like to be integrated into a new government structure," said former Ambassador to Afghanistan and National Security Advisory Board member Amar Sinha.

TENDER NOTICE
Government of India
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
NUCLEAR FUEL COMPLEX
ELECTRICAL PROJECTS
ECI Post, Hyderabad - 500 062

Corrigendum to the eligibility criteria is added to the Tender No. E/579/2019 for the work "Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and commissioning of 500KW & 200KW, 415 V Grid interactive Solar PV systems on roof tops of NUOPF & NZFP buildings at Nuclear Fuel Complex (Hyderabad)".

Period for view and downloading extended till: 08.01.2020, Pre bid meeting date: 20.01.2020. Due date for online submission: 08.02.2020, Due date for receiving hardcopies: 17.02.2020. Due date for opening Part-I bid: 17.02.2020. All other terms & conditions remain unaltered. Please visit www.nfc.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/DAE

Dy. Chief Engineer (CED, PD & EP)

**TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS
MARKETING DEPARTMENT, TIRUPATI
e-Procurement Tender notice**

e-Tenders cum e-reverse auction is invited for procurement of the following items by the marketing department, TTD, Tirupati

S. No.	Name of the Item	Quantity	Period	EMD Amount	Download Starting & Ending Dates
1	CARDAMOM 8 MM AGEB VARIETY	25000 Kgs	02 Months	Rs. 23.000/-	21.12.2019 to 07.01.2020

For tender notice and tender details log on to the website <http://www.tirumala.org> and <https://tender.procurement.gov.in/> & <https://konugolu.ap.gov.in/>. For further Details contact Phone Numbers: 0877-2264079, 2264555 Fax: 0877-22644554

Ro. No PR4/1393/Adv/No.360/PRO/2019 Dt:23.12.2019 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Published Tenders from 16-12-2019 to 22-12-2019
Kerala Fire and Rescue Services

Tender ID: 2019 FRS_330022_1 * Director General * Purchase of 1500 Nos of Fire Fighting Suits * Closing Date: 14-Jan-2020 * PAC: Rs6.7500000

Tender ID: 2019 FRS_330155_1 * Director General * Purchase of 14 Nos of Fibre Boats with Outboard Engines * Closing Date: 15-Jan-2020 * PAC: Rs21000000

Visit <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> for more details.

Ro.No:16-22/Dec/2019/PRD/(N)17

KOCHI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A joint venture company of Govt. of India & Govt. of Kerala)
8

5 sentenced to death for killing Khashoggi

Three more get jail, while two senior Saudi figures are let off; murder 'not premeditated', says prosecutor

REUTERS

RIYADH

Saudi Arabia on Monday sentenced five people to death and three more to jail for the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi last year and said the killing was not premeditated, a verdict criticised by a UN investigator as a "mockery" of justice.

The court dismissed charges against the remaining three of the 11 people that had been on trial, finding them not guilty, Saudi deputy public prosecutor and spokesman Shalaan al-Shalaan said. None of the defendants' names was immediately released.

"The investigation showed that the killing was not premeditated... The decision was taken at the spur of the moment," Mr. Shalaan said, a position contradicting the findings of a United Nations-led investigation.

Khashoggi was a U.S. resident and critic of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the kingdom's de facto ruler. He was last seen at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2, 2018, where he had gone to obtain documents for his impending wedding. His body was reportedly dismembered and removed from the building, and his remains have not been found.

Eleven Saudi suspects were put on trial over his death in secretive proceedings in the capital Riyadh.

Khashoggi's murder caused a global uproar, tarnishing the crown prince's image. The CIA and some Western governments have said they believe Prince Mohammed, also known as MbS, ordered the killing.

Saudi officials say he had no role, though in September MbS for the first time indicated some personal accountability, saying "it

Crime and punishment

A look at the profiles of some of those who have been held or investigated in Saudi Arabia in the Khashoggi case. The Saudi public prosecutor did not name the sentenced individuals on Monday

Those facing death sentences:

Maher Abdulaziz Mutreb



The General was an aide to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's former right-hand man

Saud al-Qahtani for information security and the lead negotiator inside the Istanbul consulate. He was involved in planning the operation days before it happened and was recorded referring to Khashoggi as "the sacrificial lamb"

Salah Mohammed Tubayqy



He is a forensic expert at the Saudi Interior Ministry's Criminal Evidence Department.

In the Istanbul operation, he was supposed to remove evidence such as fingerprints or proof of the use of force. He was specifically recruited to dispose of the body

Fahad Shabib al-Balawi and **Waleed Abdullah al-Shehri**, both members of the Saudi Royal Guard, and **Turki Muserref al-Shehri**, an intelligence officer

Source: Reuters, AFP

OTHERS ON TRIAL:

Ahmed Mohammed al-Assiri



The former deputy head of general intelligence was among those sacked by King Salman. The prosecutor said he ordered the operation to repatriate - but not kill - Khashoggi. He was acquitted for insufficient evidence

Mustafa Mohammed al-Madani

Brigadier General Madani led the intelligence efforts of the 15-man team in Istanbul. He donned Khashoggi's clothes, eyeglasses and Apple watch and left through the back door of the Istanbul consulate in an attempt to make it look like the journalist had walked out of the building

ALSO ON TRIAL:

Mohammed Saad al-Zahrani, **Saif Saad al-Qahtani**, **Mansour Othman Abahusain** and **Muflih Shaya al-Muslih**

NOT ON TRIAL

Saud al-Qahtani

Qahtani, seen as the right-hand man of Prince Mohammed, was removed as a royal court adviser and is the highest-profile figure implicated



Jamal Khashoggi

and premeditated killing, planned and perpetrated" by Saudi officials.

Senior figures freed

Last November, the Saudi prosecutor said Saud al-Qahtani, a former high-profile Saudi royal adviser, had discussed Khashoggi's activities before he entered the Saudi consulate with the team which went on to kill him.

The prosecutor had said Mr. Qahtani acted in coordination with deputy intelligence chief Ahmed al-Assiri, who he said had ordered Khashoggi's repatriation from Turkey and that the lead negotiator on the ground then decided to kill him. Both men were dismissed from their positions but while Mr. Assiri was tried, Mr. Qahtani was not.

Mr. Shalaan said Mr. Assiri was tried and released due to insufficient evidence, while Mr. Qahtani had been investigated but was not charged and was released.

gence chief Ahmed al-Assiri, who he said had ordered Khashoggi's repatriation from Turkey and that the lead negotiator on the ground then decided to kill him. Both men were dismissed from their positions but while Mr. Assiri was tried, Mr. Qahtani was not.

Mr. Shalaan said Mr. Assiri was tried and released due to insufficient evidence, while Mr. Qahtani had been investigated but was not charged and was released.

Mr. Shalaan also said the Saudi Consul General to Turkey at the time, Mohammed al-Otaibi, had been freed after Turkish witnesses said he was with them on the day of the crime.

Sources said last year that Maher Mutreb, the lead negotiator, and Salah al-Tubaiyy, a forensic expert specialising in autopsies, were also on trial for the murder and could face the death penalty.

Mr. Shalaan said that when the Saudi team that entered the consulate saw it would not be possible to transfer Khashoggi to a safe place to continue negotiations, they decided to kill him.

"It was agreed, in consultation between the head of the negotiating team and the culprits, to kill Jamal Khashoggi inside the consulate," Mr. Shalaan said.

31 people investigated
Noting the verdict, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres stressed the need for "an independent and impartial investigation into the murder", a spokesman said.

Turkey said on Monday the trial outcome was far from serving justice and repeated its call for better Saudi judicial cooperation.

Human rights group Amnesty International criticised the closed trial, branding the verdict a "whitewash" that it said failed to address the Saudi authorities' involvement or the location of Khashoggi's remains.

However, one of Khashoggi's sons - who weeks after the murder appealed for the return of his father's body - said the verdicts had been fair to his children. "We affirm our confidence in the judiciary at all levels, that it has been fair to us and that justice has been achieved," Jamal Khashoggi said on Twitter.

The Independent Election Commission (IEC) announced on Sunday a much delayed preliminary result of the September 28 presidential vote which was marred by allegations of massive fraud, technical problems with biometric devices used for voting, attacks and irregularities.

The IEC said the total turnout was over 1.8 million, with Mr. Ghani securing 50.64% to win the first round of voting, beating his main rival Abdullah Abdullah, who currently shares power with him in a unity government. However, if a review by the complaints commission reduces Mr. Ghani's vote share to below 50% and no other candidate has a majority, a second round will be held between the two top contenders.

Deen Mohammad Azimi, deputy head of the Electoral Complaints Commission, said there is a "strong possibility" the election would go to the second round.

"Looking at the scope of complaints and objections that needs a thorough re-



Ashraf Ghani

view, there could be a runoff," he said. The review might take five weeks, he said, adding that thousands of complaints from candidates had already been filed.

According to the tally released by the IEC, the total turnout was 18,24,401 with Mr. Ghani winning 9,23,868 votes and Mr. Abdullah second with 7,20,099 (39.52%).

"President Ghani avoided a run-off just by over 11,000 votes and the complaints commission might invalidate tens of thousands of votes from all candidates," another election official said on condition of anonymity because he was not allowed to speak to the media.

Mr. Ghani welcomed the IEC decision and said the country was on the right path towards prosperity but Mr. Abdullah dismissed the result as fraudulent as he called for a full review.

House Speaker Pelosi 'not ready' to name team for Trump Senate trial

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WASHINGTON

House speaker Nancy Pelosi said Monday that she was not yet ready to name her team for President Donald Trump's trial in the U.S. Senate on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

"The House cannot choose our impeachment managers until we know what sort of trial the Senate will conduct," the Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives said on Twitter.

Democrats have been pushing for four current and former White House aides with direct knowledge of Mr. Trump's Ukraine dealings to

testify in the Senate. Mr. Trump blocked all four from testifying in the House.

"President Trump blocked his own witnesses and documents from the House, and from the American people, on phony complaints about the House process," Ms. Pelosi said. "What is his excuse now?"

Mr. McConnell, speaking on a TV show on Monday, said Mr. Pelosi "apparently believes that she can tell us how to run the trial." "We haven't ruled out witnesses," he added.

Boeing replaces CEO as Max crisis deepens

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

NEW YORK

Boeing on Monday replaced its embattled chief executive Dennis Muilenburg, saying a change was necessary as it attempts to restore its reputation amid the protracted 737 MAX crisis.

Boeing named board chairman David Calhoun as chief executive and president, saying the company needed to "restore confidence" and "repair relationships with regulators, customers and all other stakeholders."

The company pledged to "operate with a renewed commitment to full transparency, including effective and proactive communication with the FAA, other global regulators and its cus-

tomers." The aerospace giant's financial picture remains clouded following the global grounding of the MAX in March after two deadly crashes.

The move comes a week after Boeing took the monumental step of temporarily shutting down MAX production because of the crisis, which has pushed the aircraft's return to the skies into 2020.

Boeing responded by accusing the U.S. of "pursuing the weaponisation of outer space". "These actions from

Dennis Muilenburg

Beijing attacks Washington for 'weaponisation' of outer space

President Trump had recently unveiled a 'Space Force'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

BEIJING

Beijing warned on Monday that the U.S. was turning the cosmos into a "battlefield", after Washington announced a new military arm called the Space Force.

Following concerns that China and Russia are challenging its position in space, U.S. President Donald Trump signed the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act on Friday - which created a new branch of the U.S. military.

Beijing responded by accusing the U.S. of "pursuing the weaponisation of outer space". "These actions from



Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang

the U.S. strongly violate the international consensus of the peaceful use of outer space.... posing a direct threat to outer space, peace, and security," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang at a regular press briefing.

Responsible attitude'
Mr. Geng called for the international community to "adopt a prudent and responsible attitude to prevent outer space from becoming a new battlefield".

The Space Force will be the sixth formal force of the U.S. military, after the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard. "Going to be a lot of things happening in space, because space is the world's newest warfighting domain," Mr. Trump told members of the military gathered for the signing.

Authorities have forecast showers or thunderstorms on Tuesday, in the northern, north-central and southern regions of the island. So far, more than

Two dead, over 65,000 hit by rain in Sri Lanka

Gotabaya reviews relief measures

MEERA SRINIVASAN

COLOMBO

At least two persons died and more than 65,000 people have been affected in the recent spells of heavy rain in Sri Lanka, the Disaster Management Centre has said.

According to a 'situation report' released by the Centre on Monday, two persons from the North Central Province died in the incessant rain lashing several parts of the country.

More showers
Authorities have forecast showers or thunderstorms on Tuesday, in the northern, north-central and southern regions of the island. So far, more than

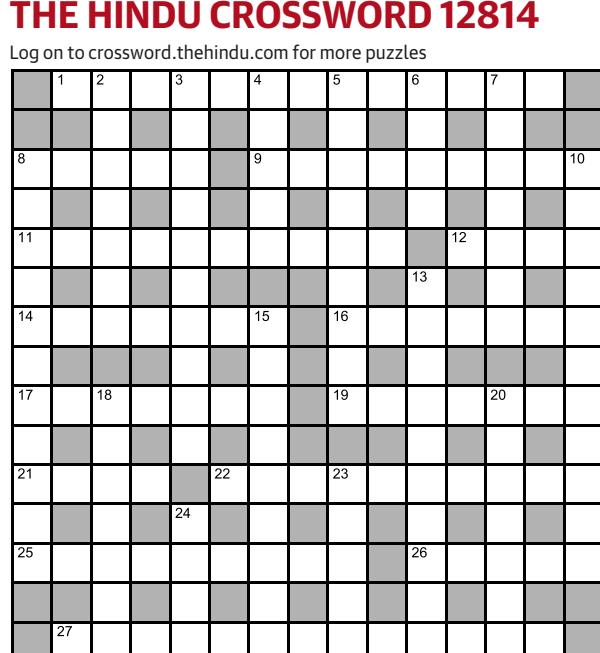
17,000 people have been displaced from their flooded homes and are seeking shelter in safer locations.

On Monday, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa visited Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa districts in the North Central Province that were among the badly-affected areas. He chaired a special discussion with officials to review response and relief measures, his office said in a statement.

Citing the over-75 mm rainfall recorded in the past 24 hours, the Disaster Management Centre issued an early warning for possible landslides in hilly areas and urged residents to exercise caution.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12814

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



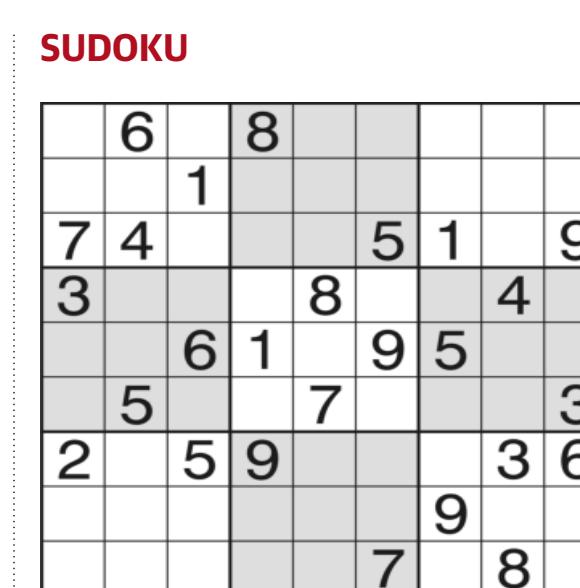
ACROSS

- 1 Takes the blame and moves to prison (7,3,3)
- 8 What botanists study in seminars about origin of life? (5)
- 9 Begs Congress to reorganize after absorbing results at Centre (9)
- 11 She drives with purpose, pursuing essentially drunk (7)

DOWN

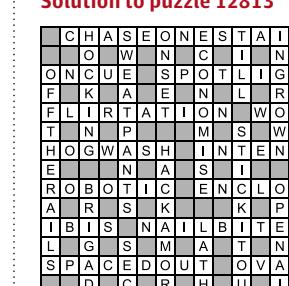
- 2 Open declarations of war primarily embodied by firing a salvo (7)
- 10 Set fire to rubbish around church (5)
- 12 Joke that's expressed casually – not what a fisherman might do? (9,4)
- 13 Incurrigible cheat, cheerful after ensnaring model (10)
- 14 One pursuing drug dealers sprinted around club (4)
- 15 Commotion by good maiden grabbed by bare film star (7,3)
- 16 Criminal in detention after killing wife with oriental poison (7)
- 17 Fool about to tackle girl beginning to exercise in that place (7)
- 18 Smoke a cigarette and become happy (5,2)
- 19 Drags husband away from ruffians (4)
- 20 Begs Congress to reorganize after absorbing results at Centre (9)
- 21 Old wife leaves uninteresting city in Europe (4)

SUDOKU

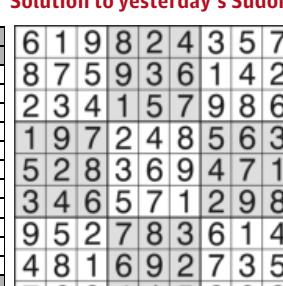


DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 12813



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



FAITH

Service to the guru

Ignorance of the eternal and everlasting Truth is the bane of human existence and stands as the greatest hindrance to spiritual attainment. Sastras reiterate that this ignorance prevails in beings owing to individual bad prarabha karma and is removed only by the grace of God and the grace of the Guru. This grace is automatically obtained when one studies under a guru, follows his teachings with faith and commitment, and serves him in a selfless manner, says Krishna in the Uddhava Gita, pointed out Swami Satyavratana in a lecture. The Upanishads reflect the traditional method of instruction when transmission of knowledge from guru to shishya takes place in a unique way.

The disciple is expected to cultivate humble reverence, inquiry and devoted service along with the bhava that his guru is equal to God. The simple and austere way of life in the Gurukula trains him to be self disciplined and

MARKET WATCH

	23-12-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	41,643	-0.09
US Dollar	71.18	-0.08
Gold	39,053	0.48
Brent oil	65.99	-0.54

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	366.90	-5.40
Asian Paints	1807.55	8.30
Axis Bank	743.15	3.30
Bajaj Auto	3219.50	15.75
Bajaj Finserv	9304.05	24.00
Bajaj Finance	4160.00	24.40
Bharti Airtel	454.80	1.00
BPCL	493.00	5.20
Britannia Ind	3091.80	-30.45
Cipla	467.85	2.10
Coal India	197.25	-3.55
Dr Reddys Lab	2908.40	45.05
Eicher Motors	22176.15	-45.00
GAIL (India)	120.60	1.05
Grasim Ind	742.35	-3.25
HCL Tech.	570.95	1.05
HDFC	2422.65	18.55
HDFC Bank	1302.40	5.70
Hero MotoCorp	2420.10	26.90
Hindalco	215.15	-0.35
Hind Unilever	1950.40	7.30
ICICI Bank	541.30	-4.80
IndusInd Bank	1496.30	8.35
Bharti Infralet	254.60	1.35
Infosys	736.00	4.45
Indian Oil Corp	126.45	-0.95
ITC	238.90	-2.25
JSW Steel	263.70	-1.00
Kotak Bank	1704.90	12.20
L&T	1311.25	-0.30
M&M	525.90	-4.70
Maruti Suzuki	7360.90	99.40
Nestle India Ltd.	14532.50	-325.75
NTPC	114.60	-0.10
ONGC	124.65	-0.50
PowerGrid Corp	185.80	-0.30
Reliance Ind	1571.40	-27.70
State Bank	332.40	-5.45
Sun Pharma	428.40	-1.90
Tata Motors	176.05	0.10
Tata Steel	462.15	1.15
TCS	2231.70	8.80
Tech Mahindra	775.95	-7.40
Titan	1209.10	7.20
UltraTech Cement	4081.90	-38.55
UPL	577.65	-0.50
Vedanta	147.75	3.50
Wipro	253.85	2.05
YES Bank	49.65	-1.75
Zee Entertainment	294.80	10.75

EXCHANGE RATES	
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 23	
CURRENCY	TT BUY TT SELL
US Dollar	70.98 71.30
Euro	78.62 78.98
British Pound	92.11 92.52
Japanese Yen (100)	64.87 65.17
Chinese Yuan	10.12 10.17
Swiss Franc	72.35 72.68
Singapore Dollar	52.36 52.59
Canadian Dollar	53.97 54.22
Malaysian Ringgit	17.13 17.21

Source: Indian Bank

RBI holds open market operations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI
The RBI has purchased ₹10,000-crore worth long-term government securities and sold ₹6,825 crore of short-term securities through open market operations (OMOs). Last week, the RBI had announced simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities under OMOs for ₹10,000 crore each.

The RBI also said to protect consumer interest, on a peer-to-peer lending (P2P) platform, the exposure of a lender to all borrowers must not exceed ₹50 lakh at any given point.

A lender investing over ₹10 lakh across P2P platforms will produce a certificate to P2P platforms from a chartered accountant certifying a minimum net worth of ₹50 lakh.

Tata ruling: govt. seeks amendment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI
The Corporate Affairs Ministry on Monday moved the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) seeking certain modification in its order in the Tata Sons matter.

The Registrar of Companies (RoC) on Monday moved the NCLAT requesting to amend its order and remove the word "illegal" with respect to the conversion of Tata Sons from a public company to private company, as it had authorised the conversion "only as per the provisions" of the Companies Act.

It has also asked NCLAT to "delete the aspersion made regarding any hurried help accorded by RoC Mumbai to Tata Sons except what was statutorily required by RoC Mumbai."

Airlines may fly into a \$600-mn loss: CAPA

Carriers added capacity to capture coveted airport slots owned by Jet, leading to a drop in fares

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Aviation consultancy CAPA estimates a full-year loss of \$500-600 million for Indian carriers primarily due to a sharp fall in airfares on some of the most profitable routes as the airlines mounted additional capacity in a bid to capture coveted airport slots owned by the now defunct Jet Airways.

Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA) said that the latest estimate for India's domestic market was its sharpest downward revision from one quarter to the next in 16 years. It had earlier predicted a profit of \$500-700 million for Indian airlines.

During the first nine months of financial year 2020, the sector also witnessed a moderation in

A plummeting nosedive

- Loss estimate is CAPA's sharpest downward revision from one quarter to the next in 16 years
- Profit of \$500-700 million previously predicted for Indian airlines
- Domestic and international traffic volumes remained flat in first 9 months of FY20
- Air India set to post loss of \$500 mn in FY20, following a loss of \$1.2 bn last year
- IndiGo may clock profit of only \$70-\$90 mn; it was earlier expected to achieve \$400-500 mn
- SpiceJet may break-even or clock moderate loss from the previously estimated record profit



growth with both domestic and international traffic volumes being flat as capacity

expansion by different carriers went towards replacing the seats lost in the sector

due to the collapse of Jet Airways.

In February, CAPA had estimated a full-year profit of \$400-500 million for IndiGo which has now been slashed to a sixth, at \$70-90 million, primarily due to a new accounting standard adopted by the airline as well as an increase in maintenance costs towards its older A320neos.

Similarly, a prediction of a record profit for competitor SpiceJet has been revised to break-even or a moderate loss.

CAPA estimates Air India to post a loss of \$500 million in FY 2020 after posting a net loss of \$1.2 billion in the last fiscal.

The consultancy recommends that the government review the challenges before the sector following the demise of Jet Airways and subject airlines to an annual review where they may be required to prove that they have sufficient cash reserves to continue flying.



Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, centre, addressing the media on Monday. ■ V. SREENIVASA MURTHY

Aadhaar to be made mandatory for GST

Bid to curb malpractices: Sushil Modi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

With 66.79 lakh new dealers registered under the Goods and Service Tax contributing just 15% of the total revenue under the tax regime, the GST Network has decided to make Aadhaar authentication or physical verification mandatory for new dealers from January 1, 2020, to check malpractices.

A total 24.86 lakh fake or bogus registered dealers had been weeded out from the GST.

Mr. Modi ruled out any hike in GST rates in the near future. He said the Centre and States were not ready to raise tax rates as the economy was in a slowdown, affecting revenue mobilisation on track.

Sources said Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the meeting of the CCG. No details of the decisions taken at the meeting were immediately known. The panel has four other members – Home Minister Amit Shah, Highways and MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Commerce & Railways Minister Piyush Goyal.

Monthly collections had crossed the ₹1 lakh-crore mark in six out of eight months during April-November, 2019, he said.

The number of registrations under GST stood at 1.21 crore and of this, 55.04 lakh dealers had migrated from the pre-GST regime and 66.79 lakh were new registrations since the launch of GST.

He said dealers who migrated to the GST contri-

RIL shares dip on legal tussle with govt.

Centre avers deal with Aramco can't proceed till Indian major clears \$3.5 bn dues

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Shares of index heavyweight Reliance Industries (RIL) were the second worst performer among Sensex stocks on Monday as a possible legal battle with the government threatens to disturb the company's stake sale plans with Saudi Aramco, which is also the world's largest listed entity.

On the BSE, RIL shares lost nearly 3% in intraday trade to touch a low of ₹1,555 on Monday. However, the counter managed to partially recoup losses to close at ₹1,571, down 1.78% or ₹28.40 over Friday's close.

Given its weightage in the Sensex, RIL was the biggest drag on the benchmark on



fields. RIL, however, is strongly contesting the claims and has said that "the petition is an abuse of process as no arbitration award has fixed any final liability of dues on the company."

"...it portrays that a sum of money is due and payable under the final award and purports to compute the money payable on a basis neither found in the arbitration award nor disclosed in the petition," RIL stated in its affidavit.

An international arbitration tribunal issued a partial award in October 2016 in the dispute between the Indian government, BG Exploration & Production India Ltd (BG) and RIL on the contracts.

While the tribunal in its

2016 award determined certain issues of principles, it did not award any monetary sum pending determination of all issues before it.

BG and RIL challenged the 2016 award before an English court which decided some parts of the challenge in favour of the duo and directed the arbitration tribunal to reconsider those parts of the 2016 award.

The tribunal, having reconsidered, issued another partial award in December 2018 in favour of BG and RIL. RIL's contention is that while this challenge was pending in the English court, the Indian government had "unilaterally" calculated certain amounts.

(With inputs from PTI)

Power auction cancelled on poor response

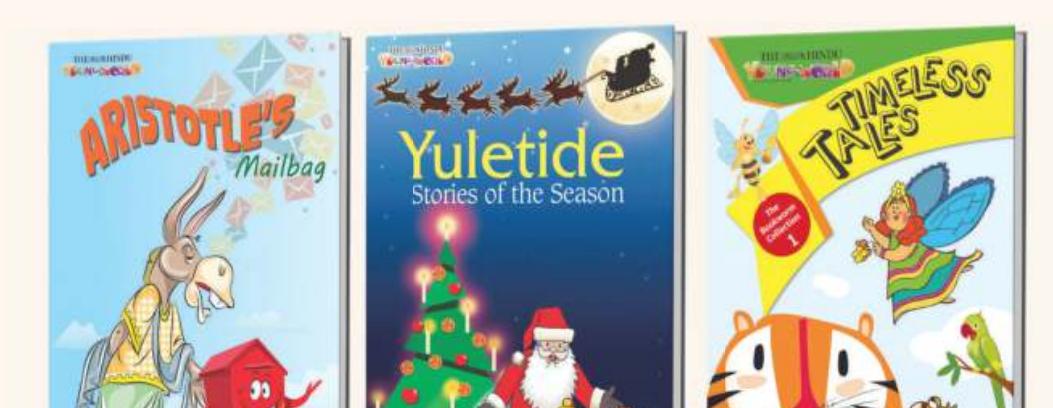
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The Power Ministry has scrapped the auction to procure 2,500MW electricity for the medium term (three years) under a scheme to provide relief to thermal power plants plagued by short coal supplies, state-run NHPC said on Monday.

According to sources, lack of interest from State power utilities due to a higher tariff of ₹4.41 per unit discovered through the reverse auction process led to the cancellation of the auction. The Ministry has now advised nodal agency PFC Consultancy to call for bids again. PFCCL had appointed NHPC as 'Aggregator' (in March) under Pilot Scheme-II for procurement of aggregated power of 2,500 MW.

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HARINI NAGENDRA AND SEEMA MUNDOLI

The popular narrative around cities needs to be changed. It is with this in mind that we wrote *Cities and Canopies: Trees in Indian Cities* earlier this year.

From 80-year-olds to eight-year-olds, our readership has been far more diverse than we imagined. We heard delightful tales from grandmothers about how they climbed trees as young girls, and stole fruits while hiding from disapproving mothers and mothers-in-law. And poignant stories from 10-year-olds who spoke sadly of how the neighbourhoods they live in have lost trees in their lifetime. So young, and they have already faced experiences of loss.

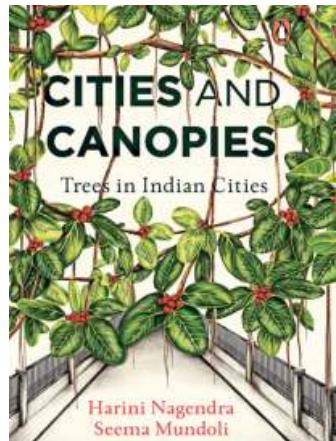
The only way to counter this narrative of loss is to replace it with one of hope. We need to reconnect with the trees around us. And there are many ways to do so. Here are a few ideas from workshops and discussions we have had with fellow tree fanatics in many cities.

This winter, try some of these with your kids, parents, friends and neighbours. Perhaps you can convert a tree agnostic into a true believer?

Cooking with trees

We have all snacked on mango, jackfruit and jamun. But do you know how to roast jackfruit seeds, make tamarind leaf chutney, peepal leaf bhajji, jamun kala khatta, gulmohar flower pakodas and neem flower gojju?

Along with your grandparents, visit neighbours from different parts of India to collect recipes. Cook and eat together in a large group.



Something for the holidays

How to tackle Tree Deficit Disorder and help a new generation make its own memories that involve fruits, seeds and leaves

Memory finder

A fun activity (and an excellent alternative to smart phone entertainment) for dull winter evenings: when dinner is done, and everyone is too tired to play, but too charged up to go to sleep. Sit around in a circle, and write down your favourite memories of trees, or a story of a memorable encounter with a tree. Fold up your paper and toss it into the middle of the circle. Once everyone has finished writing down their memories, each person selects a paper at random, opens it out, and reads from it.

Take turns to guess who wrote this particular memory. You will be surprised at the stories of mischief that come from strict-looking grandparents and parents!

Counting petals, tracing veins

Nature is obsessed with symmetry. Some trees have flower petals arranged in multiples of three (trimerous), others in sets of five (pentamerous).

Collect different types of flowers and count the petals. Use a botany

book, or your favourite internet browser to learn how scientists use the number of petals to classify trees and plants into different groups. Or sketch the veins in different types of leaves. Do they branch at the base, or from the middle? Do the veins end before they reach the leaf margin, or do they loop and interconnect with each other at the margin?

Each of these characteristics or traits have evolved to help the leaf, flower and tree thrive in its environment. Use these explorations as starting points to learn more about evolution.

The physics of seed dispersal

Take a silk cotton pod and open it to collect the seeds. Pile them up in a heap, and blow – tiny seeds, attached to parachutes of silk threads, will drift away in different directions (it is great fun to chase after and recapture them). The wind disperses silk cotton seeds – the “silk” we use was created to help the seeds move easily through the air. Other seeds have thorns,



Perfect stress buster (clockwise from above) authors Harini Nagendra and Seema Mundoli; the cover of their book; walk along a tree-lined street

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

which help them attach to animal fur – they then hitch a ride to a new location where they can germinate into a tree.

Tamarind seeds are dispersed by animals, which eat the tasty pulp and then distribute the seeds through their poop. Play uffangali, where you blow hard on a mound of tamarind seeds to separate them – each person gets to capture and keep the seeds she manages to blow away from the pile. Blowing heavy tamarind seeds is much

harder than silk cotton.

There is physics involved – if you blow from the side, the seeds scatter much more easily than if you blow from the top. Why is that? A simple question such as this can lead to a real-life physics lesson into the relationship between force, distance and angle.

In Cities and Canopies: Trees in Indian Cities, Harini Nagendra and Seema Mundoli map the ecological and cultural histories of trees in cities and in our lives.

#DELHIMOVES

Running into the new year

Three Delhi-ites head to Tokyo to ring in 2020 with a very long run

SUNALINI MATHEW

On December 30 this year, Abhishek Mishra, Vipin Sharma, and Naresh Bhati will start a 120 km run from Tokyo to Mt Fuji. They'll finish on New Year's Eve, and celebrate with the group they're going with. Organised by Abhishek and Milind Soman, nine people will make it to the event. "We did our first New Year's Eve run in December 2014," says Abhishek, when they ran from Mumbai to Pune, about 150 km.

Thereafter, every year the duo has been doing an ultra run (anything above 42 km, the distance of a full marathon). "We did Bengaluru-Mysuru the next year, then Goa to Gokarna (Karnataka), Una to Dharamshala," says Abhishek. Last year they did Colombo to Unawatuna, their first international celebration.

This isn't competitive, it's meant to enjoy the route and bring in the new year without a hangover from alcohol. They organise a crew car, a support team, refreshment stations along the way, and stay with all meals.

Abhishek, 36, who started running in his 20s, graduated as an engineer and went on to do an MBA. After working for a few years, he started a company Tabono Sports that organises races across North India, concentrating on small cities. He



says he began running ultras in 2013, because after a few years of participating in competitive races, the charm wears out and it's the experience that counts. He documents his journey in book run to realise.

Vipin, 35, who now heads community building

and engagement, works for Supplecent, a start-up in the nutrition supplement space. He began running to lose weight, and took up ultra running in 2013. Naresh, 35, an engineer who works with an automobile parts company too started for health reasons. He read about Abhishek taking part in the Ultraman (10 km open ocean swim, 421 km cross-country bike ride, 84 km ultra marathon run), and enrolled for the Millennium City Marathon that Tabono organises.

There are four stages to an ultra, says Vipin, who has done about 18 of them so far: "The first is of physical pain, at between 40 and 50 km."

You want to quit, but you tell yourself you're not going to. The second stage is when your mind gives you a lot of chatter, telling you everyone has a bad day, and it's okay to quit sometimes."

He says the third phase is of emotional pain: "It's why you see many ultra runner crying and running. Your body becomes so weak and you become extremely humble." The final phase is when "suddenly running becomes easy and you're in a zone when you're just cruising along. You know the blood and blisters are real but it doesn't affect you. It feels like you've transcended over the body."

Transcending over the body (Clockwise from right)

Abhishek Mishra, Naresh Kumar, Vipin Sharma

■ R. V. MOORTHY, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

PEOPLE

Secret chord

The German Ambassador to India, to perform in Munich



If you're going to be in Munich tomorrow, catch up with Walter J. Lindner, the German Ambassador to India, who will be playing a few tracks from his album Baroque Masters, at the St Maria Thalkirchen Christmas mass. The album, released last year, consists of a double CD that features 21 tracks of pure classical symphonic music and 23 tracks of chamber music (harpsichord, cello and flute). There are a few tracks featuring a choir with vocals in Latin. "Baroque music is associated with Christmas in Europe," says the ambassador.

He took about a year to put the whole thing together in his studio. "The process is not simple: I play each instrument separately and record it in my studio, and then layer each one over the others, starting with lower instruments and making my way to higher instruments. So, I start with playing the harpsichord, then the cello, followed by the viola. The process is quite complicated really, because you have to know how to play each instrument and play them in sync. The end result is a whole orchestra playing, though it's actually done by one person."

In India, he often records with Indian musicians at his studio in the residence. His favourite show is Under the Banyan Tree that takes place on a full moon night every month. His favourite performance was by the qawwals Qutbi Brothers at the event.

Available on Amazon.com, YouTube, Apple Music, Spotify

PRODUCTS

Angels on the table



Klove Studio, the lighting company, has a 15-piece limited edition collection of handcrafted angels out. All in their signature blown-glass style, the Totem Angel's wings are embossed metal with antique brass finishing; the Tropical Angel has green metal wings with jade glass beads; and The City Angel comes in a rose-gold hue.

On display at The Chankaya mall; available at the Klove Studio, J-2 Green Park (Main); upwards of ₹1 lakh

Natural for pets

Petveda, a brand started by entrepreneurs Kamakshi and Dhruv Kumar, makes grooming products for pets. These, they say, are free from sulfates and other harsh chemicals, and are made with essential oils. The range includes soothing balms, odour control mists, tear-stain removers, and flea-repellant shampoos and conditioners. Petveda is a ISO 9001:2015, WHO-GMP certified company.

Available on Petveda.com and Amazon.in; upwards of ₹185



Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE**EXHIBITION**

Architecture
An ongoing exhibition, titled Structuring Form: The Innovative Rigour of Mahendra Raj, showcases the architect who just turned 95. Conceptualised by Rohit Raj Mehdriatta and Vandini Mehta, of Studio Vanro in the city, the show depicts seven projects out of Mahendra Raj's work of close to 250.

VENUE: Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Saket

TIME: 10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

**FOOD****X-mas buffet**

India Grill, a multi-cuisine restaurant, has organised a two-day Christmas buffet, curated by chef Vineet Bahuguna of Hilton Garden Inn, New Delhi. The buffet includes turkey roast with new baby potatoes served with cranberry sauce, kaffir lime and lemongrass scented lamb ball, grilled fish with leeks, and more.

VENUE: DLF Place, Saket District Centre

TIME: 7:30 p.m. onwards

**FESTIVAL****Christmas hampers**

European eatery Caara has introduced four varieties of Christmas hampers, which come with seasonal dishes. This includes a range of their signature items such as, Brandy Butter, Christmas Pudding, Mince Pies, Shortbread Fingers, and Basil Pesto, to name a few.

VENUE: Ogaan, Dharam Marg, Kriti Nagar, Malcha and NicoCaara, Chanakyapuri

TIME: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**F&B****Festive special**

Social, a chain of cafes, has launched its Christmas special menu with nine new dishes. On until 31st December, the menu offers dishes like Pumpkin Paratha with Vindaloo sausage fry; Risottoogood, a smoked cranberry and malai tikka risotto; Cinnamon Carol, a bourbon cocktail with pumpkin syrup; and Christmas Plum Cake.

VENUE: All its Delhi outlets

TIME: 11 a.m. - 12 midnight

**GIG****Bollywood hits**

On Christmas eve, Imperfecto Shor Club will host an all-night-long live session with DJ Sumit Sethi. A music composer and performer, Sumit is best known for his Bollywood superhits like *Gaddi Mashook Jatt Di, Jai Deva*. He specialises in different music genres including Bollywood, Hip Hop, and House.

VENUE: Hotel Pride Plaza, Aerocity

TIME: 10 p.m. onwards



Offline is not the answer

Gautam Kumawat, professional hacker and cybersecurity expert in Mumbai

One really needs to know the URL of the sites they visit. Sometimes, for example, what we may recognise as Flipkart's website may not be

Flipkart at all. It could be spelled 'Flipcart' or the URL could be

'Flipkart.shop.in.' Always read the links because once you make transactions on these phishing websites, your financial data can be severely compromised. You can even get locked out of your own bank account! Does having no data connection mean you can be immune from cybercrime? Not necessarily, especially in the times we are in now. Most of what we do requires a data connection. The only option here is to make sure you have strong firewalls set up, passwords changed every two weeks, up-to-date anti-virus

protections and even cyber-insurance which I'm seeing more people invest in.

As told to Divya Kala Bhavani, Hyderabad

Have a merry (and safe) vacation

Shashank Sai, Superintendent of Police at Cyber Crimes Division in Chennai

During the holiday season, there is a general spike in online bookings, people visiting travel websites, making hotel reservations... So the chances of people being cheated also increase. Once you make a travel reservation, check how the payment is being processed. The website takes you to a payment gateway – make sure that it says 'https', as opposed to just 'http'. The green padlock next to it means your communication is encrypted. There are also online applications, such as Norton Safe Web, Kaspersky, Avast and McAfee that run on your browser and tell you whether a website is safe or not.

Make a policy of not sharing your OTP with any third party. Some agents request you to share OTP to make a payment on your behalf; do not allow this to happen. It is also generally advised to not let any app talk to your messaging service. After a reservation is made, call the travel website or the hotel and confirm. If it is not confirmed, call your bank and ask them to block the transaction, and report it as fraud.

There is always a window of 30 to 45 minutes for the transaction to be authenticated. Once you report the fraud, the onus is on the bank to keep the money safe.

In case you miss that window, inform your bank nevertheless. Though the money might have been credited into the account through which the transaction has been routed, it might not have been withdrawn. Bank-to-bank communication will make sure that the transaction is kept in abeyance and the money is not withdrawn.

At the same time, communicate to the police as well, so there is always the second channel of the police talking to the banks, and freezing the account. Some credit card companies offer fraud insurance, check if yours does. Always cap your credit card's spending limit.

While on a holiday, avoid using public/free wifi – even in airports, hotels, and cafés.

As told to Sweta Akundi, Chennai

Deck the halls with firewalls

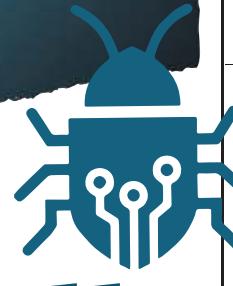
FEATURES TEAM

Online shopping, holiday-themed social media posts, last-minute getaway bookings, backing up data to the cloud – at this time of the year, online activity reaches a peak, and with this surge in activity come massive exchanges of personal and financial data over countless networks. Data has become more than binary information flowing through IT systems, it is a deeply personal asset holding information many people would not share with even their closest friends. So when that data, financial or otherwise, gets compromised, we often go to local cybercrime divisions to solve the situation and to tighten all our systems.

For a bit of perspective, according to a December 10 survey titled 'A Christmas Carol: Scam Edition' by McAfee, 28.6% of Indians have lost between ₹15,000 to ₹20,000, all as result of fake online retail sites. Further, 56.1% Indians have fallen victim to discount scams, by clicking on links that took them to sketchy websites.

These numbers alone prove we need to up our digital IQ, not just for the holiday season but for the foreseeable future. Here are notes from some of the country's cybercrime experts on what they recommend:

Whether you are booking your next vacation, or indulging in holiday sales and offers, this season sees a surge in online activity. We speak to cybercrime experts around the country who bust common misconceptions, and give tips on basic digital hygiene



Do not stop at anti-virus

Mirza Faizan Asad, cybersecurity and law consultant in Bengaluru

Whenever you install an application on your phone, you are asked for permissions and authentication; once you say 'yes' to everything, then all your data will be with [third party app owners and/or offenders]. There won't be any privacy or security.

There are some internal settings with which we can restrict these third-party apps' access to our data. But not all phones have these settings and not many people know of these settings. Most data taken from you will be used for advertising. For example, if you are searching for something, you will immediately get an ad about that. But there might also be spy software, which can use your data for criminal activities. Let's say, if they get pictures of your Aadhar or PAN card, then they can create fake identities, use it to get SIM cards, etc.

Internet Service Providers also need to secure their servers. Our law enforcement agencies like the police have very little knowledge of cybersecurity issues like hacking. Even if you need to register a complaint, you might have to go from one police station to another. When dealing with cybercrime, you need to be fast, especially in cases of e-banking and online payment apps.

Recently, I was presenting a case to the consumer forum. It had something to do with Bitcoin. But they didn't understand what Bitcoins were and asked to take the case to another court.

So, even our judges have to understand cybersecurity.

As told to Praveen Sudevan, Bengaluru



Incoming in 2020

People seem to have forgotten about ransomware since the [WannaCry] 2017 attack [during which Microsoft Windows-equipped computers were targeted by encrypting data and demanding ransom payments in the Bitcoin cryptocurrency]... It is coming back in a big way in 2020. One estimate suggests that in 2020, [ransomware] is going to be quadrupled in the health and medical sectors.

Experts are also saying that passwords are going to be passé with advancements in quantum computing. This new decade will be the most life-and-game-changing decade of human civilisation in the sense that the developments that this decade will see will outstrip anything that has happened earlier. Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things, and Blockchain will all change the way we think, perceive, and do business online. AI's rapid pace, along with Big Data and data mining, will mark a sea-change.

As told to Vangmayi Parakala, Delhi



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POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



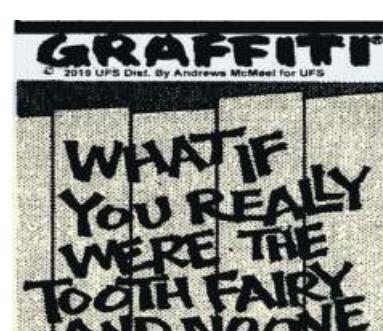
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBES



TIGER



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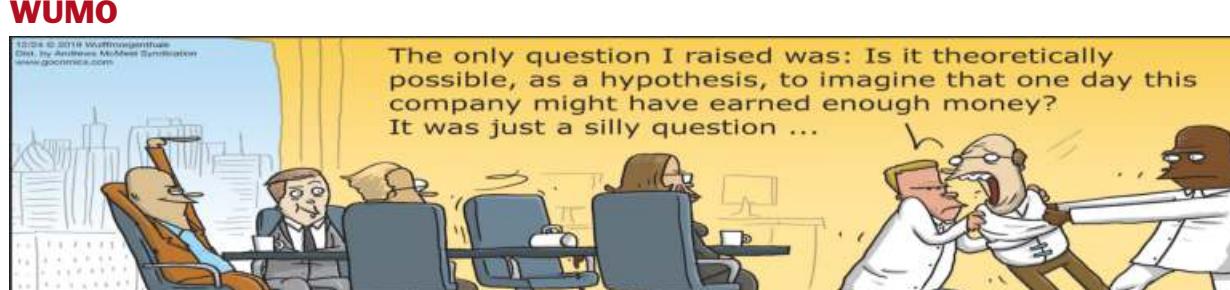
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paid all at once (4,3)
5 Sculptor of The Thinker (5)
6 Relating to the Greek god of wine (7)
7 High-pitched and piercing (6)
8 Arrogantly obstinate (5-6)
14 Edible bivalve molluscs (7)
15 Able to read (7)
16 17th century French mathematician – SI unit of pressure (6)
17 Saw (6)
18 Scandinavian (5)
21 Dahl or Amundsen? (5)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated December 25, 2019.

Solution No. 13257

WUMO



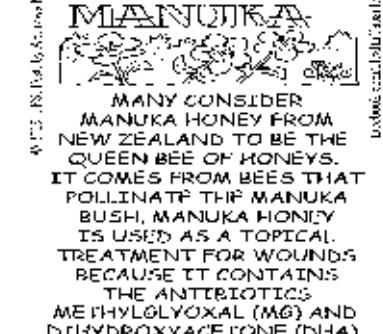
18	Poison, As (7)
20	Deep ravine (5)
22	Shout of approval (5)
23	Hug (7)
24	Endured (6)
25	Closely joined (6)

- Across
1 Eat greedily (like a turkey?) (6)
4 Backhanders (6)
9 Endeavour (7)
10 Interior layout and furnishings (5)
11 Dull persistent pains (5)
12 Capital of Madeira (7)
13 Everyday (11)

■ Down
1 Leave (2,4)
2 Markedly masculine (5)
3 Amount of money (5)

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PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



18	Poison, As (7)
20	Deep ravine (5)
22	Shout of approval (5)
23	Hug (7)
24	Endured (6)
25	Closely joined (6)

Health capsules by Bron Smith

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Health capsules by Bron Smith

Rohit Sharma – oozing class and chutzpah

Opener makes batting a treat to watch and has forged a great understanding with Dhawan and Rahul

WI IN INDIA

Y.B. SARANGI

CUTTACK

With his effortless batting, Rohit Sharma offers cricket lovers a sit-back-and-enjoy show. His performance is easy on the eye, yet high on effectiveness.

In 2019, he performed plenty of such shows. Especially in the 50-over format, where he gathered 1490 runs in 27 innings at an average of 57.30 and end up as the highest run-getter ahead of captain Virat Kohli (1377).

"Personally I have enjoyed batting, but there is no way I am stopping," said Rohit Sharma, the Man-of-the-Series in India's 2-1 win over West Indies, during the post-match presentation at the Barabati Stadium here on Sunday night.

This demonstrates how Rohit relishes his moment in the middle. It has helped him score seven hundreds and six fifties in the last 12 months.

Boy next door

At a time when hunks have replaced common men as heroes in Indian movies, Rohit, with his lazy elegance, is like a superstar from a by-gone era who has found acceptance and appeal even today. While batsmen with bulging muscles have made

Power-packed performances

The India-West Indies ODI series went down to the wire before the hosts clinched it in a thrilling finish at Cuttack on Sunday



BATTING

Name	I	R	H	Avg.	S/R	50/100s
Rohit Sharma	3	258	159	86.00	100.38	1/1
Shai Hope	3	222	102*	111.00	77.62	1/1
Nicholas Pooran	3	193	89	96.50	144.02	2/0
K.L. Rahul	3	185	102	61.66	88.94	1/1
Shimron Hetmyer	3	180	139	60.00	123.28	0/1
Shreyas Iyer	3	130	70	43.33	102.36	2/0

Name	M	W	BBI	Avg.	Econ.	4/5W
Keemo Paul	3	6	3/59	26.00	6.59	0/0
Mohammed Shami	3	5	3/39	32.40	6.11	0/0
Sheldon Cottrell	3	5	2/46	40.60	7.00	0/0
Alzarri Joseph	3	4	2/45	41.50	6.38	0/0
Kuldeep Yadav	3	3	3/52	54.66	5.46	0/0
Ravindra Jadeja	3	3	2/74	62.00	6.20	0/0

COMPILED BY G. PRASAD

the thrashing of the leather ball a trend in T20 cricket, Rohit, the boy next door, sends the white ball flying to the boundary without much toil.

Rohit, who closed the year with a 63-ball 63 and contributed significantly in India's big run chase in the third and final ODI here, has scored the most number of boundary shots – 146 fours and 36 sixes – this year.

Only Eoin Morgan has hit more sixes – 41 – while Aaron Finch has the same number. Nevertheless, they are

far behind on number of fours.

"I understand my batting really well. I want to play within my limits. Knowing the game plan you want to execute is very important," said the 32-year-old, providing an insight into his uncluttered mind and mature thinking.

The other important facet of Rohit's batting is making his partner feel good in his company. After his fine run with opening partner and good friend Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit has forged an en-

viable rapport with the talented K.L. Rahul. The result is for everyone to see.

In just 10 innings this year, Rohit and Rahul have developed a special bond which has yielded 923 runs, including five century stands, at a whopping average of 92.30. They have defied the popular theory of left-right combination with sheer class.

Rapid strides

Rohit and Rahul's 227-run stand in Visakhapatnam has already established itself as the best Indian opening asso-

Rohit in numbers

- In 2019, he has totalled 1490 runs in 27 ODI innings at an average of 57.30.
- Rohit is the highest run-getter ahead of captain Virat Kohli (1377).
- This includes seven hundreds and six fifties in the last 12 months.
- Rohit has scored the most number of boundary shots – 146 fours and 36 sixes – this year.
- In just 10 innings this year, Rohit and Rahul have scored 923 runs, including five century stands, at a whopping average of 92.30.

ciation against the Windies. Their combined average is unmatched by a mile and the two, in their prime, promise to make rapid strides on the all-time list of successful opening partners.

Rohit, who went past Sri Lankan Sanath Jayasuriya's 22-year-old record of scoring the most runs by an opener in international cricket during his knock here, wants to replicate his white-ball cricket success in red-ball matches too.

He has already shown signs of it after being promoted as an opener in Tests and is eagerly looking forward to achieving greater glory.



On song: While other burly batsmen prefer to bludgeon the bowlers, Rohit Sharma is all touch and timing without compromising on the scoring rate. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

Bumrah and Dhawan back in Indian squad

Rohit and Shami rested for the T20Is against Sri Lanka

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Jasprit Bumrah and Shikhar Dhawan have been picked to the Indian teams, for the Twenty20 Internationals against Sri Lanka and the One-Day Internationals against Australia, to be played in January.

However, in-form opener and vice-captain Rohit Sharma and Mohammed Shami have been rested for the three-match series against Sri Lanka, beginning on January 5.

Bumrah, who had suffered a stress fracture, is reportedly fit enough to test his recovery in Gujarat's forthcoming Ranji Trophy match.

According to selection committee chairman M.S.K. Prasad, "Sanju Samson will be the back-up opener in the T20 series. Against Austra-



The squads and dates

T20Is vs Sri Lanka

Virat Kohli (Capt.), Shikhar Dhawan, K.L. Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Shivam Dube, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Navdeep Saini, Shardul Thakur, Manish Pandey, Washington Sundar and Sanju Samson

January 5, Guwahati

January 7, Indore

January 10, Pune

ODIs vs Australia

Virat Kohli (Capt.), Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma, K.L. Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Rishabh Pant, Kedar Jadhav, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Mohammed Shami, Navdeep Saini, Shardul Thakur, and Jasprit Bumrah

Jan. 14, Mumbai | Jan. 17, Rajkot | Jan. 19, Bengaluru

lia, we have all three openers in the team – Shikhar Dhawan, Rohit Sharma and K.L. Rahul."

Seamers Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Deepak Chahar

Sanju Samson will be the back-up opener in the T20I series

M.S.K. PRASAD

are out of the reckoning on account of injuries.

"Deepak, who did well in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, aggravated his back injury in the second ODI in Visakhapatnam," said Prasad.

On the availability of all-rounders Hardik Pandya, the chief selector said they would test him in the third week of January for a possible chance to figure in the series against New Zealand from January 24.

Shardul Thakur, Navdeep Saini, who will be the 16th member for the ODI series against Australia, and Khaileel Ahmed will continue to be in the scheme of things for the season.

Prasad moots guidance under a specialist coach like More

VIJAY LOKAPALLY

NEW DELHI

M.S.K. Prasad wants Rishabh Pant to work with a specialist wicket-keeping coach and former Test stumper Kiran More is willing to offer his services.

Chief selector Prasad rates Pant as a special talent. "He has done well and we have seen glimpses of some good batting recently. He batted exceptionally well in Tests (in England and Australia). Pant is a work in progress and I would suggest he can benefit if he gets to work with More. There is no problem with Pant's batting but he surely needs to work on his wicket-keeping. As a wicketkeeper he has to be good enough to command his place," Prasad told The Hindu.

When asked if he would help Pant, More responded,



Under scrutiny: Rishabh Pant, who has had a rash of wicketkeeping gaffes, needs to up his game. ■ R.RAGU

"Any time. I will be too happy to work with Pant. I did work with him for two days (last year) but then I would need to spend more time with him. A ten-day stint one-on-one with Pant would be a good idea to start with. He has a fantastic cricket sense and there are a few technical things to be sorted out. He is young and needs some guidance. Putting pressure is not going to help at all. I must tell you he is mentally very strong."

As Prasad pointed out, "The desire to work on his wicketkeeping has to come from within. We are studying his work and are all ready to help him. Ideally he needs to improve in certain areas. It is not fair to talk of Pant in the

same breath as (Wriddhiman) Saha or M.S. (Dhoni). Please remember Pant did not play much of domestic cricket before he got into the Indian team like say Parthiv (Patel) or (Dinesh) Karthik. Had he played a good three-four seasons of hard grind in domestic cricket he would not have faced some of these issues."

Would Pant find a place purely as a batsman? "Possible. But then it would depend on what kind of combination the team wants. It would also mean that Pant would need to develop as a fielder in some specialist position. It is not easy. Look at K.L. (Rahul) finding it tough to get a place in the Test team. Pant is being guided. I keep talking to him. He has lost weight and is working hard on his keeping skills. We will back him."

Dhoni's 15 years in India colours

Took the team to the pinnacle of glory in all formats



Living legend: Mahendra Singh Dhoni has brought joy to the Indian fans with his exploits as a player and captain. ■ AFP

Harmanpreet, Smriti and Veda to lead teams

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana and Veda Krishnamurthy will lead India-A, B and C teams in the women's T20 Challenger Trophy to be played at Cuttack from January 4 to 11.

The squads: India-A: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Taniya Bhatia (wk), Shivali Shinde (wk), Jasia Akhtar, Priya Punya, Deepi Sharma, Devika Vaidya, Sneh Rana, Mansi Joshi, Meghna Singh, Komal Jhanjhad, Meenu Mani, Radha Yadav, and Bharati Fulmali.

For two tour matches and three one-day games: Shubman Gill (Capt.), Pritiwi Shaw, Mayank Agarwal, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Suryakumar Yadav, Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan (wk), Hardik Pandya, Krunal Pandya, Axar Patel, Rahul Chahar, Sandeep Warrier, Avesh Khan, and Mohd. Siraj.

For first four-day game: Hanuma Vihari (Capt.), Pritiwi Shaw, Mayank Agarwal, Priyank Panthal, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Shubman Gill, K.S. Bharat.

Four-day matches: Jan. 30-

Feb. 2 (Christchurch) and Feb. 7 to 10 (Lincoln).

2020 Sportstar ACES Awards

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

THE NOMINEES

SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR (TEAM SPORTS)



BALA DEVI (FOOTBALL)

Playing for Manipur Police SC, Bala Devi was the highest goal-scorer in the Indian Women's League (IWL) this year with 26 goals in seven matches. Aged 29, she was also the top-scorer at the senior women's national football championship held in Arunachal Pradesh, netting 21 goals in five matches, including the all-important winner in the final as Manipur beat Railways to win its 20th national title. Recently, Bala Devi also emerged as the star of the South Asian Games where she slotted home twice to guide India to a comfortable 2-0 victory over Nepal in the final.

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

(wk), Shivam Dube, Shahbaz Nadeem, Rahul Chahar, Sandeep Warrier, Avesh Khan, Mohd. Siraj, Ishan Porel, and Ishan Kishan.

For second four-day game: Hanuma Vihari (Capt.), Pritiwi Shaw, Mayank Agarwal, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Suryakumar Yadav, Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan (wk), Hardik Pandya, Krunal Pandya, Axar Patel, Rahul Chahar, Sandeep Warrier, Avesh Khan, and Mohd. Siraj.

One-dayers: Jan. 22 (Lincoln), Jan. 24 & 26 (Christchurch).

Four-day matches: Jan. 30-Feb. 2 (Christ

TV PICKS

NBA: Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 8.30 a.m.
Big Bash League: Sony Six (SD & HD), 9.15 a.m.

IN BRIEF



Lowry leads Raptors' incredible rally

Defending champion Toronto Raptors made the greatest comeback in club history, rallying from a 30-point deficit to defeat visiting Dallas Mavericks 110-107. Kyle Lowry scored 20 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter and also passed off 10 assists while Chris Boucher had a career-high 21 points to spark the Raptors' comeback victory.

The results: Toronto Raptors 110 bt Dallas Mavericks 107; Boston Celtics 119 bt Charlotte Hornets 93; Milwaukee Bucks 117 bt Indiana Pacers 89; Oklahoma City Thunder 118 bt LA Clippers 112; Denver Nuggets 128 bt LA Lakers 104. AFP



Lifter Rakhi sets two National records

Doha Indian weightlifter Rakhi Halder created two National records on way to a bronze medal in the women's 64kg category at the Qatar International Cup on Sunday. The Commonwealth championship gold medallist obliterated the senior National record in snatch and total with a personal best of 218kg (95 snatch, 123 clean and jerk). India ended the Olympic qualifying event with three medals. Mirabai Chanu had won gold, while Jeremy Lalrinnunga claimed a silver. PTI



Leclerc extends Ferrari deal until 2024

Milan Monegasque driver Charles Leclerc confirmed on Monday he had extended his contract with Ferrari until 2024. "Extremely happy to announce that I will be staying with Scuderia Ferrari for five more years," the 22-year-old said on Twitter. The 22-year-old, who joined Ferrari in 2016, has impressed in his first season alongside four-time World champion Sebastian Vettel. Leclerc had seven poles and two wins at the Belgian and Italian GP. AFP



Clijsters sets return for March in Mexico

Brussels Belgian tennis star Kim Clijsters, who retired for a second time in 2011, confirmed on Monday she was making a comeback starting in Mexico (Monterrey, March 2-8). "A few more weeks of patience and I'll be ready to go," the four-time Major winner said in a video posted on social media. The 36-year-old originally planned to return in time to play at the Australian Open, but was held up by a knee injury. AFP

Peter Siddle treated for smoke inhalation

Sydney: Australia and Adelaide Strikers' bowler Peter Siddle was treated for smoke inhalation after a Big Bash League match in Canberra was abandoned at the weekend because of toxic bushfire haze.

We have talent, it should be groomed in right way: Raman

Sports should be made compulsory in the school curriculum, says Ashwin

PANEL DISCUSSION

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

Chief National badminton coach P. Gopi Chand feels winning only a few medals may not necessarily mean India will be a super power in sports.

"Only when every kid explores the boundaries when we ensure their basic needs are addressed so that they can enjoy and love any sport, we will achieve our objective," Gopi said at a panel discussion on Roadmap for India to become a super power in sports, organised by Gaudium Sportopia Centre of Excellence, which aims at integrated approach to sports

"There is a strong need to balance that point in grooming young talent."

Former National table tennis champion S. Raman feels the country badly needs infrastructure which can ensure excellence in academics

and academics. "The kind of badminton courts the Gaudium Centre here has, I have not seen them anywhere in India. This kind of infrastructure in academics and sports should be provided in schools," Gopi said.

Renowned chess coach R.B. Ramesh, whose trainees include GM R. Praggnanandhaa, said parents push their kids far in their anxiety to see them become stars overnight.

"Since there is no option, they study these subjects. "I feel sports should be made compulsory in the school curriculum as a subject to unearth talent," Ashwin said.

Passion
NBA Basketball Schools India technical director Leo Bruno

and sports and that's the reason Gaudium is one of the best things to have happened.

"Yes we have talent, it is only a question of grooming it in the right manner," he added.

India cricketer R. Ashwin felt no student studies mathematics to be a genius like the great Ramanujan or science to go to space.

"Since there is no option, they study these subjects. "I feel sports should be made compulsory in the school curriculum as a subject to unearth talent," Ashwin said.

Kirthi Reddy, Director & Founder of Gaudium Sportopia, hoped that with the involvement of these illustrious sportspersons, her dream of producing Olympic medallists will be realised.



Elite gathering: S. Raman, R.B. Ramesh, Kirthi Reddy, Director and Founder of Gaudium Sportopia Centre of Excellence, chairman Nityananda Reddy, P. Gopi Chand, R. Ashwin, Mangipudi Prasad, co-founder of Sportzlive, Leo Bruno, technical director of NBA Basketball Schools India, and Sean Jamison of Wanderers Sports Medical Centre (South Africa) at the panel discussion. ■ V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

Karthik, Adithya finish on top

Former wins senior section and the latter the junior class

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS BUREAU
CHENNAI

Bengaluru's Karthik Muthusamy and Hyderabad's Adithya Raja held their nerve to emerge victorious in their respective categories in the grand finale of the JK Tyre FMSCI National karting championship at the ECR Speedway here.

The results (championship):
Sodi Kart 4-stroke junior class: 1. Adithya Raja (Hyderabad); 2. Jasmeher Jubbal (Delhi); 3. Muska Jubbal (Delhi).

Sodi Kart 4-stroke senior class: 1. Karthik Muthusamy (Bengaluru); 2. Mohammed Ridhaf (Cochin); 3. Pratham Kumar (Lucknow).

JK Tyre 4-stroke ladies class open: 1. Tapasya Sudershan (Coimbatore); 2. Aashi Hanspal (Mumbai); 3. Isha Sharma (Ahmedabad).



On the podium: Karthik, centre, flanked by Ridhaf, left, and Pratham. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

RACING

Beyond Limits wins main event

HYDERABAD: M/s. Ahmed Alam Khan & Barkath Alam Khan's Beyond Limits (Ashhad Asbar up) won the G.V. Rao Memorial Cup, the main event of the races held here on Monday (Dec. 23). Laxman Singh trains the winner.

1 WISHFUL THINKING PLATE (1,100m), maiden 2-y-o fillies only (Cat. II), (Terms): LOMBARDY (Nathan Evans) 1, Aintree (Akshay Kumar) 2, Royal Romance (A.A. Vikrant) 3 and Mirana (Kuldeep Singh) 4. 3-1/4 and 3/4. Im, 5.42s. 37 (w), 6, 5 and 8 (p), SHP: 12, FP: 13, Q: 8, Tla: 61. Favourite: Lombardy. Owners: M/s. Vijay Rac. & Farms P.L. rep. by M/s. Vijay Kumar Gupta & Susheel Kumar Gupta, M/s. Poonawalla Rac. & Br. P. L. rep. by Ms. Simone Z. Poonawalla & Mr. Rakesh N. Pandole & Mr. Aditya P. Tharkey. Trainer: Ravinder Singh.

2 SANGAM PLATE (1,400m), 5-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III): ROYAL DANCER (Akshay Kumar) 1, All Star General (Irwan Singh) 2, Recumbentibus (Kuldeep Singh) 3 and Ultimate Risk (Ajit Singh) 4. 1-1/4, 2 and 1-1/2. Im, 28.23s. 314 (w), 6, 5 and 8 (p), SHP: 18, FP: 34, Q: 15, Tla: 94. Favourite: All Star General. Owner: Mr. Md. Junaid Ali Khan. Trainer: Ravinder Singh.

6 G.V. RAO MEMORIAL CUP (2,000m), 3-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): BEYOND LIMITS (Ashhad Asbar) 1, Artistry (Irwan Singh) 2, Mind Reader (Nakhat Singh) 3 and Pentagon (Abhay Singh) 4. 4-1/2, 2 and hd. 2m, 6.84s. 29 (w), 6 and 12 (p), SHP: 22, FP: 47, Q: 34, Tla: 74. Favourite: Beyond Limits. Owners: M/s. Ahmed Alam Khan & Barkath Alam Khan. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

7 STARRY SCENE PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), 5-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): ASHKA ASHKA ASHKA (Ajeth Kumar) 1, Marina Del Rey (Akshay Kumar) 2, Vancouver (A.A. Vikrant) 3 and Digger (Mukesh Kumar) 4. 2-1/4 and 1-1/2. Im, 11.69s. 317 (w), 7, 8 and 9 (p), SHP: 16, FP: 57, Q: 22, Tla: 108. Favourite: Exclusive Art. Owners: M/s. Rakesh R. Jhunjhunwala, Berjis Minos Desai & Ashok Kumar Gupta. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy.

8 HARDIWAK PLATE (1,200m), 4-1/4 & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): MR. SHANGHAI (Rohit Kumar) 1, Sublime (Gaddam) 2, His Excellency (Surya Prakash) 3 and Darshish (Abhay Singh) 4. Shd, 3/4 and 3/4. Im, 12.93s. 314 (w), 7, 7 and 9 (p), SHP: 18, FP: 47, Q: 28, Tla: 173. Favourite: Mr. Shanghai. Owners: Mr. Ravinder Reddy Male & Sardar Jitresh Singh. Trainer: Satyanarayana.

Jkt: ₹1,293 (403 tkt.), Runner-up: 101 (2,201 tkt.), Mini Jkt: 1,228 (51 tkt.), Tr. (i): 110 (361 tkt.), (ii): 185 (237 tkt.), (iii): 244 (347 tkt.).

4 STEP ASIDE PLATE (1,800m), 3-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): KESARIYA BALAM (Akshay Kumar) 1, Royal Treat (Nakhat Singh) 2, Lancashire (Irwan Singh) 3 and Glendale (Ashhad Asbar) 4. 5, 3/4 and 1. Im, 53s. 37 (w), 6, 6 and 10 (p), SHP: 12, FP: 15, Q: 12, Tla: 41. Favourite: Kesariya

Karnataka men defeat Uttarakhand

SPORTS BUREAU

LUDHIANA Karnataka men stunned Uttarakhand 81-57 in a Group 'A' league match of the 70th National basketball championship here on Monday.

This was a setback for Uttarakhand, which had earlier beaten Haryana and Delhi comfortably.

The results (league):

Men: Karnataka 81 (Anil Kumar 23, Issac Thomas 16, Jeetendra Singh 11, Aravind Arumugam 10) bt Uttarakhand 57 (Vishesh Bhriguanshi 26); Haryana 79 (Yudhveer 24, Abhishek 20, Vikash 12) bt Delhi 71 (K. Prachit 20, K. Vishal 17).

Services 101 (Mahipal Singh 21, Nikhil Kumar 18, Jignesh Singh 12, Lalit 12) bt Rajasthan 64 (Gaurav Chandel 15, Sharad Dahich 12).

Uttarakhand 75 (Vishesh Bhriguanshi 29, Prashanth Singh 10) bt Haryana 53 (Abhijit 26, Yudhveer Singh 14, Abhishek 11); Punjab 84 (Arshpreet Singh Bhullar 22, Amjot Singh 19) bt Delhi 63 (G. Ohlan 14, Vishal 12).

Women: Maharashtra 77 (Carina Menezes 19, Neha Sahu 18, Suzanne Pinto 13, Shreya Dandekar 11) bt Delhi 65 (Sushantika Chakravarthy 15, Tavleen Kaur 15, Princy Singh 11).

Kerala 80 (P.S. Jeena 25, P.G. Anjana 20, Stephyn Nixon 18) bt Tamil Nadu 53 (Iswarya 16, Nishanthi 12).

Madhya Pradesh 66 (Nima Doma 28, Namrata 15, D. Anjali 14) bt Karnataka 55 (Varsha Nandini 25, Lopamudra 12).

felt there is passion everywhere but sports needs to be embedded in the education system like in the US to produce champions.

Sean Jamison of Wanderers Sports Medical Centre (South Africa), which will be involved with Gauim, said in his home country, sports unites people of different races and cultures like in India.

Mangipudi Prasad, co-founder of Sportzlive which organised the PBL, anchored the debate.

Kirthi Reddy, Director & Founder of Gaudium Sportopia, hoped that with the involvement of these illustrious sportspersons, her dream of producing Olympic medallists will be realised.

Real cedes ground to Barcelona

Left to rue a slew of missed chances; Atletico back in business

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

Real Madrid was left to rue a series of near misses on Sunday as it stumbled to a 0-0 home draw against Athletic Bilbao, dropping two points below Barcelona in a tight Spanish title race.

Real also drew 0-0 in mid-week at Barcelona but Sunday's result leaves Madrid on 37 points at the half-way stage of the season, two points off Barcelona which tops the table on 39.

Toni Kroos hit the bar, Karim Benzema saw an effort cleared off the line with a back-heel and both Rodrygo and Vinicius Junior forced snap saves on a frustrating night for Madrid.

Real defender Eder Militao was forced off after being poked in the eye and his re-

placement Nacho Fernandez also hit the woodwork.

Coach Zinedine Zidane brought on Gareth Bale and Luka Jovic, but Madrid failed to find a winner.

"It was neither bad luck nor complacency," Zidane said after the game. "There's

no reason to get depressed about this, we need to keep calm and keep our heads up. We created lots of chances and if we keep going then they'll start going in.

"I feel sorry for the players. It would have been nice for them to get more;



Crucial intervention: Athletic Bilbao's Unai Nunez clears the ball from the goal line against Real Madrid. ■ REUTERS

three points from three games isn't great."

Nervy finish

For Bilbao, Kenan Kodro's thunderbolt was ruled out for off-side in the first half while the Santiago Bernabeu lived on its nerves when Athletic flooded forward deep into added time with Asier Villalibre almost scoring a winner at the death.

Earlier, Angel Correa came off the bench to score one and make another as Atletico Madrid climbed back into the top four with a 2-1 win at Real Betis.

The results:
La Liga: Real Madrid 0 drew with Athletic Bilbao 0; Levante 3 (1st 60, 70, Mayoral 90+1) bt Celta Vigo 1 (Aspas 12); Real Betis 1 (Bartra 90+3) lost to Atletico Madrid 2 (Correa 58, Morata 84).

Serie A: Sassuolo 1 (Traore 29) lost to Napoli 2 (Allan 57, Elmas 90+4).

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Memorable day for Pakistan

Sri Lanka falls to huge defeat, concedes series 1-0

SL IN PAKISTAN

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KARACHI

Teenager Naseem Shah became the youngest fast bowler to take a five-wicket haul in Test history as Pakistan completed a winning comeback to Tests on home soil with a 1-0 series victory over Sri Lanka on Monday.

The 16-year-old quick took two of the last three wickets to fall in the final day's 15 minutes of play to end with five for 31 from 12.5 overs as Pakistan sealed a comprehensive 263-run win.

The two-Test series was the first played in Pakistan since a terrorist attack on a bus carrying the Sri Lankan team in Lahore in 2006.

At 16 years and 311 days, Naseem very nearly beat the all-time mark for the youngest player to claim a five-wicket haul.

Fellow Pakistani Nasim-ul-Ghani, a left-arm spinner, was 16 years and 303 days when he claimed the honour against the West Indies in 1958.

The fifth day of the Test resumed with Sri Lanka reeling at 212 for seven chasing 476. It took less than three overs for Pakistan to wrap up the innings.

Having dismissed Dilruwan Perera with the last ball bowled on Sunday, Naseem removed Lasith Embuldeniya



Into the record books: Naseem Shah, centre, became the youngest fast bowler to take a five-wicket haul in Test history on Monday. ■ AP

ya for a golden duck with Monday's first ball.

While Naseem missed his hat-trick, century-maker Oshada Fernando fell in the next over, nicking a catch to first slip off leg-spinner Yasir Shah without adding to his overnight 102.

Naseem, playing in only his third Test, trapped Vishwa Fernando lbw for a duck in the following over to wrap up the match.

"We definitely needed that performance," said Pakistan's Azhar Ali, celebrating his first Test win as captain. "Special thanks to Sri

Lanka from the bottom of our hearts," he said.

SCOREBOARD

Pakistan — 1st innings: 191.

Sri Lanka — 1st innings: 271.

Pakistan — 2nd innings: 555/3 decl.

Sri Lanka — 2nd innings:

Dimuth Karunaratne c Rizwan b Abbas 16, Oshada Fernando c Shafiq b Yasir 102, Kusal Mendis c Azam b Naseem 0, Angelo Mathews c Rizwan b Shaheen 19, Dinesh Chandimal lbw b Naseem 2, Dhananjaya de Silva b Yasir 0, Niroshan Dickwella b Sohail 65, Dilruwan Per-

era c Rizwan b Naseem 5, Lasith Embuldeniya c Rizwan b Naseem 0, Vishwa Fernando lbw b Naseem 0, Lahiru Kumara (not out) 0; Extras (lb-3): 3. Total (in 62.5 overs): 212.

Fall of wickets: 1-39, 2-40, 3-70, 4-96, 5-97, 6-201, 7-212, 8-212, 9-212.

Pakistan bowling: Shaheen 14-3-51-1, Abbas 12-2-33-1, Naseem 12.5-4-31-5, Yasir 20-3-84-2, Sohail 4-0-10-1.

Pakistan won by 263 runs.

Olympics on Mbappe's wish list

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Kylian Mbappe is putting himself forward for the French team at next summer's Tokyo Olympics, while adding that he would not want to fight his club Paris Saint-Germain over participation.

"Playing in the Olympics, I don't control everything," he told *France Football* magazine in an interview to be published on Tuesday. "Of course I want to go, but if my club, which is my employer, doesn't want me to go, I won't force a clash. We'll soon talk about it," said the 21-year-old, who already has a World Cup winner's medal.

Broad and Archer go at full tilt

Broad and Archer go at full tilt

Coach Silverwood says they will be considered for selection

ENG IN SA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BENONI

England speedsters Stuart Broad and Jofra Archer bowled at full pace in the nets on Monday, raising hopes that they would both be fit for the first Test against South Africa, starting at Super-Sport Park on Thursday.

"They're exactly where we hoped they would be," said England coach Chris Silverwood, who said both the bowlers would be considered for selection if they continued to make progress.

Broad, Archer and left-arm spinner Jack Leach have yet to bowl in a match situation on the tour after falling ill and missing both the touring team's warm-up match.

Leach also bowled in the nets but may miss out on selection if England decides to field an all-seam attack on a ground which has not been receptive to spin in recent years.

Broad and Archer both bowled five overs at full pace in an optional practice attended by the three recovering bowlers as well as Craig Overton and Dom Bess, who arrived in South Africa on



Humming again: Jofra Archer and Stuart Broad's return is welcome news for England. ■ GETTY IMAGES

Saturday to be on standby in case the originally-selected players were not fit.

Silverwood said he did not believe it would be a gamble to pick Broad and Archer, provided they came through the next two days in good health.

"If Broadly tells me he's fit I'll believe him," said Silverwood. "He's got a lot of experience, he knows his body and he knows what he needs to do during the Test match. Jofra, too. He's had two good days and as long as his pace is up and he feels good and gets the practice he needs he'll be a serious contender."

Silverwood confirmed that there was a possibility that England would not pick a spinner. "You look at what is effective on this ground. We're not definitely going all-seam but we'll discuss it over the next few days."

Encouraging signs

The England coach said the three-day match against South Africa-A, which ended in a draw on Sunday, had been encouraging despite the absence of the three frontline bowlers. "The opposition we faced was a really good side. I think both teams came away with something really positive."

SL skipper declares Pakistan '200% safe'

Other countries should follow suit, says Karunaratne

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KARACHI

Sri Lanka may have lost the series but signed off satisfied with safety and security measures in Pakistan after the country's first home Test series in 10 years.

Captain Dimuth Karunaratne called the security for the two-Test series "200 percent" and promised to return.

Significant

The series held major significance for a host nation deprived of all forms of international cricket for almost a decade.

Pakistan had been forced to play its home series outside the country, mostly in the United Arab Emirates, since 2009, when the bus carrying the Sri Lankan team was attacked by terrorists in Lahore.



On full alert: The comprehensive security cover during the tour earned fulsome praise from the visiting Sri Lankans. ■ AFP

Six policemen and a driver escorting match officials were killed. No Sri Lankan players or officials died.

Pakistan had hosted brief Twenty20 and One-Day International engagements in the past two years, but this

first Test series required a longer stay for the Sri Lankan team, of around 15 days.

"It was 200 percent," said Karunaratne.

"The security was really good. They kept talking to us and they were right behind us all the time. We felt safe and secure. The Pakistan fans were also really good – they kept supporting us."

He said other cricketing countries could confidently tour Pakistan, he said. "What I can say is that it's really safe... it's safe to play in Pakistan."

Pakistan captain Azhar Ali was overjoyed.

"It's a great occasion for happiness for all of us that we won the series," said Azhar. "It carried great importance and was very significant because we were playing at home after a long time."

India stars for match against Hyderabad

RANJI TROPHY

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Shikhar Dhawan, Ishant Sharma and Navdeep Saini will be available for Delhi's match against Hyderabad to be played here from December 25.

The three will, however, play just this match since Dhawan and Saini will join the Indian team for the T20 series against Sri Lanka which begins on January 3.

Hiten Dalal, Shivang Vashisht, Shivam Sharma and Simarjeet Singh have been dropped from the team that was picked for the first two matches. Off-spinner Shivam has found himself sidelined even without playing a match.

Pradeep Sangwan was ruled out on account of fitness.

The team was picked by the new selection committee of Bantu Singh (chairman), Chetanya Nanda and Anil Bhardwaj.

The team: Shikhar Dhawan (capt.), Dhruv Shorey, Nitish Rana, Kunal Chawla, Jonty Rhodes, Anuj Rawat, Lalit Yadav, Ishant Sharma, Navdeep Saini, Tejas Baroda, Pawan Suyal, Vikas Mishra, Kunwar Bhiduri, Kshitiz Sharma and Manjot Kalra.



Ishant Sharma. ■ AFP

Philander to call it quits

South African speedster will hang up his boots after the England Test series

C It has been a honour and privilege to have played alongside the very best in the game as well as being part of the best test team for a number of years.



Philander. ■ AP

his country, especially in the Test format," said his former captain Graeme Smith, who is now South Africa's acting director of cricket.

Huge impact

"He has made a huge impact for the Proteas and has been at the frontline with the ball for most of his time in the set-up."

"He has given his best in every appearance and I think that how he has turned himself into an all-rounder has been particularly pleasing to watch."

"One of the many things that have stood out for me with Vern is his character, his determination and the way that he has always been up for a fight and a challenge has shown the heart of the man."

Philander reached No. 2 in the world Test bowling rankings in 2013.

Praise from Smith

"Vernon has been an outstanding performer in the time that he has represented

Ramkumar to the fore for Supersmashers

Will face off against Sapphires, which was well served by Jeevan

PRO TENNIS LEAGUE

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Ramkumar Ramanathan was in robust form as he won his singles and doubles, dropping two games in all, to power Proveri Supersmashers into the final with a 30-15 victory over DMG Delhi Crusaders in the Pro Tennis League at the RK Khanna Stadium on Monday.

Ramkumar outplayed former National champion Dalwinder Singh, and later partnered Arjun Kadhe to outgun Dalwinder and Siddhant Bantia, in affixing his mark of class on the tie.

Mastermind

In the final, Supersmashers will be challenged by Haryana Sapphires which craftily got past ARA Avengers 28-24, thanks mainly to Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan masterminding the mixed doubles with Sowjanya Bavisetti and the men's doubles with Vijay Sundar Prashanth, dropping



Crucial performance: Ashish Sinha was adjudged Player-of-the-Match in Proveri Supersmashers' semifinal victory over Delhi Crusaders. ■ KAMESH SRINIVASAN

one game in all.

Supersmashers got off to an unexpectedly good start, as Ashish Sinha tamed Kabir Hans 6-3.

The young Ashish, who does not have an AITA ranking or an ITF junior ranking, got selected for the event when he won an open tournament in a draw of 32. He played an energetic all court game to beat one of the best

juniors in the country. Daria Mishina consolidated on the start and beat Mahak Jain 6-3. She also combined with Arjun Kadhe to win the mixed doubles against Mahak and Siddhant Bantia, albeit in the tie-break. Thereafter, Ramkumar exploded into the opposition so much, that the teams decided not to play the inconsequential last rub-

ber, a doubles match featuring a former professional and a junior.

Better contested

The other tie was a lot better contested, as Nishant Dabas put Avengers ahead, and Sowjanya beat Riya Bhatia to even the score for Haryana. Thereafter, Jeevan played too good, even though Avengers stayed in the race by

winning the men's singles through Sidharth Rawat against Vijay Sundar.

Haryana did well to take an unbeatable 26-18 lead before the last rubber, in which Saurabh Singh and Suvarat Mall were the overwhelming favourites for Avengers. With two of the best teams making the final, it should be a lively affair on Tuesday afternoon.

The results (semifinals): Haryana Sapphires bt ARA Avengers 28-24 (Uddiyon Singh lost to Nishant Dabas 5-6(4); Sowjanya Bavisetti bt Riya Bhatia 6-5 (2); Sowjanya & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Riya & Niki Poona-cha 6-0; Vijay Sundar Prashanth lost to Sidharth Rawat 3-6; Jeevan & Vijay Sundar bt Poonacha & Rawat 6-1; Arjun Uppal & Garvit Gupta lost to Saurabh Singh & Suvarat Mall 2-6).

Proveri Supersmashers bt DMG Delhi Crusaders 30-15 (Ashish Sinha bt Kabir Hans 6-3; Daria Mishina bt Mahak Jain 6-3; Arjun & Arjun Kadhe bt Mahak & Siddhant Bantia 6-5(5); Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Dalwinder Singh 1-1; Ramkumar & Kadhe bt Dalwinder & Bantia 6-1).

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