FOLLOW US:
thehindu.com
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu

THE HINDU

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2019

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

DELHI
CITY EDITION
24 pages • ₹10.00

PRINTED AT · CHENNAI · COIMBATORE · BENGALURU · HYDERABAD · MADURAI · NOIDA · VISAKHAPATNAM · THIRUVANANTHAPURAM · KOCHI · VIJAYAWADA · MANGALURU · TIRUCHIRAPALLI · KOLKATA · HUBBALLI · MOHALI · MALAPPURAM · MUMBAI · TIRUPATI · LUCKNOW · CUTTACK · PATNA

FIRST SALE
15th Jan @ 12 PM
HDFC BANK We understand your world
Flat 1500 off on HDFC Bank Credit Card and CC EMI transactions. Only applicable on mi.com and Flipkart.*
*T&C apply
Available at: mi.com | Mi Home | Flipkart
Mi LED TV 4A PRO
108cm (43)
Full-HD Display
Powerful 20W speakers
₹22,999
Mi LED TV 4X PRO
138.8cm (55)
4K HDR 10-Bit display
Powerful 20W speakers
₹39,999
Xiaomi
INDIA'S No.1 Smart TV Brand*
PatchWall with androidtv | 7,00,000+ hours of content
* IDC Worldwide Quarterly Smart Home Device Tracker, Q2, 2018
** Google, Android, Android TV and Chromecast are trademarks of Google LLC

NEARBY

NSA invoked against 3 in U.P. cow slaughter case

BULANDSHAHR

The Bulandshahr district administration on Monday invoked the National Security Act against three persons arrested in connection with the alleged cow slaughtering incident in Siyana tehsil last month, officials said. Cattle carcasses were found strewn in the fields outside Mahaw village on December 3, after which a mob went on a rampage.

NATION ▸ PAGE 7

SCORE 300+ in PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION By G.Rajput
Video Lecture Series+booklets
BrainyIAS 84594-00000
www.brainyias.com Arrow Education

THE HINDU wishes its readers a Happy Pongal
There will be no issue of The Hindu dated January 16, 2019 as Pongal is a holiday
Readers can access online edition at www.thehindu.com

DELHI METRO ▸ 6 PAGES

Chargesheet filed in sedition case against Kanhaiya, 2 others

Former JNU students were accused of raising anti-India slogans three years ago

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

Three years after "anti-India" slogans were allegedly raised on the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) campus, the Delhi police on Monday submitted a chargesheet in the sedition case at the Patiala House Courts.

The case pertains to the raising of "objectionable" slogans at the event in 2016 against the hanging of Parliament attack mastermind Afzal Guru.

The 1,200-page chargesheet, along with more than 10 pieces of video evidence and testimonies of 90 eyewitnesses, was submitted to the court in a trunk at 2.40 p.m., the police said.

"Kanhaiya Kumar, Syed Umar Khalid and Anirban Bhattacharya have been chargesheeted under IPC Sections 124A [sedition], 323 [voluntarily causing hurt], 465 [forgery], 471 [using as genuine, forged document], 143 [punishment for unlawful assembly], 149 [unlawful assembly with common object], 147 [rioting], 120B [criminal conspiracy]," said a police officer. Apart from the three then JNU students, the police have chargesheeted Aqueed Hussain, Basharat Ali, Mujeeb Hussain Gattoo, Umair Gul, Muneeb Hussain Gatoo, Rayees Rasool and Khalid Bashir Bhat. They are all from Kashmir and were students, said the police.

The officer said the names of 36 others had also been put on the chargesheet, but sufficient evidence against them had not come on file so far to launch trial.

The 36 include Shehla Rashid and Aparajita Raja. They have been kept in column number 12 of the chargesheet, which said they were present during the event but the police did not have sufficient proof.

During the investigation, videos of the event were sent to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory for confirmation and after its report was received many people were questioned.

Eyewitnesses, including staff of the JNU administration, security guards at the university gate and other students, have submitted their testimonies.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10
KANHAIYA'S CHARGE ▸ PAGE 10
SEE ALSO ▸ DELHI METRO PAGE 1

On trial

Charges slapped on Kanhaiya Kumar and Umar Khalid under the Indian Penal Code

KANHAIYA KUMAR
Section 124A [sedition]
323 [voluntarily causing hurt]
143 [punishment for unlawful assembly]
149 [unlawful assembly with common object]
120B [criminal conspiracy]

UMAR KHALID
Section 124A [sedition]
323 [voluntarily causing hurt]
471 [using as genuine, forged document]
143 [punishment for unlawful assembly]
149 [unlawful assembly with common object]
120B [criminal conspiracy] | 465 [forgery]

> The chargesheet is politically motivated. We want a speedy trial in the case. We also want to see the videos placed on record as evidence by the police
> KANHAIYA KUMAR

> The move to file the chargesheet 3 years after the alleged incident is to divert the attention (of the people) before elections. We will fight it out in court
> UMAR KHALID

BJP sequesters Karnataka MLAs in hotel near Delhi

Charges of poaching from both sides raise political heat

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

BJP MLAs from Karnataka, 101 out of a total of 104, were being sequestered at a five-star hotel in Gurugram, near Delhi on Monday, with allegations of poaching of MLAs from both sides, the Congress-Janata Dal (S) and the BJP, raising the political temperature in Bengaluru.

The morning began with news that at least three Congress MLAs were in touch with the BJP, a charge denied by the BJP, and by afternoon, former Chief Minister B.S. Yeddyurappa was getting MLAs present in Delhi into a huddle and later packing them off to the hotel.

BJP MLAs who were here over the weekend for the party's national council meet and subsequent meetings on Lok Sabha poll preparedness found their trip extended, after Mr. Yeddyurappa claimed that Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy too was in touch with a few BJP MLAs who may want to jump ship. "Despite being the CM, he promised money and ministership to our Kalaburagi MLA. That's why we are showing unity. We will be in Delhi for another day or two," Mr. Yeddyurappa said.

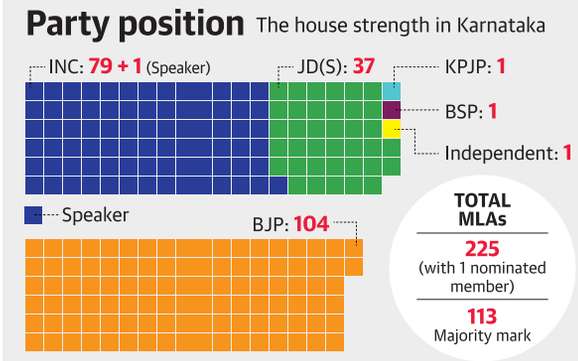
Congress sources, however, claimed that the sequestering of the BJP MLAs was going to be the precursor to the party moving a motion of no confidence in the Assembly.

Speaking to *The Hindu* from Hyderabad, BJP general secretary in charge of Karnataka, P. Muralidhar Rao said his party was "only interested in preparing for the Lok Sabha polls" and that party MPs and MLAs were in New Delhi for that alone.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10
CONGRESS JITTERY ▸ PAGE 5

Party position

The house strength in Karnataka



> I enjoy the support of 120 MLAs. The Congress MLAs have gone to Mumbai after bringing it to my notice
> H.D.KUMARASWAMY
> Karnataka CM

> BJP is not doing horse-trading. We, with 104 MLAs, are ready to work as opposition peacefully
> B.S.YEDDYURAPPA
> BJP leader

36 years on, devadasi custom still prevalent

PRAKASH KAMAT
PANAJI

More than 36 years after the Karnataka Devadasis (Prohibition of Dedication) Act of 1982 was passed, the State government is yet to issue the rules for administering the law. Meanwhile the practice of dedicating young girls to temples as an offering to appease the gods persists not just in Karnataka, but has also spread to neighbouring Goa.

Two new studies on the *devadasi* practice by the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru, and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in Mumbai, paint a grim picture of the apathetic approach of the legislature and enforcement agencies to crack down on the practice, particularly prevalent among oppressed communities of north Karnataka.

A disturbing aspect revealed by the new studies is that special children, with physical or mental disabilities, are more vulnerable to be dedicated as *devadasis* – nearly one in five (or 19%) of the *devadasis* that were part of the NLSIU study exhibited such disabilities.

ISTOCK/ GETTY IMAGES

With families' sanction

The NLS researchers found that girls from socio-economically marginalised communities continued to be victims of the custom, and thereafter were forced into the commercial sex racket. The TISS study buttresses the point by stressing that the *devadasi* system continues to receive customary sanction from families and communities.

Reporting of cases pertaining to the custom under the Karnataka law is very low, with only four cases filed between 2011 and 2017. None of these cases were filed in Ballari, where village and district authorities indicated that identifying and preventing the incidents were difficult. The law is used sparingly, and focuses on prosecution (including of the victims themselves) with no framework for rehabilitation.

Despite sufficient evidence of the prevalence of the practice and its link to sexual exploitation, recent legislation such as the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012, and Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act of 2015 have not made any reference to it as a form of sexual exploitation of children, the NLSIU's Centre for Child and the Law noted in its report.

Dedicated children are also not explicitly recognised as children in need of care and protection under JJ Act, despite the involvement of family and relatives in their sexual exploitation. India's extant immoral trafficking prevention law or the proposed Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill 2018, also do not recognise these dedicated girls as victims of trafficking for sexual purposes.

The State's failure to enhance livelihood sources for weaker sections fuels the continuation of the practice, the studies underline. More inclusive socio-economic development apart, the NLSUI has mooted a legislative overhaul and a more proactive role from State agencies.

Encounter deaths in U.P. a serious issue, notes SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday observed that a "very serious issue" has been raised in a petition seeking a CBI probe into 1,100 police encounters which have taken place in Uttar Pradesh under the Yogi Adityanath government.

The petition said the encounters killed 49 people and injured 370.

Filed by the NGO, People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), the petition termed the encounters "massive administrative liquidations".

On Monday, a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi adjourned the case to February 12.

'Endorsed by State'

The court had asked the State government to first file its response to the petition way back on July 2 last year.

The PUCL has submitted that the police encounters were endorsed by the State administration in "open defiance" of human rights and civil liberties. That is, the State machinery chose to end lives instead of bringing people for trial.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 10

Retail inflation at 18-month low

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI

Inflation in December eased at both the retail and wholesale levels, with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) recording an 18-month low, while the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) registered an eight-month low driven primarily by falling fuel prices, according to two government releases on Monday.

Retail inflation, as measured by CPI, slowed to 2.19% in December from 2.33% in November. Wholesale inflation slowed to 3.8% compared with 4.64% recorded in November.

FULL REPORT ▸ PAGE 13

VAJIRAO & REDDY INSTITUTE
India's Top Potential Training Institute for IAS
MOCK INTERVIEW CSE-2018
Under the guidance of Ex-UPSC Board members, experience Civil servants
Venue : Hotel J.P. Siddharth, 3 Rajendra Place, Delhi.
Date : 18, 19, 20 January 2019
Our Panelist for Mock Interview
Shri M.C. Gupta (Retd. IAS) Former Chief Secretary Govt. of India * Ex-members Secretary 10th Finance Commission. * Former Director of IIPA
Shri Anil K. Sinha (Retd. IAS) Executive Director National Institute of Disaster Management Govt. of India Founder Program Advisor International Recovery Platform / UNDP Japan
Prof. Rajveer Sharma (Retd. Prof. of Political Science D.U.)
Shri A.K. Upadhyay (Retd. IPS)
Prof. P.N. Mehrotra (HOD of Economics)
Prof. B.N. Mishra (HOD of Geography)
Dr. G.C. Srivastava (Retd. IAS) Ex-members Secretary 12th Finance Commission V.C. Central Administrative Tribunal
Dr. S.S. Chaudhary Vice Chairman Vajirao & Reddy Institute
A Group of Senior Ex-UPSC Board members
Salient Features
* Personality analysis by Ex-UPSC Board members & our Senior Mock Interview Experts.
* One to One Discussion on DAF. * Performance evaluation & Feed back.
* The five members interview panel with consist of Retd. Civil Servant, Ex-UPSC Board members, psychologists and subject matter experts.
* Two mock interviews and one personal sitting with our mock interview experts.
* Each mock interview will be video recorded and the same will be made available to the candidate for self analysis.
Our Super Achievers CSE – 2016-17
2 RANK ANU KUMARI IAS-2017 | 3 RANK SACHIN GUPTA IAS-2017 | 13 RANK SAGAR KUMAR JHA IAS-2017 | 20 RANK BADOLE GIRISH IAS-2017 | 2 RANK ANMOL SHER SINGH BEDI IAS-2016 | 7 RANK ANAND VARDHAN IAS-2016 | 8 RANK SHWETA CHAUHAN IAS-2016 | 16 RANK ANUJ MALIK IAS-2016 | 19 RANK SAHIL GUPTA IAS-2016 | 38 RANK SHAILENDRA SINGH IAS-2016
For Registration : Visit us : www.vajiraoinstitute.com Call : 81266-44440
For Detail Contact : 19/1A Shakti Nagar, Near Nagia Park Delhi. Call : 011-42547314, 81266-55550

INTERVIEW MODULE - 2018-19
VAJIRAM & RAVI has the Unique Record of having achieved All-India first rank in the IAS examination for 10 years successively from 1999 to 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2016 and in 2017.
INTERVIEW MODULE
2 Mock interviews and one personal sitting.
Interview panel consists of experienced civil servants and personality trainers.
Second Session begins from 22nd Jan., 2019.
Courses In January 2019.
CSAT Course 10-12 Weeks
Essay Course 8-10 Weeks.
Preliminary Test Series - 2019.
Vajiram & Ravi
(A unit of Vajiram & Ravi IAS Study Centre LLP)
For details contact
9-B, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar , New Delhi- 110 060
Ph.:011-41007400, 41007500; e-mail:vajiramandravi79@gmail.com
Visit us at www.vajiramandravi.com

© 2006-2018 Kasturi & Sons Ltd. - -Rajdhani.hansi@gmail.com -9416404242

DELHI Timings

TUESDAY, JAN. 15			
RISE	07:15	SET	17:46
RISE	12:40	SET	01:00
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 16			
RISE	07:15	SET	17:47
RISE	13:28	SET	01:58
THURSDAY, JAN. 17			
RISE	07:15	SET	17:48
RISE	14:11	SET	02:58

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	19	08
Safdarjang	19	08
Palam	19	07

Delhi Palam Today
21°C Dry weather is likely with cold morning. Day will be pleasant with poor pollution levels.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
22°C Very poor pollution to remain with shallow fog during cold morning. Day will remain pleasant.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2018
All rights reserved.

Ally woes deepen for BJP

SBSP links support to execution of OBC sub-quota in U.P.

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

In fresh trouble for the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party on Monday threatened to break its alliance and join the Opposition coalition if its demand for sub-quota in the existing OBC reservation was not met.

SBSP general secretary Arvind Rajbhar, son of the party chief Om Prakash Rajbhar, said the coming together of arch-rivals Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party in Uttar Pradesh had posed a "big challenge" for the BJP.

In similar comments on Sunday, the party chief, a Cabinet Minister in the Yogi Adityanath government, had said that the fight for the BJP will get a "little tough" in U.P. with the announcement of the SP-BSP alliance if the State government does not implement the report on subcategorisation of OBC quota.

SBSP chief O.P. Rajbhar.

Mr. Om Prakash Rajbhar has been vocal about the implementation of the subcategorisation of the 27% OBC quota into three categories, to benefit the most backward castes.

Stressing on the significance of the report, he had said on Sunday that it would decide the BJP's fate in 2019 Lok Sabha election but asked his ally to not get perturbed. "The picture is clear: if OBC subcategorisation does not take place, the fight with SP-BSP will get a little tough," the SBSP chief had said.

'Winning formula'

The leader believes that dividing the OBC quota would galvanise the most backward castes who, according to him, represent 5-8 lakh voters in each Lok Sabha constituency.

Mr. Om Prakash Rajbhar had earlier given an ultimatum to the BJP to implement the recommendations. If the BJP government does not do it in 100 days, he had threatened to contest all 80 seats in Uttar Pradesh. "I am with BJP if BJP wants to keep me with it," he had said.

(with PTI inputs)

Coercion used for toilet construction: survey

Study is misleading and does not reflect ground reality, says Sanitation Ministry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Coercion – in the form of threatened fines, shaming or withheld benefits – has been used to encourage toilet construction and usage as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission in many parts of rural Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, according to a recent survey. Dalits and Adivasis were more likely to report such harassment, it showed.

Authors of the study say such coercive methods are not just ethically wrong, but threaten the sustainability of the open defecation initiative. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has rebutted the study and *The Hindu*'s earlier report on it, questioning the survey's sample size and definitions.

The study, titled "Changes in open defecation in rural north India: 2014-2018", was released last week by the research institute for compassionate economics (r.i.c.e.). *The Hindu* had reported on its preliminary findings related to increase in toilet construction and reduction in open defecation, noting that the percentage of people who continued to defecate in the open - about 23% – remained unchanged between 2014 and 2018, indicating that the Swachh Bharat Mission's results had been driven more by toilet construction than behaviour change.

Sample size dispute

In its rebuttal, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation said that the study "grossly misleads the reader and does not reflect the ground reality." One of its main concerns was the sample size of the survey, which covered 1,558 households in 157 villages against a total population of nearly five crore households and 2.3 lakh villages in the four States concerned. "Since the SBM is the largest behaviour change program in the world, to pick such a small sample and extrapolate results to an entire State is over simplistic," it said.

"Sample surveys will always have some sampling errors, but those are quantifiable and there's a known science to it. It is non-sampling error that cannot be corrected," said Sangita Vyas, one of the authors of the survey.She pointed out that the study used sample weights in accordance with usual practice. Major surveys conducted and cited regularly by the government, such as the National Sample Survey and the National Family Health Survey, are similar sample surveys, she said.

The Ministry also raised concerns about the date of the survey – which was conducted between September and December 2018 – and the 21% of new households which were added between the 2014 and 2018 surveys.

'Limited understanding'

The Ministry added that "the report fails to distinguish between coercion and affirmative community action, like local Nigrani Samitis, or local Gram Panchayat or community level sanctions on open defecation, which reflects the limited understanding of the community approach to sanitation among the survey conductors and analysers."

While 12% of all survey respondents reported coercion in their own households, 56% were aware of some coercion in their village, said the study.

Get honoured for cow adoption in Rajasthan

To be felicitated on Jan. 26, Aug. 15

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The Congress government in Rajasthan has decided to felicitate the individuals and institutions which adopt stray cows from the cow shelter homes and elsewhere, on Independence Day and Republic Day. The orders to this effect were issued by the Directorate of Gopalan recently.

In a communique sent to all District Collectors, the Directorate of Gopalan has issued directions for honouring the individuals, donors, institutions, non-governmental organisations and social workers who adopt stray cows and make a contribution to their conservation.

The interested persons can submit their proposals to the District Collectors concerned, who will verify the claim and felicitate them with a certificate at the official functions on January 26 or August 15.

According to the orders, a cow being looked after at a cow shelter can be adopted on the payment of the specified amount and can be visited there any time. The adopted cows will be tagged by the officials of the Animal Husbandry Department. A person can also keep the adopted stray cows at his or her house.

'Motivate public'

The communique has also asked the Collectors to highlight cow protection at the meetings held for public welfare and spread awareness about the issue, besides motivating the public, charitable trusts, philanthropists, administrative officers and social workers to adopt stray cows.

The Directorate of Gauseva was established in the State in March 2013 during the then Congress regime and it started functioning in July 2013. After the change of government, the ruling BJP created a separate Gopalan Department in March 2014 and changed the name of the Directorate of Gauseva to the Directorate of Gopalan in December 2014.

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

INTER-SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY FESTIVAL

Cambridge School, Srinivaspuri, organised the 2nd edition of the Inter School Psychology Festival, 'Psy-Fiesta' on 27th November on the theme 'Childhood'. Students from schools across Delhi-NCR participated and eminent experts judged the events, namely, Photo Story Competition, Poster Making and Group Discussion. The Guests of Honour for the day were Dr. Garima Srivastava, Clinical Psychologist and Assistant Professor at University of Delhi and Ms. Yusra Khan, school alumnus, heading the NGO Yellow Street working with under privileged children. Cambridge School Indirapuram was the overall winner of Psy- Fiesta 2018.

ANNUAL DAY AT RAMJAS SCHOOL

Ramjas School, Pusa Road, celebrated their 47th Annual Day in the school premises. Shri. Sanjay Goel, Director of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi was the Chief Guest. The event commenced with lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the Chief Guest, members of the Ramjas Foundation and the school Principal Mrs. Surabhi Dua. Smt. Shubhra Gupta, Chairperson, extended a warm welcome. The school orchestra gave a musical rendition, the annual report was presented by the Principal and meritorious students were awarded. The art exhibition by the students was the highlight of the event.

CELEBRATIONS AT SPRINGDALES

The 63rd Annual Award Ceremony and Choir Presentation at Springdales School, Pusa Road, took place on 2nd December. The function was presided over by Padmashri Ms. Shovana Narayan, a Kathak dancer, Padmashri Ms. Geeta Chandran, a Bharatnatyam dancer, Dr. Rajni Kumar, Chairperson, Springdales Education Society and Dr. Kavita Sharma, President South Asian University. They witnessed a theatrical presentation titled "Shikwa, A Plaint". The students voiced their concerns on social issues of the contemporary world in the form of dialogue, music and dance.

For Subscription related queries, please contact Kapil Nagar:
Handphone: +91 98100 89457/Email: kapil.nagar@thehindu.co.in

Design Fair
10th-21st January 2019
11am to 7pm | Entry Rs. 30/-
Celebrating creative minds and new ideas
Welcome the New Year with handcrafted designer apparel, accessories, home decor, jewellery, lights, upcycled fashion accessories, organics and what not!
Exclusive collections from Kashmir, Kutchh and Rajasthan
Indian cuisine, snacks & beverages
Haunting folk music by the Manganiyars of Rajasthan
19th - 20th January 2019
Nature Bazaar Venue
Andheria Modh (on Main Road)New Delhi-110074
Tel: 011-26808633/3549 | Mob: 9910802970
www.dastkar.org | Email: info@dastkar.org
dastkarsociety | dastkar_delhi
Dastkar
Delhi Tourism

MEASLES & RUBELLA
VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

We can beat two diseases with one vaccine

Campaign for children for the age of 9 month to 15 Years starts from 16th January, 2019

अरविंद केजरीवाल
मुख्यमंत्री, दिल्ली

Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare
Shri Satyendar Jain
will launch
Measles & Rubella Vaccination Campaign on
Time- 2:00 PM
15th January, 2019
Venue: Auditorium- Maulana Azad Medical College, Delhi-110002

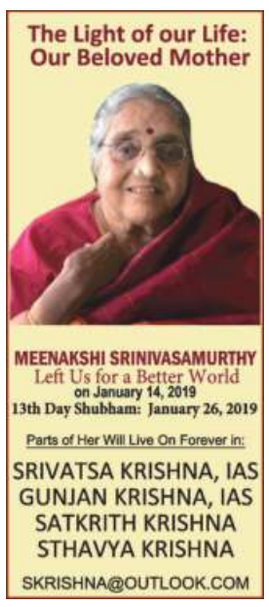
Even if your child has received Measles/ MR/MMR Vaccine earlier, get him/her vaccinated during the campaign for extra protection.

दिल्ली सरकार आप की सरकार
Directorate of Family Welfare
G.N.C.T of Delhi
Be Wise! Get your child fully immunized

Dip/Shabdarth/D/0204/18-19

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

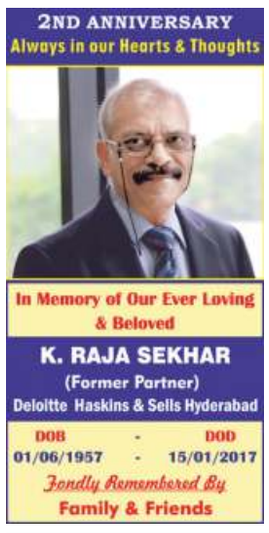


DEATH

Auditor Mr.Sundarraman Madurai aged 92 years passed away on 14th Jan 2019 at Madurai. Dathasthu at Chennai. Grieved by Nandakumar (Son), Brindha (Daughter).Contact no: 9840096336.

Mrs. BRAHATHKUJAM VENKATARAMAN (90)
of KUNNIYUR
M/o. Chandra, Mala, Rajgopal (Sekhar) & Srinivasan (Ramesh)
Attained Lotus Feet of Kunniyur Kamakshi Amman 14th January 2019, Peacefully.
Contact:
7708051854 / 7708081854.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES



For enquiries on announcements in this section, please contact our office at the following number between 10a.m. and 8p.m.
New Delhi : 011- 43579797
Rate for New Delhi:
(Minimum Rs. 290/- 2 Lines
Extra Line - Rs. 145/-)
(B/W Display): Rs.50/Per Sq.cm
(Clr Display) : Rs.60/Per Sq.cm
Log on to
www.thehinduads.com
For Placing Advertisements Online

In memory of your loved ones
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
011-43579797
from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. &
For Placing Advertisements Online log on to
www.thehinduads.com

DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by S. Ramanujam at HT Media Ltd. Plot No. 8, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. 201306, on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Mukund Padmanabhan (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
Regd. DL(ND)-11/6110/2006-07-08 • RNI No. TNENG/2012/49940 • ISSN 0971 - 751X • Vol. 9 • No. 13

© 2006-2018 Kasturi & Sons Ltd. - -Rajdhani.hansi@gmail.com -9416404242

Woman Maoist surrenders in Odisha

Debe Madhi carried a bounty of ₹4 lakh on her head; involved in several attacks

STAFF REPORTER
BERHAMPUR

A woman Maoist carrying a reward of ₹4 lakh on her head surrendered in Odisha's Malkangiri district on Monday.

Debe Madhi alias Shanti surrendered before Malkangiri Superintendent of Police Jagmohan Meena at the district police headquarters.

Madhi, a resident of Kosulkond village, had joined the Maoists in 2008. She was a member of the Gumma area committee under the Malkangiri-Koraput-Visakhapatnam border division of the CPI(Maoist).

She was involved in several incidents of Maoist violence, including at least six murders. Madhi was active in the erstwhile cut-off area of Balimela reservoir, which is now connected to the mainland through Gurupriya bridge. This bridge was a major reason behind her surrender, said the police.

New innings: Maoist cadre Debe Madhi surrendering before Malkangiri SP Jagmohan Meena. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

According to Mr. Meena, penetration and anti-Maoist operations of the security forces have increased in the erstwhile cut-off area, known as 'swabhiman anchal', because of the Gurupriya bridge. It had dented the morale of the rebels and facilitated development projects in remote areas.

Rehabilitation scheme

Madhi said that she had started realising the futility of violence by Maoists. She was frustrated because of the activities of Maoist leaders like Dhananjay Gope, who, according to her, was a womaniser and involved in many brutal killings.

The surrendered Maoist will be provided monetary assistance as per the rehabilitation scheme of the Odisha government. She will also be provided funds to build her own house and pursue studies or vocational training, the SP said.

16 puppies found dead inside Kolkata hospital, FIR registered

Initial probe suggests death due to injuries caused by beating

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Bodies of 16 puppies were recovered from a garbage dump inside Nil Ratan Sarkar Medical College and Hospital in north Kolkata.

An FIR against unknown persons has been registered under Section 429 (killing or maiming of animals) of Indian Penal Code among other charges at Entally police station. The hospital authorities on Monday set up a three-member committee to probe the matter.

On Sunday, a video of two women beating up puppies with sticks near the nursing section of the State-run hospital started doing the rounds on social media.

Crime spot identified

Dwaipayan Biswas, Deputy Superintendent of NRS Medical College and Hospital who is heading the three-member committee, said that he has been able to identify the spot in the video where the puppies were beaten up. He assured that action will be taken if any employee or student of the hospital is found involved in the crime.

Post-mortem of the puppies ruled out any poisoning and preliminary investigation revealed that the puppies died due to injuries caused by beating.

The incident has sent shock waves across the cities. Protests were organised outside the hospital where scores of animal lovers held posters and placards demanding arrest of those responsible for the crime.

This is not the first time when cruelty against dogs has come to the fore in and around Kolkata. In May 2016, a housing society in the city was accused of killing over a dozen dogs and in January 2017 carcasses of over 20 stray dogs were found at an under-construction site in Baranagar.

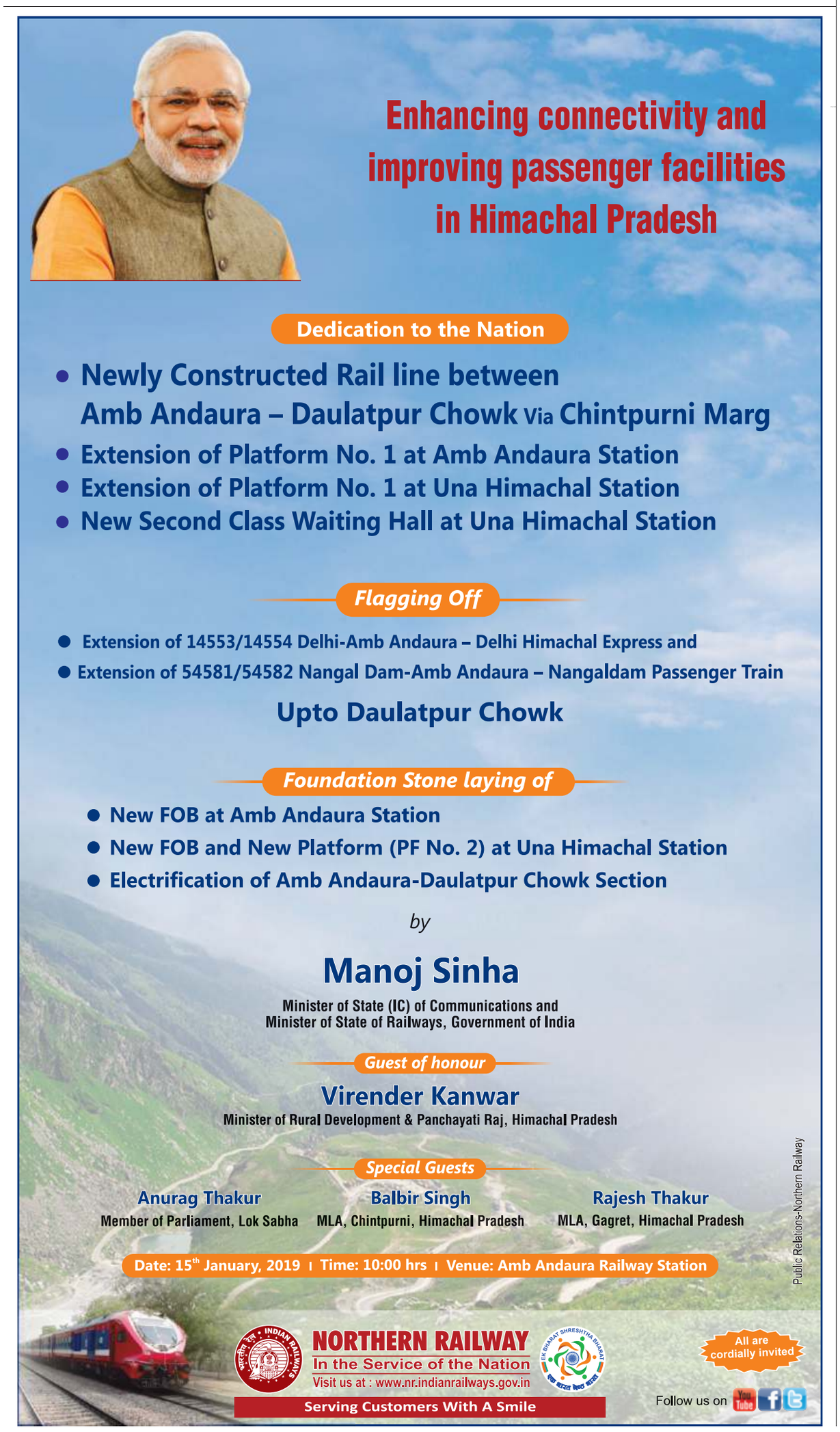
Madhabbari clashes: Sarkar demands probe

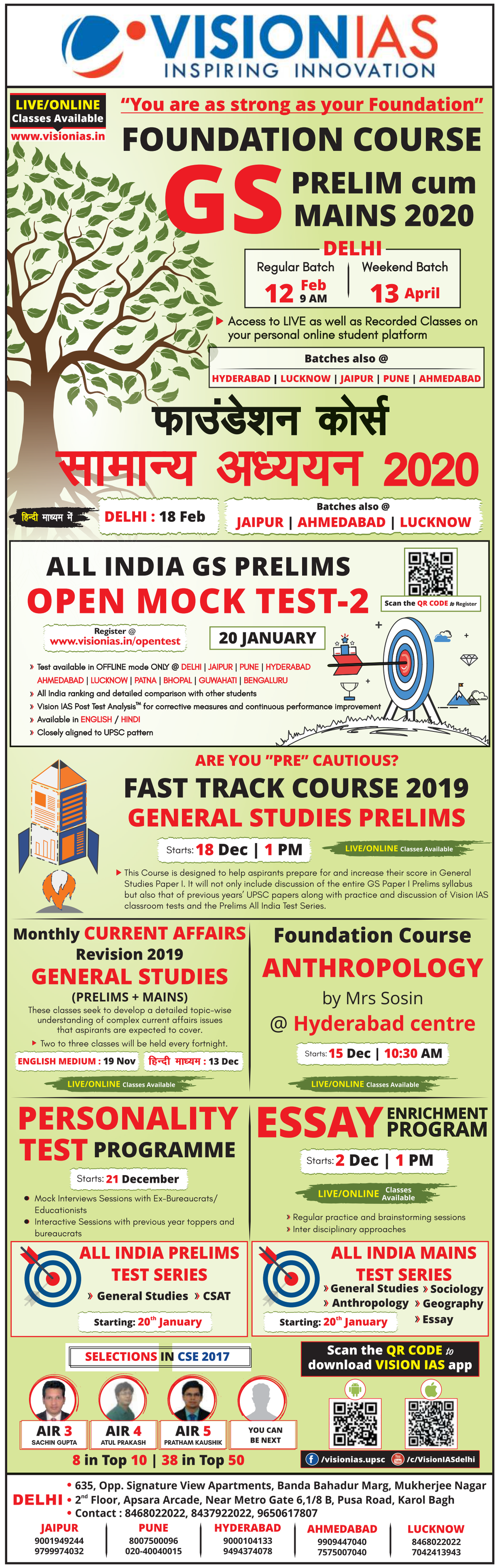
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AGARTALA

Leader of the Opposition and former Chief Minister Manik Sarkar on Monday demanded a judicial probe into last week's Citizenship Bill protests at Madhabbari in West Tripura district which left at least seven persons injured.

Police resorted to lathi-charge and opened fire in the air on January 8 to disperse agitators who had blocked highways seeking revocation of the Bill.

Criticising the police action, Mr. Sarkar said: "Firing on the protesters was not necessary.... A judicial probe should be carried out into the incident by a sitting High Court judge."





© 2006-2018 Kasturi & Sons Ltd. - -Rajdhani.hansi@gmail.com -9416404242

Govt. committed to doubling farmers' income by 2022: CM

Launches scheme to monitor farming digitally through satellite, drone

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday launched 'Maha Agritech,' a project under which area under cultivation from sowing to harvesting, climate, and diseases on crops will be monitored digitally using satellite and drone technology.

"Around 1.5 crore farmers will be brought on digital platform under this program, supported by Maharashtra Remote Application Centre (MRSAC) and ISRO. In its first stage, crop management, area under cultivation will be brought on digital platform in six districts in the rabi season. Satellite monitoring from sowing till harvesting of area under cultivation will be used to predict exact produce. It will be used to counter diseases on crops, including climate change. This will be the first project in the country under which farming will be digitally tracked," Mr Fadnavis said at an interaction, through video conferencing, with farmers from across the State in a program called Lok Samvad.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, going digital.

Mr. Fadnavis reaffirmed his government's commitment to doubling the income of farmers by 2022. "We are implementing various schemes of the central and state governments for farmers, and we are going to do it (double the income)," he said.

Amid allegations of private insurance companies, and not farmers, benefiting from the Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme, Mr. Fadnavis assured that farmers would benefit. He said that around 55 lakh farmers were given compensation worth thousands of crores under the scheme.

The Chief Minister said informed that the government has approved loan waiver worth ₹24,000 crore for the 51 lakh farmers holding bank accounts. "The government has also made available more than ₹10,000 crore fund in the budget for the current fiscal to implement various schemes meant for them," he said, adding that the government distributed compensation worth ₹15,240 crore to farmers whose crops were hit by natural calamities.

Mr. Fadnavis also told the farmers that under the Jalyukta Shivar water conservation scheme, 16,000 villages across the State had become water-sufficient.

Phones being tapped to break stir for sugarcane prices: Shetti

SSS is leading the agitation to secure full FRP for farmers

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

The Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana chief Raju Shetti, MP, alleged on Monday that the State government was tapping phones of top leaders of his party and said the agitation against sugar factory owners would continue till sugarcane farmers were paid full Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP).

"The State government is intent on breaking the protest as it is dreading the pent-up ire of sugarcane farmers. Hence, since Sunday, government agencies are tapping the phones of all top members of my organisation, including myself," alleged Mr. Shetti, stating that the police always managed to reach pre-planned 'agitation spots' before his activists did. Condemning the police 'crackdown', he further alleged that SSS workers were being taken into preventive custody while some were being compelled to go underground.

Raju Shetti, Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana chief.

Mr. Shetti's agitation to secure full FRP for farmers in the 'sugar belt' districts of Kolhapur, Sangli and Satara is directed at mills and cooperatives mainly owned by NCP or Congress members.

However, Mr. Shetti, who is backed by Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) for the Hatkanangale Lok Sabha seat (in Kolhapur), told *The Hindu* that "political considerations" were secondary to pressing issues facing farmers.

Since Friday last week, harvesting and transportation of sugarcane in the sugar districts in western Maharashtra have come to a grinding halt after farmers led by SSS activists torched a couple of sugar mills and locked the field offices of some others, demanding payment of arrears.

Four dead in SUV-truck collision

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

A Madhya Pradesh police SUV met with an accident on Monday in Buldhana district killing four civilians, and injuring three others, including two police personnel.

The mishap occurred in the early hours at Kate Phata near Malkapur town on National Highway 6, when the police team was returning to Madhya Pradesh after nabbing an accused in a kidnapping case from Akola, said Malkapur police station inspector Bhushan Gawande.

The SUV collided with a container truck, toppled, and hit a car tailing it. The deceased included three relatives of the complainant and a relative of the accused who were travelling in the police vehicle.

AURIC attracts record investment

MANUSHI KAPADIA
MUMBAI

The Aurangabad Industrial City (AURIC) project, announced as part of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor project, has attracted a record investment of over ₹36 crore, officials of the DMIC Development Corporation said on Monday.

Touted as India's first Greenfield Industrial Smart City, the AURIC has been planned across 10,000 acres in Maharashtra. As of December 2018, investors who expressed interest include global companies from the U.S., Europe, Russia, China, Japan and South Korea, said Gajanand Patil, joint managing director, Aurangabad Industrial Township Ltd (AITL). Hyosung Corporation of South Korea, is interested in investing ₹3,000 crore. The Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay will be part of the engineering and designing of the AURIC and 49% of the industrial funding will be provided by central government, officials said. The Indian companies which have expressed interest in investing here include Bajaj, Skoda India and Perkins.

Gajanand Patil, joint managing director, MIDC, in Mumbai. ▪ SUPREET SAPKAL

Ambedkar-Owaisi alliance moves to finalise LS candidates

Move to field OBCs and Dhangars could cut Cong.-NCP votes

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

The Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) – an alliance between Prakash Ambedkar-led Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangh and Asaduddin Owaisi-led All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen – has started the process of finalising candidates for this year's Lok Sabha elections.

Amid fears of loss of vote share by the Congress and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), most of the VBA contestants are expected to be from the OBC and Dhangar communities, who had sided with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2014.

However, speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr Ambedkar denied that any names have been finalised. However, he admitted to some front-runners from Nanded, Madha, and Buldhana seats. While Mr. Ambedkar will contest from Akola, his home turf, a Muslim candidate will be put up at Sangli.

Dr. Yashapal Bhinge and Vijay More, both from the Dhangar community, are likely to be candidates from Nanded and Madha constituencies respectively. Dhangars, who fall in the VJNT category, have for some years now been raising the demand for inclusion in the Scheduled Tribe category.

In a clear expression of anger against the Congress and NCP, the community went against these parties in 2014, resulting in losses at several Assembly seats to Congress and NCP and narrow victories for NCP in LS seats such as Madha and Baramati. Baliram Shiraskar, BBM's MLA from Balapur, is likely to be fielded from Buldhana. Mr. Shiraskar belongs to the mali (OBC) community.

"We have not yet finalised the candidates, but yes these names are in the discussion. The VBA is more focused on increasing its own strength, instead of cutting or helping others get votes," Mr. Ambedkar said.

Not with my clothes

Shedding for a cause: Project-affected farmers from Khandala, Kesurdi, Dhangarwadi, Shivajinagar, Morve and surrounding villages begin a march to Mantralaya on Monday to protest corruption in land acquisition for the Khandala MIDC project. ▪ MANDAR TANNU

CLASSIFIEDS MART
TO ADVERTISE:
www.thehinduads.com
011-43579738 • 43579797

EDUCATIONAL

ANTHROPOLOGY
Top 5 Highest Scores : 4 In Top 5 Ranks in Anthro
MANY OF OUR STUDENTS GOT 300+ MARKS
NEW BATCH-19TH JAN; 2PM&5;30PM
COMPLETE COVERAGE OF SYLLABUS PAER-I & II
IN-DEPTH CLASSROOM TEACHING
INTERLINKAGES WITH CURRENT CASE STUDIES
WRITING PRACTICE TESTS AFTER EVERY UNIT
DURATION TWO & HALF MONTHS + 40 DAYS REVISION CLASSES AFTER PRELIMS
BEST FOR THOSE CHANGING OPTIONAL
FOR DETAILS VISIT OUR WEBSITE : WWW.L2A.IN
RANK 03 RANK 06 RANK 07 RANK 12 RANK 59 RANK 64 RANK 93
L2A 011-25781883, 9821805141, 9868560857
Add: 98, GF, Near Axis Bank, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-60

KSG
An Institute for IAS Exam...
Proud to have INDIA's highest scorers in interview
ANY PANEL CAN IDENTIFY YOUR WEAKNESS... BUT IT IS YOUR STRENGTH THAT MATTERS IN INTERVIEW...
SCHEDULE YOUR MOCK INTERVIEW
98112 93743, 80100 23123
www.ksgindia.com

EDUCATIONAL

PRELIMS 100
A 100 days sure-shot strategy to clear IAS prelims-2019
by JIGYASA IAS
An Initiative By IIT - IIM Alumni & Ex-IAS
for more details: www.jigyasaias.com
Call/WhatsApp: 9650294824
JIGYASA IAS, 57/11, 1st Floor, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-05

ASPIRE IAS
The Name Associated with Excellence
IAS/ IFoS 2019
CRACKU-NCERT BATCH
Ensure Your Success In PT 2019!!
20+ NCERTs | Basics of GS | PT Pointers
Fees: 9990/- (Inclusive of Taxes) | ADMISSION STARTS
Batch Starting from: 19th Jan, 2:00 pm
011-25811762, 011-47561070
Apsara Arcade (Basement) Adjacent to Karol Bagh Metro Station, Gate No-7

Northeast-IAS invites application for
UPSC CSE INTERVIEW GUIDANCE PROGRAMME
Under its Mission 100 initiative at DELHI
An esteem Mock Interview panel which includes eminent IAS officers & Experts of UPSC interview process, will critically assess your personality & guide you on major short comings. Give the interview in an ambience which is akin to the actual UPSC interview with:
• Lecture Classes on Personality Improvement & Current Affairs.
• Frequently asked questions & professional answer in UPSC interview
• Video recording for self-improvements
02 MOCK PANEL SITTING + 01 PERSONAL SITTING + DAF ANALYSIS
Phase - 01 starts on Jan. 21
ONLY REGISTRATION FEE RS 500
NO FEE FOR SC & ST, LOWER INCOME GROUP
Contact: +91-7002315788, 8638987976
B-7, Allied House, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070, www.northeastias.org

EDUCATIONAL

INTERVIEW IAS / IFOS
JUST IAS, the most authentic platform for IAS/IFoS interview guidance programme announces its mock interview sessions from 19th Jan 2019.
FEATURES :
• Full fledged 5 member board
• Most distinguished panel
• Panel changes after each session
• Separate DAF discussion by S.B. Singh
JUST IAS (Brilliance with Simplicity)
011-47483148/ 9873763010
57/11, IInd Floor, Old Rajendra Nagar, New Delhi-60

CSAT
01 BASIC & ADVANCE MATHS
02 REASONING (VERBAL & NON VERBAL)
03 ENGLISH COMPREHENSION
Total Fees: 8500/- (Including Taxes) | Per Module @2000/- +GST
Batch Starting from: 18th Jan, 6:00pm
ASPIRE IAS | ADMISSION STARTS
The Name Associated with Excellence
011-25811762, 011-47561070
Apsara Arcade (Basement) Adjacent to Karol Bagh Metro Station, Gate No-7

PHILOSOPHY
CONCISE SYLLABUS, LOGICAL IN NATURE
HELPFUL IN GS (PAPER-IV) & ESSAY PAPER
BATCH BEGINS with OPEN SEMINAR
15 January 5:30 PM
PATANJALI IAS
VENUE: UNIQUE SHIKSHA
2nd Floor, 32 B Pusa Road, Opposite Metro Pillar No. 122, KAROL BAGH, New Delhi
9810172345, 9811583851

EDUCATIONAL

UNIQUE SHIKSHA
India's top-ranked* Civil Services Preparations' institute
CIVIL SERVICES PRELIMS TEST SERIES 2019
Self Study Plan, Basic Concepts & Current Affairs
25 Tests = ₹2,019/-
25 Tests' Breakup
• NCERT Basics
• Subject wise
• GS
• CSAT
Features:
Online & Offline
All India Ranking
Tests by UPSC Gurus
English & Hindi
*as recognised by Indian Education Congress Awards – 2016, '17 & '18
For Registration
www.uniqueshiksha.com/IGP2019
8287 360 360

EDUCATIONAL

NICE IAS
G S CLASSES (Pre cum Mains)
Polity, Governance, Social Justice and International Relations (GS II)
Including test series
On 23rd Jan. at 11 am
All are invited to attend 3 classes free.
Basement, House No. 59, Block No. 23, Old Rajendra Ngr., Delhi-60
Ph.: 011-47065959, 9910944333,
www.nice-ias.com; www.niceias.org

Earn while you learn! Wanted General Studies experts to. Revise and update books for competitive Exams like UPSC CSE.Email ID. drlovelytiwari@gmail.com Contact 7838043157

PUBLIC NOTICE

IT IS notified that I, Hemant Jain S/o Sh. Naresh Kumar Jain presently residing at Panchkula, Haryana, am the joint owner of property bearing no. A 352, Meera Bagh, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi. In good faith I had given the notarised power of attorney to my father to deal with the said property. It is notified that I Hemant Jain, above name, do hereby revoke the power of attorney given to my father Sh. Naresh Kumar Jain. Public is notified not to deal with the aforementioned property on strength of the power of attorney. Anybody dealing with the said property shall be doing it at his own risk and responsibility as to consequences arising thereof. Hemant Jain,Panchkula, Haryana

PUBLIC NOTICE/ LOST & FOUND

To be known to all that I (purchaser) MUSKAN SINGHAL W/o SH. GAURAV SINGHAL R/o CGHS Flat No. 107, Jai Apartment, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-85 purchaser of Property No. CGHS Flat No. 107, Jai Apartment, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-85 (Original Alloty was Asi Bai W/o Lt. Sh. Khushi Ram). That Allotment Letter & Share Certificate of the Above Said Property Document have been lost. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in the Police Station Crime Branch Delhi , NCR No.430/2014, LR No.90946/2019, Dated 6-1-2019. Any person claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possesion of original documents, may write/ contact with the above named person at above address/ phone 9910003078 with in 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

EDUCATIONAL

UNIQUE SHIKSHA
India's top-ranked* Civil Services Preparations' institute
IAS MOCK INTERVIEW 2019
Offline & Online: 16th Jan. 2019 onwards
BOARD MEMBERS:
A.K. Saxena
Ex-Jt.Secy. UPSC
A.K. Ganeriwala
Ex-Jt.Secy., Ministry of Health
Dr. Akbar Ali Khan
Ex-IPS
Arvind Mohan
Ex-DGM, UBI
Other retired bureaucrats, academicians, & behavioural experts
*as recognised by Indian Education Congress Awards – 2016, '17 & '18
For Registration
www.uniqueshiksha.com/IGP2019
8287 360 360

PERSONAL

LOST & FOUND

CBSE 10TH Certificate & Marksheet (Roll No–7178052) of Sachin Kumar Singh lost. Finders contact on 9534516060/7838702172.

BUSINESS OFFER

General meeting for formation of AOA in Sector Omicron1 120.78 Plot-01B Greater Noida scheduled on 20/1/19 at 11AM in the complex. All allotees are requested to attend.

PERSONAL

LOST & FOUND

It is notified for the information that my original Qualifying Examination Certificate of Main Secondary and Senior Secondary Examination of the year 2009 & 2012 and Roll Nos. 6103106 & 9102329 issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Name of the candidate: Sherin Koshy Abraham, Full Address: Pallathu vadakkedathu, Venmoney PO, Chengannur Via Alapuzha - Kerala, 689509. Mobile No: 9742721227, 00971524483000.

© 2006-2018 Kasturi & Sons Ltd. - -Rajdhani.hansi@gmail.com -9416404242

IN BRIEF

Woman begins trek up Agasthyarkoodam hill

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

K. Dhanya Sanal, 38, a spokesperson of the Defence Ministry in Thiruvananthapuram, created a record of sorts on Monday when she became the first woman trekker to commence a testing hike up the 1,868-metre Agasthyarkoodam hill, following the recent lifting of a ban that prevented women from trekking beyond Athirumala. It was after a three-year-long legal battle that the High Court ruled in favour of women's advocacy groups who have been campaigning for gender equality.

Shift three Gauri murder accused to Mumbai: HC

MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday ordered that three accused in the Gauri Lankesh murder case be shifted from a Bengaluru jail to Mumbai's Arthur Road prison to enable them to file affidavits and defend a petition by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad seeking their custody in an arms haul case. Justice Mridula Bhatkar gave the direction when hearing an application by the State ATS, seeking custody of the three accused — Amol Kale, Amit Baddi and Ganesh Miskin. PTI

Leopard found dead on highway in A.P.

KADAPA

A leopard was found dead at Brahmanapalle near Badvel in Kadapa district in the early hours of Monday.The wild cat might be hit by a vehicle on the Badvel-Nellore highway. The highway passing through the forest area is prone to such accidents involving wild animals. The Badvel police reached the spot and shifted the carcass from the highway to restore traffic.

Kumaraswamy confident, Cong. jittery

Congress is sending emissary to three party rebels who are holed up in Maharashtra

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Amid speculation of a switchover of sides by at least three Congress legislators, jittery party leaders met on Monday to salvage the situation, even as Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy remained confident of sailing through the purported crisis. The Congress is sending its leader D.K. Shivakumar to Maharashtra to speak to the rebels who are holed up in Mumbai.

While senior Congress leaders, including Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara, maintained that they had so far been unable to get in touch with the three legislators, rumoured to be camping in Mumbai, Mr. Kumaraswamy twice on Monday claimed that he had spoken to them, and that they had assured him they would not cause any trouble to the coalition government.

Testing times: A file photo of Karnataka Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and Congress leader D.K. Shivakumar.

Dismissing any threat to the stability of the Janata Dal (Secular)-Congress coalition government, Mr. Kumaraswamy on Monday said that he was in touch with Congress leaders Ramesh Jharkiholi and B. Nagendra, who are rumoured to be in contact with the BJP. Mr. Kumaraswamy said that he was aware of the inducements offered by the BJP and the pressure being brought to bear upon coalition party MLAs to switch sides.

Accused of poaching

While Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly B.S. Yeddyurappa accused the coalition partners of attempting to poach his party legislators, Mr. Kumaraswamy dismissed the claim and stated that it was not necessary.

Though his Cabinet colleague Cooperation Minister Bandeppa Kashempur on Monday stated that at least three BJP legislators were in touch with him for a possible cross over, the Chief Minister said in Bengaluru: "It is not necessary to poach BJP MLAs. I have sufficient numbers to run the government. The coalition government has 120 MLAs."

'Don't comment'

Meanwhile, ruling coalition coordination committee chairman Siddaramaiah is believed to have told Ministers that the BJP should not be allowed to destabilise the government. He told the leaders to refrain from making comments to the media on the saffron party's 'Operation Kamala.'

Lokayukta probe against Pinarayi

'Ineligible' aid from CMDRF alleged

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Lokayukta on Monday began an inquiry into the allegation that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan abused his position to grant financial assistance to at least three 'ineligible' persons from the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund (CMDRF).

A full Bench of the Lokayukta decided by majority vote to allow the complaint filed by public interest litigant R.S. Sashikumar.

Lokayukta Pius C. Kuriakose and Upalokayukta K.P. Balachandran permitted the admission of the charge while Upalokayukta A.K. Basheer expressed dissent.

'Money diverted'

Mr. Sashikumar had submitted in court that Mr. Vijayan and his Cabinet had in 2017 diverted money from the CMDRF to give financial assistance to the family of the late Nationalist Congress Party leader Uzhavoor Vijayan. He alleged that the CM used the emergency funds meant to mitigate the suffering of those displaced by disasters to write off the debts of the late Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) legislator K.K. Ramachandran and compensate the family of a police officer, Praveen, who had died the same year while on escort duty for CPI(M) State secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan.

The Chief Minister's decisions smacked of political favouritism, the petitioner alleged, requesting the court to disqualify Mr. Vijayan and his Cabinet colleagues from holding office, if found guilty. The special attorney for the government argued that the Chief Minister had absolute discretion to release CMDRF funds as he thought fit, if circumstances necessitated and justified such assistance.

Spiritual circuit planned to link 133 places in Kerala

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A spiritual circuit linking 133 religious places spread over 14 districts in the State has been given the nod by the Union Ministry of Tourism under the Swadesh Darshan scheme.

The proposed spiritual circuit III, the sixth project under the Swadesh Darshan scheme in the State, will get ₹85.23 crore from the Centre for upgrading infrastructure around these places of worship, Union Minister of State for Tourism K.J. Alphons told a press conference here on Monday.

The districts had been divided into seven clusters and the cluster of Alappuzha and Kottayam districts would get the highest allocation of ₹18.24 crore and lowest of ₹6.09 crore to the cluster of Wayanad, Kannur, and Kozhikode districts.

Mr. Alphons said work in the precincts of Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple at an estimate of ₹78.55 crore was over and would be commissioned by the Prime Minister on Tuesday.

'BJP will open account in State'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The BJP will open its account in the State in the coming Lok Sabha election, Union Minister for Tourism K.J. Alphons said on Monday. The people of Kerala would respond to the good initiatives executed by the Centre for their welfare, he said.

Thousands witness 'Makarajyoti'

Sabarimala 'Sannidhanam' turns into a sea of humanity

RADHAKRISHNAN KUTTOOR
SABARIMALA

Worship of the 'Makaravilakku deeparadhana' performed at the Ponnamabalamedu, a remote cliff on the eastern side of Sabarimala 'Sannidhanam', and sighting of the celestial star 'Makara', better known as 'Makarajyoti', were moving experiences for the Ayyappa devotees at the 'Sannidhanam' on Monday.

Though there was a lean pilgrim turn out on Saturday and Sunday forenoon, the 'Sabarimala Sannidhanam' was converted into a sea of humanity by Monday afternoon.

The inflow of pilgrims from Pampa due to denial of entry to the hilltop on safety grounds too has led to overcrowding of the 'Sannidhanam' by Monday afternoon.

A moment in faith: Devotees witnessing the 'Makaravilakku deeparadhana' at Sabarimala on Monday evening. ▪ LEJU KAMAL

Rooftops of many buildings and grasslands in the forests facing the Ponnamabalamedu were occupied by the devotees. Some of them even perched on tree branches to worship the 'Makaravilakku', disregarding the warnings issued by the police.

The sacred jewellery, 'Thiruvabharanam', brought from the Pandalam Palace was brought to the Sannidhanam in a ceremonial procession by 6.15 p.m. A 25-member team headed by Devaswom Executive Officer D. Sudheesh Kumar received the procession at Saramkuthi and escorted it to the temple premises.

Lenin Rajendran dead

S.R. PRAVEEN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Filmmaker Lenin Rajendran, who deftly strode the middle path between art and mainstream commercial Malayalam cinema, passed away on Monday night. He was 67. He had been under treatment at a hospital in Chennai for the past few weeks after liver transplantation.

In a career spanning over three decades, he made 15 films and a number of documentaries, which included deeply personal films like *Mazha* and *Chillu*, as well as overtly political films like *Meena Masathile Sooryan*.

Lenin began his stint in cinema by assisting avant garde filmmaker P.A. Backer.

Lenin Rajendran

Making his debut with *Venal* in 1981, he followed it up the next year with *Chillu*. The next was the quirky, but at the same time tragic, *Prem Nazirine Kanmanilla*, on a group of disgruntled youngsters kidnapping the reigning star.

HC postings: SC collegium urged to interact with candidates

This will help assess their suitability for the job, says judge

SPECIAL CORRESPONENT
BENGALURU

Justice H.G. Ramesh, seniormost judge of the Karnataka High Court, on Monday requested the Supreme Court collegium to "interact" with candidates recommended for elevation to the post of judges in the High Court, before deciding on their suitability.

He pointed out that the apex court's collegium had "not interacted with any of the candidates" recommended by the Karnataka HC collegium though it had done so with candidates proposed by other High Courts.

Customary farewell

Justice Ramesh, who is retiring on January 15, was addressing judges and lawyers during the customary farewell given on behalf of the High Court and the Karnataka State Bar Council.

Justice H.G. Ramesh

"In the interest of judiciary, this practice [interaction] requires to be followed in all cases. Personal interaction with candidates will help the collegium assess their suitability and choose the most deserving candidates as judges. This will also aid the collegium to appreciate the material placed on record relating to their suitability and to correct errors, if any, that have crept into the process of selection," he said.

Interaction will also enable the collegium to provide an opportunity to candidates, if warranted, to respond to any adverse comments against them by the intelligence bureau or the consultee judges, said Justice Ramesh.

He pointed out that even the candidates will also get an opportunity to withdraw their consent for appointment to the post on knowing the adverse comments against them.

"For all the above reasons, it will be in the best interest of the judiciary to make interaction with candidates mandatory," he said.

Being bullish

Hitting the arena: Toddlers looking at a bull during Makara Sankranti festivities in Vijayawada on Monday. ▪ CH.VIJAYA BHASKAR

Chinese 'manja' sale thrives underground

SERISH NANISETTI
HYDERABAD

A day before Makar Sankranti, the streets of Begum Bazaar, Koka ki Tatti, Gulzar Houz and Mangalhat are awash with myriad colours as display kites are plastered everywhere.

Fluttering among the kites is a pamphlet: "Ensure a safe and jail-free Sankranti". Young men throng the street loudly talking and planning which kites to buy, but missing from the street are colourful spindles of thread.

Standing by the roadside with his collection of kites is M. Ramesh. "I have purchased a dozen paper kites for ₹300. We are thinking about which 'manja' to buy. My brother has gone to get it," he says. A few minutes later, a young man returns with a small package in a white plastic bag and the brothers zip away.

While the shops are festooned with colourful kites and the wooden spindles (known as 'charaks'), the 'manja' is not to be seen. "We don't have *thangus* (Chinese 'manja')," says the owner of Satyanarayana Kites in Mangalhat.

Secret stocks

The Chinese 'manja' can be procured not from shops but secretly: a customer can buy a small spindle for over ₹300 and bigger one for ₹800. According to information, many sellers have hired separate premises to stock the 'manja' which has been banned by the National Green Tribunal as well as the Telangana government.

"There is no point in chasing these 'manja' sellers. They are procuring the goods from big dealers in Musheerabad and Begumpet. Unless they are stopped from selling this stuff, says G. Ranaveer Reddy of Mangalhat Police Station.

Actor abduction: plea for special court declined

'Set up special court for POCSO cases'

K.S. SUDHI
KOCHI

The Kerala government's request for a special court for the trial of the actor abduction case has not found favour with the judiciary.

It has asked the State government to set up a special court for trying cases related to the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act where this case could also be tried.

The State government had requested the Kerala High Court for setting up an exclusive court for the trial of the high-profile case involving a leading actor and celebrity witnesses. The State was of the view that the court should be set up for one year and the trial could be completed within the period.

While suggesting the setting up of the POCSO court, the Full Court of the Kerala High Court has also indicated that it shall refer the case, which attracted wide attention, to the new court and the trial of the case shall begin on priority basis. The Ernakulam Principal District and Sessions Judge, who is to consider the case, is yet to frame the charges in the case, judicial sources said.

The female actor, according to the police, was reportedly raped inside a moving car in Ernakulam in February 2017. The police had arraigned actor Dileep and a few others as accused in the case. Several prominent actors and celebrities from the Malayalam film industry are there on the list of witnesses in the case.

Cockfights go on unchecked in Andhra Pradesh

MLA inaugurates sport in West Godavari district

STAFF REPORTER
KAKINADA

Organisers and punters had the final say on conducting cockfights during the Sankranti festival this year too, as the game of blood was conducted in hundreds of arenas in East Godavari and West Godavari districts.

Stake amount from a few hundreds to several lakhs changed hands within no time and the prohibited gambling ('Gundata' in the local parlance) too was conducted on the sidelines of the cockfights.

People descended on the Godavari districts from faraway places like Hyderabad and Bengaluru only to take part in the cockfights and none of the organisers disappointed them, as the arrangements were on the expected lines.

Cockfights with active participation began on Monday morning with a battery of swanky cars zooming into the arenas.

No visible policing

Interestingly, the fights began with a traditional 'pooja' by the organisers. By afternoon, all the venues were jam-packed with punters and the general public. There was no visible policing at any of the arenas and even the entry of media into some venues was prohibited by the organisers concerned. A good number of arenas were arranged in the rural pockets around Kakinada, Pithapuram and Tuni, where the rush picked from the morning hours.

In the Konaseema region of the East Godavari district, at least six to eight venues per revenue mandal were earmarked for cockfights and the ones located at Amalapuram, Sakurru Gunnepalli and Allavaram were said to be 'reserved' for punters who put their stakes in lakhs of rupees. These high-end venues were also there in West Godavari district located in and around Gundugolanu and Bhimavaram. Besides supplying liquor and non-vegetarian food to the high-end punters, the organisers also take precautions such as arranging a medical practitioner near the gallery to provide first aid to the birds that suffered knife injuries.

Game of blood: A cockfight in progress in West Godavari district. ▪ A.V.G. PRASAD

While business people had already made their presence felt, a few personalities from the Telugu film industry were expected to join the activity by Tuesday.

A political touch was given to the cockfights in West Godavari district with Undi MLA Vetukuri Sivarama Raju formally inaugurating cockfights at Undi.

Interestingly, not many elected representatives came forward to pose for photographs and gave video bytes to the media this year as the general elections were approaching fast.

In Bhimavaram town, fans of Telangana politician Talasani Srinivasa Yadav arranged banners welcoming him to the Sankranthi festivities. Mr. Yadav is scheduled to have a darshan of local deity Mavullamma and take part in the festival celebrations on Tuesday. The grape wine has in that several politicians from Telangana would take part in the cockfights in the Godavari districts in the next two days.

© 2006-2018 Kasturi & Sons Ltd. - -Rajdhani.hansi@gmail.com -9416404242

IN BRIEF

Will consider 13-month salary for cops: CM Das

JAMSHEDPUR

Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das on Monday assured the State's policemen that their long-standing demand for one month's additional salary in a year would be looked into soon. Mr. Das made the assurance while inaugurating a police central canteen at the Police Control Room in Sakchi. PTI

Fire at Kumbh Mela site after cylinder explodes

PRAYAGRAJ (U.P.)

A cooking gas cylinder exploded in a tent at the Digambar Ani Akhara at the Kumbh Mela site here on Monday, triggering a massive fire, prompting Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to direct officials to compensate the loss immediately. No one was injured in the incident. PTI

Cong. issues show-cause notice to Zira legislator

CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Congress has issued a show-cause notice to its MLA Kulbir Singh Zira, a few days after he boycotted an oath-taking ceremony of newly elected village heads in protest against "no action" being taken against bootlegging in Ferozepur district, a party functionary said on Monday. PTI

NHRC notice over girl 'delivering' at school

NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission sent a notice to the Odisha government on Monday over reports that a 14-year-old girl delivered a baby in a State-run tribal school hostel in Kandhamal, officials said. Reportedly, after the delivery, the girl, along with her newborn, was "driven out" of the hostel. The infant later died at a hospital. Four school officials have been suspended. PTI

Naveen in overdrive to ensure a fifth consecutive term in office

Announces sops for women, farmers ahead of Assembly, LS polls in Odisha

PRAFULLA DAS
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister and Biju Janata Dal president Naveen Patnaik is leaving no stone unturned to win the upcoming Assembly and Lok Sabha elections and ensure a fifth consecutive term in office.

Making an entry into politics with his election to the Lok Sabha in 1997 in a bypoll that was necessitated following the death his father Biju Patnaik, Mr. Patnaik continues to maintain his popularity by focussing on pro-poor issues since he first took charge as Chief Minister in March 2000.

The BJD that Mr. Patnaik founded in December 1997 has won majority in all elections held in the State so far. But with many of his party's Lok Sabha members, Ministers and legislators facing anti-incumbency this time round, he is working overtime to continue the winning streak in the coming polls.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik releases a commemorative postage stamp in Bhubaneswar on Monday. • PTI

Mr. Patnaik has already announced a series of sops for women self-help groups, Anganwadi workers and other sections of society. Among other things, he has announced interest-free loans of up to ₹3 lakh for SHGs which will benefit about 70 lakh women who are members of six lakh SHGs existing under the Mission Shakti programme he launched 18 years ago.

The Chief Minister has also taken up the issue of 33% reservation for women in Parliament and State Legislatures at the national level in a big way.

As farm distress remains a major issue, Mr. Patnaik has recently implemented the Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation scheme amounting to ₹10,000 crore to accelerate agricultural prosperity in the State and to reduce poverty. He himself visited a KALIA helpline centre a few days ago and ordered that the centre should remain open 24x7.

'Popularity intact'

According to political analysts, the BJD may easily manage to win yet another term as Mr. Patnaik's popularity is still intact and the two major parties - the Congress and the BJP - could never join hands to put up a joint fight. The two parties may end up fighting for the number two position.

In fact, the BJD's equidistance from the Congress and the BJP has been working fine for Mr. Patnaik since he ended his nine-year-long alliance with the saffron party before the 2009 elections.

Badal accuses Congress of colluding with anti-Sikh forces

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Former Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal on Monday accused the Congress of colluding with anti-Sikh forces in an attempt to assume control of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee and other Sikh institutions.

"During 80 years of my long political stint I have learnt that the Congress party is the biggest enemy of Punjab and Sikhs. The Congress was trying to grab control of our 'gurdhams' by instigating the Sikhs against each other but the Modi-led government fulfilled a long-pending desire of every Sikh to have hassle-free access to the Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara," said Mr. Badal at a rally in Muktsar.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Dense fog at isolated places likely during morning hours over Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	26.8	10.4	Kozhikode	–	33.9	22.4
Ahmedabad	–	27.0	13.4	Kurnool	–	32.5	17.3
Aizawl	–	27.5	–	Lucknow	–	23.6	10.8
Allahabad	–	24.6	9.0	Madurai	–	32.3	21.7
Bengaluru	–	29.3	14.5	Mangaluru	–	36.2	20.2
Bhopal	–	25.0	9.8	Mumbai	–	33.3	15.1
Bhubaneswar	–	30.7	13.4	Mysuru	–	29.6	10.7
Chandigarh	–	20.2	5.3	New Delhi	–	19.5	8.0
Chennai	–	29.6	20.9	Patna	–	24.2	10.8
Coimbatore	–	30.6	19.0	Port Blair	–	29.8	25.2
Dehradun	–	22.2	5.1	Puducherry	–	29.9	19.4
Gangtok	–	13.2	5.4	Pune	–	29.6	10.7
Goa	–	34.3	19.2	Raipur	–	26.4	16.6
Guwahati	–	26.5	10.5	Ranchi	–	23.5	12.6
Hubballi	–	29.0	17.0	Shillong	–	15.6	5.8
Hyderabad	–	29.6	15.7	Shimla	–	11.9	1.0
Imphal	–	21.7	4.9	Srinagar	–	7.1	-6.4
Jaipur	–	20.6	7.0	Trivandrum	–	32.7	22.2
Kochi	–	31.0	22.0	Tiruchi	–	31.7	20.0
Kohima	–	17.5	4.6	Vijayawada	–	29.6	18.1
Kolkata	–	26.4	14.1	Visakhapatnam	–	28.4	19.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	51	.82	.25	144	–	
Bengaluru	10	.63	.37	140	.114	
Chennai	24	.18	.30	148	–	
Delhi	27	.49	.50	290	.223	
Hyderabad	.9	.48	.25	158	–	
Kolkata	31	.97	.12	417	.369	
Lucknow	16	.43	.52	328	–	
Mumbai	33	.50	101	132	.164	
Pune	56	.10	.55	168	.136	
Visakhapatnam	47	109	.90	348	.273	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Muzaffarpur, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 401 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Khanna, Punjab recorded a healthy AQI score of 51

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

SO_2: 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_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

CAG report points to anomalies in Madhya Pradesh tribal schools

Uncovers submission of fictitious utilisation certificates

ANUP DUTTA
BHOPAL

Residential schools and hostels for Scheduled Tribes run by the previous BJP government in Madhya Pradesh have come under the scrutiny of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

In a report tabled in the M.P. Assembly, the CAG report for 2012-13 to 2016-17 blamed the Commissioner, Tribal Development, for submitting fictitious utilisation certificates amounting to ₹113.84 crore in respect of grants-in-aid received from the Union government during the same period.

It also noted large-scale advances of ₹30.69 crore released to 18 District Collectors, which remained unutilised till August 2018.

The CAG spoke about tests it conducted in Dhar, Mandla and Shahdol districts to detect ₹6.03 crore advances, but was unable to trace them.

In the voluminous report, the CAG found that residential schools, hostels were deficient in infrastructure such as inadequate accommodation for inmates as well as staff, toilets, dining space, library and sports material.

The CAG noted that under the Eklavya Model Residential School scheme, 29 schools were set up to provide quality education to ST category students from Classes VI to XII, but shortage of teachers adversely affected the quality of education. Moreover, the overall pass percentage of Class XII students in EMRS was extremely poor.

However, the State BJP said some of the findings of CAG may not be true. Not all figures mentioned in the CAG report are relevant, Madhya Pradesh BJP spokesperson Rahul Kothari told a news channel.

Joshi likely to be Speaker of Rajasthan Assembly

Election to be held on January 16

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR

Senior Congress leader C.P. Joshi is set to be the Speaker of the 15th Rajasthan Assembly, party sources said on Monday.

The election of the new Speaker will be held on January 16 and Governor Kalyan Singh will administer the oath of office on the same day, they said.

Nathdwara constituency

Mr. Joshi, 68, has been elected from the Nathdwara Assembly constituency. He was the Member of Parliament from Bhilwara in the 15th Lok Sabha and had served as the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, and Panchayati Raj from 2009 to 2013.

Kataria takes oath as pro tem Speaker

JAIPUR

Senior BJP MLA Gulab Chand Kataria took oath as the pro tem Speaker of the Rajasthan Assembly on Monday. He will conduct the first meeting of the 15th Assembly beginning Tuesday. Once a new Speaker is elected, Mr. Kataria, who was the Home Minister in the previous government, will be the Leader of Opposition, while Rajendra Rathore will be his deputy (LoP) in the House. PTI

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

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT
Mr. N SELVA KUMAR
PH: 98203 50726
selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in
Mr. GAURAV SEHGAL
PH: 98110 06590
gaurav.sehgal@thehindu.co.in
THE HINDU

U.P. RAJKIYA NIRMAN NIGAM LTD.
(ISO 9001:2008 Certified Company)
Visheshwaraiya Bhawan Gomtinagar, Lucknow
No. 92/ GMEZ-3/E-Tender/ RNN/2019 Dt: 12.01.2019
E- Tender Press Notice
E-Tender for **(1) Supply and Laying of Alternative demand for Electric Supply at S.N. Medical College Agra (2) Gaynee O.T. and its associated work in Medical College Meerut (3) Internal Electrification of S.V.B.P. Hospital Building in Meerut (4) Internal Electrification of College and Administrative Building in LLRM Medical College Works.** Details are available at website **www.etender.up.nic.in**. This E-Tender Notice shall be valid for a period from **12.01.2019 to 31.01.2019.** Prospective bidders are requested to keep visiting the above website and UPRNN website www.uprnn.co.in. No further notice shall be published in newspaper during the period.
(S.K. Srivastava)
General Manager (E)

UTTAR PRADESH RAJKIYA NIRMAN NIGAM LTD.
NOTICE NO- 406/UI(E)/EUZ/BRD/CSSD/RNN/19 DATED -10.01.2019
Notice Inviting e-Tender
The Unit Incharge, Electrical Unit -2 Inviting for and on behalf of Managing Director U.P. Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd. online percentage rate bids in two bid system for the following work :-

Sl.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Bid Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs)	NIT No.
1	Design S/I/T/C of CSSD Gorakhpur	162.62	3.24	406/UI(E)/E.U.Z./ BRD/CSSD /RNN/19, dt. 10.01.2019

The Bid forms and other details can be obtained /downloaded from the website : http://etender.up.nic.in The Press Notice is also available on http://www.uprnn.co.in
Unit Incharge, Electrical Unit

CLASSIFIEDS MART
TO ADVERTISE:
www.thehinduads.com

TENDERS

KERALA STATE CENTRE FOR ADVANCED PRINTING AND TRAINING
Head Office Complex, Vattiyoorkavu, Thiruvananthapuram Ph: 2365678, 2365415
E-TENDER NOTICE
No. Capt/7300/18-19/MTL 14.1.19
e-Tenders (Tender no.182/18-19) are invited from the reputed paper dealers/suppliers/mills for the supply of 500 MT 80 gsm 76 cm (TNPL or equivalent)reel paper through online e-tender id 2018_CAPT_256957_2. Due date and time of tender/bid submission(online) 17.01.2019 upto 11.00 AM. For detailed information log on the website:
https://etenders.kerala.gov.in & **www.captkerala.com.**
Sd/- MD,C-apt

KERALA STATE DRUGS & PHARMACEUTICALS LTD.
(A Government of Kerala Undertaking)
Kalavoor P.O, Alappuzha, Kerala-688522. Tel: 0477 2258184
website: www.ksdp.co.in e-mail: ksdpproject@gmail.com
Online global e-tenders is invited for :-

Item Name	Tender ID	Last dt.	Opening Dt.
"Supply, Erection, Commissioning and Validation of Aseptic Blow Fill Seal packaging Machine on Turnkey Basis"	2019_ksdp _260256_1	25.01.19 3.00 pm	28.01.19 3.30 pm

For more details regarding tender description, please visit the web site www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Details/Amendments/Modifications/retenders can be seen only in the websites
Pre-bid meeting on 17-01-19, 2.30 pm
Sd/- Managing Director

PUBLIC NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Arjun Singh Bhati S/o Sh. Vishambhar Singh R/o H.No-B-18, Trikha Colony, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, have served all their relations from my son Siddhant Bhati, Daughter in law Gayatri Devi alias Sonam debarred from all movable & immovable properties of due to his misbehavior misconduct & disobedient attitude with me and my family members. That if, any known or unknown person deals with them financial, non-financial or personal, he/ she himself/herself will be responsible for the same. I shall not be held responsible for any acts done by them above in future.

NOTIFICATION
General Public is hereby informed that we M/s H.S. Engineering & Marketing Services having its Registered office at 204, Sumer Kendra, Behind Mahendra Towers, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai 400018 have lost the Original Sale Deed bearing Vasika No. 26, Dated 05/01/1998 dully registered in the office of Sub – Registrar Kapashera, New Delhi for Our Property i.e Entire Second Floor in Building No. 73 - C, Block - B2, Admeasuring 125 Sq. Yards in Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi. If anybody found the same please inform to Sh. K. Joy Kutty (GM) at 011 – 26105473 & 09313007463. Any use of the above mentioned Original Sale Deed by anyone shall be treated as illegal.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I was previously known as Laxmi Thapa, D/o Late Shri Budhiman Thapa, R/o H. No. 77, I-Block, Mangolpuri, New Delhi-110083, and after undergoing Gender Transition therapy under the supervision of registered medical practitioner in New Delhi have changed my gender as male. I henceforth be known as Saiman Thapa, S/o Late Shri Budhiman Thapa, R/o H. No. 77, I-Block, Mangolpuri, New Delhi-110083. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in the connection.
LAXMI THAPA

THE HINDU
LET US KNOW YOU BETTER
Your feedback is valuable to us.
Please scan the QR code or visit
www.thehindu.com/feedback
You may call us at toll free 1800 3000 1878 or write to us at customercare@thehindu.co.in

noida
New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar, (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official **website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com & http://etender.up.nic.in** Please ensure to see these website for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.
(1) Job No.- 11/ E-TENDER /SPO/ 2018-19, Name of Work - Supply of Printing & Stationary Items, NOIDA, Estimated Rs. 2150480.00..
Which can be uploaded by date 28.01.2019 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 30.01.2019 11.00 AM.
Office:- Sector-39, Noida
Store Purchase Officer, NOIDA
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Sher-i- Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences,
Department of Materials Management (Imports Section)
Soura, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir 190011
E-mail: ammoimports@skims.ac.in, Fax No: 0194-2403403
eNIT No: SIMS-324-NIT 02 (Imports) Of 2019, Dated: 09.01.2019
Subject: Abbreviated Notice Inviting Tenders for Supply, Installation , testing & Commissioning of Cell Separator (Apheresis Machine) for Medical Oncology & Cl. Hematology SKIMS (01 each)
On behalf of the Governor of Jammu & Kashmir State through Director, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Soura, Srinagar e-tenders are invited from the original Manufacturers/their Indian subsidiaries/Indian Agents on the authorization of principal manufacturers / Indian Subsidiary if 100% subsidiary of foreign principals 9for imported equipment) and manufacturers their authorized dealers for the J&K State (for indigenous equipment) for supply, installation, testing & Commissioning of Cell Separator (Apheresis Machine)

Name of the Item	Qty	Tender Fee	EMD
Cell Separator (Apheresis Machine)	32 Units	2000/-	Rs. 120,000/-

The detailed tender document is available on www.jktenders.gov.in & on SKIMS website www.skims.ac.in & the NIT schedule is as following:

Last Date for submission of online bids	02.02.2019 upto 4.00 PM
Opening of technical bids	05.02.2019 at 12.30 PM

Complete bidding process will be online on e-tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in & the tenders should be submitted strictly in accordance with the provisions of the detailed NIT.
Sd/-
Asstt. Materials Management Officer, Imports SKIMS.
No: SIMS - 2495 Dated:- 11.01.2019

Brand connect initiative
A step towards a cleaner India
From reaching the pinnacle of the armed forces, Col. Yogesh Arya moved to experimenting composting and other waste management activities. It was during the Bhuj earthquake in 2001 that his inclination towards social work gathered momentum. After leaving the forces, Col. Yogesh was involved in the army's social work scheme for the jawans. At the camps, the leftover food was used in the gardens after a vermiculture process.
After moving to Hyderabad, he began working on lake restoration projects in and around the city facilitated through Environmentalist Foundation of India. Along with continuing to do so, he also provides assistance during government clearances, which is usually a time-consuming process.
He is currently working at a telecom company. With this sector comes high consumption levels of energy caused by mobile towers. Col. Yogesh has been looking at ways to reduce the energy produced with alternate options. "Now, I'm looking at shifting from coal to bio mass in association with the Punjab Government," he adds.
"The biggest challenge in India is that we do not segregate our waste right at the source. There would be minimal to no waste if segregation took place and in turn create opportunities to make something out of waste too! Carrying eco-friendly shopping bags will remain to be the first step towards reducing plastic and urging fellow citizens to do the same will impact a larger crowd thereby increasing awareness. "A visible change would come about if the government banned manufacturing of plastic," he adds.
THE HINDU #UNDERMYWATCH I WILL BE A RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN
Under My Watch is an initiative by *The Hindu* that celebrates conscious and responsible citizens who make India better, one small act at a time. Tell us your story and get a chance to be featured in *The Hindu*
SUBMIT STORIES AT WWW.THEHINDU.COM/UNDERMYWATCH

Want practice tests for JEE(Main) & NEET?
empower MOCK TEST SERIES
BY
THE HINDU GROUP
Register for two scheduled online mock tests to get full and subject wise practice tests for your preparation
All India Online Mock Test Series for JEE(Main) & NEET
https://empower.thehindu.com
Knowledge & Platform Partner EMBIBE

A GREETING TO REMEMBER
Be it a birthday, an anniversary, an academic accomplishment or even a promotion. Now you can surprise your loved ones by wishing them on
CLASSIFIEDS
For more details, email: classifiedscustomercare@thehindu.co.in
Contact Toll Free Number: 180030700404
For Placing Advertisements Online, Log on to www.thehinduads.com

© 2006-2018 Kasturi & Sons Ltd. - -Rajdhani.hansi@gmail.com -9416404242

IN BRIEF

Petrol, diesel prices go up again

NEW DELHI

Petrol price breached the ₹70 a litre-mark in Delhi on Monday after rates were hiked for the fifth consecutive day on rising input cost. Petrol price was raised by 38 paise per litre and diesel by 49 paise a litre, according to a notification issued by state-owned oil firms. In Delhi, petrol now costs ₹70.13 a litre and diesel is priced at ₹64.18. PTI

Star Air to begin operation on January 25

MUMBAI

Star Air India, which received its scheduled commuter airline permit last week, will start operating flights from January 25. Owned by Kolhapur-based gutka and pan masala 'king' Sanjay Ghodawat, the airline will begin with flights on two routes — Bengaluru-Huballi and Huballi-Tirupathi.

Ravi Shankar Prasad admitted to AIIMS

NEW DELHI

Union Minister of Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad was admitted to AIIMS on Monday evening, hospital sources said. Mr. Prasad is learnt to have arrived at the hospital around 8 p.m. The Minister is admitted to the pulmonary medicine department, sources said. "He is under observation," a source said. PTI

Maneka Gandhi bats for organic farming

CHANDIGARH

Union Minister Maneka Gandhi on Monday said there was a need for promoting organic farming in the country for a better, healthy and environment-friendly lifestyle. "Encouraging women farmers and entrepreneurs with a well-knit marketing infrastructure for organic farm products is all the more important," she told reporters here, on the concluding day of the sixth 'Women of India Organic Festival'.

Bhima-Koregaon case probe getting bigger and bigger: SC

Bench led by CJI Ranjan Gogoi refuses to quash FIR against accused person

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Noting that the Maharashtra Police investigation into the Bhima-Koregaon case is "getting bigger and bigger," the Supreme Court on Monday refused to quash a First Information Report (FIR) against an accused person in the case.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi, however, granted accused activist Anand Teltumbde protection from arrest for four weeks in order for him to apply for regular bail.

Mr. Teltumbde moved the apex court after the Bombay High Court, on December 15, dismissed his petition for protection from arrest.

In September last year, the Supreme Court had, in a majority judgment, upheld the legality of the Maharashtra Police probe and arrest of five activists for alleged Maoist links in the aftermath of the Bhima-Koregaon violence. Poet Vara Vara Rao, lawyer Sudha Bhardwaj, and activists Arun Ferreira, Vernon Gonsalves and Gautam Navlakha were arrested by the Maharashtra Police as part of a pan-India crackdown and raids held on August 28. Mr. Teltumbde's premises were also searched.

The majority opinion of the Supreme Court had held that the arrests were not an attempt to silence dissenting voices in the country.

It had given the go-ahead to the Maharashtra Police to pursue the case against the five activists under the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, but allowed the house arrests of the five to continue for four weeks. In October, the apex court dismissed a review petition.

A file photo of activist Gautam Navlakha.

Judgment reserved

The apex court has also recently reserved judgment on a petition filed by the Maharashtra government against a Bombay High Court decision refusing the State police a 90-day extension to complete its investigation and file a chargesheet against lawyer Surendra Gadling, Nagpur University professor Shoma Sen, and activists Sudhir Dhawale, Mahesh Raut and Rona Wilson, in connection with the Bhima-Koregaon case.

They were arrested on June 6 by the Pune Police. They were charged with various provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, and the Indian Penal Code.

HC extends Navlakha's protection from arrest

MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday extended protection from arrest of activist Gautam Navlakha till February 18 in the Bhima-Koregaon case. A Division Bench of Justices B.P. Dharmadhikari and Revati Mohite-dere was hearing a plea by Mr. Navlakha urging the court to quash the FIR filed against him by the Pune Police.

'If you want to be friends, even one reason is enough'

People of India, Pak. should realise common threads: Haqqani

STAFF REPORTER
CHENNAI

Former Pakistan diplomat and journalist Husain Haqqani on Monday said the people of India and Pakistan must realise the common threads between them and not hold America responsible for the animosity between the two neighbours in the subcontinent.

Asked during a discussion on 'Why India and Pakistan can't be friends' at *The Hindu* Lit for Life Festival in Chennai – moderated by the paper's Diplomatic Affairs Editor Suhasini Haidar – if people-to-people ties could indeed change the foreign policy standoff between the two countries, he said, "We should make it happen."

Elaborating, he said, "People should realise common threads. Country and civilisation are two different things. And you have to acknowledge all elements of the civilisation. Indian civilisation is not a Hindu or a Muslim civilisation. It is a civilisation of everybody constituting India. Civilisations evolve. We cannot say it was born 5,000 years ago. It has transformed over time."

Exchanging views: Husain Haqqani speaking with Suhasini Haidar, Diplomatic Affairs Editor of *The Hindu*. ▪ R. RAGU

U.S. role

Mr. Haqqani added: "Hostility between two countries could be fanned, facilitated, and it can be financially and militarily supported by somebody else. But, it cannot be fostered by somebody else. By arming the Pakistani militarily and providing the resources, the U.S. has probably heightened its own instincts. It is not fair to say the U.S. has kept us enemies."

Speaking about the Kashmir issue, he said, "If you want to fight, you can find a dozen reasons. If you want to be friends, even one reason is enough. In 1963, the biggest offer was made to Pakistan...which was 5,400 square miles more territory in Kashmir. A negotiation by definition is meeting halfway. In the end, there will be a negotiation."

He said that he hoped India and Pakistan will have open borders one day, making the borders irrelevant.

Community celebration

Fishing fun: Villagers taking part in community fishing on the eve of the Magh Bihu festival on the outskirts of Guwahati, Assam, on Monday. The festival, marking the end of the harvesting season, is celebrated with lavish feasts and bonfires. ▪ RITU RAJ KONWAR

Millions flock to Sagar Island in Bengal for Makar Sankranti

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Close to 26 lakh devotees have arrived on Sagar Island to take a holy dip at the confluence of the Ganga and the Bay of Bengal on occasion of Makar Sankranti, senior West Bengal Minister Subrata Mukherjee said on Monday.

Mr. Mukherjee, who has been camping on the island about 130 km from Kolkata, overseeing the arrangements for the event, said with a few lakh people en route to the island, the number of pilgrims will cross 3 million by Tuesday. According to priests at the Kapil Muni temple on the island, the auspicious time for the holy dip is from 6 p.m. on Monday to 6 p.m. on Tuesday.

Seeking blessings: Devotees offering prayers at Sagar Island near Kolkata on the eve of Makar Sankranti on Monday. ▪ AP

Over 10,000 police personnel, 20 drones, 800 CCTV cameras and even helicopters have been deployed to keep an eye on the devotees. Arrangements have been made to ensure that the Gangasagar Mela is a clean, 'Nirmal Mela'. Plastic has not been allowed; arrangements have been made to ensure flowers and other biodegradables are not allowed in the water.

Helping build urban houses faster, cheaper

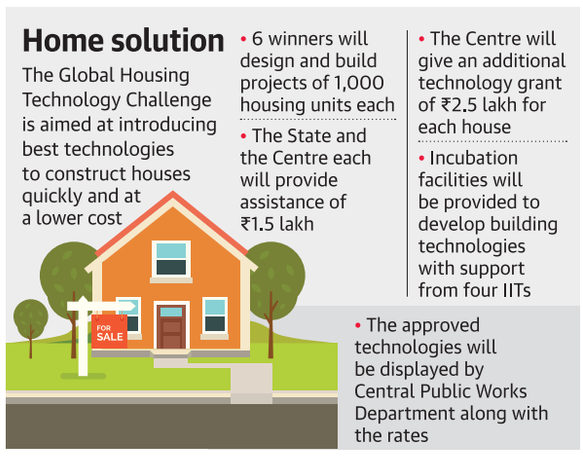
Tech innovation grant of ₹2.5 lakh planned for 6,000 lighthouse units

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

The Centre will offer about ₹150 crore as a technology innovation grant to build 6,000 homes – cheaper, faster and better – using alternative technologies and materials under the Global Housing Technology Challenge launched on Monday.

However, the challenge may not do much to actually speed the pace of construction under the urban section of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana or Housing for All, which has completed just over 10% of its target as the scheme reaches its halfway point.

"We cannot meet urbanising India's housing needs with existing technologies," said Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, pointing out that most Indian developers take three years to complete a project. "Houses must be completed in four to five months time. What we need is not technology leapfrogging, but pole-vaulting."



After a global expo and conference in March, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs will invite bids and identify proven demonstrable technologies from around the world, which are to be adapted and mainstreamed for use in the Indian context. By July, six winning bidders will be invited to design and build lighthouse projects of 1,000 housing units each. Apart from state and Central assistance of ₹1.5 lakh each, the Centre will offer an additional technology innovation grant of ₹2.5 lakh for each house, PMAY (Urban) mission director Amrit Abhijat said.

Another section of the challenge will identify potential future technologies which may not yet be market ready, and offer incubation facilities and accelerator support in collaboration with four of the IITs.

'Mindset change'

Once innovative technologies have been tested and proved, they will be included in the Central Public Works Department list, with an approved schedule of rates. However, they will still be optional for use, and there is no guarantee they will be adopted by private or government builders, or even used to construct PMAY homes.

"We cannot make it mandatory, we can only encourage states and developers to adopt them. If they are better and cheaper, we expect them to be used. But there is also a mindset change needed," said Mr. Abhijat. He added that so far, only 12 lakh houses sanctioned under the PMAY (U) scheme have used one of the 14 alternative technologies already on the CPWD's approved list.

Mine rescue hit as Navy vehicle gets stuck

Meghalaya miners still trapped

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHILLONG

The Navy spent the whole of Monday to retrieve their unmanned vehicle which had got stuck during underwater searches for the 15 miners who have been trapped in an illegal mine here for over a month.

The unmanned vehicle was finally pulled out from the 370 foot-deep coal mine in Meghalaya's East Jaintia Hills district, officials said.

During the day, a team from a Chennai-based company that specialises in submersible robotic inspections launched its underwater search operations in the nearby abandoned mines using smaller robotic vehicles, operations spokesperson R. Susngi said.

Tasked with mapping

They have been tasked with preparing a map of these rat-hole mines and see if there are any traces of the trapped diggers, the spokesperson said. He said senior scientist from the Hyderabad-based CSIR-NGRI Dewashish Kumar has also begun an electric topography survey in the area to identify the rock strata, besides get other important information.

Mr. Susngi said due to the Navy operation to salvage their vehicle, the team from Kirloskar Brothers Ltd (KBL) could not operate its high-power pumps and the dewatering process was affected. The KBL team uses two high-power pumps to dewater the main shaft, while Coal India Ltd (CIL) has brought eight of its submersible pumps to the site, according to Mr. Susngi. However, only two of the CIL pumps are being put to use to de-water the nearby abandoned mines downstream, close to the main shaft, he said.

IN RESPECTFUL HOMAGE
To Our Revered Founder
DHARMA BHUSHANA
KUTHETHUR SHRI SEETHARAMA RAO
Who attained the Lotus Feet of Lord Krishna on January 15, 1968
(Fifty One Years Ago)

- The Greatest man in he who chooses the Right with invincible resolution.
- Who resists the sorest temptations from within and without;
- Who bears the heaviest burden cheerfully;
- Who is calmest in storms and most fearless under menace and frowns;
- Who reliance on truth, on virtue and on God is most unfaltering.

09.04.1899 - 15.01.1968

DASAPRAKASH
DHARMAPRAKASH
GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS

LOOKOUT NOTICE

Sri. **ANANTHAKRISHNAN @ ANANDU S/o. AJI** age 22, native of Aji Nivas, Punnapra North Panchayath Ward-XI, Alappuzha district was an accused person of Alpy North PS Cr. 2190/18 u/s. 363, 365 IPC. He is absconding from 03.12.2018, 13.30 Hrs. Hence any information about him please inform the nearest Police Station or below mentioned phone numbers.

Description: **Height** : 180 CM, **Complexion** : Medium, **Body Shape** : Medium **Wearing dress** : Blue colored Jeens and White Colored Check Shirts

Sub Inspector of Police, Alpy North PS - **94979 80298**
DySP Alappuzha - **94979 90041**
District Police Chief, Alappuzha - **9497996982**
(F2/9/2019/I&PRD)

NSA invoked against three in Bulandshahr cow slaughter case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BULANDSHAHR

The Bulandshahr district administration on Monday invoked the National Security Act (NSA) against three persons arrested in connection with the alleged cow slaughtering incident in Siyana tehsil last month, officials said.

Cattle carcasses were found strewn in the fields outside village Mahaw in Siyana on December 3, after which a mob went on the rampage, attacking the local Chingrawathi police post. Inspector Subodh Kumar Singh, 44, and civilian Sumit Kumar, 20, were killed of gunshot injuries in the ensuing violence.

Two separate FIRs – one for the violence, in which nearly 80 people were named, and the other for cow slaughter – were registered at the Siyana police station. Seven people were arrested in the cow slaughter case, officials said, adding that three of them– Azhar Khan, Nadeem Khan, Mehboob Ali– were charged under the NSA.

"The three had applied for bail and there was a chance of them getting it. Keeping that in mind, the National Security Act has been invoked against them," district magistrate Anuj Jha said.

He further said if the trio was released on bail, they might "tamper with evidence or engage in cow slaughter again".

Hirani may be dropped from *Munna Bhai 3*

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Bollywood filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani may be dropped from the hugely successful *Munna Bhai* franchise, media reports said here on Monday, after he was named in the #MeToo campaign against sexual harassment.

On Sunday, a woman from Mr. Hirani's post-production team on *Sanju* (2018) accused him of sexual misconduct. A city tabloid said Fox Star Studios had threatened to end its partnership with Vinod Chopra Films in the light of the allegations against Mr. Hirani if the duo's collaborations continue. This will result, in default, in the halt of *Munna Bhai* 3's production. However, industry sources claimed that *Munna Bhai* 3 was never on Fox Star's roster.

A source close to VCF and Rajkumar Hirani Films said the third part of the *Munna Bhai* franchise doesn't have a final script or a production schedule, making the halt of production a moot point.

Earth System Science Organisation (ESSO)
Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)
(Autonomous body under Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Govt. of India)
Hyderabad

Earth System Science Organisation (ESSO) inviting applications for filling up of the following Regular Posts at **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad,** an autonomous body under Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India:

Post Code	Name of the Post	No. of Posts & Reserved for	Pay	Age Limit (as on date of closure of application)
01	Manager	One & Un Reserved	Pay level 11 (Rs.67,700-2,08,700) of pay matrix (Pre-revised pay band: PB-3; Rs.15,600-39,100 plus GP of Rs.6,600)	45 Yrs. (on direct recruitment) 56 yrs. (on Deputation)
02	Scientific Assistant - A	One & SC	Pay level 6 (Rs.35,400-1,12,400) of Pay Matrix (Pre-revised pay band : PB-2; Rs.9,300-34,800 plus GP Rs.4,200)	28 Yrs.

Further details about the position, eligibility, academic qualifications, responsibilities, experience, application procedure and other general conditions are available at INCOIS website: **www.incois.gov.in** under 'Vacancies'.

Last Date for submission of Online application is March 01, 2019.

Director, INCOIS
Advt. No. ESSO/INCOIS/RMT/4/2018

© 2006-2018 Kasturi & Sons Ltd. - -Rajdhani.hansi@gmail.com -9416404242

Sedition, once more

Invoking it against those opposed to changes in citizenship law is reprehensible

The slapping of sedition charges against noted Assamese scholar Hiren Gohain and two others for remarks made against the proposed citizenship law is a textbook case of misuse of the law relating to sedition. The FIR against Mr. Gohain, peasant rights activist Akhil Gogoi and journalist Manjit Mahanta relates to speeches at a recent rally that alluded to the possibility of a demand for independence and sovereignty if the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill was pushed through Parliament. Mr. Gohain and others have obtained interim bail from the Gauhati High Court. The registration of the case has caused much public outrage in Assam. In addition to Section 124A (sedition), they have been accused of entering into a criminal conspiracy to "wage war against the government of India" (Section 121) and "concealing a design to facilitate" such a war (Section 123). The action of the police in charging them with "offences against the state" under the Indian Penal Code is quite reprehensible. It is possible that speeches at the rally organised by the Forum Against the Citizenship Amendment Bill contained strident opposition to the legislative changes that would allow persecuted non-Muslims from three neighbouring countries to obtain Indian citizenship. The thrust of the protest, therefore, would be squarely covered by the exception to the sedition clause, which says comments expressing disapprobation of government measures with a view to obtaining their alteration do not constitute an offence, as long as there is no incitement to violence or disaffection. Mr. Gohain, a Sahitya Akademi awardee, and one of Assam's best known public intellectuals, has explained that he had intervened more than once to silence some youth who had talked about invoking their sovereignty if the Centre continued to ignore their demand.

In recent years, there have been many instances of State governments seeking to silence political dissent by accusing dissenters of promoting disaffection. It is precisely to prevent such a heavy-handed response to strident political criticism that courts have often pointed out that the essential ingredient of any offence of sedition is an imminent threat to public order. Unless there is actual incitement to take up arms or resort to violence, even demands that go against the legal or constitutional scheme of things would not amount to sedition. Mere expression of critical views, howsoever scathing, cannot be an excuse for accusing someone of planning to wage war or promote disaffection against the government. It is against such a backdrop that the Law Commission, in a consultation paper released last year, had called for a reconsideration of the sedition section in the IPC. While the provision, which is couched in broad terms, needs a much narrower definition, the right course is to scrap Section 124A, a relic of the colonial era, altogether.

Half done

A plan is needed for plastic waste in packaging and manufacturing

India won global acclaim for its "Beat Plastic Pollution" resolve declared on World Environment Day last year, under which it pledged to eliminate single-use plastic by 2022. So far, 22 States and Union Territories have joined the fight, announcing a ban on single-use plastics such as carry bags, cups, plates, cutlery, straws and thermocol products. Puducherry will implement a ban from March 1. Where firm action has been taken, positive results have followed. A Bengaluru waste collective estimates that the volume of plastic waste that they collect dropped from about two tonnes a day to less than 100 kg. Voluntary initiatives are having an impact in many States, as citizens reduce, reuse and sort their waste. Yet, this is only a small start. Waste plastic from packaging of everything from food, cosmetics and groceries to goods delivered by online platforms remains unaddressed. It will take a paradigm shift in the manner in which waste is collected and handled by municipal authorities to change this. Governments must start charging the producers for their waste, and collect it diligently, which will lead to recovery and recycling. But the depressing reality is that State and local governments are unwilling to upgrade their waste management systems, which is necessary to even measure the true scale of packaging waste.

The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 are clear that producers, importers and brand owners must adopt a collect-back system for the plastic they introduce into the environment. Although the rules were notified in the same year, amended later and given high visibility by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, not much has been done to take the process forward. At the very least, local bodies should consult manufacturers or importers to assess the problem. Delaying such a measure has created the anomalous situation of small producers of plastics facing the ban, while more organised entities covered by the Extended Producer Responsibility clause continue with business as usual. Such enforcement failure is not an argument in favour of relaxing the prohibition on flimsy plastics that are typically used for under 15 minutes, but to recover thousands of tonnes of waste that end up in dumping sites. Cities and towns need competent municipal systems to achieve this. Again, there is little doubt that plastics play a major role in several industries, notably in the automotive, pharmaceutical, health care and construction sectors. But it is the fast moving consumer goods sector that uses large volumes of packaging, posing a higher order challenge. This calls for urgent action. Governments should show the same resolve here, as they have done in imposing the ban.

The contours of contest ahead

In the Lok Sabha election, voters will assess whether they are better off today than they were five years ago

MAHESH RANGARAJAN

PTI

This summer will see a carnival of democracy in the general election. Much has changed in just five years. The elan of Narendra Modi's party is more muted this time. Last weekend, key opponents, the Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party, joined forces in Uttar Pradesh, making the contest real and not a walkover. The Index of Opposition Unity cannot predict outcomes but no one can afford to ignore it.

The Congress's victories in the Assembly elections in three north Indian States have given it a shot in the arm. Equally important, the older party is firming up alliances in the southern States. The 131 Lok Sabha seats in five States (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana) and two Union Territories (Lakshadweep and Puducherry) have been critical to it in times of trouble.

The Telangana poll outcome was sobering for both the large national parties. Regional nationalism is not new to Indian politics: Jammu and Kashmir and Tamil Nadu were precursors. Regional formations have long governed West Bengal, Odisha and now Telangana. They may well hold the keys to power in New Delhi.

In 2014, it was the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) that led in securing allies. Between then and now, BJP president Amit Shah has helped expand its footprint. Not only does it have more MLAs than the Congress, but its cadre fights every election like there is no tomorrow.

The challenge lies elsewhere. The Congress may have lost in 2014 and come down to a historic low of less than one in five votes cast. Yet, only a decade age, in May 2009, the roles had been in reverse. It was Congress that had then polled 29% and the BJP just 19% of the popular vote.

Pages of political history

This time is different. It is 1971 that will be the textbook case for the ruling party. When the Grand Alliance said it would oust Indira Gandhi, she replied she wished to banish poverty. She won hands down.

Mrs. Gandhi did not have to contend with a powerful Dalit-led formation in the Ganga valley which commands 20% of the vote. Many of today's regional parties were yet to be formed. She captured the public imagination. It was a gamble and she won hands down. Mr. Modi too will fight to the last voter. He will try to be the issue. He has sounded the tocsin against dynasty, caste and corruption. Hence the record in getting visible benefits to the individual and the family. The gas cylinder, the light bulb, that rural road: each will, he hopes, add to his appeal.

History has another instance too. The 2004 general election was held early. Atal Bihari Vajpayee was confident that 'India was Shining'. The dream came apart on counting day. Rather than a unified Opposition (for there was none in the all-important State of Uttar Pradesh), ground-level discontent denied the ruling alliance another chance.

And yet, there is the cloud of the horizon. Even in 2004, the Congress was only a whisker ahead of the BJP – just seven seats more in the Lok Sabha. The Congress had 145 seats to the BJP's 138. The key was on the ground, where the mood had shifted. The economic upturn began in 2003, but voters did not see gains early enough for the ruling bloc to reap an electoral harvest.

The poll planks

In 2014, the challenger drew on the tiredness with a decade of a Congress-led government and promised a fresh start. Runaway inflation and the spectre of corruption undercut the appeal of the Congress. This time the issues have changed. It is the squeeze on farm incomes and rural debt that are the key poll planks. Similarly, the issue of jobs is more pressing than ever. Cultivators across all strata and young people seeking productive employment want answers.

Two States are key. Maharashtra, a State critical in the histories of both the Congress and the BJP, is not only seeing a coming together of Opposition forces; it is undergoing drought and rural distress. Ominously, key farmer-led allies have walked across. Uttar Pradesh, a bastion of the BJP, has rival Dalit- and Mandal-led parties coalesce for the first time in a quarter century. Both States have something in common. In both, sugarcane cultivation is a determinant of electoral fortunes.

Cane (not caste) and jobs (not community slogans) may hold the key. *Ganna* and *Naukri*, not reservations or the emotive Mandir issue. What matters more: bread or identity? Even when both count what takes precedence?

Government policy has had a key role in this denouement. By according priority to consumers in cities (who want low prices for cereals, oil seeds and pulses), the government did not have to pay heed to rural residents who need to earn more. The latter, as producers, are larger in number and percentage than in any other democracy.

India still lives and votes in its villages. Under Mr. Shah, the cadre, organisation and outreach have made the BJP a vastly larger party than any other. But economic policies can strain such organisational gains.

Democracy is about more than development. In a polity where people can throw their rulers out, it is centrally about politics. Since 1999, there has been a bi-nodal system, and the choice is not simply between Mr. Modi and Congress president Rahul Gandhi.

The battlelines

We have effectively a one-party government with a firm hand on the wheel (but with the danger of an over-centralisation of power). Against this, is ranged a looser coalition in which regional forces and rural interests have more play. Needless to add, the latter will be rockier, more contentious and tough to manage in a coherent fashion.

The Modi government is driven by ideology and not pragmatism on a range of issues. This is the first ever BJP government with a view of culture, history and politics that seeks to remake history as much as the future. Is this the party's agenda or the country's? This is a question in the background: if the Ram temple issue comes to the fore, it will be a major choice for the voter.

The pluralism and Hindutva debate have another dimension more so than ever, namely the federal question. Across the North-east (including Sikkim), far more important to the country than its 25 Lok Sabha seats indicate, the idea of citizenship is at variance with the new Citizenship Bill passed by the Lok Sabha. Across the country, State-level parties see an accretion of powers in the federal government unseen since the 1980s.

True, Mr. Modi has a wider mass appeal than any one since Mrs. Gandhi. But history is witness that such appeal can also have limits if voters decide that enough is enough. Has that point been reached? We simply do not know.

More central is the question of questions. Are you better off than you were five years ago, and if not, why not? If so, and even if not, do you think we are moving in the right direction?

In 2014, *The Economist* observed that if India had the per capita wealth of Gujarat, the country would rank with Spain. Has that dream come true or it is unravelling and fast? How voters answer that will show who they stand with.

Mahesh Rangarajan is Professor of History and Environmental Studies at Ashoka University, Haryana. The views expressed are personal

Science and reason

The history of science in India must be treated as a serious subject rather than a matter of speculation

APARAJITH RAMNATH

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Another edition of the Indian Science Congress, another gift to the news cycle. The Congress, which is meant to be a premier forum for scientists to present and discuss their research, has in recent years become the stage for a series of blissfully evidence-free claims about Indian achievements in science through the ages. Added to the list in this year's edition (January 3-7, in Jalandhar, Punjab), were claims about the existence of stem cell technology, test-tube babies, and fleets of aircraft in ancient India and Sri Lanka. The reaction was reassuringly swift. The organisers distanced themselves from the claims, prominent scientists denounced them, and protest marches were taken out.

We should, however, be asking a more fundamental question. What motivates speakers to say these things? If, as seems plausible in many cases, it is wilful demagoguery or an attempt to curry political favour, it is irresponsible and deplorable. But let us be charitable and assume for a moment that those who make these statements actually believe them. At the very least, it is clear that there exists a sizeable constituency which wants to believe such claims. What does this tell us about our relationship – as Indians – to science and to history?

Rooted in colonialism

A glance at the past confirms that this is a deep-seated anxiety rooted in the experience of being colonised. In his presidential address to the Institution of Engineers (India) in the early 1930s, Jwala Prasad, a top irrigation engineer in the United Provinces, referred to 'the construction of the famous bridge over the sea at Cape Comorin' and 'the cutting of the Gangotri from a wonderful glacier through disinfecting rocks and land by [Rama's] ancestor Bhagirath, before men knew how to dig a well.' Prasad's statements (unsupported as they were) may be read as a defiant assertion at a time when colonial stereotypes of Indians as unscientific were still prevalent. They were also made in the context of a time when Indian engineers were fighting to be recognised as competent members of a profession hitherto dominated by expatriate Britons.

Other Indian scientists went further, undertaking a serious study of the past. Indeed, historians have shown how the colonial encounter prompted among Indian intellectuals a project of 'revivalism', a quest to show that Indian traditions were not devoid of rationality, objectivity, and other characteristics of modern science. The pioneering chemist and industrialist P.C. Ray (who presided over the Indian Science Congress in 1920) wrote a two-volume *History of Hindu Chemistry* (1902, 1908), while the philosopher Brajendranath Seal contributed a study titled *The Positive Sciences of the Ancient Hindus* (1915). Although they were criticised at the time, both went through the hard slog of examining primary sources and were careful in the conclusions they drew.

Ray studied 14th century texts such as the *Rasa prakasha-sudhakara*, noting that they were based on experiment and observation. Seal (as quoted by historian David Arnold) cautioned that while the sages of antiquity may have had ideas compatible with the atomic theory of matter, they had depended upon a 'felicitous intuition [resulting from] intense meditation and guided by intelligent observation'. This was a step removed from the modern scientific method, which relied on sophisticated experiments.

Stop the labels

More than a century later, there is little reason for us Indians to harbour an inferiority complex, and no excuse for tackling it through rash and unfounded claims. Science has never developed exclusively within national boundaries. Recent research speaks of the 'circulation' of scientific ideas, practices, instruments and personnel across regions and continents in different periods of history, while acknowledging that there were unequal power relations between those regions. What we often call 'western' science builds on the contributions of scientists from all over the world today, and draws upon sources ranging from the ancient Greeks to the West Asian civilisations of a millennium ago. Once we rid ourselves of the need to label science as western or eastern and shake off the obsession with priority (i.e. which society was the first to discover or invent something), we will liberate ourselves to think about the further development, practice, and application of science.

None of this should imply that exploring the history of science in ancient, medieval and non-European contexts is not worthwhile or legitimate. The solution is not to shut our eyes to the past but to engage in careful historical inquiry. This involves an emphasis on primary sources, on learning the relevant languages and preparing critical editions of texts, on peer review, and on viewing the past on its own terms, avoiding the pitfalls of what historians call 'present-centredness'. It involves working with the insights of archaeologists, epigraphists, Sanskritists, Persianists, and metallurgists. It requires an open mind and a healthy scepticism. Such works have been undertaken, but many more are needed. The history of science, thus far woefully neglected in Indian institutions and university programmes, must be treated as a serious subject rather than a matter of speculation.

As for the Indian Science Congress, a venerable institution, measures are already being discussed to restore to it a sense of gravitas. One hopes they will succeed. For those who make motivated claims not only tarnish the institution's reputation but also take the focus away from the legitimate efforts of other delegates. A body which has among its past presidents such personages as Ashutosh Mukherjee, M. Visvesvaraya, C.V. Raman, Birbal Sahni and M.S. Swaminathan surely deserves better.

Aparajith Ramnath is a historian of modern science, technology and business. The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Political moves in U.P.

The BJP's loss of political ground after the three State Assembly elections appears to have emboldened regional parties with sufficient standing. Despite its political pedigree, the Congress's power to negotiate stands diminished. While the Congress seems think it can go it alone after tasting political success, this stance could prove to be its Achilles heel. An unsure brew boils in 2019, for a bewildered electorate.

R. NARAYANAN,
Navi Mumbai

Basic income

A basic income scheme can be an apt alternative to the populist measure of farm loan waivers to alleviate rural deprivation. The successful implementation across developing and developed economies has proven the suitability of basic income for countries having different per capita incomes. It not only has the potential to raise standards of living but is also an exercise in social cohesion on account of its egalitarian nature. Sikkim has taken the lead in planning a basic income scheme. Other States should follow suit in introducing their own versions of this 'conceptually appealing' scheme as an affirmative step towards equality, dignity and economic security (Editorial page, "Basic income works and works well", January 14)

SARBANI MOHAPATRA,
Kolkata

■ The results of the pilot projects of the basic income scheme in India and other parts of the world have one thing in common – a qualitative improvement in the lives of beneficiaries. The greatest advantage of a basic income is that it is unconditional. The cash pay out is regular, reaches the bank accounts of individual beneficiaries and empowers individual dignity and autonomy in utilising the money. A basic income scheme appears to be an effective antidote to the prevailing farm and job crises. Unlike loan waivers, it does not lead to unintended consequences such as a drying up of bank credit or hazards such as periodic demands for write-offs. It is a redistributive tool with minimal disruptive impact on the economy as the expansion of the tax base will fund it without the need to impose new or higher taxes.

V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN,
Thiruvananthapuram

Tree felling

It is shocking that many trees and saplings were cut for a temporary helipad to be in place for the Prime Minister's visit in Odisha. Recently, when the Karnataka government wanted to build a steel bridge in Bengaluru – a project that would have resulted in the destruction of numerous trees – citizens protested vehemently and the plan was dropped. When people are constantly advised to ensure ecological balance and be environmentally aware (by no less than government agencies), the incident in Odisha raises eyebrows – that there is a different set of rules and laws for leaders and important people ("PM's visit to Odisha: Over 1,000 trees felled", January 14).

R. SRIDHARAN,
Chennai

Congo election

One does not have to be a psephologist to know that there is something fundamentally wrong when there is a huge discrepancy between the vote percentage of the Opposition's presidential candidate and that of the "official" winner in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is not surprising that the powerful Catholic Church in the DRC and many Western governments are now questioning the 'result'. The discrepancy is too marked to be dismissed as a case of complaints by bad losers.

CYNTHIA NAIDU,
Sydney, Australia

Man-animal conflict

With wildlife reserves becoming smaller, which puts animals in closer proximity with infrastructure, the authorities must think in terms of working in tandem with the forest personnel and ensuring that conventional methods are adhered to ("Train hits killed 49 elephants in 3 years", January 14). This includes an observance of slow speed and exercising caution at all times.

At the same time, I firmly believe that we are advanced enough to be able to modernise as well as design structures that allow for the safer movement and migration of wildlife.

N. VIJAI,
Coimbatore

MORE LETTERS ONLINE:
www.hindu.com/opinion/letters/

© 2006-2018 Kasturi & Sons Ltd. - -Rajdhani.hansi@gmail.com -9416404242

Where the rich got their way

Katowice signals a global climate regime that leaves the fate of the world hanging in the balance

T. JAYARAMAN

The 24th Conference of the Parties (COP-24) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), held at Katowice in Poland, brings little cheer on the climate front for developing countries. With the passage of the so-called "rulebook" for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the developed countries have largely succeeded in establishing a global climate regime that gives them the strategic advantage and assuages some of their core concerns. This signals the making of a new, contradictory situation where the scope and complexity of the regime are fundamentally at odds with the very purpose for which the regime has been constructed.

Rollback of differentiation

At the heart of this strategic success is the substantial rollback of differentiation between the global North and South in climate action. The first step of this process began with the Paris Agreement, when the developed nations were allowed to make voluntary commitments to climate mitigation, on par with the developing nations, without any benchmark to ensure the relative adequacy of their commitment. At Katowice this process went further, with uniform standards of reporting, monitoring and evaluation for all countries. These reporting requirements, while superficially impressive, appear in their true light when we realise that in their uniformity they are intended as much for Maldives as the U.S. The real targets of this uniformity are, of course, not the poorest nations, who have been provided exemptions, but the larger developing nations. While all developing nations are ostensibly allowed flexibility in these reporting requirements, the concession has been hedged in with a number of conditions, with the intention of forcing them to full compliance in short order.

The reporting requirements are also marked by a pseudo-scientific concern for stringency, which is far in excess of the accuracy of climate science itself. Indeed, the recent Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on global warming at 1.5°C estimates substantial uncertainties in the quantum of cumulative global emissions that are still allowed before the global carbon budget of the world is exhausted. In the face of such uncertainty, the requirement of reporting as little as 500 kilo tonnes or 0.05% of national emissions per country has little scientific significance. More pernicious is the uniformity of the stringency in reporting being expressed in percentage terms. Elementary mathematics informs us that a smaller percentage of the emissions of a large emitter will be a larger quantity in absolute terms compared to the larger percentage of emissions of a small emitter.

"COP-24 brings little cheer on the climate front for developing countries." Protesters on the sidelines of the summit in Katowice, Poland. ▪ AFP

But the crux of the problem is the contradiction between the onerous nature of these universal rules and the total lack of initiative by the developed countries in taking the lead in climate mitigation. All developed countries continue to invest in fossil fuels either through direct production or imports. Some do so because of the downgrading of nuclear energy due to domestic political pressures. Others are still trying to wean themselves off coal by shifting to gas. Overall, as the International Energy Agency reports, the use of fossil fuel-based electricity generation continues to rise for OECD countries.

In the event, the dispute that broke out at COP24 over whether the Special Report of the IPCC should be welcomed or merely noted must be considered a red herring. Despite the vociferous pleas of the Least Developed Countries and the Small Island Developing States for the former choice, in the absence of adequate action, such symbolic gestures are clearly of little value. Indeed, the report itself appears to have been used to generate a sense of urgency in stampeding countries into approval of the "rulebook" rather than point the way to more substantial mitigation by the developed nations.

The Special Report, for instance, did little to inspire the developed countries to increase the quantum of climate finance as well as speeding up its delivery. It has been the long-standing argument of the developing world that the bulk of climate finance must be from public sources. In contrast, the developed countries have succeeded in putting other sources of finance, including FDI and equity flows, on par in the accounting of the flow of climate assistance that developing countries need. As the "rulebook" stands today, private sector flows or loans, which will increase the indebtedness of developing countries, are to be considered adequate fulfilment of developed country obligations under the UNFCCC.

Much of the pressure exerted by developed countries at COP24 had the active backing and instigation of the U.S. Despite the public posturing by other G-8 heads of state outside the climate summits, the marked synergy between the U.S. and its political and strategic allies in pushing through several critical elements of the "rulebook" was no secret.

India, despite its articulation of the need for equity in climate action and climate justice, failed to obtain the operationalisation of these notions in several aspects of the "rulebook". Even though it pushed for equity, particularly in the benchmarks for the periodic review of the Paris Agreement, it failed to press home its point. Successive dispensations in New Delhi have fallen short of doing the needful in this regard. In contrast, Brazil held its ground on matters relating to carbon trading that it was concerned about and postponed finalisation of the matter to next year's summit. Regrettably, while India has not been shy to hold out against the global nuclear order it has not extended this attitude to protecting its interests in the emerging global climate regime.

Poor articulation of needs

It is now evident that New Delhi underestimated what was at stake at Katowice and the outcome portends a serious narrowing of India's developmental options in the future. A number of environmental and climate think tanks, NGOs and movements have also done their share to disarm the government in the negotiations. Buying uncritically into the climate narrative of the developed nations, they have been continually urging unilateral domestic action on moral grounds, while ignoring the elementary fact that global warming is a global collective action problem. Despite the significant number of Indians at COP24, the broad articulation of India's needs was at the lowest ebb seen in the last several years.

At the final plenary of COP24, the Like-Minded Developing Countries grouping echoed India's reservations on the neglect of equity and climate justice in the final form of the "rulebook", while the broader G77 plus China combine expressed its regret at the unbalanced nature of the outcome, with its undue emphasis on mitigation by all. But with the "rulebook" nevertheless having been adopted, COP24 signals a global climate regime that benefits and protects the interests of the global rich, while leaving the climatic fate of the world, and the developmental future of a substantial section of its population, still hanging in the balance.

T. Jayaraman is Professor, School of Habitat Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences

Preventing student suicides

The rising number of cases must provoke a discussion on how outcomes of education are perceived in India

SHAHANA MUNAZIR

The end of 2018 brought with it some deeply unsettling cases of student suicides. The deaths of 49 students in Navodaya Vidyalaya schools in the last five years, and of three students preparing for the IIT entrance examinations in Kota in a span of four days, brings the issue of youth suicides to the fore again. More youths are taking their lives due to the fear of failing in examinations, constant flak from teachers, bullying from peers, family pressure and a loss of a sense of a decent future. These cases force us to recognise that youth suicides are ubiquitous, and the educational ecosystem must take the blame for this.

Current scenario

The Kota case is not an aberration. There have been frequent news reports of suicides taking place in coaching centres that train students for medical and engineering entrance examinations. According to the National Crime Records Bureau, between 2014 and 2016, 26,476 students committed suicide in India. Of them, 7,462 committed suicide due to failure in various examinations.

The rising number of these cases provokes a serious discussion on the way in which outcomes of education are perceived in India. The instrumental value of education in India is its potential in generating socio-economic and cultural capital through a promise of decent job opportunities in the future. But the education system has not been successful in generating enough job options. For instance, the International Labour Organisation's World Employment and Social Outlook Trends Report of 2018 says that in 2019, the job status of nearly 77% of Indian workers would be vulnerable and that 18.9 million people would be unemployed. With their job future being so bleak, students are put under constant pressure to perform. They have failed to learn to enjoy the process of education. Instead, the constant pressure and stress has generated social antipathy and detachment among them. Sociologist Emile Durkheim had famously hypothesised that suicides are a result of not just psychological or emotional factors but social factors as well. With a loss of community and other social bonds, students in schools, colleges and coaching centres end up taking their lives.

Following the reports of suicides in Navodaya Vidyalayas, the National Human Rights Commission sought information from the Ministry of Human Resource Development on whether trained counsellors were present on campus. In the recently concluded winter session of Parliament, the HRD Minister said that an expert committee has been set up to look into the matter. According to Navodaya Vidyalaya Samitis, merely one or two training sessions are included to sensitise the teachers and principals regarding safety and security of the children and to prevent suicidal tendencies. The framework for implementation of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) recognises the role of guidance and counselling services to students. In 2018, the government approved an integrated school education scheme subsuming the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the RMSA, and Teacher Education from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2020. However, without

GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK

any significant rise in budgetary allocations for education, it is likely that there would be cuts in "non-productive" areas of education such as guidance and counselling.

The way forward

First, stop-gap solutions to setting up expert committees and counsellors in schools have not been able to solve the problem. The deep-rooted causes must be addressed. The government must undertake a comprehensive study on the reasons behind these suicides. Second, the curriculum should be designed in ways that stress the importance of mental exercises and meditation. The Delhi government's initiative on the 'Happiness Curriculum' may be a step in the right direction. Third, with regards to higher education, 12 measures were suggested by the Justice Roopanwal Commission. One of them stressed on making Equal Opportunity Cells with an anti-discrimination officer functional in universities and colleges. Finally, it is high time we seek to reinvent our educational ecosystem in ways that impregnate new meanings, new ideas of living, and renewed possibilities that could transform a life of precarity into a life worth living.

Shahana Munazir is a Delhi-based scholar

SINGLE FILE

America on autopilot

Despite an overwhelmingly corrosive political environment, curious strains of consensus are emerging

DHRUVA JAISHANKAR

AP

The idea of a government shutting down conjures up images of anarchy on the streets. The U.S. government shutdown since December 22 has certainly been disruptive, particularly for government employees going without pay. But in many other respects life goes on as usual.

The situation arose from President Donald Trump holding approval for further government spending hostage to a pet project: a border wall with Mexico. Mr. Trump's insistence on the wall, which he believes will bolster his electoral base, came after he suffered several setbacks. These included the Democratic Party assuming a majority in the House of Representatives, further investigations into Mr. Trump's finances and his campaign's relations with Russia, and warning signs about a dip in the U.S. economy.

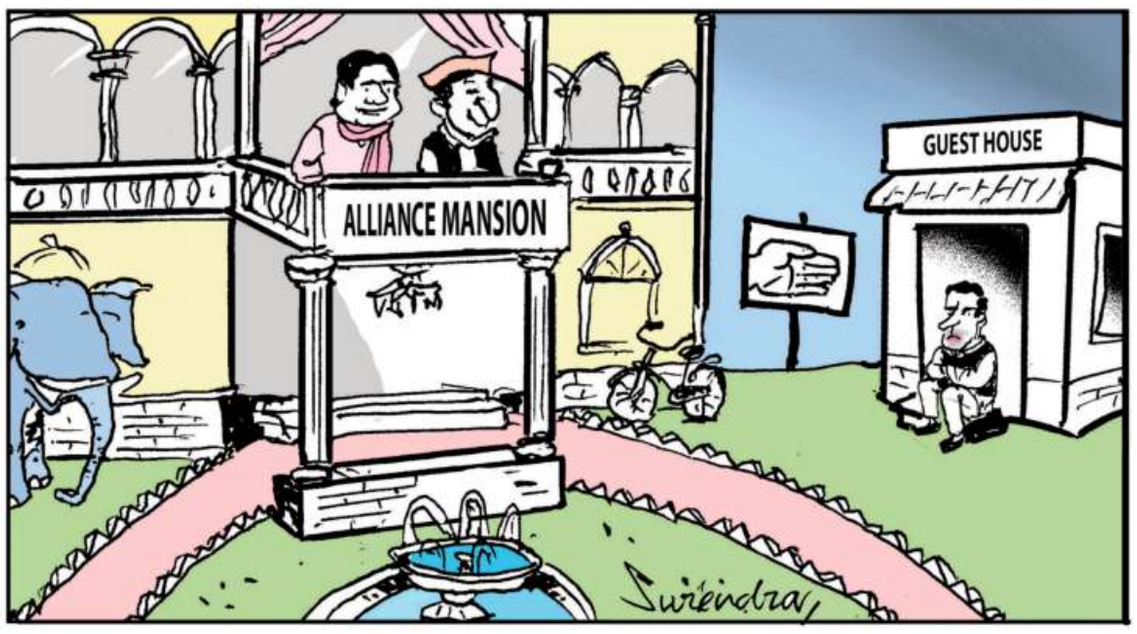
But the fact that many critical government functions continue in the U.S. says a lot about the checks and balances inherent in its system of governance. This extends, for better and for worse, to its foreign relations. While Mr. Trump has been disruptive on many foreign policy matters, such as on trade issues and climate change, in a number of other areas he has made only minor changes. And on some issues, including competition with China and alliance burden-sharing, Mr. Trump is channelling views that are far more widespread and shared even by some Democrats.

The biggest short-term point of contention on U.S. foreign policy concerns continued military involvement in Syria and Afghanistan. Mr. Trump's desire to win over voters by ending the U.S.'s unpopular involvement in these conflicts has confronted arguments for a continued American role, advanced by technocrats and military advisers. Secretary of Defence James Mattis resigned recently over the issue of U.S. withdrawal from Syria, but indications are that the U.S. may retain some form of involvement in both countries for the foreseeable future. Meanwhile, newly elected Senator Mitt Romney has given voice to the Republican foreign policy establishment by writing an op-ed critical of not just Mr. Trump's personal character, but also his handling of alliances, including in Europe.

Despite an overwhelmingly corrosive political environment, curious strains of consensus are emerging. For example, a figure like Elizabeth Warren, a likely candidate for President representing the left wing of the Democratic Party, has become vocally critical of Chinese lobbying efforts. This is indicative of the growing bipartisan concern about the emerging U.S. competition with China.

The U.S. thus presents a paradox. Partisan and intra-party fissures are likely to intensify in both Republican and Democratic circles. The federal government is in complete disarray. And yet, the new year begins with the U.S., in many ways, running on autopilot.

The writer is Fellow, Foreign Policy, Brookings Institution



NOTEBOOK

The tea-seller in Parliament

The man around whom people gather to discuss political issues

SOBHANA K. NAIR

The chaiwallah, or tea-seller, on the first floor of the famous colonnaded verandah of Parliament, just outside the press and the visitor's gallery, must be more tuned into Indian politics and the happenings of Parliament than reporters. For, this is where, everyday, politicians of myriad ideologies and journalists from various publications and TV channels gather to discuss political news or simply gossip.

The spot is cosy, especially during the harsh winter months in Delhi. There are 144 pillars in the circular building of Parliament and each of them is 27 feet high. The makeshift tea point falls under the shadow of these pillars.

The tea, though, is nothing to boast about; don't believe the stories about the Parliament canteen being a part of some culinary wonderland. The weak tea powder and watered down milk barely mix, both adamant in maintaining their individual identities like Andhra Pradesh and Telangana do. Whenever he is asked, the tea-seller throws in some sugar and slams down the white cup with its golden rim on the table with a smile that doesn't quite reflect the seriousness of the affairs in Parliament. He sells two kinds of tea: liquor cha, or lukewarm black tea without sugar, and salted lemon tea, in case you are a fan of that odd taste.

The tea-seller is a mystery to me. So busy is he in doing his job that he has never participated in these weighty conversations around him. I don't know his name; I have never asked him his political views. But I'm sure he knows our faces, recognises the regulars, and has formed opinions about us.

The tea is but an excuse to have a conversation, of course. The tea station is a must-stop for every Parliament reporter. But editors will also tell you not to linger there for too long. Before you can sit with your cup of tea, you have to look up. No, not in gratitude for some hot liquid, but to ensure that you aren't a receiver of generous pigeon droppings.

The conversations expectedly have a sense of urgency. Will Mr. X get renominated to the Rajya Sabha? Will Ms. Y not get a ticket to the Lok Sabha? The news of the day is systematically dissected and election results are minutely analysed. It is a great place to be seated at, if you are a general observer.

Recently, hours after two women entered the Sabarimala shrine in Kerala, a Left MP gave a short tutorial to the Delhi scribes on the temple controversy and its impact on the Left government. All, of course, over a cup of *chai*. He candidly answered uncomfortable questions on whether the Pinarayi Vijayan government's move to facilitate the entry of the two women was the right thing to do electorally. He hesitatingly admitted that the gamble might not work in favour of the Left Democratic Front in this general election year.

Yet another day, a reporter joked to a Samajwadi Party MP that it is time his party merged with the Bahujan Samaj Party since the two parties are planning to fight the general election together. Pat came the reply: "We will surely merge without any hesitation after the CPI(M) and the CPI merge."

Whether the merger happens or not and irrespective of the electoral fortunes of any party or changes in the GDP figures, the tea-seller of Parliament will make steady sales as long as the reporters' adda goes on.

FROM The Hindu. ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO FROM THE ISSUE OF JANUARY 16, 1969 (THERE WAS NO ISSUE ON JANUARY 15)

Two Soviet spaceships with 4 men in orbit

Two Soviet manned spaceships to-day [January 15] began joint experiments of an unspecified nature in outer space. Twenty-four hours after Soyuz-4 went into orbit around the earth with Cosmonaut Vladimir Shatalov on board, Soyuz-5 was launched to-day with Lt.-Col. Boris Volynov as Commander and Flight Engineer Alexei Eliseyev and Research Engineer Lt.-Col. Yevgeny Khrunov as crew members. Soon after the launching, Tass reported that Volynov had established radio contact with Shatalov in Soyuz-4. Later, both the Commanders informed Ground Control that they had "begun carrying out the programme of joint experiments in outer space." Tass said the three cosmonauts aboard Soyuz-5 "felt fine".

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 15, 1919.

Cloth Market Strike.

The strike of the employees of cloth market [in Bombay] still continues. It appears that these men draw a maximum pay of Rs. 30 and in addition to this employers set aside a small percentage in their name as commission which they call supdi at the time of Diwali when accounts are made. The Mehtas are paid off their supdi which amounts to over a thousand rupees or so. This year it is alleged the employers credited supdi in their own account and men who were in hopes of getting it later on were disappointed and they resolved to go on strike. Besides the commission they now demand increase of 35 per cent in their pay and it is stated that if their demands are not met they will hold on for some time. An urgent meeting of the members of Indian Cloth Merchants' Association has been convened for this evening [Jan. 14] when the matter will be considered.

CONCEPTUAL

Negativity bias

PSYCHOLOGY

This refers to the tendency among human beings to be impacted more by negative events than by positive events of the same magnitude. In other words, there is a disproportionately high sensitivity that the human brain exhibits towards unpleasant events when compared to equally pleasant ones. Scientists believe that the negativity bias could be in-built in the human brain as natural selection may have particularly favoured the passing of genes that give higher weight to negative events from one generation to the other. Such genes, for instance, may be better at avoiding dangers that may be fatal to the survival chances of a species.

MORE ON THE WEB

Hot air balloon festival begins in Tamil Nadu

http://bit.ly/AirBalloonFestival

© 2006-2018 Kasturi & Sons Ltd. - -Rajdhani.hansi@gmail.com -9416404242

FROM PAGE ONE

BJP sequesters Karnataka MLAs

He denied any move to break the Congress and the Janata Dal (S) to form a government in the State, a strategy that had worked in 2008. "Basically, this is an internal issue of the Congress. D.K. Shivakumar, who has issues with other Congress leaders, is trying to delegitimise his rivals in the party by floating rumours about them, that they are in touch with the BJP," Mr. Rao said.

According to top sources in the party, however, the impossibility of the numbers game in the Assembly has made any plan the BJP may have had to launch an attempt to break the Congress-JD(S) government a tricky one.

"The BJP needs at least 18 MLAs from the ruling combine to quit or walk out during the voting, to bring down the half-way mark of majority in the House to one where we can claim a majority, and we are nowhere close to those numbers. Even if the two independent MLAs and the BSP member now supporting the government come over to our side, we will still need 12 MLAs from the two ruling parties to defect," said a source.

"As an opposition, of course, we do not have an interest in the continuation of the present government but we don't have the numbers as yet. The persistence of these rumours that we are trying to bring the government down also stems from the seat-sharing agreement being negotiated between the Congress and the Janata Dal(S). With these rumours, the Congress remains under pressure, and the JD(S) is hoping to get eight Lok Sabha seats in the arrangement instead of the five now being offered," said the source.

Confusion prevails in the BJP over whether or not to attempt to bring down the State government.

Encounter deaths in U.P. a serious issue, observes SC

"The state cannot adopt such means which are against the constitutional principles to fight with terrorism or hardened criminals. Such extra-judicial killings in the name of encounters are considered 'state-sponsored terror'," the petition said.

In this context, the petition refers to reported statements made by Chief Minister Adityanath like "criminals will be jailed or killed in encounters" and "everyone should be guaranteed security, but those who want to disturb peace of the society and believe in the gun, should be given the answer in the language of the gun."

The petition said the National Human Rights Commission had written to the State government in response to the Chief Minister's statements, saying that police personnel were misusing their powers to settle scores. The Commission had said "creating an atmosphere of fear is not the correct way to deal with the crime".

The petition, which refers extensively to reports in *The Hindu* on the police encounters, said facts available in the public domain show that over 1,100 encounters have taken place in the past year, wherein 49 people were killed and 370 injured.

Chargesheet filed against Kanhaiya, two others

After the case was registered at the Vasant Vihar police station, Kanhaiya Kumar, Umar and Anirban were arrested in February 2016. They were later given conditional bail.

"The presence of outsider Kashmiri students was established with the help of CCTV located at the university gate. They were seen leaving the premises unmasked. The event was organised even after permission was denied by the JNU administration," added the officer. The chargesheet said investigation revealed that Kanhaiya Kumar, then JNU Students' Union president, led the protesters on the evening of February 9, 2016 and raised anti-India slogans.

"The charge of sedition against Kanhaiya Kumar and others is absurd. If it takes 3 years and 1200 pages to make out a charge of sedition (based on a public speech), that alone exposes the motive of the government.... ," tweeted P. Chidambaram, Congress leader.

Tejashwi joins in U.P. bonhomie

Sets tongues wagging back in Bihar over sharing of seats with the Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW/PATNA

Paying a surprise visit to Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav and Bahujan Samaj Party leader Mayawati, Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav said in Lucknow on Monday that the newly forged alliance between the parties of the two leaders would "whitewash" the BJP in Uttar Pradesh and show the path to the rest of the country ahead of the Lok Sabha election.

The visit, however, led to talk in political circles in Bihar that Mr. Tejashwi was trying to "put pressure on the Congress, which has been demanding an unreasonable number of seats in the State".

"It may be a signal to the Congress that the U.P. tie-up could be replicated in Bihar, too, if the party will not agree to the number of seats given in the alliance," political analyst Ajay Kumar said.

However, at a joint press conference with Mr. Akhilesh, the RJD leader denied any such move. "We are not separate," he said. "They [SP-BSP] will win here, we will win there [in Bihar]. It's all the same."

Rahul's statement

"Our aim is to defeat the BJP," he said adding that Congress president Rahul Gandhi had said that the BJP would not get any seats even if there was no tie-up between his party and the SP-BSP combine.

Show of hands: SP chief Akhilesh Yadav , right, and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav prior to their interaction with the media in Lucknow on Monday. ▪ RAJEEV BHATT

After landing in the U.P. capital late on Sunday, Mr. Tejashwi headed straight for Ms. Mayawati's residence. This came on a day when the Congress, stung by rejection, said it would contest all 80 seats with the help of smaller allies in Uttar Pradesh.

Interacting with the media after emerging from the meeting, Mr. Tejashwi said he had come to wish the BSP chief in advance for her birthday (on January 15) and to seek her blessings. He shared photos showing him touching her feet.

In Patna, senior RJD leader Raghuvansh Prasad Singh said the "exclusion of the Congress from the SP-BSP alliance in U.P. was not good and it would mar the prospects of a grand alliance at the national level in future ... they should mend their ways and take the Congress party in the fold."

Former Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, whose Hindustani Awam Morcha is part of the grand alliance, too expressed reservations."If they keep the Congress out of the alliance, the BJP would benefit," he said.

Congress sources said the party had demanded 16 seats out of the total 40, but the RJD had made it clear that not more than 10 seats would be spared. "In the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, the Congress had won just two seats – Kishanganj and Supaul – out of the 12 contested. But now, after their win in three Assembly elections, the party feels pepped-up and [therefore the] demand for more seats, but the problem with us is that a lot of alliance partners are to be accommodated this time," a senior RJD leader said.

He said the Congress would get no more than 10 or 11 seats, while the RJD would contest 18 seats.

Suspense builds up over Mamata's rally

Many yet to confirm participation

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

All eyes are on the grand Opposition rally scheduled for January 19 at the Brigade Parks Ground in Kolkata. Organised by West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress president Mamata Banerjee, the rally is seen as the next major congregation of Opposition parties.

The rally is also another attempt by the Trinamool to project Ms. Banerjee as a potential prime ministerial face if the Opposition parties get their arithmetic right.

While Tejashwi Yadav of the Rashtriya Janata Dal, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party chief N. Chandrababu Naidu, Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party convener Arvind Kejriwal and former Prime Minister and Janata Dal(S) leader H.D. Deve Gowda have confirmed their presence, the participation of other senior Opposition leaders remains uncertain.

Congress unease

Ms. Banerjee, who shares a warm relationship with UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi, is keen that the latter attend the event on behalf of the Congress.

Sources in the Congress, however, said it was unlikely that Ms. Gandhi would travel to Kolkata as she has cut down her political engagements drastically since her son took over the party.

Mamata Banerjee

With Ms. Banerjee making public her reservations about Congress president Rahul Gandhi leading any Opposition alliance in 2019, it is unlikely that he will attend the event.

"It is too close to the election. Unless we know the shape of the pre-poll alliance, we do not want to send any conflicting message. Our State unit is also not too keen that Mr. Gandhi be seen standing with the Trinamool," a senior Congress leader said. Sources said Mr. Gandhi was likely to depute Ghulam Nabi Azad or Mallikarjun Kharge on his behalf.

The Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party, which recently announced an alliance, are keeping the Trinamool guessing. Both parties have skipped the last two Opposition meetings in Delhi. The Left parties will also be skipping the event.

Officer in U.P. illegal mining case shifted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

In a fresh reshuffle, CBI DIG Gagandeep Gambhir, supervising investigation into the alleged role of former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav in the illegal mining case, has been transferred, sources said on Monday.

Ms. Gambhir has been shifted to the unit probing the Srijan scam and the case against journalist Upendra Rai. She will also have additional charge of DIG in the Special Investigation Team (SIT), headed by Joint Director Sai Manohar, the sources said.

The U.P. illegal mining case probe will now be supervised by DIG Anish Prasad. DIG Tarun Gauba continues to head the probe into Rakesh Asthana in corruption case.

Rao's appointment illegal: NGO

Plea says Centre did not consult panel before naming him as CBI Director

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A petition was filed in the Supreme Court on Monday, challenging the appointment of M. Nageshwar Rao as interim CBI Director.

It said the government "completely bypassed" the statutory requirement to consult the high-power selection committee of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Justice of India before appointing Mr. Rao.

In the petition, Common Cause, an NGO, and activist Anjali Bhardwaj said the January 10 order of the government handing over the charge and work of CBI Director to Mr. Rao was "illegal".

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

M. Nageshwar Rao

It said the mandatory requirement under Section 4A of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act of 1946 to consult the high-powered selection committee was a statutory measure to make the appointment process of the CBI Director free from government interference.

"The DSPE Act, as amended by the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, provides for the appointment of the CBI Director by a high-powered selection committee, which does not have a preponderance of the government and its representatives. The committee consists of the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition and the Chief Justice of India or any Judge of Supreme Court nominated by him," the petition said.

Earlier order

Besides, it argued that Mr. Rao's earlier appointment as interim CBI Director following the ouster of Alok Verma on October 23 was quashed by the Supreme Court in a judgment on January 8. Yet the January 10 order has stated that the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of Mr. Rao "as per the earlier arrangement".

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

Lack of transparency in the appointment of the CBI Director allows the government to exercise undue influence in the appointment process, the petition said.

IN BRIEF

CPI(M) demands vigilance chief's ouster

NEW DELHI

After the Congress, now the CPI(M) is demanding immediate ouster of Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) K.V. Chowdary, questioning his role in advocating on behalf of former Special Director of the CBI Rakesh Asthana. The decision to remove CBI Director Alok Verma was arbitrary, the CPI(M) said in a statement. The decision was entirely based on the report prepared by the CVC, "which has since been shown to be weak on substantive proof about the allegations," the CPI(M) said.

Scam in spectrum allocation: Congress

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday alleged a 'scam' by the Modi government in the allocation of microwave spectrum in 2015 and demanded a Supreme Court-monitored probe. The party also alleged that it had caused losses worth crores to the exchequer. Spokesperson Pawan Khera cited a Comptroller and Auditor-General report that said the government allotted the spectrum in 2015 on a "first come, first served" basis in contravention of rules. This caused losses to the State treasury, he said. Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said every band of spectrum was allocated through auction during his tenure as Telecom Minister. PTI

CEO suggests early Assembly polls in J&K

SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Shailendra Kumar has suggested early Assembly election in the State, assuring full preparedness, in a presentation made to the Election Commission in New Delhi two days ago. Official sources said Mr. Kumar made an elaborate presentation, putting forth the "pros and cons" of early or delayed elections. An official said Mr. Kumar suggested early election as the urban local bodies and the panchayat elections have set the ball rolling in the State. Mr. Kumar said the conditions were "conducive for early election."

India protests harassment of staff in Pak.

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

The Indian High Commission in Islamabad has written a note of protest to the government of Pakistan, alleging persistent harassment and relentless surveillance by local security agencies.

A source told *The Hindu* that the harassment has even extended to social occasions that Indian diplomats have to attend.

"Attempts were made to hack social media accounts of senior Indian diplomats, and the High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner are being closely followed and aggressively watched by Pakistani security agencies," said a source who requested anonymity.

The new row erupted hours after a Pakistani diplomat was briefly detained over inappropriate behaviour at a south Delhi market.

The allegation of persistent harassment of Indian diplomats came weeks after consular officials from the Indian mission were denied access to visiting Sikh pilgrims in Pakistan.

Politically motivated: Kanhaiya

Former JNU students slam the timing of the chargesheet against them

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Former Jawaharlal Nehru University students Kanhaiya Kumar, Umar Khalid and Anirban Bhattacharya, who were chargesheeted in the JNU sedition case on Monday, have questioned the timing and alleged that it was "politically motivated".

"I would like to thank the Delhi police and Modi*ji* for filing the chargesheet after three years, just ahead of the general election," Mr. Kumar said.

"This clearly shows that it is politically motivated, and I trust the judiciary to bring out the truth."

Umar Khalid said he had not seen the chargesheet, but he categorically rejected the charges, and said he would contest them legally.

"In a way, it is good that the matter will finally move to the actual courtroom after almost three years of media trials. We are convinced about our innocence and have full faith in the court. After we are proved innocent, we will legally take to task all the media houses that have spread canards about us," he said.

He said the criminal, irresponsible and inflammatory handling of the matter by media houses had made them vulnerable, even putting their physical safety in jeopardy and leading to murder attempts.

'To bury failures'

Anirban Bhattacharya, in a joint statement with Mr. Khalid, said the chargesheet was filed just before the election to deflect attention from the government's failures. They were raking up this issue as they needed to bury their failures under these lies.

In Srinagar, former Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti said it was "an attempt to score political points by including Kashmiris." "No surprises here. We are months away from the 2019 general election and, like always, using Kashmiris to score extra political points with the Indian electorate has become somewhat of a prerequisite," Ms. Mufti said adding that the timing "couldn't be more suspicious."

Saurabh Sharma of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, who was the joint secretary of the JNUSU at that time and was the first complainant against the event, called the filing of the chargesheet "a victory of ABVP."

'Victory of students'

"This is the victory of all those students who put their life in danger by showing the courage to raise their voice against the traitors/urban naxals who raised slogans. This shows that the students of JNU are with the nation."

Sedition axe

Events leading to the filing of sedition charges against Kanhaiya Kumar and others

Feb. 9, 2016: Protest march held in JNU campus to commemorate the hanging of Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru

Feb. 10: JNU orders a "disciplinary" inquiry

Feb. 11: Delhi police registers case against unknown persons on ABVP's complaint. Kanhaiya Kumar arrested on Feb, 12. in sedition case

Feb. 15: Violence in Patiala House courts with lawyers attacking journalists, JNU students and teachers ahead of Kanhaiya's hearing. Two FIRs registered

Feb. 18: Kanhaiya files bail plea in Supreme Court. Bail plea transferred to Delhi High Court

Feb. 23: JNU students Umar Khalid and Anirban Bhattacharya move HC seeking police protection prior to surrender

Feb. 26: Kanhaiya sent to Tihar Jail

March 2: HC grants six months interim bail to Kanhaiya

Aug. 26: Kanhaiya, Umar and Anirban granted regular bail by Delhi court

Jan. 14, 2019: Police files chargesheet against Kanhaiya, Umar and Anirban and others under offences of sedition, rioting & criminal conspiracy

In the dock: Umar Khalid and Kanhaiya Kumar in JNU in March 2017.

SC seeks CBI's response on Sajjan Kumar's appeal

Anti-Sikh riots case convict seeks bail

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

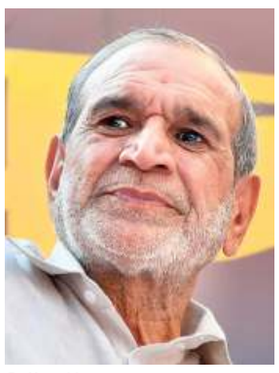
The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the CBI on an appeal and plea for bail filed by former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar against his conviction in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case. A Bench led by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi gave the agency six weeks to file its reply.

Kumar, 73, surrendered before a trial court here on December 31, 2018 to serve his sentence in accordance with the Delhi High Court's December 17 judgment, which convicted and sent him to prison for the "remainder of his natural life."

The case in which Kumar was convicted and sentenced relates to the killing of five Sikhs in Delhi Cantonment's Raj Nagar Part-I area of southwest Delhi on November 1-2, 1984 and the burning down of a gurdwara.

The riots broke out after the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984, by her two Sikh bodyguards.

Kumar resigned from the Congress after his conviction in the case.



Sajjan Kumar

The High Court found Kumar guilty of criminal conspiracy and abetment in commission of crimes of murder, promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of communal harmony and defiling and destruction of a gurdwara.

It also upheld the conviction and varying sentences awarded by a trial court to five others – former Congress councillor Balwan Khokhar, retired naval officer Captain Bhagmal, Girdhari Lal and former MLAs Mahender Yadav and Kishan Khokhar.

© 2006-2018 Kasturi & Sons Ltd. - -Rajdhani.hansi@gmail.com -9416404242

Rajnath likely to meet northeast CMs

Amid protests over the Citizenship Bill, meeting will discuss steps to protect region's cultural identity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

As widespread protests rock Assam and other northeast States over the Citizenship Amendment Bill, Home Minister Rajnath Singh will convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers of these States, a Home Ministry official said.

The Minister will discuss measures to protect the region's cultural and linguistic identity.

The Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2019 that seeks to grant citizenship to non-Muslims from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, who entered India before December 31, 2014, has been passed by the Lok Sabha. It is likely to be tabled in the Budget Session in the Rajya Sabha.

Assam Accord

The Bill has sparked several protests across Assam as it negates the 1985 Assam Accord, that fixed the cut-off date for migrants from Bangladesh to March 24,1971.

Recently, former IAS officer M.P Bezbaruah and four eminent personalities, who were named by the Centre to head a committee on Clause 6 of the Assam Accord, wrote to Home Ministry expressing their inability to be part of the panel. A Home Ministry official said the government was assessing the situation.

"The Union Home Minister will soon be calling a meeting of Chief Ministers of the concerned States. They will further discuss the safeguards that need to be provided for protecting the interests of these States and protecting their cultural and linguistic identity," the Home Ministry said in a statement.

It said a delegation from Assam, led by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, met Mr. Singh in New Delhi on Saturday.

'Not country-specific'

Mr. Singh said that while introducing the Bill in Lok Sabha on January 8, he had made it abundantly clear that the Bill was not meant for the individuals belonging to six minority communities who had come from one particular country.

"It is also not meant for individuals who are living in one particular State. At the same time, it is a fact that Assam has borne the disproportionate burden of migration due to religious persecution in our neighbouring countries," the statement said.

"They [Assam delegation] discussed issues related to safeguards for preserving the cultural and linguistic identity and heritage of Assam and implementation of Clause-6 of the Assam Accord and issues related to grant of tribal status to six communities," the statement said.

Representatives of Bodo groups, including the Bodoland Territorial Council chief Hagrama Muhilary, Chandan Brahma, Minister from BPF in the State government and Biswajit Daimary, MP also met the Union Home Minister over the weekend .

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh also met Mr. Singh along with Manipur BJP president and Rajya Sabha member K. Bhabananda Singh on Saturday.

Centre's challenges

The Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2019 that seeks to grant citizenship to non-Muslims from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan who entered India before December 31, 2014 has snowballed into a big controversy in the northeast

- Assam up in arms against the Bill as it goes against the Assam Accord of 1985 that set the cut-off date for Bangladeshi migrants to become Indian citizens at March 24, 1971
- The Rajya Sabha is yet to pass the Bill
- Former IAS officer M.P. Bezbaruah who was named as the head of a committee on Clause 6 of Assam Accord did not take the offer

Rajnath singh

It [the Bill] is also not meant for individuals who are living in one particular State. At the same time, it is a fact that Assam has borne the disproportionate burden of migration due to religious persecution in our neighbouring countries
Union Home Ministry

SC refuses to intervene now in citizenship issue

Petition seeks to quash a series of subordinate laws

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday refused immediate intervention in a petition seeking to quash a series of subordinate laws notified by the government which allow the naturalisation of illegal Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian migrants fleeing religious persecution from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The court said the Citizenship Amendment Bill was under the consideration of Parliament, and the court should not step in at this stage. It agreed to keep the petition pending.

Plight of petition

The Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi said the petition would become infructuous if the Bill, already passed in the Lok Sabha, got Rajya Sabha assent.

Ranjan Gogoi

The current petition filed by Nagarikatwa Aain Songsudhan Birodhi Mancha and some others contended that the leeway offered by the subordinate laws would increase the "uncontrolled influx of illegal migrants from Bangladesh to Assam". The illegal immigration, it said, has caused huge demographic changes in the northeastern State.

The petitioners urged the court to declare the amendments made through the Passport (Entry into India) Amendment Rules, 2015; the Foreigners (Amendment) Order, 2015; and the order issued by the Home Ministry on December 26, 2016 under the Citizenship Act, allowing the naturalisation of illegal immigrants who are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians, as "illegal and invalid". These subordinate laws served the same purpose as the proposed Bill.

The petition branded the move to differentiate "illegal immigrants" on the basis of their religion and grant them naturalisation as "communally motivated humanitarianism".

Assam Congress asks party to vote against Citizenship Bill

Leaders meet Kapil Sibal, Ahmed Patel with the demand

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress may have walked out of the Lok Sabha last week when the Citizenship Amendment Bill was moved for passage, but the party's Assam unit now wants its MPs to vote against it when the Bill comes up in the Rajya Sabha.

A delegation of the legal cell of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee, led by Supreme Court lawyer Krishna Sarma, called upon Rajya Sabha members Ahmed Patel and Kapil Sibal to impress upon the national leaders the need to vote against the Bill.

Sources say the delegation now plans to meet Congress president Rahul Gandhi to argue that the party should take a "clear position" and vote against the Bill.

Kapil Sibal

The Bill, which seeks to allow citizenship rights to Bangladeshi Hindus, has divided the party within the State. While leaders, including Lok Sabha member Sushmita Dev, from the Barak Valley cannot afford to oppose the Bill, those from the Bramhaputra Valley cannot support it. A source told *The Hindu* that on January 8, a delegation of Congress leaders from Assam, including State unit chief Ripun Bora, had a meeting with Mr. Patel close to midnight and urged him to ensure that the Opposition leaders did not allow the Bill to be taken up on the last day of the session.

Mr. Patel is then learnt to have worked the phone lines to formulate a common Opposition strategy. With a majority of the 14 Lok Sabha seats in Assam at stake, the Congress now wants the Bill to be pushed to the back burner.

"The challenge for us is either defeat the Bill or don't allow it to be taken up during the Budget session," a Congress leader said.

Chakma and Hajong communities in a spot

Indigenous groups in Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram feel Bill will legitimise claims of refugee groups

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The contentious Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 has put the spotlight on Bengali Hindus in Assam with Finance and Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma even saying the community could help the Assamese people win in 18 Assembly constituencies where Bengali Muslims are in a majority.

But in Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram, it's the Buddhist Chakma community displaced from present-day Bangladesh in the 1960s that is facing similar protests.

Asserting rights: Members of a Chakma students' association staging a protest. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Mizo perception

Southern Mizoram has had a sizeable Chakma population for ages. But there is a perception among the majority Mizos that many Chakmas have crossed over from the adjoining Chittagong hill tracts in Bangladesh following displacement by the Kaptai dam in the 1960s. Some came later along with nearly 2,000 Hajongs, who are Hindus, because of alleged religious persecution.

Nearly 5,000 Chakmas and a few Hajongs who had taken refuge in Mizoram – then the Lushai Hills part of Assam – were settled in Arunachal Pradesh. Indigenous groups in Arunachal Pradesh say their population has now increased to beyond 1,00,000, but the Chakmas and Hajongs say they are half that number.

"We are protesting against this Bill because it would serve as a legal basis for legitimising the claims of Chakma and Hajong refugees as the indigenous people of our State. It will also defeat various other regulations currently in force here," Tobom Dai, general secretary of the influential All Arunachal Pradesh Students' Union, said.

The Bill, passed in the Lok Sabha on January 8, seeks to grant citizenship to six minority communities – Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians – without valid documents from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan after six years of stay in India.

Apart from the Mizo National Front, the BJP Mizoram unit has opposed the Bill primarily with the Chakmas in mind. Mizo organisations have often served "quit notices" to Chakmas who had entered the State after 1950 but older residents have reportedly been targeted too.

IN BRIEF

AAP MP seeks review of Rafale verdict

NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party lawmaker Sanjay Singh on Monday moved the Supreme Court seeking a review of the verdict that dismissed several pleas challenging the Rafale deal. Separate pleas were filed by Mr. Singh, lawyer M.L. Sharma, Vineet Dhanda, former BJP leaders Arun Shourie and Yashwant Sinha and activist-lawyer Prashant against the deal. PTI

ED records statement of Robert Vadra's aide

NEW DELHI

Manoj Arora, aide of Robert Vadra, has appeared before the Enforcement Directorate for recording his statement in connection with a money laundering case. "Mr. Arora has joined the investigation," said an ED official on Monday. The agency had earlier moved a city court seeking issuance of an open ended non-bailable warrant against him, stating that he was under probe in connection with a property deal in London.

Jaideep Govind is new NHRC secretary-general

NEW DELHI

Senior IAS officer Jaideep Govind took over as secretary-general of the National Human Rights Commission on Monday, an NHRC statement said. Mr. Govind had previously served as Special Secretary and Financial Adviser in the Union Ministry of Rural Development. He has held various important posts in the Government of India such as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs and looked after critical areas of left-wing extremism, the NHRC said.

Fewer requests for data interception now

Home Ministry official says it has been the trend since 2014

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

As a petition was filed in the Supreme Court against the Home Ministry's order authorising 10 Central agencies for the purposes of "interception, monitoring and decryption of any information generated, transmitted, received or stored in any computer", a senior official clarified that the government had not given blanket power to any agency and they would have to adhere to rules.

According to the official, the number of interceptions has gone down since 2014, though the number of mobile phone connections in the country has gone up to around 120 crore. The number of electronic messages had also grown exponentially.

The December 20 notification means that websites and Web-based applications visited by a "suspect" on a computer or a mobile handset can be intercepted by telecom service providers on a request by an authorised agency after clearance by the Union Home Secretary.

The service provider will be liable to share the information with the agency under Section 69 (1) of the Information Technology Act, 2000. "There is no new law or procedure and there is no blanket authorisation. There is no change of even a comma or a full stop in the existing rules and regulation (framed in 2011)," the official said.

The official said that while listing the 10 agencies, the Home Ministry had reiterated the Standard Operating Procedures of 2011, which mandates that every such interception requires prior approval of the competent authority: the Union Home Secretary or State Home Secretary.

SC notice to Centre on plea challenging snooping order

Petition says it's violation of fundamental right to privacy

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the government to a batch of petitions seeking a declaration that the December 20 notification issued by the government listing 10 Central agencies which can snoop on people is a violation of the fundamental right to privacy.

A nine-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court had in 2017 upheld privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21 (right to dignified life) of the Constitution.

The judgment had also directed the government to protect informational privacy of every individual.

On Monday, a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi issued notice to the government and sought a reply in six weeks to the petitions, including the one filed by advocate M.L. Sharma. The 2017 verdict had directed the government to balance carefully and sensitively individual privacy and the legitimate concerns of the State, even if national security was at stake.

The December 20 order of the government allows the Central agencies to intercept, monitor and de-crypt "any information" generated, transmitted, received or stored in "any computer resource".

Government of Kerala
Published Tenders from 07-01-2019 to 13-01-2019
Higher Education Department
Tender ID: 2019_HEdD_259701_1 * Principal University College Thiruvananthapuram * E Tender for the supply and installation of Scientific Equip * Closing Date: 16-Jan-2019 * PAC: Rs10860000
Visit https://etenders.kerala.gov.in for more details.
Ro.No:07-13/Jan/2019/PRD/(N)15

काशी हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY
(AN INSTITUTION OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE ESTABLISHED BY AN ACT OF PARLIAMENT)
Ref: BHU/CBT/2018-19/01 e-Procurement Notice Dated: 12.01.2019
Online tenders are hereby invited in two cover system from reputed Agencies for Conduct of Computer Based Test (CBT) for Various Entrance Tests of BHU. Bidders can download bidding documents from http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app and www.bhu.ac.in from 16.01.2019 onwards. Registrar

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Executive Engineer, K.R.Sagara Division,, K.R.Sagara
TENDER NOTIFICATION NO:12/2018-19
Dated:14.01.2019
The Executive Engineer, K.R.Sagara Division, K.R.Sagara, Srirangapatna Taluk, Mandya Dist., on behalf of the Managing Director CNNL Mysore has inivted tender Through e-procuremnet www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in for the work **Construction of Bridge across River Cauvery near Karekura along with approach Roads and improvements and widening of Karekura Road From Srirangapatna - Elvala Road to Haralakutte and KRS Pandavapura Road** amount put to tender is **Rs.5363.80 Lakhs,** E.M.D amount is **Rs.53.63 lakhs** and Period for completion of the work is **11** months (**including Monsoon & Excluding watering period).** The Contractor can have access to e-procurement documents upto **14.02.2019 upto 5.30 PM.** A pre Bid Meeting will be held on **26.01.2019 at 11.00 Am** in the office of the Chief Engineer, CNNL, Irrigation (South) Zone, SayajiRao Road, Mysore-04. Last date for Submission of Completed e-procurement documents upto **14.02.2019 upto 5.30 PM.** Technical Bid will be opened on **16.02.2019 upto 11.00,** The opening of Financial Bid will be notified after the approval of Technical bid. Any further information or Clarification for the above said work can be obtained from above mentioned office during the office hours & from the above said website.
Sd/-Executive Engineer,
K.R.Sagara Division, K.R.Sagara
DIPR/AD/MDY/MCA/815

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MH&FW., DGHS
BCG VACCINE LABORATORY
No.110,33 Feet Road, Mount Road,Guindy, Chennai-600 032. Tamil Nadu
TENDER NOTICE
Sealed tenders are invited from the Manufacturers/Dealers in the prescribed form for supply and installation of laboratory animal SS Pen/ Tray, SS Racks and SS Trolley **on or before 07.02.19 at 1.30 P.M.** and the Technical Bid will be opened **at 3.30 P.M. on 07.02.19** at the above said office address. The date and time of opening of Financial Bid will be informed to the bidders who qualifies the Technical Bid.

Sl.No	Description of the item	Quantity in Nos.
1	SS Pen / Tray	180
2	SS Feed Trough	400
3	Water Bottle	400
4	SS Racks	40
5	Platform Trolley	5

Specification,Tender Forms and Vendor Qualification forms can be downloaded from the CPP Portal / BCGVL website- **www.dirbcglab.gov.in**
DIRECTOR

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER,
MYSURU ZONAL OFFICE,
10th Main Road, 3rd Cross, Saraswathipuram, Mysuru-09
Ph: 0821-2543552. E-Mail: kwbcemys2014@gmail.com
No: KUWSDB/CE(MYS)/DCE-2/TA-1/AE-2/ULLALA-KTK-VLLGS/WSS/TND/2137/2018-19 Dt: 10.01.2019
PRE-QUALIFICATION TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Electronic Procurement portal only)
Tender for the Pre-qualification with Joint venture for the following work is invited through e-Procurement portal from eligible Agency/Contractors.
Name and Description of work: **Part-I: (ITEM RATE) :** Construction of RCC Housing Chamber and Intake arrangements, Approach Road, Providing and laying 965mm dia 16mm thick MS Raw water rising main, Construction of 20ML Capacity Master Balance Reservoir at Kairangala, Construction of 6ML Capacity GLSR at Chembugudda, Providing and laying of various dia MS distribution feeder main, Providing SCADA system for Bulk water supply system. **Part-II : (LUMPSUM BASIS) :** Construction of 58MLD Capacity Water Treatment Plant at Kairangala. **PART-III :** Supply, erection, electrification and commissioning of suitable HP Deepwell turbine pump sets along with allied accessories at Headworks at Mundagodu. **PART-IV :** Operation and Maintenance of the assets built under Part-I, Part-II & Part-III of this contract for a period of five years including defect liability period of one year, under providing **Water Supply Scheme to Ullala City, Kotekar T.P & enroute villages with Nethravathi River as source.**
Tender Processing fee (Rs.) : **As per e-procurement portal.** Period of completion including monsoon (months) : **24 months for Part-I, II and III. 60 months for Part-IV.**
Calendar of Events

1.	Date & Time for commencement of downloading of PQ Document	From 17.01.2019 after 11.00 hours
2.	Last Date & Time for seeking clarification of PQ application	11.02.2019 upto 15.00 hours
3.	Date & Time of Pre-bid meeting	12.02.2019 at 15.00 hours
4.	Last Date & Time for receipt of PQ application in the e-procurement portal	02.03.2019 upto 17.30 hours
5.	Date & Time of Opening of the PQ application	06.03.2019 after 11.00 hours

For further details, the Office of the Chief Engineer (Mys), KUWS & D Board, Mysuru, may please be contacted or website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or e-Procurement helpdesk: **080-22371090/22373788,** e-mail support: **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com.**
Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER
KUWS & D BOARD, MYSURU.

© 2006-2018 Kasturi & Sons Ltd. - -Rajdhani.hansi@gmail.com -9416404242

ELSEWHERE

Furloughed worker's wife wins $1,00,000 in lottery

WASHINGTON

Virginia-based Carrie Walls, whose husband is one of thousands of federal employees who haven't been paid due to the U.S. government shutdown, won $1,00,000 and a car in the State lottery. Along with the money, Ms. Walls — who lives in Ashburn, a suburban town near Washington — also bagged a Ford SUV. AFP

Pakistan to shelve major CPEC power project

ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan government has decided to shelve a major coal-based power plant project under the $60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), citing sufficient generation capacity already lined up for the next few years. It has requested Beijing to formally delete the project from the CPEC list, a report in *Dawn* said. PTI

Bangladesh garment workers reject wage hike

ASHULIA

Thousands of Bangladeshi garment workers downed tools and walked out of clothing factories on Monday, refusing to end a week-long strike over wages and rejecting Sunday's offer of wage increase. Some of the tailors received hikes of little more than 20 taka ($0.25) a month, angering many of them. AFP

I have never worked for Russia: U.S. President

WASHINGTON

Standing outside the snow-covered White House on Monday, Donald Trump made an astonishing declaration for a U.S. President: no, he has never been an agent of Russia. "I never worked for Russia," Mr. Trump told reporters on the South Lawn. "It's a disgrace that you even ask that question. It's all a big fat hoax." AFP

'U.S. will devastate Turkey's economy if Kurds are attacked'

Trump's warning draws rebuke from Ankara ahead of troop pull-out from Syria

REUTERS
ISTANBUL/RIYADH

President Donald Trump threatened Turkey with economic devastation if it attacks a U.S.-allied Kurdish militia in Syria, drawing a sharp rebuke from Ankara on Monday and reviving fears of another downturn in ties between the allies.

Relations between the U.S. and Turkey have long been strained by Washington's support for the Kurdish YPG, which Turkey views as an extension of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) that is waging a decades-long insurgency in Turkey.

Battling the IS: A U.S. soldier on an armoured vehicle in Manbij, north Syria, in April 2018. ▪AP

No change in plans

Speaking in Riyadh, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he did not think the threat would change plans to withdraw troops from Syria. Asked what Mr. Trump meant by economic devastation, he said: "You'll have to ask the President." "We have applied economic sanctions in many places, I assume he is speaking about those kinds of things, Mr. Pompeo said, adding he had not spoken with Ankara since Mr. Trump's comment.

Mr. Trump said on Sunday that the U.S. was starting the military pull-out from Syria that he announced in December but that it would continue to hit Islamic State (IS) fighters there. "Will attack again from existing nearby base if it reforms. Will devastate Turkey economically if they hit Kurds. Create 20 mile safe zone... Likewise, do not want the Kurds to provoke Turkey," he tweeted.

Turkish presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin said Mr. Trump should respect Washington's alliance with Ankara. "Mr @realDonaldTrump It is a fatal mistake to equate Syrian Kurds with the PKK, which is on the U.S. terrorists list, and its Syria branch PYD/YPG," he said.

Mr. Trump gave no details about the safe zone proposal, but Mr. Pompeo said Washington wanted to provide security for those who have fought against the IS and to prevent any attack on Turkey from Syria.

Divers find second black box of crashed Indonesia Lion Air jet

It could take up to three months to analyse its contents

REUTERS
JAKARTA

Indonesian authorities on Monday said they will immediately begin to download contents of a cockpit voice recorder (CVR) from a Lion Air jet that crashed into the sea near Jakarta more than two months ago, killing all 189 people on board.

The crash was the world's first of a Boeing Co 737 MAX jet and the deadliest of 2018, and the recovery of the aircraft's second black box from the Java Sea north of Jakarta on Monday may provide an account of the last actions of the doomed jet's pilots. "We have our own laboratory and personnel to do it," Haryo Satmiko, deputy chief of the transportation safety committee, said.

Mr. Satmiko said it had in the past taken up to three months to download, analyse and transcribe the contents of recorders. Contact with flight JT610 was lost 13 minutes after it took off on October 29 from the capital, Jakarta, heading north to the tin-mining town of Pangkal Pinang.

The cockpit voice recorder which was found on Monday. ▪REUTERS

A preliminary report by Indonesia's transport safety commission focussed on airline maintenance and training, as well as the response of a Boeing anti-stall system and a recently replaced sensor, but did not give a cause for the crash.

A weak signal

Navy Lieutenant Colonel Agung Nugroho said that a weak signal from the recorder was detected several days ago and it was found buried deep in soft mud on the sea floor in water about 30 m deep.

"We don't know what damage there is but it has obvious scratches on it," Mr. Nugroho said.

Nurcahyo Utomo, an investigator at the safety committee, told reporters that it should take no more than five days to download the data, but if there was a problem the CVR would be sent to the manufacturer.

Polish Mayor dies of stab wounds after knife attack

Pawel Adamowicz was attacked on Sunday during an event

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GDANSK

The Mayor of the Polish port city of Gdansk died on Monday, a day after a man stabbed him in the heart in front of hundreds of people at a charity event. "Despite all our efforts, we failed to save him," said Doctor Tomasz Stefaniak, director of Gdansk University hospital, quoted by the Polish PAP news agency.

Anti-violence rallies were being planned nationwide after Sunday's shock attack on Mayor Pawel Adamowicz, known for his liberal views and opposition to Poland's governing right-wing Law and Justice (PiS) party.

Gdansk's Mayor Pawel Adamowicz. ▪REUTERS

Mr. Adamowicz, 53, had been in a very critical condition after he suffered a serious wound to the heart and cuts to his diaphragm and abdominal organs, according to surgeons who operated on him for five hours. Video footage showed the attacker, who police said was wearing a press badge, bursting on to the podium and launching himself at Mr. Adamowicz.

A local police spokesman said the detained man was a 27-year-old who lived in Gdansk. In a video of the attack posted on YouTube, the suspect was seen seizing the microphone and claiming he had been wrongly jailed by the previous centrist government of the Civic Platform (PO) party and tortured.

Fifteen killed in Iran cargo plane crash

The plane caught fire in an accident after making emergency landing, says Army

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

A military cargo plane overshot a runway, crashed and caught fire during a botched landing near the Iranian capital Tehran, killing 15 people, the Army said Monday.

"The plane had 16 passengers, 14 of whom were the army crew and two were civilians; 15 were martyred," Army spokesman Amir Taghikhani said. "One, the flight engineer, was injured and is currently in hospital."

Wreckage of the Boeing 707 military cargo plane that crashed near Fath airport, Iran, on Monday. ▪REUTERS

Scattered wreckage

The charred remains of the plane's fuselage with Iranian Air Force colours, its nose wedged through the wall of what appeared to be a house, were seen in photographs. Wreckage, including a landing gear and a mangled jet engine, was scattered nearby. "A (Boeing) cargo 707 place carrying meat took off from Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan and had an emergency landing at Fath airport this morning," the Army said in a statement on its website. "It exited the runway during the landing and caught fire after hitting the wall at the end of the runway." Fath airport is in Alborz province, just northwest of Tehran.

Investigators found the plane's black box, which will provide more details about the crash, Alborz's Deputy-Governor Azizollah Shahbazi told Tasnim news agency.

Fars news agency carried a video showing emergency teams cutting through the plane's nose, which had penetrated what it said was an empty residential complex.

Iran's aging air fleet has had a string of crashes in recent years. Iran's Aseman Airlines was ordered to ground its fleet of ATR planes in February last year after one of them crashed in the Zagros mountains, killing all 66 people onboard.

China court sentences Canadian to death on drug trafficking charges

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DALIAN

A Chinese court sentenced a Canadian to death on drug trafficking charges on Monday after his previous 15-year prison sentence was deemed too lenient, a ruling likely to deepen a rift between Ottawa and Beijing.

Robert Lloyd Schellenberg, 36, nodded as the judge in the northeast city of Dalian asked him whether he understood the verdict, following a day-long retrial in which he declared his innocence. "The court completely rejects the accused person's explanation and defence because it is completely at odds with the facts," the chief judge said in a courtroom packed with observers – among them Canadian Embassy officials and three foreign reporters. He can appeal against the sentence at an upper court.

Earlier sentence

Mr. Schellenberg had originally been sentenced to 15 years in prison and a 150,000-yuan ($22,000) forfeiture in November. But following an appeal, a High Court in Liaoning ruled in December that the sentence was too lenient given the severity of his crimes.

Reacting to the verdict, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau expressed "extreme concern". "It is of extreme concern to us as a government... that China has chosen to arbitrarily apply death penalties in cases, as in this case facing a Canadian," he said.

My deal or no Brexit, says May

PM faces a crucial vote on Tuesday, and is expected to lose

VIDYA RAM
LONDON

Prime Minister Theresa May has warned that no Brexit at all is the most likely outcome if MPs reject her withdrawal deal on Tuesday, as she sought to persuade wavering MPs to back her.

With a clear majority of parliamentarians set to oppose her deal, the main question is over the scale of the defeat – with the Prime Minister making every effort to make it a close result, potentially enabling her to return with a second amended deal in the future were the EU to agree to changes.

Letter from EU

The deal is expected to be voted down despite a new letter from Jean Claude Juncker, the president of the European Commission, and Donald Tusk, the president of the European Council, offering assurances over the temporary nature of the Irish backstop. However, with the letter failing to amount to anything that would be legally binding, it is unlikely to ease the concerns of those fearful that the deal risks leaving the U.K. in a perpetual state of limbo where it could remain bound to EU rules without having an influence over policy.

A European Union flag flying opposite British Parliament. ▪AP

Highlighting the level of the crisis, Gareth Johnson, a government whip, resigned on Monday, insisting that he could not "in all conscience" support the government's position.

How the defeat on the much-delayed vote on Tuesday will be inflicted remains unclear. Much lies in the hands of Speaker John Bercow, who will select which amendments can be voted on. Last week, Mr. Bercow provoked an outcry from many Brexiteers after allowing a vote on an amendment that requires the government to return to the House within three days of any defeat with a 'Plan B' option.

One amendment currently in the frame on Tuesday is from Labour MP Hilary Benn that would reject the Brexit deal entirely while also rejecting leaving without a deal. However, even this is controversial as some argue that it would alienate some "hard" Brexiteers.

Future strategy

Also, Conservative MP Nick Boles has said that he and his colleagues are eager to push against the withdrawal deal and then to hand over the process of determining a Brexit strategy to the House of Commons Liaison Committee. However, this too is controversial, particularly as the committee's chair is Sarah Wollaston, a Conservative MP who supports a second referendum.

In the first of two speeches on Monday, Ms. May insisted that her deal was "worthy of support" because it put laws back in the control of the British people. "While no deal remains a serious risk, having observed events at Westminster over the last seven days, it is now my judgment that the more likely outcome is a paralysis in Parliament that risks there being no Brexit."

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail : ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com

1121-B: **Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-69 / 2018-19**

1. The Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road / Bridge works as mentioned below:
2. Nature of work : Road / Bridge works
3. No. of work : 02 Nos.
4. Tender Paper Cost : Rs.10,000.00
5. Class of Contractor : 'A' Class / Special Class / Super Class as noted against each work
6. Available of bid document in the website. : From 10.00 A.M. of 15.01.2019 to 5.00 P.M of 30.01.2019
7. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.31.01.2019 at 11.30 AM
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : **https://tenderodisha.gov.in** . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha.
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
34117/11/0180/1819

CORRIGENDUM
Office of the D.G & I.G. of Police, Odisha, Cuttack
(Ref:- Short Tender Call Notice No. 325-D)

With reference to the Short Tender Call Notice No.325-D for **supply, commissioning and maintenance of Servers in HYPER CONVERGED INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTION configuration at State Data Center Bhubaneswar** for Odisha Police- State Crime Records Bureau during the current financial year, 2018-19, some modifications have been made by the Technical Committee of SCRB, Bhubaneswar which are as follows.

1. Minimum turnover of Rs.150.00 Crore in point No.(i) of Pre-qualification cum Technical Bid Stage Eligibility Criteria (Page 10) :- **Rs.150 Crore Turn over refers to OEM and not to Channel Partner authorized by OEM.**
2. Execution of purchase order in point No.(vi) of Pre-qualification cum Technical Bid Stage Eligibility Criteria (Page 10):- **It is not necessary that the bidder should have executed project for SCRB.**

Other terms and conditions of Short Tender Call Notice No. 325-D remain unaltered.

338-D:
12018/11/0053/1819
AIG of Police (Provisioning), Odisha, Cuttack.
(Tender Calling Authority)

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
NAYAGARH (R&B) DIVISION, NAYAGARH
WORKS DEPARTMENT
1123-B: **Tender call Notice**
E-mail: pwdoff.ngd@gmail.com

Bid Identification No.EE-Nayagarh (R&B) Division-Online 05/2018-19

The Executive Engineer, Nayagarh (R&B) Division, Nayagarh on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in **Double** cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Building & Road work as detailed in the table below:

1. Nature of Work : Building & Culvert Work.
2. No of Work : 2 Nos.
3. Tender Cost : To be remitted online through a process as mentioned in DTCN
4. Class of Contractor : As mentioned in DTCN
5. Available of Bid Document in the Website. : From **Dt.21.01.2019** 10.00 AM to **Dt.02.02.2019** Upto 5.00 PM
6. Date of Opening of Bid : **Dt.04.02.2019 at 11.00 AM**
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website : **https://tenderodisha.gov.in**. Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

34138/11/0011/1819
Executive Engineer,
Nayagarh (R&B) Division, Nayagarh.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Chief Construction Engineer,
Kanupur Irrigation Project, Basudevpur, Dist-Keonjhar.

1119-A: **1st CORRIGENDUM to**
INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
(INTERNATIONAL COMPETATIVE BIDDING)
Vide NOTICE NO. CCE,KIP/EOI-01/2018-19

The critical dates are arranged as tabled below.

1.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	From 12.12.2018, 10.00 Hrs to 30.01.2019 upto 17.00 Hrs.
2.	Last Date & Time for submission of EoI in Portal.	30.01.2019 upto 17.00 Hrs.
3.	Time & Date of Opening of Eligibility Criteria	Dt. 31.01.2019 at 11.00 Hours.

All other terms and conditions remain unaltered.
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal : "https://tendersodisha.gov.in"

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer
32012/11/0019/1819 **Kanupur Irrigation Project, Basudevpur, Keonjhar.**

ODISHA STATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
(A GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA AGENCY)
9th FLOOR, RAJIV BHAWAN, UNIT-V,
BHUBANESWAR-751001
Telephones: +91-674-2395398, 2395531,
Fax: +91-674-2391871
E-mail:osdma@osdma.org, Website: www.osdma.org
OSDMA
ISO 9001:2008

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
FOR SUPPLY OF PORTABLE INFLATABLE TOWER LIGHT FOR CYCLONE / FLOOD SHELTERS AND FIRE SERVICES FOR GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
(Through Two-Bid e-Procurement)

Tender Call Notice No.196 /OSDMA **Date : 14.01.2019**

The Odisha State Disaster Management Authority, Bhubaneswar (Purchaser) invites online bids through e-procurement portal of Govt of Odisha i.e. **https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in** from eligible bidders for supply of Portable Inflatable Tower Light for Cyclone/Flood Shelters and Fire Services for Government of Odisha as detail below.

Sl. No.	IFB NO	Total Quantity	Cost of Tender paper	Bid Security
1	NCRMP/MCS&FS-785/EQP(31-ii) / PKG-07/NCB/2019	785 Nos	Rs.10000/-	Rs.21,00,000/-

1. Date of Commencement of sale of bidding document : **14.01.2019**
2. Last date of sale of bidding document : **04.02.2019** up to 10.00 AM
3. Name & Address of the Officer Inviting Bid : 9th FLOOR, RAJIV BHAWAN, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal of Govt of Odisha i.e. **https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in .**
The authority reserves the right to cancel any or all of the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

95-F: Sd/-
24007/11/0017/1819 **General Manager (Mechanical), OSDMA**

© 2006-2018 Kasturi & Sons Ltd. - -Rajdhani.hansi@gmail.com -9416404242

MARKET WATCH

	14-01-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	35,854	-0.43
US Dollar	70.92	-0.61
Gold	33,100	0.68
Brent oil	59.92	-2.18

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	374.45	-2.70
Asian Paints	1388.60	-15.05
Axis Bank	659.20	-7.30
Bajaj Auto	2699.15	-21.80
Bajaj Finserv	6368.80	-2.85
Bajaj Finance	2544.80	30.60
Bharti Airtel	331.60	-3.50
BPCL	334.95	-2.35
Cipla	511.95	1.75
Coal India	230.90	-1.35
Dr Reddys Lab	2578.80	-9.35
Eicher Motors	20480.40	-27.20
GAIL (India)	324.90	-13.70
Grasim Ind	813.70	-0.55
HCL Tech	937.20	-2.85
HDFC	1969.20	-22.20
HDFC Bank	2101.65	-10.25
Hero MotoCorp	2867.00	-32.25
Hindalco	206.15	0.30
HPCL	233.95	0.45
Hind Unilever	1763.90	-5.50
Indiabulls HFL	790.95	-25.20
ICICI Bank	373.35	-5.20
IndusInd Bank	1484.05	-31.10
Bharti Infratel	280.10	2.90
Infosys	701.90	18.40
Indian OilCorp	132.30	1.10
ITC	294.30	-1.05
JSW Steel	283.90	-4.90
Kotak Bank	1211.75	-11.45
L&T	1333.90	-35.70
M&M	724.55	-3.35
Maurti Suzuki	7408.70	88.20
NTPC	145.55	-2.45
ONGC	143.45	-1.20
PowerGrid Corp	192.50	-1.85
Reliance Ind	1096.80	-1.25
State Bank	300.40	-2.35
Sun Pharma	450.85	6.45
Tata Motors	182.40	2.10
Tata Steel	470.85	-3.35
TCS	1813.25	-29.30
Tech Mahindra	679.85	-19.35
Titan	957.50	-1.80
UltraTech Cement	3776.60	6.40
UPL	770.40	-13.05
Vedanta	193.05	-3.55
Wipro	312.55	-16.15
YES Bank	195.35	11.10
Zee Entertainment	448.10	-2.95

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 14

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	70.73	71.05
Euro	81.10	81.47
British Pound	91.04	91.45
Japanese Yen (100)	65.45	65.74
Chinese Yuan	10.45	10.50
Swiss Franc	72.04	72.37
Singapore Dollar	52.23	52.47
Canadian Dollar	53.27	53.51
Malaysian Ringitt	17.24	17.33

Source:Indian Bank

PCA banks' fate hangs on Q4 show

Capital, provisioning estimates to help BFS decide on exits from PCA framework

MANOJIT SAHA
MUMBAI

The banks which are under the prompt corrective action (PCA) framework have been asked to provide an estimate of the quantum of provision for bad loans required for the January-March quarter and the shortfall in capital due to the provisioning, to the banking regulator before a decision can be taken to remove restrictions on some banks.

The Board for Financial Supervision (BFS) of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) – which has been entrusted by the central bank board to review the performance of the banks under PCA – met last week, when the decision has been taken.

BFS is chaired by the RBI Governor and includes the four deputy governors and a few other board members.

"The financial results of the third quarter are coming out. Now, the banks have been asked to submit estimate for the fourth quarter, how much provision they require and due to which if there is any shortfall in capital. If there is a shortfall in capital, the government can step in to meet the capital requirement which could help some of the banks out of the PCA framework," said a person privy to the discussion.

Helping hand: The Centre wants at least a few banks to come out of curbs so that lending can get a boost. ▪ V.V. KRISHNAN

Most public sector banks, including the ones under PCA framework, are expected to announce their October-December earnings over the next 15-30 days.

Restrictions under prompt corrective action are imposed when a bank breaches certain risk thresholds with respect to capital adequacy ratio, net non-performing asset ratio, return of assets and leverage ratio.

In December, the government decided to infuse ₹28,615 crore into public sector banks to support them with regulatory capital. One of the biggest beneficiaries of the exercise was Bank of India – also under the PCA framework – which received ₹10,086 crore.

Share in loan market

Under the PCA framework, there are 11 public sector banks which have a 20% share in the loan market. Some of the banks that could see the restrictions removed are Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, and Corporation Bank.

Since the government was keen to see at least some banks under PCA come out of the curbs so that lending can get a boost, the November 19 board meeting of RBI decided the matter would be examined by the BFS.

Rupee near one-month low against $

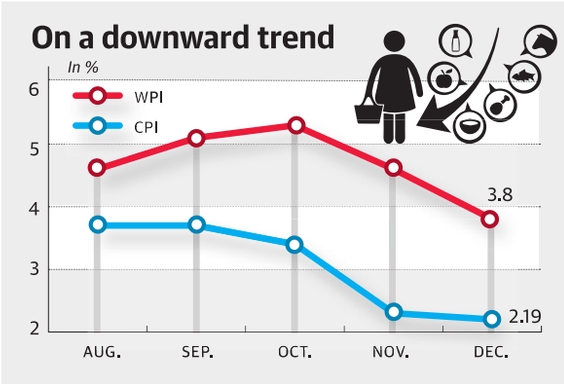
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The rupee on Monday plunged by 43 paise to close at nearly one-month low of 70.92 against the U.S. dollar amid weak industrial output growth data, fall in domestic equity markets and sustained foreign fund outflows.

A weak U.S. dollar against major global currencies and fall in crude oil prices, however, capped losses of the domestic currency.

At the Interbank Foreign Exchange (forex), the rupee opened at 70.50 and touched a high of 70.44 per U.S. dollar in early trade.

But it pared early gains and fell to an intra-day low of 70.95. The rupee, however, recovered and settled at 70.92, down 43 paise over its previous closing. This is the lowest closing level since December 17 when it closed at 71.56.



Source: CMIE

Retail inflation eases to 18-month low in Dec.

Wholesale inflation at eight-month low

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Inflation in December eased at both the retail and wholesale levels with the consumer price index (CPI) coming in at an 18-month low and the wholesale price index (WPI) registering an eight-month low mainly due to falling fuel prices, according to two separate releases by the government on Monday.

Growth in the CPI stood at 2.19% in December, down from the 2.33% registered in November. The main driver for the easing in inflation was the fuel and light category, which saw growth slowing to 4.54% in December from 7.24% in the previous month.

Oil prices in the Indian basket fell significantly over the course of December, from $61 a barrel at the start of the month to $52.3 a barrel on New Year's Eve.

The food and beverages segment of the CPI saw a contraction of 1.49% in December, compared with a contraction of 1.69% in November.

"Headline CPI came close to expectations at 2.2% year-on-year," B. Prasanna, head of global markets group at ICICI Bank, said. "This was led with continued deflation in food group while the broad core index threw up a negative surprise with core inflation remaining at 5.7%. Despite the sharp fall in petrol and diesel prices in December, the core inflation was elevated. This was due to the high sequential inflation seen in health and education sub-groups."

"CPI trajectory is likely to remain benign till H1 FY20, after which it may show an uptick," Mr. Prasanna added. "We continue to expect the monetary policy committee to change the stance to neutral in the February policy and remain on an extended pause on policy rates."

Wholesale prices

Inflation as measured by the wholesale price index dropped to an eight-month low of 3.8%, also driven primarily by falling fuel prices. Growth in the WPI slowed in December from the 4.64% recorded in November.

Inflation in the crude oil and natural gas segment slowed drastically in December to 17.49% compared with the previous month.

Inflation in the manufacturing segment slowed to 3.59% in December from 4.21% in November.

Vehicle sales on a slow lane in December

Manufacturers cut dispatches to lower inventory pile up with dealers after a sluggish festive season

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Vehicle sales in the country across categories – four-wheelers, two-wheelers and commercial vehicles – declined in December 2018 as manufacturers dispatched lower number of vehicles to dealers to reduce inventory pile up after a sluggish festive season.

According to data released by industry body SIAM, passenger vehicle sales fell 0.43% to more than 2.38 lakh units, while those of commercial vehicles and two-wheelers declined 7.80% to 75,984 units and 2.23% to more than 12.59 lakh units, respectively.

Requiring correction

"As festive season selling did not happen this year (2018) around, stocks at dealer level went up considerably. It required a correction, so automakers made adjustments in this regard during December," SIAM president Rajan Wadhera said.

Additionally, factors such as lack of finance and credit options due to the ongoing NBFC crisis, coupled with high fuel prices impacted consumer sentiments, leading to slower sales, he added. However, the industry body expects sales to pick up in the last quarter of 2018-19.

> **Factors such as lack of finance coupled with high fuel prices impacted consumer sentiments**
>
> RAJAN WADHERA
> president, SIAM

Mr Wadhera added that in 2019-20, the demand is likely to pick up driven mainly by pre-buying of BS IV vehicles, before the BSVI kicks in.

Going forward, the industry body expects the automobile industry to face challenges due to political uncertainty, subdued consumer sentiments, trade wars and steel prices moving up amid apprehensions over steel import restriction.

Impact of import curbs

On the impact of curbs on use of imported steel by domestic manufacturers, Mr. Wadhera said the decision may impact production and the industry body would approach the government to sort this out. SIAM will also reach out to the GST Council for lowering tax rates.

Mr. Wadhera said the automobile prices will go up once the new crash norms as well as higher emission norms are implemented. "...this is almost going to [make automobiles] unaffordable with the high tax rate.

"Hence, there is a strong need that this gets rationalised in the light of cost build up that is going to happen."

As per the data released on Monday, domestic car sales fell 2% to over 1.55 lakh units and those of UVs were down 2.33% to 65,506 units.

In two-wheelers, while motorcycle sales last month rose marginally to over 7.93 lakh units, scooter sales declined by 6% to over four lakh units.

India to unveil Air Cargo Policy

Aims to fuel growth of aviation sector, boost economy

ADITYA ANAND
MUMBAI

India's first Air Cargo Policy will be unveiled at the two-day Global Aviation Summit starting here on Tuesday.

Despite registering a double-digit growth for nearly four years in a row, India has remained without a specific policy for air cargo.

Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu, announcing this, said that over 30 countries were participating in the first-of-its-kind aviation summit.

"A policy to provide thrust to air cargo has been drafted for the first time and will fuel the growth of the aviation sector and boost the country's economy," he said.

Safety, affordability

Emphasising that security, safety, convenience and affordability were the key aspects, the Minister said the aviation vision for 2040 would address all the issues so that India will have sustainable growth in the sector at all times.

Suresh Prabhu

"We are trying to make a policy for air cargo so that the aviation market can grow, which, in turn, will boost the trade and economy of the country," he said.

Mr. Prabhu said that the success of the aviation sector in the country was completely propelled by the participation of private players, adding that infrastructure for the movement of air cargo could be created in the same way.

The Minister said night hours, when air passenger traffic was negligible, could be used to airlift cargo.

Civil Aviation Ministry officials said that solutions to critical issues relating to agriculture and manufacturing output and their supplies had been sufficiently explored in the policy which was integrated with logistics.

Mr. Prabhu indicated that the government is of the view that the basic objective on which the logistics and cargo policy is being put in place is based on the premise that its context is important because both logistics and cargo are one of the biggest growth-driven sectors in India after services.

Centre to award UDAN-III routes soon

Ministry to unveil Vision 2040 for aviation sector at two-day global summit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Union Ministry of Civil Aviation will shortly award new regional connectivity routes under UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagarik) III, Union Minister for Commerce, Industry & Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu said in Mumbai on Monday.

"Very soon, we will be declaring results for a very successful round in UDAN III. We will announce it formally in the next two days. The new routes will meet lot of unmet demand and futuristic requirement of people," Mr. Prabhu said ahead of a two-day Global Aviation Summit.

"[In this round] We want to do something which is completely ready and foolproof. In the past, some airlines that had bid and succeeded in bagging routes did not take off [from those routes]. We do not want to see a repeat of that kind. We want to make sure that UDAN is really flying," the Minister added.

No show: Air Odisha and Air Deccan, which got 56 routes in round one, were hit by lack of resources. ▪ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

'Starting' trouble

He was referring to Air Odisha and Air Deccan which, despite bagging many regional connectivity routes, could not launch many flights due to lack of resources. The third round of bidding under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) for domestic routes concluded recently and 15 airlines had bid for a total 111 routes. These include a bulk of the 56 (RCS) routes withdrawn from Air Odisha and Air Deccan because of their inability to launch flights. The two airlines between them had 84 routes bagged by them in round one of UDAN

As the two airlines accounted for two-thirds of the total 128 routes bagged by five operators in round one, their inability to start these routes meant a setback for the scheme.

"We are connecting incredible, inaccessible parts of India. We are going ahead with more connectivity, and working with State governments. We are also coming out with a template of doing joint ventures with States for airport development," he said.

He added that at the summit, the Ministry would unveil a Vision 2040 for the aviation sector. Delegates from about 86 countries are participating in this first-of-its-kind summit.

Jet soars 16% on resolution plan reports

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Jet Airways stock on Monday rose over 16% to close at ₹294.40 on the BSE amid reports of likely finalisation of a recapitalisation plan.

A media report stated that banks had agreed to a 'resolution plan' subject to certain conditions, including the promoter reducing the stake. But Jet officials denied any such move and declined to comment on 'speculation.' A query from the stock exchange on the media report remained unanswered by Jet Airways till going to the press.

On the NSE, shares surged 15.67% to ₹293.40. As many as 35.21 lakh shares were traded on the BSE and over three crore shares changed hands on the NSE in the day.

(With PTI inputs)

ICICI Securities Q3 net slips 34.3%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

ICICI Securities, investment services arm of ICICI Group, on Monday reported a 34.3% decline in consolidated profit to ₹101.1 crore for the third quarter ended December 31.

In comparison, the company's profit stood at ₹153.9 crore in the October-December quarter of 2017-18, ICICI Securities said in a regulatory filing.

Total income also declined to ₹404.7 crore, compared with ₹493.8 crore in the third quarter of the previous fiscal.

During the current financial year, there have been several short-term headwinds such as volatile market and significant regulatory changes, which impacted the overall business sentiment,it said.

Dry yourself with Welspun towels at the Kumbh Mela

Home textiles major aims to create brand impact as it plans to expand domestic business

INDRANI DUTTA
KOLKATA

Export-oriented home-textiles maker Welspun India is looking to use the *Kumbh Mela* to work its way into the hearts and minds of Indians.

The company, which exports towels, bedsheets, bathrobes and rugs to 50 countries from its production bases in Gujarat, is planning to hand out towels to women for use in the changing rooms during the Kumbh Mela at Prayagraj (formerly Allahabad) which started on Monday and goes on for 55 days.

3,000-people target

Welspun plans to reach out to at least 3,000 people daily, deploying 10,000 towels to be re-used in multiple cycles over 45 days.

An eye on India: Welspun is aiming to raise its domestic sales to 20% of total revenue, from 5% now. ▪ VIJAY SONEJI

In all, it will be targeting about five lakh customers for its activities and engagements. It will put up stalls and also mount the Welspun brand displays outside changing rooms and police booths.

"We at Welspun felt that it could be a good opportunity to run a campaign projecting our towels as one which dries the user and dries itself fast (*jaldi sukhe jaldi sukhaye*) ," Manjari Upadhye, CEO and head of domestic business, told *The Hindu*. "Ours is a 100% cotton towel," she said.

"We are trying to grow our domestic focus which was not there earlier," Ms. Upadhye said.

To a question on whether the *Kumbh Mela*, attracting pilgrims from all walks of life, is an alluring launch pad for a towel priced at ₹249 apiece, Ms. Upadhye said the congregation was a good mix of people from all strata of society.

"Our aim is to create awareness (through first-hand experience of the product), while triggering a will to purchase," she said.

The *Kumbh Mela* typically sees a congregation of several millions. This year's gathering is expected to bring in more than 70 million people.

A Welspun official said that this sets a good platform for the brands to showcase products.

Currently, Welspun India is largely an export-oriented company. The firm has manufacturing units in Vapi and Anjar in Gujarat.

Five-year plan

Welspun is targeting to increase its domestic sales to 20% of its turnover in five years from 5% now," Ms. Upadhye said. Towels, now accounting for one third of its revenues, are seen to be a major vehicle in this aspiration.

The company's products are retailed in large format and multi-brand stores in 20 cities. The organised sector has a 10% share in the ₹3,200 crore Indian towel market.

Govt. mulls sops for electronics makers

Credit guarantee among proposals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The government is considering credit guarantee for term loans of up to ₹100 crore as well as interest subsidy on loans of up to ₹1,000 crore for electronic manufacturing companies under the new policy in works.

According to official sources, the Ministry of Electronics and IT (Meity) has proposed "credit guarantee fund" (CGF) scheme and "interest subvention scheme" (ISS) to boost electronics manufacturing ecosystem in the country under new National Policy on Electronics in the works.

No collateral security

"There is proposal to provide credit guarantee on term loans for projects up to ₹100 crore per borrowing unit. This will not require any collateral security and third party guarantee, for setting up a new electronics manufacturing unit or considerable expansion of an existing electronics manufacturing pant. The cover will vary on case to case basis, depending upon investments...," an official source told PTI. According to the proposal, the government will provide up to 50% guarantee cover of the sanctioned loan amount, the source said.

"It is proposed that Meity shall create a fund with the nodal agency for providing guarantees for the term loans. Meity shall provide funds in advance from its annual budgetary allocation to the nodal agency for utilisation under the scheme," the source added.

© 2006-2018 Kasturi & Sons Ltd. - -Rajdhani.hansi@gmail.com -9416404242

IN BRIEF

Infosys rises 3% after board okays buy-back

NEW DELHI

Shares of Infosys on Monday rose nearly 3% after the firm approved a ₹8,260-crore share buy-back plan and raised the revenue growth forecast. The scrip gained 2.52% to end at ₹700.90 on the BSE. Intraday, it surged 3.70% to ₹709. On the NSE, the shares rose 2.60% to close at ₹701.30.As many as 19.01 lakh shares were traded on the BSE and over one crore shares changed hands on the NSE. PTI

Reserve Bank slaps ₹1 cr. penalty on Bajaj Finance

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹1 crore on Bajaj Finance for violating norms of the fair practices code. "This action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the NBFC with its customers," the RBI said. The NBFC is mainly engaged in extending loans to retail, small and medium enterprise segments.

Maruti opens bookings for the new WagonR

NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki announced the opening of bookings for its new version of WagonR. It said customers could make bookings for the third-generation WagonR at the firm's authorised dealers with an initial payment of ₹11,000.They can also opt for online booking on the firm's website. The car will be launched on January 23 and will be available with a new 1.2-litre petrol engine option apart from a choice of a one-litre engine. PTI

Analysts turn bearish on DMart after Q3

Slow growth due to stiff competition, higher costs and lower margin; shares tumble over 10%

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR
MUMBAI

Avenue Supermarts, which had instantly become the darling of the stock markets post its listing in March 2017, is now facing a large number of sell calls by brokers who were earlier unanimous in calling it the best supermarket chain in India, in terms of margins, business acumen and strategy.

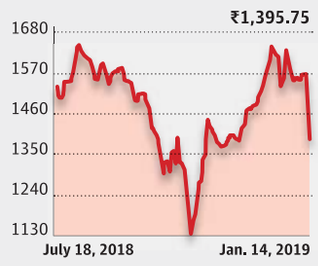
On Saturday, Avenue Supermarts, which manages the popular DMart chain of supermarkets, reported a little over 2% growth in its net profit for the quarter ended December 31, 2018. This was the slowest growth in nearly two years for the company that boasts of a presence in 164 locations across 11 States.

Analysts have attributed the deceleration to various factors including increased competition from e-commerce majors, offline competitors such as Reliance Retail and Big Bazaar, higher operating costs due to the festive season and the effect on margins due to higher discounts. "Increasing competition from online as well as offline giants will mean incremental margin expansion would remain difficult," stated a report by Edelweiss Securities, which has a 'reduce' recommendation with a target price of ₹1,300.

"Going ahead, we see increasing competition for DMart and hence expect profitable growth [clocked so far] to come by not easily," it added. On Monday, shares of Avenue Supermarts lost over 11% or ₹173.20 to close at ₹1,395.75. It had touched a 52-week high of ₹1,696.15 on December 19. However, since listing in March 2017, the shares have risen nearly fivefold compared to the issue price of ₹299.

Losing sheen

The retail chain posted a little over 2% growth in its net profit for the December quarter, the slowest in nearly two years



'Sell' rating

Global financial major Citi, which has a 'sell' rating on the company, reduced its target price from ₹1,255 to ₹1,190, citing growth moderation and lower margins.

"Growth in unit revenues has moderated sequentially. 170 basis points gross margin contraction was a result of price cuts offered to consumers; management talks of longer operating hours during the festive season and expenses on capability building on infrastructure/people driving higher operating expense," stated the report.

Motilal Oswal Securities said margin expansion would be restricted by increased price competition with peers even as revenue prospects remain strong on the back of store additions and pricing strategy. Though the brokerage has a 'sell' rating on the stock citing expensive valuations, it has raised the target price from ₹1,285 to ₹1,400.

Narayanan quits as Myntra-Jabong CEO

Move follows rejig at parent Flipkart

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Fashion e-tailer Myntra on Monday said its CEO Ananth Narayanan has quit, a development that ends months of speculation about his exit following a recent rejig at its parent group, Flipkart.

In a statement, Myntra said Mr. Narayanan has decided to step down as CEO of Myntra and Jabong to pursue external opportunities.

Amar Nagaram has been named as head, Myntra and Jabong, and would report to Flipkart Group CEO Kalyan Krishnamurthy, it added.

There was speculation that Mr. Narayanan would quit after a new reporting structure was put in place when Binny Bansal – the then CEO at Flipkart Group (which owns Myntra and Jabong) – quit the company.

As a part of the new structure, Myntra and Jabong were brought under Flipkart, with Mr. Narayanan reporting to Mr. Krishnamurthy.

Reports suggest that Mr. Narayanan is moving to content streaming platform Hotstar, but the same could not be independently ascertained. "Ananth has played an important role in making Myntra and Jabong a formidable player in the fashion e-commerce market," Myntra said in its statement Monday.

Bansal invests ₹150 crore in ride-hailing firm Ola

To pump in ₹500 crore more

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Flipkart co-founder Sachin Bansal has pumped in nearly ₹150 crore in ride-hailing platform Ola, according to documents filed with the Corporate Affairs Ministry.

"... 70,588 fully and compulsorily convertible, cumulative 'Series J' Preference Shares,' having face value of ₹10 [with] the rights, privileges and preferences... is hereby allotted at a subscription price of ₹21,250," the documents showed.

This translates into an investment of about ₹150 crore by Mr. Bansal, who left Flipkart after the U.S. retail giant Walmart picked up 77% stake in the e-commerce firm for $16 billion.

Sachin Bansal

The resolution was passed at a board meeting of ANI Technologies, the entity that runs Ola, on January 12.

Mr. Bansal is pumping in ₹650 crore in total and the ₹150 crore funding is part of the total investment, sources said. The allotment of these shares to Mr. Bansal is part of Ola's plans to raise about $1 billion, they added.

Norms to spur revenues of offline retailers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Tighter norms for e-commerce players could help boost revenues of brick and mortar (B&M) retail stores by 150-200 basis points (bps) or ₹10,000-12,000 crore in the 2020 fiscal, said Crisil.

"Revenue growth of B&M retailers could increase 150-200 bps in fiscal 2020, as e-retailers re-engineer business models to conform to the revised regulations," Crisil said.

In December, the government introduced new norms that would bar online marketplaces with foreign investments from selling products of firms where they held stakes, and bar exclusive marketing arrangements.

'PE, VC investments, exits scale new peaks'

Eight $1-billion-plus deals were recorded in 2018 alone, says EY report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Private equity (PE) and venture capital (VC) investments in 2018 aggregated to $35.1 billion, surpassing the previous high of $26.1 billion recorded in 2017 by 35% on the back of significant growth in large deals, according to EY's Private Equity Monthly Deal Tracker.

As many as eight $1-billion-plus deals were recorded in 2018 alone compared with 11 such deals in the previous 12 years combined. Also, 2018 witnessed PE/VC exits at $26 billion in value, almost equal to the value of exits in the previous three years combined.

Exits touch new highs

Talking about the PE landscape, Vivek Soni, partner and national leader – private equity services, EY said,"2018 has been the best year for PE/VC investments and exits. As forecasted by us in the beginning of the year, both PE/VC investments as well as exits have touched a new record high in 2018. Though volatility in broader markets dampened investments in the second half of 2018, this was more than adequately compensated by an uptick in buyout and start-up activity."

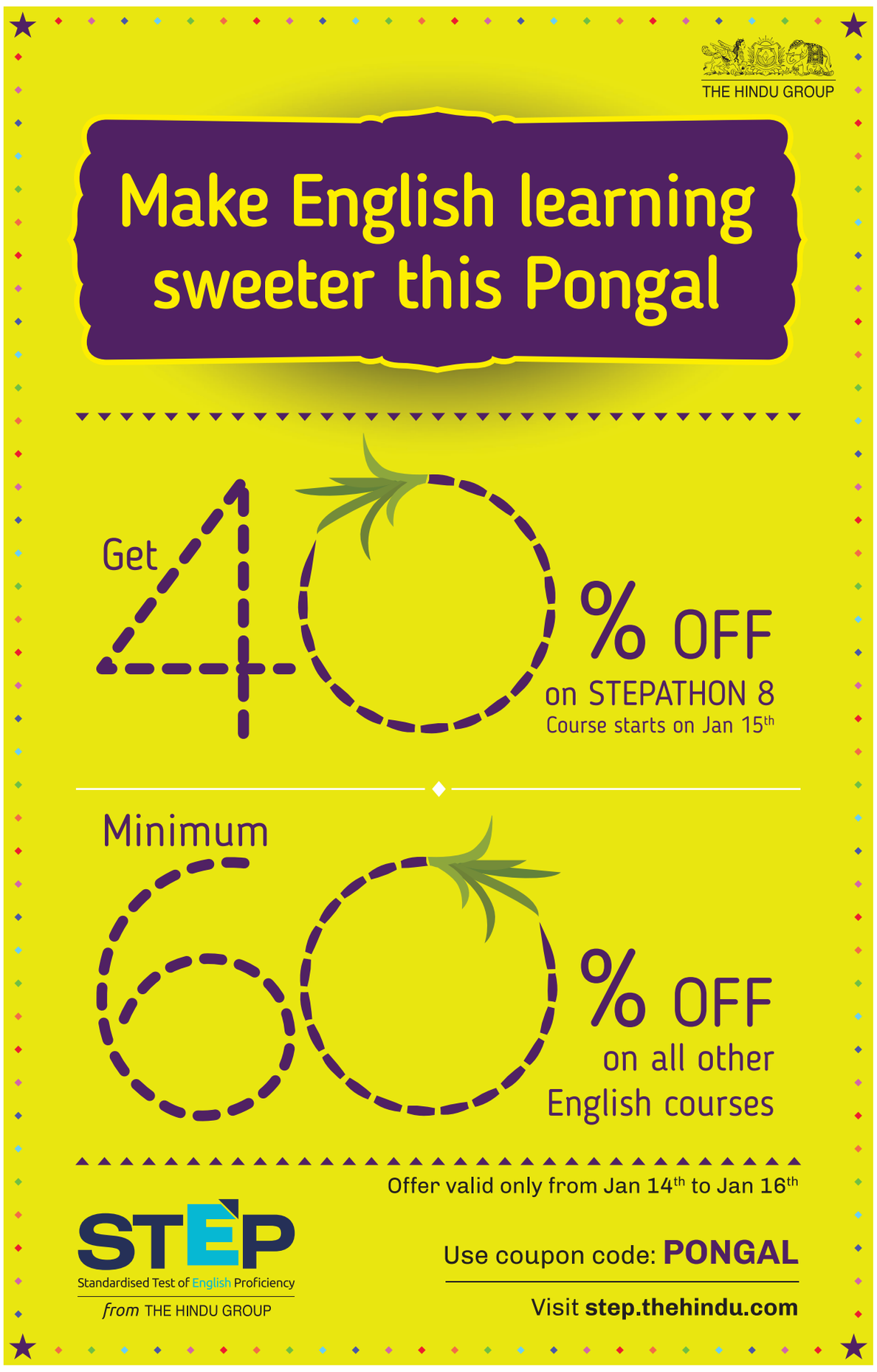
▪ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

PE/VC investments in India in 2018 witnessed a sharp increase in the value on account of some very large deals (12 deals of value $500 million or greater, including eight $1 billion plus deals).

In 2018, investment deal volume increased 28% (761 deals compared with 594 deals in 2017). The growth was led by strong pickup in buyouts and start-up investments. The data includes deals that are announced but are awaiting closure on account of regulatory approvals like the PE funded UPL-Arysta deal, Samara-Aditya Birla Retail deal.

The year was also the best year-ever for exits. In 2018, PE/VC exits, at $26 billion, increased by almost 100% compared with 2017 and are almost equal to the value of exits in the previous three years combined. The sharp rise was mainly on account of a single large deal that saw Walmart acquire controlling stake in Flipkart for $16 billion from a clutch of investors, including Softbank, Tiger Global and others. This is the largest deal in the Indian PE/VC market ever.

As much as $8.1 billion was raised by PE/VC funds, a 40% increase over 2017 and the highest-ever. Similarly, the fund-raise plans announced stood at $22.3 billion which, again, is the highest ever. This further reiterates the underlying trend, reflected in both investments and exits, of India's improving attractiveness for global PE/VC funds as the domestic PE/VC ecosystem flourishes.



© 2006-2018 Kasturi & Sons Ltd. - -Rajdhani.hansi@gmail.com -9416404242

Team India has to set its house in order

Kedar Jadhav, Vijay Shankar and Yuzvendra Chahal may get a look in

OZ CHALLENGE

IANS
ADELAIDE

After a disappointing start to the three-match One-Day International series against Australia in Sydney, India will look to bounce back in the second match at the Adelaide Oval here on Tuesday.

The Men in Blue lost the first match at the Sydney Cricket Ground by 34 runs and the World No. 2 side will be looking to regain dominance.

Support in the middle

In the do-or-die affair, India will rely heavily on the top three of Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan and skipper Virat Kohli once again, as none of the lower and middle-order batsmen, barring former skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, clicked in Sydney.

While Rohit fired an impressive 133, Dhoni supported the opener with a 51-run knock. However, the latter's innings came off 96 deliveries which left too many runs to chase in the final overs.

Dhoni failed to set the pace in the slog overs in Sydney and it will be a major cause of concern for the team management.

Also, Dhawan will need to step up to provide support to the in-form Rohit and give India a good start. With time running out ahead of the 2019 World Cup, the middle-order duo of Ambati Rayudu and Dinesh Karthik also need to click. India will also be tempted to field Kedar Jadhav in place of Rayudu, who was on Saturday reported for suspect bowling action. Jadhav's inclusion will not only bolster the middle-order, but his part-time round-arm off-spin has helped in breaking partnerships.

Allrounder Vijay Shankar, who was named as replacement for the suspended Hardik Pandya, may also be included in place of Karthik.

The bowling unit was satisfactory in Sydney and Kohli isn't expected to tinker with the combination much on Tuesday.

However, all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja may be dropped after failing to impress in both departments and, in that case, leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal may be included. On the other hand, after losing the Test series 2-1, Australia will aim to seal the ODI series in Adelaide.

Same team?

The Kangaroos, however, have not announced their playing eleven, and are expected to go in with the same team as in the first match.

The teams (from): India: Virat Kohli (Capt.), Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan, Ambati Rayudu, Dinesh Karthik, Kedar Jadhav, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (wk), Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Ravindra Jadeja, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Vijay Shankar.

Australia: Aron Finch (Capt.), Jason Behrendorff, Alex Carey (wk), Peter Handscomb, Usman Khawaja, Nathan Lyon, Mitch Marsh, Shaun Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Jhye Richardson, Peter Siddle, Billy Stanlake, Marcus Stoinis, Ashton Turner, Adam Zampa.

Task on hand: While Mohammed Shami, centre, gave a good account of himself at Sydney, Yuzvendra Chahal, left, may get a chance to have a go at the Aussies. Shikhar Dhawan will be looking to erase memories of the previous match. ▪ AFP

Murray shows the spirit is willing, but...

Agut sends the three-time Grand Slam champion out in the first round; Federer, Nadal and Wozniacki cruise through

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MELBOURNE

A battling Andy Murray bowed out of the Australian Open at the first hurdle on Monday, but it was business as usual for ruthless Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal. Defending women's champion Caroline Wozniacki also advanced to the second round.

Scottish five-time Melbourne Park finalist Murray gave it everything he had and showed glimpses of the form that won him three Grand Slams, but his ailing body let him down during a gutsy 4-6, 4-6, 7-6(5), 7-6(4), 6-2 defeat to 22nd seed Roberto Bautista Agut.

Murray had tearfully revealed before the tournament that he was in constant agony from a hip injury and planned to retire this year.

"Amazing. That was incredible, thank you so, so much to everyone that came out tonight," he said after being given a rapturous send-off.

In 'disbelief'

While his tournament ended in despair, Swiss master Federer, six years older than Murray, continued his march towards a record seventh Australian Open title.

He swept past Uzbek Denis Istomin 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 and said he was in "disbelief" that he was the double defending champion at his age and vowed to give his all to make it three in a row.

"I'm going to try everything possible (to win again)," said the World No. 3.

His long-time rival Nadal, who cut short his 2018 season to have surgery on a foot injury, showed no mercy to Australian wild-card James Duckworth. The 17-time Grand Slam winner cruised through 6-4, 6-3, 7-5 and said it was an important victory.

"Not easy to come back after a lot of months, especially against a player playing super aggressive on every point," said the 2009 champion.

World No. 3 Wozniacki, who made her Grand Slam breakthrough in Melbourne last year, opened her defence with a convincing 6-3, 6-4 win over Belgium's Alison van Uytvanck.

Slice of history

Britain's Katie Boulter, meanwhile, created a slice of history by becoming the first woman to win in a third set tie-break – a new rule introduced to the Open this year, beating Russia's Ekaterina Makarova 6-0, 4-6, 7-6[10/6].

Not without a fight: Andy Murray gave it his best shot before bowing to Roberto Bautista Agut in the first round. ▪ JULIAN FINNEY/GETTY IMAGES

Prajnesh loses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MELBOURNE

Prajnesh Gunneswaran's maiden Grand Slam appearance ended in disappointment after American Frances Tiafoe defeated the Indian in 7-6(9) 6-3, 6-3 in the opening round.

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Men

First round: 2-Fernando Verdasco (Esp) bt Miomir Kecmanovic (Srb) 7-6(5), 6-3, 6-3; 10-Karen Khachanov (Rus) bt Peter Gojowczyk (Ger) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3; 14-Stefanos Tsitsipas (Gre) bt Matteo Berrettini (Ita) 6-7(3), 6-4, 6-3, 7-6(4); Viktor Troicki (Srb) bt Roberto Carballes (Esp) 6-1, 1-6, 2-6, 6-1, 6-4; 30-Gael Monfils (Fra) bt Damir Dzumhur (Bih) 6-0, 6-4, 6-0; 5-Kevin Anderson (RSA) bt Adrian Mannarino (Fra) 6-3, 5-7, 6-2, 6-1; Frances Tiafoe (USA) bt Prajnesh Gunneswaran (Ind) 7-6(7), 6-3, 6-3; 20-Grigor Dimitrov (Bul) bt Janko Tipsarevic (Srb) 4-6, 6-3, 6-1, 6-4; Reilly Opelka (USA) bt 9-John Isner (USA) 7-6(4), 7-6 (6), 6-7(4), 7-6 (5); Tomas Berdych (Cze) bt 13-Kyle Edmund (GBr) 6-3, 6-0, 7-5; Robin Haase (Ned) bt Guillermo Garcia-Lopez (Esp) 7-5, 6-4, 7-5; 2-Rafael Nadal (Esp) bt James Duckworth 6-4, 6-3, 7-5; 22-Roberto Bautista (Esp) bt Andy Murray (Sco) 6-4, 6-4, 6-7(5), 6-7(4), 6-2; 3-Roger Federer (Sui) bt Denis Istomin (Uzb) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4; 6-Marin Cilic (Cro) bt Bernard Tomic (Aus) 6-2, 6-4, 7-6(3).

Women

First round: Belinda Bencic (Sui) bt Katerina Siniakova (Cze) 6-4, 2-6, 6-3; Katie Boulter (GBr) bt Ekaterina Makarova (Rus) 6-0, 4-6, 7-6[10/6]; 11-Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) bt Anna Kalinskaya (Rus) 6-1, 6-4; 15-Ashleigh Barty (Aus) bt Luksika Kumkhum (Tha) 6-2, 6-2; Maria Sakkari (Gre) bt 22-Jelena Ostapenko (Lat) 6-1, 3-6, 6-2.

30-Maria Sharapova (Rus) bt Harriet Dart (GBr) 6-0, 6-0; 3-Caroline Wozniacki (Den) bt Alison van Uytvanck (Bel) 6-3, 6-4; 5-Sloane Stephens (USA) bt Taylor Townsend (USA) 6-4, 6-2.

9-Kiki Bertens (Ned) bt Alison Riske (USA) 6-3, 6-3; Danielle Collins (USA) bt 14-Julia Goerges (Ger) 2-6, 7-6(5), 6-4; Zoe Hives (Aus) bt Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA) 6-1, 6-2.

29-Donna Vekic (Cro) bt Kristina Mladenovic (Fra) 6-2, 6-4; 2-Angelique Kerber (Ger) bt Polona Hercog (Slo) 6-2, 6-2; 8-Petra Kvitova (Cze) bt Magdalena Rybarikova (Svk) 6-3, 6-2.

'Pressure situations got the best out of me'

V.V.S. Laxman says he possessed the discipline to maximise his ability

THE HINDU LFL

S. DINAKAR
CHENNAI

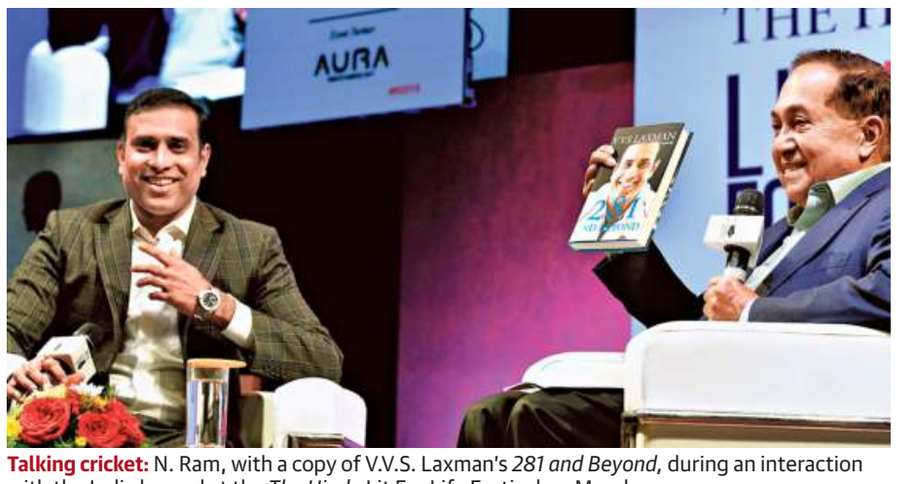
Goodness flowed through his visage. And his batsmanship, sublime and ethereal, oozed class.

V.V.S. Laxman combined grace and charm with delicate strokeplay where his gift of timing and dexterous wrists conquered incisive attacks in demanding conditions.

And despite reaching dizzy heights of fame, he remained grounded, with a wonderful value-system ingrained in him.

On a pleasant evening here on Monday, Laxman conversed with N. Ram, Chairman, The Hindu Publishing Group, on his recently released book *281 and Beyond* – co-authored by senior cricket writer R. Kaushik.

In an engrossing exchange of views with Ram at the *The Hindu Lit for Life*, Laxman touched upon several issues.



Talking cricket: N. Ram, with a copy of V.V.S. Laxman's *281 and Beyond*, during an interaction with the India legend at the *The Hindu* Lit For Life Festival on Monday. ▪ R. RAGU

Choice of career

He spoke about his early days when he had to choose between a career as a cricketer or in medicine; both his parents were well known doctors.

It was his uncle Babu Mohan who played a pivotal role in charting out a cricketing career for Laxman. "My family was my backbone," said Laxman.

Laxman finished a glorious career for India with 8781 runs from 134 Tests at 45.97. Somebody with his quality should surely have averaged 50 plus.

When asked by Ram about not breaching the 50-barrier, Laxman replied he had, for most part of his Test career, batted No. 5 and 6, and often had to fight it out with the tail.

When he batted No.3 in the second innings of that immortal Test against an Aussie attacking inclusive of Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne at the Eden Gardens – rated by many including Rahul Dravid as the greatest Test innings by an Indian – Laxman, with India following on, conjured a phenomenal series-turning 281.

No fear of failure

He said, "Pressure [situations] got the best out of me." Laxman was not haunted by the fear of failure and his learnings from Bhagwat Gita certainly helped the batsman maintain his equanimity at all times.

While he was a gifted batsman, Laxman, as he told Ram, possessed the discipline to maximise his ability. "It's about remaining calm, preparation, and things like when to eat, when to sleep."

Kumble issue

Asked by Ram about the Cricket Advisory Committee's, comprising Laxman, Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly, handling of the Anil Kumble-Virat Kohli issue, Laxman said, "The CAC wanted Anil, a great champion, to guide India till the 2019 World Cup. However, Virat had some issues with Anil's coaching methods."

Laxman added, "Anil's contract was for a year and once that ran out, he chose to go out on his own. It was not CAC's decision. Anil had done a fantastic job but once he resigned, we decided on Ravi [Shastri]. It was not Virat's choice."

Laxman spoke about the innings he remembered and his first Test hundred, a 167 not out against the Aussies at Sydney, 2000, figured high in the list. That century came as as opener, but Laxman soon decided not to open the innings. It was a significant decision that, subsequently, cemented his place in the Indian team.

A match-winner, he whipped up several important innings for India, including his 73 not out against Australia at Mohali, 2010. Laxman rallied with the tail and India won the pulsating Test by one wicket. "Yes, that innings is right up there," said Laxman.

As Ram pointed out, Laxman, to his credit, made plenty of runs against Australia which had a formidable attack during that period.

Laxman conceded not figuring in a World Cup match was a disappointment in an otherwise fulfilling career.

It was a thought-provoking conversation indeed.

Halder's error dashes India's dream

Bahrain makes the grade with a last-gasp penalty conversion

ASIAN CUP

SHYAM VASUDEVAN
SHARJAH

Football is a beautiful game, but it is unforgiving too: one rare blunder is all it takes to drastically alter the outcome of a game.

As the Indian players belted out the National Anthem before the game, one could tell they were on a mission to achieve what no Indian team had done before. They threw their bodies at the ball, defended doggedly and put up a fearless display.

With less than a minute left on the clock and the scoreline reading 0-0, it appeared Stephen Constantine's men had done enough to earn a spot in the round-of-16.

But all such hopes fell apart when skipper Pronay Halder hacked down Hamed Alshamsan in the box. Bahrain's gem of the evening, Rashed Abdulrahman, slotted past Gurpreet Singh Sandhu to seal a berth in the knockouts.

The Indians got off on the wrong foot as centre-back Anas Edathodika was replaced by Salam Ranjan Singh after picking up an injury early. The defence initially looked a little jumpy held on to survive a constant onslaught of counter-attacks. Bahrain, which breached the Indian box very early in the game, played a large majority of the next 90 minutes in and around the box with its attackers running circles around the Indian defence. Abdulrahman was the thorn in India's defence with his runs.

Constantine's tactics seemed clear: to retain bodies at the back and wait for the rare counter. However, the Indians seemed to struggle with the ball and failed to make the simple passes.

In their quest to quickly transition from defence to attack, they ended up losing the ball far too often and looked like a pale shadow of the side that won hearts aplenty in the first two games.

The Indians had endured a long journey to rub shoulders with Asia's best. Unfortunately for them, the journey ends here.

Constantine quits

Coach Stephen Constantine has decided to step down from his position after failing to take India to the knockout stages.

South Africa sweeps series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JOHANNESBURG

Duanne Olivier sparked a Pakistan collapse as South Africa completed a series clean sweep with a 107-run win on the fourth day of the third and final Test at the Wanderers Stadium on Monday.

Starting on 153 for three, Pakistan was bowled out for 273.

SCOREBOARD

South Africa — 1st innings: 262.
Pakistan — 1st innings: 185.
South Africa — 2nd innings: 303.
Pakistan — 2nd innings: Imam-ul-Haq c de Kock b Steyn 35, Shan Masood c de Kock b Steyn 37, Azhar Ali c de Kock b Olivier 15, Asad Shafiq c Elgar b Philander 65, Babar Azam c de Kock b Olivier 21, Sarfraz Ahmed b Olivier 0, Shadab Khan (not out) 47, Faheem Ashraf c Markram b Rabada 15, Mohammad Amir c Markram b Rabada 4, Hasan Ali c & b Rabada 22, Mohammad Abbas run out 9; Extras (lb-2, nb-1): 3. Total (in 65.4 overs): 273.
Fall of wickets: 1-67, 2-74, 3-104, 4-162, 5-162, 6-179, 7-204, 8-208, 9-242.
South Africa bowling: Steyn 20-2-80-2, Philander 14-4-41-1, Olivier 15-2-74-3 , Rabada 16-2-75-3, Elgar 0.4-0-1-0.
Man-of-the-Match: Quinton de Kock.
Man-of-the-Series: Duanne Olivier.

South Africa won match by 107 runs and series 3-0.

Show some empathy to Hardik and Rahul

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

V.V.S. Laxman was queried by N. Ram on the statements, that have been widely condemned, made by Hardik Pandya and K.L. Rahul in a television show.

Laxman replied, "What they have spoken is wrong. They are getting the right punishment.

"But they are good human beings. You have to show some empathy for them."

The former India batting star said, "When they are 18, 19 or 20, these cricketers have ₹5 or ₹10 crore in their banks.

"It is easy to handle failures but tough to handle success. The role of mentorship is important here."

Laxman said, "People are watching you. Without your knowledge, you are influencing the next generation of cricketers."

Looking at his own career, Laxman said he had "the support, the value system and the upbringing."

On the team he played with that included Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble, and Sourav Ganguly, Laxman said, "We were all well educated, took great pride in wearing the India cap. And we had great role models as we grew up."

CoA still divided on Hardik-Rahul issue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NAGPUR

The ongoing tussle within the BCCI's administrative corridors has resulted in uncertainty over the disciplinary proceedings against suspended cricketers K.L. Rahul and Hardik Pandya continuing to prevail.

The old BCCI guard, led by the Saurashtra Cricket Association, has started pressurising the acting president to call an SGM to appoint an Ombudsman, who is supposed to conduct disciplinary proceedings according to the new BCCI rulebook.

On the other hand, a mail trail between the two warring members of the Committee of Administrators makes it evident that they are far from having reached a consensus over the formation of an ad-hoc disciplinary committee, as suggested by the legal advisors.

CoA chairman Vinod Rai has asked Diana Edulji and the acting secretary (Amitabh Choudhary) to conduct the disciplinary proceedings as he cannot be part of it.

Edulji, in response, has demanded that the CoA should ask the Supreme Court during the hearing later this week to appoint the Obudsman.

"As the SC hearing is scheduled for 17th Jan, let the court be informed about this situation and let an Ombudsman be appointed by the court instead of taking a wrong step of appointing the ad-hoc ombudsman, which is not as per the new constitution," Eduli wrote.

Anand slips to second spot

SPORTS BUREAU
WIJK AAN ZEE

Viswanathan Anand played out a 35-move draw with black pieces against USA's Samuel Shankland and slipped to the second place in the company of Chinese Ding Liren after three rounds of Tata Steel Masters chess tournament here on Monday.

Third round results: Samuel Shankland (USA, 1.5) drew with Viswanathan Anand (2); Ian Nepomniachtchi (Rus, 2.5) bt Vladimir Kramnik (Rus, 0.5); Anish Giri (Ned, 1.5) drew with Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze,1.5); Teimour Radjabov (Aze, 1.5) drew with Richard Rapport (Hun, 1.5); Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 1) lost to Ding Liren (Chn, 2); Vladimir Fedoseev (Ned, 1) lost to Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Pol, 1.5).

© 2006-2018 Kasturi & Sons Ltd. - -Rajdhani.hansi@gmail.com -9416404242

Equaliser: Chennai City FC's Pedro Manzi, left gets into the act. ▪ M. PERIASAMY

Chennai City FC puts it past East Bengal

Romario does the trick for the home team

I-LEAGUE

RAYAN ROZARIO
COIMBATORE

Chennai City FC edged out a fighting East Bengal FC 2-1 for the second time this season in the Hero I-League clash at the Nehru Stadium here on Monday.

The Chennai City men were in for a rude shock quite early. Though they started in a flying fashion, it was the visiting side which drew first blood in the ninth minute.

Lalrindika Ralte's corner kick from the right found Borja Gomez of Spain, who was quick to head the same from the far post. It was here that Laldanmawia Ralte sneaked in on time to pack a header home.

Kamaraj raised some hopes for the host with some brilliant passes to the hard-working Spaniards Pedro Manzi and Nestor Jesus, who went flat out for the equaliser but it never came their way. East Bengal knew the duo can be dangerous on their day and quickly tightened the defence.

It went for the counter only when it wanted and went back to the room satisfied having taken a 1-0 lead.

On the attack

The second half belonged to the home side. It's men attacked hard from the start and that resulted in a goal in the 48th minute. Skipper Manzi turned out to be the saviour once again for the team.

Defender Edwin Vanspaul's raging right footer was deflected neatly by Manzi, the team's top scorer. And that forced the visitor to stretch that extra length in search of a win. At times East Bengal played a bit rough which resulted in arguments and stoppage of play for a few minutes.

Chennai City took the lead for the first time in the match through Alexander Romario, who quite intelligently put it past the Bengal custodian in the 70th minute.

The team hung on from there to emerge victorious.

Romario quite deservedly took home the Hero Player of the Match award.

The results: Chennai City FC 2 (Pedro Manzi 48, Alexander Romario 70) bt East Bengal 1 (Laldanmawia Ralte 9).

Ishan Kishan to lead

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Wicketkeeper-batsman Ishan Kishan (Jharkhand) has been named captain of the Board President's XI to play two warm-up matches against the visiting England Lions here.

A release from BCCI acting secretary Amitabh Choudhary said those playing the Ranji Trophy quarterfinals were not taken into consideration by the National selection panel while finalising the 13-member squad.

The warm-up matches are to be held at the St. Xavier's Stadium, Thumba on Jan. 18 and 20.

The India-A team for the five one-dayers will be selected only on Jan. 18 or the next day.

Board President's XI: Ishan Kishan (Capt., wk), Rituraj Gaekwad, Anmolpreet Singh, Deepak Hooda, Rajat Patidar, Ricky Bhui, Himmat Singh, Mayank Markande, Jayant Yadav, Pappu Roy, Pankaj Jaiswal, Tushar Deshpande and Navdeep Saini.

Ranji Trophy Quarterfinals (Jan. 15 to 19)

Vidarbha vs **Uttarakhand** (Nagpur)
Saurashtra vs **Uttar Pradesh** (Lucknow)
Karnataka vs **Rajasthan** (Bengaluru)
Kerala vs **Gujarat** (Wayanad)

Sai Praneeth pleased with PBL show

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

B. Sai Praneeth, believes that his performances in the just-concluded PBL for the victorious Bengaluru Raptors – winning six of the eight matches he played – should give him the confidence he badly needs as he gears up for the Olympic qualifying cycle later this year.

"The fact that I won more matches in this edition for my team than playing for the victorious Hyderabad Hunters last season is of great satisfaction. And, most of them were crunch games," he said.

"I was my old self again with the way I played in the PBL. The problem with me is not about my game but about fitness. Once, I get the confidence that I can last the full distance, the strokes start flowing," says the World No. 22.

Fitness issue

"I don't think there is any serious need to change my game at this stage. It all depends on how well I focus on my fitness in this big year."

"There will be pressure because of the mad rush as the 2020 Tokyo Olympics qualifying events start from May and end in April next year. But, again, one has to be fit and raring to go," Praneeth said.

An exciting South India Derby Stakes in the offing

CHENNAI: My Opinion (colt) and Tudor Treasure (filly), both belonging to M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar of Chettinad Charitable Trust, will have to contend with Mumbai filly Oomph in the South India Derby Stakes, the prestigious event of the Pongal Day races here on Tuesday (Jan. 15).

Peluche and Psychic Force, who have entered late into the race, should add spice to the finish.

There will be no false rails. An amount of ₹2 lakh will be added to jackpot pool amount and ₹1 lakh each will added to the treble event pool.

1 **DR. M.A. CHIDAMBARAM CUP** (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only (Terms), 1-45 p.m.: 1. Booms Lang (1) K. Sai Kiran 56, 2. Brothers In Arms (7) Arshad Alam 56, 3. Cape Cod (9) Akshay Kumar 56, 4. Comanche Brave (6) A. Imran 56, 5. Glorious Victory (2) Umesh 56, 6. King T'Chala (5) Yash 56, 7. Oberon (3) Donoghue 56, 8. Nagada (8) P. Ajeeth Kumar 54.5 and 9. Trending Princess (4) Zulquar 54.5.
1. KING T'CHALA, 2. OBERON, 3. BROTHERS IN ARMS

2 **KUMARARAJAH M.A.M. MUTHIAH CUP** (1,200m), 5-y-o over, rated 20 to 45, 2-15: 1. Hadar (8) Umesh 61, 2. Menander (2) P. Ajeeth Kumar 60.5, 3. Fatboyslim (–) (–) 60, 4. Orla (5) Irvan 57, 5. Cato's Call (1) Yash 56.5, 6. Parrys Glory (6) Arshad Alam 56.5, 7. Amazon Cat (4) K. Sai Kiran 51, 8. Dazzle Away (7) Azfar Syeed 51 and 9. Sprinkler (3) Ayaz Khan 50.
1. HADAR, 2. CATO'S CALL, 3. MENANDER

3 **PONGAL CUP** (1,600m), rated up to 25, 2-45: 1. Dream Run (10) K. Sai Kiran 60, 2. Rare Rock (4) A. Imran 60, 3. A. Little Magic (8) Brisson 59.5, 4. Bow To King (2) Hesnain 59.5, 5. Fly High (7) Yash 59.5, 6. Hazymorn (9) Umesh 59.5, 7. Lovely Dancer (6) Janardhan P 59.5, 8. Amazing Knight (1) Ayaz Ahmed 58, 9. Everything Nice (5) Ayaz Khan 54 and 10. Vitto Garden (3) Arshad Alam 54.
1. A LITTLE MAGIC, 2. DREAM RUN, 3. LOVELY DANCER

4 **P.T. SAMPATHKUMARAN CUP** (1,600m), rated 60 to 85, 3-15: 1. Queen Of Clubs (9) P. Ajeeth Kumar 62, 2. Star Cracker (13) Arshad Alam 62, 3. Duke Of Earl (5) Rajendra Singh 60, 4. Crown Of Stars (12) Trevor 59, 5. Drei Bruder (10) Umesh 58, 6. Calico Jack (6) Shahar Babu 56.5, 7. Hector (8) Yash 54.5, 8. Optimus Commander (1) P. Kiran Rai 54, 9. Cher Amie (14) Akshay Kumar 53.5, 10. Colossal Moments (2) Kabdhar 53, 11. Cohiba (4) Irvan 52.5, 12. Excellent Phoenix (11) Tanveer 52.5, 13. Saving Grace (3) Brisson 51 and 14. Dazzling Dancer (7) Farhan 50.5.
1. STAR CRACKER, 2. SAVING GRACE, 3. CHER AMIE

5 **DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY MEMORIAL CUP** (1,400m), 4-y-o & over (Terms), 3-45: 1. Accolade (3) Akshay Kumar 60, 2. Cavallo Veloce (7) A. Imran 55.5, 3. Automatic (1) Suraj Narredu 54, 4. Cambridge (8) Sandesh 54, 5. Exclusive Wind (–) (–) 54, 6. London (6) Trevor 54, 7. Megasthenes (4) P. Ajeeth Kumar 54, 8. Yanna Rascala (2) Yash 54 and 9. Your Royal Majesty (5) Leigh Roche 54.
1. CAMBRIDGE, 2. CAVALLO VELOCE, 3. YOUR ROYAL MAJESTY

6 **SOUTH INDIA DERBY STAKES** (2,400m), 4-y-o only (Terms), 4-15: 1. Apollo Bay (5) Sandesh 57, 2. Garrison (2) Trevor 57, 3. Indian Pharaoh (4) David Allan 57, 4. My Opinion (6) A. Imran 57, 5. Peluche (9) Donoghue 57, 6. Psychic Force (1) P.S. Chouhan 57, 7. Oomph (8) Leigh Roche 55.5, 8. Star Ranking (3) Brisson 55.5 and 9. Tudor Treasure (7) Akshay Kumar 55.5.
1. MY OPINION, 2. TUDOR TREASURE, 3. OOMPH

7 **K. SRINIVASAN MEMORIAL TROPHY** (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 4-55: 1. Areca Cruise (14) K. Sai Kiran 60, 2. Royal Black (7) Akshay Kumar 59, 3. Smashing Approach (1) Yash 59, 4. Bharat King (13) Ayaz Khan 58.5, 5. Splendid Splasher (5) Janardhan P 58.5, 6. Rutbedaar (10) Trevor 58, 7. Stellenbosch (4) Azfar Syeed 58, 8. Branka (12) Umesh 55.5, 9. Rhapsidion Rose (3) Arshad Alam 55, 10. Octavian (11) Hesnain 54.5, 11. Rapid Advance (8) P.S. Chouhan 54.5, 12. Intox (2) Shahar Babu 53.5, 13. Green Striker (9) Irvan 53 and 14. Desert King (6) Suraj Narredu 52.5.
1. ROYAL BLACK, 2. RUTBEDAAR, 3. DESERT KING

8 **TURF AUTHORITIES CUP** (1,400m), maiden 4-y-o only, rated 20 to 45, 5-25: 1. Glorious Wind (3) Hesnain 60, 2. Brilliant Script (8) Trevor 58.5, 3. Chaitanya (1) A. Imran 58, 4. Kim (6) Tanveer 57, 5. Pragmatic (2) Umesh 57, 6. Romantic Knight (10) Yash 56.5, 7. Short Skirt Flirt (Late: As Above So Below) (12) M. Bhaskar 55.5, 8. Asian Empress (5) K. Sai Kiran 55, 9. Babyblue (9) Kabdhar 55, 10. Druid's Wand (9) Brisson 55, 11. Mighty Princess (4) P. Ajeeth Kumar 55 and 12. Lady Ameera (11) Zulquar 53.5.
1. CHAITANYA, 2. PRAGMATIC, 3. BRILLIANT SCRIPT

Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8; Mini Jkt: 5, 6, 7 & 8; Tr (i): 1, 2 & 3 (ii): 4, 5 & 6 and (iii): 6, 7 & 8.

Sitra glitters in Byerly Turk Million

HYDERABAD: Sitara, piloted by Suraj Narredu, claimed the Byerly Turk Million, the chief event of the races here on Monday (Jan. 14).

The winner is the property of M/s. Stride Livestock Pvt. Ltd., M/s. Chetan Shantilal Shah & Mohan Chattaram. Deshmukh trains the winner.

1 **ARISTOCRAT PLATE** (1,200m), (Cat. II), maiden 3-y-o only (Terms): **ESTEVA** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Blazer (Kuldeep Singh) 2, Mehrzad (Ashhad Asbar) 3 and Red River (Koushik) 4. 2-3/4, nk. and nk. 1m, 13.04s. ₹8 (w), 5, 7 and 9 (p), SHP: 16, FP: 26, Q: 19, Tla: 133. Favourite: Esteva. Owners: Mr. Marthand Singh Mahindra, Mrs. Rina Mahindra & Mr. P. Prabhakar Reddy. Trainer: Deshmukh.

2 **STORM TROOPER PLATE (DIV. I)**, (1,400m), 5-y-o & over, rated upto 30 (Cat. III): **ALL STAR GENERAL** (Kuldeep Singh) 1, Symbol Of Star's (P. Trevor) 2, Semira (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Rose Petal (G. Naresh) 4. 1, 1/2 and shd. 1m, 28.21s. ₹45 (w), 11, 7 and 6 (p), SHP: 17, FP: 238, Q: 114, Tla: 513. Favourite: Symbol Of Star's. Owners: M/s. K. Venkat Reddy, Chalapathi Rao Parimi & Sreerama Suresh. Trainer: Satyanarayana.

3 **SUNNY BLOSSOM PLATE (DIV. I)**, (1,200m), 5-y-o & over, rated 42 to 62 (Cat. II): **ROYAL GREEN** (Gaurav Singh) 1, Royal Dynamite (I. Chisty) 2, Astra (Surya Prakash) 3 and Rose Eternal (Gopal Singh) 4. 2-1/2, hd and 1-1/4. 1m, 11.93s. ₹48 (w), 15, 12 and 11 (p), SHP: 37, FP: 788, Q: 417, Tla: 3,774. Favourite: Desert Moon. Owner: Mr. M. Majid Ali Khan. Trainer: Ravinder Singh.

4 **RAJA SITHARAM BHUPAL OF DOMAKONDA SAMSTHANAM MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. I)**, (1,200m), rated 58 to 78 (Cat. II): **AROGONDA PRINCESS** (Tanwar) 1, Mr. Baahubali (Surya Prakash) 2, Indian Dreams (Kuldeep Singh) 3 and Warrior Supreme (Akshay Kumar) 4. Not run: La Romance. 1/2, nk and 1-1/4. 1m, 12.06s. ₹13 (w), 7, 5 and 9 (p), SHP: 23, FP: 57, Q: 24, Tla: 248. Favourite: Aragonda Princess. Owners: Dr. Pratap C. Reddy, Mr. K. Ramcharan Tej & Mrs. Upasana Kamineni. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

5 **RAJA SITHARAM BHUPAL OF DOMAKONDA SAMSTHANAM MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. II)**, (1,200m), rated 58 to 78 (Cat. II): **NEWPORT** (P. Trevor) 1, Palace On Wheels (Suraj Narredu) 2, Champion Bull (A. Sandesh) 3 and Ashka Ashka Ashka (Afroz Khan) 4. Hd, 1 and nk. 1m, 11.56s. ₹32 (w), 9, 6 and 7 (p), SHP: 17, FP: 90, Q: 40, Tla: 268. Favourite: Palace On Wheels. Owners: M/s. Manjri Horse Breeders' Farm Pvt.Ltd. Rep. by Mr. & Mrs. Shapoor P. Mistry. Trainer: Deshmukh.

6 **ROSES IN BLOOM CUP** (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, rated 26 to 46 (Cat. III): **LOCKHART** (Sai Kumar) 1, Darshish (Ashhad Asbar) 2, His Excellency (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Vashishta (Afroz Khan) 4. 1/2, 1 and 3/4. 1m, 26.73s. ₹37 (w), 8, 12 and 7 (p), SHP: 35, FP: 381, Q: 260, Tla: 1,006. Favourite: His Excellency. Owners: Mr. T. Rakesh Reddy & Mrs. Nirupama Chodagam. Trainer: CVGK. Kishore.

7 **BYERLY TURK MILLION** (1,200m), fillies 3-y-o only (Terms): **SITARA** (Suraj Narredu) 1, Cape Kidnappers (Akshay Kumar) 2, Swansea (Kuldeep Singh) 3 and Giethord (I. Chisty) 4. 1, nose and 1-1/2. 1m, 11.79s. ₹10 (w), 6, 6 and 8 (p), SHP: 16, FP: 36, Q: 20, Tla: 191. Favourite: Sitara. Owners: M/s. Stride Livestock Pvt.Ltd., M/s. Chetan Shantilal Shah & Mohan Chattaram. Trainer: Deshmukh. Note: After the Stewards enquiry Roll Call (A. Sandesh) was declared a non starter.

8 **STORM TROOPER PLATE (DIV. II)**, (1,400m), 5-y-o & over, rated upto 30 (Cat. III): **INVASION** (Md. Ismail) 1, King David (Jitendra Singh) 2, Gangadhar (Kuldeep Singh) 3 and Sisco (Akshay Kumar) 4. Nose, 2-1/2 and 3/4. 1m, 29.13s. ₹66 (w), 14, 8 and 8 (p), SHP: 24, FP: 447, Q: 224, Tla: 3,921. Favourite: Sisco. Owner: Mr. Abhimanyu Vinod Sigtia. Trainer: Faisal Hassan.

Jackpot: ₹52,045 (eight tkts.), runner-up: 1,394 (128 tkts.), Tr (i): 3,654 (15 tkts.), (ii): 6,235 (seven tkts.), (iii): 972 (133 tkts.).

Super Dart for Lingapur Cup

HYDERABAD: Super Dart appeals most in the Lingapur Cup (1,400m), the feature event of the extra day's races to be held here on Wednesday (Jan. 16). There will be no false rails.

1 **HOVERCRAFT PLATE (DIV. I)**, (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 30 (Cat. III), (no whip), 2-00 p.m.: 1. Adoria (7) Surya Prakash 61, 2. Golden Caballo (3) Kunal Bunde 61, 3. Love Machine (9) Deepak Singh 60.5, 4. Shivalik Sand (5) Rohit Kumar 59.5, 5. Bahagar (2) Rafique Sk. 58.5, 6. Run Runner Run (8) Afroz Khan 58.5, 7. Yogini (6) Sai Kumar 58, 8. Diesis Dream (10) Gaurav Singh 54.5, 9. Negress Dolly (4) A.A. Vikrant 54 and 10. Hammer (1) Tanwar 50.
1. LOVE MACHINE, 2. HAMMER, 3. DIESIS DREAM

2 **ADLER PLATE (DIV. I)**, (1,200m), 5-y-o & over, rated 26 to 46 (Cat. III), 2-30: 1. Gladstone (10) Kunal Bunde 60, 2. Khan Sahib (3) Akshay Kumar 60, 3. Vijay's Empress (2) Rohit Kumar 60, 4. Perfection (4) Deepak Singh 59.5, 5. Indian Aristocrat (8) Koushik 57.5, 6. Ispahan (5) Gaddam 57.5, 7. Moon Walker (6) Nakhat Singh 56.5, 8. Space Ship (11) Jitendra Singh 56, 9. Heaven Can Wait (9) Afroz Khan 55, 10. Escobar (7) R.S. Jodha 54, 11. Sefarina (13) Abhay Singh 54, 12. Proud Warrior (12) Santosh Raj 52.5 and 13. Ultimate Risk (1) Sai Kumar 52.5.
1. KHAN SAHIB, 2. GLADSTONE, 3. INDIAN ARISTOCRAT

3 **CORAL GABLES CUP** (1,600m), 4-y-o & over (not won a race since Nov. 1, 2018), rated 42 to 62 (Cat. II), 3-00: 1. Euro Zone (1) C.P. Bopanna 60, 2. Golden Fortune (4) Nakhat Singh 60, 3. Blue Empress (2) Deep Shanker 58.5, 4. Guiding Force (5) N. Rawal 57.5, 5. King Maker (6) Aneel 57.5 and 6. The Special One (3) Akshay Kumar 57.
1. THE SPECIAL ONE, 2. GOLDEN FORTUNE

4 **SUNNY BLOSSOM PLATE (DIV. II)**, (1,200m), 5-y-o & over, rated 42 to 62 (Cat. II), 3-30: 1. Palisades Park (10) Koushik 60, 2. George Cross (8) Nakhat Singh 59.5, 3. Miracle King (4) Akshay Kumar 59, 4. Poll Promise (3) C.P. Bopanna 57.5, 5. Shandaar (1) Sai Kumar 57.5, 6. Top Link (11) Suraj Narredu 57, 7. Apowerx (6) Rohit Kumar 56, 8. Buddy Brothers (5) N. Rawal 55, 9. Kalinda (2) Kiran Naidu 54, 10. Vallee Bloomer (7) Surya Prakash 52.5 and 11. Vancouver (9) R.S. Jodha 52.
1. TOP LINK, 2. MIRACLE KING, 3. KALINDA

5 **ADLER PLATE (DIV. II)**, (1,200m), 5-y-o & over, rated 26 to 46 (Cat. III), 4-00: 1. Ice Crystal (10) Nakhat Singh 60, 2. Princess Hina (6) Tanwar 60, 3. Carnival Express (11) Koushik 59.5, 4. Lord Gift (9) Rohit Kumar 58.5, 5. Reach The Heights (7) Kunal Bunde 58, 6. Cash For Rank (1) Deepak Singh 57, 7. Time To Climb (8) Akshay Kumar 56, 8. Take A Bow (12) Jitendra Singh 55.5, 9. Top Sprint (2) A.A. Vikrant 55, 10. Razor Wind (3) Sai Kumar 53.5, 11. Withrosemakeup (5) Gaurav Singh 53 and 12. Pushpdeep (4) Rafique Sk. 52.
1. REACH THE HEIGHTS, 2. TOP SPRINT, 3. TAKE A BOW

6 **LINGAPUR CUP** (1,400m), 4-y-o & over, rated 58 to 78 (Cat. II), 4-30: 1. Surprise Party (8) Aneel 60, 2. Super Dart (7) Suraj Narredu 58, 3. Celtic Queen (5) N. Rawal 57.5, 4. Mandy (2) Gaddam 56.5, 5. Prince Caspian (6) Nakhat Singh 56.5, 6. Sea Castle (3) Kiran Naidu 56.5, 7. Tootsie Roll (4) Jitendra Singh 56.5 and 8. Semper Fidelis (1) Akshay Kumar 54.5.
1. SUPER DART, 2. SEMPER FIDELIS, 3. MANDY

7 **HOVERCRAFT PLATE (DIV. II)**, (1,200m), 4-y-o & over, rated upto 30 (Cat. III), (no whip), 5-00: 1. Dance All Night (8) Rohit Kumar 61, 2. Lion Heart (3) R.S. Jodha 61, 3. Southern Meteor (6) Gaurav Singh 60, 4. Smarty (7) Surya Prakash 59, 5. Great Glory (5) Deepak Singh 58.5, 6. Top Singer (2) Md. Ismail 58.5, 7. Tyrion (9) Kunal Bunde 57.5, 8. Cannon Gift (1) N. Rawal 56, 9. Golden Adara (4) Afroz Khan 51.5 and 10. Trumph Boy (10) Akshay Kumar 50.5.
1. TRUMPH BOY, 2. DANCE ALL NIGHT, 3. SOUTHERN METEOR

Day's best: **SUPER DART**
Double: **KHAN SAHIB – THE SPECIAL ONE**
Jkt: 3, 4, 5 6 & 7; Tr (i): 2,3 & 4; (ii): 5, 6 & 7; Tla: all races.

'Players should consistently get good performances'

National coach Gopi Chand stresses on injury prevention

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

P. Gopi Chand. ▪ FILE PHOTO

With the 2020 Tokyo Olympic qualification season set to commence in April, it is crucial for Indian badminton players to get the best results while maintaining a high level of fitness. This calls for careful planning – picking a few important tournaments, rather than compromising on fitness by competing in several tournaments in the hope of piling on Olympic qualification points.

While this is the ideal approach, the reality could play out differently, P. Gopi Chand believes. The National badminton coach spoke on various topics after the Premier Badminton League (PBL) final held here.

Excerpts:

On Olympic qualification: There will be a mad rush of players trying to qualify for the Olympics. Players need to take extreme care about injury prevention, but they have to also make sure to consistently get good performances. I can come back to you in a year's time, and say that players will choose some bad tournaments. They will expect miracles to happen and somehow get good results, but that doesn't really work. So you need to be mature and clear with the plan, and the back-up plan should be based on sound principles and not wishful thinking.

K. Srikanth, who remained unbeaten in the PBL: His performances in the PBL is testimony to the fact that he is capable of beating the best players in the world.

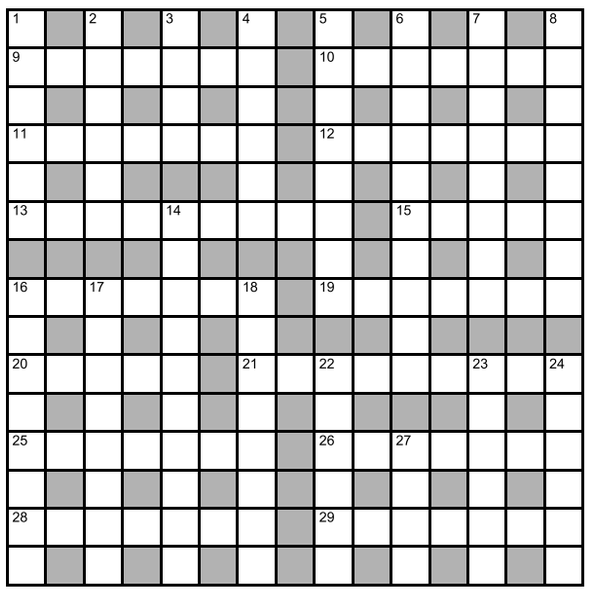
Oftentimes inconsistent Sai Praneeth: I want to see Sai develop physically so that he can last the full match. He needs to ensure that he plays the long matches with the same speed at which he does in the first and the second games.

Struggle to find top-level coaches: We've struggled to manage players, because each player's level has gone up. We have players in the top-10 and top-20, ones who are aspiring to get into the top-100, and those in the junior ranks trying to make the step up. We have spoken about coach development being a big priority, but we have not succeeded because we haven't really invested in it like we should. Coaches are not produced in terms of learning. Coaches need to be nurtured, empowered and rewarded. The entire ecosystem needs to get better.

Impact of PBL: PBL has a positive impact on many levels. Players benefit, both monetarily and experience-wise. The less-heralded players benefit from getting tips from the top players. Thirdly, the PBL has taken badminton to different cities, which gives people the chance to see the likes of P.V. Sindhu, Saina Nehwal, World Champions and Olympic champions in action. People will want their kids to take up the sport. The badminton ecosystem benefits from an event like this.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12524

(set by Arden)



ACROSS

9 Girl child placed first, gets cup (7)
10 Strange bloke – is a character (7)
11 Make merry, include one in the list (7)
12 Snafu affected all pubs (5-2)
13 City's refusal to allow girl to enter show (9)
15 Girl is in heaven, time for one to follow (5)
16 Spirit of power – completely detailed hand book (7)
19 Removing your heart pain (7)
20 Penguin leaves home, becomes free (5)
21 Cooked with onions only, as in the final mix (9)
25 Slated to stand scrutiny (7)
26 Endowing could be late (7)
28 Objections to enter – Jesus! These Italians! (7)
29 Warne gets wickets, England follow on – brave people (7)

DOWN

1 Sign to stop accounts withdrawal (6)
2 Country at ten – breaking news (6)
3 Clue for success without name (4)
4 Crazy to work under the dam (6)
5 Hat is grey half way down (8)
6 Carefully picked parts of Spain (4-6)
7 Long for our independent state (8)
8 Not doing exercise (8)
14 Voice will reach the girl, in full... (10)
16 ...true, still it's a plant (8)
17 A contract to procure shredded paper is evident (8)
18 Doctors deal with AIMS to treat these (8)
22 Musician sure turns boisterous (6)
23 Immoral to exclude the church – it's an order (6)
24 Watch over block ring (6)
27 Style is inherent in Telangana (4)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

No.SS4202 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to puzzle 12523

C	O	B	A	L	T		C	E	S	S	P	O	O	L
H		E		O				E		U		R		A
A	T	T	A	C	K		G	L	O	S	S	A	R	Y
R		R		H		K		S		P		C		M
C	R	A	N	N	I	E	S		M	E	A	L	I	E
O		Y		E		Y		O		N		E		N
A	N	A	E	S	T	H	E	T	I	S	T			
L		L		S		O		T		E		T		A
			A	M	E	L	I	O	R	A	T	I	O	N
M		I		O		E		M		C		L		A
A	L	M	O	N	D		L	A	N	C	E	L	O	T
R		P		S		F		N		O		A		H
R	O	E	N	T	G	E	N		R	U	M	B	L	E
A		L		E		T				N		L		M
M	I	S	T	R	I	A	L		A	T	H	E	N	A

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Small, but significant

Many of us may have the desire to help, but we hesitate because we have doubts about our ability to help the person who needs help. Are we up to it, we ask ourselves. And the moment such doubts surface, we slowly give up the thought. But there is an example of how everyone can help, each according to his capacity, and this example comes from squirrels who helped Rama, elaborated Sarala Rajagopalan in a discourse.

Lord Rama had to cross the ocean to get to Lanka in order to rescue Sita. To cross the ocean, a bridge was needed. The monkey army enthusiastically undertook the task of building the bridge. The army had powerful monkeys capable of easily lifting rocks and boulders and flinging them into the sea.

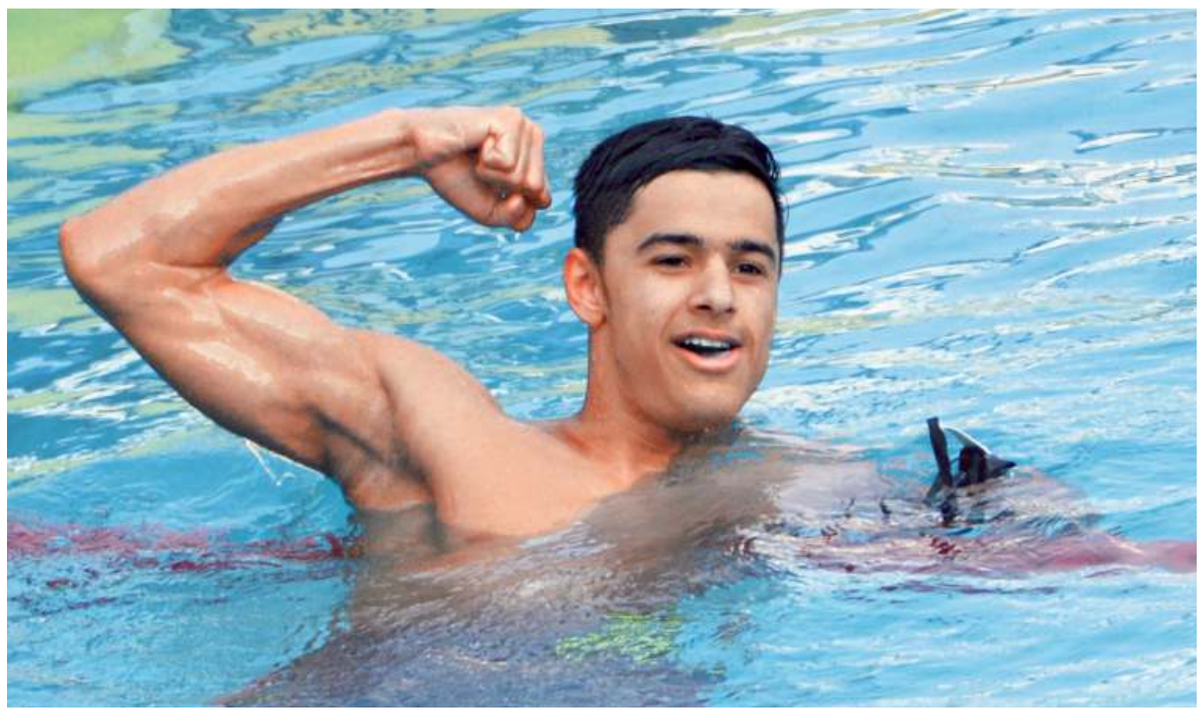
Observing their service to Lord Rama, squirrels were anxious to help. But what could such small creatures do? They were no match for the monkey warriors of Sugreeva's army. They decided to supply sand for the bridge. But this again posed a problem. How would they get the sand to the place where the bridge was being constructed? The squirrels then had an idea. Each squirrel wet its body in the waters of the ocean and then rolled on the sand. It then ran to the place where the bridge was taking shape and shook the sand off its body. The squirrels did this repeatedly.

Tondaraddipodi Azhvar praises this gesture of the squirrels. While the monkeys lifted boulders in a joint effort, the act of the squirrels was an individual effort. Moreover, no one had asked the squirrels for help. They voluntarily did what they could. The example of the squirrels shows us that instead of worrying when to help and how to help, we must do whatever we can and do it at the appropriate time.

© 2006-2018 Kasturi & Sons Ltd. - -Rajdhani.hansi@gmail.com -9416404242

Karnataka jumps to the top

Likith is the hero, emerging with a triple-gold haul



Graceful: Veer Khatkar of Haryana strikes a celebratory pose after winning the under-17 men's 50m freestyle gold. ▪KAMESH SRINIVASAN

KHELO GAMES

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
PUNE

Karnataka jumped to the top of the medals table in swimming with five gold medals on the day, thanks mainly to the heroics of S.P. Likith, who had his hand on three of them, in the Khelo India Youth Games at the Balewadi Sports Complex here on Monday.

It was some sight, as Likith literally jumped out of the pool and ran to grab his clothes and shoes, after winning the 50m freestyle in the under-21 men's section. It was as if he not only wanted to be the fastest swimmer of the meet, with his time of 24.15seconds, as he beat Xaiver D'Souza of Goa, by 0.2 seconds, but also wanted to be the fastest over that distance!

In a hurry

As it turned out, he was in a hurry as he had to compete in the 50m breaststroke soon after and later jumped into the pool again to help Karnataka win the 4x100m freestyle relay.

With Avinash Mani and C.J. Sanjay winning the 200m butterfly for men in the two age groups, apart from Deeksha Suresh beating Maana Patel by 0.14 points for the under-21 women's 50m freestyle gold, Karnataka took its tally to 18 gold, 14 silver and nine bronze medals.

Maharashtra, which won two gold medals through Kenisha Gupta and Apeksha Fernandes in the women's under-17 freestyle and butterfly events, took its gold collection to 16. It had 13 silver and nine bronze.

Kushagra Gupta won the only gold for Delhi this day, in the gruelling 1500m freestyle, as the team took its tally to 15 gold, 12 silver and 14 bronze.

Day's best

Despite all the serious competition, it was Veer Khatkar of Haryana who celebrated the best in the pool, cutting nice poses to his friends, after winning the under-17 men's 50m freestyle with a time of 24.71 seconds.

Kerala stretched by TN

NANDAKUMAR MARAR
PUNE

Kerala U-17 boys were stretched to the limit by Tamil Nadu before steady nerves in the decider made the difference on the volleyball court at the Khelo Indian Youth Games. Two sets up and looking to clinch the league tie, the former were swept aside by fightback from their rivals in the third and fourth sets. The final scoreline was 25-21, 30-28, 18-25, 18-25, 16-14 in Kerala's favour.

Kerala won points at vital stages in the decider with power-packed smashes by the attackers and cheeky drops by the setter. TN players' body language changed after taking the third set, the fourth saw Kerala giving away points with mistakes under pressure, before the spikers got back the rhythm and confidence.

TN coach Mahesh Kumar pointed out that co-ordination needed to improve and sounded confident of tackling the threat from aggressive Rajasthan. "Seven regulars are not present here, they are playing the School Games Federation of India (SGFI) Nationals in Andhra Pradesh. Co-ordination and first pass was priority during the preparation camp, more work needs to be done, "said the coach, attached to SDAT.

S Darshini (girls U-21 81kg category) and S Rudra Mayan (boys u-17 102kg) were impressive winners for Tamil Nadu in weightlifting competition.

The former managed a total lift of 192kgs (snatch 85, clean and jerk 107kg) to grab the gold. The latter was in a class of his own with a total lift of 269kgs (snatch 118kg, clean and jerk 151kg).

Others winners were Vaishnavi Pawar of Maharashtra (girls U-17 81kg) 114 total lift, Muskan Singh of Haryana (girls U-17 81kg) 135, Pushpendra Singh Chaudhar of UP (boys U-17 102kg) 254, B Vishnu Vardhan of AP (boys u-21 102kg) 279.

S. Rudra Mayan of Tamil Nadu lifts 151kg to win gold. ▪JIGNESH MISTRY

Cheema and Sindhu twins grab the honours

Champions: Udhayveer Sidhu and Arjun Singh Cheema are delighted after their winning show. ▪KAMESH SRINIVASAN

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

Arjun Singh Cheema and Sidhu twins shared the spoils in men's air pistol in the Khelo India Youth Games at the Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex in Balewadi on Monday.

World junior champion in free pistol and bronze medallist in air pistol, the 17-year-old Arjun, a student of Om Prakash Bansal Modern School in Mandi Gobindgram, topped the qualification with 583 points and later by pipped Vijayveer Sidhu in a gripping contest by 0.3 point for the gold.

"Am happy with the scores. I hope this gold will help me take my shooting career forward with the best support," said Arjun.

The beauty of the climax was that despite firing at his best with 10.5 and 10.7 on the last two shots, the Chandigarh lad Vijayveer fell short of Punjab's Arjun who had a string of 9s in the end. Actually, a solid start in the final in the first 12 shots, out of 24, pulled Arjun through.

Romping home

However, there was no denying the gold for Vijayveer's twin brother Udhayveer in the under-17 final, as he romped home with a solid performance on the last 10 shots, to beat another Punjab boy Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu by 3.3 points.

Udhayveer Sidhu is the world junior champion in sports pistol, while Vijayveer is the world junior champion in standard pistol.

The brothers showed that they can be on top in the 10-metre air pistol as well, even though their qualification score was modest.

The results: 10m air pistol: Men under-21: 1. Arjun Singh Cheema (Pun) 241.2 (583); 2. Vijayveer Sidhu 240.9 (571); 3. Sarabjot Singh 218.5 (575).

Men under-17: 1. Udhayveer Sidhu 241.1 (562); 2. Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu 238.8 (563); 3. Mukesh Nelavalli 216.7 (560).

Rohan Mehra fights his way past Jin Gu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Rohan Mehra fought his way past Jin Gu of China 7-6 (10), 6-4 in the boys' first round of the ITF grade-2 junior tennis tournament at the DLTA Complex here on Monday.

Second-seeded Sacchitt Sharma retired after losing the first set 2-6 against another Chinese, Xiaofei Wang.

In the girls' section, Malikaa Marathe got past Meshkatolzahra Safi of Iran 6-2, 6-3.

The results (first round):

Boys: Tim Thomas Gauntlett (Hkg) bt Amaan Siddiqui 6-2, 6-2; Rohan Mehra bt Jin Gu (Chn) 7-6(10), 6-4; Hamad Medjedovic (Srb) bt Kabir Hans 6-3, 6-0; Hanwen Li (Chn) bt Arthav Neema 6-2, 6-4; Xiaofei Wang (Chn) bt Sacchitt Sharma 6-2 (retd.).

Girls: Weronika Baszak (Pol) bt Bhakti Shah 6-1, 6-3; Alexandra Eala (Phi) bt Sarah Dev 6-3, 6-0; Malikaa Marathe bt Meshkatolzahra Safi (Iri) 6-2, 6-3; Ting-Pei Chang (Tpe) bt Maanya Viswanath 6-2, 6-2; Sevil Yuldasheva (Uzb) bt Archita Mahalwal 6-7(2), 6-1, 6-1.

Vidarbha expected to have it easy

Holder takes on Uttarakhand, which will be without captain Rajat Bhatia

RANJI TROPHY

AMOL KARHADKAR
NAGPUR

Ranji Trophy knock-outs are meant to be far from being a no-contest. But with the defending champion Vidarbha having topped the group and up against first-class rookie Uttarakhand, a day before the start of the quarterfinals, not many expect the pahaadi boys to match the skills of the in-form Vidarbha outfit from Tuesday.

Just like all the nine Plate league teams – eight debutants along with Bihar who returned to the Ranji fold – have relied heavily on their professional signings, Uttarakhand would have hoped for its seasoned pros to at least try and stretch the match into the fifth day.

Bhatia unavailable

But even on that count, Uttarakhand is depleted with captain Rajat Bhatia being unavailable for the big clash.

Bhatia, a former Ranji winner with Delhi who is at the fag end of his playing days, has been aiming to be a professional trainer and he had told the Uttarakhand management of his unavailability in January well in advance.

Strike force: Having spent almost two months in Australia without getting any game time, Umesh Yadav will be desperate to get into a rhythm for Vidarbha. ▪S. SUDARSHAN

With their captain who was their highest run-getter in the league stage unavailable, the onus will be on the other two pros to avoid the match being lop-sided. Vineet Saxena, who will lead in Bhatia's absence, has already been a Ranji champion with Rajasthan while Malolan Rangarajan featured in a Ranji final for Tamil Nadu five years ago.

The task will be made even more difficult with Umesh Yadav having joined the Vidarbha squad for the first time this season. Having spent almost two months in Australia as a member of the victorious Test squad without getting any game time, Umesh will be desperate to get into a rhythm.

With Rajneesh Gurbani, the swinger, having recovered from the wrist injury suffered against Mumbai, it will be a potent pace attack for Vidarbha.

Add to that the fact that Wasim Jaffer has been rewinding the clock with his silken touch right through the league stage and captain Faiz Fazal having cleared the fitness test after a troubled left heel and Vidarbha is set to steamroll into the semifinals.

The teams (from):

Vidarbha: Faiz Fazal (Capt.), Ganesh Satish, Wasim Jaffer, Aditya Sarvate, Pawan Parnate (w.k.), Atharva Taide, Siddhesh Wath (w.k.), Akshay Wakhare, Akshay Wadkar (w.k.), Rajneesh Gurbani, R. Sanjay, Akshay Karnewar, Suniket Bingewar, Umesh Yadav, Yash Thakur, Mohit Kale, and Akshay Kolhar.

Uttarakhand: Vineet Saxena (Capt.), Malolan Rangarajan, Saurabh Rawat (w.k.), Sunny Rana, Sunny Kashyap, Vaibhav Bhatt, Vaibhav Panwar, Deepak Dhapola, Mayank Mishra, Dhanraj Sharma, Karanveer Kaushal, Kartik Joshi, Shivam Khurana (w.k.), Girish Katuri, and Avneesh Sudha.

Umpires: Sudhir Asnani, Amish Saheba; Match referee: Prakash Bhatt.

Masoud Mosadeghpour in sole lead

Five Indians among seven sharing second spot

DELHI OPEN

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Masoud Mosadeghpour won far more easily than expected to take the lead. But the title-race became more interesting than before with the trio of Abhijeet Gupta, S.L. Narayanan and N.R. Visakh posting timely victories to be among the seven players in the second spot after eight rounds of the Delhi International Open chess tournament here on Monday.

With two rounds to go, the young Iranian leads with seven points, half-point ahead of the overnight joint-leaders Debashis Das and Diptayan Ghosh, besides Abhijeet, Narayanan, Visakh, Levan Pantsulaia (Georgia) and Kirill Stupak (Belarus).

After Das and Ghosh agreed to a quick draw on the top board, Mosadeghpour was involved in a battle of equals against Tran Tuan Minh. Well into the middle-game, the in-form Vietnamese suddenly lost his way.

Crucial win: Masoud Mosadeghpour put it past Tran Tuan Minh to go to the top of the table. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

He shot himself in the foot by making moves of sub-optimal strength and resigned in just 32 moves after being down a bishop.

Stupak, the other joint-leader found the going tough against young GM-elect E. Arjun and split the point in 78 moves.

Even as the 12-year-old D. Gukesh became the third Indian to hold top seed Farrukh Amonatov in the past week, Abhijeet carved out an impressive 50-move win over Sayantan Das. Narayanan worked his way to an important 68-move triumph over Girish Koushik after Visakh gained from a series of rash moves by Deepan Chakkravarthy, leading to an expedited result in 34 moves.

Eighth round results: Diptayan Ghosh (6.5) drew with Debashis Das (6.5); Masoud Mosadeghpour (Iri, 7) bt Tran Tuan Minh (Vie, 6); Kirill Stupak (Blr, 6.5) drew with E. Arjun (6); Farrukh Amonatov (6) drew with D. Gukesh (6); Levan Pantsulaia (Geo, 6.5) bt Harsha Bharathakoti (5.5); Karen Movsziszian (Arm, 6) drew with Ivan Popov (Rus, 6).

Luka Paichadze (Geo, 5.5) drew with N.R. Vignesh (6); Abhijeet Gupta (6.5) bt Sayantan Das (5.5); S.L. Narayanan (6.5) bt Girish Koushik (5.5); N.R. Visakh (6.5) bt Deepan Chakkravarthy (5.5); Marat Dzhumaev (Uzb, 6) drew with Ehsan Ghaem Maghami (Iri, 6); Ivan Rozum (Rus, 5.5) drew with Dinesh Sharma (6).

Taufel all praise for 'captain' Kohli

AMITABHA DAS SHARAMA
KOLKATA

Former ICC elite panel umpire Simon Taufel praised India captain Virat Kohli for his leadership qualities, evident in the way he took his team to a maiden Test-series triumph in Australia.

"Virat is now finding or has found out what it takes to be a good leader. Whatever is outside the boundary is complicated and managing that is a real challenge. He has worked that out," said Taufel, who was in the city on an invitation from Silver Oak Estate, a firm organising a tournament for the downtrodden.

"He grew up idolising Sachin Tendulkar and under M.S. Dhoni's captaincy. They have had a huge impact on his career. But Virat is his own man now," Taufel said.

Taufel, who won five consecutive ICC Umpire-of-the-Year awards, said: "He (Kohli) took over the captaincy at a very difficult time when MS (Dhoni) decided to move on.

"We have never questioned Virat's cricketing ability, but leading the Indian team is something that you can only feel when you get on the job.

"I watched a recent interview, and I saw a man who was very composed and comfortable in his skin."

Hardik-Rahul issue

Asked about the controversy surrounding Hardik Pandya and K.L. Rahul, Taufel said: "people do make mistakes and one really needs to be careful about being overly critical.

"These players may have made some mistakes. But, they will learn."

ODISHA STATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
(A GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA AGENCY)
9th FLOOR, RAJIV BHAWAN, UNIT-V,
BHUBANESWAR-751001
Telephones: +91-674-2395398, 2395531,
Fax: +91-674-2391871
E-mail:osdma@osdma.org, Website: www.osdma.org
OSDMA
ISO 9001:2008

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
FOR SUPPLY OF DUSTBIN FOR CYCLONE / FLOOD / SHELTERS FOR
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
(Through Two-Bid e-Procurement)

Tender Call Notice No.199 /OSDMA — Date : 14.01.2019

The Odisha State Disaster Management Authority, Bhubaneswar (Purchaser) invites online bids through e-procurement portal of Govt of Odisha i.e. https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in from eligible bidders for supply of Dustbin for Cyclone / Flood Shelters and Fire Services for Government of Odisha as detail below.

Sl. No.	IFB NO	Total Quantity	Cost of Tender paper	Bid Security
1	NCRMP/DUSTBIN/PACKAGE-04/ NCB/2019	239 Nos	Rs.8000/-	Rs.3,20,000/-

1. Date of Commencement of sale of bidding document : 14.01.2019
2. Last date of sale of bidding document : 04.02.2019 up to 10.00 AM
3. Name & Address of the Officer Inviting Bid : 9th FLOOR, RAJIV BHAWAN, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal of Govt of Odisha i.e. https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in .
The authority reserves the right to cancel any or all of the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Procurement Specialist, NCRMP, OSDMA

ODISHA STATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
(A GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA AGENCY)
9th FLOOR, RAJIV BHAWAN, UNIT-V,
BHUBANESWAR-751001
Telephones: +91-674-2395398, 2395531,
Fax: +91-674-2391871
E-mail:osdma@osdma.org, Website: www.osdma.org
OSDMA
ISO 9001:2008

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF LIGHTENING ARRESTER SYSTEM FOR CYCLONE / FLOOD SHELTERS FOR
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
(Through Two-Bid e-Procurement)

Tender Call Notice No.198 /OSDMA — Date : 14.01.2019

The Odisha State Disaster Management Authority, Bhubaneswar (Purchaser) invites online bids through e-procurement portal of Govt of Odisha i.e. https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in from eligible bidders for supply, Installation & Commissioning of Lightening Arrester System for Cyclone / Flood Shelters and Fire Services for Government of Odisha as detail below.

Sl. No.	IFB NO	Total Quantity	Cost of Tender paper	Bid Security
1	NCRMP/LAS/PACKAGE-04/NCB/ 2019	239 Nos	Rs.11800/-	Rs.9,45,000/-

1. Date of Commencement of sale of bidding document : 14.01.2019
2. Last date of sale of bidding document : 04.02.2019 up to 10.00 AM
3. Name & Address of the Officer Inviting Bid : 9th FLOOR, RAJIV BHAWAN, Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal of Govt of Odisha i.e. https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in .
The authority reserves the right to cancel any or all of the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

96-F:
24007/11/0018/1819
Sd/-
Procurement Specialist, NCRMP, OSDMA

© 2006-2018 Kasturi & Sons Ltd. - -Rajdhani.hansi@gmail.com -9416404242

IN BRIEF

GoT final season to premiere on April 14

LOS ANGELES

The final season of *Game of Thrones* will begin on April 14, announced HBO. The network also released a trailer on Monday, showing Jon Snow, Sansa and Arya — three members of the Stark family — making their way through the crypts under their family home. Season eight has six episodes each of which could run as long as 90 minutes. PTI

Roma wins big at Critics' Choice Awards

SANTA MONICA

Alfonso Cuaron's *Roma* — an ode to the director's childhood in Mexico City — won big at the Critics' Choice Awards here. It won trophies for best picture, best foreign-language film, and for both director and cinematography for Mr. Cuaron. AFP

An open-air lab to study effects of climate change

Scientists analysing marine species of Chile's Seno Ballena

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SENO BALLENA

In one of the most inhospitable places on Earth, the southernmost part of Chile's Patagonia region, scientists are studying whales, dolphins and algae in order to help predict how climate change will affect the world's oceans.

Seno Ballena fjord produces the kind of conditions that should be seen in other marine systems in the next few decades, when dramatic changes are expected in the environment due to increased carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere and the melting of glaciers. "This place is like an actual experiment in nature because it allows us, without needing to conduct experiments in the lab, to know what will happen without imagining it," marine biologist Maximiliano Vergara said.

Early pointers: Scientists sail near a colony of fur seals in Seno Ballena. ▪ AFP

Dire consequences

The researchers are analysing the chemical, physical and biological variables of the waters, which show lower levels of pH, salinity and calcium, especially in the most shallow areas, as a consequence of climate change.

The chilly fjord waters provide one of the most productive marine habitats in the world, where sardines and krill can be found in huge numbers.

But climate change poses a threat to its ecosystem as the melting of a glacier on Santa Ines island and increased rainfall have led to rising levels of freshwater. If that continues, it would have dire consequences for whales as the plankton they feed on could disappear. "A change in the microalgae could generate changes in the secondary structure (of the marine system) or the animals that feed on these," marine biologist Marco Antonio Pinto said.

Under normal circumstances, when there is an abundance of microalgae, these provide food for the zooplankton that subsequently nourish the food chain all the way up to whales, said Mr. Pinto.

Researchers are taking samples from eight stations around Seno Ballena to measure the effects of the melting glacier on Santa Ines.

For now, they noted a slight drop in the number of humpback whales but an increase in other species such as sea lions, which previously were not present in that region, and dolphins. They also found a lower concentration of calcium carbonate, something which can affect the shells of marine organisms such as mollusks or krill, a staple of whale.

Desalination plants harm environment: UN

REUTERS
OSLO

Almost 16,000 desalination plants worldwide produce bigger-than-expected flows of highly salty waste water and toxic chemicals that are damaging the environment, a U.N.-backed study said on Monday.

Desalination plants pump out 142 million cubic metres of salty brine every day, 50% more than previous estimates, to produce 95 million cubic metres of fresh water, the study said.

About 55% of the brine is produced in desalination plants processing seawater in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, according to the study by the U.N. University's Canadian-based Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH).

The hyper-salty water is mostly pumped into the sea and, over a year, would be enough to cover the U.S. state of Florida with 1 foot of brine, it said of the fast-growing and energy-intensive technology that benefits many arid regions.

Brine, water comprising about 5% salt, often includes toxins such as chlorine and copper used in desalination, it said. By contrast, global sea water is about 3.5% salt.

Waste chemicals "accumulate in the environment and can have toxic effects in fish", said Edward Jones, the lead author.

Brine can cut levels of oxygen in seawater near desalination plants with "profound impacts" on shellfish, crabs and other creatures on the seabed, leading to "ecological effects observable throughout the food chain", he said.

Vladimir Smakhtin, director of UNU-INWEH, said the study was part of research into how best to secure fresh water for a rising population without harming the environment.

"There are all sorts of under-appreciated sources of water," he said, ranging from fog harvesting to aquifers below the seabed.

JK TYRE
TOTAL CONTROL

Total control on-the-go with the
Power of 4 Offer.

Buy four new tyres and get a power bank or a Bluetooth ear pod absolutely free with JK Tyre's **Power of Four offer***. Experience the power of **total control on-the-go** with a strong grip, a charged phone and hands-free calling.

Ambrane Power Bank
with four 30-35 cm (12-14) tyres*.

Bluetooth Ear Pod
with four 37.5 cm (15) & above tyres*.

ALSO AVAILABLE
UNCONDITIONAL 3 YEARS WARRANTY
EXCHANGE OFFER*

*T&C Apply.

To know more, please give a missed call 9899810984.

www.jktyre.com | Follow us on: /JKTyre YouTube /JKTyreCorporate /jktyrecorporate /jktyrecorporate

TATA MOTORS
Connecting Aspirations

TATA

JOY FILLED JAN

TATA Motors presents a range of ways to celebrate the New Year!

Buy any TATA Motors car and get special January benefits up to ₹85 000*

Models	Hexa	Nexon	Tigor	Tiago
Starting price^	₹12.57 LAKH	₹6.23 LAKH	₹5.20 LAKH	₹3.40 LAKH
Benefits up to*	₹85 000	₹58 000	₹76 000	₹39 000

TATA NEXON
INDIA'S SAFEST CAR
★★★★★
GLOBAL NCAP

GLOBAL NCAP
★★★★★
★★★☆☆
TATA NEXON
2018 TEST (2 airbags)
#SAFERCARSFORINDIA

All TATA Motors Cars & SUVs (Including Nexon) are available for sale at CSD. For CSD enquries please contact: sandipan.sharma@tatamotors.com

TRUST OF INDIA
GREAT OFFERS FOR PEOPLE WHO SERVE THE COUNTRY

EAST DELHI			
Concorde Motors Patparganj 8527241468	Concorde Motors Akshardham Metro 8882792075	Concorde Motors Gokulpuri 8527241519	Globus Motocorp Dilshad Garden (Opp. Metro station) 7574891505

SOUTH & CENTRAL DELHI				
Treo Auto Okhla 7574891504	Pahwa Autoworld Safdarjung Enclave 7574806819	Arya Motors Daryaganj 7574808545	Concorde Motors Lajpat Nagar 8527241446	Concorde Motors Mathura Road 8527241471

WEST DELHI			
Concorde Motors Peera Garhi 8527241479	Autovikas Moti Nagar 7574806780	Autovikas Dwarka 7574806776	Sparsh Autotech Najafgarh 8929172546

NORTH DELHI		REWARI
Hemkund Wazirpur 9667951212	Malwa Prashant Vihar 7574808734	Premium Motocorp 7574808735

NOIDA	GHAZIABAD		GREATER NOIDA	GURUGRAM		SOHNA	NARNAUL	SONIPAT	MEERUT	HAPUR	MODINAGAR	BIJNOR	FARIDABAD	
Sagar Motors Sector 5 7574806733	Sab Motors Patel Nagar-III 7574806833	Sab Motors Mohan Nagar 7574806770	Sagar Motors E-36 Site-4 8448994711	Arya Motors Opp Sec 14, Mehrauli Road 7574806843	Hartron Motors Sohna Road 9910234444	Hartron Motors 8882549995	Premium Motocorp 8929207354	Swan Motors 7574806828	Shri Vasu Automobiles 7574806706	Sab Motors 8448481334	Sab Motors 8929172583	Shree Vasu 7574806706	Multitech Motors (Near Sec. 28 Metro Station) 8448383223	Multitech Motors (Near YMCA Chowk) 8929643199

*Terms & Conditions apply. *Offers valid on select model/colour and on available stocks at Tata Motors authorized dealerships. January benefits valid till 15th Jan. 2019 and it includes exchange bonus, corporate offers and cash discounts if any. Benefits mentioned in the Ad are only applicable on 2018 manufactured vehicles. Images and illustrations are indicative and for information purposes only. All features/specifications are not available in all variants and may vary for different variants. Accessories may or may not be a part of standard fitment. Finance is at the sole discretion of the Financier. ^Price is Ex-Showroom Delhi.

24X7 CALL 1 800 209 7979
EXCHANGE THROUGH TATA MOTORS ASSURED

© 2006-2018 Kasturi & Sons Ltd. - -Rajdhani.hansi@gmail.com -9416404242

THE HINDU

TUESDAY • JANUARY 15, 2019

DELHI METRO

FOLLOW US:
thehindu.com
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu

Doctors call off strike

Resident doctors at Safdarjung Hospital call off strike after meeting Health Ministry officials Page 2

Building collapse

A three-storey building collapses killing a 10-year-old child, injures three minors Page 3

What war warrants

A show featuring Bangladeshi artists strikes an interesting conversation between war and peace Page 5

Mapping the globe

OpenStreetMap users in India speak about the project and its potential Page 6

IN BRIEF

Vehicles damaged as road caves in

NEW DELHI

An SUV and an autorickshaw were damaged after a portion of Maujpur Road in north-east Delhi caved-in on Monday night, the police said. No casualties were reported as locals managed to evacuate the occupants before the police arrived at the spot.

CITY ▸ PAGE 3

IIM-Rohtak sees rise in female students

GURUGRAM

Top B-schools, in recent years, have taken several initiatives to ensure that the incoming batches have a good representation of female students. IIM-Rohtak is one such institute which has successfully been able to improve the diversity in its flagship Post-Graduate Programme in Management.

CITY ▸ PAGE 4

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	247	Gurugram	221
Ghaziabad	245	Faridabad	256
Noida	236	Greater Noida	255

Good 0-50 | Satisfactory 51-100 | Moderate 101-200 | Poor 201-300 | Very poor 301-400 | Severe >401

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

Pak High Commission staffer let off after apology

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 21-year-old woman alleged that she was touched inappropriately by a Pakistan High Commission staffer in Sarojini Nagar market on Sunday, the police said on Monday.

The staffer clarified that he did not intend to and apologised.

A senior officer said the woman was in the market when she felt she was being touched inappropriately by the man after which she approached a beat officer in the area.

The officer allegedly asked both of them to come to the police station. At the station, the man allegedly told her that he had brushed against her 'by mistake' and also gave a written apology.

"She and her family accepted the apology, and let the matter go. She has not given any complaint," said the officer.

Sedition law a tool against free speech?

SC order in a 1962 case states that Section 124A applies only to actions inciting violence against govt

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The case against former JNU student leader Kanhaiya Kumar and others, contained in the pages of the bulky chargesheet hauled into court in a steel box, hinges on a single factor.

That is, whether the acts of the university students inside their campus in February 2016 amounted to subversion of the government by inciting a violent "revolution".

The law of sedition is authoritatively decided in the five-judge Constitution Bench judgment of the Supreme Court in *Kedar Nath Singh versus State of Bihar* in 1962.

Delhi Police on Monday chargesheeted former JNU student leader Kanhaiya Kumar and nine others accused of "raising anti-India slogans" in 2016 ▪ FILE PHOTO

Long list

The law declared by the Bench still holds true but is seldom seen to be followed by trial courts. The proof lies in the pudding. The list of people booked for sedition over the years is long – from Booker Prize-winning author Arundhati Roy to Kudankulam anti-nuclear activist S.P. Udayakumar to folk singer S. Kovan to Binayak Sen to political cartoonist Aseem Trivedi to former Delhi University professor S.A.R. Geelani to even two Karnataka policemen who asked for better wages.

The Kedar Nath judgment upholds the restrictions imposed by Section 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code on the fundamental right to free speech and expression. But the court makes it clear that such restraints apply only to "acts involving intention or tendency to create disorder or disturbance of law and order or incitement to violence".

The judgment explains what it means by "acts inciting violence against the government". "Any written or spoken words, etc., which have implicit in them the idea of subverting government by violent means, which are compendiously included in the term 'revolution', have been made penal by the section in question," then Chief Justice of India, Justice B.P. Sinha, wrote for the Bench.

The Supreme Court held that "comments, however strongly worded, expressing disapprobation of actions of the government" and which shun violence are not sedition.

"In other words, disloyalty to government established by law is not the same thing as commenting in strong terms upon the measures or acts of government, or its agencies, so as to ameliorate the condition of the people or to secure the cancellation or alteration of those acts or measures by lawful means, that is to say, without exciting those feelings of enmity and disloyalty which imply excitement to public disorder or the use of violence," the Constitution Bench explained.

Dissent and criticism

In its consultative paper on sedition, the Law Commission of India said dissent and criticism of the government are essential ingredients of a robust public debate in a vibrant democracy.

The Commission, which is the Centre's topmost advisory body on laws headed by former Supreme Court judge, Justice B.S. Chauhan, suggested it was time to rethink or even repeal Section 124A.

British law

The Commission has invited public opinion on the prospect of either redefining or doing away with Section 124A in the "largest democracy of the world, considering that right to free speech and expression is an essential ingredient of democracy". Why should India retain sedition when the British, who introduced sedition to oppress Indians, have themselves abolished the law in their country, the Commission asked. Sedition attracts imprisonment from three years to life.

In his book *Republic of Rhetoric*, Abhinav Chadrachud argues that the Constitution of India has made "little or no substantive difference to the right to free speech in India". Prior to India's independence, there were four exceptions to the right to free speech. Sedition (and hate speech), obscenity, contempt of court and defamation. They remain virtually unchanged in the Constitution.

The book argues that prosecutions for sedition relentlessly launched against leaders of freedom struggle like Bal Gangadhar Tilak continue to be used to silence voices today.

As K.T. Shah pithily explained free speech and its exceptions in the Constituent Assembly, "what is given by one right hand seems to be taken away by three or four or five left hands".

A case of vendetta against critical voices, says JNUSU

'Tactics being used to stifle opposition'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Reacting to the Delhi Police filing a 1,200-page chargesheet against former JNUSU president Kanhaiya Kumar and others, the JNUSU alleged that it was "a clear case of vendetta and well-planned instruction from the ruling party to whip up a frenzy and browbeat those who have emerged as critical voices of the Prime Minister and the BJP governments".

"What is most dangerous today is that the various institutions of our country, whether it is the CBI or the Delhi police, have been used by the BJP to target the opposition. As the people of the country are uniting to defeat the anti-people, anti-student and anti-farmer government of the day, these kinds of tactics are being utilised to stifle the opposition," the JNUSU said in a statement.

'Trumped-up charges'

The union said that it was 100% sure that such kind of trumped-up charges would be quashed by the courts and the students will be cleared of all charges.

"Right from the beginning we have maintained that this matter has been a pet project of the RSS-BJP to malign the university. What is also ironical is that the draconian sedition charge, enacted by the British is being used by the BJP governments today, whether it is in the JNU matter or against prominent activists and intellectuals," it said.

PM Modi regime is Hitler-like, says Kejriwal

'BJP planning to do away with polls'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Alleging that the BJP government was planning to end the practice of elections altogether, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal told a group of Aam Aadmi Party workers on Sunday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president Amit Shah's "regime was Hitler-like".

As a part of the AAP's Lok Sabha constituency-wise meetings, which started on January 10, Mr. Kejriwal addressed workers of the North-East Delhi seat at his residence on Sunday, an AAP statement said on Monday.

Speaking to party workers, he said the "Modi-Shah duo" was the biggest threat to the country. He said Mr. Shah had recently said that if the BJP won the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, it would stay in power for 50 years.

"Just like Hitler had done in Germany, BJP is also planning to amend the Constitution and eventually abolish the practice of elections altogether," the AAP leader said, according to the statement.

'Will expose party'

He told the AAP workers that it was their responsibility to "expose" the BJP and go door-to-door to inform people.

AAP's North-East Delhi Lok Sabha in-charge and potential candidate Dilip Pandey told the workers during the meeting that the party was projected to win all seven seats in Delhi.

"We need to double our efforts to save the nation from the dictatorial attitude of the Modi-Shah duo. Surveys across Delhi reveal that Delhi wants all seven MP's from the Aam Aadmi Party," Mr. Pandey said.

> **Just like Hitler had done in Germany, BJP is also planning to amend the Constitution**
>
> ARVIND KEJRIWAL
> Delhi Chief Minister

BJP hits out

Delhi BJP president Manoj Tiwari slammed the AAP, saying it will be "punished harshly" in the Lok Sabha polls for "cheating" people of Delhi.

"Despite massive mandate in 2015, the AAP cheated people by not implementing Ayushman Bharat scheme, and failed them in matters of health, education and water supply," he said.

Slamming Mr. Kejriwal for his allegations, Mr. Tiwari said, "Anyone with even a little knowledge of the Constitution, let alone a Chief Minister, cannot talk like that."

(With PTI inputs)

Relief for JNU faculty as HC stays attendance circular

Petition said the circular was inconsistent with the university's internal leave ordinances

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday stayed a circular issued by the JNU administration last year mandating that faculty members mark their own attendance or submit attendance records of their students, failing which any of their proposal or leave request will not be considered.

Justice Suresh Kait stayed the operation of the November 13, 2018, circular of the JNU administration while seeking its response on a plea by a teacher challenging the circular.

The High Court will hear the case on May 3.

Professor Archana Prasad from the Centre for Informal Sector and Labour Studies challenged the circular. She had to attend a conference in South Africa from December 6-16, 2018, and she sent a leave application on October 9 last year but the university administration declined it relying on the November 13 circular.

The circular mandates the faculty members to mark their own attendance or submit attendance records of their students.

She requested for leave again on December 13, 2018, on receiving an invitation from the Sam Moyo African Institute for Agrarian Studies for a programme from January 21 to 25. But her leave application was rejected again.

'Coercive measure'

Senior advocate Rebecca John, appearing for Prof. Prasad, sought to quash the circular terming it as a coercive measure. "It does so by stating that no request, paper or proposal of a faculty member will be entertained or considered unless faculty members confirm that they have been marking their attendance," she argued.

The petition filed through advocates Maanav Kumar and Nupur, said that the circular was inconsistent with the university's internal leave ordinances.

Prof. Prasad said that "never in the history of the university has there been a rule requiring faculty members to mark attendance".

She claimed that the administration made the circular in spite of the fact that the performance of the university by all measures has been outstanding especially in the absence of such rule.

"Even though the circulars and decisions on faculty attendance would have far-reaching implications on faculty members, the faculty members were deliberately prevented from presenting their concerns," she said.

Central government standing counsel Monika Arora, appearing for the JNU, said as per the rules of University Grants Commission and JNU, it is mandatory for teachers to mark their attendance. She said it is in the interest of teachers and students to mark their attendances.

Kant enclave in Faridabad. ▪ FILE PHOTO: MANOJ KUMAR

SC breather for Kant Enclave residents

Extends deadline to vacate houses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday extended till July 31 the deadline for houseowners, whose buildings were ordered to be demolished due to illegal constructions in the forest area of Aravalli hills, to vacate their premises subject to furnishing of undertaking in this regard.

Furnish undertaking

A Bench of Justices Arun Mishra and Deepak Gupta said the houseowners, who were earlier directed by the apex court to vacate their premises by March 31, would get time till July 31 if they file undertaking that they would vacate the properties by then.

'Needed more time'

The Bench said this after the counsel appearing for some of the houseowners urged that the time should be extended as the owners were senior citizens and they needed some more time to look for another accommodation.

"We extend the time till July 31, 2019, to vacate the premises subject to furnishing of an undertaking within four weeks from today," the Bench said. The court made it clear that if the undertaking would not be filed, the already fixed time till March 31 would remain in force.

There are 33 houseowners in Faridabad's Kant Enclave and they were earlier asked by the court to vacate their premises by March 31, this year.

Illegal construction

On September 11, 2018, the apex court had termed "frightening" the illegal construction in the forest area of Aravalli hills and directed the Haryana government to demolish the unauthorised structures built there after August 18, 1992.

During the hearing on Monday, senior lawyer Ranjit Kumar, assisting the court as an amicus curiae in the matter, told the Bench that a committee set up by the court earlier has filed a report with regard to the valuation of properties at Kant Enclave.

Was secretly a great fan of former CJI Sabharwal for his precision: Gogoi

The Chief Justice of India was speaking at an event in the city to launch a book on former CJI Y.K. Sabharwal

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi on Monday said he was secretly a "great fan" of former Chief Justice of India Y.K. Sabharwal for his precision and clarity of thought as a judge.

At the release of a book, titled *Beyond the Name, Justice Y.K. Sabharwal*, Justice Gogoi said the former CJI was a voracious reader and a prolific writer.

"His judicial decisions are exemplars of his courageous and fearless attitude when it came to upholding the rule of law," Justice Gogoi said.

He remembered a case when Justice Sabharwal highlighted that question of infringement of fundamental rights cannot be academic questions. Justice A.K. Sikri, who is in the middle of a controversy over his proposed post-retirement assignment and nomination on the PM-led panel which removed Alok Verma as CBI chief, also shared his fond memories of Justice Sabharwal. He ended his speech quoting a portion from the book saying, "If you are hurt by little things, yours is still a little mind. Great and noble minds are not offended by petty things of daily life".

(From left) Nitin Sabharwal, Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, Justice A.K. Sikri, former Attorney General of India Mukul Rohatgi at the book release on Monday. ▪ PTI

Later, he refused to speak to the press over withdrawing himself to be appointed as the member of London-based Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal (CSAT).

> **His [Y.K. Sabharwal] judicial decisions are exemplars of his courageous and fearless attitude when it came to upholding the rule of law**
>
> RANJAN GOGOI
> Chief Justice of India

Attorney General and Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi remembered Justice Sabharwal as a "firm taskmaster" who was very popular with everyone.

Justice Sabharwal's sons Chetan and Nitin, and his elder brother Jagmohan Sabharwal also spoke on the occasion.

© 2006-2018 Kasturi & Sons Ltd. - -Rajdhani.hansi@gmail.com -9416404242

IN BRIEF

SDMC carries out sanitation drive

NEW DELHI

The SDMC carried out a sanitation drive at 85 sites under its jurisdiction on Monday. The drive was held to 'enhance the involvement of citizens' in the 'Swachh Survekshan Rankings', the body said in a statement. The corporation aims to feature in the top-10 this year. Members of RWAs said workshops on segregation and collection of waste were also held. STAFF REPORTER

Debris dumping: North Mayor slams PWD

NEW DELHI

North body Mayor Adesh Gupta on Monday blamed the Delhi government's PWD for open dumping of construction and demolition waste (malba). Calling the PWD "careless", he said dumping of malba was leading to increased air pollution. He also directed the civic body officials to lift the malba lying on roads under PWD's jurisdiction and to issue challans to the body. He claimed the civic body's 'Swachh Survekshan' rankings were not improving due to work by Delhi government agencies. STAFF REPORTER

IGNOU placement drive to be held on Wednesday

NEW DELHI

The IGNOU campus placement cell, in association with regional centres in Delhi-NCR, will organise a placement drive on Wednesday at the Baba Saheb Ambedkar Convention Centre. An official said the event will see hiring for positions of vendor coordination and coupon selling personnel. "Students who are graduates in select disciplines or pursuing final year of graduation/ PG are eligible to participate." Selected students will have to join immediately. STAFF REPORTER

Patients seen waiting near the Safdarjung Hospital OPD in New Delhi on Monday morning. • PRATEEK KUMAR

Safdarjung doctors call off strike after meeting Health Ministry officials

Kin of 2 patients who died claimed their treatment was affected due to protest

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Resident doctors at Safdarjung Hospital here called off their strike on Monday evening after meeting with Union Health Ministry officials, who agreed to deploy additional security personnel for safety of the medical staff.

The doctors were on strike since Sunday, after a Delhi Police head constable's son who had come for treatment at the Centre-run hospital on Sunday allegedly punched an on-duty doctor.

Earlier on Monday, Day Two of the strike, patients were seen running from pillar to post seeking treatment. Two families even alleged that their kin died due to non-availability of timely treatment.

Emergency services

Safdarjung Resident Doctors' Association (RDA) president Prakash Thakur said: "...Senior doctors are working and taking care of patients. Everything is running fine."

Despite this assurance and a statement by the hospital administration that additional staff had been deployed to ensure critical care did not suffer, emergency services at Safdarjung Hospital were adversely affected.

An 18-year-old accident victim, who was admitted to the hospital's emergency section on January 12, succumbed to his injuries on Monday. His family alleged that he did not receive proper treatment because of the strike. He was referred to Safdarjung Hospital from a hospital in Gurugram.

His elder brother said, "My brother was referred to this hospital on January 12. The next day, the resident doctors went on strike and patients were not attended to properly after that. We requested that my brother be referred to another hospital but nothing was done. He died today [on Monday] morning."

In another instance, a family alleged that a 20-year-old woman died after she was not given treatment on time. An RDA member refrained from commenting on whether there was any connection between the strike and the deaths.

"The deaths are unfortunate. Senior doctors attended to patients in the emergency ward. Incidents of doctors being assaulted at work have become quite frequent. There is a need to beef up security and deploy marshals on hospital premises for their safety," added Dr. Thakur.

The outpatient department at Safdarjung Hospital, which gets over 5,000 patients daily, received 3,723 cases on Monday.

"The guard told us that doctors at the hospital are on strike. They said if ours was an emergency case, we should rush to AIIMS Trauma Centre nearby and not waste time here," said Anitha Gopal, who was suffering from swelling, fever and vomiting since Sunday night.

"Doctors should not be assaulted and they should not be allowed to go on strike either," said Rampal Prakash, who had brought his 10-year-old son for chemotherapy and was unsure whether his hour-long commute from Moti Nagar would be futile.

On Sunday, 24-year-old Akshay Kumar, the son of a Delhi Police head constable posted at Safdarjung Enclave police station, had visited the hospital with his friend around 7 a.m. to get treatment for abdominal pain, said the police.

FIR filed

A member of the RDA said Akshay became abusive over alleged delay in administering of treatment and assaulted the attending doctor, Ravinder Nath Thakur, giving him a bloody nose. An FIR has been filed against Mr. Kumar. The father of the accused and the duty constable at the hospital have been transferred to district lines since the incident.

The hospital administration had earlier maintained that they already have 300 security personnel. The RDA had made multiple demands, including deployment of up to 15 marshals in each shift as well as 200 guards, and strict action against those involved in assaulting doctors.

Doctors protesting on Monday morning. • PRATEEK KUMAR

BJP inimical to trader community across country, says Sisodia

He was responding to allegations by Assam Finance Minister

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Manish Sisodia on Monday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of being inimical to the trader community across the country.

GST meeting

He was responding to allegations made by Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, that Mr. Sisodia was among those who had opposed a proposal to exempt traders with an annual turnover of less than ₹75 lakh from registering for payment of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) at a meeting of the GST Council.

"Let me tell you something, which is a matter of record...a proposal to exempt traders with a turnover below ₹75 lakh was proposed but was opposed vehemently by the Finance Ministers of Congress-ruled States, Kerala and the Finance Minister of Delhi who belongs to the AAP," Mr. Sarma alleged at the BJP's recently-concluded national convention.

"When we sought to remind them that they were the same parties who spoke to helping small traders outside, we were told that the ceiling should remain at ₹20 lakh...otherwise their respective governments will end up losing income...," he had claimed.

Responding to Mr. Sarma's allegations, Mr. Sisodia accused the BJP of being inimical to the traders' community across the country.

"Who can be the biggest enemy of traders across the country except the BJP? When the BJP wanted to include even traders with a turnover of ₹5 lakh within the ambit of the GST, the AAP had opposed the move because of which the limit was set at ₹20 lakh," he said.

Mr. Sisodia added that the e-way bill limit in Delhi was higher than across BJP-ruled States.

Baijal urged to review ongoing redevelopment of Chandni Chowk

BJP leaders allege the plan lacks mandatory clearances

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday urged Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal to review the ongoing redevelopment of Chandni Chowk alleging lack of mandatory clearances.

In a letter to Mr. Baijal, Delhi Urban Development Minister Satyendra Jain, and Chandni Chowk MP and Union Minister Harsh Vardhan, Chandni Chowk councillor Ravinder Kumar and Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor drew their attention to the Archaeological Survey of India's refusal to allow the use of the Red Fort grounds as a car parking as proposed under the redevelopment plan.

"Drawing the attention of the senior authorities to the Shahjahanabad Vikas Board's failure to obtain mandatory sanction of the Delhi Urban Arts Commission [DUAC] for the redevelopment plan before starting the construction work in the most unplanned manner, we have urged the L-G to order immediate review of the plan," Mr. Kapoor said.

Car parking

Providing car parking at the grounds, the BJP leaders alleged, was the focal point of the redevelopment plan. That the ASI has refused to allow this now, they argued, made it clear that the "plan was brought in haste".

Redevelopment of Chandni Chowk from Lal Jain Mandir to Fatehpuri Masjid, which revolves around development of pedestrian and non-motorised traffic facilities, will be executed at a cost of ₹65.63 crore. "The negligence with which construction work is under way has brought Chandni Chowk to a virtual standstill. Be it crossing the road or transportation of traders' goods, everything stands messed up," the letter states.

Central verge

As part of the plan, the BJP alleged, the 80 feet-wide Chandni Chowk road was being reduced to two stretches of 15 feet, and the construction on a central verge "without DUAC's approval and will totally diminish the glory" of the Red Fort up to Fatehpuri as per the "historic...Chandni Chowk as envisioned by Shahjahan while laying the baazar", they added.

THE HINDU GROUP

STYLE YOUR WALLS WITH OUR PERSONALISED FRONT PAGE REPRINTS

Presenting *The Hindu* Lounge

https://lounge.thehindu.com

Here is a chance to rewind and wish your loved ones in a unique fashion. Just log on to https://lounge.thehindu.com, select the date and we will reprint the front page of *The Hindu* published on that exact date, encased in a sleek frame.

THE HINDU Lounge

FRONTPAGE RE-PRINT | KEYCHAINS | PENCILS | RECYCLED PAPER PACKS | ENVELOPES | NOTEPADS | GIFT TAGS | JOURNALS | PEN HOLDERS | BASKETS | TEA SETS | COASTERS | COFFEE MUGS | HANDMADE BOOKMARKS

© 2006-2018 Kasturi & Sons Ltd. - -Rajdhani.hansi@gmail.com -9416404242

IN BRIEF

Man held at airport for smuggling sandalwood

NEW DELHI

A foreigner was apprehended at the Delhi airport on Monday for allegedly concealing over 62 kg of sandalwood in his luggage, a CISF official said. S. Azamov from Tajikistan was intercepted by CISF personnel in the small hours of Monday. A search of his bag led to the recovery of nine pieces of sandalwood. PTI

Labourer found dead; cops suspect accident

NEW DELHI

A 40-year-old labourer, Lal Babu, was found dead in Dwarka on Monday morning, the police said. They received a call regarding a man with stab wounds lying in Bindapur. However, the police suspect that the victim, from Bihar, was mowed down by a truck which is yet to be identified. The post-mortem report is awaited, they added. STAFF REPORTER

Infant found dead near dustbin in Nand Nagri

NEW DELHI

The body of an infant was found near a dustbin at a vacant plot in north-east Delhi's Nand Nagri, the police said on Monday. A passer-by who spotted the abandoned body informed the police at 10 a.m. on Sunday, following which they visited the spot, the police said. A case has been registered against unidentified persons, said DCP (North-East) Atul Kumar Thakur. PTI

Arms supplier sent to judicial custody

NEW DELHI

A court here on Monday sent Muhammad Naeem, arrested for allegedly providing arms to members of a suspected ISIS-inspired terrorist group, to judicial custody on Monday. The special judge sent the accused to custody till February 6. The man was nabbed arrested from UP on January 3.

Boy killed, 3 hurt in Noida building collapse

Three-storey building was under renovation at time of incident: locals; SHO assures appropriate action

STAFF REPORTER
NOIDA

A 10-year-old child died and three minors were injured when a part of a three-storey building collapsed on top of passers-by in Nithari village in Sector 31 on Monday.

The building was under renovation for the past two months, the locals alleged.

"I was inside the house when the power suddenly went out, followed by a loud sound. I peeped outside and saw many people running around. There was debris on the street," said Ramwati, who lives in the neighbourhood.

Stating that the police was alerted immediately, after which rescue work started, she said the house belongs to Vijendra Awana.

Locals claimed the incident happened when a part of the second storey collapsed onto the first floor canopy. "Many passers-by got trapped under the canopy when it collapsed," said another local, Ramlal. The street is one of the busiest in the area.

Rescue work in progress at the building collapse site in Noida's Nithari village on Monday. ▪PTI

During rescue operations, two women and two boys were pulled out from under the debris, the police said. The boys were taken to the district hospital, where Shakeel (12) was discharged after first aid. However, Luv Subba from Darjeeling died during treatment. The women, both 18, are currently undergoing treatment.

> **I was inside the house when the power suddenly went out, followed by a loud sound. I peeped outside and saw many people running around. There was debris on the street**
>
> RAMWATI
> Local

"The debris is being cleared and the situation is under control. The incident will be probed thoroughly," said Senior Superintendent of Police Vaibhav Krishna.

The Noida Authority said the "old house" was being refurbished and blamed its owner for being "careless". "The owner [Awana] got the walls and ceiling of the house torn down first, but a portion on the front side was left hanging due to carelessness, which collapsed today [on Monday]. Four children were on the street outside the house at the time of the collapse," Authority's Officer on Special Duty Rajesh Kumar Singh said.

The police said a first information report will be registered based on a complaint by the family of the deceased. "Based on their complaint, a case will be registered against the owner and contractor," said Station House Officer (Sector 20) Manoj Kumar Pant.

In another incident, the project foreman was killed in Sector 63 when the ground floor of an under-construction building caved into the basement, the police said. Mustaq Ali was taken to a hospital, where he was declared brought dead, they said.

(With PTI inputs)

Teen kills father for refusing him money

Stabbed victim in the chest with knife

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 17-year-old boy allegedly stabbed his father to death when he refused to give him money in east Delhi's New Ashok Nagar on Sunday night, the police said on Monday.

The accused has been apprehended, they said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Pankaj Singh said the victim, a 42-year-old labourer, worked at a factory in Noida.

Call from hospital

The police received information from Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital around 11.30 p.m. They were informed that a minor had stabbed his father.

On reaching the spot, they found that the victim has been declared brought dead.

During investigation, they were informed that the minor had asked his father to give him ₹150-₹200 which he had refused.

"The boy asked for money and the father reprimanded him for not doing anything. He had asked the boy to leave him alone," said Mr. Singh.

Enraged, the teen picked up a kitchen knife and stabbed his father in the chest. The victim's wife, a witness to the incident, rushed him to the hospital, where he was declared dead. The accused stayed back near the house, from where he was apprehended on Sunday night.

School dropout

"He is Class VIII dropout and unemployed. He is the only son and his elder sisters are married," the officer said.

The victim was the sole breadwinner of the family, the police said, adding that a murder case has been registered. Further probe is on.

Seven arrested for robbing trader of ₹60 lakh at gunpoint

One accused works for victim's kin; 4 have criminal records

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Seven persons have been arrested for allegedly committing armed robbery of ₹60 lakh from a trader in north-east Delhi's Welcome, the police said on Monday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North-East) Atul Kumar Thakur said the accused have been identified as Deepak Chauhan, Sonu Verma, Jitender alias Jitu, Pradeep Kumar, Kishor Vishwkarma alias Shetty, Ashok and Nitu.

Four of them have criminal records, the police said, adding that Pradeep, who shared the information with others, works for the victim's brother.

The police control room had received a call on December 26 from the victim, who said that his colleague and he were returning after collecting payments in Seelampur when they were robbed.

"When the victim reached Sanjay Gandhi Marg, two persons broke his car window and robbed the bag containing cash on gunpoint. The duo then fled with their third accomplice," Mr. Thakur said.

Footage from CCTV cameras was obtained as part of investigation and its analysis led to the identification of suspects.

The police showed the photographs to informers, after which the accused were put under technical surveillance.

"A trap was laid near Khajoori Chowk, after which Sonu Verma was nabbed. At his instance, Jitender, Deepak, and Pradeep were also arrested," the DCP said.

Following a tip-off, the police nabbed Kishor, Ashok and Nitu. During interrogation, the accused allegedly told the police that Pradeep, Sonu and Deepak plotted the conspiracy and roped in the others.

"Pradeep works as a collection agent for victim's brother and was aware of the money. He shared this information with his accomplices," Mr. Thakur said.

The police claim to have recovered ₹11.5 lakh, three pistols and a motorcycle from the accused.

Road cave-in near metro takes down two vehicles

No casualties; officials suspect water pipeline leak as cause behind incident

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

An SUV and an autorickshaw were damaged after a portion of Maujpur Road in north-east Delhi caved-in on Monday night, the police said.

No casualties were reported as locals managed to evacuate the occupants before the police arrived at the spot.

The occupants have only sustained minor injuries, the police said.

An inquiry has been initiated into the incident.

The SUV and the autorickshaw were later pulled out with the help of cranes. ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

> **A section of the road near the newly constructed Maujpur metro station suddenly caved in**
>
> ATUL KUMAR THAKUR
> Deputy Commissioner of Police (North-East)

A case of negligence will be registered after inquiry on Tuesday, they said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North-East) Atul Kumar Thakur said a section of the road near the newly constructed Maujpur metro station suddenly caved in at 9 p.m.

The locals rushed to the spot and safely pulled out the occupants from the two vehicles. The Delhi Fire Service and the Public Works Department were also informed about the incident.

Officials suspect that a leak in a water pipeline led to the road collapse.

A team of engineers have been rushed to the spot enquire into the incident.

The SUV and an auto-rickshaw were later pulled out with the help of cranes.

The spot was barricaded and traffic diverted through Shahdara and Brahmpuri, said a traffic police officer.

Snarls reported

The incident led to snarls on the stretch, which is a busy route between Delhi and Loni.

Traffic officials said the road will be closed for the next few days till the pit is repaired.

Police sources said a major mishap was averted since the road was jammed due to heavy traffic else more cars would have gotten stuck in the collapse.

Two labourers injured after falling from building

They had a scuffle over ₹100, say police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Two persons sustained injuries after they fell from an under-construction building in south-east Delhi's Okhla Industrial area on January 12, the police said on Monday.

Under alcohol influence

The two men, who were drinking at that time, had got into a scuffle over ₹100, they said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-East) Chinmoy Biswal said three persons, Sunil, Pramod and their uncle Hareram, all labourers from Madhya Pradesh, work at the construction site.

Sunil allegedly told the police that during the drinking session, Hareram was going to use the washroom when Pramod asked him for ₹100 to buy more alcohol.

The duo got into an argument following this, which turned violent when Hareram refused to give him money. During the scuffle, both of them fell into the basement from the ground floor.

"Both them sustained injuries as there were metal sheets lying around. Hareram was severely injured. Pramod fled the spot," said a senior officer.

Case registered

Sunil rushed his uncle to the All India Institutes of Medical Sciences , where he is undergoing treatment. Hareram is out of danger, the police said.

They have registered a case under section 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide) of the IPC and are looking for Pramod.

A hard row to hoe

Placing his baits: A man trawling the Yamuna in search of valuables in New Delhi on Monday. ▪R.V. MOORTHY

Woman alleges threat calls from husband

Man absconding since two weeks

STAFF REPORTER
GREATER NOIDA

A woman who had accused her husband of disrobing her, has now claimed that she has been receiving threatening calls from him, the police said on Monday.

The 24-year-old victim had filed an FIR against her husband for forcing her to change her religion, disrobing her in public and for absconding with her money. The police have launched a manhunt for the accused.

The 30-year-old accused from UP's Jadonpur village was living with his wife and their daughter in Noida Extension, the police said, adding that he worked for a consultancy firm in Noida.

On Monday, she claimed in a video that she has been receiving threatening calls from her husband.

"I sought help from the police. A few days ago, they had gone to Bareilly to nab him but failed. On the same day, I received his call when he threatened me over filing the FIR," the woman alleged.

The complainant added that she and her daughter have been living without electricity since she cannot pay her bills.

"It has been more than two weeks since I filed an FIR. They have not been able to recover my money so far," the victim said.

Number on surveillance

Bisrakh SHO Anil Kumar Shai said the police failed to nab the accused in the first attempt. "In Bareilly, the accused fled as soon as we arrived. We have put his phone number under surveillance. He will soon be held."

DELHI TODAY

Talk: Tribute to R.P.Jain: A programme interweaving memories and music, recalled and presented by Dr. K.P. Jain, Dr. Jayati Ghosh, Dr. Punita Singh, Nicholas Hoffland and Sunit Tandon at Lecture Room - II, Basement Annexe, India International Centre (IIC), 6 p.m.

Music: As part of centenary year celebrations of Pandit S.C.R. Bhat and Pandit Chidanand Nagarkar, Kanara Saraswat Association presents performances of Pravind Godkhindi on flute (Kirana Gharana) with Ramkumar Mishra on tabla; Subhra Guha on vocal (Agra Gharana) with Mithilesh Jha on tabla and Paromita Mukherjee on harmonium at Kamani Auditorium, Copernicus Marg, Mandi House, 6 p.m.

Exhibition: "Passage to Asylum: The Journey of a Million Refugees" at Main Art Gallery, Kamaladevi Complex, India International Centre (IIC), 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Screening: "Mes Provinciales (A Paris Education)", French film screening with English subtitles at M.L. Bhartia Auditorium, Alliance Francaise De Delhi, 72, Lodhi Estate, 10 a.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditordelhi@thehindu.co.in)

Over 100 wanted criminals held within 48 hours in Gautam Buddh Nagar

Special drive launched with an aim to serve justice, says SSP

STAFF REPORTER
GREATER NOIDA

The Gautam Buddh Nagar Police claimed to have arrested over 100 wanted criminals from across the district over the past two days.

A special drive named Vajra was launched at midnight on January 11, the police said, adding that it continued till January 13.

Gautam Buddha Nagar SSP Vaibhav Krishna had directed officers of all 22 police stations in the district to find persons accused of heinous crimes like murder, rape and illegal activities, including attempt to murder. He also asked the officers to look for those who had been served a non-bailable warrant.

> **The operation was carried out to nab all the 250 absconding accused in the district**
>
> VAIBHAV KRISHNA
> Gautam Buddha Nagar SSP

The arrested persons include five murder accused, 14 accused in robbery cases, 13 booked under the Gangsters Act, eight booked for attempt to murder and two rape accused. Apart from this, 24 sentenced for more than seven years in prison were arrested under the operation. Another 46 accused, against whom the court issued an NBW, were also nabbed, the police said.

Mr. Krishna said the operation was carried out to nab all 250 absconding accused in the district. "The objective was to clean up the past record in order to serve justice," Mr. Krishna said.

Court reduces sentence in road accident death

Case dates back to 2006 when the car of the accused hit a divider, killing his friend

NIRNIMESH KUMAR
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has reduced six months' imprisonment to three months in a road accident death case dated 2006, allowing the man's argument that he has two children to take care of.

The prosecution case against accused Monu Sharma was that he along with one of his friends was travelling from Wazirabad to Old Delhi in a car with the accused on the wheel.

Died on spot

When they reached near a check post, the accused hit a divider and his friend sitting on the front passenger seat fell down and died on the spot due to head injuries.

> **Appellant is directed to pay a compensation of ₹40,000 as awarded by the trial to the father of the deceased...**
>
> S.K. MALHOTRA
> Additional Sessions Judge

In the appeal against a Metropolitan Magistrate court judgment holding him guilty and the sentence order, the accused denied that he was driving the car.

He said it was being driven by the victim.

However, Additional Sessions Judge S.K. Malhotra dismissed his arguments as a Delhi Police constable had testified as an eyewitness that he had taken him out of the driver seat of the car at the time of the accident.

Trial since 2006

Modifying the quantum of sentence, the Judge said: "As per post-mortem report, the age of the deceased was about 20 years at the time of accident. Keeping in view the submission that appellant has two small children and he is facing trial since 2006, the impugned order on sentence dated 28.07.2018 is modified to the extent that appellant is sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for three months for offence punishable under Section 279 Indian Penal Code [IPC] as well as under Section 304A IPC."

"Appellant is further directed to pay a compensation of ₹40,000 as awarded by the trial to the father of the deceased, and in default of payment of compensation, appellant shall further undergo simple imprisonment for two months," the Judge added.

© 2006-2018 Kasturi & Sons Ltd. - -Rajdhani.hansi@gmail.com -9416404242

IN BRIEF

JNUSU warns of agitation against V-C

NEW DELHI

The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union has submitted a letter to the varsity's V-C, seeking an appointment with him and have threatened to start an agitation against him if he does not give in to their demands. The union said they want to discuss crucial issues of the university with the V-C. PTI

DU's high-power committee meets

NEW DELHI

A high-power committee of Delhi University met on Monday to discuss issues related to contractual and ad hoc teachers. According to an official, the Academic Council is likely to meet on Wednesday. The panel recommended that ad hoc teachers be considered for promotion. PTI

Procure narco test machine quickly: HC

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court was left surprised when it was informed that there was no narco test machine in the national capital. It directed the AAP government to procure one such equipment for the FSL in north-west Delhi's Rohini and make it operational within three months. PTI

Man held for killing live-in partner

GHAZIABAD

The Ghaziabad police on Monday arrested a man, who was absconding after strangulating his live-in partner to death at their house in Khoda colony here last week. City Superintendent of Police Shlok Kumar said Shyam Manohar alias Shyamu was arrested for killing his live-in partner Akanksha (22) after an argument. PTI

IIM-Rohtak sees rise in female students in management course

Becomes first premier institute to launch 2-year diploma in Sports Management

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

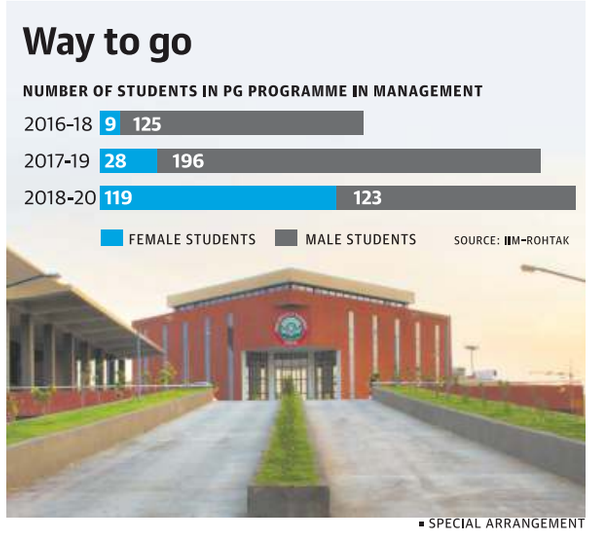
Ensuring diversity on both academic and gender front has been a challenge for every top management schools across the nation.

The top B-schools, in recent years, have taken several initiatives to ensure that incoming batches have a good representation of female students. IIM-Rohtak is one such institute which has successfully been able to improve diversity in its flagship Post-Graduate Programme in Management.

As part of its initiatives to develop new programmes, the institute has also launched a two-year Executive Post Graduate Diploma in Sports Management.

IIM-Rohtak has seen a phenomenal rise in number of female participants in the 2018-20 batch compared to the previous batches. The number of female students has increased from just 9 in 2016 to 119 in 2018. It was 28 for 2017. The number of male participants has been 196 and 123 for 2017 and 2018 respectively. For 2016, the number of male students was 125.

Achieving this feat was not an easy task for the institute, especially because of its location in Haryana, which is considered relatively unsafe.



▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Eases security concerns

The institute has taken several initiatives in this regard wherein students and officials are engaged with every female applicant through multiple outreach programmes, management conclaves, and digital platforms. Moreover, IIM-Rohtak moved to its sprawling 200-acre campus in 2018 which also helped ease the security concerns among the aspirants.

IIM-Rohtak Director Professor Dheeraj Sharma said "Diversity is important for creating an environment that emboldens creativity, confidence, and candour in the future business leaders. In the diverse and exciting environment at IIM-Rohtak, we hope to produce well-rounded future business leaders."

Sports management

IIM-Rohtak has also been working extensively on developing new programmes that would ensure that individuals from multiple domains interact with each other to facilitate knowledge assimilation.

In line with this very ideology and perceiving a need to develop excellent sports managers, IIM-Rohtak became the first premier institute in management to launch a two-year Executive Post Graduate Diploma in Sports Management.

The programme aims at producing professionals who have competence in various domains such as sports marketing, sports law, financials of sports, event management, sports infrastructure management and sponsorship among others.

The first batch of the programme saw the participation of 62 individuals, out of whom seven have represented India in multiple international sports competitions.

"Sports industry is growing exponentially in India and hence attracting commercial interests from a variety of stakeholders. In order to truly realise the value of sports industry more qualified professional are needed. In the immediate future, IIM-Rohtak is committed to producing best sports management professional in Asia," said Prof. Sharma.

Mobile signals on two metro lines to improve

Work on installing signal boosters in progress; likely to be finished by February

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

In a bid to provide commuters with better mobile connectivity in the recently opened Pink and Magenta Lines of the Delhi Metro, mobile network boosters are being installed and the work is currently under progress, said an official of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC). The work is expected to be complete by February, the official added.

The move follows complaints from commuters that mobile connectivity is lost while travelling on certain underground sections of the Shiv Vihar-Majlis Park (Pink Line) and Janakpuri West-Botanical Garden (Magenta Line).

"Work is currently under progress to provide mobile connectivity on the Pink and Magenta Lines of the Delhi Metro. About 300 workers are toiling hard during non-operational hours at night for the same and the work is expected to be completed next month," said a DMRC official.

The official added that private telecom service providers have undertaken the work, for which tenders had been floated earlier.

Adding that the exact date of completion cannot be ascertained yet, the official said, "It may be appreciated that work of this nature can be done only during the non-operational hours and blocks on train movement have to be considered during these hours so that the workers can go to the tunnels and carry out the work."

Sleeping rough

A rickshaw puller taking a nap at a bus shelter in New Delhi. The minimum temperature recorded on Monday was 8 degrees Celsius, a notch above the normal. ▪ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Gandhi's time in Delhi to be showcased on R-Day

Centre accepts Delhi's entry for parade

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Mahatma Gandhi's time in Delhi, particularly his stay at Birla House, which was renamed Gandhi Smriti after his assassination there in 1948, will be showcased by the Delhi government in its tableau during the Republic Day parade this year.

According to two Delhi government officials, Delhi's entry for the parade was accepted by the Centre. This year being the 150th birth anniversary of the father of the nation, the Ministry of Defence had made Gandhi the theme for the Republic Day parade.

An official said that Mahatma Gandhi had spent 720 days of his life in Delhi, including the last 144 days of his life at Birla House. Following his assassination, Gandhi Smriti was developed as a museum dedicated to him. The official said Delhi's tableau, which the Tourism Department is responsible for, would showcase Gandhi Smriti.

> **Gandhiji had spent 720 days of his life in Delhi, including the last 144 days of his life at Birla House...Following his assassination, Gandhi Smriti was developed as a museum dedicated to him**
>
> DELHI GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

According to the department, Gandhi had visited St. Stephen's College in 1915 along with his wife after returning from South Africa that year. He had inaugurated Tibbia College in 1921. He had also worked extensively for the upliftment of residents of Valmiki Basti and stayed there from 1946 to 1947. While Delhi did not have a tableau in the 2018 parade, the Aam Aadmi Party government had showcased its work in the field of education with its tableau in 2017.

NGT: inspect allegations of pollution

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

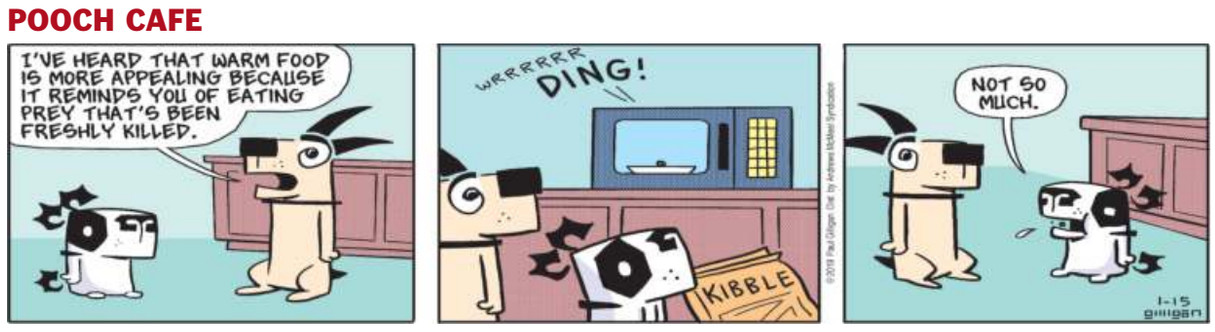
Following a plea alleging pollution from an illegal scooter repair market in the Delhi Gate area, the National Green Tribunal has directed authorities to look into the matter and take appropriate action.

A Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel said: "Let North Municipal Corporation and Delhi Pollution Control Committee jointly look into the matter and take appropriate action."

The directions came while the NGT was hearing a complaint moved by residents and shopkeepers of Delhi Gate, who alleged that the illegal repair shop was leading to air and noise pollution.

"Allegation in this letter stated that illegal scooter repair market at Delhi Gate is causing air and noise pollution, adversely affecting the public health and peace of the inhabitants," the Bench said.

POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS

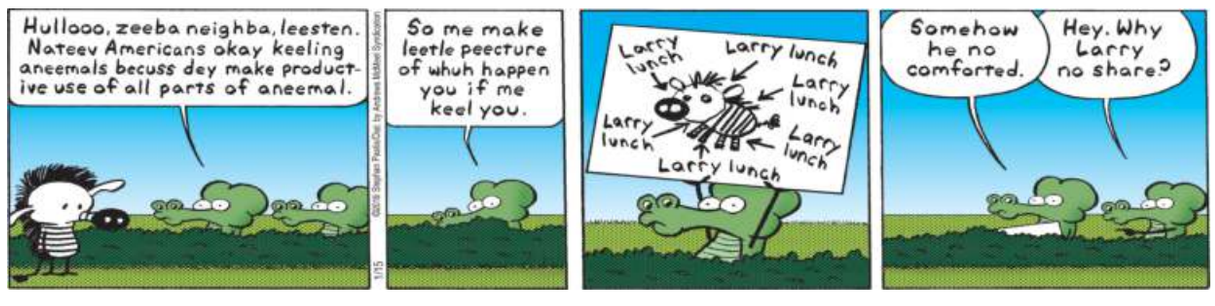
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

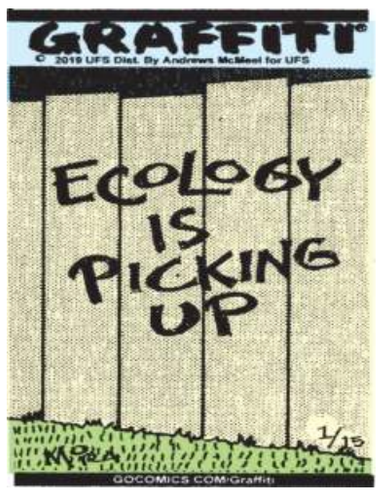
CALVIN AND HOBBES

TIGER

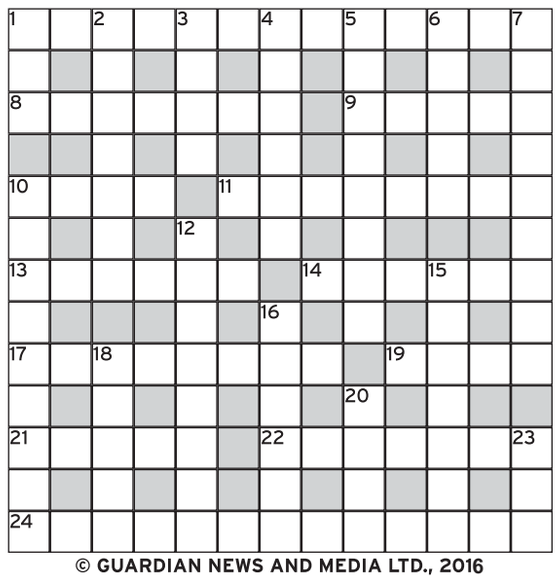
WUMO

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE





THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-12968



© GUARDIAN NEWS AND MEDIA LTD., 2016

Across

1 One whose political allegiance might easily change (8,5)
8 Imagine (5,2)
9 Balderdash (5)
10 Berkshire village with a 16thcentury vicar celebrated in legend and song (4)
11 Wrongdoer (8)
13 Double-breasted jacket for a man (6)
14 Tooth coating (6)
17 Cod catcher? (4,4)
19 Land in water (4)
21 Freshwater carnivorous mammal (5)
22 Stipulation (7)
24 Cheap melodramatic novel (5,8)

Down

1 Given sustenance (3)
2 Run (7)
3 Docile (4)
4 Tablecloths etc (6)
5 Violent (8)
6 North (anag) – point (5)
7 Queen's shade? (5,4)
10 Cake in a dish? (3,2,4)
12 Sloth (8)
15 Large short-haired dog breed (7)
16 Metal – officer (6)
18 Shiny fabric (5)
20 Fizzy drink (4)
23 Hooting bird (3)

Solution will appear in Delhi Metro dated January 17, 2019.

Solution No. 12967

© 2006-2018 Kasturi & Sons Ltd. - -Rajdhani.hansi@gmail.com -9416404242

SHORT TAKE

Exploring human history

Taking viewers on a journey back 25 million years to explore the ancestral roots of man at the time of the great apes is a two hour special *First Man* that will première on Discovery Channel this evening.

Produced by France's Nilaya Productions, *First Man* follows the story of one primate tribe with exceptional skills, highlighting the social, cultural and biological constructs that shaped their evolution into modern man. It will showcase the stages of evolution of life through the story of a tribe of great apes.

Directed by Frédéric Fougea and Jérome Guiot, with scientific direction from Pascal Picq, the renowned palaeoanthropologist at France's elite Collége de France, the film features strikingly realistic characters that have been brought to life through prosthetics and make-up based on authentic fossilised skulls and teeth.

"We are very excited to offer our viewers this fascinating docu-drama which reveals that there's much more to human being's collective history than we ever thought," said Zulfia Waris, V.P Premium & Digital Networks, Discovery Communications India.

What war warrants

"A Finger On The Pulse", a group show featuring noted Bangladeshi artists, strikes an interesting conversation between war and peace, the past and the present

TAVI RATHI

At first glance, they are just independent letters hanging in the air but as the winter sun shines on 'Amity', Promotesh Das Phulak's installation begins to lend warmth. With letters made of iron bars and the bars loaded with the highly inflammable *Shola* flower, Phulak's project stands for the unmoving, unfaltering iron will to achieve peace and harmony, and the *Shola* flowers, quick to catch fire and converting into ashes within seconds, represent how the means to achieve peace, like building war technology, etc is only a spark away from turning into a disaster.

On the adjacent wall is a multimedia installation 'War of Images' by Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury which uses, among other things, a series of the covers of the Time magazine, placed one next to the other in a non-linear pattern, all of them veiled by a translucent sheet. An intriguing wordplay that, along with signifying that no matter what the victors of the wars of the past promulgate, history can never be linear, time can never be linearly arranged. It also stresses on how the war and history, owing to the way it is put before an audience, will always be miles away from the truth

Akar Prakar, in its six-month-long season of showcasing avant-garde Bangladeshi art, has put up a group show, "A Finger on the Pulse" which showcases eight artworks, focussing on the idea of war hysteria and its aftermath. Curated by artist Tanzim Wahab, the show, besides Phulak and Chowdhury, includes works of noted Bangladeshi artists such as Dilara Begum Jolly, Mahbubur Rahman, Imran Hossain Piplu, Anisuzzaman Sohel, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Mazia Farhana and Abir Shome.

In the middle of walls with paintings portraying the brutality that war brings with itself, stands a house, nay, a home, redolent with a child's innocence and creativity. Marzia Farhana's "Equilibrium" project was influenced by SM Sultan's ideology that the kid that draws his village and the beautiful flowers and trees can't hurt anybody. The project, done in collaboration with school kids around 10-12 years of age, making them build their own house, came out as a huge surprise for Marzia. "When the kids started to make what they wanted, they made objects of their dreams. When they started to build and decorate the main house, it became their dream space. It surprised me how playfully nine kids started to visualise and in that process created their own personal spaces full of joy, freedom and possibilities. Thus, the freedom of making and doing helped them to reinvent the living spaces and establishing the relationship with empathy and care."

With the violent metallic texture of a gun replaced by images of flowers, leaves and birds which signify springtime, and a smooth branch of tree leaving the barrel of the gun, instead of the bullet, Imran Hossain Piplu's 'Spring in Grey Time' awaits bliss and happiness in the shadowed times, depicting how all of it is present inside each one of usWhen asked if it's hope or satire that's been depicted through this artwork, Imran says, "This work is a poetic intervention of recreating a dialogue between the nature and man-made destruction. The symbolic bird still tries to carry the message of peace with juxtaposition with soldiers and their weaponry. This juxtaposition is my utopian imagination to propose hope in a violent time. It is an imagined reality to change the course of action."

Evocative needle work

Dilara Begum Jolly, in her project "War after War", uses evocative needle work as she takes the viewer through printed images of a house that's been left vacant and unattended after the war. "This body of work is tracing the memories and locations of torture in the liberation war of Bangladesh of 1971. The dots of printed photographs symbolises the silent, painful process of living with the memory even if the time changes. Needling is also a stereotyped role of a woman in an ordinary house which might connect collective memories of women in the subcontinent," observes Jolly.

Dream space: (clockwise from top) Marzia Farhana's "Equilibrium"; an untitled work by Anisuzzaman Sohel; Imran Hossain Piplu's "Spring In Grey Time" ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Describing the title, Wahab says, "It refers to the artist's sense of immediacy to talk about the social upheavals of a certain time and to invent the language of expressing urgent concerns. Finger on the pulse hints at the immediate response and an ephemeral intervention into a time and space." Wahab feels curating a group show is always challenging even if there is a consistency of forms or mediums. "Each artist comes with a unique expression, aspiration or language and one needs to find a connection or differences to make them conversing next to each other. My intention was to make works creating constant dialogues between the walls so that it constructs a collective narrative to talk about a time."

Edited excerpts from a conversation with Wahab:

On Partition and liberation war influencing art in Bangladesh

War and Partition definitely brought back the question of identity; both personal rootedness and national identity. The earlier generation of artists were visionary to design a new nation after being the colony of British. The nation continued to look for stability; either it was democratic stability or cultural development. This exhibition depicts intergenerational practice between the artists of different times to explore the overlap of concerns and also differences of struggle where local problems slowly connect to wider global problems. While Dilara Begum Jolly's needle works on photographic prints talk about the torture and violence of 1971's liberation war, Mizanur Rahman Sakib's installation and collages of Time Magazine covers moves to the global political iconography of power and capitalism.

On the choice of artists

Contemporary art often engages beyond art forms and mediums as many artists make spontaneous choices of a medium to respond to their time. I wanted to share that practice too where audience will find a range of languages and expressions as a form of spontaneous choice than a formalistic intervention. This show tries to take attention on the social landscape of Bangladesh through the response of artists of the different generations. There are many two-dimensional works including drawing, photographic prints and collages of collected documents but all these works interplay with the idea of multiple dimensions with juxtaposition of objects. There are many text-based works too which are trying to see text as a visual form along with its meaning.

This show tries to take attention on the social landscape of Bangladesh through the response of artists of the different generations

TANZIM WAHAB

On narratives of war and peace finding space under one roof

There is no single narrative of a time and artists always engage with a time from multiple angles. This is a plural narrative of a country where you will often see different points of departure. I think it is also same for our global contexts and new world-order where you will often see juxtaposition of war and peace, fear and hope, poetics and politics. This is the new reality where artists are living in.

("A Finger on the Pulse" is on display at Akar Prakar Gallery, Defence Colony, New Delhi, till January 19)

Back on home turf

Actor Yashpal Sharma on his commitment towards Haryanvi film industry

MURTAZA ALI KHAN

The trailer of the upcoming Hindi film *S.P Chauhan - The Struggling Man* was recently launched in Karnal, Haryana. Directed by Manoj Ojha, *S.P Chauhan* tells the story of a man's struggle against alcoholism prevalent in the Haryanvi society back in the 1980s. The film is based on the life of a real person named S.P Chauhan and stars Jimmy Sheirgill in the lead role. Actor Yashpal Sharma, who is known for his work in films like *Gangaajal*, *Lagaan*, *Aarakshan*, *Tubelight*, among others, was also present on the occasion. Sharma, an NSD alumnus, plays the pivotal role of the lead character's father in *S.P Chauhan*.

Excerpts:

How did you get associated with the project?

I play the father to the 10 year old Chauhan and also when he grows up. So, basically, my character goes through an age difference of 13 years. While preparing for the role I used to regularly meet S.P Chauhan's real father in order to understand the character better. Even as Chauhan is busy helping others to give up on alcohol, his own father remains addicted to it. So a part of the challenge for my son is to convince me to quit drinking. It's a very tender relationship that the father and the son share and I have tried my best to do justice to it.

As an actor who comes from Haryana, I am committed towards the growth of Haryanvi film industry so that it can stand alongside Punjabi, Marathi and other leading regional film industries. I have taken the pledge to take Haryanvi cinema to new heights.

The idea is to remind the younger generation about the great poet, highlighting how a man who didn't ever go to school became such a prolific poet

Tell us about your film on a legendary Haryanvi poet...

For the last three years I am working on a film based on the life of Haryanvi poet Lakhmi Chand which I am also directing and producing. I will always be associated with all the good work that's happening in the film industry here. So far I have only done two Haryanvi films and both have won National Awards. The Lakhmi Chand biopic will be made in two parts.

The shooting for part one begins this April . In the second part, I will essay the grown up Lakhmi Chand. Also, you will see me briefly at the beginning and the end of the first film as well. The idea is to remind the younger generation about the great poet, highlighting how a man who didn't ever go to school became such a prolific poet through sheer passion and determination.

These days we are witnessing so many biopics on a regular basis. What, according to you, makes S.P Chauhan stand apart?

The film's greatest strength is its simplicity. Today big budget films like *Thugs of Hindostan* and *Tubelight* are failing but content based films like *Badhaai Ho* and *Andhadhun* are working really well. The issues such as alcoholism, education, and women empowerment which *S.P Chauhan* deals with are really important and have great relevance not only for the state of Haryana but the Indian society at large. I have even done the casting for it and worked as a project manager, taking suggestions and advice from the various stakeholders.

If the quality of work is good, you don't worry about the duration of the project. A highly professional team of technicians from the Mumbai film industry came to Haryana and stayed here for a long time and all of us worked together day and night.

In recent years, you have seemingly distanced yourself from Bollywood...

Looking for creative satisfaction: Yashpal Sharma ▪THE HINDU

To tell you the truth, I am totally tired of big budget Hindi films as I find no creative satisfaction in doing such films.

I am really keen on doing small budget films with characters that offer greater scope for me as a performer. Now, I have done all kinds of regional films whether Gujarati, Assamese, Telugu, Awadhi, Bhojpuri, Dogri, Punjabi, Haryanvi, Rajasthani and most of them have been successful, either critically or commercially. Also for the last three-and-a-half years I am really occupied with my own project on the life of Lakhmi Chand which has made it very difficult for me to take up other projects outside of Haryana.

How do you see this transition from an actor to a director?

It has allowed me to follow my passion more closely than I have ever managed.

I have always wanted to follow my heart but it hasn't been possible while working on those big projects but finally I can exercise my creative control and it means everything to me. I have told the producer very clearly that I don't want any interference in the creative process.

Tell us about your theatre work

I am involved in as many as 13 plays including ones with Nadira Babbar, Makarand Deshpande, Ramji Bali, and Gulzar Sahib. But I have taken a six-month break for now so that I can fully focus on the Lakmi Chand biopic.

IN BRIEF

Igniting passion

To create a culture of reading among children, a two-day event titled "The Gurgaon Children's Literature Festival (GCLF) 2019" will be held at Vega Schools, Gurugram, beginning January 19. This litfest intends to ignite a passion for literature and develop a lifelong habit of reading among children.

On the announcement of the 3rd edition, Avishek Roy, Founder of GCLF said, "We are extremely excited to come up with our 3rd edition. This year, we are looking forward to building children's creativity, creating a global understanding of diverse cultures & people and developing a wholesome sense of community. We truly believe that when a child and a book connect, magic happens."

GCLF will see participation of author Roopal Kewalya, storyteller Deepa Kiran and theatre professionas Nikita Arora and Vikram Sridha.

5 EVENTS WORTH-YOUR-WHILE

CONCERT

Tabla
India Habitat Centre hosting Pandit Kashi Nath Khandekar Memorial Concert this evening. The event will feature solo tabla performance by Pandit Sanju Sahai, accompanied by Dr. Vinay Mishra on harmonium. Sanju Sahai belongs to the Benares Gharana (lineage) and being the 6th generation of tabla players in the lineage.
VENUE: Amaltas Hall, India Habitat Centre
TIME: 7 p.m.

EXHIBITION

Art
Gallery Ragini presents "Voiceover" a group show curated by Meena Vari, showcasing recent works by contemporary Indian artists. It is a comprehensive exhibition with works of seventeen artists from different part of the country. The works presented are in different medium ranging from film to paintings.
VENUE: IGNCA, 11, Mansingh Road
TIME: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

DANCE

Antarang
Aamad Dance Center, a dance group dedicated for Kathak classical dance, is organising its 22nd Annual Kathak Dance Festival "Antarang" this evening. Choreographed by Guru Rani Khanam, this annual dance festival creates an opportunity for its students to present their training of Kathak on professional platform.
VENUE: Shri Ram Centre, Mandi House
TIME: 5 p.m.

CUISINE

Ramen Festival
Guppy, a Japanese bar and kitchen introduces #RamenMeCrazy, a Ramen Festival, offering 12 different types of Ramen with exciting options for both vegetarians and non-vegetarians. The dishes include smoked tomato Ramen served in vegetable topped with sautéed kale, bean sprout corn, snow peas and broccoli.
VENUE: Guppy, 28, Lodhi Colony
TIME: Noon to 3.30 p.m.; 7.30 p.m.-12.30 a.m.

THEATRE

Salaam Noni Appa
Primetime Theatre Company presents 'Salaam Noni Appa', an English Play directed by Lillette Dubey this Wednesday. Based on Twinkle Khanna's short story, it is a heart-warming story of relationships — of the bond between two elderly sisters, Noni and Binny, and the former finding love in her sunset years.
VENUE: Kamani Auditorium, Mandi House,
TIME: 7 p.m.

© 2006-2018 Kasturi & Sons Ltd. - -Rajdhani.hansi@gmail.com -9416404242

A free map for a global village

OpenStreetMap users in India speak about the project and its potential

NIKHIL VARMA

Mapping the globe: One data point at a time ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In the age of the Internet, for the layperson, maps have gone beyond mere geographical markers or things one saw in an Atlas and forgot about. It has become the key to getting things done online, from making sure you never get lost, helping you navigate in a new neighbourhood in your car, getting the latest set of groceries from an online supermarket and so on. With new disruptive technologies such as autonomous driving on the anvil, the use of maps is bound to see an uptick.

However, most of the maps online are owned by big corporations such as Google. These maps are often chargeable and do not offer much privacy and security.

The OpenStreetMap (OSM) project is a collaborative project to create a free editable map of the globe. The movement, modelled on Wikipedia, was motivated by restrictions on use or availability of map information around the globe. Globally, it has more than two million users, collecting data using surveys, GPS devices, aerial photography and other sources.

In India, OSM has its share of active communities and users. So what is the OpenStreetMap movement in India? What are its applications in real-life situations? And what do they see on the road ahead?

Bengaluru-based Arun Ganesh has been an active member since 2008. He explains, "Open street maps are basically like a Wikipedia for maps. It is completely user-generated and run by the community. The initial map is created using data from satellite imagery. The other features are added on as more users are added to the network. Like Wikipedia, there are dedicated users who verify the alterations made by the users."

He points out, "When Wikipedia was launched, no one expected it to survive and compete against the established names in the business, but it flourished. Open street maps has a similar trajectory, where we make sure that a large corporation like Google does not hold all our data. Moreover, companies like Google charge users for accessing maps after a specific number of hits. In open street maps, the content can be used by everyone and is free of cost."

He says that a number of companies are using OSM: Zomato and Apple, for instance. Uber is also using open street maps for its internal communications. Many governments around the globe are using these maps to help sort civic issues. In India, navigation on OSM is a little problematic, but we are trying to get that fixed. As more and more people get involved in making these maps and sharing locations, it will become more accurate."

How does it work?

Arun says it's especially helpful with humanitarian disasters. "They were used on a large scale when the massive earthquakes happened in Haiti (2010) and Nepal (2015). Google maps did not have a lot of data on these countries and OSM helped a lot. In India, we saw the need for OSM during the 2015 Chennai floods when we developed an app that allowed residents to mark flooded streets. We used open-source tools to come up with the app. It was very helpful in the relief operations. OSM also played an important role in managing the aftermath of the Kerala floods last year. On OSM, edits can be made live, unlike Google maps." It helps that OSM is available in many local languages."

For software professional and OSM creator and user Naveen Thomas, who splits his time between Kerala and Bengaluru, it was being a witness to a road accident that got him interested in OSM. "I wanted to create an open-data resource on roads in India. I started by creating road articles in English Wikipedia. Those articles required maps and the default choice was OSM. I began with focussing on state and national highways. I began disaster response mapping only after the Kerala floods," he says. Many disaster-zone areas have benefitted: As part of relief operations, we aided in many situations, such as the Kerala and Coorg floods, cyclone Gaja and the Nagaland flash floods last year. "The precision in details offered by OSM aided in the relief operations."

Currently, Facebook, Apple, Amazon, and Grab are contributing to OSM mapping. "As far as making the maps goes, the projects have covered 16 lakh kilometres, out of 56 lakh kilometres are roads in the country. Most of the national highways, railways, rivers and forests are covered. There is a lot of ground to be covered in terms of buildings and structures," says Naveen."

Floods and beyond

For Manoj K, from Thrissur, OSM was the go-to resource for aiding in flood relief, post the August floods in Kerala. He explains, "Most applications involved in flood relief ran OSM as the background map, including keralarescue.in. This was mainly because Google maps would freeze beyond a point and there was a need for free maps. We were aided by the humanitarian OpenStreetMap team and Facebook as well." He says that since OSM is a voluntary service, work has been a little slow, but is seeing new energy and direction, post the work done during the recent floods. "I think that as the community grows, OSM will be used for multiple purposes."

USE CASES FOR OSM

Humanitarian aid

Resolving civic issues by letting community members point out issues that need resolution on maps. For instance, a dump of garbage on the road, can be brought to the notice of civic authorities using OSM

Building better transit and commuter routes/planning routes. Traffic bottlenecks can be plotted and arrangements for decongestion made

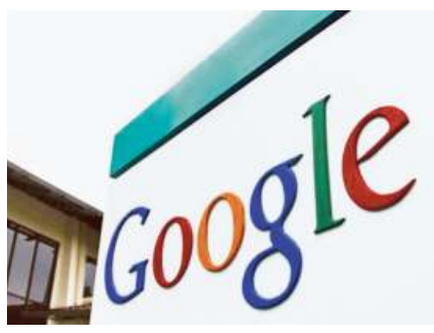
VIEWING ONLINE

OpenStreetMap project can be viewed in a web browser with JavaScript support via Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) on its official website.

TECH-A-BYTE

AI-powered algorithm to detect cervical cancer

Researchers have developed an Artificial Intelligence-based algorithm that can identify cervical cancer with greater accuracy than a human expert, reports IANS. The algorithm, called automated visual evaluation, can analyse digital images of a cervix and accurately identify precancerous changes that require medical attention.It can be performed with minimal training, making it ideal for countries with limited healthcare resources. "Our findings show that a deep learning algorithm can use images collected during routine cervical cancer screening to identify precancerous changes that, if left untreated, may develop into cancer," said Mark Schiffman, from the National Cancer Institute in the US.



Google rolls out activity cards to make search easier

Google has started rolling out in the US a new feature called activity cards to make it easier for users to pick up the threads to past searches and continue exploring a topic.

When you revisit a query related to a task you had started in the past, Google will show you a card with relevant pages you had visited and previous queries you had done on this topic.

Users will also be able to add or delete items to their activity cards.

If you want to mark a page to read or reference later, just touch and hold the link to quickly add items on your activity card to a collection.

You can access your collections by tapping the menu on the top left of the Search page (on mobile web), or through the bottom bar of the Google app, reports IANS.

Please send feedback and suggestions to techknow@thehindu.co.in

GAMESPOT

CES 2019 in Gaming

All the innovations unveiled at the gaming ground-zero

JULIAN ALMEIDA

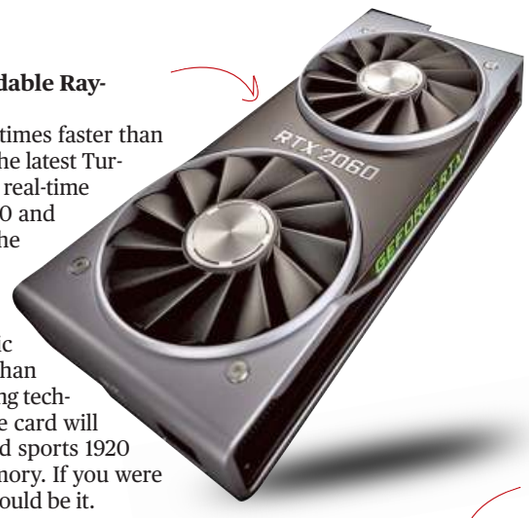
The Consumer Electronics Show is one of the biggest expos. A landmark event where we get a glimpse into the future of technology. For gaming however, it's ground zero, that's seen the console wars between Nintendo and Sega heat up, the graphic card wars between Nvidia and ATI, the processor wars between Intel and AMD. This battleground of drool-worthy tech is great for us gamers, as we get to see the next generations of gaming technology and the evolution of graphical prowess, unveiled right before our eyes. Here are the gaming highlights from this year's CES.

Asus ROG Mothership

CES 2019 had a host of gaming laptops on display, some sporting 240 Hz displays; some like the Acer Triton 900 with displays that can be used as easels. While Alienware went the fully-upgradable route with the Area 51m, allowing you to switch out the CPU and GPU. The one that stood out the most was Asus' incredible gaming tablet simply called the Mothership. Looking like a jacked-up Microsoft Surface, complete with the same hinge and keyboard cover, the Mothership sports a 17.3-inch display, an Intel Core i7-8750H processor and RTX 2080 graphics; yes, the highest-end Nvidia graphics is packed into a thin frame. The spec list is impressive, and guaranteed, the Mothership will not come cheap.

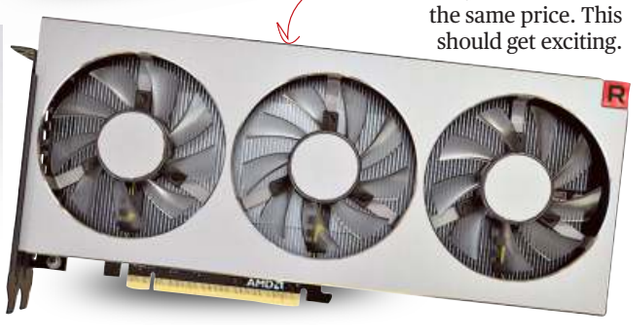
Nvidia GeForce RTX 2060: Affordable Ray-Tracing

Nvidia delivered a card that was six times faster than that of the last generation. Sporting the latest Turing architecture with its glorious new real-time ray-tracing technology, the RTX 2080 and 2070 were great, but were out of the price range of most people. Now at CES, Nvidia unveiled the new RTX 2060, an affordable Turing graphic card that is a bit faster than the GeForce GTX 1070, with ray-tracing technology. According to the website, the card will retail in India for about ₹31,000, and sports 1920 CUDA cores and 6GB of GDDR6 memory. If you were holding out for a graphic card, this would be it.



AMD Radeon VII

The graphic wars have heated up again, with the reveal of the new AMD Radeon VII. A card that Nvidia's Jensen Huang made a promise to 'crush' with the RTX 2080. Yet, AMD is proud of the VII, touting it as the first graphic card sporting 7nm process. Sporting a whopping 16GB of memory and a 1 terabyte-per-second memory bandwidth, this $699 card goes neck-to-neck against the 2080, which retails at the same price. This should get exciting.



LG Roll-up Display

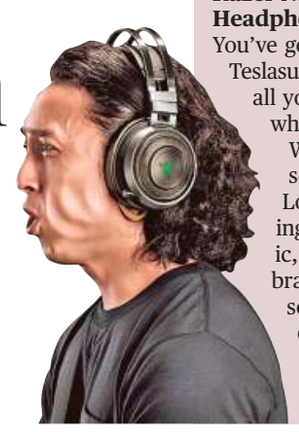
The last few years, CES has been tantalising us with displays that can be folded and rolled up, but they've all been prototypes up until now. LG's impressive 65-inch rollable display will finally be available for purchase. While it's definite that it will cost a pretty penny, it's got all the quality features you want from an OLED display, which tucks away neatly into a box that blends in easily with the furniture, that is also a 100-watt Dolby Atmos speaker, which when rolled down can also play music. Now, finally, we can use that 'roll down' gesture normally reserved for Mumbai's yellow-and-black taxi cabs, for the next generation of HDTVs also.

Gaming Monitors

Leading the charge is Alienware's impressive 55-inch OLED monitor/TV hybrid, that's 4K with a refresh rate of 120Hz. Samsung also débuted the CHG9, a curved ultra-wide capable of HDR10 and an immersive 32:9 aspect ratio. HP's Omen X Emperium is one of the first Big Format Gaming Displays (BFGD) with 65-inch screens capable of 144Hz refresh rate and G-Sync HDR capabilities. There were also a slew of 1440p WQHD displays from Razer, Lenovo, ASUS and many more, all sporting 144Hz-240Hz refresh rates, something we hope will become a norm soon.

Teslasuit

We've seen the Teslasuit before in previous editions of CES. A full-body wearable haptic feedback system that looks like it was nicked from *The Avenger's* costume wardrobe. This form-fitting suit lets you feel the action all around you, with force feedback built in. Not only that, you can feel changes in temperature, thanks to a climate system, as well as motion capture sensors. It lets you get immersed into the game like no other.



Razer Nari Ultimate: Haptic Feedback Headphones

You've got rumble in your controllers, with the Teslasuit you've got rumble in your clothes, now all you need is rumble on your head. That's where the Nari Ultimate steps in from Razer. With Razer Hypersense built in, which is a sort of intelligent haptic feedback from Lofelt, that lets you feel the action. By picking up shapes and frequencies of the music, the Nari is able to produce discernible vibrations that move from left to right in several intensities and wavelengths. Adding another dimension to gaming audio, a feature we hope to see from several manufacturers in the future.

Atari Pong Tables

Between rollable displays and fancy haptic suits, there's no place for old Atari arcade tables, or so you would think. The gaming legend showed off a delightful coffee table with Pong. All styled like the retro arcade tables, the actual game uses lit-up physical objects like a cube with rectangular units as paddles, to simulate the feel of the game. Using magnets to keep the motion smooth and frictionless, this is the best way to play Pong yet.

The writer is a tech and gaming enthusiast who hopes to one day finish his sci-fi novel

HTC Vive Pro Eye

Another year we will go without having an affordable consumer-ready VR device that we can play our Steam libraries with. Yet, the VR revolution continues to innovate on automatic, as evidenced by HTC Vive's new Pro Eye VR headset that adds eye tracking to the mix in a pure genius move. Letting you focus on moving objects in virtual reality the same way you would look at objects in real life. Eye-tracking also enhances performance by rendering everything around that's out of focus in a lower resolution. Capable on wired and wireless connectivity, we cannot wait to get our hands on the Vive Pro Eye and use it along with the Teslasuit and Razer Nari Ultimate.