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## NEARBY



JNU sets up 'high-level'  
panel to end impasse

NEW DELHI  
The JNU Registrar on Sunday released a circular announcing the formation of a seven-member 'high-level' committee to get suggestions from student representatives on finding a solution to the "hostel issues".

CITY ▶ PAGE 4

## Two killed after bike skids on chemical spill

NEW DELHI  
Two persons were killed while another sustained burns after the bike they were riding on skidded on a chemical spill in Kashmere Gate, the police said.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

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EDUCATIONPLUS ▶ PAGES 16 & 17

# Floor test plea: SC wants Governor's order, Fadnavis letter

Bench asks Union government to produce Maharashtra records at 10.30 a.m. today, rejects Solicitor General's plea for time till Tuesday

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Sunday put on hold a plea for ordering a floor test in the Maharashtra Assembly till it examined records that might shed light on what led Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari to invite BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis to form the government and later swear him in as the Chief Minister on November 23.

A three-judge Bench, led by Justice N.V. Ramana, requested Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, in his capacity as the Centre's law officer, to place on record before the court, by 10.30 a.m. on November 25, the letter of Mr. Fadnavis to the Governor staking claim to form the government.

Mr. Mehta was also asked to produce the Governor's order of November 23.

Though Mr. Mehta urged the court to give him time till Tuesday (November 26) to produce the documents, the Bench insisted he hand them over on Monday itself.



Discussing strategy: Prithviraj Chavan, Randeep Surjewala and Abhishek Manu Singhvi on the SC premises. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The order came after Mr. Mehta submitted that the Centre was authorised to call for all the documents from both the State government and the Governor.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, for some Maharashtra BJP MLAs and two Independents, took on the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress combine for "disturbing the Supreme Court and us on a Sunday" with their "urgent requests" for a floor test in the next 24 hours. Mr. Rohatgi said the combine had filed "a petition without annexures".

"They have no documents. When the court asks them for information, they say, 'We don't know'. Why do they not first go and ask the Governor for all the details? Why did they rush to the Supreme Court?" he asked.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

MIDNIGHT COUP ▶ EDITORIAL

## 'BJP runs away from floor test'

The Congress on Sunday alleged that the BJP was "running away" from proving its majority in the Assembly and demanded an immediate floor test. After the Supreme Court heard the plea for an immediate floor test, Congress leaders Prithviraj Chavan and Randeep Surjewala said the government formed by the BJP with Ajit Pawar was "illegitimate". ▶ PAGE 13

## BJP MLAs confident

The new BJP MLAs unanimously passed a motion on Sunday, congratulating Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar. They met at the party office at Dadar to discuss a strategy for the floor test and were confident of winning the vote. ▶ PAGE 13

## 46 MLAs in hotel stick with Sharad Pawar



Standing united: Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray addressing NCP MLAs in the presence of Sharad Pawar. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ALOK DESHPANDE

MUMBAI

Amid claims of a majority for the BJP-NCP government, 46 of the 54 newly elected NCP lawmakers said they remained with the party on Sunday night.

In another late night development, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar reached the official residence of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

The meeting came amid

## Pawars spar over 'BJP-NCP' government

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

A day after he was sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister, NCP leader Ajit Pawar was locked in a Twitter war with his uncle and party president Sharad Pawar on Sunday.

The first tweet came from Mr. Ajit, saying he would always be with the NCP and Sharad Pawar was his leader. However, he added that all should remain patient until developments unfold, claiming the new government would be that of the BJP and the NCP.

CONTINUED  
ON ▶ PAGE 12



## On top of the world

India continued its winning ways with a 2-0 series victory against Bangladesh

■ The comprehensive, innings and 46-run win over Bangladesh was India's **seventh Test victory in a row**, its longest-ever streak in the format

■ It is the first team in the history of Test cricket to record **four consecutive innings wins**  
■ India's most-successful Test captain Virat Kohli now has **33 triumphs, with 20 at home**

REPORTS ON PAGE 20

Another feather in the cap: Skipper Virat Kohli celebrates with teammates after India coasted to victory over Bangladesh in the first day-night Test at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Sunday. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

NSO survey debunks  
Swachh Bharat  
ODF claims

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ  
NEW DELHI

The latest National Statistical Office (NSO) survey on sanitation debunked the claims of an open defecation-free or ODF India made by the Centre's flagship Swachh Bharat scheme, although it did record great progress in toilet access and use in rural areas.

The results, released on Saturday, showed that about 71% of rural households had access to toilets at a time when the Centre was claiming 95% had access. On October 2, 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that the whole country was ODF with complete access to toilets.

The survey was carried out between July and December 2018, with a reference date of October 1. Large States which had been declared ODF – that is, 100% access to toilets and 100% usage – even before the survey began included Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. Others which were declared ODF during the survey included Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

According to the NSO, almost 42% of the rural households in Jharkhand had no access to a toilet at that time. In Tamil Nadu, the gap was 37%, followed by 34% in Rajasthan.

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(Source : <https://is.gd/O9o5oz>)

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## Bengaluru hotel worker thrown out of moving train

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
ANANTAPUR

Govind Shetty, 50, a Bengaluru-based hotel worker, was thrown out of the Bengaluru-Nanded Express at Thimmamcherla village just before the train was to reach Guntakal at 6.30 a.m. on Sunday.

The victim was travelling to Mantralayam from Bengaluru. Three persons, in their early thirties, boarded the train at Hindupur and befriended Mr. Govind.

At Thimmamcherla, they called him to the door, telling him that the train was approaching Guntakal. They

then snatched his purse and travelling bag, and pushed him out of the moving train.

Mr. Shetty suffered minor head injuries, and has been admitted to the Guntakal Government Hospital. He is out of danger, Guntakal Government Railway Police inspector G. Gurunath Babu said.



Govind Shetty undergoing treatment at a Guntakal hospital. ■ R.V.S. PRASAD

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# Police protest: personnel make their point, move on

As things return to normal, both junior and senior officers dismiss the Nov. 5 agitation as a 'sudden outburst' triggered by assault on a colleague

**SAURABH TRIVEDI**  
NEW DELHI

**N**ormality has returned to the rank and file of Delhi Police after the November 5 protest, which saw a significant number of police personnel come onto the streets demanding restoration of the "dignity of the khaki uniform".

Sources said the incident has had one major impact: the top brass of the force has been directed to mend fences with subordinates and be more open to addressing their grievances.

Policemen who took part in the protest, staged outside the old police headquarters at ITO, do not want to discuss the matter any more. "We have to move on in life. Relationship between lawyers and police is improving. The protest was a sudden outburst triggered by the video showing a policeman being slapped by lawyers on Saket Court premises. We are a part of the criminal justice system and are bound by duties and law," said a constable posted in North district.

#### 'No more discussions'

The demand for setting up a Delhi police union for the welfare of personnel has also been shelved. Even senior police officers who failed to convince the protesters do not want to discuss the issue any more. "We are a disciplined force and their [police personnel] anger was justified because one of their colleagues was thrashed by lawyers for no reason. They were feeling helpless as the matter was in court. We took their concern in a positive way and re-appealed in the High Court for relief. We are a family. No disciplinary ac-



Delhi police personnel during a protest in New Delhi earlier this month. ■ FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

tion has been ordered against any policeman who attended the protest. We do not want to discuss or remember the protest," said a senior police officer.

A head constable who attended the protest said they were forced to raise their voice against the attack on their colleague because the authorities were silent.

"We could have responded to the situation like the lawyers did, but we did not want to make things ugly or bring a bad name to our department. We staged a peaceful protest and dispersed without causing much inconvenience to the public."

HEAD CONSTABLE, DELHI POLICE

an on-duty policeman. The protest was never against senior officers but an outburst against injustice," she said.

**Flak over JNU stir**  
Facing flak for allegedly using force on protesting JNU students on November 18, just two weeks after their own personnel took to the streets demanding justice, the Delhi police maintained that they used minimum

force to disperse the university students.

A sub-inspector posted in New Delhi area said that round the year he stops scores of protesters heading towards Parliament and in most of the cases, the stir ends peacefully after the protesters are made to talk to senior police officers.

According to Delhi Police records, a total of 8,594 permissions for public gatherings, including 406 rallies and 5,541 dharnas, were granted in the city in 2018.

"People on social media trolled the Delhi police for resorting to lathi-charge on JNU students, but they should know that the police tried to stop the protesters at several points and even tried to talk to them, but they refused to listen. Protest staged by the police cannot be compared with the JNU agitation, they are two different things," said the sub-inspector.

Police top brass plans slew of measures to reach out to subordinates, keep them in good humour

**SAURABH TRIVEDI**  
NEW DELHI

**L**ower-rank personnel of Delhi Police will now receive birthday greetings and flowers from their senior officers. They will also be invited to 'bada khana' (community meal) once every two months and served piping hot cups of tea during late night shifts.

These are some of the measures planned by the Delhi Police top brass to reach out to the junior personnel, said a police officer.

Under the new guidelines set by senior police officers, DCPs of all 15 districts and other units will celebrate birthdays of their subordinates and greet them with a flower on the day.

#### Grievance redressal

A senior police officer said they are also planning to overhaul the grievance redressal system so that the lower-rank personnel can air their concerns with ease.

Among the other measures, additional DCPs and DCPs will regularly engage with the junior staff and listen to their grievances.

Policemen from district lines will be regularly rotated with police station staff. Cultural events will be organised on frequent inter-



(From top) A yoga session in progress at Kalkaji police station; new beds at one of the barracks at the station; policemen and their families attending a community lunch organised at the station. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

vals, said the officer.

DCP (South East) Chinmoy Biswal said they had organised a 'bada khana' at Kalkaji police station where personnel from all ranks and their family members were invited. "It is just a way of getting close to the lower ranks in police. During the

event, senior officers interacted with police personnel and their families and took their suggestions to make things better," said Mr. Biswal.

He added that these guidelines are not new but because of work pressure they have not been adopted in full

measures. He said the police department is reinducting these exercises to energise and motivate junior staff.

Focusing on hygiene and health of the personnel, the senior officers have redeveloped barracks at Kalkaji police station where around 60 policemen can be accommodated at a time.

"Cots have been replaced with divan beds and trunks have been replaced with lockers. We have provided orthopaedic mattresses, separate mobile charging points, curtains and shoe racks in barracks where policemen staying away from family can relax after duty hours," said Mr. Biswal.

A *dhyana kendra* (yoga centre) has also been set up inside the police station where an instructor will come every day to teach meditation to the staff, said the officer.

"It is just a start. After Kalkaji police station, similar facilities will be developed in all other stations in the district," said Mr. Biswal.

Constable Harish Bhati, who was relaxing in the barracks, said that things are changing in the police department.

"Maybe because of November 5 protest or any other reason, perception of senior officers towards us has changed a lot. Seniors are like our guardians, and when they scold us it is for our betterment. In police, one cannot complain of irregular duty hours because we are the first responders to any crisis situation and we have to prepare for it," said Mr. Harish.

# Pride parade urges scrapping of transgender protection Bill

The parade is assertion of one's own sexual, gender identity'



(Above and below) Participants of the queer pride parade marched from Tolstoy Marg to Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Sunday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA



because I do not have the money right now," she said.

Highlighting its possible effect on the *hijra* community, Girish Kumar argued that the community had its own set of practices, where when young transgender people were abandoned by their families would have a place to go. The Bill would destroy that culture, he said.

Filled with bright coloured balloons, rainbow flags, and people holding up posters condemning homophobia, the parade culminated with activists speaking to the crowd about the Bill along with poetry and other performances.



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#### IN BRIEF



#### Khan Market 20th most expensive retail location

**NEW DELHI**  
Delhi's upscale Khan Market has moved up one position to become the world's 20th most expensive retail location, according to global property consultant Cushman & Wakefield. In its latest report, 'Main Streets Across the World 2019', the consultant said that annual rent at Khan market was \$243 per square feet. Causeway Bay in Hong Kong retains its top spot, commanding an annual rent of \$2,745 per sq ft. ■ PTI

#### Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	234	Gurugram	172
Ghaziabad	240	Faridabad	215
Noida	225	Greater Noida	226
Good	50-51	Satisfactory	51-100
Poor	201-300	Very poor	301-400
		Severe	>401
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS)   SOURCE: CPCB			

#### DELHI TODAY

**Talk:** Panel discussion on "Courage to Begin: Gandhi, Philosophy, Politics" by Divya Dwivedi and Shaj Mohan, philosophers and authors of "Gandhi and Philosophy: On Theological Anti-Politics", Alok Rai, literary & political commentator, and Harsh Singh Bal, journalist at Gulmoor Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 7 p.m.

**Dance:** "Sarvaga, the all-pervading omnipresent", a classical dance experience in Bharatanatyam style will be performed by Bianca Radhakrishna, a disciple of Guru Radha Sridhar, at Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m.- 7 p.m.

**Music:** The third day of SaMaPa Sammelan 2019 will feature Swaraya Samadw by Gharana Tabla, a sitar recital by Pandit Kushal Das, followed by a Kathak dance by Guru Nalini-Kamalini, at Kamani Auditorium, Copernicus Marg, Mandi House, 6:30 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Force", a solo painting exhibition by Sanjay Chakraborty at Convention Centre Foyer, India Habitat Centre (IHC), 11 a.m.- 7 p.m.

**Exhibition:** "Inhabited Geometries" a solo show of artworks by Richa Navani at Galerie Romain Rolland, Alliance Francaise De Delhi, 72, Lodhi Estate, 11 a.m.- 8 p.m.

**Mail your listings for this column at cityeditor@delhi@thehindu.co.in**

## BJP has not taken call on its Delhi CM face, clarifies Puri

Minister retracts statement made at rally

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Addressing party workers at a rally in the Capital on Sunday, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the BJP would fight the Assembly election under the leadership of Delhi unit chief Manoj Tiwari and that the party would ensure that Mr. Tiwari would become the Chief Minister.

However, after making the statement, Mr. Puri clarified later on Twitter saying that the BJP has so far not nominated anyone for the post of Chief Minister and what he meant by his statement was that the party would win the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections under Mr. Tiwari's leadership by a huge mandate.

The Minister's statement was enough for speculation within the political circles. Reacting to the statement, Rajya Sabha MP and senior AAP leader Sanjay Singh said: "On one hand we have Arvind Kejriwal whose work has instilled pride in the pe-



Hardeep Singh Puri

ople of Delhi and on the other hand, we have Manoj Tiwari who vehemently opposes the 200 units free electricity scheme and wants to put an end to the provision of all free public services of this government. He wants to end free bus rides for women in Delhi too. So the decision in front of the people of Delhi is clear."

He added that the people of Delhi will decide if they want someone who works tirelessly to provide Delhites with more public services or somebody who works tirelessly to end them.

(With PTI inputs)

## Nine-month-old boy dies after car reverses over him

Incident happened near GTB Hospital

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A nine-month-old toddler was killed after he fell from his grandmother's arms when the scooter they were riding on was hit by a reversing car at GTB Hospital gate on Friday, the police said.

The reversing car ran over the child.

Amit Sharma, DCP (Shahdara) said, while Arbaaz died on the spot, his uncle suffered injuries and has been admitted to a hospital.

"During initial probe, it was found that the scooter was riding on the wrong side," said Mr. Sharma.

The family lives in Ghazibad and the child's father Mohammad Arshad is a local garment trader.

## Bookie caught while betting

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A bookie was arrested from south Delhi for betting in a South African cricket league match, said the police on Sunday.

The police said the accused, Dishant Malik, was caught red-handed while betting for Mazans Super League being played in Port Elizabeth in South Africa.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of officials on Saturday raided Malik's residence in Rajpur Khurd and arrested him while he was busy betting on the league game between Nelson Mandela Bay Giants vs Durban Heat, they said.

According to the police, Malik received bets through phone and then placed the

same as per betting rates. The profit was shared between him and the person placing the bet. He earns money through online betting. He has his own trusted clientele and generally receives bets from them, a senior police officer said.

Till the time of raid on Saturday, he had placed 59 bets amounting to ₹3.36 lakh. A case has been registered and further probe is under way to explore his links, officials said.

Seven mobile phones, including a phone which was being used for receiving rates, two laptops, one register having handwritten details, wi-fi router, set top box, calculator, laptop and mobile chargers were recovered, the police said.

## Two killed, one hurt after bike skids on chemical spill in Kashmere Gate

SAURABH TRIVEDI  
NEW DELHI

Two friends died while another sustained burn injuries after the bike they were riding on skidded on a hazardous chemical spill in Kashmere Gate, the police said on Sunday. As the chemical was corrosive in nature, the victims developed burns.

The police personnel, who came in contact with the chemical while shifting the injured also suffered burn injuries, said the police. The deceased were identified as Mahesh, 23, a resident of Karawal Nagar, and Shivani, 21, of Rohini. Another victim Monu is undergoing treatment at Aruna Asaf Ali

Hospital. The three were triple riding and were returning after attending a wedding in Nangloi when the accident took place, said the police.

A PCR call was received at 5.45 a.m. on Saturday regarding a road accident on Mori Gate Road near Dufferin bridge. A police team rushed to the spot and the injured

were taken to the hospital. But two of them succumbed to injuries on Sunday morning.

**'Spilled from truck'** A policeman who was on night duty in the area said it was likely that the bike skidded due to chemical spill on the road. The chemical

would have spilled from a truck passing through the area," said a police officer.

Others who came in contact with the chemical also suffered minor burn injuries, he said.

The officer added that the chemical was immediately cleared from the road. A sample of the chemical has

been sent to the forensic laboratory to identify its nature, he added.

"We are scanning CCTV footage to identify the truck from which the chemical had spilled.

An FIR has been registered against unknown vehicle at Kashmere Gate police station," the officer added.



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# Embarking on a development dream

Three sectors in Zone N near Bawana and Sultanpur Dabas have accumulated enough land to qualify for development under the land pooling policy. Though final verification is pending, the Delhi Development Authority has invited the landowners to form a consortium that will oversee development of housing

SHINJINI GHOSH  
NEW DELHI

**W**ith three sectors in one of the five zones demarcated for the land pooling policy accumulating the required amount of land, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has now invited landowners to form a consortium so that the area can be developed.

The five zones under the policy are further divided into 109 sectors, each of which are required to have a minimum of 70% contiguous land.

"The idea behind the minimum requirement of 70% contiguous land is that we want to avoid what happened in Gurugram where development took place in certain pockets and later there were issues such as waterlogging," said a senior DDA official associated with the project.

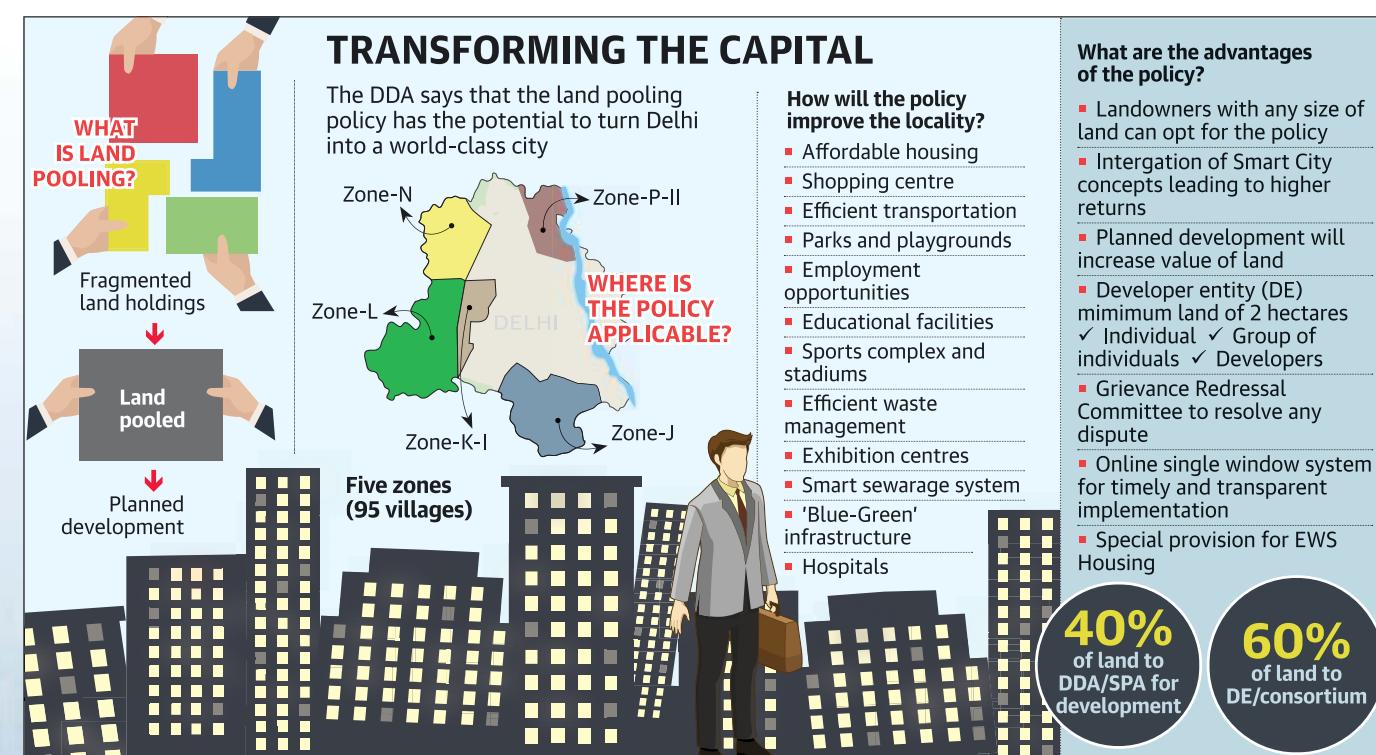
With Sectors 17, 20 and 21 of Zone N, which is near Bawana

## CITY MATTERS

and Sultanpur Dabas, qualifying for development based on internal exercises carried out by the DDA, the urban body recently met around 550 landowners who had applied under the policy.

"We have asked the landowners to form a consortium so that development work for the group housing societies can start. We will guide the development of the first few sectors as the landowners are not aware of how to monetise the project or how to build a city. Technically, the consortium is responsible for carrying out development of the area by building housing societies, but the DDA will assist them initially," the official said.

The final round of verification



still remains to be done by the Delhi government's Revenue Department for which the landowning agency has already requested nodal officers to be appointed. Once the department completes the verification process, the consortium is required to approach the DDA to

divide the land 60:40, as per the policy. "In 40% of land, schools, hospitals, roads and other utility facilities will be built by various government agencies. The idea is to build a self-sustained township so that residents have all facilities near their residence," the official said. The rest of the land will be used for housing by the consortium.

While Zone N has accumulated around 3,200 hectares of land, Zone P-II (near Narela) and Zone L (near Tikri Kalan) have accumulated 1,200 hectares and 1,600 hectares respectively.

"GIS mapping for the other zones are under way and once the internal exercise of verifying the applications are done, it will give us a better idea of the other

sectors that are likely to be eligible for development," added another senior official.

**'Self-sustained townships'**  
With the urban body looking to develop "self-sustained townships", officials said that existing "accessibility issues" need to be resolved for better prospects.

"Currently, there are some ac-

cessibility issues and for that planned roads need to be executed. Once everything becomes interlinked, the areas will flourish. The distance to Narela and Bawana might seem a lot right now, but once the area is developed in its entirety, things will improve. Additionally, areas like Bawana Industrial area have enough employment opportunities, which means people will not need to travel far for work. All facilities will be at close proximity," the official added.

The much awaited land pooling policy, which was approved by the Centre in October last year, has projected around 17 lakh dwelling units for approximately 76 lakh people in Delhi. While officials said there can be "no deadline given" for such a policy as it would depend on the respective consortiums for the development work to be carried out, they added that the idea is to "transform the Capital".

"Development work to be carried out in the first few sectors will be test cases for us as well. This is because such a policy is a first for Delhi. Unless we test it on the ground, proper assessment will not be possible. The land pooling policy is a golden opportunity for Delhi as it will help in transforming the national capital into a world-class city," the official added.



## + As smoke rises from fields, farmers turn a blind eye to health hazards

While people in urban areas say they face problems, most residents in villages say they have been burning stubble for years without any complications

NIKHIL M BABU  
BARNALA (PUNJAB)

I have not seen any study on its effect," she said.

### Breathing problems

Rukpal Kaur, 30, a resident of Handiaya village in Barnala, pointed to the sky and said: "That white haze you see, that is not fog, it is smoke from stubble burning. When it increases, we know that someone nearby has set the stubble in his field on fire."

Ms. Kaur, a mother of a five-month-old baby, said children suffer from breathing problems and even adults face difficulties due to stubble burning. "It [haze] will be there for one month and after that the sky will become clear," she said. "Jaan hamein bhi pyari he, par majboori hai, jalana padega (we also love our life, but we are helpless; the stubble has to be burnt)," she added.

Though about 10 million metric tonnes of paddy stubble are burnt in Punjab every year, Ms. Kaur was among the few residents in Barnala villages who admitted that the plumes caused health problems.

Meanwhile, in Barnala town, nine of the 10 people interviewed by *The Hindu* – from a 13-year-old eight grader to 60-year-old hotelier – said they suffer from burning sensation in the eyes and breathing problems during the one-month-long stubble burning period.

In the evening, the town was shrouded by a white haze which increased towards the outskirts where stubble burning was not a rare sight.

Harbhajan Singh, 60, who runs a hotel, was born and brought up in Barnala town. "Last week, my brother-in-law came here from America for a marriage. He reached home in the evening and the first question he asked was about the smoke from the stubble burning. The next day he said he was facing breathing problems and went and bought a pack of six-seven masks."

Mr. Singh said they too face eye irritation and throat infection but do not wear masks as they are "used to the smoke". Mr. Singh and

everyone else interviewed in the town said that the smoke starts after 3 p.m.

Taranjeet Singh, 13, said he notices the smoke every day during the 1-km-long walk back from school. "Around 3.30 p.m., the school gets over and while walking back I feel burning sensation in my eyes. My friends also face the problem, but we don't talk about it much," the teenager said.

Bavvi Singh, 35, who runs a general store in the town said, "My 70-year-old mother is an asthma patient and she doesn't go out of the house much during this season." "My eyes also burn from the smoke, but the farmers are helpless," she added.

Ms. Roychowdhury said people have started talking about stubble burning and its affect on health of villagers. "The discussions around stubble burning should not be just Delhi-centric. We have to localise the concern and the local community should relate to the problem to find a solution to stubble burning," the expert said.

Anumita Roychowdhury, head of 'Clean Air' programme at Centre for Science and Environment in Delhi, who has been working on measures to curb air pollution for over two decades, said this lack of concern is worrying. "Common wisdom tells us that the farmers who burn the stubble and people in the immediate vicinity have higher exposure to the smoke. But we have not generated enough data on it and



Fields of paddy stubble on fire on the outskirts of Sangrur district in Punjab. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

## JNU sets up 'high-level' panel to end impasse

University is subverting rules: students

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Registrar of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on Sunday morning released a circular announcing the formation of a seven-member 'high-level' committee, constituted by "the competent authority", to get suggestions from student representatives on finding a solution to the "hostel issues".

The circular was not addressed to the JNU Students' Union (JNUSU).

The panel gave students till 5.30 p.m. on Sunday to send their suggestions.

Students said that the panel was composed of seven members, who were close to the V-C, and that the formation of the panel was an act of subverting the Inter Hall Administration (IHA) committee, which is a statutory body unto itself.

The administration's proclivity towards destruction of all duly constituted statutory bodies finds its reflection even in this case



since it is the IHA committee and not a group of arbitrarily chosen members of the faculty with obvious vested interests which has the mandate to look into issues concerning the hostels," the JNUSU said in a statement.

The JNUSU said that the only way the impasse could be resolved is through unequivocal revocation of the IHA manual "passed" by the IHA panel on October 28.

A three-member high-powered committee constituted by the HRD ministry on November 18 to restore normal functioning of the university has concluded its discussions with various stakeholders and is likely to submit its report soon.

## Plea for 7th pay panel in schools dismissed

Would have to hike fees, say schools

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has dismissed a petition seeking implementation of the 7th Pay Commission recommendations in private unaided schools in the Capital.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar said if the staff of these institutions are aggrieved, then they can approach the court in their individual capacity.

It said as and when any staff of these schools approaches court, all stakeholders will be heard and an order can then be passed.

The High Court was hearing a plea by NGO Social Jurist, filed through advocate Ashok Agarwal, seeking that the 7th Pay Commission recommendations should be implemented to bring the pay, allowances and other benefits of staff in private unaided schools on par with employees of government and municipal corporation-run schools in the city.

Action Committee, which represented a majority of the private unaided schools in the city, had said that implementation of the 7th Pay Commission would result in a 25% salary hike, with effect from 2016, for both teaching and non-teaching staff, which cannot be paid without hiking fees.

It told the court that time and again the schools have requested the Delhi government to allow them to increase their fees, but the same was not permitted.

It said that on one hand the government was not permitting it to increase fees and on the other it was insisting on implementation of the 7th Pay Commission recommendations.

The Delhi government told the HC that it had inspected around 1,145 private unaided schools out of the total 1,766 schools in the national capital and found that 80% were not complying with the 7th Pay Commission recommendations.

## 'Not practical to permit conjugal visits for inmates'

Rules do not provide for such facility, prison authorities tell High Court

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court was informed by the prison authorities that it is not practical to permit conjugal visits for prisoners as rules do not provide for such facility and there is limited infrastructure available.

The Director General (Prison) said it grants temporary leave to prisoners in the form of parole and furlough for maintaining family and social ties and the purpose of conjugal relation can be served during such period.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar has posted the case

for further hearing on February 26.

The High Court was hearing a petition seeking conjugal visitation rights for prisoners. Petitioner Amit Sahni, a lawyer and social activist, has claimed in his plea that conjugal visits in jail should be treated as a fundamental right of prisoners and their spouses.

The prison authorities, in an affidavit filed through Delhi government Additional Standing Counsel Sanjay Ghose, said conjugal visits inside prison cannot be allowed due to the nature of confinement.

"A prisoner can avail pa-

son premises are allowed in terms of provisions of the Delhi Prison Rules 2018 but are monitored for safety and security of the prisoners, visitors and prisoners.

It said there are 1,200 visitations on a daily basis in Tihar Jail alone and allowing conjugal visits in prisons at this time may not be feasible due to limited infrastructure available.

Mr. Sahni, in his petition, said that presently, under the State's prison rule, meeting between an inmate and his or her spouse takes place in the presence of a prison officer and sought setting aside of the rule.

DELHI Timings	
MONDAY, NOV. 25	
RISE 06:51	SET 17:25
RISE 05:10	SET 16:39
TUESDAY, NOV. 26	
RISE 06:52	SET 17:25
RISE 06:15	SET 17:23
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 27	
RISE 06:53	SET 17:25
RISE 07:20	SET 18:10

**Delhi Weather**

	max	min
Delhi City	27	15
Safdarjung	27	15
Palam	26	15

**Delhi Pilm Today**  
26°C A partly cloudy sky will prevail. A spell of light rain is likely.

**Delhi Pilm Tomorrow**  
26°C Spells of rain are expected in parts. A cloudy sky will prevail.

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**THE HINDU**

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# Chhattisgarh panchayats to have disabled quota

State Cabinet drops education eligibility criteria for polls

**SIDHARTH YADAV**  
Bhopal

The Chhattisgarh Cabinet has approved the nomination of at least one differently abled member to each panchayat, if not elected, making it the only State to have such members in all panchayats.



Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel. ■ FILE PHOTO

"Differently abled people constitute 6% of the population of Chhattisgarh. As promised in the *jan ghoshna patra* [manifesto], we have taken the landmark step of strengthening their voices at the grassroots level," said T.S. Singh Deo, State Panchayati Raj Minister.

**'Elected or nominated'**  
"Every panchayat will now have differently abled members, either elected or nominated," he said.

If differently abled members are not elected through the electoral process, then

tabled in the Vidhan Sabha, where the Congress holds 68 of the 90 seats.

This means, said Mr. Deo, the State would have 11,000 people with special needs as members of panchayats. "We strongly believe that no one should be left behind. We are committed to empowering the common people. This is the top most priority of the Congress government in Chhattisgarh."

Meanwhile, the Cabinet also decided to drop the educational qualifications eligibility criterion for contesting panchayat elections. "It is mandatory for a contestant for the position of a panch to be at least a Class V pass, and above that Class VIII pass. In the three-tier panchayati raj system, only being literate would be enough to contest elections," said a note from the government.

# College student abducted, raped in moving car in U.P.

Main accused used to harass the girl: police

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
MUZAFFARNAGAR (U.P.)

A 24-year-old college student was allegedly abducted and raped in a moving car by a 26-year-old man with the act also being filmed by his friends in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district, police said on Sunday.

New Mandi SHO Sanjiv Kumar said the victim was heading to college from her house on Saturday morning when she was waylaid on Bhopa Road by Subodh and two of his friends in a car.

**Woman threatened**  
According to the complaint lodged by the girl's uncle, she was abducted in the car by the accused and force-fed some intoxicant at gunpoint. Subodh raped her in the moving car while the act was filmed by his friends, the

complaint stated. A few hours later, the victim was dropped outside her college and also threatened of dire consequences if she reported about the incident, it stated.

Mr. Kumar said police have registered a case against Subodh and his two friends, whose identities are yet to be ascertained.

All the three are absconding. The SHO added that the victim along with her family had left their village and shifted to Muzaffarnagar town due to constant harassment from Subodh. He said the victim has been sent for medical examination.

In another incident, a 22-year-old woman was allegedly harassed by two youths while working in an agricultural field near Narottampur Majra village under Titawi police station area on Saturday.

According to Titawi SHO Gurcharan Singh, the police have registered a case against the two accused – Akash and Asif, who have been arrested. The girl's uncle lodged a complaint in which he alleged that the duo tried to drag her to a nearby sugarcane field but she raised an alarm.

As the girl's family members tried to stop the duo, the accused opened fire at them and fled, the complaint stated.

# Maoists set fire to six trucks, three earth movers in Dantewada

Vehicles belonged to a pvt. contractor employed by NMDC

**SIDHARTH YADAV**  
BHOPAL

Days after two security camps were set up in Dantewada district, Maoists set ablaze six trucks and three earth movers at the National Mineral Development Corporation compound at Kিrandul in the district.

"The incident occurred at 11 a.m. at a construction site. The trucks belonged to a private contractor employed by the NMDC. Maoists fled the spot after setting the trucks ablaze," said Sundarraj P., Deputy Inspector General of Police, South Bastar Range.

The Maoists were feeling the heat after permanent security camps were set up in Potali and Chikpal in the district, he added. "This is their standard modus operandi to make their presence felt. This way, they try to boost the morale of tribals."

Stating that roads were being constructed in the area, Mr. Sundarraj said the security forces have



Vehicles which were torched by the Maoists. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

launched a search operation.

On November 12, the police had fired in the air to disperse a crowd of 500 villagers that descended on the Potali security camp to oppose it. A day later, the police claimed it held a "positive interaction" with those residing within the camp's security perimeter.

In June, the tribals forced the NMDC to stop operations at five iron ore mines at the Bailadila hills for six days, protesting against a mining

# SIT formed to probe Akali leader's murder

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Police on Sunday constituted a special investigation team to probe the murder of an Akali leader in Punjab's Gurdaspur.

The move came days after the police failed to make any arrest in the case.

Batala Senior Superintendent of Police Opinderjit

Singh Ghuman on Sunday said the SIT will comprise DSP (Special Branch) Prem Kumar, DSP (Dera Baba Nanak) Lakhwinder Singh, two inspectors and the Kotri Surat Malhi SHO.

The SP (Headquarters) would monitor the SIT, the SSP said.

Dalbir Singh Dhilwan (51), who was a two-time

of a State Minister.

Sarpanch and the vice-president of the Gurdaspur unit of the Shiromani Akali Dal, was shot dead and his legs chopped off following an altercation on November 18.

Meanwhile, the SAD has sought a CBI probe into the case, accusing the the Punjab Police of "trying to save" the accused at the "behest"

of a State Minister.

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# Farmers seek higher compensation

Land in Haryana is being acquired for proposed National Highway-344 M

**ASHOK KUMAR**  
SONIPAT

The residents of around two dozen villages have been holding a dharna at Mandora village here for the past four months seeking compensation for their agricultural land to be acquired for the proposed National Highway-344 M, connecting Bawana to Barwasani, under the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, and government jobs for the affected families.



Farmers sitting on a dharna at Mandora village in Sonipat. ■ ASHOK KUMAR

land, but it was not set up. Mr. Singh said a memorandum for the same was given to the Deputy Commissioner office seven months ago, but no action was taken on it.

Sonipat Deputy Commissioner Anshor Singh did not respond to repeated calls.

Dharam Singh Mandora, who is leading the protest, also demanded that the collector rate for these villages be hiked from the current ₹25 lakh per acre to ₹1.25 crore per acre since the current rate did not reflect the actual market value of the

nearby neighbouring villages in Sonipat such as Murthal and a few villages in Jhajjar had collector rate running into crores, the farmers claimed.

The protesters are also seeking increased compensation for six villages – Mandora, Mandori, Turkpur, Bada Thana, Pipli and Gopalpur – for their land acquired for the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal Expressway at par with the compensation granted to the villages in Uttar Pradesh for Kundli-Ghaziabad-Palwal Expressway.

Mr. Singh claimed that

while the farmers in U.P.'s Dasna and Hayatpur were paid around ₹3 crore per acre for their land acquired for the KGP Expressway, the farmers in Haryana were paid ₹20-30 lakh per acre only.

He demanded that they should also be paid at par with the farmers in the U.P. since the two projects were identical.

Jai Prakash demanded that the government ensure that the land being acquired for the proposed metro expansion from Bawana to Sonipat along the KMP, be within a width of two acres along the highway.

"If a wide strip of agricultural land is left between the KMP and the railway corridor, it would be a huge loss to the farmers," he said.

Ajit Turkpur stressed that the route for the proposed metro expansion from Bawana to Sonipat must pass through Kharkhoda as decided during the Congress government.

# 17-year-old burnt to death in Punjab

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
CHANDIGARH

A 17-year-old youth was burnt to death in Punjab's Mansa district, the police said on Sunday.

Jasprit Singh was allegedly taken to a closed rice mill on Saturday night, where his legs were tied and he was set on fire after some inflammable material was poured over him, the police said.

Accused Jashan Singh, Gurjot Singh and their another accomplice have been booked, said Sub-Inspector Sukhjot Singh.

Jashan Singh is the brother of Jasprit's sister-in-law.

Jasprit's elder brother Kulwinder Singh had married his neighbour and Jashan's sister Raju two-and-a-half years ago.

The police said efforts were being made to nab the accused.

## Jan Vedna March



Security personnel lathi-charge Congress workers who were protesting in Patna on Sunday against the NDA government's policies. ■ RANJEET KUMAR

# From MoUs, Punjab to shift focus on actual investments

State prepares to hold progressive investors' summit in December

**VIKAS VASUDEV**  
CHANDIGARH

In a paradigm shift from the past, the Punjab government has decided to focus on execution of concrete investment proposals instead of just entering into agreements and statements of intent as the State prepares to hold an investors' summit in the first week of December.

"We have done a paradigm shift, in the past there used to be focus on the MoUs, which was fine when investment promotion agency was still young. But it has now matured and therefore, we believe that we should go beyond just looking at statements of intent into concrete proposals. We are now looking at actual investments. So the investor should have a project ready for implementation. In the past two-and-a-half years

the State has seen an investment of over ₹50,000 crore," Additional Chief Secretary Industries-Commerce Vini Mahajan told *The Hindu*.

The event aims to highlight that Punjab houses robust MSME units in numerous sectors which can be vendors-partners of the international clients looking for ancillary units to support their global value chains.

"We are partnering with Japan, UAE, U.K. and Germany as we see many mutually benefiting collaborations with industry based out of Punjab. Many international players from these nations have already expressed their interest in increasing investment in the State," she said.

"Punjab was among the first to not only identify MSMEs as the key engine of economic growth and employment but also undertake several structured reforms and create supportive infrastructure to support their holistic growth and development in the past two years," she said.

# Cong. promises farm loan waiver, anti-lynching law

Party releases manifesto for Jharkhand Assembly polls

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
RANCHI

The Congress on Sunday released its manifesto for the upcoming Jharkhand Assembly polls, promising a one-time farm loan waiver of up to ₹2 lakh and a stringent law to deal with cases of lynching in the State.

Besides the loan waiver assurance, the manifesto – released by AIIC in-charge R.P.N. Singh here – pledged

to free farmers from the clutches of money lenders and make the process of institutional loans easier.

An effective 'Kisan Fasal Bima' will be introduced and adequate compensation to agriculture produce affected by pests and natural calamities will be provided, and modern tools and fertilizers will be given on suitable prices," it said.

The Congress has stitched an alliance with the JMM and the RJD to contest the five-phase Assembly elections between November 30 and December 20 to the 81-member House.

## TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

**Mr. N SELVA KUMAR**

PH: 98203 50726

selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

**Mr. GAURAV SEHGAL**

PH: 98110 06590

## Scribes' body demands probe

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

The Journalists' Forum Assam (JFA) has demanded proper investigation into the suspected assault by miscreants on a city-based reporter of a newspaper. The reporter was found lying unconscious on his way home from the office at about 11 p.m. on Friday.

## Governor to seek opinion on visitors' registration

Ordinance makes it mandatory for visitors to register before entering State

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

Meghalaya Governor Tathagata Roy will seek legal opinion before consenting to a "controversial" ordinance that would make it mandatory for visitors to register before entering the hill State. The National People's Party-led Meghalaya Democratic Alliance government had on November 1

brought in an ordinance to amend the Meghalaya Residents, Safety and Security Act, 2016. The government claimed the ordinance was in the interest of the people of the State.

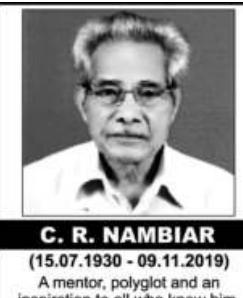
The ordinance is seen as a variant of the Inner-Line Permit (ILP) operational in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland, which requires a visitor to pos-

sess a permit before entering these States. In the case of Meghalaya, visitors will have to inform the government if they wish to stay beyond 24 hours in the State.

"I may consult legal experts as the ordinance will have to be examined further," Mr. Roy told media persons in Shillong on Saturday.

## OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

### DEATH



**C. R. NAMBIAR**  
(15.07.1930 - 09.11.2019)

A mentor, polyglot and an inspiration to all who knew him. He stayed in Delhi and West Bengal during his active service in TRC (Ass't Director) and Indian diplomat on deputation to Kuwait during his tenure in TCIL. He will be missed and his values will live through us.

Ph: 7338987099

### DEATH



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The hard copy of EoI should be accompanied by DD of Rs. 5,000/- (Five thousands only) as a cost of the tender document and D.D. of Rs. 20,00,000/- as EMD drawn from Jammu and Kashmir Bank or any nationalized bank, favoring Director Finance, Department of Tourism, Jammu and Kashmir payable at Jammu. The proposal should be submitted as Annexure-1 (Technical Bid) Annexure-2 (Financial Bid) and Annexure-3 (EMD and Tender Document Fee) each of them sealed in separate envelopes with Bolt Titles and together enclosed in sealed envelopes duly superscribed "Appointment of Project Support Consultants (PSC) for under taking various tourism related assignments under PMPD, CSS and other State/Central Sector Schemes."

S.No	Event Description	Date
1.	Issue of (Request for Proposal)RFP	22-11-2019
2.	Last date of receiving queries	27-11-2019
3.	J&K Govt. response to queries	01-12-2019
4.	Proposal due date for receiving tenders	21-12-2019
5.	Opening of tenders	4-12-2019

For further details Please contact the Director (P&S) Department of Tourism, Government of Jammu & Kashmir on Contact No: 9419014212, 0191-2566623 or e-mail to [tourismplg@gmail.com](mailto:tourismplg@gmail.com)

No: Tsm/Plan-sts/11/2019

Dated: 11.2019

Sd/-  
Director (P&S)

DIP/J: 9696

Department of Tourism, J&K

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- 1. Dr. Shahid Saleem Cell No. 9419019433
- 2. Mr. Mudasir Gul Cell No. 7006911104

NIT/CPU/19/5235  
Dated: 23.11.2019

Sd/-  
O/C, CPU

## DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

### 25th ANNIVERSARY



Er. V. RANGARAMANUJAM (TNEB)  
25th November 2019

Fondly Remembered by

Wife : R. Anusuya  
Daughter : P. Vinushaa  
Son in law : P. Subba Rao

Son : Magesh Tarala

Daughter in law : Jaya Tarala

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# 'BJP lowered House's dignity to that of chaotic gram panchayat'

Farmers' interests being casually invoked for want of power at any cost: Raju Shetti

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE  
PUNE

Lambasting the 'low politics' of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Devendra Fadnavis in their bid for power, farmers' leader and Swabhiman Paksha chief Raju Shetti on Sunday said the BJP had lowered the dignity of the Assembly to that of a chaotic gram panchayat while accusing Mr. Fadnavis, who took oath as Chief Minister on Saturday, of acting like a grasping, power-hungry *sarpanch* (village head).

In a jibe at the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar, who took oath as Deputy Chief Minister by offering support to the BJP, Mr. Shetti said the "interests of farmers" were being casually invoked by an "insincere BJP and other selfish leaders" who wanted power at any cost.

"The shameful way in which the BJP is indulging in horse-trading by poaching leaders from other parties, and then claiming that it was forming a government in this manner solely for the interests of farmers, has exposed them thoroughly," Mr. Shetti told *The Hindu* from Kolhapur.

He further said he had directed the Swabhiman Paksha's lone MLA Devendra Bhuyar to remain in the party's stronghold in Kolhapur.

"He [Mr. Bhuyar] has already received a number of calls from the BJP urging him to leave my side. But, he has stood his ground and given them a fitting reply. I have urged him not to leave for Mumbai as there has already



**Cautious approach:** Raju Shetti said he had directed the Swabhiman Paksha's lone MLA Devendra Bhuyar to remain in the party's stronghold in Kolhapur. ■ FILE PHOTO

In the Assembly polls, Mr. Bhuyar had emerged as a 'giant killer' to defeat BJP leader and Agriculture Minister Anil Bonde from Morshi. Mr. Bhuyar, a grassroots activist handpicked by Mr. Shetti, was dragged out of his car – which was torched – and beaten by unidentified criminals on polling day on October 21.

The farmers' union has given a breather to sugar factories till December 15 to pay the fair and remunerative price (FRP), while demand-

been an attempt on his life even on polling day," said Mr. Shetti, who is an ally of the Congress-NCP coalition.

## Sugar conclave

Mr. Shetti's farmer outfit, Swabhiman Shetkari Sanghatna (SSS), concluded its much-anticipated sugar conclave at Jaysingpur in Kolhapur district on Saturday even as the State was grappling with vertiginous political developments.

The farmers' union has given a breather to sugar factories till December 15 to pay the fair and remunerative price (FRP), while demand-

ing that mill owners pay farmers an additional ₹200 per tonne over and above the FRP.

"Given the shambolic political scene and the absence of a stable government, we have given time to mill owners to accede to our FRP demands till December 15. Till then, we have allowed for the crushing of cane to commence on a priority basis," Mr. Shetti said, reiterating that the SSS remained firm on its demand that the farmers be paid the FRP at one go and not in instalments. His outfit would re-commence agitations against errant mill owners who did not accede to these demands.

Swabhiman Paksha leader Anil Pawar said, "As the crushing season already delayed by more than a month, we have permitted factories to begin crushing the cane which was damaged by the deluge that hit Sangli and Kolhapur districts. The crushing of the undamaged cane, which is standing on the field, will begin after the factories announce the decision to give the full FRP plus ₹200 per tonne."

Earlier this week, SSS activists had torched a tractor carrying sugar cane from a Kolhapur factory to be crushed in a mill in Karnataka, while damaging six other vehicles. The SSS had warned factory owners of not commencing cane crushing until it had concluded its annual sugar conclave on November 23.

## Upset Sena supporter tries to end life

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

A Shiv Sena supporter allegedly tried to commit suicide in Washim district apparently after being upset over party chief Uddhav Thackeray not becoming the chief minister, the police said on Sunday.

The incident occurred at Manora Chowk on Saturday evening when Ramesh Balu Jadhav, a resident of Umari village, came there for some work.

When he got the news that BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis was sworn in as the CM, Mr. Jadhav, who was inebriated, inflicted several cuts on his hands with a blade, an official at DIGRA police station said.

A traffic policeman ran towards him and thwarted his suicide bid.

"He was drunk and may have taken the step under the influence of alcohol," the official said.

## RTI activist seeks information on revocation of President's Rule

ANKUR BIPLAV  
MUMBAI

Soon after the Bharatiya Janata Party leader Devendra Fadnavis and Nationalist Congress Party's Ajit Pawar took oath as the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister on Saturday, a social activist sought details about the revocation of President's Rule in Maharashtra through a Right To Information (RTI) application.

Saket Gokhale has questioned how President's Rule could be revoked in such a short time. "It was at 5 a.m. on Saturday when Devendra Fadnavis went to the Governor's house. After about 47 minutes, he was allowed by the Governor to take oath as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. It is impossible to re-

voke the President's Rule in such a short span," said Mr. Gokhale.

The activist has also sought the list of visitors' appointments between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Friday and the list of vehicles that came to the Governor's house.

"One cannot meet the governor without prior appointment from the Governor's house. We have seen Karnataka Members of the Legislative Assembly waiting outside the Governor's house when they were not allowed inside without prior appointment," Mr. Gokhale said.

Mr. Gokhale said getting the information is necessary for ensuring transparency in the formation of the Maharashtra government. "My

questions should be answered at the earliest keeping the public interest in mind," Mr. Gokhale said.

He said there was something unconstitutional about the way in which the government was formed. "It seems like Prime Minister Narendra Modi has used some special powers to make Mr. Fadnavis the Chief Minister for the second time," he said.

On his social media handle, Mr. Gokhale highlighted that the governor was supposed to fly to Delhi to attend a Conference of Governors. "He cancelled his visit around midnight to orchestrate the morning ambush with the BJP. This man is unfit to continue in a Constitutional position (sic)," he wrote.

## Baramati locals hopeful of Sharad Pawar resolving NCP crisis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PUNE

Amid the political drama in Maharashtra with NCP's Ajit Pawar supporting the BJP to form government, people of Baramati, which is the bastion of Pawars, are hopeful that NCP chief Sharad Pawar will be able to resolve the current crisis in his party.

Ajit Pawar, the NCP chief's nephew who won from Pune's Baramati in the last month's polls with a victory margin of 1.65 lakh votes, joined hands with the BJP in a coup and took oath as deputy of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

While some locals from Baramati expressed displeasure

over Ajit Pawar's step, others were hopeful that Sharad Pawar would be able to handle the situation and bring his nephew back into the NCP.

"The decision of Ajit Pawar is wrong but we are sure that senior (Sharad) Pawar will bring him back to the party fold," a 35-year-old local from Baramati said on condition of anonymity.

Another resident of Katewadi, a village in Baramati constituency, said recently, when it was almost decided that the NCP and the Congress would form government with the Shiv Sena, some locals burst firecrackers. "But, there were no celebrations on Saturday

morning when Ajit Pawar took the oath as Deputy Chief Minister by joining hands with the BJP," he said.

Hours after the dramatic political developments in Mumbai on Saturday, a huge hoarding in support of Sharad Pawar came up in Baramati, but it was removed by the local civic body within a couple of hours.

Though the police said the banner was removed as it was put up without permission on the municipal council premises, an NCP worker said the hoarding was pulled down to ensure that the "split" in the Pawar family does not come out in the open.

## Fake notes of ₹1 crore face value seized; five arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SURAT

The Surat Crime Branch has arrested five people from different locations in Gujarat and seized fake currency notes with a face value of over ₹1 crore from them, the police said on Sunday.

While one of them was arrested on Saturday, the others were held on Sunday. A total of 5,013 fake notes of ₹2,000 denomination with ₹1,00,26,000 face value were seized.

Crime Branch officials on Saturday arrested Pratik Chodwadia from a farm house near Kamrej and seized 203 fake notes of ₹2,000 denomination from him. During his interrogation, he revealed the names of four others.

The police then conducted a raid at a room in an under-construction Swaminarayan temple ashram in Ambaw village of Kheda district and arrested the priest, identified as Swami Radharaman. Fake notes of ₹50 lakh face value were seized from him. Three others – Pravin Chopda, Kalu Chopda and Mohan Wadhurade – were arrested from Sarthana in Surat district.

## Swiss bank accounts: Sangli royals under the scanner

FTA asks Patwardhans to appoint nominees in matter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI/BERNE



The Patwardhans are parents of *Maine Pyaar Kiya* actor Bhagyashree. ■ FILE PHOTO

the two are listed as directors also went unanswered.

The company, Mangalmurti Investment and Exports Private Limited, is registered with Mumbai Registrar of Companies (RoC), with 'Sangli Villa' in Mumbai as its registered address. Mr. and Ms. Patwardhan are listed as the only two directors of the company, which has an authorised capital of ₹15 lakh and was incorporated on April 25, 1979. The Patwardhans have been its directors ever since.

## Several notices filed

A large number of such notices have been issued in recent months, including against people already facing black money probe back in India. Once such notice was recently issued to Gautam Khaitan, an accused in the AgustaWestland chopper scam case.

Swiss bank accounts have been a matter of heated political debate for many years in India due to suspicion that they were being used to hoard black money.

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## IN BRIEF



Restricted darshan at Tirumala on Dec. 26

**TIRUPATI** The temple of Lord Venkateswara in Tirumala will remain closed for nearly 13 hours on December 26 due to the total solar eclipse. The eclipse will commence at 8.08 a.m. and end by 11.16 a.m. As per tradition, the temple doors will be closed at 11 p.m. on December 25 and reopened at noon on December 26 for the mandatory purification ceremony. After the rituals, pilgrims will be allowed for darshan from 2 p.m.

## Man chops off wife's palms, limbs in A.P.

**CHITTOOR** Suspecting the fidelity of his wife, a man reportedly chopped off her palms and limbs at Arimakulapalle village of Andhra Pradesh's Gangadhara Nellore mandal, 15 km from here, on Sunday. Satish, 30, a farm worker, had been suspicious of the movements of his wife Nagamma, 25, for a couple of years, the police said. He reportedly cut off her palms and limbs while she was asleep. Her condition is said to be serious. Satish was held after a two-hour search.

## Two in Minister's convoy killed as car overturns

**WARANGAL URBAN DT.** Two persons died and three injured when a bullet-proof car in the convoy of Telangana Minister for Panchayat Raj Errabelli Dayakar Rao overturned at Cheeturu village in Jangaon district on Sunday. The deceased are the Minister's social media in-charge Poornender, 27, and AR constable Ch Parthasarathy, 42, who drove the car. As the bullet-proof car was said to be in need of repairs, the Minister travelled by another vehicle and escaped unhurt.

# Police decline protection to activist for Sabarimala visit

'Security can be provided if Fathima secures an order from Supreme Court'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
KOCHE

Controversial activist Rehana Fathima has been refused security cover by the police to enter the Lord Ayyappa temple in Sabarimala, in line with the Kerala government's stand that it would not provide protection to women in the traditionally barred age group unless they secured a court order.

Ms. Fathima, in her 30s, made an attempt to enter the hill shrine in October last year with police protection, but was forced to return in the wake of massive protests by devotees.

This year, she filed an application and approached the top officials of the Police Commissionerate on Saturday, seeking protection to proceed to the temple where women in the age group of 10-50 are barred.

Though the Supreme Court lifted the traditional ban last year, it recently de-



Devotees waiting to offer prayers at the Ayyappa temple in Sabarimala on Saturday. ■ PTI

cided to refer review pleas against its judgment to a larger Bench, following which the State government has adopted a cautious approach and made it clear that Sabarimala was not a place for activism.

**'Order under review'**  
Since the SC itself is reviewing its order permitting en-

try of women in the age group of 10-50 in the shrine, it is not possible for the police to provide protection to her at this stage, an official told PTI here on Sunday.

The police could provide protection if she secured an order from the court in this regard, the official said. It had been clearly stated that the State was under no legal

compulsion to shield women's rights campaigners who endeavoured to enter Sabarimala, the official said.

Ms. Fathima, a model-cum-activist, was arrested last year on charges of "attempting to disrupt public peace" for posting "controversial comments on Ayyappa devotees and Sabarimala" on social media.

# 800 houses flooded as lake breaches in Bengaluru

This is the third such incident in two months

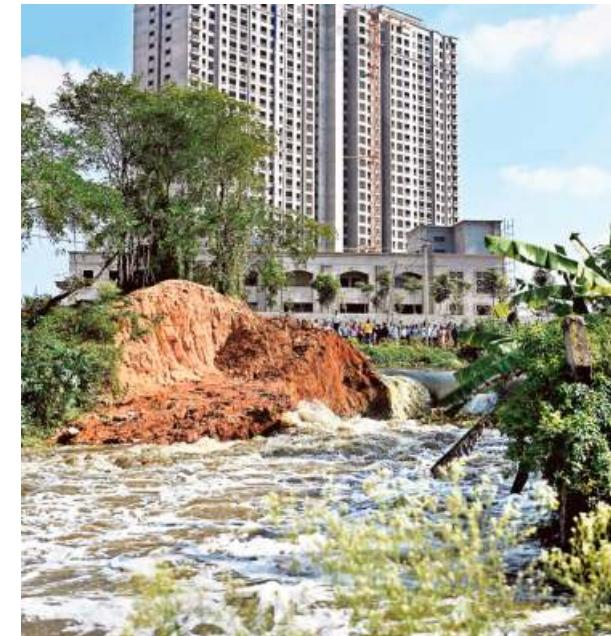
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

Around 800 houses were inundated on Sunday afternoon, after the bund of Hulimavu lake off Bannerghatta Road in Bengaluru breached.

Water entered houses at Krishna Layout, DLF Road, Saraswathipura, Avani Srinagar, Royal Residency Layout, and BTM Layout 4th Stage to a height of two to four feet.

Officials estimate that over 1,000 people have been affected. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, in a press release, said 193 people had been evacuated.

This is the third time in two months a lake has breached in the city. While the breach of Doddabidara-kallu lake in October was attributed to heavy rainfall, the one at Hosakerehalli lake on November 10 and now



The spot where the Hulimavu lake breached in Bengaluru on Sunday. ■ SAMPATH KUMAR G.P.

Hulimavu lake are allegedly the result of contractors tampering with the bunds.

An investigation will reveal the reason for the breach, BBMP Commissioner B.H. Anil Kumar said. The

civic body, he said, was trying to build a temporary bund. By late evening, NDRF personnel were able to stop the flow of water by covering the breached bund with 300 truckloads of mud.

## Kerala man reunited with family after eight years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHIKKAMAGALURU

Prasad K.S.

A man from Kerala, who was missing for eight years, has been reunited with his family, thanks to social media and some good Samaritans.

Prasad K.S., 40, from Wayanad district, had left home owing to psychological problems. For the past some months, he was roaming around Tarikere town in Karnataka's Chikkamagaluru district. He took food that locals offered and sought shelter in public places. A

lam. Mashhood K.B.K., an areca merchant who had moved to Tarikere from Kerala, spoke to him and got information about his native place.

"I shared his photo with my friends in Kerala on Facebook and WhatsApp groups on Friday. Within a few hours, he was identified," said Mr. Mashhood.

Mr. Prasad had left home a few days after his father died. His mother, Girija, and brother Pradeep had been searching for him ever since.

## Raids reveal rampant trafficking in A.P.

2,774 minors, including 400 girls, rescued last week

RAJULAPUDI SRINIVAS  
VIJAYAWADA

'Operation Muskaan', under which officials have recently rescued 2,774 boys and girls, has revealed the magnitude of the child trafficking menace in Andhra Pradesh.

The police, in association with Women Development and Child Welfare (WD&CW), Labour, Revenue, Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) and other de-

partments conducted raids and rescued 2,774 children, including 400 girls, in the State. The drive was taken up only for a few hours on International Child Rights Day on November 20.

Minor boys and girls from Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and other States were rescued during the early morning crack-down.

The children were working in hotels, mechanic sheds, shops, restaurants, cinema halls, industries and other establishments, the of-

ficers said. According to a survey, about 40% of the trafficked children were forced into labour work, 20% sexually exploited, 10% engaged in bonded labour and 5% were engaged in begging. Some children were being used for anti-social activities such as ganja and drug smuggling and thefts.

## Suffering from diseases

"The children were anaemic and suffering from various diseases. They were paid very less but forced to work for long hours violating the norms," said a police officer who participated in the

raids. "Earlier also we conducted the operation but this was the first time we rescued so many children," Director General of Police D. Gautham Sawang said.

"Some children were slogging in bus and railway stations and parks. A few did not have proper food and clothing and their condition was pathetic," an NGO organiser said.

Krishna district CWC Chairman B.V.S. Kumar said many of them were handed over to their parents after counselling while the remaining were referred to Child Care Institutions.

## Railway institute opens in Hyderabad

Classes for probationers from Dec.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

The Indian Railways has been giving a lot of importance to the human resource development and training of its personnel and towards this end, it wants to integrate functioning of all the top Central training institutes with the Railway University at Vadodara for developing world-class training, said Railway Board Chairman Vinod Kumar Yadav on Sunday.

Mr. Yadav said a good training institute needed proper infrastructure and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) had shown the way in building the world-class infrastructure at the Indian Railways Institute of Financial Management (IRIFM) here.

Addressing railway officers and staff after inaugura-

ting the swank and eco-friendly campus of IRIFM on 14 acres at Moula Ali, he complimented the team for completing the ₹85 crore project in three years. It can handle 150 trainees at a time.

## Eco-friendly campus

Designed by famed architect Hafeez Contractor, IRIFM will meet 90% of its electricity needs through solar power, is covered with rainwater harvesting structures and has a 100% waste water treatment plant. It has 10 different blocks.

Finance Commissioner Manjula Rangarajan said the institute has been a long felt dream of the Indian Railways Accounts Service (IRAS) and assured Mr. Yadav that classes for the new probationers here would begin from next month itself.

## Divine calling



Music maestro A.R. Rahman and son Ameen taking part in the Gandhamahotsavam at the Masthanvali Dargah in Kasumuru, near Venkatachalam, in SPSR Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh on Sunday. ■ K. RAVI KUMAR

## Child kidnapped from A.P. school

Police suspect the role of stepmother

STAFF REPORTER  
KAKINADA

A seven-year-old girl was reportedly kidnapped from her school here in Andhra Pradesh on Friday. The police have formed special teams to search for her.

Surada Deepthi Sree, daughter of Shyam Prasad, is a second standard student at the Netaji Municipal Corporation School, Jagannadhapuram, in the town.

Her mother Jayaveni died due to ill-health two years ago and Prasad then married Santha Kumari. The couple have a one-year-old boy.

"We are trying to trace the girl and sniffer dogs have been pressed into service. Suspecting that the perpetrators might have abandoned or even killed the girl, expert swimmers have been searching various spots, including Upputuru," police sources said.

Officers are examining call data records of the suspect's mobile phone.

## This teacher writes prescriptions for diseased trees

K. Binu from Kerala, who has been doubling up as a tree doctor, adopts Vriksha Ayurveda methods

HIRAN UNNIKRISHNAN  
KOTTAYAM

The mango tree that throws a shade over the St. Joseph's UP School at Malayinchippara here in Kerala, was looking lush till a couple of weeks ago. But the rain-sodden wood, riven with dark stripes, soon showed signs of a mysterious disease. The children at the school here were shocked to find, then they called up K. Binu, 'the tree doctor'.

He visited them the very next day, examined 'the patient in distress' and promised them to bring it back to life.

Diagnosed with a rare wilting disease, the patient is now slated to undergo a soothing therapy. A team led



Conservationist K. Binu in front of a tree under his treatment.

man because he suffers from an illness, you are not supposed to cut down a tree for the same reason. Trees

too have a character, scream with pain, feel loneliness and crave for affection," said Mr. Binu, also a member of the State Forest and Wildlife Board.

Inspired by S. Seetharaman, environmentalist, Mr. Binu took to treating trees about six years ago. A half-burnt rain-tree at Aluva was his 'first patient'. Keen to follow his passion, he was introduced to several books on Vriksha Ayurveda, including that by Charaka and Susrutha, and learned about various tree diseases and their remedies. He has treated about 23 trees, including those aged over a century – all free of cost.

According to Mr. Binu,

Vriksha Ayurveda was practised widely in places, till about six decades ago. It stipulates applying a mixture of mud from termite hill, clay from paddy fields, cow dung, milk, ghee, honey, banana and so on on the affected portion based on the type of disease and feeding the tree with buffalo milk. "The combination of this medicine, which is applied to the affected portion and then sealed with a cotton cloth, varies based on the type of trees as well as the disease. The bandaged portion needs to be kept damp using buffalo milk for the next few days. It will take up to six months for the wounds to heal completely," Mr. Binu said.

## Telangana RTC employees to intensify agitation

Strike continues for the 51st day on Sunday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
HYDERABAD

The indefinite strike by the TSRTC employees' unions over various demands continued for the 51st day on Sunday with protesters, including women, holding rallies across Telangana.

Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) JAC convener E. Ashwathama Reddy told reporters here that they would intensify the agitation with a series of picketing programmes on Monday at bus stands, depots and important junctions. "We thank all those who took part in the

strike for 51 days with determination. The strike will continue," Mr. Reddy said.

The employees again appealed to Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao to invite them for talks.

Nearly 48,000 employees began the strike on October 5 following a call by the Joint

Action Committee (JAC) of the unions, demanding merger of the corporation with the government, pay revision, recruitment to various posts, among others.

Mr. Rao had termed the employees' stir "illegal," saying it caused immense hardship to the public.



Show of solidarity: A teachers' federation distributing rice to RTC workers in Khammam on Sunday. ■ G.N. RAO

**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:** Heavy Rainfall very likely at isolated places over coastal Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.4	16.7	Kozhikode	10.8...	34.7...	24.6
Ahmedabad	—	—	19.1	Kurnool	—	—	20.2
Aizawl	—	—	—	Lucknow	—	—	15.4
Allahabad	—	—	14.9	Madurai	0.5...	—	24.0
Bengaluru	—	29.2	18.2	Mangaluru	—	22.8	—
Bhopal	—	—	17.2	Mumbai	—	34.1...	22.4
Bhubaneswar	—	—	18.5	Mysuru	—	—	19.3
Chandigarh	—	—	13.1	New Delhi	—	26.8...	15.3
Chennai	—	4.5...	22.8	Patna	—	—	15.4
Coimbatore	—	—	21.8	Port Blair	—	31.3...	25.3
Dehradun	—	26.3	12.0	Puducherry	—	—	21.2
Gangtok	—	14.8	11.7	Pune	—	29.5...	15.0
Goa	—	34.4	22.5	Raipur	—	30.5...	18.3
Guwahati	—	28.8	16.4	Ranchi	—	27.6...	12.6
Hubballi	—	28.0	18.0	Shillong	—	17.4...	8.5
Hyderabad	—	—	16.9	Shimla	0.3...	16.4...	6.5
Imphal	—	25.3	8.6	Srinagar	—	—	—
Jaipur	—	16.7	—	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.5...	24.2
Kochi	—	32.4	25.4	Tiruchi	0.2...	—	24.0
Kohima	—	24.2	9.8	Vijayawada	—	—	21.6
Kolkata	—	28.6	18.6	Visakhapatnam	—	—	22.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Yesterday

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	120	117	14	109	96	—
Bengaluru	.04	.48	.40	.88	.94	■■■■■
Chennai	.14	177	30	177	—	■■■■■
Delhi	.18	.51	.42	.324	—	■■■■■
Hyderabad	.19	.68	.40	.228	—	■■■■■
Kolkata	.29	111	24	.328	.322	■■■■■
Lucknow	.08	.29	.18	.278	—	■■■■■
Mumbai	.17	.86	.38	.218	.157	■■■■■
Pune	.82	.13	.64	.189	.132	■■■■■
Visakhapatnam	—	—	—	—	—	—

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

**SO<sub>2</sub>:** 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<sub>x</sub>:** 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

# Centre nudging M.P., U.P. on Ken-Betwa

The ₹18,000-crore river interlinking project has been mired in controversy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The government has said it is pushing Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh to make progress on the Ken-Betwa river interlinking project, according to a response to a question in the Rajya Sabha last week.

The project involves transferring surplus water from Ken river in Madhya Pradesh to the Betwa in Uttar Pradesh and irrigate 3.64 lakh hectares in the Bundelkhand region of both States. The ₹18,000 crore project has been mired in several controversies. The most recent

one is a disagreement between the States on the share of water.

#### 'Consultative manner'

"The government is pursuing the interlinking programme in a consultative manner. Vigorous efforts have been made by the Central government for generating consensus between the concerned States," Minister of State, Jal Shakti, Rattan Lal Kataria, said in a written response to a query in the Rajya Sabha.

A senior official in the Jal Shakti Ministry told *The Hindu*, on condition of anonym-



**Troubled waters:** A view of the Betwa river in Bundelkhand region near Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

ity, that the project was "still on" but posed environmental challenges. "Other than differences between the States, there are outstanding environmental obstructions too. It is not an easy road ahead."

The project involves building a 77 metre tall and a 2 km wide Dhaudhan dam and a 230 km canal. Originally, this phase envisaged irrigating 6,35,661 hectares annually (3,69,881 ha in M.P. and 2,65,780 ha in U.P.). In

addition, the project was to provide 49 million cubic metres for drinking water supply en route.

#### 'No longer valid'

While there is a 2005 agreement between the two States on how water would be shared, Madhya Pradesh says these assumptions are no longer valid and the only way to meet the increased water requirements would be to include local management projects – the Kotha barrage, Lower Orr and Bina complex that were envisaged in the second phase of the project – in the first phase.

## IN BRIEF



No leadership vacuum in T.N.: AIADMK

CHENNAI  
AIADMK co-ordinator O. Panneerselvam and co-coordinator Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Sunday rejected the critics' charge that there was a leadership vacuum in Tamil Nadu politics.

#### Case filed against man for uttering triple talaq

TIRUCHI  
The police have registered a case against a 31-year-old man for pronouncing talaq thrice to divorce his wife. The woman's in-laws and sister-in-law have also been arraigned in the case for harassing her.

#### At RGGH, a new regimen for Parkinson's

CHENNAI  
Starting January, a treatment protocol for Parkinson's disease will be launched at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGH). Doctors from the King's College Hospital, London, will train the neurologists.

#### Odisha schools to have three water breaks

BERHAMPUR  
'Water bells' will ring thrice during class hours in all schools of Odisha's Ganjam district to ensure that students drink water. The Ganjam district administration will introduce the special initiative from November 25.

## Detained Bangladeshi immigrants brought to Kolkata

Police in quandary over largest such group in recent years to be brought from southern India

SUVIJIT BAGCHI  
KOLKATA

A few hours after Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returned to her country, another Hasina, in her middle years, arrived with 58 others. They are all "stateless" and "persona non grata", two phrases used by the police to describe them.

They are all "Bangladeshi citizens", said the officials escorting the group from Bengaluru to Howrah Railway Station, a journey of about 36 hours.

Ms. Hasina did not deny



**Nowhere to go:** The Bangladeshi immigrants at Howrah station in Kolkata, on Saturday night. ■ SUVIJIT BAGCHI

that she was from the neighbouring country, and had been living for many years in Bengaluru, working as a rag-

picker. "I am from Bagherhat in Khulna," said Ms. Hasina. "We were working in Bengaluru for four years and used

to earn about ₹4,000 to ₹5,000 a month," she said. Another woman, in her twenties, said: "[We] even have Aadhar cards."

The Karnataka police was in a quandary with the group, which is the largest in recent years to be brought to West Bengal from southern India.

#### 'Awaiting orders'

"We do not know what to do with them. We are awaiting orders," said Guruprasad, the sub-inspector leading a team of 28 Karnataka police

personnel late on Saturday.

Later, the children and women were shifted to a hotel in Howrah district.

The group, whose citizenship is yet to be ascertained, said the Karnataka police had treated them "very well".

The Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata has not been intimated by the State or Central governments.

Activists, however, claimed that the "process of pushback had already begun" on Sunday.

## 85 stolen idols to be brought back to India next March

No clarity about temples from where idols were stolen: expert

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Close to 85 idols of the 2,622 idols, seized from art smuggler Subhash Kapoor, with a combined value of USD 107 million during the 2012 raid will be brought back to India in March 2020 in the first phase, said S. Vijay Kumar, art enthusiast and founder of India Pride that tracks Indian antiques.

The event also saw certificate distribution for Tag raga identification competition for Rasikas.

"Of the 85 idols, 68 – 32 made of bronze and 36 of stone – are from Tamil Nadu, and the remaining are from other States including Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan. However, even if we bring them, it is not clear which temple will claim ownership as the theft has not been reported in most cases. The officers in charge of the temples should be prompt in filing the FIRs

if an idol is stolen," he also said.

Speaking about the importance of documenting the idols, he said that it was high time technology was adopted for documentation.

"Once documented it is impossible to sell the idol. We can use the facial recognition system and the services of the IT sector can also be used for the same," he said.

Mr. Kumar also said that once documented, the idols should be brought out in the open instead of locking them up in icon centres, as it affected regular worship. "To protect them, the temples can have a strongroom on their premises and a temple protection force can be formed," he suggested.

Interested eligible candidates are requested to download the application format from OMECL website : [omecl.in](http://omecl.in) and submit the same duly filled in & signed along with attested copies of Certificates / Testimonials, experience certificate etc. in support of their eligibility by Speed Post / Courier in a cover super scribed "APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF \_\_\_\_\_ AGAINST ADVERTISEMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ DATED \_\_\_\_\_" so as to reach the General Manager, Odisha Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd., OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001 by 16.12.2019 positively. Applications received after the last date due to delay in postal/courier or any other reason shall not be entertained and will be rejected.

The OMECL Management reserves the right to cancel, amend or alter the above advertisement without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-  
Director

## Former Madhya Pradesh CM Kailash Joshi dead

He served as the first Janata Party CM

STAFF REPORTER  
BHOPAL



Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kailash Joshi died at a private hospital here on Sunday after prolonged illness. He was 90.

Survived by three sons and three daughters, he had been suffering from heart problems and diabetes, said the hospital's officials. The last rites will be performed at his native Hatipura in Dewas district on Monday.

Born on July 14, 1929, Mr.

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## Midnight coup

Fadnavis should be asked to seek a confidence vote immediately

The surreptitious manner in which Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar were sworn in as Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister, respectively, of Maharashtra on Saturday morning was admission by the troupe itself that this drama was beyond the pale. If the coming together of the Shiv Sena, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Congress in an attempt to form a majority in the hung State Assembly was disrespectful of the mandate, the skullduggery by the dead of night was an outright mockery of democratic norms and established procedure. Pursuit of power often involves amoral ingredients, but the surreal birthing of the new government was nothing short of sheer depravity. The BJP has not set any inspiring ethical bar when it achieved power without winning a popular mandate in several States, but this new low leaves the nation's political 'conscience' with a sinking feeling. In one stroke, the President, the Prime Minister, and the Governor, all appear to be not as guardians of the constitutional order but collaborators in a clandestine, nocturnal scheme. Politically indefensible as the Sena-Congress-NCP alliance might be, its claim to form a government is technically unimpeachable, and cannot be denied.

Political realignments in an existing legislature are often triggered by splits in alliances or parties. In Maharashtra it appears that the NCP legislature party leader is himself the leading defector – a unique situation. A more consequential betrayal is that of democracy itself. A series of unprecedented actions by the Centre and the Governor, and several unresolved questions that are associated with their actions, throw up multiple legal and constitutional issues. The top court might in due course adjudicate them, but the legitimacy of the Fadnavis government needs to be tested at once. That has been the precedent set by the court in comparable situations in which governments with dubious claims of numbers sought to delay the floor test and horse trading was suspected. The Governor administered the oath of office to the same person who had declined his invitation to form a government earlier. And this just as an alliance with sufficient numbers had taken shape. The Supreme Court has acted with alacrity that this seeming infraction of constitutionalism calls for. In a rare event, the SC heard a petition by the Sena and the NCP on a Sunday, which it said was its duty. It has called for records regarding material facts and circumstances that led the Centre and the Governor to act as they did on the intervening night of Friday-Saturday to be submitted to it on Monday morning. The BJP sought to stonewall or slow down the case during arguments, but if it is so confident of the numbers, as it claims, it should submit itself to a floor test immediately.

## Star alliance

The film world had room for both, but Kamal and Rajini find the space cramped in politics

Exactly 40 years after parting ways in Kollywood in pursuit of individual lead roles and higher remuneration, cinematic heroes Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan have spoken of the possibility of coming together. This time the thespians, both in their 60s, hope to shake up Tamil Nadu's political scene, which for the first time since Independence has no towering personalities. Kamal Haasan, whose political entry was unexpected, has steered his Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM), launched in February 2018, in the Lok Sabha elections and Assembly by-polls with marginal success. In contrast, Rajinikanth, after vacillating for over two decades, has yet to transform his Rajini Makkal Mandram, a platform built on his fan clubs, into the party that he proposes to launch in time for the 2021 Assembly election. The friends have no ideological affinity – Haasan leaning left-of-centre and Rajinikanth advocating an as-yet-undefined "spiritual politics" – but they now seem open to an alliance "in the interests of Tamil Nadu" should the need arise. Their shared belief, apparently, is that they are competent to fill the political vacuum because of their considerable screen charisma.

Indeed, Kollywood has oiled the wheels of Dravidian politics for over 50 years, but the grease is coming off. Hero worship has not translated into electoral success sans an ideological connect and craving for change accompanied by a surplus of political trust in the change agent. The political depreciation of actor and Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam founder Vijayakant is an example. If, in under two years of declaring that he would field candidates in all 234 Assembly constituencies, Rajinikanth is thinking of aligning with his fellow traveller, it is perhaps the realisation that the electorate cannot be swayed by his star power alone. In the 2019 Parliamentary elections, Kamal Haasan projected himself as the harbinger of change, yet polled only 3.8% of the vote, below the 3.9% of the Naam Tamilar Katchi founded by Seeman, a film director. While the MNM came third in 11 seats, only in four of the 36 seats it contested did it secure a vote share above 10%. In many rural seats, its vote share was less than 2%, indicating that the 'universal star' has a long way to go before he emerges a credible alternative to the two major Dravidian parties, despite the absence of former Chief Ministers M. Karunanidhi and Jayalalithaa. Rajinikanth, with his demigod status, may evoke more political attention than Kamal Haasan and he hopes they can disrupt the calculus of the electoral battlefield together. Nonetheless, he must be cognisant that his aspiration to launch a party months before the polls and get catapulted to the Chief Ministerial throne, like Andhra Pradesh's N.T. Rama Rao did, may be a pipe dream at this inflection point in Tamil politics. Miracles do happen on the silver screen, but are rare in a complex democracy.

# Tiruvalluvar is un-striped, un-coloured, un-ageing

He is beyond physical constructs to be appropriated; the saffron that has drifted to his image will not touch him



GOPALKRISHNA GANDHI

No one owns Tiruvalluvar. He has left no dawdling trail of descendants saying, "Valluvar is ours"; no rival kin laying, "We, we, we not they are of his blood-line." No clan, no caste claims or can claim him. How can it? No one knows which home-row he was born into, lived in or abandoned. He slips through the silken constrictions of descent and, equally, through the foam of faked bondings. The orthodox clothe him in the robes of sanctimony, radicals in the garbs of rebellion. To those who say in self-confidence that he was Vallabha, one must ask for evidence of that Brahminical status in his work. To those who claim he was Dalit, one must ask if anything he has written reflects that underprivileged status, whether with a sigh of acceptance or a howl of protest.

### Valluvar is label elusive

The truth is Tiruvalluvar eludes labelling. The more mystifying he is, the more appealing he becomes. All we know of him is he wrote un-ageing thoughts that were un-striped by caste, un-coloured by class, un-scented by any denominational unguent. They were, simply, ideas, his ideas, stunning in their tight-bound form and un-tied, un-bound meaning.

Even as an ideator, in the zone of pure thought, Tiruvalluvar eludes capture, casking and commodification by idea-vendors. Those who publish, re-publish, translate, re-translate his 1,330 mind-rinsing couplets have their task lightened by their ready-to-print perfection form. His cou-

plets come in the unvarying shape of four words in the first line and three in the second held together in a rhyme and metre format of repute. This form – exact, precise, taut – is a printer's dream. But his thought is a publisher's classification nightmare. Dealing with the ether of his thought is a difficult undertaking. They cannot classify their "forever-in-demand" product. Is it political verse, is it philosophy? Is it a manual for aspiring statesmen, is it a primer for pining lovers? Is it a speculation on life's verities at their summit or at their plainest sameness? Naturalists are sold on the keenness of Valluvar's eye in describing life in the wild. If the crocodile slouches in one couplet, the elephant galumphs in another while the heron waits, breath bated, to snap at unsuspecting prey. He is also unscientific at times; he is after all a fallible human being. He has unquestioningly accepted the popular belief that the owl is blinded by daylight. But his description of the behaviour of that commensal of man, the house crow is so sharp that the great ornithologist Salim Ali would have hailed him. The book can be said to fall, after all, under "natural sciences".

Social scientists can be gripped by his word-pictures on customs, superstitions. Some of these he seems, disarmingly, to subscribe to. Contrastively, he seems to be on the side of transformative ideas presaging momentous changes in human mores. He glides through all these complications of human contriving to his nameless freedom.

The deft administrator in Rajgopalachari was so taken by Valluvar's mastery of statecraft that he rendered it into a striking English version. But the moralist in him could not reconcile to the third book, the Book of Love (*Kamathuppaa*). So much so that he draws a veil over its very existence. That



is Rajaji. But lest anyone think Valluvar is a Tamizh Vatsyayana, forbear. Valluvar's erotica is no lesson in pre-obstetric gynaecology. It is about love's physicality, not the physiology of loving. Periyar, acknowledging with delight Valluvar's extolling of that freedom, and yielding to none in admiration for the *Tirukkural*, takes its depiction of the compliant housewife head-on. That is Periyar.

The book's sales are a global constant and a global amazement for his vendors do not, cannot, hold him to accept, contest either their products or their profits. He neither patents, nor is he patented. The *Tirukkural* lives, levitates above its reprints, beyond the unceasing flow of its nth edition, way away from the torrent of its citings, reciting.

### Above religion

No religion holds him captive in its shrine or scripture. If a Hindu thinks he sees in a couplet here or a depiction there an image of Mahavishnu he should think again. Valluvar has declined to name or suggest the impress on him of any deity – male, female or in any of the celebrated transpositions of that pantheon – half-human and half-animal.

Jaina scholars have given highly estimable reasons for thinking Valluvar was in fact a Jaina master, Kundakundacharya by name. They maintain that when the Raj civilian F.W. Ellis translated the Ku-

ral's Book of Virtue (*Arathuppaa*), he did so in the understanding that it was the work of a Jaina. But does Valluvar's passionate denunciation of meat-eating and of the quaffing of spirits make him a member of that ascetic faith? Before putting one's stamp of acceptance on that view, one must reflect on the fact that Valluvar starts the *Kural* with an invoking of the Creator and ends it with a celebration of Eros – neither of which sit well with the tenets of the great Tirthankaras.

And as for the pious belief of the Reverend G.U. Pope, Valluvar's famous English translator, that this likely resident of Chennai's Mylapore's seaside was deeply influenced by seaborne missionaries of the Sermon on the Mount, one can only smile. That diligent translator is also a devoted adherent of his Church and his Superiors.

Does this mean that agnostics or atheists can seat him at the head of their solemn conclaves of nay-saying? Attempts to read secular or "Adam-Eve" meanings into the work's opening words – 'Adi Bhagavan' – are ideologically brave but one wishes they were textually persuasive as well.

We have sub-consciously aligned Tiruvalluvar's imagined visage with that of a bearded sage, a Tamizh Vyasa, Visvamitra, Valmiki. Popular depictions of him have settled him in that countenance. But who can say with any empirical evidence that he did look like that? Maybe he did. But no one can affirm that with authority. Perhaps he resembled the Jaina muni that Ellis has immortalised in the gold coin that he caused to be minted, seated in a state of calm sans beard, sans beads and with a head-shield. Very worthily of him, Ellis does not give that figure a name. Valluvar's images, painted or sculpted, are earnest examples of human teachings to one who is out of reach.

Appropriation of the totally unaffiliated is possible for they are right there, waiting to be snapped up by the heron of cultural possessiveness. Appropriation of the affiliated is also, incredibly enough, possible as long as the one being appropriated is dead and cannot scream in astonishment disbelief.

### Without boundaries

But Valluvar is in an altogether different category. You have to be a physical construct in order to be appropriated. Valluvar's is an intangible intensity, an impalpable voltage, an indefinable actuality of ideas, depictions, advice, admonition, no one can pack into a bag to carry home. People can be appropriated, not ideas. Ideas can be countered. They cannot be co-opted.

No one can own Valluvar, I said. I must qualify that. Tamizh does, unequivocally, uniquely. But no one and nothing else. Does he own anything? He does – the idea of a family, for instance. His portrayal of the home-child is *sui generis*. Then, the idea of a nation. Valluvar's portrait of a Good Nation is made of the tints of a Constitutional Preamble, no less. We may, on this 70th anniversary of our own, salute that Chapter.

The saffron that drifted to his image did not touch him. Like a wanton kite raised on a shallow wind, it wafted over his name to but waft out of it. Valluvar's readers need not spend time thinking about the incident. Colours adhere to canvas, not to concepts. More people have been reminded – not that reminders were needed – of the master behind the *Tirukkural* as a result.

Tiruvalluvar has not had to endure the colouring. The colour has disappeared into the truths of the *Tirukkural*.

*Gopalkrishna Gandhi is a former administrator, diplomat and governor*

## The broken promise of decent and fair wages

The draft rules to the Wages Act, a law expected to provide economic and social justice, will only exploit workers further



CHANDAN KUMAR &  
RAGHUNATH KUCHIK

Amidst the upheaval of debates concerning hate-violence, Article 370 of the Constitution, the temple at Ayodhya, and others, the Central government has finally woken up to examine the backbone of the Indian economy (working people), by proposing the rules to the Labour Code on Wages Act 2019. Earlier in the year during the monsoon session of Parliament, the government celebrated the passage of this law, vociferously stating that the 70 years of waiting in granting the constitutional right of a guaranteed minimum wage had come to an end.

**'Starvation wages' continue**  
Accordingly, it was expected that the draft rules to the Act would be a 'game-changer' to the status quo as far as the lives of workers in the informal sector are concerned. It was believed that informal workers – they account for 93% of the total working population and contribute to over 60% of India's GDP – had finally been acknowledged for their contributions to the nation-building process. But it was alleged that this would revive the crisis of the current economic slowdown, as the law proposes to

increase income capacity and the purchasing power of the informal workers.

The proposed framework to determine wage will continue pushing 'starvation wages' in India. In view of this, the draft rules proposed were received with much hope by solidarity groups and worker collectives in India. It was expected that the rules would have considered the Supreme Court of India's landmark jurisprudence in the 'Raptakos' case (1991) which advocated the concept and the right of a living wage.

However, and saddeningly, an in-depth reading of the draft rules does not match this glorious picture and has in effect, by creating a façade of false promises, struck a blow against the aspirations of millions of workers in the informal sector. This has been done by proposing the concept of a floor wage in the draft rules. In effect, this would mean that "starvation wages" which currently guarantees just ₹178 per day, will continue to exist and this government, like the ones preceding it will not go beyond "offering" "roti, kapda aur makaan" (food, clothing and housing).

One can imagine the plight of workers by just looking at the recently reported "Consumer Expenditure Survey" result; it shows the average family expenditure in rural areas to be ₹83 per day, and in urban areas as ₹134. These figures show how workers will continue to live in exploitative and marginalised conditions, where their constitutional right to a fair



wage will be infringed upon by employers and the state. This despite 'Need-Based Minimum Wage' being a Supreme Court jurisprudence (covering nutrition, health care, education, housing and provisions for old age as well). Therefore, in the draft rules, it should have been treated as a fundamental constitutional right for every citizen of India. On these lines, it is worth mentioning that the governments of Delhi and Kerala have not only managed to achieve a living wage jurisprudence in recent years but have also set the highest living wage in India (₹14,842 a month in Delhi and ₹600 a day in Kerala).

**Archaic framework as reform**  
The concept and intention of floor wage in the draft rules only reiterate archaic principles which were echoed by the Constitutional Bench of Supreme Court in *U. Unichoyi And Others vs. The State Of Kerala*. Here the court remarked, "In an underdeveloped country which faces the problem of unemployment on a very large scale, it is

not unlikely that labour may offer to work even on starvation wages". Unfortunately, this situation still prevails in India where the labour market preys on the excess availability of workers for whom living a precarious life is their permanent mode of existence. In such a situation, they continue to be lured to work at their will on less than minimum wages, and in exploitative conditions. A floor level wage would only encourage and exacerbate this archaic practice and promote forced labour. Another huge concern with the law is in its provision of an arbitrary deduction of wages (up to 50% of monthly wages) based on performance, damage or loss, advances, etc.

In a country such as India, where employers, due to their higher social status, continue to exploit labour with impunity, this provision will only continue to push workers further into exploitative conditions, stamping on their bargaining power and rights of association. This will make the lives of workers worse as the draft rules do not clarify the governance and institutional structure for the "labour inspection system" in the law.

The International Labour Organisation's Labour Inspection Convention of 1947 (Convention C80) – it has been ratified by India – provides for a well-resourced and independent inspectorate with provisions to allow thorough inspections and free access to workplaces. Ignoring these provisions, the draft rules propose

another ad-hoc and unclear mechanism called the "inspection scheme". All of this implies that in the absence of clarity in the draft rules, workers will not be able to demand even basic work rights in the fear of wage deductions, and will continue to be oppressed and marginalised.

All these provisions are not surprising when we consider the haste with which the law was passed by Parliament in the last monsoon session. There was not much discussion in view of the everyday survival and livelihood issues faced by millions of workers in India, due to their underprivileged social status and caste in comparison to that of employers and the state.

Therefore, it is disheartening that a law which was expected to provide economic and social justice to most of the population, now has provisions which will exploit workers further. There is no accountability from elected representatives on the broken promises of decent and fair wages. The Labour Code on Wages Act 2019 and the draft rules have failed the lives and the aspirations of over 50 crore informal workers in India. Working people are a national asset; undermining their well-being should be considered the biggest anti-national act.

*Chandan Kumar is Coordinator, Working Peoples' Charter and Member, National Minimum Wage Advisory Board.*

*Raghunath Kuchik is Chairperson for the Maharashtra Minimum Wage Advisory Council*

## 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.

### Game of thrones

The pre-dawn attack on democracy, on Saturday, by the BJP, had all the trappings of a cloak and dagger operation (Page 1, "Fadnavis sworn in as CM after Ajit Pawar ditches uncle", November 24). The premature imposition of President's rule in the State and its unusual revocation point to a plan that suited the BJP's brazen gameplan of forming a government by hook or by crook. The Governor's actions are baffling. It would not be far-fetched to say that the BJP has used the carrot and stick policy to make Ajit Pawar fall in line. Thus has a government been born casting all political

decorum and constitutional norms to the wind.

*ABDUL ASSIS P.A.,  
Thrissur, Kerala*

■ Horse trading, which is illegal and unconstitutional, has, for the BJP, become a common and routine way of capturing power. That the party which is ruling the country is denying political space to the Opposition is undemocratic. Lightning actions such as revocation of President's rule by the Prime Minister using his special powers; the State Governor allowing the BJP to form the government allying with a breakaway group of the NCP without a counting of heads nor ascertaining the availability of 145 members

required for governance in the State, and having an unduly long period to prove a political majority in the Assembly point to a hasty circumventing of the rules and regulations. The Maharashtra episode poses two constitutional issues that need to be resolved immediately. First, the defection of legislators by any number from one party to another and based on their whims and fancies should be banned forthwith. Those who defy this shall be deemed to forfeit their legislative membership automatically. Second, only party candidates should be allowed to contest.

*MANOHARAN MUTHUSWAMY,  
Nabdwip, Nadia, West Bengal*

■ The manner of government formation in Maharashtra has certainly undermined the standing of the office of the President and the Governor. There is a lot of difference in what top constitutional leaders say at fora and actions on the ground, which they are seen to be encouraging. The ruling party has made the mockery of the people of the country, the Constitution and democracy. The Governor's hasty actions are an example of working at the behest of political masters. The developments are another darkest chapter in the constitutional history of India.

*S. ARJUN PRASANNA,  
Chandigarh*

■ The fast-paced frenzy to form a government in Maharashtra is a mockery. The people's mandate has been reduced to a caricature. If people's representatives do not conduct themselves in an ethical manner and are an example of values and principles, how can a country boast to be a democratic entity? It would have been heartening had the BJP decided to sit in the Opposition. But it has proved to be absolutely no different from the others.

# Vedantic attachment and Islamic idolatry

The Babri Masjid dispute reveals the dichotomy between religious theory and practice



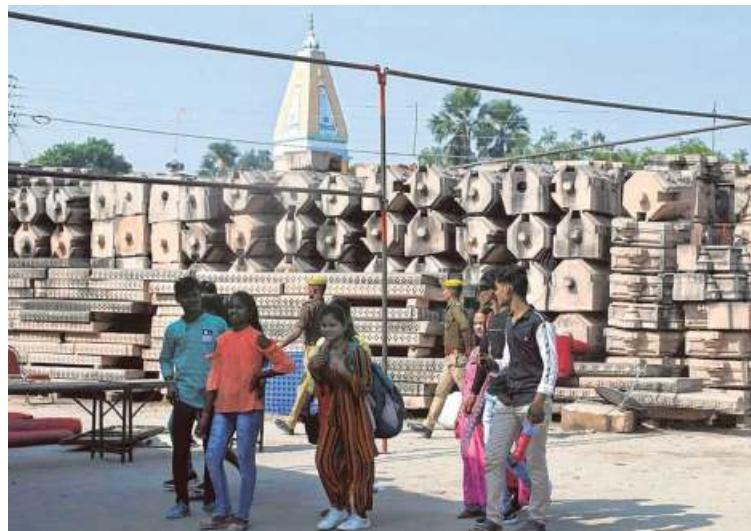
DEVDUTT PATTANAIK

In Mecca, a large number of historic sites, including mosques, and even sites associated with Prophet Muhammad's life, are being broken by the guardians of the Kaaba. This is being done to prevent these sites from becoming shrines, for that would amount to idolatry, which is forbidden in Islam. These structures and sites are being replaced by luxury hotels, a place for pilgrims to stay, a pragmatic solution that brings wealth to the land.

Why is such pragmatism not displayed when it comes to much less significant Islamic structures in India? Does the attachment of a section of Muslims to Babri Masjid lean towards idolatry? Or is it a fight for justice over a land dispute, and a case of land grabbing stretched over decades? Is the compensation not enough? Or is it a symbol of assertion of Muslim rights in a land where Muslims are a minority? Is it about faith, or land rights, or identity? Are the Hindus grabbing Muslim land? Or are Hindus simply reclaiming what they claim was always theirs, just like Jewish people reclaimed Israel after centuries of exile, displacing Palestinians who made that land their home during their long absence? And before Hindus, did the land belong to someone else? Or were Hindus the first migrants to the land?

Recent genetic studies have shown that everyone in India is a migrant. If we are all migrants, to whom then does any land belong? On what basis? Does it belong to those who came first, the *mool-nivasis* as some aboriginal tribal groups have now started identifying themselves? Does it belong to those who cultivated it first? Does it belong to those who worshipped the plants and rocks and ponds there, without cultivating it? Or to those who broke the rocks, filled the pond and cut the orchard to build a grand structure on it? Who decides? Judges?

**Ways of claiming land**  
In ancient times, claim to land was



"The Babri Masjid dispute is a tussle between Muslims who see themselves as rightful owners of the land and Hindus who see Muslims as migrants, invaders. Carved stones for the proposed Ram temple in Ayodhya." ■ V.V. KRISHNAN

established by burying the dead under homes and farms. In the Bible, what was identified eventually as the Promised Land is where Abraham buried his wife Sarah, and dug a well, and planted an orchard. Burial was a common practice in India too, until the Vedic Aryans proposed funeral ritual: burn the flesh and cast the bones into the waters. Do not be attached to body or land if you seek liberation from the cycle of birth and death, said the Vedic seers.

Vedic kings claimed land over which their royal horse travelled unchallenged. In other words, proprietorship was claimed by use of force. This was the *ashwamedha* yagna. In the Ramayana, rishis performed yagna to claim land using warriors to drive away *rakshasas*, who saw them as intruders. In the Mahabharata, forests were set alight, their residents burnt alive, to build settlements. Yet, the very same kings were told to let go of possessions and retire as ascetics to the forest before they died. For those who are attached to the world stay in the land of the living as ghosts, and do not make the journey to the land of ancestors, and thence to a new life.

When the Buddha died, it was ironical that the same students who had spent their entire lives listening to him speak about detachment ended up fighting over his bones. After much bickering, his remains were distributed amongst kings who built shrines over each relic. Buddhist

teachers were also buried, their corpses anchored to earth, even in death, despite 'blowing out the flame' of identity.

This practice was mimicked by followers of many Hindu gurus. The students did not cremate the body of their teacher. The guru's body was considered holy as the guru did not die; he simply slipped out of his mortal coil voluntarily at the appointed hour. And so the body had to be preserved, buried in salt, with a shrine above it, in the ashram. The body of the liberated soul was thus kept fettered for the benefit of the liberated.

Many Muslims also have a similar practice. The holy man's shrine becomes a focal point of worship, the dargah, where the burial site is venerated with flowers, cloth, incense, lamp and songs. This practice is common among Shia and Sufi Muslims, and is frowned upon by Sunni Muslims, who deem it idolatry.

In theory, Islam is anti-idolatry. But in practice, there is fetishisation of holy spots associated with saints and kings. Likewise, in theory, Hinduism, based on Vedanta, advocates detachment. But in practice, Hindus cling to temples and dead bodies of holy men. For they mark land, establish property and grant power.

**An assertion of faith**  
Babri Masjid is not just a land dispute as atheists and material philosophers would love to imagine. It is an assen-

tion of faith: a tussle between some Muslims who see themselves as rightful owners of the land and some Hindus who see Muslims as migrants, invaders, foreigners. Those Hindus claim the land as their holy land, the place where god was born in mortal form. And those Muslims reject this claim, for they cannot recognise Ram as god, for to say so would be to acknowledge another god beside Allah, and that is a sin, against the very first pillar of Islam. Some Hindus want to make Ram a historical entity, seeking to legitimise the site of his birth. But then to allow veneration of a historical entity is also idolatry in Islam. Besides, historicisation turns the temple into a memorial, a museum, not the way a temple is as per agama and tantra texts.

For Muslims, to accept the Supreme Court judgment is to accept the victory of idolaters. In theory, that is a problem. But plurality demands pragmatism. It demands accepting that mosques can be shifted, as they are in much of the Islamic world, as only idolaters see land as sacred. The faithful know that in Mecca, a conscious effort is made not to turn sites linked to Muhammad's birth and various events in his life into shrines. The various dargahs of South Asia are seen as idolatry to the puritanical Arab Wahhabi.

For peace, even Krishna asked the Pandavas to compromise – five villages instead of Indraprastha. But Duryodhana refused to give even a needlepoint of territory. In this regard, he is similar to Ravana, who would have his city burn, his people die, than let Sita go to her husband. This clinging to 'mine', hermits declared, was the symptom of ego.

If Islam is about rejecting all forms of idolatry, then Vedanta is all about detachment. To let go is a yogic virtue, says the Hindu guru. But that is theory, say Hindus, when it comes to Ayodhya or Kashmir. The 'let go' attitude, say the Hindutva warriors, is what got Muslims to wipe out Hindu civilisation in Pakistan and Bangladesh. For them, their fight for Ayodhya is essentially a fight of Hinduism's survival in India.

While Hindutva folks see this as real, non-Hindutva folks see this as paranoia.

Devdutt Pattanaik lectures and writes on the relevance of mythology in modern times

## An ill-advised proposal

Merging Assam Rifles with ITBP will impinge on national security and affect the morale of the force

G.K. DUGGAL

Reports suggest that an attempt is under way to shift the operational control of Assam Rifles from the Army to the Home Ministry. This is not the first time that such an attempt is being made to ride roughshod over Assam Rifles in the sensitive Northeast region to serve vested interests. In 2009, the draft Cabinet note for the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) was moved to amalgamate the Assam Rifles, a paramilitary force, with the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), a Central Armed Police Force, and provide leadership from the police, replacing military leadership. This proposal was turned down by the CCS, understandably recognising the importance of the history and traditions of Assam Rifles, and the crucial role it continues to play in the security of the Northeast region. Since then, at least seven attempts have been made to target Assam Rifles in order to enlarge options for cadre management of police. Having failed to convince the discerning political leaders, the current effort is to hijack Assam Rifles by transferring its full control to the Home Ministry, and replace Army officers with police officers.

Downgrading Assam Rifles from its present status of paramilitary force by merging a part or whole of it with a Central Armed Police Force will not only impinge on national security but also affect the strength and morale of the force.

**Operating in a sensitive region**  
A peep into the history of Assam Rifles shows that the force, created in 1835 to protect British interests in the Northeast, continues to operate in that region with the advantage of understanding the terrain and the people. Having participated in all the major wars and insurgency situations in the country, Assam Rifles has been awarded over 1,700 gallantry and distinguished service awards for its service to the nation. All this was possible due to the military training, ethos and leadership provided by Army officers since 1884.

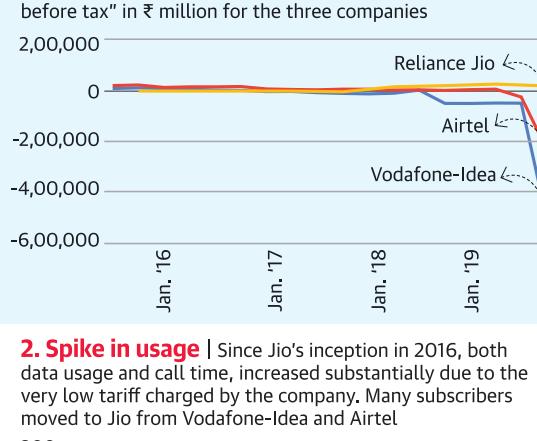
The Northeast is the most volatile and insurgency-affected region of India after Kashmir. Besides operating from within the region, militants sur-



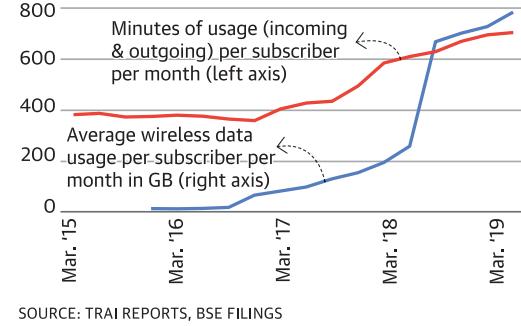
### DATA POINT

#### Telecom trouble

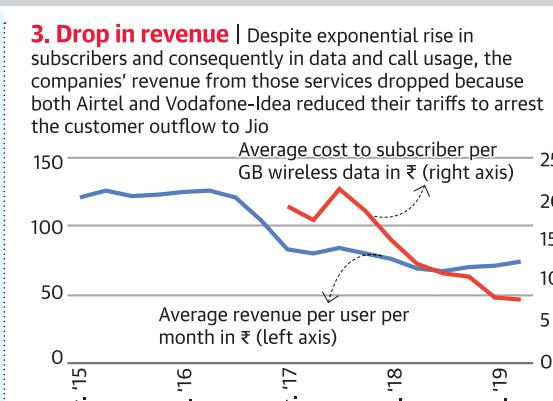
**1. Record losses** | The losses of Vodafone-Idea and Airtel in the latest quarter together amounted to ₹7,40,675 million while Reliance Jio continued to post profits. The graph shows "profit/ loss from ordinary activities before tax" in ₹ million for the three companies



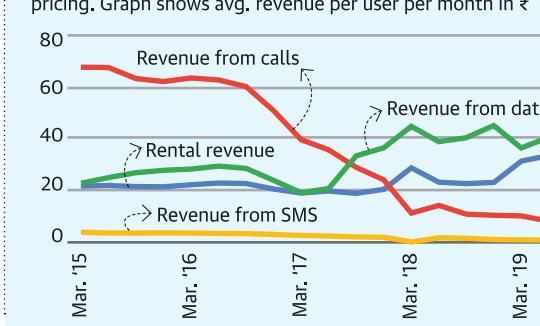
**2. Spike in usage** | Since Jio's inception in 2016, both data usage and call time increased substantially due to the very low tariff charged by the company. Many subscribers moved to Jio from Vodafone-Idea and Airtel.



**3. Drop in revenue** | Despite exponential rise in subscribers and consequently in data and call usage, the companies' revenue from those services dropped because both Airtel and Vodafone-Idea reduced their tariffs to arrest the customer outflow to Jio



**4. No money spinner** | Due to cheap data and apps which allowed Internet calls, revenue from mobile calls and SMS hit rock bottom in recent quarters. The recent data boom failed to yield similar revenue due to Jio's disruptive pricing. Graph shows avg. revenue per user per month in ₹



### FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

## The difference between credit-taking and blame avoidance

Where does reporting end and prediction begin?



A.S. PANNEERSELVAN

essay titled "The Politics of Blame Avoidance" in 1986, which said, "Politicians are motivated primarily by the desire to avoid blame for unpopular actions rather than by seeking to claim credit for popular ones". He explained how "incentives to avoid blame lead politicians to adopt a distinctive set of political strategies, including agenda limitation, scapegoating, 'passing the buck' and defection that are different from those they would follow if they were primarily interested in pursuing good policy or maximizing credit-claiming opportunities". Professor Weaver also pointed out that avoiding blame is not restricted to political leadership but extends to political appointees and bureaucrats in government agencies too.

### Comprehensive coverage

It is important for readers as citizens to understand the difference between the act of credit-taking and the politics of blame avoidance. The Web edition of this newspaper covered the developments in Maharashtra as news emerged from the Raj Bhavan, and the print edition did a comprehensive coverage on Sunday. The front-page carried a timeline titled "Action-packed thriller". Another report, "President's Rule revoked via PM's special powers", reported how the Centre invoked Rule 12 of the Transaction of Business Rules, 1961, empowering it to revoke the proclamation of President's Rule in Maharashtra without prior approval of the Union Cabinet. It read: "Rule 12, pertaining to 'Departure from Rules', says the Prime Minister may, in any case or classes of cases permit or condone a departure from these rules, to the extent he deems necessary." The report clearly established that the notification was digitally signed by the official at 5.47 a.m. indicating hectic political activity in the wee hours of Saturday.

Given these facts, it is clear that the newspaper was right in its reports on both days. The Saturday paper reported the events that took place on Friday till the paper was put to bed. It said that the Congress, the NCP and the Shiv Sena had agreed on Uddhav Thackeray being the new Chief Minister. The Sunday paper covered the midnight-early morning events that led to the bizarre situation where the administration of oath to a Chief Minister became a closely guarded secret.

readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

The Hindu

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 25, 1969

#### Renaming Mount Road

Mount Road is proposed to be renamed after the late Mr. C.N. Annadurai, Chief Minister. This was announced at a function to-night [November 24, Madras] at which the Chief Minister, Mr. M. Karunanidhi, switched on the new "cut off" system of brighter street lighting on the stretch of Mount Road from Round Tana to its junction with Eldams Road. The Mayor, Mr. Velu D. Narayanan, presided. Mr. V. Thanickachalam, Chairman of the City Corporation's Central Committee, said the committee, earlier in the day, had unanimously passed a resolution to rename the arterial highway as "Anna Salai." Mr. Karunanidhi welcomed the committee's move, and said many of the Madras roads, bearing foreign names, could be renamed after national figures. He promised Government assistance to the project of "better lighting" of Mount Road up to Parry's Corner. Mr. K.J.M. Shetty, Corporation Commissioner, proposed a vote of thanks. The "cut off" system of lighting has given a new look to Mount Road. In the first phase of the project, a stretch of the 9 km. road, from Marmalong Bridge, Saidapet, to Eldams Road, was covered at a cost of Rs. 5 lakhs.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOV. 25, 1919.

#### The Jallianwala Bagh Incident

The 'Independent' writes: - "I fired and fired well. No other consideration weighed with me" - was the reply of the hero of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre to a question of Lord Hunter's at Wednesday's sitting of the Disorders Enquiry Committee. This 20th century Napoleonic "did not take long to decide as he had already made up his mind," and "thinking no warning was necessary, opened fire immediately." In fact, "before reaching Jallianwala Bagh he had made up his mind to open fire immediately he got there," and "he continued to fire until ammunition ran short." This cold-blooded slaughter was visited upon the hapless citizens of Amritsar, because the gallant General "acted under the belief that he was the arm of the law." "It did not occur to him that he should warn, he merely found that orders were disobeyed and Martial Law defied" - although Martial Law had not been proclaimed - "so he thought it his duty to fire." Such was the homicidal maniac to whose tender mercies some thousands of his Majesty's loyal subjects, with their young children, were exposed - with what results we know.

## FROM PAGE ONE

## SC calls for Governor's order, Fadnavis letter

He said the case could very well be heard after "two or three days".

But senior advocate Kapil Sibal for the Shiv Sena, said the political combine could prove its majority on Sunday itself. Senior advocates A.M. Singhvi and Devadatt Kamat, for the NCP and the Congress, said if Mr. Fadnavis's claim that he has a majority is true, why is he nervous about proving it in the House within the next 24 hours.

Mr. Singhvi said there is a "shroud of mystery" over how the Governor made up his mind to suddenly invite Mr. Fadnavis to form the government, shortly after the President's Rule was revoked at 5.47 a.m. on November 23.

## 46 MLAs in Mumbai hotel stick with Sharad Pawar

Sources also said the two leaders had discussed the distribution of portfolios in case the government survives a floor test.

Later the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) claimed that the meeting was regarding farmers' issues.

"CM @Dev\_Fadnavis and DCM @AjitPawarSpeaks today met and discussed on various measures for additional support & assistance to unseasonal rain affected farmers. Tomorrow it will be further discussed with the Chief Secretary & Finance Secretary," the CMO tweeted.

Interestingly, Karnataka Congress leader D.K. Shrivikumar reached Mumbai on Sunday night. He was instrumental in countering the BJP's plan in Karnataka to poach Congress MLAs.

Of the remaining eight MLAs, NCP chief spokesperson Nawab Malik said Baba-sahib Patil, MLA from Ahmedpur in Latur, had informed the party that he

"We (Shiv Sena) announced our intention to form the government at 7 p.m. on November 22. Suddenly, the President's Rule is revoked at 5.47 a.m. the next day without a Cabinet meeting... Why? Was this a matter of national emergency? And then we see Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar sworn in a closed-door ceremony," Mr. Sibal argued.

"What are the facts, resolutions? What was the nature of invitation of the Governor showing he was prima facie satisfied about Fadnavis enjoying majority? Nothing is available in the public domain," Mr. Sibal submitted. "This suggests the Governor acted under direct instructions from 'above,'" he added.

was with Mr. Sharad Pawar.

The Shahapur MLA Daulat Darodar released a video from an undisclosed location saying he stood with Mr. Sharad Pawar. Dilip Bankar, an MLA from Nifad also tweeted that he was with the senior Pawar. Mr. Bankar said he had attended the swearing-in ceremony because he had been called by Mr. Ajit Pawar himself.

Another MLA, Arnil Patil from Amalner, in a Facebook post, announced allegiance to Mr. Sharad Pawar. NCP MLA Dharmarao Atram is not in Mumbai as he has fallen sick and is in contact with NCP leaders.

Ajit Pawar, Narhari Zirwal (Dindori) and Nitin Pawar (Kalvan) are the only three MLAs out of touch with the NCP leadership. "All our MLAs stand with us. There is no question of anyone joining the rebellion. We are 100% sure that Devendra Fadnavis will not survive the floor test in assembly," said a senior NCP.

Mr. Sharad Pawar dismissed it, saying there was no question of forming a government with the BJP, adding that his nephew's tweet was misleading.

"I am in the NCP and shall always be in the NCP and @PawarSpeaks Saheb is our leader. Our BJP-NCP alliance shall provide a stable Government in Maharashtra for the next five years which will work sincerely for the welfare of the State and its people," Mr. Ajit Pawar's tweet said. He added: "There is absolutely no need to worry, all is well. However a little patience is required."

Sensing that the statement would create confusion among the party ranks and also with the allies Congress and Shiv Sena, the NCP president responded: "There is no question of forming an alliance with

## NSO survey debunks Swachh Bharat ODF claims

In Gujarat, which was one of the earliest States declared ODF, back in October 2017, almost a quarter of all rural households had no toilet access. The other major States listed also had significant gaps: Karnataka (30%), Madhya Pradesh (29%), Andhra Pradesh (22%) and Maharashtra (22%).

In the first week of October 2018, the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Grameen) said 25 States and Union Territories had been declared ODF, while toilet access across the country touched 95%. In reality, the NSO said 28.7% of rural households had no toilet access at the time.

With regard to this data, the NSO noted, "There may be respondent bias in the re-

porting of access to latrine as question on benefits received by the households from government schemes was asked prior to the question on access of households to latrine." The 71% access to toilets was still a significant improvement over the situation during the last survey period in 2012, when only 40% of the rural households had access to toilets.

The figures were revealed in a reply given by the Union Health Ministry in the Lok Sabha earlier this week on a question of shortage of doctors and the state of infrastructure in PHCs.

The States that have shown poor PHC ratings include Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Karnataka and Bihar, show the Rural Health Statistics, 2018, quoted by the Ministry.

Mr. Ajit Pawar went on a tweeting spree from thanking the Prime Minister and BJP president Amit Shah to all the union ministers.

"Thank you Hon. Prime Minister @narendramodi ji. We will ensure a stable government that will work hard for the welfare of the people of Maharashtra," he tweeted.

Mr. Ajit's response to the BJP indicates that all attempts from the NCP to persuade him to reverse his decision have failed and he has decided to stay firm with his stand to rebel.

## Modi commends patience and maturity shown by people after SC verdict

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his monthly radio broadcast *Maan Ki Baat* on Sunday, lauded the "patience and maturity" shown by the people of the country in accepting the Supreme Court verdict in the Ayodhya case, and said the respect for the judiciary had gone up.

In the same programme, while interacting with some cadets of the National Cadets Corps (NCC), Mr. Modi said he had no desire to enter politics, but now that he was a politician, he would do his best for the people.

"Now this is a very difficult question because every child goes through multiple phases in life. Sometimes one wants to become this, sometimes one wants to become that, but it is true that I never had the desire to enter



Sometimes one wants to become this, sometimes one wants to become that, but it is true that I never had the desire to enter politics, nor I ever thought about it.

NARENDRA MODI  
Prime Minister

politics, nor I ever thought about it," Mr. Modi replied when asked what would he become if not a politician.

Commenting on the Ayodhya verdict, the Prime Minister said the maturity shown by the people in accepting the Supreme Court ruling proved that there was nothing bigger than the national interest for Indians. He also said that the country had now moved on to a new path with a new resolve.

"The resolve is full of new hopes and aspirations. It is my hope and wish that New

India imbibes this feeling and forges ahead in a spirit of peace, unity and goodwill," he said.

"I would like to appreciate and thank my countrymen. I am particularly grateful to them for the patience, restraint and maturity shown by them," he added.

"In the truest sense, this verdict has also proved to be a milestone for the judiciary in our country," he added.

Ahead of Constitution Day on November 26, the day when the Constitution was adopted, the Prime Minister urged the citizens to uphold the values and ideals enshrined in it.

**Exam stress**

Addressing students who would be appearing for the board exams, Mr. Modi said the Human Resource Development Ministry was working on organising his annual interaction — *Pariksha Pe Charcha* (discussion on exams) — where the Prime Minister motivates young students to cope with exam stress.

Mr. Modi also spoke on the importance of indigenous languages and their importance in preserving the diversity of India.

Quoting the late 19th century Tamil poet Subramania Bharati, Mr. Modi said: "He said that Mother India had 30 crore faces, but one body. She speaks 18 languages, but thinks as one".

"We are awaiting the Expression of Interest (EoI) from the IAF. It has been delayed a few times now. Last we heard, it is expected in the second quarter of next year," said Mr. Johansson, who is on his first trip to India since taking over the top post at October-end. "We are looking for how it is explained to us," he said of the strategic partnership policy.

The comments are significant as it is a concern shared by several foreign original equipment manufacturers (OEMs).

"We have said for long that we are willing to do a huge technology transfer, not only the manufacturing capability but also creating an indigenous capability to upgrade and work with the system. Because that is the key to add future functionality in the fighters all the time," Mr. Johansson said.

Under the strategic partnership policy, foreign OEMs have to tie up with Indian private companies to build the products locally.

Elaborating on the grey areas, Mr. Johansson wanted to know whether they could work with several companies to optimise partnership, because certain companies were good at certain things. "Then how do we make sure that we do so

**Saab seeks clarity on strategic partnership**

It awaits EoI for 114 fighter jets

**DINAKAR PERI**  
NEW DELHI

Swedish Defence Major Saab, which has fielded Gripen for the Indian Air Force (IAF) tender for 114 fighter jets, is looking for clarity on some provisions of the strategic partnership route of the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP), Micael Johansson, its president and CEO, said in an exclusive conversation with *The Hindu*. "India is important, and we see huge potential here."

MICHAEL JOHANSSON  
President and CEO, Saab

mething that will create a sovereign capability in India," he asked.

Pointing out that Saab did not know what were the requirements for establishing partnerships for big projects, he said: "That is why it is so important to see what the EoI says."

**Drops submarine tender**

Recently, Saab pulled out of the Navy's tender for six advanced conventional submarines under Project-75I,

citing tough provisions and a lack of clarity on the strategic partnership route, under which the tender was being processed. Saab has a major presence in self-protection systems, electronic warfare suites and camouflage materials. It is working closely with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL).

Mr. Johansson said the company was setting up manufacturing capabilities along with the HAL for maintenance of these systems. For instance, Saab supplies self-protection systems for the indigenous advanced light helicopter.

"The light combat helicopter is important to us," he said.

In civil aviation, the company is offering air traffic management solutions.

## PM lauds restraint on Ayodhya

Modi commends patience and maturity shown by people after SC verdict

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In the same programme, while interacting with some cadets of the National Cadets Corps (NCC), Mr. Modi said he had no desire to enter politics, but now that he was a politician, he would do his best for the people.

"Now this is a very difficult question because every child goes through multiple phases in life. Sometimes one wants to become this, sometimes one wants to become that, but it is true that I never had the desire to enter

politics, nor I ever thought about it," Mr. Modi replied when asked what would he become if not a politician.

Commenting on the Ayodhya verdict, the Prime Minister said the maturity shown by the people in accepting the Supreme Court ruling proved that there was nothing bigger than the national interest for Indians. He also said that the country had now moved on to a new path with a new resolve.

"The resolve is full of new hopes and aspirations. It is my hope and wish that New

India imbibes this feeling and forges ahead in a spirit of peace, unity and goodwill," he said.

"I would like to appreciate and thank my countrymen. I am particularly grateful to them for the patience, restraint and maturity shown by them," he added.

"In the truest sense, this verdict has also proved to be a milestone for the judiciary in our country," he added.

Ahead of Constitution Day on November 26, the day when the Constitution was adopted, the Prime Minister urged the citizens to uphold the values and ideals enshrined in it.

## Arunachal seeks new officer cadre

CM Pema Khandu points to State's cultural and topographical diversity

**VIJAYA SINGH**  
NEW DELHI

Arunachal Pradesh, India's eastern-most State, wants a separate cadre of bureaucrats because of its cultural and topographical diversity.

Officials and police officers posted in the State belong to the Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre, and are deputed for a minimum of two years and above.

Governor Brigadier B.D. Mishra (retd) raised the issue at the annual conference of Governors held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Saturday.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Chief Minister Pema Khandu said the State had 27 major tribes and more than 100

sub-tribes. "We need a dedicated cadre of bureaucrats for the State because of its diversity. Sometimes it becomes difficult to understand the pulse of the people, even for an Arunachali like me. Think of bureaucrats of the AGMUT cadre who come here for two years..." he said.

**Frequent transfers**  
He said Arunachal Pradesh became a State in 1987, and since then the dynamics had changed. "There is no institutional memory as officers

are transferred frequently. This affects governance, and benefits do not reach people. Political parties enter office and go out, but a dedicated bureaucracy is essential for the State's welfare."

Mr. Khandu said he had raised the issue on many occasions with the President, the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. "It is a legitimate and genuine demand."

According to the Union Home Ministry, the cadre-controlling authority of the AGMUT, the sanctioned strength of IAS officers to be posted in Arunachal Pradesh is 42 and of IPS officers is 35. "Arunachal is not a Union Territory, it deserves a dedicated cadre of officers," Mr. Khandu said.

The data note that while Uttar Pradesh requires 3,621 doctors for its PHCs, the backbone of health delivery, it has only 1,344 doctors, showing a deficit of 2,277.

The States that have shown poor PHC ratings include Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Karnataka and Bihar, show the Rural Health Statistics, 2018, quoted by the Ministry.

The data note that while Uttar Pradesh requires 3,621 doctors for its PHCs, the backbone of health delivery, it has only 1,344 doctors, showing a deficit of 2,277.

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# Record turnout in Hong Kong elections

Over 71% of voters cast their ballots in the poll seen as a test of public support for anti-govt. protests

REUTERS  
HONG KONG

Polls closed in Hong Kong with no major disruptions on Sunday after people turned out in huge numbers to vote in district council elections seen as a test of support for anti-government protests that have persisted for over five months.

Electoral affairs chief Barnabas Fung said at least 2.94 million people voted, a turnout rate of more than 71% and a record showing that appeared to have been spurred by the political turmoil. About 1.47 million voted in the last district elections four years ago.

First results began to trickle in after midnight.

Jimmy Sham, a candidate for the Civil Human Rights Front, which organised some of the anti-government rallies, won his contest and said the voter numbers should be a sign to the government that it should listen to their voices.

The voter numbers showed people's determination, said one voter named Tszi, 30, who works in the service industry.

"The high turnout rate... definitely reflects Hong Kong people's hope for genuine universal suffrage," he said.

Casting her ballot, the Beijing-backed Ms. Lam pledged that her government would listen "more intensively" to the views of district councils in the Chinese-ruled city.

"I hope this kind of stability and calm is not only for today's election, but to show that everyone does not want Hong Kong to fall into a chaotic situation again," Ms. Lam said.

The district councils control some spending and decide issues such as recycling and public health. A record 1,104 candidates were vying for 452 seats and a record 4.1 million people have enrolled to vote.

If the pro-democracy



**Decisive elections:** People line up to vote in the district council elections in South Horizons in Hong Kong. • REUTERS

campaigners gain control, they could secure six seats on Hong Kong's semi-representative Legislative Council and 117 seats on the 1,200-member panel that selects its chief executive.

The protests started over a now-withdrawn extradition Bill that would have allowed people to be sent to mainland China for trial but rapidly evolved into calls for full democracy, posing the big-

gest popular challenge to Chinese President Xi Jinping since he came to power in 2012.

#### Attacks on candidates

They have at times forced the closure of government, businesses and schools as police used tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannon in response to petrol bombs and rocks.

The run-up to the election

was marked by attacks on candidates, with one stabbed and wounded and another having part of his ear bitten off.

Ming Lee, 26, who works in event production, said she hoped the higher turnout would benefit the pro-democracy camp that is battling some seats that were once uncontested and dominated by pro-Beijing candidates.

"I hope this vote can counter the voice of the pro-establishment, so as to bring in more voices from the democrats," she said. "The social problems encouraged people to vote and to focus on political issues."

Sunday was also the seventh day of a stand-off at Polytechnic University, whose campus has been surrounded by police.

"The district council election is almost like a referendum," said a protester clad in a red university tracksuit, his face covered by a red mask.

The company said the 19-seater Dornier 228-200 had 16 passengers and two crew members on board.

There was no word yet on what might have caused the accident.

Joseph Makundi, the coordinator of rescue services in Goma, told Reuters that 27

# At least 27 killed as plane crashes into homes in Congo

Busy Bee aircraft en route to Beni crashed soon after takeoff

REUTERS  
GOMA

At least 27 people were killed, including some on the ground, when a small plane crashed into a densely populated neighbourhood in the city of Goma in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo on Sunday, a rescue official said.

The propeller plane, which was operated by local company Busy Bee, crashed shortly after takeoff en route to the city of Beni, about 250 km to the north, officials said.

The company said the 19-seater Dornier 228-200 had 16 passengers and two crew members on board.

There was no word yet on what might have caused the accident.

Joseph Makundi, the coordinator of rescue services in Goma, told Reuters that 27



**Fatal Landing:** Rescuers and onlookers amid the debris of a Busy Bee aircraft that crashed in Goma on Sunday. • AP

bodies had been recovered from the rubble, including those of several people hit by falling debris.

"I was at a restaurant with my family when I saw the plane spinning three times in the air and emitting a lot of smoke," said Djemo Medar, an eyewitness. "After

that we saw the plane crash into this house," he said.

Air accidents are relatively frequent in Congo because of lax safety standards and poor maintenance. All Congolese commercial carriers, including Busy Bee, are banned from operating in the European Union.

# Boris unveils Brexit manifesto for U.K.

He vows £23.5 bn worth of tax cuts and public spending during 2020-2024 period

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson promised on Sunday "to get Brexit done", pledging in his Conservative Party's manifesto to bring his deal to leave the European Union back to parliament before Christmas.

Having taken over a minority administration in July and been unable to speed his EU divorce deal through Parliament, Mr. Johnson is seeking a clear victory at the December 12 snap election.

Mr. Johnson is promising to bring back his Brexit deal



Boris Johnson

to Parliament before December 25 if the Conservatives win. "As families sit down to carve up their turkeys this Christmas, I want them to enjoy their festive-season free from the seemingly unending Brexit box-set drama," he said.

His strategy in refusing to recommend either his own proposed Brexit deal or staying in the EU.

He promised £23.5 billion worth of tax cuts and public spending between 2020 and 2024. The party is pledging it will not raise the three main taxes – income tax, sales tax and national insurance contributions to State benefits – in what it branded a triple tax lock.

Other measures include more money for childcare support, energy efficiency measures, skills retraining and road upgrades.

# For Netanyahu, party's support is key to political survival

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
JERUSALEM

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu looked to project business as usual on Sunday as he returned to work following his indictment on graft charges, but a wall of silence from his usually loyal Cabinet Ministers indicated tough times ahead for the embattled Israeli leader.

Mr. Netanyahu is determined to fight the charges from the Prime Minister's office. But long before the proceedings begin, it could be his own Likud party that decides his political future as

the country appears to be heading toward elections.

One top Likud official, Gideon Saar, has already announced his intention to challenge Mr. Netanyahu in party primaries as other typical backers have said he should resign.

"There isn't a single person who thinks that after a third or fourth or fifth or sixth election, Netanyahu will succeed in forming a government," Saar told Channel 12 TV on Saturday.

The open call is a risky manoeuvre in a party that fiercely values loyalty and

has had only four leaders in its 70-plus-year history. He made no mention of his indictment during Sunday's meeting, talking about Iran, threats from Gaza and domestic affairs.

But perhaps influenced by polls showing a majority of Israelis thinking Mr. Netanyahu should step down, the party's most senior Ministers pointedly remained mum. Foreign Minister Israel Katz, Internal Security Minister Gilad Erdan, among others, are all straddling the sidelines as Mr. Netanyahu precariously clings to power.

# In protest-hit Iraq, security forces kill nine

REUTERS  
BASRA

Security forces opened fire on protesters in Baghdad and several cities in southern Iraq on Sunday, killing at least nine people and wounding dozens of others.

In Nassiriya, security forces used live ammunition to disperse protesters, in which four people were killed. Three people were killed near the Gulf port of Umm Qasr.

In Baghdad, two protesters were killed during overnight demonstrations.

# China says self-confessed spy defector is a fraudster

Wang had sought asylum in Australia

ELSEWHERE



Bloomberg launches U.S. presidential bid

WASHINGTON

Former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced on Sunday he is running for President. "I'm running for President to defeat Donald Trump and rebuild America," Mr. Bloomberg, 77, said on his web page. AP

Police charge man over U.K. container deaths

LONDON

Prosecutors in U.K. have charged Christopher Kennedy, 23, of Northern Ireland, in the deaths of 39 Vietnamese, whose bodies were found in a refrigerated container truck last month. AP

China denied the explosive claims of a self-confessed spy seeking asylum in Australia, saying on Sunday he is a convicted fraudster wanted by Shanghai police.

The Chinese embassy on Sunday hit back at Mr. Wang, saying he was sentenced for fraud in Fujian province in 2016.

The embassy said he left for Hong Kong on April 10, carrying a fake Chinese passport and a fake Hong Kong permanent resident ID.

Mr. Wang also claimed he was part of an investment firm that was a front for the Chinese government to conduct political and economic espionage in Hong Kong.

Mr. Wang claimed he was involved in the kidnapping in 2015 of one of five Hong

# Pak. needs to 'rebrand' itself away from terror: U.K. panel

'It is like a shark... poses existential threat to its neighbours'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LONDON

A panel of academics and South Asia experts from around the world explored the prospect of a Pakistan that "rebrands" itself away from an ideology of jihad and terrorism, with the Pakistani diaspora playing some role in such a move.

'Reimagining Pakistan: A Global Perspective', organised by the Jammu Kashmir Study Centre and the Indian National Students Association in London on Saturday, highlighted that Pakistan's "jihad strategy" dates back to 1947 when it tried to "forcibly annex Kashmir".

"Pakistan has a unique opportunity to reposition itself as a leader in the region. The Kartarpur Corridor is a good start... but it needs to rebrand the country away from the ideology of jihad," said Seth Oldmixon from the

The panelists were in general agreement that the country risks becoming increasingly isolated in the wake of its recent grey-listing by the global money laundering watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) unless some steps are taken and that China could act as a counter-weight, given its own economic interests in the region.

"Pakistan has a unique opportunity to reposition itself as a leader in the region. The Kartarpur Corridor is a good start... but it needs to rebrand the country away from the ideology of jihad," said Seth Oldmixon from the

"Pakistan is like a shark in the region... It is an existential threat to its neighbours and countries beyond. The U.K. should stop all aid to Pakistan," noted David Vance, a writer at AltNewsMedia.

Liberty South Asia, an independent group promoting political pluralism in South Asia.

Dr. Christine Fair, a Georgetown University professor, informed the gathering that the Pakistani High Commission in London had tried to coerce the organisers of the panel discussion into cancelling the event. "That is reflective of the kind of State it is," she said.

"Pakistan is like a shark in the region... It is an existential threat to its neighbours and countries beyond. The U.K. should stop all aid to Pakistan," noted David Vance, a writer at AltNewsMedia.

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# Bolivian MPs approve elections sans Morales

New law forbids him from contesting

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LA PAZ

Bolivian lawmakers on Saturday unanimously approved a Bill calling for new presidential elections that would exclude former leader Evo Morales – a key step toward pacifying a nation rocked by unrest since an October 20 election that was marred by reported irregularities.

The Bill was first approved by the Senate and then by the lower house, both of which are dominated by Mr. Morales' Movement Toward Socialism party.

Right-wing leader Jeanine Añez, who declared herself interim President after Mr. Morales quit, signed the Bill into law on Sunday.

The Supreme Electoral Tribunal will set the date for the new elections. The new law forbids re-election of anyone who has served two terms consecutively as President, effectively ruling out Mr. Morales, whose refusal to accept such limits was a key issue in protests against him.



Jeanine Añez

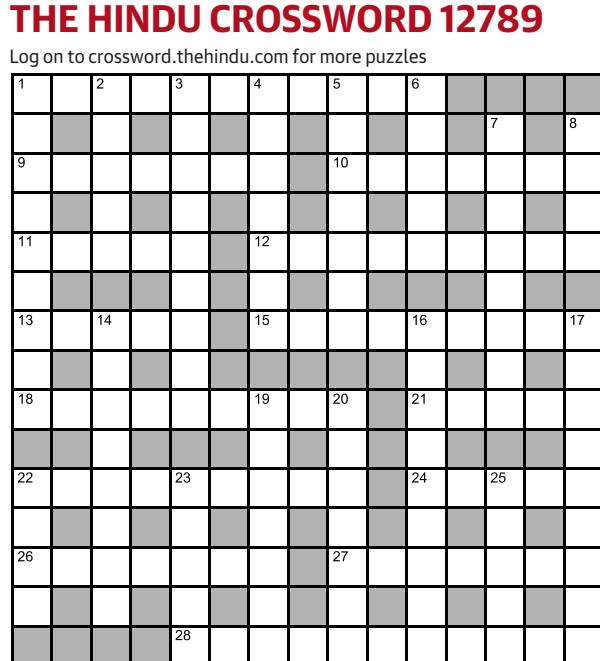
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## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12789

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



### ACROSS

- 1 Very happy, cloned union fittingly (2,5,4)
- 9 Give the right to label (7)
- 10 All jittery – how restaurant visitor leaves girl and you in France (7)
- 2 Disappointed TUC? (3,2)
- 11 In France, nothing about principal player is mature (5)

### (set by Gridman)

- 4 Thoroughly cook river fish putting in a little pepper (4-3)
- 5 Man at last enters faulty drains showing guts (7)
- 6 Rue bird's dropped its head (5)
- 7 More unfriendly, going over a new vessel (8)
- 8 Utilised – utilised oil I rejected (4)
- 14 Bar – end – stop by hook or crook (8)
- 16 Climber somewhat inelegant (9)
- 17 Yes, lively chats by staff sailor (9)
- 19 Essentially seconds latest faster challenge (7)
- 20 It provides cover for the listener (7)
- 22 Man's incomplete insurance (4)
- 23 Right side of directory (5)
- 25 Disgusting group, large and primarily stupid (5)

### SUDOKU

9	3		2	4				
1	3	4						
5								2
7			8					
8	3			7				
6								5</td

## ASK US

N. SREE KANTH

**Q.** I am a senior citizen. My auditors say that I cannot claim medical expenses under I-T rules and only premium amount paid for medical insurance is allowed. Can you please clarify and quote the relevant clauses?

KAMESWARA RAO N

**A.** Under section 80D of the Income Tax Act, a senior citizen is eligible to claim medical expenses actually incurred by him when no premium has been paid to effect or to keep in force health insurance / mediclaim policies. Relevant clauses are 80D(2)(c) and 80D(2)(d) read with provisos 1 and 2. It is to be noted that the maximum amount that can be claimed by a senior citizen and his/her dependants is ₹50,000 as a whole.

**Q.** I am a retired bank employee aged 74 and I have been renewing a medical insurance policy issued by United India Insurance Co. Ltd. under a 'tailor-made group policy' for the last four years. In the financial year 2019-20, the premium payable is slightly under ₹40,000. I have not claimed any expenses so far. In the event I receive, say, ₹100,000 as reimbursement of medical expenses from the insurance firm during next year, will I have to include the excess over the paid premium amount of ₹60,000 as income in my income tax returns?

K.M. MENON

**A.** There are no express provisions entailing taxability of medical insurance claims in the Income Tax Act, 1961. It is widely understood that such claims received from insurers are reimbursements in nature, as medical expenses are already incurred by the policy holder, wherein insurers either take over such expenses in cashless claims or make direct payment to policyholders on scrutiny of medical records and bills. In our opinion, such receipts are not taxable in the hands of the policy holder, irrespective of the deductions claimed under section 80D.

**Q.** I have taken a home loan jointly with my mother and purchased a property in my mother's name. She is a housewife and all EMIs are paid by me. Am I eligible for tax rebate? If yes, how can I claim tax rebate while filing income tax returns?

MANISH AGRAWAL

**A.** To claim deduction of interest under Section 24 of the Act, you must be an owner of the property and housing loan is to be availed in the name of the owner/s. In your case, though the loan has been availed in a joint manner, the ownership is only in the name of your mother. Hence, interest paid by you does not qualify for deduction under Section 24 of the Act. The interest paid by your mother can be claimed as deduction under Section 24 in her personal returns. It is also necessary that the interest and principal repaid in the said assessment year is confirmed by the lender in the form of an interest certificate in order to claim deduction under Sec. 24.

**Q.** I am a senior citizen. On retirement from SBI, I had enrolled for the bank's Retirement Medical Benefit Scheme paying the required amount to the bank. I want to know whether the amount paid for the scheme qualifies for the exemption under Section 80D. If the amount paid does not qualify for exemption and no claim has been paid to me, under the scheme, can I claim exemption under the said section for the other treatment being taken by me and my spouse under the prescription of a registered medical practitioner?

BISHWARANJAN SAHOO

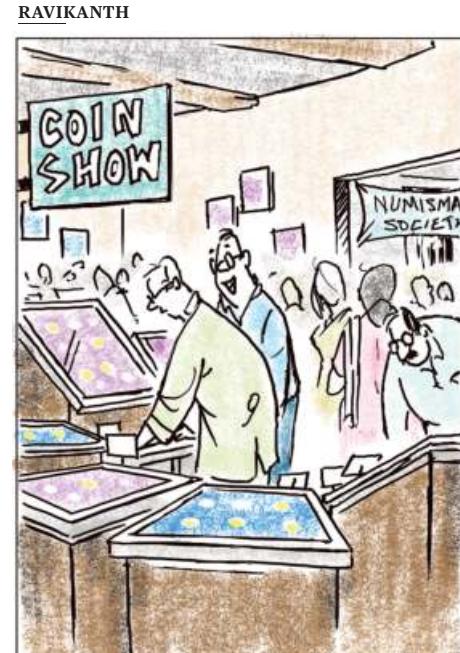
**A.** In order to claim deduction for premium paid for medical insurance under section 80D, the premium payment is to be made to a medical/health insurance scheme as approved/recognised and in accordance with General Insurance Corporation or Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India. Kindly check with your employer if the Retirement Medical Benefit Scheme of SBI satisfies the aforementioned criterion. Alternatively, for senior citizens actual medical insurance expenses incurred up to ₹50,000 can be claimed for an assessment year for self, spouse and other dependants, if the senior citizens do not have any other medical insurance qualifying conditions provided in Section 80D in force.

(The author is a partner, GSS & Associates, Chartered Accountants, Chennai)

Readers can send in queries on personal finance and investing to moneywise@thehindu.co.in. Our experts who write on personal finance will answer these queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

## LOOSE CHANGE

RAVIKANTH



"A one Rupee coin! Minted in 1958! Now, that's what I would call an excellent savings habit!"



AARATI KRISHNAN

You've probably heard of Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs). But the SIP's sibling – the SWP – is equally useful tool.

A Systematic Withdrawal Plan, or SWP, is a method by which you can withdraw money that is already invested in a mutual fund through equal installments spread out over time.

Thus, NAV fluctuations will effectively decide how many accumulated units will be redeemed, to sustain your monthly payout.

stallment. In the second month, if the NAV dips to ₹495, it will redeem 20.2 units to pay your installment of ₹10,000.

SIPs help you spread out your investments in an equity fund over an extended period, so that your returns are not too badly affected by a poorly timed entry (say, at a market peak). SWPs do exactly the same thing for your exits.

They phase out your withdrawals over many months, so that your returns are not unduly impacted by bad timing. The longer your investment horizon and the higher the corpus you've built, the more im-

portant it is to use an SWP to exit from an equity fund. For critical life goals such as retirement, it would be ideal to start SWPs 2-3 years ahead of the goal, so that your hard-earned corpus isn't held to ransom by sudden market declines.

## SWPs in debt funds

Debt fund returns, just like equity fund returns, may fluctuate from month to month based on bond price moves. With a debt fund SWP, you can secure a predictable monthly cash flow by redeeming outstanding units. The SWP route is, in fact, being increasingly preferred over the dividend route for receiving regular 'income' from debt funds owing to its tax-efficiency.

Thanks to tweaks in tax laws over the years, debt funds are today required to deduct a Divi-

dend Distribution Tax (DDT) of 29.12% (basic tax plus surcharge and cess) before distributing any part of their returns as dividends to their investors. This large tax cut at source takes a big bite out of your returns.

This has pushed many retirees and regular income-seeking investors to switch from dividend to growth plans of debt funds using SWPs.

In contrast, returns you earn when you redeem units by way of SWPs from debt funds are taxed as capital gains. When your holding period on a debt fund is less than 36 months, the return component on the SWP is taxed at your income tax slab rate. For holding periods of over 36 months, it is taxed at a flat 20% with indexation benefits.

Your tax incidence in either case is quite low compared to

other fixed income options such as bank deposits. This is because while your entire income from a bank deposit is treated as a return on your capital and taxed at your slab rate, your cash flow from a SWP consists of both a capital component (because you're redeeming units) and a return component. Only the latter part attracts capital gains tax.

Given debt funds accrue returns gradually, in the initial two years of using a SWP, your return component will be far lower than the capital component you're withdrawing, leading to a low tax incidence.

Once a three-year period is complete, inflation indexation on your costs come to your rescue. Long-term capital gains tax is levied only on the returns you make over and above the inflation rate.

## BLACKBOARD: ETF

## Promise of liquidity

The nitty-gritty of exchange-traded funds

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR

What is an Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF)?

■ An ETF is a fund that comprises a group of stocks that are listed on an exchange and can be simply traded like any other listed security.

Typically, an ETF mirrors a particular index, which means the group of stocks in the ETF would be similar to those in the index that it is benchmarked to. So, for instance, an ETF mirroring the Sensex would have the same 30 stocks that the Sensex has.

In other words, if one buys an ETF mirroring the Nifty, he's indirectly buying all the stocks that are there in the Nifty without going through the trouble of buying each stock individually.

What are the benefits of investing through ETFs?

■ The biggest benefit is liquidity. Since an ETF is publicly listed and traded on a stock exchange, liquidity is not an issue. An investor can know the price of each unit of the ETF and take an informed decision.

The price of the ETF is based on the net asset value of the underlying stocks. Second, the fund management fee of an ETF is much lower than that of a normal mutual fund scheme. So, investors save on that aspect as well while getting the benefit of a

**The caveats**  
While SWPs may seem tempting to earn a regular cash flow from your fund without shelling out high dividend tax, there are a couple of caveats you need to keep in mind.

One, though SWPs may give you income-like cash flows from an equity or debt mutual fund, you mustn't lose sight of the fact that you are withdrawing from your capital as well as accumulated returns when you use a SWP.

If you have SWPs running on your equity fund when the stock market is tumbling, you would be selling units at low stock prices, losing out on the opportunity to participate in the rebound to the extent of the redeemed units.

This makes it risky to use SWPs to seek a regular 'income' from funds with volatile returns such as equity or equity-oriented funds. In equity funds, SWPs are best used to redeem your final corpus.

Two, given debt fund returns are also market-linked, the risk of withdrawing from your capital exists in debt fund SWPs too. To ensure that you're not drawing down your capital in your search for regular cash flows from debt funds, you need to estimate their likely annual returns and make sure that your withdrawal rate via SWP is below the likely return for the year.

Tracking the returns on the funds on which you have SWPs set up is imperative to ensure that there are no disappointments.

## COVER NOTE: SINGLE VOYAGE POLICY

## Fragile, but without care!

Covering financial loss relating to household effects in transit can be quite simple

K. NITYA KALYANI

Shifting your place of residence is stress-filled. You don't know if your precious crystal glasses will arrive in itty-bitty shards, or if your TV or your kid's gadgets will work when set up in your new home!

While there are no guarantees about physical damage or loss, there is an insurance policy that will cover your financial loss relating to your household effects while in transit.

Called variously as Marine Inland Transit Policy or Single Voyage Policy, it offers two covers. Inland Transit (Rail or Road) A is an All Risk cover and Inland Transit (Rail and Road) B is a basic cover for some restricted risks. The policy clearly does not include any oceangoing voyage.

## Short duration policy

This is a short duration policy with coverage starting from the time the goods leave the place named in the policy for the commencement of transit and continues during the ordinary course of transit, including customary transhipment if any, until delivery to the final warehouse at the destination named in the policy.

You or I can avail of this policy for shifting of household goods.

For a consignment from Chennai to Mumbai valued at ₹25 lakh, the premium for the basic cover works out to about ₹3,200 and if you add Strike, Riot and Civil Commotion cov-



Coverage starts from the time the goods leave the place named in the policy until delivery to the final warehouse. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

## On the move

- This is a short-duration policy
- Can be availed for shifting household goods
- Exclusions can be covered on payment of extra premium

ers you pay about ₹600 extra.

Policy A covers all risks as the name suggests. Standard exclusions are loss, damage or expense: due to wilful misconduct of the assured, ordinary leakage, ordinary loss in weight or volume or ordinary wear and tear of the subject matter insured, due to insufficiency or unsuitability of packing or preparation of the subject matter insured, proximately caused by delay even though the delay be caused by a risk in-

sured against, or caused by inherent vice or nature of the subject matter insured.

Also excluded are loss, damage or expense caused by: war, civil war, revolution, rebellion, insurrection or civil strife arising therefrom or any hostile act by or against a belligerent power, capture, seizure, arrest, restraint or detainment or attempts at these and their consequences, derelict mines, torpedoes, bombs or other destructive weapons of war.

The policy will not pay for loss, damage or expense caused by strikers, locked out workmen or persons taking part in labour disturbances, riots or civil commotions, resulting from strike, lock-outs, labour disturbances, riots or civil commotions or caused by any terrorist or any persons acting from a political motive.

There is usually an excess of about 0.5% or a minimum of ₹5,000 on every claim.

Reasonable, considering you can at least buy a new TV if your old one is damaged in a highway accident!

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance and corporate history)

The Spark India programme encourages students to apply innovation and business models to tackle social and environmental problems through social entrepreneurship

■ MADHUVANTI S. KRISHNAN

From increasing incidence of gang rapes, domestic abuse and crimes against women, to issues such as deforestation, and drop in global temperatures, social and environmental problems are rocketing at an alarming rate. Conventional methods are not adequate to nip problems in the bud; there is a need for innovation to tackle them. Enter, the trend of social entrepreneurship.

Pathik Pathak, faculty director of Social Entrepreneurship and founding director of University of Southampton's Social Impact lab, sheds light on this trend, the lab, and the Spark India 2019 programme.

"Social entrepreneurship is the application of skills, ingenuity, innovation and business models to tackle social and environmental problems. It is relevant today because our global challenges are outspacing our solutions, and traditional means of change-making, such as public policy and charity, are insufficient," he explains. "It attracts many students as they aspire to use their skills to work on the world's most pressing challenges and to help build more inclusive skills. While many are entering the sector as social entrepreneurs, there are also opportunities in the supporting ecosystems, whether it involves working in incubators, accelerators, or as a social impact investors."

#### Impact leaders

It is in this context that the Spark India 2019 programme gains relevance. In this fellowship experience, which takes place in Mumbai annually, students from different countries work



SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Sparkling change



Pathik Pathak

on challenges, set by some of India's most innovative social entrepreneurs, to meet diverse social needs. "In the process, they take steps towards becoming world-class social impact leaders. The programme is a unique combination of collaborative problem-solving with a personal leadership journey, in one of the most

fascinating countries in the world. We selected students using several criteria such as open-mindedness, humility, enthusiasm, their understanding of India and the so-

cial sector, and their volunteering experience, among others," elaborates Pathak. "We selected seven Fellows, who had already gained a wealth of experience and would be confident in the programme, and some who would benefit from the experience, as they had not done anything like it before. We are always keen to recruit students from disadvantaged backgrounds, and we have a strong record of selecting a majority of women."

So, what kind of issues did the

Fellows address this year? "They worked with a number of our partners in India, to combat a wide range of social issues including gender equality and the environment. Some of our partners included Kranti, an organisation that empowers trafficked girls and re-homes daughters of sex workers; Safecity, which make cities safer by encouraging equal access to public spaces for everyone, especially women; Down to Earth, which engages children and youngsters from humble backgrounds by facilitating education; Sampurn(e)arth Environment Solutions, a market leader in waste management; Acumen Fund, an international non-profit organisation that is changing the way the world tackles poverty, and RN Podar School," lists Pathak.

Some of the Fellows share their experience.

#### Dimitris Stoidis, IV, M.Eng Aerospace Engineering



A truly transformative programme where one has the opportunity to learn about different change-making organisations. Spark India literally provides the spark for an individual's personal development journey.

#### Kristi Liina Vahl I, M.Sc Business Management



The programme is an amazing opportunity for personal development, and finding areas of improvement while building on one's strengths. The continuous support from the cohort, and the programme leads, create an experience that leave a lasting impact.

#### Isabelle Freeman, M.Sc, 2019, International Relations



The skills and lessons taught are invaluable in facilitating significant personal growth, in a mere 10 days.

#### Mateusz Blazewicz, III, student of History



An eye-opening experience which shows you a bit of what people in India do and how they live. There is so much more to this country than lovely food, tourist sites, or crowds. There is the everyday struggle of individuals or groups to improve the lives of each other. A Spark India Fellow would gain insights into all this and more. What's more, through workshops, which are part of this programme, he/she would delve further into himself/herself.

#### POSTCARD FROM...SHEFFIELD

## Befriending bots

Working with real-world clients and programming robots to play football, gave Palash insights into artificial intelligence



#### BACKPACKER'S GUIDE

USHA RAMAN

It is the end of the semester and that means only one thing for me as a teacher – a pile of assignments or exam papers that must be graded within what seems to be an unreasonably short time. I bring a different approach to evaluating exams and assignments (as I imagine most teachers do), and it struck me that it may be useful for students to understand this difference. While both assignments and exams aim to assess learning – a demonstration of understanding or ability to apply concepts – the standards used to carry out that assessment might differ a bit.

We are all used to studying for exams and answering test questions, from the tricky multiple-



choice to the tedious essay or short note. These are done in a limited amount of time and it is possible to figure out how to divide one's attention across the different sections of an exam paper.

The criteria for assessment is also fairly straightforward. Some questions call for categorical answers, with no room for ambi-

guity – they are either correct or not. Others are more open-ended, but have clear expectations: specific points must be covered, a problem solved, or an argument made. There is some space for subjective grading, but not too much. If the content is satisfactory, you get the marks. Of course, in some subjects in the liberal arts the style of writing

can also contribute to how an answer is evaluated. But a teacher understands that the exam is written under conditions of pressure, within a given time, and therefore might be willing to make some allowance for such things as untidiness, careless writing, and even a level of sloppiness.

#### Meet the standards

An assignment is another matter. Usually, the student has some time to execute an assignment. The product that is turned in, therefore, is expected to meet certain standards, both in terms of content and style. The assessment is based on the quality and quantity of the work, the demonstration of effort, and also the care that has been taken in putting it all together. There is less patience with carelessness here. Avoidable errors such as spelling and punctuation mis-

takes and poor layout can suggest that the candidate just hasn't bothered to take a second look at the work. In both cases, it is important to allow some time for that second look. Examiners are more lenient with carelessness in a time-bound paper, but tend to be less so when it comes to assignments done over a longer duration. Make a habit of reading through your work to make sure it communicates a level of attention and care. It really can make a difference to how your work is assessed.

The writer teaches at the University of Hyderabad and edits Teacher Plus. usha.bpgll@gmail.com



As a technology enthusiast, the rapid progression of artificial intelligence over the last decade greatly interested me. That, coupled with my proficiency in Java and C++, led me to pursue artificial intelligence and computer science. I set out to look for a university where opportunities are endless, culture is diverse and education is of the highest quality, and I zeroed-in on the University of Sheffield.

Throughout my course, I have had several real-world tasks to enhance my programming ability and creativity. Working with real clients in the first year taught me the importance of user satisfaction and professionalism.

Further, we were given the chance to program robots to play football and perform speech and facial recognition on humans. The lecturers provided the right balance of practical and theoretical knowledge to allow us to achieve our goals.

#### Interesting mix

I could opt for a psychology or a philosophy module in my first year. This was an opportunity to learn more about human behaviour to make future programmes more "intelligent" and human-like.

This choice was unique to my course and gave me an alternative perspective into modern "intelligent" computing.

Besides helping me achieve academic excellence, the university has helped me grow – with over 400 societies, and a range

of sports and activities on offer, our £20 million Students' Union had been voted the best in the U.K. by the Times Higher Education Survey from 2009-2018.

The Indian Society is one of the most predominant cultural societies at the university, and organises various large-scale and small-scale events each year.

As a member of its committee for two consecutive years, first as a sports secretary and currently as a treasurer, I have encouraged member participation and assisted with students' familiarisation to foreign surroundings. This has sharpened my social skills and helped boost my confidence.

My experience has better equipped me to attain my future goals and aspirations. It has taught me that every challenge is an opportunity waiting to be conquered and hard work and sincerity go a long way.

Palash Surana is a student of M.Comp Artificial Intelligence and Computer Science, University of Sheffield, the U.K.

## FIITJEE Talent Reward Exam

The FIITJEE Talent Reward Exam (FTRE), an opportunity for students to gauge their current position rank at the national level for JEE Advanced, JEE Main, KVPY, NTSE, NSEJS, olympiads, and so on, will be held on December 29, in more than 180 cities across India. Students in classes V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X and XI are eligible to appear in FTRE 2019. The

test will give applicants a real-time experience of where they stand and what they need to work on to overcome their shortcomings. The registration fee varies from ₹400 to ₹1,000 and the registration can be done online or offline. The deadline is December 28. Results will be declared on January 11 from 4 p.m. onwards on www.fttjee-ftre.com

## Healthcare entrepreneurship

IIT-Hyderabad's Center for Healthcare Entrepreneurship (CfHE) recently announced its fully-paid fellowship for 2020 and is inviting application from eligible candidates. It is dedicated to achieving universal healthcare solutions through entrepreneurship and providing successful applicants with training and incubation opportunities.

The Fellowship provides a stipend of ₹50,000 per month during the first year of training, which includes deep clinical immersions in private and public hospitals and exposure to the healthcare industry. Successful applicants will learn about the bio-design process from IIT Hyderabad academics, and will be offered access to mentors, industry professionals, investors, and advisors.

The last date to apply is November 30. Apply at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeihX-UenxttcXK3mGznEaFmh3gi0A8zT5e\_HONulgTQ/viewform

#### SCHOLARSHIPS

##### Technip India Limited Scholarship

Technip India invites girl students from financially underprivileged sections to receive financial support for pursuing higher education in different fields of science. This programme is aimed at encouraging girls towards STEM studies.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Female students currently enrolled in class XI or third year of B.Tech/B.E. programme, at any recognised institution, may apply. Applicants must have scored at least 60% marks in the previous qualifying exam and their family income must be less than ₹ 3 lakhs per annum. Applications open for students from Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai only.

**PRIZES AND REWARDS:** Selected scholars will receive ₹ 20,000 towards their academic expenses.

**APPLICATION MODE:** Online

**DEADLINE:** December 10  
<http://www.b4s.in/>  
 edge  
 /TILS39

**LIC HFL Vidhyadhan**

##### Scholarship

LIC Housing Finance Limited is inviting underprivileged students to apply for the LIC HFL Vidhyadhan Scholarship. It will provide financial assistance to school/ITI/Diploma/UG/PG students. Preference will be given to students in financial and family crisis.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Students enrolled in class VIII-XII/ITI/Diploma/undergraduate or postgraduate programmes at any recognised school/college/university in India, who have scored a minimum of 65% in their previous qualifying exam may apply. Applicants' family income must be less than ₹ 3 lakhs per annum.

**PRIZES AND REWARDS:** Selected students will receive one-time financial assistance ranging between ₹10,000 to ₹30,000, based on their current academic level.

**APPLICATION MODE:** Online  
**DEADLINE:** December 31  
<http://www.b4s.in/>  
 /edge  
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**STFC Meritorious Scholarship Programme**

**Courtesy:** buddy4study.com

As policies, economies and diplomatic relations change throughout the world, we bring a list of countries that a student can choose from...



**CAREER CUES**  
RICA DWIVEDI SAKLANI

A lot has changed in the past year as old destinations became more – or less – attractive to students. Here is a round-up of the top destinations for undergraduate studies in 2020:

**United States of America**  
The U.S. tops the list led mainly by job prospects, even in times of economic slowdown. The U.S. boasts no less than 47,500 startups, 88 of the 100 fastest growing companies according to *Fortune* magazine, and 25% of the Fortune Global 500 is based in the U.S. Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) students get a shot at three years of work visas under the Optional Practical Training (OPT) scheme.

Other factors to root for the U.S. are university rankings, and yes, even affordability.

# Study-cation

FREEPIK

More than half the top universities in any subject are based in the U.S. And many universities offer scholarships to international students, especially if you open yourself beyond the top ranks.

**Canada**  
Canada follows the U.S. only partly because it is next door to the U.S. – physically, psychologically and even legally – making it easier to visit, work and live in the U.S. Another compelling reason is friendly visa and Permanent Residency (PR) policies for those who are looking to emigrate. Regular

undergraduate students can expect three-year work visas and can apply for PR after two years of working. After three years of PR, one can apply for citizenship.

All this should not eclipse the fact that Canada is consistently ranked among the top five countries to live in, according to the Best Countries report by US News, every year.

Affordability of undergraduate education is also high, with average annual fees for top universities at half of that for top universities in the U.S. Few scholarships are available, though, and given the low re-

turn on investment (ROI) of undergraduate education, this can certainly burn a hole in your pocket.

A caveat before you rush to the Canadian embassy, though – given the economic slowdown, less than 2% projected growth rates 2020 onwards, getting a job is not easy especially for non-STEM graduates.

**The United Kingdom**  
The U.K., surprisingly, comes in at the third place. This is led mainly by the two-year post-study work visa announced in September. This makes the portals of the U.K.'s many top-

ranking, Nobel Laureate-spewing universities infinitely more attractive for the average Indian who is seeking international experience – and earning – before returning home.

Affordability is another positive factor, given the lower-than-US annual fees and three-year graduate degrees. Job availability remains a challenge, though, with growth rates hovering below 1.5%.

**Singapore**  
It comes in at fourth place, despite many positive factors including healthy economic growth at above 3%, as well as

friendly visa policies. PR is becoming tougher every day, given the high proportion of Indians applying for it; but a Singapore passport remains a powerful possession. Singapore's leading Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and the National University of Singapore (NUS) feature among the top 20 universities in almost every ranking, for every subject.

Where Singapore loses out, though, is in the tough competition for the limited international intake, every year. If you think Delhi University (DU) cut-offs are crazy, you will find Singapore's leading universities positively loony. The quality of education and ranking drop fast in lower ranked universities, making the whole situation rather dicey, even for the most nerdy geniuses.

## Others

Hong Kong fails to make this list since its current civil crisis overshadows its many advantages in job prospects, affordability, cultural diversity, PR possibilities and university rankings. In Australia and Europe, slow growth rates and lower international recognition for their universities eclipse their advantages such as excellent quality of life. Quite frankly, India may be a better bet.

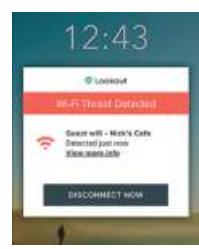
The writer is the author of *The Ultimate Guide to 21st Century Careers*. She leads Inomi Learning, a Gurgaon based career and college guidance firm. info@inomi.in

## BON APP-ETIT

■ ARATHI MINI

The Internet has never been the safest place for people to exist. The same goes for our phones too. A recent study by the University of Cambridge found that 87% of Android phones are not safe, mainly due to lax security policy. Here are two apps that will ensure the safety of your phones.

**Lookout Security and Antivirus**



Sometimes, connecting to random Wi-Fi networks can be a huge security threat. This app keeps a lookout for safe and secure connections to ensure your data is protected. It also keeps track of your financial information or data, and alerts you if anything is exposed online.

Social media accounts are also tracked to check if personal information is being revealed and therefore, at risk. Other features include restoration of identity and insurance, breach reports, scanning of URLs to ensure safe browsing, and so on.

(bit.ly/32SX8t)

## LastPass Authenticator

Most of us have different passwords for various accounts and sometimes, it is tricky to keep track. This app is a password manager that lets you store passwords and also adds an extra layer of security to your accounts. The

encryption happens by a single master password, with which you can access all your other passwords. It has a single-tap verification and ensured cloud backup too. Multiple accounts can be added and you can access your information from any computer or phone without risking your information.

(bit.ly/33ZJy8X)

## IN BRIEF

### Victorious

Out of 26 Indian colleges that participated, Saveetha school Of Law was recently declared winner of the National Moot Court Competition organised by Amity School of Law, Amity University, in Chhattisgarh. The team comprising Suba Yoga S, Madhu Balaji, and Rangleela R.P. scored 666, winning the competition. Their arguments in the final round was heard by the former Chief Justice of India Honble Justice Dipak Misra. They received a cash award of ₹ 50,000 along with trophy, among others.



### Convocation



IMS-Design & Innovation Academy (DIA), recently held its annual convocation for the 2014 batch at its Noida campus. Dr. (Prof.) Darlie O. Koshy, former ex-Director of NID and DG and CEO, Apparels Training Design Centre, was the chief guest. President of IMS-DIA, Rajeev Kumar Gupta and prof. Kripal Mathur Dean, and faculty members were also present.

### ASSET talent search

In its ninth year, Asset Talent Search Exam by Educational Initiatives is once again set to identify the extent of abilities in students. It contains three sections – English, math and science, and questions that require students to apply conceptual understanding instead of memorising subject material. The exam is scheduled for December 1 and 8. The last date for registering is November 25.

Visit [assettalentssearch.com](http://assettalentssearch.com) to register.

# Make peace, move on

Feel let down when someone you trust betrays you? How does one face it and move forward?

## ETHICS AND YOU

MINI KRISHNAN

"I never thought she would do this to me!"

"How could he?"

How many times have we heard someone say that? And haven't we thought it ourselves? Who has not been torpedoed by a very close relative or associate when some confidential information is suddenly revealed in a conversation? A stab in the side will heal sooner than that sharp knife of betrayal.

Some people never recover from its shocking stab and lifelong enmities originate from just one such instance when another person's true intentions suddenly stand revealed.

From stealthily opening the city gates to an enemy, to failing to keep a confidence to actively hastening another person's downfall or shock, betrayal is a familiar human condition.

If "betrayal" is too big a word, we can call it a sense of being let down.



and trusted betray you in such a way? Many thoughts race through your mind: Do you confront them? Do you expose them? How do you handle this?

Everyone reacts to such shocks differently. Some people disappear from the scene, fear and embarrassment driving them to stay hidden. Some people have it out with the betrayer within minutes ("Can you step out for a minute?").

Others counter the injury more systematically and challenge the intentions or perspective of the person who wielded the

knife, so to speak.

You could try giving the person a chance to explain. Might it be a misunderstanding and not really betrayal? Should you sizzle silently with frustration building inside of you? The longer you resent another person and give negative energies a chance to deepen, the worse for your emotional health. In the end it is about your recovery. What goes round usually comes round and anyone who puts out negative energy will one day suffer from it himself/herself.

But what if knowledge of the betrayal reaches you much later? Say months or even years? When it is too late to do anything about it? I know this is very difficult but you must find ways to make peace with the betrayal. I don't have the answers. Perhaps the only thing we can do is to put it behind us and try to move on without thinking about it every day.

The writer is Series Editor, Living in Harmony, (Oxford University Press). miniup@gmail.com

## INITIATIVE

# Breaking taboos

Shikoh Zaidi is helping women in her village by providing easy access to their basic hygiene needs

■ NEHA RUPEJA

Shikoh Zaidi, a 16-year-old girl from Kuwarpur Baghel in Hardoi district of central Uttar Pradesh, has started a social initiative to break taboos around menstruation and spread awareness about menstrual hygiene, in her village. She was inspired by Deepa Narayan's book on gender inequality titled *Chup*, which talks about an average Indian woman's struggle in a patriarchal society. Encouraged by her teach-

ers at VidyaGyan, a school that offers free education to meritorious underprivileged students in Uttar Pradesh, Zaidi was inspired to do something to improve the lives of women in her own village.

"The conservative outlook of my village doesn't allow for a space where one can talk openly about these issues. However, with my father's assistance, I was able to organise a campaign by writing slogans and collecting short videos around menstrual health and hygiene. My father and I went door-to-



ties failed to keep their promises. Panchayat officials were also of no help," laments Zaidi.

Many women are still using cloth and rags because free pads are only available in a shop that is 20 km away.

Nonetheless, Zaidi is creating awareness on methods to maintain hygiene and cleanliness during menstruation with the available resources. "I am planning to make a self-help group and install a sanitary pad making machine which will not only help in solving this issue but also provide employment to people in the village," she says.

(bit.ly/32SX8t)

## EAR SHOT

ASHOK RAJAGOPALAN

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. She will answer questions sent to [eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com](mailto:eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com). The subject line should be: 'Off the edge'



A N D E

**Films in focus** (Clockwise from below) Stills from *Pather Panchali*, *The Invisible Life of Eurídice Gusmão*, a poster of *Titli*, Roy with Laura Dern  
• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



film curation has come through practice rather than training. After his move to New York, the co-author of *The Berlin School: Films from the Berliner Schule* (2013) started volunteering for small film festivals downtown.

What gave him the high was the "ability to work directly with the artistes, to create platforms for them to celebrate their work", he tells me on a call from New York. In a recent interview, he recalled one such association with Brazilian filmmaker Karim Ainouz whom he'd met back in 1994, while working at the MIX film festival. Ainouz's film, *The Invisible Life of Eurídice Gusmão*, was the top winner at Un Certain Regard section at Cannes this year and is the Brazilian entry for the foreign film Oscars.

To continue building such connections, MoMA organises an annual Film Benefit and this year they honoured actress Laura Dern. When we speak, which happens to be the morning of that event, he remembers how, as a young person in California, he'd watched her films and admired her talent.

#### Cinema meets art

With MoMA reopening on October 21, after an approximately \$450 million renovation, expectations are high. Definitely larger, it has a more inclusive approach to modern art. Cinema will play a significant part, something Roy is more than ready for. Author and director of New York Indian Film Festival, Aseem Chhabra, remembers meeting the curator for the first time in early 2000, when he was the director of the Hamptons International Film Festival (Roy had also done a short stint at the Guggenheim Museum). "It was fascinating to see someone of Indian origin managing a festival in a wealthy, white neighbourhood," says Chhabra.

He

considers Roy's current position "a very, very major job". After all, MoMA is one of the top museums engaging with cinema in a consistent way. There might be the British Film Institute in London or Museum of the Moving Image in New York, but they are entirely devoted to cinema and audio visual media. At MoMA, cinema is one of many

modern art forms that it is dedicated to. "It is a space where cinema and arts come together," says Chhabra. So, giant video installations or small viewing sets could stand next to paintings. The cinema-art symbiosis reflects even in the way the films are programmed. Chhabra remembers how a retrospective of Pedro Almodóvar was accompanied with an exhibition of his films' posters.

#### Retelling modernism

Roy says that fortuitously he arrived at MoMA at a time when everybody there was ready to rethink the history of modernism. He and his colleagues from various departments were able to "tell more unified stories about the way the different art forms came together to create this modernist moment". Also, while other institutions do attempt to tell similar stories, no one has the collection that MoMA does, built over 90 years. Roy's MoMA bio-note talks about a collection of over 30,000 works that he manages there. These range from early reels, strips, stills and films from all over, including India. *Pather Panchali*, that premiered at MoMA in 1955, occupies a pride of place. Roy has organised retrospectives for Almodóvar, Wim Wenders and Tim Burton, among others, and a significant film programme is The Contenders, in which 'innovative, influential' films of the last 12 months, having 'lasting historical significance' are showcased annually. Last year, Rima Das' *Village Rockstars* was on the list.

#### New beginnings

Roy calls the last month a "legacy moment", what with the new concept for the museum coming to play. "When you enter the new MoMA you are confronted not just with the traditional 19th century paintings but also simultaneously see early photographs and films." With the digitisation of technology one could also see a far bigger usage of film in other mediums of art.

What about India? There is an acknowledgement on his part about the vibrancy of the mainstream Indian film industry and the huge audience base. However, MoMA watchers think the programming has largely remained focussed on restored classics like Mrinal Sen's *Khandhar* or new-age films like *Titli*, *Court* and *Sexy Durga*, which were shown in their annual New Directors/New Films Festival. Perhaps because more than Bollywood or Kollywood, the independent and the experimental in cinema ties in well with the idea of modernism.

What gave me the high was the ability to work directly with the artistes, to create platforms for them to celebrate their work

# TALKING MOVIES AT MOMA

Last week, Nicole Kidman, Laura Dern and David Lynch headlined the Museum of Modern Art's 2019 Film Benefit. Curator Rajendra Roy says there is more in store



NAMRATA JOSHI

Rajendra Roy describes his move to film curation as "a happy accident". When he arrived in New York 25 years ago, he had no plans of ending up a film curator let alone the one at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). Since 2017, Roy has been the Chief Curator of Film at the New York museum. "In a way it was a quick arrival at MoMA, but it has been a long journey in total," he looks back.

Born and raised in California to an Indian immigrant father and an American mother, Roy was studying to become a lawyer and had come to New York to attend law school. "Every good son of an immigrant should either be a doctor or lawyer, right?" he laughs. As it would turn out, both the Roy siblings broke this mould. His sister, Rachel Roy, is a well-known fashion designer, with Michelle Obama and Kim Kardashian on her client list.

#### Of Ainouz and others

Having always been interested in the history of cinema, Roy's experience in

Watch vision (Clockwise from left) The men's Vissionnaire DTZ 18k White Gold timepiece, Rishabh Tongya (left) with Antony Lonsday, the women's Compliquée Peacock timepiece • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# Faberge is now in India

They're being brought in by Diacolor, the jewellery makers, in a shop-in-shop model



Compliquée Peacock in 18k White Gold set with rubies and diamonds is the perfect choice, winning the prestigious 2015 Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève (GPHG), the Swiss watchmaking industry's highest honour.

#### • How would you describe the Fabergé signature when it comes to timepieces?

Well our creations always have special elements of discovery and surprise, which Fabergé is synonymous for. We work with the finest watchmakers in Switzerland to develop unique designs and movements, fusing new techniques with traditional elements to create pieces that are contemporary yet timeless.

At Diacolor, DLF Emporio, Vasant Kunj, Delhi; Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, Mumbai; upward of ₹7,50,000

## The perfumer's tale

+ DOWN MEMORY LANE



The scents of India, in one man's shop that unfortunately doesn't exist anymore



Fables and fragrance A traditional itr shop in the Walled City • V.V. KRISHNAN

Meeting Lala Premchand Sugandhi (1922-1976) in the 1960s was an eye-opener. He was one of the famous perfumers of Chandni Chowk and his firm still holds sway in the business. Lalaji's family has dealt in perfumes since Mughal times. In his 40s then, in robust health and wearing the typical dress of an Old Delhiwala, complete with slanted embroidered cap, he exuded a smell that intoxicated you. Sugandhi like Gandhi, means one who deals in scents, an attarfarosh. Lala Premchand was a walking encyclopaedia on perfumes and he had vast knowledge about both Indian and western scents.

The first British Resident in Delhi, Gen Ochterlony was so fond of perfumes that he sent for them from Chandni Chowk and the Jama Masjid.

He was also supplied scents from the perfumery town of Kannauj where itar-making is a cottage industry and has been from the time of Jaichand, the raja of the place who betrayed Prithviraj Chauhan. Jaichand's grouse was that Rai Prithviraj had eloped with his daughter Sanjyota at a Swayamvar organised by him and to which the Rai had not been invited. But before that Rai Pithora, as he was known, enjoyed great hospitality in Kannauj and was virtually bathed in perfume by Jaichand, who needed his help and protection.

Premchand Sugandhi mentioned this while sitting in his shop smelling of all the scents of Arabia and Ind (India) on a hot afternoon during which the cold drinks offered smelt of roses and khas

and soothed the senses. The Sugandhi presented an article by historian Dr. Ram Nath, later Head of the Department of History, Rajasthan University, in which were mentioned these salient features of the Mughal harem and the succeeding emperors love for perfumes:

Akbar and his sons and grandsons were very fond of perfumes both for using on the person and for burning in the household and the court-hall which were continually scented with ambar (ambergris), agar (aloës wood) and other incenses.

Some of these were definitely ancient recipes which the Hindus had been popularly using in their temples, while some compositions were invented by him, as his historian has recorded. Incenses were daily burnt in the harem in gold and silver censers of beautiful shapes and designs.

Sweet-smelling flowers were also used in large quantities. Araqs, itrs and oils were also extracted from

flowers and used for the skin and the hair.

Akbar created a separate department called Khushbu-Khana (Department of Perfumery). Shah Mansur was put in charge of it. Some of the choicest recipes were: Santuk used for keeping the skin fresh, Argaja used in summer for keeping the skin cool. Gulkama was an incense prepared by a special process from ambar. Ruh-Afza was also burnt in censers and gave a very fine smell (khushbu, sugandha) and was used in the household.

Opata was a scented soap, made by an intricate process, of ladan, agar and other ingredients. Abirmaya was also prepared from agar. Bokhur and Fatila were both types of incense made of agar. Barjat was a soap made of agar. Abir-Iksir was a soap prepared from chandan (sandalwood). Ghalsul was liquid soap made of chandan.

The ingredients of these perfume recipes were obtained from various sources

from distant regions. Ambar was extracted from a tree that grew in Cyprus and the Mediterranean region. Kapur (camphor) was also a tree extract. Civet and Gaura were animal products, obtained from Achin, Afghanistan. Mid was prepared from an animal secretion. Agar, also called Ud, was the root of a tree. It came from Gujarat, Achin and Dhanasari. Agar, chandan and kapur, the three most frequently used ingredients, were indigenous and these were tree products. Others were imported practically from all over the medieval orient.

Jehangir claimed that itr (attar or oto) was the discovery of his reign. He ascribed it to Asmat Begum, mother of Nur Jehan. This discovery was made while she was making rose-water, when a scum formed on the surface of the dishes into which the hot rose-water was poured from the jugs. She collected this scum little by little. It was so strong a perfume that if one drop was rubbed on the palm of the hand, it scented a whole assembly.

Premchand Sugandhi later commented that if one was tired of the tedium of modern life "come with me to Chandni Chowk Street or Matia Mahal after sunset and stroll down the bazaar named after a Mughal begum." She was one of Shah Jehan's wives and the patron of the shopkeepers of Delhi.

Does her spirit still love the place? One doesn't know in an age of sceptics, but the perfumes she loved still linger in the air. Hina, raat-ki-rani, chameli, motia, khash. The Sugandhi ended the interview with a scented paan and it was with great regret that I learnt of his death at a comparatively young age on November 11, 1976, when I read his obituary.

The writer is a veteran chronicler of Delhi

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From fleeing France in the 19th century to becoming the House of Fabergé and jewellers to the Russian crown, and then to its downfall with the rise of communism, the brand and the family have seen troughs and crests. Today, they're owned by Gemfield, and are launching in India with watches, through an exclusive tie-up with Diacolor that will see a shop-in-shop model in Delhi and Mumbai.

Rishabh Tongya, the Creative Director at Diacolor does say his brand is talking to Fabergé "to launch the entire collection over the next couple of years, so we start with jewellery watches, followed by jewellery and then the imperial eggs," but for the time being, the complete watch collection will be available. Here, Antony Lonsday, MD, Fabergé tells us what to expect from the brand known for its detailed jewelled eggs that were commissioned by the Tsar, and always held a surprise (like the one that opened to reveal a palace).

#### • How would you sell Fabergé in a new India?

We are immensely proud of our rich, illustrious heritage and we often draw inspiration from our glorified past, but we do so in a modern, contemporary way. We are always using the phrase, 'What would Peter Carl Fabergé, our company founder, do if he was alive today' – as he was very much a pioneer of his time.

#### • What would you recommend a first-time buyer begin with?

This depends on individual tastes. For horology connoisseurs, I highly recommend our men's Vissionnaire DTZ 18k White Gold timepiece, featuring a self-winding movement designed exclusively for Fabergé by Agenhor Manufacture. The model adopts a logical and intuitive method



of displaying two time zones simultaneously, perfectly suited to the lifestyle of those who need to keep track of the time in a second, distant location. For women, our award-winning

Compliquée Peacock in 18k White Gold set with rubies and diamonds is the perfect choice, winning the prestigious 2015 Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève (GPHG), the Swiss watchmaking industry's highest honour.

#### • How would you describe the Fabergé signature when it comes to timepieces?

Well our creations always have special elements of discovery and surprise, which Fabergé is synonymous for. We work with the finest watchmakers in Switzerland to develop unique designs and movements, fusing new techniques with traditional elements to create pieces that are contemporary yet timeless.

At Diacolor, DLF Emporio, Vasant Kunj, Delhi; Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, Mumbai; upward of ₹7,50,000

# Is there ANYBODY HOME?

A growing number of India's elderly population is living alone, with their children either abroad or in other cities. Here's how the home healthcare community is stepping in to monitor their well-being

SWEET AKUNDI

When Rajiv Mathur's wife passed away last year, it was not just the loss of a partner that hit him like a ton of bricks. The 50-year-old resident of Kuwait lost in her, a support system; she had been living with his 87-year-old father, who had suffered a stroke, in Delhi.

"My wife moved with my daughter to Delhi in 2015, immediately after my father had a stroke, to take care of him," he says. Now he was faced with the choice of quitting his job with an airline carrier in Kuwait, and returning to Delhi. "We tried that option, but with my age and job profile, it was impossible to find an alternative in India," he says. The solution, he found, was reaching out to a company that provided home healthcare services, while constantly keeping him in the loop.

The 'elder care' market in India is booming, with many companies providing at-home services, from diagnostics, post-op rehabilitation to daily care. The latest entrant is Chennai's Swasmos. The bootstrapped start-up is a preventive healthcare company for seniors, focussing on people who stay away from their elderly parents but want to manage their parents' health.

## A new market

"According to our research, almost six crore Indians live abroad. The maximum number of H1 visas in the US are issued to Indians. However, their parents continue to stay here," says Kavita Korwar,

who co-founded Swasmos along with Pankaj Korwar. These changing demographics gave way to the genesis of Swasmos.

"Even within India, it seldom happens that parents and children live in the same cities. When we speak to our parents over video calls, answers to questions on their health are always evasive. We won't know until it is something serious," says Kavita. Pankaj's own parents are in Ranchi, and Kavita's in Mumbai.

Swasmos provides assistants, generally phlebotomists who perform diagnostics at home, run them by partner labs, and take the reports to a panel of doctors. The doctors evaluate the report in correlation with the results of a separate questionnaire that checks the clients' mental, emotional and social well-being. "After consulting psychiatrists, we have narrowed down 72 questions that check how well they are sleeping, what their daily routine is like, how much physical activity they get, and so on. Things that fall outside your regular diagnostic tests," says Kavita.

## In the loop

Home healthcare services have already begun to recognise this. What's more, they have now set their sights on acting as a bridge between ageing parents in India and their children staying in different cities or countries. Portea has a separate Elder Care Plan with the tagline: 'Worried about the medical needs of your parents back home?'



## THE NUMBERS

80%

Portea's senior customers who live alone.

20%

India's share of population that is over the age of 60 by 2050, according to a 2019 UN report.

₹1,165 cr The addressable home healthcare market for senior urban population, according to a report by the Confederation of Indian Industry and Seniority, a retail conglomerate for senior citizens.

"Almost 80 to 90% of our elderly customers stay on their own, and their family members want to make sure that they are taken care of. That's where we come in; we pick up the role of the family. Our health managers help with the referrals, hospitalisation, rehab, whatever is required," says Meena Ganesh, Managing Director, adding that the family is kept in the loop through their online portal. "Whatever information they will need is posted on the portal. They can check the case files, the treatment offered, lab reports, doc-

tors' notes and so on. The health manager has regular interactions with them, on whatever platform they are comfortable."

Noida-based IVH Senior Care – the company Rajiv decided upon for his father last year – has also turned this into their niche. "I have clients who live in Kuwait, USA, England, Australia, all with parents in India," says Janardan Yadav, general manager, adding that some of his clients employ CCTVs and alarms in their parents' houses, if needed. "Also, by compiling all the medications and reports for the family, we can form an online medical record which comes in handy later."

Easier accessibility of medical history was one of Swasmos' main concerns. "We created a dashboard on our website that would be as visually simple as possible. We have an overall

A bridge Elder care companies provide diagnostics, post-op rehab and daily care at home

■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Swasth score that you can check even if you can't go through every report," says Kavita.

## Virtual tracking, beyond wearables

When monitoring health, wearables is the first word that comes to mind. However, Dozee, a Bengaluru-based startup, has taken it one step further by developing a sheet that can be put under a mattress. It reads indicators such as heart health, sleep and stress, and sends it to an app on your phone. "A good section of our business goes into elder care: people who are buying these for their parents," says co-founder Mudit Dandwate. Their product is now also being bought by other elder care companies.

Interestingly, even though their presence and marketing is highest in metro cities like Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai and Hyderabad, many orders placed via Amazon are delivered to cities like Lucknow, Patna and Muzaffarabad. These orders, he believes could be placed by people in metro cities for their parents in the Tier-2 cities.

Retirement homes too are working towards "allowing our residents be seamlessly connected with their loved ones," confirms Mohit Nirula, CEO, Columbia Pacific Communities. "The data available to the family will include information on physical activity, social engagements and medical well-being." However, "How much of this information our residents wish to share, they will decide themselves."

## Q&A

I am preparing for the SSC examinations. I like to study, but over the last 10 to 15 days I am finding it boring. Whenever I start reading, I feel I am not able to focus or understand anything. What should do?

You say you are bored with studying. Take a look at the timetable you have set for yourself. Does it have breaks in between? Breaks are important for you to unwind and not feel overloaded. Are you bored when studying all the subjects or only specific ones? Do you get bored with the subjects you like or all? These answers are valuable as it will help you understand what is happening to you. Space your studying so that you have rest. Avoid studying one subject continuously and study the subjects you like with those you don't like. You seem to be under stress. When we are under stress, it becomes very difficult to concentrate.



■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

I am 26 years old. I graduated five years ago and am still unemployed. Last year, after some struggle I got a job in a good MNC. I was happy, but before my joining date, my father convinced me to come back home and prepare for the Government exams. I obeyed him but now I feel frustrated. I don't want to study any more. I want to start my career. My father is great but he doesn't understand me. What do I do?

You seem to be angry and resentful that you gave up a job that you enjoyed. As a son, it seems like you made a choice to prepare for the exams on the advice of your father. Studying seems to be tiring and frustrating. What is different between studying for an exam and working? Explore this. The answer will help you understand your frustrations and your fears. Have an open discussion with your father on your needs and likes and his dreams for your future. This will help you both understand each other and then make a choice that you want with his support which seems important for you. Being an adult is also taking responsibility for your choices and actions.

I got pregnant some months ago, but felt I didn't want a baby, so I got my pregnancy terminated. However, I live with the guilt every day now. How do I deal with it?

Sometimes we feel responsible and guilty after an MTP (medical termination of pregnancy). You will need to consult a mental health professional to help you forgive yourself and feel less guilty.

Anna Chandy is Chairperson - The Live Love Laugh Foundation (TLLF), an NGO that works in the area of mental health

Nothing in this column is intended to be, and is not, a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Please seek independent advice from a licensed practitioner if you have any questions regarding a medical condition. Email us your questions at mp\_health@thehindu.co.in

## POOCH CAFE



## PEANUTS



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



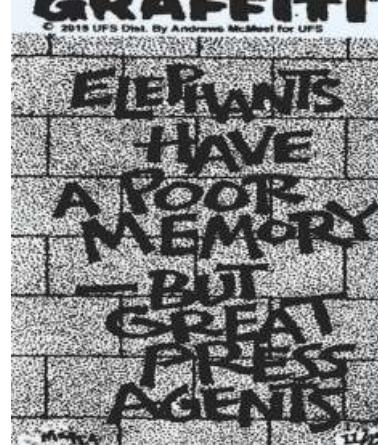
## CALVIN AND HOBBES



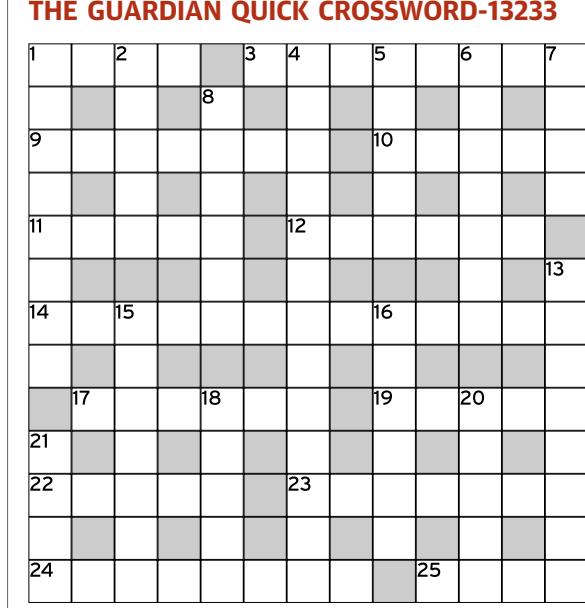
## TIGER



## GRAFFITI



## THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13233



(5) A highly charged disturbance? (8,5)  
4 Hang in the air (5)  
5 Estuary area flooded at high tide, uncovered at low (3,4)  
6 Bound (4)  
8 Fluffy little animal (6)  
13 Huge (8)  
15 Bright red (7)  
16 Hostility (6)  
18 Sing softly (5)  
20 Cooked in oil (5)  
21 Travel pass (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated November 26, 2019.

Solution No. 13232

## WUMO



## HEALTH CAPSULES®

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THERE ARE ABOUT 1,000 DIFFERENT SPECIES OF MICROBES IN THE MICROBIOME!  
ALSO REFERRED TO AS "GUT BACTERIA," YOUR MICROBIOME HAS BEEN CALLED "THE LAST UNDISCOVERED HUMAN ORGAN." IT IS A REMARKABLE ECOSYSTEM OF MICROBES LOCATED MOSTLY IN THE COLON, THOUGH IT EXTENDS THROUGHOUT THE BODY, INCLUDING THE SKIN. THE BACTERIAL CONTENTS OF THE MICROBIOME WEIGH AS MUCH AS POUNDS.  
Health Capsules is not intended to be a diagnostic test.

- 19 Civilian clothes worn by service personnel (5)  
20 Arctic dwelling (5)  
21 Someone unprepared to face the facts (7)  
22 Independence (8)  
23 Founder of Christian Science, d. 1910 (4)  
24 Hard-headed (13)  
25 Small group of like-minded politicians (6)
- Across  
1 Trawler's catch (4)  
3 Thick white sauce (8)  
5 Daft (7)  
10 Originally Russian spirit (5)  
11 Run along now! (3,2)  
12 Feeling of excitement (6)  
14 Hard-headed (13)  
15 Small group of like-minded politicians (6)
- Down  
1 Item producing momentary light for taking a photograph (8)  
2 Subsist on very little

S Q U A B B L E S H O P  
K P R I B O O A  
I S S U E B O L S T E R  
P U A Y A E A  
C R Y S T A L B A L L S  
S G T N B P I  
P L E A S E T E A P O T  
R T S R I E  
O N E T R A C K M I N D  
C Q O R O H S  
K N U C K L E U S E U P  
E A F E T A O  
T I L L O N T H E D O T

## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



THAT DIDN'T HELP.

A N D N D

# India completes another annihilation in quick time

Ishant and Umesh finish with a combined match-haul of 17 wickets as Bangladesh loses by an innings and 46 runs



**Runaway winners:** Team India has every reason to be proud of its overwhelming sweep of the Bangladesh series. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

## DAY-NIGHT TEST

**Y.B. SARANGI**  
KOLKATA

It took 47 minutes and 52 deliveries on day three for India to wrap up the Bangladesh second innings and win its first-ever day-night Test by an innings and 46 runs.

The 2-0 sweep of the series at the Eden Gardens here on Sunday has consolidated India's position atop the International Cricket Council World Test Championship table, having reached 360 points.

The Virat Kohli-led Indian side touched a new high by winning its seventh straight

Test – its best-ever winning streak – and closed its home season on an encouraging note. India also became the first team in Test history to record four successive innings victories.

The match also underlined the might of the pacers – who claimed all 19 wickets to fall – as India won a home Test without any contribution from its spinners.

Facing the inevitable, Bangladesh, resuming at 152 for six, added 43 runs to close at 195 for nine as Mahmudullah, who had retired hurt the previous evening due to a hamstring issue, was unable to return.

Bangladesh lost its seventh wicket off the 10th ball of the day. Ebadot Hossain, who joined Mushfiqur Rahim, offered an easy catch to Virat Kohli at third slip off an Umesh Yadav bouncer without a run being added to the overnight total.

The home pacers peppered the tailenders with short ones even as Mushfiqur presented a mixed bag of composure and frustration to gather 25 runs.

Bangladesh's slim hopes of avoiding an innings defeat ended when Mushfiqur (74) stepped out against Umesh and scooped a slower one to Ravindra Jadeja at cover.

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Al-Amin – who was hit by an Umesh delivery that deflected off the batsman's hand onto his helmet and scared the visiting camp of another concussion – swung his bat wildly to gather his runs before being caught behind.

He completed Umesh's third five-wicket haul and the first in more than a year.

Ishant, who had taken five wickets in the first innings and scalped 12 in the series, grabbed the Man-of-the-Match and Man-of-the-Series awards.

It was a rare occasion when two Indian pacers, Ishant and Umesh, returned

five-fors and finished with nine- and eight-wicket match hauls.

### Crowd support

After all the hype, the match turned out to be a lop-sided contest, a poor advertisement for the longer version of the game. Nevertheless, the BCCI's pink-ball experiment provided some encouraging signs.

Spectators filled the stands in large numbers for the third successive day and the Indian team took a victory lap around the ground to acknowledge the support for the five-day game in its new avatar.



**WORLD TEST CHAMPIONSHIP (WTC) STANDINGS**

Team	M	W	L	D	Pts
India	7	7	0	0	360
Australia	6	3	2	1	116
New Zealand	2	1	1	0	60
Sri Lanka	2	1	1	0	60
England	5	2	2	1	56
Pakistan	1	0	1	0	0
West Indies	2	0	2	0	0
Bangladesh	2	0	2	0	0
South Africa	3	0	3	0	0

COMPILED BY ANANTAAJITH RA

**STAT SPHERE**  
**1** Sunday marked the first ever Test win by India at home where the spinners took no wickets. It is only the second instance ever, with its pacers capturing all the wickets, after the victory against South Africa at Johannesburg in 2018

**5** Kohli's 33 Test victories as captain places him fifth on the all-time list. He is only behind Graeme Smith (53), Ricky Ponting (48), Steve Waugh (41) and Clive Lloyd (33)

**11** This is Kohli's 11th innnings win, the most by an Indian skipper. Dhoni has nine while Azharuddin has eight

**12** India's successive Test series wins at home

**95** Wickets captured by India's pace bowlers in Tests in 2019. They have accomplished this at an impressive average of 15.16 and a strike rate of 31.06, the latter the best ever for a team's fast bowlers in a calendar year

## SCOREBOARD

**BANGLADESH - 1st innings 106**  
**INDIA - 1st innings**  
347 for nine decl.

**BANGLADESH - 2nd innings**

Shadman Islam lbw b Ishant 0 (5b), Imrul Kayes c Kohli b Ishant 5 (15b), Mominul Haque c Saha b Ishant 0 (6b), Mohammad Mithun c Shami b Umesh 6 (12b), Umesh 21 (20b, 5x4), Abu Jayed (not out) 2 (2b); Extras (b-8, lb-9, w-5); 22; Total (in 41.1 overs): 195.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Shadman, 0.5 overs), 2-2 (Mominul, 2.5), 3-9 (Mithun, 5.2), 4-13 (Kayes, 6.4), 5-133

(Mehidy, 25.6), 6-152 (Taijul, 32.3), 7-152 (Ebadot, 34.1), 8-184 (Mushfiqur, 39.3), 9-195 (Al-Amin, 41)

### INDIA BOWLING

Ishant 13-2-56-4, Umesh 14.1-1-53-5, Shami 8-0-42-0, Ashwin 5-0-19-0, Jadeja 1-0-8-0.

### Man-of-the-match and series:

Ishant Sharma.  
India won by an innings and 46 runs to sweep the series 2-0.

## Day-night Test a step in the right direction'

I am sure the buzz will be created again in different parts of the country: Kohli

**AMITABHA DAS SHARMA**  
KOLKATA

The concept of day-night Test has been well received by the Indian team and captain Virat Kohli wished that there were more such matches to bolster the future of Test cricket in India.

Kohli appreciated the way the BCCI "aggressively marketed" the first such match on Indian soil which saw a total turnout of over 1,50,000 spectators in the three days that the match lasted.

"The pink-ball Test is the beginning and I am sure it is going to happen more often and the buzz will be created again in different parts of the country," said Kohli.

Acknowledging the "vision" of the new BCCI president and the former India



**As a team we have not been able to play well, be it batting or bowling. We have to learn from this as it will help us in the coming years. Struggle makes one perfect. It is about learning rather than feeling disappointed**

**MOMNUL HAQUE, BANGLADESH CAPTAIN**

captain Sourav Ganguly, Kohli said he has taken a step in the right direction. "Dada [Ganguly] has been open and welcoming about all the points that I expressed. I found that his vision is also in sync in the way he is trying for the betterment of Test cricket," Kohli added.

To question on marketing strategy for Tests, Kohli said, "It is very crucial to market Test cricket like we do for T20 or One-Day cricket. It is matter of understanding both for the management and the broadcasters that if you create excitement only around T20 cricket then you are creating a template in the

psyche of a fan."

Kohli also said he felt that the teams needed to make some strategic changes to do well in the pink-ball format. "The afternoon session was relatively easier and when I spoke to Sachin Paaji [Tendulkar] on the evening of the first day, he had an interesting point to make, saying one needs to take the second session as the first session of a regular Test. It is the time when the ball starts to swing and seam," he said.

"A set batsman will be experiencing different things as it starts to become dark. Luckily I went in when the lights were on and I was spared of the transition. This suggests that you need to change your strategic planning in the new format."

"The pink-ball Test is the beginning and I am sure it is going to happen more often and the buzz will be created again in different parts of the country," said Kohli.

"I think we are walking in the right direction. And under his [Ganguly's] leadership we will see lot more pos-

sitive changes which will be cricket-specific and priority will be given to Test cricket," Kohli added.

To question on marketing strategy for Tests, Kohli said,

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## SCOREBOARD

**Pakistan - 1st innings: 240.**

**Australia - 1st innings: 580.**

**Pakistan - 2nd innings:**

Shan Masood c Paine b Cummins 42,

Azhar Ali lbw b Starc 5, Haris Sohail c Paine b Starc 8, Asad Shafiq c Smith b Cummins 0,

Babar Azam c Paine b Lyon 104, Iftikhar Ahmed c Paine b Hazlewood 0, Mohammad Rizwan c Lyon b Hazlewood 95,

Yasir Shah c Wade b Hazlewood 42, Shaheen Afridi c Cummins b Hazlewood 10, Imran Khan c Wade b Starc 5, Na-

seem Shah (not out) 0; Extras

(b-9, lb-9, nb-1, w-5); 24. Total

(in 82.2 overs): 355.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-13, 2-25, 3-

4-93, 5-94, 6-226, 7-305,

8-324, 9-331.

**Australia bowling:** Starc 16.2-

17.3-3, Cummins 21.6-69.2,

Hazlewood 21.3-63.4, Lyon

21.3-74.1, Labuschagne

5-0-38.0.

**Man-of-the-Match:** Marnus

Labuschagne.

**Australia won by an innings**

**and five runs.**

whenever Pakistan seemed to be getting the upper hand.

**SCOREBOARD**

**England - 1st innings: 353.**

**New Zealand - 1st innings:**

J. Raval c Denly b Leach 19, T.

Latham lbw b Curran 8, K. Wil-

liamson c Stokes b Curran 51. R.

Taylor c Pope b Stokes 25, H.

Nicholls lbw b Root 41, B.-J.

Watling c Buttler b Archer 205,

C. de Grandhomme c Sibley b

Stokes 65, M. Santner c Pope b

Curran 126, T. Southee c & b

Leach 9, N. Wagner (not out) 11,

T. Boult (not out) 1; Extras

(b-22, lb-9, w-21, nb-2); 54.

Total (for 9 wkts decl. in 201

overs): 615.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-18, 2-72, 3-

106, 4-127, 5-197, 6-316, 7-577,

8-598, 9-603.

**New Zealand bowling:**

Southee 4-0-18-0, Boult 5-4-

2-0, de Grandhomme 4-1-8-0,

Santner 8.4-4-6-3, Wagner

6-1-16-0.

**Stellar show:** Umesh Yadav accounted for all the three wickets to fall on Sunday to return a five-for. ■ K.R. DEEPAK</



The buzz is back: Yuzvendra Chahal is keeping himself sharp and ready for the limited-over series against the West Indies starting next month. ■ FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

## T10 is a good test for the bowlers: Malinga

A pacer should play all formats of the game, feels the Sri Lankan veteran

### MALINGASPEAK

ABHISHEK MUKHERJEE  
ABU DHABI

At 37, Lasith Malinga continues to be a match-winning weapon in the armoury of cricket teams. In the T10 League so far, he has a striking economy rate of 7.75, the best among bowlers who have bowled more than six overs in the competition.

The Sri Lankan stalwart, in an interaction with *Sportstar*, shares his views about the demands of the format for fast bowlers and more.

In T10, is there room for much planning and strategising or it more of instinct that takes over?

We have to get our mental preparation and planning before the match. The six balls of an over, you have to manage the combination – how many yorkers, how slower ball, the straighter one [etc.]. You have to get that mixture pre-planned. Then you can adjust according to the situation.

How important are

variations for a fast bowler in T10?

If you want to bowl variations, you want the batsman to mistime the ball, right? The variation is important, but before that you have to understand game situation – how many runs they need to get. If I did these, what's going to happen? Variations are a very dangerous thing to use, but [if] someone has that game reading, he can use that variation very tactically.

How important is temperament, especially in a format like the T10?

That's the good test for the bowlers. In shorter formats bowlers are trying their yorkers, they're learning their slower balls.

Your favourite ODI memory.

My World Cup in 2007 we were in the final. I got a hat-trick in the tournament. I remember all my wickets. End of my cricketing career, in the last World Cup, we won against England. That's a memorable match for me because it was my last World Cup.

You have to do all the hard work to maintain your body, but I feel if you can play any other cricket – doesn't matter it's Test cricket, doesn't matter it's ODI or T20 or T10, whatever it is, you are the cricketer, you have to play maximum cricket.

How can a fast bowler minimise injuries?

We can't minimise injuries. We can [play to] our strength and we can't know when we're going to get injured. I feel whoever wants to play cricket, you have to play like 'this is my last match'. Injuries we can't control. We can control our performance, our effort.

Speaking his mind: Lasith Malinga says whoever wants to play cricket should play like it is his last match. ■ AFP

## 'You just have to keep working hard'

If you take wickets against good teams, it gives you confidence, says Chahal

### CRICKET

S. DIPAK RAGAV  
SURAT

For the last two years, Yuzvendra Chahal, alongside Kuldeep Yadav, has been a constant in the limited-overs format for India and has been prolific with his wicket-taking ability in the middle overs.

However in the last few months, his place in the side became less certain after being dropped for two T20I series, before making a strong

comeback against Bangladesh earlier this month.

The 29-year-old is currently with the Haryana side for the Syed Mushtaq Ali tournament, keeping himself sharp and ready for the T20I and ODI series at home against the West Indies starting next month.

The leg-spinner spoke to reporters after the match against Maharashtra on Friday, where he bowled tightly to set up a victory for his side.

Commenting on how he

dealt with being dropped for two series, Chahal said: "So, things are not in your hands. I was not thinking about that and just played for my state in Baroda (Vijay Hazare Trophy). It is the call of the selectors. Even when Kuldeep and I came in, the (selectors) gave rest to R. Ashwin and (Ravindra) Jadeja. So it is fine."

#### Focus on core skills

One of the reasons cited for his and Kuldeep's absence from the T20 side was that

the team was looking to strengthen the batting line up but the leg-spinner, for now, is focussed on his core skills.

#### Changing dynamics

Asked how he copes with the changing dynamics of the game with the abundance of talent available and competition for slots increasing, Chahal explained, "you just have to keep working hard. If you take the IPL, there are so many talents available, including leg-spinners."

"If you are not performing you can see other people are coming in."

"If I am not playing for India, I want to play in the Ranji Trophy how much ever I can because it is our biggest tournament and you have good players here. If you take wickets against good teams, it gives you confidence," he added.

"I try to give 100% in whatever match I play, be it for my club or country. If I am on the ground, then I have to finish my job for the team."

## Basu denies nepotism charge

'If those who have studied under me are very good, I can't do anything about it'

AYAN ACHARYA  
CHENNAI

A section of the Indian cricket's fitness community has levelled allegations of nepotism at the national team's former trainer Shanker Basu, who in turn refuted these claims. A group of trainers affiliated to the BCCI has accused Basu of backing his favourites – linked to a fitness centre he runs – for being appointed at the NCA.

A trainer, who did not want to be named, said, "Most of the trainers in the current set-up are from the 2007-08 batch. Basu taught us and took our exams. He accredited us and now he's saying all these theories don't count."

Another trainer added: "I refuse to believe that despite being Australian Strength and Conditioning Association (ASCA) Level 2 certified coaches, we can't get a job at the NCA. Those close to Basu are being preferred over people who have served for more than 10 years."

Meanwhile Basu has de-

nied all the allegations and said: "I am the founder of Primal Patterns and I teach. That's my primary job and if those who have studied under me are very good, I can't do anything about it. So, if people I have taught get selected, one should question the panel and the process, not me."

"I recused myself from the panel and even asked my son to not apply for the job,"

"I am happy to be a coach all my life," Basu said.

Self-defence: Shanker Basu countered allegations.

"These courses, the CSCS, the ASCA, and UKSCA (United Kingdom Strength and Conditioning Association) have become popular in the last 10 years...

"I don't certify people, I only help them study and nobody can stop me from doing that... the appointments in the Board are not my responsibility."

"I am happy to be a coach all my life," Basu said.

## Narain Karthikeyan wins at Fuji Speedway



Memorable feat: Narain Karthikeyan produced a brilliant drive to claim an emphatic victory. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

### MOTORSPORTS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
TOKYO

India's first Formula 1 driver Narain Karthikeyan produced a brilliant drive in challenging conditions to claim an emphatic victory in the SUPER GT x DTM Dream Race here on Sunday, marking a successful end to his maiden season in sports car racing.

Karthikeyan's early advantage was wiped out when a safety car had to be called in to recover debris from the track. On the Indy-style restart, he kept his composure, comfortably leaving the rest of the pack behind heading into turn 1.

After completing his sole pitstop of the race, Karthikeyan came out in third place, behind the yet-to-stop cars of Benoit Treluyer and Alex Zanardi.

Karthikeyan cleared Zanardi after mastering the second safety car restart and assumed the race lead again when Treluyer pitted for his mandatory stop.

With those two cars behind, Karthikeyan should have had an easy run to the chequered flag, but he hit another stumbling block when a third caution period was deployed to clear the mayhem caused by two separate collisions, including a multi-Lexus crash at the Dunlop chicane. Karthikeyan was able to deploy all his experience once again perfecting the restart to win the historic second race between Japan's SUPER GT and the European DTM series.

Despite little dry running on the unfamiliar Hankook tyres, Karthikeyan proved to be just as quick as he was in the wet, tucking behind polesitter and Audi driver Loic Duval on the opening lap of the race.

At the start of the next

## Anand rang the bell, I stood there looking stupid: Carlsen

Have a lot to learn when it comes to cricket, admits chess champion

RAKESH RAO  
KOLKATA

"What happened is, Anand rang the bell and I stood there, and looked stupid. That would be my summary of the match. I have a lot to learn when it comes to cricket."

That was Magnus Carlsen sharing his experience of joining Anand at the Eden Gardens on the Saturday afternoon when the duo rang the ceremonial bell and signalled the start of play on the second day of the first-ever India-Bangladesh pink-ball, day-night Test.

Carlsen was quick to enquire, "Is the match still on or is it over?" When told India won, the World champion did some loud thinking... "So... no more chances of going there!"

Karthikeyan's early advantage was wiped out when a safety car had to be called in to recover debris from the track. On the Indy-style restart, he kept his composure, comfortably leaving the rest of the pack behind heading into turn 1.

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At the start of the next



In a daze: Magnus Carlsen and Viswanathan Anand at the Eden Gardens on Saturday. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

These responses evoked repeated laughter from those listening to the World No. 1 following his irrepressible performance in the nine rapid games of the Tata Steel chess.

Reflecting on his results, Carlsen said, "I am very, very

happy with my score, with the quality of my play. If you look at the opponents, these are top, top players. For most part, I've been in control of most of my games. It's something I am very, very happy with. In rapid chess, this is my best result ever."

Finally, the man who regained his World No. 1 ranking during this event spoke about his last-round win against second seed Ding Liren.

"I'm very happy to win that game. It was a bit of a disappointment to make a draw against Hari in the previous game from such a position. So in the last game (of the day), I wanted to play very, very safe. We got into a position where I have an extra pawn but Liren has this bishop-pair and the position is equal."

"Given the tournament position, I was not risking too much. But I thought he might not show the necessary patience in defence. And that's exactly what happened. He got frustrated in making the defensive moves and reacting to my ideas. So I was very happy to do that to him. This time, he did well for a while and then he slipped at couple of critical moments. And that was it."

Finally, the man who regained his World No. 1 ranking during this event spoke about his last-round win against second seed Ding Liren.

## Big achievement if they reach Olympics semifinals: Felix

Says he is disconnected from the happenings with current Indian junior and senior teams

### HOCKEY

K. KEERTHIVASAN  
CHENNAI

Jude Felix said he has completely "switched off" from what is happening with the current junior and senior Indian men's teams after Hockey India refused to renew his contract as the head coach of the Indian junior boys' team in June this year.

"I am enjoying [my job]. I am doing short stints at Dubai and Hong Kong. I have my own academy in Bengaluru, coaching underprivileged kids," he told *The Hindu* on Monday.

In Chennai for a coaching clinic conducted by Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu (HUTN), Felix was excited to teach the coaches. "Hats off to HUTN for having initiated talks of doing a camp for coaches. I was quite excited to get a call. [I'm] really happy to share my knowledge with a group of people who are passionate about hockey and



Sharing his knowledge: Jude Felix was in Chennai for a coaching clinic conducted by the Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu (HUTN). ■ K. KEERTHIVASAN

keen to revamp the sport," he said.

**Tough group**

Felix – one of India's reputed centre-halves, competing in two Olympics (1988 & '92), three Champions Trophy and two World Cups – said it would be a major break-

through if India reaches the semifinals of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics given that it is in a tough group with defending champion Argentina, World No. 1 Australia, Spain, New Zealand and host Japan.

"Olympics is a different ball game where teams come highly prepared. Whatever

I've seen [of the Indian men's team], they have not been consistent. The very fact that we [the Indian men's team] are staying together... it should be much more well-oiled team," he said.

"It's a big achievement if they reach the semifinals. [For that] they have to play out of their skin as there are good teams that are tactically better. It is going to be tough."

**Proud** Felix maintained that his 26-month tenure as the Indian junior boys' team coach is something he is proud of. "If they [the Indian junior boys' team] continue to do what I've taught them, they will do well."

"The boys were taught to be good human beings and, most important, they were taught to play attacking hockey rather than the boring passing game," he said.

Felix refused to dwell on his future coaching Indian teams. "I am just enjoying it now. It is a slap on Karnataka hockey. There is nothing happening there: no grassroots, absolutely zero. There is only fighting. Having said that, what HUTN has done is fantastic," said the former India captain.

## Nithilan battles past Agriya

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Nithilan Eric battled past Agriya Yadav 4-6, 7-6(4), [10-6] in the boys' third and final qualifying round in the ITF grade-4 junior tennis tournament at the DLTA Complex on Sunday. However, Agriya Yadav made the main draw as a lucky loser.

**Top five seeds:**

**Boys:** 1. Dev Javia, 2. Rositlav Gaflinger (Kaz), 3. Kabir Hans, 4. Udayvir Singh.

**Girls:** 1. Maria Sholokhova (Rus), 2. Vipasha Mehra, 3. Lanlana Taratudene (Tha), 5. Eva Gartsvea (Rus), 5. Salakthip Ounnung (Tha).

**Other results: Qualifying singles (third and final round):**

**Boys:** Samir Banerjee bt Aman Dahiya 6-0, -2; Yuwan Nandal bt Vansh Kapoor 6-3, 6-1; Arnav Pathange bt Heerak Vora 6-2, 6-2.

**Girls:** Reshma Maruri bt Saina Deshpande 6-0, 6-2; Sudipta Senthilkumar bt Elif Sanem Karadag (Tur) 6-2, 6-2; Anjali Rath bt Vidhi Jani 6-4, 6-4; Farhat Aileen Qamar bt Shraddha Chhabra 6-2, 6-4.

**At the start of the next**

## TV PICKS

**New Zealand v England:** 1st Test, SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 a.m.  
**NBA:** Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 7.30 a.m.  
**Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 2.30 p.m.;  
**ISL:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**Serie A:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 1.15 a.m. (Tuesday)

## IN BRIEF

**LaVine's bull run stings the Hornets**

LOS ANGELES

Zach LaVine's career-high 49 points, included a game-winning three-pointer off a steal by teammate Coby White, gave Chicago Bulls a 116-115 victory over Charlotte Hornets in the NBA on Saturday.

**Other results:** Cleveland Cavaliers 110 bt Portland Trail Blazers 104; Milwaukee Bucks 104 bt Detroit Pistons 90; Atlanta Hawks 116 lost to Toronto Raptors 119; New York Knicks 104 lost to San Antonio Spurs 111; Philadelphia 76ers 113 bt Miami Heat 86; Utah Jazz 128 bt New Orleans Pelicans 120; Memphis Grizzlies 108 lost to LA Lakers 109; Indiana Pacers 111 bt Orlando Magic 106; Minnesota Timberwolves 98 lost to Phoenix Suns 100. AFP

**Mackenzie scores seven for Sahara Warriors**

NEW DELHI

Chris Mackenzie scored seven goals in guiding Sahara Warriors to a 9-8 victory over Jindal Panther in the final of the IPA National polo championship at the Jaipur polo ground here on Sunday. Lt. Gen. Balbir Singh Sandhu and Yuvraj Vikramaditya Singh presented the prizes.

**The results (final):** Sahara Warriors 9 (Chris Mackenzie 7, Satinder Garcha 2) bt Jindal Panther 8 (Dhruppal Godara 5, Simran Shergill, Daniel Otamendi, Akshai Malik).

## Ashwa Bahula for Windscale Plate

HYDERABAD: Ashwa Bahula runs with a good chance in the Windscale Plate (1,200m), the main event of the races to be held here on Monday (Nov. 25).

**1 RAINBOWS FOR LIFE PLATE** (1,600m), 5-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 1.25 p.m.: 1. Silver Dollar (4) A.A. Vikrant 60, 2. Withrosemakeup (3) Gaurav Singh 60, 3. Cowboys Delight (5) Jitendra Singh 56.5, 4. Ultimate Risk (6) Afroz Khan 56.5, 5. Royal Dancer (1) Akshay Kumar 54.5 and 6. Ekam (ex: New Hope) (2) Abhay Singh 50.5.

**1. ROYAL DANCER, 2. SILVER DOLLAR**

**2 BRAVE DANCER PLATE** (2,100m), maiden 2-y-o only, (Cat. II), (Terms), 1-55: 1. Aerial Combat (8) Akshay Kumar 55, 2. Chuckit (1) Rafigue Sk. 55, 3. Days Of Reckoning (5) Jitendra Singh 55, 4. Detonator (5) R. Ajinkya 55, 5. Exponent (6) R.B. Kumar 55, 6. Team Player (7) Nakhat Singh 55, 7. Akashima (4) Ajeeth Kumar 53.5 and 8. Turf Winner (3) Ashish Asbar 53.5.

**1. TURF WINNER, 2. AKASHIMA, 3. DAYS OF RECKONING**

## Shaw sizzles; Mumbai downs Jharkhand

Opener's 39-ball 64 sets the platform for his team's final-over victory; Haryana beats Delhi

## MUSHTAQ ALI

S. DIPAK RAGAV  
SURAT

For Prithvi Shaw, the ongoing Syed Mushtaq Ali tournament was going to be an important one as it was his first chance to show how strongly he can come back after his suspension for failing a dope test earlier this year.

And if the first couple of matches are anything to go by, the 20-year-old has shown that he has been able to put that setback firmly behind him.

## Tricky target

On Sunday, in a must-win game for Mumbai against Jharkhand, chasing a tricky target of 171, Shaw single-handedly set the game up for his side with a brilliant 64 (39b, 4x4, 5x6) which ensured a comfortable five-wicket win for the domestic heavyweight.

The Lalbhai Contractor Stadium here was almost full, a rare sight for domestic cricket in India, and Shaw



On top of his game: Prithvi Shaw's onslaught contained four fours and five sixes. ■ FILE PHOTO

ensured that the crowd was treated to some high-quality strokeplay.

The former U-19 World Cup-winning captain started with a big six over square-leg and lofted boundary off pacer Vivekanand Tiwari before launching into Varun Aaron.

The India pacer was made to look ordinary as Shaw

sent the first ball he faced from him straight back past him over long-on before punching one through point and then slogging him over mid-wicket.

The youngster then went after left-arm spinner Sonu Kumar, tossing him over mid-wicket and hitting two consecutive sixes after step-

ping down, bringing up his fifty off just 28 balls, as Mumbai raced to 80 for no loss by the ninth over.

## Fightback

However, Jharkhand fought back with three quick wickets as Sonu Kumar removed Shaw and Shreyas Iyer after Anukul Roy had given a

breakthrough by removing Aditya Tare.

At the end of 14 overs, the match was evenly poised with Mumbai needing 64 off the last six but Shivam Dubre changed things in the 15th over, hitting off-spinner Utkarsh Singh for three big sixes before getting dismissed.

That over cost Jharkhand 24 before Siddesh Lad (18 n.o.), along with Sujit Nayak (12 n.o.), sealed the win.

Earlier, put in, Jharkhand finished on 170/5 riding on opener Kumar Deobrat's 58 (30b, 8x4, 2x6) as he put on 85 runs for the opening wicket with skipper Saurabh Tiwary.

In the final match, a 105-run third-wicket partnership between Himanshu Rana (59, 40b, 6x4, 2x6) and Shivam Chauhan (47, 31, 5x4, 2x6) followed by Yuvendra Chahal's three-wicket haul (3/27) helped Haryana beat Delhi by 30 runs. This is Haryana's second win in two matches and Delhi's second loss in three games.

## MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY SCORES

## On Sunday

**Group A:** Maharashtra 165/2 in 20 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 47, Kedar Jadhav 47 n.o., Azim Kazi 48 n.o.) bt Baroda 98 in 17.3 overs (Kedar Devdhar 27, Samad Fallah 2/12, Satyajeet Bachhav 2/5, Shamshuzama Kazi 2/12, Azim Kazi 2/20).

Haryana 181/6 in 20 overs (Shivam Chauhan 47, Himanshu Rana 59, Simarjeet Singh 2/43) bt Delhi 151/8 in 20 overs (Rishabh Pant 28, Nitish Rana 37, Subodh Bhati 26 n.o., Harshal Patel 2/27, Sumit Kumar 2/25, Yuvendra Chahal 3/27).

**Group B:** Karnataka 163/6 in 20

overs (Mandeep Singh 76, Gurkeerat Mann 44, Ronit More 4/27) lost to Karnataka 167/3 in 18 overs (K.L. Rahul 84 n.o., Manish Pandey 33).

Jharkhand 170/5 in 20 overs (Kumar Deobrat 58, Saurabh Tiwary 27, Sumit Kumar 28, Shubham Ranjan 2/17) lost to Mumbai 171/5 in 19.1 overs (Prithvi Shaw 64, Sonu Singh 2/34).

## Monday's schedule

**Group A:** Baroda v Haryana; Rajasthan v Maharashtra.

**Group B:** Karnataka v Mumbai; Tamil Nadu v Punjab.

## AIFF suspends three

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

ready served one as a result of a direct red card against NEUC.

After having missed Goa's away trip to Mumbai City FC, Doungel will have to sit out the matches against Jamshedpur FC at home and Kerala Blasters away.

Boumous has received a two-game suspension and is ineligible to play in Goa's next two games. Both Doungel and Boumous will be available December 8.

Similarly, Heerings will also serve a two-game suspension.

## Odisha shares honours with ATK

SPORTS BUREAU  
PUNE

Odisha FC and ATK played out a goalless draw in the fifth round of their Indian Super League match at the Balewadi Stadium on Sunday.

Playing at its temporary home, Odisha dominated the early exchanges but failed to create a clear-cut scoring chance.

ATK came close to finding the net in the second half through substitute Joby Justin but his header was cleared off the line by Nandhakumar Sekar.

The result took ATK to the top of the table with 10 points while Odisha remained sixth with five points in five games.

## Injured Karman retires, Muramatsu wins

SPORTS BUREAU  
BHOPAL

Chihiro Muramatsu of Japan won the \$25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament as Karman Kaur Thandi retired when the Japanese led 6-1, 3-1 in the final at the Arera Club on Sunday.

It was a brave effort from the 61st-ranked Karman who battled shoulder pain right from the semifinals.

It was only the second tournament on return from a shoulder injury for Karman who had last played in Miami in March. She had reached the quarterfinals last week in Gwalior.

**The results:**  
**Singles (final):** Chihiro Muramatsu (Jpn) bt Karman Kaur Thandi 6-1, 3-1 ret'd.



Muramatsu and Karman, the victor and the runner-up.

■ A.M. FAROUQI

## Prince equals boys' under-16 100m meet record

SPORTS BUREAU  
TIRUPATI

Ethai's Prince Chaudhary equalled the boys under-16 100m meet record and Nasik's Aishwarya Prajakt More emerged the fastest girl in the 17th Milo National inter-district junior athletics meet at Tarakara Stadium (SV University) here on Sunday.

Prince, incidentally, could

have set the meet record but for celebrating a bit too early and had to be content eventually in sharing the record with Kshitij Bhoite (Thane), who clocked 11.06 seconds in Ranchi six years ago. Jitin Chaudhary (Bhind), who finished second, was disqualified after being found over-aged.

In the under-16 high jump and long jump events, Ben-

galuru Urban's Pavana Nagaraj (1.61m) and Shailesh Singh (5.88m) clinched the honours.

Jaidev Dekka (North West Delhi) rewrote the boys' under-16 shot put record with a 17.59m effort in qualifications.

The previous record of 16.91m was held by Mankiran Singh (Ropar) since 2014.

## Lightning Bolt strikes

HYDERABAD: Lightning Bolt, piloted by David Allan, claimed the Artillery Cup, the feature event of the races held here on Sunday (Nov. 24). The winner is the property of M/s. Vijay Rac. & Farms P.L. rep. by M/s. V.K. Gupta & S.K. Gupta, M/s. Poonawalla Rac. & Br. P.L. rep. by Mr. Z.S. Poonawalla & Ms. S.Z. Poonawalla & Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey and trained by Deshmukh.

**1 CABARET PLATE** (1,100m), 1 maiden 2-y-o only (Cat. II), (Terms), 1-55: 1. Aerial Combat (8) Akshay Kumar 55, 2. Chuckit (1) Rafigue Sk. 55, 3. Days Of Reckoning (5) Jitendra Singh 55, 4. Detonator (5) R. Ajinkya 55, 5. Exponent (6) R.B. Kumar 55, 6. Team Player (7) Nakhat Singh 55, 7. Akashima (4) Ajeeth Kumar 53.5 and 8. Turf Winner (3) Ashish Asbar 53.5.

**1. ASHWA BAHULA, 2. AMBITIOUS APPROACH, 3. PENTAGON**

**5 ORIGINAL VEL. V. BALASUBRAMANIAN MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. II), (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. II), 2-25: 1. Sitara (7) Suraj Narredu 60, 2. Max (4) Jitendra Singh 59.5, 3. Ashika Ashika (8) Ajeeth Kumar 59, 4. Star Envoy (6) Akshay Kumar 58.5, 5. New State (2) Afroz Khan 57, 6. Star Gazer (5) C.P. Bopanna 56.5, 7. Giehorn (1) Kiran Naidu 58 and 6. Wah Ma Zara (3) Abhay Singh 53.**

**1. SITARA, 2. MAX, 3. STAR ENVY**

**4 WINDSCALE PLATE** (1,200m), 3-y-o & over, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. III), 3-00: 1. Ambitious Approach (6) Akshay Kumar 60, 2. Ashwa Bahula (3) Suraj Narredu 59, 3. That's My Class (9) A.A. Vikrant 59, 4. Starlight (10) Kuldeep Singh 57.5, 5. Champion Bull (4) G. Naresh 57, 6. News O' Star (7) Gaurav Singh 56, 7. Magical Skill (1) Jitendra Singh 55.8, 8. Ma Baahubali (8) Kiran Naidu 54, 9. Warrior Supreme (5) Rafigue Sk. 52, 10. Top Link (11) Santosh Raj 51.5, 11. Pentagon (2) Afroz Khan 50.5, 12. Aragonada Princess (12) Gopal Singh 50.

**1. ASHWA BAHULA, 2. AMBITIOUS APPROACH, 3. PENTAGON**

**5 BLUE BIRD PLATE** (1,400m), 3-y-o & over, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 4-00: 1. Patron Saint (10) C.P. Bopanna 60, 2. Rasika (5) Kuldeep Singh 60, 3. Royal Girl (4) Gaurav Singh 60, 4. Sheldon (3) Santosh Raj 60, 5. Sun Dancer (8) Rohit Kumar 60, 6. Fabulous Gift (9) Ajeeth Singh 59.5, 7. Let It Be Me (7) R. Ajinkya 59.5, 8. Glendale (2) Akshay Kumar 59, 9. Golden Faraska (6) N. Rawal 57.5 and 10. Bombastic (1) Rafigue Sk. 54.

**1. GLENDALE, 2. SUN DANCER, 3. PATRON SAINT**

**7 AMARNATH GUPTA MEMORIAL CUP (DIV. I), (1,100m), 3-y-o &**

over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4-30: 1. Agni (1) Akshay Kumar 60.5, 2. Evan Von Brando (5) Surya Prakash 56.5, 3. Happy Together (3) Nakhat Singh 55.5, 4. Klonia (6) Afroz Khan 55.5, 5. Royal Dynamite (8) R.B. Kumar 55, 6. Dancing Doll (2) Suraj Narredu 54.7, 7. Rapid Fire (7) Abhay Singh 54 and 8. Marvel Princess (4) N. Rawal 52.5.

**1. AGNI, 2. RAPID FIRE, 3. KIONIA**

**8 CORDEN ROUGE PLATE** (1,200m), 5-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 5-00: 1. Shandaar (2) Akshay Kumar 60, 2. Rose Eternal (4) Gopal Singh 59, 3. Freedom Fire (3) Rohit Kumar 58.5, 4. Joy Of Giving (7) Gaurav Singh 57.5, 5. Semira (6) Aneel Bopanna 60, 6. Composure (10) Nakhat Singh 54.5, 7. Limousine (9) B.R. Kumar 53, 8. Tamman (5) Ashish Asbar 53, 9. Vijay's Empress (8) R. Ajinkya 59.5, 10. Snow Castle (1) Gaddam 51.5.

**1. SHANDAA, 2. FREEDOM FIRE, 3. COMPOSURE**

Day's best: ASHWA BAHULA Double: SITARA-SHANDAA</p